

TRAPPED IN PARADISE

It Happened in
PARADISE

by

George Gallo

Draft Date 8/17/93

"IT HAPPENED IN PARADISE"

The CREDITS are seen against a black b.g. Inside the large blue block letters WE SEE snowfall. Louis Armstrong sings, "It Was Just One Of Those Things." CREDITS conclude.

FADE IN

1 EXT. MIDTOWN MANHATTAN - NIGHT

1

A light snow falls in midtown Manhattan. In one CONTINUOUS SHOT we pass city buses, New York taxicabs, and begin moving through crowds of pedestrians where WE SEE a Salvation Army Band, Santa ringing a bell, pedestrians donating money. We now drop down to foot level, where WE SEE various pairs of legs walking IN AND OUT OF THE FRAME. Suddenly a wallet drops onto the snow. The wallet begins getting kicked around the street like a hockey puck. It bounces down the steps of the nearby subway entrance.

2 INT. SUBWAY STEPS - NIGHT

2

The wallet continues slowly bouncing down the steps and comes to a stop at a pair of feet. A hand reaches INTO THE FRAME and picks it up. We hear the ROAR of the subway and see the flashing light from a passing train which reveals the face of BILL FIRPO. He is handsomely dressed, wearing a dark suit, tie and a nice winter coat. He holds the wallet in his hand. On his face panic and indecision, like an alcoholic who's been handed a fifth of J&B and told to drink up. He looks around to see if anyone notices him. Gently, he peeks inside the wallet to see how much money there is. The wallet is loaded with hundreds.

BILL

Oh, boy.

Bill opens and closes the wallet. Peeks inside. Closes it. He doesn't know whether to pocket it or toss it. He checks the driver's license. The owner looks kind.

BILL

(re: picture)

Shit.

He checks the address.

BILL

Central Park West. Rich. Screw
'em.

Bill thumbs through pictures of the man's wife and children. He changes his mind again.

BILL

Ah, shit...shit...shit.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

Finally, Bill makes the decision to keep the wallet and heads back up the stairs. His cocky stride stops as he nears the top of the stairs. He begins to take a few steps back down to the subway. Suddenly he stops and heads back up the stairs. He spins around again, undecided. PEDESTRIANS begin staring at him. He smiles and pretends everything is normal. Then, after heading for the street, Bill spins around one last time and runs down the subway stairs into the darkness.

CUT TO:

3 INT. CHURCH CONFESSIONAL - NIGHT

3

A small door slides open revealing the face of Bill. On the other side of the door is a middle-aged priest, FATHER RITTER.

BILL

Bless me Father for I have sinned.
It has been two weeks since my last
confession.

FATHER RITTER

Is that Bill Firpo?

BILL

Ah, yes, it's me Father.

FATHER RITTER

You haven't been to confession in
five years. Is that how you're
gonna start this thing out?

BILL

I'm sorry, Father. I just got
promoted to managing this
restaurant.

FATHER RITTER

I know. I talk to your mother every
week. She tells me you're doing
really well. Although she wishes
you would find a girl and settle
down.

BILL

Well, so would I, Father. But it
costs far too much money to have
a girlfriend in this town.

FATHER RITTER

Oh, that's ridiculous.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

BILL

Oh, no it's not. They want things. They want to go places. The last girl I was dating, I was ready to knock off a convenience store just to not listen to it anymore. Which brings me to why I came here. I had a setback this evening.

FATHER RITTER

A setback?

BILL

I found a wallet in the street.

FATHER RITTER

Did you do the right thing?

BILL

Well, yes, Father, I did, eventually, with great difficulty. I dropped it in the mail. But it had over eight hundred dollars in it which I counted many times on the subway. I feel as if I've ruined my karma, Father, and that something bad is going to happen as a result of this transgression.

Father Ritter's eyes light up when he hears the word, "transgression."

FATHER RITTER

How many letters is that?

BILL

I don't know Father, I think it's thirteen. Why?

FATHER RITTER

Never mind.

WE GO WIDER on Father Ritter and see that he's doing a crossword puzzle and that's the word he was looking for. He writes in "transgression."

FATHER RITTER

But you mailed the wallet back.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

BILL

Yes, but I wanted to take it. I mean I really wanted to take it. I'm really not that much different than my two brothers. I can be easily misled.

FATHER RITTER

Speaking of which, have you seen tonight's paper?

BILL

No.

FATHER RITTER

Well according to the Post here, your brothers may be home for the holidays.

BILL

No, that's not possible. They're not up for parole until March.

FATHER RITTER

Well, according to this article, because of overcrowding, anyone eligible for parole through next June is being considered for early release.

Bill BOLTS out.

4 INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

4

Bill YANKS open Father Ritter's confessional curtain.

BILL

(re: newspaper)

Let me see that.

Bill's eyes dart all over the article, until he finally looks up at Father Ritter.

BILL

Father, I'm in big trouble now.

SMASH CUT TO:

5 INT. LONG ISLAND PRISON CAFETERIA - DAY

5

Piles of the worst-looking meat we've ever seen is being served by a PRISON CAFETERIA WORKER to DAVE and ALVIN FIRPO who stand in the chow line.

DAVE

Now, isn't that a lovely looking piece of meat. It still has marks where the jockey was hitting it.

ALVIN

Excuse me, is that beef, chicken or lamb?

DAVE

Would you like to see the wine list? Keep moving.

ANGLE ON CAFETERIA TABLE

where Dave and Alvin sit in the middle of lunch with a dozen assorted THUGS including VIC MAZZUCCI, who appears as if he could kill you with a glance, and CAESAR SPINOZA, the prison weasel.

VIC

Listen, if things work out with the parole board, you gonna take care of that thing like I asked you?

DAVE

Of course, Vic.

VIC

And you're gonna wait on that other thing, right?

DAVE

Take care of the first thing and wait on the second thing. When it's stated so clearly, how could I screw it up?

CAESAR

Just make sure you don't.

6 INT. PRISON PAROLE BOARD HEARING ROOM - DAY

6

The Parole Board consists of FOUR PAROLE OFFICERS who sit at a large conference table. Behind them, PRISONERS can be seen moving around in the yard. The CHIEF PAROLE OFFICER is a bored, overworked-type, who has seen far too many repeat offenders. We pick up on Dave Firpo's line as he and his brother, Alvin, sit in front of the parole board.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

DAVE

Sir, I'd like to talk about the Pterodactyl, if I may.

CHIEF PAROLE OFFICER

The what, sir?

DAVE

The Pterodactyl was a winged-lizard back in pre-historic times who had to develop an outside digit of the forelimb which became greatly elongated and supported a winged membrane. He developed these winged membranes in order to fly above his predators which, you gotta remember, was way back in the Cretaceous period.

CHIEF PAROLE OFFICER

Mr. Firpo, where is all of this going?

DAVE

What the Pterodactyl and I have in common is that we have both succumbed to a similar evolutionary process. Do you remember that long digit I was explaining to you?

CHIEF PAROLE OFFICER

We understand how the creature flies, Mr. Firpo. Get on with it.

DAVE

I believe once released, much like my reptilian brother, I shall take wing and fly high above my problems, never to return.

CHIEF PAROLE OFFICER

That was very moving, Mr. Firpo. But the State of New York has labeled you a 'Pathological Liar.' What do you have to say about that?

DAVE

It's not true. It's a lie. In fact, it's errant. A misnomer. An oxymoron.

The parole board shoot glances back and forth and then all eyes shift to Alvin.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

CHIEF PAROLE OFFICER
 Ahh...Alvin Firpo, you have been
 labeled a 'Kleptomaniac.'

Alvin isn't listening. He's mesmerized by Parole Officer
 #3's diamond tie clip which sparkles in the light. He's
 obviously trying to figure out a way to snatch it.

ALVIN
 What? I'm sorry. I wasn't
 listening. I'm afraid I don't have
 any wonderful, pre-historic
 metaphors like my brother, Dave,
 over here. But, I can say, that
 much like a bullet, I intend to go
 straight.

DAVE
 I'd like to make a suggestion, if
 I may. My brother Bill, who was
 also once housed in this celebrated
 rehabilitation facility...

Through the windows behind the parole board, a PRISONER
 gets "shanked." Whistles start BLOWING and GUARDS move in.

DAVE
 (re: shank)
 Ooooh, that was nasty. Anyway, as
 I was saying, my brother Bill has
 remained clean for several years
 and has become an enormous
 inspiration to our family. And I
 dearly believe that not only could
 he serve as the panacea, but would
 actually function as the Deus Ex
 Machina in the tragedy that was our
 former lives. And nothing would
 please our family more than if we
 were to be remanded into his
 custody.

SMASH CUT TO:

7 BILL FIRPO

7

SCREAMS into a telephone having just heard the good news.

BILL
 (into phone)
 NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! I will NOT
 be their legal guardian. Ma! How
 could you agree to this?

INTERCUT:

8 MA FIRPO

8

A cantankerous foul-mouthed broad in her living room at Co-op City in the Bronx.

MA FIRPO

You go down there and pick up your two brothers right now!

BILL

Ma, I don't have a problem with Alvin, but can't Dave take a cab or a bus or something?

MA FIRPO

Your brothers have been in prison for two years and they are being released in your custody whether you like it or not! You go down there and pick them up or you won't have a place to sleep tonight! And if I find out that you're gambling our rent money in some goddamned card game, I'll kick your ass.

BILL

Ma! I am not playing cards!

Several CARD PLAYERS look up from their tables at Bill. Bill waves them off to go back to their games.

BILL

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Nine o'clock. I KNOW WHERE IT IS! I WAS THERE FOR FIVE GODDAMNED YEARS MYSELF!

Bill SLAMS down the phone.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. LONG ISLAND PRISON - DAY

9

The huge steel prison door slides open. Dave and Alvin come through smiling, all dressed up in their state-issued suits. Dave is whistling happily as Alvin fingers Parole Officer #3's diamond tie clip. Dave and Alvin spot Bill and start trotting toward him with open arms. Instead, Bill greets them with a warning.

BILL

Let's start this off on the right foot. Whatever it is, the answer is 'no.'

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

DAVE

'No,' what? What are you talking about?

BILL

Whatever you want me to do, the answer is 'No.'

DAVE

I don't want anything from you, except your friendship.

Dave lights a cigarette and looks over at a '72 LTD parked at the curb, beaten beyond belief.

DAVE

God, I've been reading that the economy was in the shithouse, but I had no idea. Look at that abandoned car.

BILL

That's my car.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY - DAY

10

Bill drives down the Long Island Expressway, heading back to Manhattan.

11 INT. LTD - DAY

11

The ceiling fabric is tattered and blows in the breeze, making it nearly impossible to hear anything.

DAVE

Boy, I can see that the restaurant business has been treating you well. I bet the Space Shuttle makes less noise.

BILL

I just got promoted.

DAVE

You don't think this crate could make it to Pennsylvania, do ya? Because I've got a friend who's practically on his deathbed in prison who wants me to do him a favor.

Dave pulls out a letter and waves it around.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

DAVE

He even gave me a letter which
explains everything.

Bill doesn't answer.

DAVE

I detect resistance.

BILL

You two are on parole. You can't
leave the state. You're in my
custody. We ain't going.

DAVE

Who's gonna know?

BILL

Look, you don't think I buy for one
second, that you two want to drive
across three states just to help
someone, do you?

DAVE

I am deeply insulted.

BILL

Well, that's deeply too bad.

DAVE

All right. Forget it. See how easy
I can be to get along with? You
won't hear another word about it.
Next exit you see, pull over.

BILL

What the hell for?

DAVE

I feel like having a Ring Ding.
Or a Yodel.

BILL

Ring Ding? Yodel? What are you,
two years old?

DAVE

All right. Just sit here and sulk.
We're eating sugar.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. BRUKNER BOULEVARD - DAY

12

Bill is parked at the curb watching Dave and Alvin move around inside a grocery store across the street. Suddenly Bill's eyes BULGE as he spots Alvin reaching over the counter and grabbing money from the cash register.

BILL

Oh, goddamnit!

Bill gets out of the car, slams the door, and starts trotting toward the grocery store in a huff. The second he goes inside, a police car pulls up to break up an illegal three card Monte game outside the grocery store.

13 INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

13

Bill bursts in the store and runs over to Alvin.

BILL

What the hell are you doing?!!!

Dave comes around the corner with his milk.

DAVE

What's the problem?

The Shopkeeper and the Delivery Guy come out of the back and see Alvin with a wad of money in his hands. The Shopkeeper starts screaming in Spanish.

BILL

(to Shopkeeper)

Hey, calm down. Calm down.

Bill grabs the money out of Alvin's hands and shoves it back in the drawer. Bill takes a five dollar bill out of his pocket and drops it on the counter.

BILL

Forget it ever happened.

The Shopkeeper keeps yelling. Bill forces Alvin and Dave toward the door.

14 EXT. GROCERY - DAY

14

The Firpo brothers come out the door. The Shopkeeper is still yelling in Spanish. Bill spots a bunch of money sticking out of Alvin's pocket. Bill grabs it.

ALVIN

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I don't know what came over me.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Bill throws the pile of money back in through the doorway of the grocery store.

BILL
(to Shopkeeper)
Stop your squawking. Here's the
rest of your money.

Suddenly Bill, Dave and Alvin hear the HISS of the police radio. The Firpo brothers turn to see the faces of fifty neighborhood people plus the two cops staring them down. The Shopkeeper yells out the door.

SHOPKEEPER
These three tried to rob me!

BILL
Oh, no. Wait.

The cops spring into action, drawing their pistols.

COP #1
Freeze!

Bill, Dave and Alvin DASH back into the store. The cops open fire, shooting the glass out of the door. The entire neighborhood starts SCREAMING and running for cover.

15 EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY

15

Bill, Dave and Alvin BLAST out the back door, running down the alley, splashing through puddles. A ROOKIE COP is in pursuit.

BILL
Son-of-a-bitch! I'm gonna kill both
of ya's! I'm not with you five
minutes and I'm being chased by
cops!

16 EXT. ANOTHER ALLEY - DAY

16

Bill, Dave and Alvin run around the corner and start moving up the alley. The Rookie Cop is gaining on them.

ROOKIE COP
Freeze, goddamnit, or I'll shoot.

Bill suddenly trips Alvin, causing him to fall flat on his face. Bill then GRABS Dave and THROWS him into a pile of garbage cans.

DAVE
What the hell are you doing?!

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

Bill straddles Dave and WHACKS him across the face. The Rookie Cop comes up behind, gun drawn. Bill turns around, pulls out his wallet and briefly, FLASHES it at the Rookie Cop.

BILL

Off duty! Queens.

ROOKIE COP

What?!

BILL

I'm a police officer! Don't just stand there, get the car! I'll hold them here!

ROOKIE COP

Oh, right!

The Rookie Cop runs back down the alley. Dave watches the Rookie Cop leave and turns to Bill.

DAVE

You were born for this, you know that, don't you?

Whereupon Bill GRABS Dave and THROWS him up against the wall. Alvin stumbles to his feet.

BILL

What did you do?! What the hell did you just do to me?! Do you know the kind of trouble we're in now?

The sound of an approaching police siren can be heard. The three brothers run full tilt up the alley.

CUT TO:

17 INT. FIRPO APARTMENT - CO-OP CITY - NIGHT

17

Low-rent decor. There's a couch, an ancient recliner and a couple of laminated tables. Ma Firpo is laying food out for Dave and Alvin who are eating at the table. She is warmly humming the theme song from "My Three Sons." Bill stands at the window looking down at the street as he gets ready for work. The sound of a siren approaches. Bill flinches.

DAVE

Bill, there are eight million stories in the Naked City. Not all of them revolve around you.

(CONTINUED)

BILL

I can't believe you did this to me.

MA FIRPO

(to Bill)

So, Dave tells me he's got a friend in prison who needs some help and you refuse to go with him.

BILL

Hey, is everyone nuts around here, except me? He is on parole. I am responsible. He is not supposed to leave the state.

Bill walks over and tries to change the channel on the TV, but the knob is broken. He grabs a pair of pliers and changes the stations until he finds one he likes. Then he starts fooling around with the rabbit ear antenna which has tin foil wadded up around it.

MA FIRPO

I miss a lot of the creature comforts we used to have when you boys were around. VCRs, big screen TVs, remember? You could hardly move in here.

BILL

Yeah, I wonder who misses it more. You or the original owners.

MA FIRPO

Baloney! Are you implying that that stuff was stolen?

BILL

No, Dave and Alvin would never steal anything. They're saints.

MA FIRPO

If I remember correctly, you were the only one that didn't have a job at the time.

BILL

You don't think Alvin could afford all that stuff cleaning out horseshit at the racetrack, do you? Ma, face it, they were up to no good.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

MA FIRPO

I can't believe the milk company actually pressed charges against these two.

BILL

Maybe it had something to do with the fact that they were waving guns around at a milkman.

MA FIRPO

I never heard of anything so stupid.

BILL

That's because it was raining and they thought they were holding up a Brinks truck.

DAVE

They're both silver and white.

ALVIN

Yeah. Anybody can make that mistake.

BILL

Yeah, any idiot.

MA FIRPO

All right, shut up, all of yas!

Ma Firpo grabs Vic's letter from the table.

MA FIRPO

I read this letter from Vic Mazzucci, Dave's friend in the can. It says that he's dying, his daughter hasn't come to visit for five years, she lives in Pennsylvania, and he wants to see her before he kicks off. Your brothers promised that they were gonna set this right and I think you should go with them!

BILL

Ma, let's get something straight. Dave and Alvin wouldn't drive around the corner to help somebody. If they want to drag me down to Pennsylvania, believe me, they're up to something.

Bill starts looking around the room.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

MA FIRPO

What are you looking for?

BILL

Have you seen my wallet around?

MA FIRPO

Jesus Christ, if your head wasn't
screwed on.

BILL

Never mind! I don't need it.
There's only one place I'm going
and that's to work.

Bill walks out the door.

CUT TO:

18 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

18

Bill is chatting with a couple in the restaurant and being
very professional, until he is asked the question he seems
to hate most in life.

WOMAN

What exactly is in the
bouillabaisse?

BILL

(rolling eyes)

Well, a variety of things, actually.
It's a splendid array of fish, shell
fish, garlic, paprika, carp,
Carpaccio, carpe diem, Carp The
Herald Angels Sing...

MAN

Excuse me?

BILL

A little restaurateur humor, there.

Before Bill knows it, Dave appears over his shoulder like
a vulture. Bill does a double-take.

BILL

What are you doing here?

DAVE

I'm down here to save your life.

Bill locks Dave under the arm and escorts him toward the
kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

BILL

Look, I'm not kidding. This is my job. Don't come down here and screw it up.

Dave takes note as they couple Bill was talking to briskly walk out of the restaurant.

DAVE

Looks like you're doing a fine job of that yourself.

BILL

Look, whatever it is, I'll talk to you at home.

DAVE

That's why I'm here. You can't go home anymore.

We begin to hear the sound of multiple police sirens in the b.g.

DAVE

Oh, shit. They're coming already. You gotta give these cops one thing, Bill, they're efficient.

BILL

What are you talking about?

DAVE

Your wallet. You dropped your wallet at the scene of the crime up in the Bronx. The cops were at the house asking Ma a million questions.

BILL

What?!!!

DAVE

But don't worry, I'm gonna save your ass. Me and Alvin borrowed a car and we got it in the alley behind the restaurant.

Bill turns towards the front of the restaurant. Two police cars screech to a stop. TWO COPS get out with guns drawn and start moving inside.

BILL

Oh, Jesus!

Bill and Dave BOLT through the kitchen doors.

19 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

19

Bill and Dave RUN through the kitchen, past the DISHWASHERS and hit the back door.

20 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

20

Alvin stands beside a brand new white Lexus. The air is alive with police radios and sirens. They seem to be coming from everywhere. Bill and Dave jump into the car and they screech down the alley, Alvin at the wheel.

21 INT. LEXUS - NIGHT

21

Bill holds the sides of his head in a panic.

BILL

Oh, my God, this can't be happening.
This can't be happening.

ALVIN

Don't worry, Bill, we'll get you
outta this.

Alvin pulls into the street, narrowly missing a Swat Truck, followed by more police cars.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. NEW JERSEY PARKING LOT - MORNING

22

Bill sits like a zombie beside Alvin in the car which is parked alongside the Jersey Turnpike. Dave is babbling at a pay phone.

DAVE

(into phone)

No. Oh, no. Oh, no...

Bill is within earshot from the pay phone. His jaw hangs open as he hears Dave's side of the conversation.

DAVE

(into phone)

You think we should stay out of New York all together? But, Ma, today is Christmas Eve. We're in Jersey now. That's not far enough away? We love you, too. Bill sends his best.

Dave hangs up and approaches the car. Dave pulls out a newspaper. Hands it to Bill.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

DAVE

Here. I got you something to read.
Take your mind off of things.

Bill takes the paper and looks at it. It's the Weekly
World News. The headline reads: BAT CHILD DISCOVERED IN
AFRICA WITH EYES AND EARS BETTER THAN RADAR.

BILL

I read this already.

ALVIN

Well, I haven't.

Alvin snatches the paper from Bill.

DAVE

More bad news, Bill. Ma says the
cops were back at the house.
They're driving her nuts.

BILL

I knew this was going to be bad.
But I never thought things would
deteriorate this quickly.

ALVIN

We can't tell you how sorry we are.

BILL

There isn't an apology on earth that
can cover this.

DAVE

You wouldn't mind going down the
road to Pennsylvania so that me and
Alvin can go take care of our friend
and his daughter, would you?

BILL

What I'd like to do is go back home.

DAVE

Well, what we'd like to do and what
we can do, are two different things.
But, maybe if we do something good
for somebody, it'll find a way of
coming around for us.

BILL

Are you setting me up?

DAVE

What?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

BILL

Is this some sort of elaborate
scheme of yours?

DAVE

What?

BILL

Dave, I know how your mind works.
You know exactly what you're doing
and the whole time you stand there
with this 'Who me?' expression on
your face.

Dave stares at Bill.

BILL

You're doing it right now. Quit
staring at me. Let's just get in
the car and let's take care of your
nonsense.

Alvin smiles, fires up the car and Dave jumps in. The car
pulls out of the parking lot. It passes a group of
newspaper stands. The headline on the Jersey paper reads,
"RECORD SNOWFALL EXPECTED."

CUT TO:

23 EXT. PARADISE, PENNSYLVANIA - DAY

23

The thundering sound of the Delaware River. The Lexus
enters the picture postcard village built upon its banks.

23A INT. CAR - DAY

23A

They turn onto the main street of town. A banner strung
across the street reads: PARADISE WINTERFEST - SINCE 1847
- CHRISTMAS EVE - SHOP 'TIL MIDNIGHT.

BILL

Do me a favor, okay? Let's just
try to remain as inconspicuous as
possible.

Suddenly a MAN on horseback fills the their view. Alvin
blows the horn and slams the brakes.

ALVIN

Jesus Christ!

24 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

24

The horse starts bucking like crazy. A Deputy is doing everything he can to control the horse. He gets thrown, lands on the hood of the car, and rolls to the sidewalk. Bill, Dave and Alvin get out of the car. They go over and begin helping the fallen rider, DEPUTY TIMMY BURNELL, to his feet. People in town start to gather around. Burnell tries to calm his horse down. He starts singing softly to it. It begins quieting down. A second later a police car with siren wailing comes around the corner and screeches to a stop.

BILL

Terrific. Terrific. Another cop.
Just what we need.

Out of the police car steps DEPUTY MARSHALL MYERS. He walks over to the melee and begins consoling Deputy Burnell.

DEPUTY MYERS

Timmy, are you all right?

The crowd parts as a second police car comes screeching around the corner. From the second car emerges CHIEF BURNELL, Timmy's father.

BILL

Very nice. Very nice.

Chief Burnell reaches Timmy who, at this point, seems more spooked than the horse.

CHIEF BURNELL

All right, Timmy. Calm down.
You're all right now.

DEPUTY TIMMY BURNELL

(re: horse)
Is Merlin okay?

CHIEF BURNELL

He's fine.

ALVIN

Hey, I'm really sorry. He rode
right out in front of us.

CHIEF BURNELL

(to Firpo brothers)
Come here a second.

The three brothers walk reluctantly with Chief Burnell who waits a few feet away.

(CONTINUED)

CHIEF BURNELL

Look, my kid's a little 'slow.'
You understand? I'm sure it wasn't
your fault.

The Firpo brothers look at Timmy who's at least bright enough to know that they're talking about his condition. Alvin picks up on this and waves at Timmy. He winks and salutes at him. Timmy smiles and salutes back. Just then, FATHER GORENZEL, the town's only minister comes through the crowd.

FATHER GORENZEL

Anybody hurt?

CHIEF BURNELL

No, Father Gorenzel. No Last Rites today.

FATHER GORENZEL

Good. That'd be no way to start Christmas Eve.

CHIEF BURNELL

Right. Okay, folks. Break it up.
Break it up.

(to Firpo brothers)

Sorry for the inconvenience, boys.
Can I help you in some way?

DAVE

We're looking for a Sarah Mazzucci.

CHIEF BURNELL

Mazzucci? There's nobody named Sarah Mazzucci in this town.

BILL

Too bad. All right, Dave, let's go.

CHIEF BURNELL

There's only one Sarah that I know of here in town. She works right there across the street.

DAVE

Where?

CHIEF BURNELL

(pointing)

Right there.

The Firpo brothers turn.

24A ANGLE ON A SIGN

24A

which reads: BANK OF PARADISE.

24 RESUME

24

DAVE

The town bank. Imagine that.

BILL

Yeah. Imagine that.

CUT TO:

25 INT. BANK - DAY

25

Bill, Dave and Alvin enter the classic small town bank. Brass and glass tables hold deposit slips. Tellers behind walnut counters. Rows of desks on one side for bank staff. Alvin wanders over to one of the tables and looks at the pens, the deposit slips, and the Christmas mints. He steals all the mints, pockets all the pens and a wad of deposit slips. He spies the Christmas tree, wanders over there and starts pocketing ornaments. One is made of gingerbread and he eats it. Bill spots Alvin's activities across the bank.

BILL

(re: Alvin)

Ah, Jesus Christ, he's starting already. Wait here for the broad, I'll go get him.

DAVE

All right.

ANGLE ON BILL

who reaches Alvin just as he's swiping a candy cane off the Christmas tree. A BEAUTIFUL BRUNETTE approaches them.

BRUNETTE

(re: candy cane)

Sir, those are for the children.

The Brunette spots the pens sticking out of Alvin's breast pocket.

BRUNETTE

The sign says 'Take A Pen,' not
'Take A Thousand Pens.'

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

Alvin reluctantly hands the pens back to the Brunette. CLIFFORD ANDERSON, the bank President, approaches. He is a kind fatherly-type, dressed in a gray suit and tie.

MR. ANDERSON

Sarah, honey, all the pens are gone.

Sarah shows him the pens in her hand.

SARAH

I've got them right here.

BILL

Sarah? Sarah Mazzucci?

Sarah looks nervously around and then back to Bill.

BILL

Did I say something wrong?

SARAH

Who are you?

BILL

I'm a friend of your father's.

SARAH

Oh, yeah? From which jail?

BILL

Oh, I can see you two get along really well. Look, I don't even really know your father. The truth is, I've never even met him. My brothers know him. Apparently he's sick and wants to see you.

SARAH

He's sick? What's the matter?

BILL

I don't know. But it must be pretty serious if my brother made us drive a hundred miles on Christmas Eve just to tell you.

SARAH

Look, not too many people know about my past here. I'm always waiting for the other shoe to drop. I didn't mean to come off like such a hard-ass.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

BILL

That's all right. I got a couple of skeletons in my closet, too. One of them was just stealing pens and candy canes a minute ago.

SARAH

Are you staying in town? Can I buy you lunch?

BILL

No...We've really got to get back to New York. Our mom's waiting for us.

SARAH

What's your name?

BILL

Bill.

SARAH

Thanks, Bill.

Sarah walks away as Dave approaches.

DAVE

There's just something so inviting about this place. Don't you just love this old classic architecture?

BILL

Security guard's in his seventies. He's got bifocals in his left breast pocket which means he can't see for shit. He's got a 1947 Smith & Wesson revolver which looks like it hasn't been fired in twenty years which means he'd have a better chance of blowing off his own hand than hitting one of us.

DAVE

Did you just say, 'one of us'?

BILL

There's only one camera in the joint and it ain't even hooked up.

DAVE

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Did you just say, 'one of us'?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (3)

25

BILL

I believe I did. But there's two problems. One, I ain't doing it no matter how good it looks. And two, there's no money in the vault.

Suddenly the doors to the bank BURST open. THREE BRINKS GUARDS enter each carrying a sack of money. Mr. Anderson approaches the guards.

MR. ANDERSON

And what have we here?

BRINKS GUARD #1

Two hundred-seventy five thousand dollars. Would you mind signing for it, Mr. Anderson?

Bill's hand starts shaking uncontrollably. Dave zeroes in on it.

DAVE

Are you all right?

BILL

No. Let's get outta here.

Bill forces himself out of the bank. Dave and Alvin follow.

CUT TO:

26 INT. CAR - DAY

26

The Firpo brothers head out of town.

DAVE

You're not really gonna pass up an opportunity like that, are you?

BILL

I am not robbing that bank. I don't care how good it looks.

DAVE

Bank? What bank? I was talking about the girl.

BILL

Oh, oh, I'm sorry. I'm cracking up.

DAVE

What's eating at you?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

BILL

Oh, nothing. But I'm telling you, if I had a gun on me, I'd go in and take that place over right now.

DAVE

Bill, would you be terribly upset with me if I were to tell you that there may possibly be guns in the trunk?

Bill goes INSANE.

BILL

OH, GODDAMNIT, YOU'RE SETTING ME UP AGAIN! ALVIN, PULL OVER! PULL OVER, NOW!!!

27 EXT. ROAD OUTSIDE OF TOWN - DAY

27

They pull into the woods. SLAM the brakes on. A great cloud of dust envelopes the car. From inside the car we hear Bill yelling.

BILL

All right. Everybody get out. Get out! Get out! Get out!

Bill, Dave and Alvin get out of the car.

DAVE

All right. All right. What's your problem?

BILL

There's guns in the trunk and I got a problem?

ALVIN

Bill, I borrowed the car from Fast Eddie, that gun runner that lives in our building.

BILL

Oh, terrific. So, chances are there's an arsenal back there.

DAVE

There may be a couple of shotguns back there. Perhaps a .45 or two. Couple of .38s.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

BILL

But you haven't actually seen these guns?

DAVE

No. It's just an assumption.

Bill POPS the trunk open, revealing a complete arsenal of weapons. Shotguns. .45s. .38s. Boxes of shells.

BILL

Big surprise, huh?

DAVE

Well, it appears we're all at some sort of crossroads here.

BILL

There's no cross. There's no roads. I ain't doing this.

DAVE

Bill, did you know that when a bank gets robbed they generally claim twice as much got taken than actually was?

BILL

Look, don't start this shit with me. We've had this kind of conversation too many goddamned times. I have gone straight.

DAVE

'Gone' is the key word in that sentence, because that refers to the past. Now, you've got a hundred thousand cops looking for you in New York City. Your picture is on every precinct wall in town.

BILL

No, no, no. I'll go back and straighten it out.

DAVE

You think so? With your record? I'm sure they'll believe you.

BILL

You're making it seem like I got no options!

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

DAVE

Okay. Fine. What are your options?

BILL

I don't know! You tell me!

DAVE

You're on the run, whether you like it or not. Now, you can be on the run with lint in your pocket, or a quarter of a million dollars. Those are your options.

BILL

Every ten seconds this thing is getting worse!

DAVE

Hey, Bill. Think of it this way. The bank has no cameras. So what does that mean? Now they're gonna have to install a new security system. That means putting people to work. Then on top of that, the insurance company is gonna be busy trying to make heads or tails out of the mess we've made. And what does that mean? Overtime. So suddenly the entire economy of that town has been stimulated.

BILL

You think so?

DAVE

Of course. Not only that, the insurance company is going to pay back twice the amount that was taken because you know these bankers, they're all liars. So, in fact, that bank will be twice as strong as a result of us robbing them.

BILL

So, according to you, we're actually doing them a big favor.

DAVE

Stop worrying about them. For once in your life worry about you. It's either that or we just sit around, broke on the balls of our ass, waiting until the cops find us.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

Bill starts walking off into the woods.

DAVE

Where you going?

BILL

I need five minutes to think.

Bill takes three steps and SPINS around.

BILL

I've made up my mind. Let's get it over with.

CUT TO:

28 INT. DAWSON'S COUNTRY STORE - DAY

28

A typical country store with food, sporting goods, hardware and clothing. Bill, Dave and Alvin stand in the clothing section. Bill spots Alvin stealing ski masks, shoving them into his coat.

BILL

You idiot. We're about to hit a bank and you're gonna get us pinched for stealing hats. Put them back.

Bill reaches into Alvin's jacket, pulls out the stolen ski masks and throws them back into the hat bin. Bill and Dave head for the cash register with their goods, shirts, pants, shoes and three ski masks. Alvin watches them go and then goes back to the bin and continues to steal more ski masks.

ANGLE ON ED DAWSON

a big, gruff, bear of a man begins ringing up the items for Bill and Dave. His clerk, CLOVIS MINOR, a thin and particularly stupid-looking guy, stares at the Firpo brothers.

DAWSON

(to Clovis)

Quit hovering around behind me like bad news and bag this stuff.

Clovis begins bagging the items, continuing to stare at the Firpo brothers. Alvin passes the counter, his jacket bulging with stolen goods. He exits the store unseen.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

29

Bill, Dave and Alvin pull up in front of the bank in a different car.

30 INT. CAR - DAY

30

The Firpo brothers are wearing different clothes. Alvin, as usual, is behind the wheel. Bill and Dave pull ski masks over their faces. Bill turns to Alvin.

BILL

Now don't shut it off. We won't have time to hot-wire it again.

ALVIN

Bill, you do what you do. I do what I do.

BILL

All right. Let's get it over with.

31 EXT. CAR - DAY

31

Bill and Dave pop out of the car and start heading up the bank stairs. We can tell they are concealing shotguns under their coats. Alvin stays put, gunning the engine.

32 INT. PARADISE BANK - DAY

32

Bill and Dave enter the bank, moving quickly past the sleeping guard. Walk toward the center of the bank barely noticed. Bill turns toward the TELLERS, Dave toward the STAFF, shotguns poised.

BILL

All right. Nobody move. This is a robbery.

DAVE

That's right. Nobody move. We mean business.

A sweet middle-aged woman approaches him. She's MRS. ANDERSON, the Bank President's wife.

MRS. ANDERSON

Are you sure you boys want to do this?

BILL

Do what?

MRS. ANDERSON

You know, rob the bank.

DAVE

Oh, absolutely. We've thought this through and we feel it's the thing to do.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

MRS. ANDERSON

Yes, but on Christmas Eve, it just doesn't seem right, don't you think? You're going to ruin the Winterfest.

BILL

The 'Winterfest'? I have a gun and you're talking about the Winterfest. Who are you, ma'am? You work here?

MRS. ANDERSON

Well, no, not exactly. I'm married to Mr. Anderson, the President of the bank. The bank vault is closed right now. It's locked.

DAVE

Anybody got a key?

Tellers and other staff shake their heads "no."

DAVE

Well, who's got the key? How do we get in?

MRS. ANDERSON

My husband's the only one with the key and I'm afraid he's out to lunch right now.

BILL

When's he get back?

MRS. ANDERSON

Oh, about forty-five minutes.

DAVE

Forty-five minutes ain't bad.

BILL

Are you nuts? Mrs. Anderson, let's go find your husband.

33 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

33

Bill descends the steps with Mrs. Anderson. Gun under his coat. They pass among the CITIZENS unnoticed. Bill approaches Alvin in the parked car and kicks the back of it, indicating that Alvin should join him. Alvin gets out of the car, pulling his ski mask down.

ALVIN

What's up?

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

The trio cross the street at the crosswalk. Traffic flowing around them.

BILL

The vault's locked. We've got to get a key. Bank President's in there having lunch.

They head for the coffee shop across the street.

34 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

34

Packed with the LOCALS. Among them are DOC MILGROM and HERTHA and ROSE WEYERHAEUSER, the town spinsters. Mr. Anderson is seated at the back talking with a few other EMPLOYEES of the bank. Bill, Mrs. Anderson and Alvin enter the coffee shop unnoticed.

BILL

Where is he?

MRS. ANDERSON

That's him in the back.

Bill, Mrs. Anderson and Alvin move through the crowd toward the table in the back. A WAITRESS is in the middle of taking the orders at the table. Bill jockeys for position around the table, trying to maintain his composure.

BILL

Mr. Anderson? Mr. Anderson?

A second later he loses it and pulls out the shotgun.

BILL

Nobody move, goddamnit, this is a robbery!

Alvin follows suit. A second later the coffee shop owners, LILA and GEORGE, rush for the cash register. Bill sees the movement out of the corner of his eye. Spins around.

BILL

(screaming)

What the hell are you doing?!

GEORGE

It's a robbery. I'm getting money out of the cash register.

BILL

We're robbing the bank.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

LILA
(motioning)
Bank's across the street.

BILL
I know the bank's across the street.
I need to get Mr. Anderson over here
to open up the vault. Mr. Anderson,
let's go.

Bill marches Mr. and Mrs. Anderson toward the front door.
He's just about to go out when Alvin stops him.

ALVIN
You're not gonna leave all these
people here, are ya?

BILL
Ah, shit, you're right.

35 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

35

Alvin walks out first followed by the entire restaurant staff and customers. Last out are Mr. and Mrs. Anderson. The entire entourage moves across the street and starts heading for the bank. Bill motions for Alvin to get back into the car which he does.

36 INT. BANK - DAY

36

Dave is seated on top of one of the brass and glass tables, shotgun in his lap. He turns to see Bill enter with the coffee shop patrons.

BILL
All right everybody, down on the
floor. Mr. Anderson, open up the
safe.

Mr. Anderson, shaking, begins trying keys. Bill loses his patience, grabs the keys away and finds the one that works. The vault pops open. Dave walks over and together they pull the steel door open. The Brinks sacks are still there.

BILL
All right, let's do this.

Bill pockets the keys and takes a step forward to enter the vault. He spots two little red lights about six inches off the doorway frame. Bill steps over the lights and enters the vault.

37 INT. VAULT - DAY

37

There are four Brinks bags of loot. Bill pulls them open and looks inside briefly. He closes the bags and starts tossing three of them out the doorway to Dave. Then Bill grabs the fourth bag, puts it on his back and starts walking through the doorway of the vault.

38 EXT. VAULT - DAY

38

Bill steps over the lights and then, unthinkingly, drags the last bag through, setting off the alarm. Dave spins around, hearing the shrieking alarm.

DAVE

What the hell did you do?

The two of them start running across the bank. In the b.g., police sirens can be heard.

39 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

39

Bill and Dave come RUNNING down the steps, SLAMMING into TOWNSPEOPLE. Alvin hears the alarm, sees his brothers heading toward him and starts REVVING the shit out of the car. He gets so excited and amped, that by the time Dave and Bill are within reach, Alvin GUNS IT and takes off, leaving his brothers standing on the street.

BILL

WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING?!!!

40 INT. CAR - DAY

40

Alvin realizes he screwed up and SLAMS on the brakes.

41 EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

41

Alvin gets REAR-ENDED by the car behind him which causes a domino fender-bending effect with about five other cars on Main Street. Alvin wants to back up but all the cars start blowing their horns. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to Alvin, Bill and Dave have been RUNNING for the car. As the car horns reach a crescendo, and the brothers almost make it to the car, Alvin takes off again.

DAVE

I'm gonna kill this son-of-a-bitch!

Alvin SCREECHES around the corner off of Main Street. Bill and Dave instantly figure that he's going to make a pass around the block again and they start running back the way they came, trying to intercept him.

42 EXT. ANOTHER STREET - DAY

42

Bill and Dave run to the corner, only to see Alvin come flying past them.

DAVE/BILL

HEY, ALVIN!!!

Alvin SLAMS on the brakes. The car SLIDES to a halt. Dave and Bill run for the car and get inside. The police sirens are getting louder. As soon as the car takes off, two local sheriff cars tear after them in pursuit.

43 INT. CAR - DAY

43

Alvin's got his foot to the floor, trying to get out of town as soon as possible and lose the two sheriff cars.

DAVE

You didn't go out of your way, did ya?

ALVIN

You're here, ain't ya?

The sheriff cars are gaining on them as they approach the edge of town. PANIC begins to set in. A train whistle sounds in the b.g. Alvin spots a train whizzing down the tracks past town. So do Bill and Dave.

ALVIN

Okay, I know exactly what I'm gonna do.

BILL

(staring down the monstrous train)

Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no!

44 EXT. TRACKS - DAY

44

Alvin starts driving alongside the tracks. The sheriff cars follow their lead. Alvin's car strains as he pulls, bit by bit, in front of the train.

45 INT. CAR - DAY

45

Alvin cuts the wheel. We hear the train blow the horn loudly. Dave and Bill scream together.

DAVE/BILL

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!

46 EXT. TRACKS - DAY

46

With not a second to spare, Alvin CAREENS the car over the tracks just in front of the train and makes it to the other side, managing to put the train in between them and the cops.

47 INT. CAR - DAY

47

Bill, Dave and Alvin lock eyes. Realize that they've made it. They begin cheering and screaming loudly at the top of their lungs as the train rattles alongside of them. A second later, the train is gone, having been only about ten cars long. They all lock eyes again. Silence envelopes them, save the approaching sirens of the sheriff cars.

48 EXT. TRACKS - DAY

48

Alvin FLOORS it across the gravel and into the woods.

49 EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

49

The police cars move down the dirt road searching for our heroes. Unbeknownst to them, the trio has taken another road deeper into the woods which leads to a nearby river.

50 EXT. RIVER - DAY

50

It is a panoramic spot on the Delaware River. Car number two pulls up behind the Lexus which they stashed there earlier. Bill, Dave and Alvin exit the car quickly, run over to the Lexus, pop open the trunk and grab their first set of clothes. They begin changing quickly. Bill takes off his pants. A set of keys drop on the ground.

DAVE

What's that?

BILL

Holy shit. I've still got the keys to the vault!

They joyously throw the robbery clothes into the river. Inadvertently, they leave the three ski masks in the back seat of the car.

DAVE

Alvin, shove the car in the river.

Alvin proceeds to do so. The Delaware swallows the car up instantly. Bill grabs a huge navy zip duffel bag and shoves all the robbery money into it.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

BILL

Dave, I'm gonna ask you one last time.

DAVE

What?

BILL

Do you swear to me that this wasn't a setup? That you didn't hear about this place from one of your goddamned prison buddies? 'Cause I swear, if you did, I'll accept it. But you gotta tell me the truth now. I do not want a whole shitstorm coming down later.

DAVE

Bill, I swear to God, I don't know what you're talking about.

CUT TO:

51 INT. LONG ISLAND PRISON CAFETERIA - NIGHT

51

Vic Mazzucci and Caesar Spinoza sit beside each other eating their Christmas dinner with a bunch of other INMATES, as usual. He's in the middle of telling a story to the other inmates, who sit spellbound.

VIC

This bank is like a beautiful orchard. And instead of fruit, there's money ripening on the vine just waiting to be picked.

CAESAR

I love the way he tells this story!

VIC

No cameras and the security guard is older than water.

INMATE #1

Oh, this can't be true.

INMATE #2

What are we doing in here?

INMATE #3

Hey, ain't you worried about talking about this? I mean, what if someone beats you to it?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

INMATE #3 (Cont'd)
Especially those big-mouth Firpo
brothers you were always bragging
to. They're out there right now
and they know about it.

CAESAR
Who in their right mind would double
cross him? He's buried more people
than Forest Lawn.

Suddenly DON VITO, an elderly inmate, comes rushing up to
the table.

DON VITO
Hey, Vic. You know that bank you're
always talking about?

VIC
Yeah, what about it?

DON VITO
Is it in Pennsylvania?

VIC
Yeah.

DON VITO
Paradise?

VIC
Yeah.

DON VITO
They just mentioned it on the TV.
It just got hit. You don't think
it's Dave and Alvin Firpo, do you?

A second later, Vic knocks over the table, sending food
flying everywhere. The table flies directly at US,
completely blackening the screen. From there we...

DISSOLVE TO:

52 EXT. SKY - NIGHT

52

From the black of the table we go to the black of the
night. Snow is falling. WE SEE an FBI helicopter with
searchlight blazing flying over Paradise and the bank on
Main Street. The wind from the helicopter props dislodges
the Paradise Winterfest sign which falls gently down to
the snow.

53 EXT. PARADISE HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

53

The FBI helicopter lands on the football field behind the school. Drove of TOWNSPEOPLE stand around watching. A procession of FBI cars and State Trooper cars are parked outside with headlights on, blue and red lights spinning atop their squad cars. From the helicopter emerges SPECIAL AGENT SHADDUS PEYSER and his three assistants, AGENTS BRUNO, DEXTER and BOYLE. They're all business.

AGENT PEYSER

(to his men)

I want agents on every roadblock.
I don't trust these local cops.
I don't care what their story is.
Anybody anywhere is a suspect.

Agent Peyser moves up to greet Chief Burnell who approaches with his DEPUTIES. Agent Peyser extends his hand.

AGENT PEYSER

Special Agent Peyser.

CHIEF BURNELL

(shaking hands)

Chief Burnell.

They begin heading toward the cars. Agent Peyser shouts above the noise of the helicopter.

AGENT PEYSER

First thing I want to know is, do
you think your bank was hit by
locals or outsiders?

CHIEF BURNELL

I can't say for sure, but we've
never had a problem like this before
and I can't believe it'd be anybody
from town.

The group passes Dawson and Clovis who are being given badges and being deputized with several other LOCAL MEN.

54 INT. CHIEF BURNELL'S CAR - NIGHT

54

Agent Peyser, Chief Burnell and Agent Bruno get into the Chief's car. Timmy Burnell is sitting in the back seat.

AGENT PEYSER

Anyone suspicious around prior to
the robbery?

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

CHIEF BURNELL

The only thing I can come up with
is there were three guys in town
this morning who nearly ran my kid
over.

Agent Peyser turns around. Deputy Timmy Burnell nods and
smiles. The car pulls away heading toward the auditorium.

CUT TO:

55 INT. PARADISE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

55

Agent Peyser enters with Chief Burnell and his team of
agents behind him. The auditorium has been transformed
into FBI headquarters. Phones ring. Fax machines WHIR
continuously and AGENTS mill about coordinating
information.

AGENT PEYSER

This snow came down pretty hard and
fast. So, with a little luck they
may still be in the area. Put an
APB out on that Lexus you told me
about.

CHIEF BURNELL

You got it.

From Agent Peyser WE PAN OVER to a huge map.

AGENT PEYSER

Yeah, with a little luck we'll get
you. Especially if you're heading
north.

56 INT. LEXUS - NIGHT

56

Windshield wipers rock back and forth. The snow is
blinding. Bill, Dave and Alvin move slowly down a mountain
road.

DAVE

Where are we headed?

ALVIN

North.

DAVE

How do you know?

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

ALVIN

I'm going uphill. Everyone knows when you're going uphill, you're going north.

Bill stops counting the money in the back seat.

BILL

What the hell did he just say?

DAVE

Oh, he's just kidding. Aren't you, Alvin?

Alvin is about to answer. Dave shoots Alvin a look to "shut up." Bill glances out the window.

BILL

I swear we've passed that farmhouse before.

DAVE

Oh, all farmhouses look alike.

BILL

Alvin, goddamnit, if we're going around in circles, I'm gonna break your neck.

ALVIN

I did just what the map said. I made four lefts.

BILL

Four lefts is a circle, you idiot!

Alvin spots a State Trooper moving down the road toward them.

ALVIN

Shit. Shit. shit. It's a state cop.

DAVE

All right, be cool. Be cool. Don't make eye contact. Just three guys driving down the road in the middle of a blizzard. Nothing to be nervous about.

Bill looks out the back window. The state trooper turns around, hits his lights and starts to pursue them.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

BILL
Son-of-a-bitch, he's coming after
us.

Alvin hits the gas and the car strains to accelerate.

BILL
He's gaining on us.

DAVE
Alvin! Hit it! Hit it!

ALVIN
I don't have snow chains.

DAVE
Snow chains? Are you outta your
mind?

Dave stomps his foot on top of Alvin's and the car swerves all over the road. They scrape a tree which sets off the driver and passenger side air bags. They are blinded by the bags.

57 EXT. STONE BRIDGE - NIGHT

57

The car goes off the side of the road, careens down the embankment and disappears into the inky river water. The state trooper, unaware that their car has left the road, continues his pursuit and drives past them.

58 EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

58

Bill, Dave and Alvin pull themselves ashore from the water, Bill clutching the duffel bag of money. They are freezing, teeth chattering, shaking from the sub-zero temperatures. They car bubbles one last time and sinks to the bottom of the river.

BILL
Great, now what?

A figure shouts down from the top of the bridge.

YOUNG MAN
Are you guys all right?

Bill, Dave and Alvin look up.

DAVE
Who the hell is that?

The young man, DICK ANDERSON, works his way down to the trio.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

BILL

You two shut up and let me do the talking.

DICK

Oh, my God, did I run you off the road?

BILL

Yes. Yes, you did, as a matter-of-fact.

DICK

Oh, my God, I'm so sorry. Look, you guys are gonna freeze out here. You better get in my car.

BILL

We're not getting in any car unless it's going to the interstate.

DICK

All the roads to the interstate are closed. And you three are going to catch pneumonia if you stay out here much longer.

BILL

Look, there's no way we're gonna spend Christmas Eve away from our families.

DICK

You're not from around here, are you?

BILL

No, why?

DICK

There was a bank robbery in Paradise today.

BILL

Oh, great. First you run us off the road, now you think we're bank robbers.

DICK

I'm sorry. I didn't mean it like it sounded. Let's go into town and get the Sheriff and see if he can get the plow --

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (2)

58

BILL

No, no, no, no. No Sheriffs, no plows.

DICK

Well, it's either that or you come join my family and me for a wonderful Christmas dinner by the fire. All the trimmings. Please let me make it up to you.

The Firpo brothers eyeball each other.

CUT TO:

59 INT. DICK ANDERSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

59

The Firpo brothers and Dick Anderson drive down the darkened roads. Dick is in the middle of a rousing rendition of "Deck The Halls," singing along with the radio.

DICK

Come on guys. You're going to be singing at my Aunt and Uncle's, so you may as well brush up here.

BILL

(under breath)

Ah, shit.

The Firpo brothers sing along halfheartedly with the radio. Then they start getting into it. As they continue singing, feeling good about the decision they made to go with Dick, they pass over a familiar bridge. A sign clearly reads: WELCOME TO PARADISE.

They INSTANTLY STOP SINGING and LOCK eyes. The radio continues to play the joyous music, almost mocking their situation. Suddenly, State Trooper and police cars come SPEEDING down the block past them.

DICK

Wow! Isn't that cool!

The duffel bag sits in between Dave and Alvin in the back seat. Alvin glances down at a large tool box at his feet as the police cars continue zipping past them.

60 EXT. COLONIAL HOUSE - NIGHT

60

Dick Anderson's car slows to a stop. The Firpo brothers and Dick exit the car and walk toward a beautiful colonial house. Bill has gotten the duffel bag from the back seat.

DAVE

(to Dick)

What the hell was that about?

DICK

The bank robbery. I heard the Feds are here, too.

ALVIN

(under his breath)

Maybe this wasn't such a good idea.

BILL

(under his breath)

We can't run now. We'll just stay with these people and hide out here.

They settle on the front porch and Dick rings the doorbell. Clifford Anderson, the president of Paradise Bank, opens the door.

DICK

Uncle Cliff, sorry I took so long getting here.

The Firpo brothers STARE in disbelief.

DICK

This is Bill, Dave and Alvin Firpo. They had an accident up by Hastings and I decided to bring them with me. I hope you don't mind.

Bill, Dave and Alvin sheepishly step into the light. Mr. Anderson looks suspiciously at the Firpo brothers.

MR. ANDERSON

I remember you boys. Come on in.

DICK

Wow. You know each other?

The Firpo brothers follow Dick inside. As they do, Ed Dawson's jeep slows up in front of the Anderson house.

61 INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

61

Dawson and Clovis catch a glimpse of the Firpo brothers as they go inside.

CLOVIS
Jesus, Ed. That's them, isn't it?
Let's radio the Feds.

Clovis grabs the radio. Dawson pulls the radio away.

DAWSON
You know what you are, Clovis?

CLOVIS
What?

DAWSON
An alarmist.

CLOVIS
I am?

DAWSON
Yes, you are.

62 INT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

62

The boys step into the hallway.

MR. ANDERSON
I remember you from the bank this
afternoon. You're friends of
Sarah's, aren't you?

The Firpo brothers stand SILENT.

MR. ANDERSON
I'm sorry. I don't mean to come off
like I'm interrogating you
gentlemen. It's just that the bank
was robbed by three men this
afternoon.

DAVE
And on Christmas Eve! What is this
world coming to.

MR. ANDERSON
But I saw you talking to Sarah
upstairs, so I assumed you were all
right.

BILL
Upstairs?

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

MR. ANDERSON

We call her Sarah 'upstairs,'
because she rents a room from us.

All three brothers look up the stairs.

BILL

That's terrific. Listen, do you
have a phone? Is there, like a bus
or a train leaving in the next ten
minutes?

Mrs. Anderson, who was talking with Dick off to the side,
comes over to Mr. Anderson.

MRS. ANDERSON

Dick tells me he ran these poor
gentlemen off the road. And now
we're practically accusing them of
being bank robbers. I think they've
had enough excitement for one night.

DICK

I hope you don't mind, I told them
they could get a change of clothes.

Mr. Anderson smiles and goes under the Christmas tree and
picks up a bunch of packages. He hands them to Bill who
is being torn apart by guilt.

BILL

Look, we just can't do this. These
are from your wife.

MR. ANDERSON

That's right. And now I'm giving
them to you. Merry Christmas boys.

Sarah comes down the stairs and EYEBALLS the Firpo
brothers.

GRANDMA ANDERSON

I'll put your shoes by the fire.

MRS. ANDERSON

The shower is down the hall,
gentlemen.

Everyone heads for the kitchen, leaving Sarah and the Firpo
brothers behind.

SARAH

What the hell are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (2)

62

BILL

How do you mean?

SARAH

Don't give me that innocent shit.
You robbed our bank, didn't you?

DAVE

Oh, what an imagination.

SARAH

Oh, yeah? What's in the duffel bag?

DAVE

Oh, that's great. That's really
great. Just because Alvin and I
have prison records you assume the
worst.

Sarah turns to Bill.

SARAH

What about you?

BILL

What about me, what?

SARAH

Do you have a record?

BILL

From many years ago.

SARAH

You mean you haven't been caught
lately?

BILL

You know, you really know how to
welcome guests.

DAVE

My brother cleaned up his life.
He is one of the finest
restaurateurs in New York City.

SARAH

Then what the hell are you doing
here?

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (3)

62

DAVE

We broke parole to give you a message from your father. And it ain't right if we get picked up and go back to the can just for doing you a favor.

SARAH

You guys can talk all you want.

Sarah walks over toward Alvin and the duffel bag. The Firpo brothers LOCK eyes. PANIC sets in.

BILL

I'm warning you, don't you touch that bag! Alvin, do something!

Alvin hands Sarah the duffel bag. Bill and Dave CONTORT. Sarah SNATCHES it away and unzips it. The bag is EMPTY. They STARE confused at the empty bag and then at Alvin.

SARAH

I was so sure...

ALVIN

Can we take our showers now?

Sarah drops the duffel bag and starts heading down the hall. Alvin starts to follow her.

ALVIN

(whispers)

Relax. It's in Dick's car in the tool box.

A wave of relief SWEEPS over the Firpo brothers. A second later, Dave regains his composure.

DAVE

Good thing you weren't around in biblical times. You would have shaken down the Three Wise Men.

(turns to Bill)

Relax. I think the worst is behind us.

Suddenly, the Firpo brothers are distracted by MARLA ANDERSON, the eight-year-old granddaughter, who turns up the volume on the TV. Dave turns and smiles sweetly at her until he has a chance to process what he's hearing.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (4)

62

NEWSCASTER

Tonight in New York City, a bold prison break took place when two inmates hijacked a truck during the worst blizzard the eastern seaboard has seen in seventeen years. Police are looking for these men who are considered to be armed and dangerous.

A mug shot of Vic Mazzucci flashes up on the screen, followed by a mug shot of Caesar Spinoza. Dave's eyes BULGE. Bill turns around to glance at Dave which puts him in eye line of the TV. Dave does everything imaginable to block Bill's view of the set. Dave starts humming to drown out the sound of the TV.

BILL

What the hell are you doing?

DAVE

(singing)

'Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the new born king...'

MRS. ANDERSON

Now, that's the spirit we need in this house.

Everyone in the dining room begins setting the table and joins in the Christmas spirit, singing at the top of their lungs with Dave. Dave turns and shoots a glance at the TV, still blocking it from Bill. On the TV is footage of TWO GAS STATION ATTENDANTS who had obviously been shot by Vic and Caesar and who are being loaded into an ambulance. Dave immediately pumps up the volume.

DAVE

(eyes bulging)

OHH.....'Peace on earth and mercy mild...'

BILL

What is WRONG WITH YOU?

Christmas singing continues in the house.

DAVE

I'm just feeling good, that's all. Matter-of-fact, I'm feeling so good, I want to call Ma.

(calling out)

Mrs. Anderson, can I call our mother?

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (5)

62

MRS. ANDERSON
Why certainly, Dave.

63 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

63

Bill comes down the hall and sees Dave frantically dialing.

BILL
What the hell are you up to, singing
at the top of your lungs, jumping
around like Fred Astaire?

DAVE
I just got overtaken by the
Christmas spirit. I'm sorry I don't
want to be a deadbeat like you.
Bill, you are really getting
paranoid.

(into phone)
Hello, Ma?

INTERCUT:

64 INT. MA FIRPO'S APARTMENT

64

MA FIRPO
Dave?

A monstrous hand SNATCHES the phone away from Ma Firpo.
It's Vic Mazzucci. Caesar can be seen behind them, seated
at the dining room table scarfing down a huge Christmas
dinner.

VIC
If you don't give me that money,
I'm gonna throw your mother out the
window! I don't think she can fly,
can she?

DAVE
Oh, God...Oh, my God...No, flying
would be out of the question right
now. Especially in this weather.

BILL
What's the problem?

DAVE
(covering the phone)
She wants to fly down here.

BILL
Is she nuts? In this weather?

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

Ma Firpo sees Caesar ripping into the turkey.

MA FIRPO

You put that down, you gorilla!
I made that for my boys!

VIC

Did you rob that bank?

DAVE

What an imagination!

BILL

Let me talk to her.

Bill reaches for the phone. Dave grabs it back.

DAVE

No, no, no. You know what she's
like when she gets this way. I'll
take care of it.

VIC

Where are you, goddamnit?! Your
mother said you went to
Pennsylvania. You got snowed in
didn't ya, ya dumb bastard!

DAVE

I don't think we're gonna make it
home tonight, not in this weather.
Can't you wait?

VIC

You stay exactly where you are.
I'll find a way to get down there.
Where are you?

DAVE

We're at the Bank President's house,
Ma.

VIC

What do you take me for?!

DAVE

I know it sounds hard to believe,
but we're here in their house and
they're fixing us a lovely dinner.

VIC

Stay there! Don't even think of
leaving! We'll be down there by
three A.M.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (2)

64

DAVE

What?

VIC

Three A.M., goddamned it! Don't
go anywhere!

Vic SLAMS down the phone. Dave hangs up.

BILL

Is she all right?

DAVE

She's fine.

BILL

All right, now let's get outta here.

DAVE

I think it would look highly
suspicious if the three of us blow
out of here when they're setting
the table for us. They seem like
really nice people.

BILL

Look, we just robbed them, I don't
want to get to know them.

CUT TO:

65 INT. ANDERSON DINING ROOM - NIGHT

65

Dinner is in progress. The Andersons and Firpo brothers
eat up. Bill glances at his watch. He'd really like to
be out of there. Alvin's having the time of his life.

ALVIN

Ah, Dave. Could you please pass
the giblet gravy?

DAVE

Why, of course, Alvin.

Bill scowls at both of them.

DAVE

I hope we haven't put you out,
eating you out of house and home.

MRS. ANDERSON

Oh, no, we don't mind at all.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

MR. ANDERSON

It's actually a nice diversion,
having the three of you with us.

DICK

Otherwise we'd just be sitting
around here talking about that
terrible robbery.

DAVE

Oh, yeah. The robbery. Exactly
how much was taken, Mr. Anderson?

BILL

They just said they don't want to
talk about it.

MR. ANDERSON

Two hundred and seventy-five
thousand dollars.

DAVE

Really?

BILL

I heard that banks always claim that
more was stolen than actually was,
so they can claim double on the
insurance.

MR. ANDERSON

Only a crook would do a thing like
that. That wouldn't make me any
different than the people who robbed
me.

Meanwhile, Alvin is toying with his fork.

ALVIN

Excuse me, is this real silver?

Bill shoots Alvin a look.

BILL

Well, what about putting people to
work? You know, because you have
to increase security and all of
that. I heard that bank robberies
actually stimulate the economy.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED: (2)

65

MR. ANDERSON

You are enormously misinformed, Mr. Firpo. The truth is that this robbery is probably going to destroy this town.

Alvin slips the fork into his pants. At the same time Sarah gets up and leaves the table.

BILL

How's that?

MR. ANDERSON

For years we've been threatened by big city banks who've wanted to come in and take over. Now, as a result of this robbery, the FDIC will come in and investigate, find out that I make loans to the townspeople on a handshake, that there's really no collateral, and that, gentlemen, will be that.

BILL

How come you had so much cash on hand to begin with?

MR. ANDERSON

That's the worst part of all. Over the years I've always encouraged everyone in town to open up Christmas Club accounts. So by the end of the year, each person would have a few extra thousand dollars saved. It gave everybody a little more pride and security. Kept Main Street alive.

BILL

But not this year?

MR. ANDERSON

No.

Sarah comes back to the table.

SARAH

I called the Greyhound Station. The road to the south is still open. There's a bus going to Philly.

DAVE

Philadelphia? That's a little out of our way, wouldn't you say?

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED: (3)

65

There's a KNOCK at the door. Mrs. Anderson gets up to get the door.

BILL

Dave, there's a train from Philly to New York. It takes a couple of hours. We could be home by midnight.

DAVE

Bill, we're here with these wonderful people. We're warm. We're safe.

Mrs. Anderson appears.

MRS. ANDERSON

Dear, the FBI is here.

The Firpo brothers involuntarily rise at once from the table. Agent Peyser enters the room with Agents Bruno, Dexter and Boyle.

AGENT PEYSER

Good evening everyone. Special Agent Shaddus Peyser, FBI. Are you Clifford Anderson?

MR. ANDERSON

(turning)

Yes.

AGENT PEYSER

Sorry to interrupt you on Christmas Eve, but we'd like to go over the details of the robbery while they're still fresh in your mind.

DAVE

More guests? I love it. May I take your coats, gentlemen?

Bill's eyeballs are nearly falling out of his head.

AGENT PEYSER

Thank you very much.

Dave and Alvin take the Feds' coats.

BILL

Well, we can see you have important business to discuss here. We'll be on our way.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED: (4)

65

SARAH

I'll take them to the station in
my car.

DICK

Why don't you take my four wheeler?
It's better in the snow.

DAVE

(re: money)

Good idea.

MRS. ANDERSON

Boys, would you like some sandwiches
for the trip?

BILL

No, that won't be necessary.

MR. ANDERSON

How about some money?

BILL

No, we've taken more than our share
from you already. Believe me.

Bill heads for the hallway.

66 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

66

Sarah comes down the hall followed by the Firpo brothers.
Dave slings the Feds' coats over the banister. Grandma
Anderson and Mrs. Anderson come over with their coats.

MRS. ANDERSON

Your coats are dry, boys.

She helps them put them on in a motherly fashion. Grandma
Anderson hands Mrs. Anderson a bunch of hats and scarfs.
Mrs. Anderson puts the scarfs around their necks.

MRS. ANDERSON

Here, take these.

The Firpo brothers take them reluctantly, especially Bill.

BILL

Thank you. We'll mail them back.

MRS. ANDERSON

No, you save them for the next time
you come. And bring your mother.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

BILL
Thanks, Mrs. Anderson.

Meanwhile, Alvin has backed himself up against the banister and is rifling through one of the pockets of the Feds' coats. Bill notices that Alvin is lifting a wallet and grabs his hand, shoving the wallet back into the pocket.

ALVIN
(under breath)
Sorry, sorry, sorry.

Sarah escorts the threesome out the door.

67 EXT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

67

The Firpo brothers are getting into Dick's jeep. Sarah starts the car up and begins moving away from the house.

68 INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

68

Dawson and Clovis idle on a side street watching the Firpo brothers and Sarah drive away.

CLOVIS
Looks like they're going somewhere.

DAWSON
Figured that out, did ya?

Dawson pulls out after them in pursuit.

CUT TO:

69 EXT. PARADISE MAIN STREET - NIGHT

69

The street is aglow with the various shop lights which spill onto the fresh snow. They pass by the Winterfest sign which is being restrung. Dawson follows in slow pursuit.

70 INT. DICK ANDERSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

70

Sarah lights up a cigarette. The mood is bleak.

BILL
I didn't know you smoked.

SARAH
I don't.

Alvin quietly opens the tool box and begins stashing the money into the duffel bag. Bill looks out the window at the rows and rows of storefronts.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

BILL

What's with this Winterfest thing?

SARAH

It's a town tradition. Everybody goes shopping Christmas Eve and then goes to church to give thanks.

BILL

The stores look pretty empty.

SARAH

Nobody's got any money.

BILL

Oh, yeah. That's right.

SARAH

There's the bus station.

71 EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

71

Sarah pulls the car over in front of the bus station. Dawson and Clovis pull up a ways behind them. Dave and Alvin get out, leaving Bill and Sarah alone for a moment.

BILL

This is nice of you. You didn't have to do this.

SARAH

Yes I did. I'm sorry I was acting like a jerk. Merry Christmas.

BILL

Merry Christmas to you too, Sarah.

Sarah drives away. Bill turns to his brother.

BILL

I like that girl. Now I feel like shit.

DAVE

Let's feel bad once we're on the bus.

Bill looks around the street and quickly sums up the situation. Two State Trooper cars are parked at the curb. SEVERAL STATE TROOPERS mill about. Dave and Alvin start walking toward the bus station. bill, duffel bag in hand, catches up to them.

BILL

We gotta separate.

72
thru OMITTED
73

61.
72
thru
73

74 INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

74

Dawson turns to Clovis.

DAWSON
We can't let them get on that bus.

CLOVIS
You sure this is the right thing
to do?

DAWSON.
Say, 'Spill on aisle three.'

CLOVIS
Spill on aisle three.

DAWSON
You want to be saying that the rest
of your life? Now, help me get that
money.

CUT TO:

75 EXT. JERSEY TURNPIKE - NIGHT

75

WE SEE a Cadillac Coupe De Ville moving along the highway.
The car swerves quickly. And an eighteen wheel tractor
trailer BLOWS its HORN.

76 INT. COUPE DE VILLE - NIGHT

76

Vic Mazzucci is at the wheel, angry as usual. Caesar sits
in the passenger seat toying with his .45. Ma Firpo is
in the back chain-smoking non-filtered Camels.

MA FIRPO
You missed the exit.

CAESAR
Shit, she's right.

MA FIRPO
Can I ask you a personal question?
What were you doing five years for,
stupidity?

CAESAR
Hey, Edna. You wanna ride in the
trunk?

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

MA FIRPO

Edna? Edna? Are we sleeping together? I think not. You call me Mrs. Firpo, goddamnit.

VIC

Come on, Caesar, don't aggravate the old witch.

MA FIRPO

I wish I was a witch. I'd shove my broomstick right up your ass. I'll say whatever I want. You know what? I may just bust your balls all the way to Pennsylvania if I feel like it.

VIC

I'll bet you could.

MA FIRPO

You like music?

Before they can reply, Ma Firpo begins belting out "Beautiful Dreamer" at the top of her lungs.

77 INT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

77

Dave and Alvin play "PRISON BREAK", a video game equipped with a rifle. Dave shoots at the escaped convicts trying to get over a wall. Alvin cheers him on. An unusual amount of PASSENGERS mill around the station. Bill stands at the ticket window opposite a middle-aged CLERK who watches him count out his change.

BILL

Sure is crowded here tonight.

CLERK

It's really sad. A lot of people are leaving town. You heard about the robbery, right?

BILL

Ah, yeah...

CLERK

I don't know what all these shopkeepers are going to do on Main Street. My sister-in-law has a hundred Christmas baskets that haven't been picked up.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

BILL
I'm sorry to hear that.

The bus pulls in the station.

BILL
You're not gonna believe this. I don't have enough money. I'm seven dollars short. That's my bus. What am I gonna do?

CLERK
Going home to your family, huh?

BILL
Just my mother, actually.

The Clerk digs into her purse and pulls out some bills.

CLERK
You're lucky you're in Paradise.
Merry Christmas, sir.

The Clerk hands Bill the ticket. He reluctantly takes it, turns, and begins walking out of the terminal toward the bus. His stride slows a bit as he sees DROVES of FBI cars pulling into the parking lot surrounding the bus. Dave and Alvin are already out on the platform.

78 EXT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

78

The snow is coming down hard and fast. The State Troopers and FBI are checking suitcases. Bill, Dave and Alvin near the scene and allow PASSENGERS to get ahead of them and split up in the line. It's starting to get tense. Bill hugs the duffel bag close to his chest. Dawson and Clovis exit the terminal and spot the Firpo brothers.

DAWSON
We can't let them get on the bus.

Bill, Dave and Alvin are sweating. An FBI AGENT turns to Bill.

AGENT #1
What's in the bag?

From out of nowhere, Clovis RAMS into Bill and grabs the duffel bag away. Mayhem erupts. We realize there are a lot more AGENTS on scene and they start reaching for guns. Clovis TOSSES the bag at Dawson who handles it like a hot potato. Everyone is SCREAMING, particularly Dawson.

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

78

AGENT #2

Get that goddamned bus out of
here!!!

The bus pulls quickly out of the station.

BILL

(re: bus)

Shit.

Bill looks around, trying to get a handle on the situation. He spots a .45 sticking out of Dawson's pants and realizes there's only one way for them to escape.

BILL

(screaming)

OH MY GOD, HE'S GOT A GUN!!!!

People start SCREAMING and running for cover around the station. Dawson's eyes BULGE as Bill SLAMS into him. Bill pulls the .45 out of Dawson's pants, RAPID FIRES it three times into the ground, and then tosses the gun which goes sliding toward a GROUP OF AGENTS.

BILL

GUN!!! GUN!!! TAKE COVER!!!

Now it's complete MAYHEM. PEOPLE are RUNNING in every direction. AGENTS tackle Dawson and Clovis. Bill, Dave and Alvin meld quickly into the screaming packs of people and disappear from the scene.

79 INT. AGENT PEYSER'S CAR - NIGHT

79

Agent Bruno drives with Agent Peyser at his side. Agents Dexter and Boyle are in the back. As they come SCREAMING into the parking lot, the Firpo brothers come TEARING right past them, along with a crowd of TERRIFIED CITIZENS.

AGENT PEYSER

What the hell is going on here?

80 EXT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

80

Agent Peyser's car slides to a stop. Other AGENTS get out of their cars. Chief Burnell meets Agent Peyser in the crowd of Agents. Agent #3 turns to Agent Peyser.

AGENT #3

I think we may have found two of
our suspects.

The pile up disburses, revealing Dawson and Clovis, who is still clinging onto the duffel bag.

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED:

81

DAVE

I think we should go back to the
Andersons.

BILL.

Are you nuts?! There's ten million
cops in this town.

ALVIN

Then how we gonna get out?

BILL

(re: river)

That's how we're gonna get out.

Dave and Alvin turn. The Delaware RAGES behind them.

ALVIN

Bill, we haven't had much luck with
water tonight.

DAVE

Why don't we just stay here.

BILL

What's with you and staying here?
This place is getting hotter by the
second.

CUT TO:

82 INT. PARADISE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

82

Chief Burnell walks up to Agent Peyser.

CHIEF BURNELL

I got a couple of kids outside in
the car who say they saw three guys
push a car into the river this
afternoon. They can show us the
exact spot.

AGENT PEYSER

Hallelujah.

Dawson and Clovis start moving with the group.

AGENT PEYSER

No, not you two. Merry Christmas
and stay out of my sight.

CUT TO:

80 CONTINUED:

80

CHIEF BURNELL

Oh, shit.

AGENT PEYSER

What, you know them?

CHIEF BURNELL

Yeah, unfortunately. That's Ed Dawson and Clovis Minor. They're two of my deputies.

Dawson grabs the duffel bag from Clovis and reluctantly offers it to Agent Peyser and Chief Burnell.

DAWSON

You guys are gonna feel really bad about what you did to us when you see what's inside this bag.

Agent Peyser takes the duffel bag and unzips it. He looks inside, looks at Dawson and Clovis, and goes to dump the contents onto the snow, never losing eye contact with Dawson. The bag is completely empty.

AGENT PEYSER

You're right. I'm miserable.

CUT TO:

81 EXT. PARADISE BRIDGE - NIGHT

81

The bus to Philadelphia crosses over the bridge. Another parade of FBI cars RACES over the bridge in the opposite direction towards the bus station. Bill, Dave and Alvin are huddled underneath the bridge as the vehicles pass above them.

ALVIN

I can't believe it. We lost the money.

BILL

We didn't lose anything. I've got it taped to my body.

Dave and Alvin burst into happy hysterics and begin hugging Bill. The SOUND of a helicopter ROARS overhead. Search lights sweep up and down the bridge and disappear.

BILL

I gotta get this money off me. I'm a walkin' confession.

(CONTINUED)

83 INT. JIM KELLER'S MERCANTILE - NIGHT

83

Bill is in the process of buying a suitcase. DROVES of FBI cars move up and down outside. JIM and MOLLY KELLER, an elderly couple, are in the process of showing Bill several bags.

BILL

Any suitcase will be fine.

Molly starts sniffing.

BILL

I'm sorry. What did I do?

The woman keeps sniffing. Jim moves over to console her.

BILL

I'm sorry. Did I say something wrong?

JIM

It's not you, sir. There's just a rumor going around that the bank is going to close. Molly thinks we're going to lose everything. That's just the word around here.

MOLLY

Nobody's picked up a single basket they've ordered. They're all going to go bad.

BILL

Does your sister-in-law work at the bus station?

MOLLY

Yes, why?

BILL

She's a nice woman.

Molly starts crying again. Bill glances over and spots a pile of Christmas baskets filled with baked goodies, waiting to be picked up.

JIM

Why don't you take one.

BILL

Oh, no, I couldn't. Please.

84 EXT. JIM KELLER'S MERCANTILE - NIGHT

84

Bill comes out the front door lugging a leather suitcase in one hand and a huge decorated basket of popcorn balls and fruitcake. He trots down the street.

85 INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

85

Dawson and Clovis are moving down Main Street and see Bill running in the opposite direction.

DAWSON

Do you realize that we're the only ones in town that know what the hell we're doing?

86 EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

86

Dawson and Clovis pull a U-turn and begin following Bill.

87 EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

87

Dave and Alvin are huddled by a few rowboats covered with tarps. They spot Bill running down the hill with suitcase and goodie basket in tow.

DAVE

Here he comes.

Dave and Alvin whistle and wave. Bill runs over. He throws the suitcase and gift basket down.

DAVE

(re: basket)

What the hell is that?

BILL

It's fruitcake and popcorn balls.

DAVE

I hate fruitcake. You know there's only two hundred of them in the world and people just keep giving them to each other.

BILL

SHUT UP AND HELP ME PUT THIS MONEY AWAY!

88 INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

88

Dawson and Clovis sweep the riverbank looking for the Firpo brothers.

DAWSON

Now, where the hell are those guys?

89 EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

89

The Firpo brothers stuff the last packets of hundreds into the leather suitcase and slam it shut. Then they pull back a tarp on a dinghy that's next to the shore and toss the suitcase inside. Inside the house behind them, a Christmas party is in full swing. The strains of a Bing Crosby Christmas album float out to the Firpo brothers. Bill starts looking longingly at the scene inside the house. The GRANDPARENTS dance around with the GRANDCHILDREN.

ALVIN

Look at that. Their lives are going down the toilet, and they're still dancing.

DAVE

(lugging boat)

I hate to ruin this Hallmark moment, but do you think you could help me lug this thing to the river?

Bill helps Dave and Alvin push the boat toward the river. Suddenly, Christmas lights strung on the outside of the house start snapping on. The Firpo brothers duck the lights. Unbeknownst to the brothers, the spot they left the boat on was not part of the shore, but a large piece of ice. It now breaks and starts floating away, carrying the boat down the river. Bill catches the movement out of the corner of his eye. The money is now making good time down the Delaware River.

DAVE

Jesus Christ! The money!

90A INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

90A

Dawson and Clovis move down the road and spot the Firpo brothers.

DAWSON

Holy shit, it's them.

90 EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

90

All three brothers are RUNNING like mad along the shore.

ALVIN

What the hell are we gonna do?

Way up ahead Bill spots the bridge that leads into town. The boat is heading for it.

BILL

We'll catch it at the bridge!

CUT TO:

91 EXT. DOWN RIVER - NIGHT

91

A huge crane has just pulled the robbery car from the river and is placing it down on the snow. Agent Peyser motions for his men to move towards it. AGENTS gather around the car and open the doors. Torrents of water rush out of the robbery car, spreading across the snow. Agents start searching the vehicle with flashlights.

CHIEF BURNELL
Find anything?

AGENT PEYSER
No...
(spots something)
Wait a minute.

Agent Peyser and Chief Burnell lean inside the car.

CHIEF BURNELL
What the hell are those things?

Agent Peyser picks up three objects off the vehicle floor and holds them up.

AGENT PEYSER
Ski masks.

Agent Peyser turns one of the masks inside out. There's a label inside which he reads out loud.

AGENT PEYSER
'Dawson's Country Store.' Where
is that?

CHIEF BURNELL
Oh-oh.

AGENT PEYSER
Oh-oh, what?

CHIEF BURNELL
Ed Dawson and Clovis Minor.

AGENT PEYSER
Those two idiots from the bus
station?

Chief Burnell nods.

AGENT PEYSER
Let's get them on the radio right
now. I want to talk to them.

Agent Peyser starts moving toward his car. Chief Burnell and the other agents follow suit. The tow truck carrying the robbery car pulls out and everyone starts moving back onto the road.

92 EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

92

The Firpo brothers continue running along the shore heading for the Paradise Bridge.

93 INT. AGENT PEYSER'S CAR - NIGHT

93

Agent Bruno, Dexter and Boyle ride with Agent Peyser. They are leading the long FBI entourage and tow truck, all heading toward town. Agent Peyser is on the radio.

AGENT PEYSER
Deputies Dawson and Minor. This
is Agent Peyser, FBI. Come in.
Over.

94 INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

94

The police radio is squawking. Ed Dawson shuts it off.

DAWSON
I wish they'd quit bothering us.

Suddenly Clovis Minor spots three figures running toward the bridge.

CLOVIS
There they are!

Dawson guns the jeep.

95 EXT. PARADISE BRIDGE - NIGHT

95

Bill is the first one to run onto the bridge. Dave and Alvin are not far behind him. As Bill runs, he continually searches the dark inky river, looking for the boat. Bill is halfway across the bridge when Dave and Alvin catch up to him. The trio spot the boat coming toward them. Suddenly, headlights from a barrage of police and FBI cars illuminate the brothers. It's Agent Peyser and the gang.

BILL
Oh, shit!

DAVE
We're getting out of here just in
time.

The Firpo brothers all jump over the railing. As the trio scurry down the side of the bridge, the police cars pass overhead, throwing off huge chunks of snow which fall on the Firpo brothers. Bill gets down to the water first and spots the boat coming toward them. Bill, Dave and Alvin all jump inside the dinghy as it passes by.

96 INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

96

Ed Dawson floors it heading up hill on River Road toward the bridge.

DAWSON

You and me should be Federal Agents,
Clovis.

CLOVIS

You think so?

DAWSON

Ed Dawson and Clovis Minor. FBI.

97 EXT. PARADISE BRIDGE - NIGHT

97

Ed Dawson's jeep pulls onto the bridge and CRASHES into the procession of FBI cars coming directly towards them. Everybody SKIDS to a stop, SLAMMING into each other.

98 INT. AGENT PEYSER'S CAR - NIGHT

98

Agent Peyser gets tossed around and then focuses on the car they just hit. The agents and Dawson and Clovis stare each other down through their windshields. We expect Agent Peyser to explode, but instead he turns to Agent Bruno.

AGENT PEYSER

Move that jeep.

AGENT BRUNO

You got it, sir.

Agent Bruno GUNS the car and RAMS into Dawson's jeep and KNOCKS it on its side. Dawson and Clovis are lying on their side in the jeep. The FBI procession keeps on going like nothing has happened. Chief Burnell gets out of his car and heads over to Dawson's jeep. He motions for Dawson to roll down his window. The electric window slides down.

CHIEF BURNELL

How you doing, boys? Did you see
anybody suspicious in your store
today?

99 EXT. DELAWARE RIVER - NIGHT

99

Bill, Dave and Alvin sit in the boat and suddenly LOCK eyes as they hear the SOUND of an FBI helicopter sweeping the snowy river with searchlights.

BILL

Oh, shit! Get down! Get down!

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED:

99

The Firpo brothers duck into the bottom of the dinghy. The searchlights continue to WAVE around them, illuminating the falling snow. The helicopter looks like a huge dark dragonfly hovering about the icy river. Just as the Firpo brothers are about to be illuminated, the helicopter swings away toward the opposite shore.

ALVIN

This was a bad idea.

BILL

Don't worry. We'll get out of this.

Suddenly up ahead, the Firpo brothers spot two more police helicopters sweeping the river in tandem.

DAVE

Shit, these guys are everywhere!

Suddenly the dinghy stops short as it hits a huge tree laying across the river. Alvin goes FLYING out of the boat and into the icy water. The current picks him up and sweeps him downstream.

BILL/DAVE

ALVIN!!!!

A helicopter comes thundering toward Bill and Dave with the searchlight blazing. Bill pushes away from the tree with an oar and begins paddling furiously. The Firpo brothers get away just as the helicopter lights sweep past the tree.

Bill and Dave continue searching the water, frantically SCREAMING.

BILL/DAVE

ALVIN!!! ALVIN!!!

A grim feeling settles in on Bill and Dave, as they realize that Alvin may be lost.

Further down the river Alvin is getting caught up in a bad torrent of water. He's SCREAMING at the top of his lungs. He sees a group of trees stretching across the river up ahead and tries to maneuver toward them. He does better than expected, and SLAMS into them full force, GRABBING onto them for dear life.

ALVIN

HELP!!!!!! HELP!!!!!!

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED: (2)

99

Alvin keeps on SCREAMING. Lights snap on in neighboring houses and backyards along the shoreline, illuminating Alvin. His cries are barely audible above the rush of the river, but two women, Hertha and Rose Weyerhaeuser, hear him. They come running out of their house, flashlights in hand. They shine the lights around and finally pick out Alvin's location amongst the debris in the water.

HERTHA

Oh, my God!

Other NEIGHBORS come running to the water's edge.

HERTHA

Somebody get a rope!

Doc Milgrom comes to the shoreline and yells out to Alvin.

DOC MILGROM

Are you okay, son?

ALVIN

I can't hang on much longer!

The onlookers begin forming a human chain with their arms, but there aren't enough people to reach out to Alvin. Everyone is YELLING back and forth.

Bill and Dave approach the scene and hear yelling. They recognize Alvin's voice. Bill drops the suitcase and they start running toward the scene.

HERTHA

Who are you?

BILL

He's our brother. He fell into the river.

Bill and Alvin wade into the river. Alvin is GULPING down water and getting tired. Bill and Dave form the last of the human chain and latch onto Alvin just as the branch cracks and whirls away down the river.

CUT TO:

100 INT. WEYERHAEUSER HOUSE - NIGHT

100

The door BLASTS open.

ROSE

Over there in the next room. Lay him down by the fire.

Bill and Dave frantically drag Alvin into the living room which has a huge fire blazing in the stone fireplace.

101 INT. WEYERHAEUSER LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

101

Bill and Dave roll Alvin onto his back and see his face for the first time in the firelight.

BILL

Oh, Jesus. He's turning blue.

DAVE

What's that mean?! What's that mean?!

DOC MILGROM

He's got water in his lungs.

People begin gathering around.

DOC MILGROM

Give me some room.

Doc Milgrom begins the resuscitation process, pumping Alvin's lungs and giving him the "kiss of life." Suddenly a jet of water SHOOTs out of Alvin's mouth. He begins coughing and swinging his arms around.

DOC MILGROM

He'll be okay now. How about some soup and brandy.

ROSE

Mix the two together?

DOC MILGROM

No, the brandy's for me.

CUT TO:

102 INT. WEYERHAEUSER BATHROOM - NIGHT

102

Alvin lays in the bathtub. Dave sits on the closed toilet seat. Alvin is just coming out of shock.

ALVIN

I'm in water again.

103 INT. WEYERHAEUSER HALLWAY - NIGHT

103

Doc Milgrom stands in the hallway sipping his brandy. The Weyerhaeuser sisters hand Bill some dry clothes.

BILL

Thanks.

Bill glances over at the suitcase which sits by the roaring fire. Then he turns to Doc Milgrom.

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED:

103

BILL

And thank you, too. What do I owe you?

DOC MILGROM

Oh, you don't owe me anything.

BILL

Why?

DOC MILGROM

I'm a doctor. This is what I do.

BILL

But doctors are supposed to get paid.

DOC MILGROM

He made it. I've already been paid.

Doc Milgrom shakes Bill's hand and walks into the living room. Dave enters the hallway.

DAVE

Well, Chapter twenty-six, 'The Debacle At The River' has concluded. What, pray tell, will Chapter twenty-seven be?

Alvin comes out of the bathroom wrapped in towels and a robe.

ALVIN

We're going to church.

CUT TO:

104 EXT. PARADISE CHURCH - NIGHT

104

People are getting out of cars, walking up the steps of the church. Bill, Dave and Alvin get out of the Weyerhaeuser sisters' car. They start walking. The entire Anderson family is walking toward them. In the b.g., Timmy Burnell, dressed as Santa Claus, pulls up with Merlin and the sleigh which is filled with presents.

MR. ANDERSON

I thought you boys were on your way to Philadelphia.

BILL

The bus left without us.

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED:

104

ALVIN
I'm going to confession.

DAVE
They're Protestants. They don't
have confessions.

ALVIN
I don't care. I'm going in.

Alvin goes up the stairs with the Weyerhaeuser sisters.

DAVE
(to Bill)
I'm waiting out here.
(re: Weyerhaeuser
car)
I'm gonna keep an eye on the
dough-re-me.

Sarah turns to the Andersons.

SARAH
I'll be right there.

The Andersons go up the stairs to the church.

SARAH
(to Bill)
Can I talk to you a minute?

CUT TO:

105
thru OMITTED
106

105
thru
106

107 EXT. CHURCHYARD - NIGHT

107

From inside the church we can hear the singing. Sarah approaches Bill.

SARAH
Are you all right?

BILL
No, not really.

SARAH
What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED:

107

BILL

What's wrong? I don't know. I like this town. I like these people. I feel bad about what's going to happen to everyone.

SARAH

Yeah. I'm worried about Clifford. I'm sure this is affecting him a lot more than he's letting on. I wish there was something I could do to make it better.

BILL

Yeah, me too. Hey, Sarah, do you think people can change?

SARAH

I don't know. There's things about myself I wish were different.

BILL

Oh, yeah? Like what?

SARAH

Well, let's see. I wish I could change my past. I work in a bank, my father's robbed a few. Doesn't look too good on the resume.

BILL

Yeah, I can imagine. I'm trying to change my past, too.

SARAH

This place helped me. These people don't let you think like we do.

BILL

What do you mean?

SARAH

They're just good. I hadn't seen good in so long I didn't even recognize it when it was in front of me.

They approach a headstone. Sarah clears the snow off it revealing the dates.

SARAH

Let's see how long this guy lived. 1635 - 1692. Fifty seven. I guess that was pretty old back then.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: (2)

107

BILL

Yeah, in those days, you could die from having a bad tooth.

Bill looks across the churchyard for a second and then back to the date.

BILL

God, your whole life is in that 'dash,' isn't it. I feel like I've been on the wrong road all my life. The way I used to figure it, was when you were born, all roads were open. Then whatever one you choose to go down, that's it.

SARAH

Yeah, but that doesn't mean you can't back up and take another one. I did.

Bill moves closer to Sarah and they kiss. The snow falls gently on them.

108 INT. CHIEF BURNELL'S CAR - NIGHT

108

Chief Burnell cruises by the church and spots Dave and Alvin coming out of the church, heading around the corner. He grabs his radio.

CHIEF BURNELL

Martha, patch me through to Peyser.

109 EXT. CHURCHYARD - NIGHT

109

Bill begins walking along the stone wall alongside the churchyard. Just as he rounds the corner, one FBI car after another comes SCREECHING up to the church. Dave and Alvin come sneaking over to Bill at the side of the church, dragging Merlin and the sleigh. The suitcase has been tossed inside.

DAVE

Bill, get in.

Bill hesitates. Sirens, cops and agents start coming to life all over the place.

DAVE

Bill. Twenty years minimum. Get in. Alvin, tell him to get in.

(CONTINUED)

109 CONTINUED:

109

ALVIN

I don't know about taking the kid's sleigh. There's something that just ain't right about it.

DAVE

GET IN!!!

Bill reluctantly gets into the sleigh. Alvin follows. The police activity continues all around them. Unbeknownst to them, Deputy Marshall Myers spots them from a distance and calls out to them.

DEPUTY MYERS

Hey! Hey! What are you doing?!

Alvin takes the reigns and slaps them hard.

ALVIN

YAAAAAH, Merlin! YAAAAAH!

110 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

110

Chief Burnell is just getting out of his police car when the sleigh TEARS past him. Chief Burnell jumps out of the way in order to avoid getting hit. At the same moment, Deputy Marshall Myers and Deputy Timmy Burnell come running toward Chief Burnell. Agent Peyser gets out of his car with Agents Bruno, Dexter and Boyle.

AGENT PEYSER

Where are they?

CHIEF BURNELL

I don't know, but three guys just took my kid's horse and sleigh.

DEPUTY TIMMY BURNELL

Dad! Somebody took my sleigh!

CHIEF BURNELL

Yeah, I know. You stay here, Timmy.

Chief Burnell starts running back to his car. Deputy Timmy Burnell grabs ahold of his father.

DEPUTY TIMMY BURNELL

I'm a deputy. I want to go.

CHIEF BURNELL

Goddamnit, Timmy, I said stay here.

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED:

110

Chief Burnell and Deputy Marshall Myers jump into Chief Burnell's car. Deputy Timmy Burnell calls after them, but they don't hear him as they SLAM the doors and HIT the siren.

DEPUTY TIMMY BURNELL

It's 'cause I'm slow, isn't it?
That's why I can't go. It's because
I'm slow.

111 INT. CHIEF BURNELL'S CAR - NIGHT

111

Chief Burnell drives quickly behind the fleeing sleigh. Deputy Marshall Myers picks up the radio and calls in the pursuit to the other deputies.

112 EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

112

Alvin is cracking the reigns like a madman.

ALVIN

Merlin, run you son-of-a-bitch!
Run!

Two local police cars are steady in pursuit.

113 INT. AGENT PEYSER'S CAR - NIGHT

113

Agent Bruno drives. The snow is blinding.

AGENT BOYLE

(to Agent Peyser)

Should we get the choppers up?

AGENT PEYSER

Not in this blizzard. They're
worthless.

114 EXT. PARADISE BRIDGE - NIGHT

114

The sleigh is moving like a bat out of hell across the bridge, leaving a wake of snow behind. Two local police cars with sirens BLARING are in hot pursuit. Clovis and Dawson are still rocking their jeep. They get distracted from all the activity and, unfortunately, the jeep flips over and rolls onto its other side.

DAWSON

Ah, shit!

(CONTINUED)

114 CONTINUED:

114

ANGLE ON THE FIRPO BROTHERS

who are clearly PANICKING. SCREAMING. Alvin is BEATING on the reigns.

DAVE

Do you know what you're doing?

ALVIN

I'm trying to keep us from getting killed.

Through the trees, the Firpo brothers spot the parade of FBI cars which is running parallel to them on the next road over.

115 EXT. ROAD OUTSIDE TOWN - NIGHT

115

The Firpo brothers continue racing down the road. Up ahead, two other parallel roads are converging into a fork at the beginning of the woods.

DAVE

We're almost there, goddamnit!
Don't screw up!

115A INT. AGENT PEYSER'S CAR - NIGHT

115A

Everybody's hanging on for dear life.

AGENT PEYSER

This is it. Don't lose them now.

ANGLE ON THE FIRPO BROTHERS

who veer off into the woods as all the law enforcement vehicles converge at the fork. The FBI cars start slamming into snowdrifts. Some of them hit trees. Some cars hit each other. There's no way to get into the woods. Agent Peyser JUMPS out of his car, and starts firing his .38 at the sleigh.

AGENT PEYSER

SON-OF-A-BITCH!

ANGLE ON OUR HEROES

who are howling with fear and laughter as the sleigh rides deeper and deeper into the woods.

CUT TO:

116 EXT. TIC TOCK DINER - TRENTON, NEW JERSEY - NIGHT 116

Vic and Caesar's car pulls into the diner parking lot. The snow is intensifying. Behind them, only a few cars travel on Interstate 95.

117 INT. COUPE DE VILLE - NIGHT 117

Ma Firpo eyeballs the diner.

MA FIRPO

Is this your idea of fine cuisine?
A blend of meat and vegetables
appetizingly poured over a shingle?

VIC

That's it! We're done being nice
to you.

Caesar pulls out his .45 and points it at Ma Firpo.

CAESAR

Out.

118 EXT. TIC TOCK DINER - TRENTON, NEW JERSEY - NIGHT 118

Vic and Caesar walk Ma Firpo around to the back of the car and pop open the trunk. She is still blabbing.

MA FIRPO

You call this being nice? Putting
a gun to my head and dragging me
across three states on the night
Christ was born?

VIC

Gag her.

Caesar fishes around in the trunk for a rag.

MA FIRPO

You think this is torture? Anything
is better than looking at you two
gorillas and listening to your
horseshit! You're doing me a
goddamned favor! You guys are
dumber than a box of hair.

VIC

When this is all over I may just
put three in your head just for
laughs.

Vic SLAMS the trunk shut.

CUT TO:

119 EXT. CLEARING - NIGHT

119

Bill, Dave and Alvin steer their way through the woods into a huge clearing. Ahead of them, the lights of the interstate twinkle through the falling snow.

BILL

I don't believe it! There it is!

They continue traveling through the clearing, up over an incline, and up to the edge of the interstate. Cars and tractor-trailers edge their way along the snowy road. The boys jump out of the sleigh.

ALVIN

I'll never forget you, Merlin.
Thanks a lot.

They start moving up the hill. Alvin turns around and looks at Merlin standing alone in the falling snow.

ALVIN

Wait a minute. We can't leave him here.

DAVE

You're right, we can't. I couldn't live with myself if I froze a horse.

BILL

What are you saying?

DAVE

Let's bring him back to the Andersons.

BILL

The Andersons? With all of those Feds, State Troopers, helicopters and shotguns. Yeah, that makes a lot of sense. Let's just get the hell out of here.

120 EXT. INTERSTATE - NIGHT

120

The boys make it to the shoulder of the road.

BILL

All right. Stick your thumbs out.
Look pitiful. That should be easy.

Merlin makes it to the crest of the hill, sleigh in tow. The Firpo brothers spot him.

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED:

120

BILL

Ah, shit. Get him out of here.
Tie him up to something.

ALVIN

If we tie him up, he'll freeze to
death.

Bill tries to shoo Merlin, who gets spooked by the traffic.
Cars start blowing their horns, slamming their brakes,
skidding in the snow. Merlin panics.

120A ANGLE ON MERLIN

120A

who starts running back towards the clearing which turns
out to be an icy pond. The sleigh CRASHES through the ice
and begins dragging Merlin in. He THRASHES about, looking
as though he might drown any minute. Alvin spots what's
going on and rushes down to Merlin.

121 EXT. POND - NIGHT

121

Bill and Dave get to the edge of the crest. They see Alvin
struggling with Merlin in the icy water. They cave in and
rush down the bank to help. The Firpo brothers pull on
the sleigh. They pull on the reins. Alvin sings to
Merlin. The ice is cracking. Merlin is bucking,
splashing. Bill and Alvin are nearly getting crushed by
the weight of the horse.

SMASH CUT TO:

122 EXT. HIGHWAY TRUCK STOP - NIGHT

122

Merlin and sleigh are tied up alongside the diner. Merlin
has obviously won the battle. He seems quite content.

123 INT. HIGHWAY TRUCK STOP - NIGHT

123

The Firpo brothers are sitting in a booth. Through the
window cars CAN BE SEEN pulling up to the gas pumps
outside.

BILL

Guys?

DAVE

Yes?

BILL

This is as far as I'm going.

DAVE

I don't get what you're saying.

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED:

123

BILL

Here's what I'm saying. I still got the keys to the vault on me. I'm going back to town and I'm gonna put the money back.

DAVE

I know I didn't hear you right.

BILL

You can either come with me or not. But that's what I'm doing.

DAVE

Bill, I think that dunk in the lake got to your brain. You're not thinking clearly.

BILL

Oh, no. I'm thinking very clearly. This is the best Christmas present I could ever give you.

DAVE

I appreciate the sentiment, but let me decide what I get for Christmas. This money belongs to me and Alvin, too, you know.

BILL

No. It belongs to the town. It never belonged to us.

DAVE

So, you're telling me you want to be the first guy in history to get pinched for putting money back into a vault?

BILL

If I get pinched, I get pinched. That's the way that one went. I'm not gonna sit here and argue with you.

DAVE

Alvin, he's telling us what to do with our share of the money!

ALVIN

Put my share back.

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED: (2)

123

DAVE

I don't understand you guys. You drink a little eggnog, you hang out with a couple of farmers, and now you're ready to work for minimum wage.

Bill grabs the suitcase and starts to get up.

BILL

Make up your minds, 'cause I'm going.

DAVE

You can't do this. Your life's finished. You're still a wanted man in New York.

ALVIN

No, he's not.

DAVE

Yes, he is.

ALVIN

No, he's not! The whole thing was a setup just to get you down here.

Bill stares at his brothers.

BILL

No, no, no. That would just be too goddamned diabolical.

Dave lowers his head.

DAVE

He's right. There were no cops looking for you in New York.

BILL

But there were ten million of them at the restaurant.

DAVE

I did it. I called them. I said there was sniper on the roof.

Bill stares them down for another second, then GRABS the suitcase, knocking everything off the table. He exits the restaurant. Dave looks at Alvin.

DAVE

I think he handled that pretty well.

124 EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

124

Bill STORMS out the front door and begins walking past trucks to a group of gas pumps. Unbeknownst to him, coming off the highway, are Vic and Caesar who swing into the gas station and pull up to the pumps.

BILL

You going south? I need to get to Paradise.

They both shake their heads.

TRUCKER #1

Sorry.

Bill moves up to another trucker.

BILL

Excuse me, sir. I have an emergency. Are you headed towards Paradise?

TRUCKER #3

No, sorry. I'm going to New York.

BILL

Where were you five hours ago?

Bill walks up to Vic and Caesar.

BILL

Excuse me, guys. Would you mind telling me where you're headed?

Vic turns around.

VIC

What's it to you?

BILL

I've got an emergency. I've got to get to Paradise.

Vic and Caesar eyeball each other.

BILL

Come on, man, it's Christmas.

VIC

Ah, what the hell. A little company might be good.

125 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

125

Dave and Alvin are alone in the booth. Through the window Dave sees Bill getting into the car with Vic and Caesar. His eyes BULGE.

DAVE

OH, SHIT!!

Dave and Alvin BOLT from the booth, across the restaurant.

ALVIN

What?! What?! What is it?!

They exit out the door.

126 EXT. HIGHWAY TRUCK STOP - NIGHT

126

Dave and Alvin come FLYING out the door, RUN down the steps, and Dave starts chasing after the Coupe De Ville which is already heading out of the gas station and on its way to the highway.

DAVE

STOP! STOP!! SON-OF-A-BITCH!!!

ALVIN

What's the matter?

DAVE

Nothing. I just thought they recalled that model.

CUT TO:

127 INT. COUPE DE VILLE - NIGHT

127

Vic drives down a river road on his way to Paradise. Snow-plows clear the road ahead of them. Bill sits in the passenger seat, Caesar sits in back.

BILL

I can't tell you how much I appreciate this.

VIC

Rough night?

BILL

You guys have no idea what kind of a night I've had. I'm sure lucky you guys were going the same way as me.

Suddenly, a dull THUMPING can be heard coming from the trunk. Bill listens for a few seconds.

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED:

127

BILL

(re: thumping)

What the hell's that banging noise?

VIC

I don't hear nothing.

CAESAR

Me neither.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

BILL

There it is again. It's a very distinct thumping sound. Don't you hear it?

VIC

Oh, yeah, that. We been hearing that all night.

Vic and Caesar start chuckling.

BILL

I'll tell ya, I mean, I just met you guys, but tonight's been a real eye-opener for me.

VIC

How's that?

BILL

Well, people have been nice to me all night and I think it's turned me around a little. And I met this really terrific woman...

VIC

Oh, yeah?

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP. Vic turns up the radio to drown out the thumping. Bing Crosby begins singing, "White Christmas."

BILL

I mean, she's a real strong woman. I'll tell ya, I could use that in my life.

VIC

What's her name?

BILL

Sarah.

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED: (2)

127

VIC
Sarah? You got a picture?

Vic EYEBALLS Caesar and then Bill.

BILL
Do you know how long it's been since
I've had a picture of a woman in
my wallet? Except my mother.

CAESAR
You got a picture of your mother
in your wallet?

BILL
Yeah, I've always carried it with
me.

Bill opens his wallet and hands it to Vic. Caesar leans
into the front seat to look.

INSERT

The smiling face of Edna Firpo.

RESUME

Vic and Caesar INSTANTLY go for their .45s. Bill sees it
coming.

BILL
OH, SHIT!!!

Bill SWINGS open the door and THROWS himself out of the
moving car.

128 EXT. RIVER ROAD - NIGHT

128

Just outside Paradise, Bill tumbles through the snow on
a dark road. He picks himself up. Vic and Caesar jump
out of their car.

VIC
Kill the son-of-a-bitch!

BILL
WHAT?! WHAT DID I DO??! WHAT DID
I SAY???

Vic and Caesar fire several rounds at Bill who RUNS into
the woods.

129 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

129

Bill turns toward Paradise Bridge where two agents who have heard the shots, leave their roadblock post and jump into their car. They take off in Bill's direction. Vic and Caesar EYEBALL each other, jump back into their car and fishtail away. Bill watches Vic and Caesar go. Suddenly his attention is drawn back toward Paradise Bridge where he sees none other than Dave and Alvin ride the sleigh right past the abandoned roadblock.

Bill starts RUNNING, trying to FLAG DOWN the sleigh.

BILL
DAVE!!! ALVIN!!!

DAVE
Bill?!

BILL
Yeah, Bill! Now get me the hell
out of here.

Bill throws himself and the suitcase into the moving sleigh. Alvin SNAPS the reins and they SPEED OFF down the road.

CUT TO:

130 EXT. PARADISE CHURCH - NIGHT

130

Vic and Caesar pop open the trunk to let Ma Firpo out. They glance up and down the street.

VIC
One word and I swear I'll kill you.

MA FIRPO
Promise?

CAESAR
Oh, come on,. I can't take it!
What'd we have to let her out for?

VIC
It's better if we drive around with
an old broad in the car.

Vic SHOVES Ma Firpo into the car.

CAESAR
Vic, shit. Cop, cop, cop.

(CONTINUED)

130 CONTINUED:

130

Timmy Burnell is walking Sarah to her car. He seems scared and confused about his horse being gone. Suddenly, from out of nowhere, Caesar BANGS Timmy over the head with his .45 and Timmy collapses onto the snow. Sarah SCREAMS and is grabbed in a choke hold from behind.

SARAH

Leave him alone! Leave him alone!

131 INT. COUPE DE VILLE - NIGHT

131

Sarah is thrown into the back seat of the car, still having no idea who was holding her. She sits up and sees Ma Firpo sitting in the front seat. Caesar forces Timmy into the back seat beside him. Vic gets in behind the wheel.

SARAH

Oh, shit.

VIC

Merry Christmas, Sarah.

CAESAR

Likewise.

Sarah turns to Ma Firpo.

SARAH

Who the hell are you?

MA FIRPO

Edna Firpo. Some Christmas, huh?

CUT TO:

132 EXT. PARADISE BANK - NIGHT

132

Alvin SMACKS Merlin on the butt, who takes off like a missile, heading for home. Bill grabs the suitcase. Dave looks at Bill.

DAVE

I think we've got a clean slate now.

BILL

Not quite.

The Firpo brothers enter the bank.

133 INT. PARADISE BANK - NIGHT

133

Bill turns the key and they enter. The only light filtering in is from nearby street lights.

BILL

I got into the car with two guys.
I showed them a picture of Ma and
they started shooting at me.

DAVE

Maybe it was a bad picture.

BILL

Don't give me that shit. Not now.
Who the hell were they?

DAVE

Were they alone?

BILL

There were two of them.

DAVE

But there was nobody else with them?

BILL

Why the hell would you want to know
that?

DAVE

I was just trying to visualize the
predicament you were in.

BILL

You're not telling me everything.
Who are they?

DAVE

The entire state of Pennsylvania
is after us. How the hell do I
know? Can we just get this over
with?

The Firpo brothers start walking toward the vault. It's
so dark, Alvin SLAMS right into a desk.

BILL

That's good, Alvin. Make some more
noise. Maybe you can set off a
couple of alarms.

(CONTINUED)

133 CONTINUED:

133

ANGLE ON THE VAULT

Dave lights a pack of matches so they can see. Bill pulls out the huge jangle of bank keys. He picks one out.

BILL

I'm almost certain this is it.

DAVE

What if it's the wrong one, will it set off the alarm?

BILL

Don't be ridiculous.

Bill inserts the key and an alarm SCREAMS to life.

DAVE

Oh, Jesus Christ!

Bill starts flipping like crazy through the keys. JAMMING them in one by one. He can't find the right one.

ALVIN

Oh, no, no, no! This can't be happening!

134 EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

134

Police cars approach the bank from every direction.

135 INT. PARADISE BANK - NIGHT

135

Bill continues trying different keys. He's getting frazzled. Bill finally finds the right key, inserts it, and the door pops open.

BILL

I got it! I got it!

The Firpo brothers all push the enormous door back only to be greeted by another door made of steel bars.

ALVIN

Oh, no, no, no!

136 EXT. MAIN STREET - VARIOUS ANGLES OF POLICE CARS - NIGHT 136

converging at the bank, now only a few blocks away.

137 INT. PARADISE BANK - NIGHT

137

Bill keeps JAMMING keys in the lock.

ALVIN

(re: key)

Not that one. It says 'Toyota' on it.

Bill finally picks the right key, JAMS it in the lock, and pops open the door. A second alarm SCREAMS to life.

ALVIN

Forget it! Just leave the bag here!

BILL

Good thinking. I'm sure there's only eight hundred fingerprints on it. Why don't we just mail it to them with a return address?

Bill grabs the bag and starts running for the front door of the bank with Dave and Alvin following.

138 EXT. BANK - NIGHT

138

The Firpo brothers BLAST out the front door just as a bunch of cop cars come SCREECHING up. The Firpo brothers turn the corner only to face another barrage of police cars sliding up in the snow. They turn and run back along the bank, using the suitcase to shield their faces. Finally, they run behind the bank.

139 EXT. BANK ALLEY - NIGHT

139

The Firpo brothers round the corner to see more cars barreling down the alley at them. They take the suitcase and throw it over a wall and jump over after it.

140 EXT. PARADISE BACKYARDS - NIGHT

140

The Firpo brothers run like MANIACS through various backyards, slamming into bushes, trees and fences, as the police continue to close in on the area.

CUT TO:

141 EXT. PARADISE BRIDGE - NIGHT

141

Ed Dawson and Clovis Minor, who have been rocking the jeep all night, finally get it upright on all four wheels.

DAWSON

Good.

142 INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

142

Dawson leans in and hears various police banter regarding the break-in at the bank and the pursuit of three suspects around the town of Paradise.

DAWSON

This is the goddamned break we've been waiting for.

They get in the jeep and speed away.

143 EXT. PARADISE CHURCH - NIGHT

143

The Firpo brothers continue ducking police cars as they run for cover alongside a building. They begin looking around, trying to get their bearings. Ahead of them is Paradise Church which almost looks like a painting with the nativity scene and stained glass awash in the snow. Bill glances down at the suitcase of money and back to the church.

BILL

All right. I know what to do.

Bill picks up the suitcase and the Firpo brothers run toward the rectory. Dawson's jeep snakes past the church.

144 INT. DAWSON'S JEEP- NIGHT

144

Dawson and Clovis watch the Firpo brothers run toward the rectory.

DAWSON

Goddamn, I'm good!

CUT TO:

145 INT. PARADISE BANK - NIGHT

145

Agent Peyser walks around the bank. The lights are on. Agents are everywhere. The alarms are still going.

AGENT PEYSER

This doesn't make any sense.

(re: alarm)

Will someone turn off the goddamned alarm?

The alarm snaps off.

AGENT PEYSER

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED:

145

CHIEF BURNELL

Well, someone tried to get into that vault.

CUT TO:

146 EXT. CHURCH RECTORY - NIGHT

146

Bill, Dave and Alvin set the suitcase down in front of the rectory. There's a note attached to it. The Firpo brothers pause to look at it a moment.

BILL

That's the most money I ever held at once.

DAVE

You were right, Bill. It was never ours.

Bill knocks on the door and the Firpo brothers run away. They get to the end of the church and watch Father Gorenzel put on his glasses and look around. He sees the suitcase, picks up the letter and starts reading it. Bill, Dave and Alvin smile and begin trotting away from the church toward the street.

DAVE

I'll tell ya, I never felt better in my life. A strange sense of calm has swept over me.

BILL

See? See? Didn't I tell you?

ALVIN

Oh, shit!

Dawson and Clovis are at the foot of the church stairs. Dawson has his shotgun trained on the Firpo brothers.

BILL

What is this?! What is this!

DAWSON

Get in the goddamned jeep or I'll blow your heads off.

BILL

Who the hell are you guys, cops?

CLOVIS

No. Grocery clerks.

DAWSON

Get in the car!

147 INT. AGENT PEYSER'S CAR - NIGHT

147

Agent Peyser, Bruno, Dexter and Boyle drive away from the bank and head toward the church on their way back to Paradise High School. Dawson's jeep FLIES past them with the Firpo brothers inside. Agent Peyser turns to Agent Bruno.

AGENT PEYSER

Every time there's a problem, those two idiots show up. I'm telling you, they know something.

AGENT BRUNO

What do you want to do?

AGENT PEYSER

Turn around and follow them.

148 EXT. PARADISE CHURCH - NIGHT

148

Agent Bruno makes a U-turn and fishtails after Dawson's jeep.

148A INT. DAWSON'S JEEP - NIGHT

148A

Dawson is at the wheel. Clovis is in the passenger seat holding a shotgun on the Firpo brothers who are jammed in the back seat.

BILL

Where the hell are you taking us?

DAWSON

Up to the bank president's house.

BILL

What the hell for?

CLOVIS

What do you think, we're stupid?
We know that's where the money is.

149 INT. AGENT PEYSER'S CAR - NIGHT

149

Agent Peyser eyeballs Dawson's jeep which is moving half a block ahead of them.

AGENT BRUNO

Looks like they've got company in that jeep with them.

Agent Peyser picks up the radio.

(CONTINUED)

149 CONTINUED:

149

AGENT PEYSER

(into radio)

All units, this is Agent Peyser.
We are in pursuit of a black '91
jeep Cherokee. License DUH...

AGENT BRUNO

That's appropriate.

AGENT PEYSER

DUH 171. Location is east on Main
Street, heading toward River Road.

AGENT DEXTER

Why don't we just take them now?

AGENT PEYSER

No, let's see what they're up to.

CUT TO:

150 EXT. ANDERSON'S STREET - NIGHT

150

Dawson pulls up in front of the Anderson house. Agent
Peyser's car stops about half a block away.

151 INT. AGENT PEYSER'S CAR - NIGHT

151

They watch the figures of Dawson, Clovis and the three
Firpo brothers get out of the jeep.

152 EXT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

152

Dawson prods the Firpo brothers with the shotgun. Clovis
follows behind.

BILL

You're gonna have to kill me, 'cause
I'm not dragging those people in
that house into this. Look, there's
no money, so just get it out of your
head.

DAWSON

You guys were in my store this
morning and you bought three hats.
And they found three hats in the
car they pulled from the river.

Bill rolls his eyes and looks at Alvin, who shrugs. Dave
glances around nervously and spots Vic and Caesar's Coup
De Ville.

(CONTINUED)

152 CONTINUED:

152

BILL

This just can't get any worse.

DAVE

You'd be surprised, Bill.

BILL

What the hell does that mean?

DAVE

You remember when I called home to see if Ma was all right?

BILL

Yeah?

DAVE

You remember that guy Vic I was telling you about?

BILL

The guy on his deathbed?

DAVE

I believe he may have recovered and is inside with the Andersons and a guy named Caesar.

BILL

It just never ends with you!

DAVE

Actually, there's more. I believe Ma may be with them, too.

BILL

I SWEAR TO GOD I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!!

153 INT. AGENT PEYSER'S CAR - NIGHT

153

The agents continue looking at the scene unfolding in front of them. In the dark, it's impossible to see who is who, and what is going on. A second FBI car pulls up behind them. FOUR OTHER AGENTS get out.

AGENT PEYSER

Enough of this. Let's take them down.

154 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

154

Agents Peyser, Bruno, Dexter, Boyle and the four other agents begin moving quietly down the street toward the Anderson house.

(CONTINUED)

154 CONTINUED:

154

ANGLE ON ALVIN

At the exact moment he turns around and sees Agent Peyser and the other Feds duck out of sight behind trees and cars.

ALVIN

Hey, guys...I know this sounds crazy, but I think I just saw something out there.

DAWSON

Nice try. Move.

Meanwhile, the Feds all begin moving again, guns raised. Alvin turns around again and once again, they all duck out of sight.

ALVIN

Hey guys, I ain't bullshittin' here. I'm telling ya, I'm seeing something out there.

DAWSON

Get in that house!

Dawson nudges them up toward the house as the Feds rise again behind them and start closing in.

155 INT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

155

Dawson is the first one in the hallway. He's not in one second, before Caesar WHACKS him over the head with his .45. Dawson hits the floor like a ton of bricks. Caesar GRABS Clovis, forces him to the floor, and kicks Clovis' gun across the room near Deputy Timmy Burnell, who sits alongside Sarah. Bill spots Ma Firpo alongside of Vic.

BILL

Ma, are you all right?

MA FIRPO

I'm being held hostage on the night the baby Jesus was born. How the hell do you think I'm doing?!

BILL

I know it's bad. I'm sorry.

MA FIRPO

It ain't as bad as sitting in the trunk of their car the whole time listening to your bullshit!

(CONTINUED)

155 CONTINUED:

155

BILL

I'm sorry, Ma.

(turns to Andersons)

I'm sorry, everybody. I swear I'm gonna get us all out of this.

SARAH

You used me, you son-of-a-bitch.

BILL

I know. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to.

DAVE

This whole thing is my fault. I lied to Bill. I made him think he was wanted in New York and that he had no other choice. You gotta believe me, he resisted every step of the way. He didn't know about your father. He really thought he was dying and that's why he agreed to come down here.

SARAH

So other than armed robbery, he's completely innocent.

VIC

Hey, just give us the money and we're out of here.

BILL

Well, you're in for a rude awakening, pal, because there is no money.

Vic puts the .45 to Ma Firpo's head.

VIC

The last guy that double-crossed me, I chopped in half.

DAVE

Wow. And they say you can't be in two places at once.

BILL

Vic, listen to me. There is no money!

DAVE

He's not lying. I swear on my mother...

(CONTINUED)

155 CONTINUED: (2)

155

MA FIRPO

Don't say that with this lunatic
pointing a gun at me!

DAVE

Perhaps that was a bad choice of
words.

VIC

I'm gonna blow her brains all over
the goddamned wallpaper! Now,
where's that money? I ain't asking
again!!!

156 EXT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

156

Agent Boyle looks over to a parked car. It's the Coupe
De Ville with New York plates.

AGENT BOYLE

Agent Peyser? Something came over
the wire about the car that's parked
over there. That car was stolen
in New York and involved in a
shootout in a gas station.

AGENT PEYSER

(to Agent Bruno)

Let's get everybody out here.

Suddenly Chief Burnell comes cruising down the street and
sees the agents stalking the house.

CHIEF BURNELL

What's up?

Agent Peyser and the agents spin around.

AGENT PEYSER

(whispering loudly)

Get the goddamned car off the
street!

Chief Burnell guns the cars away. Meanwhile a FIGURE moves
up the stairs of the Anderson house and starts knocking.
The agents turn around.

AGENT PEYSER

Who the hell is that?

157 INT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

157

Vic and Caesar GRAB Mr. Anderson off the sofa. Vic marches Mr. Anderson toward the door with the gun at his back.

MR. ANDERSON
Just don't hurt anybody, please.

VIC
That's up to you.

Mr. Anderson opens the door, revealing the face of Doc Milgrom.

DOC MILGROM
What a night, huh, Clifford. Did they find out who took Timmy's sleigh?

MR. ANDERSON
Walter, this isn't a good time.

DOC MILGROM
I know it's late, but I just wanted to see how that young man was doing.

Doc Milgrom lights up when he sees Alvin standing a few feet behind. He gently pushes past Mr. Anderson and starts walking toward Alvin.

DOC MILGROM
Alvin. I just wanted to make sure that you were...

WHACK. Caesar whacks Doc Milgrom over the head. Doc Milgrom crashes to the floor.

MR. ANDERSON
Jesus!

SARAH
(screaming)
STOP IT!!!

Sarah rushes over to Doc Milgrom. Vic spins around and points the gun at his daughter.

VIC
You sit down!

Bill moves in front of Sarah as a shield.

(CONTINUED)

157 CONTINUED:

157

BILL

Look, you goddamned moron, there's no money! You got that? There's no money! These people took care of us, let us into their homes and treated us like one of their own.

(turning)

Mr. Anderson, we're sorry. We did rob the bank. But I swear to you, we're not the people we were this morning. We couldn't live with ourselves, knowing you and knowing that we hurt you. So, we put the money back.

MR. ANDERSON

Is that true?

BILL

Yes, it's true. It's the first thing I've said today that wasn't bullshit.

SARAH

I swear, if you're lying...

BILL

We're not lying.

VIC

Put it back? Back where?

DAVE

We tried to put it in the vault, but we nearly got caught. So we gave the money to the church.

VIC

WHAT?!

DAVE

Vic, you gotta believe us. These people are good people. They gave us Christmas presents, for crissakes.

CAESAR

Oh, where's my violin.

ALVIN

It's true, Vic. Caesar. We didn't want the money anymore. We were stealing stuff all night trying to get out of here.

(CONTINUED)

157 CONTINUED: (2)

157

DAVE

Yeah, we nearly drowned Timmy's horse.

TIMMY

Merlin? Is he all right?

BILL

Yeah, Timmy he's fine.

158 EXT. STREET CORNER - NIGHT

158

The first batch of about ten cars pulls up quietly. The agents exit their cars, weapons drawn, and move down the street toward the Anderson house.

159 EXT. OPPOSITE STREET CORNER - NIGHT

159

The same exact scene is taking place with OTHER FBI AGENTS unloading from their vehicles and moving up to the Anderson house from their side of the street.

160 EXT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

160

Agent Peyser, gun drawn, inches along the front porch with Agents Boyle, Dexter and Bruno. He peers into the living room window and sees the standoff taking place. They slink back off the porch as FBI agents begin creeping up to the scene. Chief Burnell approaches and moves over to Agent Peyser.

AGENT PEYSER

I've got bad news. There's a hostage situation here and your son's inside.

Hand signals start going back and forth between AGENTS who run across the street and CAN BE SEEN on neighboring roof tops. FAMILIES are being pulled out of their houses. Agent Peyser picks up a bullhorn.

AGENT PEYSER

This is the FBI. You are completely surrounded. Put down your weapons and come out with your hands above your heads.

161 INT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

161

Everyone has heard the announcement. Bill, Dave and Alvin LOCK eyes. Vic and Caesar momentarily FREEZE. Clovis sinks down to the floor and starts crying. Dawson is still out like a light.

(CONTINUED)

161 CONTINUED:

161

ALVIN

I can't go back to prison. I've
learned my lesson.

Ma Firpo turns to Vic.

MA FIRPO

Look what you started, you big
gorilla!

VIC

'Look what I started?' How the hell
did I start anything?

MA FIRPO

That goddamned long-winded piece
of shit letter whining about why
your daughter doesn't come visit
you more.

VIC

I never wrote any letter.

DAVE

Ahhhh, look Ma, who wrote what to
whom is a moot point at this
juncture, don't you think?
Especially given the gravity of
what's going on outside.

BILL

It just never ends with you.

Deputy Timmy Burnell eyeballs the .45 lying nearby. He
slowly begins inching toward it. Vic sees Deputy Timmy
Burnell inching for the .45.

VIC

Son-of-a-bitch!

Bill LUNGES for the edge of the throw rug that Vic and
Timmy are standing on, and yanks it with all his might.
Vic falls backwards and DROPS the .45 which goes spinning
across the floor. Deputy Timmy Burnell DIVES for Clovis'
.45. Vic GRABS for his .45, and turns toward Timmy. Timmy
has just picked up Clovis' .45, and FIRES at Vic. The
bullet catches Vic in the shoulder. As Dave LUNGES for
Caesar...

162 EXT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

162

Agent Peyser signals the FBI agents to move in.

AGENT PEYSER
NOW! NOW! GO! GO! GO!

Tear gas guns EXPLODE, rocketing through every window of the Anderson house. Agents STORM toward the scene.

163 INT. ANDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

163

Everyone HITS the deck. Smoke immediately fills the rooms. Canisters SPIN all over the floor. Alvin and Dave are still trying to control Caesar. The FBI STORMS in through every entrance. Bill pulls his shirt up to shield himself from the tear gas and turns toward the FBI agents who continue to flood in. Bill, Dave and Alvin are thrown down, cuffed, and dragged out through the kitchen. Clovis gets cuffed by the FBI. Dawson is just coming around from the blow to his head and is being cuffed.

DAWSON
(groggy)
Clovis, what the hell did you do now?

Chief Burnell frantically searches for Timmy in the tear gas. They find each other and Chief Burnell pulls Timmy to his feet.

DEPUTY TIMMY BURNELL
I got him, Dad! I got him!

CUT TO:

164 EXT. PARADISE POLICE STATION - NIGHT

164

A procession of FBI and State Trooper cars pull up outside the station. Bill, Dave and Alvin are pulled out of the cars and dragged past a CROWD of TOWNSPEOPLE which is growing in numbers.

165 INT. PARADISE POLICE STATION - NIGHT

165

The doors of the police station BLAST open. Agent Peyser and various other FBI Agents usher in Bill, Dave and Alvin.

BILL
Watch the shirt. Watch the shirt.
It was a present.

They are PUSHED into a corner of the room where other LOCAL COPS have been awaiting their arrival. Chief Burnell and

(CONTINUED)

165 CONTINUED:

165

Deputy Timmy Burnell are also there now. The agents drag in Ed Dawson and Clovis Minor who struggle in their cuffs. It's a crowd. Noise. Pandemonium.

DAWSON

I'm a goddamned deputy, for crissakes! I demand to know what's going on here!

Mrs. Anderson, Grandma Anderson, Dick, Lila and George, Doc Milgrom and the Weyerhaeuser sisters are led by Agent Peyser over to the Firpo brothers and the rest of the gathering CROWD.

AGENT PEYSER

All right, everybody. Just settle down.

CUT TO:

166 EXT. RECTORY - NIGHT

166

Sarah knocks on Father Gorenzel's rectory door. Behind her is the churchyard where she and Bill had their earlier conversation. The snow is falling gently. Father Gorenzel appears.

SARAH

I'm sorry, it's so late, Father Gorenzel.

Father Gorenzel seems to be excited about something.

FATHER GORENZEL

That's okay, Sarah. I wanted someone to talk to. Come in.

167 INT. RECTORY - NIGHT

167

It's a small dark room. There's a bed to one side, shelves with books and a crucifix which hangs on the wall. On the desk is a pile of money.

FATHER GORENZEL

You're not going to believe what happened. I was coming back from the church and it was just sitting there.

Father Gorenzel motions toward the money on his desk.

FATHER GORENZEL

And look, there was a letter.

(CONTINUED)

167 CONTINUED:

167

Father Gorenzel hands Sarah a letter.

SARAH

(reading)

'Please take this money. It belongs
to people of Paradise.

Signed

The Three Wise Men'

Tears well up in Sarah's eyes.

FATHER GORENZEL

What's the matter, Sarah?

SARAH

I don't know what to do...

168 OMITTED

168

169 INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

169

From serenity we go to PANDEMONIUM. Agent Peyser turns
his attention to Mrs. Anderson.

AGENT PEYSER

Mrs. Anderson, you were probably
the closest to the perpetrators at
the time of the robbery.

MRS. ANDERSON

That's right.

AGENT PEYSER

Now, can you identify these three
men as the men that robbed the bank?

Bill, Dave and Alvin turn to Mrs. Anderson, prepared to
accept whatever follows.

MRS. ANDERSON

No, I don't believe so.

AGENT PEYSER

What? How can you be so sure?

MRS. ANDERSON

First of all, the robbers were
wearing masks.

The Firpo brothers can't believe their ears. Ma Firpo
looks thankfully at Mrs. Anderson. Jim Keller and Molly,
the old couple from the mercantile store, enter the
station.

(CONTINUED)

169 CONTINUED:

169

CHIEF BURNELL

Timmy, you were in that house. What the hell happened in there?

Timmy looks nervously at the Firpo brothers.

DEPUTY TIMMY BURNELL

They saved my life. That's what happened in there.

DAWSON

Oh, bullshit.

DAVE

What the hell do you know? You slept through the whole thing?

AGENT PEYSER

(to Dawson)

And how exactly do you two idiots fit into this?

DAWSON

We're deputies. We were trying to make an arrest. These three were in my store a half an hour before the robbery and they bought three black ski masks.

AGENT PEYSER

And you two withheld that information?

Dawson realizes he may have cooked his own goose. Clovis starts crying.

DAWSON

Oh, Jesus. Well, it was something that I didn't quite put together until now. If these guys aren't the crooks, I'd like to know where those three black ski masks are that they bought in my store.

Bill and Dave look nervously at each other. Alvin smiles ear to ear and rises.

ALVIN

You want to see three ski masks?

Alvin reaches into his coat and pulls out three of the ski masks that he stole from Dawson's store.

(CONTINUED)

169 CONTINUED: (2)

169

ALVIN

Here's your three ski masks. One.
Two. Three.

He throws the ski masks down on the table before them.
Jim Keller and Molly step forward.

JIM

Excuse me, sir. Are you saying that
you believe these gentlemen are the
ones who robbed the bank?

AGENT PEYSER

Why? Do you know them?

Bill, panicked, turns toward Jim Keller and Molly.

MOLLY

Earlier this evening that gentleman
was in our store and I was crying
over all the baskets that didn't
get sold.

Molly points to Bill.

MOLLY

And he bought them all so they could
be delivered to the people who
couldn't pay for them.

JIM

Now, that doesn't sound like a bank
robber to me, does it?

DAVE

(to Bill; proud)
You really did that?

BILL

Don't make a big deal out of it.

Mr. Anderson and Sarah enter the station. She pushes her
way toward Agent Peyser.

AGENT PEYSER

Look, everything I got points to
you three. And I can't believe the
worst thing I've got on you is a
parole violation. If you're not
the three who robbed that bank, I
want to know exactly where you were
at the time of the robbery?

(CONTINUED)

169 CONTINUED: (3)

169

SARAH

They were with me. We were
Christmas shopping.

Everybody turns toward Sarah.

AGENT PEYSER

What?!

MR. ANDERSON

That's true, Agent Peyser, I saw
them all go together.

MRS. ANDERSON

That's right, I remember now. I
saw them together, too.

JIM

That's right. They all stopped by
our store earlier. Didn't they,
dear?

MOLLY

Oh, yes they did.

Everybody in the room starts chiming in in agreement.
Bill, Dave and Alvin cannot believe what they're hearing.

AGENT PEYSER

All right. All right. That's
enough. You know, twenty years in
the field is telling me that I'm
getting jammed here.

Father Gorenzel enters with the suitcase.

AGENT PEYSER

Let me guess.

FATHER GORENZEL

Someone left this at the rectory
door. It's the money from the
robbery.

AGENT PEYSER

And you have no idea who it might
be?

FATHER GORENZEL

I was praying at the time.

Agent Peyser hangs his head and shakes it. Father Gorenzel
makes the quickest sign of the cross in history. Agent
Peyser shoots a glance back up to the Father, who smiles.

(CONTINUED)

169 CONTINUED: (4)

169

AGENT PEYSER

Look, I don't know what the hell happened in this town, except I suspect that you three are getting the break of a lifetime. Don't screw it up. It's never going to come around again.

BILL

Swear to God, we won't, sir.

AGENT PEYSER

Now, get out.

The place EXPLODES with cheering. Townspeople begin filing out of the station house.

170 EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

170

Several FBI cars are outside waiting to take people home. Dawson and Clovis are trying to bum a ride, but to no avail. Bill, Dave and Alvin come out of the station hooting and make their way down the stairs. Bill spots Sarah getting into a FBI car and motions for her to wait. Sarah reluctantly gets out of the car and meets him by the steps.

BILL

So, I guess that's it, huh?

SARAH

Guess so.

BILL

I wanted to thank you for what you did. You didn't have to. Would you tell Mr. and Mrs. Anderson we all say thanks. We'll never forget them.

SARAH

Sure. I gotta go.

Sarah starts to leave.

BILL

Wait a minute. I'm sorry about everything. Sarah, I really like you and I want to change. Maybe you can help me.

SARAH

I got you off the hook. Now, don't press your luck.

(CONTINUED)

170 CONTINUED:

170

Sarah walks away and gets into the waiting car. Bill watches her go.

CUT TO:

171 EXT. PARADISE BUS STATION - MORNING

171

Believe it or not, it's stopped snowing. Bill, Dave and Alvin come out of the bus station, tickets in hand. Ma Firpo is with them.

MA FIRPO

I know it sounds dumb, but I'm really proud of you three.

DAVE

Thanks, Ma.

MA FIRPO

And you're through with all of this nonsense, right?

DAVE

Oh, absolutely.

ALVIN

You got it, Ma.

Everybody begins boarding the bus. As Bill is about to get in, he hears a car horn blow. It's Sarah. Bill brightens up and walks over to her.

SARAH

I guess I just wanted to say goodbye.

Across the street, Bill spots Deputy Timmy Burnell. He's standing by his sleigh, petting his horse Merlin. Chief Burnell stands by him, proudly. A few TOWNSPEOPLE stop by and shake Timmy's hand, congratulating him on his heroism.

BILL

His stock as a deputy just went up.

SARAH

Yeah. He's the town hero.

BILL

I'm sorry things didn't work out between you and your dad.

(CONTINUED)

171 CONTINUED:

171

SARAH

I guess not every story has a happy ending.

BILL

Speaking of which...How would you feel if I were to settle down in a place like this?

SARAH

A place like this? Or this place?

BILL

These people were good for you. I think they could be good for me. You know, maybe I could manage some little restaurant down here.

SARAH

I don't know.

BILL

I'll get you half off on lunch. Free coffee with every meal.

Sarah forces a smile.

BILL

There's a good person in here just dying to get out. Give me a chance.

SARAH

I guess anyone who saved a horse can't be that bad.

BILL

We didn't save him. He saved us.

Bill kisses Sarah. The bus blows its horn.

SARAH

How do I know this isn't just one more con?

A PEDESTRIAN walks by and drops his wallet.

BILL

Hey, mister.

The pedestrian turns.

BILL

You dropped your wallet.

(CONTINUED)

171 CONTINUED: (2)

171

Bill kisses Sarah again and they head toward her car. Bill waves goodbye to Dave, Alvin and Ma Firpo as the bus heads out of the station. As the bus goes by, it reveals a sign that says: ALL ROADS ARE OPEN.

ROLL END CREDITS.

FADE OUT

THE END