

Married and Dangerous

By

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BLACK SCREEN

THE FAT LADY (O.S.)
Liars and hypocrites.

EXT. VENICE BEACH BOARDWALK DAY

Nearing SUNSET. Stores DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS. Seems strange with the sun and the sea and the sand...

UGLY JANE (O.S.)
World's full of 'em, Fat Lady.

And a stoned SANTA on a skateboard handing out "Half-Off" COUPONS for "Ravin' Dave's Head Shoppe"...

THE FAT LADY (O.S.)
I wanna fart in their phony faces.

And people in shorts and sunglasses shopping...

INT. SOUVENIR SHOP - VENICE BOARDWALK DAY

Last minute SHOPPERS select silly stocking stuffers. A
SIGN says: '0 shopping days left.'

THE FAT LADY (O.S.) (cont'd)
They buy presents for people they feel obliged to be nice to, people they don't even like.

UGLY JANE (O.S.)
That's why I only buy for myself.

INT. CAR DAY

Stuck in a MASSIVE TRAFFIC JAM outside the Beverly Center, TWO HIPSTER DUDES LAUGH at the radio.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)
Answer me this, Ugly Jane: What's the one thing we really owe to those we know but never give them?

UGLY JANE (OVER RADIO)
Equal billing on radio shows?

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)
The truth.

INT. RADIO STATION DAY

THE FAT LADY, a thin transvestite in his early forties, sits at his microphone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE FAT LADY VOICE

This year I'm not buying presents. I'm giving something from the heart.

There is no Ugly Jane - The Fat Lady does BOTH voices.

UGLY JANE VOICE

That's very noble, Fat Lady. But some of us would rather get diamonds.

THE FAT LADY VOICE

I'll start with my broker.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS (NORTH OF THE TRACKS) DAY

A new BMW 745i cruises past large homes on manicured grounds.

THE FAT LADY (O.S.)

I lost a fortune when the dot com bubble burst and so did Tyler Green. But I stuck with him 'cause I thought he was bright kid with a big future.

INT. BMW745 DAY

TYLER GREEN, 26, slicked back hair, white shirt, power tie, suspenders, NODS in agreement.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)

My loyalty's cost me millions. Tyler talks the talk and walks the walk but it's all a facade.

TYLER

(alarmed)

What the Hell is he saying?!

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)

He's gone from a huge mansion to some hack actor's little guest house so he can keep telling people he lives in Beverly Hills.

TYLER

Shut up!

Tyler attempts to work the complex, high-tech device that controls the car's computer and electronics.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)

Tyler, my gift to you is this: I'm closing my account and calling the SEC.

Tyler fumbles with the device as he tries to turn off the radio... taking his eyes off the road...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TYLER

NOOO!!!

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS DAY

The brand new car SLAMS into a rusty, little PICK-UP with lawn mowers etc. in the back... crushing the tiny Japanese vehicle.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The two Latino GARDENERS whose truck has just been destroyed look at each other... and SMILE.

GARDENER ONE

(sings)

Have you driven a Ford...

GARDENER TWO

(sings)

Lately!

INT. RADIO STATION DAY

UGLY JANE VOICE

(sniffs)

Uh-oh. I smell another lawsuit. And don't it smell good. Maybe that's your gift to your lawyer?

THE FAT LADY VOICE

Steve Stone deserves more. He's been defending my right to free speech since I hired him out of Harvard Law.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS DAY

A Jaguar XKR cruises along Wilshire.

THE FAT LADY (O.S.)

I didn't say anything when that church group in Cincinnati dropped their lawsuit after an 'anonymous supporter' paid off the minister's mortgage.

INT. JAGUAR DAY

Stunningly handsome STEVE STONE, late 20s, perfect hair, perfect skin, perfectly dressed, listens to The Fat Lady as he drives. Smiling, not bothered at all.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)

Or when the Congressman I slandered dropped his case after a hefty donation to his re-election campaign.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE
Perfectly legitimate transactions.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)
Let's win the next one on the merits of
the case, for a change.

Steve smiles and shakes his head - amused.

INT. RADIO STATION DAY

UGLY JANE VOICE
I'm not so sure these 'gifts' are really
in the spirit of the season.

THE FAT LADY VOICE
You know, Ugly Jane, it's true: It's
better to give than to receive. And now
it's time to give it to my youngest
daughter's alleged fiance.

UGLY JANE VOICE
Doctor Chris. What mother wouldn't give
her left nipple if her little girl could
marry a doctor?

INT. JORDAN'S BEDROOM DAY

Cute and girlish with stuffed animals on shelves and POSTERS
of a GORGEOUS WOMAN in a bathing suit and the LOGO from a
television show called "Beach Patrol".

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)
He's NOT a doctor. He's just a
chiropractor. And a lousy one.

JORDAN, 22, the stunning blond in the posters, lies in bed
with her lizard-eyed boyfriend, CHRIS, 26, a tan blonde
bimbo.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO) (cont'd)
My gift to Chris is self-reliance. If
you think you're gonna pay off your
student loans and open your own clinic
with MY money you can forget it.

Chris is furious. Jordan tries to take hold of his hand but
he pulls it away.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO) (cont'd)
As long as there's a breath of life in
this old queen, you will never ever marry
my daughter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JORDAN

It's daddy's character talking. He doesn't mean it.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)

And I mean that.

Chris hops out of bed and STORMS OUT of the room.

INT. RADIO STATION DAY

THE FAT LADY VOICE

My girls and their men. Pathetic.

UGLY JANE VOICE

Who's Zoe dating this week?

INT. BOHEMIAN CAFE DAY

ZOE, 25, dyed-black hair under a black beret, dressed in a black turtleneck and sloppy jeans, sits at a window table in a trendy Silver Lake cafe.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)

Another loser who writes bad poetry and never picks up the check.

The TORTURED POET with Zoe puts his head in his hands.

TORTURED POET

Oh... money, money, money.

UGLY JANE (OVER RADIO)

It's a shame that she can't get any of her poems or novels published.

TORTURED POET gets up and walks out.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)

That's because they're not about ME. Her so-called tell-all memoir about growing up as The Fat Lady's kid put her on the best-seller list.

Dying of embarrassment, Zoe pretends to be absorbed in her copy of Baudelaire's "Flowers of Evil".

UGLY JANE (OVER RADIO)

She bought her new house with the money she got for the film rights.

The Tortured Poet returns, grabs his coffee, walks out.

ZOE

You didn't even pay for that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)
And the only way she'll be able to finish
her renovations is if she writes another
book... about ME.

Tortured Poet gives Zoe the finger as he passes in front of
the window. Zoe buries her head in her book.

UGLY JANE (OVER RADIO)
If only you'd molested her. That'd get
her back to the top of the charts.

INT. FABULOUS PENTHOUSE DAY

It's been featured in People, Vanity Fair, Vogue, and
Architectural Digest... twice.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)
Why can't my imperfect daughters be more
like my perfect niece?

The beautiful penthouse's beautiful owner, STEPHANIE, mid
20s, is orchestrating the preparations for a big party.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO) (cont'd)
Steph, I won't be able to make your big
shindig tonight, but I promise you'll see
me on New Year's Eve.

INT. RADIO STATION DAY

THE FAT LADY VOICE
Now, it's your turn, Ugly Jane.

UGLY JANE VOICE
Screw the truth. Gimme the diamonds.

THE FAT LADY VOICE
I'm giving you something much more
valuable than diamonds. I'm giving you
the gift of freedom.
(beat)
You're fired.

UGLY JANE VOICE
But I've give you the best years of my
life!

THE FAT LADY VOICE
You're history, Ugly Jane. Get out.

He STOMPS his feet so it sounds like Ugly Jane is walking
out. POINTS to his ENGINEER. SFX - WHAM! A door slamming.
CRASH! Glass shattering.

EXT. EXOTIC CAR DEALERSHIP DAY

The place at Wilshire and La Cienega where those that can afford it buy cars that few can.

Steve Stone is trying to decide between a BLACK FERRARI and a WHITE LAMBORGHINI.

THE FAT LADY (O.S.)
 Those of you with nothing better to do on
 Christmas Eve should try to sneak in to
 my sold out gig at the Wiltern tonight.
 Show starts at midnight.

Steve chooses the Ferrari. The SALES TEAM agrees that he's made the right choice.

THE FAT LADY (O.S.) (cont'd)
 And remember, I hate you all.

INT. JORDAN'S KITCHEN DAY

CHRIS
 (on cell phone)
 I don't care if it's Christmas Eve. I'm
 not waiting any...

Jordan enters. Chris covers.

CHRIS (cont'd) (cont'd)
 (on cell phone)
 Right. Meet you there.

He hangs up. Jordan's suspicious.

JORDAN
 Meet who where?

CHRIS
 Hammond. Problem at the clinic.

JORDAN
 Thought you were closed today?

CHRIS
 He went in to do some paperwork.
 Discovered some of his equipment's
 missing. Gotta go check on mine.

Chris heads out.

JORDAN
 Now?

CHRIS
 I'll be home in time for dinner.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Chris exits the kitchen. Jordan is pissed.

JORDAN
 (calls out)
 Don't expect it to be waiting for you.
 (beat)
 Me neither.

INT. FABULOUS PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Packed with the rich and beautiful. And some we've seen on 'E! True Hollywood Story'.

Courtney Love draws a lipstick heart on Pam Anderson's chest. Stephen Dorff and Scott Baio check out a Supermodel and bet who gets her first. Danny Bonaducci and Hugh Grant listen attentively to Heidi Fliess.

Stephanie OVERHEARS TWO MODELS talking about her.

MODEL#1
 Stephanie's father owns this building?

MODEL#2
 He owns half the west side.

Stephanie hates when this is brought up.

MODEL#2 (cont'd) (cont'd)
 She could live anywhere. Why she settles for this old apartment is beyond me.

Stephanie can't hold back. She chimes in:

STEPHANIE
 I'm sure it is. But isn't everything?

Model#2 isn't sure, but this might be an insult.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Steve stands with three PARTY GIRLS - incredible looking and incredibly vacant young women revealing copious quantities of midriff, leg and (possibly inorganic) cleavage.

PARTY GIRL#1
 Is it true that he sleeps with all his leading ladies?

STEVE
 I'm his lawyer, not his publicist.

PARTY GIRL#2
 I saw him at this premiere and he's like 'I'm so cool' and I'm like 'Get over yourself cuz your movie sucks'.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

It sucked alright. It sucked a hundred and twenty mill.

PARTY GIRL#3

So, when you like defend someone famous and they're like totally guilty do you have to lie to get them off?

Steve looks over at Stephanie. Their eyes meet like a pair of heat-seeking missiles.

STEVE

That would be unethical. I simply dazzle the courtroom with my acumen.

PARTY GIRL#1

Yeah, right. Like driving a Japanese car is gonna impress anyone in this town.

PARTY GIRL#3

I saw you on TV last week.

STEVE

The 'Sixty Minutes' piece?

PARTY GIRL#3

It was more like fifteen. But I couldn't believe that your parents are like totally poor.

STEVE

They're teachers.

PARTY GIRL#1

They must love that your famous.

STEVE

They abhor what I do.

PARTY GIRL#2

I wish my parents were like that. They think I'm wasting my life.

STEVE

Like, excuse me.

The trio watches Steve walk away, then look for someone else famous to talk to.

EXT. JORDAN'S HOUSE NIGHT

At the FRONT DOOR, Zoe rings the door bell. She waits for a beat, and when no one answers, she roots through her bag. Pulls out a set of KEYS.

INT. JORDAN'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Chris lies DEAD on the floor. Shot through the heart.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jordan stands nearby. A GUN on the floor beside her.

ZOE (O.S.)
Jordy? Ready to go see Daddy?

Jordan's in shock... slowly turns toward the door...

ZOE (O.S.) (cont'd)
We'll be late if we don't...

Zoe APPEARS in the doorway... SEES Chris on the floor.

ZOE (cont'd)
Oh my God.

Zoe rushes over... checks on Chris... turns to Jordan...

ZOE (cont'd) (cont'd)
He's dead.

Jordan FREAKS... SCREAMING and WAILING...

Zoe SPOTS the GUN on the floor... looks around... grabs a SHIRT that's draped over a chair... picks up the gun.

Jordan starts HYPERVENTILATING... Zoe stuffs the wrapped gun in her bag... takes hold of Jordan...

ZOE (CONT'ID) (CONT'ID) (CONT'ID)
Come on. We're going to my house.

Zoe leads Jordan out of the room.

INT. WILTERN THEATER NIGHT

The CLOCK says 12:15. The crowd is impatient. CLAPPING their hands and CHANTING:

CROWD MEMBERS
FAT LADY! FAT LADY! FAT LADY!

When they see MOVEMENT on the darkened stage, the crowd starts to CHEER...

The LIGHTS COME UP... the BAND is in place... a GIANT PAINTING of The Fat Lady serves as the backdrop... the band launches into a furious SPEED METAL tune... but The Fat Lady isn't with them.

INT. FABULOUS PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Steve and Stephanie talk separately to guests, always looking to each other.

MODEL#2

Ouch!

The sultry model who thinks Stephanie should live elsewhere backs awkwardly across the room.

MODEL#2 (cont'd)

Dammit, Stephanie! Your little rat's attacking me.

Stephanie bends down and SCOOPS UP their APRICOT POODLE (with hair cut like a shaggy mutt).

STEPHANIE

(to Model#2)

Bumby likes to chew on cheap leather.

When Stephanie straightens up, cradling Bumby, she sees Steve is watching her.

He gestures toward the balcony. Stephanie smiles, then turns and walks off with Bumby.

EXT. SAME - BALCONY NIGHT

A breathtaking view of the city from the penthouse balcony of the 'El Royale'. Stephanie is alone.

Steve comes out with two martinis. Hands one to Stephanie. Their fingers touch and linger.

STEPHANIE

I hate holidays.

STEVE

I hate parties.

STEPHANIE

I've seen you at lots of 'em.

STEVE

I've noticed you too.

STEPHANIE

I've noticed you noticing.

STEVE

I've never seen you in that dress.

STEPHANIE

New. Gift from my husband.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As they sip their martinis, their eyes remain locked.

STEVE

I hate the man. Has everything I want.

Stephanie moves close... then plants a deep, soulful kiss on Steve's ready and willing lips.

STEPHANIE

If I hadn't married you four years three months and two days ago, I'd marry you again.

STEVE

That could be arranged.

STEPHANIE

Where will we go for our second honeymoon?

STEVE

Anywhere you want. But, let's wait 'til the first one is over.

They KISS again.

STEPHANIE

Love you, McQueen.

STEVE

Love you more, Princess.

INT. WILTERN THEATER NIGHT

The CLOCK reads 12:30 when The Fat Lady, dressed in an outrageous Mrs. Santa Claus outfit, strolls on to the stage and grabs his guitar.

THE CROWD GOES WILD!

INT. ZOE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM NIGHT

Jordan is HYSTERICAL... SOBBING and HYPERVENTILATING... Zoe leads her to the bed and sits her down...

Zoe roots through her purse... pulls out a vial of Percodan... shakes one out... then one more... picks up a GLASS from the bedside table... sniffs it...

JORDAN

I... I... I...

ZOE

Take the pills, Jordy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Virtually unaware of what she's doing... Jordan accepts the pills... and the glass of water...

ZOE (cont'd) (cont'd)
Put them in your mouth...

Jordan does as she's told.

ZOE (cont'd) (cont'd)
Swallow...

Trembling, Jordan puts the glass to her lips, swallows.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Kato Kaelin LAUGHS HYSTERICALLY - even though he's standing alone in a corner.

A YOUNG MAN with MISTLETOE strategically attached to his head moves through the crowd, kissing women. Several tipsy guests SING off key.

SINGING GUESTS
Oh Tenenbaum, Oh Tenenbaum...

No one knows the rest of the lyrics.

SINGING GUESTS (cont'd) (cont'd)
(totally out of sync)
Da da da da, da da da...

Mistletoe Man approaches Courtney Love.

COURTNEY
(sings)
Oh Tenenbaum, you be my dawg...

She EXPOSES HER BREASTS.

MISTLETOE MAN
(sings)
It's Rosenblum, but never mind...

Mistletoe Man KISSES Courtney's breasts.

SINGING GUESTS
Da da da da, da da da...

Steve and Stephanie exchange a look - they know it's disgusting but they can't help but enjoy it.

INT. WILTERN THEATER - DRESSING ROOM NIGHT

Half-undressed, The Fat Lady lounges on his dressing room sofa, scotch in one hand, a big Monte II in the other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE FAT LADY
 (on phone)
 I was amazing. Wish you'd been here.

INT. BEDROOM NIGHT

An opulent, expensively furnished bedroom. KRYSTL IVORY, 28, surgically enhanced breasts and lips, lies in bed in a red teddy watching "It's A Wonderful Life", sobbing.

KRYSTL
 (on phone)
 Me too. But Zoe and Jordan make me feel like I don't belong.

INTERCUT THE FOLLOWING

THE FAT LADY
 You're too sensitive, babe.

KRYSTL
 Only because they keep calling me a gold-digging slut.

THE FAT LADY
 I was hoping you three called a truce and went out for a Christmas drink. They never showed and you weren't home when I called.

KRYSTL
 I went to Midnight Mass.

THE FAT LADY
 Without moi?

KRYSTL
 Chantal really wanted to go.

THE FAT LADY
 Did you think of me when you were on your knees?

KRYSTL
 Always do.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE LATER

It's late and the party is much smaller. Steve plays STRIP POKER with guests in various states of undress. Steve, fully clothed, has yet to lose a hand. SHOTS of vodka, bourbon and tequila are lined up.

The hands are laid down. The group smiles and looks at the LOSER - an INEBRIATED STARLET.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INEBRIATED STARLET
Do I win?

STEVE
No, we do.

IN THE BACKGROUND we see Stephanie.

INEBRIATED STARLET
What do I do again?

Steve hands her a shot glass.

STEVE
Take a shot and then take off one more
article of clothing.

The Starlet looks at what she's still wearing - just her bra
and thong underwear.

The inebriated starlet DOWNS her shot and is about to remove
her bra, when:

STEPHANIE
Steve!

STEVE
Just a moment, Princess.

STEPHANIE
NOW!

Steve slumps - he knows that tone of voice and knows better
than to mess with it. Stands up.

STEVE
Duty calls. Please, carry on.

Steve walks toward Stephanie.

STEPHANIE
Henry's in the bedroom, doing you know
what, again.

He takes her in his arms and KISSES her - WOW.

STEVE
That'll fix him.

STEPHANIE
Fix him again.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S BEDROOM NIGHT

HENRY BLODGET, 19, Steve's slacker/hacker/surfer-dude assistant, his dark hair partially dyed blond, lies on the bed, smoking a joint, TALKING ON THE PHONE.

HENRY
(on phone)
Awesome! Sounds like hooker heaven.

Henry doesn't notice STEVE ENTERING... and crossing the room... until Steve GRABS THE PHONE from Henry's hand.

HENRY (cont'd) (cont'd)
(to Steve)
Ah, c'mon, Dad.

STEVE
I'm NOT your father.
(on phone)
Where are you?

Steve looks at Henry, shaking his head disapprovingly.

STEVE (cont'd) (cont'd)
(on phone)
Thailand's a beautiful country. And I'm
sure you're a nice person, but...

WHAM. Steve SLAMS the phone on to the receiver.

HENRY
I wasn't finished.

Steve picks up the handset... CONKS Henry on the head with it... knocking Henry out.

STEVE
Now you are.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Party's over. Guests gone. The catering crew cleans up.

STEPHANIE
It's Christmas Eve.

STEVE
Christmas Day.

STEPHANIE
We should send them home.

Steve agrees. Walks to the catering crew. Gives each a HUGE TIP that brings handshakes and hugs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The caterers leave. Steve turns to Stephanie.

STEVE
Nightcap?

Stephanie nods 'yes' as she heads for the bedroom.

STEPHANIE
Meet you in boudoir.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE DAY

Henry sleeps sprawled on a sofa on his stomach. Bumby is curled up, sleeping on Henry's back.

Stephanie, in her silk dressing gown, marches over.

STEPHANIE
If he got Bumby stoned again, I'll kick his ass.
(beat)
Bumby! Out!

Disappointed, Bumby whimpers as he hops off the sofa and saunters away. Stephanie leans in, close to Henry's ear.

STEPHANIE (cont'd) (cont'd)
(shouts)
WAKE UP!

Henry's eyes POP OPEN, terrified and confused.

STEPHANIE (cont'd) (cont'd)
Time to go home.

HENRY
Home?

Stephanie pulls Henry to his feet and leads him to the front door.

HENRY (cont'd) (cont'd)
But... what if Dad has work for me?

STEPHANIE
It's Christmas Day, Henry. No work. And you are NOT our son.

HENRY
Wasn't it Christmas, like, last week?

Stephanie opens the door, and PUSHES Henry out.

STEPHANIE
In your world, it's Christmas every day.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HENRY

But...

STEPHANIE

Merry Christmas.

WHAM! She SLAMS the door in his face.

INT. HALLWAY DAY

Henry's still trying to get his bearings when the DOOR OPENS... Stephanie THRUSTS a wrapped PRESENT at him...

STEPHANIE

Almost forgot. This is for you.

Henry takes the present, touched by the gesture.

HENRY

For me? Woah. Thank...

WHAM! Stephanie SLAMS the door shut.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - COMPTON DAY

Steve, dressed as SANTA, and Stephanie, dressed as an ELF, play one-on-one.

SANTA Steve is dribbling the ball... ELF Stephanie guards him close... she STEALS the ball and runs in for an uncontested lay-up.

Dozens of CHILDREN watch and CHEER.

Steve has the ball again... Stephanie guards him...

STEVE

It's the damn... I mean darn suit.

STEPHANIE

Take it off and you'll still lose.

STEVE

Next year, you're Santa.

STEPHANIE

But you're always Santa. The kids love it.

STEVE

Then let me win. It's not right for an elf to kick the crap outta Santa.

She STEALS THE BALL... and SCORES AGAIN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIDS
(chanting)
San-ta sucks. San-ta sucks.

EXT. SAME LATER

The game is over. The kids are gathered around Steve and Stephanie's Jaguar as they hand out CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

EXT. JORDAN'S HOUSE DAY

Several POLICE CARS parked in front. YELLOW TAPE seals off the property. Curious NEIGHBORS watch.

INT. JORDAN'S HOUSE DAY

Police search the house.

DETECTIVE JOAN DUNNE, late 20s, attractive in an outdoorsy, ex-athlete way, confers with some officers.

JOAN
Any sign of the weapon?

The officers shake their heads 'no'.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE DAY

Showered and changed into elegant casual clothes, Steve and Stephanie exchange gifts. He opens his first.

It's a watch - an original ROLEX DAYTONA.

STEVE
Just like Steve McQueen's.

STEPHANIE
It WAS Steve McQueen's.

Steve smiles as he puts it on. Kisses her.

Stephanie rips into her present - a LOOFAH GLOVE.

STEVE
Princess Stephanie won't exfoliate with anything else.

STEPHANIE
She gave up bathing when she ran away with the circus.

The loofah glove is unceremoniously dumped on the table.

STEVE
Let's take a bath so I can scrub your back with your present.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As she looks contemptuously at her 'present'.

STEPHANIE
Maybe later.

She stands up and heads out of the room.

STEPHANIE (cont'd) (cont'd)
First I have to stick my hand up a
turkey's ass.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S KITCHEN DAY

Carrying the loofah glove, Steve enters to find Stephanie, in a designer apron, staring at a raw turkey.

STEVE
You're supposed to put it in the oven.

Stephanie removes her apron.

STEVE (cont'd) (cont'd)
Don't give up. You can do it. Remember
that time you made hot dogs?

Stephanie heads out of the kitchen.

STEVE (cont'd) (cont'd)
I'm not making fun of you. I love 'em
when they're crunchy.

Just as Stephanie's about to leave the room:

STEVE (cont'd)
Princess! Think fast!

Stephanie looks back... Steve TOSSES the LOOFAH GLOVE to her... Stephanie CATCHES IT... something FALLS OUT of the glove... and hits the floor with a METALLIC CLANK.

CLOSE ON - A SET A CAR KEYS ON THE FLOOR

INT. UNDERGROUND GARAGE DAY

Between their Jaguar and VINTAGE MUSTANG (identical to the one Steve McQueen drove in 'Bullit')... The BLACK FERRARI Steve bought - with a giant Christmas ribbon attached to it.

Stephanie throws her arms around Steve and KISSES him.

EXT. MULHOLLAND DRIVE DAY

The Black Ferrari BLAZES along, ZOOMS around corners.

INT. BLACK FERRARI DAY

Stephanie driving, and loving it.

STEPHANIE

This was McQueen's road and I swear,
right now, I can feel his ghost.

Beside her, Steve sits wide-eyed and terrified. On Steve's lap, Bumby has the same expression as Steve.

STEVE

Do me a favor: Don't use ghost and
McQueen in the same sentence.

INT. THE FAT LADY'S HOUSE DAY

Opulent and gaudy. The Addam's Family mansion decorated by RuPaul. Expensive antique furniture upholstered in leopard skin. Frilly pink lamp shades. Crystal and ivory kittens and bunnies everywhere.

The Fat Lady and Krystl Ivory recline on a plush sofa, wearing identical red and green Christmas caftans, in front of a roaring fire. A twelve foot Christmas tree is ornamented with glittering golden angels and red devils.

The PHONE RINGS. Neither moves to answer it.

THE FAT LADY

(calling out)

Nessie!

Their housekeeper, NESSIE, a broad-shouldered, curly-haired, Scottish transvestite with an uncanny resemblance to Billy Connelly and a THICK GLASWEGIAN BROGUE, enters.

NESSIE

(sotto)

Bloody lazy twots.

THE FAT LADY

I heard that.

Nessie rolls his/her eyes as he/she answers the phone.

NESSIE

(on phone)

Fat Lady's house ah horrors.

(listens, then)

Aye.

(listens, then)

Aye.

(listens, then)

Aye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nessie hangs up. Walks over to the coffee table, picks up the bottle of SCOTCH and downs a mighty slug.

THE FAT LADY
Your parole officer?

NESSIE
Worse.

Nessie downs another mouthful of scotch, then:

NESSIE (cont'd) (cont'd)
Our Jordan's Chris is dead.

Krystl's hands go to her mouth, horrified. The Fat Lady sips his glass of scotch, then smiles.

THE FAT LADY
Best Christmas present I ever got.

NESSIE
Ach no. The polis reckon she's the one
who dun 'im.

The Fat Lady sits motionless... then HURLS his glass across the room... it SHATTERS upon hitting the wall.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Steve POPS a bottle of champagne. Carries it across the room to Stephanie, who drains the last of their first bottle into her glass.

STEPHANIE
Now THIS is Christmas.

STEVE
This is what we do every day.

STEPHANIE
And why should Christmas be any
different?

As he pours more champagne for both of them:

STEVE
Do you like your present?

STEPHANIE
I LOVE it!

STEVE
We're talking about your loofah, of
course?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

Of course.

On cue, Bumby prances proudly through the room - with what remains of the chewed-to-bits loofah in his mouth.

Stephanie puts down her glass and opens her arms.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

C'mere.

Steve sets down his glass, climbs on top of her, and they start making out.

The TELEPHONE RINGS.

INT. ZOE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM NIGHT

Jordan and Zoe sit with Joan and her partner, DETECTIVE COX, late 40s, overweight, worn down by years on the job.

The Fat Lady, still in his Christmas kaftan, enters.

THE FAT LADY

Jordan couldn't kill a fly.

ZOE

That's what I've been telling them.

JORDAN

I already told them. I was in the shower. When I...

THE FAT LADY

(cutting in)

Keep it shut until Steve gets here.

EXT. ZOE'S HOUSE NIGHT

A craftsman in Silver Lake. Partly renovated, but the work on the house has ceased.

The MEDIA CIRCUS is well under way. MEDIA VANS and REPORTERS taping their segments all over the street.

Steve's Jaguar parks. Steve and Stephanie get out and make for the house. They don't get far before they're spotted... reporters and cameramen SURROUND them.

REPORTER#1

Are you defending another celebrity killer, Steve?

Steve and Stephanie force their way through the throng.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REPORTER#2
Why'd Jordan kill her fiance?

REPORTER#3
Was there another woman?

STEPHANIE
She hasn't even been charged!

REPORTER#4
What do you think The Fat Lady will wear
to his daughter's trial?

Some of the reporters crack up.

REPORTER#1
Come on, Steve. Give us SOMETHING.

Steve and Stephanie stop. Microphones are extended.

STEVE
Isn't my wife incredible?

INT. ZOE'S HOUSE NIGHT

Steve and Stephanie enter the living room. Joan smiles affectionately as she stands.

JOAN
Velvet Ears?

STEPHANIE
Velvet Ears?

Steve looks uncomfortable. Stephanie notices that Steve looks uncomfortable. Stephanie sizes up Joan as Joan looks at Steve - she's obviously still into Steve and doesn't care if Stephanie knows. In fact, Joan wants Stephanie to know. And Stephanie DOES know.

JOAN
You look incredible.

STEVE
Thanks, so do...

Stephanie JAMS HER ELBOW into Steve's side.

STEVE (cont'd)
Have you met my wife?

A glacier has more warmth than the air between Stephanie and Joan. Joan nods 'yes'.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

Really? I can't seem to place you.
But you must get that a lot.

JOAN

Nice to meet you, again.

Joan offers her hand. Stephanie shakes it, coldly.

STEPHANIE

Now I remember, you're the one who...

Knowing that Stephanie is going to say something he'll regret, Steve PUTS HIS HAND OVER HER MOUTH.

STEVE

Caffeine problem.

Stephanie BITES Steve's hand.

STEVE

OW!

Steve removes his hand from Stephanie's mouth.

STEVE (cont'd)

She also bites.

JOAN

I'll be careful.

STEVE

Do you intend to charge my client?

THE FAT LADY

She kept pestering Jordan, even though I told her our lawyer was on his way.

STEPHANIE

That's what pests do. Pester.

STEVE

Do you have a murder weapon?

JOAN

We'll find it.

STEVE

Aside from the fact that the victim was found in my client's house, a house he was often alone in, is there one single shred of evidence that implicates her?

Joan looks at Cox. It's clear from their expressions that the answer is no.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEVE (cont'd)
In that case, good night.

Joan and Cox walk out. Stephanie goes to Jordan, sits down beside her, EMBRACES her.

STEPHANIE
Jordy. I'm so sorry.

ZOE
I told them she was here with me.

STEVE
Why was Chris at Jordan's place?

THE FAT LADY
The leech is ALWAYS there.

ZOE
Jordy came over to get ready for Daddy's concert.

THE FAT LADY
Chris wasn't invited.

ZOE
We drank a bottle of wine, then decided neither of us should drive.

THE FAT LADY
Too bad. I was amazing.

STEPHANIE
Jordy and Zo should come to our place.

THE FAT LADY
They're MY daughters, Steph.

ZOE
I refuse to be under the same roof as that gold-digging slut.
(deriding)
'Krystl Ivory'. Trailer Trash.

JORDAN
Why can't we stay here?

STEPHANIE
The media won't leave unless you do.

ZOE
I refuse to let those vultures drive me out of my own house.

THE FAT LADY
I'll get rid of the bastards.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The Fat Lady goes to the window and opens the blinds...
FLASHES and LIGHTS from outside... turns his back to the
window... and MOONS THE MEDIA.

INT. ZOE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jordan, wearing Steve's suit jacket and The Fat Lady's wig,
puts on The Fat Lady's Christmas kaftan.

The Fat Lady - wigless, with short dark hair, wearing a
terrycloth robe that's far too small - clicks off his cell
phone.

THE FAT LADY
Nessie's here.

EXT. ZOE'S HOUSE NIGHT

A big BENTLEY, with darkly tinted windows and plates that
read 'FAT LADY' inches its way through the media throng.

HORN BLASTING, it pulls into the driveway, past the POLICE
OFFICERS keeping the media at bay.

Steve, sans jacket, Stephanie and Jordan (as The Fat Lady)
emerge from the house. Steve shakes Jordan's hand, Stephanie
kisses her, and she gets into the Bentley. Nessie closes the
door behind her.

STEVE
Staying out of trouble?

NESSIE
Aye. Canna thank ye enough fer gettin'
me this job.

Stephanie CLEARS HER THROAT.

NESSIE (cont'd)
You too, lass.

STEPHANIE
My uncle says you're teaching calligraphy
classes for seniors.

NESSIE
Aye. Call it 'Forgery fer Fogies'.

STEVE
Beats passing bad checks.

NESSIE
Tha's what ah keep tellin' meself.

STEVE
See you at our place.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nessie nods, then gets behind the wheel of the Bentley.

INT. STEVE'S JAGUAR NIGHT

STEPHANIE
She's a predator.

STEVE
(taken aback)
Jordan?

STEPHANIE
Joanne.

STEVE
Pretending not to know her name is so
beneath you.

STEPHANIE
Velvet Ears?

STEVE
(chuckles)
I'd forgotten about that.

The following is playful, with no real malice:

STEPHANIE
What does it mean, pig-dog?

STEVE
I don't remember, crone-face.

STEPHANIE
You're lying, rodent-breath.

STEVE
If it means that much to you, ask her,
fashion-victim.

STEPHANIE
Hey! No fair. I dress for you.

STEVE
It's better when you UN-dress for me.

STEPHANIE
Never again, Velvet Ears.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S GUEST ROOM NIGHT

Jordan lies in bed, looking like a frightened teenager.
Stephanie's perched on the edge of the bed.

STEPHANIE
This will all be over soon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JORDAN
Really? You think so?

STEPHANIE
I promise.

Stephanie gives Jordan a kiss. Then leaves the room.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

They lie in bed. Stephanie wears EYE SHADES.

STEPHANIE
It breaks my heart to see her like that.
I've known Jordan all her life, there's
no way she killed Chris.

STEVE
It's up to us to find out who did.

STEPHANIE
Isn't that your girlfriend's job?

STEVE
She's NOT my girlfriend.

STEPHANIE
She was.

STEVE
Joan has her sites set on one suspect:
Jordan. And she's family.

Steve turns off the night table light and SNUGGLES up to her
with amorous intentions.

She pushes him away and rolls over. Not tonight.

STEPHANIE
Good night... Velvet Ears.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S BEDROOM MORNING

Steve, Stephanie and Bumby are asleep. The PHONE RINGS...
and RINGS... and RINGS a third time. Bumby BARKS... finally,
Steve answers it.

STEVE
(on phone)
Uh-huh...

VOICE (OVER PHONE)
Steve Stone?

Hungover and groggy, Steve examines his hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE
(on phone)
Yep. It's me.

VOICE (OVER PHONE)
I have something you want.

STEVE
(on phone)
What I want right now is sleep.

Steve HANGS UP. After a beat, the PHONE RINGS.

STEPHANIE
Who the hell is that?

STEVE
I'll find out, Princess.

Steve picks up the obnoxious RINGING PHONE.

STEVE
(on phone)
Who the hell is this?

VOICE (OVER PHONE)
What I've got is gonna cost you fifty thousand bucks.

STEVE
(on phone)
I never pay less than a hundred thousand for something I don't need.

Steve HANGS UP. UNPLUGS the phone cord from the jack.

STEPHANIE
What don't you need?

STEVE
Whatever it is, it'll be a lot cheaper by tomorrow.

STEPHANIE
I love it when you haggle.

As he crawls on top of her:

STEVE
Haggle, haggle, haggle.

INT. STEVE'S HOME OFFICE DAY

Bookshelves filled with law books along one wall. Two desks - one a beautiful antique, neat and immaculate;

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

the other looks like the inside of a dumpster - littered with comic books, food containers, scraps of paper, and a powerful computer covered with post-it notes.

Henry sits at the latter - checking out a PORN site. Steve enters. Henry quickly clicks to a SURFING site.

STEVE

I need you to find out everything you can about Christopher Mullet. Family, friends, school, employment history, bank records, e-mail...

Steve stops in mid-sentence... turns to his desk.

HENRY

Whatever it is, Bumby did it.

STEVE

Bumby switched our chairs?

Henry looks down at the chair he's sitting in.

HENRY

Woah! How'd he do that?

STEVE

Don't push it, Henry. You can be replaced by a sixteen year old.

HENRY

No sixteen year old can do what I can do with a computer.

STEVE

YOU were sixteen when you shut down the GPS grid for a day.

Henry smiles, proudly.

STEVE (cont'd)

Don't make me regret keeping your sorry ass out of jail.

EXT. THE FAT LADY'S HOUSE DAY

A neo-gothic mansion in the Hollywood Hills. A silver PORSCHE pulls out of the driveway, Krystl driving.

When it drives off... a ten year old black Volvo pulls into the driveway and parks. Zoe steps out of it.

INT. THE FAT LADY'S HOUSE DAY

Bag over her shoulder, Zoe sneaks down a hallway... enters a room...

INT. FAT LADY'S HOUSE - 'GAMES ROOM' DAY

A collection of antique golf clubs, a Ms. Pac-Man game, a billiards table, a dart board with a photograph of Jerry Falwell on the bull's eye.

And a WALL OF GUNS, thematically organized. Vintage six-shooters with photographs of classic western cowboys like John Wayne and Henry Fonda. Surrounding scenes from World War Two are guns from that era.

In a DISPLAY CASE - the type found in jewelry stores - a dozen or so 357 Magnums.

Zoe walks over... reaches into her bag, extracts the GUN wrapped in Chris's shirt... WIPES it clean...

She removes a FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH of Clint Eastwood as 'Dirty Harry' (the classic 'make my day' scene) and sets it on the floor. OPENS the display case.

There's no obvious space where a gun is missing. Zoe pulls a PEN from her bag and uses it to rearrange the guns. Places the one she's holding among them.

She closes the display case and heads out of the room... stops at the door and LOOKS BACK...

The FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH of Clint is still on the floor... she walks back to replace it.

INT. THE FAT LADY'S HOUSE DAY

Zoe closes the Games Room door, heads down the hall.

NESSIE (O.S.)

Zoe?

Alarmed that she's been caught, Zoe turns to see Nessie approaching. Dressed to do housework, he/she reminds us of the men dressed as women in Monty Python.

NESSIE (cont'd)

Bin months, lass. Good ta see ye.

ZOE

I, uh, do you know where my old tennis racket is?

INT. CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC DAY

A NURSE leads Steve into a 'manipulation' room.

NURSE

Shirt off, on your stomach. Doctor Hammond will be with you shortly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She exits. Steve removes his shirt and lies down on the long table. A chiropractor, DR. HAMMOND, 30ish, enters. He knows who Steve is and doesn't like that he's here.

HAMMOND
You're not Mister McQueen.

STEVE
I am to my wife.

HAMMOND
What can I do for you?

STEVE
Wrenched my back playing basketball.

Hammond starts prodding and poking Steve's back.

HAMMOND
Ever been manipulated?

STEVE
Every day. I'm married.

STEVE
OW! That's the spot.

Hammond pokes a little harder.

HAMMOND
Here?

STEVE
OOWW!! Yeah, there.

Hammond MASSAGES Steve's back - with more force than is necessary. Steve squirms in pain, but toughs it out.

STEVE (cont'd)
Shame about Chris.
(beat)
Aside from his student loans, did he owe anyone money?

HAMMOND
No.

CRACK -- Hammond cracks Steve's lower back.

STEVE
WOAH! That hurt. I understand you had a problem with some missing equipment.

CRACK -- Hammond cracks Steve's lower back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEVE
YEEEOOW! That hurt more.

HAMMOND
You understand wrong.

CRACK -- Hammond twists Steve's neck one way.

STEVE
This is supposed to be good for me?
(beat)
Chris didn't meet you here the day he was
killed?

HAMMOND
I was in Sacramento. With my wife's
parents. Check if you want.

CRACK -- Hammond twists Steve's neck the other way.

STEVE
ENOUGH!

Steve hops off of the table.

STEVE (cont'd)
What's your problem?

HAMMOND
I don't like lawyers.

As he puts his shirt back on.

STEVE
No one does.

HAMMOND
O.J.'s lawyers wanted people to think it
was drug dealers, but we all know who did
it.

STEVE
I know Jordan. She didn't kill Chris.

HAMMOND
Yes she did. And I'm not gonna help you
get her off. Please leave.

Steve POINTS to an odd shaped CHIROPRACTIC DEVICE.

STEVE
What's that odd shaped device?

HAMMOND
None of your business. Get out.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE DAY

Steve lies on his stomach on the sofa, shirt off. Stephanie, wearing one of those sexy 'Susie Wong' silk dresses, WALKS ON STEVE'S BACK.

RAUNCHY GUITAR MUSIC plays at HIGH VOLUME.

STEVE (OVER MUSIC)
Can we change the music?

STEPHANIE (OVER MUSIC)
The masseuse gets to choose.

STEVE (OVER MUSIC)
Except when I'm the masseuse.

Stephanie uses the REMOTE to turn it down. Bumby HOWLS.

STEVE (cont'd)
(sarcastic)
This is sooo relaxing.

Stephanie JUMPS to the floor. WHAP! She SLAPS his butt.

STEVE (cont'd)
Hey! You meant that.

STEPHANIE
Lunch is cancelled.

STEVE
Uh-oh. Joan called?

STEPHANIE
And I cancelled.

STEVE
It's work, Princess.

STEPHANIE
Don't call me Princess, Velvet Ears.

STEVE
You know you're the only woman I'll ever
love. Walk on me some more.

Stephanie PICKS UP Bumby and puts him on Steve's back.

STEPHANIE
Bumby knows more about bones than any
chiropractor.

STEVE
Stephanie. Don't you dare.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As she exits:

STEPHANIE
Dig for the bone, Bumby. Good boy.

CUT TO BLACK

STEVE
YEEEEOOOWWW!

INT. STEVE'S HOME OFFICE DAY

Henry and Steve sit at their respective desks. Henry works on his computer, Steve reads some PRINT-OUTS.

STEVE
Chris and Tyler were roommates?

HENRY
Went to the same college.

STEVE
Chris didn't go to Stanford.

HENRY
Neither of 'em did.

STEVE
I was in Tyler's office. Had a Stanford MBA on his wall.

HENRY
(off his computer)
Woah. Check it out.

Steve gets up and walks over to look at Henry's monitor.

CLOSE ON - HENRY'S MONITOR

A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE with PHOTOGRAPHS of Chris and Tyler at twenty. The headline reads: "Charges Dropped In Grades-For-Pay Scheme".

BACK TO

STEVE
Run a full check on Tyler Green.

EXT. SAME - BALCONY DAY

Stephanie lounges on the balcony, catching rays and reading a Virginia Woolf bio. Steve joins her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

No wonder this woman walked into a lake with her pockets full of rocks. She was a snob with no sense of humor.

STEVE

I need a favor.

EXT. CAL STATE WHATEVER DAY

The campus is quiet during the holidays. Stephanie parks her Ferrari in front of an ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE DAY

Stephanie sits with a bespectacled, balding intellectual. A plaque on his desk reads: DEAN ALONZO P. MARTIN.

DEAN

Your family's foundation has been a great supporter of public education. It's people like you who make it possible for those without the resources to acquire the skills that they would otherwise...

STEPHANIE

(cutting in)

I know what obsequious means. I don't need a demonstration.

DEAN

(rebuked)

How may I help you?

STEPHANIE

Before we make a donation to any institution, we have to ensure that we won't become involved in, for lack of a better word, a scandal.

DEAN

Scandal?

STEPHANIE

A few years ago, you had a problem with students selling essays. I believe their names were Chris Mullet and Tyler Green.

DEAN

That was during my predecessor's term.

STEPHANIE

Do you know why the charges against that young man were dropped?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEAN
 (long pause)
 I don't recall.

Stephanie stands up.

STEPHANIE
 In other words, you know but you're not
 going to tell me. I'm sorry we wasted
 our time.

Stephanie heads to the door.

DEAN
 You'll keep this confidential?

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE DAY

STEPHANIE
 The Dean before Dean Martin...

STEVE
 (amused)
 Dean Martin?
 (off her look)
 Sorry. You were saying?

STEPHANIE
 He liked fast cars and fast women.
 Couldn't afford fast cars or fast women.
 Had lots of fast cars and fast women.

INT. STEVE'S HOME OFFICE NIGHT

Steve looks over Henry's shoulder, at his monitor.

HENRY
 From Chris's e-mail. He's talking about
 something without talking about
 something.

STEVE
 He's talking about blackmail.
 (beat)
 Just like they blackmailed Dean Martin.

HENRY
 Who's Dean Martin?

The PHONE RINGS. Henry picks it up.

HENRY
 (on phone)
 Stone and Ass...

Steve RIPS the phone from Henry's hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE
(on phone)
Steve Stone.

INT. POLICE STATION DAY

JOAN
(on phone)
I assume your wife is the ass?

INTERCUT THE FOLLOWING

STEVE
No, but she has a great one.

JOAN
And I don't?

STEVE
Is this a social call, Joan?

JOAN
The bullet from the gun that killed Chris Mullet came from a 357 magnum. Jordan's father owns several.

STEVE
The Fat Lady's been NRA since the Reagan administration. Also stridently anti-abortion. Jordan's marched in pro-choice parades and hates that her father collects guns.

JOAN
Still, she knows where to get one.

STEVE
You're barking up the wrong tree.

We hear Bumby BARK - but he's nowhere in sight.

JOAN
And you're blinded by family loyalty.

STEVE
Chris had a roommate in college.

JOAN
I know about Tyler Green. His financial problems have no bearing on this case.

STEVE
It's not that simple.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A mound of papers on Henry's desk suddenly MOVES... Bumby has been underneath them... he BARKS... jumps off the desk... runs across the room.

STEVE (cont'd)
Can we meet and talk in person?

Amused, Henry watches Bumby... SPOTS something that Steve can't see... gestures with his eyes, trying to direct Steve's attention to that something Steve can't see...

STEVE (cont'd)
Believe me, Joan, this relationship is not what it appears to be.

Steve turns to SEE... Stephanie standing in the doorway.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S BEDROOM NIGHT

This is composed in a SINGLE MASTER SHOT as Steve and Stephanie come in and out of frame, getting dressed. Bumby sits on the bed and REMAINS IN FRAME, watching them go back and forth.

STEPHANIE
"Believe me, Joan, this relationship isn't what it appears to be"?!"

STEVE
I wasn't talking about you and me.
(beat)
I think you're delusional.

STEPHANIE
She still likes you. And you like that she likes you.

STEVE
Stop this right now.

STEPHANIE
I'll stop when I feel like stopping and right now I don't feel like stopping.

STEVE
Joan is ancient history. Apologize.

STEPHANIE
You apologize.

STEVE
I haven't done anything. I have nothing to apologize for.

STEPHANIE
Yes you did and you do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE
No I didn't and I don't.

STEPHANIE
Did and do.

STEVE
Didn't and don't.

STEPHANIE
DID and DO.

STEVE
DIDN'T and DON'T.

Stephanie comes into frame - Steve grabs her.

STEVE (cont'd)
Why are you doing this?

STEPHANIE
You're right. I should be doing THIS.

WHOMP! Stephanie PUNCHES him in the stomach with all she's got then moves off. Steve DOUBLES OVER.

Steve
(in pain)
Apology accepted.

Stephanie comes back into frame.

STEPHANIE
Apology acceptance accepted.

INT. GALA EVENT NIGHT

A BANNER reads: 'Beach Patrol Saves Animals Too'. Huge POSTERS of the show's stars - including Jordan.

A black tie affair. Hardbodied waiters and waitresses wear the famous yellow Beach Patrol bathing suits.

Actors and actresses angling for guest spots on the show, dressed up as various endangered species, circulate through the party with baskets for donations.

Stephanie sits with Zoe, no make-up and a shapeless black dress, and Jordan, who looks like she should be on the cover of Vogue. She has been... twice.

JORDAN
Chris was having an affair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZOE

No! He worshipped you like Fitzgerald worshipped Zelda.

JORDAN

Fitz who?

Zoe looks at Stephanie and rolls her eyes. To Jordan:

ZOE

He was a prick, but he loved you.

Jordan shakes her head - she doesn't agree.

JORDAN

Believe me, I know the signs. There were calls where the caller would hang up if I answered. And he'd lie about who he was talking to if I came into the room when he was on phone.

STEPHANIE

Your whole world's been turned upside down. You're not thinking straight.

JORDAN

Thinking's never helped me with anything.

ZOE

Chris wanted to marry you.

JORDAN

Daddy was right. All Chris wanted was our money.

Stephanie and Zoe exchange a look of concern.

ACROSS THE ROOM

The Fat Lady, in sequins and a tiara, sits with Krystl, her décolletage drawing numerous looks. They're looking over at Jordan, Zoe and Stephanie.

KRYSTL

Jordan's such a good actress.

THE FAT LADY

Excuse me? You've seen her show.

KRYSTL

If she could act like she was insane, she might stay out of prison.

The Fat Lady is angered by Krystl's implication.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE FAT LADY
My baby didn't kill that scumbag!

Not convinced, Krystl forces a nod of agreement as she looks over at Stephanie, Jordan and Zoe again.

Stephanie gets up... heading to the LADIES ROOM.

KRYSTL
Why don't they like me? I try so hard to be their friend. Zoe hasn't even spoken to me since your birthday.

THE FAT LADY
Zoe's like me: a true misanthrope.

KRYSTL
I thought you were Polish?

THE FAT LADY
(beat)
How 'bout I take you away from all this?
Ever been to St. Bart's?

KRYSTL
That strip joint in the valley?

THE FAT LADY
(beat)
It's an island.

KRYSTL
There's an island in the valley?

Krystl's elevator might not go to the top floor, but The Fat Lady loves her just the same. He puts his arm around her as a MAN IN A WHEELCHAIR rolls past their table.

KRYSTL
(sotto)
I wonder how he goes to the bathroom?

The Fat Lady SEES something that prompts a frown.

THE FAT LADY
Why's Steve talking to that dickhead?

Krystl turns to SEE:

ANOTHER ANGLE

Steve, looking dapper in his tux, stands with Tyler.

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
He knows Tyler's a scam artist. Why's he acknowledging the puke's existence?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KRYSTL

(as she stands)

I'm gonna go talk to Stephanie in the powder room. Maybe she can say something to the girls for me.

ACROSS THE ROOM

STEVE

Things have been pretty rough for you, lately. How are you making ends meet?

TYLER

I know you think I'm a lousy broker. That's why you dumped me. But I'll be back where I was before you know it.

STEVE

Something big in the works?

TYLER

Absolutely.

STEVE

New stock?

(Tyler nods 'yes')

What's it called?

TYLER

Can't tell you for nothing, Steve.

STEVE

Information's power in your game.

TYLER

Absolutely.

INT. SAME LATER

Loosened up by alcohol, people are dancing.

Steve sits with Stephanie as Sophie Dahl slinks past, wearing dazzling diamond earrings.

STEPHANIE

Nice diamonds.

STEVE

Very nice.

STEPHANIE

The diamonds are higher up.

STEVE

Still don't trust me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

This room is full of women who want to trust their husbands. Easy to spot.
Keyword: miserable.

Stephanie JUMPS UP... and GRABS a EUROTRASH ROMEO who just happens to be passing by.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Dance with me, stranger.

Stephanie and Eurotrash Romeo DANCE their way out to the dance floor.

STEVE - watches and doesn't like what he sees.

STEPHANIE AND EUROTRASH ROMEO - draw envious looks from the less enthusiastic other dancers.

STEVE - gets up and moves off.

STEPHANIE - laughs as Eurotrash Romeo whispers something in her ear. She looks over to where Steve was, disappointed that he's no longer there.

STEVE - speaks with a BUSBOY. Slips him a \$100 bill.

STEPHANIE - allows Eurotrash Romeo to rest his hand on her derriere...

SUDDENLY - ALL THE LIGHTS GO OUT... Total darkness... Women SCREAM... The MUSIC CONTINUES...

We HEAR A LOUD PUNCH... then the LIGHTS COME BACK ON.

And now STEVE IS DANCING WITH STEPHANIE.

Eurotrash Romeo sits slumped in a chair with no idea what happened or where he is.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Jordan and Tyler sit at a table.

TYLER

You look amazing, considering what you've been through.

JORDAN

Was Chris having an affair?

TYLER

(beat)

He'd be crazy to cheat on someone as great as you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JORDAN
I have to know. Please?

THE FAT LADY (O.S.)
I fired your ass because you're a slime ball.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Fat Lady approaches their table.

JORDAN
We're just talking, Daddy.

THE FAT LADY
When he talks, my money walks.

TYLER
This isn't business.

THE FAT LADY
It isn't anything.

The Fat Lady glares at Tyler. Getting it, Tyler stands.

TYLER
I'll call you.

Jordan nods 'yes', but at the same time:

THE FAT LADY
No you won't.

With a sweet smile for Jordan, and a forced one for The Fat Lady, Tyler walks off.

JORDAN
Stop ruining my life.

THE FAT LADY
I'm stopping YOU from ruining your life.

JORDAN
You make things Hell for every guy I go out with.

THE FAT LADY
Tyler Green belongs in Hell.

JORDAN
There's nothing between us.

THE FAT LADY
Good. Now, come on...
(extends a hand)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2) THE FAT LADY(cont'd)

The two most beautiful women in the room
are gonna show these stiff's how to dance.

INT. SAME LATER

Steve sits alone at a table, sipping champagne, watching
Jordan and The Fat Lady dance like 'Soul Train' dancers.

 VOICE (O.S.)
You've got a beautiful wife.

 STEVE
Yes...

Steve turns and looks up... and up some more... at a mountain
wearing a tuxedo - a nasty looking mountain.

 STEVE (cont'd)
...I do.

 BIG MAN
You don't deserve her.

Steve senses trouble. Scans the room.

 BIG MAN (cont'd)
Lookin' for someone?

 STEVE
The wife I don't deserve.

 BIG MAN
If she's smart, she's left you for
someone who can protect her right.

Trying to control his alarm because he can't spot her:

 STEVE
Protect her right to what?

 BIG MAN
Huh?

 STEVE
 (as he stands)
Lead the way, Einstein.

INT. BLACK SEDAN NIGHT

Steve and Stephanie are squeezed into the back seat with the
BIG MAN. The BIG MAN'S PARTNER drives.

 STEPHANIE
Something tells me they're not escorting
us to another party.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

They think I don't deserve you.

STEPHANIE

Then it's YOU they want. Offer yourself to them if they'll let me go.

STEVE

And leave you alone in this neighborhood at night? No way.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE NIGHT

The black sedan pulls up to a partially constructed building. No one around.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)

Uh-oh. The vacant building scenario.

Steve, Stephanie and the Big Man step out of the car.

STEVE

You were right. She doesn't deserve me. Leave her out of this?

Big Man shakes 'no'.

STEPHANIE

I'm pregnant.

Steve is STUNNED.

BIG MAN

You are?

Steve SEES that Stephanie has her FINGERS CROSSED. Follows her lead:

STEVE

She is. You wouldn't want to harm a little baby's mother, would you?

Big Man addresses his Partner.

BIG MAN

She's pregnant, man. Maybe we should...

Partner shakes his head 'no'.

PARTNER

Kid's gonna be a orphan.

STEPHANIE

Are you really that stupid? Or is it in your job description?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PARTNER
Get it over with.

Big Man POINTS his gun toward the building.

BIG MAN
Let's go.

As they make their way across the dirty, debris-littered ground, Steve and Stephanie talk in HUSHED VOICES.

STEVE
They think we know who killed Chris.

STEPHANIE
Tell them you don't.

STEVE
You've told me a million times that I'm a bad liar.

STEPHANIE
You mean, you DO know?

Steve turns... sees that Big Man is listening.

STEVE
Didn't your mother tell you it's rude to eavesdrop?

WHOMP! Big Man PUNCHES Steve in the kidneys.

STEPHANIE
I think someone has mother issues.

INT. PARTIALLY CONSTRUCTED BUILDING NIGHT
Construction materials and debris everywhere.

STEVE
Watch your heels, Princess.

STEPHANIE
How can you think about my Choos at a time like this?

Imploring with his eyes, Steve explains:

STEVE
I'd hate for you to trip and fall in that lovely dress.

STEPHANIE
Oh, right.

With a WINK to Steve... Stephanie TRIPS and FALLS...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Big Man reaches out for her... Steve HAMMERS Big Man's hand... knocking the gun to the ground... he PUNCHES Big Man with everything he's got... Big Man STAGGERS back...

STEVE

Run!

Stephanie scrambles to her feet and RUNS... Steve scoops up Big Man's GUN and RUNS after her...

BIG MAN

(calling out)

Yo! They're gettin' away!

EXT. SAME NIGHT

Pissed, Big Man's Partner grunts... gets out of the car... pulls out his gun... heads for the building...

INT. PARTIALLY CONSTRUCTED BUILDING NIGHT

Steve and Stephanie creep through a corridor...

BANG BANG BANG... bullets WHIZ and RICOCHET all around them...

Steve grabs Stephanie and throws her to the floor... shielding her with his body as he turns and FIRES BACK...

After he gets off several rounds... Steve stops shooting... everything is quiet for the moment...

They carefully get up... staying low to the ground... they move down the corridor... round a corner... and enter a FREIGHT ELEVATOR...

INT. FREIGHT ELEVATOR NIGHT

Steve presses a button and the elevator starts RISING...

STEVE

You okay?

STEPHANIE

(caustic)

Peachy. You?

Steve checks the gun.

STEVE

Not so good. Only one bullet left.

STEPHANIE

(frightened)

This isn't how I want to die, McQueen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

No one's gonna die, my darling.

The elevator SHUDDERS to a STOP... Steve presses the button... nothing happens...

The elevator SHUDDERS again... starts to DESCEND...

Steve gestures for Stephanie to CLIMB up and out of the elevator... Stephanie kicks off her shoes...

STEPHANIE

I was hoping to wear them on New Year's Eve.

STEVE

You NEVER wear the same shoes twice in one month.

Stephanie CLIMBS up to the top of the elevator...

STEPHANIE

Don't look up my dress.

Steve starts climbing up behind her...

STEVE

No underwear?

STEPHANIE

You know how I feel about panty lines.

They're standing on top of the descending elevator.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

What now?

STEVE

Jump.

Stephanie LOOKS DOWN... they're FOUR FLOORS UP...

STEPHANIE

What's plan B?

As he GRABS HER and HURLS her...

STEVE

Jump!

Steve throws Stephanie on to the third floor concrete as they descend past it... he JUMPS and lands beside her...

They get up and RUN... down an unfinished hallway... and turn into a large room...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The room is full of PIPES and SPOOLS of wire... Steve leads the way to a somewhat protected alcove... where they sit on the floor and catch their breath...

They HEAR THE ELEVATOR STOP... then START MOVING...

STEVE

How do you kill two birds with one stone?

STEPHANIE

You use a BIG stone. All we've got is one little bullet.

STEVE

If I can take one of them out, the other one might run off.

STEPHANIE

And if he doesn't?

The ELEVATOR STOPS... they can hear Big Man and his partner moving around... getting closer...

BIG MAN (O.S.)

Give up now and we'll let your pregnant wife go free.

STEVE

Call me a cynic, but I don't trust him.

Above Steve's head is an OPEN PIPE... LIGHT from the hallway SHINES THROUGH...

OTHER END OF PIPE

Big Man and Partner search for their intended victims...

BACK TO - STEVE AND STEPHANIE

Stephanie's eyes are focused on the PIPE... she notices the LIGHT DISAPPEAR...

STEPHANIE

Since we probably won't get out of this, tell me who killed Chris.

STEVE

Who says we won't get out of this?

LIGHT BEAMS through the pipe again...

OTHER END OF PIPE

Big Man HEARS their voices coming through the pipe... moves toward it... beckons his partner over...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BACK TO - STEVE AND STEPHANIE

Stephanie POINTS to the pipe... LIGHT COMING THROUGH...

STEPHANIE
I'll never speak to you again.

Steve looks at it... doesn't get it yet... Stephanie gestures that she wants the gun...

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
Who killed Chris?

The LIGHTS DISAPPEARS... now Steve gets it... he gives Stephanie the gun...

STEVE
Well, there's no question in my mind.

OTHER END OF PIPE

With his ear to the pipe... Big Man is waiting to hear Steve's answer... Partner stands directly behind him...

BACK TO - STEVE AND STEPHANIE

STEVE
Chris was killed by...

BANG!... Stephanie FIRES... THUMP THUMP... the sound of two bodies falling to the floor...

INT. OTHER END OF THE PIPE MOMENTS LATER

Steve and Stephanie stand over the two dead thugs.

STEVE
And you said we needed a big stone.

Stephanie looks at Steve... emits a weak chuckle... then FAINTS... Steve catches her...

INT. BLACK SEDAN NIGHT

Stephanie recovers while Steve searches the would-be assassins' center console. He finds CDs, scraps of paper and... a NEWSPAPER PHOTO of Stephanie and himself.

He leans across Stephanie to search the GLOVE BOX. She strokes his hair like he was Bumby.

STEPHANIE
Someone hasn't been using conditioner.

Steve pulls out a handful of BUSINESS CARDS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON - BUSINESS CARDS

As Steve flips through them.... stops... goes back a couple... and SEES:

It reads: "TYLER GREEN"

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Steve and Stephanie are in bed, lights off. Bumby sleeps curled by their feet.

STEPHANIE
I can't sleep.

No response from sleeping Steve. She NUDGES him.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
I can't sleep.

Still nothing. She leans over and BLOWS in his ear.

STEVE
Mmmm.

Stephanie blows in his ear again.

STEPHANIE
I love you, Velvet Ears.

STEVE
Mmmm. Love you too, Joanie.

Stephanie GRABS Steve's hair and YANKS his head around so he's facing her. Steve's eyes POP OPEN.

STEVE (cont'd)
Gotcha.

STEPHANIE
Don't be too sure of that.

STEVE
Can't sleep?

Stephanie shakes her head 'no' like a sad little girl.

STEVE (cont'd)
Get up and taking a sleeping pill.

STEPHANIE
Can't get up. Too sleepy.

STEVE
Bumby, get Mummy her sleeping pills.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bumby's eyes open. He GROWLS, then hops off the bed.

STEVE
Poor baby. You had a rough night.

Steve wraps his arm around her. She snuggles against him. Steve closes his eyes.

STEVE (cont'd)
(chuckles)
'I'm pregnant'. Nice tactic. Almost worked.

STEPHANIE
Who says it was a tactic?

Steve's eyes OPEN.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
I wanted to tell you sooner, but things have been so crazy.

STEVE
(terrified)
I... uh... are you sure?

STEPHANIE
We'll have to turn one of the guest rooms into a nursery.

STEVE
But... we didn't... this isn't...

STEPHANIE
You can't plan everything in life. Some things just happen.

STEVE
Just happen! Steph, this is...

Stephanie can't contain herself any longer - breaks out in a HUGE SMILE. Shows him her CROSSED FINGERS.

STEPHANIE
Gotcha.

Bumby JUMPS UP on the bed - a PILL BOTTLE in his mouth.

EXT. WILSHIRE COUNTRY CLUB DAY

Once a year, the staid country club lets down its hair. The regular membership is conspicuously absent - the place is crawling with TRANSVESTITES in blond wigs.

A BANNER on the First Tee reads:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

"THE DINAH SHORE IMITATIONAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC".

EXT. GOLF COURSE - THIRTEENTH TEE DAY

Steve and Stephanie are the only 'straight' people in sight. They're playing a foursome with The Fat Lady and a six-foot-six transvestite we'll call BIG TRANNY.

Stephanie tees off first - smacking one straight down the middle. This girl can play!

BIG TRANNY
(deep baritone)
Another beauty.
(to Steve)
She's kicking your ass.

STEVE
I'm used to it.

The Fat Lady - dressed like Babe Diedrickson in an ankle length skirt, blouse and tie, and a pink cardigan (his own special touch) is the next to hit.

Nessie, in a tartan tam and kilt, is caddying for The Fat Lady. He/she pulls the Driver from an enormous pink and purple leather golf bag and hands it to his/her boss.

A mighty swing... the ball goes for miles.

THE FAT LADY
Take that, Tiger Woods.

Steve steps up. Swings. Slices one into the trees.

STEPHANIE
Ouch.

EXT. THIRTEENTH FAIRWAY DAY

Stephanie and The Fat Lady walk up the middle of the fairway. Nessie's just behind him.

Big Tranny and Steve search the rough for Steve's ball.

STEPHANIE
(calling out)
You're in the trees.

Steve pretends he doesn't hear her.

THE FAT LADY
I'll say this once and I don't want any argument about it: Jordan didn't kill anyone. Doesn't have it in her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE
 (nods in agreement)
 Steve's ninety-nine percent sure that
 Jordan's innocent.

As they arrive at Stephanie's ball, a CELL PHONE RINGS.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
 Not mine.

THE FAT LADY
 I don't own one.

Nessie WHIPS OUT his/her cell phone. Checks it to see who's
 calling. Hands the cell phone to The Fat Lady.

NESSIE
 Krystl.

THE FAT LADY
 (on cell phone)
 Hey, babe. Great news. Steve's one
 hundred percent certain that Jordan
 didn't kill Chris.
 (listens, then)
 Makes my day, too.
 (listens, then)
 Good for you. But I better see tan lines
 when you get back.
 (listens, smiles, then)
 Don't get me thinking about that stuff or
 I'll lose my focus and Steph might win
 this time. Gotta go, babe.

The Fat Lady clicks off, tosses the phone to Nessie.

STEPHANIE
 I ALWAYS beat you. Where's Krys?

THE FAT LADY
 Sent her and Chantal to Vegas for a few
 days. She doesn't need to be involved in
 this crap.

STEPHANIE
 Chantal?

THE FAT LADY
 Her best friend. From her exotic dancing
 days.

IN THE ROUGH - Steve DROPS A BALL where he's standing.

STEPHANIE
 (calling out)
 I saw that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEVE
(calling back)
There's animals in those woods!

THE FAT LADY
We're in the middle of the city?

Shaking her head as she gets ready to hit:

STEPHANIE
Don't ask.

EXT./INT. GEOFFREY'S MALIBU DAY

Tyler and Jordan are having lunch on the balcony overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

TYLER
Your father'd be totally pissed if he knew we were here.

JORDAN
I don't care what he thinks.

TYLER
Funny, but I never thought of him as the 'protective father' type.

JORDAN
He never was. He's only started caring about what Zoe and me are doing in the last few months. It's weird.

TYLER
That woman he lives with, she was a porn star, right?

JORDAN
Daddy always says she was an 'exotic dancer'. Zoe found out the truth, but we won't let him know that we know.

TYLER
(shakes his head)
Zoe. I'll never understand why spoiled rich kids hate the world when life is so easy for them.

JORDAN
We're here to talk about Chris. Was he having an affair?

When Tyler looks down, Jordan's heart sinks. She knows the answer is yes before Tyler NODS affirmatively.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JORDAN (cont'd)

Who?

TYLER

That's what makes this so tough. It's someone you know.

JORDAN

Who, Tyler?

Tyler shakes his head sadly.

TYLER

Before I tell you...

Tyler's CELL PHONE rings. He pulls it out, checks to see who's calling.

TYLER (cont'd)

Sorry. Gotta take this. Business.

Tyler gets up, crosses the balcony, not answering until he's out of Jordan's earshot.

INT. BLACK FERRARI DAY

Stephanie is driving like she always does - FAST. They're listening to The Fat Lady on the radio.

THE FAT LADY (OVER RADIO)

I'm just an old-fashioned girl. Which is why I hate cell phones. People use 'em 'cause it makes 'em feel less alone in the world, like they actually have something to say. You ask me, they're nothin' but a substitute for Mommy's tit.

Steve shakes his head. Stephanie turns off the radio.

STEPHANIE

I'll bet it was Tyler who called.

STEVE

When?

STEPHANIE

You talked to him.

STEVE

I did not.

STEPHANIE

I was right there beside you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

Tyler hasn't called me since I switched brokers.

STEPHANIE

It was obvious the caller disguised his voice. He knew you'd know it.

STEVE

What the hell are you talking about?

STEPHANIE

He woke us up yesterday. Said he had something you wanted. Probably wanted to meet you so he could kill you.

Steve realizes that she might be right.

STEVE

Lucky for me that you love it when I haggle.

STEPHANIE

I've saved your life twice.

STEVE

Three times.

STEPHANIE

When else?

STEVE

The day you married me.

Stephanie looks at him and smiles. Steve POINTS.

STEVE (cont'd)

This is it.

Stephanie SWERVES and SCREECHES to a stop.

STEVE (cont'd)

It's okay. I can walk to the curb from here.

STEPHANIE

You stole that line.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS DAY

The Ferrari's parked in front of a large house.

EXT. LARGE HOUSE DAY

Steve and Stephanie walk up the driveway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

Should we tell the owner we've come to see Tyler?

STEVE

Owner's in rehab for the holidays.

STEPHANIE

A client?

STEVE

(shakes 'no')

He works on Jordan's show. The one who had the ab implants.

The GATE to the back yard is open. They go through to the BACK YARD and spot the tiny GUEST HOUSE by the pool.

STEPHANIE

I didn't realize he'd fallen this far.

STEVE

Don't be a snob. To some people, that little guest house could be a palace.

STEPHANIE

You think I'm a snob?

Avoiding the question:

STEVE

Nice pool.

STEPHANIE

Virginia Woolf was a snob. I'm not.

Steve's not going to get into it.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

And if it wasn't for a certain 'snob' knowing the importance of a P/E ratio, you'd've stuck with Tyler and you'd be living in someone's guest house too.

Steve KNOCKS on the guest house door. No answer. KNOCKS again. Again, there's no answer.

Stephanie reaches into her PURSE, pulls out a LOUIS VUTTON GLASSES KIT. From it she removes a TINY SCREWDRIVER, bends down and starts to PICK THE LOCK.

STEPHANIE

(off Steve's look)

You're not the only one with an old flame who plays cops and robbers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEVE
Which 'old flame' is that?

STEPHANIE
Don't worry, he's out of the picture for
eight to fifteen.

CLICK! She's done it. Opens the door and they enter.

INT. GUEST HOUSE DAY

Mismatched furniture and a POSTER of Michael Douglas in
'Wallstreet' on the wall.

Steve and Stephanie enter to find:

Tyler, clad in nothing but his Calvin Klein briefs, lying
dead on the floor with a bullet hole in his back.

Steve squats down to check Tyler's pulse.

STEPHANIE
Is he...?

STEVE
No longer my number one suspect? I'm
afraid so.

A shattered GLASS is on the floor beside Tyler. Steve drops
to his knees, careful not to touch anything, and bends over
to smell the spilled fluid.

STEVE
Rohypnol.

STEPHANIE
Someone duped him, doped him, did him,
then did him in.

INT. BLACK FERRARI DAY

Stephanie leans on her HORN.

STEPHANIE
A dogsled moves faster than this bozo.

STEVE
I hope Jordan can prove where she was.

STEPHANIE
(irked)
Don't even think it.

Stephanie PASSES on the wrong side of a double line.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

The Fat Lady didn't want Chris to marry her. And Tyler's bad stock deals cost him millions.

Steve leans back as Stephanie WEAVES through traffic.

STEPHANIE

My uncle uses WORDS to attack people. He's a million miles from normal, but he's not a murderer.

The more upset Steve makes her, the FASTER she drives.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

We played golf with him this morning. And we just heard him on the radio.

STEVE

Then, who... Light's red, Princess.

Stephanie ZOOMS THROUGH THE INTERSECTION... narrowly avoiding a couple of cars.

STEVE (cont'd)

Someone is far too tense. And what's our favorite way of releasing tension?

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE DAY

Stephanie's on guitar and Steve's on drums for an OUT-OF-KEY, WARPED-SOUNDING VERSION OF PURPLE HAZE. Bumby HOWLS ALONG. (Note: Stephanie sings the wrong lyrics)

STEPHANIE

Purple Haze is all around--Purple Haze is upside down--What's happenin'--is a mystery--blah blah blah--You're tellin' me--

Spastic attempt at the FAMOUS GUITAR RIFF as we go to:

EXT. TYLER'S GUEST HOUSE DAY

POLICE OFFICERS and DETECTIVES search the grounds. Tyler's corpse is wheeled out of the guest house.

POLICEWOMAN

Over here.

The Detectives join her in a corner of the yard.

ANGLE ON - LUSH GROUND COVER

Lying amidst green plants with purple flowers - A GUN.

INT. STEVE'S HOME OFFICE DAY

Henry works on his computer, spliff in his mouth, junk food littering the desk. Bumby is also on the desk, trying to tear open a package of Twinkies.

Steve enters... takes the Twinkies from Bumby.

HENRY
If you and Mom are ever gonna play
Ozzfest, you'll need lessons.

STEVE
Do you know what infanticide is?

HENRY
That punk band from Detroit?

STEVE
Look it up. It's your future, son.

HENRY
(touched)
You called me son.

STEVE
Feel like tailing someone?

Henry turns to Steve. A big smile on his face.

HENRY
Tailing? Is that what you old dudes say
when you mean...

STEVE
Old dudes?!

HENRY
What's her name? When can I meet her?

Steve WRITES something on a sheet of paper.

STEVE
First I want you to follow her. See
where she goes, who she talks to.

HENRY
Then I get to 'tail' her?

Steve hands Henry the sheet of paper.

STEVE
She's all yours.

CLOSE ON - NESSIE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As he/she exits The Fat Lady's house... and gets into the Bentley.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

INT. HENRY'S CAR NIGHT

Henry lowers his NIGHT VISION BINOCULARS. A more-than-usual stunned expression on his face.

HENRY
Woah. Forget 'tailing' this one.

The Bentley pulls out of the driveway.

HENRY (cont'd)
I'll just follow her.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S HOME GYM NIGHT

The walls are covered with POSTERS of Steve McQueen.

Steve and Stephanie, dressed in MARTIAL ARTS OUTFITS, posed in fighting positions, CIRCLE EACH OTHER.

STEPHANIE
It's time for us to become useful members of society.

STEVE
As long as it doesn't involve getting up early, wearing work clothes, or dealing with nature, I'm there.

STEPHANIE
I want to help other people. I wanna be like Mother Theresa.

Stephanie GRABS Steve and FLIPS him. Steve's BACK hits the mat with a heavy THUD.

STEVE
We've donated thousands, hundreds of thousands, to all kinds of causes.

Steve gets up... they CIRCLE EACH OTHER again.

STEPHANIE
I want us to join the Peace Corp.

STEVE
You realize, of course, that would mean giving up all this.

Steve FEIGNS AN ATTACK... Stephanie jumps back...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE
It'd be good for us.

STEVE
No more parties and restaurants and
designer outfits.

STEPHANIE
I've had enough of all that.

Steve GRABS Stephanie and FLIPS her to the floor.

STEPHANIE
Don't think you can change my mind.

Steve reaches out, offering to help her up.

STEVE
I know you far too well to think that.

She takes hold of Steve's hand.... LEANS BACK... PUTS BOTH
FEET to Steve's chest... and SENDS HIM FLYING...

INT. POLICE STATION NIGHT

Joan and Cox at their desks. Joan hangs up her phone.

JOAN
Tyler Green's dead.

COX
Tyler Green?

JOAN
Chris Mullet's ex-roommate. Shot with a
357 Magnum.

EXT. VAN NUYS GUN SHOP NIGHT

Nessie exits the gun shop. Walks down the street. Enters a
BAR called 'THE FLOWERING CACTUS'.

ACROSS THE STREET

Henry gets out of his car - a 1960s Ford Comet.

INT. GUN SHOP NIGHT

Henry speaks to the tattooed GUN DEALER.

HENRY
Did a really ugly lady just buy a gun
from you?

GUN DEALER
Ever heard of the Second Amendment?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HENRY
Sure. Motown. Sixties. Love 'em.

GUN DEALER
Get out.

Henry reaches into his pocket.

HENRY
Right. I know how this works.

Henry SLAPS his hand on the counter... pulls it away...
revealing A SMALL BAG OF POT.

HENRY (cont'd)
Oops. Money's in the other one.

Henry reaches for the pot... the Gun Dealer GRABS it.

HENRY (cont'd)
That's not mine.

GUN DEALER
No, it's mine. Yeah, 'she' has been here
before.

HENRY
She a regular customer?

GUN DEALER
'She' is a 'he'.

HENRY
(long pause)
I know that. Just wanted to make sure
you did.

GUN DEALER
He's a big fan of Dirty Harry's gun.

HENRY
Dirty Harry, Fat Lady, where do they get
these crazy names?

EXT. STEVE'S JAGUAR NIGHT

As it pulls out of the El Royale and heads down Rossmore...
a WHITE SUV follows.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS NIGHT

Steve's Jaguar approaches the BEVERLY HILTON. The white SUV
is still following.

INT. STEVE'S JAGUAR NIGHT

Steve checks his rear view mirror. Concerned.

STEPHANIE

I love Monte Carlo nights. Almost as much as I love Monte Carlo.

STEVE

I thought we made an agreement about your little problem.

STEPHANIE

Gambling's not a problem, it's a hobby.

STEVE

Collecting Faberge Eggs is a hobby. In your case, a less expensive hobby.

STEPHANIE

Boring. Where's the thrill in looking at an egg?

Steve checks his rear view mirror again. Senses trouble.

INT. THE FLOWERING CACTUS NIGHT

Henry enters and can't believe his luck. He's discovered a gold mine - a bar full of hookers. (Actually, men in drag. But Henry thinks otherwise.)

HENRY

Awesome.

Henry moves through the room... looking for Nessie... who's nowhere to be seen... Henry's hand 'accidently' brushes ass after ass... .

'Big Tranny' (from the golf tournament) watches Henry copping feels... doesn't like what he/she sees...

As face after face turns and gives Henry an 'I'm available' smile, Henry becomes concerned...

Something's not right... their chins and jaws are too square... and most of these 'women' have broader shoulders and thicker legs than he does.

Big Tranny GRABS HENRY from behind... puts a CHOKE HOLD on him... Henry SQUIRMS and tries to break free...

BIG TRANNY

Look girls! I've caught the The Valley Mugging!

INT. BEVERLY HILTON NIGHT

Another BENEFIT. For URBAN RENEWAL. On various SMALL RUNWAYS, MODELS wearing clothes shaped like shiny new buildings and Gehry masterpieces are surrounded by others dressed like trees.

Steve notices TWO MEN IN SUITS watching them - one tall and thin with white-blond hair, one stocky and balding.

Stephanie hooks her arm through Steve's and leads him toward A ROULETTE TABLE. When Steve realizes where they're heading:

STEVE
No gambling. We're going home.

STEPHANIE
We just got here.

Steve glances back at the Men in Suits by the exit.

STEVE
We made our appearance. Let's hope we can slip out with no one noticing.

STEPHANIE
It's a charity function, McQueen. I want to be charitable. Twenty spins of roulette and we can leave.

STEVE
One.

STEPHANIE
Nineteen.

STEVE
Two.

STEPHANIE
Fifteen.

STEVE
Three.

STEPHANIE
Ten.

STEVE
Two.

STEPHANIE
You said three!

STEVE
Okay. Three it is.

EXT. THE FAT LADY'S HOUSE NIGHT

Jordan, weeping and wearing HANDCUFFS, is led by Joan and Cox to their car... followed by The Fat Lady.

THE FAT LADY
(irate)
What the hell is wrong with you morons?
She didn't do it!

The Fat Lady GRABS Cox's arm.

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
Don't you idiots get it? Someone's
framing my daughter to get at ME!

COX
Please remove your hand, Sir.

JOAN
You'll only make it worse for her.

Reluctantly, The Fat Lady lets go.

THE FAT LADY
Steve's gonna sue you for harassment and
false arrest. We'll make this city
bleed.

Joan and Cox are not impressed. Walk Jordan to the car.

JORDAN
(looking back)
Daddy?

INT. BEVERLY HILTON - ROULETTE TABLE NIGHT

Stephanie is engrossed in the action.

STEVE
I said three and it's been six.

STEPHANIE
I doubled my money.

STEVE
We're being watched. Someone followed us
here tonight.

Stephanie finally turns and looks at Steve.

STEPHANIE
What are you talking about?

STEVE
Look without looking at the exit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Stephanie SCANS the room in one fluid motion... until she's facing the roulette table again.

STEPHANIE
A Q-tip and a bowling ball?

STEVE
(nods 'yes')
Unless you feel like another vacant building scenario, I suggest we figure out a way to leave without them.

The WHEEL is SPINNING and the betting has stopped.

Steve gets an idea - grabs a PILE OF JOHN DOE'S CHIPS and places them on a number.

PIT BOSS
Sorry, no more bets.

Stephanie looks at Steve... and gets it.

JOHN DOE
(angry, to Steve)
What the hell are you doing?

Stephanie reaches over and grabs JANE DOE'S CHIPS.

STEPHANIE
(to Jane Doe)
Ex-squeeze me.

Stephanie places Jane Doe's chips on Steve's number.

JANE DOE
Hey! Those are MY chips!

STEPHANIE
(re: Steve)
And he is my husband.

JOHN DOE
(pissed, to Steve)
Who the hell do you think you are?

STEVE
Her husband.

John Doe and Jane Doe reach for their respective chips... Steve and Stephanie wrestle them for control...

The Pit Boss SIGNALS that he needs assistance... as the ROULETTE BALL lands on a NUMBER... Stephanie grabs a PILE OF CHIPS and places them on the winning number...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEPHANIE
I WIN! I WIN! I WIN!

Steve and Stephanie start grabbing EVERYONE'S CHIPS...

STEVE
WE WIN! WE WIN! WE WIN!

TWO BIG SECURITY GUARDS place their hands on Steve's and Stephanie's shoulders.

SECURITY GUARD#1
Put those down and come with us.

SECURITY GUARD#2
(forced)
Please.

STEVE
If you insist.

As the Security Guards lead them away, Stephanie turns back and FLIPS OFF 'Q-tip' and 'Bowling Ball'.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE NIGHT

Steve and Stephanie are with the CHIEF OF SECURITY.

STEVE
I INSIST that you charge us.

CHIEF OF SECURITY
That's not necessary, Mr. Stone. Just
promise you won't do it again.

STEPHANIE
We planted a bomb in the hotel.

CHIEF OF SECURITY
(skeptical)
What kind of bomb?

STEPHANIE
The kind that blows up!

STEVE
May I use your phone?

INT. POLICE STATION NIGHT

Steve and Stephanie are with Joan.

JOAN
It's the same weapon that was used to
kill Chris Mullet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

Why would the killer keep the gun the first time, and ditch it this time?

JOAN

Her work was done.

STEVE

You have a motive?

JOAN

Preliminary guess: Love triangle.

STEPHANIE

Is that all you ever think about?

STEVE

I need to talk to my client.

EXT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM NIGHT

Steve sits with Jordan. A cop by the door.

STEVE

I want you to write a list of everywhere you were today, when you were there and who saw you.

JORDAN

You know me, Steve. You know I couldn't have done this.

STEVE

Our personal relationship is irrelevant. To do my job properly, I have to function as your lawyer and nothing else.

JORDAN

(long pause)

You'll get your stupid list. Mister Stone.

INT. POLICE STATION HALLWAY NIGHT

Steve and Stephanie stand with Joan.

JOAN

Did they follow you here?

STEVE

(shakes 'no')

They knew I made them.

JOAN

There must be fifty thousand white SUVs in Los Angeles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE

But only ONE was following us.

JOAN

I doubt that'll be a problem anymore.
The killer's behind bars.

STEPHANIE

You are so...

STEVE

(cutting her off)
I'd like it if you could station a unit
in front of our building.

JOAN

I'm afraid that's not possible.

STEPHANIE

You are such a cu...

Steve puts his hand over Stephanie's mouth.

STEVE

Country girl. That's right, Princess.
Joan's from Nebraska.

JOAN

(hurt)
Missouri. Suburbs of St. Louis.

Stephanie's EYES tell us she's smiling.

STEVE

Can you at least have someone follow us
home?

After a beat, Joan nods 'yes'.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S BEDROOM MORNING

The PHONE RINGS. A groggy Stephanie answers it.

STEPHANIE

(on phone, sleepy)
Hullo.

VOICE (OVER PHONE)

Price has gone up.

Steve awakens and rolls over to see what's up.

STEPHANIE

(on phone)
I thought you were dead?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE (OVER PHONE)
Do I sound dead?

STEPHANIE
(on phone)
I don't know what dead sounds like.
Besides, my husband's the haggler.

She hands the phone to Steve.

STEVE
(on phone)
Haggler here.

VOICE (OVER PHONE)
What I got changes everything, Stone.
But you dicked with me, so now it's gonna
cost a hundred grand.

STEVE
(on phone)
I wouldn't change my antiperspirant for a
hundred grand.

VOICE (OVER PHONE)
Meet me at the top of Mount Hollywood at
midnight.

STEVE
(on phone)
Sorry, but that involves exercise.
There's wild animals all over the...

CLICK. The caller hangs up.

STEPHANIE
Wild animals? Where?

STEVE
The zoo.

STEPHANIE
He wants to sell you one?

STEVE
Would you prefer a lion or a tiger?

STEPHANIE
A hippo! I love hippos.

STEVE
What if he charges by the pound?

STEPHANIE
You don't love me anymore.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEVE
Okay. A hippo it is.

Stephanie KISSES him.

INT. STEVE'S HOME OFFICE DAY

STEVE
I need you to make sure that Stephanie stays home all day.

HENRY
How do you expect me to...

STEVE
(sharp)
Just do it!

Henry rarely sees Steve this intense. Intimidated, he nods 'yes'.

EXT./INT. WILTERN THEATER DAY

The MANAGER greets Steve warmly.

MANAGER
Good to see you again, Mr. Stone. What can I do you for?

STEVE
The Fat Lady's gig on Christmas Eve?

MANAGER
The best of times, the worst of times. Crazy family.

STEVE
It started at midnight?

MANAGER
It was supposed to. First time The Fat Lady's ever been late.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE DAY

Stephanie's making a cocktail.

HENRY (O.S.)
Forget the booze Mom, let's get high.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Henry crosses to Stephanie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HENRY (cont'd)

Dad says you and me are supposed to wait here 'til he gets home.

STEPHANIE

Why, where is he?

HENRY

Don't know.

STEPHANIE

If I tell you a secret, will you tell me one?

HENRY

You go first.

Stephanie CROSSES HER FINGERS behind her back.

STEPHANIE

I'm pregnant.

HENRY

No way!

STEPHANIE

You're the first person I've told.

HENRY

Awesome!

STEPHANIE

So, since I told you my secret, you tell me yours. Where's Steve?

HENRY

I'm gonna have a little brother?

Stephanie GRABS Henry's t-shirt, gets in his face.

STEPHANIE

Tell me where Steve is or you won't live long enough to play with him.

HENRY

You've threatened to kill me, like, a million times.

Stephanie heads for the door. Henry RUNS across the room and stations himself in front of the door.

HENRY (cont'd)

I can't let you leave.

STEPHANIE

Outta my way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Henry shakes his head 'no'. He's not moving.

INT. PINOT HOLLYWOOD DAY

Steve sits with Joan.

JOAN
Jordan thought she'd wiped the gun clean
but we found two partial prints. Hers
and her father's.

STEVE
Why isn't he a suspect?

JOAN
His print was on the barrel, hers was on
the trigger.

A WAITER places TWO DRINKS on their table.

WAITER
From the lady over there.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Stephanie sits at a table with Bumby. Pretending not to
notice them.

JOAN
She's pathetic.

STEVE
You mean perfect.

JOAN
She's not good for you.

STEVE
I know.

JOAN
Then why are you with her?

STEVE
Because there's nothing better for me
than what's not good for me.

Steve plops money on the table and stands.

STEVE (cont'd)
I still say you're wrong.

Steve walks toward Stephanie's table. Joan watches him, sad.
Gets up and leaves the restaurant.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

She hates me as much as I hate her.

STEVE

(as he sits)

More.

STEPHANIE

(as she stands)

Then my work here is done.

Bumby in hand, Stephanie strides out. Steve sees her CHECK sitting on the table - unpaid. He picks it up.

Steve plops some more money on the table and heads out. On the way, he passes the Waiter who smiles and says:

WAITER

Aren't you the busy boy.

EXT. BANK OF AMERICA - BEVERLY HILLS DAY

Steve exits the bank carrying a metal BRIEFCASE.

Q-Tip and Bowling Ball follow him down the sidewalk.

EXT. EL ROYALE DAY

Stephanie's Ferrari SCREECHES to a stop at the building's front door. Stephanie hops out and heads in.

INT. EL ROYALE LOBBY NIGHT

As Stephanie enters, she sees Zoe slumped in a chair, reading Baudelaire.

Stephanie approaches her... Zoe turns and looks up... closes 'The Flowers of Evil'.

STEPHANIE

Zoe? What's up?

EXT. STEVE'S OFFICE BUILDING DAY

The White SUV is parked across the street from the parking entrance/exit.

INT. STEVE'S OFFICE DAY

A dream office with a panoramic view of 90210. Steve stands at his window, looking down at the SUV.

STEVE

(on phone headset)

I need to talk to Henry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE (OVER PHONE)
He can't come to the phone right now.

STEVE
(on phone headset)
Have him call me as soon as he can. Love
you.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE DAY

STEPHANIE
(on phone)
Love you more.

Stephanie clicks off her phone.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Henry lies BOUND AND GAGGED on the sofa. Bumby sits on top
of him. Zoe sits in a chair, staring at them.

ZOE
Planning to untie him?

Henry nods 'yes' - several times.

STEPHANIE
I dunno. What do you think?

ZOE
I think we should do stuff to him.

Henry shakes his head 'no' - several times.

STEPHANIE
What kinda stuff?

OFF HENRY'S WIDE-EYED PANIC

EXT. NORTH FACE STORE - BEVERLY HILLS DAY

Steve exits the store. Carrying a large, full BAG. GLANCES
TO HIS LEFT as he turns right and starts walking.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Q-Tip and Bowling Ball, standing where Steve glanced, start
following him again.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE DAY

Henry FLINCHES as Stephanie RIPS off the duct tape covering
his mouth. She starts to UNTIE him.

ZOE
Shoulda shaved his head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

Woulda been an improvement.

ZOE

I hate dyed blond hair on men.

STEPHANIE

Why do guys think it's hip to look like a bimbo?

HENRY

Hullo? I'm like, right here.

EXT. STEVE'S OFFICE BUILDING NIGHT

Steve's Jaguar ZOOMS out of the parking entrance and SPEEDS down the street.

The SUV PEELS OUT from the curb and follows.

INT. STEVE'S OFFICE NIGHT

Dressed in new black outdoor wear, Steve is looking out the window... smiles... crosses to his desk... opens the metal briefcase... starts putting MONEY into a large BLACK KNAPSACK.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S KITCHEN NIGHT

Stephanie and Zoe prepare an impromptu meal.

ZOE

I'm really worried about Daddy.

STEPHANIE

Jordy's in jail. He's stressed out.

ZOE

He's been acting so weird, lately. Even told me he loved me.

STEPHANIE

Maybe he's finally realized that he wasn't always the best father. Now he's trying to make up for it.

ZOE

(long pause)
I hope that's what it is.

EXT. STEVE'S OFFICE BUILDING NIGHT

Henry's old Comet turns onto the street.

EXT. 405 FREEWAY NORTH NIGHT

The White SUV follows Steve's Jaguar.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Dinner finished. Stephanie and Zoe sit curled on a sofa, drinking wine, listening to 'The White Stripes'.

STEPHANIE

Think Chris was having an affair?

ZOE

No way. He was a selfish jerk, but he wasn't THAT stupid.

STEPHANIE

You guys have never had the best luck with men.

ZOE

(acerbic)

I wonder why? They say women go for men who remind them of their father.

EXT. MAGIC MOUNTAIN PARKING LOT NIGHT

Steve's Jaguar parks. The white SUV parks nearby. The Jag's door opens...

Henry steps out... gets into the car he parked beside... and that car drives off.

INT. WHITE SUV SAME

'Q-tip' and 'Bowling Ball' realize they've been had.

EXT. MOUNT HOLLYWOOD NIGHT

A dark night. No moon or stars. Steve walks up a narrow trail, flashlight in hand. He HEARS a COYOTE HOWL. It unnerves him. He pulls out his GUN.

STEVE

I ain't no Roadrunner, Mr. Coyote. This bird's packing heat.

Steve's CELL PHONE RINGS. He tucks the flashlight under his arm and answers it.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Stephanie, with Bumby curled on her lap, is watching an old movie (The Thin Man) with Zoe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE
 (on phone)
 Where are you? Why aren't you answering
 your office phone?

INTERCUT THE FOLLOWING

STEVE
 Just walking around the block to clear my
 head. This is a tough case.

Thinking he's heard something, Steve darts around, shines his
 flashlight into the bushes, gun at the ready.

STEPHANIE
 Can't you just come home? I hate going
 to bed alone.

STEVE
 Same here.

Steve thinks he hears something else. SPINS around.

STEVE (cont'd)
 Damn animals.

STEPHANIE
 What?

STEVE
 Gotta go, Princess. Think I'm gonna be
 chased by a dog.

Steve clicks off. We stay with Stephanie.

ZOE
 Everything okay?

STEPHANIE
 (chuckles)
 Steve's afraid of animals.

ZOE
 But you've got Bumby?

STEPHANIE
 (stroking Bumby)
 He's not a animal. He's a little person.
 Aren't you Bumby?

Bumby BARKS and nods 'yes'.

EXT. TOP OF MOUNT HOLLYWOOD MIDNIGHT

Steve sits at a PICNIC TABLE. City lights far below.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A helicopter flies low over the hills. Not unusual in L.A., so Steve doesn't pay it any attention, until...

The helicopter starts HOVERING above him... then LOWERS... and LANDS...

Steve puts his hand on his gun...

The Fat Lady, wearing a WEDDING GOWN and carrying a large leather bag, steps out of the helicopter and walks over to Steve.

STEVE
YOU'RE the mysterious caller?

THE FAT LADY
What? No comment about my entrance?

STEVE
(as he stands)
I don't have time for games.

THE FAT LADY
I live to play games.

STEVE
Playing games with your daughter's life is low. Even for you.

THE FAT LADY
You shouldn't've hung up on me the first time I called.

The Fat Lady reaches into his/her bag...

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
Tyler Green would still be alive.

The Fat Lady pulls out a GUN.

STEVE
You were on the radio when Tyler was killed.

THE FAT LADY
Tape. Shoulda checked.
(beat)
I know you wouldn't come up here without a gun. Let's have it.

Steve reaches for his gun.

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
Careful. I'm getting good at this killing thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Steve pulls out his gun, holding it by the barrel. Hands it to The Fat Lady - who THROWS it into bushes.

STEVE
You were late for your gig the night
Chris was killed.

THE FAT LADY
(nods 'yes')
Bastard wanted to marry my baby.

STEVE
Tyler cost you a fortune.

THE FAT LADY
That. Plus, he was hitting on Jordan
before Chris was even cold.

STEVE
Why me? Why not tell the cops?

As he places his bag on a picnic table:

THE FAT LADY
You're my lawyer. Lawyer client
privilege. And you're family.

The Fat Lady reaches into his bag... pulls out a state-of-the-art CAMCORDER... holds it out to Steve.

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
My newest toy. It's got night vision.
Check it out.

Steve doesn't move. The Fat Lady gestures with his gun.

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
I love Steph almost as much as my girls,
but I'll make her a widow if I have to.

STEVE
You never loved anyone but yourself.

Steve accepts up the camcorder.

THE FAT LADY
Don't rewind it. Just press the button
and start taping.

STEVE
Do you have any comprehension of what
you've put your daughters through?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

THE FAT LADY
They can handle it.
(gestures with gun)
Press the button, Steve.

Hating this, Steve starts taping The Fat Lady.

THE FAT LADY
I know I wasn't the best Dad.

STEVE
Far from it.

The Fat Lady starts backing toward his helicopter.

THE FAT LADY
I gave them my money instead of my time
and that was wrong. But I always loved
them. More than anyone knew.

STEVE
If that's true, come with me and tell
your story to the police.

THE FAT LADY
Story's not finished.

Steve lowers the camcorder.

STEVE
They'll be waiting when you land.

THE FAT LADY
They won't know where to look unless you
record it.

The Fat Lady gets into his helicopter... starts it up... and
LIFTS OFF...

Steve watches the helicopter fly over the hills... starts
recording its flight...

The helicopter approaches the HOLLYWOOD SIGN...

Steve's CELL PHONE rings... he answers it.

THE FAT LADY (OVER PHONE)
You know what's great about being an
atheist, Steve?

STEVE
(on cell phone)
You think you don't have to answer to a
higher authority.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

THE FAT LADY (OVER PHONE)
 Since I know there isn't a Heaven... I
 know I ain't going to Hell.

When the helicopter is DIRECTLY ABOVE the HOLLYWOOD SIGN...
 KABOOM!... IT EXPLODES!

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Steve, totally spent, wearing only his boxer shorts, tiptoes
 into the room and crawls into bed.

STEPHANIE
 Coming home this late is the
 lowest, stinkiest thing you've ever
 done.

STEVE
 I've been much lower and stinkier.

STEPHANIE
 (sniffs him)
 You stink right now. What is it?

STEVE
 Nature.

STEPHANIE
 Disgusting.

Stephanie turns ON the bedside LIGHT. Steve rolls over to
 face her - he looks like hell.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
 You look... What's wrong?

INT. POLICE STATION DAY

Steve gives the camcorder to Joan.

STEVE
 It begins with a full confession.

JOAN
 Looks like you were right about Jordan
 after all.

STEVE
 I won't say I told you so if you do me a
 huge favor.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Steve enters with Jordan... who runs to Zoe... they hug each
 other... a tearful reunion... Jordan hugs Stephanie... more
 tears flow...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steve picks up the remote and raise the volume on the TV.

CUT TO - TELEVISION SCREEN

Joan stands in front of SEVERAL MICROPHONES.

JOAN
 ... left a full confession on tape.
 We've officially closed the books on the
 murders of Christopher Mullet and Tyler
 Green.

INT. THE FAT LADY'S HOUSE DAY

Nessie, Krystl and CHANTAL - a buxom blond and Krystl's best friend - are also watching Joan. They sit on a sofa, Chantal in the middle, sharing a box of kleenex, ALL WEEPING.

CHANTAL
 It's... horrible.

NESSIE
 Saddest story... ever told.

Krystl checks her sobs, BLOWS her nose.

KRYSTL
 I can't live... here... anymore.

Nessie and Chantal stifle their tears as well.

NESSIE
 The Fat Lady loved ye, lass. I know he
 took care of ye.

KRYSTL
 (to Chantal)
 I want us to move back to Arizona and
 open that pet shop, just like we always
 dreamed about.

CHANTAL
 (sniffles, then)
 You mean it?

Krystl nods 'yes'. She and Chantal HUG each other.

NESSIE
 What about me?

KRYSTL
 I'm sure Fatty took care of you.

NESSIE
 I know. But I need a hug, too.

INT. STEVE'S HOME OFFICE DAY

Steve and Henry are looking at Henry's monitor.

HENRY
Like letters from Penthouse.

STEVE
Why didn't you find these before?

HENRY
First ya got me checking on that Chris
dude, then the Tyler dude, then The Fat
dude... dudette... It's hard for me to
keep track of...

Henry turns to see... Steve leaving the room.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE DAY

Stephanie's alone, watching TV coverage of The Fat Lady.
Steve joins her.

STEVE
Where's Zoe and Jordan?

STEPHANIE
I told them to crash here, but Zo
insisted they go back to her place.

EXT. ZOE'S HOUSE DAY

The Jaguar parks. Steve gets out.

INT. ZOE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN DAY

As Steve and Zoe enter.

ZOE
She says the worst part of 'prison life'
was no mirror or lipstick.

Zoe grabs a BEER from the refrigerator.

ZOE (cont'd)
Want one?

STEVE
No thanks.
(beat)
The police have it wrong, again. Your
father didn't kill Chris and Tyler.

ZOE
(long pause)
Daddy was a lot of things, Steve.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: ZOE(cont'd)

Most of them not good. But one thing he never did was lie.

 STEVE
His death wasn't an accident, Zoe. He was protecting someone.

OFF ZOE'S STUNNED EXPRESSION

INT. ZOE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM DAY

In a small, unfinished second bathroom - no shower or bath - Steve washes his hands... looks around... no towels... the toilet paper roll is empty...

Looking for more toilet paper... he opens the cupboard under the sink... and SEES:

The odd shaped CHIROPRACTIC DEVICE.

FLASHBACK TO - CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE

Steve points and asks Doctor Hammond:

 STEVE
What's that odd shaped device?

EXT. FAT LADY'S HOUSE DAY

MEDIA and POLICE. FANS holding a candlelight vigil. An ad hoc SHRINE to the Fat Lady has been created.

EXT. THE FAT LADY'S HOUSE - REAR DAY

Steve emerges from the BUSHES at the back of the yard... a barking GERMAN SHEPHERD with a frilly pink collar charges him... Steve turns and RUNS...

INT. FAT LADY'S HOUSE DAY

 NESSIE
 (on phone)
Aye. Sorry about that.

EXT. THE FAT LADY'S HOUSE - REAR DAY

Nessie opens the patio door and calls out:

 NESSIE
Devine! Inside!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The German Shepard, at the base of a TREE, barking at something up it, heeds the call and trots toward Nessie.

Steve DROPS DOWN from the tree. Walks over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NESSIE (cont'd)
Forgot he was out here.

STEVE
(sarcastic)
Thanks a lot, Graham.

NESSIE
Nessie.

STEVE
How do you get 'Nessie' from Graham
Malcolm Orkney?

NESSIE
The wee beastie in the loch.

STEVE
No such thing.

NESSIE
Ye dunna believe in monsters?

As he passes Nessie and enters the house.

STEVE
Only the kind with two legs.

INT. THE FAT LADY'S HOME OFFICE DAY

Appropriately tacky. PHOTOGRAPHS of The Fat Lady with
politicians and celebrities. Guns are featured in many of
them - with Reagan, Heston, Sellick...

Steve roots through the The Fat Lady's personal papers.
Nessie enters.

STEVE
Was The Fat Lady sick?

NESSIE
You've heard him on the radio.

Steve holds up a handful of LETTERS.

STEVE
I mean ill. There must be two dozen
doctor's bills here.

NESSIE
(shrugs)
Drove 'im to the dentist coupla months
ago. But no doctors.

INT. MEDICAL BUILDING - LOBBY DAY

Steve looks down the list of DOCTORS on the directory... searching for the name that matches the one on the MEDICAL BILL that he's holding... finds it.

CLOSE ON - DIRECTORY

Dr. W. Powell - Oncology. Suite 304.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Steve enters.

STEVE
Honey, I'm...

ANOTHER ANGLE

Stephanie is sitting on the couch... DUCT TAPE over her mouth... 'Bowling Ball' seated next to her...

CLICK... The unmistakable sound of a gun being cocked... Steve turns his head slowly...

ANOTHER ANGLE

'Q-tip' stands behind Steve, gun aimed at Steve's head.

EXT. I-15 IN THE DESERT NIGHT

A black Lincoln cruises along the Interstate.

INT. BLACK LINCOLN NIGHT

Bowling Ball drives. Steve sits beside him in the front. Stephanie, sits behind the driver. Q-tip is beside her, with one gun trained on her and the other pointed at the back of Steve's head.

STEPHANIE
I know where we're going. It's the take 'em out to the desert scenario.

STEVE
At least tell us who hired you?

Q-TIP
Fat Lady's kid.

STEPHANIE
Bull. Which one?

Q-TIP
The cute one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

They're BOTH cute.

BOWLING BALL

You wrote it down, moron.

Q-tip lowers the gun that's been aimed at Steve... puts it on the seat between himself and the door... with his right hand he reaches into his pocket... pulls out a scrap of PAPER...

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Lemme see that.

Stephanie reaches out with her left hand... trying to snatch the piece of paper from Q-tip's hand...

They have a tug-of-war for possession of the paper... then, like a cobra striking... Stephanie's right hand GRABS Q-tip's left hand and pushes it up... BANG!... a bullet blasts a hole through the roof...

Q-tip's right hand grabs the gun tucked beside him... as he raises it... Steve WHIRLS AROUND... BANG!

Another shot BLASTS THROUGH the roof... Steve PINS Q-tip's right hand against the window... Stephanie battles Q-tip for control of his other gun...

Bowling Ball reaches for his gun... Steve, facing the back seat, PUNCHES HIM IN THE HEAD... Bowling Ball's head SLAMS against the window... the car starts VEERING WILDLY... dazed Bowling Ball tries to regain control...

Steve FLICKS the button that UNLOCKS THE DOORS... reaches back and OPENS THE DOOR beside Q-tip...

In control of the car... Bowling Ball moves for his gun... Steve PUNCHES him in the head... the car VEERS...

Stephanie leans back... and with both feet... she KICKS Q-tip OUT OF THE CAR... Stephanie now has his GUN...

Bowling Ball tries one more time to pull out his gun... Steve grabs his hand...

WHOMP!... Stephanie CONKS Bowling Ball on the head with the gun... knocking him delirious... the car VEERS OFF THE ROAD...

STEVE

(facetious)

Brilliant.

EXT. I-15 NIGHT

The Lincoln BARRELS across the dirt MEDIAN that separates the eastbound and westbound lanes...

In those westbound lanes are FIFTY HELL'S ANGELS on motorcycles...

The Lincoln SLIDES into them... taking them out like bowling pins...

BIKES and BIKERS go SKIDDING, SPRAWLING and FLYING in all directions... cars HIT THEIR BRAKES... SKIDDING AND BASHING into each other...(no fatalities, of course)...

The Lincoln finally COMES TO A STOP... Steve and Stephanie jump out... only to SEE:

Dazed and angry bikers glaring at the car and the people who caused it all...

Battered, bruised and broken, with revenge on their minds, the bikers LIMP AND HOBBLE toward Steve and Stephanie like a pack of crazed zombies...

Bowling Ball gets out of the Lincoln... rubbing his head... Stephanie POINTS to him and SHOUTS:

STEPHANIE

He was driving! It's his fault!

The bikers keep coming...

STEVE

I don't think they care, Princess.

Steve picks up one of the motorcycles...

STEVE (cont'd)

Hop on!

STEPHANIE

Yahoo! I love a hog between my legs!

They get on the bike... Steve GUNS IT... heading straight at the leather-clad roughnecks... and sending them DIVING AND SPRAWLING again...

The bikers hurl abuse and shake their fists... some pull out their guns and aim at Steve and Stephanie...

HOOONNNK! HOOONNNK! HOOONNNK!

Here comes Bowling Ball in the Lincoln... once again, the Angels are forced to EAT DIRT...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Lincoln follows Steve and Stephanie...

CUT TO - STEVE AND STEPHANIE ON THE HARLEY

ZOOMING down the open road with the wind in their hair...
Stephanie LOOKS BACK... SEES the Lincoln CLOSING IN...

STEPHANIE

Faster, Pussycat! Or we'll be kill-kill-
killed!

Steve SPEEDS UP... but the Lincoln's still gaining on them...
Steve looks back... this isn't good...

STEVE

Dammit, woman! Do I have to do
everything?! Get rid of him!

The Lincoln's GETTING CLOSER...

Stephanie TAKES OFF HER TOP... holds it out behind her...
waiting for the Lincoln to get closer...

She lines it up... and just when the Lincoln is a few yards
away... she RELEASES her top...

BULL'S EYE!... Stephanie's top lands on the Lincoln's
WINDSHIELD... Bowling Ball has to slow down...

STEPHANIE

Ha! Ha! Ha! Loser!

But... the Lincoln's WINDSHIELD WIPERS wipe Stephanie's top
off the windshield...

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Damn.

The Lincoln SPEEDS UP and starts CLOSING IN again...
Stephanie turns to LOOK AHEAD and SEES:

They're coming up fast behind two relatively SLOW MOVING
TRUCKS... one in each lane...

STEVE

Hold on!

STEPHANIE

Gee, ya think?

ZOOM.... Steve PASSES the trucks ON THE SHOULDER...

The TRUCKERS react to the scantily clad babe on the back of
the bike by pulling on their AIR HORNS...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEPHANIE

Funny, I never get tired of that.

ZOOM... the Lincoln also PASSES the trucks on the shoulder...

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

He's persistent, I'll give him that.

STEVE

Hold on!

STEPHANIE

What you think I'm... WOAH!

Steve VEERS OFF the highway and out into the desert... the Lincoln follows...

After going out about a hundred yards... Steve ARCS back toward the Interstate... angling toward the TWO TRUCKS... the Lincoln follows... closing in...

Aiming right in front of the trucks... Steve ZOOMS UP THE ROADSIDE EMBANKMENT... and...

THE BIKE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR... in front of the trucks...

Stephanie loses her grip with one hand... one arm still clutching Steve... the other is thrown back like a cowgirl riding a bucking bronco...

INT. TRUCK SAME

The DRIVER sees a beautiful woman in a black bra who appears to be flashing him... PULLS HIS AIR HORN...

INT. SECOND TRUCK SAME

The driver is BIG TRANNY (from the golf game and the transvestite club)... Stephanie WAVES... he pulls on his AIR HORN...

EXT. SAME NIGHT

'Steve Knevil' lands the bike on the dirt median...

The skidding Lincoln has chased the bike STRAIGHT INTO THE PATH OF THE TRUCKS...

CRASH! CRUNCH!... BOTH TRUCKS HIT THE LINCOLN... it ROLLS AND BOUNCES like a kicked stone... then EXPLODES...

Steve pulls back on to the Interstate... and the Harley disappears into the darkness...

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Steve and Stephanie in bed. Lights out.

STEVE
Since when did you love a hog between
your legs?

STEPHANIE
Since I watched Steve McQueen in 'The
Great Escape'.

STEVE
So it's really McQueen that you want
between your legs, not the hog.

STEPHANIE
No, it's the hog.

STEVE
Oink. Oink.

EXT. PENTHOUSE BALCONY DAY

Stephanie stares out at the city. Troubled, depressed.

Carrying two mugs of coffee, Steve joins her.

STEPHANIE
I'm going to cancel tonight.

Steve gives Stephanie one of the mugs.

STEVE
Don't.

STEPHANIE
How can we have a nice, quiet, family New
Year's Eve when one of them...?

STEVE
We have to act like last night never
happened. Make it seem like those goons
haven't made their move yet.

STEPHANIE
What if the killer was watching and saw
them take us away?

STEVE
Then whoever doesn't show up is our
killer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

I even invited Krystl, and her friend,
and Nessie. I wanted everyone to start
getting along.

STEVE

Number seven on my 'Top Ten Reasons Why I
Love My Wife' list: She strives for the
impossible.

STEPHANIE

Why is my family so crazy?

STEVE

YOU'RE not. You're almost perfect.

Knowing that he's trying to lift her spirits, Stephanie
forces a tiny smile.

STEPHANIE

Almost?

STEVE

You get jealous too easily. You drive
too fast. There's the gambling.
Sometimes you let your temper...
(off her look)
All of which make you more human. And
more lovable.

STEPHANIE

Last time we all got together, it was a
total disaster.

STEVE

Last time?

STEPHANIE

The Fat Lady's birthday party.

Steve turns and looks out at the city... pondering something
significant... then KISSES Stephanie.

STEVE

You've done it, Princess! You've figured
it out!

STEPHANIE

I sol-ved the case?

Steve nods that she has as he heads back inside.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Sometimes, I amaze myself.

(beat)

Wonder how I did it?

INT. STEVE'S HOME OFFICE DAY

Steve enters to find Henry, at Steve's desk, tilted back in Steve's chair, eyes closed and headphones on. Bumby lies on the desk, wearing tiny headphones of his own.

Steve walks to the RECEIVER... UNPLUGS Bumby's headphones... Bumby's eyes POP OPEN... he SEES Steve and, knowing he's in trouble, runs out of the room...

Steve CRANKS THE VOLUME... Henry's eye POP OPEN... he FALLS out the chair... BOUNCES back to his feet like a rubber ball...

HENRY
It was Bumby's idea!

STEVE
Bumby's not here.

Henry sees the tiny headphones on Steve's desk.

HENRY
(sotto)
Traitor.

STEVE
One more thing I need you to check on.

INT. STEVE AND STEPHANIE'S PENTHOUSE NIGHT

Sitting at the dinner table we find Steve, Stephanie, Jordan, Zoe, Henry, Krystl, Chantal, Nessie and Bumby.

For the first time, we see Zoe dressed up and made up. She's gorgeous, but seems self-conscious, uncomfortable.

Henry's eyes wander to Krystl's and Chantal's impressive cleavage. Nessie's object of affection is... Henry.

Steve RAISES HIS GLASS.

STEVE
I'd like to propose a toast.
Traditionally, our New Years' Eve
celebrations have been hosted by someone
who's no longer with us. The Fat Lady
had his flaws...

STEPHANIE
A lot of them.

Everyone nods in agreement.

STEVE
But he was family, and he's gone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Krystl blinks back the tears.

STEPHANIE
We should try to remember all the good things about him.

Nessie is puzzled - what good things?

STEVE
This is MY toast, Princess.

STEPHANIE
He was MY uncle, McQueen.

STEVE
And here's to him.

Everyone raises their glasses.

ALL
The Fat Lady.

They CLINK and drink.

INT. SAME LATER

Dinner over, the group is gathered in the living room.

STEVE
Everyone please take a seat. We're going to have a little show.

Stephanie DIMS THE LIGHTS. Steve turns on the DVD player.

ON THE BIG SCREEN TV

The Fat Lady is MOONING the camera. His FACE slowly MATERIALIZES - over his butt.

THE FAT LADY
I was always accused of talking through my ass.

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

Nessie BLURTS OUT a laugh. Then regrets it.

BACK TO - THE BIG SCREEN TV

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
I wanted to use special effects that made it look like my anus was talking but Weinstein, the probate lawyer I hired for this, said something about legal challenges as to whether it was really MY ass or not, so I caved.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

Henry LAUGHS. Nessie chuckles. Looks of disapproval in their direction. They look at each other and smile.

BACK TO - THE BIG SCREEN TV

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
 Sorry about Weinstein, Steve. But I know
 you can't keep a secret from Stephanie.

The image on the screen changes - The Fat Lady, dressed in the outrageous Mrs. Santa Claus outfit he wore at the concert, STRUMS HIS GUITAR.

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
 (sings)
 We can't always get what we wa-ant -- So
 I had to change my wi-ill.

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

Zoe glares at Krystl.

BACK TO - THE BIG SCREEN TV

The Fat Lady is posed on the hood of his Bentley.

THE FAT LADY
 Nessie, you were a small-time crook when
 Stephanie persuaded me to hire you. I'm
 glad I did. But I ain't taking care of
 you forever. Honest work is the best
 thing for you.

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

Nessie watches in horror and disappointment.

BACK TO - THE BIG SCREEN TV

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
 To Graham Orkney, aka Nessie, I leave
 what's under my ass. Not only this
 beautiful Bentley, but what's under my
 ass whenever I sit down.

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

Nessie, hands over mouth, waits anxiously.

THE FAT LADY (O.S.)
 My entire wardrobe.

NESSIE
 YES! God bless you Fat Lady!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Ecstatic, Nessie turns, wraps his/her arms around a terrified Henry, and plants a big wet one on his cheek.

BACK TO - THE BIG SCREEN TV

The Fat Lady, dressed as Marilyn Monroe, stands in front of the HOLLYWOOD SIGN.

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
 My darling daughters. I used you as fodder for jokes but the truth is I love you more than anything. You're good at what you do and there's no limit to how far you'll go in your respective careers.

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

Jordan and Zoe take hold of each other's hand.

BACK TO - THE BIG SCREEN TV

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
 Because I know you'll be rich and successful, and because you've both shown appalling choices in men who are after nothing but your firm young bodies and my money, I leave each of you... zilch.

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

Jordan and Zoe are in shock. They GLARE at Krystl.

CHANTAL
 How much is zilch?

BACK TO - THE BIG SCREEN TV

The Fat Lady is now reclined in the heart-shaped bed in what used to be his and Krystl's bedroom.

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
 Don't blame Krystl. She's the best thing that's happened in my life since George Bush puked on that Asian guy.
 (beat)
 That's why I promised her she'd never have to be naked in public again. Although, I truly believe that's the public loss.

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

Krystl BLOWS A KISS to the screen.

BACK TO - THE BIG SCREEN TV

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

THE FAT LADY (cont'd)
 To Krystl Ivory, who's real name is,
 incredibly, Krystl Ivory, I leave my
 Porsche and five million dollars.

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

Krystl can barely contain her glee. Zoe is OUTRAGED.

CHANTAL
 The Fat Lady was a beautiful man.

ZOE
 I knew it! The bitch porn star turned
 him against us!

KRYSTL
 You did it yourself with that derivative,
 self-indulgent drivel you wrote about
 him.

Everyone looks at Krystl - where did THAT come from?

BACK TO - THE BIG SCREEN TV

The Fat Lady is standing in front of 'The Flowering Cactus',
 surrounded by dozens of transvestites.

THE FAT LADY (V.O.)
 The remainder of my estate is to be
 liquidated and used to build a home for
 the gender challenged.

The Fat Lady and the transvestites start DANCING TO ABBA...
 'Dancing Queen'... "having the time of our lives"...
 CARNIVAL!!!

Rotund CGI ANGELS float down from the top of the screen...
 hideous CGI DEVILS shoot up from below...

THE FAT LADY (V.O.)
 I make no apologies. I have no useful
 advice. I hope to see y'all soon.

The IMAGE DISSOLVES back to the first one we saw - The Fat
 Lady MOONING his audience...

THE FAT LADY (V.O.)
 This is the way my world ends. Not with
 a bang, but with a...

The SCREEN GOES BLACK... and we HEAR... the LOUDEST, LONGEST
 FART in the history of flatulence.

CUT TO - THE ASSEMBLED GROUP

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Henry busts a gut... laughing so hard he falls off the sofa... pretending to laugh, Nessie falls off the couch on top of him... barking Bumby jumps on top of them...

Zoe jumps to her feet and SHOUTS at Krystl:

ZOE
You slut! You deceived him!

Jordan stands and puts an arm around Zoe.

JORDAN
No, Zoe. Not now.

Krystl used to sound like Jennifer Tilly, but now her voice is more like Kathleen Turner's.

KRYSTL
And you fabricated a disingenuous and horribly written portrait of a wannabe artist as a spoiled young...

STEPHANIE
QUIET!

The room goes silent. Bumby makes a quick exit.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
We just watched the Fat Lady's final performance. How do you think he'd feel if he saw... THIS?

STEVE
He'd love it.

STEPHANIE
True.

STEVE
Please, sit back down.

Everyone returns to their seats.

STEVE (cont'd)
The Fat Lady was dying.

Shock on all faces.

ZOE
What?!

Krystl starts crying. Chantal comforts her.

STEVE
Inoperable brain tumor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JORDAN
Why didn't he tell us?

ZOE
(to Krystl)
Did YOU know?

Sobbing, Krystl shakes her head 'no'.

STEPHANIE
(to Zoe)
Explains why he was acting so strange.

NESSIE
Them two lads was business he wanted to
take care of before he went?

STEVE
The Fat Lady didn't kill ANYONE.

STEPHANIE
Except for himself.

STEVE
At first, I thought Tyler killed Chris.
Figured it must've been some blackmail
scheme gone bad.

JORDAN
Blackmail?

STEVE
Why didn't you tell me you were with
Tyler the day he died?

JORDAN
No...

STEVE
Joan has witnesses.

STEPHANIE
You thought Chris was having an affair
and you thought Tyler was going to tell
you who it was.

STEVE
Did he say it would cost you?

JORDAN
(beat)
How did you know?

STEVE
Chris was blackmailing someone. Tyler
knew about it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6) STEVE(contíd)

Henry discovered pornographic love letters in Chris's e-mail. To and from Zoe.

Jordan looks at her sister - WHAT?!

 ZOE
NO! It's not true!

 NESSIE
 (heavyhearted)
Ach, lass. Saw you comin' out of the games room. His guns were in there.

 STEVE
Which begs another question.
 (to Nessie)
The Fat Lady had so many guns. Why were you buying more?

 NESSIE
I... I... lassies from the club were gettin' beaten and robbed.

 HENRY
They thought it was ME. Almost tore me to pieces.

 NESSIE
I was only tryin' to help.

 STEVE
That's the wrong way to do it.

 STEPHANIE
Pepper spray.

 NESSIE
Feckin' niblick's just as good.

 HENRY
Like a can of corn is gonna stop 'The Valley Mugger'.

 NESSIE
Niblick's a golf club, lad.

 HENRY
I don't golf.

 NESSIE
I'd love to teach ye.

 ZOE
I never sent any e-mails to Chris! I hated the prick!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

Steve pulls out the odd shaped chiropractic device.

STEVE

Did Chris give you this?

ZOE

(shakes 'no')

What is it?

STEVE

Tool of his trade. And part of a very elaborate plot.

(to Krystl)

You and Chris were having an affair. You wanted us to think it was ZOE and Chris who were having the affair, but it was you all along.

KRYSTL

That's ludicrous.

STEVE

You killed him in Jordan's house in order to frame her.

KRYSTL

(laughs, dismissive)

Preposterous.

CHANTAL

(puzzled, to Krystl)

When did you get so smart?

HENRY

At the University of Toronto. It's in Toronto. Right, Miss Johnson?

NESSIE

Who the hell's Miss Johnson?

HENRY

Krystl Ivory Johnson. Born in Sedona. Moved to Canada at eighteen. Dropped her last name five years ago.

NESSIE

Aren't you the clever wee laddie.

KRYSTL

Fatty would've been scared off if he knew I had a brain. Men are terrified of smart women. I changed my name when I went into the business. There's nothing illegal about that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

CHANTAL

(reeling)

You went to college? Then how come you did what we used to do?

KRYSTL

My degree's in philosophy. What we did pays better than driving a cab.

ZOE

You wanted Daddy to hate us so you could have him, and everything, for yourself.

JORDAN

She really *is* a gold-digging slut?

STEPHANIE

Let me do the next part?

STEVE

Can I stop you?

KRYSTL

Fatty was right. You're all crazy.

FLASHBACK TO - INT. BEVERLY HILLS GUN CLUB DAY

Steve, Stephanie, The Fat Lady, Jordan, Zoe and Nessie are at the gun club.

STEPHANIE (V.O.)

On December thirteenth, we went to the gun club for my uncle's birthday.

Everyone, except Jordan, is firing guns. Nessie can't hit the target... Zoe isn't much better... Steve's good... Stephanie's better... The Fat Lady's an expert...

Krystl, wearing leather gloves, closes her eyes and looks away when she shoots... the others (except Zoe) laugh as they watch this...

STEPHANIE (V.O.)

Krystl was putting on a good show.

Hating this, Jordan stands as far away from them as she can, fingers in her ears...

Krystl sees this... walks to Jordan... says something to her... Jordan shakes her head... Krystl keeps at her...

STEPHANIE (V.O.)

She told Jordy that her father's night would be ruined if she didn't participate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

Finally, Jordan relents... takes the gun from Krystl... walks over... fires a few shots... returns her father's smile, less than sincerely... stalks back to Krystl... thrusts the gun at her... then walks out.

BACK TO SCENE

STEPHANIE

You were furious when you realized Chris set you up to be blackmailed.

STEVE

You were able to stall him while you set everything up.

STEPHANIE

When my uncle trashed him on the radio, Chris wasn't going to wait any longer.

STEVE

The one thing you didn't count on was Tyler.

STEPHANIE

You tried to make it look like Tyler sent someone to kill us the night of the 'Beach Patrol' party.

STEVE

You told Tyler you'd bring him the money. Instead, you killed him.

STEPHANIE

Then you sicced those other goons on us.

STEVE

And tried to frame Zoe.

CHANTAL

(mortified)

Krys? Tell them they're wrong.

KRYSTL

You're wrong. I was in Vegas when Tyler was killed and you know it.

CHANTAL

She was. We went together.

KRYSTL

Nessie drove us to the airport, and picked us up. Right, babe?

Nessie nods 'yes'.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

STEPHANIE

(to Chantal)

Were you together the whole time?

CHANTAL

(nods 'yes')

Except for when she spent the day at Lake Meade.

KRYSTL

I had breakfast in Boulder City on the way. I have my credit card copy.

Krystl reaches into her purse.

STEVE

We checked your rental car. Lake Meade isn't three hundred miles from Las Vegas. Los Angeles is.

STEPHANIE

More like two seventy.

STEVE

I'm including the extra miles to Boulder City.

Krystl pulls a GUN from her purse... aiming it at Steve as she gets to her feet...

STEVE

This isn't going to make it any better.

Krystl GRABS Henry... pulls him to his feet... puts the gun to Henry's head.

NESSIE

Ach no! Not the cutie!

(stands)

If ye want a hostage, take me.

STEPHANIE

(sarcastic)

Oh look, it's the cavalry. Late as usual.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Joan and TWO POLICEMEN... all three draw their guns...

JOAN

Put the gun down.

STEPHANIE

(rolls her eyes)

She's so original.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

KRYSTL

Me and junior are walking out of here.
Anyone tries to stop us, the kid dies.

Barking Bumby tears across the room... his best friend is in trouble and Bumby's gonna save him...

When Joan turns to look...

Steve lunges for the gun... Stephanie executes a flying scissors-kick... BANG... a bullet SHATTERS a window... Krystl collapses to floor on top of Stephanie... Steve is holding the gun... as he falls on top of them...

STEPHANIE

You always wanted a threesome.

Nessie jumps up... tackles Henry... throwing him/herself on top of Henry... again.

HENRY

QUIT doing that!

NESSIE

I'm yer human shield.

Joan and the policemen move in quick... cuff Krystl... the two cops take her away.

INT. SAME LATER

Nessie is showing Henry how to hold a golf club and address the ball.

Jealous, Bumby SWIPES the ball and runs off.

AT THE FRONT DOOR

Zoe and Jordan say goodbye to sad and dismayed Chantal. Chantal leaves.

Relieved that their nightmare is over, Jordan and Zoe HUG each other tightly.

EXT. SAME - BALCONY NIGHT

Steve, Stephanie and Joan examine the broken window.

JOAN

I'm sorry if I've been... a total pain in the ass. I won't be one anymore.

STEPHANIE

I think Steve really liked you. But that was a long, long time ago. In a world far, far away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVE
(kisses her)
Do.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

STEPHANIE (V.O.)
Don't.

OVER END TITLES:

EXT. ARCTIC TUNDRA DAY

We PAN the VAST ARCTIC WASTELAND as we HEAR:

STEVE (O.S.)
Vermouth.

CAMERA FINDS a GROUP OF ESKIMO MEN gathered around Steve.

ESKIMO MEN
Va-moot.

Steve pours the Vermouth into a PITCHER sculpted out of ice, containing freshly chopped TUNDRA ICE.

STEVE
Great job on the pitcher, Nanook.

The elderly Eskimo artisan smiles - revealing the few teeth that remain in his mouth.

STEVE (cont'd)
Gin, please.

ESKIMO MEN
Gin-pu-leeze.

Steve POINTS to the BOTTLE of Gin. One of the Eskimo men hands it to him.

STEVE
Thank you.

ESKIMO MEN
Tha-ka-ooo.

Steve pours the gin into the ice-pitcher. STIRS it with a WHALEBONE LADLE.

STEVE
You can also shake, but I prefer them stirred.

Steve ladles the Martinis into GLASSES made of ice. Hands one to each man. Holds his glass up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STEVE

Martini.

The Eskimo men hold their glasses up like Steve's.

ESKIMO MEN

Ma-tee-nee!

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF ESKIMO VILLAGE DAY

A FASHION SHOW is in progress. ESKIMO WOMEN model HOME MADE OUTFITS. The garments have been cut from patterns for DESIGNER outfits. Stephanie MCs.

STEPHANIE

The proper evening wear is essential, especially when those evenings can last for several months.

The 'band' using indigenous instruments - skin drums and bone flutes - play a crude version of "All Along The Watchtower".

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Nanooka is wearing a twin set in Polar Fleece. Polar fleece is perhaps the first existential fabric: eminently useful, meaningless, weird. Although I vowed to never wear synthetics, I finally gave in because, in the chaos of non-seasonal seasons, an artificial, seasonless, all temperature fabric is essential.

A MUSHER on a DOG SLED pulled by eight HUSKIES slides to a stop near Stephanie.

Bumby, wearing a tiny PARKA, jumps off the sled. BARKS 'Thanks for the lift' to the Huskies, and trots off across the snow.

The Huskies watch Bumby, licking their chops.

INT. IGLOO NIGHT

In the CANDLELIGHT, Steve and Stephanie cuddle, naked in a THERMAL SLEEPING BAG. Bumby in a tiny one of his own.

STEVE

Peace Corp's not so bad after all.

STEPHANIE

Who knew we'd have so much to give.

STEVE

I love the local customs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEPHANIE

Which one's your favorite?

STEVE

The one where we keep warm by sharing our
body heat.

STEPHANIE

Show me how that works again.

They 'kiss' Eskimo style - RUBBING NOSES.

EXT. IGLOO NIGHT

The NORTHERN LIGHTS paint the sky. The flickering light from
inside the igloo goes out. Stephanie GIGGLES.

THE END