

THE TREASURES OF DELGA

Written by

Sherry L. Peterson

FADE IN:

EXT. GRAND JUNCTION, CO - ORCHARD MESA CEMETERY - DAY

BRANDON SCOTT (17) and CASSIE MARTIN (17) look down into the cold scooped out earth at a motionless wooden casket.

PASTOR BLAIR (60's) delivers the farewell eulogy. Brandon's stepfather VERNON SPEARS (40's) and Cassie's mother RHONDA MARTIN (40's) stand on the opposite side, across from Brandon and Cassie. They are the only people in attendance.

A light drizzle falls and the sky looks dark and ominous.

PASTOR BLAIR

The Lord is my Shepard, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness, for his names sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou dost prepare a a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Thou hast anointed my head with oil. My cup overflows. Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all he days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Vernon starts to laugh. He has no respect for the dead or the living for that matter, and arrogantly is grateful his ex-wife is dead.

Pastor Blair shakes hands with Brandon and Vernon and leaves them alone to say their good-byes.

CASSIE

I'm sure gonna miss her. I really loved her.

Brandon glares at Vernon.

BRANDON

I did too. She was always there for me. Vernon doesn't seem too upset. What a dick!

Rhonda drunk and crying hangs all over Vernon as he kicks dirt, and spits on the casket, provoking Brandon.

VERNON

You can't run to your momma anymore.

BRANDON

You're such a jerk, Vernon. You made her life hell.

VERNON

Oh you ain't seen hell yet.

Brandon starts to take after Vernon and Cassie holds him back.

CASSIE

Brandon stop. He's not worth it. Your mom doesn't deserve this today.

Vernon throws a rock into the grave. It hits the casket with undeniable force. Rhonda cries and babbles.

RHONDA

Verny you shouldn't do that.

VERNON

Shut up Rhonda. Like you really gave a shit about her.

Vernon aggressively grabs Rhonda by the arm and they leave the cemetery.

CASSIE

Rhonda is some piece of work. I'm sorry Brandon. She's my mom, but I don't respect her.

BRANDON

It's not your fault.

CASSIE

Those two deserve each other. Your mom was too good for both of them.

Holding hands they stand alone and united in saying their final good-bye.

The drizzle stops and a rainbow cascades against a peaceful sky.

BRANDON

I'm glad she was alive to see us graduate from high school.

CASSIE

Me too. We almost had her for our eighteenth birthdays.

BRANDON

They're coming up next week.

CASSIE

We'll eat some cake for her. She'd love that.

A white bird lands on the casket calm, while staring at Brandon and Cassie. Her wings shimmer with a dust of gold, and melodic sounds emanate from her body. She stays for a brief time and then takes flight, as rays of the sun, guide her upward.

CASSIE

That was your mom, Brandon.

Brandon wipes tears from his face. They leave the cemetery holding each other for comfort and strength.

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Brandon and Cassie sit on a couch watching videos of their childhood. MAX (9) the basset hound sits between them.

SUPER: BRANDON AND CASSIE - AGE 9

They chase baby Max. He sports Cassie's floppy sun hat, and runs around looking for his new dog bone.

BRANDON

This is so lame. What geeks we were. We thought we were super sleuths. Oh those braces.

CASSIE

Hey, I think we were pretty cute. I know I was anyway. That was our first case. The case of the missing dog bone.

BRANDON

That was back when my mom still had it together.

Before Vernon moved in. She was always taking pictures or videos of us.

CASSIE  
Look how little Max was.

Cassie bends down to give Max the 411.

CASSIE  
Maxwell, that was you, before you grew into your ears.

BRANDON  
Ahh, Cass, he still hasn't grown into his ears. He looks like a 747.

Brandon playfully flaps Max's ears, like the wings of a plane. Cassie cups his ears to shield him from the insult.

BRANDON  
No offense man, but you could fly with those things.

CASSIE  
Don't talk about him like that. He's sensitive. Besides, what do you have against big ears?

Cassie exposes her auditory receptors and laughs.

BRANDON  
I can't believe he let you put that goofy hat on him.

Cassie kisses Max and he eats it up. She slips him a treat.

CASSIE  
Me and Max have a lot in common. Besides the size of our ears, we understand each other.

BRANDON  
Right. I think he set us up, knew where the missing dog bone was all along.

CASSIE  
We had so much fun when we were little. Everything was an adventure.

BRANDON  
When did things get so hard?

CASSIE  
I think it was when you started  
sprouting facial hair and your  
voice changed.

BRANDON  
Really? I was gonna say it was when  
you changed from a CSI investigator  
to agent PMS!

CASSIE  
That's it. Get "em" Max.

Max and Cassie pounce on Brandon thrashing him with tickles  
and licks.

BRANDON  
I give up.

CASSIE  
High five, Max.

BRANDON  
Cass, if we're gonna make it to  
that movie we better leave.

CASSIE  
You've seen it twice already.  
Besides, I know the real reason you  
go is for the popcorn.

BRANDON  
I hate that stuff!

Brandon turns the television off and gives instructions to  
his pal Max.

BRANDON  
Max, no drinking, no drugs and no  
parties while we're gone. Give me  
your word man.

Max gives Brandon a high five with his wide, chunky paw. He  
wraps it up with a great Basset Hound HOWL.

BRANDON  
If Vernon comes home, stay out of  
his way!

INT. REGAL MOVIE THEATRE - DAY

Brandon and Cassie sit towards the back of the packed  
theatre. They share a bucket of buttery popcorn.

A man sits in the empty seat next to Brandon and two other men sit in back of them.

As they sit down they knock Cassie and Brandon in the head and some of the popcorn goes flying.

Brandon scrambles to save it. Cassie rubs her head. She was hit with something hard.

CASSIE

Excuse me! Were we in your way?

BRANDON

Yeah man, not too cool.

The men stare in silence, with no expression and no apology.

CASSIE

What a couple of morons.

The house lights dim as the screen displays, "DEAD ON ARRIVAL."

The sound of gunfire EXPLODES in surround sound.

The man next to Brandon seems to fall asleep and leans into him, nice and cozy. A piece of paper in his hand drops into the popcorn bucket.

BRANDON

Hey man! What are you doing laying all over me?

Brandon shoves him back into his own seat. He hands Cassie the popcorn.

BRANDON

C'mon Cassie, let's go. I'm not in the mood to watch this.

CASSIE

What's up? Why'd you shove that guy?

BRANDON

Just go!

CASSIE

Whatever. You're acting like a jerk!

As they leave the theatre, they are followed by the two men that were sitting in back of them.

EXT. REGAL MOVIE THEATRE - DAY

CASSIE  
Do you want anymore of this  
popcorn?

BRANDON  
No. That asshole really pissed me  
off.

CASSIE  
What asshole? What's wrong with  
you?

BRANDON  
That guy next to me, was laying all  
over me.

As Cassie deposits the bucket of popcorn in the trash bin,  
she notices the piece of paper laying in the popcorn bucket.

CASSIE  
How'd this get there?

BRANDON  
What are you talking about?

Cassie waves a piece of paper in the air.

CASSIE  
This piece of paper.

Cassie unfolds in and reads it out loud.

CASSIE  
1-800-555-1113, 7-31-49. It looks  
like a phone number and maybe a  
birth date or locker number or  
something.

BRANDON  
How'd it get in the popcorn?

CASSIE  
Maybe your boyfriend gave it to  
you.

BRANDON  
I should have decked him.

A man looking in Cassie's direction smiles, waves and blows a  
kiss. Cassie reacts like a grenade and lites into him.



CASSIE  
You know that's really disgusting.  
Who do you think you're flirting  
with, pervert?

The man is completely startled by her outburst. He points at his wife.

MAN  
My wife.

The man hugs his wife, who has now caught up to him. The couple and Brandon stare at Cassie in disbelief.

BRANDON  
Sorry man. She just got released  
from a psych ward.

Brandon steers Cassie away.

BRANDON  
You need to chill out Amigo.

Cassie punches Brandon in the stomach.

CASSIE  
Shut up Brandon!

BRANDON  
Cassie relax.

Cassie glares at him.

CASSIE  
Whatever. You're an idiot.

BRANDON  
What did I do?

Sirens wail and police cars screech to a halt in front of the theatre.

BRANDON  
Oh no!

Brandon pulls Cassie to the side of the building and paces back and forth.

CASSIE  
What are you doing?

BRANDON  
Cass, I think those cops are here  
for me.

CASSIE

Okay, school boy. When have you gotten into trouble?

BRANDON

I'm serious. Vernon and I got into a fight last night. He was drunk and got in my face and I decked him.

They both peak around the building. An ambulance and a fire truck pull up.

CASSIE

Brandon... 5 cops, 2 ambulances and 1 fire truck. I don't think they're after you.

Cassie still holding the mystery piece of paper, crams it into her pocket. She grabs Brandon's hand and pulls him across the street. They maneuver around puddles left from a rain storm.

The two men that were in back of them in the theatre, attempt to follow them, but get drenched by a car that hits the water on the street.

One man fires off an obscene gesture to the driver. The driver honks and returns the one finger wave.

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brandon sits on the couch channel surfing. A segment on the news catches his attention.

SUPER: TELEVISION

EXT. REGAL MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

News report about a murder at the Regal Movie Theatre. Close up of the victims drivers license fills the screen.

NEWSCASTER

Vincent Delgatto was found shot to death inside the Regal Movie Theatre.

Brandon looks closer at the picture. His eyes widen in amazement.

NEWSCASTER

The police have no leads in this case. If anyone has any information, please contact the Grand Junction police department.

BRANDON

Oh my God! That's the dude that was hitting on me.

Brandon's Stepfather Vernon, sneaks up behind him and pops him in the head with both hands. Brandon leaps up and grabs his burning ears.

BRANDON

What the hell! Why'd you do that?

VERNON

I owed you one you little momma's boy. Now get off my couch and take your sorry ass out of here.

BRANDON

You're a psycho man. I wish you were the one that died. I don't know what my Mom was thinking when she dragged you home.

Vernon lunges at Brandon.

Brandon smashes his fist into Vernon's face, and bolts upstairs to this bedroom.

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brandon lifts Max onto the bed and reaches for the phone to call Cassie.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cassie eating a Twinkie, watches "Bridesmaids" and paints her nails.

The phone rings.

INTERCUT --PHONE CONVERSATION

CASSIE

Hello?

INT. BRANDON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

BRANDON  
Cassie, it's me. I have to talk to  
you.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CASSIE  
What's up, you okay?

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brandon talks fast and his breathing is heavy, while he rubs  
his sore fist.

BRANDON  
That jerk Vernon just threw a cheap  
shot at me, but that's not why I'm  
calling. On the news tonight they  
said a man was shot to death at the  
Regal Movie Theatre.

CASSIE  
Okay. Slow down.

BRANDON  
They showed a picture of him and he  
was that dude that was laying all  
over me.

Vernon listens to Brandon's conversation outside the bedroom  
door.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rhonda Cassie's mom rages in the background. Cassie turns the  
television set up to drown her out. She flips thru the  
channels to a news station.

RHONDA (O.S.)  
Cassie get down here now!

CASSIE  
Just a minute mom. Brandon I wonder  
what happened to that guy? Hang on,  
it's on the news right now.

Rhonda yells like a mad woman.

RHONDA (O.S.)  
This time you've gone too far you  
little bitch.

CASSIE  
Brandon. Rhonda's on the warpath.  
I'm gonna watch this and I'll talk  
to you later.

END OF INTERCUT

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: TELEVISION

NEWSCASTER  
It appears to be a gang style  
shooting. Mr. Delgatto, was shot at  
close range with a silencer. He  
died instantly. Now, on to happier  
news.

Cassie turns the television off and heads for the living  
room.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CASSIE  
God, you're a lunatic. What are you  
screaming about?

RHONDA  
Where's my gin? Have you been  
drinking it again?

CASSIE  
Sure I have Rhonda. I wanna be just  
like you. A miserable drunk who  
screws anything with a wallet.

RHONDA  
You better watch that smart mouth.  
You're starting to act like  
Brandon.

CASSIE  
Whatever.

RHONDA

You know your BFF wants me. I see the way he looks at me.

CASSIE

Nobody wants you. People talk about you because you're a joke.

RHONDA

Watch your mouth and get me something to eat. I'm feeling sick.

CASSIE

Get it yourself.

Rhonda slaps Cassie across the face.

RHONDA

I don't know why I ever had you!

Cassie tries to be tough and unaffected by her mom's abusive words but they hurt more than the slap. She holds back tears.

CASSIE

We finally agree on something. I wonder about that too.

Rhonda stumbles off the couch and knocks an ashtray to the ground. It shatters into a million pieces and stale cigarette butts coat the ground.

Cassie runs to her bedroom and slams the door.

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Vernon talks to detective TOM WILLIAMS (50's). Brandon stands on the stairs eavesdropping on their conversation. Max is by his side.

TOM WILLIAMS

We appreciate your call. What information do you have concerning the Delgatto case?

VERNON

I think my stepson had something to do with that dead guy Delgatto. So is there a reward if I help you out?

TOM WILLIAMS

Let's just find out what you know.

Vernon points to his right eye.

VERNON

See this little beauty? That kids a loose canon. The little loser snuck up on me and sucker punched me.

TOM WILLIAMS

What is your stepsons name?

Vernon ignores the question and continues ranting.

VERNON

He's threatened to kill me. You need to put him away. I know my rights.

TOM WILLIAMS

Sir, with all due respect, what does this have to do with the incident at the movie theatre?

VERNON

I'll tell you what it has to do with it. I heard Brandon talking on the phone to his partner in crime, Cassie Martin. He said he plugged the guy at the theatre because he was a sicko that was hitting on him.

TOM WILLIAMS

So his name is Brandon?

VERNON

The kid is a bigot, a racist, an atheist. I think he belongs to a cult.

TOM WILLIAMS

Is your stepson here sir? May I speak with him?

VERNON

Sure, I'll get the little screw up. His mother may she rest in peace and I, did our best to love him and guide him.

TOM WILLIAMS

I'm sure you have sir. Being a parent isn't always an easy job.

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - STAIRS - DAY

Brandon and Max listen to the trash job Vernon is dishing out.

BRANDON  
I never said I plugged that guy.  
Max, I gotta get out of here. I  
love you man. Stay out of his way.

Brandon panics and slides out the back door.

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

VERNON (O.S.)  
Brandon come down here son. Someone  
would like to speak with you.

Brandon doesn't answer and Max isn't saying a word.

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Vernon knocks on the door and kicks it open.

Max acts like he's sleeping, stretched out on the bed.

VERNON  
Alright you little slime bag. Where  
are you?

Vernon looks around the room throwing everything in his path.

He hits Max on his head.

VERNON  
Where is he you frickin' mutt?

Max lets out a whimper.

INT. BRANDON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Max bolts downstairs in record time. He stands next to the detective. They pensively look at each other. Vernon enters the room, ranting and raving.

TOM WILLIAMS  
You know, it's obvious that your  
relationship with your stepson is a  
little strained right now. Do you  
happen to have a picture of him I  
could take with me?



Vernon pulls Brandon's senior picture out of a desk drawer. The glass is cracked on the frame.

VERNON

Take this one. I'm sick of looking at his ugly face.

TOM WILLIAMS

Who did you refer to as his partner in crime?

VERNON

Cassie Martin. She lives at 420 Grand Street.

TOM WILLIAMS

Thank you sir. We will be in touch with you. Cute dog.

Detective Williams pats Max on the head. Max extends his paw to shake.

VERNON

This is his other partner in crime. I'm gonna get rid of his dumb ass.

Vernon raises his fist to Max as if he's going to hit him. Detective Williams realizes this is a house of horror for Brandon and for Max.

TOM WILLIAMS

I have a female Basset named Willa Mae. Are you serious about getting rid of him?

VERNON

That depends. What will you give me for him?

The detective frowns.

VERNON

On second thought. Take him. I don't want to have to feed him.

Max understands what's going on and runs to the front door.

TOM WILLIAMS

Thank you, sir. I'm sure Willa Mae will be happy to have a friend.

He hands Vernon his business card.

TOM WILLIAMS  
Here's my card if you think of  
anything else.

VERNON  
I'll do my best to put that little  
screw up away.

Max stands by the detective and walks perfectly to the car  
without a leash.

EXT. PATROL CAR - DAY

Max sits in the front seat next to the detective. He grins as  
they drive away.

EXT. 420 GRAND STREET - CASSIE'S HOUSE

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rhonda is in the middle of a sexual tryst with a man named  
OTIS (40's). Cassie wearing head phones, innocently enters  
the room.

CASSIE  
Mom? Oh my GOD!

Rhonda strung out, laughs.

RHONDA  
Cassie, you remember Uncle Otis  
baby?

Cassie in tears, grabs her jacket and money out of a drawer.

RHONDA  
Cassie wait. Come here baby.

Otis continues to hammer on Rhonda and couldn't care less  
that Cassie entered the room. He smacks Rhonda across the  
face.

OTIS  
Shut the hell up!

Rhonda is so screwed up, she quickly forgets what Cassie just  
witnessed.

The front door slams.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Brandon hides by Cassie's neighbors house afraid that the police will show up. He wants to give Cassie a heads up. Cassie runs by and he tries to catch up to her.

BRANDON

Cassie wait up. Wait a sec.

CASSIE

What do you want? Get away from me Brandon. You're messed up just like all guys are.

BRANDON

Hey, what did I do?

CASSIE

Leave me alone.

BRANDON

Cass, I'm in some big trouble.

CASSIE

What did you do? Did you finally kill Vernon or something?

BRANDON

Worse than that. The police think I had something to do with that dead guy at the theatre.

CASSIE

That's stupid. You didn't even know him.

BRANDON

I'm telling you, I can't go back home. They'll arrest me. Vernon told the cops I did it.

CASSIE

It looks like we'll be homeless together. I'm not going back either. My mom's a worthless drunk that has sex with men for money. Lucky me.

Brandon and Cassie continue to walk down the street and pass two familiar looking guys walking a dog. The men stare at them in a threatening way.

CASSIE  
Aren't those the guys from the  
theatre?

BRANDON  
Ah huh.

CASSIE  
Something's up. RUN!

Brandon and Cassie take off and the men run after them. The dog they are walking bites one of the men on the leg and they both trip.

A lady yells from down the street.

LADY  
STOP! They stole my dog. Somebody  
help.

EXT. GRAND JUNCTION - UNDER A BRIDGE - NIGHT

Cassie and Brandon seek shelter under a bridge to rest and regroup. Beer bottles, dirty diapers, needles, and a dirty mattress fill the landscape.

CASSIE  
Those guys must have killed that  
man and think we can identify them.

BRANDON  
I'm sorry I pulled you into this.

CASSIE  
What are you sorry for? You didn't  
do anything wrong. We went to a  
movie and this just happened.

Brandon hangs his head down and avoids eye contact. Cassie pulls his chin up.

CASSIE  
Look at me. You're a great guy and  
the best friend ever. If it wasn't  
for you, I don't know what I'd do.

Cassie hugs Brandon. The tenderness of the moment catches them both off guard.

BRANDON  
I,-- we, should maybe get some rest  
and figure out what to do in the  
morning.

CASSIE  
Good idea. I'm so tired. Really  
tired.

They fall asleep holding on to each other for security.

EXT. LONE RANGER RESTAURANT - MORNING

Sitting in a booth they count their money. Cassie reaches into her jacket and pulls out the note from the movie theatre.

CASSIE  
I don't know why I kept this note.  
I'm curious how it got into the  
popcorn, aren't you?

BRANDON  
Not really. I've kinda got other  
things on my mind.

CASSIE  
I have a theory. Wanna hear it?

Brandon laughs.

BRANDON  
I probably can't stop you. What is  
it?

CASSIE  
Well, there's a dead body and two  
thugs are chasing us. Obviously, he  
had something they wanted.

BRANDON  
Okay.

CASSIE  
Maybe it's this number. He wouldn't  
cooperate so they offed him.

BRANDON  
Okay genius, if he had something  
they wanted, why would they kill  
him?

CASSIE  
I haven't figured that part out  
yet. My intuition tells me that  
this number is linked to something  
big.

BRANDON

While you're piecing this mystery together, I want to eat. I have eighteen dollars and seventy cents. That ought to be enough to feed you.

CASSIE

Barely!

Cassie puts her money on the table.

CASSIE

I have twenty dollars.

BRANDON

Great. I'll order for both of us.

Brandon flags the waitress down.

CASSIE

For both of us? Do I look like I need help?

BRANDON

Cass, I know you don't need help. The thing is, I'm hungry now and I know how long it takes you to make a decision at a restaurant.

CASSIE

Fine. I can respect that.

BRANDON

You're sure, 'cause I wouldn't want to tell you what to do!

CASSIE

I'm sure. You know you're a little cranky today?

Brandon knows he's not going to win this round. He shakes his head and smiles.

Cassie goes to the rest room.

INT. LONE RANGER RESTAURANT - REST ROOM - DAY

Cassie enters a stall and hears people go into the stall next to hers. Something doesn't feel right. She looks underneath and sees two pairs of mens shoes huddled in there. She cups her mouth.

CASSIE

Oh crap!

Cassie quietly opens the stall to make her get away. As she approaches the rest room door the other stall flings open. The two thugs from the theatre scramble towards her. Quickly she unbuttons her shirt and starts screaming as she runs out.

CASSIE

HELP! They're trying to rape me!

Two big guys sitting at a table close by, hear her cries and run to her rescue. With quarterback force, they detain the thugs as they run out of the rest room. Cassie runs back to Brandon who's heard the commotion.

CASSIE

Let's go. They found us again.  
Don't ask questions.

Brandon throws some money on the table and they make a hasty retreat out of the restaurant.

EXT. GRAND JUNCTION, CO - STREET - DAY

They run as far as they can and hide behind a big bush.

BRANDON

Did they hurt you Cassie? Should we  
go to a doctor?

CASSIE

I'm fine. They didn't touch me. I  
was acting.

Cassie buttons her shirt and straightens her hair.

BRANDON

It looks like drama class paid off.  
Good job.

CASSIE

You should have seen their faces  
when I started screaming.

BRANDON

I don't know how they keep finding  
us? We better come up with a plan  
and fly with it.

CASSIE

Scary Brandon. You sound like  
you're starting to grow up.

BRANDON

Before you get too excited, I didn't say I had a plan. Any suggestions?

CASSIE

What about going someplace tropical? No more snow, lots of sun, no fighting, no booze, no perverts hitting on me or you.

She winks at Brandon.

BRANDON

Tropical? Be serious Cassie.

Cassie clutches Brandon's hand.

CASSIE

I am being serious. Let's get as far away as possible. Have a real life away from Rhonda and Vernon.

BRANDON

A real life? You seem to be forgetting that I'm a fugitive on the run now. I don't know what kind of life that would be.

CASSIE

Remember our favorite book, "The Boxcar Children?"

BRANDON

Of course I do.

CASSIE

We said we'd spend our lives going on adventures. As long as we're together we'll make it.

BRANDON

Cass, that was a pact made by little kids. We're not those little kid's anymore.

CASSIE

But we're the same people. Those little kids are us.

Sirens infiltrate the air.

BRANDON

Okay, super sleuth, let's do it.



Brandon and Cassie stack their hands in a pile one after another just like they did when they were little.

CASSIE  
We better turn our cell phones off,  
so they can't track us.

BRANDON  
You're good and I'm hungry. We  
didn't get to eat.

They both power their phones off.

CASSIE  
Brandon, you're always hungry.  
First, we need to hitch a ride out  
of here.

BRANDON  
What?

CASSIE  
I see a big truck coming our way.  
Follow my lead.

Brandon shoots a look of concern at Cassie.

CASSIE  
What's your problem?

BRANDON  
Nothing. I'm right behind you.

Cassie sticks her thumb out and the truck comes to a grinding halt. HARLEY BURNS (30's) motions for them to hop in.

HARLEY  
Hey little lady where you all  
headed?

Cassie notices a billboard for Las Vegas across the road.  
That seems as good a place to go as any.

CASSIE  
We're going to Las Vegas. Can you  
give us a lift?

HARLEY  
I reckon I can. I'm going to Los  
Angeles. Hop in.

INT. TRUCK CAB - DAY

They hop into the cab and the vibrating, banged up truck takes off.

HARLEY

So what are your names?

CASSIE

My names Dorothy and this is my brother Toto.

HARLEY

What a small world. I have a sister-in-law named Tammy. Maybe you're related?

Cassie squeezes Brandon's hand. They have no idea what he's talking about, and can tell he has mental health issues.

CASSIE

Wow. Maybe. You never know.

HARLEY

My names Harley.

CASSIE

Just like the motorcycle?

HARLEY

No, I was named after my Aunt.

CASSIE

That's special.

HARLEY

I'm real proud of my Aunt Harley. She owns a tattoo shop in Little Rock, Arkansas. I'm telling you she's seen more naked butts than a nun.

Brandon whispers to Cassie.

BRANDON

Maybe we we're better off on foot!

Suddenly without warning, Harley swerves to avoid hitting something in the road. The truck navigates on two wheels. Since Cassie and Brandon didn't see anything in the road. They are speechless.

HARLEY

Whoa! That was real close. I never saw one that big in my life.

Cassie and Brandon have no response.

HARLEY

You two sure don't talk much do you? Lookout...

Harley makes another maniacal move with the truck. This time they're air born and land off the road. Harley floors it and they fish tail back to the asphalt. Cassie notices a hospital wristband on his arm.

CASSIE

That was close. Those definitely were the biggest ones I've ever seen. What do you think Toto?

Cassie nudges Brandon and points to the wristband.

BRANDON

Yeah man. Those were huge. Awesome driving.

HARLEY

I'm gonna use my mental powers to drive them away. They're not gonna capture me this time.

They are going too fast to try and get out of the truck. For the remainder of the trip they sit in silence.

EXT. LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

CASSIE

Look at all the lights. We made it. We're in Vegas.

The bright lights are a welcome sight. Harley pulls off the highway to a truck stop.

EXT. LAS VEGAS - TRUCK STOP - NIGHT

Brandon and Cassie jump out of the truck even before it comes to a complete stop. The feel of the hard asphalt under their feet allows them to breathe easier.

HARLEY

This is where we part ways.

CASSIE  
Thanks for the ride, and tell Tammy  
hello.

They run away out of Harley's view. Brandon starts to shake.  
Cassie hugs him and holds him steady.

CASSIE  
We're okay. Do you think he needs  
medication or needs to be locked  
up?

BRANDON  
I think maybe he takes after his  
Aunt Harley.

CASSIE  
I'll bet she's just precious!

EXT. HANK'S HOT DOG STAND - NIGHT

The bright lights of the strip energizes them.

Hank's Hot Dog stand is the first spot for food they see.

BRANDON  
Let's hit that hot dog stand over  
there. I'm starving.

CASSIE  
Works for me.

Brandon and Cassie eat as they take in the sights of the  
city. Neon flashing signs and scantily dressed hookers work  
the street.

EXT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - NIGHT

They come to a motel called The Buck Stop. The rate is six  
bucks a night.

BRANDON  
This place looks like it'll fit our  
budget.

A man wearing a leather jacket, walks up to Cassie and puts  
his hand on her shoulder. She screams.

A group of tall ladies in wigs, dresses, sporting facial  
hair, and size thirteen heels unload luggage from their red  
convertible, observe the commotion, and run to her aid.

CASSIE

Don't touch me you filthy pig! I'll  
kill you!

Brandon stands in front of Cassie.

LADY

You go girl. He needs to respect  
you as the lady you are.

Cassie is so upset she's ready to tear the man apart.

BRANDON

Cassie calm down.

MAN

Hey man, I don't know what's wrong  
with your old lady. I just wanted  
to give her this paper that fell  
out of her pocket.

BRANDON

Sorry. She's really tired. It's  
been a long day.

Brandon takes the paper and puts it in Cassie's jacket. She's  
sobbing and he comforts her. The man walks off shaking his  
head in disgust.

BRANDON

You're just tired. You need some  
sleep. Let's check in.

INT. BUCK STOP - REGISTRATION DESK - NIGHT

Brandon pays for the room and takes the key while Cassie  
pulls herself together.

INT. BUCK STOP - MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The small room is equipped with a bed, television, chair and  
a phone. The curtains and bedspreads are made out of material  
sporting bucks with big racks of antlers.

BRANDON

This beats sleeping under a bridge.  
Damn this material is ugly.

Cassie sits on the edge of the bed and Brandon sits next to  
her.

BRANDON  
Do you want to talk?

CASSIE  
Brandon, I'm sorry about losing it  
out there.

BRANDON  
It's okay. I know you're tired, but  
something else is going on with  
you. What's up?

Cassie breaks down.

CASSIE  
I've tried to tell you before, but  
there's so much. I just couldn't  
get it out.

BRANDON  
I'm here for you Cass, I hope you  
know that.

CASSIE  
Okay. Well you know the story about  
how my Dad died when I was six  
years old and how hard things were?

BRANDON  
Yeah.

CASSIE  
My mom kind of went off the deep  
end and started having different  
men in and out of our house.

BRANDON  
That's rough.

CASSIE  
I didn't even know most of their  
names. I don't think she did  
either.

BRANDON  
It's awful.

CASSIE  
She'd always say be nice to your  
Uncles baby. Sit on their laps and  
be nice. Don't cry baby. Smile.

BRANDON  
I'm sorry.

CASSIE

They touched and pawed me and I didn't want them to. I was so little. It was so screwed up. For some reason lately, I just keep thinking about it.

BRANDON

You don't have to worry anymore. You're safe and in charge of what happens to you.

Brandon brushes Cassie's straight brown hair from her face and wipes the tears falling from her big blue eyes.

BRANDON

We both need some sleep. Lay down.

He covers her up with the bedspread and kisses her forehead. He crosses over to lay in a chair.

CASSIE

Hey, where are you going?

BRANDON

I'll just sleep here tonight.

CASSIE

You need to rest too. Come and lay next to me.

BRANDON

Are you sure?

CASSIE

I know you're one of the good guys Brandon. When I'm with you, I know I'm safe.

Brandon lays on top of the bedspread next to Cassie.

BRANDON

Good night, Cass.

CASSIE

Night. Thank you for taking care of me.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Brandon didn't sleep well. He went out and found a convenience store that had black coffee and donuts.

INT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - ROOM - DAY

BRANDON  
Wake up sleepy head. Donuts and  
Java.

CASSIE  
Room service? You're so cute. You  
got me the pink ones with  
sprinkles. My favorite.

Cassie takes a bite of the donut and swigs her coffee.

CASSIE  
I needed this big time. Sugar and  
caffeine, the staples of life.

BRANDON  
How'd you sleep?

CASSIE  
Really good. I crashed. I'm sorry I  
got so female on you last night,  
and broke down.

BRANDON  
Cassie, we've been best friends  
since we were nine years old. You  
can tell me anything.

Cassie lightens up a little.

CASSIE  
You mean even about cramps and girl  
things. Stuff like that?

Brandon shakes his head yes, while he verbalizes no.

BRANDON  
Nope. I lied, not that. Why don't  
you get cleaned up and I'll go find  
a map. We need to figure out where  
we're headed.

CASSIE  
Good idea.

BRANDON  
Oh and you know those -- girls that  
we saw last night out front in the  
red convertible?

CASSIE  
Yeah. What characters.



BRANDON

They're in the room next to us. We talked and they're going to Los Angeles. They seem pretty cool.

CASSIE

I'm sure they are. I love their style, and sense of self.

BRANDON

I'm cool with that. Get ready and I'll get that map.

Brandon leaves and Cassie reaches into her pocket and pulls the paper with the number out. Her curiosity has got the best of her. She dials the number and grabs a note pad and pen to write with.

CASSIE

1-800-555-1113, here goes.

A recording comes on. She reads aloud and writes it down.

CASSIE

This message will erase after it plays once. The boat is in the Marina Del Ray California Yacht Club. The slip number is 76, code 7-31-49. Keys and coordinates to sail to are in the first aid kit. Upon completion dial this number and listen to the next set of instructions.

Cassie puts the information in her jacket and heads for the bathroom.

INT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - BATHROOM - DAY

Steam covers the mirror. A cockroach runs across the floor.

INT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Brandon sits and watches a news bulletin. He sees his graduation picture and Cassie's.

NEWSCASTER

An all points bulletin has been issued for these two minors from Grand Junction, CO.

They are suspects in the slaying of Vincent Delgatto, a businessman in the Grand Junction area. If anyone has any information please contact your local authorities. They are presumed to be armed and dangerous.

Brandon turns the TV off and bolts into the bathroom.

INT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - BATHROOM - DAY

Brandon throws the door open. Cassie screams. She pulls the shower curtain close to her.

CASSIE  
What are you doing in here?

BRANDON  
Cassie we have a big problem.

CASSIE  
Another problem?

He paces back and forth with his arms flailing around.

BRANDON  
We're on the news. There's a warrant out for our arrest. They think we're armed and dangerous.

Brandon's exaggerated movements gets Cassie's attention.

She turns the water off and reaches for a towel.

CASSIE  
Calm down. Can you hand me that towel please?

Cassie wraps the towel around her body.

CASSIE  
Now, what are you talking about?

Brandon raises his voice.

BRANDON  
Aren't you listening? We're on TV. They think we killed that dead guy. What the hell are we gonna do?

CASSIE  
First of all, you're acting like a jerk. This isn't my fault.

BRANDON

I'm sorry. It's just that someone will recognize us.

CASSIE

Disguises. We'll change our hair and dress up so they won't know it's us.

BRANDON

Cassie grow up! This is real life.

CASSIE

Well, do you want to go back to what we had?

BRANDON

No.

CASSIE

Vernon would love to see you in jail and my Mother would love to sell me for anything she could get.

BRANDON

I don't know what to do. I don't belong anywhere. We'll be eighteen soon and everything's messed up.

CASSIE

This might be our last shot of having a life. If we go back, it'll only get worse. I'm not going.

They stand in silence. Cassie still wet and wrapped in the towel, nudges Brandon.

CASSIE

So...

BRANDON

Okay, what's our plan?

CASSIE

You know the girls next door, tell them I need some makeup tips.

BRANDON

I don't really think we have time for you to get makeup tips.

CASSIE

HELLO! Stay with me on this. Trust me, okay?

BRANDON  
I don't know.

Cassie loses her cool.

CASSIE  
You asked what our plan was, I come  
up with something, and now you  
don't know?

BRANDON  
Okay, chill out. Don't go getting  
nuts on me.

Brandon goes next door while Cassie gets dressed.

INT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - ROOM - DAY

There's a knock on the door and then it flies open. Making a  
grand entrance is LUSCIOUS (21), ELECTRA (22) and DIVA ( 23).  
Brandon follows behind carrying a big suitcase, glaring at  
Cassie.

BRANDON  
Cassie this is Lucious, Electra and  
Diva.

CASSIE  
Nice to meet you. I love your  
style. I need some help.

LUCIOUS  
You look better than you did last  
night, honey.

CASSIE  
I'm sorry about that. I was really  
tired.

LUCIOUS  
You listen to Lucious, don't you  
let any man push you around. You  
are a lady and deserve to be  
treated accordingly.

CASSIE  
Hear that Brandon?

Brandon rolls his eyes.

LUCIOUS  
What can we do for you?

CASSIE

My friend and I need a new look and the minute I saw you girls, I knew you could help. And -- Brandon is coming out of the closet if you know what I mean.

LUCIOUS

Honey you came to the right ladies. We've got it all.

They pull all their makeup, under garments, wigs and clothes out of the suitcase. It's all organized by color.

Electra hugs Brandon.

ELECTRA

Girl, I'm telling you, you will feel so liberated coming out and facing the world in heels and hose.

BRANDON

What? Cassie we need to talk.

Brandon grabs Cassie's arm and directs her to the bathroom.

INT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - BATHROOM - DAY

CASSIE

What?

BRANDON

What are you doing? This isn't going to work. I'm not wearing heels and dress like a girl.

CASSIE

Do you really think we're going to stroll out of here unnoticed? It's just a matter of time. I suggest you sashay out of here and you better be nice to the girls.

Cassie grabs his hand and guides him back to the other room.

INT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - ROOM - DAY

CASSIE

Sorry, this is a big day for him.

DIVA

Lordy, I remember my big day. I hyperventilated in a grocery store, fell out of my heels and passed out. I had to be revived by a big strong man.

CASSIE

My gosh.

DIVA

It was great till he spotted my Adams apple. Se la vie. I learned a big lesson though.

CASSIE

What was that?

DIVA

Always wear a scarf or boa around your neck.

They all start laughing except for Brandon.

ELECTRA

Now, what are your names?

CASSIE

We both are going by new names. Mine is Sandy and her name is Maxie.

BRANDON

Excuse me!

CASSIE

We have a good friend and his name is Max. She's always loved that name.

DIVA

Hey baby, Maxie is sassy. I love it. With eyes like yours, you are going to be gorgeous. Come and sit down.

Luscious stares at Brandon's butt as he walks by.

BRANDON

What? What's up?

LUCIOUS

Nice butt. You're going to look divine in a dress.

I have just the perfect one to show  
off your figure.

Diva grabs Brandon's hand and directs him to the chair.  
Electra pulls out, dresses, heels, hose, scarfs and boas for  
Cassie and Brandon.

ELECTRA  
Here Sandy. Try this little number  
on. You'll stop traffic in this  
one.

CASSIE  
Cool. That'd be a first.

Cassie goes to the bathroom to change, while they all fawn  
over Brandon. All of the girls contribute to his makeover.

Luscious generously applies red lipstick to Brandon's lips.

LUCIOUS  
These red lips look yummy. You look  
good enough to eat. GRRRRR!

ELECTRA  
Here you go again. Some dogs never  
change their bark. You don't talk  
to a lady like that.

LUCIOUS  
I could just scratch your eyes out,  
you heifer.

ELECTRA  
You're always on the make. You dog  
you.

LUCIOUS  
Dog? Now you've made me mad.

Diva steps in and breaks up the verbal volleyball between  
Lucious and Electra.

DIVA  
Ladies, we don't have time for  
this. We gotta get our behinds on  
the road. Electra honey, go see how  
Sandy's doing.

Electra grabs the makeup and a wig and heads for the  
bathroom.

INT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - BATHROOM - DAY

ELECTRA  
Knock, knock. Are you decent?

CASSIE  
I don't know about that, but I have  
the outfit on.

Cassie opens the door and Electra slides in with all the gear.

ELECTRA  
We have all sorts of sizes in our  
suitcase. These heels might fit. If  
not we'll stuff the toes.

INT. BUCK STOP MOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Luscious and Diva outfit Brandon. He struggles with the panty hose he's pulling over his boxer shorts.

BRANDON  
You're kidding right?

LUCIOUS  
Baby, it will feel better if you  
take the boxers off first.

Brandon already uncomfortable, passes on her suggestion.

BRANDON  
No, I'm good.

Diva and Luscious slip the dress over Brandon's head, put a wig on him and slide him into heels. He turns around to face his audience, just as Cassie emerges from the bathroom. They both stare at each other in disbelief. They are totally unrecognizable.

ELECTRA  
Oh my God! You two take my breath  
away. Perfection.

DIVA  
And where is Maxie's coming out  
party at?

CASSIE  
Marina Del Ray, California.

Brandon's not sure how she came up with that, but sticks with the story. He smiles and nods.



LUCIOUS

Get outta here! I love Marina Del Ray. I knew a guy down there that really knew how to put his oar into the water, if you know what I mean.

ELECTRA

We all know what you mean. You're talking about Tony aren't you? No more information needed, HO!

LUCIOUS

HO? Girl, you are just jealous of me.

Diva jumps in before the hair pulling starts.

DIVA

I've told you both, I'm not gonna travel with you, no more, if you're going to act like fools.

Diva turns to Sandy and Maxie and offers them a ride.

DIVA

Why don't you ladies travel with us? The more the merrier. It will be a basket of fun.

LUCIOUS

Great idea! The red chariot is parked outside.

CASSIE

Maxie, what do you say girl?

BRANDON

I say, let's sashay.

They all snap their fingers.

LUCIOUS

Marvelous. Now remember girls, shake what your momma's gave you.

DIVA

Wait. You just about forgot your boa, Maxie.

Diva drapes the boa around Brandon's neck.

Brandon (aka. Maxie) is decked out in a seafoam green sequined fitted evening dress, with panty house, padded bra, heels and clip on earrings.

A red bouffant wig is on his head accented by shimmering green eye shadow, false eyelashes and red lipstick. The boa pulls the look together.

Cassie (aka Sandy) is outfitted in a leopard print spaghetti strapped mini dress, with stuffed toed gold lame platform heels and a green ostrich feathered boa draped around her neck. Her lipstick is shimmering gold and her look is complete with a blonde Marilyn Monroe type wig. She stuffs her note, money and various items into her bra.

EXT. LAS VEGAS - STREET - DAY

Brandon struggles trying to navigate in his heels. He lags behind the rest of the girls as they get to the red convertible. A slimy toothless hustler, approaches him.

HUSTLER

Hey doll. I've never seen curves like yours before. How about a roll?

Brandon responds in a falsetto voice. He is somewhat flattered that he's pulling this girl thing off.

BRANDON

A roll? No thanks. I already ate.

Cassie turns around and spots the two thugs that are after them, coming out of the motel office. She runs back to alert Brandon and to escort him to the car.

CASSIE

Maxie, shake your booty, NOW!

BRANDON

Girl, you're always in such a rush.

Cassie points to the thugs.

BRANDON

Oh my God! It's my husband and he's an animal.

The toothless hustler, freezes.

BRANDON

If he sees you speaking to me, he'll beat the crap out of you. You better run as fast as you can.

Brandon gives the man a big shove.

BRANDON  
Ta, Ta, doll.

The hustler takes off and the thugs eye them. Brandon and Cassie bolt for the convertible. The thugs run after them. Brandon dives into the car and the girls pull him in. The red chariot speeds away with his long panty hosed, hairy legs sticking up in the air.

EXT. CALIFORNIA - ROUTE 15 - DAY

The girls travel down the highway in the warm morning sun, laughing and sharing. A big truck pulls up next to them, and the driver is none other than Harley. Cassie and Brandon immediately tense up.

HARLEY  
Hey ladies, where you headed?

LUSCIOUS  
To Los Angeles baby. Where you headed? You're kind of cute.

Cassie tries to signal the girls without being too obvious. She speaks through clinched teeth.

CASSIE  
Don't encourage him. We know that guys and he's not playing with a full deck.

LUSCIOUS  
What man is?

ELECTRA  
You sure thought Tony was you harlot.

LUSCIOUS  
Harlot? That's it.

Luscious starts hitting Electra in the front seat, while making a feeble attempt to stay on the road. The girls are thrown about the red chariot. Harley pulls up again to make his move.

HARLEY  
You girls seem like a lot of fun. You want to get together for a drink somewhere?

LADIES  
Buzz off Buster!

Luscious puts the pedal to the metal and they lose Harley in a cloud of burnt rubber.

EXT. MARINA DEL RAY - YACHT CLUB - DAY

Rows of boats accentuate the marina. The weather has changed and it starts to drizzle.

Brandon and Cassie hope out of the car eager to stretch their legs.

CASSIE

We really appreciate you taking us all the way down here, and giving us these make overs. Don't we Maxie?

Brandon in an altered state, itching his breasts and legs isn't paying attention to Cassie. She nudges him.

CASSIE

Don't we Maxie?

BRANDON

Oh yeah. You have no idea what affect this is going to have on me.

LUCIOUS

It was our pleasure. We girls have to stick together. Lord knows the rest of the world doesn't appreciate our versatility. Ta-ta.

Brandon waves and blows a kiss.

BRANDON

Ta-ta.

The red convertible makes its way out of the Marina. Cassie and Brandon walk towards a metal combination gate.

BRANDON

Stop. Wait a minute. You said, "trust me" and I did. Look at me, Cass. This is jacked up. What are we doing here? I want some answers.

Cassie explodes.

CASSIE

Look you jerk! We needed to get out of Vegas fast. I'll admit this was a little out there, but it worked.

A couple of senior citizens walk up and stare. Brandon nudges Cassie and quickly changes the conversation. He raises the octave of his voice.

BRANDON

I'm just telling you girl, seafoam green is not my color. I feel like algae.

CASSIE

Maxie, you look beautiful and the guys on the boat are waiting for us. Pull it together.

BRANDON

Honey, I hope they appreciate the effort it took for us to look this good.

The seniors watch in amazement, as Brandon maneuvers in his heels.

INT. MARINA DEL RAY - YACHT CLUB GATE - DAY

Cassie punches in the code and pushes the gate opens.

BRANDON

What are you doing? How'd you get that code?

CASSIE

Look sister, shake that tush of yours and muzzle it. I'll explain on the boat.

BRANDON

Boat? Cassie we can't steal a boat. That's... illegal.

CASSIE

Oh and murder isn't? We're wanted criminals on the run. Toughen up buttercup.

Brandon and Cassie walk among the boats till they find slip #76. The side of the boat says, "YESTERDAYS NEWS."

CASSIE

Slip #76. This must be it.  
YESTERDAYS NEWS. It's a big boat.

BRANDON  
I wish we were yesterdays news and  
this was all over.

They climb into the boat and go down into the hull.

INT. BOAT - BELOW DECK - DAY

Cassie furiously digs through drawers and closets.

BRANDON  
What are you looking for?

CASSIE  
A first aid kit. Do you think you  
could help?

They both shuffle through papers and clothes. Brandon finds  
the first aid kit. Cassie takes it and opens it. She pulls  
out a key and a map.

CASSIE  
Score! It's just like the message  
said.

BRANDON  
What message?

Cassie ignores him.

CASSIE  
You've sailed before, right?

Brandon is agitated.

BRANDON  
Wait. I want some answers, Cass.  
These panty hose are cutting off  
the circulation in my balls, my  
feet ache and my bra itches. I'm  
hungry and feeling a little PMS-y.  
How'd you know about this boat?

CASSIE  
I didn't tell you before, because  
we had to get out of Vegas so fast.

BRANDON  
And... continue.

CASSIE

Remember the note that was in the popcorn and the same note that fell out of my jacket?

BRANDON

Yes... so?

CASSIE

So, I was curious. I called the number on the note.

BRANDON

Why?

CASSIE

You know how I get. I called the number and a recording came on. It was a guy and I think it probably was the dead man.

BRANDON

How would you know that?

CASSIE

Just listen, okay? The recording said it would only play once, then it would self destruct.

BRANDON

I think you watched too many reruns of Mission Impossible.

CASSIE

I'm serious, Brandon. The recording said to go to the Marina Del Ray Yacht Club, in California. It gave the slip number for the boat and the code to get in.

BRANDON

This whole thing is crazy.

CASSIE

Anyway, he said go to the boat and find the first aid kit. Inside it would be a key and coordinates we were to sail to.

BRANDON

Sail to?

CASSIE

Yes, and when we get there, we're supposed to call the number again, and then we'll get a new message.

Brandon is tugging and scratching, but deep in thought.

CASSIE

Did you hear me?

BRANDON

I think the two thugs following us, killed the dead guy, and the note fell from the dead guy into the popcorn when he was shot.

CASSIE

I like it.

BRANDON

Now, the bad guys want to snuff us out, because we can finger them. What they don't know is that we have the dead guys note which I'm sure is valuable somehow.

Cassie laughs.

CASSIE

You have been listening to me. You know, you're wrong, though.

BRANDON

What? It makes perfect sense.

CASSIE

Seafoam green really is your color. It makes your eyes pop.

Brandon takes his wig off and struggles with the zipper on his dress.

BRANDON

Cass, if you ever tell anyone about this, you're a dead woman.

CASSIE

Maxie, you're such a cute!

BRANDON

I'm glad there's clothes on the boat. My dress and hose days are over.



Brandon can't budge the zipper, which amuses Cassie.

CASSIE  
Turn around and let me free you.  
You know Luscious was right.

BRANDON  
About what?

CASSIE  
You do have a nice butt!

Cassie unzips him and playfully taps his butt. He turns to face her.

BRANDON  
Are you flirting with me?

CASSIE  
What? No way. Oh yeah, right.

They gaze into each others eyes, and aren't sure what to say.

CASSIE  
We should get changed. I know the  
ocean can get rough and these  
dresses are uncomfortable.

They both change into shorts, T-shirts and tennis shoes they find in the closet. Brandon sighs when he takes off the restricting panty house. Cassie makes sure the note is securely in her bra.

BRANDON  
I hope there's some food on this  
boat. I'm starving.

CASSIE  
Yeah, me too!

BRANDON  
Oh freedom. The boys aren't meant  
to be bunched up like that.

CASSIE  
Maybe now you'll be able to think a  
little clearer.

BRANDON  
Are you insinuating that my brains  
are in my pants?

CASSIE

Never. That wouldn't be nice. It may be true, but not nice.

BRANDON

Cass, not all guys are jerks. Some of us are cute, and cuddly.

CASSIE

So are dogs.

Brandon starts howling and pointing at her feet.

BRANDON

You're lucky that I also happen to have a great sense of humor, Pennywise.

The tennis shoes that Cassie finds are a little larger than her feet, and look clownish.

CASSIE

Another pair of shoes, that don't exactly fit.

BRANDON

You know what they say, big feet, big ...

CASSIE

Ears?

Cassie wiggles her ears back and forth.

BRANDON

No, I was going to say big heart.

CASSIE

You've been a good sport.

BRANDON

I can honestly tell you that I have no desire to ever dress up like a babe again.

CASSIE

Brandon, I know that you put up with a lot from me, and I do know that you're a good guy.

BRANDON

True. You're right and I'm hungry.

CASSIE

Why don't you sit down with the map, and I'll look for food.

Cassie opens the refrigerator and finds fresh cheese, salami, fruit, bread and bottled water and champagne.

Brandon studies the map.

BRANDON

It's been awhile since I've driven a boat. The last time I did it was when we went to Lake Powell.

CASSIE

Oh yeah, I remember. Maybe I should drive.

BRANDON

Hey now, that dock thing was just an accident. It could have happened to anyone.

CASSIE

I'm kidding. You'll be fine.

BRANDON

The thing I'm concerned about, is reading this map, and getting the coordinates right.

CASSIE

We'll do it together. I have great faith in us. I think we're a pretty good team.

BRANDON

You never give up, do you?

CASSIE

With the kind of mother I have, you learn quickly to fend for yourself.

BRANDON

I'm really sorry about everything you've gone through with her. Even though I knew stuff, I guess I didn't get how bad it really was.

CASSIE

That's because you were dealing with your asshole Stepfather Vernon.

BRANDON

Still, it makes me feel sad that you went through it.

CASSIE

I know it does and I love you for that. You're my bestie, and I don't know what I'd do without you.

Cassie kisses Brandon on the cheek and hugs him. The embrace is full of more than friendship. Just as they're about to kiss, Cassie pulls away from him.

CASSIE

I can't. You're the most important person in my life and I don't want to screw things up.

BRANDON

You're right. I'm sorry.

Cassie grabs some plates and hands him one.

BRANDON

What a feast. Muchas gracias.

CASSIE

You're welcome. Someone was planning a trip, and they might be here soon.

BRANDON

I'll bet those goons are still looking for us. We better hurry and shove off.

CASSIE

Aye, aye Captain.

INT. BOAT - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Brandon starts the engine. They pull away from the slip and make their way out of the marina into the ocean. Seagulls squeal, and the farther out they get, the worse the weather is.

BRANDON

Why don't you check to make sure we're going the right direction and I'll steer.

CASSIE

This boat does it all. You put in the coordinates and it figures it all out.

Significant waves crash against the boat.

BRANDON

Pray. Whoa. These waves are getting big.

Lightening cracks and thunder roars. The waves toss the boat in a fury.

BRANDON

Someone must have made the gods angry.

CASSIE

No doubt.

BRANDON

I'm gonna shut the engine off. The waves are too strong.

CASSIE

Man, I don't like this.

BRANDON

This might be one of our dumber moves. I don't know what we were thinking.

Cassie takes offense to his comment.

CASSIE

I don't remember holding a gun to your head.

BRANDON

I didn't say that. I'm just saying we're not nine years old anymore.

A big wave hits the boat and Cassie falls down.

CASSIE

We need to get the sails down on the deck. If you can help with the ropes, I'll pull them down.

EXT. OCEAN - BOAT DECK - DAY

Cassie unwinds the rope from its anchor. The boat jerks violently and she drops it. The wind rips through the unsecured sail and Brandon gets tagged in the head. It knocks him off his feet, and he falls off the side of the boat. Cassie scrambles to help him, as he holds on for dear life.

CASSIE

Oh my God. Hang on Brandon.

Miraculously, a knot on the end of the rope gets caught on the anchor, and steadies the sail. Brandon pulls himself up, while Cassie tugs at him.

They successfully pull the sails in and secure them.

BRANDON

There's not much we can do. We'll just have to ride it out.

INT. BOAT - BELOW DECK - DAY

Brandon wipes blood from his head, while Cassie gets the first-aid kit.

CASSIE

I'm so sorry about the rope. I couldn't hold on to it.

BRANDON

It's okay.

CASSIE

No it's not. You have a cut on your head. You got hit hard.

BRANDON

Maybe knocked some sense into me. I don't know what we're doing. This is like a bad B movie.

Cassie finds some antiseptic and a band-aid.

CASSIE

I need to clean that out. Sit still.

BRANDON

I'm fine.

She dabs his head anyway.

BRANDON

Ouch that stings. Are you okay? You look pale.

CASSIE

I'm just a little seasick.

BRANDON

Oh motion sickness. Remember when we took the ski bus and you threw up in Dave Burgers boots?

CASSIE

How can I forget. Everyone called me Barfy the Vampire Slayer.

BRANDON

That was nothing compared to Logan Jenner. Remember when he crapped his pants in science class, and they had to evacuate the building?

CASSIE

I felt bad for him. Somebody put a box of diapers in his locker.

BRANDON

Yeah, but just think. He's part of history. Nobody will ever forget Logan Jenner. He's legendary.

CASSIE

That's not exactly what I'd want my claim to fame to be for.

BRANDON

Don't worry. We're on the FBI's most wanted list now. We're right up there with Bonnie and Clyde.

CASSIE

Nice. Well, the boat feels like the weather has calmed down.

BRANDON

I bet we're way off track. We should have put the anchor in the water.

In the distance a horn blares from another boat.

CASSIE

What's that? I hope someone's not in trouble.

BRANDON  
Let's go on the deck. Grab those  
binoculars.

EXT. OCEAN - BOAT DECK - DAY

Cassie focuses on a boat coming towards them. It's a pink boat with the name "BLUSHING BRIDE" on the side. She zooms in closer and sees the two thugs that are after them.

CASSIE  
OH NO! Those two goons have found  
us again. What are we gonna do?

BRANDON  
Are you sure?

CASSIE  
No, I'm lying. Take a look.

She shoves the binoculars in his face.

BRANDON  
Damn. I better turn the engine on.

CASSIE  
Brandon hurry. They're gaining on  
us.

They both run to the control room.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Cassie is panicking, but Brandon has an idea.

BRANDON  
Cassie get on the radio and call  
the coast guard. Tip them off, that  
a pink boat, called the "BLUSHING  
BRIDE" is loaded with drugs and a  
deal is just about to go down.

Brandon checks the instruments for their coordinates.

BRANDON  
Tell them they are about 213  
degrees south and 40 degrees west.

Cassie isn't moving too fast. Her motion sickness has gotten worse and she vomits in trash can.



BRANDON  
Cass, can you do that?

CASSIE  
213 degrees south and 40 degrees  
west. Got it.

BRANDON  
Hurry. They're getting closer.

CASSIE  
Hello, hello. Come in please.

COAST GUARD  
Yes hello. This is the U.S. Coast  
Guard, go ahead.

The radio becomes garbled. She yells the message and hopes  
they receive it.

CASSIE  
Drug traffickers are aboard a pink  
boat, called the "Blushing Bride."  
They are approximately at 213  
degrees south and 40 degrees west.  
They are armed and dangerous.

Cassie hangs up and they both go above deck.

EXT. OCEAN - BOAT DECK - DAY

Brandon looks through the binoculars and they need a Hail  
Mary about now.

BRANDON  
Damn. Did it go through?

CASSIE  
I hope so. The radio was so full of  
static.

BRANDON  
Take the wheel. I'm going to pull  
the sails back up, to catch some of  
this wind.

Their speed suddenly increases.

BRANDON  
Cool.

Brandon takes over the wheel and Cassie looks through the  
binoculars.

Coming in several directions towards the "BLUSHING BRIDE" is the U.S. Coast Guard. She sees the thugs reaction.

CASSIE

It worked. They got the message. If I wasn't so scared this would be funny.

BRANDON

Let me see.

Brandon views the scene.

BRANDON

This is just like a rerun of Miami Vice. Either those dudes have bad luck or we're really good.

CASSIE

I told you we're a great team.

She throws her arms around him and kisses his cheek.

BRANDON

We better check to see how far we got off the coordinates.

They go below the deck.

INT. BOAT - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Brandon reads the control panel and coordinates.

CASSIE

Are we way off?

BRANDON

Surprisingly, no.

CASSIE

Good, because I'm feeling seafoam green. There won't be any cruises in my future.

BRANDON

Go lay down. The Coast Guard at least detained those guys and in a couple of hours we should be at Solano Beach.

CASSIE

Thank you. I think I'll do that.

BRANDON

No problem. I don't really feel like seeing you hurl. Once was enough.

CASSIE

You jerk. Oh, and your Coast Guard idea was brilliant.

BRANDON

I know.

CASSIE

One more thing. When we get to Solano Beach, the slip number we need to park in is 109.

Cassie finds a bed, a blanket while Brandon mans "YESTERDAYS NEWS".

EXT. SOLANO BEACH - HARBOUR - DAY

Brandon steers the boat into slip number 109.

BRANDON

109. This must be it.

As he pulls in he lightly swipes the side of the deck. Cassie feels the jolt and bolts to Brandon.

CASSIE

That deck thing again, huh?

BRANDON

This is the thanks I get, while you slept princess.

She gives him a congratulations hug.

CASSIE

I'm a smart-ass. Good thing you love me. Let's find a phone and call that number.

BRANDON

Wait a minute. No more surprises. If things get too dangerous, this is over. Agreed?

CASSIE

Well...

BRANDON  
Cassie, I'm not kidding.

CASSIE  
Agreed.

EXT. SOLANO BEACH - BUS STOP - DAY

They shake in agreement and walk towards a drugstore and a bus stop that happens to be outside the harbor.

CASSIE  
We can't use our phones, but look there's an old school pay phone over there.

BRANDON  
Sweet.

Cassie pulls change out of her bra and a small pencil along with the note.

BRANDON  
Where did you get that from?

CASSIE  
I found it on the boat and took all the money I could find. It's safe here.

She pats her bra.

BRANDON  
You're not just cute, you're kind of smart too.

CASSIE  
I know.

Cassie drops some change into the phone and dials the 800 number. A new message comes on. She has Brandon hold the phone so they both can hear. She writes as it plays.

MESSAGE  
This will only play once. Take a bus to the border and cross into Tijuana. Go to Rico's. In the water tank of the toilet there's a box with more instructions. Remember 0-8-3-9. Click.

She speaks low in case someone is listening them.

CASSIE  
Got it. Cross boarder to Tijuana,  
go to Rico's. Get box out of water  
tank in toilet. 0-8-3-9.

BRANDON  
Something doesn't feel right to me.

CASSIE  
Do you have to be so negative?  
Can't we just believe things are  
going to work out for us?

BRANDON  
Cass, I hope things work out too.

CASSIE  
Doesn't sound like it.

BRANDON  
Look, we have bad guys, cops and  
parents after us. Anyone of them  
would love to see us squashed like  
bugs.

CASSIE  
So...

BRANDON  
So, we're following instructions  
that may have been left by a dead  
guy.

Cassie walks away.

CASSIE  
See ya.

Brandon runs after her.

BRANDON  
What do you mean, see ya?

CASSIE  
Which of those two words, didn't  
you understand?

BRANDON  
Why are you acting like such a  
bitch?

Cassie stops in her tracks, spins around and gets into his  
face.

CASSIE

If you ever call me that again,  
you'll be on your own.

BRANDON

Really?

CASSIE

If we don't hang on to hope, we're  
screwed. I'm not going back, and I  
don't need your negative attitude  
to make things harder.

Brandon backs down and gives her a hug.

BRANDON

I hear you. I appreciate you. Don't  
we have a bus to catch?

EXT. SOLANO BEACH - BUS STOP - DAY

A bus fills up, headed for the border. The ride is about 38  
miles.

INT. SOLANO BEACH - BUS - DAY

Brandon and Cassie head to the back of the bus, and fall  
asleep leaning into each other.

The bus comes to a halting jerk, and wakes them up.

Passengers start screaming as a crazed man yielding a gun  
shouts demands.

CRAZED MAN

I want all your money, and jewelry  
in this sack. Now, or someone's  
gonna die.

The terrified occupants obey his demands. On the sly, Cassie  
takes a couple of five dollar bills out of her bra. She hands  
Brandon a bill and keeps one for herself. They act like they  
are emptying their pockets, while the crazed man shoves a gun  
in Brandon's face.

CRAZED MAN

All of it, now.

BRANDON

Hey man, take it easy!

CRAZED MAN  
Shut up, you!

A pregnant lady starts cradling her stomach and crying, while an old man prays in Spanish.

The crazed man runs off the bus. Brandon bolts from his seat, chases him, and leaps on him, pushing him to the ground.

Cassie and the other passengers run up to help and pounce on the guy.

The pregnant lady goes into labor and is hysterical and the old man kneels next to her praying in Spanish.

Sirens can be heard, and Brandon and Cassie make a hasty exit before they get there.

EXT. TIJUANA MEXICO - DAY

There's so much commotion that no one notices as they slowly walk across the path into Tijuana.

A big sign says, "Welcome to Mexico."

CASSIE  
Oh my God, are you alright? You dumb-ass you could have been killed.

BRANDON  
I'm fine.

CASSIE  
Good, 'cause that was pretty dumb of you. Mr. Loco had a gun.

BRANDON  
What happened to Miss Positive? That little rat stole from people that don't have anything. That includes us.

Cassie looks at him in admiration.

CASSIE  
Someday a lucky girl will have you for keeps, and I hope she appreciates what she has. But... you have to be alive.

The tender moment is short lived by several roosters that dart in front of them and peck at their shoes.

BRANDON  
They'd make a nice meal.

CASSIE  
You must be hungry.

They spot a sign advertising, "RICO'S."

Cassie bends down to tie her "clown" shoes that have come undone.

The sun is starting to go down, so it isn't so hot.

Brandon wipes his face. He takes the old band-aid off his head and puts it in his pocket.

BRANDON  
Rico's, we must be in the right spot.

CASSIE  
This is sorta fun, isn't it?

BRANDON  
Fun isn't the first word I think of.

CASSIE  
C'mon Brandon. This beats the crap that's going on in Grand Junction.

BRANDON  
True. Before, I just had Vernon on my case. Now, there's hit men and the FBI. I'm moving up in the world.

CASSIE  
I don't miss my Mom at all. How sad is that?

Cassie loses the spark in her eyes, just thinking about her Mom.

Brandon helps her back up.

BRANDON  
Hey, I thought we were having fun. Forget about her.

CASSIE  
You're right. I'm kind of hungry too.



BRANDON  
Problemo. We have no dinero.

Cassie who grabbed money on the boat, produces a twenty dollar bill from her bra.

BRANDON  
So that thing doubles as a wallet,  
huh? I thought you looked bigger.

She playfully punches him in the stomach.

CASSIE  
You're mouth seems a bit bigger to  
me too?

BRANDON  
Oh, that was cold.

They stop in front of Rico's.

BRANDON  
Rico's. The biggest burritos in  
Tijuana. Sounds good.

CASSIE  
Right on. We can eat and you can go  
fishing in the little boys room.

BRANDON  
Wait a minute. It could be in the  
little girls room.

CASSIE  
Does that make sense? The messages  
were recorded by a man. I'm  
thinking it's probably in the boys  
bathroom.

BRANDON  
Oh yeah. You've got a point.

INT. TIJUANA MEXICO - RICO'S - EVENING

Brandon orders two burritos and 2 cokes. He grabs a booklet that says "Rico's" as a souvenir. Cassie gets napkins and straws and finds an empty table. He waits for their order.

INT. RICO'S - TABLE - EVENING

Cassie flags him over to the table.

CASSIE

Wow. Those things are huge. I hope they taste as good as they look.

BRANDON

I'm so hungry. I don't care what they taste like.

Cassie takes a bite and her eyes water. She gulps her coke.

CASSIE

If these are mild, imagine what damage the hot ones would do.

BRANDON

Mild ones?

CASSIE

I should've known you'd order the hot ones. You're the guy that drinks hot sauce straight from the packets.

Brandon does a "Tim" from Home Improvement, grunt.

BRANDON

Hew, hew, hew. I'm a stud.

Cassie does her best Peg Bundy voice.

CASSIE

That's right. You're a stud muffin, baby. You're the king, Al.

They crack up. He grabs his Rico's brochure.

BRANDON

I have a date with the john, Peg. I hope it's a one seater.

Beads of hot sauce sweat are falling from his face.

INT. RICO'S BATHROOM - EVENING

It is a one seater. He locks the door behind him. He pulls the lid off the toilet tank and it is filthy. He reaches into the murky, bacteria laden water, and feels around. There's nothing there.

He frantically scrubs his arm and hands with the little soap that's left in there and walks back to the table.

INT. RICO'S - TABLE - EVENING

CASSIE

Well, let's see it. Did you put it  
in your pants? Where is it?

BRANDON

Tag you're it. It wasn't in there.  
It's your turn to go fishing. Maybe  
you can stick it in your bra.

INT. LADIES RESTROOM - EVENING

Cassie is in the process of going into the one seater. A  
rotund woman bowls her over and pushes her aside, to get in  
first.

After several minutes, the lady emerges. She eyes Cassie.

LADY

Those burritos get me every time.

Cassie makes her way in and locks the door. She lifts the lid  
on the toilet tank. Between what she smells and what she  
sees, she gags. Her hand feels around the black lagoon, and  
she is triumphant in locating the box.

CASSIE

UGH! Nasty!

She scrubs her hands, arms and the box and puts it under her  
shirt.

INT. RICO'S - TABLE - EVENING

Cassie calmly walks to the table.

BRANDON

You don't look so good. It wasn't  
there, huh?

She pulls the box out from her shirt.

CASSIE

Yes, but at great personal risk.

The large rotund lady walks past Cassie and grins.

BRANDON

Who is that?

CASSIE  
I'll tell you later. Let's get  
outta here.

EXT. TIJUANA MEXICO STREET - EVENING

Brandon and Cassie sit on a worn, wood bench across from  
Rico's. It's time to reveal the contents of the mystery box.

A crowd of people find their way down the dusty street.

CASSIE  
It's probably gross inside.

BRANDON  
Open it.

CASSIE  
Oh man. After all that, there's a  
combination on it. We're screwed.

BRANDON  
Cass, didn't he say to remember  
some numbers? 0-8-3-9.

She puts the numbers in and the box opens.

CASSIE  
Bingo!

BRANDON  
You're good. This life of crime  
agrees with you.

Cassie pulls out and unwraps a key and a note inside a  
plastic sealed bag.

CASSIE  
It says, go to room 317 at the El  
Nino Inn.

BRANDON  
And ...

CASSIE  
And nothing. That's what it says.

BRANDON  
What kind of message is that?

CASSIE

I'm assuming we're supposed to call that number once we get into the room. There will probably be another message.

A parade with mariachis and dancing girls pass by Cassie and Brandon.

BRANDON

Viva la fiesta. They sure know how to party.

Before Cassie can respond the thugs sneak up on them and put guns to their heads.

THUG #1

Parties over hot shots. Think you're smart, huh?

THUG #2

Yeah, we got news for you two. This is the end of the road.

Cassie sits the box down between them.

CASSIE

You got us alright. Go ahead and take the box. It's what you've been looking for. Brandon give them the box.

BRANDON

NO, I'm not gonna do that. They framed us for a murder they committed. We're wanted criminals now. NO!

THUG #1

Alright shit for brains. You should listen to the little lady. I don't know what the box has to do with anything, but hand it over and then we'll kill you.

The thug presses the gun into Brandon's back.

BRANDON

Fine. Take it.

Brandon throws the metal box up into the air and grabs Cassie's hand. They get lost in the parade. Cassie pulls a scarf off someone and Brandon grabs a big hat.

In slow motion the box hits the ground and busts open.

THUG #2

Those little maggots. It's empty.  
After them.

The hit men get absorbed in the frenzied crowd. They push and shove to free themselves to no avail. The large rotund lady from Rico's, grabs them and snuggles them to her massive breasts.

THUG #1

Get out of our way, cow.

She holds them tighter in a vice grip. They aren't going anywhere.

EXT. SIDE STREET - EVENING

Brandon and Cassie out of breath and exhausted separate from the crowd and find a quiet side street. They take off their head gear.

CASSIE

That was close.

BRANDON

What's up with you saying to give them the box. Now we don't have they key or note. Real bright.

CASSIE

Don't start.

BRANDON

I think maybe we need to forget this whole thing.

CASSIE

Chill.

Cassie is tugging on her bra and adjusting it. Brandon zeros in on her activity.

BRANDON

Are they growing, or what?

CASSIE

I wish.

Cassie pulls the note out, and another twenty dollar bill.

BRANDON

Girl, you're like an ATM. When did you slip that stuff in there? How?

She throws imaginary punches in the air.

CASSIE

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee, I'm quick and I'm fast. I'm Cassie Ali.

The key that she stowed in her bra falls through to the ground. CLANK.

CASSIE

Darn. Bummer it fell through. Not much to hold it in.

BRANDON

Look on the bright side, someone will love you for your mind and not your body.

CASSIE

You jerk.

BRANDON

What? I'm kidding.

CASSIE

You on the other hand, we know girls won't be attracted to you for your mind.

Brandon grabs his chest and stumbles backwards. He flashes the peace sign.

BRANDON

OUCH! You got me again. Peace, okay?

Brandon sticks his hand out to shake and Cassie reluctantly reciprocates.

CASSIE

Okay, but you're cruisin' buster.

Cassie glances down the street and spots the El Nino Inn.

CASSIE

Score. The El Nino Inn is right down the street.

BRANDON

Great. I think I need to lay down  
when we get there. The heels, hose,  
boat and bus, has wiped me out.

CASSIE

Me too. Let's go.

EXT. EL NINO INN - ROOM 317 - EVENING

Cobwebs frame the doorway. Cassie unlocks the door and they slowly enter the dimly lit room. A trapped bat flies out hitting her in the head. She puts the brakes on and Brandon bumps into her.

CASSIE

Oh my God! What was that?

BRANDON

Take it easy. It was just a little  
bat.

CASSIE

I can't stand creepy things and  
spiders and stuff.

Brandon blows on Cassie's neck.

CASSIE

Knock it off Brandon.

BRANDON

Lighten up.

Brandon turns the lights on and checks the room out.

BRANDON

All is clear. I'm gonna lay down.

CASSIE

I gotta pee. I'm ready to burst.  
You think we should call the number  
now?

BRANDON

It won't matter, 'cause I'm not  
moving right now. I'm tired.

CASSIE

Okay.



INT. EL NINO INN - BATHROOM - EVENING

Cassie is in the process of pulling up her shorts, when she spots a spider on the wall.

CASSIE  
AAHHHHHHHHH!!!!

INT. EL NINO INN - BED AREA- EVENING

Brandon springs from the bed, upon hearing the blood curdling screams. Cassie comes running out with her shorts wrapped around her ankles.

BRANDON  
What's going on?

CASSIE  
There's someone in the bathroom.  
Get him.

INT. EL NINO INN - BATHROOM - EVENING

He cautiously enters, ready for a fight.

BRANDON  
Cassie come here. There's no one in  
the bathroom.

CASSIE  
Look on the wall by the window.

He spots the multiple legged creature.

BRANDON  
A spider? You're kidding right? You  
sounded like someone was trying to  
kill you.

CASSIE  
I'm telling you, he's huge and has  
violence on his mind.

BRANDON  
You're a whack job.

Brandon picks the spider up by one leg and dangles it in the air.

BRANDON  
This little guy has violence on his  
mind?

Cassie sees the dangling spider and screams. Brandon taunts her.

CASSIE  
Stay away, Brandon. I mean it. I've  
got goose bumps all over. GOD!

Brandon opens the window and throws it outside. He closes the window and lays on the bed. Cassie is still standing with shorts around her ankles.

BRANDON  
You might want to pull your pants  
up, road warrior.

CASSIE  
Yuck! That creeped me out.

BRANDON  
I'm going to bed.

CASSIE  
I'm wide awake, so I'm going to  
call that number.

BRANDON  
Good night.

Cassie calls the front desk. She notices a random shiny, blue, flat rock with a "D" on it by the phone.

CASSIE  
Yes, I'd like to make a long  
distance call. The number is 1-800-  
555-1113. Thank you.

The number connects and Cassie writes down the message as she hears it. She hangs up and reads it to Brandon, but he's sound asleep. She wraps the flat rock in a Kleenex and puts it in her bra.

Cassie lays down next to Brandon and falls asleep.

INT. EL NINO INN - BED AREA - MORNING

Brandon and Cassie have been sleeping spooned with his arm around her. Half asleep she feels something rub against her.

CASSIE  
Stop it Brandon. You're not funny.

She still feels something rubbing against her.

CASSIE  
I said, knock it off!

Cassie fully opens her eyes and sees a big snake looking back at her. She's so afraid she can't even get the words out to alert Brandon.

CASSIE  
FU--FU--BRAN--Sna--BIG--Snake!!!!

BRANDON  
What are babbling about. You  
fighting with another spider?

Brandon opens his eyes and spots the reptile.

BRANDON  
Holy shit! Don't move Cassie. Let  
me try to grab it, behind its head.

Brandon snags it by the head and tail. Cassie is frozen.

BRANDON  
Open the window.

She doesn't respond.

BRANDON  
Cassie, open the damn window. Move.

Cassie barely breathing and stiff like a board, mechanically opens the window. Brandon flings the snake outside, while Cassie breaks down.

CASSIE  
We could have been killed. Its eyes  
were staring right at me.

He slams the window shut, and she latches on to him.

BRANDON  
It's okay. I put it outside.

CASSIE  
Where did it come from?

BRANDON  
The room looks like it's been  
locked up for awhile. Maybe he was  
romancing the bat that flew out of  
here, or was looking for the spider  
for dinner.

Cassie doesn't laugh. Brandon's attempt to lighten the situation up is futile. He pinches Cassie.

BRANDON  
C'mon. We probably scared him  
worse, than he scared us.

CASSIE  
I think we should leave. I already  
got the next message, and I know  
where to go.

BRANDON  
Alright. But I need to hit the john  
first.

INT. EL NINO INN - BATHROOM - MORNING

Brandon barely gets in the doorway. Cassie sticks to him like glue.

BRANDON  
Ummm, are you gonna go in with me  
or what?

CASSIE  
No. I'll just wait out here. Hurry.

INT. EL NINO - ROOM - MORNING

Cassie stands in the middle of the room like a statue.

Brandon comes out and laughs just a little bit at her.

BRANDON  
Ready to go?

CASSIE  
Yeah. I just hope my legs will  
work.

As they walk towards the door, they hear the rattle of a snake.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Oh my GOD!

BRANDON  
Don't freeze. Keep walking.

EXT. TIJUANA MEXICO - STREET - MORNING

There's not much activity on the street, just random cats and dogs walking around.

BRANDON

I have a confession. I don't like snakes either. When I saw the rattle on it, I thought I'd piss my pants.

CASSIE

You saw a rattle on it?

BRANDON

If I would have told you, you would have freaked out and I wouldn't have got it out the window.

CASSIE

That scared me more than when we had guns pointed at us.

BRANDON

We got through it and I'm starving. I saw a bread stand down the street.

CASSIE

Good.

BRANDON

What did the next message say?

CASSIE

It said to take donkeys to the town of Delga. Find a well that has an eagle on it. Pull the bucket up and inside there will be a map with instructions.

BRANDON

More instructions?

CASSIE

It also said take the flat stone, that I happened to find in the room with us.

BRANDON

Let me guess where you put it.

She pats her chest.

CASSIE

Yes I did.

BRANDON

Now we really know why they call it  
an over the shoulder, boulder  
holder.

CASSIE

That's pretty funny. You're getting  
quicker.

BRANDON

I'm also getting hungrier.

EXT. BREAD STAND - MORNING

Brandon and Cassie take in the sights and smells of the fresh  
baked bread and the streets. The vendor speaks some English.

BRANDON

We'll have a couple of those  
cinnamon looking Churros and two  
coffee's. Gracias.

CASSIE

I'm glad they speak English here.

BRANDON

Tijuana is a big tourist area.

Cassie hands the lady a twenty dollar bill. She hands her  
change back, they sit down on a bench, and she starts to put  
the change in her bra.

CASSIE

Wait. You better hold on to this  
change. I'd hate to drop it.

They laugh. Brandon puts the change in his pocket.

BRANDON

American money is worth so much  
more here.

CASSIE

Course, how would we know? The  
change they give us is their  
currency.

BRANDON

True. So we need to rent some  
donkeys, huh? Ya hoo!

CASSIE

You're such a dork. I wonder why we can't take a bus or something?

BRANDON

We'll be riding in the hot sun, with dry dust blowing up in our faces, and the scent of donkey dong clinging to our noses. Sounds fun.

CASSIE

Perfect. I'll ask where we can rent some.

EXT. TIJUANA MEXICO - STREET - MORNING

Cassie walks up to the bread stand lady and gets information.

CASSIE

Por Favor. Would you happen to know where we can rent donkeys?

BREAD LADY

Down the street past the market. Follow the smell.

CASSIE

Gracias.

EXT. TIJUANA MEXICO - DONKEY RENTAL - MORNING

Cassie and Brandon approach the donkey renter, who is a Cheech Marin clone. He smells like weed and so do his donkey's.

BRANDON

We need a couple of donkeys to go up to Delga.

DONKEY RENTER

Why would you want to go there, man? It's been a ghost town the past hundred years. Even the ghosts have moved out.

CASSIE

We're doing a research paper for a college course.

DONKEY RENTER

I hope you get an A. That's if you make it back, man.

Delga really isn't a town. No one really knows too much about it.

CASSIE  
What do you mean?

DONKEY RENTER  
A family that owned the land named it Delga years ago. It isn't on a map.

BRANDON  
Wow. That seems strange.

DONKEY RENTER  
I need forty dollars up front.

Cassie turns around and tugs at her bra.

CASSIE  
Here you go.

Brandon shakes his head.

CASSIE  
How far is it?

DONKEY RENTER  
It's about eight miles from here. Just stay on the road, and follow the signs.

He loads the donkeys with water bottles, and puts crosses around their necks. After making a sign of the cross on their foreheads he whispers something in their ears.

BRANDON  
What are the crosses for?

Cass and Brandon look at each other concerned.

CASSIE  
Is it that scary of a place?

DONKEY RENTER  
Man, did you ever see the movie Psycho?

CASSIE  
Yeah.

A group of kids start taunting the donkey renter and he rants in Spanish and runs after them.



CASSIE  
Wait. What about Psycho?

He doesn't answer them.

BRANDON  
He's smoked too many doobies.  
Nothing's going to happen to us.

CASSIE  
Right. That's what the lady thought  
when she went to the Bates Motel  
too.

Brandon does a mock stabbing motion and the sound from the  
shower scene.

BRANDON  
EEEEKKKKKKK!

CASSIE  
You dumb-ass. This Delga sounds  
creepy.

EXT. ROAD TO DELGA - DAY

The morning sun beats down on them as they ride the donkeys  
on the dry, deserted road. They come to a sign that says  
Delga 3 miles. It points to a thin path, not wide enough for  
vehicles.

CASSIE  
It looks more like a bike path.

BRANDON  
That's why we couldn't take a bus  
there. That and the ghosts.

CASSIE  
You're not funny, Brandon. What if  
it is a ghost town?

BRANDON  
Cass, I don't want to traumatize  
you but, Casper isn't real.

CASSIE  
I'm serious. When people die their  
energy is still around somewhere.  
Good or bad.

BRANDON

I don't know how I feel about that.  
I think when you die, you're gone  
and that's it.

CASSIE

I don't.

BRANDON

I sure hate to think when Vernon  
dies, his rotten energy will still  
be around.

CASSIE

He's really hurt you hasn't he?

BRANDON

It's not so much about me, it's  
what he did to my Mom.

CASSIE

My Mom deserves him. (pause) You're  
right. When she dies, I don't want  
her energy around me either.

BRANDON

She can't hurt you anymore. I won't  
let her.

CASSIE

I love you Brandon. Even if you do  
look goofy on that donkey.

Brandon breaks into a rendition of "Home on the Range."

BRANDON

Oh give me a home, where the  
buffalo roam. Where the deer and  
the antelope play. Where seldom is  
heard, a discouraging word and the  
skies are not cloudy all day. Home,  
home on the range ...

Suddenly out of a patch of trees, a pack of bandits on horses  
appear. They surround them. The leader dismounts, and spits  
as he walks up to them, pointing his pistol.

BANDIT

Buenos dias, Gringos. I think you  
have a little problem.

His gang starts to laugh and he silences them. He shoots his  
gun into the air.

BANDIT

Silencio! You seem to be trespassing.

BRANDON

Hey man, we're sorry. We didn't know this was private property. We'll just ...

BANDIT

Shut up. What are you going to give me to spare your lives?

The bandit crosses over to Cassie and strokes her face with the tip of his gun. He grabs her head and kisses her on the lips.

BANDIT

Muy bonita.

Cassie winces.

CASSIE

We don't have anything except these donkeys.

BANDIT

We don't want no stinkin' donkeys.

CASSIE

Tu carne es muy piceno.

One of the other bandits starts laughing at what she said. The leader walks over to him and smacks him in the face. Brandon pulls the change out of his pocket.

BRANDON

This is all we have man.

The bandit grabs the money.

BANDIT

Today is your lucky day. I'm going to let you live.

He walks up to Cassie and strokes her breasts with his gun.

BANDIT

Next time you won't be so lucky, Senorita.

They hop on their horses and head back towards Tijuana.

BRANDON  
What did you say to him?

CASSIE  
I said he had small meat.

BRANDON  
No way man.

CASSIE  
He's a gross pig.

Cassie pours some water from the bottle and washes her lips.  
She also gives the donkeys some water.

CASSIE  
Maybe we should forget this Delga thing?

BRANDON  
What are you saying? We can't quit.  
We've come too far and I think  
you're right. We're going to find  
something big in Delga.

CASSIE  
Are you sure? I won't be mad if you  
want to go back.

BRANDON  
I'm more than sure. This whole  
thing is unbelievable. We couldn't  
make this up if we tried.

CASSIE  
Okay. Let's do it.

BRANDON  
You really told him he had small  
meat, huh? I'm glad you paid  
attention in Spanish class.

EXT. DELGA MEXICO - TOWN - DAY

Brandon and Cassie arrive. An old rotten sign says "DELGA"  
population 45. A skinny cat crosses their path, a light dry  
breeze kicks up and tumbleweeds roll. They tie the donkeys to  
a tree and search for the well.

CASSIE  
This is creepy. It's so quiet, like  
an old forgotten movie set.

BRANDON  
Maybe Norman Bates is here.

They hear something hit the ground.

CASSIE  
What was that?

BRANDON  
What?

CASSIE  
I know you heard that.

BRANDON  
Cassie, the buildings are old and  
that cat we saw was probably  
crawling around something and it  
fell.

The cat appears and brushes up against them.

CASSIE  
The cat huh?

BRANDON  
He's probably got friends here.

CASSIE  
Everything is so barren, broken and  
dried up.

BRANDON  
Maybe that's why people left. Their  
water source dried up.

CASSIE  
Or maybe the town was built on an  
old graveyard, and the poltergeists  
scared everyone away.

BRANDON  
I think maybe, you're a little  
dehydrated. That stuff isn't real,  
Cass.

Brandon retrieves a water bottle from the donkey pack and  
hands it to Cassie.

BRANDON  
Here, take a drink.

CASSIE  
I'm telling you, something bad  
happened to the people that lived  
here.

Cassie takes a drink and hands it to Brandon. He guzzles it.

BRANDON  
Let's find the well. I don't want  
to be stuck here all night.

CASSIE  
Why are you afraid?

BRANDON  
No, but we need to get these  
donkeys back, and don't want to run  
into those banditos in the dark.

Cassie points to the remnants of a colorful mural on the side  
of an old adobe building. Their friend the cat follows them.

CASSIE  
Look at that building. It's  
beautiful. Let's check it out.

EXT. DELGA MEXICO - BUILDING - DAY

Brandon and Cassie walk up to the building and the cat  
brushes up against Brandon.

BRANDON  
What the does this cat want?

CASSIE  
He's probably lonely.

BRANDON  
Lonely and full of diseases and  
shit.

Cassie points at the mural.

CASSIE  
It looks like it's telling a story.  
Why would people leave here? It  
looks like they worked hard on  
these murals.

BRANDON  
Maybe they died of the plague?

CASSIE

A lot of people died, and got sick that many years ago. But, why do people think this place is so creepy?

BRANDON

I don't know. Let's look for that well. I want to get out of here.

As they turn around, the ground gives way beneath them. They tumble down a shaft and hit the bottom with a thud. All of the dirt and dust makes them cough.

INT. DELGA - SHAFT - DAY

They hit pretty hard, dust and dirt is everywhere.

CASSIE

What happened? Are you okay?

BRANDON

I told you this place is old. I'm fine except for the claw marks on me. That cat hitched a ride. What about you?

Cassie looks around for the cat and doesn't see it.

CASSIE

I hope it's okay. I'm good except my leg hurts a little.

BRANDON

He ripped me apart.

Brandon's arms are scratched and bleeding. Cassie opens the water bottle that fell with them, and pours some over his scratches.

BRANDON

I'm probably gonna get some cat disease and die.

CASSIE

Let me wash them out. Don't you remember when Max was little he bit us and scratched us. We didn't die.

BRANDON

I miss the little guy. I hope Vernon isn't mean to him and feeds him.

CASSIE

I do too. How do you think we get out of here?

BRANDON

Not the way we got in. Maybe there's an exit down here somewhere.

CASSIE

Hey I see a lantern.

BRANDON

It's old and we don't have any matches.

Cassie digs at her bra.

BRANDON

Let me guess.

Brandon grabs the lantern and Cassie lights the wick. It works. It illuminates their way through the maze they are in.

CASSIE

Man, we got lucky.

She's mesmerized by the paintings on the walls.

BRANDON

What is this place?

CASSIE

Look at these paintings. It's almost an enchanted magical land.

Brandon reads a name on the wall.

BRANDON

Delgatto.

CASSIE

What's Delgatto.

BRANDON

Remember the dead guy? His last name was Delgatto.

CASSIE

Maybe this Delgatto, did have a major find he was trying to protect.



BRANDON

This wall looks like a map, and there's a picture of a well with a gold eagle on the front of it.

CASSIE

It's gotta be the one, the message referred to.

Cassie's Pennywise shoes becomes untied. She hands Brandon the lantern, and leans against a rock wall. It spins open and shoves her to the other side of it and closes.

BRANDON

Cass. What happened?

CASSIE

I don't know, but get me outta here.

Brandon leans on it, but nothing happens.

BRANDON

Nothing's happening.

CASSIE

Oh God. I think something's crawling on me. I can't see anything.

She screams and gets hysterical.

BRANDON

Don't panic, I'll get you out.

Brandon looks down and sees a red shiny rock attached to a stick, that looks like a foot pedal. Without thinking he steps on it and the wall opens. He grabs a rock on the ground and wedges it in the opening. Cassie mobs him and kisses his lips.

CASSIE

Thank you, thank you. I was so scared.

BRANDON

Look how cool it is in here.

They continue down the rock hallway and Brandon spots something sticking out of a crevice.

BRANDON

That looks like a book or something.

He pulls it out and hands it to Cassie, while he holds the lantern.

CASSIE

It's so old. I think it might be a map. Here's a picture of the same mural that was on the building.

BRANDON

See if there's anything that might tell us what happened to Delga.

She flips a page and reads the inscription.

CASSIE

Delga is the hard worked land of the Delgatto family. Our heritage and birth rite is threatened by a group of banditos called the Ramon Family. They tortured our family out of greed and with destruction. No longer able to stand the despair and death, we flee our land. We take with us the secret untapped treasures of Delga that lies beneath it. Whomever fate brings to this land, remember to respect it's riches and introduce it to the world in all of it's beauty. - Sonti Delgatto 1918

BRANDON

Do you know what this means? There really is a treasure that Vincent Delgatto was trying to protect.

Cassie flips another page and a spider crawls out of it. She drops the book and screams.

BRANDON

What's wrong with you?

CASSIE

There was a spider.

BRANDON

You need to get into therapy or something.

They hear rocks falling in the tunnel.

CASSIE

What was that?

BRANDON  
You probably started a rock slide  
with that scream.

They hear more rocks falling and a big thud!

CASSIE  
Sounds like we have company.

Brandon grabs the book and they study the map. He also takes  
the rock out that's propping the door open. It closes.

BRANDON  
It looks like we continue down this  
hallway, and turn right at this  
gold cross. The well should be in  
the corner of the room.

When they get to the cross, they see an old picture of the  
Delgatto family. Cassie makes the sign of the cross.

CASSIE  
Brandon, there it is. There's the  
well with the gold eagle on it.

BRANDON  
You hold the lantern and I'll pull  
the bucket up.

Brandon pulls it up and empties the contents on the ground.  
Among dirt and rocks, is a scroll. Cassie unrolls it and  
reads.

CASSIE  
To soar with the eagles, you must  
have the courage to fly. Place the  
flat rock in the eagles wing and  
take flight. The deed to the  
Delgatto land belongs to the  
beholder. - Sonti Delgatto - 1918

Cassie rummages thru her bra.

CASSIE  
I have the rock.

The sound of footsteps can now be heard and they are close.

BRANDON  
Put the rock in, Cass.

Cassie puts the scroll into her bra and inserts the rock into  
the eagles wing.

Suddenly a rock door opens up, and they run out only to see the side of a cliff. It drops off to a running river below. The door slams shut.

BRANDON

Whoa. Now what? How are we supposed to get down there?

The voices of the hit men can be heard.

THUG #1 (V.O.)

If you see them, just shoot them.

CASSIE

Shoot them? Oh my God. What are we going to do, Brandon?

BRANDON

I think it's time to soar with the eagles, baby. It's time to fly. Secure your bra.

CASSIE

What? You want us to...

Brandon puts the lantern down and they both back up. Brandon clutches Cassie's hand, and the book in the other.

BRANDON

One - two - three -

They leap over the side into the river below. The book goes flying with them. The hit men run down the hall towards the screams.

THUG #1

Where are they?

THUG #2

They have to be here somewhere. We just heard them.

THUG #1

This is a friggin' dead end.

THUG #2

Maybe they're in the wall.

They see the red rock and push on it. The door opens. They see the well and look down into it.

THUG #1

Nada. Those little crud balls got out somehow.

THUG #2  
We'll find them. They couldn't have  
gone too far.

EXT. RIVER - EVENING

Brandon and Cassie float down past a beautiful cove, covered with green foliage and untouched by man. Brandon manages to hold the book up out of the water.

BRANDON  
Cass are you okay?

CASSIE  
I don't know. Are we still alive or  
did we die?

BRANDON  
We soared with the eagles. Man,  
look at this place.

CASSIE  
It's like the Garden of Eden or  
something.

BRANDON  
We better not eat any fruit or  
trust any snakes we see.

CASSIE  
After that jump we just made, I'm  
pretty much not afraid of anything.

BRANDON  
I'm glad you said that because it  
looks like a snake is floating down  
the river with us.

CASSIE  
I lied! Holy Shit!

Cassie frantically grabs on to some foliage and pulls herself up. It SNAPS, but underneath it is a rock mound that's covered with gold nuggets. Brandon swims over to her.

CASSIE  
Look at this. This must be the  
treasures of the land Delgatto  
wrote about.

They pull themselves up out of the water and walk deeper into the cove.

INT. COVE - EVENING

A gold cross like the one in the tunnel is erected. The inscription is covered with moss. Cassie wipes it off.

CASSIE

It says: Your journey in life has prepared you for its miracles and gifts. Be strong in heart and thoughtful in honest deed. - Sonti Delgado 1918

BRANDON

This Sonti guy was way ahead of his time. A real philosopher.

CASSIE

There are good people in the world. He really cared about his family and the land.

BRANDON

I wonder if that Vincent Delgatto was a good guy or somehow double crossed those thugs that are after us?

CASSIE

I wonder where those guys are? We better get back to town and tell the police what we know. If we don't we're gonna get indicted for Delgatto's murder.

BRANDON

I think you're right, Nancy Drew. This is the best case we've been on.

CASSIE

Not better than the missing dog bone case. We had Max working with us.

Cassie speaks in her best Humphrey Bogart voice.

CASSIE

Stick with me kid. This is just the beginning.

Cassie pulls her powered down phone from her bra.

BRANDON

Unbelievable.

CASSIE

I hope it's dry, and has some bars left.

They are in luck. She gets in touch with a police station in Tijuana.

They hide their donkeys out of sight, and sit hidden from the thugs.

EXT. DELGA - EVENING

The two thugs find their way out, straight into the arms of the waiting police force. The donkey renter is with them.

DONKEY RENTER

There they are. They stole my donkeys and locked me in my shed.

THUG #1

Man, I told you, you should have aced that Cheech Marin wanna be.

EXT. DELGA - SIDE OF BUILDING - EVENING

Cassie and Brandon round the corner just as they are being arrested. Brandon holds Cassie back. They stay hidden and listen.

CASSIE

Oh, they stole donkeys from the Cheech guy. Lets go.

BRANDON

Wait! We don't know who we can trust, so lets just stay out of sight.

More law enforcement units show up. Both from Mexico and the U.S.

The donkey renter rants!

DONKEY RENTER

Shoot them, man! They also stole my weed, which of course is for medicinal purposes only.

THUG #1

You gonna get this nuts, over jackasses?

DONKEY RENTER

Who you calling a jackass? Let me at him.

The units hold the donkey renter back.

MEXICAN OFFICER

You're under arrest for thievery and assault.

THUG #2

Go ahead. We'll be outta this dirt hole in no time.

FBI OFFICER

You're right about that. You are being extradited back to the U.S., for the murder of Vincent Delgatto.

THUG #1

What proof do you have?

FBI OFFICER

An eye witness and the bullet you pumped into the back of his head. It was traced back to the store you bought your gun and ammunition from.

THUG #2

I didn't shoot him, he did.

He points at his partner in crime.

THUG #1

What are you saying? I'm gonna kill you.

EXT. DELGA - SIDE OF BUILDING - EVENING

Brandon and Cassie listen intently while the thugs spill their guts, and clear them of the murder.

CASSIE

Did you hear that. We're not going to be arrested.

BRANDON

That's great, but I would like to know why they killed Delgatto.



EXT. DELGA - EVENING

The thugs continue to run off at the mouth and point fingers at each other.

THUG #2

He killed him because Delgatto found out he was stealing money from his company and...

THUG #1

And... shut up you idiot.

THUG #2

Then he said he needed to silence these kids we were chasing, 'cause they could connect us to the murder. In fact if those kids come up dead, he did that too. I had nothing to do with it.

THUG #1

I'll kill you, you moron. The only reason I'm with you is because of my idiot sister, Delores. I never knew what she saw in you.

THUG #2

I got news for you. I never knew what I saw in that idiot sister of yours, either. She looks just like you!

The donkey renter puts two donkeys in the back of a truck.

Law enforcement puts the thugs in the car and they leave. The area once again is a ghost town.

EXT. DELGA - SIDE OF BUILDING - EVENING

Brandon and Cassie are shocked at what they've heard.

BRANDON

Well, that answered that.

CASSIE

So, they weren't after us for the treasures of Delga?

BRANDON

Nope. They just thought we could place them at the scene of the crime. They have no idea about the gold.

Slowly they make their way out from the side of the building.

Brandon and Cassie's donkeys remain hidden where they were tied up, along with the cat.

BRANDON

Coast is clear.

CASSIE

Now, what are we gonna do? We're free to go home.

BRANDON

We don't have passports to get out of Mexico.

CASSIE

There has to be someone that can help us with that.

BRANDON

I'm sure there is, but, I don't want to go back to how we lived before.

CASSIE

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

CASSIE

I say we ride back to Rico's, contact the American Embassy and get some burritos. I'm starving.

BRANDON

A girl after my own heart. I'm hungry too.

Cassie pulls herself close to Brandon who is pleasantly surprised.

CASSIE

Or I could give you an early birthday gift.

BRANDON  
That's right. Our birthdays are  
just about here. Well, I vote for  
an early birthday gift.

Cassie kisses Brandon passionately on the lips. He is taken  
aback.

CASSIE  
Happy birthday, Brandon.

BRANDON  
Wow. I can't wait to see what  
you'll give me at Christmas. I have  
an early gift for you too.

Brandon slowly and passionately kisses Cassie.

CASSIE  
Why did we wait so long to exchange  
these presents?

BRANDON  
Well, as Sonti Delgatto said, "Your  
journey in life has prepared you  
for its miracles and gifts." I  
think this is what he was talking  
about.

They walk in the moonlight to the donkeys and the cat. Cassie  
tugs at her bra.

BRANDON  
Do I want to know what's going on?

Cassie pulls out the deed to Delga from her bra and hands it  
to Brandon.

CASSIE  
I love you Brandon. I always have.

Brandon tears up a bit.

BRANDON  
Cassie, I love you too! I just  
didn't want to scare you.

They sweetly kiss and mount their donkeys.

CASSIE  
The only thing that's scaring me is  
seeing you on that donkey. Your  
feet touch the ground.

BRANDON  
That's it. The cat's riding with  
you.

EXT. ROAD TO TIJUANA - EVENING

Elated at their freedom and their newly discovered love, they  
ride back to Tijuana, hoping the Banditos are sleeping. The  
cat rides on Cassie's donkey.

CASSIE  
We didn't screw anything up back  
there, did we?

BRANDON  
I think it made things better. I've  
been in love with my best friend  
for years.

CASSIE  
Oh, you're so sweet.

BRANDON  
We like to hang with each other,  
and we trust each other. Max loves  
both of us.

Cassie gets super serious.

CASSIE  
Well, he actually might love me  
more.

BRANDON  
It's because you hook him up with  
treats all the time.

They laugh and kiss.

EXT. TIJUANA - DONKEY RENTER - EVENING

They return the donkeys and thank the Cheech weed guy.

BRANDON  
Thank you man. You really helped us  
out.

DONKEY RENTER  
This has been one crazy day. I need  
to smoke me a bowl.

CASSIE  
Go for it. Adios!

INT. GRAND JUNCTION, CO - MOVIE THEATRE - EVENING

Cassie and Brandon both fall asleep and wake up when the credits roll.

BRANDON  
I had the weirdest dream.

CASSIE  
Me too. I thought we were riding  
donkeys in Delga.

BRANDON  
Me too!

The guy next to Brandon, nudges him and offers him some popcorn. He looks just like the Cheech looking, donkey renter.

DONKEY RENTER  
I have the munchies, man. You guys  
want some?

BRANDON  
No thanks, man.

Brandon and Cassie look down at the bucket and there's a piece of paper in it.

BRANDON  
Don't even go there, Cassie.

Brandon grabs Cassie's hand and they make a fast exit.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

They walk hand in hand. Cassie turns to Brandon and kisses him passionately.

CASSIE  
I can't believe we got our happily  
ever after. I love you Brandon.

BRANDON  
I love you too, babe.

They walk over to a shiny new white truck and get inside.

INT. INSIDE OF TRUCK - EVENING

Cassie sits as close as she can to Brandon.

CASSIE  
I love date night.

BRANDON  
Me too, but we can afford to go  
some place sunny and tropical.  
Detective Williams said they'd  
watch Max for us.

CASSIE  
I'm ready. I love those little  
fruit drinks with umbrellas, and...

BRANDON  
And... Just kiss me.

They share a tender kiss.

EXT. GRAND JUNCTION, CO - ROAD - NIGHT

The shiny, new white truck with gold wheels, drives happily  
down the road. The back window says: "BLUSHING BRIDE AND  
GROOM." It disappears from view, almost as if it's floating  
on a big cloud of popcorn.

FADE OUT.