

"HAILEY'S STARR"

A screenplay by

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FINAL DRAFT
August 8, 2006

Reg# WS1174579

FADE IN:

INT. FRATERNITY HOUSE - POKER TABLE - NIGHT

Four Washington State University frat boys draped in dark sunglasses, smoke, drink, munch on junk food, and guard their poker hand.

Players ante up into the middle of the table.

Empty beer cans, liquor bottles, fast food wrappers, and bags of chips are scattered around. The amount is excessive.

An arrogant AIDEN STARR (21) smiles then lays down a full house.

Losing players toss cards across the table in disgust.

AIDEN

You guys suck. Mega losers all of you.

He flashes the 'L' sign for loser - pulls his winnings toward him, cracks open a new beer.

BRANDON PIERCE (21) appears at the table. He throws an index card. It rotates in mid-air like a helicopter then lands on the table in front of the card players.

AIDEN

What's that?

BRANDON

(leans on the table)
It's your lucky day bro... I scored you a ride to Vegas for the World Poker Tour.

AIDEN

Dude! Sweet deal. Who's the ride?

BRANDON

Remember that freak from Poli Sci?

AIDEN

Hailey Dane? The chick that was into tarot cards and magic?

Brandon sits at an open chair then flicks an index card down on the poker table face up in front of Aiden.

BRANDON

That's the one.

Chugs his beer.

AIDEN

You hooked me with Hailey Dane
for a ride to Vegas! She hates
me man.

BRANDON

What did you do to her?

Aiden picks up a deck of cards, shuffles, cuts, and fumbles nervously with them.

AIDEN

I burned her tarot cards in
chemistry to be funny. Think it
spun her out.

Brandon leans in closer to Aiden.

BRANDON

Yeah but she's hot... she probably
doesn't even remember.

AIDEN

Oh she remembers. But she is
hot.

Pause.

AIDEN

Can I tell you a secret?

BRANDON

Sure.

AIDEN

You gotta' swear not to repeat
it.

BRANDON

I swear.

AIDEN

I have a crush on that chick but
she scares me with all that
witchcraft crap and...

BRANDON

Bro, bro... the key point is she
is hot and needs a hook up for a
ride.

Pulls out his cell phone and hands it to Aiden.

BRANDON

Call her.

He dials the phone.

AIDEN

Ok, but I'm gonna' need to be
drunk to get into her whack car.

BRANDON

Whack car?

EXT. FRAT HOUSE - MORNING

A psychedelic painted older model Volvo plastered with bumper stickers pulls up to the curb.

Aiden lays sprawled out on the lawn drunk, he nurses a whiskey bottle.

HAILEY DANE (21) springs out of her car, marches up to Aiden draped in her new age hippie style attire.

AIDEN

Hailey Dane. Long time no see.

HAILEY

Starr. Okay, let's get one thing clear right now. I'm not your mother, my car is not your frat house, no I won't put out for you, and I'm in a hurry so grab your crap and let's fly.

He stumbles to his feet, grabs his head, they walk toward the Volvo.

HAILEY

How drunk are you?

AIDEN

(wobbling)
Just a smidge.

HAILEY

Well throw that bottle away. It isn't going in my car... We'll stop by Starbucks. Coffee should sober you up.

AIDEN

All I need to sober me up is beer.

Aiden pulls a beer can out of his pants pocket, cracks the top, it explodes and soaks his crotch.

HAILEY

Very nice dumb ass.

AIDEN

Shit!

The beer can falls from his grip, he leans forward to pick it up and plunges face first into the lawn. He comes up with a big divot of turf stuck to his forehead.

Hailey laughs, throws his bags in the car, and helps him up again.

HAILEY

You know this may be a sign that you have a drinking problem.

AIDEN

It's no problem. I drink, I get drunk, I fall down, no problem.

INT. VOLVO - DAY

The Volvo speeds down the freeway. Aiden and Hailey are packed tight like sardines.

Mystical flute music roars from the CD player.

AIDEN

Do you think we could turn off your fruity flute crap? My head's about to explode.

HAILEY

This isn't crap. It's magical for your mind. It will open it up to new possibilities. It will enlighten you. Something you need Aiden Starr. Arsonist!

AIDEN

Look I'm sorry you're still pissed at me about burning those tarot cards. It was an accident.

Hailey back hands Aiden in the shoulder.

HAILEY

That was no accident. You did it to show off for your pee brained frat friends.

A moment passes.

HAILEY

Those were my special tarot cards. My mom bought them for me for my sixteenth birthday. To me they were priceless.

AIDEN
(rubbing his temples)
I promise if you turn off this
cavity rattling mystical crap
I'll buy you new tarot cards...
We've got a long way to go, why
don't you be nice and let me
play my CD.

HAILEY
My car, my rules.

AIDEN
Could we at least stop and grab
some coffee?

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

A tall blonde BARISTA (19) sets the drinks on the "to go"
counter among a sea of other drinks.

BARISTA
Venti Caramel Macchiato and
Venti drip.

Both grab their drinks.

AIDEN
Do you have any Tylenol?

HAILEY
I don't use Tylenol it's bad for
the soul.

AIDEN
But it's good for hangovers.

HAILEY
I do have some vitamin C
tablets. Those will help.

AIDEN
What ever. I'll try that.

Aiden sips his coffee.

She rummages through her oversized purse and pulls out a
vitamin C bottle. A joint falls out as she displays the
bottle.

Both dive for the joint. He comes up with it.

AIDEN
Sweet. This should work. I had
no idea you partook.

HAILEY

That's not mine.

AIDEN

It came outta' your purse. Who
put it there leprechauns.

She tries to snag it from him and fails.

AIDEN

Whose is it?

HAILEY

It's my Mom's.

AIDEN

Yeh, Mom!

He shuffles toward the door. She scampers to catch up.

INT. VOLVO - DAY

Heavy metal music screams from the CD player.

Closer to Hailey as she rocks with the music, she puffs on a joint.

Aiden jams on the air guitar.

Clouds of thick white smoke from the joint fills the car's interior.

AIDEN

Know what?

HAILEY

No what.

Both giggle.

AIDEN

I got the munchies.

HAILEY

Mun cheese. Mun cheese. Funny.

More giggles.

The cigarette lighter pops - Aiden pulls it out of the slot and attempts to light another joint.

Hailey pulls the steering wheels suddenly, avoids an accident.

The cigarette-lighter drops out of his hand, lands between his legs.

HAILEY

Sorry. My fault.

Hailey sticks her hand between his legs to retrieve the lighter that burns his crotch.

AIDEN

Oh yeah. You need to light my
crotch on fire more often.

Replaces the lighter into its slot.

HAILEY

Pervert.

INT. SUPERMARKET - JUNK FOOD AISLE - DAY

Aiden throws candy into a hand basket already stuffed with chips and ding dongs.

Hailey wears dark sunglasses.

HAILEY

I am so sorry. Does it hurt?

AIDEN

Whadda you think? You burned my
balls with your NASCAR driving
move.

HAILEY

I'm not gonna' kiss it and make
it better. You're on your own
there.

The checkout counter is in view. Aiden, legs apart and in pain, straddles along very slow like he's John Wayne and he just got off a two-day horse ride.

INT. VOLVO - NIGHT

The radio plays soft rock.

No conversation now, instead both Aiden and Hailey noisily munch on various items of junk food.

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

Hailey's Volvo hobbles into a gas station. Smoke billows from the engine.

Aiden pops the hood, coughs and sputters then quickly wafts clouds of smoke which bellow from the car engine. Hailey, with a concerned look on her face, watches from a safe distance.

HAILEY

Can you fix it?

AIDEN

I'm a Poly Sci major not a
mechanic. Why don't you cast one
of your magic spells on it?

HAILEY

You know its bad Karma to mock
the power of a good magic spell.

AIDEN

If there is such a thing as bad
Karma this car-ma is it.

Snickers at his humor.

AIDEN

Got an idea.

Aiden grabs two cans of beer from the back of the Volvo,
stuffs one in his pants then scurries back to the car, steam
gushes into the air from the engine.

Aiden snaps the opener on a beer can, pours the frothy liquid
over the engine, more steam bellows from the over-heated
engine.

Hailey moves in, snatches the beer can from Aiden, stops him
in his tracks.

HAILEY

Stop! Don't pour beer on my
engine.

AIDEN

We gotta' cool it down.

HAILEY

Never mind. Walk away. Just walk
away. Why are you always such a
jerk? Are you incapable of just
being normal?

He suddenly looks annoyed, oh dear he has a temper.

Aiden takes the beer can out of his pocket, punches a small
diameter hole in the bottom with a Biro ink pen, he flips the
top open and shot guns the entire contents which pour down
his throat in less than 5 seconds.

Aiden's eyes water. He tries to catch his breath - suddenly
releases a long loud belch. It grabs the attention of other
within earshot.

HAILEY

My god. Didn't your mother teach
you any manners?

Tears well up in Hailey's, big blue, beautiful eyes.

HAILEY

You're not funny. This is
serious.

Aiden puts his arm around Hailey a second time. She dries her eyes, there is no resistance.

AIDEN

Hailey it'll be alright. It's probably just overheated.

A quick glance at his watch.

AIDEN

Come on we've been on the road eight hours now. Let's give your car a rest and start out fresh tomorrow.

Put his arm around her again. She dries her eyes and doesn't resist.

HAILEY

Sometimes Starr you can be a real ass. Then there is right now when you are so kind. Who are you?

AIDEN

Right now, just a friend.

Turns and notices a flashing hotel sign.

AIDEN

Hey there's a Holiday Inn. My treat?

HAILEY

Sure.

From behind as Aiden and Hailey, arm in arm, skip toward the Holiday Inn, the neon sign flashes above.

AIDEN

Hailey.

HAILEY

What?

AIDEN

Got anymore of Mom's stash?

HAILEY

Sure.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

It's a simple room. Two Queen beds, multi colored drapes, a round table, and complimentary items like coffee.

Hailey slips off her shoes and assembles herself into a meditative position with legs crossed, palms of hands up and

out, and eyes gently closed.

Aiden stares at her.

AIDEN

What are you doing?

HAILEY

Trying to get into the right
Chi.

AIDEN

What?

HAILEY

Never mind.

Aiden takes off his socks and waves them near her face and closed eyes.

HAILEY

I can smell your nasty feet, go
take a shower.

AIDEN

Fine, I need to get my Chi right
anyway.

Aiden heads off to the bathroom, but not without taking a couple of beers with him.

Hailey opens one eye and watches him go, he doesn't notice her watching.

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM - NIGHT

Three empty beer cans are strewn across the counter and in the sink.

Hailey strolls in with a partial six pack, lifts the toilet lid, opens them one by one, and pours them into the toilet.

Aiden hears.

AIDEN

What's up? Wanna' hop in the
shower with me?

HAILEY

Yeah, when hell freezes over.

Hailey flushes the toilet. Aiden screams out as the water scalds his body.

EXT. HOLIDAY INN - PARKING LOT - DAY

It is morning.

Hailey flings her bags into the rear of the car.

HAILEY

I hope this thing starts.

AIDEN

It'll start.

Aiden unzips a gym bag, pulls out a vodka bottle. He cracks open the cap and gulps down a giant swig from a new bottle.

HAILEY

You're not gonna' start that today are you... I might actually like you better if you stopped drinking.

She pitches his bag into the car and slams the hatchback down.

Aiden chuck's his empty into the bushes.

AIDEN

Go ahead and start it up. Let it warm up a minute. I gotta' drain the lizard before we go.

HAILEY

Gross.

He runs toward the room.

MONTAGE - TRAVELING

SFX - New age music plays.

- A) A signal light is seen as the Volvo enters traffic on the highway.
- B) Traveling in the fast lane past slower cars.
- C) Limping to a stop with smoke rolling from the engine.

EXT. VOLVO - ENGINE - DAY

The hood is up. Aiden and Hailey, hands on their hips, look exasperatingly at the smoke, the red hot engine.

HAILEY

Damn! This sucks.

AIDEN

For sure.

A chunky POLICE OFFICER, in his thirties, strolls up to the car, smoke steams from the engine.

POLICE OFFICER

(southern accent)

Looks like you kids got a problem.

AIDEN

Really.

POLICE OFFICER

Now don't get smart with me boy.

POLICE OFFICER

Which one of you owns this
hippie wagon?

HAILEY

It's mine, officer.

POLICE OFFICER

Well, miss, do you have any
anti-freeze? It's pretty darn
hot out here.

HAILEY

I don't even know what that is.

AIDEN

Officer, sir, do you have any we
could borrow?

POLICE OFFICER

I'll be right back. Take that
radiator cap off fer me.

Aiden uses his shirt to twist off the cap.

The cap explodes like a rocket and spews scorching steam onto
his hand and wrist.

Hailey jumps back and screams.

Aiden quickly grabs his burned hand, yells out in pain.

HAILEY

Officer!

The officer waddles up, carrying a jug of anit-freeze.

POLICE OFFICER

Shoot boy. You're not spose to
burn yer self. Let's get ya'
over to the hospital, you're
gonna' need a doctor.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

A lady DOCTOR (28) big brown-eyes and a brunette, finishes
her treatment, wraps up Aiden's hand and wrist.

DOCTOR

There you go. Give it a few
weeks and you'll be good as new.

Hailey's cell phone rings.

HAILEY

It's my Dad. I'm gonna' go
outside in the lobby and talk.
Are you going to be alright?

She flips the phone open, answers, steps out of the door for privacy.

AIDEN

Yeah, sure. I'll catch you
outside.

DOCTOR

She's beautiful, your
girlfriend?

AIDEN

No.

DOCTOR

Oh, just thought... 'cause you two
look like a sweet couple.

AIDEN

She is beautiful.

DOCTOR

Word of advice, don't let the
good ones slip away.

The doctor fills out a prescription slip, tears it off a pad and hands it to Aiden.

INT. VOLVO - DAY

Hailey resets the odometer button on the dash board as they travel down the highway.

HAILEY

How's your hand?

AIDEN

Pulsating with pain.

HAILEY

I feel so bad. Stupid car.

Aiden unwraps some bubble gum and stuffs it into his mouth. He offers Hailey some, she accepts.

AIDEN

Forget it... Hey, you know when I
was in middle school I was the
champ at blowing bubbles.

HAILEY

Are you proposing a contest?

She lobs the 'Hubba Bubba' bubble gum into her mouth, chews it ferociously.

AIDEN

Un huh.

HAILEY

Bring it on frat boy.

Aiden blows a gum bubble, larger and larger than his face it goes pop, and he sucks the deflated gum back into his mouth.

AIDEN

Top that wild child.

HAILEY

Did you just call me wild child?

AIDEN

Yez I did.

HAILEY

Watch and learn as wild child tops your bubble.

She chews, works the gum around her tongue, and blows hard.

The gum launches out of her mouth and sticks to the windshield.

Laughter.

AIDEN

Good one.

HAILEY

Give me another piece.

AIDEN

No way! That was your one shot to beat the master and you blew it, so to speak.

HAILEY

Come on give me a do over and I'll buy dinner.

AIDEN

Sweet deal!

She chomps on the gum and blows and equal sized bubble to his.

AIDEN

Game on.

INT. STEAK HOUSE RESTAURANT - BOOTH - NIGHT

Somewhere in Nevada.

A seventies decor restaurant hums with locals and old folks, old school country and western music plays.

Aiden picks at gum tangled in his hair.

Hailey watches and twists her hair with a devious smirk.

HAILEY

Why are you going to Vegas?

AIDEN

To...

HAILEY

Wait, let me guess. You're going to get laid?

Aiden pulls at a long strand of gum attached to his hair. It pulls out far like Stretch Armstrong, then snaps away from his hair.

AIDEN

Sounds good, but no.

HAILEY

No?

AIDEN

I'm headed to the World Poker Tour.

HAILEY

To play?

AIDEN

Nope. Just to watch.

Two steak and potato dinners arrive at the table, a super tall WAITRESS, about forty and looks sixty, crashes the plates onto the table.

WAITRESS

Here ya' go honey.

(beat)

That's a beautiful dress dear.

Where'd ya' get it?

HAILEY

At the Gypsy Rose in Sedona.

WAITRESS

You get it on vacation.

HAILEY

No I live there.

WAITRESS

Lovely dear. Enjoy your dinner.

The waitress waddles off to take another tables order.

Hailey's cell phone rings inside her purse. Her hand wades through the purse and comes out with a ringing cell phone. She checks the display.

HAILEY

It's my Dad.

Aiden digs into his dinner.

HAILEY

Hi Dad... What's wrong?

(tears)

Tell Mom I love her. I'll hurry...
Is she going to make it? Give
her a kiss for me and tell her I
love her... Yeah, bye Dad.

Hailey's giddy attitude has morphed into a complete sobbing breakdown right at the table.

AIDEN

Hailey, what's wrong?

She piles out of the booth with tears streaming down her soft cheeks.

AIDEN

Hailey!

Aiden chase her out the door.

EXT. PARKING LOT - VOLVO - NIGHT

Hailey heads to her car. Aiden chases after her and catches up as she is inserting her car keys to unlock the door.

He takes her by the shoulder and spins her around.

AIDEN

What happened?

HAILEY

Never mind, you wouldn't understand my pain. Your only goal in life is to drink so you can be a cool frat boy. You're selfish, arrogant, and mean.

AIDEN

Hailey, what's wrong? I am standing right here and I do care, so tell me.

HAILEY

My Mom has been admitted to the hospital. She is dying of breast

cancer. That's why I was going home. Now, I might now make it in time.

Aiden attempts to hug her, but she recoils like a rattle snake.

He takes out his wallet, opens it up and pulls out a picture of his Mom. He looks at it briefly, then hands it to Hailey.

HAILEY

What's this?

AIDEN

It's a picture of my Mom. She died last summer from breast cancer. She was so young. I missed the funeral because I was too drunk to make the plane on time.

A brief silence. Hailey studies the picture.

AIDEN

Hailey I really am sorry for your pain and your Mom's pain. I only wish I could take back that day last summer that made my Dad disown me.

Now Aiden breaks down and weeps. Hailey slowly wraps her arms around his hanging head.

HAILEY

Why did you burn my tarot cards? Those were special... And I liked you.

Aiden gathers his emotions and stands to face Hailey. Tears are forming again in her eyes.

AIDEN

From the bottom of my heart Hailey I wish I could take that back. I liked you too and didn't know how to say it.

Aiden pulls a wrapped gift out of his pants pocket, hands it to Hailey.

AIDEN

I was going to wait until Las Vegas to give you this as a thank you for putting up with me and to say I was sorry. Right now seems like a better time to give you this gift.

Hailey tears into the wrapping and finds out the gift is a box of tarot cards. She cries again.

HAILEY

Thank you Aiden Starr.

AIDEN

Those aren't just any ole tarot cards. Open em' up.

She opens them up, pulls them out, sets them on the hood of her car.

AIDEN

Cut the deck.

She cuts the deck. It's the Love card.

AIDEN

Cut it again.

She cuts the deck. Again, it's the Love card.

HAILEY

Huh, just lucky I guess.

AIDEN

It's not luck Hailey

Aiden picks up the deck, turns over the cards one by one, reveals that they are all the same card. The Love card.

AIDEN

Do you realize I had to buy 78 decks of cards to get 78 love cards?

HAILEY

Okay Aiden Starr, I forgive you now. Think Forget Las Vegas and come with me to Sedona.

Hailey embraces Aiden in touching hug, then she give in to a long passionate kiss.

INT. VOLVO - NIGHT

Down the freeway they zoom.

Aiden drives now. The car passes the cut off for Las Vegas and Hailey reaches over and takes Aiden by the hand. It's love.

FADE OUT - THE END.