

FOUR LETTERS AND A TALE

By

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FADE IN:

INT. NYPD - HOLDING CELL FACILITY - DAY

Locked in a large cell are nine detainees, including a MIDGET dressed in a clown outfit. The cell is ablaze and people inside are burning alive while moving erratically and screaming in agony.

The Midget is pressed to the cell's locked door and yells at the top of his lungs:

MIDGET
Help, somebody help!

A horrified police OFFICER rounds the corner and stops in front of the cell, disoriented. He's in his 30s, slim, scared.

OFFICER
What the fuck? Who started the
fire?

MIDGET
Please help! Unlock the door!
Please!

The Officer sprints for the exit.

MIDGET
Wait! Help us! Please!

The Officer stops and looks back with guilt.

MIDGET
Please! We're gonna burn alive!

OFFICER
Fucking 'ell!

The Officer pulls a key ring from his belt, runs back, but the heat coming out of the cell is too intense.

He stops abruptly, raises his hands defensively and involuntarily loses his grip on the key ring, which lands two feet from the cell door.

He rushes for the exit.

OFFICER
Fuck! Sorry, man ... Fuck!

The Midget clothes catch fire. He screams in pain and drops to his belly, while reaching through the bars for the key ring.

MIDGET

Somebody help, we've got the key! I can't reach it!

But there is no answer and nobody comes forward. The Midget turns around to see everybody else in the cell is dead, their burned bodies frozen in grotesque positions.

Totally engulfed in flames, The Midget screams one last time:

MIDGET

NOOOO ...

EXT. NYPD PARKING LOT - ONE MINUTE LATER

The parking lot is crowded with news vans, reporters, vendors, police officers, people holding signs, curious people from every walk of life.

The Officer, distraught and coughing, talks on his cell phone. His uniform is charred.

OFFICER

Captain Morgan?

MORRISON (V.O.)

Straight or on the rocks?

OFFICER

Sir?

MORRISON (V.O.)

"Captain Morgan" is a brand of rum, you parrot-brain! I'm Captain Morrison.

OFFICER

Yes, sir.

MORRISON (V.O.)

What's going on there?

OFFICER

All the detainees are dead. Gruesome, sir ... We did all we could, honestly.

MORRISON (V.O.)

What?

In b.g., the police station is totally engulfed in flames. Smoke puffs out of the bursting windows. The crowd is terrified.

OFFICER

It's hell down there. It's like a scene from David's --

MORRISON (V.O.)

You mean Dante's ...

OFFICER

(continuing)

-- Iliad.

MORRISON (V.O.)

You mean Inferno, idiot!

OFFICER

Yes, sir, Dante's Inferno.

MORRISON (V.O.)

You sure everybody's dead?

A CRUSHING SOUND. The Officer turns to see the station collapsing in a sea of flames.

OFFICER

I'm positive, sir. All of the inmates are dead.

In b.g., the flames devour the collapsed police station.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - DAY

In the fireplace, the flames devour the firewood.

A few feet away, a group of people sit in high-backed leather chairs around a large stylish oak table.

RED HAIR, HARD HAT, a BRUNETTE woman and a BLONDE woman drink coffee and smoke. One man is obscured from view by the back of his chair. This is VLAD.

RED HAIR

The odds are too long for me to stomach. I'm in no rush to join my buddy Blue Skull.

BRUNETTE

What happened to Blue Skull? Is he dead?

RED HAIR

Worse. He's doing all day and a night in da big house.

BRUNETTE

"All day and" ... what?

HARD HAT

That's life without parole. Blue Skull is known to mess up when stoned. He had the wrong plan and blew it.

BLONDE

That's why we invited Vlad here, to figure out the right plan.

Hard Hat stands up and paces around the table.

HARD HAT

He already did and it looks bulletproof to me. All we need to do is serve the cops a big-time bluff on a silver platter.

RED HAIR

This heist ain't cool, man. A gang of drunks can pull it.

Hard Hat continues to pace like a professor in front of his class.

HARD HAT

Why don't they?

RED HAIR

'Cuz, like me, they hate prison food.

HARD HAT

Exactly! They'd get caught.

RED HAIR

What about us?

HARD HAT

Forget the robbery, that's the easy part. What we need is a safe getaway. Why don't you guys have a look?

Vlad tosses three folders on the table with his left hand. The forefinger's nail of his left hand is painted green with a gold number 4 in the center of it.

The two women and Red Hair pick up the folders, open them and start reading the plan.

Concentration, approval, and finally admiration light up the women's faces. Red Hair shows no emotion.

They put the folders back on the table.

HARD HAT

And by the time the cops figure out the prank, we'll be downing cocktails at the Sheraton Hotel in Sao Paulo.

RED HAIR

I'm in.

BRUNETTE

Me too.

BLONDE

I've never been out ...

Hard Hat collects the folders and tosses all three of them into the flames of the fireplace.

On the cover of one of the burning folders: "OPERATION MOCK ROCK."

Hard Hat pulls a steel-enforced briefcase from under the table and hands it to Blonde.

HARD HAT

I want this loaded with the blanks we talked about. No later than tomorrow at noon.

BLONDE

You bet.

Red Hair finally relaxes.

RED HAIR

So who'll do the ... shooting?
Who'll fire the blanks?

Hard Hat is all smiles.

HARD HAT

Some clueless cop will do. We'll be too busy ordering margaritas in Portuguese ...

BRUNETTE

Who the hell will order ... "in Portuguese?"

HARD HAT

Blue Skull. Remember the 6-foot-6 junkie is from Brazil?

Brunette stares at Hard Hat, mouth agape.

RED HAIR

Say what?

HARD HAT

Tomorrow Blue Skull will be taken to a police station --
(dramatic pause)
-- for a mental evaluation ...

RED HAIR

Say fucking what?

INT. OFFICE ROOM - DAY

The manicured hands of a secretary stuff letters with the heading "44% DISCOUNT" into envelopes.

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

A green bus aimlessly drives on the roof of this building.

The bus has huge tires like a demolition truck.

On the top of the bus: a bored elephant, a live one, colored like a cow from a Gateway ad. The elephant sports dark sunglasses with silver arms.

EXT. NYC - SUBWAY EXIT - DAY

SUPER: "NYC. APRIL 4, 11 AM"

An SUV limo stops in front of the subway exit. The chauffeur formally invites eight waiting people into the SUV.

Before entering the SUV, each person shows the chauffeur a letter. The headers of the letters are all identical: "44% DISCOUNT."

INT. LIMO - CONTINUOUS

ANDY is a shaggy-looking guy in a mis-matched three-piece suit.

ANDY

Hi everybody, I'm Andy. This is so hard to believe, since I'm a nonbeliever. I never won the lottery. But 44% discount for a new car of your choice? You can't beat that.

ANGELA, a smoking hot long-legged Latina, 25, curly black hair, black eyes, short black tight skirt, and sexy sandals with lace-up straps chimes in.

ANGELA

I guess none of us have won the lottery before. But today is THE day!

DAN, dark hair, brown eyes, handsome, mid thirties, speaks with a European accent.

DAN

I hit the jackpot before. No big deal. By the way, I'm Dan.

ANGELA

Oops, sorry. I'm Angela.

BILL is early twenties, blond, baby-faced and shy. Insecure, like suffering from some social anxiety disorder that he wants to hide.

BILL

(to Dan)

In the lottery?

Dan lights up a Marlboro.

DAN

Yeah, two years ago.

CHANG is Asian and aggressive all the way.

CHANG
So you're fucking rich!

Amused by Chang's conclusion, Dan cracks a smile.

DAN
Nah, I was broke three months
later.

BRITNEY, blonde bombshell, late twenties, illegal cleavage,
speaks up with a Southern accent.

BRITNEY
I'm Britney. How much did you win?

DAN
A million.

CHANG
(inflamed)
And how the fuck did you burn a
million in three months?

Dan puffs away while discreetly inspecting Angela's legs in
search for any design flaws: none found.

DAN
Casinos and exotic dancers.
Romanian style.

ANGELA
So you're from Romania?

DAN
Yep. Came here four years ago.

CHANG
(livid)
You stupid ass, you could've
invested the money or bought a
restaurant.

Angela, Britney and Andy look at Chang in disbelief. Andy
shrugs as if to say, "What?"

CHRISTINE is casually dressed, 35, shrink looking,
gorgeous eyes behind designer eyeglasses.

CHRISTINE
Hi guys. I'm Christine. Let's just
be friendly, okay?

DIANA is nicely tanned, in tight pants, clearly
uncomfortable in this atmosphere. She sits next to Bill.

DIANA
And I'm Diana. Hi, all.

CHANG
(to Bill)
And what's your name, sucker?

BILL
(blushing)
I'm Bill. You?

CHANG
I'm Chang, you pussy. We are all
Chang in China.

DAN
Now ain't that a creative nation!
So what else should we know about
China?

EXT. ROCKY RIVER FOREST - CONTINUOUS

The SUV rides through the Rocky River Forest, makes a left turn and disappears behind tall trees.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY - SAME TIME

SUPER: "BRAN, TRANSYLVANIA, 7,777 MILES NORTH-WEST OF PERTH, AUSTRALIA. APRIL 4, 11 AM"

In a forest quite similar to the Rocky River Forest (only the dirt road makes a noticeable difference), a luxury convertible emerges from behind trees.

MARIA, a stunning blue-eyed sweet blonde, drives her convertible on a dirt road through the pine forest.

EXT. DRACULA'S MALL

After a right turn, she stops in the parking lot of a creepy medieval building with a huge sign above the entrance: "DRACULA'S MALL."

A large "NEED HELP" sign on the door reads, "IMPALERS WANTED!"

Maria enters the old castle and comes out with a luscious pink gift bag.

She skilfully jumps into the driver's seat, without opening the door, pops it into gear and speeds back onto the road.

EXT. MARIA'S VILLA

Maria stops in front of her residence: a modern, luxurious villa in striking contrast to the dirt road and decrepit so-called Mall.

She gets out of her car and remotely turns on the car alarm.

FROM BEHIND some bushes, an unseen stalker watches as Maria walks toward the villa's entrance.

Maria climbs up a few steps, reaches the front door and twists the knob.

INT. MARIA'S VILLA - CONTINUOUS

Maria steps inside. A strange kind of a satanic music starts playing as she undresses and dances erotically to the

LIVING ROOM

Naked by the time she reaches the sofa, she pulls a pair of red, yellow and blue panties from the pink gift bag.

She pulls on the panties leaving the tag still attached and grabs a silk top from a nearby chair.

Pulling the flimsy top overhead, she goes over to a wall covered in signs. Each sign is shaped like a human brain and impaled with a sharp stick.

Each "brain" bears a slogan such as: "INNOCENT", "DRACULA FOR PRESIDENT", "NOT GUILTY", "MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR."

Above the wall, a banner reads, "IMPALED THOUGHT."

The logo on the back of her panties reads, "KISS AND IMPALE."

Maria grabs a TV remote with one hand and signs each "brain" with the other.

ON THE TV

REVEREND DICK, fifties, dark suit, is on a podium holding up a sign that reads "Plan C" in front of his congregation.

REVEREND DICK
 As a celibate, I can smell the
 flowers of the Garden of Eden.

The audience applauds.

REVEREND DICK
 I'm happy to see some newcomers and
 I want to congratulate them for
 joining our congregation. Let's
 talk a bit about our interpretation
 of the Holy Trinity.

An OLD MAN in the audience stands up from his seat.

OLD MAN
 Please do, Reverend Dick!

REVEREND DICK
 The real meaning of the Holy
 Trinity is that "Plan B" is never
 enough; you always need to back up
 your back up plan.
 (raising his
 "Plan C" sign)
 That's why the name of this church
 is "Plan C"! It's so obvious: A, B,
 C - Trinity!

BACK TO MARIA

Maria finishes signing the "brains" and flips the TV
 channels with the remote.

The PHONE RINGS.

Her hand reaches for the phone to answer, but "Tom and
 Jerry" catches her attention on the TV. So she doesn't
 answer, totally captivated by the TV, her hand frozen in the
 air.

The answering machine picks up.

FEMALE (V.O.)
 Our art gallery in New York is now
 ready to host your outstanding
 collection of signs. We are all
 eagerly waiting for you to arrive.

EXT. ROCKY RIVER FOREST - DAY

SUPER: "APRIL 4, 11:15 AM"

The SUV limo exits the Rocky River Forest and pulls into a
CAR DEALERSHIP

The limo stops. The chauffeur jumps out, opens the doors and invites everybody outside. Everybody gets out except Diana and Bill.

CHANG

(to Diana)

C'mon, bitch! I don't have all day
long, Buddha dammit!

DIANA

As soon as Bill pulls his hand out
of my pants.

All eyes are on Bill. He blushes violently, removes his hand from Diana's pants and both of them get out of the limo.

Andy raises his hands high in the air and jokingly delivers his signature line.

ANDY

Holy Dear, is anybody sane here?

The eight invitees are welcomed by the car dealership OWNER.

The Owner is in his forties, well-built and fairly muscular, his dark hair slicked back. He wears dark sunglasses with silver arms. He looks both intellectual and mysterious.

OWNER

So glad to meet you. I'm the owner
of this place. I won't waste your
time with a silly speech. Feel free
to wander around and choose your
cars.

The Owner departs and disappears behind a row of cars.

The eight invitees look at each other, exchange smiles, and start wandering around checking the cars and the price tags.

Diana admires a shiny black SUV. She looks at the price tag and chuckles.

DIANA
Yeah, right ...

She glances around and notices she's alone. She takes a few random turns down the aisles between cars, but gets nowhere. She is lost in a sea of cars.

INT. DEALERSHIP OFFICE - SAME TIME

The Owner watches the proceedings on a closed-circuit security TV and laughs.

ON THE OWNER'S MONITOR

Elsewhere in the lot, the other seven invitees also take turns down random aisles. Frustration sets in.

DIANA
Hello? Can anybody hear me?

BRITNEY
Yes! Where are you?

Diana turns one more corner, looks around and gives up, defeated.

DIANA
I'm lost. I'm trying to find my way back to the entrance.

CHANG
That's exactly what I'm trying to do.

DIANA
Any luck?

CHANG
Can't find shit, this is like some labyrinth.

BILL
Hello! Where'd the Owner go?

DAN
Whatta fuck is this, a maze?

BRITNEY
Let's cool down, the Owner will find us. Do I know you from somewhere, Diana?

DIANA

And why should you know me? Did you fuck my ex-husband and find my photo in his wallet when he took a shower?

BRITNEY

I don't remember. I host only gold medalists in between my legs. Was your ex a natural born fucker?

DIANA

Well, let me put it this way: no porn business ever offered him a job and Tarantino has yet to call him for an audition.

From above, the lot looks like a maze, cars arranged to keep potential buyers trapped like rats.

Within the lot are four two-story buildings. Each building has two large semicircular openings: one for the front and one for the back.

The eight invitees wander down different aisles of the maze becoming increasingly agitated trying to find a way out.

Black clouds cover the sun. Emergency lights atop tall poles turn on automatically. BIRDS stop CHIRPING.

CUT TO:

ANDY

walks down his aisle slowly.

Behind him, four dog-like shadows cross the aisle in a rush. WILD GROWLS echo out. Andy stops abruptly with a terrified expression, but when he turns around to see the source of the growling, the shadows are gone.

CUT TO:

ANGELA

walks toward the next intersection and suddenly stops when she sees four dog-like shadows crossing that intersection and disappearing.

ANGELA

(to herself)

What the hell was that?

BILL (O.S.)
 What are those shadows running
 around?

DAN (O.S.)
 They look and sound like dogs to
 me.

CUT TO:

DIANA

walks down her aisle toward the next intersection.

DIANA
 (yelling)
 What kind of a sick joke is this?
 What dogs? Are you guys trying to
 scare me?

Suddenly the shadows, accompanied by WILD GROWLS, CROSS
 Diana's aisle in the intersection she's facing. She freezes.

DIANA
 Oh my good Lord!

Black clouds uncover the sun. BIRDS start CHIRPING. No sign
 of the dog-like shadows anywhere.

CUT TO:

CHANG

walks down toward the next intersection.

CHANG
 (yelling)
 I ain't see no stupid dog!
 (to himself)
 These freaking Americans are always
 high on something ...

As Chang nears the intersection, four WILD BARKING DOBERMANS
 turn the corner at a high speed and collide with Chang,
 knocking him to the ground. The dogs keep running through
 the maze until:

the dogs find Diana. They viciously attack her, tearing at
 her limbs. They leave her alive but a bloody mess. The
 beasts run away.

Next, the Dobermans attack Andy, scaring the life out of
 him, but only hurting him lightly. The dogs run away,
 leaving Andy in shock.

The third victim is Britney, who is so terrified that she can't move or cry for help. She's frozen like a statue. The dogs sniff her, one of them pees on her, then runs away.

Christine is the fourth victim: she tries to defend herself, causing her forearms to be ripped to shreds. BARING HIS TEETH, one of the dogs SPRINGS at Christine's jugular to deliver the fatal bite.

Just as the dog is mid-air, two inches from Christine's neck, a SIREN SOUNDS and the beasts immediately calm down. They look around inquisitively and then run away. Their BARKING fades in the distance.

SERIES OF SHOTS -- DESPERATE PHONE CALLS

- A) Britney fishes her cell phone out of her purse.
- B) Andy frantically dials a number on his cell phone.
- C) Christine has just finished dialing and puts the phone to her ear.
- D) Angela is already speaking into her cell.

ANGELA

A car dealership --

(sighs)

-- I don't know where, none of us drove here. We all had this VIP treatment and were brought in by this tinted glass SUV limo ...

A LOUD CAR ENGINE. TIRES SCREECHING. A WOMAN'S HORRIFYING SCREAM followed by the GRISLY SOUND of a CAR hitting a HUMAN.

The cellular users turn off their phones and pay attention, clearly scared.

The ENGINE STOPS. It's quiet again. The terrified guests wait with baited breath to see what will happen next.

Over the speakers installed on the poles throughout the dealership, the Owner breaks the silence.

OWNER (V.O.)

Your only chance to survive is to follow the red truck to Building One. The survival kit is posted there. This is your only opportunity to come together and have a chance at survival. Take it or die in the next four minutes.

BILL

climbs on a white van and pulls out his cell with his right hand. A GUNSHOT. Bill's cell is pulverized. He jumps off the car and looks in disbelief at his right hand: he's unharmed.

OWNER (V.O.)

You have no business on top of the cars. Our snipers' only warning shot has been consumed.

THE RED TRUCK

drives past each guest. They comply and follow.

Angela sobs. Britney and Christine cry hysterically. Diana is covered in blood, tied with a rope, dragged by the red truck: she's dead.

At the entrance of Building One, the seven remaining visitors look at each other, as if waiting for the others' approval. Chang opens the door.

CHANG

Ladies first.

INT. BUILDING ONE

They enter into a large, 25 foot tall well-illuminated room with a running fan in the center of the ceiling. They are alone.

EXT. BUILDING ONE

The driver of the red truck gets out of the cabin, cuts the rope Diana is tied with, and drives away.

Diana's body rests there, right in front of the entrance.

INT. BUILDING ONE

The survivors look around. There is: a fridge, a logged on PC, different brands of cigarette packs next to the PC.

There are cameras hanging from the ceiling, four speakers, a blackboard and, pinned to one of the walls is the "survival kit", posted written text.

Next to the sink: a coffee maker with its pot full of hot coffee.

On a gold table: a stack of eight green uniforms, with names above the left chest pocket.

OWNER (V.O.)

(over the speakers)

Welcome to the Emergency Room!
Maximum four of you will survive
this game; the minimum is zero. I
noticed that some of you used cell
phones to call outside the facility
after the dogs attacked. That was
such a bad idea!

Everybody listens motionless, but Chang, who can't find his place.

CHANG

Nah, you dingbat. It was your mutta
that had such a bad idea when she
delivered you alive!

OWNER (V.O.)

There are two distinct sets of
rules you have to obey in order to
qualify for the chance to survive.
First rule: no phones! The second
one is posted on the wall, read it
carefully. Now you all must toss
your clothes down the laundry chute
in the South-East corner of the
room. Then put on the green J
uniforms with your name on it. Do
not try to remove cell phones from
your pockets while you undress. We
can see you on cameras and
whoever cheats will be killed
within four minutes.

DAN

(to Angela)

You should sue him for voyeurism.

Angela looks at Dan, speechless.

OWNER (V.O.)

You have four minutes to do what
you've been told. Starting now!

Each visitor finds the uniform with his/her name on it and starts changing clothes.

CHANG
 (to Bill)
 Nice pink panties ... wanna be my
 girlfriend?

Bill blushes and doesn't answer.

Once she's dressed in her uniform, Christine goes to the
 fridge and opens it.

CHRISTINE
 (sarcastically)
 Party time! There's food and beer
 here!

Still shocked and distraught, Britney stares into the
 fridge.

BRITNEY
 Beer ... yeah ... I could surely
 use a beer ...

Britney's attempt to unwind is contagious: Everybody comes
 to the fridge, pulls out a beer and opens it. Each chooses a
 different brand. Then everybody lights up a cigarette,
 except Andy.

Out of a Pavlovian reflex, Bill holds up his can of Beck's
 beer like trying to cheer, but no words come out of his
 mouth. His eyes turn to the floor.

No one else tries to talk ...

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

SUPER: "BRAN, PENNSYLVANIA, 4,700 MILES NORTH-WEST OF THE
 STATUE OF LIBERTY. APRIL 4, 11:35 AM"

Maria lies on the sofa, distressed. She's butt-naked. Her
 hair and silky top are both a mess. She dials the phone.

INT. SERGEANT JIM'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

CLOSEUP COMPUTER MONITOR

An animated poker game shows five players, each with a
 nickname. A dealer has a tray of chips nearby.

On the banner at the top of the screen it reads: "\$10/20
 Texas Hold'em - Table 44 (5 max)"

In front of the player "JIMMY-COP" are two cards face up: a Jack and a Six.

There are four cards face up in the middle of the table, no Jack or Six among them. The other four players each have two cards face down.

The fifth card (aka the River Card) is turned face up: it's an Ace. Bets follow and the pot goes to the player nicknamed "COP-FUCKER."

A gray window pops up in the center of the monitor, displaying the text: "JIMMY-COP YOU HAVE INSUFFICIENT FUNDS. WOULD YOU WANT TO BUY MORE CHIPS?"

CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal the backs of two officers staring at the computer monitor. They turn to each other.

SUPER: "NYPD. APRIL 4, 11:35 AM"

Sergeant JIM, late sixties, neurotic, frail, thin hair, bookworm glasses (the Woody Allen type), loses another hand at online poker.

His partner, KEVIN, who is black, thirty-something, overweight, head shaved, looks on in disbelief.

Jim pounds his desk with his fist and turns off the computer.

JIM

Damn thieves! I'm penniless!

KEVIN

This online poker is ruining you, Jim! Why don't you try something else to make money?

Jim sizes the opportunity and strikes an intellectual pose:

JIM

I've tried, Kevin. I wrote the script "Hannah and Her Uncles" but nowadays Hollywood agents have no sense of humor.

KEVIN

We should arrest them stupid agents!

JIM

And force them read my scripts, eh?

The PHONE on his desk RINGS and Jim picks it up.

INTERCUT -- TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JIM
Sergeant Jim, NYPD.

MARIA
(in Romanian;
subtitled)
Give me the Captain, I don't talk
to small potatoes!

Humiliated, Jim turns red as a tomato and can barely reply.

JIM
Um ... err ..., what language is
that, Romanian?

MARIA
(in Romanian;
subtitled)
Yes. Don't you speak Romanian?

JIM
(to Kevin)
Do you speak Romanian?

Now it's Kevin's turn to strike an intellectual pose. A large smile reveals his one gold tooth.

KEVIN
(in Romanian;
subtitled)
But of course. Romanian and Swedish
were my favorite classes in Grade
School.

Jim's eyeglasses rise on top of his forehead.

MARIA
(in English)
No need for an interpreter, you
flatfoot. Do you speak English?

Jim brings his eyeglasses down on his nose with his right hand.

JIM
Yeah. What's up?

MARIA
How come you don't speak Romanian?
What country is that?

JIM
United States.

MARIA
What kind of a baboons' asylum is that? You guys have running water there?

Jim's eyeglasses rise to the top of his forehead.

JIM
Excuse me?

MARIA
Never mind. Listen: I've been robbed.

JIM
That makes two of us.

MARIA
(sobbing)
I'm dead serious.

Jim brings his eyeglasses down on his nose. He mocks Maria's sobbing.

JIM
And I'm dead broke. So what's the story?

MARIA
Some guy stole my panties.

Suddenly interested, Jim picks up a pen.

JIM
When did that happen?

MARIA
Right after he raped me.

JIM
So you want to report a rape!

MARIA
Nope, he did a great job but he left with my panties. A unique collectible.

Jim writes ROBBERY in his notebook and circles the word. He is outraged, purple.

JIM

When did ya say everything happened?

MARIA

Bout five minutes ago.

JIM

Describe him for me: Latino, white, black? Tall? Hair, tattoos? Any particular signs?

MARIA

I didn't see him; I was watching "Tom and Jerry." But I scratched his face and arms, so now he has fresh particular signs.

Jim frantically writes in his notebook, even more agitated, sweating.

JIM

So you courageously defended your body and honor?

MARIA

It wasn't that, you idiot. I'm into rough sex.

JIM

I bet it was a rough experience for you, Miss. Did you check into a hospital?

MARIA

Yeah, I called the local hospital but he's not there. The scratches I gave him are not life threatening.

Jim is puzzled but keeps trying to play it cool.

JIM

We'll get that beast, Miss, I promise.

MARIA

Get your American ass moving, I don't have all day long.

Jim hangs up the phone and turns to Kevin.

JIM
Get me Agent Securiez from Homeland
Security!

INT. BUILDING ONE

Chang sits on a sofa, with a beer in his hand.

CHANG
For Buddha's sake, how the fuck
does this asshole know what beer I
drink and what I smoke?

Christine drinks Heineken and smokes Camel Lights.

CHRISTINE
Same question here. I only drink
Heineken and smoke Camel Lights.
How did he know?

Dan drinks Leffe and smokes Marlboro.

DAN
I'm sure it's more important to
find out how to get out of here.

CHANG
But how can we find out? Do you
have a map that will take us out of
this labyrinth, you Euro trash?

Dan has a poker face but sounds annoyed.

DAN
The Owner said some of us might
survive, you pussified missing
link!

Chang jumps off the sofa and takes two steps towards Dan in
an aggressive manner.

CHANG
What did you call me, you
bull-shevik?

All eyes but Dan's are on Chang. Britney grabs Chang's hand
and holds him. She nervously barks in Chang's face:

BRITNEY
Cut the bull! Dan is right. The
damn Owner said that maximum four
of us can pull out of this hell.

(MORE)

BRITNEY (cont'd)
But it's the minimum that scares
the bejesus out of me.

ANGELA
Right. Let's read the survival kit.
Remember what he said: "The minimum
is zero."

They all gather in front of the "survival kit."

As the text is shown (line by line, from top to bottom), the
Owner is heard (V.O.) reading it.

1. No more than 4 individuals will graduate this test.
Maybe none.

2. Our Dobermans are hungry. The losers will be dog food. It
hurts.

CHRISTINE
(angrily)
Tell me about it ...

3. All you have to do is figure out -- before 4:00 PM --
what car, out of the 4,444 cars in this dealership, will
take you out of the facility. If at 4:00 PM you are not out
of this dealership, it will be your graveyard.

4. To the right of this survival kit you'll notice a 3D
alphabet with all the letters. Each letter is removable and
has a smart magnetic strip on its back.

DAN
If the magnetic strip is as smart
as your ass, you lose ...

5. On the gold table to the left of the fridge are 4 slots.
Place the right 4 letters of the alphabet there. You'll know
when you did it properly.

6. Correctly interpret the symbol that appears; it will save
your life.

7. Now and then, some unfriendly visitors will join you in
this room, so you might want to think and act fast. Use your
brains to survive the attacks or die a gruesome death.

8. A green light above the entrance will let you know when
the room is safe for you to come back.

You were given the right info and time to figure it out. Do
it right or die.

Good luck! Or should I wish you a lucky day?

Even the above last line includes a clue ..."

When all are done reading, the Owner speaks:

OWNER (V.O.)

(over the speakers)

Now I'll answer four of your questions. Don't waste them foolishly. Just talk, I'll hear you.

ANDY

Why us?

OWNER (V.O.)

You all have something in common, something I can creatively use. Don't you watch movies with eccentric guys, stupid?

ANGELA

Do I have to be smart or lucky to get out of here?

OWNER (V.O.)

Both. Two questions left.

DAN

What's in it for you? What do you have to gain?

OWNER (V.O.)

The most important thing in this universe is my comfort! At the top of the list is my intellectual satisfaction, but money always helps one's welfare. Bottom line: If you guys don't solve the puzzle, then I'm smarter than you. If you do solve the puzzle then I'll be much richer than I am now. For me it's a win-win situation.

CHANG

Listen, wacko. What if more than four of us survive your shitty game?

OWNER

Keep this in mind: I always stick to my word.

Speakers CLICK OFF.

INT. BAR - DAY (APRIL 4, 11:45 AM EST)

CLOSEUP - LARGE TV SCREEN

Reverend Dick, holding his "Plan C" sign, is on the podium vehemently warning his audience.

REVEREND DICK
 ... and whoever will dare to have
 sex outside marriage will burn in
 the everlasting fire of hell ...

Some in the audience murmur, while others applaud.

Reverend Dick looks at a group of four in the first row of the seated congregation and signals them with his hand to stand up.

The four called -- MR. and MRS. CLITORICI, their daughter CANDY (blue-eyed angelic-looking blonde, about five years old), and Candy's GRANDMA -- stand up so the rest of the congregation can see them.

REVEREND DICK
 And now please put your hands
 together for the most perfect
 family under the sun: Mr. and Mrs.
 Clitorici, their daughter Candy and
 Mr. Clitorici's mother.

The congregation applauds enthusiastically while Reverend Dick turns his eyes to Candy.

REVEREND DICK
 Candy, sweetheart, do you know what
 the Holy Trinity is?

CANDY
 (all innocent)
 Um ... no, but I know what a
 three-some is ...

Everybody besides Candy is horrified. Total silence.

Candy lightly elbows Grandma in her ribs, to get her attention:

CANDY
 Grandma, grandma!

GRANDMA

Yes, dear?

CANDY

Did I blow it?

GRANDMA

Yes, dear!

From right behind them, a dentally challenged OLD BITCH intervenes with a witchy smile.

OLD BITCH

Grossly, I would add ...

CAMERA pulls back to reveal a smoky, low ceiling, almost full bar bathed in soft light.

SUPER: "PERTH, AUSTRALIA, RAPE 'N RUN BAR. APRIL 4, 11:45 AM EST."

A couple of youths play records (Australian music) on the jukebox.

A relaxed plainclothes detective, JAY BROWN, is on a stool at the bar enamored with the cleavage of the lady next to him.

His eyes go back and forth between the large TV screen and the CHICK.

JAY

(to the chick)

You are the hottest sex toy I've seen since I landed in Australia. Can I buy you a drink?

As she graciously pulls a cigarette out of her purse, she answers Jay with a provocative smile and an Australian accent.

CHICK

What drink are ya thinking of, you li'l dirty mind you?

Jay gentlemanly lights her cigarette.

JAY

Anything that would unzip your fly. Just name it.

CHICK
A Dirty Martini would rhyme with
your state of mind.

JAY
(to the bartender)
A Dirty Martini and another double
Jack.

CHICK
You up for a quickie, or you have a
hotel room?

JAY
I've got a room. You'll love the
dirty jacuzzi.

The bartender nods to a bored patron and changes the TV
channel.

While sipping from his glass, Jay Brown glimpses at the TV
and suddenly becomes interested. He stares at a CNN's
"SECURITY ALERT" and an Anchorwoman talking (we don't hear
her).

He looks incredulous, digs a cell phone from his pocket,
flips it open and makes a call.

INT. JIM'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Jim and Kevin watch porn on the computer.

KEVIN
That's my girl! ...

Jim's PHONE RINGS. He picks it up.

JIM
Sergeant Jim, NYPD.

INTERCUT -- TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JAY
Hi Jim. Remember your ol' pal Jay
Brown?

JIM
What's up, Jay? How are the
Aussies?

JAY
They're great. Hey, listen --

JIM
You guys have running water there?

JAY
Excuse me?

JIM
Never mind. What's up?

JAY
-- Listen, I've just seen it on TV.
Why did you guys raise the security
level?

JIM
Maria has been raped and robbed.

JAY
Who's Maria?

JIM
I don't know but she's fluent in
Romanian.

JAY
Hmm ... did you get the bandit?

JIM
No, but he has scratches on his
face and arms.

Jay looks two tables away and notices a young guy with
scratches on his face and arms.

JAY
(whispering)
I think I got him. He's two tables
away from me.

Shouting like a warrior, arms wide opened, Jay Brown makes a
spectacular jump into the air in the direction of the guy.

FREEZE FRAME.

INT. BUILDING ONE - SAME TIME

The seven captives go to the alphabet. There are twenty-six letters, and each letter has four copies. Each letter is made of green plastic and embedded into a rectangular board.

All boards are identical, so they will fit into the slots on the gold table mentioned in "Line 5" of the survival kit. (See the Explanatory Page at the end of the script.)

BILL

(to the others)

The Owner said that the last line has a clue. And there are three four-letter words there to try.

Bill removes the letters G-O-O-D from the alphabet and sticks them into the four slots on the gold table.

Everybody holds his/her breath. Nothing happens.

The scenario is repeated with the letters L-U-C-K. And again nothing happens ...

CHANG

Fuck!

BILL

(to Chang)

I agree with you that the word "fuck" has four letters, but I don't see it in the last line ...

ANGELA

(to Bill)

But "WISH" is. Try it!

Last chance: Bill tries the letters W-I-S-H, but to no avail.

DAN

The PC is on, it must be part of the game.

On the PC screen: a yellow post-it note. Dan takes the note and reads it aloud.

DAN

"The envelope that is on the gold blade of the fan won't help you solve the puzzle, but you can use it later."

They all look up at the fan, it has four blades: three green and one gold. The blades are spinning at 20 feet above the floor; no way of reaching it without a ladder.

They all turn their eyes from the fan and look around: there is no ladder.

Angela points to the fan.

ANGELA

So who will go up there?

DAN

Fuck that shit. I'm afraid of heights.

BILL

Bullshit. And I'm afraid of spinning.

CHRISTINE

But how could anybody get up there without a ladder? And it won't help us solve the puzzle. Maybe it's not important.

ANDY

I know it's important.

BRITNEY

And how would you know that, did you read the script?

ANDY

Nope ...
(turning pale)
... I wrote it.

All eyes are on Andy.

CHRISTINE

What?!

CHANG

(to Andy)

So you're a screenwriter?

ANDY

Yeah.

BRITNEY

It's getting interesting. I'm also a screenwriter.

CHANG

Me too.

CHRISTINE

(to Andy)

So tell us the whole story!

Andy gestures, theatrical tone and pose, with his hands in the air, clearly pissed off, grave.

ANDY

Holy Dear, is anybody sane here?

CHRISTINE

We are all on the verge of insanity, so spit it out!

CHANG

C'mon, Andy!

ANGELA

So? ... Andy?

ANDY

You guys don't understand. I only wrote the scene with the key on the fan's blade, not the whole story. I have no Dobermans or dealership in my script.

BRITNEY

It's starting to make sense.

DAN

Let it make sense for us too.

BRITNEY

Now I remember that I saw Diana at a screenwriters meeting. She was into the puzzle stuff. That's why she died first, so we have to solve her puzzle by ourselves.

INT. BAR

SUPER: "RAPE 'N RUN BAR. APRIL 4, 11:50 AM EST."

Detective Jay Brown leads the handcuffed guy from the second table to the exit door.

He doesn't seem to notice that all the men in the bar have scratches on their faces and arms. He opens the door and they exit.

INT. JIM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Detective Jay Brown enters with his trophy: INNOCENTIUS, the guy from the Perth bar. The guy is slim, baby-faced and completely baffled.

JAY

Hi Jim. Here's our man.

Jim stands up to shake Jay's hand.

JIM

Well, well ... wellllll ... let's
all have a seat.

Jay uncuffs his suspect and all have a seat around Jim's desk.

JIM

(to Innocentius)

So what's your name, son?

The suspect looks insecure and afraid. His voice shakes.

INNOCENTIUS

Innocentius.

JIM

Lemme guess. You must be a native
of Ecuador.

INNOCENTIUS

You're pretty close, I was born in
Alaska. Why you asking?

Jim drums his fingers on the desk, embarrassed for his missed shot.

JIM

And how did you end up in
Australia?

INNOCENTIUS

I'm a good swimmer.

JIM

Um ... err ... and why did you rape
Maria?

INNOCENTIUS

You kidding me? - I'm as virgin as
your niece Mary.

JAY

So where did you get your scratches
from?

INNOCENTIUS

Uh-huh, this is what happened this
morning.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PERTH - INNOCENTIUS APARTMENT - MORNING

Innocentius gets dressed and goes to the kitchen where he
opens the refrigerator.

In the refrigerator is only a six-pack of Ursus beer. He
pulls the six-pack out, puts it on the kitchen table and
opens a beer.

Then he takes the pack with five beers left to put them back
into the fridge.

As he opens the fridge door, a polar bear bursts out with a
TERRIFYING GROWL and attacks him.

A dramatic fight follows. The whole apartment is trashed.
Despite his slim build and baby face, Innocentius is a hell
of a fighter.

He defends himself with everything within his reach: chairs,
a crystal vase, a table, a heavy crystal ashtray, while
using his feet to kick the bear in a spectacular martial
arts display.

Although the bear's paws take a toll on Innocentius, the
baby-face manages to step back to his bedroom and pulls a
grenade launcher from under his pillow.

The bear instantly chickens out and runs back into the
refrigerator to take cover.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JIM'S OFFICE

JAY

(to Innocentius)

You're not lying to us, are you?

Innocentius pulls a grenade launcher from under his coat and
loudly drops it on Jim's desk.

INNOCENTIUS
Not one letter, sir.

Jim points a finger at Innocentius.

JIM
(to Jay Brown)
So ... um ... err ... obviously
it's not him.

JAY
(defeated, desolated)
Obviously! I hate these damn bears
that interfere with honest police
work!

JIM
(to Innocentius)
Sorry for the inconvenience, sir.
You're free to leave.

INNOCENTIUS
May I use the restroom, please?

JIM
Sure. In the hall, second door on
the left.

INT. POLICE STATION - HALLWAY

Innocentius leaves Jim's office, walks down the hallway and
opens the second door on the left.

Jim runs up from behind him with the grenade launcher in his
hands. Exasperated and breathing heavily, he comes to a stop
and hands the launcher to Innocentius.

JIM
Hey, don't ya leave illegal stuff
in my office, man! I need my job. I
have a 5 foot 200 pound wife and
four kids ...

Baffled to the bone, Innocentius takes the grenade launcher
from Jim and can barely articulate:

INNOCENTIUS
Oh, thanks.

Innocentius enters

THE RESTROOM

and closes the door behind him.

Innocentius pulls his pants down. He wears red, yellow and blue panties with the logo on the buttocks, "KISS AND IMPALE." The tag is still hanging on ...

INT. BUILDING ONE

Dan goes to the fridge, picks up a long and slim smoked sausage and another Leffe, and slips something into his uniform right pocket.

He sniffs the sausage.

DAN

Yummy, this baby is as smoked as a politician in hell.

The very next second: a WILD BARKING from behind a door which happens to be opened. The four Dobermans storm into the room.

EXT. CAR DEALERSHIP

The captives run outside, tripping over Diana's body. The dogs are not chasing them beyond Diana. The Dobermans stop at Diana and begin eating her body.

All but Andy duck down behind a van.

He runs terrified through the maze until he finds himself at Building Two.

INT. BUILDING TWO

Andy runs inside to hide. The room is immense. He looks around and tries to calm down.

ANDY

(to himself)

A phone, where is a damn phone?

But there is no "damn phone."

SPLIT SCREEN -- 3 FRAMES

1) Andy wanders throughout the room.

2) The Owner stares at one of the eight monitors on the desk in front of him. Lips curling up in a sinister smile, he presses a button, whereupon...

3) A red boot kicks the ass of a napping red truck Driver. The driver jolts awake, glances around, confused, then seems to remember himself.

He snatches a red hot pepper from a jar on the table nearby, lifts the rope-like tail off the leathery backside of some massive gray beast, and shoves the pepper up its anus.

END SPLIT SCREEN

A 3,000 lb rhino smashes through a wall and thunders after Andy, obliterating everything in its path.

Andy runs to what looks like a regular room door, opens it and his jaw drops: It is a refrigerator with everything a fridge would have inside, although the door seemed to be a regular one that would let you into the next room.

ANDY

Omygod! What the fuck?!

The horrible rhino has a Mike Tyson style tattoo around his left eye and is furiously charging toward Andy.

Andy takes a turn and the rhino follows close behind.

Andy turns a corner and freezes: In front of him is a sexy female rhino with pink makeup and huge false eyelashes.

Behind Andy, the male rhino stops, looks at the female and his heart begins to pound.

Andy slightly recovers from the horror of the chase and silently steps away from between the rhino lovers.

One step ... the second ... the third ...

Andy stops four steps back, at a somewhat safe distance from the male rhino, to thank God for saving his life. He puts his hands together in prayer and turns his eyes toward heaven.

(Heavenly lightened scene, everything looks so peaceful since Andy finally found God ...)

Suddenly the roof collapses and the green bus with huge tires falls right on his head.

Andy is dead.

The two rhinos stare stupefied at the bus and then raise their eyes to the hole in the ceiling.

EXT. DEALERSHIP - BEHIND THE VAN - CONTINUOUS

Behind the van, the captives breath heavily. Bill, Chang and Dan stare at the Dobermans' feast.

The ladies avert their eyes and cover their faces.

CHANG

So, Andy, tell us what the story is
in the fan scene.

No answer. Everybody looks around: There is no Andy.

CHRISTINE

Did Andy run out with us?

BILL

Fuck knows. But we've gotta find
him.

DAN

If he wrote the fan scene he may be
as dead as Diana right now. You
know, following the same logic.

ANGELA

What freaking logic?

DAN

The one that says that we won't get
answers on a silver platter. We
have to use our brains.

CHANG

(to Dan)

What a stupid scenario! Don't tell
me you're also a screenwriter.

DAN

(to Chang)

Aren't we all? Whatta fuck d'ya
think we all have in common, my
uncle Dracula? You still don't get
it.

Chang smokes nervously.

CHANG

Get what, Buddha dammit? Speak
English!

DAN

It looks like the Owner clipped out scenes from our scripts and created a brand new and distorted one. If so, then I'm sure he added his own salt 'n pepper.

CHRISTINE

(to Dan)

It makes sense so far, although I hope you're wrong.

CHANG

(to Christine)

Whatta hell are you barking about?

CHRISTINE

I wrote about a gruesome crocodile attack and I'm so happy I don't see a body of water around.

ANGELA

Did you all send your works to a screenplay contest lately?

Everybody nods.

BILL

But plenty of people do that.

DAN

Plenty indeed, but I'll bet you all have an eccentric guy in your script. I do.

Everybody nods in agreement.

BRITNEY

(to Dan)

Oh gee, how many screenplays did you write?

DAN

Only one. I'm not looking for glory. All I need is my ten million bucks and someone to introduce me to Jessica Alba.

CHRISTINE

Nice attitude. What did you write about?

DAN

A group of anthropologists doing excavations at the Dracula's Castle and discovering a demented virus. A mad scientist from the team steals the virus and spreads it through smoked sausages that are sold all over the U.S.

ANGELA

Shit! How demented is the virus?

DAN

Whoever gets the virus will bite healthy people on the neck, and guess what? Will infect them. And so on ...

BILL

Did anybody eat anything from the fridge?

All eyes turn to Dan who is chewing on his smoked sausage. Dan holds up what's left of it.

DAN

(to Angela)

It's good. Wanna bite?

Angela backs up two steps, terrified. Everybody gives Dan a suspicious look.

The green light above Building One's door turns on and signals the Dobermans to silently disappear into the maze.

BRITNEY

We've got the green. Should we go back in?

Nobody answers.

They look at each other and then, no words exchanged, head towards Building One entrance.

INT. ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Reverend Dick, holding up his "Plan C" sign, explains to the ENGINEER:

REVEREND DICK

My Mercedes-Benz is already eight months old and I can use a new one.

(MORE)

REVEREND DICK (cont'd)

So I want to clearly explain my Holy Trinity concept to people so they will contribute more money to the church.

The Engineer shows Dick a video clip on his computer.

The clip shows a large vertical cardboard with the text "Plan A."

Wind blows it down and in the very next second a large cardboard with the text "Plan B" stands up vertical in the same spot.

ENGINEER

The wind is a metaphor for evil, the villain, the adverse action that your Plan C has to defeat.

Wind blows this one down too, but a second later a new cardboard (same size with the previous two) with the text "Plan C" stands up vertical, also in the same spot.

The wind gives up defeated.

ENGINEER

Is this what you need?

REVEREND DICK

It sure is. Now I want you to build this working stuff so I can make a live demonstration in front of my congregation on April fourth.

Dick and the Engineer vigorously shake hands, like in a TV commercial where the customer and the merchant just concluded the perfect deal.

ENGINEER

Deal.

INT. BUILDING ONE

The six still alive writers gather again into Building One trying to solve the puzzle.

BILL

I don't see any damn clue, sorry. Fuck this shit! Any geniuses around?

DAN

Let's try and figure something out.
This car dealership owner has quite
an exotic sense of humor.

Angela sips coffee from a plastic cup.

ANGELA

But how do we know he'll let us go
once we solve the puzzle?

DAN

We don't. Sorry for the cliché, but
what do we have to lose if we try?
To paraphrase a movie title, we
should get out or die trying.

BILL

Did you guys notice the obsessive
number four all over this story?

CHANG

Sure did. Let's build something on
the fuckin' four.

Christine fills a cup of coffee and goes to the fridge. She
looks inside but doesn't find what she's looking for.

CHRISTINE

(to Angela)

Did you take the whipped cream from
the fridge?

ANGELA

Nope. I always drink black coffee.

CHRISTINE

Hmm ... I could swear I saw it
earlier ...

Dan goes to the blackboard, grabs some chalk and writes on
the blackboard as he speaks.

DAN

So let's see ... four men and four
women. 4,444 cars in this
dealership. And the time limit to
solve the puzzle is 4:00 PM.

CHRISTINE

Four again, eh?

DAN
And today is what date?

CHANG
April fourth.

DAN
What month, you red anus ape?

CHANG
April, as I said, you airhead! Are you drunk from two beers?

DAN
Nope, you unexplored vagina! We were talking about the number four, remember? So it's not April per se that matters, but the fact that April is the fourth month of the year, you intoxicated half neuron.

ANGELA
So out of twelve months a year has, April is the fourth one ...

DAN
And out of the twenty-six letters in the alphabet, we are looking for the ...?...

ANGELA
The fourth one?

DAN
Which happens to be the letter "D".

BRITNEY
What about the other three letters?

DAN
Who said the letters have to be distinct? Why do you think each letter has four copies? Why not one, or two, or three, or five, or nine copies?

Dan removes all four letters "D" from the alphabet and sticks them into the slots on the gold table.

The letters begin to blink.

Under the table glass top, a fifth element shaped like a tail begins to blink. By itself, the fifth element looks like a tail and, when blinking, it looks like a wagging tail.

After a few seconds all five elements (i.e., the four letters and the tail) turn to solid green in the shape of a four-leaf clover. (See the Explanatory Page at the end of the script.)

Angela stares at the symbol, mesmerized.

ANGELA

Four letters and a tail.

CHANG

Let's hope it brings good luck to our ... fairy tale.

DAN

This is precisely what I always wanted to be part of: a fairy tale wagging its tail ...

Bright smile, Christine's eyes are full of hope.

CHRISTINE

So this is it!

DAN

We found the symbol, now we have to read it. And we're running out of time ...

BRITNEY

There are four "D"s generating a four-leaf clover and the word "leaf" has four letters.

DAN

Puke off, Britney. I think I grabbed it by the balls.

ANGELA

And who's "it"? Chang?

CHANG

What now?

DAN

Although he barely resembles a human, Chang is not an "it", Angela. He's a dickless Vietnamese that ain't got no balls.

CHANG
 (angrily; to Dan)
 Chinese, you king of morons!

DAN
 (continuing)
 "It" is the idea. You guys check
 this out.

All eyes are on Dan.

DAN
 So far we have a "4" and a "D".

Dan writes "4D" on the blackboard.

Dan explains as he writes on the blackboard: 4 ME, FOR ME,
4, FOR, 4GET, FORGET, and FOR again.

DAN
 (continuing)
 They write 4 ME, which means FOR
 ME, where number 4 stands for the
 word FOR; they also write 4GET,
 which means FORGET, and again
 number 4 stands for the word FOR.
 Due to the Internet, hundreds of
 millions of people know that.

BILL
 (interrupting)
 That's also true for foreplay.

Dan gives Bill a funny look.

DAN
 (beat)
 Now, look here.

Dan writes the word "FOR" on a sheet of paper and covers the
 number "4" on what he previously wrote on the board: "4D."

Everybody eyes the word: "FORD."

BRITNEY
 So we need a FORD to take us out of
 here?

DAN
 I believe so, but which one?

All eyes turn to Bill who sits in front of the PC.

DAN
(to Bill)
Do a search for Ford on the PC.

BILL
I did. There are 444 Fords in this dealership. We need more info to narrow it down.

Christine walks to the "Survival Kit" list and raises her hand like a student. Since nobody looks at her, she clears her throat to get everybody's attention.

CHRISTINE
So what about the Owner's last line? He said it contains a clue.

Bill turns his eyes from Christine to the gold table and points to the symbol.

BILL
Indeed! This symbol doesn't look like a pizza to me. It's a four-leaf clover, the best-known lucky charm in the world.

DAN
(to Bill)
Did you just say "lucky"?

BILL
Yup, everybody and Chang's mother knows this lucky charm.

CHANG
What now?

Dan approaches the "Survival Kit" and points to the word "lucky" in the last line.

DAN
(to Bill)
Can you do a search on the internet?

BILL
(pointing to the PC)
Only Google and the inventory of this place are working.

DAN
Then Google "lucky Ford."

Bill types in the search and then scrolls down to a link.

BILL
I've got it.

DAN
What year, model and color? And,
most important: WHERE?

BILL
Shut up, this is it. I'm looking in
the inventory.

DAN
Did ya get it?

BILL
Yeah, only one in this dealership.
Now get your asses over here to see
where.

All gather together in front of the PC.

ANGELA
So it's a 1944 green Ford GPW in
the ... what else? ... Building
Four showroom.

CHRISTINE
But of course it had to be in
Building Four. Isn't everything
about stupid number 4 in this
idiotic game?

Dan points to the right of the screen.

DAN
Paydirt! And here's the map to
Building Four.

Bill grabs a pencil and draws the map on a sheet of paper.

CHRISTINE
So we're ready to go.

Dan starts coughing, his body violently shaking.

DAN
Or are we?

ANGELA
(to Dan)
What do you mean? Let's freaking
go!

Dan's cough gets worse. He runs behind a curtain and tries to vomit but can't.

The others exchange frightened looks.

After two seconds of total silence, Dan, with unnaturally wide-open eyes, hair in disarray and white stuff around his mouth, runs from behind the curtain straight at Britney. He grabs her by the shoulders and bites her neck.

Everybody but Britney, who is paralyzed by fear, panics and tries to take cover.

Angela has such a fright that she jumps straight up to the ceiling fan and hangs there by a green blade next to the gold one. And she keeps rotating with the blade.

Dan drops the passed out Britney on a nearby chair and looks up at Angela.

DAN
(to Angela)
Okay, now grab the envelope from
the top of the gold blade.

Angela reaches the envelope, while barely holding on, and drops it into Dan's hands. She almost loses her grip and screams.

Dan opens the envelope, pulls out a key that looks like a car key and holds it up for everyone to see. His eyes are back to normal.

DAN
Did you ding heads forget that Andy
said the stuff from the fan's gold
blade is important?

CHRISTINE
Don't listen to him! He ingested
the Dracula's virus from the smoked
sausage. Just look at the white
foam around his mouth!

Dan wipes his mouth with his sleeve, pulls the missing whipped cream can from his pocket and tosses it into Christine's hands; her jaw drops.

BILL
(to Dan)
Dracula's smoked virus, huh?

Dan stoically endures dirty looks for his prank.

An exhausted Angela still rotates with the fan.

ANGELA
Heeey, you guys! Get me down!

DAN
(to Angela)
Why should I? Will ya introduce me
to Jessica Alba?

ANGELA
(desperate)
C'mon, asshole! I'll do you good.
Whatever you want.

DAN
Whatever, huh? Okay, jump. I'll
catch you.

With no energy left to hold on, Angela lets herself fall.
Dan catches her but she passes out in his arms.

Dan puts Angela on a chair next to the other passed out:
Britney.

Bill looks concerned for the two passed out ladies.

BILL
Somebody bring some water. We're
running out of time.

Christine heads for the fridge.

CHRISTINE
I'll bring some ice.

DAN
(to Chang)
So, what's your screenplay about?

CHANG
Oh my Buddha, it's about a T-Rex
traveling in time with an
anti-smoking message. But
eventually all the dinosaurs die of
lung cancer.

BILL
(to Chang)
You nuts, or what? Everybody knows
that the Jews killed the dinosaurs.

Everybody gives Chang a funny look as if to say, "Yeah,
right!"

DAN

Now I love you, dear Chang. There
is no way a T --

That very moment, before Dan can finish to fully spell
"T-Rex": a wide-opened mouth T-Rex crashes into the room
with a HORRIFYING ROAR.

EXT. BUILDING ONE - CONTINUOUS

Black clouds cover the sun. Light rain.

They are all six in front of the building, sweating and
gasping for breath.

The T-Rex desperately tries to find a way out, being too
large for the door and windows.

BILL

Holy shit!

CHANG

What happened? How did we all get
out?

Christine's hair and makeup are a mess because of the sweat
and rain.

CHRISTINE

I have no clue ... I remember going
for some ice. Next thing I know I'm
here.

DAN

(to Chang)

You fucking Korean --

CHANG

(interrupting)

Chinese, you sausage sucker!

DAN

-- Why didn't you use your
marinated neurons, all two of them,
to write about Snow White?

Angela is on her back, her hands in the air as if still
holding the fan.

ANGELA

Will anybody take me off this
thing?

CHANG

(to Dan)

'Cuz we don't have the Snow White story in the village I was born. It ain't fuckin' snowing there ...

ANGELA

Dan, just take me down. I'll never refuse your sausage again.

Britney is frozen in the air as if sitting on a chair; only there is no chair. Her voice sounds like it's from a distant planet.

BRITNEY

Am I a zombie?

Dan has had more than enough.

DAN

Okay, everybody! Let's go! NOW!

Christine tries to push herself up from the ground but instead feels something wet and sticky.

CHRISTINE

Why is the ground wet and sticky?

She looks down and notices, near whatever little remained from Diana after the Dobermans' feast, a contorted pile of flesh covered by a bloodied uniform.

Christine screams so loud that Angela and Britney completely snap out of their deliriums.

The men come together and read the name on the blood soaked uniform: Andy.

DAN

Poor Andy ...

(to Bill)

Let's see the map and go to Building Four!

BILL

I have no damn map. The Tyrannosaurus scared the crap out of me.

CHANG

What?

BILL
(to Chang)
The map is in front of the
computer. You go get it.
(exploding)
And don't forget to shove your
pickle up that frigging T-Rex ass.

Completely recovered, Britney checks her watch.

BRITNEY
Holy shit, it's 3:32! We're fucked.

DAN
We know the car and where it is, we
have the key, and we can see
Building Four. Let's give it a try,
you crybabies!

ANGELA
Dan is right, we've gotta try.

A SOUND from afar. It grows louder. LOUDER. And LOUDER.

The ground starts to shake as if some animals are stampeding
toward them.

It's clearly not the T-Rex who is trapped inside Building
One.

Chang points with his finger to count how many aisles start
from their location in front of Building One.

CHANG
So which aisle should we go for? I
count eight of 'em.

All eyes turn to Dan.

DAN
What the fuck are you all staring
at me for? Do I have a bad hair
day? In a cheap movie they'd
say, "Any aisle is better than no
aisle!" But I'm into blockbusters
only.

The DOGS' BARKING gets closer, while the ground continues to
shake. They all wait, paralyzed by the absence of a
life-saving idea.

Chang's shirt suddenly pops open revealing a PHOTO with
skinny arms and legs. The photo jumps down and runs CRYING
under the nearest car.

This freaks Bill out so bad that he jumps into Britney's arms and simultaneously dives his hand into her pants.

Angela jumps straight up onto the roof of Building One, while the rest of them, but Chang, stand petrified.

Dan recovers in a second or two.

DAN

What the fuck was that?

CHANG

My son's picture. I call it HALF, cuz he's only half a man, just a kid. I always have it in my wallet. He's my baby ...

Pale and shaking, Christine can barely speak.

CHRISTINE

(to Chang)

So what happened?

CHANG

After I took my baby to the theater to see Jurassic Park, he developed an allergy to T-Rex.

Everybody stares at Chang, then at the T-Rex stuck in Building One. Britney drops Bill to the ground and raises her hands in the air, mimicking Andy.

BRITNEY

Holy Dear, is anybody sane here?

ANGELA

(from the roof)

Heeey! I can see the shortest way to Building Four.

DAN

(to Christine)

Never thought that my guardian angel will lecture me from the roof.

(to Angela)

Make it shorter!

ANGELA

It's the third aisle from the left. And at the first intersection we take a left and follow the orange line.

CHANG
(to Angela)
What's the color of the line to the
exit of this dealership?

Angela looks around to be sure.

ANGELA
There are only four colors, one for
each building.

DAN
Okay, let's run!

ANGELA
Daaan, get me down! Remember I'm
the right ... chef for your
sausage?

Dan holds his arms out and catches her.

From aisle two the male rhino charges them, tries to stop,
but can't and goes smashing into Building One, creating a
large hole in the wall.

Through the space just created the T-Rex comes outside as
furious as it takes.

BILL
Let's take aisle four! It's the
narrowest one, so the T-Rex can't
follow us.

They take off for the aisle four, only to have the Dobermans
storm out of another aisle and collide with the female
rhino.

The male rhino, still dizzy after the accident, eyes the
Dobermans on his sweetie and breaks through another wall to
save her.

Behind the male rhino, Building One collapses into a cloud
of dust.

A fight ignites between the Dobermans and the male rhino,
while the T-Rex tries to follow the fugitives. But Bill was
right: aisle four is too narrow to accommodate the
Tyrannosaurus.

AERIAL VIEW

The T-Rex chooses aisle five. The T-Rex tries to use his
tallness and long neck to pick up at least one fugitive
running in aisle four, but has no luck.

The Dobermans and male rhino suddenly stop their fight and look around: there's nobody else in the opening. They make their mind and rush into the maze.

At some of the intersections of the maze everybody bumps into everybody, but amazingly the humans make it out.

The beasts, when bump into each other, fight ferociously against each other, but then remember about the humans and restart their chase.

Suddenly the fugitives get out of the maze into an open space similar to the one in front of Building One. In front of them there is a two-story building, and from behind them the beasts are catching up.

They all run to the entrance of the building and Bill opens the door.

INT. BUILDING THREE - CONTINUOUS

Once inside, the door closes behind them with a metallic, sinister bang. Bill reaches for the knob, but there isn't one.

They stare around with bad news looks and concerned expressions.

BILL

Why do I have a bad feeling about
this place?

ANGELA

What a revealing day, Bill. I would
have never guessed we'd ever have
the same shitty feeling.

They are at the bottom of what it looks like an empty swimming pool. The first floor is all a swimming pool with the entrance -- the one that they used to enter -- at the bottom.

From the second story ceiling a thick rope hangs down, three feet down into the pool.

The pool is square, 15 foot deep and with rounded edges.

Eight feet above the bottom, on the vertical centerline of each of the four vertical walls of the pool there is a hole three feet in diameter. Each hole is the open end of a tunnel, covered by a gate of four parallel metal bars.

And behind each gate is a crocodile ...

CHANG

Them crocodiles must be of plastic.
They don't move and have their eyes
closed.

CHRISTINE

Oh shit, I can't believe this! This
is the toughest scene in my
screenplay.

Suddenly four torrents of water pour out of the holes. The
crocs open their eyes and grow angry.

As slow as the level of water rises in the pool, the
gates slide up.

BRITNEY

(to Christine)

Don't tell me the crocs will be
released.

CHRISTINE

They sure will.

BRITNEY

But how did the crocs get in there
anyway?

CHRISTINE

(to Britney)

They came in through some tunnels
from somewhere outside this
building. Obviously nobody pushed
them backwards into their spots
from inside the pool --

BILL

What stupid tunnels, where do they
start?

CHRISTINE

-- In my script, the tunnels start
in a lake where the crocs are fed
and taken care of. But here we are
dealing with a different story.

BRITNEY

(to Christine)

How do you know?

CHRISTINE

In my script the crocodile scene
takes place in a Water-World Park.

(MORE)

CHRISTINE (cont'd)
Here we are in a car dealership.
Did you see any lake or river? I
didn't.

DAN
So what can we do? Tell us what you
wrote!

CHRISTINE
(points to the rope)
See that rope hanging from the
center of the ceiling? Whoever can
reach that rope should be able to
swing over to the second floor.

CHANG
It's pretty fuckin' high the damn
down end of the rope.

CHRISTINE
Yeah, twelve feet high. We'll have
to help each other out.

DAN
What about the last one?

CHRISTINE
There are two lifesaving items in
this building: The rope and that
four foot tall chair on the second
floor. The chair is heavy and won't
float, no matter the level of the
water. The last one has to use the
chair. He might even have to jump a
little to reach the rope. But we
have to move fast, the crocs will
join us in no time ...

DAN
(to Angela)
You go first!

Everybody helps Angela to reach the rope. Once outside the
pool, Angela tosses the chair down and Bill skillfully
catches it.

The level of the water is constantly rising and so are the
four gates.

BRITNEY
So the reptiles will all get out at
the same time?

CHRISTINE

No. The crocs are four different sizes and will get out of the gates from the smallest one to the largest one, in that order.

CHANG

Who's next?

DAN

(to Christine)

It's you!

Christine rolls up her sleeves revealing the dog bites; she's desolated.

CHRISTINE

I have no strength in my arms. I'll never make it.

Chang has had too much.

CHANG

(to Christine)

Shut da fuck up and don't waste our time! Just do what Dan said!

Tears roll down Christine's cheeks, as she tries to say something but she's just overwhelmed and unable to argue.

Dan hugs Christine and whispers in her ear.

DAN

Just try. Please, just try!

She smiles a hopeless smile then kisses Dan on his lips. She whispers something in his ear that no one else can hear.

Then aloud:

CHRISTINE

Now that I've kissed a man for the last time ...

Dan tries to speak but Christine stops him by pressing her forefinger against his lips. She shakes her head as if ready for anything.

CHRISTINE

Okay, I'm ready. Let's try.

The men help Christine to the rope. She grabs the rope and tries to swing over to the edge of the pool, but falls back into the water.

The water level is rising and the smallest croc sticks his head out of the gate, struggling to get free.

DAN
Britney, you're next!

Bill, Chang and Dan help Britney to the rope.

Britney grabs the rope and swings pretty good, but doesn't release it at the proper moment so she hits the edge of the pool and slips back into the water. She's left hurt and bleeding.

The water keeps rising; the first croc is almost out.

CHANG
Bill, you're next! Move, move,
move, for Buddha's sake!

Chang and Dan help Bill to the rope and he makes it out.

While unsuccessfully trying to keep his composure, Chang turns to Dan.

CHANG
Now you go! Sell your script and
have fun with your Jessica.

While clearly surprised by Chang's offer, Dan plays it cool.

DAN
Don't be a stupid Mongol --

CHANG
(interrupting)
Chinese, if you please!

DAN
(continuing)
-- We have no time for drama here.
I'm taller than you, so I have a
better chance using the chair to
reach the rope.

The water is now four feet high and the first croc plunges into the pool.

Britney and Christine take cover behind the two men.

The croc stops in front of the group, not knowing who to attack first.

CHRISTINE
We're history.

BRITNEY
Shut up and pray!

CHRISTINE
Why should I? Ain't I prey enough?

Dan grabs the chair by its legs, ready to swing it at the croc.

DAN
This chair is a hell of a piece of metal. Quite heavy. I can K.O. this silly lizard.

Dan savagely hits the croc in the head with the seat of the chair. He hits it again in the eyes.

Blood comes out of the croc's eyes. The reptile turns to the opposite corner of the pool and drops to the bottom.

The writers hold a moment of silence, as if they've just lost a good friend.

DAN
(to Christine)
Let's try again!

CHRISTINE
No way. You'll all die because of me.

Christine points to the hole the first croc came out from.

CHRISTINE
My only chance is that tunnel. Remember, all tunnels lead to a safe place for whoever can make it through.

Christine hugs Dan and murmurs something in his ear.

DAN
Just do your best to kiss me again at the other end of the tunnel. Good luck!

Chang and Dan help Christine get into the tunnel, where the level of the water is about one foot high. They push her as hard as they can, but her feet are still sticking out.

She struggles against the water coming through the tunnel, but is unable to move forward.

The men return to the center of the pool.

DAN
(to Chang)
Now you go out or you'll join the
croc at the bottom!

Chang's eyes are red, as he barely holds back his tears.

CHANG
Good luck, brother!

Dan helps Chang grab the rope.

Chang makes it out but now the water is five feet high. The second croc plunges in.

The reptile looks at Dan and Britney, then turns its head to see Christine's feet moving erratically just about two inches outside the first tunnel.

Christine is trying to move forward, deeper into the tunnel, but she's quite in a bad shape.

The croc creeps closer to Christine, then jumps and bites her feet, dragging her back into the pool. She gives up with a TERRIFYING SCREAM. The croc starts rotating with its prey. The water turns red with blood.

DAN
(to Britney)
You're hurt. Your only chance is a
tunnel.

BRITNEY
I know. Push me into the second
one. The first one is bad luck.

The water is now at six feet.

Dan pushes Britney into the second tunnel as the third croc dives into the pool.

The third croc starts fighting with the second croc over Christine's body. Her body is torn to pieces.

Dan retreats to the farthest corner from the fight, with a grim expression. The chair is still in his hands. He looks to the rope but there is no way he could get to the center of the pool: the crocs are fighting right there.

The fourth croc plunges into the pool. The last and largest croc easily wins the battle over Christine's body, so the second and third crocs become really interested in Dan.

They slowly approach: one from the left, one from the right.

Dan remembers something and brightens up. He reaches for the key.

DAN
Hey, Bill!

Bill can't answer. He's frozen in fear. Chang is also mute.

Dan sets the chair down on the bottom of the pool, steps up on the top of it and tosses the key into Bill's hand.

DAN
Good luck, you guys! And drive safely.

Both crocs descend upon Dan, mouths wide.

Angela takes four steps backwards, two to the right, to find the right angle.

Chang looks puzzled at Angela but can't even begin to ask what she's doing.

ANGELA
(to Dan)
Can you handle any more bad news, Dan?

DAN
What, does the left croc have bad breath?

Angela runs like a steam towards the pool.

ANGELA
You ain't done paying taxes, whether you hate me or not!

As she makes a spectacular and very risky jump to reach precisely the bottom end of the rope:

ANGELA
(continuing; while in the air)
Grab my leeeeeegs!

Dan grabs her legs and is pulled away just as the two crocs pounce. The beasts smack into each other and tear into a horrible fight.

Angela and Dan make it out to safety.

Chang, tears rolling down his cheeks, gives Dan a bear hug.

DAN
(to Chang)
Now, "for Buddha's sake", may I
kiss the ... bride?

Chang smiles and steps back. Dan gives Angela a French kiss.

BILL
What happened to Britney?

Everybody looks down into the pool. The water is at eight feet now.

Left without prey, the second and third crocs stop their fight and look disoriented. Then the third croc enters the second tunnel.

Seconds later: a HORRIFIED Britney's SCREAM (quite similar to Christine's, when she was grabbed by the second croc).

ANGELA
Oh shit! NOOOOO!

Dan checks his watch.

DAN
Nine more minutes. Let's run!

BILL
Run where?

Dan grabs Bill and brings him over to a window.

DAN
There's the orange line and there's
Building Four. We're pretty close.

Angela turns her eyes from the pool and looks out the window.

ANGELA
Yeah, the second aisle from the
right is the shortest way to the
orange line.

Chang regains his composure. He joins them at the window.

CHANG

Indeed! We can make it. Let's
fuckin' go!

Dan opens the window and the three men jump out first.

EXT. DEALERSHIP - CONTINUOUS

Beneath the window, Dan catches Angela. They run to the second aisle from the right and reach the orange line.

They notice the T-Rex in the distance having trouble in the maze.

ANGELA

(worried)

You think he'll figure out how to
get us?

DAN

No way. Relax. You can't teach an
old T-Rex new ... mazes.

They follow the orange line running as fast as they can, getting closer to Building Four. At an intersection, when they need to turn right to follow the line, they see the male rhino galloping straight toward them. They panic.

ANGELA

The rhino!

CHANG

Fuck!

DAN

This way!

They run straight, then start making random turns to try and lose the rhino.

EXT. BEHIND BUILDING FOUR

The maze ends as they storm into the open at the back of Building Four.

The back of Building Four has no door: it's just a huge wall of reflective tinted glass.

Bill happily pulls "the key" out of his pocket.

BILL
Okay, let's get in and check the
Ford's muscles!

CHANG
You stupid, or what? How do we get
in? Show us the door!

Bill eventually has a closer look at the back wall of the building. He's suddenly unsure.

BILL
Door? What door?! You mean there is
no door?

DAN
No silly door. This must be the
back of Building Four.

They look around trying to evaluate the situation.

ANGELA
Damn it, only one aisle!

CHANG
What now?

DAN
The only way out of here is the
aisle we just left.

BILL
And I have the damn feeling that
the rhino is coming precisely down
that aisle.

Bill is right. The male rhino runs into the open breathing heavily.

Bill points and yells:

BILL
Now we're fucked! I bet all the
beasts will be here soon 'cuz they
follow the scent of this moronic
rhino.

DAN
I'll pick up the female rhino.
Who'll befriend the popular T-Rex?

Nobody laughs. Angela takes Dan's hand.

One by one the other animals come out of the aisle into the open.

The beasts catch their breath, preparing for the final assault, deciding which prey to choose.

The humans are resigned.

Dan tries to light up a Marlboro but his cigarettes are wet. Angela gives him one of hers. They all light up, one last time.

Like at a signal, the beasts begin to approach the four smokers, when something completely freezes the animals.

The BACK WALL of Building Four TINTED GLASS EXPLODES as the Ford GPW lands (coming through the glass wall) between the animals and the humans.

At the wheel of the Ford, Britney is all smiles.

BRITNEY

C'mon, get your sorry asses in! We
still have time!

As if on remote control, the three men and Angela all jump in the Ford, which is convertible.

INT./EXT. FORD

Britney hits the gas and weaves past the animals towards the only aisle available.

When the Ford passes by the male rhino, the beast tries to bite off Bill's head, but, out of nowhere, Half (the picture of Chang's boy) jumps on the top of the rhino's rear end.

Half runs up the back of the animal towards its head and jumps onto Chang's right shoulder.

Distracted by Half's acrobatics, the rhino only succeeds in biting Bill's right ear off. The Ford makes it to the aisle.

Angela removes her bra to bandage Bill with it. A T-Rex is tattooed on her left boob. The live T-Rex spots the tattoo and his jaw drops.

A spot of blood immediately soaks the bandage-bra where it covers Bill's missing ear.

CHANG

(to Britney)

So your tunnel ended in Building
Four, but how did ya make it here
so fast?

BRITNEY

Ever had a croc on your tail trying
to score a date with you?

Britney hands Dan a map while speeding through the maze.

BRITNEY

(to Dan)

This map was on the driver's seat.
You give directions.

Dan, in the passenger seat, starts guiding the way.

DAN

Left, left, straight, right.

ANGELA

Unbelievable! Does the map have any
instructions?

DAN

Yes, it's half map and half
instructions. Why?

ANGELA

See those four red lights above the
car's clock? We have to turn them
all green, one by one by precisely
following the map and the
instructions.

The car's clock shows the current time: 3:59:40.

CHANG

(to Angela)

Or what?

ANGELA

Or the car will explode.

BILL

(to Angela)

So this is a scene from your
script?

Angela nods yes.

CHANG

So we'll jump out the car as soon as we're out of the dealership.

ANGELA

We can't. The seats we're sitting on are booby-trapped. If anybody removes his weight from his seat, the car will explode. But when all four red lights turn green, we're safe.

BILL

How do the lights turn green?

ANGELA

(to Dan)

Is there a time marked on the map at a certain location?

DAN

Yes, it's 4:14. The instructions say we have to drive through Intersection X at exactly 4:14. And wait, I see a second intersection has a time marked on it. The instructions say we have to be there no later than 4:20.

AERIAL VIEW - DEALERSHIP EXIT

The Ford and the animals rush toward the dealership exit.

The car's clock shows 3:59:55 when the Ford emerges from the maze as they head toward the exit.

The exit gates begin to close but Britney manages to squeeze through in the last second.

They speed toward the Rocky River Forest. The animals are left behind, tired and frustrated, behind the closed gates.

BACK TO FORD

ANGELA

(to Bill)

The car has a radio receiver. There are four radio transmitters in four different locations that we'll drive by if we follow the directions. Each time we pass a transmitter, the radio receiver will turn a red light into a green one.

CHANG

This is fuckin' insane! And Dan was complaining about my T-Rex!

DAN

I couldn't agree more, Chang. I showed her the difference between French fries and a French kiss, and she rewards me by booby-trapping my sorry ass!

BILL

(to Britney)

And your script was about what?

BRITNEY

A bloody robbery.

EXT. NYC JEWELRY STORE - ESTABLISHING - SAME TIME

The jewelry store is on the corner of a street in a high-class neighborhood. Both walls facing the sidewalk have a floor-to-ceiling glass display window.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - CONTINUOUS

Red Hair is in the store, dressed in a J uniform.

He wanders around while talking to ROSA, a sexy -- with dynamite boobs -- Mexican employee whose English is so broken it sometimes requires subtitles.

RED HAIR

How's business?

ROSA

Good. Diamond is forever.

EXT. JEWELRY STORE

A Rolls Royce stops in front of the entrance and the BOSS of the jewelry store, a balding Vietnamese man, and his bodyguard exit the limo and head toward the store.

The Boss has a steel-enforced briefcase cuffed to his right hand.

Hard Hat, also in a J uniform, is on the sidewalk and immediately begins tailing the two from the Rolls Royce. The bodyguard opens the door and the Boss enters first.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - CONTINUOUS

The Boss looks at Red Hair, but asks Rosa:

BOSS
(in broken Spanish;
subtitled)
Is he buying?

Rosa clips her nails with scissors that have unreasonable huge blades.

ROSA
Ay, me thinks yes.

Hard Hat is now inside the store, behind the Boss and the bodyguard. He tries to make eye contact with Red Hair, but Red Hair is mesmerized by Rosa's boobs. Out of options, Hard Hat clears his throat.

Red Hair, Colt .45 in his right hand, abruptly turns to the Boss.

RED HAIR
Give me the key!

BOSS
(in poor English)
What key?!

RED HAIR
For the briefcase.

BOSS
(in poor English)
Over my dead body.

Red Hair shoots the bodyguard dead, steps aside and lunges his left hand over the dead bodyguard towards the Boss.

RED HAIR
The key!

The Boss is terrified and looks to Rosa for help.

Rosa desperately gesticulates, trying to make sense.

ROSA
(in poor English;
subtitled)
My boss said over his dead BODY,
not his dead BUDDY.

Red Hair shoots the Boss dead.

RED HAIR
 (to Rosa)
 For fuck's sake, does anybody speak
 English here?

Rosa points to the dead bodyguard.

ROSA
 He.

Red Hair has had enough and looks so ready to use his .45
 again.

RED HAIR
 (to Hard Hat)
 What now?

HARD HAT
 Take the damn diamonds and let's
 fuckin' go!

Red Hair grabs the scissors from Rosa and cuts (right
 underneath the elbow) the dead Boss' right hand, the one
 having the briefcase cuffed on.

Rosa isn't sure this is all real.

ROSA
 (to Red Hair)
 So you guys shoot a movie?

RED HAIR
 I dunno bout your movie, Miss. But
 in East Cleveland we call this live
 ammunition.

ROSA
 So me play in movie? I can sing.

RED HAIR
 Forget the movie, this is a real
 robbery.

ROSA
 You guys nuts! You not can walk out
 of here.

In the very next second a ton of steel bars blocks the exit
 of the store.

RED HAIR
 Who said we'll walk?

As soon as Red Hair spells "walk", a Ford GPW (identical to the one from Building Four) bursts through the glass wall and lands an inch from the group.

Blonde drives the Ford, Brunette is in the back, AK-47 in her arms. Both ladies sport J uniforms.

BRUNETTE
Let's go, go, GO!

INT./EXT. WRITERS' FORD - SAME TIME

The writers arrive in New York City.

Angela falls into a philosophical mood.

ANGELA
When the pen in your hand digs your own hole, you better have a ladder handy ...

CHANG
What's that mean?

ANGELA
We wrote all these challenges that we now have to outsmart. Or else.

Bill ventures to rhyme with Angela.

BILL
Yeah. Beware of what you write,
'cuz you --

DAN
Shut the fuck up! All of you! I'm navigating here.
(to Britney)
Take the next right!

After the right turn, the first red light on the Ford's dashboard turns to green.

EXT. JEWELRY STORE - SECONDS LATER

Blonde drives the Ford right through the other wall of the store and out onto the street.

INT./EXT. ROBBERS' FORD

Hard Hat, seated in front, turns toward the back.

HARD HAT
Where the fuck is Red Hair?

Blonde hits the brakes causing drivers behind her to swerve. She reverses back to the store.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - CONTINUOUS

Inside the store, police are everywhere doing CSI stuff.

The Ford stops in the middle of everything, three feet from where Red Hair is fucking Rosa. Red Hair's left ear is missing: it is in Rosa's mouth.

HARD HAT
(to Red Hair)
And you are doing what?

Red Hair continues doing Rosa.

RED HAIR
Don't ya play smart with me! Did you see her boobs, you smart ass?

Hard Hat impatiently checks his watch.

HARD HAT
You have three seconds to cum!

Two seconds later, Red Hair climaxes.

RED HAIR
AAAAAAHHHHHHH

While he's talking on his cell, the DETECTIVE in charge for the team doing the CSI stuff intervenes:

DETECTIVE
(to Red Hair)
Please, sir, shhhhh. I'm talking to the Mayor.

INT. WRITERS' FORD - SAME TIME

Bill pulls the key out of his pocket.

BILL
(to Britney)
How did you start the car?

BRITNEY
The key was in the ignition.

BILL
(displaying the key)
So what's this for?

DAN
Fuck knows, but Andy said it's
important.

Bill drops the key back into his pocket as a second light on the dashboard turns green.

INT./EXT. ROBBERS' FORD - SAME TIME

Blonde drives the Ford at maximum speed. Red Hair uses Rosa's scissors to cut the handle of the briefcase and throws the leftover into the air: the Boss's hand with the cuffs hanging on.

Two police cruisers are pulling close behind to give chase.

Driving (parallel with the Ford) a rusted junk, ANNA catches "the leftover" through her open window.

EXT. WENDY'S PARKING LOT

Anna parks her car, climbs out and walks towards the restaurant with the "leftover" under her blouse.

INT. WENDY'S RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Anna is seated at a table, checks the Menu and orders. A waitress brings Anna a hot bowl of chili and then departs.

SPLIT SCREEN -- 4 FRAMES

One horizontal yellow banner at the top, and three vertical reels spinning underneath, like on a slot machine.

[The Pink Floyd's "Money" tune may be heard here, or the well-known sound of the slot machines.]

The first left reel stops to reveal Anna pulling the "leftover" from her chili bowl and screaming like hell.

Then the middle reel stops to display inside it a team of lawyers arriving.

Finally the third reel stops spinning to show inside it Anna closing a black leather briefcase full of money and leaving in a Black Mercedes.

The horizontal banner at the top of the screen flashes and buzzes: "WINNING HAND!" in a Las Vegas Casino fashion.

INT./EXT. WRITERS' FORD

The clock on the dash reads 4:13:30. Ahead of them: the first marked intersection which they must cross at exactly 4:14:00.

DAN

Here comes Intersection X! We have
to cross it in 30 seconds!

In front of them all four lanes are blocked by cars waiting at the red-light stop of the Intersection X. Britney drives upon the sidewalk.

She desperately HONKS the HORN and miraculously manages to avoid pedestrians. She crosses through the intersection at exactly 4:14:00. The third red light on the dashboard turns green.

The Ford crosses the intersection coming from East and turning North, as Dan reads the instructions (we don't hear him) and gesticulates.

BILL

Jesus Christ! We did it!

Angela flashes the victory sign with her hand in the air.

ANGELA

Yes!

A stressed to the bone Chang tries to crack a smile, but fails miserably.

BACK TO THE SIDEWALK

As the pedestrians on the sidewalk brush themselves off, the male rhino charges through in pursue of the fugitives, leaving things more chaotic than before.

AERIAL VIEW - INTERSECTION X (FEW SECONDS EARLIER)

Blonde hits the intersection, turns right (to the East), pulls into a driveway and into an open garage. The door closes behind them.

A black van reverses into the street from a nearby driveway, blocking the cops that were in pursuit, 30 feet ahead of the intersection.

Through the van's open left window: the gold 4 engraved on the green fingernail of the driver. Then the driver's face: it's the Owner, his dark sunglasses with silver arms still on.

The Ford driven by Britney to the West hits Intersection X and, according to the written directions read by Dan, turns North.

The police cars, with their lights and sirens on, manage to pass the black van, and happily chase the Ford driving North. But now they are chasing the screenwriters ...

[From now on the only Ford is the one of the screenwriters.]

The cruisers are behind the rhino, who is also chasing the Ford. Due to rush hour, police lose both the Ford and the rhino from sight.

INT. JIM'S CRUISER

The first police cruiser is driven by Jim. Kevin is in the passenger seat.

At the next (T) intersection, the officers must decide whether to turn left or right.

They look to the left: nothing suspicious.

They look to the right and everybody, from toddlers in the strollers to 90 year-old pedestrians, are bandaged and bloody over their right ears.

Both cruisers turn right.

BACK TO FORD

Chang looks at the four lights on the dashboard.

CHANG

Fuck, we have one more red light!

ANGELA

It'll turn green if we hit the last
intersection marked on the map no
later than 4:20.

Britney speeds through crowded streets, following the instructions read by Dan. They enter a park with a small pond ahead. In the middle of the pond is something that looks like a small island.

DAN

Make a right turn on the alley
before the pond.

But an ice-cream truck surrounded by kids blocks that alley.

BRITNEY

Hold on to your seats!

Out of options, Britney drives straight to the pond. The Ford gets airborne, its tires hit the little island, airborne again and from there it makes it safe to the other side of the lake.

They all laugh and applaud. Chang barks something in Chinese containing the word "Buddha."

BILL

Don't they say ice-cream makes you
fat?

DAN

Yeah, except for April fourth, when
it makes you airborne ...

ON THE POND

The first police car tries the same trick but the "island" moves, revealing itself to be the T-Rex. It raises its head and catches the cruiser in its enormous mouth.

The T-Rex submerges his head again into the lake, so the second police car, driven by Sergeant Jim, succeeds in the trick and reaches the other side of the pond.

And then comes the male rhino, who makes it over the pond while badly hurting the T-Rex. The water turns red.

INT. POLICE CRUISER

KEVIN

This scene with the T-Rex's back as an island was sort of cheap.

JIM

Yeah, I bet it was designed so even police officers can get it without buying a dictionary.

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

THE CONGREGATION

There is a tent with its opening obstructed by the first cardboard bearing the text "Plan A."

The congregation is milling about outside and waiting for Reverend Dick and Mrs. Clitorici to come out and explain the logic of "Plan C."

Within the congregation, two MEN in their fifties shake hands.

MAN #1

I see you're new here. Welcome to our church!

MAN #2

Thanks, but what are we waiting for? Where's the Reverend?

MAN #1

He's in the tent, getting ready for the demonstration.

MAN #2

What demonstration? Is the End near? Should I call my wife?

MAN #1

No, no, don't worry. You'll learn why you should always have a Plan C handy. The Reverend will explain.

The two men continue to chat cordially.

BACK TO THE CHASE

It's 4:18 and the chase continues furiously. In front of the Ford is a small arch bridge over a tiny river.

Beyond the bridge is the tent with its opening obstructed by the first cardboard.

Britney is again out of options so she drives straight onto the bridge, the Ford flies high, hits and collapses the "Plan A" cardboard, then reaches the ground and speeds away.

The congregation petrifies: with the "Plan A" cardboard collapsed they can see inside the tent the Reverend Dick and Mrs. Clitorici naked and having sex on a camping table.

But that takes only one second, because the engineering works and the "Plan B" cardboard rises, covering the two lovers that continue to have sex.

Jim's cruiser flies over the bridge, knocking down "Plan B" and going on its way.

Again the lovers are revealed, and again the engineering works: "Plan C" rises, covering the lust.

The congregation stares in awe at the "Plan C" cardboard.

INT. TENT - SAME TIME

Reverend Dick grossly fucks Mrs. Clitorici.

REVEREND DICK

I always said that Plan C will save humanity. Didn't I, my darling?

MRS. CLITORICI

My genius, Einstein should flip burgers for you!

BACK TO OUTSIDE THE TENT - CONTINUOUS

The male rhino comes over the bridge and crashes through the "Plan C" cardboard.

The two lovers are in plain sight, screwing, with no more engineering to help.

As Candy, Mrs. Clitorici's daughter, rubs her eyes, her lollipop falls from her mouth.

CANDY

Grandma, Grandma!

GRANDMA

Yes, dear?

CANDY
Is Reverend Dick screwing my mommy?

GRANDMA
Yes, dear!

From behind Candy and Grandma, the Old Bitch intervenes:

OLD BITCH
Grossly, I would add ...

CUT TO:

THE CAR CHASE

It's 4:19:25 and the Ford finally makes it out of the park. They are approaching the last intersection mentioned on the map.

Dan points up ahead, all smiles:

DAN
That's the last intersection. We did it!

BRITNEY
We fucking did it!

ANGELA
Yes!

Jim follows in hot pursuit. His CELL RINGS and he answers.

The Ford races toward the intersection but suddenly stops just before reaching it.

CHANG
What now?

A desolated Britney points to the gas gauge.

BRITNEY
We're out of gas.

BILL
Unbelievable! And we're so close!

DAN
Yeah, so close to our deaths. We have five seconds left.

As if by command they close their eyes and cover their ears, waiting for the BOOM.

The KABOOM comes right at 4:19:59: Arguing over the phone and oblivious to the traffic, Jim crashes into the back of them. The force pushes the Ford into

THE INTERSECTION

The fourth red light turns green.

Three more police cruisers close in from the other three streets, their lights flashing and sirens blaring. They stop with SCREECHING TIRES and the officers climb out with their weapons drawn.

Sergeant Jim exits his cruiser and proudly walks over to Britney.

JIM
(to Britney)
What's the rush?

Britney is exhausted, as are her four passengers.

BRITNEY
Is there a problem, officer?

Kevin removes a steel-enforced briefcase from the Ford's trunk and hands it to Jim.

Jim opens it and looks inside.

JIM
We've got the diamonds! Where the fuck are the reporters now?

A police bus stops at the scene and the five writers are loaded in while a civil employee fills the Ford's tank with gas. Seconds later, the bus and all the cars, including the Ford, head toward the police station.

INT. POLICE BUS - CONTINUOUS

There are ten detainees, including the Midget dressed in a clown outfit. The detainees look like ferocious criminals, very muscular and tattooed all over.

At 6-foot-6, Blue Skull is the tallest of the criminals. His shaved head is covered by so many tattoos that from a distance, it seems blue. He approaches Angela, touches her provocatively and murmurs something in her ear.

DETAINEE #1
 Hey, Blue Skull. I get the blonde
 chick.

BRITNEY
 (to Detainee #1)
 Dream on, crock. Mightier crocs
 than you couldn't get a feather off
 my ass.

Dan viciously hits and knocks out Blue Skull.

A fight ensues involving the nine left criminals, Bill and Chang. Dan sits on a bench, with Angela on his lap: they kiss, completely ignoring the fight.

Bill fights fantastically, humiliating everyone with his karate.

Every time Chang tries to intervene, the Midget tricks him by raising his left arm with a noisy toy in his fingers, and then hitting him in the testicles with his right leg. Chang cries out loud ...

Dan briefly checks the fight between kisses.

DAN
 (to Angela)
 So Chang does have balls.

ANGELA
 I only care about yours. Keep them
 ... away from the midget.

The fight continues furiously.

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT

The police station is surrounded by lots of reporters, news vans with satellite dishes, and a huge crowd, some holding signs.

Across the street is the AG building: a four-story building with the Art Gallery on the first floor.

Written on the art gallery's huge glass wall: "TODAY: MARIA'S IMPALED THOUGHTS." Beyond the glass, Maria's signs on display.

People remove Maria's signs from the gallery walls and cross the street to the police parking lot.

Some of Maria's signs are altered by covering one word with a newspaper page glued over the original word, on which a different word is written.

Instead of "DRACULA FOR PRESIDENT" it reads now "CHANG FOR PRESIDENT," instead of "MAKE LOVE NOT WAR" it reads "MAKE LOVE AND WAR," instead of "GIVE ME FREEDOM OR GIVE ME DEATH" it's "GIVE ME DAN ..." and so on.

On some signs it reads, "FREE THE SCREENWRITERS!", on others: "NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!" There are signs with the picture of each of the writers. Under each picture it is written either "INNOCENT" or "NOT GUILTY."

A group of Chinese people hold up a sign with the picture of Chang and the inscription: "CHANG FOR PRESIDENT!"

The Chinese group LEADER climbs up on an improvised podium and shouts into a microphone.

LEADER #1
(in Chinese;
subtitled)

Twenty more cases of bird flu have been detected in the Liaoning province. So we killed all fourteen hens and an Australian tourist who was taking photos of the Mayor's ducks.

At first people look confused, but then they start shouting deliriously: "CHANG FOR PRESIDENT!", "CHANG FOR PRESIDENT!"

Maria holds up a sign with the text: "GIVE ME DAN OR GIVE ME DEATH."

The fireworks are deafening and light up the whole atmosphere.

Reverend Dick, grim-faced, pants unzipped, wanders around holding up a sign that reads "Plan D." He stops in front of a grill where a guy resembling Einstein flips burgers.

At some improvised kiosks people sell T-shirts with slogans such as: "FREE THE SCREENWRITERS!" Others sell hot dogs.

At another kiosk, Innocentius, holding an altered Maria's sign that now reads, "MAKE LOVE AND WAR", sells grenade launchers. Scores of al-Qaeda members, in traditional garb, some riding camels, patiently wait in the long line.

For some mysterious reason, the al-Qaeda members light up their smokes from a gray-bearded man resembling bin Laden. First smoker comes up, lights his cigarette and leaves. So does the second one. The third one lights up a Danish flag and gets back in line.

From the top of the AG building, TWO GUYS in black NSA uniforms spy on the crowd through binoculars.

GUY #1

D'ya think that fat lady has a license to sell hot dogs?

GUY #2

Absolutely not! I checked her Google habits and she's interested only in hot studs.

The convoy of police cars, Ford and bus barely make it through the crowd and come to a stop in front of the police station.

Jim exits his cruiser, striking a glorious pose with the briefcase found in the Ford's trunk. He holds it high into the air but everybody ignores him.

Jim is baffled and humiliated to the bone.

The Chinese group climbs down from the podium, while they proudly and loudly congratulate themselves for the success of their speech, and a group of lawyers climbs up.

The lawyers hold up signs with "NOT GUILTY" and "INNOCENT" logos, while their LEADER shouts into the microphone.

LEADER #2

Our clients, the screenwriters, can't harm a fly. They are decent citizens paying their taxes. They are church-going and absolutely non-violent.

The police bus looks like a cauliflower, with blood stains here and there, suggesting an insane fight took place inside.

Two officers open the back doors and some emergency nurses start pulling out the ten original detainees, severely beaten and soaked in blood.

When the writers come out, all hell breaks loose. Reporters and photographers crowd around them and camera flashes fly from everywhere.

The crowd applauds, shouts slogans and screams in admiration. Some ladies faint.

More than twenty REPORTERS swarm around Angela.

REPORTERS

What did Elvis say in his last e-mail to you? /If I learn Romanian could I score a date with you?/ Is it true that the only sane defense for you is to plead insane? /Are you guilty, or only long legged?

Angela flashes the victory sign, with her right hand high in the air.

ANGELA

NOT FUCKING GUILTY!

The crowd shouts deliriously: "NOT GUILTY! ... NOT FUCKING GUILTY!" More ladies faint and emergency crews rush to pick them up.

A LADY approaches Maria from behind.

LADY

Which one is Dan?

Maria turns to answer the question.

On the back of her sign: a picture of her missing panties and the text, "CHARM MY ASS AND SAVE YOURS: BRING MY PANTIES BACK!"

MARIA

The one in uniform. Isn't he cute?

INT. JIM'S OFFICE - SECONDS LATER

The five writers, Jim and Kevin are seated around a large desk.

JIM

So we're talking about murder here, armed robbery, rape, unlawf --

ANGELA

(interrupting)

So who banged your mommy senseless in the back seat of your cruiser, you old fart?

Jim's eyeglasses rise on top of his forehead.

CHANG

I bet Bill was all inside her pants
from dusk to dawn.

JIM

In your case it's not about dusk to
dawn, guys, but 25 to life. Or
worse ...

DAN

(to Jim)

You constipated prick! You'll wet
your boxers before I call my
lawyer.

JIM

I have one witness.

BRITNEY

And I have two lawyers.

DAN

And Chang has three balls.

CHANG

What now?

Jim tries with his right hand to bring his eyeglasses back
on his nose but, to his surprise, he cannot. He tries again
with both hands and, after a little struggle, succeeds.

Jim pounds his desk with his fist.

JIM

STOP IT!

Jim comforts his fist and then turns to Kevin.

JIM

Call the witness!

Kevin presses a button and Rosa enters with Red Hair's ear
still in her mouth. She looks at everybody, then points to
Bill.

ROSA

(full mouth)

It's he!

Amused by Rosa's English, Bill chuckles.

BILL
 (to Rosa)
 And how would you know it's ... I?

Kevin stands up and pulls the ear from Rosa's mouth.

KEVIN
 (to Bill)
 This is the absolute proof.

JIM
 (to Bill)
 Or how else could you explain your
 missing ear?

BILL
 Ask van Gogh.

KEVIN
 The painter with no fear/ That
 chopped off his ear?

BILL
 Nope. But the rhino that was born/
 With a handsome horn.

ROSA
 Me Rosa, not Rhino.

DAN
 Are you guys trying your best/ For
 a poetry contest?

JIM
 You guys STOP wasting my time!

DAN
 Jimmy-boy, you missed your rhyme.

JIM
 I don't give a fucking dime!

Everybody, amused by Jim's involuntary rhyme, is staring at the sergeant. Completely embarrassed, Jim tries a way out.

JIM
 On a stupid rhyme, goddammit/ I
 don't give a frozen shit!

Everybody stares even more intensely at Jim for his second involuntary rhyme.

DAN
 (solemnly)
 I declare Jim the Poet of the
 Month!

Jim turns purple, but keeps trying to play it cool,
 displaying a forced smile.

JIM
 (to Rosa)
 And why did you bite off his ear?

ROSA
 Me no like fuck with no for ... how
 you call it ... for ...?

BRITNEY
 ... five ... six ... seven ...

ROSA
 (subtitled)
 Me not say FOUR, but FOR ... how
 you call it?

JIM
 (encouraging smile)
 Fortune cookie?

ROSA
 Not, not, but for ...

BILL
 ... eplay?

ROSA
 Ya, ya, foreplay!

Visibly pissed off, Jim stands up, removes the bloodied bra
 from Bill's head, pulls out his cell, dials a number and
 aims his cell phone camera to Bill's wound.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

SUPER: "TAIWAN"

DR. LEE TRAN is at his desk.

On the wall behind him are plenty of diplomas, but the
 largest one reads: "DR. LEE TRAN: WORLD'S FOREMOST
 EAROLOGIST."

On the desk in front of him is an electric pencil sharpener resembling Ross Perot's head with huge ears. Lee sharpens a pencil in the device's right ear.

His PHONE RINGS and he picks it up.

LEE TRAN
World's foremost earologist.

INTERCUT -- TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JIM
Is it you, Lee?

LEE TRAN
That's what I said: "Doctor Lee
Tran, world's foremost earologist."

JIM
Hmm ... I didn't hear the first
half.

LEE TRAN
So your hearing is fucked. My
secretary will set up an
appointment for you.

JIM
No, no. Hey listen. Watch the clip
I'm sending you. What do you think?

Dr. Lee Tran sees Bill's wound on the monitor in front of him.

LEE TRAN
That's a rhinoceros' bite.

Jim's eyeglasses rise on top of his forehead.

Kevin brings up in front of the cell's camera the ear from Rosa's mouth. He is outraged.

KEVIN
And then what's THIS?

Watching the ear on his monitor, Lee explodes with rage.

LEE TRAN
THIS is the LEFT ear, you retards!

Jim is all the way embarrassed. His eyeglasses fall back on his nose due to gravity.

JIM
Oh, thank you.

LEE TRAN
Fuck you too.

BACK TO JIM'S OFFICE

Red as a tomato, Jim gesticulates with his hands in the air, his eyes to the ceiling, while murmuring something inaudible.

Kevin turns blue, goes straight to Rosa and sticks the ear back into her mouth.

JIM
So how can you guys explain the diamonds I found in your car?

BRITNEY
I'm a compulsive shopper.

JIM
I see. You must be pretty rich.

BRITNEY
I invested wisely in dot-coms.

JIM
Me too. And now I have two jobs and a bankruptcy attorney. Hmm ... anyways, so where did you guys get the car from?

BRITNEY
From the showroom of the fourth building.

JIM
And the rhino?

DAN
From Chang's grandma's pet shop. She had a clearance sale.

CHANG
What now?

JIM
Can you prove that there was a rhino in this entire story?

ANGELA

There's plenty of forensic data on
the Ford.

Jim abruptly turns to Kevin.

JIM

Go check the Ford!

Kevin stands up and storms out of the office.

Jim dials a number on his cell.

JIM

Hello, Oprah?

(clears his throat)

I've got great news for you, not to
mention that I look better than
Alec Baldwin ...

INT. NYPD GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Kevin inspects the Ford with a magnifying glass. He
meticulously checks the car, slowly moving around on all
fours.

He knocks his head on something but doesn't look up, but
continues checking the bottom of the vehicle.

That "something" is the male rhino. His body is mid-air
stuck on the side of the car by his horn, which is embedded
into the Ford's left door. The male rhino slowly pedals his
back feet in the air.

Kevin wipes the sweat off his forehead with his sleeve,
turns on his radio device and calls his boss.

KEVIN

(to Jim)

Not one trace of a rhino on the
Ford.

JIM (V.O.)

I knew it. These assholes are as
guilty as hell.

INT. JIM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Jim preses a button and four huge policemen loudly storm into the office.

JIM
 Lock these criminals into the High
 Security Cell!
 (pointing to Chang)
 And don't forget the Cambodian.

CHANG
 (exasperated)
 Chineeeeeeeeeessee!

INT. HIGH SECURITY CELL - SECONDS LATER

The five writers are now locked in. Chang massages his balls for comfort. There is a TV set high on the wall.

Across a wide corridor, in a larger cell, are the detainees from the bus, except Blue Skull.

Bill notices the Midget among the detainees.

BILL
 (to the Midget)
 Hey, big boy! Wanna play with
 Chang?

MIDGET
 Only after Bruce Lee brushes his
 teeth.

DAN
 Where's Blue Skull?

DETAINEE #1
 (to Dan)
 You got him a ticket for the
 infirmary.

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

As the fireworks fill the sky, some embers drop onto the police station and start a fire.

It begins to burn on the north end of the building, where the bus detainees are locked in.

INT. HOLDING CELL FACILITY - SECONDS LATER

As smoke fills the facility, everyone inside gets scared.

The fire moves rapidly from north to south. Two detainees in the north cell are already on fire.

EXT. NYPD PARKING LOT - 90 SECONDS LATER

The parking lot is crowded with news vans, reporters, vendors, police officers, people holding signs, curious people from every walk of life.

The Officer, distraught and coughing, talks on his cell phone. His uniform is charred.

OFFICER
Captain Morgan?

MORRISON (V.O.)
Straight or on the rocks?

OFFICER
Excuse me?

MORRISON (V.O.)
"Captain Morgan" is a brand of rum,
you parrot-brain! I'm Captain
Morrison.

OFFICER
Yes, sir.

MORRISON (V.O.)
What's going on there?

OFFICER
All the detainees are dead.
Gruesome, sir ... We did all we
could, honestly.

MORRISON (V.O.)
What?!

In b.g., the police station is totally engulfed in flames. Smoke puffs out of the bursting windows. The crowd is terrified.

OFFICER
It's hell down there. It's like a
scene from David's --

MORRISON (V.O.)
You mean Dante's ...

OFFICER
-- Iliad.

MORRISON (V.O.)
You mean Inferno, idiot!

OFFICER
Yes, sir, Dante's Inferno.

MORRISON (V.O.)
You sure everybody's dead?

A CRUSHING SOUND. The Officer turns to see the station collapsing in a sea of flames.

OFFICER
I'm positive, sir. All of the inmates are dead.

Several women around the Officer begin to cry and faint.

FREEZE FRAME.

INT. HIGH SECURITY CELL

SUPER: "90 SECONDS EARLIER."

ON THE TV

Against a background of high explosions, an ANCHORWOMAN reports the news.

ANCHORWOMAN
... while the insurgents keep
blowing up oil facilities
in liberated Iraq ...

Britney looks through the bars at the other cell where five detainees are now on fire.

BRITNEY
God help us.

DAN
(with an eye on TV)
God better help himself, 'cuz if it
turns out there's oil in his
backyard we'll liberate heaven
faster than a Greek gets lost in
Paris.

ON THE CORRIDOR AND LARGE CELL

The Midget is pressed to the cell's locked door, yelling at the top of his lungs:

MIDGET
Help, somebody help!

The horrified police Officer turns a corner and stops in front of the cell, disoriented.

OFFICER
What the fuck? Who started the
fire?

MIDGET
Please help! Unlock the door!
Please!

The Officer sprints for the exit.

MIDGET
Wait! Help us! Please!

The Officer stops and looks back with guilt.

MIDGET
Please! We're gonna burn alive!

OFFICER
Fucking 'ell!

The Officer pulls a key ring from his belt, runs back, but the heat coming out of the cell is too intense.

He stops abruptly, raises his hands defensively and involuntarily loses his grip on the key ring, which lands two feet from the cell door.

The Officer gives up and rushes for the exit.

OFFICER
Fuck! Sorry, man ... Fuck!

The Midget clothes catch fire. He screams in pain and drops to his belly, while reaching through the bars for the key ring.

But his arm is too short to reach the key, so he cries, while staring at the key ring.

MIDGET

Somebody help, we've got the key! I
can't reach it!

But there is no answer and nobody comes forward. The Midget turns around to see everybody else in the cell is dead, their burned bodies frozen in grotesque positions.

Totally engulfed in flames, The Midget screams one last time:

MIDGET

NOOOO ...

BACK TO HIGH SECURITY CELL

Chang stares through the bars at the key ring.

CHANG

The fucking key ring is about five feet from here. Who has a five foot arm?

BRITNEY

Nothing can save us now.

DAN

(to Britney)

Do you think Andy was a jerk?

BRITNEY

(completely baffled)

No way! Why?!

DAN

Then ask Bill to try the freaking key!

Bill goes straight to the cell door and unlocks it with the "Andy's important" key.

INT. POLICE STATION - GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

No sign of the rhino anywhere.

The screenwriters jump into the Ford and drive away with Dan behind the wheel. Two officers politely motion directions to the garage exit while the place fills up with smoke.

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The Ford zooms through the parking lot, skids to a stop next to a police cruiser.

Britney squints to see, but heavy smoke obscures the cop in the driver's seat.

The Ford is temporarily blocked in by some emergency workers picking up the latest fainted ladies.

INT. HIGH SECURITY CELL - SAME TIME

ON THE TV

ANCHORMAN

... on Oprah's show, things turn really ugly for sergeant Jim, who was considered a hero only minutes ago ...

Sergeant Jim, in an impeccable police uniform, enters Oprah's studio.

OPRAH

And here is the white cop that wants to fire blanks on MY Show!

The audience greets him with a chorus of boos. Jim's smile vanishes and he turns as blue as his uniform.

JIM

Who's firing blanks? Me?!

Jim barely stammers out the last word when his cell phone BLARES.

OPRAH

And the idiot entered MY Show without turning off his cell phone. Unbelievable!

The audience boos even louder. Jim turns a brilliant shade of crimson, like his head is just about ready to explode.

Jim opens his mouth to speak but can't find the words. He emits a series of gurgling noises before snapping his mouth shut again.

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - SAME TIME

ON JIM

The smoke thins out to reveal the cop in the cruiser's driver seat: Jim. He is napping.

He springs up, gasping, looks around, realizes where he is and sighs with relief. It was all just a dream. But wait, his CELL is really RINGING.

He answers.

JIM

What do you mean the diamonds I found are plain cheap glass?! I have an appointment with Oprah tomorrow ...

INT./EXT. FORD - SECONDS LATER

The writers are all in the Ford with Dan driving.

DAN

Let's have some Tequila at my apartment.

EXT. NYC STREET

As they near a convenient store, Bill asks him to stop.

BILL

(to Dan)

Pull in here.

Bill comes out of the store with cigarettes for everybody and a jar of Mexican red hot peppers.

Dan drives away and stops in front of a

PET STORE

The MANAGER of the pet store smokes a cigar outside in front of a sign that reads, "NO SMOKING."

From a lateral street the male rhino gallops toward the Ford, but nobody notices.

DAN

(to the manager)

Can I buy a crocodile from you?

BRITNEY

(to Dan)

And why the fuck would you need a crocodile at this very time of this very fucking day, Dan?

DAN

So Angela will save my ass with her killer legs as often as I pet the croc.

Angela displays her perfect teeth for Dan.

MANAGER

Sorry, sir. We don't keep small pets in this store.

Just then an enormous 15 foot gorilla (resembling King Kong) bursts through the front wall of the pet store, as the rhino nears the Ford.

The gorilla scares the shit out of the rhino, which abruptly changes direction and involuntarily plunges, his horn first, into the left side of a bus that happens to pass by.

With his horn embedded into the left side of the bus, the rhino ends up with his body in the air, his back feet slowly pedaling in the air.

The gorilla picks up a blonde lady from the sidewalk and climbs up on the top of the tallest nearby building.

At the top, the blonde pulls a notebook and a pen out of her purse and asks gorilla for an autograph. The gorilla is baffled to the bone. F-16s begin to darken the sky ...

With no luck for a croc, Dan drives away.

DAN

Way to go, America! An honest taxpayer in need can't even buy a stupid croc! Where are the good ol' days?

Dan stops at a red light at the next

INTERSECTION

The bus with the rhino stops there too, next to the Ford.

While casually talking to Britney, Bill calmly opens the jar he just bought, pulls out a red hot pepper and inserts it into the rhino's anus.

The rhino's back legs start pedaling much faster ...

On the other side of the street, two police cruisers stop the black Mercedes. The officers pull Anna out from the Mercedes and take out the Vietnamese Boss's chopped arm, the cuffs still hanging by the wrist, from her purse.

They unlock the cuffs and use them on Anna.

INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Everybody relaxes while Dan fills their glasses with Tequila.

Bill is on the sofa next to Angela, with his right hand inside her pants.

BRITNEY

I need some ice water too.

Dan proves to be a good host, serves everybody and then plunges into a leather recliner. On the recliner's left side is a phone on a small table. To the right is a PARROT in a cage. The bird silently stares at the four new faces.

ANGELA

So we're finally safe.

CHANG

Yeah, all five of us!

BILL

That's exactly what scares me.

CHANG

What scares you now, Buddha dammit?

BILL

In my script, the eccentric guy always keeps his word. And the Owner said that no more than four of us may survive.

Chang drains his glass, lights up a cigarette and stands up. He goes to the table where the Tequila bottle is and fills up his glass. He cracks a happy smile, scans everybody and clears his throat.

Chang raises his glass and makes sure that all eyes are on him.

CHANG

So let's cheer the news: The
eccentric guy blew it this time!

PARROT

Fuck the eccentric! The writers
win!

They laugh at the parrot, cheer with Chang and then sip from
their glasses.

Angela massages her boobs, looks into Britney's eyes, then
into Dan's, and then to Bill, giving him a horny look.

ANGELA

Today you inspected all the ladies'
pants on the inside, Bill. So who's
your lucky queen for tonight?

BILL

(blushing)

Keep your eyes open and you'll find
out.

Dan looks annoyed, like he's got a bad feeling.

DAN

I can't help but wonder as to why
you, birdbrains, treat Bill's
script like you did Andy's. What
the hell is wrong with you people?

PARROT

Fuck Dan! Birdbrains fly high.

Another round of laughs, this time at Dan's expense.

Angela removes Bill's hand from her pants.

ANGELA

Besides you, none of us speaks
Romanian, Dan. English please!

DAN

None of you gave a shit when Andy
said that the envelope on the fan's
blade is important, but you noticed
in jail how important the key from
the envelope was. Now again you all
discredit Bill's script.

BRITNEY

I hope you suck, Dan. But I admit that everything the Owner clipped off from our scripts so far happened. Including my robbery scene.

ANGELA

And Christine's croc scene was right there. Not to mention Diana's puzzle.

BILL

(to Angela)

And your booby-trapped car ...
(mimicking Angela)
... "not to mention" your boobs ...

CHANG

(theatrical)

And my glorious dick! I repeat: he blew it! I bet the Great Wall of China that the Owner is in jail by now, restrained like Hannibal. FBI is cruelly and restlessly interrogating him.

EXT. SAO PAULO - SHERATON HOTEL - TERRASSE - SAME TIME

SUPER: "SAO PAULO. SHERATON HOTEL."

Scores of Latino ladies wander around, some are seated at tables, in tiny bikinis, most of them topless. It's the high-class atmosphere specific to 5 stars hotel-restaurants in hot non-US exotic locales.

Hard Hat, Red Hair, Blonde, Brunette, Blue Skull and Vlad are enjoying margaritas. Blue Skull has a ring of white around his nostrils: he's stoned and mute. The FIRST FOUR are "cruelly interrogating" Vlad.

FIRST FOUR

So we've got the money to finance the movie, now what?/I want Woody Allen to play both Jim and Jay./ Obviously Jessica Alba should play Angela./If Mike Tyson won't play Lee Tran I take my toys and leave./ Paris Hilton has to be part of the cast, so everybody will understand what "a Greek lost in Paris" means.

Vlad sports his signature dark sunglasses with silver arms.

VLAD

And who will be the top star on the movie poster: Paris Hilton or Woody Allen?

BLONDE

Peter North, but of course! Who do you think will play the reverend?

Suddenly Blue Skull mumbles:

BLUE SKULL

And the theme, man, the fucking movie theme ...

(beat, clears throat)

"Beware of what you write, 'cuz you might just have to learn the lines."

HARD HAT

(taken aback)

Huh?

BLUE SKULL

Glorious, man. Fucking glorious.

Vlad raises his hand to make them shut up, pulls out his cell, starts dialing a number, but changes his mind and turns his cell off.

Vlad turns his head to a nearby table where are tourists with the French flag imprinted on their hats.

VLAD

(in French;
subtitled)

May I use your cell phone for a second, please?

French Tourist #1 holds up a newspaper to read something inside it. On the front page facing Vlad is Jim's photo with the caption in Portuguese (subtitled in English): "POET OF THE MONTH."

Vlad's sunglasses rise on top of his forehead.

French Tourist #1 lowers the newspaper to look at Vlad. He then rises back the paper and, from behind it, mumbles something containing the words "merde" and "Yankees."

French Tourist #2 smokes a cigar. He blows the smoke into Vlad's face.

FRENCH TOURIST #2
(in French;
subtitled)

As soon as you assholes get out of
Iraq.

Vlad calmly pulls a .44 Magnum from under his coat and
pushes it against Tourist #2's temple. He cocks the gun ...

A waitress that just happens to pass by drops her tray,
terrified.

FRENCH TOURIST #2
Hey, just kidding ...

Vlad soundly drops the gun on the table in front of him,
grabs the phone and dials a number.

INT. DAN'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Everybody talks loudly (ineligible), drinks, smokes and
gesticulates.

The PHONE RINGS and Dan picks it up. The others grow silent.

DAN
This phone has been disconnected,
no further --

VLAD (V.O.)
Listen, I forgot to mention that
Ely likes peanut butter.

Dan lights up a Marlboro, suddenly intrigued.

DAN
Who's Ely?!

VLAD (V.O.)
The ELY-phiant, you stupid!

Instantly, the ceiling of Dan's living room collapses and a
bored elephant, colored like a Gateway cow, falls right on
Chang's head.

The elephant wears dark sunglasses with silver arms ...

Four left.

PARROT
Fuck the writers! The eccentric
wins!

ANGELA

Oops. So Chang and his buddy Buddha
are no longer on the menu.

From underneath the elephant, Half crawls out, runs
horrified and takes cover inside Angela's uniform blouse,
right between her boobs.

Dan turns his eyes from the elephant to where the action is.

DAN

(to Angela)

Cherry pie, your boobs deserve a
full-scale attack, not only a ...
Half invasion ... Am I right, or am
I ... lusting?

Angela gives Dan a genuinely horny look.

One second later, even more horrified and crying loudly,
Half jumps from between Angela's boobs right on Britney's
left shoulder, where he tries to cool down while breathing
heavily.

HALF

(high-pitched voice;
to Angela)

Buddha dammit, you no angel! You
bad bad woman with bad bad tattoo.
Nice boobs, though.

Britney turns her eyes from Half to Angela.

BRITNEY

(to Angela)

So much for your ... um ...
Buddha-free diet ...

BILL

So Chang was right.

ANGELA

(mimicking Chang)

What now?

BILL

The Owner blew it. We are more than
four. The frigging Owner didn't win
this game!

Angela and Britney look at each other, somewhat puzzled.
Then they turn their eyes to Dan, trying to get his
attention.

But Dan has his eyes locked on the elephant and ignores the rest.

BRITNEY
 (to Bill)
 Bill, you make more sense in our
 pants than with your arithmetic ...

Bill counts everyone in the room with a pointed finger, including himself.

BILL
 One, two, three, four and ...
 (pointing to Half)
 ... a half ...

PARROT
 Fuck this shit! Now who wins?

ANGELA
 Wouldn't "4 and 1/2" be a great
 movie title? Remember, you guys,
 Fellini's "8 and 1/2"?

BRITNEY
 Yeah, "Otto e mezzo". It wasn't bad
 for a macaroni sucker ...

The elephant looks embarrassed, searching for some place to hide, but his size appears to be an issue ...

Turning his eyes away from the elephant, a composed Dan stands up from his recliner and heads to the fridge.

On top of the fridge is a jar of peanut butter and Dan lunges his hand to reach it.

With his hand in the air toward the jar, Dan feels something enters his pants from behind.

He turns and sees Bill.

All the way mocking Andy, hands/wings in the air, tone, etc.

ANGELA, BRITNEY, HALF AND PARROT
 (simultaneously)
 Holy Dear, is anybo --

As Dan stares at Bill's hand in disbelief: FREEZE FRAME.

ROLL CREDITS

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OFFICE ROOM

The manicured hands of a secretary stuff letters with the heading "22% DISCOUNT" into envelopes.

The "OFFICE ROOM" scene is identical to the one at the beginning of this movie (also while CREDITS ROLL, for a perfect symmetry) with one difference: While in this movie everything revolves around number 4, it is suggested that in the sequel the center of gravity will be number 2.

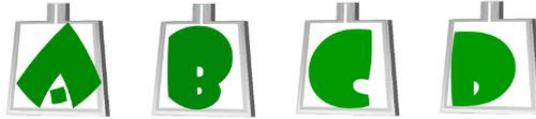
FADE OUT.

THE END

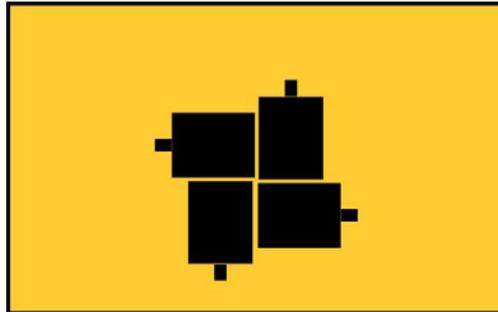
EXPLANATORY PAGE FOR THE PUZZLE

The letters in the Alphabet are Beesknees ITC font.

Each letter is made of green plastic and embedded into a rectangular board. All boards are identical, so they will fit into the slots on the gold table. Here is how they look like (only the first 4 letters shown):



The gold table (with its slots not filled yet with letters) looks like:



After the four letters "D" are inserted, they blink, the 5th element (the tail/stem) shows up (also blinking) and then all five elements turn to solid green in the shape of a four-leaf clover (the table not shown anymore, it's the symbol that matters):

