Driving 55

By

Laura Dulin

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<u>FADE IN: DREAM SEQUENCE</u> - EXT. PIER - NIGHT

ANNE, an attractive conservatively dressed woman in her mid-forties and HOWARD, a plain but attractive equally conservatively dressed man of straight character in his mid-forties are standing face to face at the end of a Pier at sunset. Howard is happy and smiling. Anne is blank-faced.

HOWARD

Happy 20th Anniversary.

Howard leans into kiss Anne, but she looks unhappy and pulls back. Suddenly a wide-jawed, wide-shouldered Romance-novel-stereotype of a man rides up on a white horse and lifts her onto the horse close behind him. She nearly falls off the horse awkwardly, but he grabs her with one enormous hand and puts her firmly behind him. The horse turns away from Howard and poops on the dock, leaving a big pile of horse poop near Howard. The last image on the dock is of Howard standing with his hands to his side, looking bewildered as his wife rides away with another man.

> HOWARD (yells in desperation long slow and drawn out) Wait!

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. ANNE AND HOWARD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Howard suddenly wakes up and his eyes are wide open, alarmed. Anne and Howard are in bed wearing full nightclothes. Anne is awake writing in her journal. Anne turns to Howard.

> ANNE Howard, are you ok?

He nods silently still looking alarmed.

HOWARD Yes. I had a bad dream.

ANNE Ok. Good night Howard. (they kiss mechanically, almost platonically)

1

2

3 INT. HOWARD'S SHARED OFFICE - DAY

Howard is sitting in a big cubicle shared with his co-worker TOM. TOM is gregarious, handsome, mid-40's, woman magnet, adventurous type. There is a big "20 years of loyalty to the company" plaque that decorates Howard's side of the cubicle. Howard is drinking coffee and number crunching on his computer. Tom comes in and turns his computer on. We see a picture of a very sexy woman on the screen in a sexually suggestive position wearing very little clothing. Howard looks at the screen annoyed.

> HOWARD Tom! Get that off your damn screen!

> TOM Come on Howard. It's funny and makes me smile in the morning. What's wrong with you this morning?

> > HOWARD

Nothing.

TOM Come on...what is it? You're an uptight bastard, but not this uptight.

HOWARD (pauses in thought) Ok. Don't tell anyone else around here.

TOM Never man. We're cube mates.

HOWARD I read something in my wife's journal.

TOM Oh shit man. Did she cheat on you. Oh...man. Oh shit. I hate that.

HOWARD No! She didn't cheat...at least I don't think so.

TOM

Then what?

He chuckles a little. By the way, I can't believe you read your wife's journal. HOWARD It was an accident.

TOM (sarcastically) Sure it was buddy. You don't have to explain to me.

Howard looks off into the distance while entering a flashback.

4 BEGIN FLASHBACK:

5 INT. HOWARD AND ANNE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Howard is straightening he and his wife's room.

After straightening the sheets on the already well-made bed he turns around and looks at the framed picture on the wall of he and his wife celebrating their anniversary at sunset on the same pier. (There is a picture taken every 5 years of marriage; one at the age of 30, 35, 40).

Howard looks at it a long time and straightens it slightly. He looks content.

He walks over to the nightstand and notices that it is a little dusty. He runs his finger across the wood and looks at it with disgust. He goes to get a tissue out of the drawer on the night stand, but it is empty. He reaches into the night stand drawer and is looking desperately for something to wipe his finger off. He notices a napkin used to hold a place in his wife's journal, and he wants to use it, but hesitates. He opens the journal, and places it face down on the bed while he uses the napkin to wipe off his finger.

He reaches over, picks up the journal carefully, then turns to put the journal back and accidentally bumps the nightstand lamp. He drops the journal in an effort to catch the lamp. He catches the lamp, but the journal has fallen on the floor. He flips through it to find the last entry to put a piece of paper in as a marker. That's when he starts to read, with eyes opening wider, a section of the journal that disturbs him.

> JOURNAL ENTRY: Ahyyy! I can't believe Howard and I are going to the pier again for our anniversary. I need something different, anything different. How can he think that this would still make me happy. Howard just doesn't (MORE)

JOURNAL ENTRY: (cont'd) get it. I think if we lived the same day out over and over for 40 more years he'd be perfectly happy, but I can't do it anymore.

END FLASHBACK.

6

INT. HOWARD'S SHARED OFFICE - DAY (CONTINUED)

Howard comes out of the flashback.

HOWARD

She just said she thinks she needs something else. I don't even know what she means by that.

TOM

Listen man. You've got to shake things up. How long have you been married? Thirty years or something?

HOWARD

20 years.

TOM

God. 20 years. That's forever. She's looking for romance, adventure. What is the most adventurous thing you guys have done in the last year?

HOWARD

I don't know. I can't think of anything at this moment.

TOM

You can't think of anything because you haven't done anything...let me show you some pics of my trip to Kathmandu last year with Rachel..or was that Mandy...anyway.

HOWARD

How can I take advice from you? You can't even remember which woman you went on a trip with last year.

TOM

Trust me man. You need to take Anne on an adventure. Here, check this out. He brings up Facebook pictures of he and a young, sexy woman on a trip to Kathmandu: in huts, hiking, climbing, drinking beers.

> TOM This was a trek I did with Rachel..oh yeah, it was Rachel. We did it in tents, hostels, she even wanted to try it on a yak. That chick was crazy!

HOWARD (looks perplexed then troubled) I don't know. We're not that kind of couple.

TOM Exactly. You need to take her on a trip where you ARE that kind of couple.

7 DAYDREAM SEQUENCE: INT. PLANE - DAY

Howard imagines he and Anne on a plane passing by Mt. Everest and going in for a landing. They have geeky neck pillows around their heads. The plane suddenly drops and encounters big turbulence.

> PILOT (0.S.) It's going to be a rough landing in Kathmandu. Buckle your seat belts.

DAYDREAM OVER.

8 INT. HOWARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Howard runs past Tom to the bathroom and sits next to the toilet dry heaving once and sweating heavily.

9 INT. HOWARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Howard has calmed down and goes to sit back at his desk.

TOM Hey. You ok? You look kind of green. (beat) I could hook you up with a deal for Kathmandu? HOWARD No! I don't fly.

TOM

Well. That limits things. Oh...you know what. Why not a cross country trip. There's this RV lot near my place. Why not a little road trip to Vegas?

HOWARD I don't know.

TOM Do you want your wife doin' another guy?

He mimics Howard's wife doin' another guy.

HOWARD

What? No!

TOM Then you need to do something drastic.

HOWARD Ok.Ok. Tomorrow is our anniversary. I'll try. This is crazy.

TOM Alright! You need to get crazy for once and show Anne you have it in you.

10 INT. ANNE'S OFFICE - DAY

ANNE (Howard's wife) is dressed in a business suit and sitting at her desk staring off into space looking sad and disenchanted.

11 INT. ANNE'S OFFICE - DAY

Jill, Anne's sassy, outgoing friend and co-worker enters Anne's office.

JILL Hello...I thought we lost you there. What were you thinking about? ANNE

Oh...nothing.

JILL

Oh...yeah, your anniversary with Howard at the Pier is coming up, isn't it?

ANNE

Yeah... (she says unenthusiastically)

JILL

I wish I was celebrating my 20th anniversary this weekend instead of my 20th date with another jackass.

ANNE

I know Jill. That's the worst part. I know Howard is a great. I just feel like each day is the same and they all just start to run together.

JILL

(looks a little stunned) Really? I thought you and Howard were going strong.

ANNE

We've been on automatic for way too long.

JILL

There's someone else isn't there?

ANNE

No. That's the thing. It's not so much wanting someone else, I just want...I don't know. Something different.

JILL Different how?

ANNE

I don't know.

JILL

(whispering) There's this upscale sex shop around the corner. We could check it out. Maybe you and Howard need (MORE) JILL (cont'd) to mix it up if you know what I mean. (beat) Think about it.

Anne has an unenthused expression dismissing the idea.

ANNE

I don't know. Maybe.

12 EXT. RV LOT - DAY

Howard and Tom are at the entrance to an RV lot looking around.

TOM (puts his arm around Tom) I knew I could get you out here. I'm proud of you man. Anne's gonna love this.

Tom sees an enormous fancy RV and walks over to it for a closer look.

TOM Shit. Look at this. This thing's a palace.

HOWARD I'd have to take out a second mortgage.

TOM

I know. This one only costs...\$250,000. I saw another one around here the other day that might be a little more affordable.

Tom looks around and spots a little old Toyota RV from the 1980's.

TOM That's it!

Tom points across the lot to a little old used Toyota RV.

HOWARD No way! Anne will hate something like that. Are you trying to get her to divorce me? TOM Don't think like the normal Anne and Howard. Do something totally different. She'll be surprised and that's what's important. Plus...these things are cheap. You could drive off with it today.

They walk over and inspect the old RV.

HOWARD

No way. This thing is too old. What if it breaks down.

TOM No. These old Toyotas are supposed to last forever. (beat) You are on the edge of disaster

with your marriage, man. How long until she gets tempted to shack up with another guy? Isn't she worth a little risk?

HOWARD There must be some other way.

TOM Quit fighting it and do something out of the norm to surprise her. Come on!

HOWARD Oh God. This is stupid. Ok. Ok.

13 EXT. KITCHEN IN ANNE AND HOWARD'S HOME - MORNING

Howard is getting coffee out of the automatic coffee maker and Anne is sitting at the table eating breakfast while engrossed in reading the paper.

HOWARD

Remember. Tonight is our special night to go to the pier.

ANNE (she says flatly still reading the paper while responding)

I remember Howard.

HOWARD You should bring some extra clothes with you.

ANNE

Why?

HOWARD Maybe it will get cold.

ANNE In Southern California?

HOWARD Yeah. Probably not.

Anne finishes what she's eating, grabs her purse, and prepares to leave.

ANNE Bye hon. I've gotta run.

HOWARD

Bye.

14 INT. HOWARD AND ANNE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Howard pulls a suitcase out and fills it with clothes for he and Anne. He is neatly and efficiently putting things into the suitcase. We see him take out a pretty nightgown from Anne's drawer and carefully fold it and place it into the suitcase. He goes to his own closet filled with uptight office shirts and ties. He looks through, but rejects these clothes. He finds a polo-type shirt in his drawer and put this in the suitcase. He leaves the bedroom in a hurry, pulling the suitcase.

15 EXT. OUTSIDE OF TOM'S HOUSE - DAY

The Toyota RV is parked in the driveway at Tom's house. Howard knocks on the door to Tom's house and MINDY, a sexy, peppy girl in her late 20's answers the door in skimpy clothing.

> HOWARD Is Tom here? MINDY Yeah. (She turns her head towards the staircase) Tom! (beat) (MORE)

MINDY (cont'd) You must be Howard. We have everything ready.

Tom comes down the stairs and grabs the girl's butt while he stands next to her talking to Howard.

TOM

You ready man!

HOWARD We have to move fast. She's expecting me after work.

TOM No worries man. I have everything taken care of.

16 INT. BACK OF RV - DAY

Tom, Mindy and Howard are in the RV and Tom is showing Howard the RV. Tom is opening up drawers and showing him how the whole RV is ready with towels, food, wine, sheets, and candles. Then Tom opens up a closet loaded with sex toys, dildos, the Kama Sutra and a shiny super-hero cape. Howard lifts up the sex toys wide-eyed.

HOWARD Are these used?

TOM

No.no..I have an ex that used to sell these at Tupperware parties and she left them in the closet when she left. We can't use them all.

Mindy giggles.

17 INT. CAB OF RV - DAY

Howard climbs behind the wheel of the RV. Tom opens the passenger door and leans in as he hands Howard the keys.

TOM Good luck man.

HOWARD

Thanks.

Howard backs the RV up jumping the curb and nearly hitting an old lady trying to walk her dog. He waves to Tom without even knowing he nearly hit the lady. He gets the RV going

(CONTINUED)

down the road and knocks several of the vents off the top when he runs the RV under low-hanging branches. He keeps going without stopping.

18 EXT. OUTSIDE OF BUILDING WHERE ANNE WORKS - DAY

Howard pulls up and parks in the temporary parking in front of the office building where Anne works.He texts a message to Anne.

> HOWARD (TEXT) *I'm waiting for you outside.* (he's uneasy in anticipation of her reaction)

Anne walks out of the office revolving door dressed in formal business clothes and carrying a briefcase. She's walking with Jill. She stops dead in her tracks and stares from a distance once she sees Howard and the RV. Her eyes are wide-open as she stands confused and shocked.

Jill is next to her laughing, and nudges Anne forward.

JILL Go on. Your chariot awaits.

Anne moves forward now in a rushed manner, past Howard, ducking inside the RV hoping no one else from work sees her.

19 INT. RV CAB - DAY

They are driving in the city after leaving her office building.

ANNE Where did you get this RV? It's....pretty old.

HOWARD I bought it for us to go on a trip.

ANNE Aren't we going to the pier?

HOWARD No. Not this year. I wanted to surprise you.

ANNE Where are we going?

HOWARD

You'll see.

Anne looks skeptically at Howard.

ANNE I don't have any clothes or anything.

HOWARD I packed some for you.

Anne looks over at Howard with quiet skepticism.

20 EXT. OPEN ROAD IN DESERT - DAY

There is a shot of Howard and Anne going down the Highway, the great expanse of the desert around them, and they are not talking and still rigid.

21 INT. BACK OF RV - NIGHT

Howard and Anne have pulled over for the night and parked the RV at a RV Park. Howard is fumbling around the RV while trying to create a sexy, romantic scene for Anne. He tries to flush the toilet and his phone drops in the hole. He tries to wash his hands and the shower squirts him in the face.

> ANNE Howard. I'm tired. What are you doing?

HOWARD I'm getting us set up. You can wait outside and look at the stars.

Anne goes outside. Howard tries to light the stove and it won't go on. He puts a lit match in the oven and there is a small explosion that singes part of his hair.

ANNE

Howard?

HOWARD

Just a minute.

Howard goes through the box that Tom gave him and finds a candle, incense, the Kama Sutra, and sexy underwear for men. He lights a candle and puts it on the table. He lights some incense. He clumsily changes out of his regular clothes and into the sexy underwear. He opens a bottle of wine. He picks up the Kama Sutra and flips to a position. He lifts his leg

(CONTINUED)

and and arm out in a flying position as he tries to read and understand the Kama Sutra position.

ANNE Howard. Can I come in? It's getting cold.

HOWARD Yes, one second.

Howard tries to strike a sexy pose.

HOWARD

Come in.

ANNE

Anne walks in and stops dead in her tracks as she takes in Howard and the whole scene. She stands shocked, not knowing what to make of it all.

> ANNE (said as if she can't recognize him) Howard? Are you on drugs?

HOWARD I wanted to surprise you with something special for our 20th anniversary.

ANNE (said in a way that indicates he shouldn't have bothered to try this)

Oh...Howard.

22 INT. INSIDE WALL OF RV - NIGHT

The back of the stove is still smoldering and we see a bale of green herb catch fire in the wall of the RV behind the stove. A tendril of smoke is seen emanating from the back of the stove.

23 INT. BACK OF RV - NIGHT

Anne sniffs the air.

ANNE Howard, what is that smell?

HOWARD Incense. You don't like it?

ANNE Hmmm. Smells like somethings burning.

24 INT. BACK OF RV - NIGHT

Howard pours Anne a glass of wine.

HOWARD I want you to know how much I love you Anne.

ANNE I don't know Howard. I feel like we got in a rut.

HOWARD

I know. I'm trying.

ANNE I see that, but should we have to try?

HOWARD I don't know.

ANNE Me neither. (she sniffs the air curiously, and looks around to try to identify the smell) It seems like there is some other smoke I'm smelling Howard. (beat) I'm getting HUNGRY.

HOWARD

Me too.

Anne reaches for the chocolate covered cherries that Howard had put out earlier and starts devouring them ferociously. They both start eating the chocolate covered cherries. The more they eat, the more they want, until they are devouring them with the cherry goo running down their chins. Anne now starts to get giggly and sport a big grin.

25 INT. BACK OF RV - NIGHT

Anne sees the book the Kama Sutra on the table and picks it up.

ANNE The Kama Sutra? What is this Howard? (she asks still giggling a little)

HOWARD Ancient sexual positions. I'll show you.

He gets behind her and awkwardly lifts her leg into the air on top of his, and lifts their arms up together like they are about to take flight. He unbuttons her shirt and is starting to seem almost suave until he loses his balance, and they both go toppling to the floor. In the process he kicks the wall, and the thin veneer has a hole kicked into it. Something green and herby falls out a little like straw falling from a broken bale of hay.

26 INT. BACK OF RV - NIGHT

As they get up and go to investigate the hole in the wall, the notice that smoke is pouring out from behind the stove in the RV.

ANNE (now stoned and off kilter) Howard! It's a fire!

HOWARD (now also definitely stoned and off kilter) Oh God. It is!

He grabs the hose from the bathroom, turns the water on and sprays the area towards the stove. This isn't working well. He spots a little fire extinguisher and manages to put the fire out. He stays standing there for a bit in shock at all the events.

> ANNE (she starts laughing kind of hysterically and out-of-place)

Howard are you ok?

HOWARD (now starts laughing a little)

I think so.

27 INT. BACK OF RV - NIGHT

> Anne and Howard are still smirking and on the edge of laughing. They get up to investigate the hole in the wall. Howard reaches in and pulls out a chunk of marijuana from the wall.

> > HOWARD Anne. I think this is mar-i-juana.

ANNE (sniffs it) That's it. That's the smell. It smells like something that the kids were smoking under the bleachers in High School.

They start pulling more and more out of the wall. They have an amazed look on their faces. Then they go to the charred section behind the stove and see that it was the marijuana in the wall that was burning. They are still a little stoned and laughing, but kind of paranoid and starting to freak out a little at the same time.

> HOWARD (crumbling the burnt marijuana in his hands and looking at it in awe...laughing a little)

Anne...

ANNE

Howard....

HOWARD I think maybe we're....stoned.

They both burst out laughing for a moment then get suddenly serious.

> ANNE (starring out into space-stoned) How much marijuana do you think there is?

28 INT. BACK OF RV - NIGHT

Looking around the RV we see that the RV has things strewn all over, drawers removed, pot has been stuffed everywhere. The RV is fully loaded.

Anne starts frantically stuffing the marijuana back into the places that they uncovered and pulled it out of.

ANNE (she is becoming more and more panicked)

Howard we have to get out of here!

HOWARD Anne, we'll figure it out. Don't worry.

ANNE (her voice gets higher pitched and irate each time she speaks)

Don't worry. (beat) Don't worry. (beat) Don't worry!

Howard is speechless for a moment.

29 INT. CAB OF RV - NIGHT

Anne is in the driver seat of the RV her hair in disarray. Her blouse is still unbuttoned. Howard has the passenger door open and is leaning in to talk to Anne.

> HOWARD Let's think about this Anne.

Anne steps hard on the gas lurching the RV forward leaving Howard behind and standing there. She drives about 100 feet and puts the brakes on hard. Howard runs to catch up and jumps in. He barely gets the door shut before she steps hard on the gas again running over sagebrush and tipping the RV as she rounds a corner hard and gets back on the Highway. Howard is alarmed and somehow impressed because he has never seen this side of his otherwise tame wife.

30 INT. 24-HOUR ROADSIDE DINER - NIGHT

Howard and Anne are in a cheap, neon-sign, 24-hour, middle-of-nowhere diner hashing over what they should do with their pot-stuffed little RV. They have come down off being stoned and are loopy from the events of the night. We see them sitting opposite one another eating pie and ice cream, and drinking coffee. They are stressed and this creates a long silence. Finally they break the silence and start talking.

ANNE

Howard, where did you find that RV?

HOWARD It was in a used car lot next to Tom's house.

ANNE

Tom. Of course it would be Tom who got us into this. What are we going to do with this thing?

HOWARD

Call the cops?

ANNE Yeah, but what if they pin it on us and say it's ours?

HOWARD Run for Mexico?

ANNE

This isn't "Thelma and Louise" Howard. What in the hell are we going to do?

HOWARD Just leave it out in the desert someplace.

ANNE We have our fingerprints all over. Think of the CSI episodes. If we miss wiping off even one fingerprint, they could trace it back to us.

HOWARD (in thought) How far are we from Colorado? ANNE

Why?

HOWARD Because it's legal there. All we have to do is get it there and then worry about what to do with it.

Anne gets out her phone and searches it.

ANNE

Six hours.

HOWARD That's not far. We'll just quietly cruise down the road until we reach Colorado.

ANNE (raising her eyebrows in doubt)

Ok Howard.

HOWARD (meekly and with a tone of a question) Happy Anniversary.

ANNE (sighs) Happy Anniversary Howard.

31 INT. BACK OF RV - NIGHT

Anne and Howard get in the RV in the parking lot, crawl into the bunk bed, and crash. Howard has his arm around Anne as they fall asleep showing some tired affection for one another.

32 INT. RV CAB - DAY

Anne and Howard are dressed in their normal vacation clothes and are headed down the desert Highway. Howard is driving.

HOWARD Anne, are you happy?

ANNE

Right now?

HOWARD No. I mean are you happy with us? ANNE Sure. Are you happy?

HOWARD I thought I was, but I don't think you are.

ANNE What is happy Howard? We've been married for 20 years. Should we expect to be happy?

HOWARD I think so. I want to make you happy.

Anne looks over at Howard with sad affection.

Suddenly the RV starts belching and lurching until they have to pull over. Smoke is coming out of the engine area.

33 INT. TOW TRUCK - DAY

Howard and Anne are squeezed into the backseat of an extended cab of a tow truck behind two older men (played by Richard "Cheech" Marin and Tommy Chong). They are employees of the mechanic where the RV is being towed. The RV is getting towed behind. Tommy "Chong" is driving.

TOMMY

I always wanted one of those little old RV's. Takes me back to the 70's.

RICHARD Yeah man, but you mean the 80's. This thing is from the 80's.

TOMMY

Whatever man. (looking at Howard) Hey, you want to sell this thing?

HOWARD No! No. We really love this old RV don't we Anne.

ANNE (expressionless and flat)

Yes, love it.

RICHARD What's it drive at, 55? (laughing)

ANNE AND HOWARD (together)

Yes.

They pull into the mechanics.

34 INT. MECHANIC'S SHOP - DAY

Anne and Howard meet STAN, a middle-aged, odd philosopher/mechanic who talks in life metaphors as he refers to cars and mechanical issues.

STAN So, what seems to be the problem?

HOWARD I don't know. We were going along fine, and out of nowhere, it broke

STAN Do you give it regular maintenance?

HOWARD

Yes.

down.

ANNE It seems a little neglected to me.

HOWARD That's a matter of opinion I think.

STAN OK folks. How 'bout we take a look at the engine?

Anne and Howard are both looking nervous and agitated, afraid that the pot will pop out of something.

HOWARD

OK.

He starts looking around for a way to pop the engine, but isn't finding it.

STAN You haven't had this long have you? HOWARD No. We just bought it yesterday.

STAN That's unfortunate. Sometimes things break down right away. (beat) Sometimes they run well for years and then completely break down. (beat) You never really know. That's life. Don't worry though Howard. I think we can fix this.

35

INT. INSIDE THE TRUCK OF THE MEXICAN FATHER AND SON - DAY

A Mexican father and son are parked in a truck outside of the mechanics garage. The son is in the driver's seat and the Mexican father is in the passenger seat. They are copying down the number on the "for sale" sign that is still in the back window of Howard and Anne's Toyota RV. They are preparing to call the number.

> MEXICAN FATHER Hijo we need this RV for your primo. He can live in for a time. Write down the number and call.

> > SON

OK dad, but they're right there talking to the mechanic. Why don't we just go talk to them?

MEXICAN FATHER No mijo. Let's call first. Gringos get scared if you just go up and talk to them. Suave son.

The son dials the number on the 'for sale' sign of the RV. Phone rings.

SON

Hello.

36 INT. OFFICE OF THE RV DEALERSHIP WHERE HOWARD BOUGHT THE RV - DAY

Phone is ringing in a private office.

THUG #1

Hello.

SON Hello, I'm calling about the old Toyota RV for sale.

THUG #1

Which one?

SON It's a white Toyota RV with a "Viva Mexico" sticker on it.

THUG #1 Oh! That RV! Can you hold please?

SON Yes, OK. (now looking very confused)

38 INT. DEALERSHIP OFFICE - DAY

Thug #1 out for his boss while the Mexican Son waits on hold on the phone.

THUG #1 Hey boss. Good news. Someone is calling about that Toyota RV- THE Toyota RV.

CARTEL BOSS Idiota! I can't believe you sold it. Find out where it is and go get it, or I'll have your juevos crushed, made into mole, and served to your abuela.

39 INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION (CONT'D)

DEALERSHIP REP. Thanks for waiting. Where are you calling from?

SON I'm in Winslow, Arizona. Where are you?

THUG #1 Not important. Tell me exactly where you're at so that I can sell you that RV. SON

Huh? I'm outside of "Stan's Garage" in Winslow, Arizona talking to you.

Thug #1 hangs up. Only a dial tone is heard.

40 INT. CAB OF MEXICAN FATHER'S TRUCK - DAY (CONT'D)

The son is talking to his father and he is confused about the call.

SON He hung up on me.

MEXICAN FATHER What? I told you not to tell the Gringo that we are here. Los gringos need espacio.

SON

Dad. You've been living in the United States since before I was born. Why do you still call people gringos?

MEXICAN FATHER Because gringos are gringos. (beat) Let's give them espacio, follow them, and call back in a little while.

SON OK dad, but I think it might scare them more if they think we are following them.

MEXICAN FATHER They won't know.

The son gives a look of 100% skepticism to his dad.

SON

Ok.

41 EXT. BENCH OUTSIDE OF STAN'S GARAGE - DAY

TOMMY (Chong) and RICHARD (Cheech) are passing the day bullshitting about nothing.

TOMMY How will we know when we've met our maker? 25.

RICHARD I don't know. That's depressing man.

TOMMY There could be a sign. You have to watch for signs.

RICHARD Like what? A giant doobie falling from the sky?

TOMMY Yeah man. That would work for me.

42 INT. STAN'S GARAGE - DAY

The door to Stan's Garage is open. Anne is looking outside while Howard looks over the RV engine with Stan. She sees the Mexican father and his son outside. She notices that they are looking at the RV, writing something down, watching her and Howard, and talking on their cell phone. Anne grows more anxious as they continue to stay focused on her and Stan's direction.

She stands up abruptly.

ANNE (pulling Howard aside)

Howard. Those men out there are watching us and talking to someone on the phone.

HOWARD

Are you sure? Maybe they are just bringing their car to the garage.

ANNE

No Howard. I've been watching them for a while. They pointed over here, wrote something down, and called on the phone. Somebody is looking for this thing Howard.

HOWARD

You've been watching too much TV.

ANNE (now frustrated)

Howard. This thing is loaded with marijuana. We have to get out of here-NOW!

HOWARD (walks over to Stan)

You said it's about ready right?

STAN

Yeah. Pretty much.

Howard quickly pulls cash out of his wallet and hands it to Stan.

HOWARD Thanks. We'll take it now.

STAN Try not to push her too hard.

ANNE I'll try not to. Howard; Come On!

Anne gets behind the wheel. Howard rushes in and quickly shuts the door. Anne steps on the gas and charges out of the garage.

43 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Tommy and Richard are still sitting out on the bench in the parking lot bullshitting. They see the RV charge out of the garage. The RV hits a pothole and the exhaust pipe is ripped off and falls off in the process. A clear-wrapped block of marijuana falls out and floats in a puddle. Richard walks over, picks it up, and smells. He looks up to the sky in reverence.

RICHARD (big stoner grin)

Amen.

44 INT. CAB OF MEXICAN FATHER'S TRUCK - DAY

The Mexican father and son see the RV speed past them.

MEXICAN FATHER Hijo. They're leaving. (beat) Vamanos! We have to follow them.

The son drives and tries to catch up to the RV.

SON This is crazy dad. MEXICAN FATHER Tal vez a little agresivo, but hijo that RV is perfect for our cousin.

SON (shrugs it off)

Whatever dad.

MEXICAN FATHER When you catch up, I'll wave them over.

SON And you don't think THAT will scare gringos?

MEXICAN FATHER No importa hijo. This is America. Sometimes you have to go for it. (beat) And quit calling them gringos.

The father smiles mischievously at his son.

45 INT. RV CAB - DAY

Anne is driving down the road with Howard in the passenger seat. They notice the Mexican father and son following close.

ANNE

Now what?

HOWARD I don't know. We can't outrun them.

ANNE I know! This thing won't go over 55 except downhill. Wait. I'm flooring it now and going 65.

HOWARD They are flashing their lights.

ANNE Do they have guns?

HOWARD Not that I see. They are waving at us and smiling.

ANNE

That's because killing us would mean nothing to them.

46 INT. CAB OF MEXICAN FATHER'S TRUCK - DAY

Mexican father and son pull up beside the RV waving and pointing for Howard and Anne to pull over. They are pointing at the RV and giving a thumbs up to indicate that they like the RV.

47 INT. RV CAB - DAY

ANNE They are motioning for us to pull over.

HOWARD Maybe we can just give it to them and they'll drive it off?

ANNE

Or they shoot us and bury us under some bush out there.

The Mexican father and son continue to wave and smile. They are driving in the passing lane next to the RV. Anne suddenly veers off to the right on a dirt road, leaving the father and son going down the road without them.

HOWARD

Anne. You did it!

48

INT. CAB OF MEXICAN FATHER'S TRUCK - DAY

MEXICAN FATHER Si hijo. You have to go for it when you really want something in America. They pulled over.

SON

They didn't pull over dad. They are going down the dirt road.

MEXICAN FATHER Probably looking for a good place to park. Turn around quick and follow.

49 INT. RV CAB - DAY

Things are banging all over the place in the RV as they speed down the road hitting bumps and sometimes swerving around potholes. Anne is driving like a cross-country race car driver.

HOWARD

They're coming down the road now. I think we should just stop and try to reason with them.

ANNE Hell no Howard! I'm not dying out here.

50 INT. CAB OF MEXICAN FATHER'S TRUCK - DAY

The Mexican son is swerving on the dirt road to miss potholes. The father turns up the Ranchero music loudly and is enjoying the craziness.

> MEXICAN FATHER Andale hijo!

> > SON

I'm trying.

MEXICAN FATHER Pull up beside them so I can talk to the Gringos.

51 INT. RV CAB - DAY

The RV swerves jerkily causing a big box of sex toys to burst out of the closet in the back of the RV and spill the all over the floor. Several of the dildos start vibrating.

> HOWARD What was that?

> > ANNE

I don't know. Go check it out.

Howard goes back to investigate while Anne is still driving. He braces himself as he crawls to the back of the RV. He looks down in amazement at all the different sex toys on the floor which come in every color, shape, and size.

> ANNE What was that back there?

HOWARD Nothing. I've got it under control. Just keep driving.

Howard is sprawled out on the floor trying to round up the vibrating dildos and other sex toys and put them in the box as the RV swerves from side to side.

52 INT./EXT. BACK OF RV - DAY

The father and son now pull up alongside the RV. Howard sees them approaching as he stands in the back and looks out the back window. He is in the process of trying to turn off an enormous black vibrating dildo. It is in his hand and held up as he looks out the window at the Mexican father. The Mexican father is smiling and waving.

HOWARD

Anne. Faster!

Anne steps on the gas as hard as she can. Howard is thrown off balance. Howard has taken a wide-legged stance to hold himself steady. He's waving the black dildo around as he tries to steady himself and keep from falling to the ground during the swerving.

> MEXICAN FATHER Hijo, I think he's waving a gun! (father is straining to look closer at Howard. His eyes get wide as he realizes what it is.)

Wait! Dios Mio. It's not a gun. There is something wrong with this Gringo. Turn us around son. Rapido!

MEXICAN SON

Now dad?

MEXICAN FATHER Si son. NOW!

53 INT. CAB OF RV - DAY

Howard is looking out the window of the RV and into the cab of the Mexican father and son. Just then he sees a Humvee-type vehicle pull up on the far side of the Mexican Father's truck pointing a big automatic machine gun at all of them. Two men are driving the Humvee with Mexican wrestling masks on. Anne is driving and Howard jumps to the floor of the RV and crawls up next to Anne with the black dildo still in his hand.

ANNE What are you doing?

HOWARD Anne. Step on it! They have guns.

ANNE

I knew it. Dammit Howard!

Anne steps on the gas of the RV. They approach a hill and the RV goes from 50 mph to 20 mph struggling to get up the hill, going slower and slower until they are only going 5mph and looking over at the father and son in a truck next to them and beyond them the two Mexican cartel men in the Humvee pointing guns at all of them. Howard and Anne smile ridiculously and stop.

> THUG #1 Pull over hijo de putas!

Anne pulls over. The Mexican father and son pull over too.

55 INT. BACK OF RV - DAY

Thug # 1 is driving and thug #2 is in the passenger seat of the RV. Anne, Howard, Mexican father and son are all in the back of the RV sitting on each side of the RV table, hands tied behind their backs and blindfolded.

> THUG #2 What are we going to do with them?

THUG #1 We're going to dig a hole for them.

ANNE (whispers to Howard) Howard. Do something.

HOWARD (whispering) Anne. I'm sorry I got us into this.

ANNE (whispering) Just get us out of this.

THUG #1 Shut up back there! THUG #1 (turning to Thug #2) Why didn't you gag them? THUG #2 I don't know. THUG #1 Do I have to teach you everything? THUG #2 Do we have to kill them? It's messy. I'm too tired to dig a hole. THUG #1 You are a lazy hijo de puta. THUG #2 They don't know who we are. We have masks on. MEXICAN FATHER Exactamente. We don't know who you are. THUG #1 (to Mexican father) Callate! (to Thug #2)) The boss won't like it. THUG #2 We can drive them way out in the desert and leave them. How far can they get if they're tied up like that? No mess and no hole. THUG #1 Bien. Bien. But if something goes wrong, you answer to el jefe, not me.

56 EXT. WAY OUT IN THE DESERT - DAY

We see the BACK of the RV driving down the road into the desert with no sign of civilization in the distance.

Mexican father and son are tied up back to back, blindfolded, and sitting on the side of the road. Anne and Howard are also tied up back to back, blindfolded, and sitting on the side of the road about ten feet from the father and son.

HOWARD

Anne.

ANNE

Howard.

HOWARD

I really wanted to surprise you with something special this anniversary. I was trying to take us on an adventure.

ANNE

This has been an adventure.

HOWARD

I want to make you happy Anne. We've been together for twenty years, and I don't want to lose you.

ANNE

You keep bringing this up Howard. Where did you come up with the idea that you were going to lose me?

HOWARD I don't want to tell you because you'll be angry.

ANNE

What does it matter Howard. We're tied up out in the desert with no way of getting out of here, and my hands are tied behind my back. Try me.

HOWARD

I accidentally read in your diary that you were bored and unhappy with me, and wanted something different. ANNE

What? How do you accidentally read another persons diary?

HOWARD I was looking around for a napkin to wipe the dust off the night stand and you had one in your diary.

ANNE Most people wouldn't believe that story, but with you Howard, it's believable.

58 EXT. WAY OUT IN THE DESERT: NEAR MEXICAN FATHER - NIGHT

MEXICAN FATHER What are the gringos talking about hijo?

SON I think they are talking about a diary or something.

MEXICAN FATHER What! We're going to die out here when it gets cold and those tantos are talking about a diary.

59

EXT. WAY OUT IN THE DESERT: NEAR HOWARD AND ANNE - NIGHT

Anne and Howard sit in silence in the desert night.

ANNE Ok Howard. Yes, it's true. I've been bored for a long time. When we were first together I liked the security and stability of our relationship, but little by little, I started to resent the routine.

HOWARD What routine?

ANNE Every anniversary we go to the same pier where we got married.

HOWARD I thought you loved going back to the pier? ANNE

I did...for a while. Maybe for the first five anniversaries, but not for the fifteen after that...

HOWARD

Why didn't you say anything before?

ANNE

Because you are a man of routines Howard. Tightly held together little routines.

HOWARD

I can change. (beat) I think.

ANNE

Really Howard? Can a person really change something like that?

HOWARD

I could try. Look, we're tied up out in the desert and blindfolded. Is this a part of my routine?

ANNE Well, that's true. (beat) God Howard. What are we doing here?

MEXICAN FATHER(O.S.) (to Anne and Howard) All I wanted was to buy that RV for my family and now we are stuck out here en el desierto. Por Dios! Is that RV filled with cocaina or something?

HOWARD

Marijuana.

MEXICAN FATHER

I don't believe it. You two look like you just walked out of a Starbucks, not two drug dealers.

ANNE

We aren't drug dealers. Howard bought it by accident, and they came and took it back.

MEXICAN FATHER Accidental drug dealers then.

60 EXT. WAY OUT IN THE DESERT - NIGHT

Coyotes are heard off in the distance.

HOWARD

I hear coyotes howling. Do coyotes attack?

ANNE

I don't know.

HOWARD I think I hear something coming.

ANNE

Howard we have to get out of here. It's probably the cartel coming back to finish things up. Get up! Let's try running.

They try to stand up and run sideways while tied together back to back. They fall, and get up, then try shuffling forward. Howard's butt rams into a big cactus spine.

HOWARD

Ow! GOD!!

ANNE Quiet Howard. (she listens for a few seconds) I don't hear anything now.

61 EXT. WAY OUT IN THE DESERT - NIGHT

The Mexican father is praying to Mother Mary.

MEXICAN FATHER Madre de madres. Save me. Jesus, por favor. (beat) Si Jesus. I hear you. I'll do that.

MEXICAN FATHER Gringos. Callate. I've heard a message from Jesus. We need to untie these ropes. HOWARD (under his breath) You needed to hear this from Jesus?

ANNE Start talking so that we can hear where you are and move in that direction.

MEXICAN FATHER (singing) "I had the time of my life, and I never felt this way before."

SON (reacting like a self-conscious teenager) Oh no. That song dad?

Howard and Anne are awkwardly moving like bound snakes over to the Mexican father and son.

> ANNE Keep singing. I think we're close.

MEXICAN FATHER "and I swear is the truth."

ANNE Isn't that from Dirty Dancing?

MEXICAN FATHER Si. You know it.

They have reached the son and father. Howard is feeling around with his hands bound, trying to untie the Mexican father.

> MEXICAN FATHER Hey, watch where you're grabbing.

HOWARD Sorry. I was feeling for the knot.

Howard struggles to untie the knot.

HOWARD I think the lady should try. Smaller hands.

Anne is trying to untie the Mexican father's hands.

MEXICAN FATHER Si. Mejor.

ANNE I can get my fingers in there, but I can't pull it loose.

MEXICAN FATHER Hijo, mi knife.

SON Dad. I don't think you want her to use your knife.

MEXICAN FATHER Si hijo. There is no other option.

The son leans over and pulls out the knife that was in a holster in his father's cowboy boot, and carefully delivers it into Anne's hands.

MEXICAN FATHER Cut it, but ten cuidado...careful.

ANNE Ok. I'll try.

She's nervous and her hands are shaking as she tries to cut the ropes.

MEXICAN FATHER Suave mujer.

ANNE

Sorry.

HOWARD You can do it Anne.

She starts cutting the rope again with a slower, steadier hand. The Mexican father screams in pain.

MEXICAN FATHER Ay! Por Dios!

Mexican father laughs.

MEXICAN FATHER Just kidding.

ANNE That's not funny.

MEXICAN FATHER I think it's almost loose.

Anne keeps cutting gingerly until his hands are freed.

MEXICAN FATHER

Muy bien.

The father's hands are loose. He starts to untie his own feet.

62 EXT. BUSHES IN THE DESERT - NIGHT

The Mexican Father cuts the ropes off of Anne, his son, and Howard. Howard runs for some nearby bushes while pulling his pants down. Terrible diarrhea sounds are heard coming from behind the bushes.

MEXICAN FATHER

Que asco!

ANNE Howard? Are you ok?

HOWARD I think it was the food at that diner.

SON This is a nightmare.

MEXICAN FATHER Por Dios. Vamanos.

The Mexican father starts walking towards the direction of the city lights far in the distance. He's not taking the road. It is dark, but there is enough light from the moon to walk.

> HOWARD Wait! Why aren't you walking back on the road we came?

MEXICAN FATHER Because we see a city, people.

HOWARD Yeah, but we might get lost.

MEXICAN FATHER Yes, but we could see the cartel again on this road. HOWARD OK then. Anne, what do you think?

ANNE Not great choices. I guess we follow him.

Everyone is following the Mexican Father through the desert.

HOWARD

Here Anne.

He gives Anne his jacket.

63 EXT. DEEP IN THE DESERT - NIGHT

ANNE Howard. I'm getting tired. We've been walking for hours.

HOWARD Anne. We have to keep walking and keep warm out here.

SON Dad. I'm tired too.

MEXICAN FATHER Hijo, we need to move.

ANNE

What if we find a place behind some rocks and huddle together?

HOWARD Maybe we could try it, but we'll have to be really close to stay warm. (to Mexican father and son)

I don't know if these guys will do it?

SON Dad, please?

MEXICAN FATHER OK, but I'm next to you and Anne, not Starbucks.

HOWARD What? Howard is my name. H-O-W-A-R-D. Anne, Howard, Mexican father and son are cuddled up tight in a circle trying to stay warm.

MEXICAN FATHER Hijo, this is what it was like crossing la frontera with your madre years ago.

SON Thank you dad.

MEXICAN FATHER

Si hijo.

ANNE Can we try to sleep?

Coyotes are heard yipping and howling wildly. Howard rubs Anne's shoulder to try to warm her.

HOWARD Anne. Why did you loose faith in me?

ANNE Howard. I'm tired. I'm freezing. I'm surrounded by howling wolves, coyotes or something. (beat) I'm not sure Howard. (beat) It felt like you stopped seeing me...romantically.

MEXICAN FATHER Por favor. What is wrong with gringos? Starbucks, why you don't please your wife in the bed?

HOWARD Enough border runner.

MEXICAN FATHER Que? That's low. We struggle; not like you Starbucks.

ANNE Shut up both of you and sleep.

They all try to snuggle closer together.

65 EXT. DESERT ROAD - NIGHT

Thug #1 and thug #2 are driving back down the bumpy desert road towards the main road when the RV breaks down. The RV slowly loses power and won't go forward. Thug #2 is driving.

> THUG #1 What are you doing?

The RV comes to a full stop. The engine is running, but it won't go any further.

THUG #2 I'm trying. It won't go.

THUG #1 Que mierda!

THUG #2 You know how to fix it?

THUG #1 No. I don't know how to fix it. If

I knew how to fix it, I'd be a mechanic and not a drug dealer hanging out with an idiot like you. (beat) We have to get to that mechanic in town in the morning.

THUG #2 But he saw the gringos driving the RV.

THUG #1 No shit. Que intelegente observation for un idiota like you.

THUG #2 (smiles) Thanks.

THUG #1 We don't have a choice.

He pulls his gun out and holds it up. Thug # 2 nods.

The next morning Howard, Anne, Mexican father and son are walking in a line out in the desert.

HOWARD I think the city is farther away than we think.

ANNE Other options?

MEXICAN FATHER We can get there. I traveled through the desert from Mexico to Arizona.

SON Yeah dad, but you had a coyote leading you, water, and food.

MEXICAN FATHER

True.

ANNE Great. This is so reassuring.

MEXICAN FATHER There are ways. We learned some things about how to survive en el desierto.

SON I hope so dad.

67 INT./EXT RV - DAY

Thug #1 is leaning in the doorway to the RV to give final instructions to thug #2 in the back of the RV.

THUG #1

You need to guard this thing. Por favor, don't do anything stupid. Just sit here, and if anyone comes by get rid of them.

THUG #2 OK jefe. No problem.

THUG #1

I don't think my truck is far down the road, so after I get the truck, I'll come back with the mechanic.

68 EXT. BARREL CACTUS - DAY

Anne, Howard, Mexican father and son are all gathered around a barrel cactus looking parched, sunburned, and hot. The Mexican father is trying to cut the barrel cactus in half.

MEXICAN FATHER

Starbucks.

HOWARD

Howard!

MEXICAN FATHER OK. Howard. I need you to use this stick to pull back the cactus when I cut. (to son) Hijo, you lift on the other side.

ANNE What do I do?

MEXICAN FATHER Look bonita.

ANNE What? Are we back in the 70's?

MEXICAN FATHER You can help prepare it.

ANNE Oh, wait. We're in the Stone Age.

Howard and the Mexican son are on each side of the barrel cactus, each holding onto one side of a stick that is hoisting up the cut section of the barrel cactus as the Mexican father cuts it. The Mexican father is working hard to cut it, but not making fast progress.

MEXICAN FATHER Dios. Give me power por favor.

The Mexican father then takes the knife and starts hacking into the cactus making progress in cutting it in half. It cuts and with Howard and the son hoisting it up, the top of the barrel topples over.

MEXICAN FATHER Gracias dios!

Anne rushes to pick it up and turn it over so that the flesh is up and not down in the dirt.

MEXICAN FATHER Ten cuidado Anne!

Anne uses her shirt to hook the cactus and flip it over.

ANNE

I did it.

The Mexican father starts to cut up the inside of the barrel cactus and mash it a bit. He takes a chunk and starts to suck on it.

MEXICAN FATHER You have to chew and suck out the aqua.

He hands a piece to everyone and everyone starts to chew and suck.

SON It takes like marshmallow, and vomit.

ANNE (making a sour face) Oh God. It's awful.

Howard turns around and gags without vomiting.

MEXICAN FATHER Keep sucking. It passes.

SON

Dad. I can't believe you survived off this in the desert.

MEXICAN FATHER I did it for you son...to have a better life.

ANNE How much of this do we need to suck?

MEXICAN FATHER As much as we can. We can cut it up and try to take it with us.

HOWARD (to Mexican father) Gracias. MEXICAN FATHER Si Starbucks. You're welcome.

69 INT. STAN'S SHOP - DAY

Stan is reading a book on philosophy while drinking coffee. Thug #1 walks into the shop.

> THUG #1 Hola. I need some help with an RV I just bought. It broke down out in the desert.

STAN Really? What kind of RV? Year?

THUG #1 I don't know. Old. Toyota I think.

STAN You don't know much about your vehicle.

THUG #1 Yeah. I just bought it from a couple. They wanted to sell it fast.

STAN Sounds just like the RV that was in here yesterday. They had just bought it and it broke down on them.

THUG #1

Shit.

OK.

STAN I think maybe you bought a lemon.

THUG #1 Damn. Can you help me fix it.

STAN Yeah. Where is it?

THUG #1 Out in the desert. Not far. I can drive you there.

STAN

(yells at his tow truck drivers outside) Gentlemen. Watch the shop for me. I need to go check on that Toyota RV again.

RICHARD "CHEECH" We'll go with you.

STAN No. Just watch the place for me.

RICHARD "CHEECH"

OK man.

70 INT. BACK OF RV - DAY

Thug #2 is lying in the back of the RV by the table. He is looking at things on his cellphone. He gets bored with this, and puts the phone on the table. He starts looking around the RV. He inspects the hole in the wall where Howard kicked it in before. He pulls some weed out of the wall and starts to smoke it. He puts some music on his cellphone and starts dancing around a bit. He starts dancing to the sexy rap lyrics, grinding, etc.

Since he's stoned, he really gets into it in a funny way. The music ends so he starts looking in the cupboard for something to eat. He finds some chips and starts eating them. Then he looks around a little more and finds the box of sex toys and the Kama Sutra. He flips through the Kama Sutra curiously then puts it on the table. He takes the box of sex toys out and dumps them on the table. He starts to play with all of them, and then tries to balance them on top of each other. He puts one of the toys with a pink O-ring around his trigger finger and it gets stuck. He tries desperately to get it off, but it won't budge.

71 EXT. RV - DAY

Thug #1 drives up to the RV with Stan following in his truck. Stan looks in the engine and then goes into the cab to try switching something on. He glances around and sees a woman's purse, a woman's clothes scattered around, and signs that Howard and Anne left things behind. He begins to get suspicious.

> STAN (to Thug #1) I'm going to have to get some things delivered from the shop. I can't fix it out here.

THUG #1 We're in a hurry. Are you sure there isn't something you can do to fix it fast here?

STAN I wish I could.

He reaches for his phone to make the call. Thug #2 comes out behind him and puts a gun to Stan's head. He still has the pink O-ring sexual toy stuck to his trigger finger.

THUG #1 (pointing to the thing on Thug #1's finger.)

What is that?

THUG #2

No importa.

Thug #1 shakes his head.

72 EXT. DESERT BLUFF- DAY

Anne, Howard, Mexican Father and Son are sweating, tired, and struggling to make it to the top of the bluff.

MEXICAN FATHER I think we are not far.

HOWARD I hope you're right.

ANNE AND SON

Me too!

They crest the bluff and stop to look. There is a great impenetrable fence below them that stretches as far as they see in either direction. It has an enormous sign warning people to stay out - US Department of Defense. Unexploded Ordnance.

MEXICAN FATHER

Again.

ANNE No. It can't be.

SON

Now what?

HOWARD

Like I thought. We need to go back.

ANNE

How? How can we go back? We don't
have food, or water, and who even
knows how far away we are.
 (beat)
This is an unbelievable anniversary
Howard. Perhaps our last.

HOWARD

We're going to get out of here Anne. If we just turn around and find our way to the road, we'll get there eventually.

MEXICAN FATHER He's right. We have to head back.

SON

Dad. Why can't we just scale the fence?

MEXICAN FATHER

No son. Trust me. There are fences that aren't worth trying to climb unless you have no other choice. We can make it back.

73

EXT. RV IN THE DESERT - DAY

Stan is down under the engine working hard and trying to fix it while the two thugs watch him.

STAN I can't fix it without being at the shop. See where the coolant is leaking out?

THUG #2 (to Thug #1) Do you think we should call the jefe?

THUG #1 No. Don't call the boss. We need to figure this out or we're dead. (to Stan) Look. You get this fixed or we're ALL dead. STAN

Let me call my tow truck driver and haul it in. I can fix it for you in there. I can't do anything out here. I'll act normal, and my workers won't know. Once it's fixed, you can get on the road with the RV. I don't want any trouble. I fix things, and that's it.

THUG #1

I better be able to believe you, because if you do anything out of the norm now or in the future, we will send someone to find you. Understand?

STAN I understand. Now can I call them?

THUG #1

Call them.

74 INTERCUT - STAN'S GRAGE/RV IN THE DESERT

Phone to Stan's Garage rings for a long time.

RICHARD "CHEECH"

Неууу.

STAN

What were you doing and what happened to answering with "Stan's Garage?"

RICHARD "CHEECH" Heyyy, Stan's Garage.

STAN

Better. (beat) I need you to bring the tow truck out for that RV.

RICHARD "CHEECH" OK. Where are you?

STAN Out on East Butte Road about 5 miles from the turn off. RICHARD "CHEECH" I'll be there.

THUG #1 (mouthing the words to Stan) Hurry up! No fucking around.

STAN Come straight out. Don't get sidetracked.

RICHARD "CHEECH" OK man.

75 EXT. DESERT - DAY

We see Howard walking through the desert followed by Anne, Mexican father and son. They are walking slowly and steadily into the distance.

76 EXT. RV -DAY

Richard "Cheech" pulls up in the tow truck and Stan waves him over to hook up the RV. The tow truck backs up to the RV and Richard gets out to hook it up.

> RICHARD "CHEECH" Hey boss. Isn't this that same RV the couple had?

STAN Yeah. They sold it to these guys and it broke down.

RICHARD "CHEECH" Oh no. Bummer man.

Richard hooks up the RV.

STAN I'll see you back at the garage.

THUG #1 (to Stan) My buddy here is going to ride with you so that we all stay together and no one gets lost.

Thug #2 jumps in with Stan, and they all convoy back to the garage.

52.

STAN What is that thing on your finger?

THUG #2 It doesn't matter. Just drive.

STAN I have some lube in the shop that might help you get that thing off.

Thug #2 silently motions with a gun (and the pink o-ring on his finger) for Stan to drive.

77 EXT. ROCK OUTCROPPING - DAY

It's late in the day and Anne, Howard, Mexican father and son are sitting in the shade of a big rock outcropping in the desert sucking on more of the barren cactus pieces.

> ANNE I think we need to rest here for the night.

MEXICAN FATHER Que? No, we need to keep going.

SON Dad. Let's rest here for a while.

HOWARD

If you need to rest Anne. We'll rest. I've read that you can live three weeks in the desert without water.

MEXICAN FATHER If you're a camel.

SON Maybe we can hunt for food.

MEXICAN FATHER Son, have you ever tried to hunt for food? It's not easy.

MEXICAN SON Didn't they teach you that when you crossed the border?

MEXICAN FATHER

No hijo. We ate whatever anyone would give us. No mucho. We can try. There is lizard. Who wants to (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MEXICAN FATHER (cont'd) hunt down lizard. My vote is for Starbucks.

HOWARD

Fine.

MEXICAN FATHER You can eat the red fruit on the prickly pear cactus. Anne, you can get that.

ANNE Which one is the prickly pear cactus?

MEXICAN FATHER I'll show you.

SON What about me?

MEXICAN FATHER Conejo. Rabbit. You can hunt the desert rabbit.

SON

How?

MEXICAN FATHER Well. That's what you have to figure out.

HOWARD (asking Mexican father) What are you getting?

MEXICAN FATHER It's una supresa.

MONTAGE

-Howard throws a rock at lizard and misses.

-The Mexican son is chasing a rabbit as it runs off into the bushes.

-Anne is pricking her finger and trying to pull out the small, irritating cactus spines as she tries to collect the prickly pear fruit.

-The Mexican father is using his shirt as a bag. It has something in it.

78 EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Howard, Anne, Mexican father and son are gathered around a small fire at night.

MEXICAN FATHER Starbucks, I am impressed.

HOWARD

I learned how to make a fire in Boy Scouts.

ANNE I didn't even know you were in Boy Scouts.

SON Does anyone have any food to put over the fire?

HOWARD

No.

ANNE

No.

MEXICAN FATHER Hijo. There was something I remember eating when we crossed the desert. (beat) Los cucarachas.

SON Cockroaches? Really dad?

MEXICAN FATHER Si hijo. Protein.

He pulls his knife out of the bag and it has large cockroaches skewered on it. He begins to roast them over the fire. Everyone looks skeptical and disgusted, but end with a look of resignation.

79 INT. STAN'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Stan is in the garage with Thug #1 and #2 emerging from under the engine.

STAN Look. You aren't going to like this, but this is how it is. We need a new thermostat for this old (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STAN (cont'd) thing, and I'm going to have to get it tomorrow morning from the nearest town 30 miles from here. It's closed now, so it will have to be in the morning. I can get my guys to go get it first thing in the morning, install it, and you can be out of here.

THUG #1 This means you're sleeping here in this RV with us.

THUG #2 Dios, I'm sick of this RV.

STAN I've slept in worse places.

THUG #1 (to Thug #2) We'll take turns staying awake.

80 INT. TOM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mindy is going through Tom's phone history while Tom is taking a late night shower. She reads a message from Howard.

> HOWARD(TEXT) Help! Now! Location coordinates 34.944865, -110.136647

Tom enters the room in a towel.

TOM What are you looking for?

MINDY Late night pizza delivery.

TOM Good idea.

MINDY This message popped up. I think you might want to look at it.

TOM I only want to focus on your body, and ignore the rest of the world.

He is holding her down on the bed and nibbling on her thigh.

MINDY Just look.

Tom looks at the text message from Howard.

TOM Oh shit. I wonder if this is for real.

MINDY You're friend Howard doesn't seem much like he's into joking.

TOM Good point babe. Shit. This is several days old. Maybe he dealt with it. I'll call.

He calls. No answer. He leaves a message from Howard.

TOM (MESSAGE) Hey buddy. What's up? I'm worried. I had my phone off for the weekend. Call me.

TOM (to Mindy) We've gotta go check it out.

MINDY

Now?

TOM

Yeah. I think we need to go now. It's an emergency. Plus, I love a good adventure, and an excuse to miss work tomorrow.

MINDY What about calling the police?

TOM

We can get to that, but maybe they just had a flat tire or something. Let's head that way and see if they call us back by morning.

MINDY

Let's go then.

81 EXT. EXTINGUISHED CAMPFIRE - DAY

It's the next day and Howard is lying with his arm around Anne. The father is cuddled up next to his son. They wake.

> HOWARD We need to get going early so that hopefully we can make it back to the road today.

MEXICAN FATHER Si. He's right. Vamanos hijo.

ANNE God I hope we find someone on the road today.

HOWARD

So do I.

82 INT. BACK OF RV - DAY

The two thugs are sleeping in the bunk above the cab, and Stan is sleeping in the table area that makes into a bed. Stan wakes up.

> STAN So boys. You ready to get this RV fixed and on your way?

THUG #2 Let's sleep a little longer.

THUG #1 Idiot. You were supposed to stay

awake. (beat) If we don't get this thing back today, the jefe is definitely sending someone to find us.

THUG #2

OK. OK.

STAN I'm sending my men to the next town over to get the part.

THUG #1 So when can you be done? STAN Hopefully by noon.

THUG #1 Yeah. Let's hope because you don't want to meet my jefe. I'm a lot nicer than he is. (gesturing to Thug #2) He'll go with your men to get the part.

83 EXT. DESERT - DAY

Anne, Howard, Mexican father and son are walking along in the mid-day heat. Anne and Howard are trailing behind a distance looking very hot and worn.

> HOWARD Are you going to want a divorce when we get back?

> ANNE Do we have to discuss this now?

HOWARD Yes. I think I need to know.

ANNE What I want is for everything to change.

HOWARD What do you mean?

ANNE I mean change the rigid way you do everything each day. The perfectly damn efficient way you make it through your day.

HOWARD I don't know. That's how I am.

ANNE That's exactly what I'm talking about. (beat) I don't see any way forward Howard. You aren't going to change. We aren't going to change. We've been doing our same routine for twenty years. HOWARD There has to be a way Anne.

ANNE Howard. It isn't going to work. I didn't want to tell you out here. We're over Howard.

Howard doesn't say anything. He walks behind her in the desert looking devastated. The Mexican father and son are walking ahead of them and overheard their conversation. The Mexican father comments to his son only.

MEXICAN FATHER Son. Don't become a gringo like these two. They always want more out of life. Never satisfied. Your mother and I have been together for thirty five years and your mom isn't complaining. (beat) Of course. I am like a torro in the bed.

SON

Enough dad.

84 INT. TOW TRUCK - DAY

Richard and Tommy are riding with Thug #2 in the front of the tow truck cab.

TOMMY "CHONG" This is cool man. Most people don't ride with us to get the parts.

THUG #2 We really need this part or we're jodida and our boss will come for us.

RICHARD "CHEECH" Man, that sounds like a harsh boss.

THUG #2 He's not that bad. My old boss used to burn people's ear off or cut off their toes if they messed up. That was a bad boss.

Tommy and Richard both look at him in the middle with raised eyebrows at the same time.

TOMMY "CHONG" Woah man. I'm glad we don't have that kind of boss.

85 EXT. DESERT - DAY

Anne is lying on the ground screaming. Howard comes running up to her.

HOWARD Anne. What happened.

ANNE My ankle. I got bit.

HOWARD

A snake?

ANNE

Yeah. I wanted to sit on the rock for a minute and I stepped on it.

HOWARD Do you know what kind?

ANNE No. A big snake. Maybe a rattlesnake.

HOWARD Where is it?

ANNE I don't know. I think it moved away.

Howard gets down on his knees to look at the wound. Mexican father and son gather around.

MEXICAN FATHER Colebra. Ayy no.

HOWARD (to the Mexican father) Give me your knife.

MEXICAN FATHER No. No es un buen idea. You don't need to cut the foot off.

ANNE

What?

HOWARD I'm not cutting the foot off. Just hand it over. Hurry.

The Mexican father hands the knife to Howard. Howard cuts his t-shirt into strips and ties a band a few inches up from the bite. He takes off Anne's shoe.

HOWARD

Try to lie back and rest honey. We are going to figure this out. (to Mexican father and son) We need you to go ahead fast and find someone. I'm going to stay here with Anne.

MEXICAN FATHER You surprise me again...Howard... with your Boy Scout abilities. Here take these.

Mexican father hands a bag of the barrel cactus cuttings to Anne and Howard.

MEXICAN FATHER We will travel fast and get back to you. No se preocupan. Vamanos hijo.

HOWARD

Thank you...your name?? I don't even know your name.

MEXICAN FATHER

Jesus.

HOWARD Thank you Jesus. Please come back.

MEXICAN FATHER (he talks while walking away) Of course. I would never leave a lady to die in the desert.

ANNE

(Anne whispers to herself) To die?

Mexican father and son are walking fast in the distance. Howard is sitting next to Anne on the ground holding her.

> HOWARD I won't leave you Anne. We will be OK.

Anne is quietly looking up at Howard.

ANNE This is bad Howard.

HOWARD I know. Be calm. We're not that far from civilization. They'll be back.

86 INT. JEEP - DAY

Tom and Mindy are driving a jeep down the desert road the where Anne, Howard were abducted. They pull over to the side of the road.

TOM These are the coordinates that Howard left and there's nothing. What now?

MINDY Let's drive further.

TOM Yeah. I guess it can't hurt.

Tom looks around on the ground next to the road for any kind of clue. He sees a black dildo under a mesquite bush. He goes over and picks it up to inspect.

> TOM Look at this. I gave this to Howard.

MINDY Oh yeah...the black dildo. Do you think he used it?

TOM I doubt it. It's a sign that he's been here though. Let's go a little further.

MINDY

Sure.

They get in the Jeep and drive further down the dirt road.

Anne is lying near the rock in Howard's hands. She is covered in sweat, sunburnt and delirious, but can still communicate. Her speech has slowed a little due to the snake poison. Her ankle has swollen immensely.

HOWARD

Keep talking to me Anne. Tell me everything you're feeling.

ANNE Oh God Howard. It feels like my ankle is burning. I'm dizzy. (beat) And I can't feel my mouth.

HOWARD Honey. Just take a slow, deep breath.

ANNE Howard. If this is it, I want you to know that I love you.

HOWARD Anne. This isn't it.

ANNE

I know, but you need to know that I don't think I could really leave you...I just wanted things to... change.

HOWARD

You want things to change, not the past tense. It's really going to be alright.

ANNE

(laughs lightly and deliriously) Maybe we should have just gone to the pier.

HOWARD Maybe we should have, but we're here together now.

ANNE I know. You have been good to me all of these years. Loving me. Being stable. I don't know why I (MORE) ANNE (cont'd) had to go and ruin our lives by demanding more.

HOWARD

You haven't ruined our lives. I'm the one that came up with this crazy idea to go on a trip in an old RV...well, Tom was, but still.

ANNE

You tried to do something wild for us, for the sake of our marriage, and to me that's love.

HOWARD I never stopped loving you Anne. I guess maybe I got too comfortable.

ANNE We both got comfortable, but we're not comfortable now.

Anne laughs another little delirious laugh.

HOWARD No. That we are not.

88 INT. STAN'S GARAGE - DAY

A little Mexican man with a big attitude walks in to Stan's garage. Stan is tweaking something in the engine. Thug #1 sees the boss enter and becomes very anxious.

CARTEL BOSS (pointing to the RV) Es este?

THUG #1 Si jefe. I'm sorry it has taken so long. We had complications.

CARTEL BOSS YOU'RE going to have complications if this isn't fixed and on the road.

THUG #1 They're out getting the part from another town, then we're on the road. CARTEL BOSS (to Stan) Get this on the road in three hours if you want to keep your juevos.

STAN Yes. I actually would like to keep my juevos. It will be on the road as soon as we get the part.

89 EXT. TOM'S JEEP - DAY

Tom and Mindy are driving down the desert road to see if they can find any other clue leading to Howard and Anne.

> TOM I'm not seeing any sign of them.

MINDY Maybe they went out in the desert to get it on.

TOM Maybe they were abducted by aliens in search of black dildos.

Mindy is laughing a little.

MINDY

Maybe they were murdered, chopped into little pieces, and buried out here.

TOM (looking at her with a slightly disturbed look) That's a messed up thought.

MINDY Well. I'm just running through possibilities.

TOM Maybe they just ran out of gas out here and have already gotten help, and they're on their way to Vegas.

MINDY

Maybe.

We see the Jeep reach a high point on the road and then heads down into a desert basin. There is a long view of the horizon.

91 INT. TOM'S JEEP - DAY

MINDY Hey. I think I see something moving out there. Two people I think.

TOM Holy shit. Maybe it's them.

92 INT. STAN'S GARAGE - DAY

Richard "Cheech" and Tommy "Chong" walk into the garage.

RICHARD "CHEECH" We have the part.

Thug #2 stops in his tracks suddenly when he sees the cartel boss.

THUG #2

Jefe.

CARTEL BOSS Hurry up and put the part in. I'm not leaving until this is on the road. I can't trust you idiots to get the job done.

Stan walks over and takes the part from Richard "Cheech".

STAN Let's get it done.

93 EXT. DESERT - DAY

Mexican father and son are walking out in the desert parched and near collapse.

SON Dad! I see a Jeep.

MEXICAN FATHER Verdad? Dios mio. I see it.

Mexican father and son start running and waving their hands in the air.

Tom, and Mindy speed up and are nearing the Mexican father and son. TOM That's not Anne and Howard. MINDY I know. We are out here alone. Maybe we shouldn't stop. TOM These guys look desperate. They probably crossed the border and got lost. MINDY Should we just drop some water off on the side of the road for them and keep going? том Good idea babe. 95 EXT. DESERT ROCK - DAY Howard is holding Anne. HOWARD Anne. Stay with me. Stay awake. Anne has a high fever and is very delirious. ANNE I'm thirsty. Some water Howard. HOWARD Yes. I'll get some in a minute. He is holding her head up and puts the cactus pulp to her mouth. HOWARD Try sucking a little more on this. ANNE No. It's awful. (beat)

I need to call Jill...Coffee...

tomorrow.

94

(CONTINUED)

HOWARD A little later honey.

ANNE Why do you wear tighty whitey's Howard? I hate those.

HOWARD Really? I'll get some new ones.

ANNE I'm tired. I'm going to sleep for a minute.

HOWARD Stay awake honey. We'll sleep a little later.

ANNE Howard. (beat)

I'm a bad wife.

HOWARD

What? No. You're not. Relax honey. We don't need to worry about any of that right now.

ANNE

No. I need to say it. I'm a bad wife. I could have tried...to make things...more exciting. What did I do? Nothing. Complaining.

HOWARD

No. You are right. We got in a rut. When we get out of here we can make a new start honey. I'll read books on how to change or something. I love you Anne. We will find a way.

ANNE

I'd like that Howard.

96 EXT. DESERT ROAD -DAY

We see the water on the side of the road and Tom and Mindy are driving back down the road heading away. The Mexican father and son reach the side of the road and continue to wave their hands crazily. 97 INT. TOM'S JEEP - DAY

Tom looks in his rear view mirror and sees the Mexican father and son on the side of the road waving.

TOM We've got to help them. I can't leave them out here. It's hot as Hell.

MINDY I know. Let's go back.

98 INT. STAN'S GARAGE - DAY

Stan rolls out from under the RV.

STAN Almost there. Just one more quick thing.

CARTEL BOSS

(talking to Thugs) You two come out back with me.

99 EXT. BEHIND STAN'S GARAGE - DAY

Bien.

Cartel boss, Thug #1 and Thug #2 are talking.

CARTEL BOSS If we didn't have to get this RV back, I'd shoot you now.

THUG #1 Sorry boss. We are trying, but it broke down.

CARTEL BOSS Where are the gringos that bought this thing?

THUG #2

Dead.

Thug #2 raises his hand to his head like a gun and gestures a gun shot.

THUG #2 And buried. 100 EXT. DESERT ROAD -DAY

Tom and Mindy have backed up to talk to the Mexican father and son.

TOM Hola. Aqua?

Tom hands them the water.

MEXICAN FATHER Gracias. We need help.

TOM We figured.

MEXICAN FATHER There is a man and woman in the desert. She needs help immediately. Snake bite.

TOM Oh, you speak good English. (beat) Where is the woman?

MINDY What does the woman look like?

MEXICAN FATHER She has dark hair. He's a gringo. Thin, normal gringo. Getting old like me.

TOM (to Mindy) Sounds like Howard and Anne.

SON Yes, that's them.

TOM Where are they?

Mexican father points out to the desert.

MEXICAN FATHER

Out there.

Tom makes a phone call to 911.

101 INT. STAN'S GARAGE - DAY

Stan, Richard "Cheech", Tommy "Chong", thugs and the boss are in the garage.

STAN

It's done.

The cartel boss takes out a big gun.

CARTEL BOSS

Out back.

Everyone moves out back.

CARTEL BOSS (to the thugs) Not you two idiots. I need you to watch the RV.

102 EXT. BEHIND STAN'S GARAGE - DAY

Cartel boss, Stan, Richard and Tommy are out back.

CARTEL BOSS Line up on the wall.

RICHARD "CHEECH" Man. This IS a bad boss.

CARTEL BOSS Turn around. I don't like to look at people for this.

Suddenly the door to the back of the garage slams open and DEA agents pour into the back area.

DEA AGENT Freeze! You're under arrest.

TOMMY "CHONG" (to Richard "Cheech") I think I soiled myself man.

RICHARD "CHEECH" Yeah. Me too man.

The cartel boss and two thugs are arrested and taken out.

103 EXT. DESERT ROCK - DAY

Howard is holding Anne. She is nearly passed out now. Howard is kissing her softly all over her face and neck and on crying a little.

> HOWARD Anne. Anne. Just a little longer. Stay with me.

She is unresponsive, but still breathing. Suddenly a helicopter comes over the horizon. The commotion rouses her and causes her to open her eyes a little.

104 INT./EXT. HELICOPTER - DAY

The Mexican father, son, Tom, and Mindy are in the helicopter along with the medics and pilot. The helicopter lands and everyone gets out to help Howard and Anne. Howard is in a daze. Tom goes up to him and puts his hand on Tom's shoulder.

> TOM Buddy. It's OK. It's going to be OK.

The medics put Anne on a stretcher and everyone leaves in the helicopter.

105 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Howard, Mexican father, son, Tom, Mindy, Stan, Richard "Cheech" and Tommy "Chong" are all gathered around Anne who is in the the hospital bed looking much better. She wakes.

> ANNE What happened? Tom what are you doing here?

HOWARD Honey. You were bitten by a snake and lost consciousness.

TOM Howard sent me an emergency text a few days ago asking for help. (beat) Sorry...I was a little...preoccupied. (beat) He had the coordinates of your location, so we came out to check on you two. ANNE What about the cartel and the RV?

DEA AGENT The cartel members have been arrested, and the RV has been confiscated. We have your things for you though.

We see their bags on the floor, and the sex toys on the table.

ANNE (pointing to the sex toys) Those aren't ours.

TOM True. We'll take them back if you don't want them.

DEA AGENT

One more thing.

The DEA agent hands the Kama Sutra to Tom. Howard intercepts the hand off and takes the book instead.

HOWARD No. We'll be taking that. Thank you.

Anne looks up and smiles at Howard.

106 SUPER: "ONE YEAR LATER"

107 INT. VEGAS CASINO - NIGHT

Anne and Howard are in a luxurious Vegas Casino in a room filled with card games and roulette. Anne is wearing a form fitting, sexy, floor length red dress with a slit up the side and is sauntering across the room towards Howard with a slightly mischievous smile. Howard is sitting a table with a cards game wearing a sexy suit and smoking a cigar.

Anne walks up and stands close to Howard and whispers in his ear.

ANNE

Our chariot awaits. Let's go and let the real celebration begin for our twenty-first anniversary.

HOWARD

Absolutely.

Howard kisses Anne seductively.

HOWARD Sorry guys. I fold.

He folds his cards on the table and walks to the exit with Anne. A valet walks up to them.

VALET

Sir and Madam. Have a wonderful evening.

The valet opens the door and motions for another valet to drive up with their vehicle, the 1980 Toyota RV.

THE END