

FADE IN

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAY

A vast, green, mountain chained landscape extends its monumental structure with no limit to the eye.

SUPER: "Northern Colombia"

The gliding view descends to expose a cleared field on a mountain crest... A marihuana plant, facing the early sun-bathing light wobbles alone in the cold highland mist... there is people actively working about on their daily "special chores". A log cottage with a twined palm leaf roof, releasing smoke, stands out in the middle of the camp.

It's cold and the remnant fog refuses to dissipate. Huge piles of recently cut ripe marihuana branches are stashed in neatly uniformed rows...

Sat in chained row, the workers peel off the leaves from the branches and place them on large wooden trays. The peeled stems amount on one side forming stockpiles.

A young native kid with a marihuana stem in his hand wiggles among the working people teasing one group after another.

IN SPANISH

V.O. (SUBTITLE)
Oye Pablito! deja de molestar, déjanos
trabajar.

Hey PABLITO lay off, let us work.

The kid runs away... finds another group... teases another worker... tickles his ear with a leaf from the stem he plays with... the worker shrugs and claps his ear thinking it's a buzzing insect.

WORKER (SUBTITLE)
¡Oye Pablito!
Hey Pablito...!

Another crew carefully hang the leaves on artisan stretchers for the mild sun to roast them into a golden-pigmented smoking product. The rows of stretchers with hung sun-dried leaves begin to glitter its blondish patina.

The marihuana harvest gathering marches full steam ahead getting ready for the market.

Its destination: Gringo consumers.

EXT. APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS/PRIVATE AIRFIELD - DAY

SUPER: Northern Florida

Approaching from the distant sky a small twin-engine airplane looms from the horizon... its lights glitter as it shortens the distance.

The aircraft lands skidding on the runway... come to a stop... transits slowly through the middle row of neatly parked airplanes in direction to the only hangar in the airfield.

INT. HANGAR - DAY

Engines on, the plane enters the huge garage... slowly steers, parks and shuts off its engines.

Out from the hatch-door emerges JESSE, private licensed pilot in his late twenties sporting pilot sunglasses, western boots and a stout country visage... stretches out his dormant muscles inflating his chest with a deep gulp of air.

MAX an old veteran aircraft mechanic, with greased working clothes approaches the aircraft... there's anxiety in his face as he pushes a step-rolling ladder.

MAX

(impatient)

Well, how was it? -- Is the turbo charger responding- Huh?

JESSE dodges, takes an impulse and jumps to the ground ignoring the step ladder... takes off his sunglasses.

JESSE

Not so good Max, the turbo-charger stalls above ten thousand feet. I can't rely on it, replace it.

Max scratches his head.

MAX

(stammering)

I can't seem to reason with you, I- I bring you the step ladder and you prefer to jump and- now you- want to replace the whole system.

Breathe-clean blows his sunglasses.

JESSE

Not the whole system Max, just the right engine turbo...

Max stalls.

MAX

I don't understand, I thought I had it right,

JESSE

Well, now you know you have it wrong. Don't blow things up as usual, I know it's bait you're hanging from your luring rod.

Leaning on the step ladder.

MAX

(ponders briefly)

It'll cost a couple of grands you know-- I thought I could save you some bucks overhauling it again.

Puts back his sunglasses... rigidly stresses his motive.

JESSE

Max, I'd wish you'd be more concern about my safety instead of the economy of your work... after all, I'm doing the paying and taking the risk while you sit you ass on the ground,

(exclaiming)
Jesus!

Max resists to good reason.

MAX
(stuttering)
All I- thought of- was to-...

JESSE
(adamant)
Do it Max, I need this bird flying one hundred percent within the next week... to be exactly, seven days.

MAX
But Jesse you have to understand I-- I can't get replacement parts that quick, It takes time.

Jesse walks closer, almost breathing in his face.

JESSE
Max, Don't you remember the last time when we couldn't find that fuel injector in any of the local shops, and you... just happened to be the only one in possession of that specific piece?

Max shuns with guilt.

MAX
Sure Jesse... what's wrong with that? I just happened to have one in-

JESSE
(cutting in)
No Max, you didn't just happen to have one. You were storing it for the right moment to show it up...
(a beat)
You, my dependable and disloyal old friend, are an opportunist.

Max takes the sting with ease.

MAX
Well that's true, I made a few bucks and did you a service, Didn't I?.

But now, I don't know if I can get this job done in time.

JESSE

Yes you can Max. You've probably got one stocked in your garage somewhere already... Just waiting for your cunning move to solve the problem.

Max fires back.

MAX

(cynically)

How did you know that? Maybe I do- Hey! I'm entitled to make an extra profit when opportunity strikes, don't I?

Jesse drills him mercilessly.

JESSE

Sure you can. I can pierce your memory and suck everything out of your warped and twisted brain, you old buzzard, don't try to dupe me.

Max reacts with his dignity blown up.

MAX

By my mother's breasts Jesse! That's not a kind thing to say to me, you make me sound dishonest and- opportunist, as though I-

JESSE

(cutting in)

Come on Max, don't simmer over something you know it's fool-proof.

MAX

I resent that.

JESSE

I know you're not dishonest but... you're no ripe pear in sugar syrup either.

MAX

Why this is how you pay me? I'm only trying to make you listen to some reason,

Jesse takes a deep breath.

JESSE

Max you've been ripping me off since you've been working for me, but I don't hate you for that... in fact I love you. Just try to be straight with me, I'm your boss, remember?

Max takes his cap off revealing his baldness, walks away and bends down under one of the airplane's wings.

MAX

(grumbling)

This is not gonna be my day, no sir.

Jesse walks toward him, bends down close and smacks a kiss on his bald top.

JESSE

I love you Max, my life depends on you.

In response, Max pulls out a rag from his back pocket and wipes his top.

MAX

(disgusted)

Shit Jesse!

As he walks out from the hangar Jesse notices a police car parked in front of the hangar.

EXTERIOR

A police car with a cop inside sits waiting.

INTERIOR

JESSE

Max, What's a police car doing out there?

Max shifts to get a closer look.

.

MAX

Oh! That's VINCE the county sheriff... he's all right, just waiting for me to have lunch together.

JESSE

Good or bad cop?

MAX

Best there is.

Max waives to the sitting cop.

MAX

Yeah, he's a good cop... a crooked one but also happens to be my friend. Nothing to worry about.

JESSE

Anyhow, keep your mouth locked about my business.

MAX

(insisting)

He's all right Jesse, take my word for it.

JESSE

I'll have your greasy scalp if anything happens, remember that.

MAX

Yeah, yeah, you've said that a couple of dozen times before.

JESSE

(walking away)

Who knows?... This may be for real.

MAX

(looking back)

You don't say...

EXT. HANGAR - DAY

Jesse walks out from the hangar peering back at the parked cop... nagging KATE, his girl, young with a brash personality and a smoking habit is waiting for him in a car.

INSIDE THE CAR

He steps in the car, buckles up and kisses her smoothly.

JESSE

Hi Hon, have you been here long?

KATE

Long enough to think a few things over.

JESSE
(leaning back)
And what runs in your bright spinning mind?
(a beat)
Did you make my flight reservation for
Colombia tomorrow?

She lights up a cigarette, starts the car and drives away.

KATE
(smoking)
Your flight to Weed Land is scheduled for
five AM in the morning and there's just one
airline flying there,

He rolls down his window for fresh air.

JESSE
Kate, I wish you'd swap the smoking habit
for pot addiction, it's healthier.

KATE
Not me honey, I stay straight in my
grooves, in fact... why should I? I'm
always high in spirit.

JESSE
Too bad you're not better informed on the
benefits of Cannabis Sativa and the
pleasures beyond any social prejudice.

KATE
What? You sound like a lecturer, drop the
speech, will you?

JESSE
Lecturing is what you need and not just on
the pleasure of pot smoking.

KATE
Change the subject please, I'm a grown
girl, old enough to be lured into a pot
habit.

She releases the cigarette smoke in his face... He waives it off.

JESSE

(changing subject)

Shit, this Colombian airline should be more considerate with us tourists with ecological interest in their natural habitat.

KATE

Since when is a pot smuggler taken for a tourist...

OUT ON THE ROAD

The car drives into a speedway... a road sign reads:

INSERT: Ft. Lauderdale 165 mi.

JESSE (O.S.)

Do you really think I look like a smuggler?

KATE (O.S.)

(sarcastic)

No, you're OK, except for your conspicuous stride and Texan boots... more like a midnight cowboy to me.

JESSE (O.S.)

You mean I stride like John Wayne?

KATE (O.S.)

It was John Voight not John Wayne.

Please... Don't get carried away too far in your presumptions.

INT. JESSE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jesse rolls a joint with the mastership of an old pot smoker.

IN THE BATHROOM

Kate before a mirror gets ready to reveal a surprise.

KATE

(lustful)

Jesse... Get ready for something you won't resist...

BEDROOM

Jesse lights up the joint without responding.

KATE (O.S.)
Are you listening to me?

Takes a deep drag and coughs...

JESSE
(choking)
I'm thinking-

KATE (O.S.)
You won't be thinking much after you see
what's coming to you...

Drags the joint repeatedly causing it to blink several times... relaxes briefly.

JESSE
(inhaling)
Some other time Kate, I'm trying to put my head together... some things need to be solved ahead of my return to Colombia.

BATHROOM

Kate catches the reek coming from the pot smoke.

KATE
(sniffing)
Are you smoking pot?

BEDROOM

JESSE
(exhaling)
Yes I am...

BATHROOM

KATE
Do you really think you can piece your thoughts together smoking pot?

BEDROOM

JESSE
I always do.

KATE (O.S.)
Good, here I come!

Kate comes out of the bathroom in a scarlet transparent baby doll rig simmering for sex... She exposes her charm.

KATE
(sensuous)
Voila! You like it?

Stunned by her sex-luring apparel drops his jaw.

JESSE
(dazzled)
Shit.

Like a vamp on the prowl she jumps on top him forcing her way in the bed... Gets on top... interlocks... pants with desire.

Jesse without a chance to respond only has one thing to say:

JESSE
Kate! What the fuck 's gotten into you?

Reduced to tameness, he gives in... she does the rest... toppled, she subdues him by his shoulders, straddling without control... disengages... engages again.

KATE
(panting with desire)
A woman must milk her man before he leaves her nest.

JESSE
(being squeezed of his air)
Can't believe this.

Kate WAILS feigning an overplayed orgasm.

EARLY NEXT DAY

INT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Jesse waits for the airline call to board his flight. He sits by the counter of a coffee shop with a hot cup of coffee spiraling its vapor... as he lifts his cup, a solid GOLD ROLEX strapped to his wrist glitters its shine.

Kate sits by his side with still swollen eyes from the torrid night before... her face stiffs a repressed anxiety... can't keep it back, she lets it out.

KATE

What if you get mugged... or kidnapped or whatever... I'm always hearing that Colombians are hard-core bandits.

Jesse lifts his cup, before reaching, suspends it... looks at her.

JESSE

Well you're hearing wrong, because it just happens, that a hard-core honorable bandit is the one I have to see.

Kate with an unblinking gaze pressing for something she wants to say, but doesn't come out.

Jesse puts his cup down.

JESSE

(soothing her)

It's all right. I'll be back in a couple of days as usual... I know what I'm doing. Trust me.

KATE

(concerned)

Sure Mr. Smug, all I wanna do now is hug you and wish you luck...

(embracing)

Take care of yourself.

JESSE

Come on Kate, take that bleak look off your face, it makes me feel as though you're looking at me for the last time.

KATE

You never know.

JESSE

Jesus Kate, rub it off, bad luck sticks on easily.

She throws herself at him... hugs... cuddles closely for a brief lapse.

KATE

It's just that I happen to love you, that's all... just come back.

Time runs out... a loud speaker ANNOUNCES the airline's departure.

LOUDSPEAKER (O.S.)
"Condor airlines announces its departure
flight to Barranquilla Colombia, please
follow gate 7 boarding room 12, thank you"

TO THE GATE

Embraced, they walk to the airline corridor hugging close... they untie... look at each other... Kate lands him a fervent kiss.

KATE
Please... call me when you get there.

Jesse walks away and disappears through the gate corridor.

Kate heeds in silence.

EXT. AIRPORT/NORTHERN COLOMBIA - DAY

The airliner lands skidding on the runway... passes alongside a blowing unicorn pointing the wind direction.

The airport resembles an abandoned airfield, primitive but functional amid barren land and a suffocating heat.

INT. AIRPORT/IMMIGRATION - DAY

The chamber for admission in the country is cramped with passengers, baggage carriers and a very HOT sweating temperature... Everyone sizzles.

A single row of people with Jesse in the lead wait their turn amidst the heat.

As he waits for his turn, a baggage carrier approaches pushing a cart... stops... swathes his sweating neck.

DIALOGUE IN SPANISH

BAGGAGE CARRIER (SUBTITLE)
Señor, a gentleman outside asked me to help you with your bag.

JESSE
No gracias, I'll carry it myself.

Waived off, the carrier walks away looking for another passenger to squeeze a tip from.

Jesse waits holding the passport in his hand... the immigration booth opens... he steps in.

The immigration officer wearing a pair of thick frame eyeglasses and loose tie to dissipate the heat, shuffles through a log book.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER
(coldly)
Your passport señor...

Jesse hands him the document.

The officer takes it... opens it... glances over it to confirm the attached photograph and data... looks directly at Jesse.

Jesse grins back.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER
How long is the gentleman planning to stay?

JESSE
(cynically)
Just a short visit, I'd wish I could stay longer, unfortunately I can't.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER
(bluntly)
How long?

Jesse responds calmly.

JESSE
Five or six days the most.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER
Is this your first visit?

JESSE
No, actually it's my second... It's stamped in my passport, you can see it.

The officer shuffles over the passport.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER

And what is the purpose of your visit,
señor?

JESSE

Ecological, the Colombian mountains
fascinate me, the richness of its
environment, the landscapes and it's
"products"--

The officer glares at him with distrust, stamps a seal,
closes the passport with a clap and gives it back.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER

(dismissive)

Welcome to Colombia, Next please!

(END OF SPANISH DIALOGUE)

As Jesse walks out through the immigration gate he is
abruptly intercepted by a husky mid-size colombian. BLAS, a
dark skin half-breed in his fifties, wearing a flashy
colored shirt, flaring gold and very dark sunglasses greets
him as he exits the gate.

JESSE

(emotional)

Hey Blas! Here I am again...

(hugging))

It's good to see you-

Jesse peers to his vividly colored shirt.

JESSE (CONT.)

... and your bright shirts.

BLAS

(perspiring)

In this heat even the colors fade fast.

(wipes to both sides)

Come along, lets get away from this boiler,
can't take it.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

It's roasting hot.

They walk to a nearby unpaved parking lot... the heat is too much... Blas pulls his hankie from his back pocket and dries his sweating forehead.

JESSE

This heat seems alright to me, us gringos miss a lot of this simmering heat after our long freezing winters,

BLAS

Not me my good friend, I can't be away too long from my air conditioner, this is hell for me.

Opens his arms raising to the sky.

JESSE

For me it's heaven, God bless the tropics.

BLAS

As usual Jesse, you have your values upside down, hot is great and cold is pleasant.

JESSE

I'll heed to that one.

BLAS

Anyway, it's good to have you back,

They reach the parking lot and stop... Blas turns his head sidewise looking for something... he dries his exuding forehead again... swivels sideways with uneasiness.

BLAS

(rapt)

Where the hell are they?

As he questions himself, a late model four-door sub-urban truck pulls to their side with a sudden stop.

A black Colombian steps out of the truck to diligently open the back door... They leap in and drive away from the parking lot... a trail of dust clouds the speeding truck.

ON THE ROAD

BLAS (O.S.)
(to his men)
Where the hell were you, my orbs were
almost melting waiting for you. Nojoda!

INT. TRUCK - DAY

The diver and rider sitting in the front remain silent crossing their vision with hinted alertness.

JESSE
Where are we heading to Blas? Aren't we going into town and check in a hotel first?

Blas swabs the perspiration from his forehead.

BLAS
Not this time. We're going straight to the landing field for you to look at and then to my ranch. Besides, the last time you were here I almost got thrown out of my house.

Jeff grins maliciously.

JESSE
Why was that? Because of me coming to visit you?

Blas slants his head with a yielding attitude.

BLAS
No, it wasn't your visit, it was the three day long party in the hotel after you checked in Jesse, believe me, I had a hard time winning back my wife.

JESSE
You mean CARMEN? She steamed up at you because of my welcome party?

BLAS
It wasn't your party Jesse, it was me taking part in it, and forgetting that I am a married man.
(a beat)
Let's talk about our business all right?

Jesse laughs heartily.

JESSE

Shit, than she won't be very pleased to see
me,

BLAS

No, it's all forgotten. She'll be waiting
for us at the ranch... as I was saying,

Jesse disregards the main topic being brought up by Blas.

JESSE

Waiting for us? You mean in the mountains?
Were the weed is grown? ...Will MELBA be
there too?

BLAS

Exactly, now listen to what I have to say
it's very important that you pay attention.

Jesse keeps on unheeding.

JESSE

(desirous)

MELBA? Sure... I'd like to see her, we have
some unfinished tal to take care of,

Blas gives up.

BLAS

Well, just make sure your thing with MELBA
doesn't interfere with our business.

Coming back from his stray.

JESSE

Huh? Sure, Don't worry Blas. Everything
will run smooth as silk, personal affairs
are set aside when it comes to business.

BLAS

Hope so.

ON THE ROAD

A group of native women, in their tribal long colorful gowns
cross their way.

The women have their faces covered with a dark ointment
lures Jesse's curiosity.

IN THE TRUCK

JESSE

Hey Blas, Are they on a warpath or something? That's what our red skins used to do before going to war.

BLAS

No Jesse, it's only a balm they use for protection against the burning sun.

JESSE

Oh...

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

The landscape is overwhelming with huge mountains cliffs as they start to track uphill.

The truck rides over a rough sinuous path with impressive gorges in the background, deep canyons and monumental highlands... The cliffs are intimidating... visibility starts to blur as low hanging clouds settle on top of the mountains' crest.

The truck climbs relentlessly seeking the highlands.

EXT. LANDING FIELD - DAY

After the escalade they come to a stop on leveled ground well above a two thousand feet.

Jesse and Blas step out of the truck... walk a few feet and stop to observe a straight grass-covered short landing strip.

JESSE

(shivering)

It's chilly up here Blas, feel like back home.

BLAS

(inhales deeply)

Yes, it's much better than where we were, Isn't it?

Jesse observes the landing terrain with acute keenness... calculates its length... takes a few steps, squats and digs his hand into the humid soil.

Blas lingers anxiously for his opinion.

BLAS

Well, what do you think? Is it good enough
for your airplane to take off with 1500
pounds?

JESSE

If my eyes don't deceive me, yes, except...

BLAS

Except what?

JESSE

If the ground gets any softer than this...
(looks up)

Landing is no problem, taking off loaded
is a different thing,

Blas gets closer and squats besides him.

BLAS

My friend, this soil is as hard as brick
when dry, but with rain falling on it, is
as soft and slippery as a snow field.

JESSE

(caviling)

That's not very enthusiastic to hear Blas,
and for what I can see
(looks upwards again)
some clouds are gathering for a
celebration. I think it'll start raining
here soon?

BLAS

Yes, I'm afraid that's a possibility.

JESSE

Shit, that'll complicate my landing to pick
up the weed.

They stand up and walk back to the truck. As they walk...

BLAS

Have faith, the rain will hold back until
we are done,

Jesse looks at him with dismay.

JESSE

Have faith? Blas, How can faith save me
from skidding in the mud and not being able
to take off as planned?

BLAS

Don't say that it's bad luck,

JESSE

Good or bad it's not safe, I won't do it if
it's gonna get muddy... too risky.

BLAS

(persuasive)

But my friend everything is ready, the
weed, the gas, the haulers. Everything!
Don't be so pessimistic, it won't rain the
day you'll come, I assure you.

Jesse looks straight to his eyeballs.

JESSE

(peering)

Blas, you ought to be in heaven advising
God if you can guarantee my safety on bad
weather.

Blas patronizing clamps his arm around Jesse.

BLAS

The problem with you Jesse is that you're
not religious, you have no faith.

JESSE

Oh I'm religious all right, I believe in
the good old green dollar, it's written in
the bill Blas "In God We Trust"

BLAS

Don't be blasphemous Jesse or I'll back off
of this deal right now!

Jesse halts, forcing Blas to do the same.

JESSE

Now we're really in trouble, are you that
serious?

They look at each other and... outburst with laughter.
Resume walking... Blas shoves him.

BLAS

Come on let's go back to the truck, Carmen
is waiting for us at the ranch with a warm
meal.

JESSE

And Melba's warm arms too?

BLAS

Jesse you begin to worry me, your head is
not centered where it should be.

JESSE

The problem with you Blas is that you`re a
straight square-minded, hung by-the-tail
married man and, I'm a god forgiven sinner.

BLAS

I suppose that makes a difference, hope we
do better this time than last.

JESSE

I'm really sorry about our last venture, if
things didn't turn out as expected it was
because of the stinking merchandise I was
loaded with. We couldn't get a decent prize
for it.

BLAS

Let's forget the past Jesse, I figured out
what went wrong and who was responsible for
our last failure,

JESSE

Don't tell me. Let me guess...?

BLAS

No, don't guess, that's my share of the
responsibility, I'll take care of it.

JESSE

Well, I hope you find out who the cock-
sucker was.

BLAS

I know.

They reach the truck... before stepping in Jesse clears out his doubt.

JESSE

I keep thinking... Did EL LOCO had to do anything with the load of shit I took back?

BLAS

He is the man

JESSE

And you're gonna kick his ass right?

BLAS

Exactly, in due time.

JESSE

Blas, this continues to be a difficult business with a beautiful partnership.

Jesse steps in the truck, Blas follows and shuts the door.

The truck drives away.

Clouds begin to descend settling for a resting place before the sun sets.

EXT. RANCH/ENTRANCE - DUSK

The truck drives through an iron gate guarded by a man with an M-1 carbine slung on his shoulder.

More armed men are seen standing alongside the gate way as they pass.

INSIDE THE TRUCK

Jesse's curiosity can't wait and asks.

JESSE

Why all the artillery Blas?

BLAS

Anything can happen up in these wild mountains, so I take precautions for your safety and mine.

JESSE

(mocking)

I thought you had prepared an honor guard
for me.

Blas grins back with affection.

RANCH DRIVEWAY

They drive through and stop before a sturdy-built log ranch
overlooking the landscape. The log structure is formidable,
more of a country mansion than a cot.

ON THE FRONT PORCH

Two native women in their Indian robes, CARMEN middle age
with a pleasant smile and MELBA younger, gracious with
indigenous beauty, step down from the front porch to meet
them... Carmen takes the lead.

Jesse opens his door and walks directly into Carmen's arms.

CARMEN

(fondly)

Oh Jesse, it's so good to see you and have
you back with us again.

JESSE

(hesitant)

Me too Carmen, How's everything? Your
children? I- I thought you were mad at me
from my last time visit.

CARMEN

Yes I was you scoundrel, Why do you think
we have you up here this time.

JESSE

Let me guess...

Jesse looks for Blas.

Melba leniently waits for her turn.

CARMEN

Everything is fine now, thank God, with one
exception.

JESSE

Yeah, what's that?

Pinching him severely in the belly... Jesse howls with pain.

JESSE

Ow! Carmen...

CARMEN

That's to remind you that you won't be taking my husband away this time.

Blas lagging behind ducks the scene.

Carmen gives Blas an intimidating look.

Jesse apologizes for his past flaw.

JESSE

Oh no, it wont happen this time, I cross my heart... maybe in the near future. Huh Blas?

Blas wipes his forehead and tries to yank Jesse inside.

BLAS

Come on lets go in the house, the soup is getting cold.

Resisting, Jesse turns to Melba.

JESSE

(turning back)

You go in Blas, I'll be along in a while.

Melba waits in the front steps.

A young kid suddenly appears and joins her... she squats and hugs him.

Jesse walks to her... freezes a short step apart... takes her hand.

She rises without taking her eyes off Jesse...

MELBA

So you're back.

The kid steps aside.

They look at each other with a craving peer.

JESSE

Hi Melba, it's really good to be back.
(gazing strongly)
God you get more beautiful each time I
see you!

MELBA

(unblinking)

And you bring back a most beautiful lie
each time you come back...

Jesse breaks the ice... looks at the kid.

JESSE

Who's the kid?, I didn't know you had one.

MELBA

No Jesse it's not mine. He's an orphan my
uncle picked up and he's been here ever
since...

Pulls the kid close to her.

MELBA

Come Pablito, meet Jesse our friend.

The kid approaches timidly, gazes at Jesse with fixed
curious eyes.

JESSE

He's sure got and intensive way of peering
at people.

MELBA

Oh don't mind him, he's just never seen a
gringo before.

JESSE

Never thought I was so weird.

MELBA

Run along Pablito.

The kid walks in the house looking back.

Melba seizes Jesse's hand very subtly.

MELBA

Let's walk, we have a lot to talk.

As they walk Jesse turns back his head.

The kid still gazing.

UNDER THE COVER OF AN OLD TREE

Jesse and Melba settle on top of a thick cut lumber without looking away from each other.

MELBA

So what brings you back?

JESSE

You mean you don't know?

MELBA

Let me guess... marihuana?

Jesse smiles with cynical pleasure.

JESSE

Guessed right, but something else also brings me back,

MELBA

Let me guess again, me?

JESSE

Right again.

He kisses her tenderly.

MELBA

But you are a compromised man Jesse, and I'd like you here with me for a longer time, forever.

Separating slightly.

JESSE

Please don't say that, It only makes it hard to leave every time I'm here with you.

MELBA

(sighing)

You know how long it's been since you were here the last time?

JESSE

What's a few months compared if we can
spend a lifetime together and raise
children among these wonderful marihuana
fields?

She laughs heartily and lands an overdue kiss.

MELBA

You would probably make me a widow before
our first child.

JESSE

Man, you sound just like someone back home.
Tragically pessimistic all the time.

MELBA

Maybe it's because we both love you,

JESSE

You sure got a weird way to strip a man of
his glee, especially now that I'll be
making good money.

Melba caresses his face and lands him another kiss.

MELBA

Come on let's go into the house, Blas and
Carmen are waiting.

They walk back to the ranch holding hands.

INT. RANCH/DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Blas slurps his soup with a rhythmic exercise of hand and
spoon... seems to enjoy every stroke.

BLAS

(without stopping)

Take a sit Jesse, you're just in time to
see me finish this home-made soup specially
made for you... and me.

Jesse sits next with Melba.

Carmen intervenes.

CARMEN

When Blas told me you were coming all I could think of was our home-made chicken soup, I hope you like it Jesse.

JESSE

Well you just don't know how much I miss your chicken soup Carmen, there aren't any Latin restaurants where I live at and-

BLAS

(cuts in)

-Then you should visit a Latin food joint in downtown Miami, I do it when I'm there.

JESSE

I'll do that, next time you come to visit me.

Melba serves Jesse abundantly from a soup kettle served on the table.

BLAS

(tasting)

I will soon, might even take Melba with me.

Melba feels the touch without taking her eyes away from Jesse.

BLAS

(swallowing)

Don't mix business with women, my father always said. You'll end up feeding birds in prison.

Carmen can't let this blooper pass without a response.

CARMEN

(poignant)

Well! This comes as a surprise to me señor Blas, I'm mixed up to my teats with your business and it seems we're doing fine, Aren't we my love?

BLAS

Watch your language woman. It's different between you and me, we are an old couple.

CARMEN

No it isn't, it can work just as well for Jesse and Melba. Why not?

BLAS
Eat your soup and shut up.

With her dignity hurt, Carmen complies humbly.

Jesse and Melba look at each other.

BLAS
(diverting)
So, do you have a date already in your head
to pick up the load?

JEFF
I'll have it, if you promise me that it
won't rain the day I come back for the
weed.

Blas serves himself more chicken soup.

BLAS
(slurping)
How can I promise you that my friend,
you're asking me to play God.

Jesse takes his soup.

JESSE
Leave god out of this, a simple weather
forecast will do... to decide.

Blas stops his spoon half way from his bowl.

BLAS
What's the matter with you Jesse? You're
forgetting we are not in the United states,
there isn't any weather forecast here.

JESSE
Well, I'll look for some satellite reports
before making a decision, but I'll still
need a local report from the site here and-

One of Blas' henchman bumps in interrupting.

HENCHMAN
Patron, LUCAS is here and wants to see you
right away.

Melba reacts surprised.

MELBA

Who? My brother? How did he know I was here?

BLAS

I put him in charge of this operation, remember?

MELBA

I still don't understand why he has to be here, at this very moment.

BLAS

You see Jesse, this is what happens when you mix family affairs with business.

Jesse unaware of what's been growing in his absence wants to know the story.

JESSE

(curious)

Is there something wrong
Melba?

She stops eating.

MELBA

You seem to forget that my brother never liked you. He's been giving me hell ever since, but I'll fix this matter once and for all.

She gets up with steaming anger and abandons the table.

Jesse stops eating.

Blas wipes his mouth clean with a napkin and orders his henchman.

BLAS

Tell him to come in-

As his henchman walks away.

BLAS

(interrupting)

- never mind, tell him to wait for me in the living room, I'll be right there.

HENCHMAN

Si señor.

CARMEN

But Blas, you haven't finished eating your soup...

Blas stands up and walks away from the table leaving Jesse and Carmen looking at each other with dismay.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Blas enters the room to find brother and sister having an argument. LUCAS, a gun-cocky native sorts out the difference with a bickering attitude.

IN SPANISH SUBTITLED

LUCAS

(steaming)

What's the gringo doing here?

Melba stands her ground.

MELBA

(fuming)

You mean you don't know? I am well grown by now and capable of taking my own personal decisions without you telling me when and how...

The face to face confrontation heats up.

LUCAS

(poignant)

You sure don't act your age, getting mixed up with a gringo you hardly know that's here only for business. You keep away from him!

She fires back.

MELBA

Why... look at you!, Are you something more, better or different of what he is?--

LUCAS

Just keep away from him!

MELBA

Aren't you both doing the same illegal shit? Just who do you think you are to run my life?

LUCAS

I happen to be your older brother, Are you forgetting? And this has to stop now!

Blas intervenes to stop the quarrel.

BLAS

Please Melba settle this later, now I must ask you to leave us. Your brother must have something important for me to listen to interrupt my dinner.

Panting with emotional distress, she stops discussing, recovers and walks away.

BLAS

(continuing)

Carajos, this niece of mine has some temper, and as of you, what brings you here that's so important to interrupt my dinner?

Lucas settles down.

LUCAS

It's EL LOCO PASCUAL again uncle, raising hell and making things difficult for us,

BLAS

Sit and cool down so you can speak clearly.

Lucas sits... Blas listens.

LUCAS

Uncle, El LOCO thinks he's been underpaid and wants a bigger piece of the profit this time, somehow he sniffed our next move.

BLAS

(fuming)

What! A readjustment of our agreement?, I paid him clean and clear as agreed! Doesn't he recognize his responsibility in our last failed shipment, with the merchandise he duped me with?

LUCAS

Yes, I know that and you know that too uncle, but he thinks otherwise,

BLAS

I don't give a damn what he thinks! Either he does things my way or I'll put him to rest in a pine box.

LUCAS

(reasoning)

We can't do that uncle, at least not yet, he holds our merchandise and part of the pay.

BLAS

My dear nephew I thought you knew your uncle by now, once I close a deal is settled, Do you understand?

LUCAS

Yes but EL LOCO is hard to reason with and stupid. I don't want anything happening to our operation, particularly now that the gringo is here.

BLAS

Tell that cock-sucking bastard that I want to see him tomorrow...

(a beat)

After you and Jesse make the final check of the merchandise. I want top merchandise this time, make sure he gets my message.

END OF SPANISH SUBTITLE

Jesse bumps in the room... wants to know more.

JESSE

Sorry to interrupt Blas, I just wanted to know the time I'll be leaving in the morning...

BLAS

No no, come in Jesse, this concerns you too.

(a beat)

Take a seat, you know Lucas don't you?

Jesse extends his hand with courtesy.

JESSE

Sure do Blas, how are you Lucas?

Lucas responds ignoring him.

BLAS

I need to wipe out the difference between
you two so we can get started,

LUCAS

(interrupting)

Excuse me uncle but the difference is
between me and my sister, no one else.

BLAS

Yes I follow, but now it's business we have
to take care of now. What I want you to do
early at sunrise tomorrow is-

Suddenly Carmen storms in the room holding a tray with cups
and black steaming coffee.

CARMEN

This is for you Jesse, I know you like our
colombian coffee very much.

Jesse takes his cup, smells the aroma and drinks.

CARMEN

(continuing)

And you Lucas...

Lucas takes his.

Blas extends his hand for his cup.

CARMEN

As for you old man, your coffee will be
served in the kitchen.

Carmen walks away leaving Blas with his hand suspended in
mid air.

BLAS

Never mind this woman... as I was saying,
you'll leave tomorrow for the hiding place,
and this Jesse is very important...

(continuing)

once you've checked all the bundles one by one, make sure you mark them with a number and symbol that only you will recognize as ours, this is our only guarantee of good merchandise. You understand?

With respectful attention.

JESSE

Sure thing Blas.

BLAS

Is everything understood Lucas?

LUCAS

Clear uncle.

Blas gets up from his seat.

BLAS

Then there's nothing more to say. Now I'll retire to my bed to see if I can make your aunt to let me sleep for the night. I'll see you two in the morning.

He walks out of the room leaving Jeff and Lucas facing each other.

Jesse breaks the ice.

JESSE

Lucas, I didn't come here to stir a family feud between you and Melba, what is it that you dislike about me so we can settle it out.

Lucas shoots back spitefully.

LUCAS

As I said to my uncle, whatever difference there is, leave it between me and my sister. Clear enough?

Stands up and walks away.

Jesse eye-tracks him as he leaves.

EXT. RANCH/FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

The cool of the night finds Jesse sitting in the front stairs watching the armed men organize their night rounds.

One of the men crosses before him carrying a young goat strapped on top of his neck... the goat WAILS pleading for his life.

Behind him the front door opens, Melba comes out swaddled in a blanket... She shivers.

MELBA

How could you be out here, it's so cold.

JESSE

Come sit by my side, I'll warm you up.

(a beat)

Where is he taking that goat Melba?

She cuddles close touching bodies.

MELBA

That poor thing will be their breakfast in the morning.

JESSE

(stunned)

You don't say... that's cruel.

MELBA

So what's in your mind that has you out here and not with me.

JESSE

Oh I don't know, it's your brother with his attitude, makes me hazy to have to travel with him in the morning.

MELBA

He still thinks I'm a child he has to look over, it's just the way he is, you'll get along, he's just jealous.

JESSE

Hope so, he acts as though I was here to snatch you.

Melba smiles and links closer.

MELBA

Are you?

JESSE

Sure like to, but I'll probably won't make it out alive... that kid goat has me thinking about your people and their habits.

Inquiring touchingly.

MELBA

Do you really think us Guahirans are borne killers?

JESSE

By the way your uncle handles things leaves me no doubt he won't hesitate to whack anybody standing in his way... and your brother comes from the same breed.

She clasps his hand in hers with warm affection.

MELBA

That's a risk you'll have to take if you really want me.

JESSE

No doubt I really want you, but does it have to cost me my life? How am I going to enjoy living with you if I'm dead?

Melba starts to heat up.

MELBA

Don't say foolish things, do you want to come in my room? Blas and Carmen should be asleep by now.

JESSE

What about your brother?

MELBA

Oh, he'll be somewhere lurking in the night trying to catch you in my bed, but I have a plan...

JESSE

You shouldn't make fun of his feelings... I take him seriously.

MELBA
(very seductive)
It's not his feelings I'm thinking of
now... can you read my mind?

Imploring to be kissed.

Jesse tries to kiss her, she backs off.

MELBA
No, not here, lets go inside and... don't
make any noise, I don't want my uncle
getting up.

They stealthily walks back in the house... Jesse tails
muffling his steps.

INT. MELBA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Melba fuming with sex starts to undress... Jesse marvels at
her beautiful breasts and tanned silken skin... he brings
her close and starts caressing her nipples.

They roll over -- he gets on top, accommodates and starts
banging -- she gloats with pleasure... they interlock in one
ardent fusion of sex intercourse... she squirms... he
squeezes... they couple -- uncouple without stopping.

She extends her arm with an extreme effort and shuts off the
light... it fades out.

INSIDE BLAS' BEDROOM

Blas is awakened by the sudden thumping coming from the near
wall, he tries to sit up but overrides his thought and lies
back again... Looks at Carmen... she sleeps like a log.

Blas assumes what's happening and goes back to sleep.

EXT. RANCH - SUNRISE

The morning breaks... a rooster sounds his CALL beating his
feathers from a nearby fence.

IN THE KITCHEN

Blas sits caviling... Carmen still sleepy serves hot coffee
on the kitchen table.

Jesse shows up in the kitchen dressed up and ready to go.

JESSE
Good morning Blas... Carmen.

Carmen with eyelids dropping heavy.

CARMEN
Come and sit, have some coffee before you leave, I can make you some eggs too if you want to?

He sits by Blas' side.

JESSE
No thanks Carmen it's too early for me to have breakfast, the coffee will do just fine.

Finds Blas buried in his thoughts.

JESSE
(continuing)
What's wrong Blas? Is something bugging you?

BLAS
It's that god damned bandido, EL LOCO, he wants to make things difficult for me in the last minute. I can't afford his disrespect before his people and my men. I'll have to dump him.

JESSE
You mean the thug I'll be seeing in his hiding place?

BLAS
Unfortunately, yes.

JESSE
You do what you've to, if there's no other way.

Blas looks at him appreciating his drift.

BLAS
It's the timing to dump him what worries me.

Jesse drinks his coffee.

JESSE

Mmm, this is good. Don't worry we'll put some sense in his thick head. Trust me.

BLAS

No Jesse it's not that simple, this braggart means what he says, besides being a very stupid man, he's cruel and capable of making things go wrong,

(a beat)

He's done it before and wants to play dice again.

JESSE

What's he asking for?

BLAS

More money,

JESSE

Give it to him, if that's what he wants.

BLAS

It's not that simple. He wants it now, only after you get back safely he'll get the money, then I'll have him put away.

JESSE

You mean you're not sure if we are coming back?

BLAS

No, he won't harm you... yet. Might hold you for ransom.

Carmen intervenes from the kitchen stove.

CARMEN

(henpecking)

Blas don't you start a war now or I'll leave this house immediately.

Blas ignores her.

BLAS

Don't mind this woman... As I was saying, the only way to deal with him is by playing his game our way. I'll send some men with you and Lucas to look out for you.

JESSE

It sounds like my Pop dropping me at school
in the middle of an earthquake.

Melba joins them at the table, her eyes sparkle with morning delight.

MELBA

Good morning everyone!

Blas looks at her conspicuously.

BLAS

I heard strange noises last night, it must have been some creature crawling in the night.

MELBA

Did you uncle?

Melba sends Jesse a malicious glance.

Jesse grins back.

Blas peeps at them simultaneously while drinking his cup.

A car horn BLOWS from outside the ranch.

MELBA

It must be Lucas, he's always so punctual.
Good luck with El Loco Jesse, let Lucas handle him he knows how.

BLAS

And be here before noon, I'll have some roasted goat waiting for you.

Jesse finishes his coffee... as he leaves talks back.

JESSE

Roasted goat? Jesus Blas! That must have been the poor bastard wailing last night.
No I won't have any part of that.

Blas Grabs Jesse by his arm exposing his wrist with his gold Rolex.

BLAS

Also, put your watch away, it's not safe here to be seen with gold like this.

Jesse neglects the advise and rolls back his sleeve.

JESSE
It keeps me in time wherever I go,
(a beat)
Besides, it might play magic for us...
you'll see.

Blas is left with a riddle in his mind.

EXT. RANCH - DAY

Jesse walks out of the ranch.

Pablito stands alone gazing from the front steps.

PABLITO
Be careful gringo.

JESSE
Hey! Go back to bed will you?

PABLITO
I'll be in the mountain with the mules
before you get there. You'll need my help.

JESSE
What?

Pablito walks away.

Jesse confused looks back at the child... a pick up truck with Lucas inside at the wheel is waiting... he leaps in... checks the two armed escorts riding in the back... they drive away.

IN THE TRUCK

JESSE
What's with this kid Lucas? He stares at me
as though I was something from outer space.

LUCAS
Don't be concerned, he's just like that.
He's so fast climbing hills that he'll be
at the spot before we get there.

JESSE
Yeah, but why is that piercing and sad look
in his face all the time?

LUCAS

When my uncle picked him up he was sobbing before the corpses of all his family.

JESSE

How was that?

LUCAS

Oh just an old family feud they had to pay for. The native law here is hard and cruel.

JESSE

You mean his whole family was wiped out?

LUCAS

That's right, that's why my uncle took him into custody after being the only survivor, otherwise he'll be dead by now.

JESSE

That's real bad. A beautiful land with such jagged feelings embedded in its people.

LUCAS

It's the law of the land here nobody can change.

JESSE

Well, lets go do our thing.

ON THE ROAD

The truck climbs a mountain trail leading to higher land.

EXT. OPEN MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAY

The trail leading to the highland hideout is sinuously treacherous... they cross through meandering paths and steep cliffs.

INT. TRUCK/CABIN - DAY

The off road driving gets rough with up and down bumping.

JESSE

How long will this ping-pong go on?

Lucas drives without loosing concentration.

LUCAS

This driving is nothing compared to the
mule ride waiting for you.

Jesse is taken by surprise.

JESSE

Mule ride? Blas didn't say anything about
mule riding.

LUCAS

Maybe he thought if he told you, you might
back away.

JESSE

No, I don't back away easily, but I'd like
to be told where and how I'm going.

LUCAS

(steering)

Haven't you ever mounted a mule before?

Bumping up and down.

JESSE

Horses yes, not mules, Jesus! If this is
going to be like this all along I think I'm
gonna puke.

LUCAS

Then get ready for the ride of your life,
I'll make sure you are soothed with skin
cream in case you scald your ass.

JESSE

If it's Melba doing it, I won't mind.

Lucas resents his joke.

Jesse grins with cynicism and puts his sunglasses on... the
bumping continuous.

OPEN LANDSCAPE

After reaching a small grass field on top of a cliff, they
stop.

INSIDE THE TRUCK

Lucas pulls the hand brake.

LUCAS

This as far as we drive,

OUT OF THE TRUCK

Jesse gets out of the truck and stretches out his muscles... takes pleasure looking at the landscape.

Lucas inspects the surrounding field... sniffs something is wrong and walks to Jesse's side.

LUCAS

(raising doubt)

The mules should have been here waiting for us with Pablito. I don't like this...

(yells)

PABLITO!

JESSE

What is it Lucas?

Lucas keeps silent.

Something moves in the bush.

They both steer their attention to the moving shrubs.

The two armed escorts stand up in readiness.

Lucas on guard walks toward the bush -- Jesse wants to follow.

LUCAS

Stay in the truck

Lucas draws his 9 MM. pistol from his waste and proceeds cautiously... out of the bushes storms out a mule... shocked they all point their guns at the approaching animal.

A child's VOICE shouts from the bush.

PABLITO(V.O.)

Don't shoot it's me, Pablito.

Lucas lowers his gun.

LUCAS

God damn Pablito, you shouldn't do this,
Why are you hiding?

The boy emerges from the shrubs pulling two saddled mules.

PABLITO

Because El loco went by here a short time ago with some of his men, drunk and cursing, and look!

Pablito points at a dead mule lying on its side a few feet apart.

Lucas freezes.

LUCAS

We better turn back, this imbecile wants to start something, and I'm responsible for your safety.

JESSE

(dauntless)

Fuck my safety Lucas, let's go and see this brute and try to reason with him, he's holding our merchandise and time is running out for us.

LUCAS

(adamant)

You don't seem to understand, this son of a bitch is capable of any stupid move.

JESSE

But you also have to understand this, my flight down here is scheduled and paid for in advance, and if I break the timing there's no guarantee for me landing back safely.

Lucas leaning against the truck thinks.

LUCAS

You mean your airfield is fixed?

JESSE

That's right, landing there is not like here, that's why I've got to keep my schedule.

LUCAS

Shit, you want to go on, don't know how to solve this.

Jesse insists.

JESSE

No Lucas, let's solve this ourselves, my time is running out. I'll take responsibility for whatever happens from here on.

LUCAS

You understand Jesse, that if we unwind this brute's temper we probably won't come back.

JESSE

Yes we will, trust me, I've got a surprise for EL LOCO he won't refuse, if he's stupid enough he'll fall for it, if not... Our time ran out.

Lucas looks at his two escorts for approval.

They nod back.

Pablito marvels at Jesse's gold watch with curiosity... touches it, then grabs the strap.

JESSE

Let go my arm kid.

PABLITO

Nice watch gringo, want to sell it? I can get you a buyer.

JESSE

No, it's not for sale.

PABLITO

Too bad. You'll probably leave without it anyway.

Jesse responds to the boy's impudence.

JESSE

Hey! What is this?

PABLITO

What kind of Gringo are you? Travelling with a gold watch.

(a beat)

Gringos carry chocolate, not gold.

Jesse grumbles.

JESSE

You're making my day kid... run along,
find a lizard to chase.

Lucas enjoys the act.

JESSE (CONT.)

You've seen too many movies and I'm not
your cowboy, all right?

PABLITO

A gringo without chocolates is a fake.

JESSE

Jesus Christ! Will someone take this kid
off me?

Pablito pierces him with keen eyes.

PABLITO

I think you're a spy! not a smuggler.

The quarrel heats up, Lucas holds back his laughter but is
forced to let it out.

LUCAS

(with laughter)

All right Pablito enough, and you Jesse
better roll down your sleeve, it's
beginning to cause problems.

JESSE

Damn Lucas, what kind of kids grow up in
here?

LUCAS

Its in their blood, to loot and make a life
style out of the contraband that moves
freely in these mountains... as for Pablito
the problem is, he's never been out of
these hills, never seen a movie, yet he
knows what a gringo is.

JESSE

Oh... Well, I'll try to remember that.

Jesse explains his strategy... Lucas listens with
skepticism.

JESSE (CONT.)

Here's what it is, I want EL LOCO to see my gold flashing from my wrist, it's bait for the trout. I'll lure him into passive obedience, you'll see...

LUCAS

How do you know he'll fall for the gold watch so easily?

JESSE

Every brute does.

LUCAS

Oh...

Jesse makes his point.

Lucas accepts the scheme nodding without much trust.

They mount the mules and proceed single row Indian style... one of the escorts trails behind on foot keeping a rear guard.

Pablito makes himself comfortable in the truck's bed and lies down. He thinks...

PABLITO (V.O.)

A gringo without chocolates, hum! Hard to believe...

ON THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Across a vast steep hill, the mules and riders follow up climbing with a steady pace.

Lucas leads... Jesse and one escort follow... the one on foot lags behind showing no fatigue.

A green weed field starts to reveal as they penetrate deeper into the mountain... Jesse snatches some ripe leaves from a weed plant to feel the scent.

Lucas looks back and smiles at Jesse's approving gesture.

The last man on foot pants with exhaustion... suddenly two gun shots CRACK the undisturbed silence.

The two escorts react taking cover -- Lucas targets the direction of the shot -- Jesse freezes... nobody moves.

ABOVE HIGH GROUND

A man high above their ground flaring a carbine, reveals himself... makes a forward sign.

They follow.

EXT. EL LOCO'S HIDING PLACE - DAY

A large open MOUNTAIN tent with several armed bushwhackers and a few mules strung to their posts make the camp.

Lucas, Jesse and the escorts ride in and dismount.

Jesse takes off his sunglasses and peers his surrounding.

The bushwhackers look back at the visitor with distrust.

FROM THE TENT

A man holding a bottle of liquor waves them in... Looks boozed... stumbles.

Jesse and Lucas walk in.

The two escorts remain attentive holding the mules with hand on weapons.

INSIDE THE TENT

EL LOCO, tanned skin mestizo with feline piercing eyes is drunk to the butt... bluntly waves them in.

IN SPANISH SUBTITLE

EL LOCO
(unstable)

I see you found your way here- I left a mark on the trail for you to see, so... think first before you speak. What brings you here?

Lucas calmly talks back.

LUCAS
Yes we saw the dead mule, you'll have to pay for it.

El Loco drinks recklessly from his bottle almost falling back... sits next to a small table by his side... his long barrel revolver on top of the table sends a message.

EL LOCO
(aggressively)
I don't pay shit to people who owe me,

LUCAS
(nagged)
Here we go again, the same rumble, What is it with you anyway? What's your problem with us?...
(continuing)
... the gringo is here to check the merchandise without delay and you're not cooperating much.

Ignoring Jesse completely, El Loco shoots back.

EL LOCO
(brawling)
I'll tell you what's eating my guts, I've been working for your uncle for over twenty years by now, and I'm poorer and he's richer, that's what keeps me boiling inside! As of now, things are going to change... (drinks)

LUCAS
Loco why don't you discuss this with my uncle some other time?, All we want now is to check the merchandise and be on our way.

Jesse sits silently... rolls up his sleeve subtly, revealing his Rolex.

El Loco shifts his eyes, eyeballs focused on the watch flaring from Jesse's wrist... continues.

EL LOCO
No, it's you I want to say this to. You've become his eyes and ears so hear me clear. I want to be able to leave this shit hole and enjoy life like you and your uncle, and I can't,
(drinks)
The minute I leave this place the law gets hold of me, and... who cares?

With look hinged at the gold watch...

LUCAS

It's what you've made with your life that's
got you running, don't blame my uncle for
your stupidity.

Steaming heat, El Loco goes for his long barrel revolver and points it at Lucas.

Lucas undaunted.

Jesse remains still.

EL LOCO

(soothing his anger)

You don't seem to know or care less that it was me always fronting whatever problem your uncle didn't front-

Circles pointing Lucas at close range.

EL LOCO (CONT.)

-It was me always getting rid of the shit and taking the blame! And now comes his nephew to tell me what to do... TO HELL WITH ALL OF YOU!

Lucas rubs his knuckles and looks at him unable to react.

LUCAS

I came here with this pilot to check out the merchandise you agreed selling. Now, if you want to finish this difference taking my life, DO IT NOW!

()

Otherwise put your fucking gun away and lets go on with our business. Is that what you want?

El Loco reconciles his self-control... lowers the gun.

EL LOCO

All right, let's talk business,
(shifting to Jesse)
Who's this Gringo?

Jesse sitting mute.

LUCAS

He's the pilot working with us, he is here
to make sure he takes back good Gold
Colombian weed, not the shit you loaded the
last time he was here.

EL LOCO

Yes, I've heard that,

LUCAS

We understand.

END OF SPANISH SUBTITLE

El Loco looks again scanning for the Rolex... finds it.

EL LOCO

That's a fine wrist watch you have there
gringo. How much you paid for it?

JESSE

A couple of thousand dollars,

EL LOCO

I can recognize a fine watch a mile away...

JESSE

I'm sure you can Loco. You look like a man
of good taste.

Lucas looks dismayed as Jesse's strategy unfolds.

EL LOCO

(continuing)

How much you want for it? I want it,

JESSE

It's not for sale.

EL LOCO

What? I can take it off you if I want to
and pay you nothing.

JESSE

No doubt you could, but you'll be making a
stupid mistake.

EL LOCO

Ay Dios mio! Why does everybody think I'm
stupid?

JESSE

You're not stupid, unless you do the wrong thing, with the wrong person at the wrong time.

El Loco becomes interested... melts down.

EL LOCO

And why is that gringo?

JESSE

Because I'm going to let you have it for free, a personal gift in exchange for a simple favor,

Lucas observes.

JESSE (CONT.)

It's yours to keep if you just show us the merchandise so I can check and mark it. That's all there is to it.

Jesse takes the Rolex off his wrist and hands the watch over to him.

El loco stunned with disbelief doesn't quite fall for the generosity... he examines the fine watch... takes some time to adjust to the striking gift.

EL LOCO

What kind of trick is this? You better be serious with me gringo, I don't like being fooled.

JESSE

Oh I'm serious all right, with all due respect señor Loco.

EL LOCO

My name is Pascual. Are you sure of what you're doing?

JESSE

Positive.

El Loco straps the Rolex to his wrist and calls his people.

EL LOCO

(shouting)

Muchachos! We're going to see the merchandise, Get moving!

(peers back at his wrist)
Follow my shine.

Lucas sits rubbing his chin... can't believe what he's just seen.

EL LOCO
Come on, it's only a short walk to the pit.
Gringo, I'm beginning to like you.

JESSE
My name is Jesse.

El Loco laughs with self sufficiency and takes the lead.

JESSE
Yeah Lucas, get on your feet, that's why we came here isn't it?

Lucas tracks following.

They follow close behind El Loco... he stumbles, falls and recovers... mocks his own drunkenness.

AT THE GRASS SITE

They reach a spot... two bushwhackers uncover a pit hole dug in the ground... the plastic cover is removed... a few dozen bundles neatly wrapped in waterproof plastic are revealed.

Jesse jumps of top of the bundles in the pit... pulls a buck knife from his pocket and starts making small incisive cuts... crouched carefully pulls out small samples from each bale... El Loco objects.

EL LOCO
Be careful gringo, it took some of my money and time wrapping this shit so you can take it back to your grass smokers.

El Loco laughs himself out and keeps milking his bottle.

Jesse disregards his mockery and continuous his careful inspection putting the samples in different small plastic bags.

After he's done, has one thing to say.

JESSE
Man Lucas, this gold Colombian should make us some good old green dollars,

LUCAS

It's all here, waiting for you to pick it up any time,

JESSE

Gotta figure how to start growing it in the states. A harvest of this kind is worth millions.

LUCAS

It won't work.

JESSE

Why not?

LUCAS

This product only grows here.

JESSE

Bull shit.

LUCAS

Why not take the seeds?

JESSE

I'd Rather take a small plant in a pot and go through customs with it, all I have to say is: Cannabis sativa is under extinction and better grow it here than there.

They laugh at the mock.

El Loco churns with resentment.

EL LOCO

Yeah, what about me, don't I get credit for nothing, I do the selecting, I do the packing and safe-holding and I get what? Shit.

Lucas patiently rebuts.

LUCAS

Yes Loco, and don't forget the extra weight you like to pack the bundles with.

EL LOCO

I'll pardon you just this once for your insult.

LUCAS

Make sure you do that Pascual, no foul play
this time, hope you act reasonably.

EL LOCO

Reasonably? I don't understand...

LUCAS

That's the problem with you. Enjoy the gold
watch on your wrist... enjoy the ticking.

El Loco lifts his wrist very close to his ear.

EL LOCO

Yes this makes me very happy...
(listening close)
... but, can't hear any,

JESSE

That's because a fine watch doesn't tick,
it just runs silently.

EL LOCO

You're very smart gringo, maybe we'll do
business in the future.

Jesse and Lucas look at each other.

El Loco detects their visual signal.

EL LOCO

(continuing)
You've made me happy with this gift gringo,
as for you Lucas,
(shifting to)
I want good cash and soon. I did my part,
you keep to yours.

JESSE

It's Been good meeting you Loco,

EL LOCO

Hey gringo!, I am El Loco only to my
friends, but since I like you I'll let you
call me Loco just this once. Next time I am
Señor Pascual, understood?

JESSE

No problem Señor Loco Pascual, I won't
forget.

El Loco takes the sarcasm bluntly.

EL LOCO
Pascual, remember that.

The sun begins setting.

LUCAS
We better be getting back, it's getting dark.

El Loco spits his resentment before they leave.

EL LOCO
And tell your uncle this is the last shipment I'll do for him if he doesn't recognize my good services!...
(drinks)
In cash with green color.

LUCAS
He'll get your message.

BACK AT THE MOUNTAIN SPOT

Lucas finds Pablito sleeping in the truck bed... shakes him a little.

LUCAS
Wake up Pablito, we're back.

Pablito sits up and rubs his eyes.

PABLITO
Where's... el gringo?

Jesse stumbling from the long ride back responds.

JESSE
I'm here kid.

PABLITO
I didn't think you'd come back.

JESSE
What made you think that?

PABLITO

Because I thought El Loco would hold you
for ransom or have you killed, or do
something with you...

JESSE

You think too much kid, I proved you wrong.

Pablito peers maliciously at Jesse.

PABLITO

He's going to come for you.

JESSE

Who?

PABLITO

El Loco.

JESSE

Shit, go back in the bush.

Lucas takes pleasure in the nagging.

Almost dark, they speed back to the ranch... Jesse looks back.

Pablito and the mules are left behind.

IN THE TRUCK

Jesse keeps looking back concerned.

JESSE

Are you gonna leave him on his own?

LUCAS

He knows his way around these trails better
than anybody. He's been forced to survive
in the wild. Don't worry about him.

JESSE

I still think we should have brought him
with us... there's some things I don't
understand about you people.

LUCAS

He'll be at the ranch before we get
there... you'll see.

INT. RANCH/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gathered for a final talk, Jesse, Blas and Lucas sort out the last details... El Loco is the main topic.

BLAS

So that's what he had to say.

Lucas reports on the encounter with El Loco.

LUCAS

Yes uncle, he wants a rearrangement of his cut, otherwise I presume he'll hold back the merchandise now that he knows that Jesse is here and time is running out,

BLAS

Is he willing to go that far?

LUCAS

He's stupid enough to do it and stall the whole operation, but given the compliment he got out of Jesse, things might run smoothly.

BLAS

What compliment?

JESSE

My Rolex.

BLAS

Your Rolex?

Jesse exposes his bare wrist.

JESSE

An expensive sacrifice for the benefit of our enterprise

BLAS

I'll take care of that S.O.B. after you take off safely. That bastard crossed the limit of my patience.

LUCAS

What are you going to do uncle?

BLAS

I am going to make sure he gets what he wants... plus something more.

Lucas gives Jesse exchange an ominous glance.

JESSE

Blas, he's just a stupid man with no common sense in his head, bragging for some respect, just let him know he's important, that's all he wants.

BLAS

No, he wont stop causing problems and discrediting me. I have been fair to him, hiding him from the law, supporting his two families and this is what I get.

Lucas leans back.

LUCAS

Whatever you want to do uncle, just let me know when.

BLAS

Only after Jesse takes off.

JESSE

There goes my Rolex, if I knew he was gonna get whacked, I would have thought of something else.

Blas turns his attention to Jesse.

BLAS

So, you have everything set to go back?

JESSE

Tomorrow morning, you've gotta give me the cords and radio frequency.

BLAS

I need a date and approximate time of arrival to set things up.

JESSE

To be exactly, seven days from now and approximately six in the morning as long as there's fair weather.

Blas hands him a note.

BLAS

Here are your coordinates and radio frequency, once you enter Colombian territory, not before. Lucas will drive you to the airport tomorrow.

As they speak, Carmen walks in the room surprisingly with a tray of empanadas (assorted Colombian biscuits).

CARMEN

(gleeful)

Empanadas for our guest!

Jesse enjoys the honor of her hospitality by being first in her preference.

JESSE

I love this woman

Carmen holds the tray.

CARMEN

They are specially made for you Jesse.

He picks one and bites it.

JESSE

This is delightful. Can I take some back?

Blas makes an unpredictable comment.

BLAS

Yes, and take her too,

(refers to Carmen)

I'll help you pack her up in your bag so you can carry her away for some time.

Carmen hurt, fires back.

CARMEN

Now! You will not get any of my empanadas, you old bandit!

She quickly passes the tray over to Lucas before Blas can take his... Carmen swiftly leaves the room with Blas suspending his hand in mid air again.

Jeff and Lucas laugh it out... Blas swallows his anger.

JESSE

It's not my fault this time Blas.

In comes Melba with another tray.

MELBA
Nobody treats my dear uncle like this...

Blas switches from raw attitude to pleasing gratitude.

MELBA (CONT.)
... This tray was specially made for you,
it's just one of your wife's pranks to
amuse herself.

BLAS
Thank you Melba.

Melba eye winks Jesse with something he understands... he gets up and leaves.

JESSE
Guess I better hit my bunk, it's a long drive to the airport tomorrow and I don't want to miss my flight, Good night.

As he walks out, Jesse finds Pablito standing in his way.

PABLITO
When are you coming back gringo?

JESSE
Hey! Stop calling me gringo if you expect me to bring you back chocolate, all Right?

PABLITO
All right, but when are you coming back?

JESSE
Soon.

Pablito goes for something in his pocket.

PABLITO
Here gringo,

Hands Jesse a rabbit's foot.

JESSE
What's this?

PABLITO

It's good luck for you. I caught it myself
and it's been with me a long time. Now it's
yours.

Jesse looks curiously at the amulet.

JESSE

Thanks.

Pablito smiles for the first time.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jesse sleeps after the hard day.

Melba slithers in the room with astute slyness... opens the door, shuts it back carefully... squeezes herself in Jesse's bed.

Jesse opens his eyes.

JESSE

(staggered)

Melba?

Melba already crouched to his body takes the initiative arousing him from his sleep.

MELBA

Did you think I was going to let you go without saying good bye?

JESSE

(stammering)

I thought you-- had forgotten?

Very much in control, she sets the rules.

MELBA

I am going to make you remember this night for some time to come, maybe you'll want to come back for more.

JESSE

(helpless)

Got no doubt you're good in these intrusions... God you're lovely.

Melba kisses him ardently drowning his praise... sexually aroused, Jesse responds avidly and flips on top of her with sizzling desire... like a vamp, she goes for his neck sucking madly... he feels the pain.

JESSE

Ouch!

EXT. SOUTH FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

The airliner lands on the runway.

AIRPORT IMMIGRATION GATE

Jesse walks out... looks for Kate... a car horn BLOWS

Kate in her car is waiting double-parked... a traffic cop WHISTLES and summons her to clear the driveway... he hops in the car and hastily drive out of the airport.

INT. CAR - DAY

Kate driving, anxiously wants first-hand report.

KATE

So, how was it?

JESSE

(skewing)

Pretty much the same as last time, except for a native dickhead that's causing a problem, but it'll be taken care of by the time I get back.

Kate, puzzled by the splintered feedback wants more.

KATE

What do you mean by that?

JESSE

Oh I don't know Kate, he'll probably have him shot, disappeared or something...

KATE

What? You gonna be part of that?

JESSE

Kate, it's the way they handle things down there, Colombians are used to violence when it comes to solving problems, specially money.

KATE

Is that the kind of people you are involved with?

JESSE

Kate, its not me, it's them, I don't mix in their problems.

She glances at his empty wrist.

KATE

Where's your Rolex?

Takes a brief moment to respond.

JESSE

(sighing)

I was mugged and was taken away by some bandits.

KATE

Mugged? You mean robbed?

JESSE

Exactly, me and this guy were driving to this hideout, when we were assaulted by these bunch of bandits and that was it,

KATE

You make it sound as if it was an exciting adventure,

JESSE

It was in a way Kate, I came out good out of it, didn't I?

Gives her a grin.

Kate peers back again and finds another goodie.

KATE

And what's that purple bruise on your neck?

Jesse begins to feel the noose in his neck tightening.

JESSE

Hey! Are you driving or browsing me?

KATE

(insisting)

Just, what are those bruises on your neck?

JESSE

Mosquitoes, you ought to see the size of
them blood thirsty suckers.

Not swallowing his response, she shoots back aggressively.

KATE

(mistrusting)

It looks more like she-vamps to me with
sucking lips and lashing tongues.

JESSE

Come on honey, quit the nagging. Aren't you
glad to see me back in one piece?

KATE

Honey my ass!

He tries another tactic.

JESSE

Hey! Let's go to CARL'S place, eat and have
a good time, I need to square out some
things with him.

She has something else in her mind.

KATE

(adamant)

No no, first we go to the hotel, make out,
search your bag and then go to Carl's.

(firmly)

All right?

JESSE

(indulging)

OK with me.

OUT ON THE ROAD

KATE (O.S.)

I'll show you what kind of mosquito I can
turn into.

JESSE
Shit Kate.

They speed through the expressway in the late evening Florida sunset.

EXT. NORTH MIAMI/RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A neon sign shines brightly on top of a restaurant.

INSERT: CARL'S BBQ RIBS

Jesse on the wheel now drives into a parking space in front of the restaurant.

INSIDE THE CAR

Before stepping out.

JESSE
Hope Carl is here,

KATE
He always is.

JESSE
I suppose you ought to know better than anybody.

KATE
Does CARL know you're back?

JESSE
Not unless you've told him which I presume you've done.

KATE
Why should I?

JESSE
It's not new to me that while I'm away he visits you and you cry over his shoulder.

KATE
I won't take any of this from you Jesse.

JESSE
I can, cheating is part of my life, for you is a lifestyle.

KATE

How long have you known?

Jesse looks at her for a brief moment... she opens her door indecisive... looks down.

JESSE

Come on, let's go in.

They head for the entrance. Jesse wearing an oriental high brim collarless shirt, is uncomfortable... stretches out the collar from his neck constantly.

Before entering, two intimidating looking bumpers greet them at the front door, SAL and VINNIE.

JESSE

(greeting)

Sal, Vinnie. How are you two?

SAL

Good to see you back Jesse.

VINNIE

Carl is waiting for you.

Jesse surprised by the unexpected welcome looks at Kate for an explanation... she bilks his glance... they walk in.

JESSE

(muttering)

See me back?, Waiting for me?, How did they all know I was back? I wonder...

Kate feeling alluded feigns innocence.

KATE

Me too.

INSIDE THE RESTAURANT

Live western MUSIC is the night show attraction.

CARL STEINBERG, the restaurant owner, business man in his mid forties's, always sporting a trim tailored jacket, sits in his personal table enjoying a beer.

Jesse and Kate are ushered to his cornered lurking place.

Carl stands up to greet them.

CARL
(feigning)
Jesse! I didn't know you were back, it's
good to see you.

They sit, Kate takes the middle.

JESSE
You seem to be the only one kept in the
dark about my return Carl.

Jesse glances at Kate with malice.

CARL
(giggling)
Why is that? Tell me about it, make
yourself comfortable.

KATE
(hasty)
Hi Carl,

Carl looks at her with a wry glare.

JESSE
Just got here a few hours ago and everybody
seems to know I'm back, except you.

CARL
Bad news travel fast, good ones lag behind,
goes the old saying. It's good to have you
back Jesse, tell me about it. How did you
find things down there?

Carl signs a waiter for service.

KATE
(sarcastic)
It seems you two have no manners on how to
treat a lady.

CARL
(alluded)
Oh I'm sorry Kate, I didn't mean to be
rude, How have you been?

Kate unpleasant plays along.

KATE
Fine as usual, taking the stress of a
housewife.

JESSE
We're not married yet Kate.

KATE
We don't have to, I just feel like one.

Carl relieves the pressure.

CARL
So, what can I offer you, A cocktail?
Dinner? Name it,

JESSE
I'll have a beer before my ribs.

The waiter responds to the call with pad and pen to take the order.

WAITER
What would it be Mr. Steinberg?

CARL
Bring us two beers please.

WAITER
Will that be all sir.

CARL
For the moment yes, thank you... Oh, wait
one moment please...

Carl shifts to Kate.

CARL
(continuing)
...what about you Kate? What would you
like?

KATE
(with disgust)
Nothing, thank you.

The waiter walks away.

Feeling the steam, Carl tries to defuse the situation.

CARL
That's a fine Mandarin shirt you're wearing
Jesse. Did you bring it back in your trip?

Kate lands a stinger interdicting the praise.

KATE

He's wearing it with his gorge up to
conceal the mosquito stings he picked up in
Weedland.

CARL

(confused)

What? Didn't know it was that bad with
insects over there.

Jesse goes for his collar with uneasiness.

She reaches for his shirt neck abruptly exposing the reddish
tinged bruises in Jesse's neck.

KATE

(steaming with anger)

Wrong Carl, it was Colombian stingers with
teats and sucking lips.

Jesse pushes her apart and looks to Carl with shame.

Carl sticks to his neutrality.

Kate reacts aggressively.

KATE

(cranky)

Excuse me, I have to go to the ladies's
room to relieve my stress. Be back soon.

JESSE

Take your time.

Gets up roughly and walks away.

CARL

What's got her fuming like that?

JESSE

You ought to know, she's so insecure and
unstable, anyway I didn't come here for
this, what I have is good news.

Carl turns to Jesse attentively.

CARL

(sitting back)

Speak up buddy, I'm receptive.

INSIDE THE LADIES'S ROOM

Kate snores a line of coke... feels the effect, leans against a wall.

BACK AT CARL'S TABLE

The waiter returns, serves the beer and walks away.

JESSE

Man Carl, what I'm bringing back is pure Colombian gold, once it's here you ought to get a better price than anything done before, take my word.

CARL

What's in your mind with this Colombian Gold premise?

Jesse drinks his beer.

JESSE

I want ninety per pound.

Carl cavils and responds.

CARL

That's fifteen dollars above the usual seventy five we've been dealing with,

JESSE

Yeah Carl, but this stuff is prime Colombian gold, believe me, I checked it piece by piece personally.

CARL

Oh I believe you all right, it's those Colombian rats stuffing the bales with rocks and shit and expecting to get paid for that. That makes me think twice.

JESSE

It wont happen this time, I did the inspection myself and the old man over there guarantees the quality for sure.

CARL

How sure?

JESSE

Blas is not a skunk, and anybody harming his business gets dumped. I put my face and blood before this man, he's straight as a light beam.

Carl drinks from his mug.

CARL

Don't take things too far Jesse, this is only business, you loose and win, things happen and you take the burden.

Jesse sits up attentively.

JESSE

So, What do you say?

CARL

I see no problem as long as it's true Colombian gold, without the extra weight those crooks hid in the bales the last time.

JESSE

Carl, this has Blas' personal signature on it. It won't happen again

Carl ponders briefly.

CARL

Yeah, I take your word for it.

(ponders)

If he's serious and straight as you say, there shouldn't be any problem

JESSE

Then it's done, have I got your signature on the contract?

CARL

Done.

Carl not so convinced goes along with Jesse's zest.

CARL (CONT.)

No problem partner, you keep your guarantee, I'll stand by the new price.

Kate heads back to them.

Carl sees her coming.

CARL
The storm is back

Kate returns showing a gleeful attitude.

KATE
Shall we dance my love?

Surprised, Jesse looks at Carl for an explanation.

Carl sits back.

CARL
Go ahead and dance, I'll be here all night,
the magic powder always does its stuff.

Jesse and Kate dash for their dance... She looks back.

Carl peers at her with subtle cupidity.

Folk-western MUSIC FILLS the night.

EXT. NORTHERN COLOMBIAN MOUNTAINS - DAY

A four-wheel drive and a pick-up truck climb a steep mountain trail. The pick-up truck trails behind. Four armed men ride in the back with their R-15 rifles in their laps.

INSIDE THE JEEP

IN SPANISH SUBTITLE

Lucas steers skillfully... Blas grips to a hand bar.

LUCAS
Uncle, what makes you think El Loco won't take this visit as a weakness from us?

BLAS
I have to put some sense in this man's head, he is unpredictable and I can't risk this shipment. I'll Let him think he's taking advantage of me if that's what he wants.

LUCAS

I can understand that, my quiz is guessing what this imbecile will do if we don't come to terms with him.

BLAS

If I remain silent it works on his favor, he'll think he is entitled to all his claims and I need to tell him where he stands.

Lucas heeds in silence skimming the bad road.

ON THE TRAIL

The two vehicles continue to climb relentlessly... an awesome aerial view of the background marks the pathway to where they're heading: El Loco's hideout.

After some time they reach the spot... Lucas gets out gets out for a stretch... Blas remains in the vehicle.

From a higher position above a rocky gorge, they are detected by one of El Loco's armed men... the BUSHWHACKER focuses his reptile piercing eyes on the visitors.

After making sure everything is secured, the bushwhacker descends closer, reveals himself and shouts.

BUSHWHACKER 1

Alto! Who goes there?

Blas rolls down his window shield to reveal his face.

BUSHWHACKER 1

Oh, It's you Don Blas, Does Pascual knows you're coming?

BLAS

(adamant)

If he doesn't know, go tell him I'm here!

Another bushwhacker runs down a steep narrow trail leading to the hideout.

INT. EL LOCO'S LAIR - DAY

El Loco snoozes the morning off in a hammock -- The BUSHWHACKER storms in to report the alert.

BUSHWHACKER 2

(agitated)

Jefe, don Blas is coming, you need to get up quick, he's here!

El Loco awakes... dismisses the alert with indifference.

EL LOCO

(slumbering)

Don't be alarmed, I was expecting him.

The bushwhacker insists.

BUSHWHACKER 2

But Jefe, he brings some armed men with him!

EL LOCO

Don't panic, I've got guns too, go and warn the others. They'll know what to do in case something happens to me.

El Loco picks up his bottle of fine scotch and downs a generous amount... leans back in the hammock and waits.

OUTSIDE THE TENT

The bushwhacker runs to alert the others as told.

BUSHWHACKER 2

(shouting)

Everybody hide!

Everyone scrambles and disappear in the surrounding bush.

IN THE LAIR'S ENTRANCE

The two vehicles drive into a camouflaged entrance with shredded twigs and branches to deceive intruders... an armed man emerges from the bush and removes the obstacles.

After the entrance is cleared, they proceed to the hideout a short distance away.

The lair is creepy desolate... no one in sight.

Blas and Lucas get off the Jeep... walk toward the tent, Lucas holds a bag... two of the men riding in the rear of the truck, jump down and follow them.

Four of the six armed men remain in the truck. Two out of the truck, and the other two in the rear bed with weapons ready on maximum alert.

INSIDE THE TENT

El Loco, hanging in his hammock, waits with disrespectful apathy.

Blas walks in the tent and stops a short distance from him.

BLAS

Your exposed lack of respect tells me
there's something in your greedy mind
Pascual, I'm here to listen.

Lying in the hammock with indifference.

EL LOCO

(disdainful)

The time for respect to be shared by me has
come Patrón.

BLAS

Lucas tells me there's great
dissatisfaction on your side about our
agreement and I've come to settle this
matter now for good.

EL LOCO

Lucas says the truth but not complete.

Serene and resolute, Blas confronts the situation.

BLAS

Since when do you think you can treat me
with disrespect and challenge my authority?
Or is it your ambition that's making you
act so stupid.

El Loco undaunted ejects from the hammock so rapidly almost crashing against Blas.

Lucas and the two gunmen guarding him, react going for their weapons.

EL LOCO
(boasting his guts)
There's no need to show me your strength
Patron, you may leave me lying dead in this
shack, but I guarantee you that none of you
will leave here walking...

Blas fuming with indignation controls his anger.

EL LOCO
(continuing)
...so if I am the stupid one, if that is
what you think of me, which one of you is
the wisest to start shooting!
(shouting)
GO AHEAD KILL ME!

Blas restrains his men raising his arm.

EL LOCO
(shouting)
WELL? START SHOOTING!

Lucas looks to his back to see if he has to react in case
they're attacked... Nothing happens.

EL LOCO
(challenging)
You didn't see a single of my men when you
drove in, Did you? But they're out there
just waiting for the first shot to be
fired!

OUT OF THE TENT

EL LOCO (O.S.)
(shouting)
SHOOT ME DEAD, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

The SHOUTING is heard outside of the tent... strangely no
one reacts... El Loco's gang remains invisible.

Blas's men grip their guns on alert anticipating a
confrontation nearly about to happen... nothing happens.

IN THE TENT

Blas smothers the dispute with a smart move.

BLAS
(soothing)

How did we come to this Pascual? This is
not the way we did things in the past.

El Loco turns his back.

EL LOCO
That's right Patrón, but I'm getting tired
playing the underdog, I want recognition
and a better cut for my work.

BLAS
This is no time for a showdown Pascual, I
have a business compromise to keep in a few
days and you are part of it. If this
disagreement is over money I have brought
you an advance
(turning to Lucas))
Lucas the briefcase!

Lucas steps forward and opens the bag... throws it on the
ground... a large amount of US dollars is disclosed.

El Loco coldly glances at the opened bag.

EL LOCO
How much is in there?

BLAS
Enough to end this difference right now.
You'll get the rest of you share after the
plane takes off.

El Loco scratches the back of his neck.

EL LOCO
Whatever difference there is, I will forget
as of this moment Patrón.

They shake hands and eyeball at each other for a brief
moment.

Before leaving, Blas warns with decisive firmness.

BLAS
Make sure the merchandise is in the landing
spot a day before the arrival.

EL LOCO
When is the arrival?

BLAS
I'll let you know in due time.

EL LOCO
I'll be there with the merchandise patrón.

Blas walks away with Lucas and his two men following.

OUT OF THE TENT

The two vehicles drive away while a line of armed men court their way out.

IN THE VEHICLE

LUCAS
He's not reliable anymore uncle, he has to go.

BLAS
Yes I know, just remember, I don't want him touched until Jesse leaves.

BACK IN THE TENT

El Loco fondles with the bills in the briefcase thinking he's been the victor... a cynical expression in his face reveals satisfaction.

END OF SPANISH SUBTITLE

INT. APPALACHIANS/PRIVATE AIRFIELD/HANGAR - DAY

Max and Jesse observe a disassembled turbo-charger resting on a work bench... Max sweats... smudged with engine oil to his eyebrows sticks obstinately to his solution.

MAX
I can still save this turbo if you just give me some time.

JESSE
No Max, it's a long flight to Weedland and I don't have the time for your improvisation.
(firmly)
Replace it, and start now!

MAX
No problem, it's your money... and my time.

JESSE

Yes, my money and your precious time,
that's very valuable at this moment.

(hasty)

How long would it take you to have this
bird ready for a test flight?

Max wipes his face with a rag and thinks.

MAX

Well let me see, if I place a rush order-
beside extra cost- would take from four to
five days for delivery... plus
installation.

JESSE

(interrupting)

Hey, hold on there. You mean a whole five
days for just delivery? No way.

MAX

Unless I go to the distributor personally,
(ponders)

To get it myself depending they have it
stocked... which of course would be extra
money for gas and-

JESSE

Wash up Max and get going.

MAX

But Jesse I haven't had my lunch yet! a man
has to eat to perform his duties.

JESSE

You'll pick up something on your way there,
you wont faint. Anybody looking at the size
of your waist will determine easily you
have a good reserve stocked in your waste
basket.

MAX

Now, is that a nice thing to say?

JESSE

Get Max, I want that part in your bench by
tomorrow!

MAX

(stammering)

Well huh- I mean er- All right I'll do it.

EXT. CARL'S BBQ PLACE - DAY

Jesse drives in the restaurant's parking area... It's empty but sees a police car with a cop in leisure (Max's friend) parked not too far away.

He puzzles.

Gets out and walks in the restaurant overriding a sign:

INSERT: "Closed"

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Service personnel are cleaning the place... Carl sits by the bar drinking a beer.

At a table, a distance apart is Sal having a cup of coffee... Jesse pushes the door letting the light through and walks in... the morning glare shines directly in Sal's face... He dodges the light.

Jesse approaches the bar and takes a stool by Carl's side.

CARL

What brings you here so early? Wanna a beer?

JESSE

Yeah I need one.

Carl calls HELEN young and gracious bartender.

CARL

Helen, bring us two beers please,...
(shifting)
What's wrong?

The bartender approaches.

HELEN

Foreign or domestic Carl?

CARL

You know what I drink.

HELEN

And the gentleman?

CARL
Any home brewed.

She nods pleasantly.

CARL
(continuing)
So tell me what's nagging you?

JESSE
I'm stalled, it's an engine part I need now, have to place an order for it and I don't have the time.

The bartender returns, serves the beer.

HELEN
Here's your beer sir,

JESSE
Thank you.

He sips and gulps three times.

JESSE
Man, this is good.

CARL
So what kind of part is it?

JESSE
(gasps)
It's a turbo charger for one of the engines, and Max is on his way right now to see if he can get one somewhere in the city... I don't know.

CARL
You still have that old raccoon with you?

JESSE
Yeah.

CARL
Let me see what I can do, got a part number or some kind of reference to start with...

JESSE
I'll have to beep Max for it.

CARL

Do it.

Carl thinks ... a brief moment lapses... he's got it!

CARL

Let me call this guy, he's in the aircraft maintenance business, maybe he can help us.

Summons his bartender... she responds at the snap.

CARL

Helen please hand me my notebook, in my office desk please.

To Jesse.

CARL

Get the old haggard and have him give you a part number or reference, we're gonna need it.

JESSE

Let me use one of your phones.

CARL

Ask Helen.

Overhearing, Helen places a telephone over the bar counter... Jesse walks to it... she opens a drawer by the cashier's stand and pulls out a hardbound agenda.

HELEN

Here you are Mr. Steinberg,

CARL

Helen... now the wireless phone please,

HELEN

Surely.

Jesse on the other side of the bar dials a beeper number, waits...

INT. MAX'S OLD PICK-UP/ON THE ROAD - DAY

Max driving... his pager beeps -- he answers. Needs to looks at the scrolling message... pulls out of the road.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Max drives into a gas service station... looks for a public phone.

Finds one... gets out of his truck, and walks directly to the booth.

IN THE BOOTH

Dials a number.

INT. THE RIB PLACE - DAY

Jesse waits... the phone rings, he picks it up.

JESSE

Max?

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

MAX

Yeah Jesse what's going on I'm on my way to see if I can get the part as you told me.

JESSE

I've found some extra help, need the part number, I might be able to get it faster than expected.

MAX

Jesse I'm on my way to get it myself, I don't understand your change of mind.

JESSE

Do as I tell you Max, just give me the part number and manufacture reference

(a beat)

No wait, I think you better get your ass over here quick,

MAX

Where are you at?

JESSE

I'm at Carl's rib place.

MAX

All right I'll do as you say, it's your
money and... my time,
(sighs)
Anything else?

JESSE

Yeah- I mean no, just get your greasy ass
over here as fast as you can, All right?

MAX

I'll be there shortly.

Max makes a U turn.

EXT. CARL'S RIB PLACE - DAY

Max drives in his old pick up and parks next to the police car.

His friend and lawman, VINCE lies inside snoring... swings the door open, purposely bumps the police car with his door.

VINCE springs out of his slumbering nap.

MAX

I'll be damn! So this is how you waste the taxpayer's money, dozing like a croc on a sunny shore.

The lawman recovering from his numbness sits up.

VINCE

Oh... Hi Max, I was just taking a short break... What's happening?

MAX

With short breaks like these every criminal will find his paradise here. In our community!

VINCE

Cut the bull shit Max, go find some real work will you? I do mine all the time specially guarding you hangar. Do you forget?

Max looks to both sides, dodges close and whispers.

MAX

Jesse's got some real work for me and you coming up. Wanna join?

VINCE

He's not hauling refer again, Is he?

MAX

In fact he is, and we need security you can provide.

VINCE

Sounds luring, what's in it for me

MAX

A fair chunk of the pie waits for you, but first you've got keep the tin-star buzzards away.

Vince looks up unresolved.

Max pads him in the shoulder.

MAX

Come over my place tonight and I'll tell you all about it over some beers. Got to go now, Jesse is waiting inside.

Max walks toward the restaurant's entrance.

Vince is left thinking... starts the car and drives away.

BACK AT THE RESTAURANT'S BAR

Carl scrolls through some pages in his notebook... finds a number and dials. Drinks his beer while the phone rings.

The phone rings.

The call is answered.

CARL

Thank you
(pause)
Klaus Gimble please,
(pause)...
Tell him Carl Steinberg
(pause)...
thank you.

Covers the phone mic and asks Jesse for the part number. Max, already with them holds the information in his hand.

CARL
Got the part number?

Jesse takes the written information from Max and hands it over to Carl.

CARL
(continuing)
Hello, Gimble?
(beat)
Carl Steinberg, how are you?
(beat)
Listen, I need a special favor from you
(beat)
Right, this is what it is, take this down,
turbo charger for a twin engine aircraft...

Jesse shoves Max off.

JESSE
OK Max, you can go now.

MAX
Don't I get a beer at least before I go?

JESSE
No Max, you're working remember?

MAX
Shit Jesse, just one.

JESSE
Get max.

Max walks away grumbling.

As Carl speaks over the phone supplying the information needed, Jesse finds Sal lingering in his solitude... walks over to him.

JESSE
So what's up Sal?

SAL
Oh nothing much since our last ordeal with the ballast found in the bales, It was very offensive for us.

JESSE

Yeah, I took notice out of Carl's complaint
and told the boss down there what had
happened here.

SAL

(smiling)

Some stones where real neat, they look like
lime stones out from some creek, I kept
some for my wife's garden.

JESSE

Sorry to have to stop you short of your
collection of stones Sal, because it won't
happen again. That mess was taken care of
by the boss himself, I was there
personally.

SAL

Yeah, I hear the man down there is very
rude but straight.

JESSE

Got it right. Take my word for it, the way
he fixes his internal affairs leaves me no
doubt that it won't happen again.

Carl interrupts calling.

CARL (V.O.)

Jesse!

JESSE

Excuse me Sal, talk to you later.

Jesse walks back to Carl... hangs up the phone.

CARL

You'll have the replacement part here by
tomorrow afternoon. You can relieve the old
man from the burden and save some money
too, I'll take care of it.

JESSE

Thanks, I'll call Max and give him the bad
news.

CARL

Bad news? I've just solved the problem.

JESSE

Not for Max, for him is the other way around. I know what I'm telling you.

CARL

Whatever rolls between you two is no concern of mine.

(sips beer)

Call on me any time buddy, remember, as long as we're in this together you've got my backing and full support, I mean it.

JESSE

As it was said sometime before Carl. This is the beginning of a long lasting friendship.

CARL

I'll drink to that.

Raises his mug and drinks.

INT. AIRFIELD/HANGAR - DAY

Before a working bench, Max unwraps the box with the delivered part... Jesse watches impatiently.

JESSE

Come on Max, hurry up I wanna see it.

MAX

(perspiring profusely)

You don't seem to have any consideration for my age, I like to do things methodically and efficiently, but you're always pushing me.

JESSE

Max, I've got no time to listen to your bull-shit crap, just tell me: Is it the right part or not?

Max finishes taking the wrapping apart and inspects the part.

MAX

Yeah, this it. I'll have it installed by late tonight so you can make your test flight tomorrow.

JESSE
Love you Max.

Jesse takes off Max's cap, kisses his bald head and walks away fleeing.

MAX
Shit Jesse, Why do you have to do that?
It's disgusting to have another man kiss
me!

JESSE
I'm your man Max, don't you forget it.

MAX
(again)
Shit.

Max wipes his head with his greasy hand.

EXT. JESSE'S HOME - DAY

The front door opens with a slam... out comes Jesse rushing... Kate behind secures the door lock.

JESSE
Come on Kate, why do you always have to lag behind?

Kate twisting the key fires back.

KATE
Because- shit!

The key gets stuck.

KATE (CONT.)
A woman takes her time,

They get in the car, drive away in haste.

IN THE CAR

JESSE
(prickly)
Does it mean that because you're a woman,
time doesn't count for you?

KATE

Damn right! Because if I'm quick and prompt
all the time-
(slants)
You'll loose interest in me.

JESSE

What?

KATE

Please Jesse, don't simmer over something
you're about to loose... just accept the
facts as they are.

JESSE

What facts? All I want is to be on time in
my schedule and you're not helping me.

KATE

Honey, the airfield will be there, Max will
be waiting, so what more could you ask for?
You're the king!

JESSE

With you blistering and nagging constantly,
I won't get in time.

KATE

If a queen doesn't nag, she won't get what
she wants.

JESSE

And just what is it that you want Kate?

Kate goes flashing for his penis.

KATE

This.

EXTERIOR ROAD

The car swerves out of control.

JESSE (O.S.)

Are you nuts? I'm driving!

KATE (O.S.)

I know, it's the excitement that turns me
on.

JESSE (O.S.)
Stop it, stop...

The car keeps on swerving... curbs to the side and stops...
Kate has her day.

INT. AIRFIELD/HANGAR - DAY

Max cleans his hands with a rag, a satisfying expression in
his face tells the work is done.

Jesse walks in a rush, Kate tracks behind him keeping the
pace.

MAX
She's all set and waiting for you boss,

JESSE
(hasty)
Can I take her up Max? Get me the flight
log, I wanna take her up now.
(mumbling)
Why is this always happening to me?

MAX
I can presume why,

They both fix eyes on Kate.

Max smells quarrel... darts to the small office.

KATE
If it's me you're referring to I prefer to
ignore you.

JESSE
Yeah Kate, you do that. It'll help me more
than your constant fucking-nagging-shit!

KATE
If you think you can shove me off you're
looming in the moon honey. I'm coming up
with you.

JESSE
This is definite a bad start for a day.

Max comes back running with the log book in his hand.

MAX
Here you are Jesse,
(huffing)
Don't listen to the witch, just take her up
and throw her out once you reach top
altitude.

Kate overhears.

KATE
Shut up you old rag!

JESSE
I think I'll take your advise Max.

KATE
(to Max)
Go find an oil can to dip your dick into,

MAX
Don't go getting sour-puss now Kate, I
may be old but can still thrust,

Jesse climbs the short ladder on the side of the aircraft.

KATE
But Jesse, I wanna go with you!

Jesse with half body in the fuselage.

JESSE (V.O.)
Not if you wanna come back in one piece.

She implores from down below.

KATE
Jesse?...

Jesse sticks his head out.

JESSE
Come on.

She climbs up and goes in with one last thing to say.

KATE
I hope one of these days your head gets
chopped by a propeller, you fucking creep.

Max gulps.

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

Jesse buckles up, puts his earphones on and grabs the mic.

JESSE

Tower, this is Cesna 342 requesting permission for take off.

TOWER RADIO (V.O.)

Tower to Cesna 342 cleared for take off, proceed to runway...

The engines start and the plane fans out of the hangar.

OUT IN THE AIRFIELD

The plane takes off.

Max observes as the plane slowly climbs the sky.

IN THE COCKPIT.

Jesse pulls back the elevators... Retracts the landing gear.

JESSE

I've got to take her up to twelve thousand feet to see how she takes it, you wanna come along?

KATE

Do I have a choice, you moron.

JESSE

I'm taking Max's advise seriously.

The meter gains altitude.

Rolling up her eyeballs.

KATE

(despiteful)

You make it sound as though there's a personal relationship between you and this... machine.

JESSE

This machine... that I've come love, makes me happier than you. Anything against that?

KATE

No, nothing, it's just that I didn't know
how close you were with your flying bride.

JESSE

Call it what you want Kate, because right
now if she wanted to, she'll take us down
in a steep dive to hell.

As he speaks he pedals the rudder without Kate noticing it.

The plane banks... Kate jumps in fear.

KATE

(frightened)

What's that? Why are we waving?

JESSE

Maybe she didn't like what you just said.

Jesse grins with relief as Kate stifles her fear and leans back.

BACK IN THE HANGAR

A manorial sedan drives in the airfield.

Carl steps out with his two proxies.

INTERIOR HANGAR

Max organizes and cleans his work bench... puts away some wrenches in a tool box... hears STEPS approaching.

CARL (V.O.)

MAX! Are you here?

Max turns to find Carl walking toward him.

MAX

Oh, Hello Mr. Steinberg

Carl approaches with his two men behind.

CARL

Max, I told Jesse I'll meet him here after
his test flight, Where is he?

MAX

He's up in the sky with his missy.

CARL

Well I hope he comes back intact.

They all laugh.

MAX

What can I do for you sir?

CARL

I need a phone to make some calls, where is one?

MAX

In my office Mr. Steinberg

Max directs Carl to the the small walled space.

CARL

I hate to say this Max but, Is it clean? I don't want grease on my clothes.

MAX

Mr. Steinberg, my office is as clean as the kitchen in your restaurant.

CARL

You should come around some time to taste the ribs.

Max opens the door for him courteously.

MAX

I do my best but never get invited, sir. Us workers don't have privileges.

Before he goes in.

CARL

You two wait for me out here... Max talk to the boys while I make my calls.

MAX

Sure thing Mr. Steinberg

Max peers at the two intimidating boys standing by the office door.

MAX

(continuing)

Hey, weren't you the same two that did the refer hauling last time?

Sal and Vinnie look at each other maliciously.

SAL

That's right old man except we were with working clothes at that time in case you got the wrong impression.

Max rubs his chin.

MAX

That's why I didn't recognize you from the start. You sure looked different in those forlorn pinafores, more like hoboes asking for a smoke.

Vinnie resents Max's acute observation... shoots back.

VINNIE

They were not pinafores old man, they were overalls.

MAX

I thought they were both the same thing, working people don't mind using either one of the two.

Vinnie gives Max a menacing gaze.

VINNIE

Maybe you ought to shut your mouth old man before I wrench out your tongue.

Max bogs down...

IN THE OFFICE

Carl dials a number... waits... gets through.

CARL

JC? How are things in the big apple?

(pause)

Listen I'll be brief, everything is running smooth, wait for my call in a few days,

(pause)

Right, just wait for my call, I'll get back to you. Good bye.

Hangs up and dials another number... waits.

CARL

Chino? C here, How's tinsel town doing?
(pause)
If you meet a star, bring her over for some
BBQ
(pause)
I've got some gold silk coming up my way,
Want me to set some aside for you?
(pause))
fine, take care. Bye

Carl takes a brief break in his dialing... thinks,
retrieving something from his memory.

OUT OF THE OFFICE

Waves Vinnie through the door glass to come into the office.

Vinnie steps in.

IN THE OFFICE

CARL

Vinnie, do you recall the dude from
Jersey looking for refer last month? I
think Viggio was his name, wasn't it?

VINNIE

Yeah, What about him?

CARL

Need to talk to him, Got his number? You
brought him here on some refer shopping
mission, remember?

Vinnie extracts a small phone book from an inner pocket in
his jacket... Shuffles through it... finds the data.

VINNIE

Got it, here it is.

Grabbing the phone book from Vinnie.

CARL

Let me see.

After looking at the number, he dials it and abruptly
changes his mind... hands the phone over to Vinnie.

CARL

Here, you talk to him, ask him to come down
to have a talk about his request on his
last visit.

Vinnie grabs the phone and listens... the phone rings.

VINNIE

Hello, could I speak to Mr. Viggio

(pause)

Hello Viggio? This is Vinnie from Miami,
How are things?

(pause)

I'd like to ask if you can come down to
fill a contract?

(pause)

That's just fine, I'll pick you up... just
call me in advance, you've got my number.
Nice talking to you.

CARL

Well?

VINNIE

He'll be here tomorrow night to fly back
the next day. Can't stay long.

CARL

Once you pick him up, bring him over to the
restaurant to see how many pounds he wants.

VINNIE

Right.

EXTERIOR AIRFIELD

Jesse's airplane approaches the runway for landing... lands
and scoots heading for the hangar.

IN THE HANGAR

Max, Carl and his two boys wait attentively.

The hatch door opens... Max connects the step ladder... Out
comes Kate.

KATE

Heavens! Didn't expect such a reception,
something must be sizzling in the pot.

Carl gets close and extends his hand to help her down.

CARL

It wasn't really meant for you, but since
you're aboard, welcome back.

KATE

You're Always so gallant Carl, I wish some
day Jesse will emulate your fine manners.

Jesse comes out... overhears her remark.

JESSE

It takes more than good manners to make a
man... Sorry Carl no offense meant for you.

Kate snubbed walks away.

CARL

Jesse come over here I want to talk to you
alone.

They walk some paces apart almost reaching the hangar's
gate.

CARL

Is everything running on schedule? I just
talked to some buyers to stand by after we
move, they're hungry for weed.

JESSE

Yeah, I'm all set to take off tomorrow
night, hoping to be there with... the next
day's early lights.

CARL

Great because the only way I'll make them
accept the new price is by showing some
sample of the refer in advance, not the
whole stock. I know one who'd probably
wanna take it all, but I am a fair man to
my clients.

JESSE

As I told you Carl, what I'm bringing back
is pure gold, I've seen it, you can confirm
my say after I get back

CARL

Than there's nothing more to say. If I
don't see you, Good luck and safe return.

Carl and Jesse sake hands... signals his boys it's time to leave. They walk away.

Jesse frowns... turns his face to the vast open sky waiting for him.

IN COLOMBIA

EXT. MOUNTAIN LAIR - DAY

The sky looms with cloudy dark grey clouds threatening to burst... a row of mules are being loaded with two bales of weed strapped to their sides each... the bushwhackers, all set to transport the merchandise wait for their boss to start moving.

The tent door flips open... El loco emerges with straw hat, high rubber boots and a long barrel revolver tucked in his waist, no holster... Mounts a mule and gives the order.

IN SPANISH SUBTITLED

EL LOCO

Vamonos!

The caravan starts moving slowly with some men afoot hauling the mules, most hold semi-automatic M1 carbines strapped to their backs.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

Counterclockwise, a Renegade jeep climbs a narrow road with a pick up truck trailing close behind.

Armed men sit in the truck bed swagger their automatic assault rifles... a confrontation looms ahead.

INTERIOR JEEP

Lucas doing the driving takes on the road's Steep curves with skill maneuvering... Blas gripped to a hand bar, can't avoid the bumping.

LUCAS

It takes balls uncle to fly such a far distance in those small airplanes, load and turn back without rest.

BLAS

The gringos have been adventurous mavericks
all their lives, they can take it, they're
natural pirates.

LUCAS

But this gringo courting my sister I don't
like it.

BLAS

Lucas my dear nephew, let the affair
between a man and a woman roll over the
hay, believe me, you'll loose if you get
between them.

A sudden bump throws Blas off his seat.

BLAS

Slow down.

LUCAS

Use your seat belt uncle you're not
buckled.

Blas disregards the advise.

BLAS

Besides, your sister is a grown woman and
mature to do what she wants, if I was to
deal with her temper I would leave her
alone.

LUCAS

(steering)

Grown up yes, but not matured.

BLAS

Tell you again, never get between a man and
a woman's love affair, you end up looking
like a sap or a looser.

LUCAS

Guess you are right uncle. I'll back away.

ON THE TRAIL

As they drive they come upon an Army controlled post with a
military barricade.

They are waved to stop. They Stop.

An army platoon tactically dispersed, hides in the bush.

The young officer in charge recognizes the passenger as he approaches.

LIEUTENANT

Don Blas! What a surprise to see you up in these hills.

FROM THE JEEP'S WINDOW

BLAS

No surprise at all lieutenant, you know I own a ranch in these mountains.

LIEUTENANT

Precisely sir, my orders are to look for and capture marihuana smugglers reported to be in this area.

BLAS

Is that so, well I have something for you to put you off guard while I rest for a few days in my ranch.

INTERIOR JEEP

Blas open the glove compartment and pulls out a small package.

BLAS

(continuing)

This is for you and your men, not to abandon this post but to remain on guard while I am here.

The army officer sighs deeply with emotion after he unwraps the small bundle of money.

LIEUTENANT

(very indulgent)

Don Blas, you are very generous.

BLAS

I will have some more for you the next time I see you. You do a good job patrolling these hills so I can sleep peacefully.

The officer SHOUTS his order.

LIEUTENANT
Let them pass!

Blas waves good bye.

The barricade is lifted.

They continue on the road.

INTERIOR JEEP

LUCAS
That was swift uncle.

BLAS
Yes and I wish I could do the same with El Loco Pascual, too bad he is not as smart as this young lieutenant.

LUCAS
Yes uncle it's a shame.

Unexpectedly rain starts falling on the windshield.

BLAS
Carajos! This rain is going to complicate things.

Blas rolls up his window.

Lucas follows doing the same with his.

LUCAS
Just what we don't need now,
God damn!

BLAS
Don't curse! It might get worse if you're heard up above the clouds.

LUCAS
Sorry uncle.

END OF SPANISH

IN THE U.S.

EXT. AIRFIELD/US - LATE NOON

Jesse walks to the airplane with Kate embraced.

Max next to the aircraft waits for Jesse.

JESSE

A twelve hour flight should have me there tomorrow by six am approximately, thirty or forty minutes loading... lets see

(looks up)

Six to six, that sounds rhythmic to me.
I'll be back for supper babe.

Kate walks along in silence.

JESSE

(continuing)

Are you listening? Hey, not the same gloom again! I came back in one piece, Didn't I?

KATE

Oh Jesse, I can't help feeling like this every time you leave, I just can't rub it off(sobs)...

JESSE

Just think like this, we'll be a little richer when I get the job done.

KATE

I don't know. Is it always gonna be like this?

JESSE

For the time being, yes.

KATE

Will there be a stop to this risky business some day?

JESSE

I don't know.

They kiss, hug and separate.

Turning to Max.

JESSE

OK Max, see you too for supper tomorrow.

Max waiting there, reveals a last minute surprise.

MAX

Sure thing Jesse. God be with you, but just in case, take this with you.

Hands him a 9mm. Browning pistol.

Jesse looks at the pistol, grins and tucks it in his waist.

JESSE

Sure thing Max, but you two make me feel like Columbus on his first voyage.

Steps in the airplane and closes the hatch door.

The engines start.

The plane takes off looking for the clouds.

Max and Kate watch in silence as the airplane blinking its lights disappears in the fading twilight.

IN COLOMBIA

EXT. RANCH - DAY

it rains heavily... Blas and Lucas arrive at the ranch... an armed man wearing a hooded raincoat opens the front gate.

FRONT PORCH

Carmen and Melba are waiting in the porch stoop... Carmen holds an umbrella... Melba spreads a towel.

Blas steps out and runs for the house before they can come to his rescue.

IN SPANISH SUBTITLED

CARMEN

But Blas, Why didn't you wait I was coming to cover you.

Melba hands him the towel... Blas dries up.

BLAS

Never mind woman, just get me dry clothes and a shot of whiskey before I catch a cold.

Dries his face and arms.

BLAS

(continuing)

...I don't want Jesse to find me sick in a bed in the wrong moment.

INT. RANCH - NIGHT

Blas sits alone by a window contemplating the rain... the thunder sparks it's flashing lightning... he drinks scotch from a glass.

Melba, seeing him alone and caviling, approaches... kneels beside him... holds his hand.

MELBA

(submissive)

What's wrong uncle?

Blas gazes at the rain storming out of the window.

BLAS

(absorbed)

I'm worried...

MELBA

Yes I know, you care about Jesse and you also think the weather is not in his favor.

BLAS

Yes, and to know that he should be on his way here by now, keeps me thinking about him landing safely under this rain.

MELBA

Jesse can take care of himself, he's a good pilot and you know it.

Blas looks at her with intensive concern.

BLAS

Melba, there's something I want to ask you...

MELBA

Yes uncle.

BLAS

How close is your relationship with Jesse getting?

Melba bickers for a brief instant.

MELBA

Let's say that we like each other very much. You know him better than me, he's here one day, then somewhere else the next...

BLAS

It's because I have known him so well, that I care, this young man has guts and knows no limit to his business.

MELBA

His business is his way of life, and I happen to be very fond of him, that's all.

BLAS

I don't think you are being sincere with me.

MELBA

I'll respond with the same advise you gave my brother.

(sighs)

I am grown up and fully responsible for my decisions, isn't that what you told Lucas?

BLAS

Yes, but...

MELBA

But what? Or is it that you have another bigger complication,

(eyes fixed)

Is it El Loco Pascual giving you a hard time again?

BLAS

Yes.

A thunderous lightning bursts in the night flashing their faces suddenly.

BLAS

(stammering)

It's the ground too, by morning it will be slippery and soft and it will not hold an airplane without risking an accident, and...

MELBA
(interrupting)
Don't say anymore, everything will turn out
fine, you'll see.

Blas remains immersed in his loom.

Carmen breaks the silence calling from her bedroom.

CARMEN (V.O.)
Blas, come to bed I can't sleep without
you!

MELBA
You better do as she says.

Melba kisses him fondly in his forehead and walks away.

Blas quibbles sealing his mouth with his fist.

CARMEN (V.O.)
Blas, Are you coming?...

He remains silent without responding.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

The airplane cruises the sky in darkness... only the strobes
blink continuously challenging the lightning ahead.

INTERIOR CABIN

Jesse inserts a music cartridge on his tape player...
breaks the dullness... listens and follows the Stones
writhing his body... He's alone and on his own.

OUT IN THE NIGHT

The plane flies in solitude, out of the dark sky, lightning
strokes erode the night's foul weather

IN THE COCKPIT

Jesse pops in a couple of amphetamines to keep awake as
he continues his flight... the lightning pounds the sky
intermittently... rain slithers over the windshield
creating sinuous streaks of water.

INT. JEEP - SUNRISE

MATCH CUT

The same sinuous streaks of water slide over the Renegade's windshield.

Blas looks apprehensive, can't keep his fingers still.

Lucas waits patiently with his hands over the steering wheel.

EXTERIOR LANDING FIELD

Rain falls on the drenched field.

The jeep poking a long transceiver antenna... a canvas-covered truck... a pick up holding four canisters of fuel, all wait on the side of the airstrip.

Armed men wearing ponchos stand vigilant near the canvas-covered truck.

INTERIOR JEEP

The transceiver emits high frequency SOUNDS... Blas and Lucas sit idle waiting for a sign.

IN SPANISH SUBTITLED

BLAS
(unease)
Is the transmitter tuned in?

LUCAS
Yeah uncle it's been on for more than an hour.

Lucas leans back in his seat... adjusts the radio squelch... waits patiently.

BLAS
Are the batteries fully charged?

LUCAS
Yes, to the peak, relax uncle.

BLAS
I didn't get much sleep last night, this god damn rain has to stop now!

LUCAS

Uncle, you're over stressing yourself, it's not heavy rain falling, it's just a dying drizzle.

BLAS

What ever it is it's water, and water is not good for us right now.

LUCAS

The ground will hold, you'll see.

BLAS

I'm not so sure, not until I see Jesse landed will I get rid of this pressure.

END OF SPANISH

As they speak Jesse's voice comes in over the radio transmitter.

TRANSMITTER (V.O.)

(repeated twice)

This is bird to base, do you copy me, over?...

Lucas unhooks the mic.

LUCAS

See what I told you, he's here.

Blas excites with an emotional posture.

BLAS

Quick, quick, answer him.

INTERCUT - RADIO TRANSMISSION

LUCAS

(holding the mic)

Base here, pick you loud and clear, over-

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Jesse in the cockpit holds his microphone, looks worn out, hair dispersed with swollen eyes.

JESSE

Right on target, positioning for approach, over-

INT. LUCAS JEEP - SAME

Lucas holds his mic.

INT. PLANE

JESSE

OK, I'm about forty five miles north east
from your place, should be able to see me
within shortly, over--

INT. JEEP

LUCAS

We have eyes scanning the sky just for you,
proceed to land-

INT. PLANE

JESSE

That's swell to hear, everything looks
beautiful from up here, sweep the runway
I'm coming in-

INT. JEEP

LUCAS

Everything is ready to start dancing, smoke
signal being ignited now to guide you in
with the wind-

EXTERIOR LANDING FIELD

One of the men lights up an old tire, black smoke spirals
up in the air.

INT. PLANE

JESSE

Looks good! I see the smoke, I'm coming in,
tell Blas everything is a hundred percent
for the fiesta, keep the radio on.

INT. JEEP

LUCAS

Sure thing, will be here waiting for you
with the whole band... safe landing.

INT. PLANE

From the air Jesse spots the smoke that spirals from the field down below.

INT. JEEP

Lucas remains by the microphone attentive for any last minute change.

END INTERCUT

EXT. LANDING FIELD

Blas steps out of the four-track Renegade and orders his men.

BLAS

Get the fuel and pumps ready, the plane is about to land, VAMOS!

The men respond diligently... two manual pumps and hoses are unloaded... everything is set for action... the men wait.

Blas peers out to the sky trying to spot the plane... a far distant WHIRLING sound begins to grow slowly... He tunes his hearing acutely.

BLAS

Everyone quiet...

The men freeze in silence... Blas is the first to spot the aircraft... a small speck in the distant sky begins to take form.

BLAS

(pointing)

There it comes!

Everybody looks his way... the plane is now more visible... with a dauntless dash the airplane cuts through the black smoke serving as wind director and lands -- it splashes water as it speeds over the drenched field.

AT THE JEEP

The load of tension is too much for Blas to bear... Hasty, walks back to the jeep... pulls out a bottle of scotch and sucks a generous amount.

Lucas watches how his uncle soothes his nerves gulping the liquor.

BLAS

I need this Lucas, one more landing like this you'll to blame Jesse for whatever happens to me,

Lucas starts the jeep.

LUCAS

Come on uncle, let's say hello to Jesse.

They reach the airplane... Jesse undeterred by the rain, is already on the ground directing the man pumping the fuel into one of the wing nozzles.

Lucas arrives and steps out of the jeep. Blas remains in his seat away from the rain.

LUCAS

That was some landing, you almost caused my uncle to collapse with a heart breakdown.

Jesse turns over to face him.

JESSE

Hi Lucas, I thought Blas was used to this kind of excitement, sorry.

They shake hands warmly.

LUCAS

Good to see you again, you better go over to my uncle so he can take a good look at you.

Jesse walks toward the jeep... meets Blas.

JESSE

Hey Blas! I'm here again, it's me the real
Jesse

From the jeep window.

BLAS

Don't fool around Jesse, it's been hard for
me these last hours waiting for your
arrival.

JESSE

Come out of the car, I wanna hug you, you
old bandit.

Blas smiles and steps out.

Jesse hugs and squeezes him off his air.

BLAS

We have to load you quickly, an army
platoon is near by and if they see us I'll
have to double the bribe.

JESSE

Blas you ought to be thinking on spending
your money wisely, instead of trying to
save it all the time.

BLAS

That's easy for you to say because you're
young and don't have my responsibilities.
Come on! Don't loose any time we have to
dispatch you quickly!

Blas grabs him by the elbow and both walk back to the plane.

The truck with the refer bundles parks close to the
airplane... one of the men strips the top from the truck to
reveal the bales.

Another one loads the first bale on his shoulder and dumps
it in the airplane.

Jesse aware of how the load should be distributed leaves
Blas momentarily.

JESSE

Hold on Blas, I've got to tell them how to
distribute the load, Hey amigos! Hold on
there...

Jesse climbs in the airplane and starts directing the loading.

JESSE

No no, straight rows on each side... that's it.

As they perform the work, a massive burst of rain storms the crew... everyone runs for cover.

INSIDE THE AIRPLANE

Jesse arranges the cargo in orderly files... he's wet and restless but keeps on arranging the bales.

JESSE

Come on hurry up! Or I'll be stuck here for good!

OUTSIDE THE AIRPLANE

Defying the rain the crew restarts the loading.

Lucas runs back to the jeep fleeing from the rain.

INTERIOR JEEP

Lucas dripping water,

IN SPANISH SUBTITLED

LUCAS

Shit uncle, just as you feared, Jesse has to go fast before it gets worst.

Blas feels his premonition is starting to materialize.

BLAS

(ill tempered)

Damn rain! Is El Loco being taken care of as I said?

LUCAS

Some of the men are getting ready to go and take him.

BLAS

You mean they're still here? He's probably on his way here by now, intercept him before he gets here or there will be no take off, Nothing!

Lucas perceives trouble looming their way.

LUCAS
You want me to go and stop him?

Blas nods.

Lucas complies with the approving sign... leaves the jeep... calls some men,

LUCAS
Nos vamos!

... and drive away in haste.

EXT. EL LOCO'S LAIR - STORMING

Lucas approaches the hideout with his men -- torrential rain blasts the camp -- they storm in -- jump out of their vehicle, weapons ready -- snap directly to El Loco's tent.

It's deserted.

INT. TENT

The tent is empty... the hammock where El Loco is supposed to be is there, but he isn't.

A bottle of liquor lies on the table half empty... they're late.

Lucas picks up the bottle... thinks.

LUCAS
(to himself)
Where is he?, Where is everybody?

Thinks twice, looks to the men for an answer... perceives something is going wrong -- Snaps out of his thought.

LUCAS
(conclusive)
Shit! Let's go back immediately.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - DAY

El Loco dripping water, blazing a sawed-off M1 carbine, leads his men on his way to the airfield.

His eyes swollen with redness discharge a sinister look...
It's now or never for him to have it his way.

As they head for the showdown, someone is watching...

IN THE BUSH WEEDS

Pablito pokes out his head from the wet bush at the wrong moment... He's seen, seized and brought before El Loco.

EL LOCO

What are you doing here boy?

PABLITO

(fearless)

I am looking for my mules before you shoot them.

EL LOCO

(distrustful)

Looking for some mules eh? I'll send you where to find them. Shoot him.

As Pablito is being dragged to be shot, a barrage of thunderous lightning explodes in the sky sending El Loco and his men for cover... a huge tree receives a discharge... It burns and cracks sending everyone for cover.

They recover -- look for the kid -- Pablito is gone.

EL LOCO

(steaming fury)

After him, don't let him get away!

Two men start the chase -- Pablito flees, he's faster -- unable to catch him, aim their guns and fire... Pablito dodges and gets away.

MOUNTAIN TRAIL

Lucas and his men speed back to the airfield in a race against time.

EXT. AIRSTRIP - SAME

The rain begins to faint.

INTERIOR JEEP

Blas, unaware of what's about to happen, looks through the windshield... his men finish squeezing the last bales into the airplane.

The rain is less now... Jesse aloft one of the airplane wings, makes sure the fuel tank valves are shut.

ON THE TRAIL

Lucas and his men rush back to the airfield desperately.

AT THE AIRSTRIP

Jesse about to close the rear door when... he sights a small figure running toward him... can't see clear through the rain drizzle...

Pablito running bursting his lungs, YELLS out.

PABLITO
(breathless in Spanish)
EL LOCO IS COMING!

Jesse sees him clearly now.

JESSE
(muddled)
What the hell is this kid up to now?...

Pablito YELLS again.

PABLITO (SUBTITLE)
EL LOCO IS COMING!

INTERIOR JEEP

Blas hears the call... rolls down his window... pokes his head out.

El Loco with his men reach the airstrip -- sights the kid running the alarm -- jumps off his mule -- aims his M1 at the kid and FIRES.

Struck by the bullet, Pablito breaks down, falls and rolls over several times.

IN THE AIRPLANE

Jesse hears the shot and sees the kid falls -- Looks for the direction of the shot, but can't see much.

El Loco aims his carbine again.

The shot misses Jesse by an inch perforating the plane's hatch door he was about to close -- jolted, squats, crawls for his pistol -- jumps off and runs to aid Pablito...

finds him lying dead.

Lucas and his men finally reach the airstrip -- hearing the shots they run for the airplane to provide protection.

Lucas stops short of the airplane.

LUCAS
(shouting)
Jesse! Where are you?

Lucas sights the direction where the gunfire is coming from, signals his men to encircle the sighted spot.

EL Loco and his few men watch in fear as they are surrounded and overpowered... Lucas tightens the circle, leads the assault -- opens fire.

El Loco fearless fires back, brags -- a man running alongside Lucas falls -- another one dives for cover -- Lucas fires as he runs, continues gaining ground, when he's close enough shoots his pistol repeatedly == El Loco falls back mortally wounded... without lowering his gun, Lucas cautiously approaches the dying man... has some last words to say before he goes.

EL LOCO
(muttering in Spanish)
Damn you and your kind Lucas... I'll see
you in hell

Jesse storms in breathing anger, holds his cocked pistol ready to fire.

JESSE
(with anger)
Not before getting this from me you fucking stupid son of a bitch!

He empties his magazine on El Loco's body with frenzied madness.

Perforated by the hail of bullets, El Loco flutters his eyes, rolls back and stiffens...

Jesse continuous to point the gun at the dead man... Lucas Lowers it, kneels besides the body, grabs his hand and snatches the Rolex off his wrist.

LUCAS

You had it coming to you, you sick bastard,

Jesse tries to piece together all that's happened... Looks to all sides.

JESSE

Why did he have to do this? I thought we had an agreement.

Lucas holds the watch in his hand.

LUCAS

Well, he can't answer you now. You want your Rolex back?

Jesse stares... turns his back.

JESSE

No, keep it if you want it.

The rain is almost gone, only a slight drizzle is left of the stormy weather.

They go back to the site were Pablito lays... Jesse breaks the circle of people surrounding the boy's body... picks it up and carries it to one of the trucks.

JESSE

Money is not worth it like this.

Blas, Lucas... all the rest heed in silence.

Pablito's lies dead in the truck bed... He's eyes still opened... Jesse looks at him with deep distress.

JESSE

Guess he's with his family now.

Gently closes the boy's eyelids.

AT THE AIRSTRIP

The plane takes off dissolving in the clouds.

Blas and Lucas glimpse in silence until the plane is no longer visible... turn their backs and walk away.

EXT. PRIVATE AIRFIELD - NIGHT

WAITING FOR JESSE'S RETURN

A police car stands guard at the entrance of the airfield... the night is quiet... the sole companion to Vince the cop.

IN THE CAR

The sheriff sits idle, a dim lit interior shows him shuffling over his ticket pad... grinds the time away.

A portable radio transceiver lying by his side activates with a voice.

MAX (V.O.)

Vince- Max here. Are you sitting on your butt?

The sheriff picks up the radio mic.

SHERIFF

I'm here all right, and I'd wish you'd be more respectful when you speak to me Max, I'm the Law, Are you forgetting?

MAX (V.O.)

Cut the bullshit Vince, you and I are old buzzards hungry for scavenge ain't we?

SHERIFF

I'll have to cut this conversation, now-

MAX (V.O.)

You do that, but just stay alert.

Vince shuts off the two-way radio and pats his head with a disapproving gesture.

ON THE RUNWAY

Max leans on one of the vans facing the runway, the portable transceiver in his hand.

MAX

(rebuffed)

Vince, Vince?-- Huh... what the hell.

Puts down the radio... The night is quiet.

Two Vans stationed on the runway wait for Jesse's late landing.

Sal and Vinnie are restless... walk in circles... Jesse is taking too long.

Max's tranquility has him gazing at the stars... Sal breaks the quietude.

SAL
(hasty)
Max...

MAX
(gloomy)
Huh?

SAL
Max, you think Jesse will show up for sure? -
- Or you think something might have
happened to him?

Max takes his time.

MAX
Just be patient boys, we'll be seeing him
soon... coming straight from heaven.

SAL
Vinnie is a patient man, but I'm a little
hasty when it comes to waiting, did you
verify if the sheriff is covering our back?

MAX
(gazing)
Just spoke to him, he's there...

Sal looks sideways with distrust.

SAL
(mocking)
This lawman is setting up a new standard
for the future generation of rookies, ain't
he?

Vinnie bursts with laughter.

Max absorbed by the darkness doesn't find the joke amusing.

MAX

(gazing)

Vince is all right, all he wants is a piece
of the pie, just like you and me,

Suddenly he sees something.

MAX

(blinks his eyes)

Here he comes,

A pair of dimmed flickering lights emerge from the distant
darkness.

Sal reacts with ignited excitement.

SAL

(exhilarated)

Hey Vinnie, start the van,
HE'S HERE!

Vinnie moves and rushes to his Van.

The plane lands with the two vans trailing almost to the end
of the runway... the short spree comes to a stop... the
plane and vans meet. The waiting is over.

MONTAGE

--FARMHOUSE

Two men load the re-packed weed bales inscribed with:
"VINCENT'S LAWN FERTILIZER" in a service Van marked on its
sides with: "VINCENT'S LAWN CATERING".

--SUB-URBAN RESIDENCE

A young couple works in mobile home stuffing the weed in
smartly disguised double walled compartments. The out of
state license plate reads: "NEW YORK".

--CITY RESTAURANT

Vinnie waits seated in a restaurant... What appears to be
the manager calls him to his office... Inside he's handed a
bundle of cash with a handshake. The deal is sealed.

--MALL PARKING LOT

Sal drives in and parks next to an old model station wagon... without leaving his car, the trunk door opens... the driver from the station wagon rapidly gets out... swaps a bale in his rear compartment... Sal hastily drives away.

--CARL'S BBQ RESTAURANT

Carl gives a party with invited business associates... Kate Max, Vince, Vinnie and Sal enjoy the good time... the booze and music is abundant.

Jesse, sitting alone in the bar excludes himself from the feasting bunch... gloomy holds the rabbit's foot in his hand... he remembers Pablito in scene clips his return to Weedland.

FADE OUT.

