

"THE TRANSFORMATION OF MELANIE"

GENRE: SCI-FI/FANTASY/SUSPENSE/ROMANCE/DRAMA

FADE IN:

EXT. JUNGLE PATH - DAY

SUPER: CONGO RAIN FOREST

A cloud of dust rises under the feet of two white men chased by a horde of wild looking pygmies armed with blow darts.

One of the white men is PROFESSOR VICTOR MARTIN, medium height, sixties and the other, his assistant FRED HOFFMAN, taller, skinnier and in his fifties.

Professor Victor carries a black leather pouch under his arm with precious care as he runs. Fred his assistant runs ahead of him.

Meantime the pygmies closing up to Victor, until one of them manages to shoot a dart in his neck.

Victor screams in pain as he holds his neck.
Fred stops, turns around and looks at him helplessly.

FRED
(in anguish, German/English titles)
VICTORRR? Damn primitives.

PROFESSOR VICTOR
(fainted voice, German/English titles)
Fred, take the pouch to my son
and tell him everything, hurry.

He throws the bag to him and succumbs. Fred picks the pouch and runs fast in zigzag formation to avoid being hit by the blow darts.

INT. UNIVERSITY GROUND FLOOR - DAY

SUPER: USA, CALIFORNIA

TWO WEEKS LATER

CARL MARTIN, middle 30s, blond, short hair, six feet, friendly bright face, casually dressed, briefcase in his hand, closes the door behind him as he exits the lab room.

INSCRIPTION ON THE DOOR:
PROFESSOR: CARL MARTIN PHD.
DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
RESEARCH IN GENOME SEQUENCING.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, DINNING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Carl sits at the dinner table and waits to be served by his house maid, MELANIE.

Melanie is a cute young female ACHONDROPLASIA DWARF, about 4' tall, and in her middle 20s. She just finishes cooking.

She enters the dining room and starts serving Carl. After that she takes her place in the kitchen to eat.

Carl looks at her compassionately.

CARL

Melanie, why don't you take your plate and come to sit at my table?

MELANIE

Oh, thank you for the honor sir, but I feel more comfortable here.

CARL

(Smiling)

You'll be more comfortable here next to your EMPLOYER.

MELANIE

But sir --

CARL

Come on hurry up, before your dinner gets cold.

Melanie takes her dinner plate and sits across Carl.

MELANIE

I appreciate the honor sir, but why?

CARL

Because your PROBATION period is over and you deserve to eat with me.

MELANIE

I don't deserve special treatment.

CARL

It's not that, but just an appreciation of your good work. By the way for you to reach the kitchen counter top, I'll get a carpenter to raise the floor.

INT. UNIVERSITY, GENOME SEQUENCING LAB-FACILITY - DAY

A small group of assistant scientists works when Carl comes in.

CARL

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. How are you today and how is the work on Ips and Embryonic Cells?

SIMON

(head of the group)
We're making progress professor.

CARL

That's good Simon.

INT. UNIVERSITY'S STAFF ROOM - DAY

Carl is with a staff member. A receptionist comes in and whispers to him in private.

SECRETARY

Professor Martin, there is a man in the lobby who would like to see you. He says it's important.

CARL

What's his name?

SECRETARY

He didn't say. He sounds foreign.

INT. UNIVERSITY'S LOBBY ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Fred who is the visitor sits in an arm chair. He's dressed in a grey worn out suit, and carries a knapsack. As Carl enters, he stares at him intensely, then smiles and walks up to him.

FRED
Professor Martin I presume?

CARL
Yes. Whom am I speaking to?

FRED
I'm Fred Hoffman professor,
but you can just call me Fred.

CARL
Why so Mr. Hoffman, are we going
to see each other again.

FRED
It depends on what you
decide after this meeting.

CARL
Meeting? I didn't concede to any.
But anyway explain your purpose,
because I'm busy.

FRED
I'm a carrier of sad news about your
father.

Carl takes a step back irritated.

CARL
What father are you talking about?
You think I have time for this...
Fred? Find somebody else to play.

FRED
Find the time to hear me Carl. I
don't go until you hear my story.

Fred's serious manner semi-convinces Carl.

CARL
Go ahead and make it snappy

FRED
Your father died two weeks ago, 30'
away from me by a poisonous dart.

Carl's loud laughter shows how entertained he is. He puts a two dollar bill on Fred's coat pocket, as he looks surprised.

CARL

I like you, you've got a good line. Usually beggars are just demanding and rude. But you're different.

Fred offended throws the money back to Carl.

FRED

Watch your manners young man. You're insulting me.

CARL

(laughingly)
No I complement you, serious.

FRED

Then I challenge you to this.

He gets out a picture and hands it to Carl, who looks at it with amusement. He sees a man from his waist up in his sixties, with white hair, and a serious face.

CARL

Who is this, your brother?

FRED

No YOUR FATHER. Professor Victor Martin, who just died as I told you, 30' away from me.

Carl gives it back to Fred without interest on his face. Then Fred takes out another picture and passes it to Carl.

As Carl looks at it, he jumps in surprise and excitement. It's a picture of him with his mother at the age of ten.

He looks at Fred suspiciously.

CARL

Where the hell did you get this?
I never saw this picture for ages.

FRED

Now you believe me I'm not a fake?
I have more things to show you if --

CARL

Okay, I believe you. Look I'm busy
till the next half an hour. Can you
wait for me here.

FRED

I hope you are not going to stand
me up Carl eh, while you skip away?

Carl's manages to cover a smile.

CARL

Don't be so suspicious Fred. I want
to hear the rest of your story.

INT. UNIVERSITY'S NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT - DAY

During lunch time.

CARL

Okay Fred I am all ears now. First
I want to know how a picture of my
mother and me got in your possession.

FRED

From your father. He gave it to me.

CARL

Stop this Father business because I
don't buy it. I practically never
had a father. He left my mom and me
long time ago, when I was a child.

FRED

I know the story Carl and I'm sorry.

CARL

Then why would I accept a picture
of a man as a my father, when I
don't care whether he is one or not.

FRED

I saw an emotion of acceptance
in your eyes.

CARL

You didn't see nothing and find
another son for this gentleman.

Then he gets up to leave. Fred doesn't give up. He puts
the picture of Carl's father in front of Carl's face.

FRED

Look young man. That's your father
whether you accept it or not.

CARL

I don't and you're annoying me.

FRED

(voice raised)
Sit down and listen to the rest
of the story.

Some patrons of the nearby tables look curious at them.
Carl embarrassed sits down.

FRED

(pleased)
As I said, this is the picture
of your father and more proof
is inside this...

Carl looks with curiosity as Fred takes out of
his knapsack a black pouch and hands it to him.

CARL

What's this? Another link to the
puzzle?

FRED

You can call it whatever you want,
there is information inside it.

Carl's rejection starts weakening. He looks at his watch.

CARL

Okay Fred, you win, I'll listen.

FRED

You better.

Fred takes a deep breath and starts.

FRED

Your father and I worked for years
in the RAIN FOREST OF CONGO, with
a special tribe of pygmies.

Carl looks at him ironically. Fred looks at him seriously.

CARL

I said I'll listen to your story
but didn't mean to hear crap.

Fred ignores him.

FRED

Your father and I are geneticists.
Well he is not anymore. We worked
on the virus of Achondroplasia
that causes dwarfism and made good
progress after years.

CARL

Geneticists you say. That's odd.
My mother insisted me to follow
that career.

FRED

Then two weeks ago, everything ended
abruptly. The tribe we worked for so
long turned against us and chased us --

CARL

Why didn't you call Tarzan for help?

FRED

(ignoring him)

Those primitives chased us out of
the village and killed your father.
But I managed to escape.

CARL

Lucky for you, you escaped safe.

Fred's eyes glowing thunders.

FRED

That's enough, you don't even respect your dead father?

Carl looks impatient and irritated now.

CARL

Listen. It's not a matter of respect. You come to me as a stranger with a fairytale of a father I never knew I had and blab, blab and expect me to believe you?

FRED

Out of curiosity you should let me finish. It's not every day you hear stories like this. Your father was obsessed with the topic of dwarfism.

CARL

Accepting that momentarily, why was he so obsessed with dwarfism?

FRED

This is a little bizarre to explain. The original obsession with dwarfs started with your Grandfather. Your father just continued it from there.

Carl looks restless and annoyed.

CARL

Wait a minute, what did you say? Is there a grandfather involved in this too? Oh boy, oh boy.

(with sarcasm)

This thing gets out of hands. Was he also a scientist? Are you saying we deal with Frankenstein's Family.

FRED

The answers are in this pouch.

Carl tries to open the pouch.

FRED

Not now Carl. Open it in the privacy of your home. Remember some of its contents might shock you, but you must know them. Now I have to go.

Then he gets up to leave.

FRED

If you ever need me, my number is inside that pouch. It was a pleasure meeting you Carl.

CARL

(without interest)

Likewise Fred. Thank you.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE - AFTERNOON

Carl and Melanie have dinner.

CARL

Melanie how was your day today?

MELANIE

A little different sir.

CARL

Different than what? Wait a minute, didn't I ask you not to call me sir? A simple Carl is good enough.

MELANIE

Yes sir. I'm sorry, I mean Carl. Today I went to the library and after that I visited a research agency that specializes in tracing WWII survivors of German concentration camps.

CARL

(astonished)

What? I never knew places like these exist. Why did you go there for? You contact a historical search?

MELANIE

Out of personal curiosity and to verify my father's stories if they had any truth in them.

CARL

Stories?

MELANIE

About my family. My father used to tell me that I am the last female survivor of a family of little...

She breaks in tears as she says that. Carl goes to her and tries to comfort her by placing his hand on her shoulder.

CARL

Calm down Melanie, don't upset yourself. Finish your dinner first.

When she calms, he returns to his seat and she continues her story.

MELANIE

My grandmother's family, five of them, were all little people. During the WWII because of their size were put by the Germans in a concentration camp. There they were used for inhuman experiments.

Melanie becomes emotional again and Carl comforts her.

CARL

You don't have to go on with this terrible revelation, it's upsetting.

MELANIE

Thank you Carl for your support, I'm okay now. I want to take it out of my chest. My grandmother's family all perished there except her. She was saved by the invading Russian Army.

CARL

Oh Good that's a terrible thing to know about your family. Your father?

MELANIE

He died recently from some bones' disease. He was of normal size.

CARL

Poor girl. No other relatives?

MELANIE

No Carl. You're the closest thing to a relative I have now.

Carl looks at her compassionately.

CARL

Oh, don't say that Melanie please, it's nonsense. You don't owe me anything because I gave you a job.

MELANIE

When my father died I was alone and without purpose. I even reached the point of ending my own life. Then you hired me as your maid.

Emotion shows in Carl's eyes and looks the other way.

CARL

You know Melanie, it's so ironical that I am alone in this life too.

MELANIE

You? It's hard to believe it... Carl. You have a career, a purpose...

CARL

The only thing that keeps me going.

She looks at him with sympathy.

MELANIE

A question I always wanted to ask you Carl.

CARL
Yes I'm all ears Melanie.

MELANIE
(smiling)
Why you chose me as your maid
among so many capable and normal
size girls who answered your ad?

Carl takes a moment to think.

CARL
(laughing)
Logical question, but I don't have
any answer and don't really know.
It must have been an impulse of the
moment and I don't regret it.

MELANIE
Yeah right. Probably a feeling of
compassion for my size.

CARL
No, not that at all.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE - SAME NIGHT

As Carl is alone in his studies, empties his father's pouch on a desk. A folded piece of paper, a Video Tape and an old envelope fall out of it.

Carl's curiosity wins. He picks up the envelope and looks at the writing on it.

It's handwritten in German with a red fountain pen.
Carl reads the inscription.

MY LAB MEMORIES
DOCTOR JOSEPH LEGNEM
1 9 4 3

With curiosity he empties the contents of the envelope on the table. Some black and white photos fall out. He randomly picks one up. It shows a long white building with a round roof like a barracks. A description on the door outside written in German says:

DR. JOSEPH LEGNEM'S HOSPITAL
A CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE 1943

Two men in front of the building shake hands. One of them is dressed in a GERMAN SS OFFICER'S uniform and the other in a white medical jacket. Both of them carry the SWASTIKA on their arms.

The man in the white jacket appears in every picture wearing surgical gloves and a stethoscope hanging on his neck.

Another photo shows the interior of the building. In both sides of it there are metallic table-beds side by side. The table-beds have children on them, or what appears to be.

Carl looks closely with a magnifying glass and discovers they aren't children, but little people, dwarfs. Many of them are connected with tubes from their arms.

Carl picks another picture and cold sweat runs down his face as he holds it with trembling hands.

In this photo, the man in the white jacket assisted by another, hold a pair of Siamese twins by their arms' and try to separate them in half with a surgical instrument.

Carl in disgust throws the picture on the floor and as tears run from his eyes, goes to sleep.

INT. CARL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CARL'S DREAM

A concentration camp. Barbed wires surround it. Armed German soldiers with dogs, stationed in different positions.

A large white building with round roof that looks like military barracks stands in the middle.

A man in a white physician's jacket enters and walks to a nearby bed on which a body of a female dwarf lies on.

Her facial characteristics resemble Melanie's.
The man in the white jacket holds her hand smiling.

MAN IN WHITE JACKET

How are you today dear?

Ready for your treatment?

The female dwarf wakes up and looks at him in fear.

FEMALE DWARF

(voice suffering)

No doctor. Let me die in dignity.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

INT. CARL'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Carl wakes up screaming in fear. Melanie hears him in her room and goes to his door and knocks.

MELANIE

Carl. Wake up, Carl. What's happening? Are you dreaming?

No answer from inside Carl's room. She repeats again.

MELANIE

Wake up Carl.

INT. CARL'S BEDROOM - SAME MOMENT

Carl opens his eyes in the dark and looks around frightened. He hears Melanie's voice and relaxes.

CARL

Thanks Melanie, I am okay.

She smiles satisfied and walks back to her room.

INT. MELANIE'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Melanie as she lies in her bed, she holds a picture of Carl. She kisses it with passion, places it on her heart then hides it under her mattress.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, BREAKFAST ROOM - DAY

Carl sits silent, his face looks gloomy as he stares strait ahead. Melanie notices the change.

MELANIE

Something wrong Carl? You look
different today.

He doesn't respond.

MELANIE

Carl?

CARL

Oh, I'm sorry Melanie I'm still
under the influence of my dream.

MELANIE

Speaking of that, was it a bad dream?

CARL

It was and thank you for waking me up.

MELANIE

Out of curiosity, what sort of a
dream was that to scare you so much?

CARL

I can't tell you it might upset you.

MELANIE

Why Carl? What does your dream
have to do with me?

CARL

It has everything to do with you
and the story you told me the
other day about your old family.

MELANIE

I still don't get it, tell me.

CARL

It was an ugly dream about war
camps, German soldiers and guard
dogs. Then it was this doctor..

Here Carl stops.

MELANIE

A doctor? What doctor, Carl?

CARL

A doctor operating on little Siamese
Twins and dwarfs. One of the dwarfs
was a female that looked like you.

Melanie shocked, drops the saucer and the cup on the floor
breaking them. Carl gets up and helps her to pick them up.

CARL

You see? That's why I didn't
want to tell you my dream.

MELANIE

Thank you Carl for your concern.
But fortunately it wasn't me the
girl in your dream because I'm
here in front of you now.

They both laugh.

INT. UNIVERSITY'S LAB-DEPARTMENT - DAY

Carl works in front of a computer. Then he walks to a table
where lab instruments are on and looks through a microscope.

He calls SIMON his assistant.

CARL

Simon, come and look at this.

Simon looks though the microscope with excitement.

SIMON

This proves the stem cells'
ability to differentiate and
take any form they choose.

CARL

Exactly. But we need to do more
research on their behavior. The
pluripotent stem cells' capacity
is tomorrow's answer to many of
man's health problems.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, STUDY ROOM - NIGHT
 Carl reads his father's letter for the first time.

CARL'S FATHER LETTER (V.O)
 Son, I wrote this in case I won't be
 able to see you in person. Forgive me
 for abandoning you at an early age. The
 obsession of my work was stronger than
 my family duties and I regret it now.

Carl pauses reading momentarily and walks around the room, then
 he resumes reading. His interest to go on is a proof of his
 acceptance for his father's authenticity.

CARL'S FATHER LETTER (V.O)
 In the video I'm including son, I
 describe all the details of my work.
 Study it but don't use it without
 Fred's help. The photos you see are
 of your grandfather's. He was the
 notorious SS doctor Joseph Legnem.

Disgust shows on Carl's face.

CARL'S FATHER LETTER (V.O)
 Your grandfather experimented on
 innocent victims of concentration
 camps during WWII. He was a butcher
 and disgrace to our family and to
 Science. I changed my name to MARTIN.

Carl inserts the VIDEO TAPE in his player, but that moment
 Melanie goes to the dining room and Carl turns it off.

INT. UNIVERSITY'S STAFF ROOM -DAY

Carl talks with a staff member when he hears
 his name paged, requesting him to go to the lobby.

INT. UNIVERSITY'S LOBBY ROOM- SAME TIME

When Carl enters, Fred waits for him.

CARL
 Hello Fred, how are you? What

FRED

I was just visiting a relative in the area and I thought it would be a good idea to come and see you. Have you looked at your father's...?

CARL

Yes I have, but I wish I didn't.

FRED

Why Carl?

CARL

Dreams. Ugly disturbing dreams of concentration camps and inhuman experiments on dwarfs.

FRED

Your dreams will go away soon. Your father's letter and the old photos triggered them. You are under stress, you need a vacation.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

Carl slides his father's video tape in his player. His father appears on the screen smiling. He points something on a board and Carl follows it.

A series of chemical analyses and formulas are written on one side of the board and tests' results on the other.

Next the view changes, and the picture of a naked female pygmy appears on the screen, she looks medicated. Carl becomes uncomfortable at the view.

But he keeps his interest during the presentation and writes notes. After that he turns the video player off and goes to sleep.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, KITCHEN - MORNING

Melanie prepares breakfast. The kitchen floor in some places is elevated to accommodate her height.

MELANIE

Carl, are you ready for breakfast?

CARL

Yes I am and don't forget to sit in my table.

MELANIE

Yes Carl.

CARL

(smiling)

How do you spend your days off?

MELANIE

I visit the local public library, go window shopping or go to a movie matinee. That's all.

CARL

Any boyfriend relations?

MELANIE

(blushing)

Oh, no. I'm not into that.

EXT. UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT - DAY

Carl steps out of his car, presses the doors' lock button on his remote key pad and when he turns around, Fred jumps out of nowhere in front of him.

FRED

BOO.

Carl leaps back and almost drops his briefcase.

CARL

Oh shit Fred, you really strttled me. Why did you do that for and what are you doing here?

FRED

Sorry I scared you Carl. Your father and I always played this game to stir up the blood and --

CARL

I got it, Fred. And now he's not around to play it with him you thought to try it with me.

FRED

Right you got it boy.

CARL

I can't imagine a pair of old men playing a child's game.

FRED

Anyway Carl, I came by to see you. Your father's requested that.

CARL

Now that my late father's request is satisfied I have to go in. I'll call you some time Fred.

Fred shakes his head left and right, as a sign of disbelief.

FRED

No you don't intend to Carl, because you're not interested in your father's and mine work.

A moment's pause from Carl.

CARL

Actually you guessed right Fred. I don't see why I should be.

FRED

Because your contribution to your father's work will make you famous one day. It'll open the way to other genetic discoveries that will improve human lives.

CARL

Even so, I still prefer to be what I am, a simple university professor and not a pioneer.

FRED

And a female dwarf sympathizer too.

CARL

You put your nose in my life now?
What do you mean by that?

FRED

You defend the image of your dwarf
maid above your father's wishes?

CARL

After all these years of absence he
remembered me now? And you want to
change my life style?

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, DINNING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Carl sits in the table with a book in his hand and
Melanie looks at a women's fashion magazine.

As she turns the pages, silent expressions of amazement are heard.

CARL

Is there anything interesting in
your magazines these days Melanie?

MELANIE

Yes of course Carl.

CARL

(teasingly)

I always wonder why women look at
the fashion magazines with such
obsession, since they aren't going
to buy any of those dresses at the
high prices they ask. Such a vanity.

MELANIE

(smiling)

You blame women for their vanity?
They like to imagine themselves
wearing those clothes Carl. We
are different than men you know.

CARL

If I had a wife I wouldn't like her wasting her time in those.

MELANIE

Yeah, tell me about it. Aren't all men the same? They sit across the T.V for hours watching sports and drink beer. If that's not a time waster, I want to know what it is then.

CARL

(in a defending mood)
That's pleasure not vanity.
For some men it's a hobby.

MELANIE

(ironically)
An interesting hobby doing nothing.
Speaking of hobbies Carl, do you have any?

CARL

Last time I searched myself didn't find any. What about you Miss?

MELANIE

Actually yes. I like to sew children's clothes. I even took a small course in PATTERN MAKING.

CARL

A dressmaker eh? That's interesting.

INT. BAR SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY - EVENING

Carl and Fred have a drink. Fred's face looks cynical.

FRED

So, what are you up to these days professor? Any new scientific projects you are involved to in the university?

CARL

Cut it out Fred. You don't give a damn about my life, so why do you ask?

FRED

To make you understand how you waste it. If you decide to work with me in our project, the thrill and rewards will be limitless for both.

CARL

You can keep my share of rewards for yourself Fred, I'm not interested.

FRED

But if you have a reason, perhaps you might be interested, right?

CARL

I don't know what you mean by that.

Then Fred gets up and takes a couple of steps twisting his body left and right like a female dwarf walks, while smiles at Carl...

FRED

(sarcastically)

Maybe that kind of reason?

CARL

Go to hell animal, you disgust me.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, DINING ROOM - DAY

Carl sips his coffee while he looks affectionately at Melanie as she sets the table for dinner. She catches it from the corner of her eye and blushes.

CARL

(he looks at his food)

Uh meatloaf, my favorite.

MELANIE

I know you mentioned it once.

CARL

I did? Don't remember.

MELANIE

My job is to remember.

Carl's starts eating gluttonously.

CARL

This is very delicious Melanie.
Is this your creation or you
borrowed it from a cooking book?

MELANIE

You guessed right Carl. I got
it from a Library book.

After dinner Melanie goes to the kitchen and brings out a
Birthday Cake with some candles burning on it and the words
HAPPY BIRTHDAY CARL written on it.

When Carl sees it his eyes open in surprise.

CARL

What is this? How did you
know today is my birthday?

MELANIE

Accidentally I saw your day of
birth in a document on the table
once and took notice of the day.

CARL

So busy these days I forgot my
own birthday.

MELANIE

Don't worry I remember it for you.

CARL

I'm lucky to have found you.

MELANIE

(smiling)

An honor to serve you Master.

Then Carl blows his cake.

INT. CARL'S UNIVERSITY, LECTURE HALL - DAY

Large auditorium, students sitting all around, Carl is in front of the podium. It's the end of his lecture and the low tone of students' voices getting ready to leave is around.

CARL

Ladies and gentlemen, a reminder. Don't forget next week's test on Human Genome Sequence Project. You must identify reasons why there is a greater mutation rate number of cell divisions in the male Germline to form a sperm, than it's for eggs?

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Carl reads the daily news, while Melanie prepares breakfast.

MELANIE

Carl, I noticed the last few days you look preoccupied and since you are on vacation it doesn't make sense.

Carl keeps silent as he glances out of the window.

MELANIE

Carl?

His face looks serious when he starts talking.

CARL

There is something I want to talk to you these days Melanie and don't know how. It has to do with your condition.

Melanie's expression changes rapidly. She looks at him lost.

MELANIE

My condition you say Carl? You mean I am not suitable for my work anymore because of my size?

Carl starts laughing.

CARL

About your size yes, but not
about your work.

She looks a little relaxed now.

MELANIE

What about my size Carl?

CARL

There is a hope for your... size.

Melanie's face looks how hard she tries to understand.

CARL

A possibility that your
dwarfism can be cured.

She looks at him in wonder. She steps back and covers her face with
her hands. Sweat shows on her face and wipes it out with a tissue.

She sits on a chair and looks on the floor, then at Carl with eyes
wide open.

MELANIE

Oh, my God Carl, you're serious?
I don't know what to think. How can
it be true? I better have a glass of
water first.

Carl's face looks relieved, the initial period went well.

MELANIE

Oh, Carl tell me this isn't a dream.

CARL

A dream that may come true. But
the process will take some time.

MELANIE

All I've got is time. But how did
you get this idea Carl all of a
sudden? Explain me what's going on?

CARL

It's a little complicated Melanie, maybe another time. Would you put yourself under my care and another scientist's friend of mine?

MELANIE

What do you mean by that Carl? This -- whatever it's called isn't going to take place in a hospital? I don't understand.

CARL

No, It's going to be in a private lab, equipped with all the modern facilities.

MELANIE

I don't understand any of this. How this idea came up?

CARL

Recently from some scientific source I came up with.

MELANIE

If you believe this process will work for me... Well, I don't know, I need time to think about it.

CARL

Of course, by all means.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, MELANIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Melanie in her bed relives the discussion she had with Carl and whispers to herself.

MELANIE

...He says he can make me normal. Yeah right, who he thinks he is? God? Only He can make miracles but He doesn't care. I was born like that and nothing can change it.

Then her inner voice comes through.

INNER VOICE (V.O)

(judgmental)

Coward! You were always a coward.
You want to be normal and look like
the others. Trust him. You love him
and he cares for you. He wants to do
it for... both of you.

Then her doubts for Carl make her cry.
She reaches under her pillow for his picture.

She holds it in the dark, kisses it for a thousandth
time while she talks to it.

MELANIE

Oh my LOVE, forgive me for doubting
you, it was a moment of fear nothing
more. Do what you want with my body,
it's yours, as my heart is.

INT. A BAR IN TOWN - NIGHT

Fred arrives before Carl, who just enters.
Carl's face looks bright. Fred notices it.

FRED

Welcome my boy. You look very fresh
today, what's the occasion? A bird
told me, you bring good news.

CARL

Stop that crap Fred. You know damn
well why I'm here.

FRED

Do I? No yet, until you tell me.

CARL

Okay, I'll satisfy your burning
curiosity and make you happy. I
was just thinking of what you said
last time about my father's and
yours genetic work and --

FRED

I knew you come to your senses.

As Carl tries to find the words.

FRED

Why the change of heart now Carl?
Is it scientific or PERSONAL the
reason you decided to get involved?

Carl looks uneasy.

CARL

You know the reason. It's about
Melanie, the girl in my house --

FRED

Oh, that girl? Did you talk to her?

CARL

Yes I did.

FRED

And...?

CARL

She is skeptical for now.

FRED

That's normal. By the way there
is a small detail I didn't mention
about our African adventure
with the pygmies --

CARL

Oh Fred you still talk about that?

FRED

Yes, I do, because I didn't tell
you the reason why those damn
monkeys were chasing us after all
these years we spent with them?

CARL

What was the reason?

FRED

Because the witch-doctor of the village believed that he would lose image on the tribe by our work and accused us as Devil workers turning them against us.

Carl starts laughing.

FRED

(Annoyed)

Why are you laughing for?

CARL

Because the whole thing about your African story comes out of a comic book, full of imagination.

FRED

You wouldn't laugh if you knew the consequences of our chase out of the village had on our work after that.

CARL

I can imagine. You lost your pygmy guinea-pigs and couldn't finish your work?

FRED

Smart deduction SHERLOCK.

CARL

Everything makes sense now.

FRED

What makes sense?

CARL

The fact you were after me all this time trying to get me talk to Melanie to volunteer. Anyway you wish comes true, we are on.

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE OUTSIDE TOWN - DAY

Carl and Fred drive around the building and stop.

Both men come out.

FRED
(smiling)
Wear these blinds on Carl.
I've got a surprise for you.

Carl leaning on Fred's shoulder follows him inside the old building. They walk till they reach a makeshift elevator.

In a floor below Fred stops the elevator and the two of them come out and walk to a door which Fred opens it.

FRED
Now Carl let me take your blinds.

Carl rubs his eyes and takes a long look around the room. It's a large space, set up with the necessary lab equipment.

CARL
(amazed)
What the hell is this Fred? You've been setting this all up hoping one day I say yes? It must have cost big.

FRED
It did. A dead uncle's money. All these equipment comes from China at reduced prices, but are the best.

Carl walks around the lab and takes notes of the equipment.

FRED
You want a beer as you look around?

As Carl sips his beer walks around the lab.

CARL
I see you have a Stem Cell Robot machine, Liposuction machine, here is a Spectrophotometer, Antibiotic Zone Reader... Do you know how to use these equipment.

FRED

Well, I was hoping you knew.

CARL

You hoped a lot from me.

FRED

So when do we start Carl?

CARL

I have a few weeks off next week.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Carl is back from the university. He opens his briefcase and takes out some documents. Melanie comes close.

MELANIE

What's this Carl, your home work?

Carl looks at her with wonder.

CARL

Strange, you never made a comment about my work before.

MELANIE

Well this time it's different. You must prepare yourself for my Case, remember?

CARL

(surprised)

Oh Melanie, you decided? You want us to go ahead with that?

MELANIE

Why not? I trust you Carl.

INT. CARL'S UNIVERSITY, DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Carl and Simon his lab assistant listen to their Dean.

DEAN

Gentlemen. Our research project on GENE SEQUENCING ended successfully.

Carl and Simon smile proudly.

DEAN

We received a new fund to start another research on GROWTH HORMONE DEFICIENCY. It pays good BONUS.

CARL/SIMON

Yes sir, we are ready for.

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

Both men are in and check the equipment. Carl looks around with wonder as he discovers new equipment added.

CARL

You brought in new equipment now? Why would we need all that? There is more here than the university lab.

As Carl walks around, points to the different equipment.

CARL

Pathogen Detection Test System, Salmonella Detection Kid, Particle Tech Equipment. Wow! You even have a Cryogenic Unit?

Fred smiles proud.

CARL

You know Fred I never asked you what sort of equipment you used in Africa all those years?

FRED

Scrap equipment that we salvaged from that country's hospitals.

Meantime Fred writes on a board some chemical equation. Carl follows it with awe.

FRED

This is where we got so far. I need your modern scientific expertise to help complete this analysis.

CARL

You guys advanced quite far, it's amazing. I don't know how to --

FRED

To help? Don't worry you can do it. You're bright scientist and your records prove it, you're the man.

CARL

I appreciate your flattering Fred, but it's still an uncharted territory for me and I have doubts.

FRED

Don't have any. I'll explain to you everything you are missing and in a few days you'll catch up.

INT. FRED'S LAB - NEXT DAY

Fred shows Carl the latest work he did with Carl's father in Africa.

They use a computer terminal and a slide projector. Carl progresses fast. Several hours pass and both look tired now, but happy for the results they accomplish.

CARL

I think we did enough for today. I'm tired and Melanie might worry, since I was never so late before.

FRED

(smiling)

You sound like you're married to her.

CARL

It's hard to explain. She is more than a house maid. She's more like-- a companion.

FRED

(laughing)

I've got the picture.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Carl enters, Melanie knits using an instruction book.

CARL

Hi Melanie, what's up?

She gets up and welcomes him.

MELANIE

Oh Carl, you're back everything okay?

CARL

Yeah okay. Working in the lab with my friend.

MELANIE

I have the dinner for you ready. Since you were late and I was hungry I ate already.

CARL

You did good Melanie, I guess I should have called you.

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

The two men work on their project. Suddenly Carl interrupts.

CARL

Last night when I went to bed I thought of an idea for our problem.

Fred raises his head to hear him.

FRED

Oh yeah? What's the idea?

CARL

So far you and my father identified the gene responsible for the bones mutation. Why don't we replace it with a stem cell, just temporary?

FRED

We did that but it didn't work.

CARL

How did you obtain the cell?

FRED

From a primate of course.

CARL

Perhaps that's why it didn't work.
It must come from the patient
and be able to identify with him.

FRED

We didn't have modern equipment
then, but we do now.

CARL

What I wish for now is the
treatment to be successful with
Melanie. I promised her that.

FRED

So if everything goes alright
with the treatment on her
what you intend to do?

CARL

I don't know. Why you ask me a
question about the future? What
You are going to do? Go back to
Germany?

FRED

What Germany? I'll try to seek
recognition of our work here.

CARL

Meaning?

FRED

The achievement, the pay off.
Perhaps the NOBEL, something
worthwhile of our efforts and
your father's too.

CARL
My father's?

FRED
For your information he died in
that Goddamn jungle you know?

Carl looks at him displeased.

CARL
Eh, hold it my good man. Are you
after a public recognition or the
benefit of the little people who
happened to be born with a mutation?

FRED
I don't care for that.

Carl tries to hide his disgust for him.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

A WEEK LATER

Carl and Melanie have some tea. She looks happy.

CARL
Everything is ready for you
Melanie, we can start anytime.

MELANIE
I hope this thing will work for me.
I'm excited and can't imagine myself
of normal size. I'm also scared.

INT. CARL'S UNIVERSITY, DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Carl requests an extension of his vacation.

DEAN
I don't know Carl, your request for
an extension of your vocation is not
convenient with the new project at
hand. I'll check with the board and
let you know.

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

The two men work in the lab.

FRED

So Melanie is ready you say?

CARL

Yeah, we can start anytime.
Our preparations are in place.

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

Melanie lays medicated on a bed. One end of a long tube is inserted in her stomach with the other end leading to some medical apparatus with the words Liposuction written on it.

CARL

How long this process will take?

FRED

Until we extract enough
number of stem cells.

When this operation is completed they remove the tube and freeze the stem cells in a Stem Cell Bank.

Next they process the cells in an Anti Stem Cell Laser.

FRED

We're almost through now.

Following that they insert the processed stem cells into Melanie's mouth using a Bronchoscope.

Meantime she recovers consciousness and witnesses the event through a reflecting mirror across her bed. She coughs as the Bronchoscope is in her mouth. This procedure lasts twenty minutes.

CARL

That went smooth. She can rest now.

Fred's happy smile is all over his face.

FRED

We can take a break now and see
how she reacts to all that.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, MELANIE'S ROOM - NEXT DAY

Melanie rests in bed. A relaxed expression is on her face. There is a knock at the door and Carl enters.

CARL
(with a smile on)
Good morning Melanie, how do
you feel this morning?

MELANIE
I feel good Carl, but you look
a little tired yourself.

CARL
Just a little tense actually.
Let me check your heart.

He checks her heart, and pulse.

CARL
(satisfied)
Everything looks fine. Tell
me if you need anything.

She smiles in compliance.

MELANIE
Whatever you say doc,
I'm at your disposal.

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

Fred is in when Carl comes.

FRED
Nice of you to remember we have
work to do here. How is Melanie
today by the way?

CARL
She is all right and thanks you.

Fred smiles.

FRED

I just remember an idea that your father had a week before those goofs chased us in the Jungle.

CARL

(curious)

Yeah what?

FRED

The use of an Umbilical Cord Blood. A female pygmy had just given birth those days and your father's idea was to extract stem cells from the Cord.

Carl looks curious.

CARL

AND?

FRED

Well after we processed the cells in our lab and examined them, we didn't find any traces of the Achondroplasia Gene Mutation.

CARL

That's interesting.

FRED

Then we decided to check the male Pygmy's sperm and guess what.

CARL

HE carried the mutation gene?

FRED

Damn right he did. So we came to the conclusion that the mutation gene can be carried by either mate, not necessary the mother.

CARL
(excited)
That makes our work easier Fred.
Since we believed that the mother
was always the carrier.

INT. FRED'S LAB, KITCHEN - LATER

A simple space, with a bar fridge, a counter stove,
a table with 4 chairs, where the two men eat.

FRED
What do you think of your
father's idea now, eh?

Carl's face shows pride.

CARL
It's brilliant.

FRED
It clears things out for us.

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

A WEEK LATER

Melanie lays in bed with tubes coming out her arms.
She looks drowsy. Carl checks on her often.

CARL
(to Fred)
Looks like that this is the idea
Fred. The replacement Gene takes
effect, we'll wait and see.

FRED
I hope so, it's our last chance. If
she won't accept this modified gene,
we are back at square one again.

CARL
We'll know about the result in a
couple of days. Meantime I stay
here at night to look after her.

FRED

Sure. I'm going to rest in the next room, if there is anything call me. See you in the morning.

Carl sleeps in the same room with Melanie. In the morning Melanie wakes up, looks around, sees Carl sleeping and smiles.

MELANIE

(whispers)

Carl, are you sleeping?

Carl opens his eyes and looks at her.

CARL

Oh, Melanie you're awake?

He goes close to her and puts his hand on her forehead.

CARL

How do you feel?

MELANIE

Okay Carl. I had the most beautiful dream of my life. You wouldn't believe if I tell you and probably laugh.

CARL

Oh yeah? Try me.

MELANIE

I don't know how it happened. I found myself all of a sudden in a strange place. My father was there, and my mother whom I don't remember. She died when I was very little.

Carl looks at her with intense curiosity.

MELANIE

My grandmother was also there and my father introduced me to her.

CARL

Was she the survivor of the camp?

MELANIE

Yes, that one. In my dream every one was so simple and honest. I felt so comfortable among them.

CARL

Interesting dream. Then what?

MELANIE

(happy smile)

Then to my surprise they were all of normal size, including me.

CARL

This get's more interesting.

MELANIE

Yes it does. A moment later, I felt something was pulling my dress and heard the words: Mommy, Mommy. I turned around and saw a little girl.

CARL

(surprised look)

What?

MELANIE

That's right, a little girl that everybody called her AGNE. My father told me she was my daughter. Then everything just disappeared.

Carl listens to her in awe.

MELANIE

What's the matter with you Carl? You look like hypnotized. Can you get me some water please? That dream made me so thirsty.

CARL

Certainly.

MELANIE

What do you think my dream means?

CARL

I'm not a dream interpreter, but one thing is for sure, your treatment is positive.

MELANIE

Speaking of that Carl, what's going on with me so far? What you guys exactly did to me?

CARL

What we did was --

MELANIE

In plain language please Carl.

He laughs and tries to choose the right words.

CARL

We deactivate the gene that caused your bones deformity and replaced it with a healthy supplement taken from your body. I hope your system will accept it. We'll know the result in a day or two.

Melanie looks relaxed now.

MELANIE

What if my system rejects it?

CARL

Let's not think of that now and concentrate on the positive side.

INT. A RESTAURANT IN TOWN - EVENING

Carl and Fred dine after all day's work.

FRED

The results on Melanie are encouraging.

CARL

Let's hope Fred, yours and my
father's work finally pays off.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, MELANIE'S ROOM - DAY

Carl looks for Melanie's needle work and instruction book,
as she requested while she's in the lab for treatment.
As he searches for them he notices her night table drawer is half
open. He tries to close it but he can't. Something blocks it from
inside.

It's a piece of paper blocking it. He pulls it out and discovers
it's his own photo.

It portrays him in a university graduation ceremony pose.
The picture is stained in several parts with lipstick.

Carl looks puzzled trying to figure it out.
Then he looks enlightened, smiles and puts it back.

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

Fred is busy in the lab as Carl enters. Melanie rests
in a comfortable chair while reading a fashion magazine.

Carl gives her the items she requested while he tries
unsuccessfully to hide a scheming smile, which she notices.

MELANIE

(pretending smiling)
What is it Carl?
You look so... enigmatic.

CARL

Who me, do I?

He looks himself in a mirror smiling.

CARL

No I don't.

MELANIE

Hm, I don't know about you Carl,
but I can't trust you as my doctor.
You don't look serious to me.

FRED

Don't worry he is serious enough,
just like somebody else I knew...

Carl turns to Fred with a displeasing look on his face.

EXT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, BALCONY - DAY

Melanie relaxes in a reclining chair. Carl sits next to her.

MELANIE

I always like to sit here in the
warm sun. It's so relaxing.

CARL

And so beneficial for you.
Enjoy it as long as it lasts.

MELANIE

If my bones' restoration becomes
successful Carl what is going to
happen to me next?

CARL

(smiling)

I might send you to a fashion
designing school to complete
your education.

MELANIE

Come on Carl get serious.

Carl's phone rings. He answers it.

CARL

Hello, Carl's here.

FRED (V.O)

It's Fred. I'm in the lab. I just
discovered something about the
modified gene we implanted in
Melanie, it might malfunction.

CARL

What did you say Simon? I can't hear
you well, my battery is dying out.

FRED (V.O)

I can tell you are with Melanie.
Listen, I'll send you an email.

CARL

(to Melanie)

That was Simon my assistant from the
University lab. He sends me an email.

INT, CARL'S RESIDENCE, STUDY ROOM - SAME TIME

Carl sits in front of his computer and reads Fred's email.

ON THE MONITOR

Fred's report:

"The modified gene we implanted
in Melanie, it might not work.
One of the two lab rats we injected
with the same type of gene, went
berserk today and attacked the
other rat. We have to run tests on
Melanie to verify about her own gene."

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

Carl checks the mad rat's behavior. Its movements are restless.
Then he extracts some stem cells from it and puts them in a liquid
acid container.

Next he does the same with the good behaving rat and puts the cells
in another liquid acid container.

Now he examines the stem cells of both containers under microscope.

CARL

I think I found something. Look
at the speed the malfunctioning
rat's stem cells move.

Fred looks through the scope.

FRED

Very fast indeed.

CARL

Now look at the other rat's cells.

FRED

They move slower. You think this might be the reason for the rat's behavior going crazy?

CARL

That's the only answer to that.

FRED

In this case we have to find out why the same stem cells behave different in one rat than in the other.

INT. CARL' RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Carl and Melanie have some tea. His face looks worried.

CARL

Melanie how has the treatment affected your mind so far? Do you feel any different than --

MELANIE

(with irritation)

What are you talking about?

Carl looks at her bizarrely.

CARL

Well, how do you relate with everything around you?

She looks at him for a moment.

MELANIE

You dare ask me that, after you leave me alone all day while you come and go to that damn lab?

CARL

(worried)

Melanie, what's happening to you?

MELANIE

Better worry what it'll happen to
you if this idea of yours fails.

Carl leaves the room sad.

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

Carl inserts some tubes into Melanie and with the use of the
Liposuction machine extracts some stem cells.

Next, they place the stem cells in a liquid acid container and
examine them under a microscope. For a moment nothing happens. Then
some of the cells start moving at fast speed.

FRED

Damn it, it's happening again.
But not all of them move fast,
you see? How can we identify the
reason of those moving fast?

CARL

And we don't have much time for.

FRED

Take her home and stay there
until I discover something here.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, DINING ROOM - DAY

Melanie sits in her reclining chair and directs Carl who is in the
kitchen how to prepare some food leftovers from the day before.

MELANIE

(shouts to him)

Carl watch out, be careful.
You left the aluminum paper on
top of the stove element and
it'll catch fire.

CARL

Oh, Jesus I forgot it, thanks.
By the way you want some Fries?

Melanie's face changes expression.

MELANIE

Do you know how to make them, or
just try to be smart? Make fries
if you want to, don't bother me.

Disappointment shows on Carl's face.

DINING ROOM - LATER

As both of them eat, Melanie looks at her fries.

MELANIE

These fries aren't crispy enough.
You should have fried them longer.

CARL

You didn't tell me how long to
leave them in the oil.

MELANIE

Till they become brown. Every one
knows that. You mean you never
fried potatoes before?

CARL

No, I always ate at restaurants.

MELANIE

(ironically)
You mean the university cafeteria?

As Carl fries the potatoes again his face brightens.
Then his cell phone rings.

CARL

Hello, Carl's here.

Fred's disappointed voice comes on.

FRED (V.O)

It's Fred. I couldn't find
anything about the rat's cells.

CARL

You didn't? Jesus, what are we
going to do now?

FRED (V.O)

We'll run more tests tomorrow.

MELANIE

What're you mumbling with your
Goofy friend now?

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

As they work, Carl face is enlightened.

CARL

I have an idea that I want to try
for the rat's stem cells speed.

FRED

What kind of an idea?

CARL

I'll tell you later. Just tell me
how long you froze the cells in
the liquid acid last time?

FRED

About ten minutes, why?

Carl extracts some stem cells from the misbehaving
lab rat and freezes them in the cell bank, for longer
than ten minutes this time.

Then he places them under a microscope and looks through.

CARL

Fred, come and see your fast
moving cells now. They behave
like lambs.

Fred looks astonished through the microscope.

FRED

How did you --

A winner's smile shows on Carl's face.

CARL

Old Chinese Secret my boy. Science
always needs new ideas to go on.
I just froze the cells longer than
you did and it worked.

FRED

Then what are we waiting for?
Let's try it on Melanie.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, MELANIE'S ROOM - DAY

A WEEK LATER

Melanie is alone at home reading her magazine.
Suddenly a piercing voice comes out of her.

Her face characteristics change as she holds her hips
with her hands.

MELANIE

Oh my God I can't stand it.

The pain lasts for several minutes and then ceases.
She reaches the phone and calls Carl.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - LATER

Carl walks in with a package of painkillers.
She gives a couple to Melanie.

MELANIE

Oh Carl I didn't expect the
pain would be so unbearable.

His face shows empathy.

CARL

Try to calm down Melanie. This
is your first day of pain. It
means that the restructuring
process of your bones is working.

When she is asleep, Carl looks at her with compassion.
Tears drop from his eyes. He stays with her till the night.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, DINNING ROOM - DAY

DAYS LATER

Melanie sits in her reclining chair reading a magazine. Suddenly she screams again in pain. She tries to hold both of her legs. Carl alarmed runs from his room.

CARL
Another pain attack Melanie?

MELANIE
I can't take it anymore Carl.

CARL
I must give you some Morphine
shot to easy your pain.

The drug energizes fast and she goes to sleep.

INT. A BAR IN TOWN - EVENING

Carl and Fred have a drink and discuss Melanie's situation.

FRED
So how Melanie was today?
Did her pain slow down yet?

CARL
Yes, in the last few days,
she didn't complain much.

FRED
Poor girl, she suffered a lot.
What about her length size?

CARL
She is 5'3" and still growing.
A big difference from 4' when
we started the process.

EXT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, BALCONY - DAY

Carl reads a scientific magazine, while Melanie organizes her room. Suddenly the sound of a melodious music reaches from inside.

Carl stops reading and tries to pay attention to the lyrics. The song goes on for a minute, stops, and then starts.

Carl's curiosity brings him into the living room to investigate.

LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Carl checks the radio and then the TV, they are both off. Suddenly Melanie's bedroom door opens and she comes out singing. As she sees Carl she is startled and stops.

CARL

(surprised)

What was that Melanie! Were you just singing a few minutes ago?

MELANIE

Sorry for the disturbance Carl.

CARL

What disturbance you're talking about? That was a pleasant surprise since I never heard you singing before. I couldn't imagine you had such a melodious voice.

MELANIE

Thank you Carl for the compliment.

He walks back to the balcony whispering on the way.

CARL

Unbelievable. What a voice this girl has. Who could imagine that?

(laughing)

Probably because of the treatment.

BALCONY - SAME TIME

As Carl resumes reading his magazine, he notices Melanie's dress.

She doesn't wear pants anymore but a mini-skirt. The expression on Carl's face is not that of a doctor's medical concern for his patient. Melanie's legs are now straightened and look as normal as they can be after months of bones development.

As she walks, her mini dress moves back and forth like a flag in the wind, revealing her increased in size legs.

The view arouses Carl's instincts and lust shows on his face.

Something that doesn't go unnoticed by Melanie whose eyes observe him constantly. Carl realizes that and assumes reading.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, DINNING ROOM - EVENING

As Melanie serves dinner and places the first plate in front of Carl, she drops it accidentally on the table, resulting in splashing the spot with food in front of him.

MELANIE

Oh my God, I'm very sorry Carl I can't believe I did that. Don't worry I clean the mess..

CARL

(protectively)

Don't worry Melanie. It's no your fault. You arms are longer now and your movements are uncoordinated. You'll get used to your new changes.

MELANIE

Yeah, I noticed that yesterday when I tried to cross the street. It took me less time than before.

CARL

You should be careful when you walk until you get used to.

After that they move to the balcony.

BALCONY - SAME TIME

Melanie looks at her dress unhappy.

MELANIE

I think I should go to the Mall one of these days and buy another dress.

(pointing to her dress)

This one is an old gift and don't feel comfortable wearing it.

It's not decent.

CARL

(in disagreement)

NO, you're wrong. It's -- it's --

She looks at him smiling with pleasure as he struggles to find the words to continue.

MELANIE

Why, you like it? It's so revealing.

CARL

No it's not. Many girls wear similar. They're in fashion these days.

MELANIE

(teasing him)

What? C a r l? I didn't know you look at what women wear.

CARL

How can I avoid it? Women are everywhere. I have eyes you know.

MELANIE

Okay, okay Carl, take it easy. I thought that university professors have different interests in mind.

CARL

But they are still men. Anyhow if you want to go to the Mall I'll drive you there.

INT. FRED'S LAB - DAY

Carl and Fred work in the lab.

FRED

So Melanie is in the road
of recovery now eh?

CARL

So far. She also sounds different
now, more intelligent and --

FRED

And?

CARL

And I'm becoming attached to.

FRED

(sarcastically)

Don't tell me you're starting a
relationship with your maid eh?

CARL

I don't consider her maid anymore.
What if I do start a relationship?

FRED

The relationship business can wait
because there is nothing to gain
for. It's time we go public with
our work boy instead of you falling
in with our subject of experiment.

CARL

I don't like your sarcasm and not
thrilled with the idea of going
public. Besides Melanie wouldn't
want to attract public attention
to herself. It was not agreed on.

Fred's face shows disappointment.

FRED

(with arrogance)

Let me handle this. I'll pay her
money to change her mind. After
that she can go anywhere she wants
with a new body and money in her
pocket. What's wrong with that?

CARL

You're a monster and can't see
how my father put up with you.

FRED

Ha! Put up with me? It was the other
way around boy. I put up with him as
since he was --

(Fred now slows down)
he was -- oh, never mind.

CARL

He was, what Fred? You
swallowed your tongue?

FRED

My older brother Carl, that's
who he was. You are my nephew.

Carl stops breathing momentarily from this apocalyptic news.

CARL

WHAT? You are --

FRED

Yes Carl I am. Why do you think I
took such an interest in you to
continue the experiment together?
Because we are a family.

CARL

It's hard to believe it. Why are
you telling me this now -- Uncle?

FRED

I wanted to know you better first
and then surprise you with it.

CARL

Now that you know me better, was
your surprise served its purpose?

FRED

No it wasn't. One thing I learned though. You're a dreamer and all dreamers are losers. That applies to your father too.

INT. CARL'S UNIVERSITY, DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Carl is back to resume duties.

DEAN

Professor you are finally back. It's good you remembered us. Everything is in place. The new project is in your hands now. You start tomorrow.

CARL

I'm glad to be back sir.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPPING MALL - AFTERNOON

Carl and Melanie look for clothes.

MELANIE

Carl I'm short of cash, can I ask you for a small loan against my future salary?

CARL

(smiling)

After all you went through, you are entitled to a workman's compensation reward and not a loan.

MELANIE

It was a volunteer acceptance and can't qualify for any reward.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Carl prepares dinner and Melanie teases him.

MELANIE

Are you going to cook Carl, since when? Last time you try to fry potatoes it was...

CARL
(defending himself)
It was what?

MELANIE
A disaster?

CARL
Oh yeah? You forgot to mention
Miss. Master Cook, because of that
disaster I came up with the idea
how to perfect the stem solution
process?

MELANIE
That's what happens when a genetics
professor tries to be a cook.

CARL
What do you mean?

MELANIE
He turns cooking to genetics.

CARL
(pretending anger)
That's it, I have enough with your
smart mouth. I'll take care of that.

He grabs a kitchen cloth and throws it to her.
But she is fast and grabs it before it finds her face.

CARL
(surprised)
Good catch Melanie, you played
Baseball before?

MELANIE
Yeah, with my father. He said I have
fast reflexes. But I don't know how
fast yours are --

Then rapidly she throws the cloth back to him as she talks.
He gets it on his face before he realizes what happened.

MELANIE

(pretending apologetic)

Oh Carl I really apologize, I didn't mean to. I hope I don't lose my job on account of this eh?

His sudden surprise turns to laughter.

CARL

I can't believe you got me. You are only a girl, but a fast one I see.

MELANIE

You're only a boy, but a slow one.

They both laugh.

CARL

If you distract me like that we're not going to have anything cooked.

MELANIE

Who cares, I'm not hungry anyway. Neither are you, right?

CARL

Hm, a little, but we can go out and have some dinner. What you say?

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Carl comes from work smiling.

MELANIE

What's the smile about mister?

CARL

Have you ever gone to an OPERA before Melanie?

MELANIE

Why, are YOU and FRED performing?

CARL

Melanie you get such a wisecracker lately. What's happening?

She becomes serious now.

MELANIE

I don't know what's happening to me Carl. I have this feeling of joking around these days and can't help it. I even tell jokes to myself and laugh about when I'm alone in the house. You think I'm turning crazy?

CARL

(laughing)

Maybe, but for now you do turn to be a stand up comedienne.

MELANIE

So what about the opera you said?

CARL

Listen, a staff member at the university gave me two tickets for the opera. It's for Saturday night. I was wondering if you're interested maybe we could --

Her face brightens when she hears that.

MELANIE

(enthusiastic)

Yes Carl, yes. I love to go to the Opera. What's the performance?

CARL

The PHANTOM OF THE OPERA.

MELANIE

(excited)

Oh my God, I read the story when I was young and fell in love with.

INT. OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT

Melanie holds Carl's arm as they walk into the auditorium. She wears a simple black color evening dress and he wears a dark suit.

As the Curtain slowly rises and the auditorium lights fade away, Melanie looks thrilled.

OPERA HOUSE - LATER

When the performance comes to its end, Melanie is in tears for the tragic and sacrificing end of PHANTOM'S life for his love. She leans her head on Carl's shoulder squeezing his hand with passion.

He responds by bringing her hand to his lips and kisses it. Her body trembles from the excitement of his kiss.

MELANIE
(passionately)
Oh, Carl!

She kisses his hand back and her falling tears wet it.

CARL
Melanie, I Love You So Much.

MELANIE
(whispering)
Oh Carl, If you only knew. I have
loved you from the beginning.

When the lights come back and the female audience around caught with their eyes wet of tears and hurriedly try to wipe them out, Carl and Melanie look at each other passionately and leave the auditorium.

INT. A BAR IN TOWN - NIGHT

Carl and Fred have a drink.

FRED
I presume that you and Melanie
going steady now eh? Your lights
are off most of the nights.

CARL
Are you spying again on me Uncle?

Fred ignores him and goes on.

FRED

It's so bizarre and unthinkable
for the grandson of JOSEPH LEGNEM,
who mutilated dwarfs and children
in the camps for mere pleasure, has
an affair with his lab-experiment --

Before he ends his sentence, Carl gets up, grabs him from the throat
and shakes him hard. Fred's face color changes to blue.

CARL

If you weren't my uncle I would
have hit you so hard you bastard.

Then he leaves the place.

EXT. SPANISH TAVERN SOMEWHERE IN TOWN - EVENING

Carl and Melanie dine out. A couple of old men with Spanish
Guitars walk around the tables singing some old Mexican melody.

Melanie follows the rhythm by singing softly after them.
Carl holds her hand with a surprise on his face.

CARL

Melanie I didn't know you can sing
in Spanish too? It's so beautiful.

MELANIE

No big deal. A Mexican girl at school
taught me some melodies that's all.

Then Carl calls the singers to their table and
Melanie happily sings along with them.

Meantime a flower girl just passes by their table and Carl buys
a bunch of red roses and hands them to Melanie.
She holds them looking affectionately at his eyes.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, HIS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Carl and Melanie are in bed together and between kisses.

CARL

Melanie I'm so happy our paths met.
You brought a purpose to my life.

MELANIE

(teasingly)

Why, wasn't it another girl
in your life before me?

CARL

I didn't say that. But they were
unemotional short-lived incidents
without any importance.

Melanie reacts with passionate hugs and kisses.

EXT. CARL'S UNIVERSITY, PARKING LOT GROUNDS - DAY

Carl is about to start his car.

Fred's car is already there and he signals to Carl.

FRED

Hi Carl how are you? I just wanted to
apologize for making you angry.

Carl puts on a serious image.

CARL

Okay, apology accepted. You just
came for that? Why are you here?

FRED

(confidentially)

You know Carl, I was thinking since
our work is finished I don't see any
reason for me to be here. I'll return
to Germany for a visit, I still have
relatives there.

CARL

Well, if you've got to go, you go.
We had our differences but --

FRED

Thank you for understanding.

CARL

Sure, no problem. But what about
your lab equipment?

FRED

I'll keep them for a while,
never know.

INT. CARL'S UNIVERSITY, DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Carl and his lab assistant Simon, are in conference with the Dean and some board members of the university.

DEAN

(to the board members)

Gentlemen I assure you that our
progress here is ahead of any
university in the country.

A BOARD MEMBER

There are rumors of another
University in the country
doing the same research.

DEAN

Don't pay attention to rumors
ladies and gentlemen. We have
here the best team of scientists
working under the guidance of
professor Carl Martin who really
turns things around in the Human
Growth Deficiency project.

ANOTHER MEMBER

About this project, how does it
come along?

DEAN

You have an up-to-date detailed
report in front of you gentlemen.

EXT. WINDOW SHOPPING - DAY

Melanie is out shopping. She stops in front of a window displaying baby clothes. Her eyes glowing with pleasure looking at the items. She goes into the shop.

She comes out with a shopping bag full of baby girl clothes and returns home.

INT. CARL'S RESIDENCE, BEDROOM - DAY

Melanie assembles all the baby clothes on the bed, side by side. Then she holds them in her hands one by one kissing them as little girls do with their dolls.

She is so absorbed in this that she doesn't hear when Carl enters.

BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Carl's eyes are wide open and astonished as he looks at the baby clothes on the bed with Melanie kissing them. Several seconds pass until he finds his voice.

CARL

Melanie, what on earth you're doing? You went to a garage sale?

She turns around to face him like coming out of a dream. She rushes at him with hugs and kisses.

MELANIE

Carl, oh Carl I love you so much. I have a surprise, I am pregnant.

CARL

WHAT? Repeat that again.

MELANIE

(in ecstasy)

I'm pregnant, pregnant. Oh God thank You. What a miracle!

CARL

Are you sure honey?

MELANIE

As sure as any pregnant woman is.

He hugs and kisses her.

CARL

I'm so happy. It's a blessing.

INT. MARRIAGE CHAPEL - DAY

Carl and Melanie come out of the Chapel kissing each other.

CARL

Now you are officially Mrs. Martin.
Get in the car and let's enjoy the
day away from home.

MELANIE

Yes my husband, whatever you say.
But first can we go to an open field,
so I can practice a little driving?

EXT. DRIVING FIELD - DAY

Melanie sits in the driver's seat. She tries to reach the pedals
with her feet and discovers in excitement that she is able to.

MELANIE

Oh my God Carl, look I can reach
down. I'm a driver now, I wish my
father could see me.

She just lets the car go in its own as she doesn't have the
experience of turning the steering wheel.

CARL

Watch out honey you have to turn the
steer in the opposite direction.

MELANIE

Oh Carl please can you teach
more another day?

EXT. HONEYMOON, ON A EURO-TRAIN - DAY

A WEEK LATER

Carl & Melanie travel to Europe.

SERIES OF SHOTS

1. They come out of a hotel in London holding hands together with
London location in the background.

2. They check out of a hotel in Paris with Parisian location in the background.

3. Berlin, Germany is next. Here they stay longer.

While at the hotel lobby they look at some brochures.

As Melanie goes through them, her eyes catch a tour about a WWII concentration camp. Her face becomes gloomy at the site and the description of the camp. The camp's name:

SS RAVENSBRUCK, NOTORIOUS CAMP FOR
WOMEN PRISONERS, 90 Kilometers NORTH
OF BERLIN, DAILY ORGANIZED TOURS.

She shows the brochure to Carl.

MELANIE

I think this is the type of camp my father mentioned that his mother was kept before she was liberated by the Russian Army. I want to visit this.

An eerie look shows on Carl's face as he looks at the picture in the brochure. Melanie notices it.

MELANIE

What's the problem Carl, not interested to see it?

CARL

That's not a pleasant site to visit.

MELANIE

Why?

CARL

Because we are on a honeymoon and you're pregnant. Sad places like these might affect your pregnancy.

MELANIE

I still think we should go please.

EXT. CONCENTRATION CAMP SITE - DAY

Here their tour guide describes the history of the camp.

TOUR GUIDE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, this is the infamous RAVENSBRUCK CAMP FOR WOMEN. It was built in 1939 by SS leader HEINRICH MILLER. Out of 130.000 female prisoners and their children, only 40.000 survived, when the RED ARMY invaded the camp, in April 1945.

A member of the group asks.

MEMBER OF THE GROUP

Where all prisoners came from?

TOUR GUIDE

From every German-occupied country. Mostly Jews from Poland, Roma Gypsies, and others...

Melanie holds Carl's hand very tight, like seeking support. The tour guide walks them now through the large buildings.

TOUR GUIDE

These buildings were the living quarters of those unfortunate victims.

Then the guide takes them into one of them. Inside there are rusty metallic beds bolted into the ground.

Melanie turns to see Carl but he isn't near her anymore. She worries about him and starts calling him out.

MELANIE

CARL, CARL...

The people look among themselves curious. Then the tour guide approaches Melanie.

TOUR GUIDE

What's the problem ma'am?

MELANIE

I lost my husband.

The tour guide tells everybody to stay foot until he returns. Then he goes to look for Carl. Melanie follows him.

They find Carl standing in front of another white building, with a written sign on the door in faded German.

SS DR. JOSEPH LEGNEM'S HOSPITAL
A CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE 1943

Carl's face looks like he's seen a ghost. He walks to the door but he finds it locked with a heavy padlock.

He stands back, lifts a trembling hand and points at the sign on the door in rage, then stumbles and collapses.

INT. NEARBY HOSPITAL - DAY

Carl lays in a bed. A doctor checks his pulse and gives him some medication. Melanie stands by.

MELANIE

How is he doctor?

DOCTOR

He is fine now Mrs. Martin. He looks like he suffered some kind of emotional stress. He can stay here for a while until he recovers.

Carl looks at the doctor with paled eyes.

INT. HOTEL, TEA ROOM - EVENING

Carl and Melanie relax as they have some tea.

MELANIE

So Carl what happened to you there?

He takes a moment to think.

CARL

You remember back home I promised to tell you my family's secret...?

She looks at him serious.

MELANIE

(smiling)

Okay Carl, I wait to hear your famous revelation.

His face is serious when he starts.

CARL

I don't know where to start. When I saw the writing on the door of that building at the camp site, I recognized it as in my dream.

MELANIE

I remember that dream you had and screamed.

CARL

Yes, that one. The name on that door today was -- was my grandfather's.

She jumps back with terror in her eyes.

MELANIE

What did you say? You come from a family of NAZIS? That murderous animal was your grandfather? Oh you scare me so much now Carl.

CARL

Melanie please wait. I despise him as much as you do. My father changed our family name. because of him.

MELANIE

Why you hid this dark secret from me? Your obsession to perform your Hideous scientific experiment probably came from him. Was that the reason you hired me as a maid to continue your family's dark legacy?

CARL

No Melanie you're wrong, that's not true. My intentions were honest. We love each other and have a child. Don't do this to yourself.

MELANIE

(in rage)

As soon as I get home I'll abort it. I won't bring into this world the the evil leftovers of your butcher ancestor. If my grandmother ever knew that I carry inside me the offspring of her nemesis...

She stands up and leaves the table. The people around stare with curiosity on their faces trying to make sense of all that. Carl's face is full of sorrow as he follows her.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - SAME TIME

Carl tries to hold her by her arm gently. She pulls his hand off.

CARL

Don't upset yourself Melanie. It's no good for your pregnancy.

She looks at him with disgust.

MELANIE

Screw my pregnancy you bastard. I told what I'll do when I get home.

Carl is in tears now.

MELANIE

And I wanted to change my looks hm, for you? I would rather be as I was. I want to sleep in another room tonight, if I would be able to after this nightmare.

INT. MELANIE'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

MELANIE'S DREAM

She is outside the building Carl was. She gets inside.
She sees rows of metallic beds on both sides of the room.

In one of them is a young female dwarf sleeping.

She approaches the bed and reads the name. She leaves a shriek of excitement. It's HER, her grandmother.

MELANIE

Grandma it's me, Melanie. My dad
told me all about you. I have a
confession to make. I'm sorry I
married with a man who is --

Her grandma opens her eyes slowly and looks at Melanie
with kindness on her face.

GRANDMA

(voice tired)

I know child, I know. Don't blame your
husband, he is not responsible. He is
a victim of his own circumstances, as
we all are. That's an experience in
the world you live. Go to him and tell
him you forgive me.

MELANIE

But grandma how can I --

GRANDMA

Yes you can. He is a good man and he
loves you and I know you love him too.
Don't carry hate with you, it's bad
for the soul and happiness. I don't
hate his grandfather. There is no
room for hate in my world.

MELANIE'S DREAM ENDS

BACK TO PRESENT TIME.

MELANIE'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

She opens her eyes, the room is pitch-black. She turns on the night
table light and looks at her watch. It's 3:00 a.m. she gets off.

She goes to the bathroom, turns the light on and looks in the mirror. Her image looks calm and relaxed.

She opens the door of her room and goes out into the hall.

HOTEL'S HALLWAY - SAME TIME

The hallway is quite and semi lighted. Melanie searches for Carl's room number. When she finds it, she stops and looks undecided. She finally knocks at the door.

There is no answer and knocks again.

MELANIE

(quietly)

Carl, Carl, are you awake? Answer me please. Carl, I have to talk to you.

Finally after a few more knocks, she hears noise inside. A faint light comes under the door, indication of Carl's night table light is turned on.

Next the door opens and Carl appears with sleepy eyes looking at her surprised.

CARL

MELANIE? What's going on? What ever you decided to do I understand.

She gently pushes him inside the room. Carl looks at her with disbelief in his eyes.

MELANIE

Relax, I didn't decide anything. I'm here to tell you something that couldn't wait till morning...

He looks at her puzzled.

CARL

What do you mean?

She kisses him with passion and leads him to a chair.

MELANIE

That's what I mean. I love you.

CARL
(confused)
But, I don't -- Are you
playing a game with me now?

MELANIE
(she kisses him more)
Yeah the three o'clock in the
morning game, silly.

CARL
What is going on?

She repeats back his own words, imitating his voice.

MELANIE
What's Going On? I'll tell you
what's going on if you don't
mind wasting the rest of your
sleep talking to me till the
morning. I'M HAPPY.

INT. CARL'S HOTEL BED ROOM - EARLY DAWN

Carl and Melanie have made-up now.

CARL
So, I owe to your grandma everything?
Next time you see her give her my love.

MELANIE
I will.

CARL
Promise not to hate me anymore?

MELANIE
(laughing)
You have my word, hate is over.
It's only love from now on.

EXT. CARL'S UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT - DAY

As Carl parks his car notices Fred's car is parked
in the next spot with him inside waiting for Carl.

Carl comes out and sees him.

CARL

Good morning Fred, you're back?

FRED

Yeah, I couldn't stay any longer there. How are you my boy?

CARL

The usual thing. Work, home.

FRED

That's all, no changes yet?

CARL

Oh yes. I'm married now.

FRED

You mean... you and her finally tie-the-nod?

CARL

That's right. The best choice for me. By the way she expects a baby.

FRED

You don't say boy. You mean all these happened on my absence?

Then his face becomes serious.

FRED

I wonder how your father would feel if he were alive, that he's got a grand child whose mother was a dwarf..

Carl for the second time loses his temper and grabs Fred by the neck and throws him against his own car breaking the side mirror.

CARL

Bastard I warned you to shut your fucking mouth but you didn't listen. What business is it to you what I do in my life?

INT. CARL'S AND MELANIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

They discuss Melanie's pregnancy.

CARL

We should do an ultrasound to determine the child's gender.

MELANIE

We don't have to my love. I'm sure it's going to be a girl. I saw it in my dream, you remember? My Agne.

CARL

My love it was just a dream.

EXT. A PUBLIC PARK - DAY

There are children of all ages playing under their parents' watchful eyes. A smile of anticipation shows on Melanie's face as she watches them. She turns to Carl.

MELANIE

Not long from now our Agne will play like them and I can't wait to see the day.

CARL

The day when she is going to get dirty playing on the ground..

INT. GYNECOLOGY OFFICE - DAY

A doctor examines Melanie. He puts the stethoscope on her belly and listens. Then he checks her blood pressure. He looks satisfied.

DOCTOR

Everything looks normal Mrs. Martin. Be careful for the next two months.

MELANIE

(pleased)
Thank you very much doctor.

INT. CARL'S AND MELANIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

As Carl prepares their dinner, goes to Melanie and touches her belly lightly while kisses her at the same time.

CARL

How long more a future dad has to wait honey?

MELANIE

A couple more weeks my love.

CARL

Any pains or discomforts?

MELANIE

Just the extra weight I carry.

INT. A PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

A pair of dwarfs checks some video tapes to rent.

MALE DWARF

Look at this movie honey. Isn't the one you were looking to rent last month?

FEMALE DWARF

Yeah, you're right, I'll borrow it.

As Fred eavesdrops on their conversation a fiendish look appears on his face.

INT. CARL'S AND MELANIE'S HOME, BEDROOM - DAY

TWO MONTHS LATER

Melanie sits in her bed and holds tenderly her little baby. It's a girl as she expected, her little Agne. The baby's eyes are closed.

She slowly opens them and as the light gets in through the curtains, she starts crying. Then Melanie feeds her milk from a bottle.

MELANIE

Here, taste this sweetheart. Mommy loves you very much, don't cry.

The baby drinks all the milk, closes her eyes and Melanie puts her in the crib to sleep.

EXT. MELANIE PUSHES A STROLLER IN THE STREET - DAY

A happy smile shows on Melanie's face. The carriage is covered with a light veil to avoid the dust get in. She stops at a kiosk and buys a fashion magazine. Then sits at an outdoors ice-cream parlor and buys an ice-cream.

As she eats and reads, suddenly a grimace appears on her face, like a painful sensation.

She places the magazine and the ice-cream on the table and stretches herself against the chair while taking a deep breath. A few minutes later she looks more relieved.

INT. CARL'S AND MELANIE'S HOUSE - DAY

The two have breakfast, while Agne sleeps.

CARL

How are you theses days?

MELANIE

With yesterday's exception I'm fine.

CARL

What happened yesterday?

MELANIE

As I was sitting having an ice-cream I felt a little pinching pain on my back. It only lasted a few minutes then it went away.

Carl's face looks worried.

CARL

Be careful. If it happens again we should see a doctor.

EXT. OPEN MARKET PLACE - DAY

It's a sunny day and Melanie with the baby stroll down the street to the market.

Many outdoors vendors display their wares.
She tries talking to her baby.

MELANIE

Agne when would you start walking,
so I can hold you by your hand?

Agne in her stroller looks at her mother and smiles.

At that moment Melanie stumbles and holds herself for support onto
the baby's carriage bars. The stroller speeds ahead from her
weight.

Melanie watches in terror as the stroller with the baby speeds
ahead in the street.

Lucky for the baby, a young boy who is in the path of the carriage
and sees the action, stops it.

MELANIE

Oh thank you very much young man.
God be with you, you saved my baby.

The young boy looks proud of himself.

BOY

No problem ma'am.

Then she calls a taxi...

INT. CARL'S AND MELANIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Melanie rubs her painful leg when Carl walks in.

CARL

What's the problem darling?

MELANIE

(in pain)
It happened again...

CARL

From now on don't go out on your
own with the baby, it's risky.

INT. PRIVATE CLINIC IN TOWN - DAY

Carl and Melanie in the doctor's office for the results of her test. The doctor takes Carl in his office.

DOCTOR

Mr. Lantos.

(Carl's assumed name)

There is something that needs to be closely examined. I don't want to alarm you but I see some kind of virus in her bones' formation.

Carl looks serious.

CARL

What is it Doctor?

DOCTOR

Not sure about it yet, we need to do more tests. There is also something else not related to it. It look like her bones have been recently extended. Very unusual.

Carl without making any comment takes Melanie and leave.

INT. CARL'S AND MELANIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY

The two are busy with the baby.

MELANIE

(happy smile)

You know Carl? I noticed Agne looks like a normal child. I don't see any mutations on her. Don't you agree?

CARL

That's right my love, I'm aware of that already. Achondroplasia signs show early in the first few months, she is older than that.

She gets up and kisses him with joy.

MELANIE

I'm so happy to know our daughter
won't go through life with complexes
of inferiority as I did.

Car lifts his little daughter up and kisses her.

CARL

More than that, she'll be a very
beautiful girl.

(speaking to the baby)

Isn't it, Miss. Agne Martin?

The baby looks at him smiling while a tiny silver
saliva shows at the edge of her little mouth.

Suddenly Melanie holds her leg while leaves a shriek of pain. Carl
alarmed puts the baby in the crib and starts massaging her leg.

CARL

Lie down and relax honey. Tomorrow
we're going to see the new tests.

INT. PRIVATE CLINIC IN TOWN - DAY

A different clinic this time.

DOCTOR

Mr. Lantos. The results are not so
good. There seems to be a genetic
decease in your wife's bones. Was
anything similar in any member of
her family?

CARL

She mentioned once about her father
who died from a similar condition.

DOCTOR

Well it might be possible the same
happens to her, and it's not curable.
There is also some kind of bones
extension that I don't understand.

At that point Carl and Melanie leave.

INT. CARL AND MELANIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

They are in bed holding each other.

CARL

How do you feel now baby?

MELANIE

(with tired voice)

Acute pain. Now I can see how my
father suffered before he died.

She kisses his eyes.

MELANIE

Are you crying darling, why?

CARL

(between sobs)

How can't I, when your suffering
tears my heart out. I wish I
could share some of your pain.

Then he gives her some pain-killers.

INT. CARL'S UNIVERSITY, DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Carl and Simon his lab assistant, listen to the Dean.

DEAN

Gentlemen, our HUMAN GROWTH
DEFICIENCY Project finally came to
an end. You can relax for now until
the board announces another project.

INT. PRIVATE CLINIC - DAY

SIX MONTHS LATER

Melanie is in for another check up of bones decease.
Carl waits in the hall with the baby. The doctor comes to
announce him the results.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry Mr. Lantos about the results of her exams. It seems the condition is irreversible.

Carl looks pale.

CARL

Is there a hope for an antibody to be created and regulate the situation at least temporary?

The doctor looks at him with surprise.

DOCTOR

Are you a physician Mr. Lantos?

CARL

In a certain way. Well, is there a possibility for that or not?

DOCTOR

No sir. I talked with my colleague and we believe her situation is --

CARL

Well?

DOCTOR

Life-threatening sir.

CARL

How advance is it?

DOCTOR

I would say she has a month at the very most, after that..

INT. CARL'S AND MELANIE'S HOME - NIGHT

A MONTH LATER.

Carl and Melanie sit on a couch. He has his arms around her. Her face shows her suffering. He tries to cheer her up.

CARL

You remember my love our first night out in the Opera, that started it all? It was like a catalyst of our growing feelings.

MELANIE

Yours maybe, because mine grew much earlier than yours. Since I cherished your picture under my pillow every night before I went to sleep.

CARL

(pretending)

What picture?

She looks at him like a mother exposing a child's lie. She looks through his eyes and smiles.

MELANIE

You Naughty boy. You think I didn't read it on your face that day in the lab, when you brought me the items I asked you? It was so obvious you found your picture in the drawer.

CARL

I don't know what you --

She stamps his mouth with a kiss.

CARL

(laughs)

Oh, that picture.

INT. CARL'S UNIVERSITY- CAFETERIA -DAY

Carl has a snack with Simon, his lab assistant.

SIMON

How's your married life professor?
Are you happy?

CARL

You can say that again Simon. That's what I always needed, a good wife.

SIMON

You're kidding me. Most guys
I asked they say they're bored.

CARL

Not me, I can't wait to go home.
I feel rejuvenated. It must be a
feeling of devotion to each other.

EXT. CAR DRIVE - DAY

Carl, Melanie and Agne drive around. The day is sunny and
stop in a park. They set up a picnic table and have some
homemade sandwiches.

Agne sits in her buster chair on top of the table and looks at them.

MELANIE

I'm so happy Carl that we are a
complete family now. I couldn't ask
for more. We are blessed with this
flower,

(points to Agne)

what else can we want?

Then Carl holds her in his arms and kisses her. Agne
looks at them with her mouth open and drops her pacifier.

INT. CARL AND MELANIE'S RESIDENCE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

WEEKS LATER

The couple sits on a sofa while Agne sleeps in her room.
Melanie's face shows her suffering and Carl can't hold his tears.

He takes her in his arms.

CARL

Tell me what you're feeling my love.

MELANIE

Very bad. I'm not in my normal self.
Everything around me is alien to me.
I can't breathe easy, feel like dying.

A heavy breathing sound comes out of her chest.

CARL

I should call an ambulance.

MELANIE

No my love, ambulance is not going to do me any good. I know I'm dying. This is my last night, I can feel it.

CARL

(in tears)

That was all my fault for asking you to agree to the bones' treatment idea. If it wasn't for that you --

MELANIE

No nothing to do with that my love. On the other hand if it wasn't for that we wouldn't be united. Destiny brought us together. Our love was a short lived one but to its fullest.

Moments of silence pass. Carl's face is attached to Melanie's.

MELANIE

(in a weak voice)

C a r l... M y l o v e, I -- I can feel my end is near. Everything turns around fast. I don't feel I belong here. This is my last night.

CARL

Try not to pay attention to your feelings Melanie. You're going through a false awareness. Tomorrow you'll feel normal again.

MELANIE

I wish it was as you say my love. Promise me when I'm gone you will be strong and take care of our little daughter... she'll be alone in the world and will need you.

CARL

I don't want you go Melanie, my
life wouldn't be the same without
you. Why happiness lasts so little?
Oh God, please don't take her
she doesn't deserve to go yet.

MELANIE

(with great effort)

C a r l our A g n e. She n e e d s...

CARL

Don't worry about Agne my love.
Although it'll be difficult for
me to live without you, I'll
dedicate my life to her. She
will always remind me of you.

Her hand presses his softly.

MELANIE

K i s s me one more T i m e.

Carl gives her a long kiss, while her lifeless head slides
on his arm and her breath ceases away as she collapses.

Carl keeps holding her firmly in his arms with grief.
He screams loud now.

CARL

Melanie my love, don't go please.
Agne needs you. I need you.
Don't leave us.

He places her lifeless body on the couch, as he raises his hands
up in the air and screams widely.

CARL

(in a rage)

Why God? Why you're taking her
away? She is the only thing I have.
You are not a God of Mercy --

Then starts crying loud and wakes up Agne in the other room who
starts crying too.

INT. FRED' LAB - DAY

Fred is not in. Carl opens some drawers and finds the records of Melanie and shreds them.

As he walks around the lab he hears some distorted human voice and pauses to listen. But the voice stops.

As he searches for more records the voice starts again. He can hear it clearly now. It sounds like a plea.

He locates the source. It's outside the main lab room.

HALL OUTSIDE MAIN LAB - SAME TIME

Carl locates the spot. It's a door with a heavy padlock on. He wonders for a moment as he never saw this lock before.

CARL

Is anybody in there?

A moment's silence, then the voice starts again. It's a male voice.

VOICE

Please help us. We are trapped here.

CARL

Who are you? How did you get in?

VOICE

My wife and I were abducted.

CARL

Just a minute, I don't have a key
I have to break the lock.

Carl finally finds a heavy metal bar and starts hitting on the lock. The lock breaks and he opens the door.

CONSEALED ROOM - SAME TIME

The room is dark as Carl enters. He turns the light on and then leaves a horrifying sound at the view of a pair of dwarfs tied up in a bed side by side.

CARL

(excited)

What the hell is going on here?
Who are you people and what are
you doing here?

MALE DWARF

(imploring)

Please mister we beg you, let us
go home, we have a family there.
A bad man lured us here with a job
offer and made us sick with drugs.
My wife is been vomiting all night.
She needs a doctor.

Carl goes close and examines them. Both of them look terrible.

There is vomiting all over their beds. Their faces have no color.
The female's mouth looks terrible with dried vomit.

Carl cuts their ropes off and checks the female. He puts her in
a sitting position cleans her mouth and gives her some water.
At that moment Fred walks in the room.

At his appearance both dwarfs are frightened and leave a scream
of terror.

FRED

What are you doing here you son
of a bitch? Get the hell out of
my lab now. You don't belong here.

The dwarfs cower in a corner of the room and watch in fear.

CARL

(in rage)

You insane criminal bastard. You
resort to kidnapping innocent
victims to continue your work. So
that's why you kept the equipment?
You are not different than --

FRED

Than? Say it, your grandfather?
You don't deserve to be a member
of our family. You're weak.

CARL

It's better to be weak than
inhuman animal like all of you.

FRED

Listen Mr. University Professor.
When I was in Germany I was the same
as you are now. I had a family and
career dreams. Then I gave it all up
and followed your dream chasing father
when he came along with promises of
glory and recognition.

CARL

You should refuse, but you wanted it.

FRED

Nobody refuses that, only a pathetic
jerk like you. Now that I am close
to that dream you expect me to sit
back and watch you marry your
ex-dwarf and game over for me?

CARL

That ex-dwarf you mention is
dead now and my life is ruined.

FRED

Your very words disgust me idiot.
Science needs sacrifices. One
dies for a thousand to live.

CARL

In that case you should have
died there along my father.

This moment the dwarf couple make a run to the door but
Fred stops them and kicks the female on the ground.

Carl's tolerance ends here. He grabs Fred by the neck and
pushes him against the wall with anger. Fred trips and falls
knocking a table with some containers of inflammable chemicals.

His head crashes on the cement. Meantime a spark ignites some
chemicals and a fire starts.

The female dwarf leaves a screech of fear at the view.
Her husband embraces her for support.

Carl stands on top of his uncle with a pale face.
He checks his uncle's pulse and panics.

CARL

Oh God, he's dead, I killed
him. What am I going to do?

He looks desperate at the dwarfs.

CARL

You people are free to go.

As they leave the fire spreads in the room. Carl watches in horror
as he runs out of the building.

EXT. CEMETARY, MELANIE'S GRAVE - DAY

Carl pushes Agne's stroller near Melanie's grave.
Then he places a bouquet of flowers on it.

CARL

Agne my sweet girl, this is your
mommy's resting place. She loved
you very much. She didn't have the
chance to be with us longer. You
should always remember her.

Then Carl wipes some tears from his eye, as he stands next
to the fresh grave.

CARL

Oh my love, words can't describe
my feelings for you. I wish you
were still alive and be with us.
I need you for strength and
guidance. Goodbye love.

EXT. OUTSIDE CARL'S HOUSE - DAY

A SIGN FOR-SALE SITS ON THE LAWN as Carl drives away with Agne.

FADE OUT:

