

TURK ROCK

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MIDWEST - DAY (1977)

A seagull glides on an updraft, Great Lake Erie in the b.g. The seagull comes within earshot of a high school football field, high school band drummers are in practice.

The THUNDEROUS DRUM SOUND rises to the seagull. As the seagull continues to glide, the SOUND fades into...

EXT. LAKE ROAD - DAY

...a REVERBERATING SOUND coming from highly heated exhaust, discharging from two modified race cars. A brilliant black '66 SHELBY GT 350 and a red '68 PONTIAC FIREBIRD. Neither one is quite street legal.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

A hand grips the Hurst shifter.

SHELBY GT DRIVER (V.O.)
I said that the last run, would be
my last, but here I am again. I
can't shake this bad feeling.

EXT. LAKE ROAD - DAY

The '66 Shelby GT 350, edges up to the start point, next to the '68 Firebird that is in the left lane.

The FIREBIRD DRIVER, male, 20's, mullet hair, yells something through the window at the Shelby GT Driver, male, 21, long black hair and short beard. The Shelby GT Driver rolls up his window, eyes focussed on a TEEN with a large flashlight.

The Firebird Driver opens his door and gets out of his car. He points at the Shelby GT driver and again yells something at him. A bearded BIKER DUDE restrains him.

BIKER DUDE
(pointing)
Your fight is a quarter mile
straight ahead.

INT. '68 FIREBIRD - DAY

The Driver revs his engine into the tachometer's red zone.

INT. '66 SHELBY GT - DAY

This Driver, confident, laughs at the driver sitting in the '68 FIREBIRD, still focused forward on the flashlight.

EXT. LAKE ROAD - DAY - CARS TRAVELING

Stock-still... stock-still... BRIGHT LIGHT!

Both cars SCREAM off of the start!

The crowd that has gathered cheers but can barely be heard over the engines.

The Firebird takes a three car lead over the Shelby GT. Then the Firebird's clutch plate blows, launching shrapnel into it's unprotected fuel tank. The fuel tank EXPLODES! Flames shoot out into the path of the Shelby GT.

The Shelby GT pushes through the flames at a high speed, smoke curls behind the car.

Ahead there is an obstruction in the road...

...an old Pontiac hearse is stalled at an angle that blocks both lanes. The engine hood is up.

The Shelby GT fishtails to the right. The wide rear tires slip into a wet ditch, causing a giant muddy rooster tail.

The rear tires jump back on the road, propelling the car into a dizzying spin, directly into the path of the hearse.

Squawking muddy seagulls scatter in all directions.

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY (SEVEN YEARS EARLIER)

Squawking seagulls are seen outside an open window fighting over stale bread. A boy's hand shuts the window.

TONY FANTANZZA JR. nicknamed TURK, 14, Italian handsome. He is a little taller than other boys his age. Turk rushes back and forth making his lunch.

Turk wears a Gibson guitar T-shirt under a nice sports jacket and jeans. Turk would probably be able to get away with ordering 3.2 beer without being carded.

TONY FANTANZZA SR. 40, is Turk's father. He sports a USS Lowery Destroyer tatoo on his left forearm. He is dressed casual in a tasteful way.

Tony was a Navy man, now he's a business man. He owns an Italian Import/Export company. Tony reaches into the refrigerator for milk.

TONY

There's fresh fruit in here from the West Side Market.

TURK

Okay.

Tony brings an orange and a pear over to Turk's lunch bag. Turk tries to intercept.

TONY

There's no room in your lunch bag with all these candy bars.

TURK

Well one is for me and one is for Dianne.

TONY

What about the other two?

TURK

Those are for emergency purposes only.

TONY

And what is an emergency?

TURK

A pop quiz, a boring teacher, being late to class, things like that. So legally, I will be having only one, but of course that's gonna depend on the type of day that I have.

Turk takes his lunch bag in one hand and balances a large grocery bag with the other. He elbows the screen door open.

TONY

You're going to make a great lawyer someday, Turk.

EXT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

Turk looks back into the screen door.

TURK

Lawyer, no way, it's ROCK STAR or nothing.

EXT. MR. WALGRAVE'S HOUSE/NEXT DOOR - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Turk runs up the porch steps looking through the screen door.

TURK
Hi ya Mr. Walgrave, I got your
groceries.

INT. MR. WALGRAVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MR. WALGRAVE 60's, sits in a wheelchair. Once a big man, now only his trousers are big. He holds an oxygen mask in his lap, eyesight failing, and his lungs are being ravaged by cancer. He speaks in a low raspy voice.

MR. WALGRAVE
Come in, Turk.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A German Shepard puppy with big ears named PEPPY, attacks Turk's shoe. Turk trips and the bananas fall to the floor.

TURK
What's wrong with you mutt?

Peppy snatches the bananas; he drags them under the table.

TURK (CONT'D)
Are you nuts? Give those back.

Peppy puts up a fight, but Turk prevails.

TURK (CONT'D)
Dumb mutt.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mr. Walgrave pulls his oxygen mask down.

MR. WALGRAVE
Turk, could you bring me a glass of
orange juice?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Turk lowers the heat under a pan of oatmeal.

TURK
Sure.

Turk's in the refrigerator shaking an empty carton of orange juice. He then grabs three oranges, cuts two, and begins to squeeze them into a small glass.

Peppy gnaws on Turk's shoelace.

TURK (CONT'D)

Get off me, mutt. These are my new school shoes.

One of the oranges "accidently on purpose" rolls off the counter, onto Peppy's nose. He scampers out of the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mr. Walgrave takes his pills and reaches for the glass on the coffee table. But he can't see that the glass is empty.

MR. WALGRAVE

Turk... (hack)

TURK (O.S.)

Are you okay?

MR. WALGRAVE

Need some water.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Turk hurries in a glass of water to Mr. Walgrave, he chugs the water, spilling some on his face.

MR. WALGRAVE

Pills are too big.

TURK

I can cut them in half for you.

MR. WALGRAVE

Thanks Turk, but I just need to have water always nearby.

TURK

Are you ready for breakfast?

MR. WALGRAVE

You can bring it in.

Turk carries in a tray, setting it down on the coffee table. He hands Mr. Walgrave the glass of orange juice with a straw.

Turk has a cool damp washcloth and blots Mr. Walgrave's face.

TURK

I put cinnamon on your oatmeal like you like it.

MR. WALGRAVE

Thank you, Turk.

TURK

When is your nurse coming?

MR. WALGRAVE

Couple hours.

TURK

How 'bout if I stay until she comes?

MR. WALGRAVE

No need, Turk.

TURK

Are you sure? It's no big deal, I'll only miss one class.

MR. WALGRAVE

I'll be okay, really. If you could just turn the radio on the news, and leave me another glass of water before you go.

TURK

Sure.

Turk snaps on an old radio to a news station.

INT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - WEST HALL - DAY

The P.A. System announces the daily school news.

Turk walks with his girlfriend DIANNE 13, a pretty blonde with deep blue eyes. She is dressed modestly but has a flair for fashion.

TURK

Are you playing soccer this year?

DIANNE

Yes, on Saturdays.

Turk clips a soccer ball key chain onto Dianne's purse.

TURK

I bought this for you at the store
yesterday.

DIANNE

This is cool, thanks.

There is a disturbance coming from the North Hall. It sparks
Turk's interest.

INT. NORTH HALL - DAY

GUS MULLER, 16, known as MULE, is one of the school's hot
shot basketball players. Mule and his CRONY, 15, are bullying
a new boy, TOMMY KAHANA 13, who has a thin frame.

Tommy has just moved here from a North Dakota Indian
Reservation and is dressed the part.

INT. NORTH HALL - DAY

Turk hands a book to Dianne.

TURK

Two on one, you're a real tuff guy
aren't you, Mule?

Students try to avoid this ongoing bravado.

MULE

Shut up Turk, or you'll be next.

With half his sports jacket off, Turk snatches a crank type
pencil sharpener from the wall. With an arm like Nolan Ryan,
he throws the pencil sharpener left handed at Mule, hitting
him hard in his back. And it stings.

TURK

No, I don't think so.

Mule shoots Turk a look, as a large male teacher grabs Mule.

Dianne adjusts Turk's sports jacket and fixes his collar.

DIANNE

Come on Turk, let's go.

TURK

That guy has always been a jerk,
even before he was on the
basketball team.

DIANNE
I know that, but if you get
involved, you'll get into trouble.

TURK
Mule is brave when his friends are
around or when he sneaks Mad Dog
into the school.

DIANNE
Mad Dog, what is that?

TURK
It's cheap wine that get's you high
fast.

DIANNE
How do you know that he brings it
in the school?

TURK
Seen him in the john.

DIANNE
Please just stay away from him,
alright?

Class bell rings.

Glen Campbell's "Wichita Lineman" guitar solo begins...

TURK
Gotta go.

INT. MR. WALGRAVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Turk is playing a perfectly pitched guitar solo, "Wichita
Lineman," on his electric guitar, now coming to the end.

TURK
How did ya like that?

MR. WALGRAVE
Sounded like Mr. Campbell was right
here in my living room. Even Peppy
liked it.

TURK
Can I get you anything before I go
home?

MR. WALGRAVE
 Just my blanket, and turn the music
 on for me.

Turk turns the radio on and places a blanket on Mr.
 Walgrave's lap.

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - TURK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Turk is in a restless sleep, he kicks his blanket off.

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE:

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - HALL - NIGHT

Turk is three years old, in pajamas, walking down a long
 hall. Both arms hug the neck of his acoustic guitar. He peeks
 into a partially opened door.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A dim fluorescent light flickers above a crucifix. Along
 side, a child's crayon drawing of a little stick figure with
 a guitar and two larger stick figures dancing.

Below this light, a hospital type bed. The bed is occupied by
 a young woman, 25. This is RUTH FANTANZZA, Turk's mother. Too
 young to be in this type of bed.

A Holter early version heart monitor is flat lining a
 continuous feed of graph paper, curling into a pile.

TURK
 Ma, I learned some of a new song.

Sitting on a footstool, Turk plays the "first six guitar
 notes" from The Doors "The Spy." He stops, then climbs onto
 the bed.

TURK (CONT'D)
 Ma, wake up. Don't you want to hear
 me play my song?

Turk wipes his nose on his pajama sleeve.

TURK (CONT'D)
 Ma, please wake up.

He then lays down besides his mother.

At bedside, a beautiful WOMAN appears. This is Ruth Fantanzzza's SPIRIT. She caresses Turk's hair and kisses his forehead. Ruth's Spirit whispers into Turk's ear.

RUTH'S SPIRIT

I have already heard you play your songs amongst great gatherings all over the world. I promise you that you will be very happy.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - TURK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Turk awakens as Tony's black Shelby GT is heard O.S.

INT. THREE CAR GARAGE - DAY

Tony parks his Shelby GT between a new black Ford pick-up truck and a black Ford Econoline van. The van has gold lettering on the side panel which reads: "FANTANZZA INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS."

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

On the brick wall there is a large poster of a stage leading out to an audience. It is surrounded by smaller posters of rock bands and lead guitarists.

With his electric guitar on, Turk adjusts the amplifier. He begins to play ZZ Top's "Fool For Your Stockings."

He sounds great, makes a mistake, then stops. He turns his large reel to reel tape player on and adjusts the equalizer to fade out the lead guitar of the same song. Turk begins to play again.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Tony walks down the stairs carrying a Driscoll's Music bag. He stops midway and sits on a step.

TONY

That's sounding pretty good, Turk.

TURK

Made a mistake, I hate that.

TONY

How long have you been practicing that song?

TURK

I heard it on the radio a lot of times, and I recorded it last Sunday.

TONY

I like it.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Tony moves over to the sofa.

TURK

What's in the bag?

TONY

I bought you that Maestro Fuzz Tone that you've been looking at.

TURK

You're kidding, man this is gonna be great. Thanks a lot dad.

TONY

Didn't think your old man knew about this kind of stuff, did you?

Turk laughs and plugs the fuzz box in. He plays the guitar riff from Iron Butterfly's "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida."

TURK

Oh yeah, oh yeah, this is great!

Tony gets up and walks to the stairs.

TURK (CONT'D)

Hey dad, do you think I'll be famous?

TONY

You know what, I actually believe you will.

Turk scrunches up the empty bag with a grin.

EXT. ADAMS AVE. - DAY

Turk scrunches up a bakery bag, giving Dianne the last cookie as they walk to school.

DIANNE
These are good.

Dianne sees a bull dog who is barking up an apple tree.

DIANNE (CONT'D)
Maybe there's a cat up there.

TURK
No, look towards the top, that's Tommy Kahana up there. That guy can't ever catch a break.

DIANNE
He's probably trying to get an apple for lunch. I've never seen him with a lunch bag or a hot lunch in the cafeteria.

Turk grabs a rock left handed, then slings it at the bull dog, hitting its nose. It yelps and runs behind a house.

DIANNE (CONT'D)
I didn't think you were going to hurt it. I thought you were just going to scare it.

TURK
I did scare it.

Dianne gives Turk a disapproving look, one of many to come.

Tommy jumps down from the tree, his pant leg torn. He gives Turk a shy wave and runs to school empty handed.

Turk glances back at the tree, then grabs Dianne's hand.

TURK (CONT'D)
Runnnnn!

A second larger bull dog is chasing after Turk and Dianne.

Dianne SCREAMS!

TURK (CONT'D)
Keep running.

Turk grabs a garbage can on the fly and whips it behind his back... BANG!

TURK (CONT'D)
Run faster, that stupid dog is
still coming.

INT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

Turk has Dianne by the waist with one hand, with the other he slams the door behind them. The bull dog is outside barking. Turk and Dianne are laughing hysterically.

Turk opens the door a crack and teases the bull dog with his folder.

TURK
Here dog, bite on this.

The bull dog latches onto the folder and Turk desperately tries to pull it back in. But the bull dog rips the folder out of Turk's hands, tearing it to pieces.

TURK (CONT'D)
Stupid dog!

DIANNE
Where did he come from?

TURK
I think it's the other dog's big
brother. He ate my homework.

Dianne wipes her tears of laughter. Class bell RINGS.

TURK (CONT'D)
Now I'm gonna have to redo that
whole English assignment. I hate
that.

Dianne begins laughing again.

INT. WEST HALL - DAY

Turk walks to class as TWO GIRLS walk towards him, smiling.

TWO GIRLS
Hel-lo Turk Rock.

Turk smiles, continues walking. He glances out the window and sees Mule stuffing a flat bottle of Mad Dog down his pants. Mule glares at Turk. Turk dismisses the look and walks on.

INT. LUNCH ROOM - DAY

Tommy sits at an empty lunch table without lunch, paging through an old torn hot rod magazine. Turk slides his lunch bag to Tommy, startling him.

TOMMY

Oh... thanks Turk.

Turk nods. He sees Dianne and sits with her. She gives him half her sandwich.

TURK

Peanut butter and jelly, cool.

DIANNE

(gestures with eyes)

Turk.

Mule stares intently at Turk from across the room.

TURK

I see him.

DIANNE

Please, stay away from him. He's nothing but trouble.

TURK

Like I forgot you telling me that about a thousand times already.

Dianne gives Turk one of those cute disapproving looks.

In the b.g. dishes slam into the cafeteria dishwasher.

EXT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

Dinner plates slam on the picnic table. Tony rushes over to the barbecue grill. He snuffs out a small grease fire from the Italian sausage cooking.

TURK

That smells good. Hey dad, can you take me downtown later?

TONY

What's going on?

TURK

Remember I called about the audition with Dominic and the Hurricanes?

TONY
Yes, last month.

TURK
Well, it's tonight at six.

TONY
Tonight? Thanks for the notice.
I'll have to call the guys and tell
them to come a little later for our
poker game.

TURK
Thanks. Do you also remember you
said I could join a rock band when
I was old enough?

TONY
Did I say that?

TURK
Yeah, I got it on my tape recorder.

TONY
What else do you have on that tape
recorder?

TURK
(grinning)
Just music.

TONY
Go ahead and eat, I'll call Gene
before he leaves work.

TURK
Yeah, tell him the card game is
next year.

TONY
Why, don't you like him?

TURK
He's okay, but all he wants to talk
about is baseball. He's always
asking me why I don't play.

TONY
Well, he is a baseball coach.

TURK
I know that, but he says guitar
playing is a waste of time.

TONY
We know better, don't we?

The Rolling Stones "Little Red Rooster" plays...

TURK
Yeah we do.

INT. DRISCOLS MUSIC STORE - BASEMENT - DUSK

"Little Red Rooster" emanates from Studio #1...

The door to Studio #2 is open. Standing with a microphone in his hand is DOMINIC DRISCOL, 19, good looking, well groomed long hair.

Turk enters the studio.

DOMINIC
Turk you made it, welcome.

TURK
Hey.

DOMINIC
Well first, let me introduce you to the band. Over there on base is ROBBY ALLEN, back behind the drums is MALLO, that's when he shows up. And LUKE on...

Mallo TAPS on the snare drum.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
(glances at Mallo)
...as I was saying, LUKE ESSEX on lead guitar, and I'm the vocals, keyboards, and the leader of this band that can fire anyone at anytime.

Robby and Luke laugh at Mallo.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
When you're ready, just plug in.

TURK
Here?

DOMINIC
That's good. Turk, we'll start with Mountain's "Mississippi Queen."
Luke will lead.

The band begins. Dominic monitors Turk from a chair in back of the studio. The song just starts sounding good, then...

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
Stop, switch. Turk lead on Lennon's
"Cold Turkey."

Turk wasn't expecting this, but he switches with ease. He plays a great lead.

INT. SHELBY GT - NIGHT

The Cleveland Indians ball game plays on the car's radio. Turk buckles the guitar case into the backseat safety belt.

TONY
Well, how did it go?

TURK
Great, Dominic said I have a definite future in music. He gave me this list of songs to learn and wants me to come back in two weeks.

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The Cleveland Indians game plays on the radio.

Tony is dealing cards to GENE, the baseball coach, 40's. Cousin Danny is a quiet 20 and CAPTAIN PHIL 40's, wears a USS Lowery Destroyer ball cap.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Turk walks in the front door; it SLAMS shut!

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The money pot is full; Captain Phil throws in the call.

TONY
Turk, is that you?

TURK (O.S.)
Yeah, dad.

TONY
How is it that you always come in late on poker night?

TURK (O.S.)
I don't know dad, it just seems to
work out that way.

Poker players laugh.

Turk appears at the kitchen entrance glancing at the money on the table. Gene's long, lanky arms grabs Turk and puts him in a headlock. Turk breaks away and steals Gene's pretzels.

GENE
You going to play ball with us this
season, Turk? We could use that
power arm of yours.

TURK
(to Gene)
How come you always ask me that?
(to Tony) I see you're winning,
dad.

Gene tries to grab Turk again, just missing him.

TURK (CONT'D)
Where's all your money, Gene?

Gene gives Turk an irritated look. Too late, Turk is already walking to the basement door.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Turk straps on his electric guitar.

TURK
Spotlight please.

Turk clicks on an auto trouble light clamped to the ceiling.

TURK (CONT'D)
Hello New York, are you ready to
rock and roll?

Turk turns on the large reel to reel tape player. He adjusts the equalizer to fade out Jimmy Page's guitar lead from Led Zeppelin's "Since I've Been Loving You." Turk begins to play.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Up through the air ducts a deep soulful guitar sound is heard. Gene turns the volume up on the radio trying to hear the final score of the Indians game.

CAPTAIN PHIL

Tony, is that Turk playing his guitar?

TONY

Yes, always. The only time I don't hear him is if he's sleeping or in school.

CAPTAIN PHIL

He really sounds good. How long has he been playing?

TONY

He started around three years old.

CAPTAIN PHIL

You may have a rock star on your hands.

TONY

Probably, that's what he wants.
(to Gene) Your deal, Gene.

GENE

I'm out, it's getting late.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Turk tunes his guitar before coming upstairs, then snaps the light off.

INT. DRISCOLS MUSIC STORE - BASEMENT - STUDIO #2 - NIGHT

It's dark, Turk reaches for the light switch, snaps it on. Luke is sitting in the dark tuning his guitar.

LUKE

Hey man, how you doing?

TURK

Real good.

Dominic walks in with a new microphone and stand.

DOMINIC

The show is about to begin. First song, 10 Years After's "I'm Going Home." Turk, I want you to lead.

TURK

Sure thing.

Turk is psyched, he begins, the band follows. Turk gives everything he has to this song.

Dominic leans against the wall, he is awestruck at Turk's exhibition. He looks around to the band, all are in agreement, with nods and thumbs up.

EXT. DRISCOLS MUSIC STORE - NIGHT

Turk is stoked, walking past the Shelby.

INT. SHELBY GT - NIGHT

Tony BEEPS the car horn.

TONY
Where were...

TURK
I'm in! I'm in!

TONY
That's great. I figured you would be.

Turk clicks his guitar case into the back seat safety-belt.

TURK
How'd you know?

TONY
Well, you've have been playing that guitar all of your life.

TURK
It's rhythm guitar and sometimes lead. If everything goes right, I'll be full time lead guitar when Luke moves to California.

TONY
Well, lead guitar is what you wanted, right?

TURK
Yeah.

TONY
Now, how are you going to get to the practices, when I'm not home?

TURK

I'll just drive your truck.

TONY

Sure you will, at fourteen you're going to drive.

TURK

I'll be fifteen in a month. Besides, people say I look older than my age. And I know how to drive.

TONY

I know you know how to drive, I taught you. But no matter how old you look, legally you can't drive by yourself for another year.

TURK

Yeah, that's a bummer. Mallo, who plays the drums, said if I ever needed a lift, just call him. He only lives a few blocks away.

TONY

Well then, you're all set. But one thing I do want to remind you of, is when it comes to Mr. Walgrave, you can't promise him that you'll be over and not show up. He's counting on you.

TURK

I know he is, that's no problem.

INT. LINCOLN PARK BALL ROOM - STAGE - NIGHT

Dominic and the Hurricanes finish a song, audience applauds. Dominic covers the microphone and slides over to Luke.

DOMINIC

I would like Turk to lead on the next song.

LUKE

I guess so, but if I wasn't leaving for California, I'd have a problem with that.

Dominic laughs, moving back to center stage, placing the microphone into its stand.

DOMINIC
Thank you Cleveland! This audience
is great. I would like to give a
special introduction to our newest
member, on guitar, Turk Fantanza!

Audience applauds.

THREE FEMALE AUDIENCE MEMBERS
Turk Rock, we love you!

DOMINIC
Must be family.

Audience laughs.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
Well, since you love Turk so much,
he will be playing lead on Ted
Nugent's "Stranglehold" next. Only
he doesn't know it yet.

Audience applauds.

THREE FEMALE AUDIENCE MEMBERS
Go Turk Rock!

Turk looks at Dominic like a deer caught in the headlights of
a ten ton R.V. Dominic looks at Turk, slowly nods, passing on
confidence across the stage.

Turk moves to center stage, spotlight comes on. He looks to
the audience, then begins Ted Nugent's "Stranglehold."

INT. LINCOLN PARK BALL ROOM - NIGHT

As the crow flies, we slowly back up over the audience, over
the balcony, through the window...

EXT. LINCOLN PARK BALL ROOM - NIGHT

"Stranglehold" fades out.

Deep Purple's "When A Blind Man Cries" begins...

We continue to back out over the parking lot, over trees,
over houses, and finally over Mr. Walgrave's house.

INT. MR. WALGRAVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

"When A Blind Man Cries" continues...

Mr. Walgrave is in his wheelchair, a blanket in his lap, Peppy sleeping at his feet. From an open window, there is laughter from a neighbors birthday celebration filtering in. Mr. Walgrave listens, eyes moist.

INT. MR. WALGRAVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A continuous KNOCKING comes from the front door. Mr. Walgrave wakes up.

TURK (O.S.)

Mr. Walgrave, it's me. The door is locked.

MR. WALGRAVE

Come around back, Turk.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Turk enters the living room, feeling a little guilty.

TURK

I'm sorry I didn't come over last night to play you a song. I forgot to tell you we were playing at Lincoln Park.

Peppy is behind the sofa. Turk grabs his tail.

MR. WALGRAVE

Do you like playing your guitar in front of people?

TURK

Yeah, as long as I don't make any mistakes.

MR. WALGRAVE

You'll do fine, Turk.

TURK

Do you want oatmeal or would you like scrambled eggs this morning?

MR. WALGRAVE

I'm not hungry. Turk on the kitchen table there is a cigar box, bring it to me.

Mr. Walgrave coughs into a white handkerchief, leaving a black bloody spot.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Turk grabs the cigar box.

TURK
Man, this box is heavy.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mr. Walgrave's trembling hand opens the lid of the cigar box, feeling around inside.

MR. WALGRAVE
Come by my side Turk. I enjoyed
collecting coins when I was young.

TURK
Wow, this one is from 1898.

MR. WALGRAVE
My father gave me that one.

TURK
There's medals with ribbons in
here, too.

"Amazing Grace" with bagpipes plays low, then rises...

MR. WALGRAVE
Those were given to me during the
war. Turk I want you to have my
collection.

TURK
You're kidding me.

MR. WALGRAVE
I can't see them anymore, so I will
never enjoy them again.

TURK
Maybe your eyesight will come back.

MR. WALGRAVE
Turk, my eyesight will never come
back. It would make me happy if you
took them.

TURK
Thank you a lot, Mr. Walgrave.

MR. WALGRAVE

You're welcome. Why don't you take them home and put them in a safe place. I'm very tired Turk, I just want to go to sleep.

TURK

Your nurse is coming today, right?

MR. WALGRAVE

Not today. Turk, my brother-in-law is coming in the morning, so you don't have to come by.

Turk thinks that's odd.

TURK

Then I'll see you tomorrow night for sure.

No response.

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - TURK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Turk dumps the box of coins on his bed and starts to separate the gold from the silver. He glances at the clock.

TURK

Man, I'm gonna be late.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Turk looks out the window, black clouds moving in, and it's starting to rain. Turk grabs his windbreaker.

EXT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Turk stops walking, spins around to Mr. Walgrave's house.

TURK

My lunch bag.

EXT. MR. WALGRAVE'S HOUSE - FENCED BACKYARD - DAY

Turk opens the gate and sees Peppy, soaking wet, shivering in the corner behind a bush.

TURK

Peppy what ya doing out here?

Turk accidentally steps on a rotten tomato. Inside this smashed tomato, a smashed wiggling worm. Turk scrapes his shoe off on the grass, he sees many more worms on other rotten tomatoes.

Turk dry-heaves, holding onto the fence.

EXT. MR. WALGRAVE'S HOUSE - BACK PORCH - DAY

Turk takes a deep breath, then reaches for the screen door.

TWO METALLIC CLICKS are heard O.S.

INT. MR. WALGRAVE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN ENTRANCE - DAY

Turk turns to a **DEAFENING LOUD BLAST!!!**

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Turk has collapsed to the floor. Red droplets cover his windbreaker. Blood drips from Turk's right ear.

Turk dry-heaves violently!

Turk, eyes tightly closed, reaches for the screen door, tries to open it, but can't. He shakes the door handle and in desperation he pushes the screen out, tumbling out.

Mr. Walgrave's clothes are blood soaked. We don't see above his shoulders, but we do see his arm hanging over the side of the wheelchair. His thumb is caught on the two triggers of a double-barrel shotgun.

Turk has just witnessed the violent suicide of Mr. Walgrave.

Neil Young's "Don't Let It Bring You Down" plays...

EXT. FANTANZZA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Tony's company van is parked at a hurried angle.

EXT. MR. WALGRAVE'S HOUSE - DAY

The morning light dims in the storm. The wind is strong and the rain hurts. A flash of lightning crosses the sky.

Multiple flashes of light come from inside Mr. Walgrave's shattered kitchen window.

EXT. BACK PORCH - DAY

A police officer carrying a Polaroid camera nods to Ambulance Attendant #1.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ambulance Attendants #1 and #2 maneuver a gurney with Mr. Walgrave's covered body down to the curb.

The wind blows the cover off of Mr. Walgrave's body. Attendant #2 speedily covers the body back up.

Another gust of wind blows the cover off again. The wind is insistent on showing us the face of death. But Mr. Walgrave's face can no longer be seen, it is wrapped separately in a white bloodied towel, set slightly off center.

Attendant #2 covers the body again, as Attendant #1 opens the back doors of the ambulance.

EXT. BOND STREET - DAY

Through the heavy downpour there are RED and BLUE LIGHTS FLASHING. Trucks and cars slow down.

EXT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - FENCED BACKYARD - NEXT DAY

Turk has taken over the care of Peppy leading him through his gate.

TURK

See ya later, Peppy.

INT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - LUNCH ROOM - DAY

A couple of basketball players throw a basketball back and forth across the tables. No monitors today.

Turk and Dianne are having a quiet lunch.

DIANNE

Did you tell anyone what happened?

TURK

Just the police, my dad and you.

DIANNE

You look tired.

TURK

I think it was my fault.

DIANNE

Why would you ever say that?

TURK

I should of been at Mr. Walgrave's house, playing him a song like I always did. Instead of playing at Lincoln Park.

DIANNE

It's not your fault. You helped him every day. No one else would've ever done that.

TURK

They say... they say if you kill yourself, you go to Hell.

DIANNE

Your ear, it's bleeding.

Turk takes a napkin and blots his ear.

Sitting behind Turk is a handsome, young Robert Redford type, 16, LOUDMOUTH. He smacks his lips while eating.

LOUDMOUTH

(to a male student)

I'm telling you, that's how you get a girl into bed. Laura was only fourteen. I can make it with any girl in this school if I want.

Turk overhearing this, loses it. He grabs a ceramic dish, jumps up, and smashes it on the table in front of Loudmouth!

Students scatter!

TURK

YOU PROUD OF YOURSELF FOR TAKING A FOURTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL TO BED?! YOU STINKING PIG! YOU EVEN FEED LIKE A PIG!

All the students are frozen, mouths agape.

Turk fiercely flips the table over on Loudmouth, then leaves the lunch room.

DIANNE

Oh my, Turk...

EXT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - FLAG POLE - DAY

Turk is sitting on a bench, blotting his ear with a napkin. Tommy approaches Turk from behind.

TOMMY

Turk, are you alright?

Turk's bloodshot eyes look up at Tommy.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Here's some cold apple juice, maybe it will help.

TURK

Thanks Tommy.

TOMMY

I read about Mr. Walgrave in the newspaper. I'm sorry, I knew he was your friend, and you took care of him.

Turk gulps the apple juice then stares off into the distance.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I'm not sure why, but ever since I came to this school, you have helped me many times. I thought maybe if I could help you in some way.

TURK

If you could find Dianne and tell her that I'm out here, I'd appreciate that.

Dianne is standing a few feet behind Tommy.

DIANNE

Turk.

TURK

Oh, you're here.

DIANNE

You scared me.

TURK

I'm sorry. That guy is nothing but an arrogant school rapist... and this ringing pain in my ear just doesn't stop, I can't stand it.

Tommy backs away.

DIANNE
 Couldn't you go to a doctor?

TURK
 Yeah, I suppose so. I'm not going
 back into school.

DIANNE
 Then I'm not either.

Turk has his arm around Dianne as they walk away from school.

EXT. ADAMS AVE. - DAY

A '57 CHEVY CONVERTIBLE squeals around the corner past Turk and Dianne. There are three older teenage boys, two in the front, one in the back seat, carousing, drinking beer.

BACKSEAT BOY
 Hey rock freak, have a beer.

Backseat Boy heaves a half can of beer at Turk and Dianne. Turk instantly steps in front of Dianne, knocking it down.

Turk grabs a rock, ready to sling it, when a gentle hand touches Turk's arm. He turns around.

DIANNE
 You can't take on the whole world,
 Turk.

Turk lets the rock drop and they continue walking.

DIANNE (CONT'D)
 Do you know there weren't any
 teachers in the lunch room when
 that happened. When the teachers
 did come in and asked the students
 what went on, no one said a word.

TURK
 Really?

Turk starts to laugh.

DIANNE
 Why are you laughing?

Turk points across the street. The bull dog that chased Tommy up the apple tree has a white bandage on it's nose.

DIANNE (CONT'D)
That's not... (laughing) funny.

INT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - WEST HALL - NEXT DAY

Dianne closes her locker and turns around. Turk has a birthday gift in his outstretched hand.

TURK
Happy Birthday!

DIANNE
Thank you, can I open it now?

TURK
Sure, go ahead.

Dianne carefully unwraps the orange flower gift paper.

DIANNE
Oh this is beautiful, a snow globe
and music box, I love it.

In a blur someone abruptly cuts between them.

Ram Jam's "Black Betty" plays...

SERIES OF SHOTS

- The snow globe slowly falls to the floor, cracks and water trickles out.

- A flat bottle of Mad Dog slowly falls to the floor, cracks and purple wine trickles out.

- Turk's airborne black leather jacket slowly falls to the floor.

INT. NORTH HALL - DAY

Turk has just tackled Mule into the drinking fountain. It breaks off the wall, crashing to the floor, shattering. Water gushes out of the broken water pipe.

Turk is on top of Mule punching him relentlessly. A MALE TEACHER grabs Turk's arm and Mule throws his fist into Turk's nose. Turk snaps his arm back in extreme anger.

TURK
(to teacher)
GET OFF ME!

Mule grabs Turk's shirt, Turk knocks Mule's hand away and throws a jab into Mule's mouth, busting his front tooth.

Turk has gone dark. With all of Turk's strength, he grabs Mule's hair, slamming his head into the tile floor.

TURK (CONT'D)

Tuff guy huh, tough guy huh?!

TEACHER

Stop it! You're going to kill him!

DIANNE

Stop Turk, please!

INT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

RED and BLUE FLASHING LIGHTS radiate through the schools windows. Three police officers burst through the front doors!

INT. NORTH HALL - DAY

A tall police officer grabs Turk, but slips on the wet floor. Turk goes after Mule again, but he is grabbed from behind.

INT. NORTH HALL - DAY

The broken water pipe continues to pour water onto the tile. A teacher tries to shut the valve off, holding a rag over the dissipating water flow.

INT. WEST HALL - DAY

A girl wipes Dianne's flowing tears with a tissue.

Tommy picks up Turks jacket and the cracked snow globe.

TOMMY

Dianne, I'll take this home and fix it for you.

Dianne nods to Tommy.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

It is "bad spirits" that torture Turk. My grandfather told me when I was little that "bad spirits" will remain in a person, as long as the person embraces them.

(MORE)

TOMMY (CONT'D)
Turk is punishing himself, maybe
because of Mr. Walgrave.

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Tony is cooking hamburgers on the stove.

TURK
I guess you're ticked, right?

No response.

TURK (CONT'D)
I had no choice.

TONY
There is always a choice Turk.

TURK
I wasn't gonna let Mule hurt Dianne
or trash her gift.

TONY
I understand what you're saying,
but you didn't have to do it in the
school.

TURK
Yeah, but...

TONY
...no buts, you could of been in
serious trouble with the police and
the school.

TURK
What's gonna happen now?

TONY
The police are not going to charge
you. But the school wants both of
you to pay for all the damages.

Tony sits down across from Turk at the kitchen table.

TONY (CONT'D)
Turk, you have a gift playing music
on that guitar. You need to get
your temper under control. Because
if there is a next time, you may
get hurt. Possibly bad enough that
you'd never be able to play your
guitar again.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Turk cuts out the obituary photo of Mr. Walgrave from the newspaper. He tapes the photo onto the large stage poster near other taped photos in the audience section.

INT. DRISCOLS MUSIC STORE - STUDIO #2 - NIGHT

Luke is laying in a recliner, Turk walks in.

LUKE

Hey Turk, what's up?

Dominic and Robby roll in a large Marshall amplifier.

DOMINIC

Turk, did Luke tell you?

TURK

Tell me what?

DOMINIC

Spooky Tooth are going to be playing at the Cleveland Agora, and they asked us to open for them.

TURK

Really, when?

DOMINIC

A week from this Saturday, which means we'll have practice just about every night.

TURK

That's great!

DOMINIC

I want to hold off on playing any of the songs we wrote until we can fine tune them.

TURK

Oh, okay.

DOMINIC

Why, is there one that you wanted to play?

TURK

Not necessarily, at least not yet. I wrote two songs in study hall today that I wanted you to look at.

DOMINIC
 Alright, after the Agora.

INT. AGORA BALL ROOM - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Dominic, Robby, Luke, Mallo, and Turk sit around a table. Turk is wiping his guitar strings with a cloth repetitively.

DOMINIC
 Turk, your going to wear out your strings before you ever get out on stage.

The band members laugh, including Turk.

The newest member of the band finally appears. Hanging from his neck, a back stage pass, with a lettered orange vest: "SECURITY." Peppy has a job with the band.

DOMINIC (CONT'D)
 There's a large crowd out there, but it's no different than Lincoln Park. We know all these songs that we're going to play.

Each band member lays hands on Peppy's head.

BAND MEMBERS
 The eagles fly high, but the Hurricanes fly higher. Yeah!

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mike Harrison of Spooky Tooth stops Dominic and the band. He thanks them for opening for them.

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Peppy walks out on the stage checking for security breaches. A spot light comes on Peppy and the front row girlfriends applaud. Peppy sits at attention.

The spotlight moves over to the center stage microphone and Peppy walks over to it, then sits at attention again.

The girlfriends and audience applauds, someone whistles. The spotlight is turned off, overhead lights go red.

The band walks out on stage. The audience begins their full applause. Spotlight on Dominic.

DOMINIC

Hello Cleveland! Rumor has it, that
Cleveland has the best audiences in
the world!

Audience cheers.

Spot lights come on each band member. Peppy sits very close to Turk in the spotlight. Luke begins the lead from The James Gang's "Funk #49." Dominic on vocals, Turk on rhythm.

Turk needs room to move around, so he slides Peppy over with his foot. Peppy moves back over to Turk in the spotlight. Turk slides Peppy over again. Peppy moves back to Turk, unties his shoe, then starts to chew on his shoe lace.

Turk keeps in time with the band, as he tries to shake Peppy off his shoe. Turk looks to Crewman #1 for help.

Crewman #1 has Peppy by his hind legs trying to drag him off the stage. Crewman #2 helps with beef jerky, it works.

INT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Turk and Dianne stand in line for a hot lunch.

DIANNE

My sister and her boyfriend said
that you guys were fantastic
Saturday night at the Agora.

TURK

It really went well. They asked us
to come back. When they do, I'll
sneak you in the back door.

DIANNE

I can't wait. Look, your favorite
today, pizza burgers.

TURK

Yeah, oh I won't be able to walk
you home tonight. I have to make up
the science test that I missed.

DIANNE

That's fine.

EXT. SCIENCE ROOM - DAY

The room is dark, and the door is locked. So Turk leaves.

EXT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - BASEBALL FIELD - SIDEWALK - DAY

Mule is sharing a bottle of Mad Dog with his Crony. Dianne has to pass by them to get home.

DIANNE
(to herself)
I wish Turk was here.

Mule has a drunken smile on, revealing his chipped tooth.

MULE
Look, here comes the little
princess.

CRONY
Mule, give her some wine.

MULE
Here little princess, hav'a slug of
Mad Dog. It'll make you forget
about your crazed boyfriend.

Dianne ignores them.

Mule gives the bottle to his Crony and lights up a cigarette, then jumps in front of Dianne.

MULE (CONT'D)
Don't you like our company, little
princess?

DIANNE
Get out of my way.

MULE
Not without sharing our wine.

CRONY
Let's take her over to the
bleachers Mule.

Mule is insistent, placing the Mad Dog in front of her face. Dianne grabs the bottle and slams it on the sidewalk.

MULE
Hey, why did you do that?

CRONY
Now she's got to pay for that, one
way or another.

Mule grabs Dianne's arm. She struggles to pull away.

EXT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT SIDEWALK - DAY

Rapid THUDS of dress shoes run across a sidewalk.

EXT. ADAMS AVE. - DAY

Rapid CRUNCHING of dress shoes run across a gravel road. Wheels of a Chevy pick-up truck lock and come to a sliding stop, next to the dress shoes. A hand comes into view picking up a fist size rock.

EXT. JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL - BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Same rock is sailing through the blue sky... SMACK!

CRONY

Ah man!

The Crony covers his eye, blood drips down his cheek.

MULE

It's that crazed boyfriend of hers.

Turk is running all out.

TURK

Run Dianne, run across the street!

Mule still has a hold of Dianne, but she is a great soccer ball kicker and kicks Mule in his most delicate location.

Dianne runs across the street, near a NEIGHBOR LADY.

CRONY

Mule use your blade, cut him up.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Turk's hand swoops down and picks up a two by four from the ground, carrying it over his shoulder, running towards Mule.

Turk changes position of the two by four into a lower jousting position, ramming it hard into Mule's midsection.

Mule goes down, holds on to the two by four. Turk jerks it back as the Crony grabs Turk from behind. Turk swings around jamming the two by four into the Crony's good eye.

Turk swings around again to smack Mule, but Mule knocks the two by four out of Turk's hands, out of reach.

MULE

This is your end, Turk.

Mule snaps open a switchblade, he passes it back and forth between hands, which he has surely seen in the movies.

Mule is so drunk, that he passes the switchblade to his opposite hand and it flies into the street.

Mule sees the broken Mad Dog bottle, grabs it and tries to slash Turk. Turk jumps back, loses his balance, falling backwards onto concrete rubble, rebar wires sticking out.

MULE (CONT'D)

You freak...

FLASHING RED LIGHTS are coming up the street.

First Police Car comes up fast behind Mule with the drivers door open, knocking Mule down.

POLICE OFFICER #1 handcuffs Mule.

Dianne and a NEIGHBOR MAN run to Turk's aid.

TURK

Can't move.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - BLEACHERS - DAY

Second Police Car has the Crony trapped against the fence. POLICE OFFICER #2 grabs him by his long hair and shirt collar. He pulls the Crony over the hood, handcuffing him.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

The Neighbor Man and Dianne carefully help Turk off of the construction debris. The Neighbor Man sees that the back of Turk's shirt is bloody with several puncture holes in it.

TURK

Man, I didn't think that this was going to happen.

DIANNE

You'll be alright, don't worry.

Police Officer #1 leads Mule to his police car.

MULE

Good for you.

Mule kicks gravel from a pile towards Turk and Dianne. The Neighbor Man shields them.

Police Officer #1 grabs Mule forcefully, leading him into his police car.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Watch your head.

Police Officer #1 "accidently on purpose" miscalculates the back door opening.

CRACK! Mule's head hits hard on the back door frame. Mule seems not to have been attentive to the Police Officer's instructions.

POLICE OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)
So sorry, you should be more careful.

NEIGHBOR LADY
The knife is in the street.

POLICE OFFICER #1
I see it.

NEIGHBOR LADY
I called an ambulance.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Good. Where was he stabbed?

NEIGHBOR MAN
No, he fell on rebar wire. I was a medic in Nam, it looks like he may have internal bleeding. We need to get him to the emergency room.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Well let's do it then.

EXT. BOTH POLICE CARS - DAY

Both police cars are side by side. Police Officer #2 starts to pull away with both prisoners.

INT. POLICE CAR #1 - DAY - TRAVELING

The police car pulls away, SIREN and FLASHERS on. Turk's laying face down on the back seat. Neighbor Man is kneeling next to Turk, placing pressure on his wound.

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Turk is wearing boxer shorts with a large bandage on his lower back. He lays on the sofa, face down. The telephone RINGS. Turk hooks the receiver with a broom.

TURK

Hello.

DIANNE (V.O.)

Hi, how are you feeling?

TURK

Good, just resting in the basement.

INT. DIANNE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dianne anxiously twirls the telephone chord.

DIANNE

You're going to be alright, right?

TURK (V.O.)

Oh sure, the doctor said to rest at home a couple of weeks.

DIANNE

I'll call you everyday from the school's pay phone.

INT. FANTANZZA BASEMENT - DAY

Turk tries to swat Peppy with the broom. Peppy bites the broom and takes it away from Turk.

TURK

You'll be safe now since those guys are in jail.

DIANNE (V.O.)

Yes, I know.

TURK

I talked to Tommy Kahana, and he's been making new friends. He told me he'd look out for you.

INT. DIANNE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dianne stares out the window.

DIANNE

He's nice. I better let you rest.
Please take your medicine, alright?

TURK (V.O.)

Sure.

INT. FANTANZZA BASEMENT - DAY

Turk lays his head down on the sofa. Peppy's on the rug. Turk scratches Peppy's head, Peppy's eyes get heavy.

TURK

Peppy, what if this doesn't heal?
How am I going to play my guitar?
I have to play, it's the only thing
that I want to do. I'm kinda...
(Peppy starts snoring) worried.

Turk looks down at Peppy, his snoring gets louder.

TURK (CONT'D)

Hey!

The snoring stops, Peppy jumps up.

TURK (CONT'D)

I'm confiding in you and your
sleeping?! You're suppose to be
man's best friend. Get upstairs you
traitor!

Peppy protests and Turk throws a pillow at him.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Peppy hightails it up the stairs.

TURK

Dumb mutt.

Turk carefully moves from the sofa to the end table. He takes a pain pill, swig of Coca Cola, then reaches for his guitar.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Peppy sits near the top step, peeking under the hand rail.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Turk sits on the edge of the sofa, resting his head on his electric guitar's neck, waiting for the pain to subside. He struggles to plug his guitar into the amplifier.

PEPPY

Woof, woof.

TURK

Enough already, get upstairs you Gestapo Nazi Dog!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Tony sets a grocery bag down on the chair.

TONY

Hey Turk, are you taking it easy down there?

TURK (O.S.)

Yeah. Keep that Nazi Dog up there with you.

INT. HALLWAY - BASEMENT DOOR - DAY

Tony closes the basement door, then re-opens it.

TONY

Turk, you hungry yet?

The Beatles "Revolution No. 9" plays...

TURK (O.S.)

Naw, I'm just going to listen to music.

TONY

Well, I'll have something in the oven for when you do get hungry. I'm leaving in a little while. I'll be at the warehouse with a crew until morning.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Turk lays his guitar down on the rug.

TURK

Okay.

Turk shuts the light switch off, then lays down on the sofa.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Peppy sticks his head in the grocery bag; he retrieves a package of beef jerky. Tony gives him a piece.

INT. BASEMENT - SOFA - NIGHT

A red lava lamp glows as Turk gets up from the sofa.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Click, the amplifier light begins to glow.
- Grunt of pain from Turk's shadow.
- Snap of the medicine bottle.
- A light comes on in the mini-refrigerator as a hand takes a Coca Cola bottle out.
- Psssh! A Coca Cola bottle being opened.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Turk begins to play Neil Young's "Cortez the Killer." After a few bars, it become sloppy.

Turk begins to get numerous spikes of pain in his back. He becomes enraged and throws his guitar down on the rug.

He slams his palm down on the strings over and over, echoing very loudly through the amplifier. He lays back on the sofa.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Groggy, Turk picks at last nights food.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Tony's putting supplies away in the closet.

TONY

Did you sleep downstairs last
night?

TURK (O.S.)

Yeah.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Peppy is barking and running in circles.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Tony looks into the living room.

TONY

What's wrong with him?

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Turk looks out the window.

TURK

It's that new mail girl.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Peppy sticks his nose in the front door mail slot.

EXT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

The MAIL GIRL drops some letters into the mail slot.

MAIL GIRL

I see you Peppy. There's a magazine
here for you.

The Mail Girl pushes a magazine through the mail slot.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Peppy snatches the magazine.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Puzzled, Tony watches Peppy.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Peppy has the magazine on the floor, pawing through it like a speed reader. He finds what he was looking for.

Peppy takes out the sample "perfume scratch and sniff card." He scratches it, then sniffs it over and over.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Tony looks at Turk at the kitchen table.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Turk shrugs his shoulders.

TURK

It wasn't my idea, it was that mail girl that got him started on that. Now I'm gonna have to buy him a subscription to Woman's Day magazine.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Tony laughs shaking his head.

TONY

Remember, this Saturday we have to get up early for the boat trip.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

With effort, Turk gets up from the table.

TURK

I'll be good by then.

EXT. GREAT LAKE ERIE - DAY

Rough seas, five foot white caps smash against the rocks.

EXT. HOT WATERS - PARKING LOT - DAY

Turk is wearing shorts and a Jim Morrison T-shirt; he looks down at an old thirty foot charter boat tied to the dock.

TURK
Is that the boat?

TONY
That's it.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Turk fills the cooler with ice, looks up to the parking lot.

EXT. HOT WATERS - PARKING LOT - DAY

Captain Phil stands by the dock ladder with an unlit cigar between his teeth. He takes his USS Lowery Destroyer ball cap off, scratches his head, and looks out past the break wall.

CAPTAIN PHIL
Heavy seas today.

EXT. DOCK - DAY

Gene descends down the dock ladder with a grocery bag. Captain Phil follows.

INT. BOAT - DAY

The boat is bobbing from the rough seas.

CAPTAIN PHIL
Good morning Turk, ready to go out on maneuvers?

TURK
Sure.

GENE
Hey Turk, how are you feeling today?

TURK
Better.

GENE
Glad to hear it. Could you put this soda and beer under the ice.

TURK
Alright.

GENE

I bought you those pretzels that
you like.

TURK

Cool, thanks.

INT. BOAT - CAPTAIN'S WHEEL - DAY

Captain Phil turns a few switches on and checks gages. He looks beyond the break wall, again a concerned look. Turk is filling the cooler behind the Captains chair.

TURK

Captain Phil, where's your anchor?

CAPTAIN PHIL

Lost it on those jagged rocks by
the light house. I ordered a new
one, should be in any day now.

INT. BOAT - CAPTAIN'S WHEEL - DAY

Captain Phil turns the engines over.

CAPTAIN PHIL

Gents, I believe it will be safer
to stay inside the break wall.
We'll cruise the bay until the open
waters calm.

TONY

Okay by us.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

The bow breaks through three foot waves.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Tony takes his jeans off, revealing his swimming trunks.

TURK

Hey, I didn't know you were going
swimming, I'll go too.

TONY

Remember what the doctor said about
resting.

TURK
Yeah, I remember.

Turk is done loading the cooler, a beer can in his hand.

TONY
Any particular reason you're
holding on to that beer?

TURK
Just trying to find room for it in
the cooler.

TONY
How about if I help you find room.

Turk laughs and tightens his grip on the can of beer. Tony tries to peel Turk's fingers off the can.

TONY (CONT'D)
Okay, you want to fight?

They wrestle for the beer can and it pops out of their hands. It spirals away, slamming onto a bolt on the back of a bench, it explodes, spraying both of them. Turk lays on the bench laughing severely.

TONY (CONT'D)
Alright buddy, you're going to swab
the deck.

Turk moves his left arm to get up.

TURK
Ah man!

TONY
Pain?

TURK
Some.

TONY
Here, put this vest on.

Turk takes the vest and winces from another spike of pain.

TURK
Man, I wish this would hurry up and
heal.

TONY
It's going to take time Turk.

Tony helps Turk with his life vest.

TONY (CONT'D)

Let me give this a good Navy knot.

TURK

Arrgh, too tight.

TONY

Just right.

INT. BOAT - CAPTAIN'S WHEEL - DAY

Captain Phil disengages the propellers, engines run in idle.

INT. BOAT - BOW - DAY

Gene dives into the choppy water.

INT. BOAT - PORT SIDE - DAY

Tony is on the rail, looks back at Turk, gives him a smile.

TONY

One time around the boat, then
we'll split that beer.

Tony dives into the water.

INT. BOAT - ENGINE ROOM DOOR - DAY

Light smoke is coming from the door vent.

INT. HOT WATERS - DAY

Tony swims at a rapid clip, but he's not getting anywhere.
The boat is drifting away with the strong current, no anchor.

INT. BOAT - ENGINE ROOM DOOR - DAY

Now, more smoke is coming from the vented door.

CAPTAIN PHIL

Turk, I have to go below to see
about that smoke.

Turk nods.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Gene is exhausted, he grabs onto the bow rope to rest.

INT. HOT WATERS - DAY

Tony is having a hard time catching up to the drifting boat.

TONY

Hey, Turk.

INT. BOAT - PORT SIDE - DAY

Turk is ripping into a candy bar, looking over the rail. The distance between the boat and his father is becoming greater.

INT. HOT WATERS - DAY

Waves break over Tony's head.

TONY

Turk, throw me a life vest.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Turk becomes hyper, he tries to take his vest off, the knots are too tight. He turns everything over looking for another vest.

He finds a filet knife and begins to cut the top knot on his vest. The knife slips, jabbing himself under his chin. Blood starts to drip onto his Jim Morrison T-shirt.

TURK

Hold on, dad!

INT. BOAT - PORT SIDE - DAY

Turk is standing on the rail with his life vest in his left hand. He throws the vest as a sharp pain shoots through his arm. The life vest hits the wood canopy above and falls into the water alongside the boat.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Turk runs to the engine room steps.

TURK
Captain Phil, get up here!

With the engines clanging, Captain Phil can't hear. Turk throws a hammer at Captain Phil's feet to get his attention.

INT. ENGINE ROOM - DAY

Captain Phil jumps back, looks up, and sees Turk bloody. He rushes up to Turk.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Captain Phil looks at Turk's wound.

CAPTAIN PHIL
Turk, what happened?

TURK
My dad needs a life vest, hurry.

Captain Phil gives Turk a handkerchief then opens an aluminum chest. He pulls out a life vest for Turk and a life ring.

CAPTAIN PHIL
Put this vest on. Where's your dad?

Turk runs Port Side, pointing in a few uncertain directions.

EXT. BOAT - BOW - DAY

Gene climbs up the bow rope.

INT. BOAT - PORT SIDE - DAY

Turk climbs up on the rail, as Captain Phil looks for Tony.

TURK
Come on, he's drowning!

Turk spots something in the water.

CAPTAIN PHIL
Turk, don't!

EXT. BOAT - PORT SIDE - DAY

Turk jumps. In midair half of his life vest flies off.

INT. BOAT - BOW - DAY

Gene jumps down into the boat.

INT. HOT WATERS - DAY

Turk hits the water, life vest comes off, and he goes under.

INT. BOAT - PORT SIDE - DAY

Gene sees Turk in trouble and immediately dives in after him.

INT. HOT WATERS - DAY

Gene grabs Turk from under the water.

GENE

Put your good arm around my neck,
and hold on.

TURK

My dad.

GENE

I'll find him.

EXT. BOAT - PORT SIDE LADDER - DAY

Captain Phil is hanging on the ladder, arm extended. Gene hands Turk off to him.

EXT. BOAT - STERN - LOWER PLATFORM - DAY

Gene kneels on the platform, tying a very long rope around his waist, then throws the other end to Captain Phil.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Captain Phil catches the rope and throws Gene a face mask. He then ties the rope off to the rail.

CAPTAIN PHIL

Gene, don't get caught in the
undercurrent.

EXT. BOAT - WOOD CANOPY LADDER - DAY

Gene rushes up the ladder to the top of the canopy. Looks out and sees a shadow in the water.

INT. HOT WATERS - DAY

Gene dives into the water, rope trailing. He surfaces, places the face mask on, and goes under.

INT. HOT WATERS - UNDERWATER - DAY

Searching... searching... searching... only a tree trunk.

Neil Young's "My My Hey Hey" plays...

Gene surfaces, looks around, looks to Captain Phil.

INT. BOAT - PORT SIDE - DAY

Captain Phil's facial expression shows that Tony is probably already gone. He continues to try to stop Turk's bleeding.

INT. HOT WATERS - DAY

Gene goes under again for a long time.

EXT. LAKE ERIE - HOT WATERS INLET - DAY

A U.S. Coast Guard Cutter slices through the waters with BLUE FLASHING LIGHTS, approaching Captain Phil's boat.

INT. BOAT - STERN - DAY

Captain Phil tugs on Gene's rope.

INT. HOT WATERS - DAY

Gene surfaces, gasping for air!

INT. BOAT - STERN - DAY

Captain Phil throws a life ring out to Gene.

EXT. HOT WATERS - PARKING LOT - DAY

An ambulance is staged alongside the dock ladder, RED LIGHTS FLASHING. Turk is laying on a gurney, blood seeping from the gauze bandages. He goes in and out of consciousness.

BEGIN APPARITION:

EXT. HOT WATERS - PARKING LOT - DAY

Turk laying on the gurney hears a "NAVY DESTROYER GENERAL QUARTERS ALARM." He turns towards the bay.

EXT. HOT WATERS - DAY

A GHOST SHIP, the "USS LOWERY DESTROYER" is heading towards open waters. On deck, Tony is in his dress whites. He is manning five inch anti-aircraft guns with one hand, with the other he waves goodbye to Turk.

TURK

Are you coming back dad?

Turk collapses in exhaustion.

APPARITION ENDS.

EXT. CALVARY CEMETARY CHURCH STEEPLE - DAY

The church bell RINGS four times.

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Telephone rings. Turk throws a box down and picks up the telephone, doesn't speak, just listens.

DIANNE (V.O.)

Turk, you there?

TURK

Yeah.

DIANNE (V.O.)

The assistant principal stopped me this morning and asked how you were doing. He asked when you were coming back to school.

TURK

I'm not.

DIANNE (V.O.)
You're not! What are you going to
do then?

TURK
Don't know.

DIANNE (V.O.)
Won't they make you come back?

TURK
Don't know. Don't care.

DIANNE (V.O.)
Oh Turk, will I see you soon?

TURK
Not sure.

Turk hangs the phone up.

INT. DIANNE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dianne rests the receiver on her lap and tears fall.

DIANNE
(softly)
Goodbye, Turk.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Turk sets a box down marked: "DAD'S STUFF" next to boxes
marked: "MA'S STUFF". Turk wraps a dinner plate in paper,
then just throws it on the kitchen table, shattering it.

The kitchen door SLAMS shut!

EXT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - DAY

The '66 Shelby GT RUMBLES in the driveway.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Peppy jumps on the counter and looks out the window.

Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac's "Green Manalishi - With Two
Prong Crown" plays...

INT. LAKE ROAD - DAY (NEXT FEW YEARS)

Turk has the start of a beard and his hair has grown longer. He is in a self-destruct mode, becoming more reckless in many drag races.

SERIES OF TRAVELING SHOTS

- SUMMER DUSK, tires SQUEAL. A '67 Pontiac GTO races against Turk's '66 Shelby GT. The Shelby GT wins.

- WINTER DUSK, FULL MOON, tires SQUEAL. A '71 Chevrolet Nova races against Turk's '66 Shelby GT. A burst of smoke comes out from under the Nova's hood. The Shelby GT wins.

- WINTER DAY, tires SQUEAL. A '68 Dodge Dart races against Turk's '66 Shelby GT. The Dodge Dart is too slow, the Shelby GT fish tails across the finish line and wins.

- SPRING DAY, tires SQUEAL. A '73 Ford Mustang races against Turk's '66 Shelby GT. The cars are side by side, the Shelby GT's turbo-charger sends the Shelby over the finish line first. The Shelby GT's brakes lock, smoke trails the car.

- AUTUMN DAY, tires SQUEAL. A '70 Corvette races against Turk's '66 Shelby GT, side by side. The cars are getting too close to each other. The Corvette begins to trail by a car length. A DEER runs out in front of the cars.

- The Corvette clips the Shelby GT's back bumper sending the Shelby GT in front of the Corvette. The Corvette jerks to the right, skidding into a dry ditch front end first, flipping.

- The Shelby GT flies through the left side ditch at an angle which acts like a ramp, propelling it into the air.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Turk hits the brakes numerous times, but they don't work when your six feet off the ground.

EXT. SHELBY GT - FIELD - DAY - TRAVELING

The Shelby's brake lights come on and off numerous times, as it sails towards an oak tree.

TURK (V.O.)
(quickly)
I promise God, no more racing.

The Shelby GT lands in the leaf covered field. All twenty-nine hundred pounds of car bottoms out hard.

INT. BUBBA AND SONS CAR REPAIR - DAY

Turk looks physically older now, his head bandaged. He watches the Shelby GT being raised up on the car lift.

BUBBA

Where's your exhaust, Turk?

TURK

It's somewhat of a long story.

Steppenwolf's "Rock Me" plays...

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

"Rock Me" continues on the radio...

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Chewed up magazines are all over the living room floor, Peppy sits on top of them. He waits for the Mail Girl.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Turk's snacking on pieces of Lucky Charms. He peeks into the living room.

TURK

Hey, Peppy.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Peppy turns away from Turk.

TURK

What's with the attitude? If it's because I don't take you along to the races, you already know that it's too dangerous to race with passengers. Besides, your big ears sticking out the window would cause wind drag, and slow me down. I'd never win a race again.

Turk starts to fling cereal marshmallows at Peppy. Peppy ignores Turk, so he leaves the room.

Peppy glances back to the hallway to see if Turk is still there, he then laps up the little green marshmallows.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Turk takes a box off the chair marked: "Dad's Stuff" and blows the dust off of it, then sets it on the floor.

Turk reaches for his open medication bottle on the counter. He accidentally knocks the pills, and the open box of Lucky Charms, to the kitchen floor.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Peppy looks back, he can be mad at Turk later.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Peppy starts to lap up the fallen cereal.

TURK

(yells)

Don't! You'll die if you eat those pills! Get out of here!

Peppy looks at Turk then slowly backs away.

Turk takes the vacuum, plugs it in, turns it on. He then goes to the sink for a glass of water.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Peppy sees pieces of cereal near the vacuum hose. If he's fast enough, he can get them before Turk sees him.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Suddenly, Peppy YELPS! His tongue is being sucked up into the vacuum hose, he was too close.

Turk runs and pulls the vacuum plug out of the wall.

TURK

Are you nuts? Do you want your tongue longer than your tail? You'll have an deformed tongue like Gene Simmons.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Peppy is in a retreat stance. He then briskly jumps over the vacuum hose, looks back at it like it were a live anaconda.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Turk is laying on the steps, his hand on the vacuum hose.

TURK
Come on downstairs, Peppy.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Peppy places his paw on the hose cautiously, the hose moves. Peppy jumps high, near the ceiling.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Turk's rolling in laughter.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Peppy does not want to deal with this infantile behavior, so he straddles down to his bedroom.

O.S. the SOUND of the television comes on.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Turk gets up from the steps.

TURK
Who turned the television on?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Turk peeks into Peppy's bedroom.

INT. PEPPY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Peppy is laying on the bed, the remote control is on the floor. On television is a Cult Classic Movie: "The Warriors."

ON TELEVISION

A MAN is in a car CLINKING empty bottles together.

MAN (V.O.)
Warriors... come out to plaa-aay.

Peppy growls at the Man.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Turk has a few empty soda bottles on his finger tips and closes the basement door. He CLINKS the bottles together.

TURK
Warriors... come out to plaa-aay.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Peppy goes bonkers, jumping on the basement door, barking.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Turk opens the basement door.

TURK
It's only me, Pep.

Peppy rushes past Turk, down the stairs, to search and destroy this intruder.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Peppy does a grid search, but it's a false alarm.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Peppy climbs the stairs.

TURK
I told you there wasn't anyone down there.

Peppy jumps over Turk's legs and goes to the kitchen.

TURK (CONT'D)
Just because the vacuum almost sucked your tongue out, doesn't mean you have to stay mad all day.

Peppy comes to the steps with an empty bag of dog food.

TURK (CONT'D)

Alright already, I forgot to get your dog food. Come on, we'll go to the store. I'll take you for a ride through the country back roads. How do you like that?

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Peppy enjoys the ride with his head out the passenger window. All of a sudden a Bobwhite Quail jets out of the high grass.

INT./EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Peppy jumps out of the Shelby, after the quail.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

The Shelby comes to a SCREECHING stop!

TURK

Are you out of your mind, jumping out of a moving car? Get back in here!

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Turk slowly drives away. Peppy's near the car. Turk speeds up.

TURK

Come on Peppy, I'll stop.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Turk is looking in the mirror and sees Peppy getting closer.

TURK

Come on, Peppy.

EXT./INT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Peppy gets closer to the car and Turk speeds up. But Peppy runs hard and jumps in the passenger window. He sits in the passenger seat and looks over to Turk as if he won this one.

INT./EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Turk drives through the winding country road. Peppy sees another quail flapping its wings out of the high grass. So he jumps out of the window again.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk SLAMS on the brakes!

TURK
Hey, you ain't no stinking bird
dog! Get back in here.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

The Shelby sits idling.

SERIES OF SOUNDS O.S.

- Quails flapping out of the high grass.
- Peppy barks at the fleeing birds.
- Four paws tromping through the mud.
- Two sneakers tromping through the mud.

EXT. MUDDY DITCH - DAY

Peppy is playing in the mud, rolling in it.

TURK
Are you a freak of nature or what?
You are not getting in the Shelby
with all that mud. You can walk
home.

Peppy jumps on Turk's shirt with his muddy paws. He thinks Turk is playing with him.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

The Shelby continues to idle. O.S. a rustling of a bag is heard.

TURK (O.S.)
Stay in one place mutt, stop moving
around.

EXT. SHELBY GT - TRUNK - DAY

The car's trunk is open, Turk places Peppy inside. He's wrapped in a garbage bag all the way up to his neck, a yellow string is tied into a bow as if the bag were ready for garbage day.

TURK

You trashed my favorite shirt, look at it.

Peppy slowly turns away.

Turk throws his muddy Puma sneakers and his favorite shirt into the trunk. The shirt lands on Peppy's head.

EXT. SHELBY GT - TRUNK - DAY - TRAVELING

The Shelby GT drives away with the trunk open. Peppy takes Turk's favorite shirt off his head and throws it into the street. He does the same with the Puma sneakers.

Then Peppy stares at us as the Shelby drives away.

INT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - BATHROOM SHOWER - DAY

Peppy is in the shower, the glass doors closed. Turk stands on the toilet seat, spraying Peppy with the shower head.

TURK

Stop eating the water! I'm trying to spray you off, you're still muddy. You stay in there and soak.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Now in his boxer shorts, Turk turns the Jacuzzi on.

Turk straps his electric guitar on, puts on sunglasses and a stretch hat.

Turk turns the reel to reel tape player on. ZZ Top's "TV DINNERS" plays...

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Peppy slowly comes down the stairs, watching Turk play his guitar. Turk turns left, middle, right, middle, continuous... He's imitating ZZ Top's Billy Gibbon's stage moves.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Peppy walks up behind Turk and steps on the Wah Wah Pedal, which alters the tone of Turk's guitar. Turk turns around.

TURK
Hey, get off of that!

Turk has on a Billy Gibbon's long fake beard with the sunglasses and hat. Two intruders in one day.

Peppy becomes deranged, barking, back-stepping, knocking over the laundry basket!

TURK (CONT'D)
Peppy calm down, it's me.

Peppy is running around the basement barking at this guitar playing intruder. Peppy comes up fast on Turk's behind and snaps on it.

TURK (CONT'D)
Ow, you lunatic!

Turk takes the beard and sunglasses off, calming Peppy.

TURK (CONT'D)
That hurt... Okay Peppy, come here and sit.

Peppy lays down.

TURK (CONT'D)
I'm gonna tell you a joke... What was the last thing that the cat did as it crossed the road?

Peppy wants to know.

Turk throws his arms up in fright, as if a truck were going to run him over.

Peppy jumps up and twirls around as if he approves of the joke. Turk is laughing hard on the floor.

TURK (CONT'D)
Okay Peppy, come here. Give me your right paw.

Peppy gives Turk his left paw.

TURK (CONT'D)
No, your other right paw.

PEPPY

Woof.

TURK

I can't spend any more time racing. I could get myself killed. Then who's gonna feed you? I have to strengthen this left arm, so I can play as good as before. I'm gonna play some guitar riffs. Raise your paw if you like the riff.

Peppy just stares at Turk.

TURK (CONT'D)

Do you follow me? Well? How come you understand what beef jerky...

PEPPY

Woof, woof, woof!

TURK

...is and not a guitar riff?

Turk jumps up, Peppy jumps up. Turk plays the guitar riff from Clash's "Should I Stay Or Should I Go..."

TURK (CONT'D)

Stop. Did you like that riff?

Peppy just stares at him.

TURK (CONT'D)

Come on, give me some feed back.

Peppy stares at Turk.

TURK (CONT'D)

Don't look at me like I'm the dumb one here, now let's try this again.

Turk jumps on the sofa, Peppy jumps on the table. Turk plays the guitar riff from Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac's "Oh Well..."

PEPPY

Woof, woof.

TURK

Ah, you like. That's a two woofer and no paws, alright do it your way.

Turk continues "Oh Well," spinning and dancing.

TURK (CONT'D)
(singing)

"I can't help about the shape I'm
in, I can't sing, I ain't pretty
and my legs are thin, but don't ask
me what I think of you, I might not
give the answer that you want me
to..."

TURK (CONT'D)
Change.

Turk jumps down on the rug, Peppy jumps on the sofa. Turk
adjusts the controls on his guitar and begins Ted Nugent's
"Cat Scratch Fever..."

Peppy just stares at Turk.

TURK (CONT'D)
This is Cat Scratch Fever. What's
wrong with you? It's a mean riff.
Just because it's about a cat, man,
you're so sensitive.

TURK (CONT'D)
How about Walking The Dog?

Turk jumps on the foot stool, Peppy jumps on the chair. Turk
begins the guitar riff for Aerosmith's "Walking The Dog..."

PEPPY
Woof, woof, woof!

TURK
You like this one, cool that's the
spirit.

Turk continues "Walking The Dog" dancing on the footstool.

TURK (CONT'D)
Oh yeah, I still got it.

Turk jumps on the sofa. With his toe he turns the reel to
reel tape player on. Peppy jumps on the sofa back, almost
tipping it over.

Surfaris "Wipe Out" plays... Turk dances on the sofa pillow
during the drum solo. Then he begins the guitar riff.

Peppy jumps high off the sofa as if catching a frisbee, then
begins his rain dance, running in circles.

PEPPY
Woof, woof, woof!

TURK
Phew, I'm beat Pep.

Turk takes a big swig of Coca Cola. Exhausted and back hurting he plops himself on the sofa. He sits on Peppy's orange ball and throws it out of the way.

Peppy runs and retrieves it, then pushes it into Turk's hand.

TURK (CONT'D)
I'm out of energy Pep.

Turk throws the ball hard with his right hand, hitting the wall. It plops into the bubbling Jacuzzi.

Peppy runs after it, disappearing from sight.

Silence.

O.S. SPLASH!

Peppy slowly comes around the stairs, head down, eyes looking up at Turk, soaking wet, ball in mouth. His fur on his head sticks up like a mohawk.

Peppy isn't happy that he had to take two baths in one day. He starts up the stairs with the ball in his mouth.

TURK (CONT'D)
(laughing)
I can put you in the clothes dryer
on the delicate cycle.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Peppy lets the ball drop on the corner of a table just below the stairs, it hits the corner just right. The ball bounces into Turk's open Coca Cola bottle on the end table, knocking it over, spilling Coca Cola everywhere.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Peppy runs up the stairs faster than a race horse, and Turk gives chase at a slower pace.

INT. PEPPY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Peppy places his front paws on the back of the door, it slams shut. The door-stop slips down, locking the door.

TURK (O.S.)
 Open this door. You don't lock me out, mutt. I'm the one that pays your food bills, and you ain't no Chihuahua.

Peppy's laying on the floor watching the door handle turn. He slides out of the loose screen on the window.

EXT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Peppy lays in the grass with his head down watching Turk open the garage door.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Turk picks up a screwdriver off the work bench.

EXT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - SIDE DOOR - DAY

Turk pulls the door handle, it's locked.

TURK
 Hey mutt, let me in.

EXT. BOND STREET - DAY

An elderly lady, Mrs. Wilson, stands on the sidewalk staring at Turk in his boxers.

TURK
 Hello, Mrs. Wilson, Peppy locked me out.

Mrs. Wilson looks over at Peppy laying in the yard, peeking at Turk through blades of grass.

EXT. FANTANZZA HOUSE - DAY

Turk wedges the screwdriver in the screen door handle, opening it, he enters. Peppy sneaks in before the spring loaded screen door closes.

EXT. PEPPY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Turk pushes the screwdriver under the door, opening it.

INT. PEPPY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Turk jumps into the room.

TURK

Aha!

The bedroom is empty.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Turk turns, almost tripping over Peppy. Peppy has a wrapped Hershey candy bar between his teeth.

TURK

A peace offering? Well, since it has almonds in it, I'll accept your apology, right after I wipe the dog spit off.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Turk is on his knees, a piece of Hershey sticks out of his mouth. He moves one of his bigger amps, and the control box on top falls onto Turk's lower spine, he collapses to the floor.

Bob Dylan's "Ballad Of A Thin Man" plays...

TURK

Oh man, not good.

Turk attempts to drag himself over to the bubbling Jacuzzi, grabbing the bottle of pain pills on the way.

INT. JACUZZI - DAY

Turk slides into the Jacuzzi with his boxers on.

Turk holds his lower back. The scars can still be seen from the fight saving Dianne. Turk takes out a pain pill, then cups his hand to scoop up Jacuzzi water to wash it down. But first he picks out a dog hair.

TURK

Yuck, dog hair.

Turk lays his head back, closing his eyes.

BEGIN DAY DREAM:

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

A MAN'S LEGS in dress white pants rests on the third step.

TURK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hey dad, do you think I'll be
famous?

TONY (O.S.)
You know what, I actually believe
that you will.

The Man exits.

END DAY DREAM.

INT. TURK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Turk finishes dressing.

TURK
We gotta get out of this place.
Pep-a-ru where are you? Come on,
I'm gonna take you out to dinner to
your favorite spot, Dogs and Suds.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Turk sees Peppy behind the washer, trying to catch a cricket.

TURK
Well, since you're too busy to
answer me, I'm going to Dogs and
Suds without you.

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - DAY

Turk begins walking upstairs. Peppy rushes up behind him.

TURK
Too late.

Turk tries to get up the stairs with extreme effort, pulling
on the handrail.

THUD! THUD! THUD!

Peppy hangs down from Turk's shirttail, clamped on tightly.

TURK (CONT'D)
Get off me you psycho!

EXT. SHELBY GT - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Turk is tightening a strap underneath the front bumper. It seems to go upward towards the engine hood.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk closes the car door, starts the car, and pops a cassette in, War's "Cisco Kid" plays...

Through the windshield, we can see where the other end of the straps went to. Three straps attached to Peppy's doggy harness, attached to Peppy on the engine hood. Peppy wears tube socks with rubber bands, protecting the hood's paint.

EXT. SHELBY GT - LAKE ROAD - DAY - TRAVELING

Turk shifts into first gear and slowly presses the gas pedal.

A cool breeze runs through Peppy's fur, he's digging this, but he wants a little more speed. Peppy turns back to Turk, as if it were a signal for Turk to go faster.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Turk picks up speed shifting to second and third gear.

EXT. LAKE ROAD - DAY

Coming up in the passing lane is a family station wagon. A mom, dad, and THREE LITTLE GIRLS, out for a day at the beach.

INT. STATION WAGON - DAY - TRAVELING

The Three Little Girls all look out of the same window.

YOUNGEST GIRL
(pointing)
Mommy, a doggy on that car.

Everyone looks at this far-out sight.

The Little Girls are giggling and waving to Peppy.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Peppy acknowledges them with his nose up to the wind.

PEPPY
Woof, woof.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Turk down shifts and makes a U-turn.

EXT. '66 SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Peppy wets himself and the car's hood. The U-turn scared him. Turk turns the windshield wipers on.

TURK
(out the window)
Hey, go find yourself a fire
hydrant.

EXT. DOG'S AND SUD'S - PARKING LOT - DAY

The Shelby GT enters the parking lot, with the cool sound of REVERBERATING SIDE PIPES and CLICKING RACING CAM. Turk parks.

A pretty little WAITRESS, 15, strolls out to the Shelby GT.

WAITRESS
Hi Turk, I haven't seen you in a
long time.

TURK
Hi, how about a nice dinner for me
and my friend here.

WAITRESS
I remember you like pizza burgers.

TURK
Yes I do, and I'll have two. My
friend here would like a hamburger,
hold the onions. He hates onions.

PEPPY
Woof.

TURK
Oh yeah, he wants fries with that.

WAITRESS

(giggling)

I got it, hold the onions on the hamburger. He must have a hot date, how about you, Turk?

TURK

None for me.

WAITRESS

No onions or no hot date?

TURK

Both.

WAITRESS

(smiling)

It'll be a few minutes.

Spooky Tooth's "Waiting for the Wind" plays on the diners outside jukebox speakers...

EXT. DOGS AND SUDS - PARKING LOT - DAY

A red '68 FIREBIRD pulls into the parking lot. It looks and SOUNDS threatening. The car circles the diner, then pulls into a parking space, four spaces from the Shelby GT.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk is busy looking through old photos in a cigar box.

TURK

Look Pep, here's a photo of you and Dianne.

Peppy gives the photo a sniff with his wet nose.

TURK (CONT'D)

Please, no dog snot.

Turk wipes the photo on Peppy's fur.

INT. '68 FIREBIRD - DAY

JAMES, the driver, 20's, mullet hair, looks over to the Shelby GT.

JAMES

I see Turk found some back-bone to come back out to the streets.

JAMES'S GIRLFRIEND and the BACK SEAT GUY look over to the Shelby GT.

BACK SEAT GUY
Are you going to get him to drag?

JAMES
He's a loser, lost his girlfriend,
and Dominic kicked him out of the
band. (laughing)

JAMES'S GIRLFRIEND
(pointedly)
He didn't get kicked out of Dominic
and the Hurricanes. He had to leave
because he was injured in a fight
saving his girlfriend. And his
girlfriend had to move to San
Francisco with her mother.

JAMES
(irritated)
You want to walk home?

JAMES'S GIRLFRIEND
No problem with that, I'll just ask
Turk to take me home. I'd rather be
with him than you any day.

James's anger is rising.

JAMES
(to Back Seat Guy) Go see if he
wants to run.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Peppy growls.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Back Seat Guy walks slowly to the Shelby.

BACK SEAT GUY
How you doing, Turk?

Turk looks out.

TURK
Good.

BACK SEAT GUY
James wants to race you.

Turk looks over to the '68 Firebird.

TURK
Tell him I don't race anymore.

BACK SEAT GUY
Oh alright, good to see you.

Turk nods.

INT. '68 FIREBIRD - DAY

Back Seat Guy slides into the back seat.

JAMES
What did he say?

BACK SEAT GUY
He says he doesn't race anymore.

JAMES
He's a lie, I saw him race a few weeks ago and he wiped out in a field. He just lost his nerve. He should paint a yellow stripe down the middle of his car to match the one down his back.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk overhears James and beeps for the Waitress.

WAITRESS
Did you want something else, Turk?

TURK
Could I have that to go?

WAITRESS
I'll have them bag it for you.

Turk pays the Waitress and turns the engine over.

TURK
Keep what's left.

WAITRESS
Turk, thank you, this is a lot.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk places the sandwich bag on the center console, Peppy sniffs the bag.

TURK
That's for later, don't touch.

Peppy places his paw on the food bag and pulls it back.

TURK (CONT'D)
Don't tick me off!

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

The Shelby backs up and continues to back up to the '68 Firebird.

EXT. '68 FIREBIRD - DAY

James's Girlfriend turns around, looks at Turk.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Joe Walsh's "In The City" plays... Turk lowers the volume.

TURK
(to James's Girlfriend)
Tell him one hour, Lake Road, by
the Ford Plant.

EXT. '68 FIREBIRD - DAY

James's Girlfriend nods with a smile.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk clips the leash on Peppy's doggy harness, then ties the loop around the emergency brake.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

The Shelby GT takes off. Turk cranks the radio up. "In The City" plays for the neighbors. He takes the car through its gears.

Peppy is digging this and has most of his body out the passenger window.

Turk takes a sharp left down a side street, fishtailing.

Peppy YELPS!

Turk looks over to Peppy, who is hanging out the passenger window. Only paws, nose, and leash can be seen.

TURK

Hey, whatcha doing out there?

Turk pulls Peppy in and he jumps into the back seat where it's safe. Peppy's mad, he stare's at the rearview mirror.

TURK (CONT'D)

(to review mirror)

It's not my fault. Your the one that stuck your big behind out the window, besides there was gravel there.

EXT. LAKE ROAD - DAY

Word has spread fast, bystanders and cars are gathered in a field across from the Ford Plant.

The '68 Firebird is in a tire burn-out. Heating up his tires for better traction and to show off.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk stops far behind the Firebird, by TWO HARLEY BIKERS. They look like Billy Gibbons and Dusty Hill from ZZ Top.

TURK

(to Bikers)

Hey how you guys doing?

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

The bikers lay back on their Choppers.

BIKER #1

We didn't want to miss this one, Turk.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Peppy continues to sniff the food bag. Turk continues to push his nose away.

TURK

I think I'm going to retire after
this one.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Biker #2 takes out some chewing tobacco.

BIKER #2

Yeah you are, Turk.

All three laugh.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk continues to push Peppy's nose away from the food.

TURK

Could you watch Peppy while I take
this guy out?

BIKER #1

No problem, Turk.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk opens the passenger door and takes the doggy harness off
the emergency brake.

TURK

Okay Peppy, you have to get out
now.

Peppy bites the door handle and closes it. The two Bikers
outside laugh.

Turk tries to push Peppy out.

TURK (CONT'D)

You know the rules when I race, no
passengers.

Peppy sneezes multiple times.

TURK (CONT'D)

Don't give me that fake allergy
bit, either. You don't have any
allergies. If you don't get out,
there's no dinner for you.

Peppy snatches the sandwich bag from the center console and jumps out the window.

TURK (CONT'D)

Thief!

EXT. LAKE ROAD - DAY

Eruption of SQUEALING tires! The drag race is on.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Tachometer hits 2800 RPM's, the Super-Charger whines hard.

EXT. '68 FIREBIRD - DAY - TRAVELING

The Firebird has a three car length lead. Suddenly the clutch plate blows up, launching shrapnel into it's unprotected fuel tank, it EXPLODES! Flames shoot out into the path of the Shelby GT.

The Shelby GT pushes through the smoke and flames. Smoke trails behind the car.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Ahead is an old Pontiac hearse stalled at an angle that blocks both lanes, engine hood is up, a MAN underneath.

Turk downshifts, then SLAMS on the brakes!

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

The Shelby GT fishtails to the right. The back tires slip off the road into a muddy ditch causing a giant muddy rooster tail.

The muddy tires jump back on the road, causing the car to go into a dizzying spin, directly into the path of the hearse. Squawking muddy seagulls scatter in all directions.

EXT. PONTIAC HEARSE - DAY

A MAN with long hair, western hat, and sunglasses looks around the hearse's hood.

He sees the muddy rooster tail and the impending crash. He moves fast up a field for safety, losing his hat.

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY

The Shelby GT stops abruptly.

TURK
(heavy exhale) Man!

Airborne mud clods pelt the Shelby GT's windshield, turning daylight into twilight.

A hand wipes the mud off the outside windshield. Someone opens the passenger door, the muddy Man looks in.

MAN
Are you okay?

TURK
Yeah, just a little dizzy.

MAN
Come out this side, the driver's side is blocked.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk leans against his car, his right leg shaking. He glances at the proximity of his car to the hearse, only inches apart. Turk looks at the muddy Man.

TURK
How about you, are you okay?

MAN
I'm good, just a little muddy.

TURK
Sorry for giving you a scare like that.

Turk opens the Shelby's trunk and pulls out a jug of water.

Turk hands the Man a beach towel and pours water over it. As the Man washes his face, there is instant recognition. This Man is NEIL YOUNG (Neil Young).

TURK (CONT'D)
What are the odds that I would nearly run over the renowned Neil Young?

NEIL
Well, the odds seemed to have been real good for about a minute there.

TURK
Are you out of gas?

NEIL
No, I think it's the carburetor. I
took it out for a test drive; I
might buy it to restore.

Turk hands Neil a dry towel.

TURK
I have a farmhouse just down the
road. You can clean up there, and
I'll call my mechanic. That's the
least I can do.

EXT. LAKE ROAD - DAY

Peppy is running towards Turk, leash flapping in the wind.

In the b.g. through smoke and flames are numerous RED and
BLUE FLASHING LIGHTS.

NEIL
Something's going on down there?

TURK
That's probably law enforcement.

NEIL
Looks like that dog's a runner.

TURK
That's Peppy, believe me, he knows
when to run.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk throws some water on the windshield. Then Turk and Neil
push the Shelby away from the hearse.

EXT. SHELBY GT - DAY

Turk folds the drivers seat forward.

TURK
Come on Peppy, get in the back, so
we can take Neil to the farmhouse.

Peppy sits in the street and won't budge.

TURK (CONT'D)

Listen mutt, your taking all the energy out of me.

Turk has to pick up this dead weight and tries to stuff him in, but Peppy has his front paws out on the door jam.

Turk changes his hold on Peppy to have one hand free and tries to get Peppy to release his paws. Peppy looks back at us upside down pleading for help.

TURK (CONT'D)

Get your paws off my paint job.

NEIL

He's kind of stubborn.

TURK

He's an alien!

INT. SHELBY GT - DAY - TRAVELING

Neil is in the front passenger seat, he feels that he's being watched. He turns around; Peppy thinks he's in a staring contest with Neil.

NEIL

Your dog, he's just staring at me.

TURK

He's mad that someone is in his seat. (to Peppy) Lay down.

Peppy starts chewing on the guitar case.

TURK (CONT'D)

And don't be chewing on my guitar case. That's the third one.

Peppy sees Turk's eyes in the rearview mirror and stops chewing. Turk's eyes go back to the road, then Peppy continues on chewing.

Neil looks back at Peppy.

NEIL

He doesn't seem to listen when he's mad.

TURK

He never listens.

Turk points to the farmhouse.

NEIL

That's not a farmhouse, that's a mansion. All that land yours?

TURK

Yeah, it goes back to the treeline beyond the lake. My dad had a successful business. We were building it just before he passed.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Neil scans the property.

NEIL

It's peaceful out here, kind of a spiritual place.

TURK

Yeah, I like it here. Are you playing in town?

NEIL

Tomorrow afternoon at the Cleveland Agora. I took today off just to get away and I happened to come across that hearse sitting in a front lawn for sale.

INT. TURK'S FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Construction materials scattered about.

TURK

I had stopped construction for a few years, then I recently decided to go ahead and finish it. There's tools and material all over, so watch your step.

Turk moves a two by four.

TURK (CONT'D)

I have a house in the city that's up for sale. The minute it's sold I'm moving everything out here.

Peppy drags out an empty bag of dog food.

TURK (CONT'D)

I know, I know Peppy. (to Neil) He never lets me forget when the bag is empty. The phone isn't hooked up yet, so I'll go down to the corner store and use theirs. Down the hall on the right is the shower, towels are in the top cabinet. There's new T-shirts in there also. I'll be back in about twenty minutes.

Cow bell JANGLES.

INT. CORNER STORE - DAY

Entrance door closes, cow bell JANGLES again.

Turk grabs a bag of dog food.

TURK

Hey JED, how's business?

JED

Not bad Turk, where's yur pard'ner?

TURK

He's guarding the farm. Hey Jed can I use your phone?

Jed brings a rotary dial telephone over to the counter.

TURK (CONT'D)

(dialing phone)

What kind of sandwiches are those?

JED

Roast beef, the wife just made them.

TURK

Okay, let me have three of them and a bag of pretzels.

INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Neil is drying his hair with a towel, wearing one of Turk's new Johnny Cash T-shirts. He sits on a counter stool glancing at many unopened envelopes to Turk from San Francisco.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Neil gets up and walks under a plastic drop cloth. He looks at a 1975 Gibson electric guitar. There's an array of other music equipment scattered about.

Neil scans the wall of framed photos of Turk with Dominic and the Hurricanes, Turk and Dominic with Spooky Tooth, and a photo of Turk's Mother with his Father in uniform standing in front of the "USS Lowery Destroyer."

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Turk closes the door and sets the grocery bag down.

TURK

There's fresh sandwiches here, help yourself. The mechanic will be out in fifteen minutes.

NEIL

Thanks for calling him. Is all that music equipment yours?

TURK

Yeah, I still have a couple old Gibson amps and guitars at my city house.

NEIL

Do you mind?

TURK

Not at all.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Neil picks up one of the Gibson electric guitars, feels the weight and hands it to Turk.

NEIL

Let's hear something.

Turk turns the Marshall amplifier on, then begins to play Lynard Skynard's "Sweet Home Alabama." Turk stops.

TURK

Sorry, wrong song.

NEIL

No, that's a good song.

Turk then goes right into Neil Young's "Mr. Soul."

NEIL (CONT'D)

Sounds familiar, who do you play with?

TURK

I haven't played with a band full time for awhile. I used to play with "Dominic and the Hurricanes" and "Mountain Men". I had an accident, in which my spine was injured. I continued on for awhile, but the pain became too intense.

NEIL

Did you ever play with Spooky Tooth?

TURK

No, when I played with Dominic and the Hurricanes we opened for them. Cleveland, Detroit and a few other cities.

NEIL

You play very well for someone who's been out of the market. How long have you been playing?

Turk mimes his hand to his knees.

TURK

I still play when I have a handle on the pain. I fill in for area bands.

NEIL

Do you have pain now?

TURK

Just a little. My doctor prescribed some new medicine. It's suppose to be very effective on chronic pain. I just started taking it.

Turk opens the refrigerator, takes out a couple of sodas, gives one to Neil.

NEIL

My band and some other musicians are going to be at the Agora in the morning. Just a jam session. Would you like to sit in?

TURK

Sure.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

The hearse is in the driveway with the motor running. Turk thanks Bubba the mechanic and his son.

Neil walks down the driveway, Peppy at his side.

TURK

You were right, it was the carburetor.

Neil pulls out a money clip.

TURK (CONT'D)

He said there was no charge, he just cleaned the carburetor. He's a good guy, been my mechanic for years and my dad's before that.

NEIL

Well thanks a lot. Here's the phone number where we'll be tomorrow morning.

TURK

Okay thanks.

They shake hands.

EXT. HEARSE - DAY

Neil backs out of the driveway, throws up a "Peace Sign."

INT. AGORA BALL ROOM - STAGE - MORNING

There are eight musicians and Neil seated, talking, with some guitar picking.

Turk walks into the hall with his chewed guitar case. The musicians look over to him.

NEIL

Everybody, this is Turk Fantanza.
The guy I was telling you about.

The musicians nod, etcetera.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Turk, play something for the guys.

Turk plays Mike Bloomfield's version of "Green Onions."

The mix of musicians slide into Turk's play. Neil watches, gets an idea, tears a page out of Rolling Stone Magazine, and starts writing on it.

Everybody is having a good time as "Green Onions" fades out...

The Funkadelic's "Maggot Brain" begins...

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

"Maggot Brain" continues on Turk's stereo...

Through the room's large bay window a reddish-golden sun is setting below the tree line. Peppy can be seen in the backyard jumping in and out of view, as if on a pogo stick.

INT. HALLWAY - DUSK

Turk is wearing a new long sleeve white shirt and jeans. He is on the ladder changing a light bulb in the dark hallway.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Peppy enters through his doggy door and runs over to Turk.

INT. HALLWAY - DUSK

Peppy has a lot of energy and thrusts his paws on the steps of the ladder. The ladder shakes, and Turk almost falls.

TURK

Are you nuts?

Turk looks down at Peppy, his mouth lights up.

TURK (CONT'D)

You've been eating lightening bugs again, haven't you?

Peppy just stares, looking content.

TURK (CONT'D)

Hand me that bulb... oh I forgot, you flunked out of doggy training.

PEPPY

Woof, woof!

Two lightening bugs escape from Peppy's mouth. Peppy pushes off from the ladder, shaking it again. Turk almost falls and he grabs onto the light fixture.

TURK

Dumb mutt!

EXT. FARMHOUSE - BACKYARD - DUSK

Peppy is back outside again running around. In the b.g. there are two black objects moving stealthily towards the backyard.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Through the bay window we see a pair of dangerous adult wolves, who now separate.

Peppy starts to bark aggressively.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Turk hears Peppy's barking and looks out the window. He sees Peppy, but doesn't see anything else.

Peppy growls viciously O.S. Then total silence. Turk hurries over to the back door and looks out.

INT. KITCHEN - DUSK

Turk jumps up on the lower cabinet and reaches to the top of the upper cabinet, quickly pulling out a CHROME LONG BARRELED .357 MAGNUM REVOLVER.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DUSK

Turk jets out the screen door, pushes it too hard, and the screen pops out. He's tangled, but spins around.

INT. LIVING ROOM - BAY WINDOW - DUSK

Through the bay window Turk's face lights up from the gunshot flashes, as he kills both wolves. Two shots each.

EXT. BACK YARD - DUSK

Peppy's lying on the bloody grass. Blood filling his lungs, he looks at Turk sorrowfully. Peppy's eyes plead with Turk.

Tears flow from Turk's eyes, he lifts the REVOLVER and turns his head away. BOOM!

Turk weeps silently at Peppy's side.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Turk takes a white dining table cloth from a drawer.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

The outside flood lights come on, revealing Turk with a blood stained white bundle. He places it into a wooden box, then into a grave. He takes a shovel and covers the box with dirt.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Turk appears back on the porch, his white shirt bloodied and muddy. In his hand, the REVOLVER. Turk opens the cylinder, one live shell left.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Turk collapses on the leather sofa in the shadow of the red lava lamp. Turk is exhausted, from the day and from life.

Turk spins the cylinder of the revolver which reflects the lava lamp's red light. He spins it again and snaps it shut one handed, pulls the trigger. CLICK! He spins the cylinder again, snaps it shut, pulls the trigger. BOOM!

The last shell missiles through the lava lamp. A reddish wax has been blown onto the wall.

INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAWN

Through the bay window, it's a cloudy drizzly morning.

Turk is laying on the leather sofa face down, last nights clothes still on. The REVOLVER is in his right hand, blood on his right ear.

The telephone RINGS and Turk opens his eyes, moving slowly, trying to get his bearings. He sees the damage and remembers.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - BACK YARD - DAWN

Through early morning drizzle Turk pounds a wooden cross into the ground, with carved words: "MAN'S BEST FRIEND." Then he hangs Peppy's Back Stage Pass on the cross.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The phone RINGS. Turk yanks the chord out of the wall.

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - BACK OFFICE - SAME TIME

Neil Young's back is to us, phone to ear. The phone goes dead, so he hangs up.

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - STAGE - DAY

Neil Young and his band are on stage playing the last song of the set, Neil Young's "Ohio."

Neil glares at the rhythm guitar player JIM, his timing is off and he's too loud. Song finishes... audience applauds.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Neil is not in a good mood, and the musicians know it; there's silence. Neil leaves the room to go out to his bus.

Jim walks into the dressing room with his left hand bleeding. His eyes glazed over.

BASS PLAYER

What happened to your hand?

JIM

The bathroom door slammed on it.

Bass Player looks at his hand, touches his fingers.

JIM (CONT'D)

Ow man, that hurts.

BASS PLAYER

I don't see how you can feel that, with all that whisky in you.

JIM

That was last night.

BASS PLAYER
Well, somebody will have to tell
Neil, and it's not going to be me.

Bass Player looks over to one of the CREW.

CREW MEMBER
Why me? Neil's going to freak out.

BASS PLAYER
After you tell Neil, take Jim to a
doctor.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Neil enters the room quite upset.

NEIL
Where is he?

BASS PLAYER
They took him to the doctor.

NEIL
He's done. We're going to have to
cancel the last show or find a
guitar player in four hours.

The mood in the dressing room is very tense, then...

DRUMMER
Hey, what about that guy in
Cleveland we were jamming with?
It's only a two hour flight.

NEIL
I've already tried calling him the
past couple of days, no answer.

BASS PLAYER
You mean you were going to replace
Jim before this?

NEIL
Yeah. I think I have a business
card of Turks mechanic on the bus.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Bubba's tow truck pulls in Turk's driveway. Turk is sitting
in a lounge chair, rinsing off his Shelby.

TURK

Hey Bubba, what's up?

BUBBA

We had a call from New York City at the shop for you. He didn't leave his name, but he said you would know who it was and to call right away. Here's the number.

TURK

Okay, thanks for coming out.

BUBBA

Hey Turk?

TURK

Yeah.

BUBBA

Our female Shepard just had a litter. You could have first pick.

TURK

That's kind of you, but it just wouldn't be the same. Wait, how did you even know?

BUBBA

Jed at the store.

Turk pats Bubba's shoulder.

TURK

Thanks anyway Bubba.

INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Turk starts to dial the phone number in New York, but the line is dead. He reels in the telephone wire and snaps it back into the outlet, he dials again, phone RINGING.

Turk opens the refrigerator to get a bottle of Coca Cola, and takes out Peppy's orange ball that he hid from him. He bounces it off the ceiling and it bounces away into Peppy's empty bowl, next to a box marked: "PEPPY'S STUFF."

TURK

(into phone)

Sure I would do it. But I'm not sure if I'm ready for that size audience.

Eric Clapton's "Running On Faith" plays...

NEIL

You know most of my songs, really
you know just about everyone's top
songs.

INT. CLEVELAND HOPKINS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

"Running On Faith" continues...

Turk walks through the airport, lost in the past.

INT. AMERICAN AIRLINES TICKET COUNTER - DAY

The WOMAN behind the counter hands a ticket to Turk.

AIRLINE TICKET WOMAN

Have a nice flight, sir.

There are two doors that lead to the jets. One sign reads:
"FLIGHT #202 NEW YORK CITY". The other sign reads: "FLIGHT
#239 ATLANTA, GEORGIA."

Turk rubs his eyes, his vision is blurred as he walks through
the wrong door to the wrong jet.

INT. JET - DAY

FLIGHT ATTENDANT #1 greets Turk.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT #1

May I store your instrument in our
forward closet?

TURK

Thanks.

Turk finds a seat in First Class.

A BUSINESS LADY with a nice smile walks up to Turk.

BUSINESS LADY

Hello.

TURK

Hi.

BUSINESS LADY
I've checked my ticket twice and
they seem to have me assigned to
this seat.

TURK
Oh, sorry.

BUSINESS LADY
What seat assignment is on your
ticket? Sometimes the airline
double books the first class seats.

TURK
Honestly I didn't look, my vision
is a little out of focus today.

INT. JET - ENTRANCE DOOR - DAY

Flight Attendant #1 closes the jets door and secures the door
lock.

INT. JET - FIRST CLASS - DAY

Business Lady places her briefcase on the floor.

BUSINESS LADY
Here I can help you, may I see your
ticket?

EXT. JET - DAY

An airline tug is moving the jet back away from the terminal.

INT. JET - FIRST CLASS - DAY

The Business Lady loses her smile.

BUSINESS LADY
You're ticket says you're going to
New York City.

TURK
Yes.

BUSINESS LADY
(softly)
But this flight is going to
Atlanta... Georgia.

INT. JET - FLIGHT ATTENDANT STATION - DAY

Flight Attendant #2 looks at Turk's ticket.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT #2
Oh my, how did this happen? You're
on the wrong flight.

TURK
You have to stop this jet. I have
to be in New York by 4:00 P.M.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT #2
I'm so sorry sir, we are not able
to do that.

Turk collapses into the jump seat.

Flight Attendant #1 offers Turk a glass of ice water. Then
walks off to the cockpit.

The CO-PILOT enters and walks over to Turk.

CO-PILOT
Sir, the Captain has authorization
to stop the jet. There is a ladder
truck coming now to let you off.

TURK
Thank you greatly.

INT. AMERICAN AIRLINES COUNTER - DAY

Turk leans on the ticket counter.

AIRLINE TICKET WOMAN
The flight to New York City has
left. There will be another one at
6:10 P.M.

Turk walks over to a chair, sits, and places his guitar on
his lap. Turk lays his forehead down.

TURK
It's over, I can't do it anymore.

A MAN in sunglasses and full length black leather coat stands
in front of Turk. Sunlight streams in behind him.

ERIC (ERIC CLAPTON)
Pardon me.

Turk sees a blurry pair of shoes, then looks up.

ERIC (CONT'D)

I couldn't help overhearing your dilemma.

TURK

(squinting)

Yes, I have to be in New York City by 4:00 P.M. The jet left already.

ERIC

You're a musician, aren't you?

TURK

Yes.

ERIC

How do you feel about Turbo-Props?

TURK

What do you mean?

ERIC

I'm not too fond of them myself. I have one waiting, with some of my crew, bound for New York City. Why don't you just hitch a ride with them, I'm taking another flight.

TURK

You're kidding.

ERIC

Not at all. Who do you play with?

TURK

I'm filling in for one of Neil Young's guitar players for the rest of his tour.

ERIC

Come on, I know where Neil's playing.

TURK

Well thank you, my name is Turk Fantanza.

ERIC

Good to meet you, I'm Eric.

Vision still blurred, Turk bumps into a chair almost flipping himself over it.

TURK
My eyes, when I get stressed they
blur up.

ERIC'S ASSISTANT has Turk's guitar case and bag.

TURK (CONT'D)
Are you a musician?

ERIC
I play a little guitar from time to
time.

Eric's Assistant looks back at Eric.

EXT. TURBO-PROP PLANE - DAY

The planes propellers begin to rotate.

TURK
How do I thank you?

ERIC
No need, just have a good tour.

INT. TURBO-PROP PLANE - DAY

Turk is greeted by a young female Flight Attendant, BRENDA.

BRENDA
Welcome Mr. Fantanza.

TURK
Hi.

BRENDA
We have a seat right up front for
you. Your guitar and carry-on are
already stored.

TURK
Thank you.

BRENDA
My name is Brenda, just relax and
call me for whatever you need. A
call is going through now to inform
Mr. Young of your flight change.

EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

The Turbo-Prop begins its climb up into the clouds.

EXT. KENNEDY AIRPORT - DAY

The Turbo-Prop has landed and the plane is empty. Brenda touches Turk's shoulder.

BRENDA

Mr. Fantanzzza, we have landed.

Turk awakens, his vision has cleared.

TURK

Great, were here. What time do you have?

BRENDA

2:45 PM Eastern Standard Time.

EXT. KENNEDY AIRPORT - TARMAC - DAY

A black Lincoln pulls away with Turk.

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - STAGE - DAY

Turk sees Neil on stage and walks over to him.

NEIL

You made it. How do you feel?

TURK

Great now.

NEIL

Yeah, I heard about your flight problems. So you hitched a ride with Eric Clapton.

TURK

Ah... yeah.

This confirms Turk's speculation.

NEIL

The show has been moved to 7:15 tonight. We will rehearse for about twenty minutes after dinner.

TURK

Do you have a set list?

NEIL

I don't like to use them. Just follow my lead and you'll be fine. Everything we're playing tonight, you already know.

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - STAGE - NIGHT

Neil is singing "Tonights The Night." Turk is positioned back right with a tall stool next to him.

Audience applauds.

INT. CHICAGO - SMALL OFFICE - DAY

A man is on the phone, his back to us. He looks at a set list, crumbles it, and throws it away, it's Neil Young.

NEIL

(into phone)

...in San Francisco on October 24th
at the COW PALACE, 7:30 PM.

WOMAN (V.O.)

This doesn't seem real.

NEIL

Well you knew he was on tour,
right?

WOMAN (V.O.)

Yes, my sister called me and told me that she went to your concert in Detroit and saw Turk playing with your band.

NEIL

He saved all your letters. Listen, my wife will be there with my son in a secure location. If you decide that you would like to come to see him, just call my wife. She'll make arrangements to have you picked up.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A WOMAN holding the telephone, her back to us, pushes her silky blonde hair behind her ear.

WOMAN/DIANNE

Yes, I wrote the number down, thank you for calling.

Dianne hangs the telephone up, looks at the phone number and sets it down on a soccer ball magazine.

INT. THE COW PALACE - STAGE - NIGHT

It's pitch black, except for a few bobbing flashlights. Red overhead lights come on.

Spotlight shines on Neil Young, audience applauds.

NEIL

Hello San Francisco...
Yeah, thanks a lot... Prior to the show I had been on stage checking over the equipment. In the back hall I saw a "shadow." The "shadow" yells out to me, "Hey Mr. Young can I play in your band?" I didn't recognize his voice. It sounded British, but you know all those British guys sound alike. (audience laughs) I asked him what did he play and he said, "a mean guitar." So I asked him to come up to the stage. Then Eric Clapton comes into the light. I said sure you can play, but do I have to pay you?

Audience laughs.

NEIL (CONT'D)

We have a special guest tonight.

A spotlight shines on a couple of Fender Deluxe amplifiers. Eric Clapton comes out from behind them.

The audience cheers.

Eric looks over to Turk, with a smile and a laugh. Their own private joke.

Neil and Eric play Neil Young's "Helpless"...

INT. BACKSTAGE HALL - NIGHT

Neil's Crewman shows Turk to an office door.

CREWMAN

Neil said this is the room.

TURK

And what was this for?

CREWMAN

I don't know, I'm just the messenger. (he knows)

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Turk enters and stops in forward motion. He looks to a pair of deep blue eyes. A very beautiful Dianne, smiling at Turk. Turk walks over to her, they embrace.

TURK

How did you know?

DIANNE

Mr. Young called me to tell me about your coming to town with him.

TURK

The letters...

DIANNE

...you don't have to explain. It hurt, but I knew after your father had passed, it was difficult for you. That's why I continued to send you those letters. To remind you that someone was still thinking about you.

Turk and Dianne embrace again, and again. It's time to fade this scene out.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Eric Burdon's "Monterey" plays over all locations...

- Turk is playing rhythm guitar, on stage with ERIC BURDON.
- Turk plays with ERIC CLAPTON in London, tall stool nearby.
- Turk on stage sitting in a tall stool playing rhythm guitar with ANNE and NANCY WILSON of HEART.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO - TURK'S NEW HOME - FOYER - DUSK

One of the two grand doors opens under a dim overhead light. A woman's hand comes into view, turning the lights on.

This woman is Dianne, now Turk's wife. She carries their sleepy BABY GIRL, three years old, hair as blonde as her mothers. Dianne drops Baby Girl's sneakers to the floor.

EXT. TURK'S NEW HOUSE - DUSK

Turk sits in a rod iron chair. He takes his sunglasses off and watches the reddish-golden sun setting into the ocean.

DIANNE (O.S.)
Are you coming in?

TURK
Yeah, couple minutes.

Turk's head rests back eyes closing.

(beat)

DIANNE
Hey Turk Rock, you coming in?

TURK
Yes Mrs. Rock.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dianne is pouring milk into two crystal glasses.

DIANNE
Look what I have.

TURK
Cool, a Hershey bar with almonds.
You gonna share?

DIANNE
Of course.

Dianne snaps the candy bar in half.

TURK
Hey, I got the smaller half.

Dianne takes a big bite out of her large half.

DIANNE
 (mouth full)
 No no, you got the bigger half.

TURK
 Oh sure, now I do.

DIANNE
 It's quiet, she was so tired I
 didn't even put her pajamas on.

TURK
 Cheers.

Dianne's wedding ring sparkles under the overhead light as they clink their crystal glasses together.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

The moonlight streams in from the skylight.

TURK
 Phew, glad to be home.

DIANNE
 So am I. That was a great show
 tonight. Who's next?

Just then the phone RINGS, the answering machine CLICKS on.

ANNE WILSON (V.O.)
 Turk this is Anne. Nancy and I were
 talking and would like to know if
 you would be available to join our
 European Tour. We know that you
 have your first album coming out,
 but we would be back before its
 release, call us.

TURK
 Well there's your answer, I guess
 were going to Europe with Heart.

Little THUDS are heard in the living room.

DIANNE
 Did you hear that?

TURK
 Probably PEPPY JR. getting his
 nightly exercise.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Under the overhead light a German Shepard puppy, PEPPY JR. is running around.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Now we hear the pitter-patter of little bare feet running across the cold tile floor.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Baby Girl opens up daddy's chewed guitar case. Struggling a little, she pulls the acoustic guitar out, placing it flat on the carpet, then puts on daddy's sunglasses. She begins to pick a couple guitar notes resembling The Doors "The Spy."

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dianne gets out of bed and turns the lamp on.

DIANNE
Guess who's up?

TURK
At least she's playing some easy
listening music.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A little hand presses a television remote control.

BAM! On a large television screen, a very loud Suzie Quatro's "48 Crash" plays...

Baby Girl has the guitar on her lap imitating Suzie Quatro, picking notes and shaking her blonde hair.

Dianne carries Baby Girl back to her bed.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dianne jumps back into bed.

DIANNE
I think we're going to have a rock
and roll star on our hands.

TURK
It's not my fault.

Dianne gives Turk one of her famous disapproving looks.

FADE OUT.

THE END