

Fade to White

by

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EXT. STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO. - EVENING

A single snowflake falls through the darkening sky. Below, miles and miles of runs crisscross the mountain in ribbons of white.

Huge, beautiful mountain homes line the lower trails.

EXT. MOUNTAIN HOME - REAR DECK - CONTINUOUS

LLOYD PATTERSON, late 50's, distinguished, tends a grill on the deck of a beautiful mountain mansion. The snowflake floats lazily down, landing on his balding head. Steaks and burgers sizzle on the grill.

TOBIAS (O.S.)  
(thick European accent)  
Excuse me, sir?

He twirls around, startled, squints his eyes in the gloom.

LLOYD  
Huh?

TOBIAS, 40's, hard, chiseled features, stands at the gate of the deck, a warm smile on his face.

TOBIAS  
I'm sorry to bother you. I'm staying  
at your neighbor's...next door...I'm  
Tobias.

Lloyd smiles, walks forward.

LLOYD  
No problem at all...come in...come  
in. I'm Lloyd Patterson. You  
sound...is it German?

Tobias opens the gate, enters smiling. They shake hands.

TOBIAS  
Ja, a Deuschlander, sehr gut.

LLOYD  
What can I do for you, neighbor?

Lloyd returns to the grill, flips his steaks. Tobias follows behind.

TOBIAS  
Well, I smelled your food, and wanted  
to cook myself, but I have no, how  
do you say, pro...pane?

He pauses, looks around.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Do you have extra...

LLOYD

I sure do. Hold on a sec, and I'll grab a tank for you.

Lloyd turns, takes a step away from the grill.

Tobias reaches down, grabs the steak fork from the grill.

TOBIAS

Lloyd?

LLOYD

Yeah?

Lloyd turns to face him.

Tobias moves quickly, rams the fork into his throat. Blood shoots out instantly.

Lloyd SCREAMS, falls backward onto the grill. On contact, his body bounces up violently. The fork remains buried in his throat, as he falls forward.

His body convulses on the deck. Thin wisps of smoke from his charred head waft into the approaching night sky.

INT. MOUNTAIN HOME - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

MRS. PATTERSON, 50's, is at the open fridge.

A SOUND from behind her, as the slider from the deck opens.

MRS. PATTERSON

Are you ready for the buns, Lloyd?

She turns, and is greeted by a short handled AX, flying through the air. It strikes her in the chest with a THUD. She's knocked back into the fridge, and then down. A bottle of milk CRASHES next to her.

Blood and milk pool around her lifeless body.

INT. MOUNTAIN HOME - TROPHY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Tobias approaches a glass gun case. He uses a pillow to quietly shatter the glass, exposing the weapons.

He pulls out a shotgun and shells, and chambers the rounds.

INT. MOUNTAIN HOME - INDOOR POOL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

MARSHALL and CYNDI PATTERSON, late 20's, frolic in the deep end of a massive pool. Laughter and music from a small boom box echo throughout the glassed in room. They're both naked, arms locked around each other.

Tobias enters silently from behind them.

He quietly approaches...up to the boom box, on a small table, plugged into a wall outlet.

He tosses it into the pool, rather casually.

At the same instant it hits the water, Cyndi hoists herself up and out of the pool.

Marshall instantly reacts to the electricity, violently shaking, flopping about in the water. Cyndi's foot is still in the water, causing her to fly forward from the jolt, up and out, landing on the decking.

She SCREAMS, shakes uncontrollably.

Marshall slowly disappears under the water.

The extension cord pulls out from the wall outlet, as the music box sinks below the surface.

Cyndi looks up in horror as Tobias approaches, shot gun raised and ready. She's still quivering, unable to move.

He stops, takes aim, a calm look in his steel grey eyes.

Marshall leaps out of the water, a few feet away. A thunderous BANG. The shot goes high, missing her completely.

Cyndi gets to her feet, makes a break for the door leading outside, only several feet in front of her.

Tobias quickly rights himself, aims down at Marshall in the water. Another cavernous BLAST. Pellets riddle the water as well as the top of his head. The pool water turns deep red as Marshall sinks out of sight.

Cyndi gets to the door, and outside. Tobias takes aim again, following her progress through the floor to ceiling glass. The shotgun tracks from right to left.

BANG! The glass shatters and Cyndi goes flying into a snow bank, a lifeless and bloody mess.

INT. MOUNTAIN HOME - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A small Winnie the Pooh night light gives off a warm yellow glow. The door opens quietly.

A young boy, JOEY PATTERSON, sits up in bed.

JOEY  
Daddy? Daddy? I heard noises.

Tobias enters quietly.

TOBIAS  
I'm afraid not. Go back to sleep,  
little one. Gute nacht.

A shotgun blast bathes the room in blinding white light.

FADE TO WHITE:

**INSERT TITLE: FADE TO WHITE**

INT. COMMERCIAL AIRLINER - NIGHT

CAPTAIN BLACKBOURN, 40's, friendly, heavyset face, is at the helm of the plane, his Co-Pilot to his right.

In the back, the cabin is half full. ROSIE, 40's, lead Flight Attendant, makes her way up the center aisle.

There's a shudder, as the plane hits some wind. A few gasps and nervous smiles. Various faces and passing conversations, as the intercom chimes in.

BLACKBOURN (O.S.)  
This is Captain Blackbourn from the Flightdeck. We've hit a little turbulence as we're making our final descent into the Durango area. Please take your seats and buckle up. We'll be on the ground in about fifteen minutes. Thanks again for choosing our airline. It's been a pleasure serving you this evening.

DANNY and CARLIE ALLEN, 30's, are seated in the last row in First Class. They're a good looking couple.

Across from them, a YOUNG COUPLE with a TODDLER on the woman's lap. The toddler has caught Carlisle's eye.

CARLIE  
Honey, look how cute that little guy is over there.

Danny listens to his iPod, mouthing the words to a song, no one but he can hear.

Carlisle puts her arm around him, gives him a little shake.

CARLIE (CONT'D)

Hello? Can you turn that thing off?  
We're getting ready to land.

He fumbles with the player, takes off the BOSE earphones.

DANNY

I love this new Edguy. It's amazing!

CARLIE

New Edguy, huh? What a surprise.  
You love all their music.

She smiles, moves closer...gives him a kiss on the cheek.

DANNY

Kinda bumpy, huh? What'ya need?

CARLIE

Well...I was just admiring that  
beautifully cute little boy over  
there, and I was thinking...

DANNY

Hmm, I wonder what you were  
thinking...

CARLIE

Look how cute he is.

DANNY

Yep, he's pretty damn cute, isn't  
he? Is that what you were thinking?

CARLIE

You know exactly what I was thinking,  
Dr. Allen, and you know exactly what  
I'm talking about...don't you?

Another shudder...more gasps. It's more violent this time.  
The cabin actually shakes until the plane stabilizes itself  
and the interior lights come on.

The sleeping boy across the aisle wakes up...SCREAMING.

Danny and Carlie both laugh, eyes directly on each other.

DANNY

Uh huh. And I think you know exactly  
what I'm thinking right now Mrs.  
Allen, don't ya?

CARLIE

But Honey...

DANNY

C'mon, let's just enjoy this ski trip, OK? When we get back, we'll have another talk...make some decisions.

CARLIE

We're gonna talk alright Mister!  
That's for sure.

Rosie's right behind Carlie. She smiles, bends over and makes a funny face at the screaming child. Magic...he stops crying and smiles the kind of smile that only children can.

ROSIE

I wish all my passengers were as cute as you.

She rubs the child's wild head of hair, turns to the Allens.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

I know it's none of my business, but I think you'd make wonderful parents. I can just tell.

Carlisle turns to Danny with a smile on her face.

CARLIE

See? How many times do I have to tell you? What do you have to say for yourself now?

Rosie winks at Carlisle, as Danny blushes.

DANNY

Beautiful! That's about all I'm gonna say. Just BEAUTIFUL!

INT. COMMERCIAL AIRLINER - MOMENTS LATER

Passengers begin to deplane. Captain Blackbourn and Rosie are up front saying their good-byes. As Danny and Carlisle approach the exit, Rosie smiles and addresses them both.

ROSIE

And aren't they a lovely couple? Thanks so much you guys. Enjoy yourselves here in beautiful Durango.

BLACKBOURN

You two look like skiers, am I right?

DANNY

Well, you're both right. We're a lovely couple and we do love to ski.

Carlie laughs, winks at Rosie as they exit the plane.

BLACKBOURN

Enjoy yourselves, but be careful.  
Lots of snow falling tonight.

DANNY AND CARLIE

Thanks. Good-night.

INT. DURANGO AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

Danny and Carlie exit the jetway. There's a TV screen overhead.

On TV screen: A female newscaster.

NEWSCASTER

There are still no leads, suspects,  
or motives in the brutal and shocking  
murders of publishing mogul Lloyd  
Patterson and his family, two weeks  
ago in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.  
The case remains a mystery that has  
baffled local and national law  
enforcement officials. We'll keep  
you updated as information comes in.

Danny has a small, red nylon bag in his right hand.

CARLIE

What's in the bag, Hun?

DANNY

Secret...can't really talk about it.

CARLIE

You're so mysterious.

She trips and almost falls, as she gazes into his eyes.  
Danny catches her, keeps her upright.

DANNY

OK there Klutzo, easy now...no falling  
until we get on the slopes tomorrow.

EXT. DURANGO AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

Big, fluffy snowflakes fall through the dark sky.

Carlie pushes a cart with four large bags on it, while Danny  
pulls a ski carrier with a sticker on it that reads "Peace  
on Earth and Goodwill to all skiers".

Carlie has a grin on her face as she stops to watch the snow  
fall. She opens her mouth, attempts to catch a snowflake.



She twists, turns her head, but can't seem to make it work.

CARLIE

Damn, with the years of practice I have, wouldn't ya think I'd be a little better at this?

DANNY

I think it's kind of like watching water boil, ya know?

He drops the ski carrier, quickly grabs a big handful of snow, and starts toward her.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Let me help you out there!

CARLIE

You better not...

Too late, as he plops the snow into her still open mouth.

DANNY

I love you Honey...I really do.

He looks in her eyes...he means it.

CARLIE

You better. Now let's get moving. I want to do a little shopping in town before we eat.

DANNY

Shopping, huh? I don't know if any stores will still be open.

CARLIE

We'll find one that's open...trust me.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - LATER

High up in the air. A dark and snowy two lane highway snakes back and forth through snow covered trees.

Howling wind and heavy snow. A single car on the road gets closer with each passing second.

It's a white Jeep. Inside are Danny and Carlie. Danny's driving.

INT. JEEP - CONTINUOUS

CARLIE  
Everything OK?

Danny frowns.

DANNY  
Yeah, just nervous about the money  
for the new office...and Xavier, ya  
know?

CARLIE  
Don't even worry about it. When we  
get back next week, it'll be taken  
care of. Everything will be fine,  
Hun.

DANNY  
You think Xavier's gonna be cool?

CARLIE  
Well, I don't know if cool's the  
right word, but I think you can trust  
him. Got to do what ya got to do,  
right?

DANNY  
Yep, we only live once.

Carlie looks directly ahead into the blinding snow.

CARLIE  
Glad you're driving D. Thick snow  
and my driving just doesn't add up.

DANNY  
One of your few flaws.

Carlie looks over, eyebrows raised.

CARLIE  
Yeah, right. Easy you.

EXT. DURANGO, CO. - MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Both sides are lined with various shops, galleries, and  
restaurants.

In front of them, to their right, a ski shop with signs in  
its windows reading "After Christmas Sale".

INT. JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Carlie has an excited look on her face.

CARLIE

Honey! Right there. Let's park and go into that ski shop. Looks like they've got a big sale going on.

Danny hits the brakes. Carlie turns in her seat, still eyeing the shop window.

DANNY

OK, doing my best here. Uh...

EXT. DURANGO, CO. - MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

No open parking spots on either side of the street. The Jeep comes to a stop.

INT. JEEP - CONTINUOUS

DANNY

OK, why don't you get out here. I'll park somewhere and meet you inside. Cool?

CARLIE

Very cool. And you know what?

Danny smiles, shakes his head up and down.

CARLIE (CONT'D)

You're cool too. See ya.

EXT. DURANGO, CO. - MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Carlie climbs out into the snowy night, gives Danny a wink.

DANNY

Don't buy anything!

She closes the door, walks away with her hand waving in the air.

CARLIE

Love you!

The Jeep slowly pulls away.

Carlie looks up, attempts another snowflake in the mouth catch. Success! She smiles, laughs out loud.

CARLIE (CONT'D)

Got ya sucka...

EXT. DURANGO, CO. - ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

A grizzled MAN stumbles forward, lurching right and left. He's shitface drunk.

He leaves Main Street, and heads down a quiet alley. He reaches out, pushes off the exterior of an old brick building, continues on his way.

A loud CLANGING NOISE in front of him. He stumbles back, surprised. A mangy old CAT climbs out from a garbage can, lying on the ground.

The cat stands motionless on all fours, baying menacingly, holding its ground.

He reaches down, extends a jittery hand forward. The cat backs away but quickly returns to an aggressive stance.

A TIRE IRON comes down hard on the back of his head. He goes down instantly, as the cat runs off. Thick red blood soaks into the snow.

The tire iron comes down three more times, as wispy snow pillows up.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. DURANGO, CO. - MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Danny turns onto the main drag from a small alley. Up ahead is a bar called The Horny Toad. Music from a live band wafts out through the front door, which seems to be opening and closing quite frequently, as patrons come and go.

An old classic plays, but it can only be heard when the door is open. The door opens, and Danny starts to sing along.

The door closes again, but Danny continues to sing, as he strolls along, oblivious to passing strangers.

He continues past the Horny Toad, as the sounds fade into the night.

A snow flake passes, heading down the sidewalk, back towards the bar. The wind whips it around, passing various faces and conversations...closer to the bar.

The door opens again...inside.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - CONTINUOUS

The place is packed and loud. The walls and ceiling are covered with license plates of all kinds, colors, and sizes.

The band has a stage over to the left of the entryway. A banner hangs overhead that reads, "The Snowy Chickens". Under the banner, four MEN, long hair, late 40's, jam out good old rock and roll.

There's a dance-floor in front of the stage with several people getting down to the tune. An older MAN, obviously drunk, shouts out the lyrics as best he can, while pumping his fist.

A shapely young waitress, SARA, early 20's, carries a tray of drinks through the crowded bar. She heads toward a large group sitting at three tables pulled together.

LISA SCHAEFER has her arm around JAKE FOSTER. Both mid 20's, attractive...clean cut and fashionable.

Next to Lisa, is MARTIN LANSING, late 20's...neither attractive, nor fashionable. He has an honest, down home look about him...sad eyes that seem to want more out of life.

JOHNNY MCDERMOTT, mid 20's, is next to Jake. A completely different breed altogether...long, unkempt hair...chiseled good looks and a laid back demeanor...a confidence about him that you can actually see.

JANELLE GRIFFIN, early 20's, sits next to Martin. She's absolutely stunning, with crystal blue eyes that seem to emit light.

At the other end of the tables, MEGAN O'REILLY, mid 20's, long red hair, porcelain white skin, and NICOLE JASPER, late 20's, bleached blond hair, and a tan that would make George Hamilton jealous, sit.

Conversation, laughter, and partying among friends.

Sara works her way to the center table, rests her heavy tray and hands out the various drinks.

Johnny gives her a wink and a smile.

JOHNNY  
Perfect, Beautiful.

SARA  
Are you guys going to be wanting  
anything from the kitchen tonight?

Johnny turns toward the rest of the group, but focuses his attention on Janelle, across the table from him.

JOHNNY  
Are we eating or drinking tonight?

ALL  
We're drinking!

LISA  
 Uh, I'm a little hungry.

MEGAN  
 Me too, I could eat for sure.

NICOLE  
 I can drink for sure!

JOHNNY  
 OK then, to drinking and eating...a  
 little bit.

Johnny raises his beer, the rest of the group joins in.

Sara laughs as glasses and bottles are raised in a wild toast.  
 Johnny winks at Janelle...Martin shifts in his chair uneasily.

INT. BLACK DIAMOND SPORTS - CONTINUOUS

Danny steps in from the storm. Carlie's in front of a mirror.

DANNY  
 Hello there, trying on jackets, huh?

CARLIE  
 Hi Hun! Look what I found.

DANNY  
 Great...didn't we just buy you like  
 two or three new ones on-line?

CARLIE  
 Come on Danny, you know I love to  
 shop and try things on. Give me a  
 few minutes, OK? Go look at things  
 for yourself or something.

Danny walks away shaking his head.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - CONTINUOUS

The drunk guy on the dance-floor is still going strong,  
 singing along with the Chickens. Johnny laughs, thumps his  
 fist in the air, mocking the old codger.

JAKE  
 Hey McD, don't laugh too hard my  
 friend, I remember you looking alot  
 like that on many a night back in  
 school.

JOHNNY

Give me a break Jake, even in my worst times, I've never looked that fucking pathetic. But you my friend, that's another story.

The rest of the table quiets down. Jake reaches out and punches his friend in the arm, goes in for a headlock.

JAKE

Oh trust me buddy, you've looked alot more pathetic than that...

He's cut off by Johnny as he twists out of reach and turns towards Lisa.

JOHNNY

Easy you wuss. Hey Lees, did your boyfriend here ever tell you about our first Spring Break trip to Cancun?

LISA

I don't know Johnny, it sounds like you're about to though, huh?

Jake takes a mock fighting stance, throwing lefts and rights above Johnny's head.

JAKE

C'mon you long haired hippy. Forget it. No one's interested in your bullshit stories.

NICOLE

I'm definitely interested...sorry Jake.

JANELLE

Yeah, me too, do tell. I love stories.

JOHNNY

OK, so we're at this club in Cancun, and we're all pretty wasted. It was me, your Jake boy here, and...

JAKE

And Big Boy Kusic! Let's not even go there McD. Seriously.

MEGAN

Was this before or during the time that you and Lisa were going out?

JAKE

BEFORE! Long before.

LISA

Oh I don't care about that. Whenever.

JAKE

Oh Jeez.

JOHNNY

It was before. I think you guys met a few months afterwards actually.

Johnny turns to Jake with a Jager shot in his hand.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Oh man, remember that guy? How fucked up was he? Here's to the Kus!

Jake picks up a shot, throws up a toast, as Nicole jumps in for one as well.

NICOLE

Hey there, what about us girls here?

MEGAN

Not me, you guys go ahead.

LISA

Janey, are you in, I'm sure not.

Janelle jumps up with a smile on her face.

JANELLE

Give me one of those things, damn it...I'm in!

MARTIN

One left...here's to your boy the Kus, whoever or whatever the Hell he is.

They toast, down the shot.

JOHNNY

OK, OK, so we're in this club and Jake is totally wasted...well, we were all totally wasted, but Jake here was just about all done.

LISA

I've seen that before.

JANELLE

No shit, huh?

JAKE

Let him get this over with, OK?

Janelle and Lisa exchange a nervous glance.



JOHNNY

So he staggers over to the dance-floor and they've got this dance crap techno shit on, and he starts dancing with this group of girls.

LISA

Jake dancing? That had to be classic.

JOHNNY

Oh it was. It definitely was. He starts dancing...and within like ten seconds, seriously ten seconds, he starts puking, and nails all the girls he's with as well as a bouncer.

MEGAN

Oh poor Jake.

JAKE

Yeah, no shit poor Jake, cause the bouncer...

JOHNNY

Let me finish the story!

JAKE

Oh whatever. Go for it.

JOHNNY

Yeah, cause the bouncer, some giant Mexican dude, literally backhands him in the face, and as he's spinning around, he starts puking again. Only this time, he's got his fists in the air and he's got a smile on his face. Puke was going everywhere. It was insane.

LISA

Honey that's sick.

JOHNNY

The bouncer dude grabs him, picks him up, and carries him to the front door, while he's still puking and screaming "Thank you very much" to the crowd.

JAKE

OK, the end. Next subject please...

JOHNNY

Not quite the end...

JAKE

Dude, c'mon, enough already, huh?

Jake has a nervous look on his face.

JOHNNY

Hold on buddy, almost done. So we don't see Kusic again until a couple hours later, when he stumbles back totally bombed and looking even worse than he usually does.

JAKE

And he's one ugly motherfucker too.

Everyone laughs. Lisa agrees, nodding her head.

JOHNNY

And he tells us that he picked up a chick at the club and went back to her place and started in with her...but had to leave...

Johnny looks around at everyone with a smile.

JANELLE

Huh? I don't get it.

LISA

I don't think I wanna get it.

MEGAN

Touchee!

JOHNNY

Because she had puke all over her, and it was so bad he literally couldn't take it.

MARTIN

Nice!

MEGAN

That's sick!

JANELLE

Ewww...gross.

NICOLE

Yeah, sick! You men are all pigs.

LISA

Well Mr. McDermott, that's one story I could have done without.

Martin laughs hard, unable to stop.

JOHNNY

Sorry Lees, but yeah, that's pretty sick, I agree, but we're not all pigs.

NICOLE

Yeah right. Guys are all pretty sick if you ask me.

JOHNNY

Actually Darlin', I have to disagree with you on that one because the moral of the story is actually this...

JAKE

And you're saying that you're the one to talk about morals? Please...

JOHNNY

Shut up dumbass! The moral of the story is that although our boy The Kus is indeed one sick motherfucker, at least he wasn't sick enough to bang the chick with puke all over her. She had no problem with it though. She was ready to go. Now that's what I call sick.

NICOLE

That's bullshit.

JAKE

OK, enough McD. Jesus Christ...

The Snowy Chickens start a new song, and ask the patrons to dance. Lisa smiles, looks at the girls.

LISA

Hey I love this song. Speaking of dancing...let's go!

MEGAN

I'm in, c'mon you guys!

JANELLE

You know I'm always ready to shake it.

Nicole shakes her head, stands up, glaring at the guys.

JAKE

Uh...we're out...

EXT. DURANGO, CO. - MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Danny and Carlie walk away from the sports store. Carlie has a large bag in her hand. Snow continues to fall.

DANNY

I seriously cannot believe you CC.  
I don't know if I can afford these  
vacations anymore.

CARLIE

Oh Honey, come on...it could be alot  
worse and you know it. Good thing  
you love me, huh?

DANNY

Yeah, good thing. I'm starving.

Carlie's still attempting to catch snowflakes in her mouth as she walks along. Danny holds her from behind.

A fat flake falls directly into her mouth, she swallows it with a big smile.

CARLIE

MM, good! I hear you. I'm hungry  
also...and thirsty. I want a Grey  
Goose martini!

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - CONTINUOUS

The Snowy Chickens finish the song, tell the bar that they need a break. Dance music starts up and the girls go wild.

Danny and Carlie walk through the bar. No open tables or seats at the bar.

They walk over to a group of three tables. Danny pulls one of them away from the other two.

CARLIE

Looks like they've got big martinis  
here...I can't wait!

Carlie has a big, goofy smile on her face...she moves in rhythm with the song. She reaches over, gives Danny a kiss.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - DANCE FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

The girls dance...having a blast...getting wild.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - GOLDEN TEE MACHINE - CONTINUOUS

The guys hover around the video golf game, taking turns.

JAKE

McD, you know that wasn't too cool to tell that story in front of everybody. You had me worried there.

MARTIN

Worried about what?

JAKE

Oh nothing Marty, not important.

JOHNNY

Dude, how can you say nothing? Can I tell him the real ending?

MARTIN

Huh?

JAKE

McD, I'm seriously going to beat your ass if you don't shut it.

JOHNNY

Jake, too late to stop now...you know that, right? I mean c'mon man, we're all among friends here, right?

JAKE

Martin, if you repeat this to anyone, seriously, anyone, I swear I'm gonna tell Janey you're gay and make her believe it.

MARTIN

Fuck you! Like she'd care.

JOHNNY

Like you and Janey are a thing?

JAKE

Yeah, in his wet dreams they are.

Johnny and Jake laugh and High Five each other.

MARTIN

Fuck off. I'm never gonna get with a girl like her...we all know that. She's been looking at you though, Johnny. Must be nice...Asshole.

JOHNNY

Easy now Marty. I'm not sure about that, but I can tell ya that I've sure been looking at her. She's hot as shit...pretty cool too. We'll see bros.

They pause, shoot a Jager.

MARTIN

So let's hear it Johnny...finish the story.

JOHNNY

Jake?

JAKE

Just be cool Marty, no one else knows about this, and no one ever can. OK? Seriously man, no one.

MARTIN

Wow, I'm almost scared. I won't say anything. Swear to God. Bring it.

They continue to take turns at the machine as they talk.

JOHNNY

Well, after Jake here got tossed, we were out in the parking lot and he was all pissed off. Totally wasted, slurring...just out of control. He's yelling and swearing and making threats...you know, shit like that.

MARTIN

Wow, nice. That doesn't sound like the mild mannered guy I know.

Martin gives Jake a smile.

JAKE

Dude, it was a long time ago...worlds away my friend...worlds away. C'mon man, you're up. Quit stalling.

Johnny checks out the hole with a "fly by", hits the roller ball as hard as he can. The ball lands with a kerplunk on the green.

JOHNNY

Yes! So...he says something like "I'm gonna go get that fat fuck", and I'm like, uh yeah, right. Next thing I know, he's got a fucking pipe in his hand and he's running back inside.

MARTIN

Huh? Dude...no way.

JOHNNY

Yeah, totally serious.  
(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I ran after him but I couldn't catch him. As I get in, I see him swinging the pipe and laying the big dude out. Cracked him over the head...blood everywhere. Absolutely insane. Looked like a fucking horror movie or something.

MARTIN

Oh my God...what happened? How'd you get away?

Martin has a shocked look on his face. He looks away just long enough to hit his shot, which misses the green...the ball plops into the water.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Shit! Damn it!

JAKE

I ran as fast as my ass would let me and never looked back. God, it was horrible.

Jake has a glazed look on his face.

JOHNNY

Yeah, shit, I'll never forget it. I think you actually killed the guy.

MARTIN

Oh my God, you killed him? Unbelievable...unbelievable! I guess I better never fuck with ya, huh?

JAKE

Dude, we don't know what happened to him. That was a different me. It's actually the biggest regret I have in my life...but yeah Marty, don't fuck with me.

Jake tries to smile and laugh it off...it doesn't quite work. Martin has a wide eyed look of confusion on his face.

JOHNNY

Yeah, biggest regret other than not being able to get it up with that stripper chick from Texas that I ended up boning.

Johnny laughs, Martin pops a nervous smile.

JAKE

OK, that's seriously enough dude.  
(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)

No more stories about me, McD. I mean it. Now hit your damn ball so I can start catching up here. You're unbelievable.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - CONTINUOUS

Sara approaches Danny and Carlie, now seated.

SARA

Are you with the big group also?

DANNY

Uh, no...I don't think so. What group is that?

The girls return from the dance floor talking and laughing among themselves. Janelle is in front.

SARA

Well here's part of 'em.

JANELLE

Howdy strangers.

LISA

What's going on?

DANNY AND CARLIE

Hey there. Hi.

DANNY

Uh, sorry guys, are these your tables?

NICOLE

Oh that's OK, we've got room for ya. Relax, we won't bite.

Nicole grabs Megan, pretends to bite her neck. Megan pushes her friend away as Danny stands up.

DANNY

Hi there. I'm Danny...this is my wife Carlie. OK if we join you?

JANELLE

No problem. We were kinda hogging the tables anyway. We've got three guys playing stupid golf or something also.

She looks back to where the machines are.

SARA

Another round?



LISA  
Sounds good, right?

The girls all nod.

CARLIE  
And a Grey Goose martini, dry with  
three big olives, please! I've been  
wanting one all day.

DANNY  
There you go Hun. How about a nice,  
tall Sierra Nevada for me. Are you  
guys still serving food, we're  
starved.

SARA  
Yep, kitchen's closing shortly, so  
check out the menu and I'll be back  
in a few.

Sara leaves and the newly joined group introduces themselves.

JANELLE  
Nice to meet you guys. I'm Janelle,  
but you can call me Janey.

LISA  
Or you can just call her Blondie.  
Hi, I'm Lisa.

NICOLE  
And I'm Nicole, Nikki, Nick, whatever.  
This is Megan.

She pulls Megan over, who moves in rather shyly.

NICOLE (CONT'D)  
You can call her Red also...the hair,  
you know?

Megan smiles sheepishly...gives a strange look to Lisa.

MEGAN  
Nice to meet you guys. Are you  
locals?

DANNY  
Nope, Phoenix. Just flew in to ski  
for the weekend.

LISA  
A Z, huh? Most of us too.

NICOLE  
Yeah, we're the oddballs...

Nicole puts her arm around Megan.

NICOLE (CONT'D)  
We're down in Southern Cal.

LISA  
And one of the guys is a friend of  
my boyfriend from Florida.

CARLIE  
Cool. Did you guys ski today?

LISA  
Most of us did...it was awesome...I  
mean awesome.

JANELLE  
The lodge was nice.

LISA  
Yeah, she's the one that wears the  
hot, tight snow bunny suit, and sits  
around the lodge all day drinking  
and looking at guys.

They all laugh. Janelle looks a little embarrassed.

JANELLE  
I do not either, you bitch. I can't  
help looking good...it just comes  
naturally.

Janelle smiles.

DANNY  
Well, as long as you're enjoying  
yourself, right?

JANELLE  
I'd say that's exactly right. So  
the rest of you can fuck off.  
There...I feel better now.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - GOLDEN TEE MACHINE - MOMENTS LATER

Empty bottles and shot glasses sit on a table next to the  
machine.

JOHNNY  
Game over losers. Ten bones from  
each of you...please!

MARTIN  
That's bullshit. I think I've been  
suckered.

JAKE

Trust me buddy, you have. Remember this next time he wants to bet.

JOHNNY

Oh come on guys, everybody gets to win every now and then, right?

JAKE

Yeah, that would be nice, huh Marty?

MARTIN

No shit...when's it gonna be my turn?

JAKE

Maybe tonight big guy. Just go over to Janelle and plant a big wet one on those nice lips of hers.

JOHNNY

Dude, seriously, if you want to go for it, you should. If you don't, then expect me to. I will give you first dibs on her though...since you know her already. I don't want to be a dick or anything.

JAKE

There ya go Marty...better take him up on it, cause he's usually a dick. Trust me...I know.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - MOMENTS LATER

Jake and Martin walk toward the group, laughing and talking. Martin looks at Jake, blurts out with a laugh...

MARTIN

So, have you hit anyone else over the head with a lead pipe lately, Colonel Mustard?

Jake hits him hard in the arm.

JAKE

Dude, what the fuck did I tell you? Shut the Hell up, dumbass!

MARTIN

Shit...

He recoils and winces.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Sorry man...take it easy dude, that's my bad shoulder.

LISA  
There they are. What's up guys?

JAKE  
Hey there. McD kicked our asses.

MARTIN  
Yeah, and took our money too.

JAKE  
And who do we have here?

DANNY  
Hey there, we kind of swooped in on your girls here.

LISA  
Danny and Carlie, meet my boyfriend Jake and our friend Martin.

Danny stands up...shakes hands with both. Carlie smiles up as well.

MARTIN  
You guys skiing?

CARLIE  
We're gonna be as soon as the slopes open tomorrow morning. We can't wait. It looks amazing.

She giggles.

MARTIN  
Oh yeah, it sure was today, but that powder's tough, ya know. I'm so sore.

Janelle looks at Martin with a smile on her face.

JANELLE  
Oh poor Marty...need a back rub?

JAKE  
Here we go...

MARTIN  
Huh?

He smiles sheepishly.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
Yeah, I think I do. I could probably use a front rub as well, if you're offering.

They all laugh.

JANELLE

You wish baby. What happened to Johnny?

MARTIN

Pissing, but don't worry Janey, he'll be right back.

Janelle rolls her eyes.

JAKE

So what do you guys do, Danny?

DANNY

Well...I'm actually a doctor, and Carlie here does just about whatever she wants...isn't that right Honey?

CARLIE

Yeah right! I take care of him is what I do, and trust me, he needs it.

LISA

What's your specialty Dan?

DANNY

Well...I mostly work on...uh...augmentations actually.

MARTIN

Tit jobs huh? Nice!

Lisa turns toward Martin with an irritated look on her face.

LISA

Marty, are you drunk again?

JAKE

Uh, I'd say he's definitely hammered.

Nicole stands up laughing, grabs her ample breasts.

NICOLE

You mean like these?

Eyes go wide. Laughter from all.

DANNY

Well, you know I can't be sure but it doesn't look like you need my help, right?

NICOLE

That's right, Doctor.

She starts a slow grind in front of everyone. Martin stares at her...a grin on his face.

MARTIN

I guess I'm not the only one who's a little loaded, huh?

He raises his beer, aims a toast toward Nicole.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

To breast jobs...and nice breasts...and big breasts...

NICOLE

And nice, big breasts...

MARTIN

Yeah, there we go...

NICOLE

And my breasts!

MARTIN

Definitely your breasts...and all breasts!

Megan shakes her head, as Nicole continues to grind. Jake and Lisa look at each other...roll their eyes.

Nicole finally sits down, toasts Martin, laughing wildly.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Well, on that note, I'm gonna go out and have a little burnie...anyone care to join me? Janey?

JANELLE

OK, I'm in. We'll be back.

CARLIE

A burnie? What's that?

JAKE

A smoke, you know?

He holds up two fingers as if holding a cigarette between them. Lisa looks at Carlie with a smile on her face.

DANNY

Honey, c'mon...

CARLIE

Woops, sorry guys. That second Goose kinda hit me.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - LATER

Empty glasses, bottles, and plates with remnants of hamburgers and French Fries are everywhere.

Martin, Janelle, and Johnny have distanced themselves from the others. Nicole looks pretty drunk, isn't saying much all of a sudden. Megan talks with Jake and Lisa. Danny and Carlie talk together quietly. They kiss frequently.

LISA

You guys are so cute together...seriously. I hope we're like that someday.

CARLIE

Oh thanks.

DANNY AND CARLIE

That's...

Danny and Carlie look at each other, laugh.

CARLIE

That's so funny...that's the second time in the last few hours that someone said that to us. I have to say that I did a pretty good job when I looped this one. He's a good guy...he really is. Aren't ya, Honey?

DANNY

Well, most of the time I am.

He puts his arm around Carlie.

DANNY (CONT'D)

But...all cute couples eventually have to leave, and I think it's about time for this one to hit it.

JAKE

Where're you guys staying? Are you up at the mountain?

DANNY

Actually no, we've got a house rented over in Eagle's Crest.

LISA

Way too funny.

DANNY

What?

JAKE

That's where we're staying. Lisa's parents own a place over there. You know the way?

CARLIE

Actually...no.

She makes a face, raises her eyebrows.

DANNY

Are you guys leaving soon? We could just follow you.

JAKE

No problem, we've got two cars here.

Jake looks around the tables.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Are we all about ready here?

Megan raises her hand, starts to stand up.

MEGAN

I'm ready and I'll speak for Nikki and say she's way ready.

NICOLE

Oh fuck off. I'm fine, you bitch.

Nicole rolls her eyes, looks away.

JAKE

OK, that's four, what about you guys?

JOHNNY

Uh...you know what? I'd actually like to stay a bit longer. Janey my dear, what about you?

Before she can answer, Martin chimes in...

MARTIN

Yeah, I'll stay too.

Janelle smiles, looks at both Martin and Johnny.

JANELLE

Looks like a Ménage then boys. Are you sure you can handle me?

She laughs...the others join in. Johnny's eyes widen...Martin looks unsure.



JAKE

There we go...OK then, McD, you're in charge of the Lexus, right? Seriously...don't let either of them drive. I'm serious.

JANELLE

(slurring)

Hey, what's that supposed to mean? I can drive just fine.

EXT. DURANGO, CO. - MOMENTS LATER

Snow continues to fall. Everything is white. The Jeep follows a black Escalade out of town. Their tail lights disappear into the night.

INT. ESCALADE - CONTINUOUS

Jake drives, Lisa next to him up front. Megan and Nicole are in the back. Nicole has her hand on top of Megan's leg...Megan looks at her nervously.

LISA

Aren't they nice, though? I really liked them.

JAKE

Yeah, they're great. I can't believe they picked up our entire tab...that's crazy! You know how many Jagies we drank?

LISA

If we see them on the slopes over the weekend, we've got to buy them lunch or something. It's only fair, you know?

NICOLE

Yeah, maybe the good Dr. could even perform an emergency breast job on you, Lees.

Nicole and Megan burst into laughter.

LISA

What the Hell is that supposed to mean, you bitch?

MEGAN

She's just kidding...and drunk. Don't even pay attention to her.

NICOLE

Yeah, sorry Lees, I'm just kidding.  
There's nothing wrong with your  
breasts. Really.

INT. JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Danny drives...squints to see through the fogged up  
windshield. Carlie does her best to wipe it clean with her  
jacket pulled over her hand.

DANNY

Well that was interesting, huh?

CARLIE

Yeah, they're a fun group. So...Megan  
and Nikki? Huh?

Danny's wide eyed, as he stares straight ahead.

DANNY

Not completely sure. Probably more  
than just friends though.

CARLIE

Nothing wrong with that babe. Nobody  
else knew...only us smart ones. You  
can't pull the stuff over our  
eyes...we're all over it.

Carlie sits back. She has a drunk look to her face...her  
eyes flutter.

DANNY

Yeah, we're the smart ones all  
right...but, the saying is, "pull  
the wool over our eyes", not the  
stuff. You know?

CARLIE

Huh?

DANNY

Nothin'. Just talking to myself.  
I've gotta stay close to 'em.

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - MOMENTS LATER

Both cars make their way along the snowy road. No other  
cars are in sight.

INT. ESCALADE - CONTINUOUS

JAKE

Hey Lees, you think Johnny's OK to drive back? I'm a little worried.

LISA

He's probably OK now, but I'm sure they're not done...he's your friend.

MEGAN

I think they'll be OK you guys. He's got that look like he's able to take care of things, you know?

NICOLE

Yeah, that fuck me hard, take care of things look.

MEGAN

Huh?

Nicole breaks into a loud, drunk laugh. Lisa turns around with a surprised look.

LISA

Where'd that come from?

JAKE

Hey Nikki, watch what you wish for back there, cause you don't know him like I know him. Seriously...

NICOLE

I know Jake...you mean like in an anal kind of way? You guys are best buds and all, aren't you big boy?

LISA

Hey, that's just about enough, Nikki!

Jake gives Nicole an angry stare in the rear view mirror.

JAKE

Actually Nick, it's more than enough. You're seriously pissing me off.

MEGAN

Yeah, what the Hell is your problem, Nick? Stop it!

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - CONTINUOUS

There are only two lanes at this point. To the right, a wooded area drops off to a clearing below. To the left, a steep incline that goes back into the mountains.

Both SUV's cruise through the snowy night about a hundred feet apart.

There's an EXPLOSION from the right rear tire on the Jeep. It spins back and forth, out of control.

INT. JEEP - CONTINUOUS

DANNY

Hold on Baby!

Carlie holds the hand strap...they start to spin. Danny does his best to keep the car on the road. The wheel turns left and right in his hands.

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - CONTINUOUS

The Jeep is definitely in trouble, heading towards the embankment to the right...a big drop off. It lurches to the right...they're heading in...

INT. ESCALADE - CONTINUOUS

LISA

Oh shit you guys, look back there!  
They're in trouble!

They all turn with wide eyes, while Jake looks into the rear view mirror.

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - CONTINUOUS

The Jeep's wheels catch, it lurches back into the center of the road. They're back in control, but the rear tire is trashed.

INT. ESCALADE - CONTINUOUS

MEGAN

Wait...they're pulling through it.  
I think they're OK!

LISA

They are...Jake...Stop!

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - CONTINUOUS

The Jeep slows down, pulls off to the right. The Escalade has stops up ahead. The doors open, everyone jumps out and runs back towards the Jeep.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. ESCALADE - LATER

Everyone is piled in. Danny and Carlie are in the third row seats, in the back...it's crowded.

DANNY

We owe you guys big time. Now I'm really glad we took care of that tab back there. I can't believe the tire blew like that.

LISA

Don't worry about it. We're just glad everyone's OK, and we were here to help. Consider it fate, you know?

NICOLE

(slurring)

I call it Karma, what comes around, goes around...and I'll tell ya why. You were cool to us, we're cool to you. Everything's cool.

CARLIE

Right on you guys.

EXT. EAGLE'S CREST - MOMENTS LATER

Eagle's Crest looks like a fairy tale place. Everything is white, buried in snow. Christmas lights flicker in several yards, but most of the big houses are dark inside.

The Escalade continues down the street to the last house on the cul-de-sac. It's the biggest and nicest house on the block. The driveway is lighted, the rest of the house dark.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

They all climb out of the SUV, parked in the driveway.

LISA

If your cell doesn't work inside, you can just use the house phone to call AAA, or whoever you need to.

CARLIE

Awesome. Thanks so much you guys.  
You're really lifesavers...like my  
favorite flavor...battered rum.

Carlie giggles. Megan does as well.

MEGAN

Carlie, you're really funny. You've  
got a cute way about you.

DANNY

She's a comedian all right...aren't  
you Hun? A real comedian.

LISA

C'mon, let's get inside.

NICOLE

No shit, I'm frickin' freezing...and  
thirsty as Hell. Look at this fucking  
walk we've got!

She glares at Jake, wobbles to the right.

Megan rolls her eyes, as she helps her walk.

MEGAN

Thirsty for some water, I hope  
Nick...you're hammered.

NICOLE

Oh fuck off. I'm fine.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The house is stunning. A wide staircase heads up to the  
second level off the massive foyer. The house opens up to  
an extremely large living room/great room. There is money  
here...alot of it.

The kitchen is off to the back of the great room. To the  
right, a hallway that loops around to the other wing of the  
house.

Danny's in the great room on his cell phone. The girls have  
all moved into the kitchen. Jake walks around the house,  
turning lights on.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Carlie looks around with a smile on her face.

CARLIE

Lisa, your parent's house is beautiful. I love it.

MEGAN

Yeah, it sure is, huh?

NICOLE

Must be nice.

They turn their heads toward the great room...Danny's voice.

DANNY (O.S.)

OK, I just talked with AAA. They'll pick us up in forty five minutes.

LISA

Great! You guys can make yourselves at home. It's no trouble at all.

Lisa turns back toward the girls in the kitchen.

LISA (CONT'D)

Yeah, we sure love it. And the great thing is it sleeps twelve, and it's usually available. What more could we want?

CARLIE

A bartender maybe?

Laughter...Danny walks in.

DANNY

And you can see her every night this week performing her one of a kind stand-up routine.

He hugs his wife...kisses her on the side of the neck.

LISA

OK, the bar is once again open then, ladies and gentlemen.

Carlie looks around with a grin.

CARLIE

Uh, any chance of a Grey Goose martini with olives? That's my favorite.

DANNY

Uh, we are planning on skiing tomorrow right? You sure you need another martini?

CARLIE

I got sobered up pretty fast. I'll be fine...really.

DANNY

OK then, you're the boss.

LISA

Yep, I've got you covered there. What about you guys, you know there's a ton of beer in the back fridge.

MEGAN

I'm on it. Nick, you too or do you want a water?

NICOLE

You know what I want, Red. Hook me up please. I'll be good...I promise. I'll drink water later...really.

Megan heads to the back fridge.

LISA

Danny? What about you? Thirsty?

DANNY

I guess I'm a little sobered up too. We might as well celebrate, right? We could be freezing our asses off up on the highway or even in the ditch. Martini me!

LISA

Perfect. I think I'll join you as well. Where's Jake? We need to get a fire going in here...it's freezing.

Jake walks into the kitchen from the back hall, behind Lisa. He grabs her shoulders. She jumps and lets out a SCREAM.

JAKE

Gotcha baby...

Jake kisses her neck from behind.

LISA

Damn it, Jake. I hate when you do that. Paybacks are a bitch. You remember that.

NICOLE

Yeah, especially when they're coming from a bitch.

Nicole lets out a drunken laugh...all eyes upon her.



JAKE

Hey Nikki, speaking of bitches, what's up your ass anyway?

Jake puts his arms around Lisa and hugs her tightly.

LISA

Yeah, what's your problem? I don't think you need anymore to drink, do you? Maybe you should just go to bed.

NICOLE

Oh you guys, I'm just fucking around, OK? Grow up, will ya? Jesus...

Carlie and Danny watch silently as Megan returns with two beers. No one says anything.

MEGAN

Why's it so quiet all of a sudden? What'd I miss this time?

LISA

You better keep your eyes on your friend here, Meg. I think something crawled up her ass and wants out.

Surprised looks from all.

NICOLE

Funny, Lisa. That's really cute.

JAKE

OK guys, can we all just be cool and act like we're still having a good time? Is that asking too much? Nikki?

MEGAN

What's going on?

NICOLE

I'm fine. Don't worry about it. I was seriously just messing with you guys. I didn't mean anything by it. OK?

LISA

Whatever. Fine by me.

CARLIE

OK then, let's drink! And how 'bout some music?

DANNY

Leave it to Carlie to set things straight. Anything I can do to help?

Jake stares angrily at Nicole...kisses Lisa again.

LISA

OK, let's get back to business here then. I'm on drinks and music, and you boys can bring some wood in and get the fire going. OK?

JAKE

We're on it.

Lisa heads into the great room...Jake turns to Danny.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Dan? We've got work suits so you won't have to worry about that sweet jacket.

DANNY

Sure thing. Whatever you need.

Danny kisses his wife, gives her a wink.

Music starts up in the great room. Lisa returns with a smile on her face.

LISA

Bone Yard baby...party time!

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

The backyard is large, heavily wooded. A structure in the distance...a small barn or shed...a path leads to it.

Jake's in front of Danny, leading the way. It's snowing hard. The wind has created several large drifts.

A small herd of deer slowly walk away, into the deep woods.

DANNY

Hey, look at those deer! Gorgeous!

Jake stops, turns around.

JAKE

Yeah, we get lots of deer and stuff back here...marmots even.

A gust of wind hits Jake in the face.

JAKE (CONT'D)

C'mon, let's get out of this snow.

A snowflake twists and turns in the air. It blows through the back and side yard, toward the front of the house.

It lifts and drops, makes it's way towards a neighbors house, three doors down.

INT. JACKS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Another beautiful house. Sounds from a TV.

The back and side of a man's head...military short hair, stern features, mid 30's. He's relaxed in a recliner, watching the large screen TV. His hand comes up with a bottle of Rolling Rock....he drains it. This is BOBBY JACKS.

BOBBY

Jilly! Can you get me another Old Latrobe?

No response...the TV blares.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Honey! Can you beer me baby? I need another Rock! Hey!

Around the corner of the kitchen, JILL JACKS, 30's, petite and pretty, bundled up in winter wear, appears with five big dogs on a complicated leash system.

JILL

Sorry babe, I had to get the children leashed up. Hold on and I'll get you another beer.

She opens the fridge, pulls out a beer. As she closes it, the largest of the dogs, MOSES, a huge black Lab, takes off towards the family room. The other dogs follow, pulling Jill along.

JILL (CONT'D)

Holy Moses! Come on now. Slow it down boy. I'm too little for that.

Bobby turns his head toward the kitchen.

BOBBY

Moses! I'm gonna kick your fucking ass if you keep that shit up. You hear me? I'm not fucking around!

JILL

Honey, c'mon, you don't need to talk to him like that.

Jill hands him the beer, while holding the dogs with her other hand.

JILL (CONT'D)

Here ya go. Let me have your empty.  
Anything else you need before I go?

Bobby hands her the empty. His movements are strained.

BOBBY

Can you open it for me too?

JILL

Jesus Bobby! Any-fucking-thing else?

She shakes her head, makes a face.

Bobby's neither smiling nor upset...just a cold, straight face.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - CONTINUOUS

Johnny and Janelle are alone at the table.

They kiss...small, soft, tentative kisses. Janelle's eyes are closed, Johnny's, wide open.

He pulls away, just far enough to speak.

JOHNNY

Hey, open your eyes.

JANELLE

Huh?

JOHNNY

I want to see those beautiful eyes  
of yours.

Janelle giggles, smiles. She looks directly into Johnny's eyes.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

There we are. Your eyes are almost  
unreal...seriously. Just beautiful...

JANELLE

Well, I have to say that I've heard  
that one before Mr. McD. Some of my  
friends even call me Diamond Eyes.

Her eyes twinkle. She giggles again, lost in the moment.

JOHNNY

Like crystal blue diamonds. You're  
so pretty...

Johnny comes closer, kisses her again. Her eyes close...she kisses him back.

Martin walks up to the table, behind them. He stops in his tracks, catches his breath...sits down.

They stop kissing immediately. Janelle's face is flushed. She has drunk eyes. Johnny has a nervous smile on his face.

MARTIN

Uh, hi guys, what'd I miss?

Janelle looks away, wiping at her lips and adjusting her hair. Johnny takes a swig of beer.

JOHNNY

Hey bud, everything OK?

MARTIN

Oh yeah, I'm fine. Pretty fucked up though. Must be the altitude, huh?

He laughs...nervously.

JANELLE

Yeah, me too Marty. You're not alone my friend. I'm trashed. Could have something to do with those Jagers, Cosmos, beer, altitude...Everything combined equals nothing!

Laughter.

Janelle slurps down the last sip of her Cosmo...Martin has a funny look on his face.

MARTIN

I...I feel like such an ass now you guys. Ya know? I hate being a third wheel. It totally sucks. I should have gone back with the others.

He hiccups.

JOHNNY

Dude, nothing's going on...

JANELLE

Marty, seriously...don't think that.

Martin chugs down a glass of water, avoids eye contact.

MARTIN

C'mon, I can see what's going on, and I knew it would be going on sooner or later anyway...I was just hoping...that maybe...

JOHNNY

Dude...

MARTIN

Johnny, you don't need to say anything, OK? It's cool. Don't worry about it...or me. I'm fine.

Janelle stands up, grabs Martin's arm.

JANELLE

Marty, come outside with me and have a smoke...I want to talk with you.

MARTIN

Janey, don't worry about it. No big deal. Everything's...

JANELLE

C'mon...I want a smoke and you're my smoking guy. Get your drunk ass up. Let's go.

EXT. EAGLE'S CREST - CONTINUOUS

Jill and the dogs are outside...it's still snowing like crazy. She turns to her left, heading away from the Schaefer house.

She's got the leash in her left hand, a 2 way radio in her right...wearing thick pink, wool mittens.

JILL

Bobby...Bobby Jacks are you there?  
Over.

INT. JACKS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bobby reaches over to the table, picks up his radio.

BOBBY

Yes?

EXT. EAGLE'S CREST - CONTINUOUS

JILL

Hey, I just wanted to tell you how hard it's dumping out here. It's so beautiful. Over.

The dogs all watch Jill, snow on their noses and whiskers.

BOBBY (V.O.)

OK, Jilly, that's great. Thanks for the information. I'll have to make an effort to get my ass up and check it out. Over.

JILL  
Funny, I'd like to see that. Hey,  
there's lights on at the Schaefer's'.  
I may stop in and say hello on my  
way back. Just wanted you to know.

INT. JACKS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bobby takes another swig of beer...the bottle's half empty.

BOBBY  
That's just great. Say hello for  
me. Over and out.

EXT. EAGLE'S CREST - CONTINUOUS

JILL  
Over and out Baby.

Moses and the rest of the dogs trot ahead, pulling her along  
the snow covered street.

A snowflake heads the opposite direction...back towards the  
Schaefer house, past the front, into the backyard. Danny  
and Jake disappear into the shed. The door closes with a  
THUD...wispy snow kicks up in a puff.

INT. WOOD SHED - CONTINUOUS

Two overhead lights illuminate the shed. A window on the  
back wall lets light in from the snowy night.

It's quite large inside, several rows of wood, two tables to  
the right of the door, covered with various tools. Above  
the tables, more equipment. On the other side of the wall,  
several work suits and gloves hang.

DANNY  
Hey, this place is great, Jake.

Danny shakes his head in approval. Jake moves to his right,  
reaches down below one of the tables, pulls out several canvas  
bags, with wooden handles.

JAKE  
Yeah, Lisa's Dad spends probably  
more time in here when it's nice out  
than he does anywhere else.

Jake steps back toward Danny, reaches up for one of the work  
suits.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Hey Dan, put one of these on so you don't get dirty. Gloves also.

Jake puts on a heavy, beige work suit. It's dirty and dusty. He reaches up, grabs a pair of gloves.

The wind is whipping around the shed...every now and then, snow comes blowing through the crack under the door.

Danny puts on a suit and gloves as well.

Jake moves forward...in front of the wood piles. He has two bags open on the ground in front of him. He pulls off logs and stacks them up on top of one of the bags.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Everything fit OK?

DANNY

Yep, no problem. Need anything?

Jake tugs at various logs, which appear to be frozen to the rest below. He pulls and pokes, but nothing budes.

JAKE

Damn...frozen.

He yanks on them.

JAKE (CONT'D)

That's the one thing old man Schaefer didn't think of...heat in here so these logs don't freeze up.

DANNY

Huh?

Danny watches with a frown on his lips.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Frozen? How could they be frozen in here...there's no water or anything, is there?

JAKE

Well, there's obviously a leak in the roof somewhere, and it seems to be hitting the piles, cause I've seen 'em frozen like this before.

DANNY

Gotcha. Need a hand there?

JAKE

Yeah, probably more like that sledge hammer over on the wall there.



Jake turns around and points to the spot where it hangs.  
Danny turns as well and nods.

DANNY

No problem.

Danny reaches up, takes the heavy hammer off the wall.

JAKE

I think I can just knock this pile  
apart, and we should have more than  
enough for the night.

Danny's a few steps behind Jake now, holding the sledge hammer  
in both hands.

Jake pulls a log free.

JAKE (CONT'D)

There's one!

Danny comes closer...he stops...stands motionless...looking  
on at Jake.

DANNY

Jake, you guys are all really cool  
kids. Carlie and I are really glad  
we got to meet you.

Danny moves forward...slowly forward.

Jake appears to have given up on the logs.

JAKE

Hey, don't mention it, we feel the  
same way. We should get each other's  
addresses and phone numbers before  
you leave tonight, ya know?

Danny steps closer now...he's right behind him.

DANNY

I don't know if that's such a good  
idea Jake.

Danny's face is a bit red from the cold...a small smile on  
his lips. It's hard to tell if he's messing around or not.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'd probably have to kill you then.

Jake laughs.

JAKE

Huh? Now why would that be, my good  
Doctor?

Jake rubs his hands together, dust flies out...he starts to stand.

Danny's still smiling as well, but has a different look on his face. They're only a few feet apart.

DANNY

Well, you know what Jake my man?

He pauses...

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm gonna kill ya anyway.

Danny swings the sledge hammer. It makes contact with Jake's midsection on the left side. There's a sickening CRACK as several ribs break.

Jake flies backward and to his right, into the wood pile, knocking it down considerably. His body lands on top, legs facing outward, suspended momentarily.

JAKE

Da...

He spits out a mouthful of thick blood.

JAKE (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing?

The hammer raises up again and comes down on Jake's left knee, shattering it instantly. The impact swings his body forward, in front of the pile.

He lands on the ground, legs and feet behind him, but arms raised in a protective posture. He moans in pain.

DANNY

Sorry bud, but a man's got to do...

Danny swings the hammer back again.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What a man's got to do...know what I mean?

JAKE

Ple...

Blood flies out of Jake's mouth as he tries to speak.

The hammer makes contact again, this time in the left shoulder. There's a crude POP.

Jake's arm flies across his chest and goes limp as his body rocks back into the wood pile again.

His body convulses...blood coming from his mouth.

The fear in Jake's eyes is obvious...they open up completely as the instrument of death makes impact again, this time directly with his face.

A thin stream of blood shoots out from his ruined cheek. It splatters Danny and the ground beneath them.

DANNY

Holy shit!

Danny stands above the carnage...a wild look on his face, splatters of blood on his work suit.

He leans the bloody sledge hammer against the wall.

He looks around nervously, picks Jake up by his arms, and drags him back behind the rows of wood, out of sight.

Danny walks forward, whistling. It sounds like "Somewhere over the Rainbow", but it's hard to tell with the wind gusting the way it is.

He picks up the sledge hammer again and rolls it around in his gloved hands, an odd, expressionless look on his face.

He continues whistling...it's definitely "Somewhere over the Rainbow", but he's doing it in an odd way...almost haunting in its tone.

He walks back again to where Jake's body lies, out of sight behind the pile.

The sledge hammer rises and falls...again and again, each time culminating in a bone crushing THUD. Blood sprays up.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. THE HORNY TOAD - CONTINUOUS

Janelle and Martin stand outside, both smoking. Martin looks upset, almost pitiful. Janelle has her arm around him.

JANELLE

C'mon Marty, you know how close we are...what good friends we are, right?

Martin takes a drag of his Camel.

MARTIN

I know we're good friends and all, but...I don't know. I just wish I could...

JANELLE

Wish you could what? Make out with me? Hook up with me? C'mon Marty, you know we're not like that.

MARTIN

Aw damn it! I know Janey, but it's hard, ya know? I don't see why it's always so damn hard for me. It sucks!

Snow falls off his coat, as she rubs his back.

JANELLE

Believe me, I do know what you mean. It's not easy for me either...even if you think it is. I get hit on all the time, by just about anyone you can imagine...and that's not a good thing either. I mean it.

MARTIN

Yeah, sounds rough...real rough. I can't really say I can relate though.

He looks down...avoids eye contact.

JANELLE

That's the whole point you idiot!

Janelle giggles...Martin joins in.

He looks up into her eyes.

MARTIN

What's so damn funny?

JANELLE

I think I'm wasted...I just called you an idiot. That's funny, huh? I didn't mean it.

MARTIN

See? That's what I'm talking about...I like you so much, Janey. You're so cool, so funny, so...so...ah shit, you know what I mean.

Janelle stops laughing, moves in close...kisses him on the lips, slowly pulls back. She smiles..

JANELLE

I know Marty, I know. But ya never know what life's gonna throw at ya, so just keep an open mind. K?

Martin looks surprised. His cheeks are beat red. A smile forms on his lips. He tosses his smoke, hugs her...tight.

She does the same, hugs him back.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Lisa pours martinis into big, beautiful martini glasses with a swizzle stick and three olives in each. Megan and Nicole have beers in their hands.

NICOLE  
So what d'ya think's gonna happen  
when the other three get back?

LISA  
What do you mean by that?

Lisa hands Carlie her drink...they toast, take a sip. She pours a third drink, sets it on the counter.

NICOLE  
I'm just wondering if Janey's gonna  
get boned by either of 'em, know  
what I mean?

LISA  
Oh Nicole. Janey's a big girl. I  
don't think anything's going to be  
happening, but you never know I guess.

CARLIE  
I think she's a cutie. You guys are  
all cuties.

Carlie giggles, takes another drink.

LISA  
We'll just have to wait and see when  
they get back Nick.

NICOLE  
Yep, we'll see all right. My money's  
on Johnny. Johnny McD...he's a  
hottie. I wouldn't kick his ass out  
of bed...or anywhere for that matter.  
He'll go for your little blondie  
friend. Mark my words.

Megan watches Nicole closely. There's tension in the air.

LISA  
Well Nick, is there anyone you would  
kick out of bed?

They laugh. Nicole looks upset, a strange smile on her face.

NICOLE

You just never know Lees. Guess that's my little secret, huh?

She looks to Megan...a bigger smile.

MEGAN

C'mon you guys, don't get going again.

LISA

Yeah Nikki. Just drop it already, OK?

NICOLE

No problem Mom! Sorry.

Carlie looks to Lisa with a worried look on her face. Megan rolls her eyes again, grabs Nicole by the arm.

MEGAN

Come on Nikki, let's go upstairs for a minute. I want to talk with you.

Nicole has a drunk, irritated look on her face. She goes into Britney-mode, breaks into song, her hands waving in the air above her.

NICOLE

Oops, I did it again...

She starts dancing, completely out of control.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Oops, I did it again. I'm in trouble again...in trouble again! Later...

Nicole winks at Lisa and waves to Carlie as Megan pulls her away, whispering something in her ear as they leave.

MEGAN (O.S.)

I'll be back in a few minutes...with or without her.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT HALL/STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

Megan and Nicole walk towards the stairs. Megan holds Nicole's arm, almost pulling her along.

MEGAN

Nikki, you promised me. Come on, just cut it out, OK? Lisa's my friend and you're totally embarrassing me.

NICOLE

Well we can't have that, can we?

Nicole lets her hand fall to Megan's butt. She gives her a little squeeze, kisses her on the neck.

MEGAN

Nikki! Cut it out. Nobody knows and nobody's gonna know, so don't start.

Nicole almost falls down as they climb the staircase. She hiccups and laughs. Megan grips her tighter, holding her upright.

Nicole kisses her neck again, this time letting her tongue run up Megan's porcelain neck.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Nick! Stop it. I mean it.

Megan reaches her hand down, pulls Nicole's hand off her butt. The hand returns almost instantly, as they make their way upstairs.

EXT. EAGLE'S CREST - CONTINUOUS

Jill and the dogs are on the far side of the street, across from their house. The Schaefer's place is across the street and a few houses in front of them.

JILL

OK you guys, let's go see what's happening at the Schaefer's? You want to go see who's there?

She smiles down at them.

JILL (CONT'D)

You wanna go see?

The pack quickens their pace. Moses lets out an approving yelp. Jill hangs on and almost has to run to keep up.

INT. THE HORNY TOAD - MOMENTS LATER

Johnny, Janelle, and Martin all together again...Janelle in the middle. Three shots of Jagermeister are in front of them, along with a check.

JOHNNY

OK you two animals. Let's do this last shot and get back to the house and see what's cookin'.

MARTIN

Right...just what we need.

JANELLE

Johnny, are you gonna be OK to drive?

JOHNNY

I'm fine Beautiful. Trust me on that one. Bottoms up kids. Here's to a huge day on the slopes tomorrow!

They all drain their shots.

JANELLE

OK, that's officially it for me. I'm hammered. We gotta get going.

MARTIN

I'm with you Janey. Johnny? Are you cool? I'm fuckin' plowed!

JOHNNY

Yep, we're good. I'll pay this one.

Janelle looks to Martin, winks. She reaches down, rubs his leg.

JANELLE

I think I better use the little girls room before we go.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - GREAT ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lisa and Carlie stand in front of a big window

CARLIE

It's so nice here Lisa. We'll have to have you guys over to our place when we get back.

LISA

Sounds like a plan.

There's a pause...the sounds of the storm outside, creaking from upstairs.

LISA (CONT'D)

Hey, I just wanted to apologize for Nicole's behavior. I know it's kind of uncomfortable.

CARLIE

Don't worry about it...seriously.

Carlie moves closer to Lisa and almost whispers to her.

CARLIE (CONT'D)

Not to be weird or anything, but...



She pauses, turns around, looking upstairs.

LISA  
What's up? Meg and Nikki?

Carlie smiles sheepishly, turns a little red.

CARLIE  
Yeah...are they...like...together?

LISA  
You got me, but after tonight, I'm  
beginning to wonder what's going on.

They both take a gulp of their drinks.

Carlie looks nervous. She moves in closer again.

CARLIE  
Well, not that we're experts or  
anything, but Danny and I were saying  
earlier that we thought there was  
definitely something going on between  
the two of them...not that there's  
anything wrong with that.

Lisa laughs out loud, almost spilling her drink. Carlie  
joins in.

LISA  
That reminds me of an old Seinfeld  
episode.

CARLIE  
Yeah, I think it was...not that  
there's anything wrong with that  
either!

A noise from the kitchen...the door opens from outside.

LISA  
Sounds like the boys are back. It's  
about time too.

They turn, walk toward the kitchen.

LISA (CONT'D)  
We're in here Jake! Don't step on  
the carpet unless your feet are clean.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Danny walks through the door wearing the work suit...smears  
of blood on it, mostly concealed by snow though.

DANNY

It's only me. Jake's still getting wood. Alot of it was frozen together.

The two girls enter the kitchen. Carlie smiles...starts laughing.

CARLIE

Hey Hun. Everything OK? You look pretty funny in that big suit.

DANNY

Everything's perfect, and if you think I look funny, you should see Jake right now.

He holds a good sized pile of wood in a wood bag.

LISA

I can only imagine.

DANNY

Hey, I think my feet are clean other than snow. Should I put these by the fireplace?

LISA

Yep. Thanks for your help Dan. Is Jake on his way in?

Danny walks into the great room.

DANNY (O.S.)

He actually wanted me to tell you that he wanted you to go out for a minute.

Lisa has a confused look on her face, raises her eyebrows, gives Carlie a "Hmmm" look.

LISA

He does huh? Are you serious? Like now?

DANNY (O.S.)

Yeah, that's what he said. I'm gonna go out and get one more load. I'll head out with ya.

CARLIE

What's that all about?

Danny returns, the bag now empty.

LISA

I'm not sure, he's weird sometimes.

Lisa grabs her jacket from one of the chairs, puts it on.

DANNY

What happened to the other two?

Carlie points with her finger upstairs.

LISA

Not sure what's going on with those  
two...they went upstairs...to "talk".

Lisa makes a funny face as she says this, looks to Carlie.

CARLIE

Well I've got to use your rest room  
Lisa.

Lisa points towards the hallway, behind the kitchen.

LISA

It's around back at the end of the  
hallway. Make yourself at home.

Danny's by the doorway, his hand on the knob...looks to Lisa.

DANNY

Ready?

He looks back to Carlie.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Be back in a second Hun. No more  
drinks OK?

LISA

This better be important or Jake's  
gonna get it. Let's get it over  
with.

She looks back to Carlie as well.

LISA (CONT'D)

See ya.

CARLIE

This one's my last, but I can't  
promise I won't have a swig of yours.

She smiles, lets out a laugh.

CARLIE (CONT'D)

Stay warm!

INT. JACKS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bobby's still in the same spot, an empty beer next to him, radio in his hand.

BOBBY

Jill Jacks. Jill Jacks. Come in.

EXT. EAGLE'S CREST - CONTINUOUS

Jill and the dogs are in front of the Schaefer place now. The dogs pull her along, up the long driveway.

The radio crackles to life...she puts on the brakes.

JILL

Bobby? What's up Baby? Over.

A gust of wind hits her smack in the face. She reaches up, rubs the snow out of her eyes.

BOBBY (V.O.)

Hey, are you heading back soon?

Jill scrunches her nose, looks at the radio.

JILL

Let me guess...you're out of beer again.

INT. JACKS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BOBBY

(slurring)

Is that all you think I care about?  
C'mon, I was just making sure  
everything's all right.

JILL (V.O.)

Yeah, right Dear. Everything's fine.  
I'm actually just outside the  
Schaefer's now. I won't stay long.

EXT. EAGLE'S CREST - CONTINUOUS

Jill has a smile on her face.

BOBBY (V.O.)

OK, cause I'm out of beer also.

She hears a snicker before it goes silent...she laughs.

JILL  
 Keep it up Bobby. One of these days  
 it'll be my turn, don't you forget  
 it.

She looks down to the dogs.

JILL (CONT'D)  
 Your Dad is unbelievable sometimes,  
 huh? Unbelievable!

The wind is loud. She hits the talk button again.

JILL (CONT'D)  
 I'll be back in a few minutes. Over  
 and out.

INT. WOOD SHED - CONTINUOUS

The door to the shed opens. Lisa and Danny bound in from the cold. Wind and snow follow them in. Danny closes the door behind them with a THUD. The shed appears to be empty and strangely quiet.

The overhead lights sway back and forth from the wind.

LISA  
 OK Jake, why am I out here in this  
 freezing shed?

No reply...no movement.

LISA (CONT'D)  
 Hellooooo?

Lisa looks around, turns to Danny, with a confused look on her face.

Danny smiles, puts a finger up to his mouth. He points back behind the wood piles and whispers,

DANNY  
 He's hiding back there I think, c'mon.

Danny walks past her, in front of the first wood pile.

He moves quietly...carefully.

Lisa shakes her head, follows him back, quietly as well, a smile on her lips.

She looks to Danny...to the wood pile in front of her...back to Danny. She readies herself...

And jumps behind the second pile.

Nothing.

She looks back to Danny who has moved with her, and smiles nervously.

He points further back and makes a fist and slams it into his other open gloved hand.

She nods and quietly approaches the third pile.

She leaps out again...

Nothing.

She has a look on her face that says she's not too happy with this game all of a sudden. Danny puts his arms up in an "I don't know" gesture.

She steps back again, calls out.

LISA  
OK Jacob Foster, enough's enough.

Her hands are on her hips.

LISA (CONT'D)  
You're not gonna scare me this time.  
Game's over, c'mon out.

She looks around. It's deadly quiet except for the wind.

LISA (CONT'D)  
Jake? It's cold out here.  
C'mon...I'm tired of your little  
tricks.

Danny walks back a few feet as well...his face looks different now.

The sledge hammer's against the wall a few feet away from them.

Lisa works her way back to the last pile.

Jake's body is on the ground, face up in a very un-natural pose, blood all around him. It's hard to recognize him from the severe damage to his face.

She lets out a SCREAM and covers her mouth with her hand. Her eyes are wide...tears well up.

LISA (CONT'D)  
Oh my God! Jake? Jake! Oh  
shit...what the Hell's going on here?

She panics, begins to shake, as tears well up in her eyes.

LISA (CONT'D)

Danny?

Danny, only a few feet away, sledge hammer in hand, gets ready to swing away.

The shed door BURSTS open with a thunderous BANG. Wind and snow whip in.

Lisa looks up, SCREAMS again in surprise. In the same view...Danny with the sledge hammer.

Danny, also alarmed by the sound, spins away from Lisa toward the now open door.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

A SCREAM! The dogs take off running toward the back of the house. Jill isn't prepared for the sudden pull and falls forward, her hand still attached to the leash.

She's pulled behind them, face first through the thick snow. Across the driveway, into the side yard. A large boulder looms in front of them, directly in their path.

Jill does her best to free her hand, but the tension is too tight now...she can't break free. She tries to call out.

JILL

Mos...sto...

She sees the approaching obstacle...tries to shift her weight...to dig her feet into the snow...anything to stop.

Her eyes are open wide...she knows what's about to happen. She makes a last ditch effort to spin away.

Unsuccessful.

Moses jumps over the rock, while the other dogs scatter to the left and right. No such luck for Jill, as she slams into it head first with a loud, sickening THUD.

The leash twists off her hand, taking her pink mitten with it, as the dogs bound away through the snow.

She's motionless, blood leaking from her head.

The dogs come to a stop, sniffing the air and barking. They come back to where she lies and nuzzle her motionless body.

INT. WOOD SHED - CONTINUOUS

The sudden opening of the door is just what Lisa needs...a few seconds of distraction.

She instinctively reaches out, grabs a piece of wood off the top of the pile nearest her. She rushes forward at Danny and swings away with both hands.

Danny turns back to face her, but he's too late. The log is already on its way toward him.

He tries to jump out of the way but she makes contact with his left knee.

SPLAT! He's sent sprawling into the wood pile. The hammer drops over the pile, as he tries to catch himself.

LISA

You fucking asshole! What the fuck is wrong with you?

She swings the log again.

Danny does his best to dodge the blow, but it SLAMS into him again, this time glancing off his shoulder. It's not a direct hit but it keeps him down and off balance.

Lisa makes a break for the open door, dropping the log as she goes. She moves quickly...but not quickly enough.

He reaches out with his left arm and trips her as she goes by. Lisa falls to the ground with a THUD. He's got a hold of her ankle...he doesn't let go.

Lisa thrashes about and tries to kick herself free.

LISA (CONT'D)

Shit! You bastard fuck! Get off of me!

They both try to get up. Snow continues to pour into the shed from the open door.

Danny manages to right himself first and pounces on top of her. She lets out a grunt as the air is pushed out of her lungs momentarily.

He's on top of her now, breathing hard.

DANNY

Easy now Lees, you tight-assed little bitch. Let's not make this anymore unpleasant than we have to. OK?

Lisa struggles underneath him.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Just try and relax. You're all done.

He throws punch after punch into the back of her head...her neck....and face. They're violent, meaningful blows.



His fists and elbows rain down on her.

He's relentless. There's blood on the ground around her head now.

Danny raises himself up, bringing her up with him. Her face is bloody and bruised.

He holds her in front of him against the wall.

LISA

Fuck you asshole! Why are you doing this?

DANNY

Fuck me? No...FUCK YOU, BITCH.

He smiles at her...looks crazy.

DANNY (CONT'D)

It doesn't really matter why now, does it? It's usually the money though, right?

His eyebrows raise.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You're a tough little bitch, Lees. I'll give you that for sure. Oh yes you are.

He runs his fingers through her hair...touches her cheek...her swollen, bloody lips. She doesn't have the strength to resist.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Alot tougher than your dead-ass boyfriend alright. But it's all done now Baby...it's all done now.

Danny holds her against the wall with his left hand and delivers two quick, short straight rights to her face. Blood flies out on impact. She's unable to defend herself.

He fires two more, in rapid succession.

Her body goes limp...she's out cold.

He bends down, grabs her around her waist, lifts her up...turns toward the wood pile...slams her down hard into it...once...twice...three times.

She looks like a rag doll as the back of her head smashes down hard each time. Each impact gives a sickening THUD.

Danny holds her up in front of him, with an odd, almost expressionless look on his face.

Her neck appears to be broken...her head hangs at an odd angle. He lets go, her body slumps lifelessly to the ground.

He starts whistling again. "Somewhere over the Rainbow" in that odd, haunting tone. The wind makes it sound even stranger.

He walks into the light from the open door and into the blowing snow...still whistling...

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. DURANGO, CO. - MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Johnny, Janelle, and Martin walk along a snowy sidewalk. Janelle's in the middle...they're all holding hands, having difficulty walking...especially Martin.

JOHNNY

Hey, do you guys remember where we parked?

JANELLE

Nope, but we can find it with the remote I bet.

Martin smiles over at Janelle, while Johnny pulls the keys out of his pants pocket. She winks back.

JOHNNY

And not only is she drop dead gorgeous, but she's also got a brain in that beautiful head as well. Wow, let's hear it for Janelle, ladies and gentlemen!

Janelle slaps him in the shoulder, almost slips in the process.

JANELLE

Watch it Mr. We don't need any dumb blonde jokes, OK?

Johnny hugs Janelle and whispers in her ear.

JOHNNY

I was only playing, Beautiful. That wasn't a dumb blonde joke anyway...it was a compliment. I think you're awesome. I really do.

She pushes him away playfully.

JANELLE

OK Mr. McDermott, just be careful  
there or my friend Marty here's gonna  
have to kick some ass.

She turns to Martin, but he's no longer there. They both  
stop, look back where they came from. Nothing...deserted.

JANELLE (CONT'D)

Marty! Hey, where'd ya go?

Silence.

JANELLE (CONT'D)

(slurring)

Oh my God...where'd he go? You think  
he got accosted or something?

The guttural sounds of barfing, behind a nearby building.  
Two more rounds, heavy coughing, and spitting follow.

JOHNNY

Uh...I don't think so...

MARTIN (O.S.)

I'm over...

More puking sounds.

MARTIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...here...

More spitting.

MARTIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

...shit....

More coughing.

JOHNNY

I'll go get him.

MARTIN (O.S.)

I'm not doing too good you guys...

JOHNNY

I've got ya buddy. Hold on there.

Johnny flips Janelle the keys.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Here, start pushing, and see if we're  
close. We'll be right back.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Danny walks out of the wood shed, still whistling.

Moses is there and on him instantly. Danny's startled, knocked to the ground.

The big dog is on top of him. He struggles to get up...to get the dog off of him. Moses barks...very excited.

He licks Danny's face. Danny pushes him off and slowly stands back up.

DANNY

Wo there...where in the Hell did you come from? Easy big guy.

Moses jumps up again and this time Danny catches his front paws, pushing him back down. He whimpers, paws the snow.

Danny looks around...other dogs barking, somewhere nearby. He looks nervous. Moses jumps again.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Down boy. Down. Shit...c'mon, not what the good doctor ordered.

Moses moves closer to the shed. He looks back up to Danny.

DANNY (CONT'D)

There ya go. You wanna go in the shed and see what's happening in there?

Moses barks in approval. Danny reaches down, grabs his collar.

DANNY (CONT'D)

OK, c'mon...that's it. Let's go in the shed.

He leads him in...no resistance.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Calm down boy...there we go. Good boy...that's a good boy! C'mon.

He pushes him in, SLAMS the door shut.

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - MOMENTS LATER

A big Lexus SUV pulls out of town. Johnny's driving, Janelle next to him.

INT. LEXUS - CONTINUOUS

Johnny looks over at Janelle, gives her a wink and a smile. He reaches down, takes her hand in his. She gives a nervous shift of her head to the back seat.

Martin's laying down in the back...snoring.

JOHNNY

Don't worry Beautiful, he's out cold.

Janelle sighs, pulls her hand away.

JANELLE

Let's slow things down a bit, OK?

She looks to the back seat.

JANELLE (CONT'D)

I just don't feel right, ya know?

Johnny puts both hands back on the wheel.

JOHNNY

No problem Janey. I hear ya,  
Beautiful. I'll be good.

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - CONTINUOUS

The Lexus continues on it's way, swooshing and sliding through the thick, unplowed snow.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carlie slowly walks towards the stairs. She seems nervous.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Danny walks through the thick snow toward the house. The wind is loud...distant barking.

His legs and boots, trudging along.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - STAIRWAY/UPSTAIRS HALL - CONTINUOUS

Carlie's legs now, walking up the stairs.

There's a hallway leading away, towards the back of the second floor, as well as another to the left. There are numerous rooms.

A closed door with light coming out from under it in front of her. Her legs and boots again...moving forward.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Danny's legs...closer to the house, walking with a limp.

His hand reaches out for the door knob. He grabs it in his gloved hand...turns it...slowly...

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - CONTINUOUS

Carlie's hand on the door knob now as well...she's slowly turning it...quietly turning it.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carlie opens the door, steps into a nicely decorated bedroom.

Off to the rear of the room is a bathroom...sounds like a shower is running.

A large closet off to the right, light and muffled sounds coming from inside.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Danny peers into the empty kitchen, closes the door.

DANNY  
Honey, I'm home!

He has a funny look on his face... his version of Jack Nicholson in "The Shining"?

Nothing...it's still except for the music in the other room.

He takes off the gloves, gets out of the work suit, walks over to the counter where his martini waits.

He gulps it down in a single swig...makes a face, licks his lips.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Damn, that's tasty. Wow!

He walks through the kitchen, toward the great room.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
OK Hun, where ya at Baby? Hellooo?

The phone on the counter bursts into life with a shrill RING.

Danny twirls around quickly, alarmed at the sudden outburst. It rings several more times, stops as the auto message system kicks in.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

The dogs run in the snow covered yard...their leashes trailing behind them.

Jill's body in the snow...motionless.

There's a sound as her radio clicks on.

BOBBY (O.S.)  
JJ, come in. Where ya at Jilly?

INT. JACKS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bobby's still in the same place.

BOBBY  
Jill, come back. C'mon, where ya at? I've tried calling over there and no one's answering. You're getting me nervous Babe.

He looks down at the radio in his hand, frowns.

BOBBY (CONT'D)  
OK Jilly Jacks, last chance...seriously. Get back to me pronto or I'm calling in the cavalry. I'm totally serious...I have to.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carlie takes a tentative step...then another. She's being very quiet...almost tiptoeing, eyes darting back and forth.

NICOLE (O.S.)  
Hey Meg...

Carlie freezes, looks back to the bathroom.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nicole in a large walk-in cave shower, off to the left of an over-sized bathroom. It's very steamy, hard to see her.

NICOLE  
(slurring)  
Are you gonna join me in here, or what?

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carlie takes another tentative step.

A rustling sound from the closet...she freezes again.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Megan's inside, naked except for red panties. Her back...skin so white. She sorts through shirts on hangers.

MEGAN

(loudly)

What did I already tell you Nick?  
I'm changing clothes and going back  
downstairs with everyone else.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carlie comes closer. She's almost at the closet door now.

NICOLE (O.S.)

Oh, c'mon you big wuss!

MEGAN (O.S.)

Let it rest Nick...you're totally  
wasted and you know I hate when you  
get like that.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Carlie peers inside the closet, her right hand on the door frame...she leans in.

Megan's back...slipping a white sweatshirt over her head.

CARLIE

(whispering)

Meg...it's me...don't be scared.

She is anyway. She turns, wide eyed, sees Carlie in front of her. Carlie looks bashful...worried.

The sweatshirt slips over Megan's breasts...around her thin waist.

MEGAN

Carlie...what are you doing here?

Carlie puts a finger up to her lips, points to the bathroom.

CARLIE

Shhhh...

MEGAN

(whispering)

You scared the shit out of me...



CARLIE

(whispering)

I'm sorry...I didn't mean to. I, I  
uh, I just wanted to come up and see  
you guys. Know what I mean?

Megan looks surprised, embarrassed, a little frightened.  
She's facing Carlie now. Her sweatshirt reads  
"Durango...Heaven on Earth".

MEGAN

What? Oh c'mon, you gotta be kidding  
me.

NICOLE (O.S.)

What's going on out there, you bitch?  
C'mere and give me a hand, will ya?  
Please? C'mon Meg...I need you.

Carlie and Megan both look towards the bathroom, then back  
to each other. They both smile, almost break out in laughter.

MEGAN

This is unbelievable.

CARLIE

I know, I know. I'm sorry, but I  
didn't know what else to do.

Carlie looks down at Megan's smooth, white legs, follows  
them up to her crotch. She smiles sheepishly.

CARLIE (CONT'D)

You're...just so...beautiful Meg...

MEGAN

No way Carlie, no way. You gotta  
get out of here. Seriously, c'mon.  
I can't do this here.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nicole looks out of the shower, above the thick glass door.  
Steam rises. Water runs down her hair and face.

NICOLE

Red! C'mon, quit being such a little  
bitch. Get your white ass in here.

No reply. She rolls her eyes, disappears.

NICOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Whatever...

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Carlie takes another step...she's inside the closet with Megan now. They both blush and giggle, looking directly into each others eyes.

Megan looks nervous and unsure, but she doesn't resist. Her mouth opens...her lips quiver...eyes flutter.

As they embrace, Carlie reaches around with her right hand and pulls out a large BUTCHER KNIFE that was between her belt and jeans. The blade glistens.

She brings the knife up and around, stabs Megan in the back, between her shoulder blades before she even realizes what's happening.

Megan gasps...her eyes go wide.

MEGAN

Carlie...

Carlie drives the knife in deeper, while holding Megan with her left arm around her shoulders and neck.

Megan's mouth is open wide, but there's no sound coming out.

Carlie pulls the knife out and in one sweeping motion, brings the blade edge across her neck. The skin folds back and blood flies out in a thick torrent, splattering Carlie across the face and neck.

CARLIE

Oh my God! Holy shit...

Megan falls violently backward, pulling shirts and hangers down with her. Blood immediately begins pooling around her, coloring her once white sweatshirt deep red.

NICOLE (O.S.)

Meg? Hey, what the Hell's going on out there? Yo...Megie! Are you OK?

INT. JACKS' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bobby has a cordless phone in his hand, a worried look on his face. He taps 911, hits the Mute button on the remote, which is on a table next to him along with an empty Rolling Rock and a small prescription bottle. The TV goes silent.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER (V.O.)

911 Dispatch, Please state your emergency.

BOBBY

(slurring badly)

Uh hi, this is Bobby Jacks, I live over in Eagle's Crest and uh...I don't know if this is actually an emergency or not...but my wife went outside to walk our dogs about forty five minutes ago, and hasn't responded on the two way in at least like fifteen minutes. I need someone to do a drive by or something. Uh...check our neighbors house also. She said she was going over there...to the neighbors.

Tight on Bobby's face...slowly pulling back.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER (V.O.)

OK sir, slow down please...

BOBBY

I'm worried cause she's walking five like big dogs and she's a pretty little girl. You know...the storm or something. I called over to the neighbors, but no one's answering.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER (V.O.)

Sir, have you been drinking? I'm having trouble understanding you. Calm down.

Pulling back further, revealing a huge cast on Bobby's leg...he looks frustrated.

BOBBY

Yes ma'am, I have been drinking...most of the damn day actually. I'm also on some pretty strong pain meds and I realize it's not the greatest mix, but I broke my leg skiing yesterday and I can't walk...can't even get up out of this damn chair without my wife's help.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER (V.O.)

OK sir, your address just came up on my screen. Hold on a minute and I'll see if there's a patrol car in your area.

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - CONTINUOUS

A police SUV sits behind a snow covered white Jeep off the side of the road. The lights flash red and blue into the surrounding woods.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER (V.O.)  
 Units four, five, and six, this is  
 Dispatch.

INT. POLICE SUV - CONTINUOUS

OFFICER MICHAEL JACOBS, 40's, a bit on the chunky side, looks  
 down at his radio. He looks tired.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER (V.O.)  
 Let me know if any of you are near  
 the Eagle's Crest area. Over.

He reaches down, grabs the receiver.

OFFICER JACOBS  
 Dispatch, this is Unit five, I'm  
 actually only a few miles away from  
 there.

He looks down at his watch, shakes his head and frowns.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER (V.O.)  
 Hey Mike! Hold on a minute, let me  
 get back to the caller and I'll fill  
 you in with what's going on. Over.

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - CONTINUOUS

Officer Jacobs steps out of the SUV, zips up his thick jacket.  
 He has a flashlight in his hand, as he walks up to the Jeep.

There's another SUV on the road behind him. It gets closer  
 and closer...it's the Lexus. It passes by.

INT. LEXUS - CONTINUOUS

JANELLE  
 You're doing a great job Johnny.  
 You really are. That's like the  
 fifth car we've seen off the road.

Johnny looks straight ahead, both hands on the wheel.

JOHNNY  
 Thank you Beautiful. This kind of  
 weather sobers you up fast, ya know?  
 I'm just glad that cop's pulled over  
 there and not pulling our asses over.

JANELLE  
 It hasn't sobered me up yet.

She smiles at Johnny, touches his shoulder.

JANELLE (CONT'D)

Just be careful.

JOHNNY

Oh I am for sure. I've got some very important cargo on board here.

He looks over at her...flashes a smile.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

How's our passenger back there?

JANELLE

Poor Marty...sleeping like a baby.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nicole has the shower door open now. She's naked...extremely well put together, looks irritated.

NICOLE

Meg? What's going on out there?

Carlie walks into the bathroom, blood on her face and top. She's a mess, in shock or something...staggers.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Carlie? What the Hell happened?  
Are you OK?

Carlie comes closer. The steam from the shower fills the bathroom.

CARLIE

Oh my God, I think Megan's dead.

Nicole looks horrified, wipes her face and eyes.

NICOLE

Huh? What happened? Carlie...what's going on?

CARLIE

(weak...almost pitiful)  
In the closet...

She points out to the bedroom.

Nicole grabs a towel off the door, quickly steps out of the shower. She wraps it around herself.

NICOLE

What?

Nicole's still drunk and tipsy...coming closer to Carlie, looking wide-eyed out to the bedroom.

Carlie comes to life in a flash, grabs her around the neck as she passes. She's got her from behind, arms tightly wrapped around her neck.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

What are you doing, you bitch?

Nicole struggles...but she can't seem to loosen the grip.

Carlie pulls tighter around her throat.

Nicole gasps for air...tries to reach around and grab at Carlie, but she can't escape the hold. She kicks back, flails with her arms, her face turning red.

CARLIE

Calm down Nick...calm down.

Carlie walks her over against the counter, pushes her upper half hard into the mirror. She hits face first with force. The mirror cracks and blood runs down into the sink.

Nicole's body bounces back violently.

Carlie loosens her grip, and Nicole falls on her back. As she drops, the towel falls from around her.

Her face is a bloody mess...leaking from a deep gash on the bridge of her nose, which looks to be badly broken.

She takes in deep breaths of air...gasps for more. Her hands go to her face, come away red.

Carlie pulls the bloody knife out from behind her.

Nicole SCREAMS.

Too late...the knife already on it's way down.

Carlie's on top...she stabs the blade into her midsection...again and again. Nicole's body goes quiet. Blood spills from numerous holes in her belly and chest.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Carlie walks through the bedroom, towards the closed door leading out to the hallway. She's still a bloody mess, a nervous look on her face. She steps cautiously, slowly...the knife still in her hand, wet with blood.

She reaches down, grabs a hold of the door knob.

She looks at the door...she's scared. She stands motionless for a second...two seconds...three seconds.

She readies the knife in her hand.

She turns the knob slowly and quietly, pulls the door tentatively towards her.

As the door opens, Danny pushes hard against it, almost knocks Carlie backwards.

Both are startled.

Carlie swings out with the knife as she stumbles back.

Danny ducks and grabs her by the wrist, stopping the progress of the blade.

DANNY

Hey, it's me!

CARLIE

Oh my God Honey, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry! You scared the shit out of me!

They look at each other with wide eyes, embrace, both breathing hard.

Danny pulls away.

DANNY

Uh, yeah...you scared the shit out of me too. Damn, that was close. You OK?

He looks her over, up and down.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You look like crap.

Carlie gives a nervous smile, looks back over her shoulder.

CARLIE

Gee, thanks Hun. I'm OK. What are you doing up here?

DANNY

Uh, making sure you're OK. I didn't know where you were. I heard screams up here.

CARLIE

Yeah, I bet you did.

DANNY

Well?

He puts his hands in the air.

CARLIE  
They're both dead.

DANNY  
That's my girl. I got Jake and  
Lisa...they're out in the shed...dead  
in the shed!

They both step back into the bedroom...Danny limps.

CARLIE  
Honey, you're limping! What happened?  
Are you OK?

Danny shakes his head and smiles.

DANNY  
Yeah, I'm fine...took a shot to the  
knee though.

CARLIE  
Honey...

DANNY  
No, we're good. We're fine. We  
gotta move it though. Those other  
three could be back anytime.

Carlie nods.

CARLIE  
Yeah OK, I know. I was about to  
jump in the shower and clean up, but  
I thought I heard something in the  
hall. Good thing it turned out to  
be you, Boo.

Danny laughs, looks down at the knife in her hand.

DANNY  
Yeah, good thing huh? Damn CC, that's  
a big knife you got there.

Carlie looks down at the knife also, twists her wrist back  
and forth.

CARLIE  
It's a sharp knife too.

DANNY  
Yeah, I bet. Glad I didn't find out  
first hand how sharp it is.

Danny playfully grabs her by her shoulders, turns her around.



DANNY (CONT'D)  
OK, get that shower and do it fast,  
Babe.

He gently pushes her toward the bathroom, swats her butt.

CARLIE  
Ouch!

She turns around...

CARLIE (CONT'D)  
Hey, watch it you...remember, I've  
still got the knife.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. POLICE SUV - MOMENTS LATER

Officer Jacobs pulls away from the snow covered Jeep, cell  
phone to his ear.

OFFICER JACOBS  
I know Sweetie, but I'm gonna be  
another hour or so. Lots of accidents  
out here. Nothing I can do.

MRS. JACOBS (O.S.)  
How many times have I heard that  
before Mike?

OFFICER JACOBS  
It won't be the last time, I can  
tell you that for sure.

He has an irritated look on his face.

MRS. JACOBS (O.S.)  
Well, I'm just gonna go ahead and  
eat then. I'm starving. I was really  
looking forward to that Big Night  
you promised me. I really was, Mike.

He rolls his eyes, shakes his head.

OFFICER JACOBS  
Oh c'mon...

MRS. JACOBS (O.S.)  
I'll just save yours in the fridge  
and if you're really nice to me when  
you get home, I may even heat it up  
for you.

He smiles...he's heard this before.

OFFICER JACOBS

OK, I guess that's all I can ask then...other than...uh, will you wear that little French maid outfit and serve it to me as well?

He snickers, turns away from the phone...laughing.

There's audible laughter coming from the phone also...she's amused.

MRS. JACOBS (O.S.)

Oh Michael, you're so funny. Are you telling me you're going to spend the entire day with me on the easy runs tomorrow? Like you also promised? Remember that part of the deal?

OFFICER JACOBS

Yes Dear, everything as promised, but about an hour or so late. Seriously...I promise. I'll call you as soon as I can. I've got to go check on something in Eagle's Crest, OK? I gotta go. I love you.

EXT. HIGHWAY 550 - CONTINUOUS

The Police SUV glides down the highway, lights no longer flashing.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

The Lexus is parked in the long driveway, behind the Escalade.

INT. LEXUS - CONTINUOUS

Both Johnny and Janelle look back at Martin, still asleep in the back seat.

JANELLE

Marty! C'mon Marty, wake up. We're back home.

JOHNNY

Martin, get your big ass up or I'll drag it through the snow, you waste case. Come on!

Janelle looks to Johnny...frowns.

JANELLE

Hey, no need for that McD. Be nice.

JOHNNY  
I'm just kidding Beautiful. Just  
checking to see if he's really out.

JANELLE  
Uh huh...

JOHNNY  
I'd say he's really out.

JANELLE  
I'd have to agree with that  
observation Johnny.

JOHNNY  
Let's go get some help inside. Snow's  
too thick for me to carry him.

JANELLE  
We'll be back in a few minutes Marty.  
You'll be OK. I'll take good care  
of you, my friend...I promise.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Johnny and Janelle trudge through the deep snow. Johnny has  
his arm around her, holding her up. She has her right arm  
out to the side...balancing herself.

JANELLE  
Why'd they park outside? Geez,  
they've got four garages and they  
park in the frickin' driveway.  
Unbelievable.

Barking off to the left. Two dogs appear around the garage,  
on their way toward them.

They both stop, turn. The dogs run up to them. Janelle  
bends down, pets them. She squats in the snow.

JANELLE (CONT'D)  
Hi you guys. Where'd you come from?

Johnny looks off to where more barking takes place.

The dogs lick at Janelle's face.

JANELLE (CONT'D)  
Oh you guys are so cute!

JOHNNY  
That's kind of weird, huh? They've  
got leashes dragging. I bet ya  
someone's looking for 'em.

JANELLE

They're so cute! Should we take 'em inside? They're probably freezing out here.

They jump up at Johnny, he pushes them back down.

JOHNNY

I don't think Lisa would appreciate that too much, Janey my dear.

Janelle attempts to stand back up but loses her balance and plops back down on her butt...a puff of snow kicks up.

The dogs jump on her, still trying to lick at her face. She laughs as she tries to keep them off.

Johnny looks down, laughing also.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

There we go. I could see that one coming. C'mon, give me your hands.

He reaches down, pulls her up...all the way over his shoulder. He holds her around her butt. He playfully spins around.

JANELLE

Hey! Don't you drop me.

The dogs jump about as Johnny walks forward, Janelle in tow.

JOHNNY

Don't worry Beautiful, I won't let you go.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The front door opens, Johnny and Janelle step inside, look around. Nothing....silence...no music playing.

JOHNNY

Hello! Hey you guys, we're back.

JANELLE

Where are you guys?

There's a sound from the kitchen.

DANNY (O.S.)

Hey, I'm in the kitchen.

Janelle looks to Johnny, as she fluffs snow off of her.

JANELLE

I've got to use the little girl's room again. I'll be right back.

She kisses him on the lips. They momentarily embrace. Johnny kisses her back.

Johnny winks as she heads off down the hallway, leading to the right. He stands and watches as she disappears around the corner, a smile on his face.

Johnny walks through the great room, towards the kitchen.

JOHNNY

What's going on you guys?

He's getting closer now.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

That was quite a drive, huh?

He gets to the kitchen...

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

So what've we got...

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Danny hits him smack in the face with a heavy, bright yellow Le Cresuset frying pan. THWUNK! Blood sprays out instantly.

Johnny spins from the impact, back pedals into the kitchen, trying to keep his balance. Danny stays with him as he goes.

He swings the pan again, makes contact with Johnny's quickly swelling and bloody face again.

This time it knocks him into the kitchen table and chairs. Johnny loses his balance, trips over one of the chairs.

DANNY

Damn!

The chair topples over, Johnny goes down with it.

He tries to stand back up, pushing off the fallen chair...his face a bloody mess, nose skewed wildly to the left.

JOHNNY

What the FU...

BANG! The pan comes down hard again, this time on top of his head. His body crumples to the ground. Several place settings come crashing down around his now quivering body.

Danny pulls him out from under the mess by his legs, flips him over. His body continues to writhe.

Danny raises the pan above his head with both hands and brings it down hard. The impact gives out a sickening THUD.

Johnny's motionless now, blood all around him and seeping out of several wounds in his flattened and broken face.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Officer Jacobs looks around the front yard. He's parked behind the other two SUV's.

There's barking coming from around the side. Several dogs run around.

He taps the talk button on his radio, strapped at his shoulder.

OFFICER JACOBS  
Dispatch...Unit five here. Over.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER  
Hey Mike, are you there?

OFFICER JACOBS  
Yep, I'm at the last house on the cul de sac. There's a bunch of dogs running around out here. I don't see any people though. Two cars parked in the driveway.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER  
Got ya Mike. Go on in and see what's...

The radio buzzes with static.

He looks down and shakes his head.

OFFICER JACOBS  
You're breaking up Dispatch. Come back.

More static from the radio.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
I'm gonna go on up to the house and check things out. I'll be back on in a few minutes.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - REAR BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Janelle in front of the mirror working with her hair. It's a mess.

She skooches up her nose, makes a face. She has an innocence about her...a cute but real innocence.

JANELLE

Nice...

She grabs a hand towel and dries her face.

JANELLE (CONT'D)

God I look awful.

She pulls at her hair, makes another face. She giggles, still buzzed.

There's a LOUD NOISE from outside the bathroom.

She's startled and raises her eyebrows. Her head immediately cocks toward the door.

Another sound...breaking dishes...loud and violent.

A faint SCREAM escapes from her lips.

JANELLE (CONT'D)

Shit...

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carlie walks through the bedroom, toward the closed door. She's wearing different clothes now and holding a bundle of clothes in her hand.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - CONTINUOUS

Loud noises...from downstairs. Carlie quickens her pace.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - BACK HALL/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Janelle moves quickly toward the kitchen...she looks scared.

JANELLE

Johnny? What's happening in there?

She comes around the corner, sees Danny on top of Johnny...the frying pan still in his hand.

She SCREAMS, her hands go to her face.

Danny looks up in surprise, a crazed look on his bloody face.

JANELLE (CONT'D)

Oh my God! Danny? What are y...

He stands up, drops the pan...a THUD as it hits the floor.

He takes a step toward Janelle.

DANNY

Janelle...hey there. Calm down...calm down...it's not what it looks like.

Janelle's frozen in place. She looks horrified...crying.

JANELLE

Huh? My God, what'd you do to him?

Danny takes another step forward, stops in his tracks. They're about eight feet apart...the island between them.

There's a fire poker lying on top of the island. He reaches down, picks it up.

They eye each other, neither giving up ground.

Janelle looks even more alarmed now...her eyes go wide.

JANELLE (CONT'D)

Johnny! Johnny...get up!

DANNY

Sorry Janey, he's not getting up.

He takes a tentative step around the left of the island.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Just relax Janelle...

He takes another step, this time much faster, more deliberate.

Janelle quickly gathers herself, bolts around the corner, down the back hallway.

Danny tries to follow but his leg goes out.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Shit!

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - BACK HALL - CONTINUOUS

Janelle moves fast down the hallway...panic stricken.

She passes the bathroom, continues down the hallway toward the front of the house.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - STAIRWAY/FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Carlie at the top of the stairs. A loud SCREAM from below her, followed by another.

She starts down, pulls the knife out.

She reaches the landing, only five steps from the bottom.



Janelle comes out of the back hallway on the full run.

She sees Carlie...SCREAMS.

Carlie quickens her pace...drops the clothes in her hand, the knife out in front of her.

Her foot catches in the bundle as it's released, and she falls, tumbling face first down the final three steps.

She lets out a muffled cry.

The knife hits the floor and flies from her hand, spinning forward along the floor.

Janelle tries to come to a quick stop to change directions, but her feet fly out from under her. She slips on her backside, continuing to slide forward, coming to a stop a few feet in front of Carlie.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny makes his way around the kitchen corner, into the great room. He's limping badly...a grimace on his face. He's got the fire poker in his hand.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FOYER/GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Janelle scrambles to pick up the knife in front of her... Carlie tries to get to it as well.

Janelle is first to right herself.

She reaches out, grabs the knife. She's on her knees now, breathing hard...tears streaking down her face.

JANELLE

You BITCH!

Carlie looks up...Janelle has the knife and she's pointing it directly at her. She has a scared look on her face.

Janelle stands up completely. Danny approaches from the great room, limping noticeably.

She points the knife his way...and back again toward Carlie.

She looks from one to the other as Danny pauses some ten feet away...the poker dangles at his side.

JANELLE (CONT'D)

You Fucking Freaks! What the Hell is going on here? Where is everybody?

She raises the knife toward Carlie, looks ready to use it.

JANELLE (CONT'D)  
Start talking, damn it! Now! WHERE  
THE FUCK IS EVERYONE?

Danny takes a step forward.

DANNY  
Calm down Janelle...I can explain.  
Seriously...just relax.

JANELLE  
Don't take another step you fucking  
asshole! I mean it...you move again  
and I'll cut her. I swear to Christ,  
I'll fucking cut her!

There's a hard POUNDING on the front door. Janelle SCREAMS  
again at the top of her lungs.

JANELLE (CONT'D)  
HELP ME!

The front door is thrust open. Officer Jacobs rushes in,  
gun already drawn. He quickly surveys the situation.

Wind and snow blows in from the open front door.

OFFICER JACOBS  
What the Hell? OK...everybody freeze!  
Right now...FREEZE!

He aims the gun at Janelle, keeping a close eye on Danny.

Everyone is motionless. It's a stand off.

JANELLE  
Officer help me! They killed  
Johnny...in the kitchen.

DANNY  
Officer, this is my brother's house.  
These kids broke in here and tried  
to kill us.

He points down to Carlie.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
That's my wife, sir. Please, help  
us.

Danny's much calmer than Janelle. He drops the poker.

Officer Jacobs looks back and forth...from Janelle to Danny,  
and back again.

OFFICER JACOBS  
 (to Janelle)  
 OK, young lady...

JANELLE  
 He's lying! I swear...

OFFICER JACOBS  
 You need to drop the  
 knife...immediately.

He's got the gun trained on her. He looks deadly serious.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
 Drop the fucking knife! RIGHT  
 NOW...Drop It!

Janelle takes a step back. She cries uncontrollably, her head shaking back and forth.

JANELLE  
 No, no, it's them. I didn't do  
 anything. God, you've got to believe  
 me. Please!

OFFICER JACOBS  
 Listen to me, drop the knife now or  
 I swear to God I'm gonna shoot you.  
 Drop it and kick it over here...NOW!

Janelle bends down and drops the knife hesitantly, still shaking noticeably.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
 OK, kick it over here...nice and  
 easy. Do it now!

Carlie tries to push herself up. She's struggling.

CARLIE  
 She stabbed me. I need help.

Danny takes a tentative step toward his wife.

DANNY  
 Honey? Are you OK?

Officer Jacobs looks Danny's way.

OFFICER JACOBS  
 Sir, stay where you are. Don't come  
 any closer.

He looks back to Janelle. The gun is still aiming at her.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
Ma'am, I'm not gonna tell you again.  
Kick the fucking knife over here  
now...and back up. Do it!

Janelle hesitates, frozen where she stands.

Officer Jacobs pulls back the hammer on the revolver.

Janelle kicks the knife over toward him.

It spins across the floor, comes to a stop several feet from Carlie, and a few feet away from the officer.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
OK, that's better.

He looks back at Danny, standing motionless in the great room, back to Janelle, slowly stepping backwards.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
Stay where you are now ma'am. Don't  
move. Nobody move. Now we're all  
gonna be real cool now, OK? Everybody  
just try and relax.

He hits at his radio's talk button.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
Dispatch, come back. I've got a  
situation over here. I need immediate  
backup. Over.

No reply from the radio.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
Shit...

His eyes scan the scene again.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
Come back Dispatch. Do you read me?  
I need help!

Some static, but that's it.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)  
Unbelievable...

DANNY  
Officer...my wife...can I go to her?  
She's hurt.

Officer Jacobs looks to Danny, the gun still trained on Janelle.

OFFICER JACOBS

Uh, no sir. You need to stay where  
you are. I'm sorry.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - STAIRWAY/FOYER/GREAT ROOM -  
CONTINUOUS

Megan appears at the top of the staircase, ghostly white,  
literally drenched in blood. She faintly calls out.

MEGAN

Help m...

All eyes go to her. There's total chaos in the front hall.

Officer Jacobs aims his gun up at Megan in surprise.

DANNY

That's another one of 'em!

OFFICER JACOBS

What the...

Janelle SCREAMS and comes forward in complete panic and shock.

JANELLE

You bastards!

Officer Jacobs sees Janelle's movement from the corner of  
his eye and turns toward her.

The already cocked gun goes off with a loud BANG!

The bullet hits Janelle in the right shoulder and sends her  
flying backwards, down the hallway.

She lands on her back and cries out.

OFFICER JACOBS

Oh my God...Shit...

Danny comes forward, gets down next to Carlie, cradles her.

Megan upstairs, barely moving...barely able to remain  
standing.

Officer Jacobs twirls back toward Danny and Carlie. The gun  
is trained on them now.

OFFICER JACOBS (CONT'D)

Sir, I told you not to fucking move...

DANNY

My wife...she needs help.

Officer Jacobs looks completely confused. His attention goes back and forth from Janelle, to Megan, to Danny and Carlie.

He hits the talk button again on his radio.

OFFICER JACOBS  
Where the Hell are you guys? Send immediate back up now. This is an emergency! I've got multiple people down over here.

FEMALE POLICE OPERATER (O.S.)  
Mike? You're not...

More static.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Martin is out of the car now, stumbling through the snow toward the still open front door. He's having trouble walking. He looks completely wasted.

MARTIN  
(slow...faint)  
Hey, what's going on in there?

He's getting closer...

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
(louder now)  
Janey, where are you? I need help.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Danny looks up, sees Martin approaching. Officer Jacobs has his back to the open door still. His attention is on Megan, teetering on the upper steps.

Danny stands up quickly, points outside.

DANNY  
Officer, quick...turn around...behind you! There's another one out there. He's got a gun!

Officer Jacobs spins around instinctively, gun raised. He sees Martin walking toward him.

OFFICER JACOBS  
Freeze right there! Fucking stop where you are!

Danny jumps at him and grabs at the gun.

BANG! It goes off in a flash.

They struggle with each other, the gun still aiming outside.

BANG! The gun goes off again.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

The bullet hits Martin directly in the face. The back of his head blows out in an explosion of red, and the bullet continues through the window of the open rear door of the Lexus. It EXPLODES in a chorus of shattered glass.

Martin's lifeless body flies backwards, lands in the snow.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Danny and Officer Jacobs continue to fight.

Danny tries to keep the gun pointed away. The police officer appears to be getting the upper hand. It's an all out fight though.

Carlie grabs the knife off the floor in front of her and lunges forward. The knife comes down hard on Officer Jacobs foot. She buries it deep. Blood shoots up.

He SCREAMS out in pain.

OFFICER JACOBS

Fuck!

They both fall backwards, into the house. The knife remains buried in his foot.

Danny's on top now. He holds Officer Jacobs' arms behind their heads.

BANG! The gun goes off again. The bullet whistles by Carlie's head and hits the bottom stair. Her eyes follow the THUD, as wood splinters explode next to her.

Danny's in control now. He slams Officer Jacobs' arms down hard against the floor...does it again. The gun flies out from his hand, and rolls in front of the stairs.

He throws punch after punch into Officer Jacobs' face now...vicious shots, one after another.

Carlie is up, she's got the gun. She aims down at them as they continue to fight.

CARLIE

Honey...I've got the gun. Get off of him.

Danny stops his assault..looks up at Carlie.

CARLIE (CONT'D)

Officer! Stay where you are. Don't get up. You hear me? Do not move.

Danny cautiously stands up. Officer Jacobs is bleeding from several cuts on his face. He's literally shaking, his hands out in front in self defense.

Janelle lies in the hallway...struggles to get up. There's blood around her upper body.

Megan has come to a seated position on the top stair. Her head moves back and forth slowly, blood trickling from her open throat.

Carlie breathes hard, looks panicked.

DANNY

Wow, nice work Carlie. Damn nice work.

CARLIE

Thanks Babe. That was a close one. Are you OK?

DANNY

Yeah...yeah, I think so. How 'bout you?

CARLIE

I'm OK Hun, I just tripped coming down the stairs. Little wasted I guess.

DANNY

Klutzo!

They both look down to Officer Jacobs.

DANNY (CONT'D)

And how about you Ociffer? How you doing tonight?

OFFICER JACOBS

Please...please don't. There's no rea...

CARLIE

Sorry.

Carlie pulls the trigger twice. There's a loud BANG! BANG!

The first shot hits him in the cheek, the second in the upper chest. Blood shoots out from his face.



Janelle screams out again.

JANELLE  
Noooo! Oh my God, no.

They both look over to where she's lying in the hallway.

Danny slams the front door shut with a loud THUD.

DANNY  
OK Hun, we gotta get the Hell out of here like immediately. Way too much going on. Cops could be here any minute.

CARLIE  
I know, I know.

She looks over to Janelle again.

CARLIE (CONT'D)  
What about her?

Danny looks to Janelle also. His attention is drawn upstairs as Megan lets out one last cry for help.

MEGAN  
Help m...

Her voice trails off.

DANNY  
Yeah, and her too. I thought you said you already killed her.

CARLIE  
I thought I did.

DANNY  
Well? I'd say you didn't do a very good job...she's definitely not dead.

Carlie turns toward Megan and raises the gun. Danny reaches out, lowers it.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
No...wait. Let me use it on her.

He looks back to Janelle.

Carlie looks confused.

CARLIE  
Huh, what's with that?

DANNY

Well...I've never shot anyone before.  
I want her to be my first, so to  
speak.

CARLIE

That's weird. You're really scary  
D. Here.

She hands the gun to him, turns back toward the stairs.

DANNY

Can you finish her off this time,  
you think?

She looks around, sees the fire poker in the great room,  
casually walks over and picks it up.

CARLIE

I'm all over it D. Guess I'll try  
out this poker...you've never shot  
anyone and I've never hit anyone  
over the head with a fire poker.

They both smile.

DANNY

Hun?

CARLIE

Yeah?

DANNY

That's scary...like really scary.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - STAIRWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Carlie walks up the stairs with the poker in her hand.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - BACK HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Danny bends down over Janelle, the gun pointed at her. He  
moves it back and forth, aiming at different parts of her  
body.

JANELLE

Danny, don't! Please, don't do it.  
I won't say anything...I promise.  
Please...

DANNY

Well Janey, this is it I'm afraid.  
I gotta tell you though, seriously,  
I really like you.

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

I think you're really cool. Wish we could have met under different circumstances...

JANELLE

Danny wait...please...just wait...the others...where are the others?

DANNY

The others? Well...Lisa and Jake are out in the wood shed...both dead. Nicole and Megan are ups...

There's a sickening POP from the top of the stairs, then another one.

Janelle SCREAMS again.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Well, sounds like Megan's dead now too. Nicole's up there also. You saw Johnny in the kitchen, right?

JANELLE

Oh my God, oh God...noooo...

DANNY

And you may have just missed your little friend Martin outside...he got shot in the face...poor guy...I liked him too.

Janelle raises her left arm, swings out at Danny.

JANELLE

You bastards...you fucking bastards!

She's nowhere near him.

DANNY

You're the only one left now Baby. Times up.

Janelle cries...covers her face with her left hand.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Just try to relax and it'll all be done in a second...you won't even feel it.

He pulls back the hammer, takes aim at her face.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry...I really am.

He pulls the trigger. The hammer clicks down...

Nothing happens. Janelle SCREAMS again.

Danny looks down at the gun with a confused look...squeezes the trigger again.

Nothing.

Janelle delivers a well placed kick to his already injured left leg. It goes out behind him, he falls forward, almost on top on her.

He lets out a groan.

JANELLE

You asshole! Fuck you!

She struggles to get up, kicks at Danny again, this time making contact with his face.

He's pushed back into the wall.

Carlie appears on the run with the fire poker out in front of her. The end still wet with blood.

CARLIE

No Janey, fuck you!

She rams the poker into Janelle's midsection. Blood squirts up. Her eyes roll back.

Danny rolls away...shocked, blood coming from his nose.

DANNY

Damn it! Holy shit! The gun's out of bullets? Are you kidding me?

CARLIE

Yeah D, Geez, how many times have I heard you quoting those stupid Dirty Harry movies...did I fire six shots or was it only five? Do you feel lucky? Punk?

She laughs.

DANNY

Oh you're comical alright C. Holy shit though, God, you are a life saver...

Carlie has a funny look on her face. She smiles.

CARLIE

Yep, that's right Hun...battered rum...my favorite flavor!

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. EAGLE'S CREST - LATER

Danny and Carlie walk along the road, away from the Schaefer house. Snow continues to fall. Danny's wearing the big work suit, limping along, using the fire poker as a walking stick. Carlie has a garbage bag in her hands.

CARLIE

Are you gonna be able to make it  
Baby?

Danny's struggling.

DANNY

Yeah, we're just two streets over I  
think. We gotta get that rental car  
still.

Carlie nods her head.

CARLIE

OK, I'll take care of it when we get  
to our place...I sure hope it's as  
nice as Lisa's. That house was  
beautiful. I loved it.

DANNY

Carlie!

CARLIE

Honey! I loved it...I really did.  
We didn't even see the master  
suite...I bet it was beautiful.

DANNY

Jeez Carlie. C'mon...seriously.

EXT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FRONT YARD - LATER

Numerous police cars, lights flashing, three ambulances parked in the street. Cops and emergency crew members everywhere.

Two dogs leashed to a lamp post alongside the driveway. There's barking and commotion coming from around the side of the house. Two OFFICERS in that vicinity.

They come across Jill's body, now almost buried in the snow. Two dogs sit next to her, both barking and whining.

OFFICER COOPER

Hey, I've got another body over here.

Heads turn from several officers in the driveway.

The second officer reaches down, grabs the dogs leashes, pulling them away.

OFFICER COOPER reaches down, wipes the snow away.

Jill turns her head around towards him...eyes flutter...her hand raises up out of the snow.

JILL

Help...

OFFICER COOPER

We've got a live one! Hey! Get some help over here.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Cops everywhere. Two MEDICS carry a body bag down the stairs.

An OFFICER in a thick parka walks up to SHERIFF DOUGLAS HAWKINS, dressed in a fur jacket, wearing a cowboy hat, 60's, distinguished.

OFFICER MOORE

We just found two more in the shed out back...beaten to shit, Sheriff.

SHERIFF HAWKINS

I cannot believe this Goddamned mess. M'God...never seen anything like it in m'Goddamned life...well...least not in m'town.

OFFICER MOORE

I know Sir...uh...looks alot like what happened in Steamboat 'couple weeks ago. Same M.O., just more bodies.

SHERIFF HAWKINS

Let's not go there son.

OFFICER MOORE

Yes Sir. Sorry.

He looks down at a large blood stain on the foyer floor.

OFFICER MOORE (CONT'D)

Poor Mike. God, I just saw him a couple of hours ago.

SHERIFF HAWKINS

He was a Goddamned good man...and a Hell of a good Goddamned cop too. Must have surprised 'em or somethin'. Looks like quite a fight took place 'round here.

OFFICER MOORE  
Any weapons turn up yet?

The Sheriff shakes his head.

SHERIFF HAWKINS  
Nope, not a nothin' yet. Mike's gun's missin' though. Six shell casin's in this area here that look like standard issue to me. Big butcher knife's missin' from the kitchen. Oh...I'd say we'll probly find more...I rightly don't know.

OFFICER MOORE  
What do you want me to do, Sir?

SHERIFF HAWKINS  
Oh...well...let's just try 'n keep everyone out that doesn't need to be in. Know what I'm sayin'? The Feds 'r on their way.

FADE TO WHITE:

EXT. A SKI RUN ON THE MOUNTAIN - THE NEXT DAY

Four feet of fresh powder...still snowing.

A FEMALE SKIER cruises through the thick snow, making perfect "S" turns down the mountain, throwing out big rooster tails of light snow...blond hair flowing in a tight knot.

Beneath her, a picnic bench, where the slope flattens out, amidst the trees. SOMEONE sits, skis propped up against the table, puffing away at a cigar in his mouth...smoke wisps up into the falling snow.

The skier continues down the slope, swooshes to a stop a few feet in front of him, creating a wall of snow, covering everything.

He jumps up.

BLACKBOURN  
Shit! Damn it! My cigar...c'mon...

The skier takes off her goggles and face mask. It's Carlie. She has a black eye, but she's smiling and her eyes are sparkling.

CARLIE  
Hello there.

BLACKBOURN

Carlie, damn girl, you're gonna get it. Paybacks can be a bitch.

CARLIE

Yeah, so I've heard.

She shakes the snow from her, gives a little shout.

CARLIE (CONT'D)

Owww! What a day...unbelievable Pow Pow, huh?

BLACKBOURN

No shit. Best and most snow I've ever skied in December.

He takes a few steps away from the table, gives her a hug, looks around.

BLACKBOURN (CONT'D)

Where's Danny?

Carlie makes a face, rolls her eyes.

CARLIE

Danny's not feeling too well this morning. Rough night, if you know what I mean.

BLACKBOURN

It's all over the news...eight killed just a few miles from here. One of 'em a cop? Damn Carlie.

They both sit down. Blackbourn relights his cigar.

CARLIE

Eight huh? Guess they missed one. Danny actually killed a guy in town before we got started...said he needed to make sure he could go through with it.

She rolls her eyes, sighs.

CARLIE (CONT'D)

He got a little messed up though.

BLACKBOURN

Is he OK? Looks like a nice shiner you're sporting there, girl.

She laughs and wipes at her face.



CARLIE

Oh that's nothing. Danny'll be fine. His leg is pretty beat up and he's got a bigger shiner than this, but we're good.

BLACKBOURN

Have you talked with Xavier yet?

CARLIE

No...why? What's up?

BLACKBOURN

Well, he made me an offer, wants to see me next week with you guys.

CARLIE

An offer you can't refuse, right?

BLACKBOURN

Yeah, pretty much. He said it will change my life forever.

Carlie reaches out, puts her hand on his shoulder, rubs him vigorously.

CARLIE

That's what he told us too. He said we'd be different, feel empowered...he was right.

Blackbourn looks worried.

BLACKBOURN

Is he...what I think he is?

CARLIE

Yeah, I think so. He has a way...something in his eyes...that makes you change the way you see everything. I mean I feel different for sure, but in a good way. I don't feel evil or anything like that. I'm still me!

BLACKBOURN

You sure, Carlie? You don't regret it? He wants me to start it up again in two weeks...up in Telluride.

Carlie looks intensely at him.

CARLIE

No...no, we don't regret it, Blacky. Once it starts, I think you'll understand.

(MORE)

CARLIE (CONT'D)

You'll never look at life the same way again, but you'll open new doors...doors that I truly believe you can also shut. I don't know what's gonna happen from here, but I do know that Danny and I are gonna live this life to the fullest and make the most of this opportunity.

Blacky's face up close...eyebrows raise...he smiles...puffs...eyes wide...

BLACKBOURN

No shit...but Carlie...you do seem different.

Carlie's face up tight. She smiles...a big, goofy grin.

CARLIE

Yeah? Maybe...

FADE TO WHITE:

John Norum's "Shimmering Highs" begins to play as the credits start to roll. After twenty seconds, they stop.

EXT. PHOENIX, AZ. - XAVIER'S HOUSE - DAY

A huge mansion on Camelback mountain. It looks like a fortress.

INT. XAVIER'S HOUSE - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A grand room, floor to ceiling windows overlooking a stunning view of the city below.

Danny, Carlie, and Tobias sit facing XAVIER, 70's, of Spanish descent, virile and imposing...Satan in human form. A beautiful desk separates them. TWO MUSCULAR MEN in suits stand at closed double doors behind them, arms folded.

XAVIER

Danny, I want you to pay attention. School's in session.

DANNY

We're all ears, X. Ready to go.

Carlie looks nervous, fidgets in her chair. Danny reaches down, holds her hand.

Xavier looks to Tobias, frowns.

XAVIER  
(slow and methodically)  
My friend...you fucked up. I gave  
you my rules, and you broke the most  
important one.

TOBIAS  
Xavier...I...don't understand.

Xavier opens a drawer, pulls out a silver auto-mag pistol,  
pumps three rounds into Tobias' chest. He's blown backwards  
violently...blood flies, splattering Carlie.

She SCREAMS, covers her face. Danny quickly stands.

DANNY  
Hey! What the fuck is this?

XAVIER  
Sit down Danny. As I said, this is  
merely a lesson for you. You're in  
no danger.

The two big men pick up Tobias' body, drag him away.

DANNY  
We had a deal. What's this all about?

Xavier returns the pistol to the drawer, eyes on Danny.

XAVIER  
He killed a little child in Steamboat.  
That's against my rules. We don't  
kill children, we pick our targets  
randomly, we don't bring our own  
weapons, and we leave nothing behind.  
It's a level playing field. Those  
are my rules.

Danny's nervous now too, his arm around Carlie.

DANNY  
OK, OK, we get it. We understand.  
We know your rules. We'll follow  
them exactly. You have my word.

Xavier smiles...cold and evil, an odd flickering shimmer in  
his dark brown eyes.

XAVIER  
There's a power to death and killing  
that most will never know, never  
understand. It takes a certain  
kind...a...certain mindset. It'll  
change your lives forever...empower  
you. Believe me.

DANNY

We understand. We won't let you  
down. But...wh...

XAVIER

But why? What's in it for me?

Xavier smiles again, exposing sharp, brown teeth...chuckles  
to himself.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

Some call me the Angel of Death,  
others, the Giver of Life. In all  
death, there is life, and conversely,  
in all life, there's death. I've  
killed so many, but I've also given  
life, opportunities, and power.  
It's the way it is Danny, and the  
less you know now, the better.

Danny and Carlie are wide eyed. They both nod.

XAVIER (CONT'D)

Alright then! We're good to go, as  
you say?

Xavier claps his hands together...his fingers long,  
pointed...strange.

DANNY

We're good to go. Uh...we're leaving  
Friday evening for Durango and we'll  
come through for you, sir.

XAVIER

You come see me when you get back,  
Danny. You'll have the funding you  
need for your new office, like we  
discussed. You'll be changed...for  
the better. You'll see. You'll  
thank me.

The credits and music start back up. Twenty seconds later,  
they stop.

INT. COMMERCIAL AIRLINER/JETWAY - NIGHT

Carlie laughs, winks at Rosie as they make their way off the  
plane.

BLACKBOURN

Enjoy yourselves, but be careful.  
Lots of snow falling tonight.

DANNY AND CARLIE

Thanks. Good-night.

They start to walk away, down the jetway, talking among themselves.

BLACKBOURN (O.S.)  
Hey you two, hold up a minute...

They stop, turn around, as Captain Blackbourn comes up, a small, red nylon bag in his hand. He holds it out to Danny.

BLACKBOURN (CONT'D)  
I think you guys forgot this bag.  
It was up in the overhead.

Danny reaches out, takes it from him.

DANNY  
Oh yeah, thanks so much Captain.

BLACKBOURN  
Don't mention it. Have a good evening.

He gives him a wink. They all smile.

The credits and music start back up. Twenty seconds later, they stop.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Carlie picks up the red bag that's in between them.

CARLIE  
So what do we have in here anyway?

DANNY  
Well, it's supposed to be some sort of explosive device.

Carlie's eyes go wide.

CARLIE  
Huh?

DANNY  
Yeah, we can stage an accident if we need to...like a diversion or something. I'm not sure. I'll check it out when we stop.

The credits and music start back up again. Twenty seconds later, they stop.

EXT. DURANGO, CO. - ALLEY - NIGHT

Danny's crouched down next to the right rear tire of the Jeep, the red bag next to him, in the snow. He fumbles with something on the inside of the tire.

He stands up, pulls out a small remote control from the bag, puts it in his jacket pocket. He zips the bag shut, throws it into the front seat.

A loud CLANGING NOISE, followed by the high pitched shrieks of a cat off to the left. He pulls a tire iron from the rear hatch and walks quietly toward the commotion.

The credits and music start back up again. Twenty seconds later, they stop.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Carlie sits back. She has a drunk look to her face. Her eyes flutter.

DANNY

Yeah Hun, we're the smart ones all right...but, the saying is, "pull the wool over our eyes", not the stuff. You know?

CARLIE

Huh?

DANNY

Nothin'. Just talking to myself. I've gotta stay close to them.

CARLIE

So you're sure about them? Sure about this? They seem so nice.

DANNY

C'mon, we can't think like that, OK? No turning back now. You know the deal...you know Xavier's rules.

Carlie has a worried look on her face.

CARLIE

You're right...

Danny reaches into his pocket and pulls out the remote detonator. He looks to Carlie.

DANNY

Ready?

CARLIE

Ready.

Danny pushes the button on the remote.

DANNY

Hold on baby!

The credits and music start back up again. Twenty seconds later, they stop.

INT. ESCALADE - NIGHT

LISA

Jake, why aren't you using the garage?  
It's dumping out here. C'mon drive  
up.

JAKE

Uh, I forgot to put new batteries in  
the remote Lees. Sorry.

NICOLE

Nice! We've got to walk through all  
this snow? That's bullshit.

LISA

Jake, how many times did I tell you,  
you needed to do that?

NICOLE

Yeah Jake, Geez! Just go in and  
open it and drive us in then, ya  
lazy ass.

Megan looks at Nicole with an upset expression.

MEGAN

Nick, shut up already.

JAKE

Thank you Meg. Sorry everyone but  
we're walking. My fault. It's not  
gonna kill us.

The credits and music start back up again. Twenty seconds later, they stop.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Carlie walks in from the rear hallway. She looks nervous and unsure, her eyes darting around the kitchen...looking for something.

She walks over to the counter, looks down at a large wood block with knives in it. She pulls the biggest knife out and twists it in her hand.

She makes a few stabbing and cutting motions in the air.

CARLIE

OK, here we go...

She sticks the knife between her belt and jeans, against her rear end and walks away.

The credits and music start back up again. Twenty seconds later, they stop.

INT. SCHAEFER HOUSE - GREAT ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Danny walks through the great room, an irritated look on his bloody face. He walks up to the fireplace, pulls out a metal fire poker.

He twists it in his hand as he enters the kitchen.

Danny sets it down on the island counter top, moves to the sink. He washes his hands and face, nervously.

DANNY

Damn, way too loud in here. I hate this fucking song.

He dries himself off, grabs the remote off the counter, turns off the music.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Aw, much better...much better.

Danny looks around...his attention settles on the pot rack above the island. He reaches up, pulls down a large, bright yellow frying pan. He slaps it against his other hand and winces.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Wow, that's got some weight to it. Perfect.

The credits and music start back up again. Twenty seconds later, they stop.

INT. RENTED HOUSE - NIGHT

Danny and Carlisle inside their house. It's big and beautiful.

DANNY

Well C, what'ya think? Will this do for the weekend?



Carlie walks around, looking left and right, up and down. She's got a funny smile on her face and the beginning of a black eye. Danny's face is a mess.

CARLIE

Yeah, it's nice. It'll do.

DANNY

Is that it? It's nice? It'll do?

CARLIE

Well...it's not as nice as Lisa's place, but it'll definitely do.

She smiles...a big goofy grin.

DANNY

CC, you're unbelievable! Seriously unbelievable!

CARLIE

But you love me, right?

DANNY

Oh I love you Honey. I totally LOVE YOU!

FADE TO WHITE: