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WIDOWVILLE

c. 2015

SCREENPLAY

BY

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EXT. THE CARIBBEAN SEA NOON

It's a balmy day. An elegant sailing yacht is cruising along. On deck a beautiful woman is catching a tan in the nude. She sips a tall cool cocktail. She seems like the essence of contentment.

The CAMERA pans the ship. At the helm Captain FRANK is in charge. He's 65 years old. His jaunty hat, jutting pipe and nautical clothes project the image of his former self. He used to be a man's man. Virile, vibrant, vigorous. He hasn't felt that way for years. He's not his own hero any more.

CARLOS the deckhand comes up quietly behind him. His silent approach gives him a chance to get an eyefull of the the naked blond. He waits a moment as he scopes the babe.

CARLOS

Pardon me sir, lunch is ready.  
Shall I serve it now.

FRANK is no fool. He knows the kid was checking out his naked wife. He is pissed off.

FRANK

Damn you boy. Don't you go sneaking up on me. When I want you I'll call you. Get back below.

CARLOS obeys the order. As soon as he's gone FRANK puts on the auto-pilot and goes forward.

FRANK

Damn it GINGER. I told you I don't want you prancing around naked in front of the crew.

GINGER

Oh FRANK, don't be such a prude. I'm having a good time for a change. Don't spoil it. Let's have another drink. You're no fun when you're sober.



GINGER

I've got to do something..... I'm not willing to suffer a miserable life paying for my past..... You're damn right I've got a plan. I'm going to get myself a lover.  
.....Mas cocaine por favor.

INT. FAIRWAYS GOLF CLUB      THE GREEN BAR      SAME TIME

FRANK is talking to his close friend, ED WEAVER.

FRANK

I'm telling you ED, I feel old and spent. I used to enjoy playing racketball. I loved that game. Ever since I got injured my game ankle restricts me to playing golf and poker.

ED

FRANK, stop whining. You've still got a lot going for you. You're a yachtsman. You've won regattas and have a title. You've got a beautiful wife. And we both know you've got a business that brings in good money.

FRANK

You don't know the half of it. I owe money to the Mob. My boat is virtually owned by them. I borrowed against it to pay off my legal debts. I run their dope and make no profit. It's all their's before I ever see a dime.

ED

So what can you do?

FRANK MILLER

I haven't got a clue. All I know is that I need to find an answer before my life unravels. And GINGER is more trouble than she's worth. I often feel that she wants me to fail. As if she gets pleasure from my misery.

INT. YACHT CLUB BAR      LATE AFTERNOON

Overlooking the harbor is the SAILORS LOFT. Here is where the boating crowd gathers. FRANK is at the bar. Another man stands nearby. He's very tall. When the barkeep is away he speaks to FRANK surreptitiously.

MIKE MASON  
Are we set for tonight?

FRANK MILLER  
Not tonight. Tomorrow at dawn.  
Loading a boat at night looks  
suspicious.

INT. PIRATES COVE BAR-N-GRILL AN HOUR LATER

At the height of three feet tall the camera walks down the aisle from the front door. Tables that are half full and barseats with butts on them line the corridor. Eventually we reach the back booth. Two men are having a discussion.

Our camera is the eyes of a little girl.

LITTLE GIRL  
Mommy says the party is starting.  
Are you going to come now?

The camera reverses and we see a child. She has an earnest face that needs to know the answer to her question.

BIG AL  
Tell Mommy that I'll be there in a  
few minutes. O.k. Sweetheart?

Happily satisfied the kid runs off.

In the back booth FRANK MILLER is meeting with AL ROSETTI. He's big, beefy and bald. He's a gangster from Chicago.

BIG AL  
FRANK, it's a damn shame what's  
happened to you. You used to be the  
man I wanted to be. An athlete, a  
lady's man, a guy who had the world  
by the balls. Ever since your trial  
your life has turned to shit.

FRANK MILLER  
Take it easy AL. I'm still valuable  
to the organization and I ain't  
dead yet.

BIG AL  
FRANK, you are in debt to me way  
over your head. I don't see how you  
are ever going to pay me off. I  
hope you're insured. Maybe your  
widow can meet the bill.

FRANK MILLER  
Hold on AL. Let's keep this  
discussion civilized. I'm not just  
a mule. I've done more for the gang  
than transport. I've recruited  
(MORE)

FRANK MILLER (cont'd)  
dozens of members of the yacht club  
as couriers to carry our goods. I  
bought trucks, boats and properties  
to move the product. Ask MIKE  
MASON. I'm his top man.

BIG AL  
All that's old news. What you owe  
me is beyond your means. We need a  
new understanding. I have a plan.  
Work with me. I'll forgive your  
debt. You can keep your yacht and  
sail away.

EXT. PIRATES COVE BAR      SUNSET

As BIG AL ROSETTI and FRANK MILLER exit the bar a series of  
snapshots catch them together. It's our photo-journalist.  
He's using his night-vision lens to get clear photos.

INT. NEAL JORDAN'S HOTEL ROOM      NIGHT

NEAL is on the phone with his boss, MAX KRUGER.

NEAL JORDAN  
MAX, this story is solid gold. I'm  
sending you photos of AL ROSETTI  
with everyone he meets. See if you  
can identify the criminals from mug  
shots. I'm sure most of them have  
records....Yes MAX, it's like a  
rogues gallery here. And the most  
prominant person in town is LADY  
EVE LOGAN, the BLACK WIDOW. Her  
husband founded this resort forty  
years ago. Then he disappeared  
without a trace.....  
She holds court in her penthouse  
with the mayor, the police chief  
and her executives. They run this  
town.... No, I haven't been able to  
link them to the COCAINE TRAIN.....

EXT. DOCKS      MIDNIGHT

INT. FRANK'S YACHT

GINGER and CARLOS are engaged in OLYMPIC FUCKING. Finally  
they are exhausted. GINGER warns CARLOS that FRANK is a  
dangerous man. She stresses that point until CARLOS swears  
to keep their affair a secret. This intimacy leads to more  
words of love. Another Fucking Festival results.

INT. LUCRETIA'S LOUNGE      AFTERNOON

GINGER is having her daily 'therapy session'. After a few  
minutes and a few lines she blurts out her HOT SEX NEWS.  
LUCRETIA loves to hear gossip and encourages GINGER to give

her all the facts. GINGER does, explicitly describing her sexual activities. The women revel in the details.

GINGER

LUCRETIA, I haven't felt this good in years. I realize now how miserable I've been with FRANK. I'll never let him dominate me again.....I don't know if I can afford to leave him. I'll worry about that when it becomes an issue. Right now I'm just so happy I can barely sit still.....I am concerned he'll find out. But I won't quit with CARLOS as long as I can continue glowing like a girl in love.

INT. DEVINE BEAUTY PARLOR                      5 P.M.

GINGER is having a pedicure. Her eyes are closed as she dreams on about her marvelous romantic adventure. As she hums to herself two older women enter quietly. They hear GINGER and wonder what makes this beautiful woman so happy. She is an object of gossip in this small town.

MRS. BARNES

Oh GINGER, what's got you singing with joy?

MRS. THORNDIKE

Yes dear. Whatever it is we could use a bit of that.

GINGER

It's just clean living girls. I've been spending my days on the high seas. Now I'm back in town and I'm eager for gossip. Tell me something juicy.

MRS. THORNDIKE

Well, my Harold says that the Blue Moon Hotel is bankrupt again.....

EXT. DOCKS            MIDNIGHT

INT. YACHT 'BELINDA'            CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

GINGER and CARLOS are enjoying another pornographic session. They pause for breath.

GINGER

CARLOS I've never been happier.  
Promise me you'll stay with me.

CARLOS

Anything for you my love.

EXT. DOCKS            YACHT 'BELINDA'            DAWN

MIKE MASON and his men load cargo aboard the yacht. It's four duffel bags about fifty pounds each. They are gone in minutes. After they leave FRANK goes to work. He transfers the cargo to a nearby boat.

FRANK returns to his yacht. He checks the ship stem to stern to prepare it for sailing. When he reaches the captains quarters he sees that something is wrong. The bed doesn't have that crisp look that maids pride themselves on. He tears off the covers and finds soiled sheets. Someone has been fucking in his bed.

INT.    LADY EVE'S PENTHOUSE            MORNING

The private elevator delivers COLONEL RUIZ to the suite. He is tall, handsome, sporting a magnificent mustach and a perfectly pressed uniform. He is the top cop in town.

LADY EVE and her cabal are waiting for him. Mr. BIDDLE, the chief of staff. Jeff Collins, attorney. Claire Trebor, press secretary. Brian Gilliams, business agent. And the Mayor, Senor Gomez. Tess Gordon, LADY EVE'S personal assistant, is in attendance.

After introductions we get to business.

COLONEL RUIZ

There was a robbery at the hotel last night. A gang of bandits held up a card game. They made off with cash and jewelry. At least nobody was hurt. However, it's a crime on our time and territory. We bear the blame for allowing it to happen. We are responsible for this town.

MAYOR GOMEZ

Didn't this happen last year at this time? And wasn't there a cruise ship in port then?

COLONEL RUIZ

You are correct sir. We have good descriptions from the victims. If these bandits came by ship I'll have them in jail by nightfall.

LADY EVE

It's important that we have a speedy arrest. Bad publicity weakens our position and strengthens the Cartel. They claim that they will enforce law and order when they get their casino. Once that happens we are finished. They'll take our town away from us.

MR. BIDDLE

The expansion of the golf club was the plum we needed to attract a major golf tournament. I've secured sponsors and T.V. coverage..... The Sport of Kings begins a new season in December. Horse racing is a world class act and is sanctioned by the state. Generally speaking the government is against gambling but it seems wholesome when it's done outdoors. And the state has no problem in getting their share of the profits.....The regatta is scheduled for January. I've contacted every major yacht club within 1000 miles to get them involved. We are getting positive responses.

JEFF COLLINS - ATTORNEY

I've petitioned the state to recognize Paradise Security as a legal form of law enforcement in our territory. That should ease some problems. Ever since the Governor was arrested nobody knows who's in charge or who to bribe.

CLAIRE TREBOR - PRESS AGENT

On that score I've launched a national campaign to denounce the Cartel as an enemy of the people. Every time the Casino issue comes up I link it to organized crime.

BRIAN GILLIAMS - BUSINESS MAN

Our program to squeeze out the marginal businesses is working. Cheap hotels and flop-houses are being closed. We are vigorously enforcing health and safety laws so shacks and carts cannot serve food. We are upgrading the town to be the stylish resort we desire. I suggest that we buy every piece of property as it becomes available. That way there will be no place to build Casinos.

INT. FRANK'S HOUSE AFTERNOON

GINGER enters. FRANK is listening to opera, smoking a cigar and having a brandy. They don't greet each other. Once GINGER gets settled the tranquility is broken.

FRANK MILLER

Where the hell have you been?

GINGER

Oh FRANK. Don't badger me. There's a festival in town. I've been drinking and dancing with friends and strangers. You remember dancing, don't you? That's what people do when their happy.

FRANK MILLER

I was worried, that's all.

GINGER

Worry on your time. We've been invited to a party. Halloween at the golf club. We're supposed to come in costume. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

FRANK MILLER

Whatever.

INT. YACHT 'BELINDA' MIDNIGHT

GINGER and CARLOS are fucking up a storm. FRANK bursts in with a hard-on. CARLOS has GINGER in the classic V and is plowing her for all he's worth. FRANK grabs him from his helpless position by the neck. He throttles him and starts beating him to a pulp.

GINGER is shocked. She reaches into her nightstand and grabs her gun. It's a .25 automatic. Before FRANK does any more damage she shoots him in the back.

FRANK turns towards her, more shocked than wounded.

FRANK MILLER

Why? For this punk?

GINGER

No. Because I'm sick of you!

GINGER shoots FRANK twice more in the chest. FRANK drops dead at her feet.

GINGER tosses the gun on the bed, then checks that FRANK is dead. He is. Then she checks on CARLOS. He is in bad shape.

After a few minutes GINGER nurses CARLOS back to life. Once he's coherent he takes charge.

CARLOS

Mi amor. You've got to go to town.  
You must establish your alibi. You  
must be seen with people.

GINGER

What about you?

CARLOS

Don't worry about me. You're the  
wife. You will be the prime  
suspect. I'll be O.K.

GINGER

What will you do?

CARLOS

Don't ask. You don't want to know.  
Just go. Go now. Go! Now!

GINGER heads out. As soon as she's gone CARLOS calls JUAN.

JUAN is drunk. He's at a party. He doesn't want to go  
anywhere, he just wants to PARTY. CARLOS yammers at him  
until he agrees to come by with his boat.

GINGER'S ladies gun made for a neat killing. It didn't  
perforate the body, there is very little blood. CARLOS wraps  
the corpse in the rug. He says a few words.

CARLOS

I never meant to hurt you. But you  
don't deserve that woman. You  
bought a child bride that has  
outgrown you..... You shouldn't  
have gotten fat.

EXT. HARBOR      DEAD OF NIGHT

JUAN arrives pattering about in his small boat. He pulls up  
to the yacht. CARLOS greets him then tells him the news.

JUAN goes ballistic. After a heated debate he agrees to help  
CARLOS dispose of FRANK'S corpse. With great effort they  
manage to load the stiff onto the skiff and away they go.

EXT. DOCKS      MORNING      YACHT 'BELINDA'

MIKE MASON comes by to check on FRANK'S progress. There's  
nobody there. FRANK was supposed to meet him. MIKE is  
concerned. He goes to FRANK'S house.

EXT. FRANK'S HOUSE      MORNING

MIKE bangs on the door and rings the bell. GINGER answers.  
She doesn't know MASON. He seems menacing. She instantly  
dislikes him.

MIKE MASON

Excuse me ma'am. Forgive the early hour. I'm looking for your husband. We had an appointment. Is he home?

GINGER

No he isn't. Can I take a message?

MIKE MASON

Tell him that MIKE MASON was here. It's most important that we speak.

GINGER

I'll be sure to tell him.

GINGER sighs with relief when MASON leaves.

GINGER -- MURMERS TO HERSELF

I'll be answering more questions about FRANK from here on. I'll keep it simple. FRANK went out and didn't come back. End of story.

INT. DEA OFFICE IN MIAMI

AFTERNOON

AGENT KELLY -- SHOUTING ON THE PHONE

What do you mean you lost him? That town isn't big enough to lose a dog. FRANK MILLER is the key to our case. Without him we can't prove the Miami connection. Redouble your efforts. I'm coming down there.

INT. PIRATE'S COVE BAR-N-GRILL AFTERNOON

BIG AL ROSETTI and MIKE MASON are in the back booth.

BIG AL

What do you mean he disappeared?

MIKE MASON

I can't find him. I checked his boat, his house, all the usual places. He hasn't been seen since yesterday. FRANK MILLER is gone. Do you think he skipped out on us?

BIG AL

Can't be. His boat is here. He loves that boat more than his wife. Maybe we've been double-crossed by the Cartel. They knew FRANK had the cargo. I'll make some calls. In the meantime you keep looking. And check on Perez. He might know something. If he doesn't he's of no use to us. Get rid of him.

NEAL JORDAN takes MIKE MASON's picture as he leaves the bar.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ DAY

DEA AGENTS KELLY, GROGAN AND WHITE present papers and photos concerning FRANK MILLER to bolster their case that PUERTO BLANCO is the hub of the COCAINE TRAIN. COLONEL RUIZ is not impressed.

COLONEL RUIZ

I'm sorry gentlemen but this evidence is weak. I will not allow you to upset my town so you can shine for your superiors. You may look but not touch. No interviews, no interrogations, no interference. The tourist season is upon us. Bad publicity can ruin this town.

AGENT KELLY

All we ask for is cooperation. We're all on the same side.

COLONEL RUIZ

I don't think that's true. This town thrives on tourism. We can't afford to have crime stories chase away our customers.

AGENT KELLY

We need full access to this town.

COLONEL RUIZ

You have my answer. Dismissed.

AGENT KELLY -- MOCKINGLY

Si mi Capitan.

LADY EVE'S PENTHOUSE BALCONY

SUNSET

COLONEL RUIZ

We have a new problem. DEA agents are investigating PUERTO BLANCO. They blame us for their drug problem. The last time they were here they botched their assignment. That resulted in a gunbattle in the harbor. The press played the story up in a big way. Those news stories devastated tourism for years.

LADY EVE

What can we do about them.

COLONEL RUIZ

I've restricted their activities as much as the law allows. When they cross the lines I've dictated I'll  
(MORE)

COLONEL RUIZ (cont'd)  
 contact their superiors and demand  
 that they be recalled. We'll just  
 have to hope for the best.

LADY EVE  
 Do what you can.

COLONEL RUIZ -- AS HE SALUTES HER  
 Si mi Capitan.

INT. NEAL JORDAN'S HOTEL ROOM

Snap snap snap goes the camera. NEAL JORDAN has his focus on  
 LADY EVE. He catches the Colonel saluting her.

NEAL JORDAN  
 Gotcha. Now we see who's in charge.

AGENT GROGAN works a camera as good as anyone. He catches  
 the same action.

AGENT GROGAN ON THE PHONE  
 We got him chief. COLONEL RUIZ gets  
 his orders from the BLACK WIDOW.

AGENT KELLY  
 That's great GROGAN. The next time  
 that smug bastard gives us shit  
 we'll shove it down his throat.

EXT. DOCKS MORNING YACHT 'BELINDA'

NEAL JORDAN I.D.'d FRANK MILLER as BIG AL'S cohort. He pokes  
 around and finds out that FRANK has a fancy boat. He goes to  
 inspect yacht 'BELINDA'. He is quite impressed. The COCAINE  
 TRAIN must be paying well to support such a fine vessel.  
 He's about to make an illegal search when he sees CARLOS is  
 already on board. NEAL takes his photo and continues  
 walking.

INT. DEVINE BEAUTY PARLOR LUCRETIA'S LOUNGE AFTERNOON

GINGER is having a 'therapy session'. LUCRETIA is fascinated  
 by the details of GINGER'S life. She sees GINGER as the  
 movie star that she almost was.

GINGER'S been hiding in her house and is going stir crazy.  
 She also wants to try out her alibi on a sympathetic ear. As  
 always whenever she pauses LUCRETIA responds in Spanish.

GINGER  
 LUCRETIA, I think FRANK ran off. I  
 know he's got money problems.....  
 There's some tough looking men  
 asking about him.....I don't know  
 (MORE)

GINGER (cont'd)  
 what it's about but I have't seen  
 him for three days.....Yes he has  
 done this before. But this time men  
 have come to the house asking for  
 him. One guy is particularly scary.  
 I can see that he is a gangster.  
 .....What can I do? I can't go to  
 the police. I'm sure that FRANK is  
 involved in some sort of crime.  
 .....Mas cocaine por favor.

INT. FAIRWAYS GOLF CLUB      FRIDAY NIGHT      HALLOWEEN

GINGER has positioned herself where she can see the guests  
 as they arrive and don their masks.

During this scene subtitles name suspects and crimes as  
 GINGER identifies them. There's Conrad Trobish, who recently  
 beat the rap for killing his wife. Ex-Senator Wilson who was  
 forced out of office for corruption. BIG AL ROSETTI who's  
 avoiding charges in Chicago. Dr. Barnes who lost a  
 malpractice suit where a young girl died. GINGER realizes  
 that many of her fellow ex-patriots are criminals. Now she's  
 one of them.

CARLOS and JUAN are working the party. CARLOS is a  
 bartender, JUAN is a waiter. GINGER'S mask can't hide her  
 luscious body. JUAN recognizes her for who she is.

JUAN  
 Lady, your drink is at the bar.

GINGER heads that way but doesn't get five feet before BIG  
 AL blocks her path.

BIG AL  
 GINGER TART. I've always wanted to  
 meet you. Your film 'Saturns Child'  
 is a classic.

GINGER  
 Well thank you sir. It's great to  
 be remembered. I know you're a man  
 of substance in this town but I  
 don't know your name.

BIG AL  
 Just call me AL. I'm a friend of  
 FRANK. Have you seen him lately?

GINGER  
 No. Not for a few days.

BIG AL

Do you know where he is?

GINGER

No. FRANK never tells me anything.  
He treats me like I'm a child.

BIG AL

Well, if you do see him I'd like to  
talk to him. We have business to  
discuss.

GINGER continues making her way to the bar when MIKE MASON  
stops her. He gently holds her hand and dances a few steps  
along with her.

MIKE MASON

Mrs. Miller. So good to see you  
again. FRANK always talks about  
your beauty. I thought he was  
bragging. You do look like a movie  
star.

GINGER

What do you want?

MIKE MASON

I'm still looking for FRANK. We  
need to talk.

GINGER

Get in line with the rest of the  
sharks. I don't where FRANK is or  
what he's doing. Now, excuse me.

GINGER is having a hard time crossing the room. FRANK'S  
friends are gathered around a table. They stop her and  
badger her with questions.

DR. BARNES

GINGER, where the hell is FRANK? We  
were supposed to play golf  
yesterday.

GINGER

I have no idea. He didn't say a  
word to me. This isn't the first  
time he's pulled this stunt.

MRS. ZELNIK

They're called husbands because  
it's like animal husbandry. You're  
supposed to keep track of your  
flock.

GINGER

FRANK doesn't work that way. When I  
press him for details he takes

(MORE)

GINGER (cont'd)  
 offense. All I know is that I  
 haven't seen him since Tuesday.

After two minutes she rudely cuts them off and walks away.

Finally she reaches the bar. CARLOS has many customers. He can't talk. GINGER starts to speak and CARLOS cuts her short. He hands her a drink.

CARLOS  
 Here's your blue martini miss. --  
 Then whispers. 'Later at the boat.'

The torture continues. COLONEL RUIZ stops GINGER.

COLONEL RUIZ  
 Mrs. MILLER. I understand your  
 husband has gone missing. Is there  
 some way I can help you?

GINGER  
 I don't think so. FRANK'S a big  
 boy. This isn't the first time that  
 he's left town unexpectantly.

COLONEL RUIZ  
 Well, if you do see him have him  
 call on me. It seems that many  
 people are anxious to talk to him.

GINGER escapes the party. All along NEAL JORDAN has been spying on her. He wears his SPYGLASSES, bulky hornrim spectacles that have a tiny hidden camera. He also secretly recorded several conversations. This party has been a gold mine of information.

INT. NEAL JORDAN'S ROOM            MIDNIGHT

Neal is on the phone.

NEAL JORDAN  
 MAX, it's all coming together. This  
 story is growing by the day. One of  
 the key men for the COCAINE TRAIN,  
 FRANK MILLER, went missing. The  
 whole town is looking for him.  
 Cops, BIG AL, some other thug,  
 FRANK'S friends, everybody but his  
 wife, who doesn't seem to give a  
 damn. I think a ton of product went  
 missing too. ....What's that? The  
 executives from the OUTFIT flew  
 here. That proves it MAX. This is  
 the hottest crime story today.  
 ....Oh, you've I.D.d MIKE  
 MASON..... He's got a record a  
 mile long. I'll call you tomorrow.

EXT. DOCKS 2 A.M.

CARLOS flits between shadows as he makes his way to the boat. A dim light at the helm lets him know GINGER is waiting for him. He slips aboard the yacht.

GINGER is in tears. Her ordeal at the party was more than she could stand. CARLOS comforts her.

GINGER

CARLOS, I'm afraid I won't hold up under pressure. At the party I was panic stricken. I don't know what I'll do if I am actually questioned by the police.

CARLOS

You will be fine my love. Remember, you are an actress. Act dumb. And FRANK was, is, a mysterious man. He was secretive. He never told you his business. You simply don't know what he's been doing or what's going on.

GINGER

I guess I can do that. We'll stick to our story. I know nothing. You know nothing. Only FRANK can speak for himself. If the cops seem to be getting too close I'll make up stories that involve criminals. That ought to keep them busy for a while.

CARLOS

Whatever you say my love.

GINGER

CARLOS, I'm concerned that people will see us in a compromising situation. If our affair is exposed our guilt will be obvious. I want you to come to work daily. We'll go sailing as often as possible. That way we can be alone together without questions.

I want you to stay on the yacht. Ship's maintenance is a constant chore. Nobody will question us if you live here. Let's make plans to go on a fishing trip tomorrow. The more often we use the boat the more natural it will seem.

EXT. DOCKS            NOON

When GINGER arrives CARLOS and JUAN are loading gear on the boat. MIKE MASON makes an appearance.

MIKE MASON  
Say folks, where you all going.

GINGER  
Buzz off stranger. I've had enough of you.

MIKE MASON  
Now that's just not nice. I'd like to come aboard and talk a bit. I brought a friend. I hope you don't mind.

MASON displays his gun.

GINGER  
Fine, welcome aboard.

MIKE MASON  
You see, I've just got to find FRANK. Mind if I look around?

GINGER  
Knock yourself out.

MASON searches the boat. He gives special attention to every place that might hide a hidden panel. He taps on all the bulkheads and checks below deck. He does a thorough job. By the pantry in the galley he raps on the side wall and hears a hollow sound.

MIKE MASON  
What have we here?

He whips out his switchblade and loosens a panel. He reaches inside and pulls out FRANK'S big guns. A hunters rifle and a pump-action shotgun.

MIKE MASON  
Nice artillery.

GINGER  
FRANK doesn't let anyone play with his guns. You better put them back.

MIKE MASON  
So, where you all going?

GINGER  
That's none of your business.

MIKE MASON

Now you're not being friendly.

GINGER

Fine. We're going fishing. See the rods and tackle.

MIKE MASON

O.k. Lady, we're done here. When you see FRANK let him know that we're not finished yet. I want what he owes me. Understand.

This incident is witnessed from several angles. LADY EVE keeps watch from her perch at the penthouse.

Agents Grogan and White are taking photos from their room. They call for the backup squad with a boat.

NEAL JORDAN has them under surveillance. He grabs a camera and a taxi and follows them to the last point of land.

Agent KELLY uses binoculars from his balcony. As the ship makes it's way thru the harbor all these spies take in the view.

MIKE MASON has a better idea. He gets into his speedboat and gives chase. LADY EVE has her eye on him.

EXT. CARIBBEAN SEA                      AFTERNOON

As a gesture to modesty GINGER wears bikini panties. CARLOS brings her a drink.

CARLOS

We're being followed. By two boats.

GINGER

Screw 'em. We've got nothing to hide. Help JUAN with the rods. Today I want to catch more than a tan.

GINGER gets up and prances around, tits a-flying.

GINGER

Take a good look all you bastards!

EXT. PUERTO BLANCO HARBOR                      LATE AFTERNOON

When fisherman return with a fine catch they proudly display their goods. Nobody is prouder than GINGER and her men. There's a six foot sailfish and a four foot grouper hanging from the bridge. They are the talk of the town.

As they dock people gather including the fishing officials. PUERTO BLANCO boasts to have the finest fishing around. The fish are weighed and measured, pictures are taken, trophies are awarded and it's all featured on the local news. Our

gang of spies are amazed. It's quite a commotion.

NEAL JORDAN is in the crowd. He takes this opportunity to get clear close up shots of GINGER, CARLOS and JUAN. He calls them her gang.

NEAL JORDAN

That is without doubt the best catch I've seen. How did you do it?

GINGER

You're praising the wrong person. My crew does the fishing. All I caught was a tan.

NEAL JORDAN

Well, it's still great. Can I buy you a drink to celebrate?

GINGER

I'll raise you. The boss of The Grotto said he'd throw me a party if I gave him the fish. You are invited.

INT. THE GROTTA RESTAURANT      SUNSET

It's one of the fanciest places in town. They have interior gardens featuring exotic plants and tropical fish. GINGER and NEAL go to the buffet table full of friends, well wishers and freeloaders. They are joined by our gang of spies.

LADY EVE is accompanied by Mr. Biddle. They cruise the table. Everybody loves a party. Especially when the food is free. PUERTO BLANCO has a reputation as a fun town. It's important to throw a festival now and then. That's what keeps the tourists coming. Drinks of course are extra.

LADY EVE

Mrs. Miller, I must say that I am impressed. Not only by your catch but by your generosity to the town. This party is a grand idea.

GINGER

Why be stingy? Do I know you?

LADY EVE

No, but I know you. Or at least I know your boat. I've admired it many times. My name is EVE. I see that we're all having grouper tonight. Tell me, is the sailfish available? I'd like to have it mounted.

GINGER

You'll have to see the boss. It's his now.

LADY EVE

Well, congratulations. I hope we meet again.

As soon as she leaves GINGER grabs NEAL'S arm.

GINGER

Do you know who that is? That's LADY EVE, known as the BLACK WIDOW. Her husband founded the resort of PUERTO BLANCO forty years ago. Then he disappeared. She owns the Grand Hotel. She's the richest woman in town.

NEAL JORDAN

She seems like a classy lady.

CARLOS and JUAN stop by to say goodbye. They are looking for a more lively crowd. They want to dance. As they leave AGENT KELLY makes an appearance.

AGENT KELLY

I just want to say that I envy the man who hooked and landed those fish. Was that you husband?

GINGER

No, it was my crew. They know these waters. They caught both those fish in two hours.

AGENT KELLY

Well those fish are whoppers. Do you sail often? I'm just asking because I admire your sailship. I thought I might make an offer.

GINGER

The ship is not for sale.

AGENT KELLY

You haven't heard my offer.

GINGER

You're starting to annoy me. This is my party. Go away.

AGENT KELLY

There's no reason to be rude.

NEAL JORDAN

Look Jack, you asked your questions and got an answer. Now hit the road.

AGENT KELLY  
Who the hell are you?

NEAL JORDAN  
Who the hell are you?

AGENT KELLY  
I'm Agent Kelly of the DEA. I want  
to question FRANK MILLER.

NEAL JORDAN  
You're way out of your  
jurisdiction.

AGENT KELLY  
Everybody thinks they're a lawyer.

Just then COLONEL RUIZ steps up.

COLONEL RUIZ  
Let us not spoil this party with  
harsh talk. There's nothing here  
that can't wait until tomorrow.  
Shall we say at 10 A.M. At my  
office. Please be prompt.

AGENT KELLY  
I still want to know who you are.

NEAL JORDAN  
Don't worry chief. I'll be at that  
meeting.

AGENT KELLY turns in a huff and leaves. He passes his men  
GROGAN and WHITE who are taking photos from the entrance.  
Nobody notices MIKE MASON at the bar.

GINGER  
Neal, you don't have to escort me  
to the cops.

NEAL JORDAN  
Nonsense. I'm not going to let that  
FED bully you. You get a lawyer or  
I'm coming along.

INT. OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ 11 A.M.

COLONEL RUIZ  
Alright, we have your statement.  
We'll be in touch. Mr. JORDAN, a  
moment please.

GINGER steps out.

NEAL shows the cops a photo.

NEAL JORDAN

I want you both to know that this thug is part of the plot. He's Al Rosetti's main man here. His name's MIKE MASON. You should put him under surveillance.

AGENT KELLY

We'll take that under advisement.

NEAL JORDAN

O.K. So we have a deal. I'll stick close to the lady. But you KELLY, you keep your distance. You make her nervous.

AGENT KELLY

I want her nervous. Nervous people talk. I don't buy this dumb blond routine. She knows more than she's telling.

NEAL JORDAN

And what will you do? Beat it out of her. To crack this case will take subtlety.

COLONEL RUIZ

Gentlemen, we have an agreement. We'll walk lightly until we pounce.

NEAL meets GINGER at her car.

GINGER

What did that cop want?

NEAL JORDAN

He asked me to look after you. I told him I would.

INT. DEVINE BEAUTY PARLOR LUCRETIA'S LOUNGE AFTERNOON

GINGER tells LUCRETIA about her police interview.

GINGER

That damn DEA agent practically accused me of being a criminal. It's a good thing NEAL was there. He knows how to handle cops. ....Now I'm concerned about CARLOS. I'm afraid to be seen with him. You know how people talk. And I'm sure the cops are watching me.....How can you help?.....We can use your apartment as our love nest? But how can we explain CARLOS coming to a beauty parlor?.....Oh, there's a separate entrance off the

(MORE)

GINGER (cont'd)  
 alley.....LUCRETIA, you're the best  
 friend I've ever had.

INT. SWANK HOTEL SUITE           NIGHT

BIG AL is on the phone with Chicago.

BIG AL  
 That's great SID. So the witness is  
 dead and the indictment has been  
 quashed. To who do I owe this  
 favor?.....No, I've still got work  
 to do here. Until we install a new  
 friendly Governor I want to keep  
 close to the action.....I've got  
 the Cartel eating out of my hand.  
 They want their casino so badly  
 they're practically jumping thru  
 hoops.....Why would I want to help  
 them? We don't want them to compete  
 with our casinos on the islands.  
 Besides, we want them focused on  
 delivering the product.....  
 We're still looking for FRANK  
 MILLER and the missing cargo.....  
 I want answers too. I'll get back  
 to you.

EXT. THE BEACH           NIGHT

CARLOS and JUAN are sitting by a small campfire passing a  
 bottle of rum. All is well until JUAN says something about  
 'gringa' and 'dinero'. Immediately CARLOS gets mad. JUAN's  
 words and gestures say CARLOS got the woman but he got  
 nothing. CARLOS attacks JUAN.

It's quite a fight. Hits, holds, they wrestle thru the fire.  
 They end up in knee deep water. CARLOS half drowns JUAN into  
 submission and drags his friend ashore.

CARLOS    -- SPANISH  
 What will you do? Go to the police?  
 FRANK was trying to kill me. GINGER  
 saved my life. I love that woman.

JUAN nods assent. They are friends and conspirators. There's  
 nothing else to do but go on.

INT. GRAND HOTEL           AFTERNOON

Several OUTFIT executives from Chicago have gathered to  
 discuss the missing cargo. They are being shadowed by NEAL  
 JORDAN. He photos everyone. The DEA agents are also on the  
 job. They've got cameras and have bugged the conference  
 room.

BEN

The questions are where is FRANK MILLER, where's the cargo, and who is our enemy. BIG AL claims the Cartel betrayed us. We'll need proof before we start a gang war.

JOE

I don't trust AL. He went to Miami to plug a leak that cost us the previous shipment. Tommy Drago and his crew took the rap and were whacked. I've known Drago for years. He was always a stand up guy.

TONY

I agree with Joe. If I had to choose between Big Al and Drago as to who would betray us it would be Al. I never did trust him.

BILL

If the Cartel has turned on us we've got big troubles. They own this territory.

DON

But why would they? We've been partners for years. Everybody has been making money. It doesn't make sense.

TONY

We're in the dark because we're from Chicago. We need a local whose in the know.

JOE

We've got a few local cops on the payroll. But can we trust them? For all we know they're the problem.

BEN

This is getting us nowhere. Set up a meeting with the Cartel. Maybe they know the score. We are in their backyard.

EXT. GINGER'S HOUSE     NIGHT

GINGER is about to enter when she is startled. CARLOS is hiding in the bushes.

CARLOS

Mi amor. I've got to see you.

GINGER

Don't sneak up on me like that. You scared the daylights out of me.

CARLOS

Let me in. Have you got beer?

INT. GINGER'S HOUSE      AN HOUR LATER

GINGER and CARLOS are relaxing with drinks.

GINGER

CARLOS, you can't be seen here. If people know we're lovers they'll figure it out about FRANK. Meet me on the boat or at DEVINE. There's no other way.

CARLOS

I know you're right my love. But I'm concerned about you. You need to be safe from the gangsters. They are all around us.

GINGER

I'll be O.K. Go back to the boat. I'll see you tomorrow.

As she opens the door to let him out MIKE MASON forces his way in. He's got his knife in his hand.

MIKE MASON

Hey! What's with Pancho here?

CARLOS

I came to protect her from you!

MIKE MASON

And you're doing a fine job. Let's all go down to the boat. I want another look.

EXT. GINGER'S HOUSE

As they step out the door they get a surprise. DEA agents KELLY, GROGAN and WHITE are waiting for them. A spotlight floods them as the agents point their pistols.

AGENT KELLY

You are all under arrest!

INT. POLICE STATION      AN HOUR LATER

COLONEL RUIZ arrives. The first thing he does is to motion the DEA agents into his office. As he closes the door everyone hears him yell--

COLONEL RUIZ

Damn it! You can't arrest people in Mexico!!!

INT. LADY EVE'S PENTHOUSE MORNING

The COLONEL and LADY EVE are having coffee as he reports.

COLONEL RUIZ

We had some excitement last night. Those DEA agents made an arrest. They know they have no jurisdiction here. They claim they were stopping a felony.

LADY EVE

Tell me everything.

COLONEL RUIZ

They were watching GINGER MILLER'S house. They are convinced she is part of FRANK MILLER'S drug trade. When a known felon arrived they thought they'd caught MILLER'S gang. Then when GINGER MILLER and her deckhand were led by the felon at knife point they felt compelled to intervene. He's that tall man you noticed whose been all around this case. His name is MIKE MASON.

LADY EVE

I've seen him. He looks nasty.

COLONEL RUIZ

He is. He has a record of assaults that would put most men in jail for life. Apparently he also has fine legal protection. However, he claims his knife was in his pocket. The victims confirmed it.

LADY EVE

Why would they protect him?

COLONEL RUIZ

Good question. When AGENT KELLY pressed GINGER MILLER to prefer charges she refused. I'm wondering if these DEA agents actually have a case.

LADY EVE  
What did GINGER MILLER say?

COLONEL RUIZ  
She just wanted to go home.

EXT. DOCKS AFTERNOON

Yacht 'BELINDA' returns to base. There's no fanfare today. Just AGENT KELLY. As the crew docks AGENT KELLY speaks to GINGER.

AGENT KELLY  
I feel I should warn you that we had to release MIKE MASON. If you had pressed charges he would be in jail. He has a long criminal record. I wouldn't want him coming after me. He's a bad dude.

GINGER  
I thank you for your rescue, or whatever that was. I'm sorry if I let you down. He did scare me but no harm was done. All I want is to be left alone.

AGENT KELLY  
O.K. You've got my card. Use it.

INT. LUCRETIA'S LOUNGE SUNSET

A therapy session is in full swing. While GINGER tells LUCRETIA about the incident with the cops when a knock is at the door. It's CARLOS, with beer and rum. It's a party!

EXT. DOCKS NIGHT

JUAN is drunk. He makes his way to the boat. He stumbles aboard. As he goes below he sees a flashlight shining. He flicks on a light switch.

MIKE MASON is searching the boat. As JUAN starts to yell at him MASON whips out his switchblade and slashes his throat. JUAN screams and stands in shock for a moment watching his blood spurt across the room. Then he crumbles. MASON kills the light and makes his escape.

EXT. DOCKS MORNING YACHT 'BELINDA'

The police and the DEA agents are working.

AGENT KELLY  
I want this boat stripped to the hull. There's dope aboard.

COLONEL RUIZ

I cannot allow that. We do have laws in this country. We will wait for the owner. Ah, here she is.

GINGER arrives. She's met at the pier by NEAL.

GINGER

I hope you don't mind that I called you. Cops make me nervous. The officer that fetched me didn't speak English. He said something about a death.

NEAL JORDAN

Don't worry about it. I'm here for you.

NEAL supports GINGER as he walks her down the dock.

COLONEL RUIZ

We need your help Miss GINGER. A dead man was found on your boat. Can you identify him?

There's a body under a tarp on the deck. Cops are all around. One of them whips back the tarp.

It's JUAN with his throat slashed lying grotesquely on the deck. GINGER makes a muffled scream and faints. NEAL catches her before she falls.

NEAL JORDAN

You guys have no class. If I wasn't here she'd have hit the deck.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ DAY

CARLOS is led into the office. GINGER and CARLOS assure each other that they are alright. NEAL is still there.

GINGER

COLONEL, can we go now?

COLONEL RUIZ

Yes Miss GINGER. However, I warn you. It seems to me that you are in extreme danger. I'm not quite sure how to protect you.

NEAL JORDAN

I'll stick close to her. Let's go. I'm buying us lunch.

INT. RESTAURANT                      NOON

NEAL JORDAN

CARLOS, I understand the police gave you a hard time.

CARLOS

The police are idiots senior. They know I am friends with JUAN. When I came to work they arrested me.

GINGER

The COLONEL was right about one thing. We are in danger. That killer is on the loose. I'm sure it's that damn MIKE MASON. He's a gangster.

NEAL JORDAN

GINGER I'm going to guard you day and night until this thing is over. I checked on MASON. He's a well known criminal. They say he's a suspect in several murders.

GINGER

CARLOS, I hesitate to ask you. I'm concerned that MASON will come back here. His target seems to be the boat. Would you consider to continue to live on the boat? I know it's dangerous. I'd hate it if something happened to you, but I'm worried that if the boat isn't protected that he'll steal our ship and take it away.

CARLOS

Anything for you Miss GINGER. I hope MASON does come back. I owe it to JUAN to avenge his death. We were friends since we were kids. If MASON comes here I will kill him.

INT. GRAND HOTEL GARAGE              NIGHT

BIG AL gets into his big car. As he goes to turn on the ignition a hand and arm snake forward from the back seat. There's a knife at his throat. It's MIKE MASON.

MIKE MASON

Don't move AL. We're going to play 20 questions. If you give the right answers you win.....  
Why did you set me up?

BIG AL

MIKE, you've got it all wrong. I  
AAAhhhhh!

MIKE nicks AL'S neck.

MIKE MASON

Don't screw with me AL. I strip  
searched FRANK'S boat. There's no  
dope there. What I found was  
\$100,000 and a fake passport. We  
both know FRANK was broke. You got  
him to steal the cargo. He'd get a  
new life, you'd take over the  
COCAINE TRAIN, and I'd get whacked  
for losing the goods.

BIG AL

You got it wrong amigo. It's not  
me, it's the guys from Chicago.  
They decided to eliminate this  
station and deal directly with  
Colombia.

MIKE MASON

Bullshit! They know how valuable  
I've been. It's you AL. You're  
making a play to take over the  
COCAINE TRAIN. Last month you were  
in Miami. Tommy Drago and his crew  
got hit. Wherever you go people  
die. You're like Death on Wheels.

BIG AL

Look MIKE, we can make a deal.  
You're right, I want to take the  
TRAIN. The TRAIN needs a conductor.  
It needs to be done. Our  
operation is dependent on the  
Cartel. They are our enemy. If not  
today, tomorrow. We've got to guard  
ourselves against them.

MIKE MASON

No AL, you're the enemy. All was  
well until you made your play.

BIG AL

Believe me MIKE I -- AAAhhh!!!

Arterial spray splashes the interior of the windshield.

MIKE MASON

You Fucked with the wrong dude.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ DAY

AGENTS KELLY, GROGAN and WHITE were called before the COLONEL. They stand before his desk like schoolboys before the principal. Colonel Ruiz can barely contain his rage.

COLONEL RUIZ

Are you aware of the destruction you have brought to my town? Let us count the bodies. First of all there's FRANK MILLER. Of course, we actually can't count him because we have no body. Yet he lived here for many years until you came.....Then there's Hector Perez. I see that you're surprised. You wouldn't know him. He was just a Mexican. He was tortured and murdered a week ago. We were watching him for months. We know he was part of the connection between your Mafia and the Cartel. We thought we'd watch him for another few weeks, gaining information, finding bigger fish to fry. Now that is no longer possible.

AGENT KELLY

Now wait a minute --

COLONEL RUIZ

Please don't interrupt me. Then there's the matter of the boy on the boat. He had no criminal record because he was innocent. Yet he is a victim of your ruthless search.

AGENT KELLY

You can't blame us for that.

COLONEL RUIZ

I can and I do. I see that you are not impressed. There's always some collateral damage. People don't count, the job must be done. But now the price has gone too high.

COLONEL RUIZ rose from behind his desk. He slams down some photos in front of the DEA agents.

COLONEL RUIZ

You have brought a gang war to my town!!!!

Pictures of BIG AL with his throat cut are graphic and gruesome. The agents are shocked and surprised. They look at each other. It's almost comical.

COLONEL RUIZ

You act as if this is the wild west. I will return the favor. Get out of my town! I've called your superiors. You've been recalled.

AGENT KELLY

We've got a mandate.

COLONEL RUIZ

You can read it from jail. Get out of town by sundown or all of you will be arrested. Dismissed!

INT. HOTEL SUITE

NOON

A gang of nervous gangsters are holed up in the suite. BEN hangs up the phone.

BEN

MURPHY and his crew will be here by sundown. Let's get organized. Don, why did BIG AL personally make this trip? He could have made phone calls or sent someone else.

DON

AL said that we were betrayed by somebody in Miami. He thought he could ferret out the guilty party. After two weeks of investigation he decided that Tommy Drago was the culprit. He called for a hit and we delivered. Drago took the rap.

JOE

I don't believe that for a minute. It looks to me that BIG AL was making a play for the COCAINE TRAIN. He went to Columbia last year for a vacation. I think he made arrangements. If he got direct connections from them to him he won't need us or the Cartel.

BEN

JOE, did you set a meet with the Cartel?

JOE

We'll see them tomorrow night. When we talked they assured me they have nothing to do with our recent troubles.

INT. HOTEL SUITE DIRECTLY BELOW

NOON

Agents of the RICO SQUAD have bugged the room upstairs. They hear every word.

EXT. A SMALL STORE on a country road.

NOON

MIKE MASON goes for beer. His one true friend, PEDRO, is the owner here.

PEDRO

MIKE. Good to see you. I hear you're in big trouble.

MIKE MASON

Amigo I need your help. Let's have some beers and talk about it.

An hour later a dozen beer bottles litter the store.

PEDRO

MIKE, I don't understand. The COCAINE TRAIN runs thousands of miles. There must be stations along the way. Why would they eliminate them?

MIKE MASON

I'm not sure they are. Most of my information is from BIG AL. He set me up. But the bosses from Chicago are in town. They sent BIG AL. I don't know what they believe. I don't know what I should believe. I've run this station for years. I'm not giving it away to anyone.

PEDRO

What are you going to do?

MIKE MASON

I'm going to send them a message. I need an arsenal. What have you got?

INT. GRAND HOTEL GARAGE

NIGHT

It's the site of BIG AL's murder. The elevator doors open. Six gangsters emerge. They're on their way to meet the Cartel. As soon as the doors close all hell breaks loose.

MIKE MASON is a killing machine. He opens fire with a shotgun blasting the gang to pieces. The remaining thugs return fire. MASON escapes.

INT. HOTEL SUITE

MINUTES LATER

The toll is two dead and two wounded. BEN is now clearly the ranking Boss as TONY is dead and JOE is wounded.

BEN

This is war! Call out the troops!

A collage of violence parades across the screen. Shootings, bombs, drug high-jackings, cops and soldiers in various uniforms shooting at gangsters both Mexican and Yankee, cop stops on the highway, helicopters, ships at sea being boarded, cars exploding. It's a bloody disaster.

EXT. CARIBBEAN SEA      AFTERNOON

A patrol boat pulls alongside yacht 'Belinda' and demands to make a search. GINGER is inflamed. She tries to stop them. She makes a scene, tits-a-flying. The marines find this amusing. The captain is an officer on a mission. Nobody is going to stop him.

After the incident is over CARLOS delivers GINGER another drink.

CARLOS

You are quite formidable my love.  
You defended our ship with your  
tits.

GINGER -- WITH A DEEP VOICE

I am in command. My tits rule the  
sea. Sail on.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM      NIGHT

JOE has been in a coma since the shooting. When he awakes and gets filled in on recent events he goes ballistic.

JOE

You idiots! The Cartel didn't  
ambush us. It was MIKE MASON!

INT. POLICE STATION      OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ      DAY

GINGER meets NEAL in the lobby.

GINGER

Thanks for coming. I hope there's  
no dead body this time.

NEAL JORDAN

Don't jinx us.

COLONEL RUIZ

Ah, here you are. Mrs. GINGER  
MILLER, meet Mrs. RHONDA MILLER.  
You both have much in common,  
namely a husband named FRANK  
MILLER.

RHONDA

So, you're the bimbo FRANK left me for. I suppose you're pretty enough in a cheap sort of way.

GINGER

What do you want?

RHONDA

Why FRANK of course. I heard of the trouble down here and I want to make sure that he's alright. If he's fine I'll be on my way. If not I've got insurance to collect. Where is he?

GINGER

I don't know. He left without a word.

RHONDA

I'm not leaving this town without an answer. I'll be seeing you. Oh, one other thing. FRANK never bothered to divorce me. So legally you are not his wife and everything in his name will go to me.

COLONEL RUIZ

Ladies, let's keep this discussion civilized. I'm still investigating FRANK MILLER's disappearance. We have found a false passport with his picture and a different name. We have reason to believe that he ran away from his debts.

RHONDA

Either way, I own whatever assets FRANK still has. I'll see you both again.

INT. HOTEL SUITE

AFTERNOON

The Chicago mob is having a meeting.

BILL

This whole expedition has been a disaster. FRANK MILLER and the cargo are our only interests.

ZAC

It's funny how his name keeps coming up. Today one of our cops told me that another Mrs. Miller came to the police. How many wives has this guy got?

BILL

Ah, the former Mrs. Miller. She might know something. ZAC I want you to follow her. Find out what she's doing.

EXT. PUERTO BLANCO DAY

ZAC is tailing RHONDA MILLER. She takes a tour of the town. She goes to see the harbor master, finds a lawyer, checks in at city hall, and then retrieves a suitcase from the freight office. Now he's interested.

RHONDA MILLER takes her stash and goes to her hotel. She meets with her ally, a man named ART GREEN. Short, skinney and bald, he looks like the accountant that he is.

RHONDA

ART, doesn't this look like a typical ploy from FRANK. Twenty years ago he robbed us blind and took off to parts unknown. This seems the same. The COLONEL told me that gangsters have been searching the entire coast for him.

ART GREEN

You're right RHONDA. This looks like FRANK's method. He disappears in the middle of the night. He takes something of value. We both know FRANK. I'll bet he was running drugs.

RHONDA

I've got these papers from when we were married. There may be some valuable information here. FRANK started his Mexican adventure while we were still connected.

ART GREEN

I'll check them out.

An hour later the old couple is off on a mission. Zac is right behind.

INT. RHONDA'S CAR AFTERNOON

RHONDA is driving.

RHONDA

I know that FRANK was involved with the Mafia. He always used cocaine. I know that he often smuggled it into the country on his sailing trips. That's why we split up.

ART GREEN

If that's the case we better step lightly. People are getting killed around here.

RHONDA

Don't be such a pussy. Gangsters kill other gangsters.

ART GREEN

Gangsters kill whoever gets in their way. We are not immune.

EXT. GINGER'S HOUSE            SAME TIME

NEAL pulls up and sees a man with a van making a delivery. He drops off FRANK's golf clubs, a suitcase and a large box. GINGER signs for them and the man goes away.

GINGER

FRANK's stuff from the golf club. He hasn't paid his dues for months.

NEAL JORDAN

Let's take a look. There could be clues here about his activities.

An hour later they've gone thru the evidence.

NEAL JORDAN

It all looks ordinary except for these three keys. The big brass one should be for a door or padlock. The little one could fit a cash box or drawer. But the steel one is stamped Chrysler, so it's for a car, or a motorboat.

GINGER

FRANK doesn't have a motorboat.

NEAL JORDAN

Are you sure? If I were him I'd have a motorboat. Face the facts GINGER, FRANK is a smuggler. Your sailboat is too obvious. FRANK needs a lesser boat to get around in. Something that doesn't attract attention.

GINGER

If there's a boat I want it. That old wife will claim everything FRANK owns. She's a greedy bitch.

NEAL JORDAN

Then I guess we'll go boat hunting.

INT. OBSCURE SHACK BY AN UNPAVED ROAD

LATE AFTERNOON

RHONDA and ART GREEN follow a paper trail that leads them to a small shack by a cove. They have a key that fits the door so they know they're in the right place. There they find a cache of documents detailing FRANK's activities.

ART GREEN reads thru the stack of documents while RHONDA ransacks the place. After an hour they've done all they can do there.

RHONDA

This trip is a total waste.

ART GREEN

Maybe not. These papers cover all sorts of sales and transfers of property, cars and boats. The information here is valuable.

Then ZAC kicks in the door. He's holding his gun.

ZAC

Don't nobody move. I want to see those papers.

RHONDA

Don't let him ART.

ZAC

Lady, this is a gun. Don't be stupid.

RHONDA

You get out of here. Get out or I'll call the police.

ZAC isn't much for talking. He shoots RHONDA twice and does the same for ART. He takes the papers and goes.

INT. LADY EVE'S PENTHOUSE

SUNSET

The entire cabal is present. COLONEL RUIZ is in charge.

COLONEL RUIZ

This gang war is the worst ever. We have to find a way to end it. The cruise ships have canceled all  
(MORE)

COLONEL RUIZ (cont'd)  
 stops to our coast. Tourists have  
 canceled their vacations. Flights  
 have been canceled. Fighting  
 continues daily. Both sides claim  
 they were attacked first and were  
 forced to retaliate. I've contacted  
 the Cartel and asked them to sue  
 for peace. I've also spoken to the  
 Mafia Dons who are here. We're  
 trying to negotiate a settlement.

LADY EVE  
 What are the odds of that?

COLONEL RUIZ  
 This attempt may succeed. The cost  
 of this war is too high for both  
 sides. I offered my services to  
 assist them to come to an  
 agreement. They seemed to like that  
 idea.

INT. NEAL JORDAN'S ROOM      MIDNIGHT

NEAL IS ON THE PHONE.

NEAL JORDAN  
 That's great MAX. The most sales  
 ever. I like the sound of that.  
 Everybody loves to read about mob  
 wars.....They're still at it. One  
 of the Cartels nightclubs was  
 bombed last night. What's strange  
 is that nobody knows why they're at  
 war.....I'm on it MAX.

EXT. NEWSTAND      MORNING

The local newspaper has three inch tall headlines.

NEWSPAPER      IN SPANISH  
 PEACE IS DECLARED BETWEEN GANGS

INT. PEDRO'S STORE -- MIKE MASON'S HIDEOUT      MORNING

PEDRO  
 MIKE, great news! The war is over!  
 Now we can get back to business.

MIKE MASON  
 Well, nothing good lasts forever.

INT. HOTEL SUITE      NOON

It's a party. The Chicago gang is celebrating the truce.

BEN

Bill, I don't know how you pulled it off. You managed to get them to agree to terms. How did you do it?

BILL

We were partners for years. They didn't want this war. I agreed to make reparations for the damage.

BEN

Well done. When we get back to Chicago you'll have a seat at the table.

BILL

Thanks Chief. Let's go downstairs. There's something I want to show you.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

MINUTES LATER

Several of their men are waiting for them. After greetings BILL takes charge.

BILL

This is the price of peace.

With that said BILL whips out a pistol and blows BEN's brains out. The men quickly put BEN's body in a van.

BILL

BIG AL and BEN started this war. Now it's over. Dump the body. We're going back to Chicago. Except for you ZAC. I want you to find that cargo. And one more thing. MIKE MASON thinks he owns this station. He tried to hit us. Take him out.

INT. LUCRETIA'S LOUNGE

LATE AFTERNOON

Gossip is an essential aspect of life for a hairdresser. LUCRETIA fills GINGER in on all the dirty details. Doctor Barnes and his wife sleep in separate bedrooms. Mrs. Whitfield has filed for divorce. COLONEL RUIZ is rumored to be the secret lover of LADY EVE. And NEAL JORDAN isn't who he claims to be.

GINGER

What do you mean by that?

LUCRETIA explains that NEAL spends far too much time at the police station to be a fashion photographer. He works for the cops in some manner. GINGER is shocked. She's come to depend on NEAL especially when she faces the police. Now she knows why he's so effective when she needs him. He's allied with them.

GINGER

LUCRETIA, what am I to do? I've let NEAL get close to me. Now I know he's an enemy. If I just kick him out it'll raise his suspicions. I can't afford that. He could ruin my life with rumors fueled by a trashy article.

LUCRETIA murmurs comforting words as she dances a tango around GINGER. Her message is that GINGER can use her seductive powers to control NEAL and he won't even know he's being manipulated. Then she takes GINGER into the beauty parlor to spruce her up head to toe. LUCRETIA is a wizard at her craft. She makes old bags look good. With a natural beauty like GINGER the results are spectacular.

GINGER calls NEAL and makes a date to meet him at the SAILOR'S LOFT. She's begun her campaign to crack NEAL'S mind. This is psychological warfare.

EXT. TERRACE OF SAILORS LOFT BAR                      SUNSET

GINGER keeps NEAL waiting for her as she is deliberately late. When she sweeps into the place she is a vision of loveliness. She flirts with a dozen men as she makes her way thru the place to meet NEAL.

NEAL JORDAN

Here you are. I was beginning to feel like you stood me up.

GINGER

I wanted to look special for you. Did I succeed? LUCRETIA worked on me all day.

NEAL JORDAN

Honey, you are the most beautiful woman I have ever seen.

EXT.-- INT.    ALL AROUND PUERTO BLANCO                      DAY AND NIGHT

A collage of romantic and sexual scenes parade across the screen. They are together constantly. Dining, dancing, and loving, they live a dream existence in paradise. As we follow them we see NEAL falling madly in love with GINGER. As the collage finishes we see them in a nightclub. The music is a romantic ballad that touches the heart. The lovers melt into each others eyes.

EXT. BEACH            PLAYA VERDE    AFTERNOON

MIKE MASON is having a beer at a cantina on the beach when he sees a Yankee inspecting his boat. ZAC is looking for cars and boats listed on the papers he got by killing the old couple. MIKE's boat and truck are listed. MIKE pulls his hat down as a quick disguise and ducks ZAC's eyes. Then he follows him as ZAC searches the town. ZAC finds MIKE's truck. As he checks the numbers against his paperwork MIKE slips up behind him and knocks him out. MIKE tosses ZAC into the truckbed and takes off.

EXT. A CLEARING IN THE JUNGLE                    15 MINUTES LATER

As ZAC comes to MIKE is reading those papers. ZAC tries to get up and MIKE knocks him down.

MIKE MASON  
Seems like you've been looking for  
me. Who are you?

ZAC says nothing.

MIKE MASON -- IN A SOUTHERN ACCENT  
What we have here is a failure to  
communicate.

MIKE whips out his switchblade and slashes ZAC across his face. Now MIKE has his complete attention and ZAC has incentive to talk.

ZAC  
I work for the same people you do.  
I'm looking for the missing cargo.

MIKE MASON  
Is that a fact. Well, I've got news  
for you. I don't work for them  
anymore. I don't need Chicago. My  
business is from here to Miami. And  
I don't need you.

Without another word MIKE kicks ZAC twice and slashes his throat. He leaves the body as it is and goes.

INT. POLICE STATION    OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ    DAY

COLONEL RUIZ  
I asked you here to help with an  
investigation. We found the bodies  
of RHONDA MILLER and ART GREEN in a  
shack by a cove twenty klm. from  
here. Can you eliminate GINGER  
MILLER as a suspect?

NEAL JORDAN  
Yes I can. I've been with her day  
and night.

COLONEL RUIZ

Day and night you say. What are you doing with her?

NEAL JORDAN

We're looking for FRANK MILLER's assets. RHONDA threatened to take everything FRANK owns and leave GINGER with nothing.

COLONEL RUIZ

That sounds like a good motive for murder.

NEAL JORDAN

She's had no opportunity. Tell me about the crime.

COLONEL RUIZ

Both victims were shot twice with 9 mm. bullets. If I were to guess I'd call it professional work.

NEAL JORDAN

Maybe our gang war isn't over. I checked with my people in Chicago. Several notable gangsters didn't return to the city. They could be dead and buried or alive and working. Remember, there's still millions in cocaine not accounted for.

COLONEL RUIZ

Can you give me a list of names?

NEAL JORDAN

I'll send it to your office. One name we both know is MIKE MASON. Until he's caught or killed I expect more trouble.

EXT. GINGER'S HOUSE                      EVENING

GINGER and NEAL pull up in GINGER's car.

GINGER

I don't know NEAL. We've been searching the coast for days. I don't see how we ever are going to find that boat.

NEAL JORDAN

I'm willing to keep looking as long as you are. Maybe we just need to take a day off.

They exit the car and enter the house. CARLOS is hiding in the bushes. When he sees them together he realizes that GINGER is not his alone. He is anguished. He watches for hours to be sure that his suspicions are correct. With tears in his eyes he sadly walks away.

INT. LUCRETIA'S LOUNGE

LATE AFTERNOON

The therapy session is in full swing when there's a loud banging at the back door. It's CARLOS. He's drunk.

CARLOS

You have broken my heart! I put my life on the line for you. I saw you with NEAL last night.

GINGER

Nobody owns me CARLOS. NEAL has helped me many times with the police. If not for him I might have been put in jail.

CARLOS

If not for me you would be in jail. If I didn't help you with FRANK you would go to prison.

GINGER realizes that CARLOS is about to reveal the secret of FRANK's death in front of LUCRETIA. She slaps him hard.

GINGER

Don't you dare talk to me like that. We are bonded and that will not change. Stop your whining. Get out of here and don't come back until you act like a man. I can't stand a crying child. Now go!

LUCRETIA gets the picture. FRANK is no more.

INT. MORGUE

NIGHT

NEAL has been called by COLONEL RUIZ to identify a corpse.

NEAL JORDAN

That's ZAC GANSKY. He's part of the Chicago gang. He's known as a good soldier. And quite a shooter. He usually uses a 9 mm. automatic.

COLONEL RUIZ

Could he be the one who murdered RHONDA MILLER and ART GREEN?

NEAL JORDAN

Definitely. It seems that we always come back to FRANK MILLER and the missing cargo. I see his throat is slashed. I'll bet it was MIKE MASON.

INT. BLUE MOON HOTEL

NOON

GINGER decides to investigate NEAL. She goes to the BLUE MOON HOTEL and bribes the clerk to let her into NEAL's room. The first thing she sees is NEAL's crime wall. It's like a prop for a cop show. NEAL has dozens of photos spread across a pin board. Lucky for her NEAL is very organized. Pictures are named on most shots. There's BIG AL grouped with the Chicago OUTFIT. FRANK'S photo and MIKE MASON are there labeled as locals. Her picture is there with CARLOS and JUAN too. Another group is labeled Miami. Top center is LADY EVE and her cabal including MAYOR GOMEZ and COLONEL RUIZ. There's a shot showing COLONEL RUIZ saluting LADY EVE on her tower. GINGER sees the camera with the telephoto lens mounted on a tripod. She looks thru it. It's focused on EVE'S penthouse. She also finds papers for CRIME INC MAGAZINE. NEAL works for a scandal sheet. He's been lying to her since day one.

There's a stack of headlines, news clippings and notes on NEAL'S desk. GINGER goes thru them. Excerps include...

CHICAGO -- Sept. 9. Over a ton of cocaine was seized today as it arrived by train from Miami. Police sources say that an informant revealed the shipments arrival.

MIAMI -- Sept. 30. The head of the COCAINE TRAIN in Miami was assassinated along with two of his top men. TOMMY DRAGO, PHIL TOMASSI and NAT MULHART were killed when their car exploded. Associates say that this was retaliation for the loss of millions of dollars in cocaine.

PUERTO BLANCO, MEXICO -- Oct. 1. BIG AL ROSETTI left Miami the day after TOMMY DRAGO and company were killed. It's common knowledge that DRAGO was considered ROSETTI'S rival for control of the COCAINE TRAIN. Puerto Blanco is the prime transfer point for Columbian cocaine.

GINGER reads on and on. NEAL has mapped out the trail of crime from Chicago thru Miami to Puerto Blanco. He makes compelling arguments.

PUERTO BLANCO, MEXICO -- Nov. 7. BIG AL ROSETTI is murdered in his car by an unknown assassin. His throat was cleanly cut with professional precision.

PUERTO BLANCO, MEXICO -- Nov. 9. Chicago OUTFIT executives are ambushed in the same garage where BIG AL ROSETTI was murdered. This sparks off a gang war between the Cartel and their former Mafia partners.

EXT. TERRACE OF SAILORS LOFT BAR                      NOON

GINGER is checking out her new toy. It's a hi-tech telescope like the one LADY EVE uses. It adds a whole new dimension to casual observation. As she scopes the docks she sees someone on her boat. It's CARLOS. She goes to meet him.

GINGER

CARLOS, I'm so glad you came back.  
Help me aboard. And mix a pitcher  
of your wonderful blue martinis.

INT. SHIP'S GALLEY                                      MINUTES LATER

GINGER

CARLOS, don't you ever mention  
FRANK again.

CARLOS

Yes my love. Anything for you.

GINGER

I've got to find a way to handle  
NEAL. Now I know I've been sleeping  
with the enemy. But I can't just  
drop him. I've got to be sure that  
he doesn't put us under suspicion.

An hour later they're both smashed. Then there's a visitor.  
It's NEAL.

NEAL JORDAN

Hello! Anybody home?

GINGER and CARLOS exchange winks. They act very drunk.

GINGER                      WITH A HARSH VOICE

We're down here NEAL. Join the  
party. CARLOS came back to work.  
Try his famous blue martinis.

NEAL JORDAN

I spoke with the COLONEL. It looks  
like MIKE MASON killed another  
gangster. The COLONEL put out a  
state wide alert for him. Every cop  
within 100 miles has his picture.  
COLONEL RUIZ expects an arrest  
soon.

GINGER

That reminds me, I think I saw  
MASON today. I was looking for the  
missing boat way south of town in a  
little fishing village. I can't  
remember the name.

NEAL JORDAN

Was it Las Palmas?

GINGER

No, it was south of there. I saw a tall man on a speedboat going the other way. You've got to help the police catch him. I'm scared that he'll come back after me again.

NEAL JORDAN

I'll go check it out. See you tonight.

NEAL leaves.

GINGER

That'll keep him busy for awhile.

EXT. BEACH AT PLAYA VERDE

AFTERNOON

GINGER sent NEAL on a fools errand. However NEAL got lucky. MASON is hiding out there. NEAL spots him drinking beer in the shade of a palm tree. NEAL plays tourist and takes photos all around, including one of MASON. That's when NEAL's luck ran out. MASON isn't fooled at all. NEAL walks away casually. MASON's right behind him. When NEAL pauses to photo MASON's boat MASON conks him.

NEAL wakes up well out to sea. He talks fast.

NEAL JORDAN

MIKE, what's the play. Killing me won't help you. I can help you.

MIKE MASON

Shut up punk. You'd better say your prayers.

NEAL JORDAN

No. Look man. I see the way to solve your problems.

MIKE MASON

How can you help me?

NEAL JORDAN

Your only mistake was killing the kid on the boat. I can confuse that with all the other killings in this gang war. Nobody witnessed you kill  
(MORE)

NEAL JORDAN (cont'd)  
the kid and there is no evidence.  
So what can they prove? You could  
beat the rap and be the King of  
Cocaine.

MIKE MASON  
And just how are you gonna do that?

NEAL JORDAN  
Let me ask you this. Did you kill  
FRANK MILLER?

MIKE MASON  
I wouldn't be searching the coast  
for him if I did, would I?

NEAL JORDAN  
I don't think FRANK ran off. I  
think he's dead. BIG AL didn't do  
it, he made a deal with FRANK. You  
didn't do it, and everybody else is  
still looking for the coke. FRANK  
wasn't killed for business, it was  
personal.

MIKE MASON  
So who did the deed wise guy?

NEAL JORDAN  
It's the bitch, GINGER, the wife.  
Her and that Mexican kid bumped  
FRANK off and deep-sixed the body.  
That's the only thing that makes  
sense. You've seen them together.  
They are more than boss and worker.  
If I can make a case against them  
there would be reasonable doubt  
about your guilt. You'd be in the  
clear.

MIKE MASON  
I did notice they seemed cozy. You  
got any evidence to back that up?

NEAL JORDAN  
The evidence is the lack of  
evidence. We know that the cargo  
hasn't surfaced. That's the goods  
that people have been killing for.  
If FRANK wasn't killed for money  
then it was for love.

MIKE MASON  
Alright counselor. Just know this.  
When you make a deal with me it's a  
deal for life. Your life.

NEAL JORDAN

I wouldn't have any other way.

EXT. TERRACE OF SAILORS LOFT BAR                      NOON

GINGER has lunch. She enjoys the view, especially now that she uses her telescope. She sees CARLOS on the boat. She gives him a wave which he returns with wild exaggeration. She looks all about and then looks at LADY EVE's perch. LADY EVE is looking straight at her with her telescope. EVE lowers her spyglass so GINGER can see her plainly. A moment later the waiter steps up.

WAITER

Phone call miss. May I plug this in?

LADY EVE

Hello Miss GINGER. I've been thinking of you. Would you care to join me at my penthouse? I feel we have matters to discuss.

GINGER

I'd be delighted. I'll see you soon.

EXT. LADY EVE'S PENTHOUSE TERRACE                      MINUTES LATER

LADY EVE

I was upset when I heard that they cancelled your golf club membership. You've had enough trouble without adding insult to injury. Besides, you're the most vivacious woman in town. Our social affairs are dull without you. I'd like to interest you in a position at the club as social director. We need a lively lady to make things happen.

GINGER

Well, thank you very much EVE. I do feel that I've been cast out. What does this job entail?

LADY EVE

Please dear, don't think of it as a job. This will be an adventure. I think we'll kick it off with a THANKSGIVING feast. Every year our clients ask us to honor the holiday. What do you think?

GINGER

I could do that. When I was in Hollywood I always worked the party circuit. I could make turkey with all the trimmings. I'd like to do that.

LADY EVE

Then it's settled. Let's toast our new adventure.

Minutes later they're both on the terrace using their telescopes.

GINGER

I see why you spend so much time out here. The view is magnificent.

LADY EVE

I prefer it to T.V. Those are real people with real lives going about their business. I particularly like the ships and boats. From here I can see 100 miles with my spyglass.

EXT. DOCKS      AFTERNOON

CARLOS is swabbing the deck when MIKE MASON steps aboard. CARLOS goes ballistic.

CARLOS

Get out of here! Get off the boat!

MIKE MASON

Take it easy Pancho. You just tell Missy that I want my goods.

CARLOS

I'll kill you!

CARLOS grabs the machete he's kept handy for this occasion. He attacks MASON ferociously. MASON whips out his switchblade, which is pathetic in comparison. CARLOS hacks away, shouting and cursing. He cuts off MASON's right thumb. MASON screams and drops his knife. CARLOS continues slashing away, yelling curses as he tries to kill MASON. MASON gets wounded a dozen times, his face, hands and arms cut to ribbons. A lucky long legged kick sends CARLOS back six feet and onto his ass. MASON makes his escape. CARLOS shouts after him. It's all very loud and exciting. It draws the attention of the harbor guard. He hits the police siren. Now everybody is aware of trouble. A crowd gathers.

GINGER and LADY EVE see this action from her perch. LADY EVE gets on her phone and calls COLONEL RUIZ.

From the SAILORS LOFT two thugs who've come to replace ZAC see MIKE MASON running away.

AXEL  
 ROSCO, it's MASON. Let's get him.

MASON makes good his escape. The harbor guard arrives and gives orders to his minions. CARLOS is lifted onto men's shoulders. He's declared a hero and is paraded before the gathering crowd. In minutes the police arrive followed by COLONEL RUIZ. He begins to round up all persons of interest when he gets a phone call.

COLONEL RUIZ  
 Yes..... Yes, the young man is a hero. He defended his ship and his lady from a killer.....That is an excellent idea. I'll see you soon.....That was LADY EVE. She witnessed this event from her penthouse. She has invited all of us to her home. That would be much nicer than the police station. This young man deserves a hero's welcome.

The COLONEL makes a circular hand motion above his head. Instantly police sirens blare and the candy lights go on.

INT. LADY EVE'S PENTHOUSE      LATE AFTERNOON

About 100 people crowd LADY EVE'S penthouse. COLONEL RUIZ takes CARLOS statement as well as LADY EVE'S and GINGER'S. He also interviews the harbor guard. It's a festive occasion and drinks abound.

NEAL is the last to the party. When he gets there GINGER is less than friendly.

GINGER      A BIT DRUNK  
 Where were you when I needed you.  
 It's a good thing CARLOS was there.  
 MIKE MASON won't be bothering me  
 anymore. Mi CARLITOS!!!

GINGER does the kissy face routine and smears CARLOS with her kisses. Everybody applauds.

EXT. DOCKS      YACHT 'BELINDA'      SUNSET

CARLOS returns to the boat. He finds his machete next to MASON's knife and his chopped off thumb. He tosses the thumb overboard and pockets the knife.

INT. HOTEL ROOM      NIGHT

AXEL -- ON PHONE  
 I'm telling you Bill it was like on  
 T.V. Mighty MIKE MASON getting his  
 ass kicked by a kid half his size  
 (MORE)

AXEL -- ON PHONE (cont'd)  
with a much bigger knife. It was  
very, Freudian..... No he got away.  
But he can't go far. Every cop in  
100 miles is looking for him.....Oh  
I see. Well, we'll keep that in  
mind.

ROSCO  
What's the score?

AXEL  
If the cops get him it'll cost us  
\$50,000. That's the bounty on  
MASON'S head. Otherwise we're  
working for wages.

ROSCO  
Then let's get him. There's only  
three roads to town. He couldn't  
have gotten far.

INT. NEAL'S ROOM      MIDNIGHT

NEAL JORDAN gets back to his room, drunk and miserable. The  
whole town is celebrating CARLOS the HERO, he who defeated  
the dragon. The same dragon that NEAL just got into bed  
with. He hates himself. He enters his room and turns on a  
light.

MIKE MASON  
Turn that light off.

NEAL JORDAN  
Christ MIKE, you scared the crap  
out of me.

MIKE MASON  
Turn off the light. Do it, now.

As NEAL turns off the light he gets a good look at MASON. He  
looks terrible. Wounds on his face, hands and arms are  
oozing blood. His right hand is wrapped in a bloody towel.

NEAL JORDAN  
You need a doctor.

MIKE MASON  
No doctors. I've been hurt worse  
than this. The cops have this town  
locked up tight. Tonight you'll be  
my host. Tomorrow you'll be my  
ticket out of town.

NEAL JORDAN  
MIKE, I can't get involved with  
your troubles. Every cop within 100  
miles is looking for you.

MIKE MASON

I don't care what you want. We made a deal. You remember the terms, don't you?

NEAL JORDAN

Yes, I do..... Anything else?

MIKE MASON

I want you to check these papers. There's information about FRANK hidden here. Maybe you can see something I'm missing. I'm going to take a rest.

MIKE lies down in NEAL'S bed. NEAL turns on his desk lamp and studies the papers that ZAC killed the old couple for. While MIKE sleeps NEAL notices an important fact. FRANK bought and sold dozens of properties, vehicles and boats over the years. But there's one boat that he's held for twenty years. There must be meaning to this exception to his method.

EXT. THE DOCKS            DEAD OF NIGHT

Meanwhile AXEL and ROSCO are searching the docks.

AXEL

MASON risked his life to come back here. He's convinced that the missing cargo is here. So am I. If you wanted to hide a hot car where would you stash it?

ROSCO

In the parking lot at the airport.

AXEL

Exactly. I think FRANK hid the cargo on a boat in the harbor. That way it's near at hand and still not plainly in his possession. Let's check boats that don't get any action. We'll start with FRANK'S ship and spread out from there.

ROSCO

O.k. AXEL, but let's be careful. I don't want to tangle with that kid. We'll probably have to shoot him.

EXT. DOCKS            3 A.M.

NEAL is on the same mission. As he goes out he sees the pair of gangsters poking around. His experienced eye tells him that these are thugs. He avoids them while keeping them in sight. He uses his camera with a night vision lens to track them.

NEAL knows that CARLOS is living on the yacht. When he sees the thugs head that way he gets concerned. Like GINGER he feels that somehow he is responsible for the death of JUAN. When it's clear that the gangsters have targeted the yacht NEAL decides to call the police. In two minutes sirens can be heard. A minute later it's clear that they're coming to the harbor. The thugs are yards away from the yacht when they realize that tonight isn't a good time to raid the sailboat. They turn around before the first cop car comes into view.

INT. NEAL'S ROOM            DEAD OF NIGHT

MIKE MASON is awakened by the police sirens. As he pulls himself together he sees NEAL's note. 'Stay put. I'm checking the docks for FRANK's hidden boat.' He gets mad.

MIKE MASON

Son of a bitch. You ratted me out.

There's a half bottle of vodka on the table. MIKE takes a swig then pours the rest on a pile of dirty clothes stashed in the corner. He lights a smoke and drops the lit match on the laundry. The fire ignites and climbs the curtains as he leaves. In seconds the room is in flames.

The harbor guard sees that the hotel is on fire. He hits the fire alarm. The loud clanging echoes throughout the harbor.

This sound fuels AXEL'S and ROSCO'S escape. They quicken their pace. ROSCO looks back and sees a tall man fleeing the scene of the crime.

ROSCO

AXEL, it's MIKE MASON. Let's get him.

AXEL

The cops will be here in a minute.

ROSCO

And he'll be gone in a minute.  
That's our 50 grand. If you don't want it I'll kill him myself. Let's get him now while we can.

They chase MASON and find him as he reaches his truck. Before MASON can get in ROSCO starts blasting away at him from 50 yards. MASON returns fire. Gunshots, police sirens and the fire alarm wake the entire town.

The police arrive. They burst out of their cars guns a-blazing. They see AXEL and ROSCO, MASON is at a distance in the dark. He makes his escape while the cops and the thugs shoot it out. ROSCO is shot a dozen times and goes down. AXEL surrenders.

INT. NEAL'S ROOM      DAWN

COLONEL RUIZ and the FIRE MARSHALL inspect the damage. The fire swept straight up the hotel's walls fueled by the window curtains. Smoke damage is the prime result and little more. It's obvious that the fire started in NEAL's room. It was arson.

COLONEL RUIZ sees NEAL'S crime wall. Top center are pictures of him and LADY EVE. He pockets them. He instructs his men to confiscate everything in the room.

EXT. DOCKS      MORNING

GINGER goes to the yacht. CARLOS is on the boat. She questions him about yesterday's actions.

GINGER

So MIKE MASON specifically asked for me and demanded that I return his goods. I don't understand. He knows there's no dope onboard. The cops have been all over this boat.

CARLOS

You said FRANK had another boat. Did you look around here? Why not one of these other boats? There are hundreds of them.

GINGER

CARLOS, you're a genius. I've been up and down the coast but the answer has got to be right here. FRANK hid the dope in plain sight where nobody would question him. How can we find it?

CARLOS

I am now friends with the harbor guard. Tonight I will bribe him with a gift of rum. We'll check all the records. I will find that boat. And look. I've got a new toy and a souvenir.

CARLOS shows GINGER MASON'S knife.

EXT. BLUE MOON HOTEL      MORNING

A crowd of people gathers at the entrance. In Spanish and English COLONEL RUIZ says that when the FIRE MARSHALL declares it safe they can enter the hotel. NEAL JORDAN stops

the COLONEL.

NEAL JORDAN  
COLONEL, I must get to my room.

COLONEL RUIZ -- BRUSQUELY  
You'll wait like everyone else. I  
want you in my office at 5 o'clock.

INT. POLICE STATION ISOLATION CELLS 8 A.M.

COLONEL RUIZ and OFFICER JUAREZ are interrogating AXEL.

COLONEL RUIZ  
I want to know who you are and what  
you're doing here.

AXEL  
I want to see a lawyer.

COLONEL RUIZ makes a gesture. OFFICER JUAREZ smacks AXEL.

COLONEL RUIZ  
You will answer my questions. I  
know you're a Yankee gangster. I  
want to know why you're here. You  
will tell me sooner or later.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ NOON

COLONEL RUIZ receives the report of the fire from DETECTIVE MONTTOYA. The fire was arson started in NEAL JORDAN'S room. It swept straight up to other rooms via the window curtains. Most of the rooms merely suffered smoke damage. Other than JORDAN'S equipment and photos the most notable find at his place was bloody towels.

COLONEL RUIZ  
NEAL JORDAN wasn't injured. Who  
else was in the room?

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ 5 P.M.

NEAL JORDAN  
COLONEL, I want to know why I can't  
enter my room.

COLONEL RUIZ  
Your room is a crime scene. Until  
our investigation is completed it  
is restricted.

NEAL JORDAN  
COLONEL, I have a job to do.

COLONEL RUIZ  
And what exactly is that job?

NEAL JORDAN

I told you, I'm investigating the  
COCAINE TRAIN.

COLONEL RUIZ

You told me many things. Recent  
events bring your words into  
question. The fire at the hotel was  
arson. It started in your room. How  
do you explain that?

NEAL JORDAN

COLONEL, I cannot.

COLONEL RUIZ

We also found bloody towels in your  
room. How do you explain that?

NEAL JORDAN

COLONEL, I cannot.

COLONEL RUIZ

Then you called the police about  
the gangsters prowling the docks.  
How do you explain that?

NEAL JORDAN

COLONEL, I've been a crime reporter  
for many years. I recognize thugs  
when I see them.

COLONEL RUIZ

And I've been a policeman for many  
years and I recognize a liar when I  
hear him. You'll give me better  
answers before you leave this  
station.

NEAL JORDAN and COLONEL RUIZ exchange hard looks for a  
minute. It's one of those moments when he who speaks first  
loses.

NEAL JORDAN

COLONEL, what about my equipment?

COLONEL RUIZ

Your possessions are evidence.  
Which reminds me, I must ask you  
for that camera you're wearing  
around your neck.

NEAL JORDAN

COLONEL, I....

COLONEL RUIZ

This is not a debate. Give me that  
camera. Now.

NEAL reluctantly complies. He tries a different tactic.

NEAL JORDAN

COLONEL, can I question the prisoner? I know who most of the gangsters are. Perhaps I can get him to talk.

COLONEL RUIZ

That's the first thing you've said worth hearing. Let's go downstairs to the isolation cells.

INT. POLICE STATION ISOLATION CELLS

They go downstairs with Officer Juarez, who opens the door to AXEL'S cell. AXEL is a sorry sight. He has been well beaten. Bloody bruises and torn clothes show that police brutality has been employed. One eye is swollen shut.

COLONEL RUIZ

He has not been cooperative.

NEAL takes a moment to regain his composure.

NEAL JORDAN

Hey, you there. Who are you and what are you doing here? I'm NEAL JORDAN from CRIME INC. Magazine. Talk to me. Maybe I can help you.

AXEL

I've got nothing to say.

NEAL JORDAN

If you don't talk to me, you don't have a chance. You shot at the police. They can put you away for life.

AXEL

Make me a deal.

NEAL JORDAN

I can't do that. With luck I might be able to lighten your sentence.

AXEL

Will you at least make a phone call for me? I've got a wife in Chicago.

NEAL JORDAN

That I can do. Tell me your story.

AXEL

I'm John Axelrod. I came here looking for a friend and some missing cargo.

NEAL JORDAN

Would that cargo be the cocaine  
that FRANK MILLER skipped off with?

AXEL

You really are a crime reporter.  
Yes, that's right. FRANK MILLER  
stole \$5,000,000 of coke. Our  
people want it back.

NEAL JORDAN

And would that friend be ZAC  
GANSKY?

AXEL

Right again. Whatever happened to  
him?

NEAL JORDAN

He's cooling off in the morgue.

COLONEL RUIZ

That's enough for now. We'll speak  
again later.

Officer Juarez slams the cell door shut. Then he opens the  
other cell door.

NEAL JORDAN

COLONEL, what is the meaning of  
this?

COLONEL RUIZ

I asked you questions that you  
refused to answer. Sometimes a  
night in jail loosens the tongue.  
We'll give you a night to think  
about it. It's much easier than a  
harsh interrogation. We'll talk  
tomorrow. Good night.

INT. PENTHOUSE OF LADY EVE      SUNSET

COLONEL RUIZ

We have a new problem.

COLONEL RUIZ places a soot covered picture before EVE. When  
she sees that it's the COLONEL saluting her she gets upset.

LADY EVE

What is the meaning of this?

COLONEL RUIZ

We have a spy in our midst. You've  
seen him, the gringo that's been  
escorting GINGER MILLER these last  
few weeks. I knew that he's a crime  
reporter, but he's more than that.

(MORE)

COLONEL RUIZ (cont'd)

He works for a scandal magazine. He's writing an expose' on our town. His intent is to trash our town and our reputations.

LADY EVE

COLONEL, I've suffered enough from bad press for a lifetime. I don't want to go thru that again. What can we do to stop him?

COLONEL RUIZ

As of now I've got him in jail. He is involved with the fire at the hotel. I can hold him for two days on suspicion. Then I'll have to charge him formally. At that point he'll call a lawyer. Then matters will get out of hand.

LADY EVE

Is there anything else we can do?

COLONEL RUIZ

There is one thing. We are not the only ones under his scrutiny. He is trying to expose GINGER MILLER as a criminal in the cocaine trade. I know they have been intimate. Perhaps she can exert pressure on him and dissuade him from ruining all our reputations.

LADY EVE

That's a good idea. GINGER and I are friends. I'll call her.

INT. OFFICE OF THE HARBOR MASTER      NIGHT

CARLOS and the guard are checking the harbor records. They identify a dozen boats that might be FRANK'S hidden boat. CARLOS takes that information and searches the docks. One suspect boat is right across the dock from the yacht. CARLOS gets the keys GINGER found in FRANK'S golf equipment. He tries that boat first. The keys work. He goes below and finds the cargo. He takes a sample of the goods. It is cocaine. He bits his knuckle to stifle his shout of triumph. He scoops a bit of the goods onto a sheet of paper and folds it into a package. Then he brings it to GINGER. She's at LUCRETIA'S place.

INT. DEVINE BEAUTY PARLOR    LUCRETIA'S LOUNGE      10 P.M.

CARLOS arrives. He has beer, rum, and more.

CARLOS  
Ladies, let's party. I brought  
something special.

CARLOS gives LUCRETIA the package of cocaine. While LUCRETIA prepares lines for all he winks to GINGER. Now she knows.

INT. POLICE STATION ISOLATION CELLS MIDNIGHT

Someone slips downstairs quietly. The door to AXEL'S cell is opened. There's a struggle. AXEL is killed. Someone leaves.

INT. POLICE STATION ISOLATION CELLS MORNING

COLONEL RUIZ and a squad of cops crowd AXEL'S cell. NEAL can hear them but his solid iron door denies him a view. He knows something is wrong.

NEAL JORDAN  
COLONEL, what's going on out there?  
Let me out of here.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ NOON

COLONEL RUIZ  
I hope you can reason with NEAL  
JORDAN. He seems intent on ruining  
our town.

GINGER  
Leave it up to me. I know him like  
a book.

INT. POLICE STATION ISOLATION CELLS NOON

NEAL JORDAN is held in an empty cell that's only feature is a filthy toilet. The guard opens the door. GINGER walks in.

GINGER  
NEAL, what are you doing in jail?

NEAL JORDAN  
That's what I want to know. The  
COLONEL is determined to railroad  
me for crimes I didn't commit.

GINGER  
He says you set fire to your room.

NEAL JORDAN  
You know I didn't do that.

GINGER  
He also says that your room has  
evidence of other crimes. Bloody  
towels indicate that something  
(MORE)

GINGER (cont'd)  
else happened. Why won't you tell  
him the truth?

NEAL JORDAN  
GINGER I got caught up in the crime  
story I'm writing. I am not a  
criminal.

GINGER  
You are to me. You've lied to me  
from the first day. I trusted you.  
You're no fashion photographer or  
promoter of tourism. You work for a  
tabloid. You ruin people's lives  
for a living. I thought I could  
depend on you. I thought we were in  
love.

NEAL JORDAN  
When this is over I'll explain  
everything. Right now I'm keeping  
my mouth shut. It's safer that way.

GINGER  
Safer for who? Dozens of people  
have died all around you while  
you've been spying on them. Tell  
the cops what you know.

NEAL JORDAN  
I can't do that. When I get out of  
here I'll put it all in print and  
vindicate myself. Until then I've  
got nothing to say.

GINGER  
Have it your way. I brought you  
lunch. I've heard that they don't  
feed or water the prisoners here.

NEAL JORDAN  
Thanks. This prison diet is no fun.

GINGER  
Is there anything else I can get  
for you? Maybe something to read,  
or to write with. I've always heard  
that great authors do their best  
work while they're in prison.

NEAL JORDAN  
No GINGER. This is fine. Just come  
back when you can.

The guard unlocks the door.

GUARD  
Times up. Go now.

GINGER has some parting words.

GINGER

You better think about making a deal with the COLONEL. He's the only one who can help you.

INT. OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ     MINUTES LATER

GINGER

COLONEL, I did my best. I gave him a dose of doubt and fear. I don't think he understands just how bad his situation is.

COLONEL RUIZ

It's going to get worse before it gets better. If we can't get him to agree to terms I'll throw charges at him that will guarantee a long prison sentence.

GINGER

Tell me COLONEL, who do you think the mystery man is who bled all over his room?

COLONEL RUIZ

My only suspect is MIKE MASON. We know he was in town and was severely injured. Conspiring with a known murderer is a serious crime. If I'm right NEAL JORDAN is facing many years in prison.

GINGER

If you're right I hope he does go to prison. JUAN was a good kid. We both know MASON killed him. He died because he worked for me. I feel responsible for his death.

COLONEL RUIZ

Don't blame yourself Miss GINGER. It's unfortunate but often the innocent suffer due to no fault of their own.

EXT. DOCKS     YACHT 'BELINDA'     MORNING

CARLOS is on deck sharpening his machete. GINGER comes by.

GINGER

I see that you're ready for trouble.

CARLOS

Trouble is no stranger to me Miss GINGER. Nor to you. If MASON or anyone else comes here they'll have to get past me.

GINGER

CARLOS, at this point I'm more worried about the the police and the press. If NEAL thinks that we killed FRANK he'll smear us and hang us out to dry.

CARLOS

I thought you had him handled.

GINGER

I thought I did too. But now that he's in jail it's a different situation. When your ass is on the line you think and act differently. I think he'd sell his soul to regain his dreams of glory.

INT. POLICE STATION ISOLATION CELLS AFTERNOON

GINGER returns to work on NEAL. She expects that another night in jail would soften his attitude. She is wrong.

GINGER

How are you today NEAL?

NEAL JORDAN

I'm feeling good. Did you bring me lunch?

GINGER

No NEAL. It's my intent to get you out of here today and buy you the best meal in town. Did you consider making a deal with the COLONEL?

NEAL JORDAN

Damn. I could use a meal. I'm about to do battle with the COLONEL.

GINGER

What do you mean?

NEAL JORDAN

You know they arrested a gangster before they jailed me. The cops beat the hell out of him. I just found out that guy died here in this jail. Let's see how the

(MORE)

NEAL JORDAN (cont'd)  
COLONEL likes it when I turn the  
spotlight on him.

GINGER  
I don't think that's a good idea.  
He's due to release you today.

NEAL JORDAN  
I don't care. He held me without  
cause and I'm pissed off. I've got  
the power of the press. Let's see  
how he feels when the shit hits the  
fan.

GINGER  
Well, I'm out of here.

NEAL JORDAN  
No babe, don't go.

GINGER  
If you're determined to pursue  
this foolish plan then you are on  
your own. I'll have nothing to do  
with it.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ 2 P.M.

GINGER  
I'm sorry COLONEL. I thought we had  
him where we want him. Now he knows  
that a suspect died in jail he  
thinks he's in charge. He's  
threatening to smear you and the  
whole town.

COLONEL RUIZ  
Well, it's a good thing that it's  
Friday. No judges are available  
until Monday. I can keep NEAL in  
jail til then.

Just then the phone rings. The COLONEL gets excited.

COLONEL RUIZ  
Now we have a new card to play.  
MIKE MASON has been arrested. We'll  
hear his side of the story.

GINGER  
COLONEL, we're back in business.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ 3 P.M.

MIKE MASON proudly wears his arrogance like a shield. He  
faces the COLONEL without a shread of fear.

MIKE MASON

Colonel, you've got nothing on me.  
I'll be out of here in two days  
with or without your blessing.  
However, if you'd like to make a  
deal, I've got goods to trade.

COLONEL RUIZ

What have you got that I want?

MIKE MASON

I know the answers to questions  
that you need to know.

COLONEL RUIZ

Like what?

MIKE MASON

Like what happened to FRANK MILLER.  
And who killed that old couple who  
were poking their noses into other  
people's business. And why the gang  
war exploded and fizzled out.  
Things like that. All I want is to  
walk out of here a free man. Today.

COLONEL RUIZ

Request denied.

Minutes later MIKE MASON is lead downstairs to the isolation  
cells. COLONEL RUIZ made sure NEAL JORDAN'S cell door was  
open as his chief suspect in a series of murders went by. He  
expects a conflict. He is right. Four cops are the guards.

When MIKE MASON sees NEAL JORDAN he goes into a rage.

MIKE MASON

You bastard! You're a dead man!

NEAL shrinks back to the far corner of his cell. As MASON is  
secured across from NEAL he begs the COLONEL for help.

NEAL JORDAN

COLONEL, you've got to protect me  
from that maniac. He is a certified  
killer.

COLONEL RUIZ

Do yourself a favor. Don't tell me  
my business. Answer my questions or  
don't say another word.

Shortly thereafter NEAL tries to reason with MIKE.

NEAL JORDAN

MIKE, I didn't rat you out. I called the cops because they were going to kill CARLOS on the boat.

MIKE MASON

So you saved the kid who cut off my thumb. Fuck you.

NEAL JORDAN

MIKE, those guys were after you. We know they had a contract on you. I did you a favor.

MIKE MASON

Favors like that I don't need. Those guys weren't in my class.

NEAL JORDAN

Why the hell did you put my room on fire? You got both of us in jail.

MIKE MASON

Shut up. I'm tired of your talk.

INT. POLICE STATION ISOLATION CELLS MIDNIGHT

Quietly a lone cop sneaks downstairs. He pulls a dagger from his boot as he opens the door to MASON'S cell. His intent is obvious. Unfortunatly for him MIKE MASON is deadly. He overpowers the cop, beats him up and slits his throat. NEAL hears the sounds of the struggle.

Moments later MIKE MASON opens the door to NEAL'S cell. NEAL shrinks back into the corner.

MIKE MASON

O.k. Counselor. I'll give you a break. Maybe you didn't rat me out. I'm out of here.

With that said MASON sneaks upstairs and exits via the service door. NEAL has a choice, stay or go. He knows that MASON would like him to run so the cops would have another fugitive to chase. He can't live life on the run. After a few minutes he heads upstairs and makes himself known.

Instantly the entire police station is galvanized. In a moment of clarity NEAL realizes MASON'S goal.

NEAL JORDAN

He's going to the docks to kill CARLOS!

EXT. DOCKS NIGHT

We see the harbor guard thru the picture window to his office. He gets a phone call. Then he hits the harbor police alarm. Flood lights blaze as the siren wails. MIKE MASON is 20 yards from the yacht at that moment. He changes direction and runs to his speedboat. He makes a quick exit.

EXT. GINGER'S HOUSE 1 A.M.

A police car arrives. The officer tells GINGER that she must come to the police station at once.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE OF COLONEL RUIZ MINUTES LATER

COLONEL RUIZ

MIKE MASON escaped. I'd like to put you in protective custody.

GINGER

You're not putting me in jail. I'll go to my boat. CARLOS is there. He'll protect me.

INT. GALLEY OF YACHT 'BELINDA' SOON AFTER

GINGER and CARLOS are drinking shots of rum.

GINGER

CARLOS, I threw my gun into the sea so it wouldn't be evidence. Give me MASON'S knife and keep your machete handy. That way if MASON does come here we'll have a fighting chance.

EXT. DOCKS YACHT 'BELINDA' MORNING

CARLOS is serving GINGER a bloody mary when NEAL arrives at the boat. NEAL hasn't changed clothes, bathed or shaved for three days. He looks like a bum.

NEAL JORDAN

GINGER, can I come aboard? I'd like to talk to you. I'm leaving town today. There are things we should discuss.

GINGER

I don't know stranger. CARLOS, what do you think?

CARLOS

I don't know ma'am. I can smell him from here. Maybe if he took a bath it wouldn't be so bad.

GINGER

You're right CARLOS. What will people say if we let bums onboard. Go get cleaned up and we'll see.

An hour later NEAL returns. Hostility still taints the air. NEAL has been exposed as a rat who betrayed the woman he loved. He desperately wants to fix that before he leaves for good.

GINGER

How did you get out of jail?

NEAL JORDAN

I took your advice. I made a deal with COLONEL RUIZ. I promised him that I'd keep my story strictly centered on the COCAINE TRAIN. And that the names would be changed to protect the innocent.

GINGER

So what can we expect from your story. We don't want to be in it.

NEAL JORDAN

Try this on for size. A gangster from Chicago made a play to take over the COCAINE TRAIN. He exposed inside information to cause a major bust and the loss of millions of dollars of dope. He blamed that on people in Miami, which led to the deaths of the bosses there. The object was to eliminate everyone who had an established stake in the pipeline. He wanted to hook up directly with the Columbians and cut out the Mexican Cartel.

CARLOS

That was the fat man, yes?

NEAL JORDAN

Exactly. Everything went smoothly until the main man in Mexico, who we know is MIKE MASON, caught wind of the plan. He went on a rampage. First he killed BIG AL, who he knew was behind the plot. Then he hit the other bosses from Chicago so they couldn't take his position away. That sparked off the gang war, as the mobsters wrongly thought that the Cartel was at war with them.

GINGER

Is that what happened?

NEAL JORDAN

More or less. So now that the war is over the big questions are where is MASON and what will he do next? That's my salesmanship. My readers will have to wait for next month's issue to find out.

GINGER

Well, that's alright with me.

MIKE MASON

Well it's not alright with me.  
Don't move.

MIKE MASON and his ally PEDRO are at the doorway. They both are brandishing guns.

NEAL JORDAN

How did you get passed the police?  
They're all around here.

MIKE MASON

Easy. They're looking for a tall man. PEDRO's been pushing me around in a wheelchair. We went right past them.

GINGER

What do you want?

MIKE MASON

You know what I want. Where's my coke?

NEAL JORDAN

We don't know.

MIKE MASON

Maybe you don't but they do. When you told me that they killed FRANK I knew that they had to have the cargo. There's nowhere else for it to be.

GINGER

You told him that! You bastard!  
Why?

NEAL JORDAN

Because it's true. He knows what we all know. FRANK didn't leave town. The boat is here. MIKE got FRANK'S cash and the cops have his new passport. You and the kid killed FRANK and deep sixed the body.

MIKE MASON

Let's cut the bullshit. Where's my cargo?

GINGER

Suppose it is true. What's to stop you from killing us? That's what you do, isn't it?

MIKE MASON

I've got a well known reputation. When I make a deal I always hold up my end. Ask NEAL. He's an expert on crime. He knows who I am.

NEAL JORDAN

That's right GINGER. MIKE MASON got his position to control the flow of cocaine because he's known as an honest criminal.

GINGER

You've lied to me from the start. I don't trust you.

MIKE MASON

Enough talk. Where's my goods?

Nobody speaks.

MIKE MASON

Alright. Let's try it this way.

With that MASON pistol whips NEAL back and forth. NEAL is badly hurt and barely conscious.

MIKE MASON

O.K. The kid is next. Where's my dope?

GINGER

Alright. The dope is on the boat named 'Seahawk' across the dock. CARLOS, where are the keys?

CARLOS

In the silverware drawer.

MIKE MASON  
PEDRO, check it out.

PEDRO gets the keys and goes. MASON grabs CARLOS by the hair.

MIKE MASON  
You know kid, if I were someone else I'd kill you for cutting me. The fact is we had a fair fight. I want you to know I never lost a fight in my life until the other day. You are muy macho. Don't ever take any bullshit from anyone. You don't have to.

CARLOS is seated. MASON towers above him. While his attention is diverted GINGER motions with her eyes towards the door. Then she suddenly grabs her blue martini and throws it in MASON'S face. He's blinded for a moment. She leaps to her feet and smashes her glass at MASON'S eyes as she shouts to CARLOS.

GINGER  
Get the police!!!

CARLOS jumps up and runs out the door. GINGER assaults MASON with all she's got. Hits, kicks and claws rake MASON'S face as she fights for her life. MASON hits her with his thumbless right hand and recoils with pain as it hurts him more than it does her. GINGER is relentless. She sinks her teeth into his injured left hand which is holding the gun. His torn flesh tears away making MASON scream as CARLOS dives over the rail of the boat. They struggle for a minute until MASON manages to knock GINGER down and points the gun straight at her face.

GINGER  
Go ahead Fucker. Fire that gun and you're a dead man. CARLOS will have the cops here in two minutes. That gunshot will bring them in seconds. They'll shoot you down like a rabid dog.

PEDRO appears at the doorway.

PEDRO  
MIKE, let's get out of here. We've got the coke and a boat to escape. We've got to go now!!

MIKE MASON

You're pretty smart bitch. But a deal is a deal. I don't want to kill you. Adios'.

They leave in seconds. Suddenly GINGER is alone with NEAL, who is still barely concious. She wipes blood from her mouth, her's and MASON'S. She is aroused from the fight.

GINGER

Sorry lover. I know you'll declare me a killer when you get back to the States. It's my life or your career. You lose.

Without another word she whips out MASON's knife from her pocket. She flicks out the blade and stabs NEAL straight through the heart. He dies with a look of shock and surprise on his face.

INT. GINGER'S CAR           NIGHT

GINGER and CARLOS are driving to her house.

GINGER

Man, am I glad that's over.

CARLOS

Just one thing my love. We both know MASON didn't have his knife. I gave it to you.

GINGER

And I gave it to NEAL. He was going to expose us for killing FRANK. I had to make a decision, us or him. I chose us. Did I do the wrong thing?

CARLOS

No my love. You saved both of us.

THE END



