

FADE IN:

EXT. FIREHOUSE - DAY

Ann is walking down the street. The firedog runs out of the firehouse, she gives the dog a biscuit, and pats him on the head.

The fireman is out front with a cup of coffee. Ann hands him a poster.

EXT. STATE AND MAIN - INTERSECTION - DAY

Morris and Spud, two codgers, are about to cross the street when they hear a beeping and stop.

As they cross, we see the tail end of a van, and the group nods in that direction.

MORRIS

You hear that?

SPUD

Yes, I hear it.

MORRIS

Drive a man to drink. Took me near half an-hour, get across the street yesterday.

SPUD

I saw Budgie Gagnon, leaning on the bank of the building. Said, "What are you doin'?" He said, "I'm waitin' for the 'leven o'clock crossing..."

As Morris and Spud speak a car is coming down the street, and bounces in the pothole.

MORRIS

Y'wanna fix something, you should fix the pothole. Yessir, they should be trussed up, thrown off some high building.

DOUG MACKENZIE, a young Republican type, walks up to join them.

DOUG

Who's that?

MORRIS

Whoever spent ten, f'teen thousand dollars, a new traffic light, you could

grow old, paint your house before it
lets you cross the street, and then, not
fix the pothole.

SPUD

What was wrong with the old traffic
light?

INT. COFFEE CORNER - DAY

They enter the Coffee Corner. Carla is serving the folk, and
Jack the owner is behind the counter.

DOUG

I'm glad you asked... I'll tell you what
was wrong with it. And what was wrong
with it was it was behind the times.
Now: You want to bring business into
this town? You have to plan for a
Waterford that Does Not Exist. Not at
the moment, no...

ANN

Morning, darling.

DOUG

Morning.

CARLA

Hi, Annie.

Ann hands Carla a poster.

ANN

Morning, Carla.

Doug and the two codgers move to a table by the window where
Carla, the nubile waitress, brings them coffee. Ann talks to
a woman at the counter.

MORRIS

...the damn thing...

SPUD

No, I'm serious, election's coming up, a
lot of people are pretty upset...

DOUG

They are, yes. I'm sure they are...

WOMAN AT COUNTER

Annie, I'm going to be a lil' late for
the rehearsal, tonight.

ANN

S'Okay, Maude. You know your lines...?

DOUG

...I'm sure that people are upset...

MAUDE

I know 'em, I don't know what order they come in...

ANN

We'll work it out.

JACK

What're they talking about?

ANN

Traffic light.

JACK

Waal, no, th'traffic light's Doug's thing. That's his thing, fine.

DOUG

Thank you, Jack, and...

JACK

But we got to talk about the pothole.

DOUG

Jack...

JACK

A public office is a public trust...
This is why this is America. Question
is: who owns the street.

Outside the front booth, on the street, the airport van cruises by.

EXT. STATE AND MAIN - DAY

As they walk out we hear a high pitched beeping sound at the traffic light. We see DOC WILSON crossing the street, holding his doctor's bag. An ELDERLY MAN approaches Doc at the crossing. As Walt and Bill walk, the airport van follows them.

TOWNSMAN

Doc, those pills, y'gave me for my back?
I'm not sure that they work.

DOC WILSON

Well, I'm not sure either, but y'don't
hear me complain... come by th'office,
end of th'afternoon.

TOWNSMAN

Thanks, Doc...

BILL

This is your movie, this is small town
America.

WALT

Town in New Hampshire was small town
America, too. Forty thousand dollars a
day, to shoot on the street. And then
they kicked us out...

They stop in front of a rack of fifty "factory seconds."

Black and red hunting jackets, in front of the sporting goods
store. The sign reads "FACTORY SECONDS, FIVE DOLLARS."

BILL

A jacket for five dollars... I can buy
this town for fifty bucks.

WALT

You told me that about the last town.

BILL

Yeah, but they never made a movie here.

WALT

I'm bleeding, Bill, I'm bleeding...

BILL

...why am I here?

WALT

What, what, what, what do they got that
can pass for the Old Mill?

Bill shows Walt a brochure from Waterford, which shows a
picture of the Old Mill. Walt reads.

WALT (CONT'D)

"The Waterford Mill, built in 1825, and
long a tourist attraction..." Wake up
Uberto

ANGLE:

INT. THE AIRPORT VAN - CONTINUOUS

UBERTO is asleep. Bill wakes him up.

UBERTO

Where are we?

WALT

Givvem a cigarette...

Uberto comes out of the car and squints around.

UBERTO

...they ship our Old Mill from New Hampshire?

BILL

They're holding our Old Mill for ransom.

UBERTO

We build it?

BILL

We don't have to build it.

He shows Uberto the brochure.

UBERTO

We build the fire hut?

Walt shows Uberto the Firehouse. Uberto looks through the viewfinder.

UBERTO (CONT'D)

We have to lose the window.

WALT

...we can't lose the wind...

UBERTO

(pulling out storyboards)

Then I can't do this shot... you wants me to push in -- I can't push in through the window... we go back to New Hampshire?

BILL

NO, we can't ever go back to New Hampshire.

A pick-up truck with two calves in it stops, the driver seen from the back is a farmer smoking a pipe.

WALT

NO, we're gonna stay here. This is what my people died for. The right to make a movie in this town.

INT. TAVERN INN LOBBY - DAY

A desk clerk, SCOTT, looks up. Behind the desk a display of several souvenir plates, "Souvenir of Waterford, VT", with a picture of the Old Mill on them. Walt picks one up and hands it to Bill.

SCOTT

May I help you?

WALT

(followed Bill)

I want to talk to the manager.

Walt talks into his cell phone as he talks to Scott.

SCOTT

Would you like a room?

BILL

Na, we wanna rent the whole hotel.

WALT

(into phone)

Hello, Tracy, we gotta new town.

We're...where are we?

BEAT. Bill looks around, sees a sign on a desk. Consults his tourist folder. As they talk they walk into deserted ballroom and play shuffleboard and archery.

BILL

(carrying Waterford plate)

Waterford, Vermont.

WALT

...you got to get me that street for nothing...

BILL

I will.

WALT

(into phone)

Waterford, Vermont. Where is it?

That's where it is...

Walt carries the shuffleboard stick over his shoulder.

INT. WALT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Walt is talking on a cellphone. A male P.A. is bringing in bags of equipment. Bill is still sitting perched on a desk, typing into his computer. Uberto is sitting on a couch, smoking.

We see the shuffleboard stick on the desk, and the Old Mill plate on the wall.

WALT

(to phone)

Because, because...we don't have to build an Old Mill. They have an Old Mill. Yeah. It's on a stream -- that's where you put a mill.

BILL

...they run on water.

WALT

(to phone)

Now: I'm looking at the...

He gestures for Bill who hands him the storyboards.

WALT (CONT'D)

I've got scene twelve...

(to Carla)

Shouldn't you be in school?

CARLA

It's night.

WALT

(to phone as he shows the Old

Mill storyboards to camera)

Scene twelve...arrival at the mill.

ANGLE

Scott enters.

SCOTT

Mr. Price, Mr. Price...?

(he hands Walt flowers)

BILL

What...?

They go back to the flowers. Walt takes the card, reads.

WALT

"Bring it in on time and there's more where these came from. Marty. P.S. I want to talk to you about a product tie in..."

SCOTT

I'll put the, in your r...

WALT

Somebody make a note. I want Li..., for the broad...what does she like? Lilacs. Okay. A truck of lilacs when the broad comes. And get something for Bab Barrenger, get him, what does he like...?

SCOTT

Bob Barrenger...Bob...Bob Barrenger's in this movie?

WALT

That's cor...

SCOTT

(awed)

He's staying here? Bob Barrenger is staying he...?

WALT

Put something in his room. What does he like?

BILL

14-year old girls.

WALT

Well, get him something else and let's get out of here in one piece. Get him a half of a 28-year old girl.

INT. PROD. OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY

INSERT FRONT PAGE

"Burlington Banner". Picture of movie star Bob Barrenger, and Banner headline: "Waterford chosen as sight of new Bob Barrenger film. A story of small town life based on..."

Carla knocks on the door to the back room, voices from inside. Outside, on two chairs, the MAYOR, GEORGE BAILEY, a man in his fifties, and JOE WHITE, the writer, dressed in an army field jacket and jeans, waiting to be admitted.

Joe is reading an old "Welcome to Waterford" tourist folder. The door to the room opens, and Joe stands, looks inside, squints. Takes off his reading glasses and puts on another pair.

JOE

(to the open door)

I, I'm sor...

(as the door closes, to a passing aide)

...I lost my typewriter...

Carla brushes past them.

CARLA

Hi, Mr. Bailey...

MAYOR

Carla, would you tell them that I'm...

WALT

(from inside)

What? What is it?

Carla enters the back room. As she does so, she passes the First A.D., who is on the phone.

FIRST A.D.

Could I speak to my wife, please?

CAMERA takes us with Carla into the back room. Past the A.D.

SECRETARY

(to A.D.)

You've got a call...

INT. PROD. OFFICE - WALT'S OFFICE - DAY

Inside the room, production boards being carried in, blackboards, schedules taped to the wall, sketches of Main Street, a large "days till shoot...4" sign. The Old Mill plate is on the desk.

The PRODUCTION DESIGNER is bent over a worktable, he holds a compass and refers to blueprints and a scale model of the Firehouse and the Old Mill, which are on the table.

Walt is holding glossy photographs, and leafs through them as the Production Designer talks. They leaf through storyboards.

We see that Walt is leafing through glossy photos of horses. Walt has shuffleboard stick over his shoulder.

ANGLE ON

Storyboards of firehouse scene.

BILL

And Uberto tells me he can't take this shot, unless they let him take out the firehouse window.

COSTUME DESIGNER

Walt, I've got to talk to you about the nude scene.

Carla enters.

WALT

Aren't you ever in school?

CARLA

There's other things to be learned.

WALT

Izzat so?

CARLA

The Mayor's outside.

WALT

What's his name?

CARLA

Mr. Bailey.

Walt goes to the door, opens it and looks around.

EXT. WALT'S OFFICE - DAY

Joe reading the Burlington Banner. He stands up.

WALT

Mr. Bailey...Mr. Bailey...?

Walt and Mr. Bailey enter Walt's office.

JOE

(to passing secretary)

I lost my typewriter...?

A.D.

(passing)

Yes, could I please speak to my wife...?

ANGLE

Interior Walt's office.

WALT

I have to tell you, I can not express to you how happy...

MAYOR

And we're glad to have you here...

WALT

My golly, you know? All my life I grew up in the city, but every summer... would you like a cigar?

MAYOR

(of cigars)

Aren't these illegal?

WALT

Why would they be illegal?

BILL

...there's a trade embargo against Cuba.

Pause.

MAYOR

Well, you know, Walt, I just wanted to say that anything I could do...

WALT

That's very kind of...as a matter-of

fact, one, I hate to bother you with...

MAYOR

...not at all...

WALT

...we need the shooting permit for Main Street...

MAYOR

Whatever you need. The City Council, of course, has to pass on your...

WALT

...the city council...

MAYOR

On your "permit," but that is less than a formality.

WALT

...it is?

MAYOR

I am the City Council. We meet Friday, and I...

WALT

George, that is so kind of you.

MAYOR

And, my wife wanted to, wanted me to ask you, we'd like to welcome you, we'd, she'd like to have you to dinner at our home.

(beat)

I don't mean to be...

He hands an invitation to Walt.

WALT

Are you kidding me? We would be delighted.

Phone rings. Walt motions to an aide, who writes in green on a production board... "Tuesday 12th, dinner, Mayor."

MAYOR

Well, I won't take more of your time...

BILL

Walt, it's Marty on the Coast...

MAYOR

We'll see you Tuesday, then...

Walt starts for the phone.

WALT

It's one of the great, great pleasures
meeting you...

Mayor leaves the office.

BILL

It's Marty on the Coast.

WALT

On the coast? Of course he's on the
coast, where's he gonna be, the Hague?

Walt goes to the phone.

WALT (CONT'D)

(into phone)

What? Marty?! Hi. We're...

(pause)

The new town is cheaper than the other
town. We're going to save a
for...because..because we don't have to
rebuild the Old Mill, they've got an Old
Mill...they've got a firehouse...they...

A production assistant comes in, installing a piece of
equipment. She brushes past the drywipe board, where we see
she wipes out "Dinner with the Mayor."

WALT (CONT'D)

Baby, baby, I want to save the money
just as much as you do...no, no it's not
coming out of my pocket. It's going
into my pock...my...my and your
pock...yeah? Okay. A product placement
- tell me ab...he's going through a
tunnel.

(to Production Assistant)

Whoa, whoa, whoa, you wiped out the
board. DINNER WITH THE MAYOR, TUESDAY
NIGHT, write it in red. That's all we
need, to miss Dinner with...

First A.D. sticks his head into the room.

FIRST A.D.

We can't shoot in the Old Mill.

WALT

(to phone)

Wait a sec, Marty. Call us back. Two
minutes.

He hangs up. Pause.

FIRST A.D.

We can't shoot in the Old Mill.

WALT

I just saw the Mayor, he said anything we want.

FIRST A.D.

It burnt down.

BILL

When did it burn down?

First A.D. takes out a book, "The History of Waterford" and reads.

FIRST A.D.

Nineteen-sixty. "Part of a spate of suspicious fires, the Old Mill, the..."

He hands Polaroids of the burnt Old Mill around. All look at them.

ANGLE IN

Debris by some water.

WALT

You told me they had on Old Mill here...

FIRST A.D.

"Suspensions of arson, these fires, believed set by a disturbed teenager were, in fact, the inspiration for the formation of..."

He puts the Polaroids down by the model of the Old Mill.

BEAT

Joe White, the WRITER, enters.

BILL

But, does it have to be an Old Mill?

JOE

Hi.

WALT

Does it have to be an Old Mill? Where have you been?

JOE

I was in New Hampshire. I was at the Old Location.

WALT

We can't shoot the Old Mill.

JOE

(laughs)

You know, they told me there were gonna be some jokes. Kid the New Guy...

BILL

The Mill burnt down.

He shows the Polaroids -- they show the debris, and Bill standing by them.

BILL (CONT'D)

Wonderful scr...

JOE

(pause)

Can't...can't you build the Old Mill?

WALT

We're out of money.

JOE

You built an Old Mill in New Hampshire.

BI

They're holding it for ransom.

JOE

Uh -- why did we have to leave New Hampshire?

PAUSE

The phone rings.

WALT

Halo? Marty?

(to Joe)

What would they have used instead of an old mill? We need it tonight.

(to phone)

Marty? Yeah you were saying?

JOE

I can't write it.

PAUSE

JOE (CONT'D)

I lost my typewriter.

WALT

Grace: get Mr. White a typewriter.

JOE

I can only write on a manual.

WALT

I know the feeling.

JOE

Well, you know, you know, that's a lie,
I, I...

WALT

Grace...

JOE

That's a real fault, I...

WALT

Grace. Get Mr. White a manual
typewriter.

(to Joe)

It's not a lie, it's a gift for fiction.
And somebody find me my lucky pillow.

He nods at Joe, who leaves the office. Hold on Walt as he
looks at horse pictures.

WALT (CONT'D)

How big is this horse?

BILL

(looking at the resume)
Fifteen hands.

WALT

What is that in fingers...? Just
kidding, get me this horse.

BILL

This horse is booked.

WALT

Tell the guy, get me the horse, I'll
give him an associate producer credit.

ANGLE ON

Joe, outside Walt's door, looking at his script and shaking
his head.

ANGLE HIS POV

INSERT THE SCRIPT

We see for the first time that the name of the script is "The
Old Mill," by Joseph Turner White.

We hear raucous laughter from Walt, et al, in the B.G.

INT. TAVERN INN LOBBY - DAY

Joe passes the First A.D. on the telephone, sees Bill. The P.A.'s are humping mounds of luggage.

FIRST A.D.

Well, no, the labor with a first child can sometimes be prolonged, as much as...

BILL

(to P.A.)
Find Walt's lucky pillow.

JOE

What's an associate producer credit?

BILL

It's what you give to your secretary instead of a raise.

Scott in an argument with an electrician.

ELECTRICIAN

...put a VHS and an air-conditioner and a refrigerator in that room, she's going to blow...

A delivery man appears with an invoice and a crate. Scott checks the invoice against a list.

SCOTT

This isn't Evian Water.

DELIVERY MAN

It's water.

SCOTT

I can't sign for it, I'm...

ELECTRICIAN

...she's going to blow.

SCOTT

Well, you re-wire...

ELECTRICIAN

I rewire it, I'm going to have to tear out half the, look, what do they need with fifty-four telephone lines?

SCOTT

Freddy, Freddy, I work for these people, you...it is to be done, you see that it's done...

The GIRL P.A. arrives with a huge bouquet.

GIRL P.A.

I found lilacs!

SCOTT

Wonderful, that's...

Joe the writer enters, goes up to the desk.

JOE

Did they find...

The Scott's eyes turn toward the door. Everyone's eyes turn towards the door.

JOE (CONT'D)

(as he writes in his notebook)

Did they find my typewriter...

ANGLE POV

Bob Barrenger, the star, screamingly fit, leather jacket, jeans, carrying a gym bag. He smiles, goes up to the desk. As he goes up to the desk, teenagers, who have been waiting in the lobby, crowd to him.

SCOTT

I told you!!! All of you get back!!!
Get back!!! This man is a guest here!

The teenagers retreat.

BOB

Hello, I'm...

SCOTT

Oh, sir, I know who you are...

BOB

Bob Barrenger, I'm with the mo...

SCOTT

Sir, sir, we're so, we're...

(he hits the bell)

Front! Front!! We are so, I've seen, I
know everybody says this, but I've seen
every every one of your...

(to Electrician)

Freddy, take Mr...

ELECTRICIAN

...I'm working.

SCOTT

Your room is 414 through seventeen. I'm
Scott Larkin. Anything you need, this
is my private...

(hands him a card)

BOB

Glad to meet you, Scottie. I'm just here to do a job, just like the rest of these...

First A.D. walks through the lobby.

FIRST A.D.

(to Joe)

Have you got the new pages on the Old Mill? Hey, Bob.

BOB

Hey, Tommy. Heard your wife's having a baby.

FIRST A.D.

That's right.

BOB

You know who the father is?

FIRST A.D.

They think it's your first wife.

BOB

That could be.

An old man, the BELLHOP, is sitting by the front door, eating his lunch out of an old galvanized tin lunch bucket. He puts it down, and gets up and takes the bags.

The lobby is filled with gawkers CHUCKIE, a young boy holding a bat and ball, comes over with an autograph pad.

FIRST A.D.

(to Scott)

I'm going to give you a list of Mr. Barrenger's dietary requirements.

CHUCKIE

Mr. Barrenger, I...

SCOTT

Not today, not today, Chuckie. Mr. Barrenger has just...

Barrenger brushes him aside.

BOB

(to Chuckie)

How do you spell that, son? With an I.E.? Chuck? What're your hobbies?

CHUCKIE

Baseball.

BOB

Baseball! That's the national sport.
Gimme that!

He takes Chuckie's ball and autographs it: "CHUCKIE! From your pal, Bob Barrenger."

BOB (CONT'D)

Chuckie...

CAMERA PANS off Bob as he talks to Chuckie, and onto Joe, who is wandering around the lobby. The First A.D. comes up to Joe.

FIRST A.D.

How you doin' with the Old Mill pages?

JOE

I need my typewriter. Did they find my...?

INT. COFFEE CORNER - DAY

ANGLE INS.

PAN OFF "Trials of the Heart" theatrical poster. Two old codgers, Morris and Spud, and Jack sitting in the same window booth chatting. Phone rings. Carla answers it.

CARLA

Coffee Corner.

JACK

Fellow gets a calf, it's forty below,
calf gets out, he hears that animal,
he's going to, get up, pull on his
jeans...

The Mayor is taking a pack of Camels from Carla's father.

ANGLE ON

Carla, at the counter, reading "The Old Mill" surreptitiously.

MORRIS

He's going to get that calf.

SPUD

Mmm...

CARLA

(into phone)

Thank you.

(hangs up, to her father who is

behind the grill)
Vanilla Frappe. Two tuna B.L.T.'s...

JACK

What's a Tuna B.L.T.?

CARLA

Oh, Dad, didn't you read in People Magazine...

ANN

Well, I for one, am glad of a little diversion and I'm glad they're here.

DOUG

What I am saying, is, we have to Look Out For Our Own... Now: they want to close down Main Street.

JACK

Y'wanna talk about Main Street, whyn't cha fix the pothole?

ANN

Doug, it's, what did you...? Three days, three, four days. We'll have a record of our wonderful life.

DOUG

Annie: you stick to the Amateur Theatricals. This isn't quite the same thing, you see? This is Big Business, in which, our Life
(to Mayor)
s'no less a commodity than...than our...

ANN

Water or mineral deposits.

DOUG

Waal, that's what I'm saying.

JACK

Communist Country, he hears that Calf it's two a.m., four feet of snow, what does he say? "That's the State's Calf out there..." He rolls over. "Wake me at Ten."

Carla, who has been waiting for the order to be prepared, takes it from her father, starts out the door.

CARLA

I think that they're nice.

ANN

I'm sure they are.

JACK

That's the difference, Communism and you know...

SPUD

Communism's over.

JACK

That's what they said about Warner Brothers, 1985, but if you look at their price-per-share...

CARLA

Dad, I've got to go to Terry's house to study tonight...

JACK

I want you home by Nine.

DOUG

I want to tell you something, Ann: you stay soft all your life, people despise you; it awakens Avarice in them, they take advantage of you, and that's Human Nature.

She gets up.

She starts to exit the Coffee Corner. Jack picks up a copy of 'People' magazine.

INSERT

An article of Bob Barrenger.

Carla has gone over it with a highlighter. The article is called "Bob Barrenger's Little Problem."

ANGLE

Interior Coffee Corner.

DOUG (CONT'D)

We on for tomorrow night?

ANN

After Drama Group.

DOUG

Drama Group?
and Thursdays. But after Play Practice, I'm yours.

DOUG

Go you Huskies.

He starts to exit and turns back.

DOUG (CONT'D)

And I might have something important to tell you...

ANN

What is it, a surprise?

DOUG

That's right.

They exit.

MORRIS

She coulda done better than him.

SPUD

It takes all kinds.

MORRIS

Zat what it takes? I always wondered what it took...

We hear the TRAFFIC LIGHT beeping from the street.

EXT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Joe, pacing in front of the window. Theatrical sign in the window. Sign in the window: "Out! Will return at..." Ann comes up to the door. Starts opening it with a key.

JOE

I, excuse me, the sign says you'll be back at two. It's quarter to three...

She looks up at the sign, changes the hand to read a quarter to three. She opens the door. Goes inside. He follows. Camera follows.

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Old Bookstore and stationary store. Several old typewriters for sale.

JOE

(off the sign)
You're doing a play...

ANN

Local Drama Group.
(she answers the phone)
Northern Books. No, it hasn't come in yet. As soon as it does. Yup, you too, Marge.

She hangs up.

JOE

...small town. I suppose. You have to make your own fun.

ANN

Everybody makes their own fun.
(she answers another phone call)

F'you don't make it yourself, it ain't fun, it's entertainment.

She picks up half-knitted sweater off computer.

ANN (CONT'D)

(to phone while knitting)
Northern Books.
(to Joe)
What can I do for you?

JOE

I need a

ANN

We got 'em.
(to phone)
North...No, Henry James was the novelist, Frank James was the criminal.
(to Joe, of the typewriter)
Yep, you came to the right place.
(to the phone)
Jessie James was the Brother. Of the novelist. That's right. That's alright, Susie. See you tomorrow, Susie.

He has picked up a typewriter, old, manual.

JOE

I want to rent this one.

ANN

Why don't you buy it, only forty bucks.

JOE

I have one, but they lost it.

ANN

Who?

JOE

The people in New Hampshire.

ANN

(shrugs)

That's why they have state borders...
whyn't you get a replacement?

JOE

Well, it had sentimental value.

ANN

You buy the typewriter, I'll get it all
spruced up, good as new. Better than
new. It has some history.

JOE

Other one has history, too. I wrote my
play on it.

ANN

You wrote a play on it? What play is
that?

JOE

You haven't heard of it.

ANN

What's it called?

JOE

"Anguish."

Little kids enter to get candy. As Joe speaks, he takes off
his regular glasses and puts on his reading glasses and
inserts a piece of paper into the typewriter and types,
"Everyone makes their own fun -- if you don't make it
yourself, it's not fun, it's entertainment."

ANN

"Anguish" by Joseph Turner White...?

He looks up.

ANN (CONT'D)

You're Joseph Turner White?

He switches glasses to look at her. A very OLD WOMAN comes
in, goes back to the coffee machine.

MAUDE

Afternoon, Ann.

Ann takes down a book from a shelf.

ANN

Maude, this man wrote this play!

MAUDE

That a fact. Now, is it a good play?

ANN

Yes, Maude, it is. It is a very good play.

MAUDE

Well, then, what's he doing here?

ANN

What're you doing here?

JOE

Writing the movie.

MAUDE

You're writing a movie...

JOE

Yes.

MAUDE

What's it about?

JOE

It's about the quest for purity.

INT. WALT'S ROOM - DAY

Walt, Bob Barrenger and the SCRIPT SUPERVISOR are savaging the script.

BOB

...because he wouldn't say that: Look:

(flips through the script,
reads)

"Sister, I've just come from a fire. There's some things I want to think out..." now, come one, come on... "Leave me alone." a gesture...? Alright?

Walt opens a case and extracts his lucky pillow which is embroidered "Shoot first. Ask questions afterward."

WALT

What else?

BOB

Page...three. Now: "It's a nice evening."

(beat)

I'm not gonna say that..."It's a nice..."

Knock on the door.

WALT

Come in.

Joe enters.

WALT (CONT'D)

Hey, Joe...Good. You know B...

JOE

I grew up on your mov...

BOB

Do you mind if we don't go through the usual bullshit about how I loved it?

Knock on the door. Carla enters with another brown bag.

BOB (CONT'D)

I mean, okay, fine, but it's a motion Picture.

WALT

Thanks, honey, but next time, bring two, save yourself a trip.

BOB

The people came to see a motion Picture.
(to Carla, who starts to leave)
Hold on...

WALT

He's saying, what are you saying, Bobby?

BOB

Tell it with...

WALT

Tell it with pictures.

BOB

Tell it with pictures. What I'm saying...

WALT

We've got four days to...

As Bob talks, he exchanges glances with Carla.

BOB

You look at: girl comes in the room, an apron, a brown bag, what is she...?
She's a...?

WALT

She's a...

BOB

She's a waitress.

WALT

What...

BOB

What I...

WALT

Hold on. What Bob is saying, you don't need...

BOB

You don't need, "Hi, I've just come from the restaurant."

WALT

(to Carla)

You can go...

BOB

Alright: Let's

(he takes out a list, Carla exits)

Page five, the fucking horse dies.

(of Carla)

You know, she could be in the movie, she could, she's got a good face, she could be the Doctor's...uh, why does it have to be his, uh, wife...? It could be his...

WALT

Bob, Bob, stick to the business, will you?

BOB

No, you're absolutely...

WALT

And you go start with that stuff in this town...

BOB

Everybody needs a hobby. Okay, look Page...

Knock at door. CLAIRE WELLESLEY enters, the FEMALE STAR. Very sexual. Very serious. Around thirty. She looks in.

WALT

(rising)

Claire, when did you...

CLAIRE

I just...

WALT

Claire, Bob Bar...

BOB

I saw Desert Sun, I wanna tell you...

CLAIRE

No, I was, I was, I was just learning on, it's a...

BOB

How'd you like working with Richard Hill?

CLAIRE

I loved it, he...

BOB

Isn't he...

CLAIRE

It's...

WALT

We're just talking about the...

CLAIRE

Don't let me dis...I'll just...

WALT

No, no...please...

BOB

I'm looking at Page Five: "It's..."

JOE

"It's a nice evening..."

WALT

This is Joe White.

CLAIRE

How can I thank you? How can I repay you for this part? It's a... what a, thank you for this part. The first scene at the Old Mill...

Pause.

WALT

Joe's been having some thoughts about the Old Mill Scene, Claire.

PAUSE

CLAIRE

What, what's there to think about?

(pause)

The scene's perfect...I, I get to say...

WALT

Yes, but, Joe, Joe's been, well, he's just been having a few, uh, "thoughts," about...

CLAIRE

How many times in your life do you get a speech like that?

WALT

Yeah.

CLAIRE

This scene is why I'm doing the movie. "Look at the mill, Frank -- look at the way it goes around...half of the time the darned wheel's under water, but..."

WALT

Yes, yes, but...

CLAIRE

"...but still it rises up. It rises up, Frank, high as it can go."

WALT

Yeah. Joe? Would you, uh, tell Claire the, uh, the "thoughts" you've been...

PAUSE

EXT. STATE AND MAIN - DAY

ANGLE ON

Anne, who is putting up posters of the play. She sighs and walks forward, into Joe, who is waiting at the traffic light, his bag on the ground beside him.

ANN

(of typewriter)
All ready to go?

He nods. Looks down at her posterior.

JOE

So young, so unlined, so full of promise.

(pause)
So innocent.

ANN

I beg your pardon?

He extracts the book of his she had in her back pocket. He looks at his photo on the back cover. They start to cross

the street.

JOE

I quit.

ANN

You quit.

JOE

I quit the movie.

ANN

Why did you quit?

JOE

Actually, I'm not sure if I quit. I think that I got fired. I'm such a liar. I never could tell the truth.

ANN

Don't be so hard on yourself.

JOE

I just got kicked off my first movie.

ANN

Well. Everybody has reversals. If you were never down how would you know when you were up?

JOE

That's good. That's really good. You have a gift for words.

ANN

It's in your play.

She holds up "Anguish."

JOE

You like my play.

ANN

Yes.

JOE

Why?

ANN

It's about life.

JOE

Could you tell me when's the next train?

ANN

N'about ten minutes. What was your movie about?

They stop by the park bench.

ANN (CONT'D)

(off his pause)
No, of course, you don't want to talk
about it.

JOE

(hands her the script)
It's about a man who gets a second
chance.

The cop, CAL, passes.

CAL

Evening, Annie.

ANN

Evening, Cal.
(to Joe)
Would you tell me about it?

JOE

I...

ANN

No, of course, you want to get out of
town.

JOE

It's...

He starts to walk, she puts the typewriter down on the
ground. Joe hesitates. He puts the script under the
typewriter. He shakes his hand.

ANN

It's okay...

They walk on.

EXT. SPORTING GOODS STORE - DAY

The OWNER is closing up.

OWNER

Evening, Annie. See you at rehearsal.

ANN

You know your line?

OWNER

"Rise, one need not bend the knee before
the throne of justice."

ANN

Go you Huskies.

He walks away.

JOE

(of the clothing on the rack)
They leave it out all night?

He tries on a jacket. One sleeve is one foot shorter than the other.

ANN

Not worth stealing. Only thing in town worth something. Stained glass window.

She gestures at the Firehouse.

JOE

Ever wonder why the dalmation's the symbol of the firehouse?

ANN

First organized fire department was on the border of Dalmatia and Sardinia in the year 642.

JOE

But why the dalmation?

ANN

It was either that, or a sardine.

He nods, a BEAT. He looks down at the jacket with one sleeve too short.

ANN (CONT'D)

You get what you pay for.

JOE

That's true. You grow up here?

ANN

Central High, 'n' matinees, the Bijou Theatre.

They walk past the firehouse. She gives the dog biscuit to the firedog who runs out of the firehouse to her.

JOE

Nice town.

BEAT. He gets a bit choked up.

ANN

You want to talk about it?

Joe shakes his head. They walk off.

EXT. RAILROAD CROSSING - DAY

JOE

...that...that he prayed for a second chance. But...do you see?

ANN

Yes.

JOE

That, he says, there are no second chances...that he's been presented what he prayed for...and: he's ruined it.

ANN

Yes...

JOE

But, but but but...

ANN

No, no, I see...

JOE

That: in an act of...

ANN

Yes...

JOE

Of mercy...off...

ANN

I understand...

JOE

...that...he sees that...

ANN

As the Old Mill goes around...

JOE

Of course, of course that's what I'm saying. As the Old Mill goes around, he sees...

ANN

Of course.

JOE

...that it has been vouchsafed to him.

ANN

That's that's that's that's beautiful.

JOE

And you're the only one who'll ever hear
that speech. Just you.

BEAT. They stop and look at each other. BEAT. A railroad
crossing bar comes down behind them, as we hear the DINGING
and realize we are at a railroad crossing.

ANN

Well. It was a pleasure meeting you.

JOE

And likewise.

ANN

Goodbye.

JOE

Goodbye.

PAUSE. We see the train pass in the b.g. We hear the train
whistling. It's way off.

ANN

(pause)

Next train in 'nt for two hours.

They walk on away from the station. In the b.g. we see the
stationmaster. He and Ann wave. They walk past the shingle
for Doc Wilson.

ANN (CONT'D)

So that the Old Mill, the Old Mill
represents...the wheel of fate is that
too...

JOE

No, no. Of course, that's exactly what
it represents.

ANN

That whole...

They walk on together and find themselves on a residential
street.

EXT. ANN'S HOUSE - DUSK

They are walking. They stop in front of an old picket fence
with a porch swing.

JOE

The, the, the, the sanctity of everyday
things...

ANN

Everyday things...yes.

JOE

For example, he's just come back from a fire and he...um...

(he shakes his head)

That's a fine house. You look at that, and you know, there's nice people that live there.

ANN

I live there.

JOE

Really. With the porch swing and everything...

ANN

Surest thing you know.

PAUSE

JOE

I don't mean to impose, but...do you think we might...

ANN

That's what the swing is there fore...

They walk onto the porch and sit on the swing.

JOE

(to himself)

...that's what the swing is there fore...that its purpose, isn't it...

ANN

...I always thought so...

They swing back and forth. The swing creaks.

JOE

...such a pleasant sound.

ANN

Mmm.

JOE

Cause, cause, it's...it's the simple things that...

ANN

Yes...

JOE

...that.

Doug walks up.

DOUG

Waal, there you are, and Have I Got Some News for you...

ANN

Doug, this is Joe White, and this is, this, this is my fiance, Doug Mac...

JOE

Sa pleasure.

DOUG

Guess who is THIS CLOSE to a nomination to State Senate...which is this close to one stop from Congress!

ANN

...who...?

JOE

Well, I guess I'll...get down to the station. It was lovely meeting...

ANN

Mister White is...

Doug, as he takes Ann toward the door.

DOUG

Nice meeting you...they were, let me tell you, they were a bit coy at first, I told them: Look: the people are tired, they're going to vote their pocketbook, yes, but...

Joe walks off and exchanges glances with Ann, who lingers behind. She pushes the porch swing and exits. As it swings, Joe watches.

INT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Joe enters with his bag. He stands looking at the long poster reading: "Waterford, Home of the Huskies - Division Champions - 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1976."

BEAT. Joe is looking at the banner when the old stationmaster enters.

JOE

What happened in 1973?

BEAT. The stationmaster looks around, and leans in to Joe, confidentially.

The DOOR opens. It is Walt. The stationmaster retreats.

Walt comes forward.

WALT

Don't run off. Don't run off, we need you. You know why? You're why we're here. Your script is why we're here...

(of bag)

Gimme that. Big deal. We fight a little bit?

You show me a family that doesn't. But we got something special. What is it? We're here to make a movie. Can't use the Old Mill. Well, that happens. What you got to do, you find the essence - what was it, that brought us here. It wasn't a building, Joe, it was an idea. It was an essence - what is the essence of your story? Joe?

PAUSE

JOE

It's about a man who gets a second chance.

WALT

Then, you write that. And then this is our second chance. That's why we're here.

PAUSE

JOE

I want to make a good film.

WALT

I know you do.

JOE

And maybe it will be a better movie without the old mill, I...

WALT

Hey, it's with the G-ds. We don't have the money, we have to write it out. The best or not.

(shrugs)

And that's a lesson. You get your typewriter yet?

JOE

Um, no.

Walt picks up a cell phone, dials. Lights of train go by outside. Stationmaster enters and calls the train.

WALT

(into phone)
Grace, get on the other phone. Call that girl: well, call her, and have whatsername send up some nosh...what do you like to drink...?

JOE

I don't drink.

WALT

Did my matzohs come? Get some for everybody.

(into phone)

Thank you.

(hangs up)

Lemme tell you about my first movie...

EXT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

The production assistant is stapling a casting notice for "The Old Mill" half over the notice of the amateur theatricals poster. Doug shows up, looks in the window. Looks at poster, takes it down, looks around.

ANGLE ON

The park bench. Ann, her feet up on the old typewriter, is sitting, reading the script. Doug comes up.

DOUG

What, what what are you doing here?

ANN

Yes, that's right.

DOUG

Look at this. Do you know what they're offering? Look at this. They treat us like we're their backyard. Do you know what they're offering for three days to close down Main Street?

ANN

What are they offering?

DOUG

Ten thousand dollars.

ANN

That's so beautiful...

DOUG

I beg your pardon?

Ann gestures at the script.

ANN

"The mill grinds the grain, but the grain is not destroyed. Although it is altered..."

DOUG

Sure, but... ten thousand dollars. Do you know what they... this movie is budgeted at fifty million dol...they're coming up here, offer us a meal...

INT. MAYOR'S HOME - DAY

The Mayor's Wife comes into the room. Her hands are full of lists, giving instructions to a handyman.

SHERRY (MAYOR'S WIFE)

The chairs go, the Lazyboy goes...

MAYOR

...not the Lazyboy...

Cal, the policeman, enters, carrying an old spinning wheel.

CAL

Hi, Sherry...

SHERRY

...put it in the living room. And we have thirteen at the table.

MAYOR

...we don't have thirteen at table...

SHERRY

Bob Barrenger, Claire Wellesley, the director...

MAYOR

Waal, then, invite someone else, then...

SHERRY

I don't want to invite someone else because this is the most exclusive...

MAYOR

Waal, then, you know, you do whatever would make you happy. Sher. This is your party, and whatever...

Doug enters. Cal exits carrying a pinball machine.

CAL

Hi Doug.

DOUG

Cal. I want a city council meeting.

MAYOR

...little woman has gone crazy about our dinner party... City Council? What's the trouble?

DOUG

Main Street.

MAYOR

(sighs)

Doug, the traffic light...

DOUG

Fuck the traffic light. I'm talking about three percent of the adjusted gross of a Major Motion Picture.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Joe walks up. Ann is standing there.

JOE

Hi.

ANN

(simultaneously)

What are you doing?

(pause)

I love your script.

JOE

(simultaneously)

They decided, I decided to, to...you love what?

ANN

You're still here.

JOE

I...I decided to give it another ch...

ANN

I love your script.

PAUSE

JOE

What?

POSTMAN

(as he delivers mail to Ann)

Mornin', Annie...

ANN

See you at rehearsal tonight?

POSTMAN

"In the name of justice, sir, I bid you pause; for she is our Queen..."

Postman exits.

JOE

In fact, in fact, in fact, I'm not sure if I'm giving them a second chance, or they're giving it to me. That's the truth. The truth's best, don't you think?

ANN

You'd know better'n me.

JOE

How can you say that?

ANN

It's in your script...it's about getting a second chance. Innit? "You can go back..."

JOE

I can?

ANN

You bet your life.

(refers to script)

"The mill wheel goes around...some times it's even under water -- then it rises up, as high as it can go..."

JOE

But how do I...how do I do a film called "The Old Mill" when I don't have an old mill?

ANN

Well, first, you got to change the title.

INT. PROD. OFFICE - DAY

Sign reads THREE DAYS till shoot.

Walt is on the phone. Covers the phone. Crossed sticks on the wall, Walt plays with a shuffleboard discus. Girl P.A. brings cup of coffee to Walt. Her T-shirt reads: "DOES IT HAVE TO BE AN OLD MILL?"

WALT

(to A.D.)

No, he doesn't want to work out with Waterford Huskies...Because he's Bob Barringer...Call up his girl in Aspen, have 'em ship his weight...Yeah, well,

fine, he's not gonna do the Pond scene unless he can work out. Call up his girl in Aspen, and have her ship the weights out...

Walt hangs up the phone. Secretary enters with folders that she hands to Walt.

WALT (CONT'D)

Who designed these costumes? Who designed these costumes? It looks like Edith Head puked and that puke designed these costumes. Get Madge.

SECRETARY

(to A.D.)
Your wife is on the phone.

WALT

I have no wife.

A P.A. comes in with a big bakery box. They open it to show it is a huge loaf of bread, and on it is written, in bread, "Waterford Welcomes The Old Mill."

WALT (CONT'D)

(calling out)
We need a new name for the movie.
Where's the writer?

UBERTO

(entering with storyboards)
Wally, I got to takes out the window from the dog. I can't shoot through...

CAMERA MOVES on past the production board, where we see "Dinner With Mayor" in red. And the costume designer comes up.

COSTUME DESIGNER

...Claire's got a problem.

UBERTO

Wally, if I hafes a moment of your time, look at these storyboards. THIS SHOOT, I can't shoot this shot, you want.

WALT

Why?

UBERTO

Because they gots a window with a dogs in it. You want me to "push in." Or can I lose the shot.

WALT

No you can't lose the shot. The meaning

of the film is in that shot.

UBERTO

But, Wally, the window of the firehut...

WALT

I don't care. Fix it.

He goes into comfab with the costume designer.

WALT (CONT'D)

(of sketches)

You show Claire these sketches?

COSTUME DESIGNER

Yes.

WALT

Did she throw up?

COSTUME DESIGNER

That isn't very nice.

WALT

Oh, really, then why don't you sue me in the World Court. Did she like the costumes?

COSTUME DESIGNER

I can't tell.

WALT

Why not?

COSTUME DESIGNER

She won't stop crying...

WALT

(to an A.D.)

Find out when Marty Rossen's arriving, get him a bunch of Lilacs to send to the broad.

FIRST A.D.

Towns out of Lilacs.

WALT

You go in her room, take the Lilacs from the water, dry them. Go buy some cellophane, wrap 'em up, and get a card from Marty.

(to costume designer)

What's her problem?

COSTUME DESIGNER

She doesn't want to bare her breasts.

WALT

She doesn't want to bare her
breasts...what, in the "nude scene?"
What are we paying her three mil for?

COSTUME DESIGNER

She's got "religion."

WALT

Her religion bars her from fulfilling
her contr...

CAMERA FOLLOWS Walt to the sound of crying. We HEAR CRYING
from the next room. Walt opens the door quietly.

WALT (CONT'D)

Claire?...Claire?
(to Uberto)
Just figure out how to take the shot.
Claire...Claire? It's Wally.
(pause)
May I come in?

BEAT. He motions his entourage to stand back.

INT. PROD. OFFICE - WASH ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He enters the room. CAMERA FOLLOWS.

WALT

(softly)
What is it, Pal...?

PAUSE. Claire MUMBLES.

WALT (CONT'D)

What...?

CLAIRE

I can't do it, Walt.

WALT

You can't do what?

CLAIRE

It isn't right. I can't...I...I know I
si...I, they, I don't know if they told
me it was in the con...

WALT

Forget the contract. Claire. What is
it?

CLAIRE

I don't want to take my shirt off in
that con...what are these things that

they're asking of me...? Wha...wha...
wha... I try to be good. The only thing
I care about is...

WALT

I know that...

CLAIRE

Is...is the MOVIE!

As they talk, the A.D.'s come in and hand him sheets to
approve.

WALT

I know that, Claire. I, we all know...

CLAIRE

Everybody, they, they, they treat me
like a...

WALT

...no, they don't.

CLAIRE

...they treat me like a child. I,
I...to bare my body.

WALT

Now, look. Claire: Listen to me.
(he takes her hand in his)
I want to tell you a story.

The door to her room opens. A P.A. brings in a bunch of
Lilacs, hands them to Walt.

WALT (CONT'D)

Fuck flowers, we aren't talking about
flowers, we're talking about a human
being.

CLAIRE

I...I...

WALT

Who are these from?

PROD. ASST.

Marty.

WALT

Well that's very thoughtful of him.
Elanora Duse...

CLAIRE

...I can't do it, Wally...

WALT

Listen to me. Elanora Duse was playing Hamlet in London in 1905, and Royalty could not get a ticket. She said, "I'm not doing the seven shows a week I signed for." She said, "I cannot bare my soul seven times a week. I am an artist. I'll do four shows a week."

(pause)

The greatest actress of her time. You know what her Producer said?

CLAIRE

(pause; softly)

What?

WALT

Nothing. He held her and he wept. Because he...

CLAIRE

...I...

WALT

Because he understood. That was her life's blood on the stage.

Claire nods, breaks into sobs.

WALT (CONT'D)

...I know...I know...

CLAIRE

(pause)

...and, and, and did she? And she did the seven shows?

WALT

No, she didn't Claire. But I think you should do the scene.

Secretary comes in with memos and Walt deals with them while comforting Claire.

BEAT. She sobs. She shakes her head. She brings herself under control.

CLAIRE

Wally...

WALT

I know, I know.

He puts his arm around her, starts walking toward the door.

WALT (CONT'D)

I know, it's the hardest thing in the world. And it seems everybody wants...

CLAIRE

Yes...

WALT

...wants a piece...

CLAIRE

Yes...

WALT

And you know what?

CLAIRE

We, we have to give it.

WALT

(nods)

...and my heart goes out to you, because
I know...

INT. PROD. OFFICE - BACK ROOM - DAY

He opens the door. We HEAR the First A.D. and the Costume Designer chatting outside the door as they walk out.

WALT

That, that's your life's blood on the
st...

FIRST A.D.

I don't know what she's bitching about,
she's flashed her tits in the last five
movies, she'd bare her breasts to do
voice over.

CAMERA FOLLOWS the two out. A tableau of the four of them.
The First A.D. drinking coffee, sees he has been overheard.

BEAT

Claire starts soundlessly heaving, sobbing. She goes "Oh!"
as if she has just been hit in the stomach, falls back into
the room, closes the door. Sobbing sounds emanate.

FIRST A.D. (CONT'D)

I...

WALT

Get Mitch Cohn on the phone in New York,
tell him she's breaking her contract and
we're very up...

FIRST A.D.

I...

WALT

We're very upset with her. Get someone to double for her, her tits, the tits scene. Call L.A. I want to see some pictures of the women's tits. Of their tits.

FIRST A.D.

I'm very sorry I...

WALT

You're very sorry, you passive aggressive, son-of-a-bitch! Can we replace him?

BILL

We start shooting in three days.

COSTUME DESIGNER

You want to see the fireman's costumes? Cause I found this Moleskin for the collar, it's not black, but it looks black... it's not brown, but...

SECRETARY

Marty Rossen's touched down.

EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

Ann and Joe sit on a bench. He is looking at her as she finishes the script. Tears in her eyes. She closes the cover.

JOE

(beat)

What I need to say...

ANN

Yes...

JOE

About conflict...

ANN

That's why you didn't want to take the Mill out...you've...

JOE

...the, the, the symbol of the fire...

ANN

The Firehouse...

JOE

I...

ANN

But but but but but it's better
without...

JOE

How...?

ANN

Wait wait wait wait wait he get's a
second chance, do you see? And you get
a second chance!

JOE

No, I don't...

ANN

(as she holds the script)
He doesn't go back to the mill, he gets
a second chance to go back to the
firehouse...

Joe takes off one pair of glasses and changes them for
another.

ANN (CONT'D)

You don't need the Mill. This is what
(she gestures at the script)
you see: this is what you are. This is
what the script is saying...
(a person walks by)
Hi, Emma, see you tonight?

Emma waves and nods.

ANN (CONT'D)

This is, look:
(to Emma)
Go you Huskies.
(to Joe)
...what I see you saying, is: you have
the two elements, Fire and Water. The
Firehouse, and the Old Mill...do you
know, you could...

JOE

What are you doing tonight?

ANN

Me?

JOE

Yes.

Joe and Ann walk down the street. As they do so they are
passed by the airport van.

ANN

Tonight, tonight, I...I have play

practice...

JOE

...oh...oh. Well. That's very important.

EXT. HOTEL STEPS - DAY

Walt and the A.D. come down the steps to meet the arriving airport van. It stops. MARTY ROSSEN gets out. Walt hands his bags to a P.A.

WALT

Marteleh, vos macht a yid...?

He hands Marty the breadloaf. Marty takes a bite.

MARTY

You cool the bread out?

WALT

I left that for you.

MARTY

That's thoughtful.
(of the bread)
Ziz good, you try this?

As they speak, a P.A. is unloading Marty's high-end luggage from the van.

WALT

Oh yeah, I'm really gonna eat carbohydrates.

MARTY

(of the town)
What'd you do, build this...?

WALT

How was your flight?

MARTY

We're flying over pigs, we're flying over sheep...

WALT

Did you bring Bob's weights

MARTY

They're coming Fed Ex.

WALT

(of the bags)
What's in all the bags?

MARTY

My undies, cause, you can't get this picture off on time I'm gonna wet myself.

WALT

I'm gonna bring it off.

MARTY

55 days and I take home the camera. I got an idea for a product placement...

They start up the stairs when Doc Wilson walks by. Girl on a scooter scooting the other way, her arm in a cast. Marty and Walt turn back to watch on the steps, under the awning.

Carla walks through carrying food bags.

DOC WILSON

Hiya Sally...

GIRL ON A SCOOTER

Hiya Doc...

DOC WILSON

How's the arm?

GIRL ON A SCOOTER

Still itchin'.

DOC WILSON

Good! A sign it's getting well.

MARTY

(of scene)

Stop...

WALT

That's what I said.

MARTY

How are you getting on with these fine people?

WALT

Like dykes and dogs.

INT. BOB'S ROOM - DAY

Bob is doing Tai Chi. Knock on the door. He goes to open it. Carla is bringing him his dinner.

BOB

Yeah. Come in.

She comes in.

BOB (CONT'D)

I'm just...

She puts his dinner down on the coffee table. He takes out money from his pants to pay her.

CARLA

The prices are going up.

BOB

But, that's the way of the world, huh?
Everybody's gotta eat. Way of the
world.

He sits before his dinner, hands her some money. Remembers himself.

BOB (CONT'D)

Well, I'm pretty impolite. Would you
like some?

CARLA

I don't eat vegetables.

BOB

Well, I can offer you something to
drink?

CARLA

Sure, what have you got?

BOB

What do you drink?

CARLA

Bourbon and milk.

BOB

How old are you?

Carla WHISPERS her age to him. He makes her a drink out of his fridge, hands it to her.

BOB (CONT'D)

Then I hope you wouldn't tell anyone I
gave you this.

CARLA

I wouldn't tell anyone anything that
happened between me and somebody who was
my friend.

PAUSE

BOB

Nice town that you've got here.

CARLA

You want to see it better, we could go out on the roof.

BOB

...wouldn't that be dangerous?

CARLA

...not if you've got something to hold on to.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DUSK

Joe is walking down the street. A script in his hand, scribbling. Uberto walks next to him.

UBERTO

Because if you cannot tells me what is it, how I, how does I take a pictures of it? Wally wants me, push in through the weindow...

Joe, as he is scribbling in the script.

JOE

Yeah, no, can I...if you'd excuse me, I've just got to...

He walks away and the CAMERA takes him into a backyard, by a bunch of clotheslines. His glasses fall apart as he changes them. He looks up as the wind blows the sheet.

He sees Ann, sitting on the backstairs of what, as we draw closer, we see is the playhouse. In back of her we see the "Trials of the Heart" flats, seen from the back.

ANGLE JOE'S POV

ANN

Hello.

JOE

I thought you had Play Practice.

ANN

Don't look good for "Trial of the Heart."

JOE

Well, then, it don't look good for the Huskies...

ANN

That's for sure.

They walk down the street. As they walk down the street, the

dog comes over and Annie throws him his bone over her shoulder.

JOE

What happened?

ANN

Cast stood me up.

JOE

Uh huh.

ANN

They're all preparing for the auditions -
your movie.

He gets an idea, and trades glasses, one pair for the other.
He kneels.

ANN (CONT'D)

"Rise, one need not bend the knee before
the throne of justice."

JOE

What?

ANN

What are you doing down there?

JOE

My glasses fell apart. I lost the...

ANN

...lost the screw...

JOE

You got a paperclip?

A little kid is walking by, carrying a fishing rod.

LITTLE KID

Evening, Annie.

ANN

Evenin', sweetheart.

LITTLE KID

Go you Huskies.

ANN

You said it.

JOE

You like kids?

ANN

Never saw the point of 'em.

JOE

Me, too. You have a paperclip?

ANN

Paperclip?

JOE

Fix my glasses.

ANN

Better idea.

She ducks under the sheet hanging by the door, she and Joe come upon the fishergirl, who is standing by the bank about to make a cast.

We see Annie take some leader from the little girl and burn one end to make a hinge.

JOE

Gonna be good as new.

ANN

Better'n new, cause it's got a story.
Want to do the other part?

Joe takes the hinge, and a match and tries to fix the hinge, and burns his finger.

JOE

Ow.

He grabs for the nearest object. PAUSE.

ANN

What?

Joe shows her.

ANN (CONT'D)

Y'know what you got there? You got a
fishhook in your finger.

EXT. BOOKSTORE - DUSK

Doug standing, holding a bunch of flowers. The A.D. walks by. Looks in the window.

FIRST A.D.

I'm looking for the writer.

DOUG

What the hell are you so down about?

FIRST A.D.

(pause)

My wife's going to have a baby.

DOUG

How about that.

FIRST A.D.

Mmmm.

(pause)

You have children?

DOUG

No.

(pause)

No, but we're planning to.

FIRST A.D.

(pause)

Could you tell me where a fellow goes to get a drink in this town?

DOUG

Yes.

INT. WALT'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Marty and Walt et al studying various documents. Claire sitting there.

MARTY

I want to tell you something, Wally, he's a pussycat.

My thing is to see everybody does what they said they would and I have to do that. Now: what is this you want Eight hundred Thousand Dollars to do what you're being paid to, you already signed you'd do...?

(pause)

What is that?

CLAIRE

I think I should talk to my agent, Marty, you and I should, we should really not discuss...

MARTY

Who is her agent?

BILL

Mitch Cohn...

CLAIRE

He's...

MARTY

Get him on the phone.

CLAIRE

He's on the Island, he'll be back on...

MARTY

Get him on the...

Claire starts back to her room.

MARTY (CONT'D)

I want you to hear this.

CLAIRE

I really think that business...matters should be discussed between you t...

MARTY

Well, I'm going to discuss 'em between you, babe, cause it's your idea, and you think you're going to sign to do a, then hold us up in the wilds sweetheart, you are in error...

Bill hands him the phone.

BILL

He's on the ph...

MARTY

(takes phone)

Mitch, th'Marty Rossen, I'm here in...

BILL

Wat...

MARTY

I'm somewhere in the, I'm on location eh: This...well I'm going to solve it here, or this Bimbo you sent me's going to be doing a fuckin' donkey act in Akron, I'm talking about Restraint of Trade, Breach of...IT'S VERY SIMPLE...!

Joe enters. His finger BANDAGED.

JOE

(tentatively)

Hi!

MARTY

Her tits! Her tits! How, that she signed IN HER CONTRACT, we hired her 'cause of ten years at the Actors Studio? The way she played Medea? Her last two pictures laid there on the screen like my first wife...

CLAIRE

(starts to cry)
You have no right to...

MARTY

Cool it babe, you started this...

JOE

What's the...

WALT

Where have you been?

MARTY

(on phone)

You tell me: you tell me now, I've got
to shoot on Wednesday and I will not pay
your Blood Money and P.S., pal, I put
the word out on the street and Betty
Boop can look for work in
squigglevision.

Claire starts to get up.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Siddown!

JOE

I really don't think you should be
talking this way to a lady.

MARTY

...would you excuse me, please...

CLAIRE

You can't treat me like this. I'm not a
child!

JOE

She's absolutely r...

CLAIRE

I'm not a child. I have feelings...
Don't you...don't, don't...don't...

Claire exits, crying.

MARTY

(his suitcase next to him -
into phone)

Well, you call him, and call me back,
but this is it, pal. You fuck with me,
and I'm going to tear out your heart and
piss on your lungs through the hole in
your chest. And the best to Marion...

(beat; hangs up; to Joe)

Where have you been?

JOE

I...

MARTY

He says they're looking for you all day, you're on salary, he needs pages, what are you, you been 'haying?' Now:

WALT

Marty...

MARTY

Later for that, Walt, let's get this: we need the "pages" for the new "Old Mill"... alright? We need a new title, we need a...

BILL

Rewrites that Bob Barrenger requested... the "dead horse scene," the...

MARTY

Whatever it is. Go do it. How you doing on the permit?

WALT

It's just a formality.

MARTY

That's why I want it.

(to Joe)

Type it up and get it back to me in...

JOE

I can't.

WALT

Why?

MARTY

You can't write it?

JOE

I can write it. I can't type it.

WALT

Why?

JOE

I hurt my fingers.

WALT

Get a typist. Get'im a typist. Get outta here.

Joe exits. They turn to survey the board.

MARTY

Eight-hundred grand to show her tits...

WALT

Pay her.

MARTY

I don't got the money.

WALT

Find the money.

MARTY

I got a company...give us a million dollars, put their product in the film.

WALT

(looking at a paper Marty hands him)

No no no no no no no no find me the money...

INT. JOE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Joe takes out paper, looks around. Sighs. Picks up phone, calls back.

JOE

(into phone)

This is Joe White... in six ten, they're sending up a typist?

He takes out a sheet of foolscap and a pencil. Starts to write. A knock at the door.

JOE (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Okay, I thank you. It's here.

He hangs up the phone, goes to the door, opens it. It is Claire.

CLAIRE

You said, "You can't talk that way to a lady..." You stood up for me.

(beat)

What do you have to drink?

She looks around, sees a gift basket containing a bottle of Stolichnaya and a box of matzoh, wrapped with a "Welcome Back" ribbon.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Matzoh! Are you Jewish?

JOE

I, actually, yes.

CLAIRE

I love Jewish men.

JOE

Why?

CLAIRE

You know...where's your bathroom?

She goes into the bathroom.

JOE

You liked the script, huh...?

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Ann Black sitting on the park bench, holding the lure.

DOUG

(still carrying bouquet of
flowers)

Where have you been?

He gives her the bouquet.

ANN

Hi!

DOUG

We had a date.

ANN

We did...?

DOUG

Where have you been?

ANN

I've been thinking.

DOUG

Where have you been, we had a date for
three...where have you been...?

ANN

I have to tell you something...

DOUG

Well, I know, because they told me you
were with that writer from the, you see,
this is what I mean, the whole town has
been warped by the, by the, by the
presence of the movie company, they
holler, and we jump, you have a date,
they call, you're doing business nine

o'clock at night. It isn't...

ANN

I wasn't doing business...

DOUG

Oh. What were you doing, then, that's so important that you shouldn't call your fian...

ANN

It's all over between us, Doug, I'm sorry, but that's the truth. I've found someone else, and, it's very serious and it's the end. I'm sorry.

(pause)

It isn't you, j...

DOUG

Wai...It's so serious you couldn't call to tell me you'd be...what...? What did you say...?

ANN

It's all over between us.

(pause)

I've found someone else.

DOUG

(pause)

Let me review here: You're...what are you...you've...it's all over between us?

ANN

I'm sorry.

DOUG

Who is this person that you've found?

ANN

(pause)

He works on the movie.

DOUG

No. Don't tell me that.

ANN

I'm sorry.

DOUG

Why, you whore!

Doug starts to cry. First A.D. shows up.

FIRST A.D.

Can you type?

ANN

Never admit you can type.

FIRST A.D.

If you can type, they need you over at the hotel.

INT. JOE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Joe is standing by the side of the bed, holding Claire's clothes, trying to induce her to put them on. She is sitting on the side of the bed, naked.

JOE

Look.

CLAIRE

I feel so close to you...

JOE

Look, look, I like you very much...

CLAIRE

I like you, too.

JOE

But not that way...

CLAIRE

But we...

JOE

Look, look there's someone else...

Sound of a KNOCK at the door.

JOE (CONT'D)

Great. Who is it?

ANN (O.S.)

"Room Service!"

JOE

(to Claire)

Would you go in...

He gestures to the bathroom, he hands her her clothes.

JOE (CONT'D)

Would you put on your cl...

(to door)

Just leave it outside

ANN

You have to sign for it.

INT. HALL - NIGHT

Ann hurriedly arranging the flowers in the "platen" of the typewriter. From inside the room we hear Joe's voice:
"Alright, one moment!" He opens the door.

ANN

I'm gonna be your typist for this evening.

JOE

Oh, G-d...

ANN

And here's some hydrogen peroxide...

JOE

I don't drink.

ANN

It's for your finger.

JOE

One moment.

He closes the door.

INT. JOE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Claire is still sitting on the bed, has a lit cigarette. Poured herself a drink. Joe goes over to her, thrusts her clothes on the floor.

JOE

You have to hide.

CLAIRE

Who is that?

JOE

That's my...

CLAIRE

Oh.

JOE

Will you help me out...?

CLAIRE

I...

Joe hustles back to the door. Opens the door. Ann is still standing there with the typewriter.

JOE

Hi.

ANN

You going to ask me in?

Joe looks back over his shoulder.

ANN (CONT'D)

Thought you might like this.

She hands him a bouquet.

JOE

(takes flowers)

Thank you.

ANN

Read the card.

JOE

(reading card)

"To the love of my life, Love, Doug."

ANN

The other side.

JOE

Oh.

He turns the card over.

ANN

Don't you think you should put them in water.

JOE

Why?

ANN

...because if you don't, they die.

She goes into the bathroom, fills up the vase. Comes out.

ANN (CONT'D)

Shouldn't we start?

PAUSE

JOE

Start? This isn't a good time.

ANN

Oh. That's alright. Then I'll come back at a better time. What would be a better time.

JOE

Later on.

ANN

Then I'll come back, then.

JOE

You, um, you, um, you going out with your fiance?

ANN

No, I just broke up with him. I'll see you tomorrow.

She starts to exit.

INT. TAVERN INN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ann digs in pocket, takes out the lure we previously saw in Joe's finger. She re-enters the room.

ANN

It occurred to me, you'd wanna have this: sort of a memento of our...

ANGLE ON ROOM

Claire is standing there, basically naked. PAUSE.

CLAIRE

Hi. I hope I'm not disturbing...

JOE

She came in here, wait, she...I was giving her a massage...wait...wait! She came in here...she...

(to Claire)

...with respect...she took off her clothes, and she got in bed, I told her I could not -- we don't know each other, you see...

CLAIRE

We had a script conference.

JOE

I told her thank you very much, but it was inconvenient because, uh, because...

ANN

You can do it.

JOE

Because I'd met someone else.

ANN

(very simply)
Oh, okay.

JOE

You believe that?

ANN

I do if you do.

PAUSE

JOE

But it's absurd.

ANN

So is our electoral process. But we still vote.

JOE

Do you truly believe the electoral process is absurd?

ANN

I used to go out with a politician.

JOE

You used to go out with him, you broke up with him?

ANN

Sure did.

JOE

Why?

ANN

Time for a change. Keep your margins straight.

JOE

Yes.

ANN

Go you Huskies!

INT. HALL - NIGHT

Ann puts down the typewriter and types into it, "The truth may not always set you free, but it is always the truth - Joseph Turner White, 'Anguish.'" She affixes the lure to it and leaves them on the typewriter. She starts down the hall, humming. Behind her we see the door to Bob Barrenger's room open. Bob comes out, looks down the hall. The coast is clear. Carla comes out. They kiss chastely, say goodnight. She starts down the hall, humming.

EXT. MAYOR'S PORCH - DAY

The postman walk sup. We see two workmen putting up a sign over the door '1835.' One has a copy of "The Hollywood

Reporter" in his back pocket.

MAYOR

And don't you worry about that permit...

MARTY

Why, that's right fine...

POSTMAN

Mornin' George.

MAYOR

Hey, Chunky.

(to Marty)

Well, we're glad to have you here. My wife, Sherry, SHER, YOUR BROTHER'S HERE.

(to Marty)

We're having a party, matofact, Tuesday night, for Walt and Bob Barrenger...

MARTY

Mmm....

MAYOR

Havin' 'em over, home-cooked meal, if you'd...

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Well, I'd be awfully...

A paint truck pulls up outside the Mayor's house. Painters come out. Sherry comes outside the house.

SHERRY

Where the hell have you been? It's...

MAYOR

Sherry, this...

POSTMAN

(come back out of house with cup of coffee)

Mornin' Sherry.

SHERRY

It's a quarter after nine, I've been on the phone to...

PAINTER

Morning, Mrs. Baily, Mista Bailey...

He and his assistant go into the house with wallpaper.

SHERRY

I've got two days to get this house...

MAYOR

Dear, this is Mr. Rossen, he is the producer.

SHERRY

I am so glad to meet you. We are so glad to have you here, and welcome you to our...I, you know, they had c... I'm, yearly I redecorate our, to restore it to the, 1835...

MARTY

What is that?

SHERRY

The house, the 1835. The original kitchen, of course, burned in 1960, as part of a spate of fires...

MARTY

It's lovely.

SHERRY

A spate of suspicious fires which were in fact the inspiration for the formation of the Waterford Huskies.

MARTY

My oh my.

SHERRY

I'm...Tuesday evening we're having an informal dinner, I didn't know you'd be 'on set,' but if you'd like to join your...

Doug comes up the walk, a bit rabid.

DOUG

I have to talk to you.

MAYOR

Doug, this is Mr...

SHERRY

Oh, how thoughtless of me. Would you like a cup of tea...

Sherry disappears into the house.

MAYOR

...he's the producer of the movie.

DOUG

(to Marty)

I want you to hear this, pal...

(consults notebook)

Forget the overages, forget Ten Thousand

Dollars, for three days to two weeks.
You know what it would cost for them to
build this set?

(pause)

Two Million Dollars! Now:

MAYOR

Doug...

DOUG

Now: The Waterford Merchant's
Association, of who I am Council...

In the B.G. we see Sherry and the painter.

SHERRY

Don't tell me you're out of Wallpaper.

PAINTER

I told you, we could have it by
Wednesday...

SHERRY

Wednesday, don't tell me Wednesday, the
biggest grossing box office star in the
world is coming for dinner Tuesday...

PAINTER

Waal, if you ordered something common...

SHERRY

Something common? I'm going to give you
something common. I'm going to give you
an injunction, is what I...Mister Mayor.

DOUG

Huh. Well, the Waterford Merchant's
Association demands, through me as their
council, five percent of the profits of
the movie, as figured by and...

(checks his notebook)

geared to the most favorable definition
of profits of either A) the Producer...

From INSIDE THE HOUSE, we hear the Mayor's wife screaming.
Mayor runs inside, Doug and Marty follow.

DOUG (CONT'D)

Why, you little sheeny...

INT. COFFEE CORNER - DAY

Geezers are at the front table in the window. Carla's
father, JACK, behind the counter trying to assemble an
espresso machine, reading from the instructions.

MORRIS

"Assembly of Death" did 95 million dollars the first weekend.

SPUD

Yeaup, but those grosses are inflated.

MORRIS

You think so?

SPUD

Waal, what was the per-screen average...?

Joe enters and exchanges greetings with the locals. He changes his glasses and takes out a notebook. He is shaking his head as he does so...

JOE

Cuppa coffee, and a...

JACK

With you inna moment. I'm a little short-handed.

MORRIS

Where's Carla?

Ann enters.

SPUD

Hiya, Annie...

A crowd has gathered around the table as he tells the story.

MORRIS

Annie, sorry I ain't been to a meetin' of the Drama Club...

Ann shows a sniped "canceled" poster of her play.

MORRIS (CONT'D)

Oh, good...

He resumes talking to his companion.

ANN

Good morning to you...whatsa matter?

JOE

I can't get it to come out right.

ANN

What's the scene...

JOE

It used to be the Old Mill.

ANN

What've you got?

JOE

They meet on Main Street. Her horse has just died. He's coming from the fire.

He shuffles through his pages, he goes in his pocket for a note, he brings out the old lure. He smiles at her, she smiles back.

JACK (O.S.)

Annie, you want something to eat?

ANN

What's the scene about...?

JOE

It's good to see you, too...

JACK

Annie?

ANN

What about...what about...it's so presumptuous of me, to be, to be telling you how to wr...

JOE

Please...

ANN

How about, he sees her on the street, he wipes the soot from his eyes. He goes up to her. "What happened to the horse?" She looks at him. She takes his hand...

She takes Joe's hand, and he winces.

JOE

Ah, ah, ah...

ANN

I hurt you?

MORRIS

What happened to his finger?

ANN

It was burnt.

MORRIS

Mmm.

ANN

And then it was really hurt.

JOE

Ah, ah, ah. That's what she says,
that's what she says. He says, "Sister,
I've come from a fire..." But she, but
she, she says it was not the fire which
hurt you...it...

MORRIS

...how was it hurt?

ANN

...he stuck a fishhook in it.
(Morris nods)

JOE

She realizes -- it was not the fire
which hurt him...that the true hurt was
her. Was her...

ANN

...yes.

JOE

...her unbridled sexuality. That he...

ANN

...yes.

JOE

Has been wounded by her heat...by her
infidelities...

JACK

Anybody here seen Carla?

JOE

Because, because, because if it's about
purity, it's...it's...and then, then,
you don't need the nude scene.

ANN

Because it's about purity...

JOE

That's...that's exactly what it's about.
Take...

ANN

That's right...

JOE

...take any two people...

JACK

...anybody seen my daughter...?

JOE

...take you and me...

He runs out.

INT. WALT'S OFFICE - DAY

Uberto looking at storyboards and spinning the discuss and shaking his head.

Walt on the phone. First A.D. shows up.

WALT

(on phone)

...the finest people you could ever hope to work with...

(to First A.D.)

You have the new Old Mill pages?

FIRST A.D.

I can't find the writer.

WALT

(on phone)

...totally false...totally false. He is the, I would say the most responsible human being I have ever...

FIRST A.D.

I have to talk to you. My wife...

WALT

Not now.

FIRST A.D.

My wife is going to have a baby, and...

WALT

Oh, that's great. Let's bring more people into this overcrowded world.

Girl P.A. walks through the b.g. in "Does it have to be an Old Mill?" T-shirt.

WALT (CONT'D)

Take it off. Take that stupid fucking shirt off right now.

(into phone)

Well, if I had to say one thing, I would say it's purity.

Claire shows up, dressed in traveling clothes, her luggage behind her, followed by production assistant.

WALT (CONT'D)

(to P.A.)

Not now, I'm talking to the press.

Claire!

CLAIRE

What? I have a five-o'clock plane to catch.

WALT

I, uh...

(into phone)

I've always thought so...

(beat)

Well, you just get an idea, and try to find the best way to express it in pictorial form.

(to Claire)

I've written a letter to the studio and to SAG protesting...

(opens door)

Bill: get a copy of that letter...!

(closes door)

I just wanted to tell you that I am past chagrined, I'm mortified at the way you were spoken to...

CLAIRE

I...

WALT

An artist of your caliber...

CLAIRE

I'm only trying to...

WALT

I know what you are, I am so sorry that you...when I read that script I said there's only one person to play that part.

CLAIRE

The minute I read that script I said...

WALT

I know...

CLAIRE

...she works with animals, she...

WALT

...yes...

CLAIRE

...she has a home...

WALT

...I know, I'm so...because I said: yes, a woman who...the...the community

respects her.

(beat)

Please don't go.

(pause)

Please don't go. What can I do but beseech you...? Trauma, toil...when are we free of them...?

(pause)

When...?

CLAIRE

He treated me as if I were a child...

WALT

Claire:

(pause)

As an interpretive artist to a creative artist:

(pause)

Stay with me.

(pause)

I need you.

(pause)

We start to shoot tomorrow and then it belongs to us. Stay.

(pause)

Stay. Tonight...when...

(gestures outside)

When they've gone. Let's talk. Let's really talk. We could, we'll have dinner, we'll...a bottle of some bad red wine, we'll get spaghetti, and we'll...

CLAIRE

I'm sorry, Walt -- it's gone beyond that.

Claire exits.

WALT

(into phone)

Well, I've enjoyed it, too. Any... any...any time...

(hangs up the phone)

What does the woman want from life?

MARTY

She wants eight-hundred thousand dollars to show her tits.

WALT

Pay her off.

MARTY

We don't have the money.

WALT

Find it.

MARTY

If you do the product placement...

WALT

It's a computer company...IT'S A
COMPUTER COMPANY - BAZOOMER-COM?!

MARTY

"Bazoomer dot com."

WALT

I can't put a computer in a movie shot
in 1895...you wanna tell me how I'm
gonna do that?

MARTY

Actually, the art department had some
ideas on...

WALT

**NO NO NO NO NO, PAY HER OFF. DID YOU
HEAR ME?!**

MARTY

(picks up the phone and dials)
Gimme Howie Gold. Howie? Thizz...I
neee... I NEED EIGHT-HUNDRED GRAND.
I...I don't care where it comes from.

(to Walt)

It comes out of our end.

(Walt gestures do it)

I...I need...JUST GET ME THE MONEY. I
JUST GET ME THE GODDAMN MONEY...Look:

Joe barges in.

JOE

She doesn't show her tits!!! She doesn't
show her tits. The breasts symbolize
motherhood, the audience...

MARTY

The breasts symbolize motherhood...

INT. WALT'S OFFICE - DAY

Joe holding forth to Bill, Walt and Marty. Joe consults his
notes, changes his glasses, reads on:

JOE

The movie's about purity. So we don't
show her breasts. We show them to him.
She keeps her back to the camera.

WALT

...she keeps her back to the camera?

BILL

It'll hurt the box-office.

JOE

They know what her tits look like.

WALT

Know? They could draw them from memory. You're fantastic. What a find you are. Get outta here. We need the Dead Horse scene.

JOE

I'm gonna nail it.

WALT

I know you are. Go you Huskies.

Joe exits. We see the notation, "Dinner at the Mayor's House."

We see Marty walk up to a P.A. in the next room. The P.A. hands Marty a slip of paper. Walt goes to them.

MARTY

We got the permit.

WALT

Is that one hell of a kid?

MARTY

He just saved us eight-hundred thousand bucks.

WALT

He's got a gift for fiction.

MARTY

We got to do something nice for him.

He takes out his cardcase.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Gimme a pencil. Get him a bottle of...get him some maple syrup. Stick this card on it, and put it in his room.

PROD. ASST.

Maple syrup.

Marty writes on the card.

MARTY

Yeah.

ANGLE ON CARD

It reads: "Your gift for fiction everything sweet."

ANGLE ON WALT

As he walks back into the other room, holding the permit.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(in b.g. as he takes back the
card)

Hold on, I wanna add to that.

We see him take the card, write "Over" on it and draw an arrow.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Joe, happy as a clam, sauntering down the street. Smoking a huge cigar. He passes two old codgers, Morris and Spud.

SPUD

You see where Tom Miller's playin' the
Old Farmer?

MORRIS

He's been playin' Old Farmer nigh on
sixty years.

SPUD

I read for that part. Did pretty good,
too.

MORRIS

Bet you did.

SPUD

But I couldn't r'member all the words.
Ast them would they gimme a second
chance.

MORRIS

Ain't no second chances in life.

SPUD

Zat true?

MORRIS

Only second chance we git, z'ta make the
same mistake twice...

ANGLE ON

Joe, as he nods to himself, takes out a pad, starts to jot a

note, fumbles with his glasses. Joe saunters on, writing, we hear the beeping from the traffic light. Joe hears a screeching of tires.

He looks up, a film station wagon comes barreling around the corner, hits the pothole, goes out of control, careens, turns over, knocks down the control box of the traffic light.

Joe holds a beat, runs over to the car, to driver's side. Battered driver, bleeding, upside down. Joe drags him from the car. It is Bob Barrenger.

BOB

Get the...

JOE

Are you al...?

Barrenger points to the other side. Joe looks.

ANGLE POV

Carla is the passenger, she is dazed but unhurt.

ANGLE ON

The car.

BOB

We gotta get her out of here.

Carla has extracted herself from the wreck, stands, woozily, on the sidewalk.

BOB (CONT'D)

(to Carla)

Are you alright?

CARLA

(nodding)

I...

BOB

You got to get out of here...

BEAT. She nods, understanding. A light comes on in the apartment over the store. She looks up, starts away down the street. BEAT. Bob rocks back and forth.

BOB (CONT'D)

Oh G-d, oh G-d, oh G-d...do you have a cig...

INT. BOB'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Bob is being bandaged by Doc Wilson. Marty on the phone. Walt, the First A.D., and Joe also in the room.

MARTY

He's fine...it's a...

DOC WILSON

You're going to be fine. I'll stop by tomorrow.

WALT

(to Doc)

Thank you.

Doc exits.

DOC WILSON

Yessir...

MARTY

(into phone)

He's...you wanna talk to...?

Bob goes over to the phone, his head bandaged. Walt, smoking, stands by the window.

BOB

(into phone)

Hello, Jerry. I'm fine. I'll be ready Wednesday...I'm here to make a movie, Bob. Now don't you worry your, hey, Pal, when have I ever let you down bef...Okay, Babe, you, too.

He hangs up.

WALT

Are you okay?

BOB

Well, yeah, I'm fine, I reached over to, the girl had to be home, I don't know, it's a schoolnight, something...

WALT

Bobby...

BOB

Everybody needs a hob...

FIRST A.D.

Walt, I wonder if I could take a minute of your time. I need a day off...

There is an abrupt knocking at the door.

WALT

Who is it?

CAL

Thiz the police. Is Mr. Barrenger in there?

The boys in the room go into a whisper conference.

MARTY

Okay, look, you, what is she, 19, twenty...oh Christ...

BOB

Uh, look...

MARTY

Look: okay. Okay. Look: look you're driving, countryside, so on, you picked her up, she was hitch...

WALT

No, hey, hey...al, she hid in the back of the car! Happens all the...

The knock is repeated.

CAL

(outside the door)

Is Mr. Barrenger there...?

MARTY

No, wait a, wait a, wait a...we can't put her in the car, she gets it in her head to sue, or rape, or some goddamn, she wasn't in...

WALT

She wasn't in...you were al...

MARTY

There's no witnesses.

WALT

No, just the...there's no witnesses, right...?

BOB

No, I just...just Joe, just Joe...

WALT

Joe, the writer?

BOB

Just him and me.

Knocking was repeated.

MARTY

Then she wasn't in the car. Say it.

BOB

She wasn't in the...

MARTY

Nobody knows it but us. Alright? It says here...

(to group)

Are we together on this?

(beat, each nods)

Because it's sink or swim here, pals...

They murmur their assent. Knocking is repeated. Walt goes to the door.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(to First A.D. and Joe)

You guys had better leave us a...

CAL

Mr. Barrenger...

Marty ushers Joe and the First A.D. out the room.

MARTY

Yes...?

The cop comes in the room.

CAL

I'm very sorry to...

MARTY

Well. What seems to be the...?

CAL

I have to ask you these...um. You have a valid drivers' license?

MARTY

Of course he...

CAL

Could I see it, please...?

Bob gestures to his wallet which is on the desk.

CAL (CONT'D)

Were you under the inf...

BOB

No.

CAL

And who was driving the...

BOB

I was alone in the car. I was driving.

The cop is writing down these statements.

CAL

Well, now, Mr. Barrenger, I'm very sorry, in fact, I'm as sorry as I could be, but...

MARTY

I'm an attorney, if there's anything you have to say to...

CAL

...I have to give you this ticket for damage to city property. I'm really sorry, Sir, it's a formality, I hope you'll excuse...

MARTY

(beat)

You have to what?

Cal reaches in back of him, on his belt, and takes out not the cuffs, but the summons book, he starts to write a summons.

CAL

It's a formality. Any case of damage to city prop...you hit the control box of the new stop light, and...

(apologetically he hands the ticket to Bob)

They'll, uh, these things happen, I hope you're alright, and that you're feeling...

MARTY

Well, officer, don't worry ab...

CAL

If there's anything I...

Marty walks him out into the hall. Photographers and onlookers in the hall. Phone rings. Walt answers it.

WALT

(into phone)

Yeah. Hello, Mr. Mayor...Walt Price!
No, no, sir, he's fine. Well, he's right here! Would you like to...?

(covering phone)

You are not to see that girl again...do you...

Door to hall opens. Claire comes in.

CLAIRE

Hello.

WALT

(into phone)
...he's right here, Mr. Mayor...

CLAIRE

(to Bob)
Bob, are you alright?

EXT. FIRESTATION TO PRINTSHOP - NIGHT

The firetruck is being backed into the firestation. Outside a couple of passerbys are running in the rain, putting their collars up.

We see Joe is in the firestation writing in his book. As the firetruck backs up we see the firedog bark, and Joe looks up.

ANGLE JOE'S POV

Ann is walking past the firestation. Joe comes out to look at her.

JOE

Hi.

ANN

Hi.

JOE

Where you going?

ANN

Going home.

They start to walk down the street in the rain.

JOE

Going home, yeah. I told them what you said...

ANN

(over a clap of thunder)
What?

JOE

I told them what you said about the script...

They take refuge under the awning of the printshop.

ANN

I didn't say anything special, I was

just talking out loud.

JOE

...how else can you talk?

ANN

No, that's true.

JOE

No. You, I told them, you can't betray with the picture what you're saying with the words. And, I don't know, the movies, I don't know. They should be socially uplifting, why does she have to show her br...what is this...?

They look in the window of the old printshop, the awning under which they have sheltered.

ANN

Yessuh. Joseph Knights printshop.
Vacant for thirty years.

JOE

Is it...

ANN

Yep, n'it's for sale.
(pause)
One of the few things money can buy.

Joe looks in the window of the printshop.

JOE

I told them what you said about the script...

They take refuge under the awning of the printshop.

ANN

Would you like to see it? I've got the key back at my store...

JOE

I'd love to.

ANGLE ON

Ann, runs out into the rain, Joe runs along side her. In the b.g., we see the fireman closing the doors of the firehouse, and the fire dog being restrained, on a leash, by him and shut up inside the firehouse.

EXT. BOOKSHOP - NIGHT

ANN

How's your star?

JOE

Gosh, you look nice.

ANN

...what...?

There's a huge flash of lightning and a clap of thunder and the lights on the street flicker, and come back on. BEAT.

ANGLE ON

Bookshop.

JOE

What would you do with it, the printshop...

ANN

Start back up the Waterford Sentinel. Town newspaper. Show you the plans.

She goes into the washroom area, and comes out with two towels. She throws one to Joe, and begins toweling her hair with the other.

She hands him some plans, which show photos of the old printshop, and copies of the Old Waterford Sentinel, circa **1900**.

JOE

Yes, it's a lovely idea...

She emerges from the back room. She has stripped off her wet jacket and shirt, and put on a light stockboy's jacket.

ANN

Print it right here.

There's another clap of thunder, and all the lights go out. **PAUSE.**

ANN (CONT'D)

Oh, my.

(pause)

Life in the country. One second.

Ann takes a small match from the drawer, and lights a small kerosene barn lantern.

ANN (CONT'D)

Well. There you go.

She sits down on the couch, and spreads the plan on a small table.

ANN (CONT'D)

Press still works.

JOE

It does?

ANN

Did as of last week.

She shows him the poster for "Trials of the Heart."

ANN (CONT'D)

Best way I know to get ink on your hands.

JOE

You'd do the newspaper right here.

ANN

That's something a man could do...?

JOE

You know what else a man can do?

ANN

What?

He moves closer to her. He is about to kiss her when the fire dog appears on the couch between them.

ANN (CONT'D)

One moment...

She goes in the pocket of her jacket. The dog follows her. She cannot find a dog biscuit.

BEAT

Joe pats the dog on the head. Leads him to the front door, puts him out. The door blows in the rain.

JOE

Pelting down out there.

ANN

People might be better off. They thought about it, spent the evening back in the...

She comes close to him. The dog reappears between them. Joe looks around, and goes back to a window, and shuts the window.

Ann crosses to her desk. Takes out a box of dog biscuits. The box is empty. The two of them lead the dog out, and pet it on the head. They turn back and the door is slammed.

EXT. BOOKSHOP - NIGHT

BEAT

They start back to find the door locked.

ANN

Left the keys inside, in my jacket.

Joe nods.

JOE

Well. 'S'pose I should be getting home...look.

They turn and Cal, the policeman, is standing next to them. In raingear.

ANN

Cal...

CAL

Annie, got an umbrella?

ANN

Nope.

CAL

I'll walk you home, you can have my coat.

He starts taking off his slicker.

ANN

Then you'll be wet.

CAL

I'm goin' off-shift. Come on... I'll walk you home.

He covers her with his slicker, and they walk away.

WE SEE in the b.g. Uberto and his helper at the firehouse. Uberto swings a shuffleboard disk, and the dalmation window shatters and falls in the street. Some falls on his head.

INT. COFFEE CORNER - DAY

Doug talking to Postman.

DOUG

Ten dollars apiece for outdated textbooks you or I could buy retail for a dollar ninety-five.

Carla is serving breakfast, her wrist in a cast and a small bandage on her forehead.

DOC WILSON

Mornin', Carla...how's the itching...?

CARLA

Okay, Doc.

DOUG

Bear with me, now -- because what're we getting for our money? See the cat and dog? See what I'm saying? Nice to take this opportunity to mount an investigation of...

She assembles a tray, starts out the door as Maude comes in.

MAUDE

Morning, Carla, what happened to you?

DOC WILSON

She went to fetch a pail of water.

Carla goes out the door.

DOUG

(to merchant)

You see what I'm saying, take this opportunity to mount an investigation of the price of school textbooks. Bear with me now: both the cost, and the content of...look here...

He produces some first grade spelling text.

DOUG (CONT'D)

...because what're we getting for our money? "See the nice dog. See the nice cat?"

They move out of earshot. Ann goes into the Real Estate Office NEXT DOOR to the Coffee Corner.

Pausing long enough to look in the window at the placard advertising the Old Printshop.

ANGLE INSIDE POV

The placard "Old Printshop...78 thousand dollars" "Under Agreement."

INT. WALT'S ROOM - DAY

Walt, Marty, Bob, Claire, Joe, coffee urns. They work on the script.

WALT

So you see what I'm saying...the movie is about purity...

BOB

I've always seen that.

WALT

We don't show her breasts, we just show your reaction...

CLAIRE

I'm so comfortable with that, Walt, I can't tell you...

WALT

Well, Joe said it, and he's right.

Knock at the door. Marty goes to the door.

ANGLE

Carla outside the door, talking to Marty. Marty takes tray. Carla has bandage on her head and a small cast on her wrist.

CARLA

And I have Mr. Barrenger's Tuna B...

MARTY

(hands her a bill)

Thank you.

CARLA

I, well, you know, I tried to take him, in his room.

MARTY

I think he's moved...

CARLA

I, uh...

(pause)

Um...

ANGLE

Inside the room. Marty closing her out. Bob and Claire talking.

BOB

That makes a lot of sense, Claire, that makes a lot of...list...listen, cause the audience isn't coming to see your breasts. They are coming to see you act. What are you doin' this evening?

CLAIRE

I'm having dinner with W...

WALT

We're going to discuss the scr...you
wanna come along...?

BOB

You mind...?

CLAIRE

No, are you kidding me, Bob, not at all.

WALT

Marty...

MARTY

Yeah?

WALT

Would you, tell the guy, get the A.D.,
someone, somewhere where we can get
away, something, I want, you know, last
day before the shooting, get away,
forget it, have some local food.

(to Joe)

You want...

JOE

I've got a date.

WALT

He's got a date. He's got a date, is
this guy fantastic...?
Already he learned how to write a movie,
and he found a girl to get his toes
curled, what a guy, what a...what a
literary find!

First A.D. walks in, talking on a cellphone.

FIRST A.D.

(on phone; sotto)

I'm trying, honey. I'm...look, is your
Ma, when is your mom coming? Oh.

(pause)

What did the midwife...?

WALT

Did you, where are we going tonight?

FIRST A.D.

I...?

WALT

Some, you were, you were going to make a
reservation for us? Where's my
schedule? Where are we booked tonight?

FIRST A.D.

My wife's having a baby.

WALT

You what...? Is that on the call sheet,
is that on the callsheet, or is that
personal business? Ah, Christ.
Marty...are we paying you?

FIRST A.D.

I...

INT. BAR - MORNING

The bartender is looking down studying a vast book "State
Statutes of Vermont". Doug is drinking.

DOUG

She didn't even finish knitting me the
sweater...

First A.D. walks in. Doc Wilson walks in.

BARTENDER

Mornin', Doc...

DOC WILSON

You doin' here, Doug? Thought you
started out the day with that pernicious
caffeine...

DOUG

Kiss my ass.

DOC WILSON

Well.

BARTENDER

He had a hard day. Ann's deserted him
for some guy on the movie.

DOC WILSON

Well, they don't always leave with the
ones they came in with.

BARTENDER

Big day last night.

DOC WILSON

Hope to tell you. Didn't I pick the
fragments of glass out of Bob
Barrenger's actual head myself.

ANGLE IN THE B.G.

We see Carla entering with bags of food and checks for bar
patrons.

BARTENDER

Mornin', Carla.

CARLA

Mornin', Uncle Ron.

DOC WILSON

Cluster of events. Don't see something,
ten years, allasudden, three times inna
night.

BARTENDER

That's what they call an events cluster.
Some guy orders a Manhattan, fifteen,
twenty years, allasudden, three times
inna night.

DOUG

Who got their heads cut?

BARTENDER

...some fella. Orders a Manhattan.

DOC WILSON

What?

DOUG

Who got their heads cut?

DOC WILSON

Uh, Bob Barrenger, fella, Cameraman...

DOUG

You said three...

DOC WILSON

Did I? I think you're mistaken.

ANGLE ON

Doug, looking over at Carla, with a small cast on her wrist
and her head beneath a babushka, in the lobby.

Doug looks up.

INT. CORRIDOR TAVERN MOTEL - DAY

Carla, being led by the hand, by Doug. Following them, her
Father Jack and Cal the trooper.

CARLA

I wasn't in the car...

DOUG

We're going to s...

JACK

Doug, she says that she wasn't in the
C...

They stop at a room, knock on the door. A PAUNCHY SALESMAN
opens the door.

SALESMAN

Yeah?

DOUG

(beat)

I've got the wrong room.

The Procession reverses, starts down the hall, runs into
Marty coming out of his room.

DOUG (CONT'D)

(to Cal)

Arrest him.

MARTY

What is the...?

DOUG

Arrest him.

CAL

For what...?

DOUG

(beat)

Conspiracy in Statutory Rape.

MARTY

Conspiracy in Statutory Rape? Okay. Of
whom?

DOUG

This young woman.

CARLA

Nobody touched me, I was at home.

MARTY

(to Carla)

Who is it raped you?

CARLA

Nobody.

MARTY

Well, what's the beef?

DOUG

She was in the car with Bob Barrenger
last night. And she was injured coming
home from a love tryst, so...

MARTY

You were in the car with Bob?

CARLA

No.

MARTY

Then what is the...?

He steps back into a linen closet, takes Doug with him by the lapels.

INT. LINEN CLOSET - HOTEL HALLWAY - DAY

MARTY

Now what is this, you sonofabitch!
Because if you haven't heard about the laws of Malicious Prosecution, you're about to. **DON'T FLINCH WHILE I'M TALKING TO YOU, YOU TWO BIT SPEEDTRAP FRAUD:** There's an old saying, two scariest things in the world, a black man with a knife and a Jew with a lawyer. Now, I am a lawyer, and I am the Jew, and you continue **ONE MOMENT** with this slanderous shit here in this public place, I'm going to have your ass over my mantleplace. **THE KID WAS NOT IN THE CAR, SHE SAYS THAT SHE WASN'T IN THE CAR, NO ONE SAYS SHE WASN'T IN THE CAR, NO ONE SAYS THAT SHE WAS IN THE CAR, YOU HAVE NO CORPUS AND YOU HAVE NO CASE, AND YOU KNOW IT. SO I'M NOT PAYING PATSY** WITH YOU HERE, YOU MOTHERFUCKER. Look in my eyes: I made eleven million bucks last year and I don't like being trifled with. Now I think that the better part of valor, though we've got your back up here...the better part of valor is to step away. Or, before G-d, I will see you disbarred.

(beat)

Now, what do you think?

(beat)

We all have a movie to make. Now, can we stay together here...?

(pause)

What do you say? Have a cigar.

He puts a cigar into Doug's pocket.

INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS

The two come out of the linen closet, Marty with his arm around Doug.

MARTY

It's a mistake. It's all over.
(to Carla)
I'm sorry that we've inconvenienced you.

CARLA

I wasn't in the car.

MARTY

We know that you weren't.

They walk down the hall. Before them, Claire, half-clothed, backing out of a motel room.

CLAIRE

...because you treat me like a
child...you treat me like a child...
that's why I can't come...

The procession has reached the open door. They look to see whom it is Claire is addressing. Carla looks in the door.

ANGLE CARLA'S POV

Bob Barrenger, clutching a towel to his naked self, smoking a cigarette.

ANGLE

The group in the hall. Carla points into the open door.

CARLA

He took advantage of me.

INT. PROD. OFFICE - DUSK

Cal, Bob Barrenger, Walt, Doug, Carla and Jack.

MARTY

...upset and impressionable.
(to the A.D.)
Get me the Mayor.

BOB

(to Carla)
...I was just talking to that girl in
the other room.

MARTY

...overcome by the events around her,
the presence of a high-powered...

BOB

(to Carla)
I never touched her. My mother's gr...

MARTY

And a fantasy object...

DOUG

(to Cal)

Tell him to get dressed...

CAL

Uh, sir...

The First A.D. enters with lawbooks, marked as to page.

MARTY

(takes lawbooks)

Wally?

WALT

Look, Carla, this is a hard time for you. Many young people go to Hollywood. I did...and we all dream of it, and here, here Hollywood has come to you.

CAL

Mr. Barrenger, I'm very sorry, but...

WALT

Here this dream world has come to you. Now, you obviously have an active, a vivid imagination.

CARLA

Her...

BOB

I swear that that woman in my room...

WALT

Be quiet, Bob. A fertile mind. Now we can use that kind of people in our work. Yes, we can. Now, and this is what occurs to me... There's a part in the film...isn't that right, Marty?

Marty is perusing the lawbooks.

MARTY

Mmm.

WALT

That we could use you in and I think that's quite a fine trade-off all around and an ill wind that blows somebody good.

MARTY

(of the book)

Here it is: Statutory r...blah, blah, blah, blah... "statutory"...

"unsupported testimony by the..."

(he shows the book to Doug)

Hold on, Bobby.

(to Doug)

You've got nothing and you know it. By G-d, you know it. Harassment. You need a... even if this was true, you need a witness. You need someone puts her in the car. And you've got nothing. Now we all have...yes, give her that part in the film.

(to Carla)

Yes, we'd love to have you... Now: we all have more important things to do, isn't that right...?

Marty starts ushering everyone out of the room.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Isn't that right? I'm sorry that you all went to this...

JACK

I knew she wasn't in the car.

MARTY

This has been just an unfortunate.

He ushers them out, the phone is ringing. Walt picks it up.

WALT

(into phone)

Yes? Hello, Mr. Mayor. Nothing, just an, an unfortunate...

(he covers the phone)

It's the Mayor, he's saying...

MARTY

Is he cool or angry?

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mayor on the phone. Sherry in the b.g.

MAYOR

Well, these things happen. Purpose of my call, my wife wanted to know what brand of cigarettes Mr. Barrenger smokes, so she could lay some out tonight...we got the list of his dietary requirements...

INT. PROD. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

WALT

(hangs up phone)

So we just got lucky.

BILL

Marty, it's Howie Gold on the coast. He needs your confirmation on a request for money...?

MARTY

And I need a drink.

Marty exits.

WALT

(to Bob)

If your memory was as long as your dick, you'd be in good shape. How long since you almost went to jail for this shit?

BOB

How could she turn on me like that? I thought she liked me.

WALT

Can we try to keep our pants buttoned and get out of this town in one piece?

BOB

I'm ready!

WALT

Stay ready. Stay by yourself in your room.

BOB

What'll I do for fun?

MARTY

Whyn't you learn your lines?

BOB

I know my lines...

WALT

You do...?

BOB

I just don't know what order they come in...

Walt walks away from Bob, shaking his head.

ANGLE ON

Walt, as he walks down the stairs.

WALT

I tell you what, let's ditch these

cockamamie locals. I need to get outta here. Go to some roadhouse tonight, just us. Claire, Bob, siddown, have a bottle of wine. Tell me where we're going, and let's go.

They walk by the bullpen, wherein we see P.A.s refilling Evian bottles from a ratty old watering can.

P.A.s take us, with their Evian bottles, into Walt's office, where we see the "Dinner with the Mayor" sign.

INT. MAYOR'S HOME - NIGHT

Twelve overdressed people, including the Postman, the Gunstore Owner, etc. sitting, still around the Mayor's laden dining table. BEAT. Sherry looks over her shoulder.

ANGLE ON

Next room, the Mayor on the phone. Hushed.

MAYOR

Well, you must, where did they... where...I...

PAUSE

Very angry, he HANGS UP and looks out the window.

ANGLE POV

The Mayor lets the shade drop, walks back to the table. Silence.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Doug, in his cups, at the end of the bar with the First A.D.

DOUG

Hey, you've gotta eat a peck of dirt...

FIRST A.D.

My wife just went into labor...

The bartender studies his state statutes book.

BARTENDER'S POV

Inside the book, the storyboards show the movie's heroes copulating.

DOUG

Half a buck I'd close it down. It's per...you know...it's perfidy, you got your Barrenger, molesting little girls.

FIRST A.D.

He should be put in jail.

DOUG

Half a buck I'd put him in jail.

FIRST A.D.

You should.

DOUG

I had a witness, I would.

FIRST A.D.

A witness to what?

DOUG

You know, the rape, to...even to the accident.

FIRST A.D.

You mean with White?

DOUG

What?

FIRST A.D.

You mean you need a witness in addition to White?

DOUG

Who's White?

FIRST A.D.

The writer.

DOUG

(beat)

He saw the accident...?

FIRST A.D.

Sure.

DOUG

He saw the girl in the car...

FIRST A.D.

You bet he did.

INT. MAYOR'S HOME - NIGHT

The Mayor and his wife alone at the table. The maid emptying trays of food, untouched, into a galvanized steel garbage pail placed in the middle of the room. One of the guests leaving, putting on her coat. Dips back into the dining room to try to pick up a tray of pate.

SHERRY

Don't you touch that... I want them gone.

MAYOR

I signed the permit. I don't know how I can.

SHERRY

I want them thrown in jail.

MAYOR

Sherry, Sherry...

She empties it into the trash. BEAT. The guest, chagrined, leaves. The Mayor, sitting and drinking booze out of a large glass. The phone RINGS. BEAT. He goes to answer it.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

(into phone)

What?

(he jiggles the receiver)

Get me the State Police.

EXT. PRINT SHOP - DAY

A sign in the window, "Sold" is stamped over and reads "Under Agreement."

Early summer morning. Joe, holding a cup of coffee, looking at the print shop. Ann walks up.

JOE

Good morning.

ANN

Sleep well?

JOE

Yeah, you?

ANN

Oh yeah...

JOE

We could live up here, live up in the country.

ANN

Now you're talking...

JOE

And we could get up every morning...

ANN

...well, we do that anyway...

JOE

And come to the printshop. You know why?

JOE (CONT'D)

To print the newspaper. And I'd come to write. To write. To write. Right here in the office.

ANN

Not without a rolltop desk.

JOE

Well, I could get a rolltop desk.

ANN

Happen to know where there's one for sale.

JOE

Well ain't you amazing.

They walk on, onto the scene of various filmfolk setting up.

EXT. STATE AND MAIN - INTERSECTION - CONTINUOUS

ANN

Lookit that, up already.

JOE

That's why we filmfolk get along so well with you farmers. Both up with the chickens.

They push through the mass. The street is closed off by Police Cars.

They come upon a TV REPORTER doing a standup in front of the firehouse where we see, in front, both the old firetruck and state trooper cars.

TV REPORTER

Where Movie Star Bob Barrenger, fresh from his troubles with the law last year...

ANGLE ON

Ann and Joe, as they look on.

ANGLE ON

A state trooper and Doug, as they walk through the crowd. Marty walks up to the TV REPORTER.

TV REPORTER (CONT'D)

...is once again in hot water. Involved in a car crash last night with a young,

a very young woman, Mr. Barrenger is being arrested today for...

MARTY

You better make sure you got your facts straight, pal, cause, you step off the line and I'm going to sue you personally for...

The trooper, Doug, and Bob Barrenger walk up to Marty.

TROOPER

We're looking for a Joseph Turner White.

MARTY

Oh, good, yes. Good morning. Where are you taking Mr. Barrenger?

TROOPER

We are looking for a Mr. Joseph Turner White?

MARTY

What are you doing with Mr. Barrenger?

DOUG

He's under arrest.

Doug hands the arrest warrant to Marty.

MARTY

Oh, good. I'm his lawyer...and you must be Perry Mason. Guess what, you're about one-half step from a world of hurt...how diverting...the Mayor's gonna have your ass. Can I watch?

CAMERA takes the group, the trooper, Doug, Bob, in handcuffs, Marty talking with them, through the crowd, on the back of which we see Ann and Joe.

DOUG

Well, you guess what. The Mayor sent me. I have your Mr. Barrenger with a history of...

MARTY

...a history of nothing, he was acquitted.

DOUG

Moral turp...you're on my home court, friend. I have the Mayor and the town behind me, and forget making your movie: I may own the studio when I get through with you: I got a civil suit, I got rape, I got collusion...

MARTY

You've got nothing, you don't have a witness...

DOUG

And I've got a witness! Your Mr. White saw the crime.

MARTY

He told you that!?

DOUG

He didn't have to tell.

MARTY

I want to talk to him. Would you ex...

DOUG

Oh, you're his attorney, too?

MARTY

Later for you, pal.

DOUG

Okay.

He motions the cop to take out Barrenger. Marty sees Joe in the back.

MARTY

Bobby, don't say anything.

BOB

Nothing happened.

DOUG

We'll see about that at the inquest.

ANGLE ON

Marty, as he leads Joe down into an alleyway, and into a backyard, hung with washing on the lines.

MARTY

Yeah, hi, pal. I need to talk to you.

INT. BOOKSHOP - DAY

Ann, Joe and Marty. Cal has followed them into the bookstore. He speaks privately with Ann and exits.

ANN

What is it all about?

JOE

I saw...

MARTY

How do they know that, you told them?

JOE

No.

MARTY

What did you say to them?

JOE

I didn't say anything to them.

MARTY

How do you know you saw it?

JOE

I don't know.

MARTY

Well, then, you didn't see it, right?

JOE

I don't...

MARTY

You didn't see it...

JOE

I...? I saw it. I was there.

MARTY

You were there. At...at 10:35...?

Joe takes the arrest warrant. Looks at it. Changes his glasses.

JOE

(as he reads)

I was walking down the street...I remember, I was writing a...

MARTY

What glasses were you wearing?

(pause)

Were you wearing your reading glasses?

JOE

I...

MARTY

You told me you were writing. Don't you wear your reading glasses to write...?

Marty's cellphone rings and he answers it. After a pause, he hangs up.

MARTY (CONT'D)

I've got to go to the jail.

He exits, leaving Walt alone with Ann and Joe.

ANGLE ON

Ann. She sees something down the other street. We see Cal, the policeman, enter and start toward Joe. We see Ann restrain him, and speak to him in the b.g. for several moments. He shakes his head, and she reasons with him, and there is a pause and he looks at Joe, and exits.

BEAT

ANN

...he's going to give you a couple of minutes.

PAUSE

Joe walks Ann off to the closed back door of "The Waterford Players."

JOE

What am I gonna do?

ANN

You got to tell 'em that you saw the accident. Don't you?

JOE

I can't do that.
(pause)
If I tell them, they'll, if I tell them, they'll try Bob for rape, they'll... it'll ruin his career...

ANN

But that's what happened.

JOE

But it'll stop the movie.

ANN

Maybe they'll be other movies.

JOE

They'll...they'll blackball me.

ANN

Carla was in the car, right?

JOE

I...I think that's right.

ANN

...you think that's right...

PAUSE

JOE

What'm I gonna do?

Ann picks up a copy of the old Waterford Sentinel, which was left on the coffee table. Ann hands the paper to Joe.

ANGLE ON

Joe, holding the paper.

ANGLE INS.

The masthead reads, "Waterford Sentinel, All the News of the Mountains, 'You Shall Not Bear False Witness.'"

ANGLE ON

Ann, who has also picked up the "For Sale" sign, showing the printshop. She stands looking at Joe. BEAT. Cal enters. They look towards him.

CAL

Lotta hubbub on the street. I'm taking you the back way.

EXT. BACKYARD OF THE BOOKSHOP - DAY

Cal walks with Joe, still holding the newspaper. As they round a housecorner, Walt appears and walks with Joe.

WALT

(checks watch)

Let's speak English. You've got to help the side.

JOE

You want me to lie.

WALT

To the contrary. I want you to tell the truth.

(pause)

The truth is, you can't tell me, to a certainty, that you saw the thing. You don't remember, a gun to your head, which glasses you have on. And you have a fertile imagination. Imagination wants to fill in the blanks. Now. IF you aren't sure, then they have nothing. Bob walks free. As he should.

(pause)

Joe: wasn't long ago they buried actors at the crossroads with a stake through their heart, you know? The people who are talking to you about the way we live though we may praise them, we fear them. And they fear us. Because we tell the truth. About our lives. Now, this is a damn roost, and everyone knows it; the guy is looking for a case, he wants to make a name for himself...If we let him do that, if we let him do that, then we're being false to our community...to our community, you understand? To our world. Cause you are a part of that world, now. You have to take off the steel Rolex and put on the Gold Rolex.

(pause)

And be part of your world. I got a five picture deal with the studio. And you stick with me. You write one, two more, you stick with me, and you'll direct the third one. You are a part of this world. You have to do the right thing: we're out in the Provinces, the Sheriff, literally is at our door. You have to stand with the troops, Joe. That's the bottom line. You have to...if you had the leisure to think it through, you'd see it for yourself. The girl wasn't in the car.

Cal takes Joe to a side door of the courthouse.

INT. SMALL COURTROOM - DAY

Joe coming in through the side entrance of the courtroom. Various law books and dusty forms on the shelves. Cal leads him into the courtroom, empty, save for the court reporter, Maude and the BAILIFF. Cal motions Joe forward.

CAL

...Joseph Turner White...

BAILIFF

Hear ye, hear ye. Sixth District Court. And for the county of Kadona, State of Vermont, the honorable James Addison Flynn presiding. All those having business before this court, draw forward and you will be heard.

Judge enters.

BAILIFF (CONT'D)

All rise.

JUDGE

Please...Mr. White? This is a simple matter of...

Scott hands him a sheet of paper.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Uh huh, all we need's a simple fact or to...you're going to give your recollection of the accident last evening, at the corner, State and Main. Would you please swear him in.

BAILIFF

Do you swear to tell the truth...

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

A crowd, moving along, with the TV Reporter.

TV REPORTER

(talking into camera)

...the arraignment, as we said of Bob Barrenger, The Bob Barrenger, star of "The Old Mill," about to begin shooting here, in picaresque and sleepy...

(sound of shouting, and reporter looks around)

we should say, formerly sleepy...Yes, yes, it's...yes, it's Claire Wellesley, and we're going to try to get a look at...

The crowd moves away, revealing Ann, standing in front of the realtors, looking at a card in her hand. She looks up to see Joe coming toward her.

ANGLE ON

Extreme close up, she smiles.

ANGLE ON

Extreme close up, Joe. He looks toward Ann, sheepishly.

ANGLE BACK ON

Ann, as she looks down at the card in her hands.

ANGLE INSERT

It is the real estate placard for the printshop, marked "under agreement."

ANGLE ON

Ann, as she rips it up.

INT. LOBBY OF THE HOTEL - DAY

Joe, coming in, a hangdog look on his face.

P.A.

(to Joe)

They need those rewrites on the "Old Mill" scene...

Joe nods. Continues through the lobby.

ANGLE ON

Various reporters, Scott being interviewed.

SCOTT

...about his personal life, though I can tell you a few things about...

Joe walks past.

JOE

Would you please hold all calls to my room?

SCOTT

Though I can tell you a few things about his dietary requirements.

The old bellhop is packing up his lunchbox and changing into his streetclothes.

INT. JOE'S ROOM - DAY

Joe enters and takes out his pad and pencil. He sits on the bed. On the pillow, he sees and picks up a black and red hunting jacket, onto which the one foot short sleeve has been knitted in baby blue. There is a card in the pocket that reads "Better than new -- it's got a story!" He puts it down.

He picks up his notebook, in which he has written: "The Purpose of the Second Chance is to allow you to make the same mistake twice."

He stops by the mirror on the chiffonier into which he puts the lure, which still has the attached card reading "The truth may not always set you free, but it's always the truth - Joseph Turner White."

Joe goes to the bed. On the bed is a small package tied with ribbon. Joe opens it.

ANGLE INS.

It is a small thing of maple syrup. Attached to it is a card reading: "It is your invention which makes everything sweet."

He takes off his jacket, and picks up his notebook. Out of his jacket pocket falls the old copy of the Waterford Sentinel.

He picks it up.

ANGLE JOE'S POV

The masthead: Waterford Sentinel "The Voice of the Mountains, You Shall Not Bear False Witness."

He puts the newspaper down. Picks up the maple sugar card again, and looks at it.

He sees an arrow and turns it over

ANGLE INS.

The back of the card reads: "How about an Associate Producer credit...?"

He takes the paper, balls it up and throws them into the trash. He picks up the fishing lure which is resting on the typewriter. Puts it into his pocket, thinks again, throws it in the trash. Shakes his head, and picks up his suitcase and starts packing...

EXT. ANN'S STREET - DAY

On Doc Wilson, as he walks down the street. A little kid, on a scooter is going in the other direction.

KID ON SCOOTER

Mornin', Doc.

DOC WILSON

Mornin', Billy, where ya goin' in such a hurry?

KID ON SCOOTER

Down the corner, see the ruckus...

DOC WILSON

Watch the curbs, now...

ANGLE ON

Joe, as he stands across from Ann's house, looking at it. He holds his suitcase.

DOC WILSON (CONT'D)

(of his suitcase)
Where you off to?

JOE

I, uh...I'm leaving...

DOC WILSON

Why?

JOE

I perjured myself.

(pause)

I told a lie, and I ruined my life.

That's what I did.

(shrugs)

I don't suppose you could help me with that, could you? Turn back the clock, or something? Give me back my, give me back my purity, I don't suppose you could just wave your magic wand and do that, could you? But what is truth? Eh? Ain't that the thing? What is true?

DOC WILSON

It's the truth that you should never trust anybody, wears a bowtie. Cravat's s'posed to point down to accentuate the genitals, why'd you wanna trust somebody, s'tie points out to accentuate his ears?

Joe turns to see Doc swigging from his flask. In the b.g., we see the bellhop walking.

BEAT

JOE

Aren't you supposed to set an example for people?

DOC WILSON

Nope. I'm just supposed to hold people's hands while they die. What'd you say your problem was?

JOE

I just swore my life away, back in that...

DOC WILSON

(as he sees an older woman off on a porch to the side)

Mornin', Chessy, how's the back?

Doc walks off to his office.

EXT. RAILROAD STATION - DAY

JOE

I ruined my life. Isn't that funny,
that you can actually do it in one
moment just like they say. I ruined my
life back in that courthouse.

Bellhop, who has walked up beside him...

BELLHOP

What courthouse?

JOE

Courthouse back in town.

BELLHOP

Town ain't got no courthouse.

JOE

What?

BELLHOP

Ain't got no courthouse. Courthouse
burnt down, 1960.

The train is arriving. The stationmaster puts out the steps
to help the people down.

JOE

Well, where do they hold court?

BELLHOP

Hold court, they have to, science lab,
the high school.

An ELDERLY LOOKING JUDGE FELLOW descends from the train,
followed by the CADDY with his golf bag.

STATION MASTER

Mornin', judge, what brings you here?

JUDGE

I'm s'posed to hear some deposition,
some fool saw the accident last night.

JOE

...the courthouse burnt down...?

STATION MASTER

Yep. Courthouse burnt down, 1960. Part
of a spate of fires, Old Mill,
Courthouse... S'posed to've been set by
some deranged teenager.

Joe looks around.

ANGLE JOE'S POV

The old bellhop walking down the tracks.

ANGLE ON

Joe, as he turns back into town.

ANGLE CLOSE UP

On the Station Master.

STATION MASTER (CONT'D)

Yep, never did discover who set 'em...

He smiles, and lights his cigar.

EXT. COURT HOUSE BUILDING - DAY

We see the crowd has moved down the street and the "Courthouse" building is empty.

INT. COURT HOUSE BUILDING - DAY

Joe enters, and the camera takes him into the deserted building, through the courtroom and, in back, he sees Ann standing alone. He walks back to her, through the doors which appear to be the Judge's chambers.

ANGLE REVERSED

We show that the walls of the Courtroom are the set, and we are back in the "Trials of the Heart" set. Ann is sitting there. Reading her play by Joe White. He looks at her for an explanation. Maude, the court reporter woman, is sitting in the b.g. Ann is knitting in pink wool.

ANN

I thought you needed to get it out of your system.

Ann moves to embrace Joe. They hear screaming. They turn.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

ANGLE THEIR POV

At the end of the alleyway, in Main Street. We see Sherry, the Mayor's wife, leading a crowd.

SHERRY

...a blight, a blight and an obscenity...that's good English, isn't it? How's that for entertainment?

ANGLE

At the mouth of the alleyway, on Main Street. We see:

ANGLE INS.

The baseball on which is written "To Chucky from your best friend, Bob Barrenger."

ANGLE XCU

The distorted face of Chucky, heaving the baseball.

ANGLE ON

Bob Barrenger being led through the crowd, a baseball hitting him in the back of the head, as troopers hustle him toward the courthouse. In the b.g., Ann and Joe emerging in the alleyway.

ANGLE ON

Ann and Joe, who starts to cross the street. We see the airport van.

ANN

What are you going to do?

JOE

I'm going to tell the truth.

They start to cross the street. In the b.g., a little man with a bag (HOWIE) gets out of the airport van. Joe and Ann walk toward the crowd at the mouth end of the high school.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

A crowd of people, TV technicians, and a view of Doug on a TV monitor.

DOUG

...and to exterminate this vermin, yes, I use that term, who have abused, who have desecrated, yes, the license granted to them by a gracious nation...

ANGLE ON

Marty and Walt, standing near the monitor, looking on. Shaking their heads.

ANGLE ON

The monitor. Doug, seen through the monitor.

DOUG (CONT'D)

...who spew filth and degradation...
(begins to wipe his head)

As he does so, a makeup person comes in and sponges him.

DOUG (CONT'D)

...thank you...

TV REPORTER

...you want to clean up?

ANGLE ON

Doug, seen "live" in the next room, starting to wipe his brow.

DOUG

Yes, thank you.

ANGLE ON

Marty and Walt watching Doug, as he walks down the hall.

TECHNICIAN

Five minutes, and we're going live to the network.

DOUG

(to himself)

...foreign, and un-American perversions of the Democratic process. By those we have entrusted with our dreams...

ANGLE ON

Marty and Walt, looking on.

WALT

Do something.

MARTY

You tell me what to do, I'll do it.

They look on to the preparations for the TV.

WALT

...and I was just paying off my house in Malibu...

Ann and Joe push through the crowd.

WALT (CONT'D)

Thank G-d, it's up to you, Pal. Sup to you...

JOE

I'm out.

WALT

I don't getcha.

JOE

The girl was in the car.

WALT

I treated you like a son or nephew.

JOE

It's no you, it's...

WALT

No, what is it?

JOE

I have to tell the truth.

WALT

...that's just so narrow...

JOE

The girl was in the car.

WALT

Then you're finished in show business.

JOE

So be it.

WALT

And my company sues your ass for sixty million dollars.

JOE

For what cause?

WALT

I don't need a cause, just a lawyer.

HOWIE GOLD shows up holding his bag.

HOWIE

I'm a lawyer.

MARTY

Howie...

HOWIE

Yeah?

MARTY

What are you doing here?

HOWIE

What am I doing here is I just flew seven hours cause you asked me here.

WALT

What for?

HOWIE

(presenting the bag)
For this...I hope you need it, cause
it's coming outta your budget...

ANGLE INS.:

The Bag, as Marty opens it - it's full of MONEY.

INT. LAVATORY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Doug is mopping his face up. He looks up. Marty is standing there.

MARTY

Hi.

DOUG

I'd prefer it if you didn't speak to me.

MARTY

I....

DOUG

...you know, there's nothing you could
say, that could possibly make a
difference, so, why don't you just save
your breath...

Marty puts the case up on the washstand.

DOUG (CONT'D)

What's in the case?

MARTY

Eight-hundred thousand dollars in cash.

PAUSE

DOUG

And what was it you wanted to say?

MARTY

Gut Yuntif.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Ann and Joe passing through. They stop and Joe comes up to a State Trooper. As we press forward the Mob begins to reverse direction and passes back towards Joe. Leaving the Hall empty, save for the Judge who comes out, putting his robs into his golf bag.

JOE

(to Judge)

I've come to give myself up...

JUDGE

Well give yourself up to someone else.
I'm gonna get in some golf. Hiya,
Annie. Give yourself up to her.

And we see Joe has moved up to the TV monitor, where we see Doug, in the Science Lab, talking to the press, and holding his money bag in his arms.

DOUG

I have learned a lesson. And the lesson is this...that everybody needs a second chance. You, me, and these fine, film people here. You know, they have a high profile, but that doesn't mean they aren't deserving of our trust, and of our respect. You know, I think there is a lesson here, and the lesson is this: it is a lesson of Tolerance...and, as we look at this industry, at this clean, American industry, and as I begin my campaign for congress...

DISSOLVE

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Walt on the scene, talking with the cinematographer, and the Camera Operator, preparing the first shot. The First A.D. instructing the extras.

FIRST A.D.

Okay. Are we getting set up here...are we getting set up...People...? Can we settle...can we settle now...?

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON

Ann. As she, holding the placard starts to cross the street. An old farmer smoking a pipe, driving a pick up is stopped by a P.A. talking on a walkie.

We see that it is the "Judge" who listened to Walt's testimony. Ann waves to him, and proceeds to the Old Firehouse, where they are about to make a movie...

FIRST A.D.

Okay, this is picture...

Ann stops at the back of the crowd of onlookers. She waves to someone.

ANGLE ANN'S POV

It is Joe, sitting near the director, who waves back.

ANGLE ON

Ann, who is next to Cal, the policeman, now in leather jacket and leaning on his Harley motorcycle.

FIRST A.D. (CONT'D)

Quiet, please...

ANGLE ON

The slate, which reads "The Fires Of Home."

EXT. MAIN STREET - FIRESTATION - CONTINUOUS

Where they are filming the characters in turn of the century garb. Bob Barrenger, dressed as a fireman, is polishing the old fire engine. The actor playing Doc Morton walks past.

DOC MORTON

Mornin', Harry. Heard you had a little fire last night.

FIREMAN

Waal, you didn't have nothin' to do, Doc, wouldn't life be dull...?

Two nuns walk by.

BOB

Mornin', sister.

CLAIRE

(in nun garb)
We missed you in Church today, Frank.

BOB

Sister, I've just come from a fire...

ANGLE ON

Joe, sitting near the camera, looking through the script. Reading along, mouthing the words. He wears the plaid jacket, one sleeve is pink, knitted.

ANGLE ON

The on-lookers. Ann, Cal, next to her, lounging on his motorcycle. Grace and Maude, Spud and Morris, the Postman, the fake Judge, who is also the man smoking the pipe in the first sequence and is smoking a pipe now, Scott from the hotel, etc.

ANGLE ON

Crew, and the film within the film. We see the lively stable

across the way. On its side are painted various ads. Among them, one which says: "Stefan P. Bazoomercom" and Marty is standing next to it. Looking on at the scene being filmed.

An A.D. brings him a cup of coffee. The A.D. is passing out pink bubblegum cigars, the bands of which read "It's a Girl!"

ANGLE ON

Film within the film, the group at the camera watching, transfixed.

SISTER

...to come by next Sunday, and we'll give you a second chance.

BOB

Only second chance I know, chance t'make the same mistake twice.

SISTER

Well, time will tell.

She walks past the "Bazoomer.com" ad.

FIRST A.D.

(holding cellphone to his ear)
That's a cut!

ANGLE ON

Ann and Cal, as they talk, the firedog comes over and Ann gives him a biscuit. In the b.g., we see the man with the pipe get into his pickup and drive off. The Postman goes off continuing his rounds.

ANGLE ON

Ann and Cal as they talk. Next to them Morris and Spud congratulate each other. Next to them, we see the fake judge and the bailiff.

CAL

Mom's expecting you for dinner tonight.

ANN

I'll be there.

CAL

You bringing your new friend?

ANN

Sure plan to

CAL

(pause)
He have any special delivery

requirements?

ANN

He'll eat potroast and like it.

CAL

Go you Huskies?

ANN

You bet your life.

ANGLE ON

Joe, as he looks over at Ann and smiles.

ANGLE ON

Ann, giving him a "thumbs up" sign as the Firedog comes and sits next to her. In the b.g., we see the pickup hit the pothole and bounce.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.