

FADE IN:

EXT. CARMEL VALLEY - AN OPEN PASTURE - DAY

WE SEE this IMAGE: A GARISHLY-COLORED GOATFISH CREATURE, SURROUNDED BY THE WORDS "I'M GOIN' TO HEAVEN 'CUZ I BEEN THROUGH HELL...TAM KY, VIETNAM"

The image bounces up and down. WE SEE RIVULETS of WATER falling across the image.

WE HEAR the CHUGGING of a GASOLINE-POWERED ENGINE.

The image reveals itself: a tattoo, across a man's back.

Shirtless CHARLIE DUCKWORTH (68), neither fat nor thin, pushes his gasoline-powered mower around his one acre, overgrown backyard.

Charlie wears headphones. WE HEAR "The Ballad of the Green Berets" blending with the chug of the lawnmower.

CLOSE ON the ten foot high CHAIN LINK FENCE that surrounds Charlie's property.

Along the length of the top of the fence, WE SEE a THICK WIRE.

We follow the wire to a corner of the property, where it is connected to a METAL POLE, jammed into the ground.

As the song and engine's chugging continue, WE PAN along the ground, following ANOTHER WIRE that comes from the grounding rod.

The wire extends twenty feet from the fence, where it ends, broken--like a sleeping venomous snake.

Charlie arrives at the broken wire--casually reaches down and picks up the wire to toss it out of his way.

CHARLIE TWITCHES CRAZILY AT THE EPICENTER OF THE VOLTAGE FROM THE CHARGED FENCE AND HIS LAWN MOWER.

MORE

CONTINUED

Charlie's penis springs erect. He vomits, shits and pees simultaneously.

Charlie's hand, welded to the wire.

Charlie thrashes--goes down.

A BALD, TRIM WELL-TANNED MAN with a DISTINCTIVE BIRTHMARK ON HIS FOREHEAD, wearing a SPEEDO BATHING SUIT, appears above Charlie--grabs Charlie's wrist--WE SEE a TATTOO of a QUARTER MOON INSIDE of a PENTAGRAM on the back of the speedo man's hand.

The speedo man rips the wire from Charlie's clenched fist--throws it aside.

The speedo man casts no shadow. He disappears into thin air.

WE SEE SPOTS where the grass has burned, and STILL SMOKES.

Charlie lays unconscious in the sun.

EXT. CARMEL VALLEY - DAY

A late model, shiny BMW tools down Carmel Valley Road, before making a right turn onto Robinson Canyon Road.

INT. BMW - DAY

VIRGINIA DUCKWORTH (66) guides her car smoothly down the road. Sitting next to her, ELROY SACKLAW (mid40s).

ELROY

Nora Roberts? Virginia, you gotta be kidding! Proust, my dear. Proust!

VIRGINIA

I'm not thinking memoir anymore.
I'm thinking screenplay.

MORE

CONTINUED

Elroy needs Virginia's money:

ELROY

I can help you with that. (beat)
I'm a certified life journey coach.

Virginia guides the BMW into an expansive driveway that leads to a rambling ranch style home.

INT. THE DUCKWORTH KITCHEN - DAY

Upscale and countrified. Bags and a BOX of ORGANIC RICE CAKES sit on countertop. Virginia archives items in cupboards as she speaks.

Elroy sits at the kitchen table, shuffles a deck of cards.

ELROY

Care to divulge the theme?

VIRGINIA

I wanna tell Charlie's story.

Virginia stops in her tracks.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

Wonder where he is.

Virginia looks out the window to the backyard.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)

CHARLIE!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Virginia studies Charlie, one hand in her purse, waiting.

Charlie, bandaged, propped up by pillows, in bed, a thermometer jutting from his mouth--one of his eyes swollen closed--he's very sunburned.

MORE

CONTINUED

A HEFTY, MIDDLE-AGED NURSE removes the thermometer, shakes it, reads it.

VIRGINIA
How's he doing?

NURSE
(to Charlie)
You should be discharged tomorrow.

Nurse exits--Virginia still clutching something in her purse.

VIRGINIA
Charlie. We have to talk about Fortuna Woods.

CHARLIE
I'm not ready for any old folks' home.

VIRGINIA
Charlie, Charlie, Charlie...you heard the specialist...brain damage...short term memory lapses...

CHARLIE
And so it begins. The long decline.

VIRGINIA
You nearly died!

CHARLIE
Nurse! My colostomy bag and walker!

Virginia's had enough--removes the FORTUNA WOODS BROCHURE from her purse and shoves it under Charlie's covers. She kisses Charlie on his forehead.

VIRGINIA
Choir practice. See you tomorrow,
doll.

Charlie grunts. Virginia exits. Charlie leafs through brochure.

MORE

CONTINUED

SPEEDO MAN (OS)
 (Spanish accent)
 The nurse, she is a-hot, yes?

Charlie looks up and sees SPEEDO MAN in a chair by the window--the same man who appeared in Charlie's backyard. But now he's dressed in TORN, GREASY MECHANIC'S OVERALLS, playing with a yo-yo. He's practicing the trick called "Buddha's Revenge."

SPEEDO MAN
 I mean, if you like 'em biffy.

Charlie's eerily comfortable with the man.

CHARLIE
 I hadn't noticed. Look, my mind's charcoal. Who're you again?

SPEEDO MAN
 This one's called "Buddha's Revenge."

Speedo Man tries "Buddha's Revenge." As he fails, his speedo peeks through a rip in his overalls.

SPEEDO MAN
 Gautama was a pussy. Ditching the wife I get, but sitting under a tree for a whole month? No wonder he's so fat.

CHARLIE
 I can't remember your name.

SPEEDO MAN
 (changing to mid-American accent)
 Pleased to meet you. Hope you guessed my name. (beat) Cliff. (beat) Gonna make a play for the nurse? I forgot. You are happily domestic. Your huevos were fried. (off the brochure) What's she got planned for you, scooter pie? Fortuna Woods? Fortuna Woods...

MORE

CONTINUED

Charlie grunts. Cliff re-attempts "Buddha's Revenge."

CLIFF

That's a place I know. (beat) Fertile ground. Go. You'll enjoy it. (beat) I promise.

Cliff scores: The yo-yo climbs up, down and around the string in a spectacular display.

CLIFF (CON'T)

Cowabunga!

OPENING CREDITS, consisting of:

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT, FORTUNA WOODS - DAY

Fortuna Woods: a rambling, woodsy housing development in Carmel Valley. WE SEE ponds, outbuildings and a rec center, complete with Olympic-sized pool, and a nine hole golf course.

Ranch-style homes ring the golf course: several ELDERLY RESIDENTS play, chopping up the turf, spraying balls every which way.

CREDITS END.

EXT. THE DUCKWORTHS' REAR PATIO - DAY

Virginia works the deluxe bar-b-cue, basting a row of spareribs, next to a HUGE CLAY POT containing a BUSHY TOMATO PLANT.

Charlie, sunburned, wearing sunglasses, walking cane by his side, sits on patio chair, reading a book.

CLOSE ON COVER: *DAYS OF VALOR: An Inside Account of the Bloodiest Six Months of the Vietnam War by Robert Tonsetic*

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE
Couldja not burn 'em this time?

VIRGINIA
I thought you like 'em New Orleans
style.

CHARLIE
Not since we went to New Orleans.

VIRGINIA
That's not fair. It was just post-
Katrina.

CHARLIE
Life's not fair.

Charlie reads. Virginia sits, admires the day.

VIRGINIA
Charlie? (Charlie grunts) Elroy's
coming by in an hour.

CHARLIE
Who?

VIRGINIA
My writing coach.

Charlie grunts.

A GOLF BALL FLIES INTO THE PATIO AND BOUNCES AROUND LIKE A
PINBALL.

Virginia cowers. Charlie instinctively rises, wobbles,
reaches for his cane.

The golf ball settles by Virginia. She picks it up.

JERRY MULLIGAN(70), storklike, pokes his head over the five
foot high fence.

MORE

CONTINUED

JERRY
I'm terribly sorry!

CHARLIE
(to Virginia, good naturedly)
We *had* to buy the unit on the
seventh fairway!

JERRY
Any damage, my insurance'll cover it.

Virginia hands the ball to Jerry.

VIRGINIA
Hi. I'm Virginia Duckworth, and this
is my husband Charlie.

Virginia shakes Jerry's hand. Charlie extends his cane.
Jerry shakes it.

JERRY
Helluva way to meet. I'm Jerry
Mulligan.

VIRGINIA
Ya got the right surname.

JERRY
My middle name is Bogey!

Jerry turns to leave--stops, nods, over the fence, toward
open book, face up on table.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(to Charlie)
You were in the 4th Battalion?

CHARLIE
Twelfth Infantry Regiment.

Elroy pokes his head over the other end of the fence.

MORE

CONTINUED

JERRY

I'm in the Sugar Pine Unit. Stop by for a drink. (beat) I was CIA. Bangkok office.

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' HOME - DAY

Virginia and Elroy at kitchen table--both have a SHORT STACK OF PAPERS in front of them--pens poised.

Elroy reads silently. Virginia munches on a rice cake. Rice cake crumbs fall on the table.

ELROY

This isn't bad. (beat) It's all very well and good to write a film glorifying--praising your husband's character--but you'll need an inciting incident and much more conflict if you want a saleable script.

VIRGINIA

A saleable script? You mean...?

ELROY

Mid six figures is average.

INT. JERRY MULLIGAN'S HOME - DAY

MOVING THROUGH JERRY'S HOME: A kind of museum. WE SEE MASKS on the walls, INDIGENOUS SCULPTURES on ornate stands, a six foot high BRASS INDIAN ELEPHANT smack dab in the living room.

Charlie and Jerry in Jerry's home office, COCKTAILS in hand. Office walls garnished with nicely framed, sex-laden images--an exquisite, small GREEK SCULPTURE of a FORNICATING MAN and WOMAN on Jerry's desk.

Drinks: pineapple wedge, lemon slice, orchid blossoms.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Hmmm. What's this called again?

JERRY

Chaophaya River. Mekong whiskey,
orange curacao, lemon juice. (beat)
Stick around, I'll make you a Bangkok
Cooler.

CHARLIE

I spent a leave once in Bangkok.

JERRY

Been to the Napoleon Club?

CHARLIE

Actually, yeah.

JERRY

"Friendly and Warmly with many pretty
and attractively girls."

CHARLIE

Yeah...that weird motto...

JERRY

Hey...you got any disposable cash,
what say we fly there someday, take
in "The Special"?

Charlie swirls his drink, takes a swig.

CHARLIE

I've got filet mignon right here,
Jerry. Don't need no Thai food.
(beat) If I might inquire...you
think about anything but sex? A
fella your age...

JERRY

I'm a gourmand...a sports fan...I know
my way around the business side of
a bar.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Kind of a Hugh Hefner on steroids.

JERRY

That's good, Charlie. (to himself)
I'll pass it on to Cliff.

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' KITCHEN - DAY

ELROY

Would it offend you if I display
the bottoms of my feet?

VIRGINIA

Pardon me?

ELROY

(removing his sandals)
It's offensive to Muslims.

Elroy leans back--places feet on edge of kitchen table--
dirty soles toward Virginia, still munching on a rice cake.

VIRGINIA

No Muslims here.

ELROY

I washed 'em this morning. (beat)
What's with the rice cakes?

VIRGINIA

I'm wheat intolerant. I'm paying
you by the hour.

ELROY

Okay...I know this is a salute to
Charlie..but your female character--based on
you--has to be stronger.

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA

Stronger? He's posted to Vietnam, she's faithful, writes him letters five days a week...all while starting up a sewing service to supplement her husband's measly income?

ELROY

BO-ring! Quiet strength isn't cinematic, honeybunch. No "A" lister's gonna sign on for that.

VIRGINIA

Elroy. Feet off my table.

EXT. JERRY'S PATIO - DAY

Both men are deep into their Southeast Asian cocktails. In the corner of the patio, Charlie notices a BUSHY PLANT in a huge pot.

CHARLIE

Hey, we grow tomatoes too!

Jerry chuckles.

JERRY

That's pot, my innocent friend.

CHARLIE

Jeeze.

JERRY

Relax. I got a permit for medical marijuana. (beat) You met the judge yet? Guy's a retired Superior Court justice, used to send potheads to prison. Now he's pressured the county supes into voting Fortuna Woods a "medical marijuana dispensary."

MORE

CONTINUED

The doorbell rings. Jerry leaves. Charlie looks around, SEES a SURVEILLANCE CAMERA attached to the patio awning.

JERRY (OS)
 Speak of the devil!

Jerry returns with JUDGE PLIMPTON (60s), elfin, goateed. Plimpton wears a FANNY PACK.

JERRY
 Charlie Duckworth, Judge Peter
 Plimpton. We call him Learned
 Hand.

The two men shake as Plimpton sits at the patio table--glances at Jerry, who nods. Plimpton pulls from his fanny pack a BAGGIE OF MARIJUANA and a PACKET OF ROLLING PAPERS--rolls a joint.

JERRY
 When you see his be-you-tiful
 doobies, you'll know why we call
 him Learned Hand.

PLIMPTON
 (to a mystified Charlie)
 Judge Learned Hand: now deceased, famous
 for inventing our copyright laws.

Plimpton offers finished joint to Charlie--he gingerly takes it.

JERRY
 Lemme guess. You ain't toked since
 Bangkok.

INT. DUCKWORTH KITCHEN - DAY

VIRGINIA
 My first memory is seeing Charlie
 at Santa Monica Beach.

MORE

CONTINUED

ELROY

You met cute? Let's explore that...

EXT. SANTA MONICA BEACH - DUSK

FLASHBACK:

As WE HEAR the Beach Boys' "Surfer Girl" on a tinny transistor radio, WE SEE A ROARING BONFIRE, surrounded by TEEN-AGERS in pairs, snuggled in each others' arms.

YOUNG CHARLIE DUCKWORTH holds the transistor radio in his hand.

BOY

Hey, Charlie, find a station that rocks!

Charlie turns the dial on the transistor radio. ALL WE HEAR are SQUEAKS and SCRAWKS. Partygoers grumble--Charlie finds "I Fought the Law (and the Law Won)."

Cheers all around.

AT THE WATER'S EDGE:

YOUNG VIRGINIA walks at water's edge, popping seaweed under her bare feet--hears the radio fifty feet away--sees the kids dancing.

Virginia decides to join the party--runs across the sand--observed by Charlie--STEPS on BROKEN BOTTLE SHARD.

VIRGINIA

Ouch!

Virginia sits crosslegged--examines foot.

Charlie, by the fire, sees the silhouetted girl--hands radio to BOY next to him--ambles over to Virginia.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

You okay?

VIRGINIA

Clumsy me.

Virginia raises her bleeding foot. Charlie kneels.

CHARLIE

May I?

Virginia nods. Charlie examines wounded foot.

END FLASHBACK

INT. JERRY'S HOUSE - HIS HOME OFFICE - DAY

Charlie, Jerry and Judge Plimpton are happily stoned,
exotic drinks in hand.

CHARLIE

A year ago, I heard about a buncha
burglaries. I got an electric fence.
Ran a wire along the top.

Charlie looks to see if they're listening.

CHARLIE

I got the biggest cattle charger Home
Depot had. Drove an eight foot long
ground rod seven point five feet
into the ground. The ground rod is the
key.

Charlie, really getting into his monologue--paces like a
caged tiger.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

So I'm mowing the back yard with my
cheapo Wal-Mart six hp big wheel push
mower...

MORE

CONTINUED

Jerry picks up a PENTHOUSE magazine. Plimpton rolls joints.

CHARLIE (CON'T)

...The hot wire's broken and laying out in the yard. I knew for a fact that I unplugged the charger. I push the mower around the wire and reach down to grab it. Seems as though I hadn't remembered to unplug it after all.

INT. DUCKWORTH HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

ELROY

Cheat, lie, steal. If you're gonna write a saleable screenplay, you gotta outright steal from the best. Then make it your own.

VIRGINIA

That's plagiarism.

ELROY

Talent borrows. Genius steals.

INT. JERRY'S HOUSE - HOME OFFICE - DAY

CHARLIE

I'm standing there, the mower in my right hand, the one point seven gigavolt wire in the other. Charger's about the size of a marine battery--got a picture of an *upside down cow on fire* on the cover.

EXT. AERIAL SHOT - ABOVE CARMEL VALLEY - DAY

WE FLY over the hills above Carmel Valley, starting at Fortuna Woods, following roughly along Robinson Canyon Road. AS WE FLY, WE SEE FEWER HOUSES and WILDER COUNTRY.

CHARLIE (OS)

The first thing I notice is my pecker climbing up the front side of my body. My ears curl downwards...

MORE

CONTINUED

AS WE FLY, WE ARRIVE ABOVE A CABIN BY A LAKE.

CHARLIE (CON'T, OS)
 ...Every time that Briggs & Stratton rolled
 over, I could feel sparks in my head.

INT. DUCKWORTH HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

VIRGINIA
 Okay, so how 'bout I stepped on a
 jellyfish?

ELROY
 Make it an old World War Two landmine.
 I see a cross cut from your foot to
 Charlie's boots in 'Nam.

INT. JERRY'S HOME - OFFICE - DAY

Charlie, monologue. WE SEE A PARTIALLY HIDDEN CAMERA LENS
 above a bookshelf in Jerry's home office.

CHARLIE
 Science says you cannot crap, pee, and
 vomit at the same time. I beg to differ.
 It was a Matrix kind of shit, where time
 creeps along and you're all leaned back
 and BAM, BAM, BAM you just crap your pants.

Jerry and Peter give each other a "who is this rube?" look.

EXT. RANCHO SAN VICENTE - BASS LAKE - DAY

A NICE SPLIT-LEVEL CABIN: right on the lake. It's an eerie,
 primeval place. We tour the grounds as Charlie speaks: WE
 SEE a BLOODY GUILLOTINE, a PEN FULL of BABY PIGS, ANOTHER
 with GOATS, a FIREPIT LAID OUT like a PENTAGRAM.

CHARLIE (OS)
 So here I am in the middle of July,
 104 degrees, standing in my own
 backyard, begging God to kill me.

WE SEE a SATELLITE DISH atop the roof.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE (CON'T, OS)
 ..God did not take me. He left me
 there covered in my own body fluids
 to writhe in my own stupidity.

INT. DUCKWORTH HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

VIRGINIA
 We went to a fortune teller...

EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER - NIGHT

FLASHBACK:

Young Charlie, WEARING ONE WHITE CONVERSE SHOE, carries
 young Virginia up wooden stairs to pier--sets her down.

Virginia's injured foot, wrapped in t-shirt--encased in
 MAN'S WHITE CONVERSE TENNIS SHOE.

Saturday night: Multi-colored neon lights, merry-go-round,
 horses bobbing up and down.

Virginia points to a FORTUNE TELLER'S WINDOW, in which WE
 SEE A CRYSTAL BALL, NEON LIT.

END FLASHBACK

INT. JERRY'S HOUSE - OFFICE - DAY

CHARLIE
 I woke up hours later. Sunburned.
 I assume I had a seizure and in
 the thrashing, let go the wire.

INT. FORTUNE TELLER'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

The FORTUNE TELLER: She's bald, with a distinctive
 birthmark on her forehead, and a quarter-moon-inside-a-
 pentagram tattoo on her hand. Wears a MAN'S BUSINESS SUIT.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE (OS)

Upon waking I realized a few things:
One: Three of my teeth had melted..

WE SEE the gypsy staring into crystal ball on black felt-covered table--Charlie and Virginia lean in.

CHARLIE (CON'T, OS)

...Two: Poop, pee, and vomit when all mixed together, don't smell as bad as you might think.

INT. THE CABIN ON THE BASS LAKE - DAY

Interior like any hunter's abode: MOUNTED HEADS of wild game and fish, some RIFLES hanging on hooks, FRAMED PHOTOS of remembered fishing and hunting trips.

What's odd: most of mounted animal heads are MOUNTAIN GOATS and WILD BOARS.

Many framed illustrations on walls: ARCANE WITCHCRAFT SYMBOLS.

Cliff naked in easy chair--watching television--enjoying himself immensely.

CLOSE ON TV: WE SEE JERRY'S OFFICE. Jerry and the Judge smile hazily--Charlie continues acting out his near-death experience.

CHARLIE (ON TV SCREEN)

Three: The lawnmower runs like a sum-bitch now. Four: My nuts are still smaller than average but they're almost a foot long. Five: I can turn on the TV in the game room by farting while thinking of the number four.

ON CLIFF:explodes with laughter.

CLIFF

Well told, my boy!

MORE

CONTINUED

INT. JERRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Charlie's failed to impress his new friends.

PLIMPTON

(to Charlie)

Good thing we have gardeners here.
Or you'd be dead inside a month.

Plimpton and Mulligan explode with marijuana-fuelled glee.

Charlie, slow burn.

INT. THE FORTUNE TELLER'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

FLASHBACK:

GYPSY

And while I see a future for you
together, I am making out...something's
coming into focus...I see a kind of
guardian angel, over you, Charlie...
obscured by shadow...

INT. CLIFF'S CABIN - DAY

Cliff, still naked, lays splayed in his easy chair, PUDDLES
of WHITE FLUID on his chest and belly.

GYPSY (OS)

Charlie, you will become an American
hero...You are such a sweet couple. I'll
waive my fee. Now if you'd care to
contribute to the Romanian Relief Fund...

EXT. FORTUNA WOODS SUBDIVISION TRAIL - NIGHT

Charlie, using his cane, strolls.

Cliff, dressed like the "wild and crazy" Czech character
from "Saturday Night Live," appears.

They walk a bit in silence.

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF

Well?

CHARLIE

Well what?

CLIFF

What'dja think?

CHARLIE

About what?

CLIFF

Them. Your new friends.

CHARLIE

They're not my friends.

CLIFF

Give me your cane.

They stop--Charlie gives Cliff cane--Cliff looks at cane in hand.

The cane BURSTS into FLAMES.

Within seconds, the cane completely incinerates. Cliff tosses the ashes to the ground.

CLIFF

Now walk like a man.

Charlie takes a few hesitant steps, then strides ahead.

CLIFF

It's all in the mind.

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Virginia prepares for bed--removes brassiere--WE SEE NEAT SCARS where she once had breasts.

EXT. THE DUCKWORTHS' FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Charlie and Cliff at front door, lit.

CLIFF

Jerry's into underage girls. Before he gets caught, we may have to stage an intervention. (beat) He'll work more effectively in a penal institution.

AN ELDERLY COUPLE out for a stroll passes by--see Charlie's well-lit front porch--they wave to Charlie--Charlie, alone on porch, waves back.

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Virginia, in soft glow of night light, dreams away--Charlie enters. Leans to kiss Virginia. Instead, pauses--considers something--decides to take shower.

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' BATHROOM - NIGHT

Running shower steams up the chamber--Charlie removes underwear--examines himself in the mirror.

CLIFF (OS)

Funny how it shrinks with age, huh?

Charlie glances at Cliff, cross-legged on toilet.

CLIFF

I can help you with that. *Quid pro quo.*

CHARLIE

I'm not vain that way.

CLIFF

No jockstrap for you. Half a walnut shell and a rubber band, you're set.

CHARLIE

Heard that one in fifth grade.

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF

True then. Truer now. (beat) Jeeze, remember Bangkok? You'd be going into the whore's chamber, your cock would arrive an hour before.

Charlie examines himself. Sighs.

CHARLIE

I'm in. Do it.

CLIFF

Not so fast. You do a little job for me, then we'll see. (beat) Wait...I'll give you a taste. Now clean off the day's festivities, then get in there and love that little woman!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' BEDROOM - MORNING

Virginia, still dressed in nightie--humming "Oh, What a beautiful Morning" from OKLAHOMA!--carries heavily-laden breakfast tray to bed--Charlie, propped up by pillows.

VIRGINIA

Huevos rancheros, Big Boy! For the boy with the big huevos!

CHARLIE

(taking the tray)
I am starved.

VIRGINIA

How's 'bout a foot rub?

CHARLIE

(digging into his food)
I'm eating. (beat) What's planned for today?

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA
Workin' on my screenplay..

Charlie chews his food, eyes his wife.

CHARLIE
Stop. Lift up your nightie.
Slowly..

WE HEAR INCOMING MORTARS AND GUNFIRE.

INT. MARINE BARRACKS - PHU BAI, VIETNAM - DAY

FLASHBACK:

Charlie and his FELLOW MARINES are lined up for an inspection. The FIRST SERGEANT eyes Charlie up and down.

FIRST SERGEANT
Marine! Get a haircut!

EXT. VIETNAM - PHU BAI - DAY

Charlie wanders the village, seeking a safe barbershop-- rubs his stiff neck--walks by a SMALL RUNDOWN SHACK.

Charlie steps inside.

INT. PHU BAI - BARBER'S SHACK - DAY

A SMALL MIDDLE-AGED VIETNAMESE MAN leaps up from his chair. Smiles at Charlie: WE SEE MANY BLACK TEETH, like fangs of coal.

CHARLIE
Least I know you're no dentist.

MAN
Welcome, welcome Marine! I Charlie!
I give you Number One Cut!

MORE

CONTINUED

Charlie hesitates.

BARBER

I no Vietcong! I treat you good!
 "A" Package: Haircut, shampoo, shave.

END FLASHBACK

INT. JERRY MULLIGAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Jerry, in a bath robe, taps his computer keyboard--waits.
 Charlie sits by him, trying to read the screen.

CHARLIE

So this is how ya do it?

JERRY

Easy as hair pie.

WE HEAR A PING, announcing an incoming message.

CLOSE ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN: "Wen cn u mete me?"

JERRY

Cute Latina middle schooler...out
 in sunny Soledad.

CHARLIE

I'd sure like a piece-a that.

Jerry looks at Charlie. Jerry's corrupted another man.

JERRY

And next week, Bangkok!

INT. PHU BAI - BARBER SHACK - DAY

FLASHBACK:

MORE

CONTINUED

Charlie, now relaxed, his face covered in shaving cream, admires his buzz cut in the mirror.

WE HEAR a STRAIGHT RAZOR SLAPPING AGAINST a STROP.

Charlie tenses. He forces himself to relax.

CHARLIE
No Gillette?...Safety razor?

BARBER
(approaching Charlie
with the blade)
I make you smooth as baby bottom!

The barber gently places the blade at Charlie's Adam's apple.

Pause.

The barber strokes the straight razor smoothly from Adam's apple to Charlie's chin.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DRUG STORE - SOLEDAD - DAY

Jerry, looking over condoms--Charlie to the side.

JERRY
I like the kind make my cock
look like a fucking Komodo Dragon.

CHARLIE
Meetcha back at the car.

EXT. SOLEDAD - DAY

Soledad, California is a small town just off Highway 101, south of Salinas.

MORE

CONTINUED

It's overwhelmingly Hispanic, resembling what would happen if a Mexican pueblo were lifted by a tornado and dropped in this California valley.

Charlie, window shopping, pulls out cell phone--hesitates. He's about to punch in some numbers when--

--Charlie sees a pay phone. He drops in some coins and dials.

VOICE
Sheriff's Department.

INT. PHU BAI - BARBER SHACK - DAY

FLASHBACK:

The barber makes one last flourish with the straight razor--Charlie visibly relieved. The barber lays the razor down, then--

Striking fast as a cobra, the barber wraps his arms around Charlie's head and neck--pulls and twists, CRACKING Charlie's neck.

Charlie leaps out of his chair--pulls pistol from his belt.

CHARLIE
What the fuck--?

The barber bursts out laughing.

BARBER
You no like? First time, huh?
I pirochractor!

Charlie feels his neck--swivels it and smiles.

BARBER
I crack other way?

MORE

CONTINUED

Charlie throws some paper money on the counter, next to the straight razor, then double times it out the shack.

END FLASHBACK

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' KITCHEN - DAY

Elroy and Virginia huddle over Virginia's screenplay-in-progress at kitchen table--Virginia reaches into PLASTIC BAG full of RICE CAKES, pulls one out--bites, chews.

ELROY

Amusing anecdote. You shoulda had Charlie blow 'im away.

VIRGINIA

That's not what happened.

Elroy looks up from the pages.

ELROY

Here's something that happened. Radio says one of your neighbors just got busted for pederasty.

VIRGINIA

No! Who?

ELROY

Some creep named Mulligan. Retired CIA. Figures. White spook, preying on Latinas.

VIRGINIA

He's Charlie's friend.

ELROY

I teach a journaling class at the rec center? You should hear what they say about Mr. Mulligan.

MORE

CONTINUED

ELROY (CON'T)

Pot-fueled wife swapping orgies, secret
tapes...

VIRGINIA

Let 'em gossip.

Virginia takes a bite from a rice cake--crumbs fall.

ELROY

You met that nut yet, Judge Plimpton?
A real piece-a work.

VIRGINIA

I'm sure I'll meet everyone at
our housewarming party. (beat)
I'm paying you by the hour.

ELROY

Rightee-o. Back to our war hero...

EXT. TAM KY, VIETNAM - DAY

FLASHBACK:

Charlie's unit sprints up a ridge, toward a CACOPHONY in
the distance. Charlie, now a sergeant, second-in-line.

INTENSE FIRE OPENS UP from the JUNGLE.

The unit dives for cover--LEAD MAN is killed.

Charlie takes over--gestures to another Marine.

CHARLIE

Gomez! Let's book!

Gomez slithers to Charlie as grenades fall all around them.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Two bunkers...up there...and there.
We're gonna take 'em out!

Charlie and Gomez crawl, then sprint, then crawl up the ridge, toward one of the bunkers.

Gomez, hit in the leg by a sniper--ignores the wound and follows Charlie upward.

CHARLIE

Lay down fire. I'm going in with
grenades!

Gomez steadies himself--raises his automatic rifle--spits fire at bunker number one.

Charlie edges upward...

On his belly, throws one grenade after another, taking out the first bunker.

A BURNING VIETCONG staggers from the inferno--Gomez drops him.

Charlie crawls laterally toward the other bunker--Gomez continues to cover for him.

A hail of bullets pounds the ground around Charlie, who zigzags ahead.

BELOW BUNKER NUMBER TWO: Charlie throws three more grenades. The bunker, loaded with stored arms, goes up BIGTIME.

Charlie sprints down the hill, dodging sniper fire--

--arrives at Gomez's lair. He's dead, a bullet hole through his helmet.

Charlie throws Gomez over his shoulder, sprints down the hill, back toward his unit.

MORE

CONTINUED

The sniper fire too intense--Charlie throws Gomez's corpse to the ground.

Using Gomez as a protective wall--takes aim at the four puffs of smoke coming from the trees.

One by one, Charlie picks off the snipers--each falls from a tree.

Charlie throws Gomez over his shoulder, continues down the hill.

END FLASHBACK

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' KITCHEN - DAY

ELROY

When I said cheat, lie, steal...

VIRGINIA

This all happened. Keep reading.
It gets better.

EXT. TAM KY, VIETNAM -LATER

FLASHBACK:

Charlie and ANOTHER MARINE, CLETUS (19), both crazed, run at a bunker, firing their rifles and throwing grenades.

A GRENADE LANDS SEVERAL YARDS FROM CHARLIE--EXPLODES--
CHARLIE BLOWN FROM HIS FEET--PASSES OUT.

ON CHARLIE:

A HAND with QUARTER-MOON-IN-A-PENTAGRAM TATTOO slaps Charlie--CHARLIE OPENS EYES.

CHARLIE

Wha--?

VOICE

(above the din)
It's killin' time, Marine!

MORE

CONTINUED

Charlie shakes out the cobwebs--sees Cletus is dead--runs over, grabs his machine gun and spare ammunition--tears up the hill, spattering hot lead at the bunker.

WE HEAR A DOORBELL.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' FRONT DOOR - DAY

Virginia opens the door, to see THREE GAUDILY-DRESSED ELDERLY WOMEN.

WOMAN #1
Missus Duckworth?

VIRGINIA
Yes...

WOMAN #1
We're an unofficial welcoming
committee--

WOMAN #2
Here to welcome you--

WOMAN #3
--and we're hosting a kind of
Tupperware party tonight.

WOMAN #2
Tonight, we're hosting a party--

WOMAN #1
Please come!

ALL THREE TOGETHER
Meet the other Girls of Fortuna
Woods!

INT. CLIFF'S LAKESIDE CABIN - DAY

Cliff, naked in his easy chair, watches TV: WE SEE a clip from DAWN PATROL (1938), with Errol Flynn.

Cliff clicks remote--WE SEE the interior of Jerry Mulligan's home.

UNIFORMED POLICE DETECTIVES RANSACK JERRY'S HOME, PULLING OUT THE COMPUTER, DISCOVERING DVDS, CARRYING EVERYTHING AWAY.

A FEMALE DETECTIVE LOOKS DIRECTLY INTO THE CAMERA--REACHES UP, FIDDLES WITH IT--THE IMAGE SHAKES--GOES DARK.

CLIFF

Uh oh! BUSTED!

Behind Cliff, WE SEE a BOOKSHELF, containing row upon row of LABELED, CHRONOLOGICALLY-ARRANGED DVDS: "MULLIGAN ORGY, 4TH OF JULY"; "CHEERLEADERS, LABOR DAY"; "ORTON WIDOW, HALLOWEEN," etc.

EXT. TAM KY, VIETNAM - THE ENCAMPMENT - EARLY EVENING

FLASHBACK:

Carrying a DEAD MARINE over each shoulder, Charlie staggers into camp.

DOZENS OF EXHAUSTED MARINES smoking, playing cards, telling stories.

The Marines see Charlie--break into applause--stand--salute.

Charlie lowers the corpses to the ground--the men embrace him.

MARINE #1

Hey, Sergeant, where ya been?
(holds up an envelope) 'Nother
letter from home!

MORE

CONTINUED

MARINE #2

Keep them home fires burnin', Sergeant!

END FLASHBACK

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' KITCHEN - DAY

ELROY

That bit with the hand, slapping
Charlie...how do you know it had a
quarter moon tattoo?

VIRGINIA

That's Charlie's guardian angel.
He told me all about it.

EXT. FORTUNA WOODS HOME - A TORCHLIT PATIO - NIGHT

A DOZEN ELDERLY WOMEN (including Virginia), drinks in hand,
talk and laugh.

WOMAN #1 appears from inside the house.

WOMAN #1

Okay, girls! Lucy's ready!

INT. THE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Morbidly obese LUCY (40) rests on a settee, a SUITCASE at
her feet.

The women sit around Lucy in a semi-circle.

VIRGINIA

(to the WOMAN at her right)
I could use a new stickproof fry
pan.

LUCY

Silence, lovely wenches! (beat) I'm
Luscious Lucy, and these are my wares.

MORE

CONTINUED

Lucy opens the suitcase with a flourish.

WE SEE SILK NIGHTGOWNS and SEX TOYS.

Lucy hands a nightie to a woman, who feels it and passes it around--then a 24 inch BLACK DILDO, going the other way.

VIRGINIA

(to the woman next to her)

This is a Tupperware party?

LUCY

(extending a strange
two-pronged toy to Virginia)
Not Tupperware...FUCKERWARE!

Virginia takes the toy--holds it like a strange insect.

Women AD LIB ALL AROUND, "Welcome to the group, Virginia!"

Virginia, good sport, smiles tepidly.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Charlie surfs the Internet--looks at sports scores--radio on.

RADIO VOICE

...and acting on an anonymous
tip, deputies apprehended Gerald
Ulrich Mulligan, Junior as he
arrived at the-

The radio clicks off.

CLIFF (OS)

(plummy English accent)

Nice work, old boy. He'll do jailhouse
outreach like nobody's business.

Charlie peels his eyes from the screen.

MORE

CONTINUED

Cliff wears a BLOOD-SPATTERED TUXEDO--plays with a Rubiks Cube--leans James Bond-like against a bookshelf.

CLIFF

Sorry I didn't wash up. Just couldn't wait to congratulate you. (hands the cube to Charlie) Give it a try, eh?

Charlie fiddles with the cube.

CLIFF

What'll it be? Another all-important inch to the love machine? A crisp morning run? You've earned it!

Charlie holds up the cube. He's solved the puzzle.

CLIFF

Cowabunga! Now you've solved two problems! Here's what: You really must start frequenting more sophisticated websites, Charles. The fun kind.

EXT. FORTUNA WOODS TRAIL - EARLY MORNING

Charlie jogs easily, smoothly, rapidly.

INT. DUCKWORTH HOME - DAY

Charlie's vacuuming the house, disgusted by all of the rice cake crumbs in the rug.

INT. CARMEL VALLEY LIBERTY CHURCH - DAY

PASTOR (mid50s)

(reading from the Bible)

"...Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

MORE

CONTINUED

PASTOR (CON'T)

"Put on the whole armor of God,
that you be able to stand against the
wiles of the devil..."

Charlie, in the front row, listens intently. Then he sees Virginia, filing into the choir's stairs with her CHOIR-MATES, behind the pastor. Charlie winks to his wife-- Virginia smiles.

PASTOR (CON'T)

"...Stand therefore, having girded
your waist with truth, having put
on the breastplate of righteousness."

EXT. OUTSIDE CLIFF'S CABIN - DAY

CLIFF SLICES THE THROAT OF A WILD BOAR WITH A FINGERNAIL--
SLICES THE BOAR'S BELLY OPEN.

PASTOR (OS)

Friends. Do not be blasé about dealing
with demons. They are real, and even if
in this culture, their strategy is to
be to lull you to sleep, in other cultures
their attacks are very real. They are
very powerful, and influential in any
number of destructive ways...

CLIFF REACHES INTO THE BOAR'S MIDSECTION--PULLS OUT THE
STILL BEATING HEART--EATS IT:

PASTOR (CON'T OS)

...Curiously, the biblical manner of dealing
with their attacks is uniformly to stand
up to them with biblical truth.

INT. THE CHURCH - DAY

THE CHOIR MASTER signals the choir.

MORE

CONTINUED

The choir takes a collective breath, then launches into Bach's JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING:

CHOIR

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,
 Holy wisdom, love most bright,
 Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring
 Soar to uncreated light...

Tears stream down Virginia's face, gracing her smile, as she sings.

CHOIR (CON'T)

...Word of God, our flesh that fashioned
 With the fire of life impassioned,
 Striving still to truth unknown
 Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

EXT. THE CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

Charlie walks arm-in-arm with Virginia.

CHARLIE

That was Mormon Tabernacle awesome!

A WOMAN approaches, led by her WHITE SAMOYED DOG on a leash. As the woman and the dog reach Charlie and Virginia:

VIRGINIA

Thank you, darling. Why don't we
 go straight home and—

The Samoyed stops in front of Charlie, the fur on his back straight up--SNARLS. The woman pulls hard on the leash as the dog GOES INSANE WITH RAGE.

WOMAN

Elvis! ELVIS!

The woman nearly chokes the gagging Elvis.

MORE

CONTINUED

WOMAN (CON'T)

(to Charlie)

I'm so sorry, sir. (trying to save it)
You must be a cat person!

Charlie, mortified.

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' BEDROOM - DAY

Charlie, still shaken by the dog's outburst, lies on the Duckworths' bed--Virginia's in bathroom, changing clothes.

CHARLIE

Dogs and I, we always got on great.

Charlie feels something next to him--picks it up--examines it: A BAGGIE OF ORGANIC RICE CAKES. Charlie goes up on an elbow, sees rice cake crumbs scattered on the sheets.

CHARLIE

How many times I told ya, don't eat these things in bed!

VIRGINIA

(from the bathroom)

Give it a rest!

CHARLIE

You agreed!

VIRGINIA

And you agreed to stop those midnight rambles!

CHARLIE

That's the only time I got to exercise, after picking up your crap all day!

MORE

CONTINUED

Virginia appears at the foot of the bed, wearing one of her "sexy nighties"--hands behind her back.

VIRGINIA

Hey, baby...I bought some toys..

As she starts to reveal what's hidden behind her back--

--ON CHARLIE, eyes bulging.

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' HOME - NIGHT

The Housewarming Party: The Duckworth home, crammed with ELDERLY PEOPLE, mostly widows, broken up into convivial groups. Some of the guests have brought their ADULT CHILDREN and GRANDCHILDREN.

Included are PHIL AND TERRY PLOTKIN (late 70s) and TOM STONE (late 60s).

THE MEXICAN CATERING CREW, LED BY A PRETTY BLONDE WOMAN (25) has laid out a table heaping with MEXICAN DELICACIES. The Mexican crew circulates among the guests, tending to them with trays.

PHIL PLOTKIN

(to Tom Stone)

Fucker flew to Cancun. Every investor was wiped out.

TERRY PLOTKIN

We can't make it on Social Security.
I don't know what we'll do.

TOM STONE

I feel for ya. Me, I got this medication for my tumor, it's driving me batcakes!

Virginia chats with some of the woman from the "kind of like a Tupperware party."

MORE

CONTINUED

WOMAN #1
(to Virginia)
You spiced up your love life?

The pretty blonde crew chief passes by with a platter of guacamole sauce and chips.

VIRGINIA
No comment, ladies. (beat) Have you tried the guacamole sauce? It's to die for!

Woman #2 blanches, as though a nerve was struck. Virginia touches her arm.

WOMAN #3
(soothing Woman #2's feelings)
Those toys are a godsend for us... single ladies.

Over in a corner, Judge Plimpton holds court, attended by a circle of FEMALE ACOLYTES.

PLIMPTON
It's easy. I got a doctor in Carmel, he'll write a scrip for twenty-five bucks.

ACOLYTE #1
But isn't it against federal law? I don't want the FBI swooping in!

PLIMPTON
Let 'em try! You think they want a group of beautiful older women doing the perp walk on CNN?

ACOLYTE #2
What do you think of what happened to Jerry Mulligan? I hear the police found videos!

MORE

CONTINUED

PLIMPTON

Consenting adults, ladies! No laws
were broken!

ACOLYTE #2

But it's so...so mortifying!

ACOLYTE #3

What if they show up on My Tube?

ACOLYTE #1

You mean You Space?

PLIMPTON

All this talk is giving me a headache.
Who wants to adjourn to the patio for
an herbal remedy?

The ladies all laugh, and follow Judge Plimpton out to the
patio. TWO YOUNG BOYS (13ish) follow them.

Charlie surveys the scene. The party's going well.

EXT. THE PATIO - SAME

Plimpton and the ladies pass around a joint.

PLIMPTON

...and so the duck says, "Only
on Mars, baby!"

Everyone laughs.

Charlie appears in the doorway.

One of the young boys pipes up.

BOY #1

Two drunks had just gotten thrown out
of a bar and are walking down the street,
when they come across this dog sitting on
the curb, licking his balls.

MORE

CONTINUED

BOY #1 (CON'T)

They stand there watching and after a while one of them says, "I sure wish I could do that!" The other one says, "Be sure to pet him first."

Charlie cuts through the laughter by asking the boy:

CHARLIE

Who told you that one?

BOY #1

Cliff.

Charlie's knees buckle.

The pretty blonde catering crew chief emerges from the house and circulates among the patio guests.

CHARLIE

Cliff?

BOY #1

(nudging the boy next to him)
Yeah, Cliff. Right, Cliff?

BOY #2

(high fiving his friend)
Guilty as charged!

The pretty blonde catering crew chief offers Plimpton some snacks.

As Plimpton scoops a chip into the guacamole:

PLIMPTON

(to the blonde)

A blonde walks into a bar after having a very bad day. Bartender asks her what she'd like to drink. She replies, "What kind of beer do you suggest?" Bartender says, "Anheuser Busch?"

MORE

CONTINUED

BLONDE CREW CHIEF

The blonde says, "Fine thank you.
How's your dick?"

PLIMPTON

Owwwww!

The two boys high five each other. Plimpton offers a joint to the blonde lady. She just walks on.

Charlie, still in the doorway, smiles a tense smile.
Plimpton bugs him.

INT. CHARLIE'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

ON A CLOCK: 3:07 a.m. Charlie's cruising the Internet.

WE HEAR a TECHNO-BEEP SOUND.

CHARLIE

(not looking up)

Hey, Cliff.

Cliff, dressed as a HOMELESS MAN, plays with a NINTENDO DS.

CLIFF

You two lovebirds throw a great
soiree.

Charlie's focused on the computer screen. Cliff looks over his shoulder at the websites.

CLIFF

So you took my advice. (beat)
Charlie. (beat) Chuck... (beat)
CHARLES!

Charlie turns to Cliff.

CHARLIE

Huh?

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF

What say we get some fresh air?

CHARLIE

Cliff, it's after three.

CLIFF

(mock pleading)

With sugar on it?

EXT. COMMON GROUNDS - FORTUNA WOODS - SAME

Cliff and Charlie stroll companionably.

CLIFF

I tried out this baby boomer. He was useless. Had to let 'im go.

CHARLIE

Go?

CLIFF

Somewhere in the Third Circle of Hell.

They walk a bit. INDOOR LIGHTS of SEVERAL of the HOMES BEGIN BLINKING ON.

CLIFF

Baby boomers. Was there ever a more worthless generation? I thought pre-war Germany was fertile grounds. But *this* bunch. May the Lord of the Flies strike me down here and now...dare I boast? Of course I dare! The 1960s were mine! North America was my new assignment, and I wanted to, how shall I put it, *make a splash*.

Cliff pulls a BOOMERANG out of his beat-up jacket's inner pocket--throws it--hard.

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF (CON'T)

Race riots, assassinations, Charlie Manson, LSD...*folk rock*...all mine! Though Manson proved to be a bit of a loose cannon. (the boomerang returns...he casually snatches it) And the Rolling Stones, fucking me out of a songwriting credit for "Sympathy for the Devil." That wanker Brian Jones promised me he'd fix it with Mick and Keith.

Cliff throws the boomerang again. WE HEAR a BIRD SQUEAL.

CLIFF (CON'T)

Well, I took care of *that* fuck-up, din't I? Face down in his swimming pool, he was.

ON CHARLIE: recoiling.

Cliff catches the boomerang as it returns. He examines it: the boomerang, COVERED in BLOOD and FEATHERS.

Cliff tosses the boomerang. Before it flies fifty feet--bursts into flames--falls to the ground.

CLIFF

Look, Charlie. Unit 6A. The Plotkins.

WE SEE an OLD COUPLE through a window, talking intensely at their kitchen table.

CLIFF (CON'T)

Can you read lips? They teach you that in the Marines?

Charlie shakes his head: "no"

CLIFF (CON'T)

Their stock portfolio just cratered. The Plotkins're edging up to the idea--to considering the possibility--of mutual suicide. As usual, the wife's the stick-in-the-mud. You ever notice that?

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF (CON'T)

The little homemaker always stands
in the way of decisive action.

CHARLIE

You could argue they treasure life more.

CLIFF

Life is decisive action! (arm around
Charlie) You could stand to lose thirty
pounds, Sergeant Duckworth. You enroll
in Uncle Cliff's Weight Loss Program,
no time, guaranteed, six-pack abs.

CHARLIE

Lemme guess...Persuade the Plotkins.

CLIFF

Cowabunga!

Cliff disappears.

Charlie edges toward the Plotkins' kitchen window--the
light goes off--continues moving toward their home--the
bedroom light snaps on.

Charlie moves to the bedroom window.

INT. SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

FLASHBACK:

Vietnam-era Charlie presses his face against a window.

Behind him, MILITARY PERSONNEL pass by.

Charlie sees what he needs to see--smiles, picks up duffel
bag--joins the other military personnel, all in uniform.

They move through the terminal hallway.

TERMINAL HALLWAY:

MORE

CONTINUED

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WINDOW: Affixed over his heart, WE SEE that Charlie has been awarded the NAVY CROSS, America's second highest military award.

Charlie and the soldiers move into a more open part of the terminal. As they do...

--CIVILIANS SPIT on CHARLIE and his COMPANIONS. They scream, "BABY KILLERS!" and carry signs that say, "CAPITALIST TOOLS."

Charlie maintains his dignity. He's seen worse.

ON VIRGINIA, running to Charlie. They embrace.

VIRGINIA
Let's get outta here.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. THE FORTUNA WOODS GOLF COURSE - DAY

Charlie approaches the first tee--sees that Phil and Terry Plotkin also preparing to tee off.

Elaborate politeness: "you go," "no, you go," etc.

PHIL PLOTKIN
Charlie, right? Charlie Duckworth?
(Charlie nods) Say, why doncha join
Terry and me? We're pure duffers, but...

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

Virginia and Elroy kick back on a sofa, papers in their laps.

ELROY
It's an urban myth. Nobody spat
on soldiers in airports.

MORE

CONTINUED

ELROY (CON'T)

You wanna invoke "lie" from "cheat,
lie and steal," be my guest.

VIRGINIA

It happened. Don't make it worse.

EXT. THE GOLF COURSE - DAY

Phil strikes his ball--badly--toward a green.

PHIL

Jeeze!

CHARLIE

Phil, if ya wanna forget our wager..

PHIL

Not on your life.

Terry watches.

CHARLIE

I mean, with times bein' as tough
as they are..

PHIL

A bet's a bet.

TERRY

Honey, maybe we should listen to-

PHIL

Terry..

Tense silence. Charlie edges up to his ball.

PHIL (CON'T)

(the air coming out of him)
That's really nice o' you, Charlie.
Let us make it up to you. Lunch at
our place?

MORE

CONTINUED

Charlie whacks his ball solidly, and straight.

CHARLIE
My pleasure, Phil.

EXT. A SILICON VALLEY GOLF COURSE - DAY

FLASHBACK, EARLY 1970s:

Charlie, now a civilian, strolls a golf course with VIC LEE (30).

VIC
We could've used my cart.

CHARLIE
What, and miss out on all the exercise? C'mon, Vic.

Charlie approaches his ball, addresses it.

VIC
A good walk spoiled, Mark Twain called golf.

Charlie sends the ball flying.

VIC
Whew! Where'd you learn that?

CHARLIE
Caddied for the swells when I was in high school.

They walk toward Vic's ball.

VIC
Charlie, I'll get to the point.
The Defense Department's future is based on computers.

MORE

CONTINUED

VIC (CON'T)

Guy like you, Navy Cross winner,
lobbying the Pentagon, Endodyne
Systems is on its way. You'll be
in on the ground floor.

Charlie stops in his tracks.

CHARLIE

Vic...I appreciate your generous offer.
Just the signing bonus alone...but I
could never exploit my medal...I got
lucky that day in Tam Ky. That's all.
Good men died. And here I am, playing
golf with a young millionaire.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. THE PLOTKINS' PATIO - DAY

The trio, eating lox, bagels and cream cheese.

PHIL

Fucking Silicon Valley. The gold
rush is over, my friend. This
meshugganah, whatsisname-

TERRY

Vic Lee, may he rot in hell.

PHIL

Guy loots the company, then flees
to Cancun...

TERRY

Left us high and dry, Charlie.
Wiped out. I'll be cleaning houses
with the Mexicans if we can't find
some money.

CHARLIE

You have kids you can borrow from?

MORE

CONTINUED

TERRY
Heaven forbid.

PHIL
We refuse to burden our children.

TERRY
Or our grandchildren.

PHIL
Or our great-grandchildren.

TERRY
Phil can't work. His heart. Doctor's
orders.

They eat in silence.

PHIL
Look how we're treating our guest!
I'm sure Charlie has his own burdens...

Charlie chuckles.

CHARLIE
Some nights, I just wanna put a
plastic bag over my head, end it
all.

Phil and Terry share a look.

TERRY
For us, it's a prescription overdose.

PHIL
I fantasize I'll go out with two dozen
Viagras stiffening my system.

CHARLIE
(imitating a tv commercial)
And if your erection lasts more than
six decades, call a mortician!

MORE

CONTINUED

They all laugh.

TERRY

Seriously, Charlie, we sometimes wonder what's the point of going on.

CHARLIE

Back in 'Nam, we'd say "Drastic situation, drastic measures."

INT. DUCKWORTHS' MUSTANG - THE ROAD TO HALF MOON BAY - DAY

FLASHBACK, VIRGINIA'S SCREENPLAY:

INSERT: Early 1970S

Charlie and Virginia tool down the rural road in their 1966 Mustang convertible, headed for Half Moon Bay.

CLOSE on ROAD SIGN, as the MUSTANG PASSES it: "Half Moon Bay, 10 mi"

VIRGINIA

You did the right thing.

CHARLIE

Vic offered me a ton of money, Gin.

VIRGINIA

My sewing business will keep us afloat.

CHARLIE

Yeah?

VIRGINIA

Macy's just ordered a thousand quilts. They say it's just the start.

CHARLIE

Your sewing company.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE (CON'T)

Who'da thunk it? We're on our way!

Charlie skids the Mustang to a stop in the middle of the road. He embraces Virginia--kisses her passionately.

VIRGINIA

Charlie. Could we pull over?

Charlie squeals the Mustang to the side of the road.

Virginia looks into the forest.

VIRGINIA

Go for a walk?

ON CLIFF, hidden in the forest, watching.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. THE DUCKWORTHS' PATIO - DAY

ELROY

Quilts?

VIRGINIA

Log Cabin Quilt Company.

ELROY

Omigod! My parents had them all over the house! You guys must be gazillionaires!

VIRGINIA

We sold it later. We're comfortable.
(beat) We don't want it getting around.

ELROY

Why not? You had extraordinary success.

VIRGINIA

Lotsa people hurting here.

EXT. THE SUBDIVISION - NIGHT

Cliff and Charlie stroll at 3:00 a.m. Lights burn in many windows.

Cliff wears a leisure suit--tosses a baseball, hand to hand. Charlie is noticeably trimmer.

CLIFF

Viagra's useless. Go for Cialis or La Vitra. Viagra gives you hardwood, but not the desire. The others give you wood, plus the fire. (beat) Hey, I should write advertising copy. (beat) Wait...I invented modern advertising!

CHARLIE

I'm proud to say I never needed any of 'em.

CLIFF

Thanks to me! (beat) Here's one. There's a guy over in 4-B, he's on pituitary medication. For a tumor? Scientists have learned that this pituitary medicine causes rampant sexual drive. The disease is worth the cure!

They walk toward a unit.

CLIFF

Great job with the Plotkins. Goin' to the funeral?

CHARLIE

Nah.

They reach unit 4-B.

CLIFF

Guy's turned into a one man stud service. Name's Tom Stone.

They look in the window.

MORE

CONTINUED

ON CLIFF AND CHARLIE: We never see what they see. Only their faces.

CLIFF

Can you believe the size of that thing?

CHARLIE

I saw a plough horse once. This guy makes it look like a Chinaman's dick. (beat) Ooooh...what's he doing?

They watch, enraptured.

CLIFF

Your next assignment, Agent Duckworth, should you choose to accept... (beat) This message will self destruct in twenty seconds.

Cliff tosses the baseball to Charlie--disappears.

Charlie looks around, SEES the RED GLOW of a CIGARETTE, almost at ground level, about 50 feet away.

CHARLIE

Hello?

Charlie walks toward the glow, tossing the baseball back and forth between his hands.

VOICE

That you, Charlie Duckworth?

CHARLIE

Yeah. Who's this?

VOICE

The hangin' judge.

Charlie sees Judge Plimpton, lying on his back on the grass--staring at the stars--smoking a joint.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE
How's it hangin', judge?

PLIMPTON
With this Peyroni's disease, it's
anybody's guess. (beat) Heard ya
talkin' to someone.

Plimpton hands the joint to Charlie.

CHARLIE
(taking)
Talkin' to myself. Just happened to
see that guy...

PLIMPTON
Tommy Tumor? He leaves his blinds
open on purpose. (beat) Guy went
apeshit one night at Mulligan's place.
Nearly split the widow Johnson in
half.

Charlie and Plimpton hand the joint back and forth as they
talk.

CHARLIE
Whaddya think Jerry's chances are in
prison?

PLIMPTON
Jerry can talk his way out of anything.
But the cons, they don't like child
molesters.

Charlie swoons.

CHARLIE
What is this stuff?

PLIMPTON
Dust of the angels, my friend.

Charlie's woozy--breathes heavily.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE
You coulda told me.

PLIMPTON
Okay. Angel dust, plus bull trunk.

CHARLIE
You shoulda told me.

PLIMPTON
Don't go all holier-than-thou
on me. You're-

CHARLIE
Shoulda told me, motherfucker!

CHARLIE STUFFS the BASEBALL into PLIMPTON'S MOUTH--DOWN
PLIMPTON'S THROAT.

PLIMPTON GAGS, SHIVERS SPASMODICALLY.

Then he is still.

Charlie goes through Plimpton's pockets--finds Plimpton's
car keys--lifts Plimpton over a shoulder and staggers off.

INT. WAREHOUSE/FACTORY - NIGHT

FLASHBACK:

Virginia, mid-30s, behind her desk at The Log Cabin Quilt
Company, on the phone.

VIRGINIA
I don't care! Let 'em go on strike!
We'll relocate to Manila! (checks her
watch) It's 4:00 a.m. here in Half
Moon Bay. I need those trucks loaded
up, and on the road, by noon your time.
Got that? Noon! Your neck's on the line!

Virginia slams the phone down.

MORE

CONTINUED

The phone rings.

VIRGINIA

Virginia Duckworth. (beat) Hello,
baby. (beat) I'm sorry, doll. It's
gonna be another all-nighter. (beat)
Of course I appreciate it. (beat)
You would do that for me? Oh, Charlie,
you angel you!

END FLASHBACK

EXT. FORTUNA WOODS SUBDIVISION PARKING AREA - NIGHT

Charlie, Plimpton over a shoulder, Plimpton's keys in one hand, held out into the night--he presses a button on a key as he walks by the residents' cars.

WE HEAR a BEEP. WE SEE CAR LIGHTS flick on and off.

Charlie carries Plimpton toward a black Lexus. It's awkward, opening a car door while carrying a corpse, trying not to leave fingerprints.

VOICE

Hey, lemme help you with that.

Charlie turns to see Cliff. Cliff opens the Lexus door.

CLIFF

Diabolos ex machina!

Charlie positions Plimpton behind the wheel in the driver's seat--reaches into Plimpton's mouth, extracts the baseball--slumps Plimpton's body over the steering wheel, as though he's suffered a heart attack.

Charlie wipes the car keys with his shirtsleeve, removing fingerprints--holding them in his shirtsleeve, inserts the car keys into the ignition--starts the engine.

Cliff closes the car door.

MORE

CONTINUED

Charlie hands Cliff the baseball.

CLIFF

Pity. I had plans for him.

EXT. EARLY DUCKWORTH HOME - HALF MOON BAY - MORNING

FLASHBACK:

Virginia, arriving home from her all-nighter, parks her car in the driveway.

INT. EARLY DUCKWORTH HOME - HALF MOON BAY - MORNING

Virginia enters the front door.

VIRGINIA

Charlie?

CHARLIE (OS)

In the sunroom!

WE FOLLOW Virginia through the upscale house to the sunroom--SEE a TABLE SET for a QUEEN'S BREAKFAST, crowned by a bouquet of FRESHLY CUT FLOWERS.

Charlie pulls out a chair. Virginia sits.

CHARLIE

I thought we'd begin with your favorite omelette.

VIRGINIA

With truffles?

Grandly, Charlie removes the lid from a tray, revealing an OMELETTE.

WE PULL BACK, THROUGH THE SUNROOM'S GLASS, TO REVEAL that the house is set on a cliff over the Pacific Ocean.

Cliff sits on the roof, enjoying the morning.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. FORTUNA WOODS - A TRAIL - DAY

Virginia and Elroy ramble down a path.

VIRGINIA

An hour later, Charlie went to his job as a carpenter.

ELROY

Surely you didn't need the money.

VIRGINIA

No. Charlie is a worker.

ELROY

And a saint, right?

VIRGINIA

My husband is the best man I've ever known.

EXT. A MONTEREY STREET - NIGHT

Charlie walks with TOM STONE and a YOUNG LADY. She's a bit skanky--with an obvious meth problem.

YOUNG LADY

So I sez to the landlord, "Fuck you. California law says I can stay here 90 fuckin' days. And you gotta get a court order to evict me!"

TOM STONE

Outrageous. What's it coming to when a tenant can't have a meth lab?

YOUNG LADY

Y'know, when I saw you in the bar, I could tell you're a compassionate man.

TOM

'M I a compassionate man, Charlie?

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

A regular Saint Francis of Assisi.

The trio stops at the entrance to an ALLEY.

YOUNG LADY

He was the guy loved birds, right?
I'm a bird. A red breasted robin.
Wanna see?

Tom gives Charlie a "get lost" look.

Charlie moves off.

TOM

(on a dumpster
in the alley)

You ever fucked in a dumpster?
Fifty bucks says you haven't.

EXT. MONTEREY STREET - NIGHT

Charlie approaches two HOMELESS MEN.

HOMELESS MAN #1

Spare change, mister?

CHARLIE

Hey. You guys wanna see something
incredible?

HOMELESS MAN #2

What?

CHARLIE

There's a man and a woman going at
it in the dumpster down that alley.
Guy was flashing a roll of Ben Franklins
at the bar where he picked her up.

INT. THE DUMPSTER - NIGHT

Tom Stone and the young lady are going at it in the garbage.

The dumpster lid opens.

WE SEE the homeless men looking down on them, WIELDING KNIVES.

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' KITCHEN - DAY

Virginia and Charlie read the morning paper over breakfast. There's a BIBLE on the table.

VIRGINIA

Jeeze Louise, Charlie. Another Fortuna Woods resident, dead. (chuckling) I'm sorry for laughing. Two homeless men robbed and stabbed Tom Stone while he was having sex in a dumpster!

Virginia reads some more.

VIRGINIA (CON'T)

First, the Plotkins suffocate themselves. Judge Plimpton keels over while his car's running. And now, Tom Stone.

CHARLIE

What I heard, guy had a pituitary tumor.

VIRGINIA

Which, it says here, he was curing through medication.

CHARLIE

Meditation?

VIRGINIA

Med-i-CA-tion.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Whatever...People our age, we're due any day.

VIRGINIA

(looking Charlie over)

Present company excluded. You're looking younger every day, stud muffin. Not that I'm complaining.

CHARLIE

My live-in cougar.

Charlie rises from the table, drains his coffee--takes a step, stops--examines the bottom of a foot--picks something off--holds it up to Virginia.

CHARLIE

How many times I gotta tell ya 'bout these damn rice cakes? Crumbs're all over the fuckin' house!

VIRGINIA

I'll hire a maid.

CHARLIE

Do whatever you gotta do. I step on one more of these things, there'll be consequences.

VIRGINIA

Don't threaten me.

Charlie's leaving as Virginia speaks.

VIRGINIA

Hey, war hero! I'm talkin' to you!

Virginia gets up--pursues Charlie.

VIRGINIA

Where you off to?

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE (OS)
Pumpin' iron!

Virginia, mystified, sits back down, picks up the Bible and looks up a passage as the DOOR SLAMS in the other room.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Surrounded by ELDERLY RESIDENTS lifting tiny weights and rolling around on huge balloon-like balls, Charlie, wearing a tank top with an Oakland Raiders logo, his biceps bulging, raises and lowers barbells of surprising size and weight.

INT. DUCKWORTH KITCHEN - DAY

Virginia looks up from her Bible, reaches for TV remote, flicks on TV.

INT. REC CENTER SAUNA - DAY

Charlie and FOUR OLD MEN sweat away in the sauna. The four men ad lib the sinking stock market, how they can't live on Social Security, their ungrateful children, etc.

The four men decide to exit. As they rise, WE SEE that their bodies are ruinously thin and stooped, or obese. Charlie is as ripped as a 68 year old man could be.

The four men leave the sauna.

Cliff appears, buck naked.

CLIFF
Charles! Atlas, I presume?

CHARLIE
Hey, Cliff.

CLIFF
You're doing fabulous work. Nothing can be traced to you.

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF (CON'T)

I wanna throw in a bonus. What can
I give you for the Stone thing?

Charlie weighs the offer.

CHARLIE

Cliff...I wanna live forever.

Charlie's boldness amuses Cliff.

CLIFF

(mock scolding)
Charlie...

CHARLIE

You asked, I answered. This life
agrees with me.

Cliff, making Charlie work for it:

CLIFF

There's no precedent.

CHARLIE

I've been a good soldier. Never
complained once.

CLIFF

Are you really in a position to?

CHARLIE

All right, fuck it. Go find yourself
a baby boomer.

Silence.

CLIFF

Well, it not's as though I can't
arrange it. But immortality's no
picnic.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE
I'll bet the life insurance premiums
are ball busters.

CLIFF
First thing to go is your sense of
humor.

CHARLIE
I feel awesome, Cliff. And my marriage
is better than ever.

Cliff smirks. He knows better.

CLIFF
There'll be a price.

CHARLIE
I ain't lookin' for no handouts.

CLIFF
One more pesky resident, and you'll
never die.

CHARLIE
So far, so good. I'm in.

Cliff rises. He reaches into his ass, and pulls something
out.

Cliff hands a three inch by five inch PIECE of THICK PAPER
to Charlie. It's an old photograph.

Charlie holds up the photo in the dim light of the sauna.

CLIFF
It's her high school yearbook photo.
Best I could do on such short notice.

Charlie stares at the photo. Mouths silently: "Virginia."

INT. DUCKWORTH KITCHEN - DAY

Virginia's intrigued by the TV show.

ON TV:

MALE MODERATOR SID STONE (MID-50S) interviews two GUESTS:
FRENCH SEX THERAPIST MARYSE VAILLAIN (late 50s) and
EPISCOPALIAN PASTOR ELINOR SMITH (mid-50s).

STONE

You would expect a leading female psychologist to warn women against cheating husbands. But best-selling French author Maryse Vaillant says that on the contrary adultery is the sign of a healthy marriage. (to Vaillant) In your new book you aim to "rehabilitate infidelity." You say married men should not be punished for keeping mistresses, and women may find infidelity "liberating."

VAILLAIN

Most don't cheat because they no longer love their wives. They simply need breathing space. For such men, who are in fact profoundly monogamous, infidelity is almost unavoidable.

SMITH

If I might say...Dr. Vaillant, you wrote that "men who do not cheat may lack strength of character." This strikes me--

VAILLAIN

These are often men whose father was physically or morally absent. These men have a completely idealized view of their father and the paternal function. They lack suppleness and are prisoners to an idealised image of a man of duty.

STONE

Pastor, Episcopalians are renowned for their progressive social views.

MORE

CONTINUED

SMITH

Still, I'm not sure the New Christians are ready to embrace adultery. (beat) As a French sex therapist, I might expect such a position from you.

VAILLANT

And the missionary's position is...?

The studio audience guffaws.

SMITH

Hmmm...actually, I suppose it's up to each couple.

VAILLANT

Conscious, consensual multiple partners. The only way to ignite a marriage gone stale.

ON VIRGINIA: She raises an eyebrow, clicks off the TV, goes back to her Bible.

INT. REC SAUNA - DAY

CLIFF

You like fishing?

CHARLIE

Huh?

CLIFF

Fishing. You like?

CHARLIE

Uhhh...Dry flies, Western Sierra, yeah.

CLIFF

How about bass?

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Kind of a white trash thing, if
you ask me.

CLIFF

Elitist. (beat) I got a place on the
bass lake at San Vicente Ranch, ten
miles above your house. Let's wet a
line, share some beers.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

FLASHBACK:

Charlie and Virginia, across the desk from DR. SAM MELNICK
(mid40s) in his plush office.

DR. MELNICK

First, the good news, Mrs. Duckworth.
The cancer is operable.

CHARLIE

And the bad news?

DR. MELNICK

You'll need a double mastectomy.

Virginia gasps. Charlie takes Virginia's hand.

VIRGINIA

Can I still run my company?

DR. MELNICK

You'll be out of commission for
at least six months.

VIRGINIA

I got an offer last week. Right,
Charlie? Told the guy, "Not on
your life."

CHARLIE

Now it's on your life.

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA
I'll call him.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. SAN VICENTE RANCH - MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Charlie's Land Rover negotiates an old pockmarked paved road, past an abandoned airstrip lined with piles of old tires, and up the mountainside, into the Ventana backcountry.

EXT. THE BASS LAKE - DAY

Charlie walks a trail. He emerges from a grove of oak trees--sees Cliff's lakeside cabin.

Charlie approaches the cabin.

A THREE HEADED WILD BOAR appears from behind the cabin, snorting, pawing the ground, saliva dripping from its tusks.

Charlie stops in his tracks.

Cliff appears on the balcony--next to a smoking bar-b-cue.

CLIFF
Rufus! He's an invited guest!

The boar's spines droop.

RUFUS
Jus' doin' my job, boss.

CLIFF
Pet him, Charlie!

Charlie pets Rufus the three-headed boar.

RUFUS
Hey, Charlie. Any friend of Cliff,
yada yada. (beat) Wow, that feels
good. Dogs must love you.

INT. DUCKWORTHS' HALF MOON BAY HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

FLASHBACK:

Virginia and Charlie cuddle in bed after making love.

VIRGINIA

Where you goin' with this?

CHARLIE

Nowhere. 'Til death do us part.
Remember? I took an oath.

VIRGINIA

I'll have no breasts.

CHARLIE

I'm an ass man. (beat) You knew
I was infertile when we married.
Did it make a difference?

Virginia looks at Charlie.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. SAN VICENTE RANCH - BASS LAKE - DAY

Cliff and Charlie sit in a rowboat.

CLIFF

Bass favor cover. They're ambush
predators. Cast your popper as close
to those reeds as you can.

Charlie casts. The floating lure lands right by the reeds.

CLIFF

Count to five. Now pull back, reeling in.
Good. Rest it, count to five. If you get
a strike, set the hook as hard as you
can.

Charlie does as Cliff says. He's a natural.

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF

Okay, reel it in, and repeat.

Charlie casts again. The lure hits a cattail--bounces off, into the lake.

Charlie gets a strike--yanks his rod upward.

The fight is on.

CLIFF

(lifting the net)

Stick the rod tip in the water! Keep him from jumping, throwing out the hook!

Charlie dips the rod tip downward. As he does, he's looking down, into the water.

WE SEE a DARK SHAPE, huge as a whale, gliding under the boat.

CHARLIE

What the fuck is that?

CLIFF

The fish, Charlie! Pay attention!

Charlie hurses the fish to the boat.

Cliff reaches out with the net, lifts the fish into the boat.

It's like no fish anyone has ever seen--resembles a Coelecanth, an ancient fish.

Its RED GLOWING EYES hang by threads from the head.

CLIFF

Dinner! You're a natural, Carlos!

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

VIRGINIA'S SCREENPLAY FLASHBACK:

Virginia lays on a gurney, about to be wheeled to surgery-- looks up at Charlie.

CHARLIE

Coupla hours, baby. You'll come
back from dreamland, I'll be waiting.

Charlie presses something into Virginia's hand. She looks down.

WE SEE Charlie's NAVY CROSS nestled in Virginia's palm.

Virginia closes her hand.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CLIFF'S CABIN - NIGHT

Cliff and Charlie have finished their meal. A fire roars in the fireplace. Rufus rests by the blaze. Cliff pours Charlie a cognac from an old bottle. Then he pours his own.

CLIFF

Cardinal Richelieu's favorite.
From his private cellar. (raising
his glass for a toast) To the
Revolution!

Charlie downs his cognac.

Cliff looks at Charlie's plate.

CLIFF

The eyes, Charles. Eat the eyes.

Charlie looks at what remains of the fish. The red eyes hang from the skull by hairlike connectors.

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF (CON'T)

You eat snakes in 'Nam? (Charlie shakes his head: "no") Ever watch "Survivor"? (Charlie nods: "yes") You're about to be voted off the island.

Charlie eats the eyes.

Cliff pours Charlie another cognac--they lift their glasses for another toast.

CLIFF (CON'T)

I come not to send peace on the earth but a sword. I came to divide.

CHARLIE

That's from Matthew, isn't it?

CLIFF

God's favored boy stole it. I said it first. Cheat, lie, steal. That's his motto. Fucking plagiarist. I oughtta sue. Right Rufus?

Rufus, languid by the fireplace:

RUFUS

Goddamn Jew lawyers won't take the case.

Cliff pours Charlie another cognac.

CLIFF

After you do this last job, you're gonna lay low again. Could be awhile, but what's a decade to a man who'll live forever?

CHARLIE

Until when?

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF

(ignoring Charlie)

There's a young governor from an obscure state. We figure she'll run for the White House about a dozen years from now. Bitch is a fanatical Christian. After a couple Democratic administrations, the nation'll be ready for a Christian president. More cognac?

Cliff refills Charlie's glass.

CLIFF

That's all for you, sport. You gotta drive home tonight.

CHARLIE

Where do I fit in?

CLIFF

At the inauguration ball, to which you, a certified war hero, will be invited, you'll pose for a photo op with the new prez. (drains his cognac) You'll snap her neck.

CHARLIE

You want me to kill a president?

CLIFF

As the secret service goons descend on you, you'll speak into the cameras. The speech is short. But it's the most rousing speech I've ever read. It's been worked on here and in Tehran, on and off, for years. Rallying a nation of television viewers into hysteria, it will give us powers that will make martial law seem like anarchy!

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Wait just a, a millennium. I'm happy to help out with the old timers, but I will not kill a president! I took an oath when I joined the Marines.

CLIFF

You heard about 2012?

CHARLIE

The end of the world, right? According to the wingnuts.

CLIFF

Misdirection. Just like global warming. Y2K. We keep you people panicked by fairy tales while the real work goes on.

CHARLIE

And--?

CLIFF

You don't accept my reasonable offer, tonight, and just after midnight, New Years 2012, you're a dead man, Charlie Brown.

CHARLIE

I can't be the next Lee Harvey Oswald!

CLIFF

Hey! Little respect for a colleague?
(beat) How's 'bout I get one of my more loyal operatives to run you off the road as you make your way back to that titless shrew you call a wife?

Charlie knows when he's beat.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

(weak)

Titless shrew of a wife? That's
beneath even you, Cliff.

CLIFF

There is no "beneath me." Now run
along home.

Charlie makes for the door.

CLIFF

One more thing. (Charlie stops)
I'm taking a leave of absence.

CHARLIE

Yeah?

CLIFF

Don't let's get glum. Just a
coupla months, your time.

CHARLIE

Wassup?

CLIFF

We've been bad, you and I. We
missed our quota, and the Big Guy
Downstairs wants a word with me.
Nothing I can't handle. Last time I
came up short, only six million Jews,
my heinie got tanned a bright red!

INT. DUCKWORTH KITCHEN - NIGHT

Charlie, back from his day with Cliff, his shoes in his
hand, flicks on the light, walks toward the
refrigerator--stops--examines the sole of a bare foot--picks
something off it--holds the object up to the light.

CHARLIE

Fucking rice cakes.

Charlie reaches into a drawer, pulls out a FLASHLIGHT.

INT. DUCKWORTH BEDROOM - NIGHT

In the glow of Virginia's night light, Charlie bends over his sleeping wife.

CHARLIE

Virginia...hey, honey, wake up...

Virginia climbs out of dreamland.

VIRGINIA

(arms around Charlie)

Hey, baby...

Charlie pulls back--holds the piece of rice cake up to Virginia's face--flicks on the flashlight--shines it on what he's holding in his fingertips.

CHARLIE

Do you see this?

VIRGINIA

Charlie...can it wait?

CHARLIE

We had an agreement. No more fucking rice cake bits all over the goddamn house!

VIRGINIA

Charlie...

Charlie shines the flashlight into Virginia's eyes.

CHARLIE

Can you or can you not honor your word?

Virginia slaps the flashlight away--sailing it across the room.

VIRGINIA

How about a sense of proportion, Sergeant Duckworth? Now what the hell is this really all about?

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Marriage can't exist without the honoring of your word! We don't have carpets here, we got wall-to-wall rice cake bits! You're feeding a tribe of mice! (beat) I put up with a lot, y'know.

VIRGINIA

Let me hire a cleaning lady. Twice a month. (beat) I'll make sure she's homely.

CHARLIE

What's that s'posed to mean?

VIRGINIA

I see the way you look at other people's cleaning ladies.

CHARLIE

Only their tits, Virginia. Only their tits.

This knocks the wind out of Virginia. She sucks air.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

SCREENPLAY FLASHBACK:

After her double mastectomy, Virginia silently sleeps in her bed.

WE HEAR SNORING. Virginia awakens to the snoring--looks around to see the source.

Charlie's asleep in a chair, an open copy of OUTDOOR LIFE on his chest.

Virginia gazes on Charlie with feeble rapture.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. STARBUCKS PATIO - DAY

Virginia and Elroy sit at a table drinking their lattes.

VIRGINIA

For three weeks straight, Charlie
slept in that chair. I had to send
him home. (beat) Heck, I nearly had
him thrown out by security.

Elroy sips his latte.

ELROY

I don't mean to be rude, but...

VIRGINIA

Yes?

ELROY

I haven't been paid this week.

Virginia reaches for her purse, pulls out her checkbook.

VIRGINIA

(writing the check)

Sorry. Been a bit stressed. (beat)
There's a little extra there.

Virginia slides the check to Elroy. He reads it.

ELROY

There's a thousand dollars extra
here. (beat) It says "final payment."

VIRGINIA

I won't be needing your services
anymore. Thank you for all you've
done.

ELROY

You have real second act problems.

VIRGINIA

So be it. My story's done.

MORE

CONTINUED

ELROY

You can't just drop it. I always suspected you had a completion problem, but I never thought-- (beat) Look, I'll finish it for you, the WGA'll give you top billing.

VIRGINIA

Why's it so important?

ELROY

I wanna bring it up to the present day. There's stuff going on in Fortuna Woods you wouldn't believe.

VIRGINIA

Tawdry. Tawdry goings on.

ELROY

I'll buy the property. Ten grand, I own it outright.

VIRGINIA

Give me the check. (Elroy hands her the check. Virginia rips it up) Take your screenplay. Win yourself an Oscar.

INT. INDIAN RESTAURANT - MONTEREY - NIGHT

Charlie and Virginia nibble at their Indian food.

CHARLIE

...so I wanna apologize.

Virginia reaches across the table, takes Charlie's hand.

VIRGINIA

I won't buy rice cakes anymore.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Look, I was bein' petty.

VIRGINIA

You have every right to a clean house.

EXT. MONTEREY WHARF - NIGHT

Charlie and Virginia walk arm-in-arm, admiring the sailboats and seals in the harbor.

CHARLIE

I've been selfish. (beat) It's about time I, okay--You're working on a screenplay, I've shown no interest.

VIRGINIA

Just as well. I needed to tell your story on my own. You just would've gotten in the way.

CHARLIE

What's with the past tense?

VIRGINIA

I gave it--sold it--to Elroy--to finish.

They walk a bit. Virginia SEES a YOUNG COUPLE NECKING against the railing. She stops, moved.

CHARLIE

Elroy's gonna finish it?

VIRGINIA

It served its purpose. Reminded me why I love you. Elroy's going to bring it up to the present day.

CHARLIE

Buy it back.

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA

Why?

CHARLIE

(loudly)

There's no telling what that
latte loving leftist is gonna
write about me! I saw "American
Beauty"! The military guy turns out
to be a fag!

The young couple disengage from their embrace--look at
Charlie and Virginia.

VIRGINIA

Could you drop it a hundred
decibels? Huh?

WE HEAR a RAP SONG, overlapping into next scene.

INT. CHARLIE'S PARKED CAR - NIGHT

WE HEAR the RAP SONG on the car radio.

Charlie finishes applying blackface--pulls on a ski mask.

EXT. OUTSIDE ELROY'S HOME - SEASIDE, CA - NIGHT

The rap song continues a bit--fades out.

Seaside adjoins the old Fort Ord, and it was originally the
place where enlisted men and women gambled, drank and
whored. The city is now controlled by blacks and Latinos,
and its neighborhoods run from the squalid to the
luxurious, the higher up the hill one goes.

Elroy lives in the middle altitude, in a neighborhood made
up of small lots.

Charlie, wearing black clothes, black gloves and a ski
mask, tiptoes around Elroy's home, TURNING ON all of the
OUTSIDE WATER TAPS.

INT. ELROY'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Elroy awakens to what sounds like a broken water main. He switches on his light--listens--then pads to the front door.

EXT. ELROY'S FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Guided by his flashlight, Elroy walks up to a flowing tap. As he kneels to turn it off:

CHARLIE JUMPS ELROY FROM BEHIND, COVERING HIS MOUTH WITH ONE HAND, HOLDING HIM HELPLESS WITH THE OTHER.

CHARLIE
(imitating African-
American voice)
One peep outta you, white boy,
I'll rip off yo' head!

Charlie takes Elroy's flashlight--turns it off.

ELROY
(whispers)
My money's in my writing room.

CHARLIE
Take me to it. (he jabs Elroy
with something hard) I will use
this if I have to, cocksucka.

The two figures move to the front door.

INT. ELROY'S HOME - STUDIO - NIGHT

Two figures enter the dark room. Charlie turns on flashlight--points it in Elroy's face.

CHARLIE
Heard you's a movie writer.

ELROY
Not a rich one. I've had a
few properties optioned--got an
Honorable Mention in the WGA comp--

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Shut the fuck up. I overheard y'all
at a coffee shop, talkin' over a
script. Give it to me.

ELROY

That thing? It's hardly worth it.
Some old rich woman, boring the
world with tall tales about her
idiot husband. Look, I--

Charlie pulls a GUN.

Elroy goes to a desk drawer--opens it--pulls out a
screenplay--hands it to Charlie.

Charlie examines the cover by flashlight:

THE GREATEST HUSBAND EVER: My Incredible Life with U.S.
Marine Sergeant Charles Duckworth, Winner of the Navy Cross

CHARLIE

You mention this to anyone, my
homies'll kill ya.

Charlie raises the flashlight as though to strike Elroy--
Elroy flinches--Charlie unscrews the flashlight--drops the
batteries into his palm--tosses the flashlight--leaves
Elroy in darkness.

Elroy picks up a cell phone--opens it, shedding light--
punches 9-1--pauses--closes cell phone.

EXT. FORTUNA WOODS PATHWAY - DAY

Charlie and Virginia walk a path--Charlie faster--waits for
Virginia to catch up--moves ahead again.

VIRGINIA

Charlie! Can you slow down?

Charlie, agitated, stops.

MORE

CONTINUED

Virginia approaches to kiss Charlie--Charlie reflexively backs off--Virginia looks at him closely--sees something on the back of Charlie's neck.

VIRGINIA

You got something here..

Virginia rubs a finger on the back of Charlie's neck--holds the finger up to Charlie--the finger is smudged with a black shoe polish-like substance.

VIRGINIA (CON'T)

That's odd.

CHARLIE

I dropped the house key under my car.
Got down, decided to check the universal joint.

Virginia takes a breath.

Long pause.

VIRGINIA

I haven't been a good wife lately.
I've been selfish.

CHARLIE

You been good enough.

VIRGINIA

You used to be so patient, so gentle.
I accept my body...isn't what it used to be.. (beat) Darling, would you like to take a lover?

Pause.

CHARLIE

I...I...uh...

INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

CLOSE ON COMPUTER SCREEN:

"let me start buy saying,this is very real post.i am a married white female 47yrs old ,sexy small 5.4, sandy blonde hair brown eyes 120lbs.what im intrested in is a (fwb) type of situation.i have recently lost a good paying job,and i have lots of bills to pay.what i was thinking,is for you ,a financially stable man to want to see me on a regular basis,for sex,or what ever you wanted from me. maybe 2 or 3 times a week.for the right man,i am open to sex including,vaginal,oral,and anal."

(We do not need the time to read the entire post. Just enough time to get the idea.)

"i will swallow your cum.and you could do me bare back.if you also like i can cook and clean or do office work.please let me know if there is something else that you might want that i have not thought about. please send me a picture,and I'll do the same thanks hope to hear from you soon.

"ps my husband dose know about this post,and i am not a pro,and have never done this before.i just need \$\$\$"

As we read:

CHARLIE (OS)
(calling out)
Honey, I found a housekeeper! Plus,
she cooks!

VIRGINIA (OS)
How?

CHARLIE (OS)
Craigslist!

Virginia enters Charlie's office--looks over Charlie's shoulder, a hand massaging his scalp.

After Virginia has read enough:

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA

I'm having second thoughts.

CHARLIE

We had an AGREEMENT. Can you never honor your word? (beat) Alright, pick up your own fucking rice cake bits! Like you promised! Or you got second thoughts about that, too?

VIRGINIA

I never thought...Charlie, she's married! Her husband might be a violent psychopath! (beat) I can't be a party to this.

CHARLIE

Cool! I'll go it alone!

Virginia pushes a button on the computer. The screen goes black.

EXT. MONASTERY BEACH - CARMEL - DAY

Sweatsuited Charlie, lifting five pound weights in each fist, runs, and runs, and runs.

INT. DUCKWORTHS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Charlie and Virginia lay in bed, each reading a book.

Charlie's still reading his Vietnam history.

Virginia's book: CPR FOR YOUR SEX LIFE: HOW TO BREATHE LIFE INTO A DEAD, DYING OR DULL SEX LIFE (A Guide and Workbook for Couples) by Mildred L. Brown, Ph.D and Stephen L. Braveman, MA

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Ginny? (she ignores him) Ginny? I'm
sorry. It would've been a disaster.

Virginia looks over at Charlie.

CHARLIE (CON'T)

Quality time. Remember that Big Sur
trail?

VIRGINIA

(softening)

You dragged me into that cliffside
cave what, 30 years ago?

CHARLIE

Then we had that great dinner at
the Rocky Point Inn.

Virginia leans over, kisses Charlie.

EXT. HIGHWAY ONE - BIG SUR COAST - DAY

The Duckworth BMW tools down the spectacular Big Sur Coast.

WE SEE CLOUDS on the horizon, over the sea.

INT. DUCKWORTH BMW - SAME

Virginia, at the wheel, sings "Everything Old is New Again"
while Charlie watches the spectacular scenery fly by.

VIRGINIA

When trumpets were mellow,
And every gal only had one fellow,
No need to remember when,
'Cause everything old is new again!

EXT. CLIFFSIDE TRAIL - BIG SUR COAST - SAME

Charlie and Virginia pick their way along the face of a
cliff, 300 feet above the pounding surf--Charlie leads.

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA
Takes me back, Charlie.

CHARLIE
Me, too.

They reach a narrow place.

Charlie leaps ahead--reaches back--Virginia takes his hand--Charlie lifts her to his boulder.

Virginia embraces Charlie.

VIRGINIA
You're so fit these days. Like
you've found your second wind.

CHARLIE
The fact I'm 68 never leaves me.

They walk again.

VIRGINIA
Charlie...if you had a lover, would
you still want me?

They walk in silence.

VIRGINIA (CON'T)
Charlie...?

Charlie stops.

CHARLIE
I've come to accept certain
realities, Ginny.

Charlie proceeds along the path--Virginia follows.

VIRGINIA
I got an odd call from Elroy.

Charlie stops.

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA (CON'T)

Said he lost the screenplay. Wanted
to know if I'd backed it up.

CHARLIE

And?

VIRGINIA

No.

CHARLIE

Guess that's all settled.

The walk further, to an outcropping.

Charlie and Virginia walk to its furthest jutting, out over
the roiling Pacific.

VIRGINIA

My God, the beauty, Charlie! Does this
not make you sure God looks over us?

CHARLIE

I never doubted.

VIRGINIA

(peering in the distance)
Rain?

Charlie backs up behind Virginia--kneels slightly, as
though about to start a sprint--seeks the resolve to push
Virginia off the ledge.

WE HEAR HUMAN VOICES approaching.

Charlie looks to his left--50 feet away, TWO HIPPIES round
a bend, coming toward the Duckworths.

Charlie stands upright, smiles at them.

CHARLIE

Afternoon.

MORE

CONTINUED

MALE HIPPIE

Hey, man.

FEMALE HIPPIE

You guys seen the whales?

MALE HIPPIE

(pointing)

Out there. Where the clouds part,
below that...there!

VIRGINIA

Look, Charlie!

CHARLIE

I hear the smell from their blow holes
could strip the paint off a battleship.

VIRGINIA

(to the hippies)

Ignore my husband. He can be a Gloomy
Gus.

The male hippie pulls a cellphone out of his denim jacket
pocket--opens it--consults it.

MALE HIPPIE

National Weather Service says a storm's
on the way. We'll be clearin' out.

The two hippies move on down the path.

VIRGINIA

Charlie...?

CHARLIE

Yeah?

VIRGINIA

You wanna turn back?

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

We'll be fine. There's always the
cave.

Charlie picks his way along the trail, followed by
Virginia.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE TRAIL ON THE CLIFF FACE - BIG SUR - LATER

The winds gust as Charlie and Virginia pick their way along
the trail--a particularly precipitous section.

VIRGINIA

Charlie! I feel the Holy Spirit!

CHARLIE

Tell 'im not to let it rain!

VIRGINIA

Seriously! (drops to her knees)
Join me, Charlie!

Charlie joins Virginia. They kneel.

VIRGINIA

Then the devil took him to the holy
city and had him stand on the highest
point of the temple. "If you are the
Son of God," he said, "throw yourself
down"...

Virginia takes her husband's hand as rain begins to fall.

VIRGINIA (CON'T)

...For it is written: "He will command
his angels concerning you, and they will
lift you up in their hands, so that you
will not strike your foot against a stone."
Charlie?

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE

Jesus answered him, "It is also written:
'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Virginia rises--Charlie rises--they embrace--they separate--gaze into each others' eyes.

CHARLIE GRABS VIRGINIA'S ARM AND SWINGS HER OUT OVER THE VOID--VIRGINIA REACHES OUT WITH HER OTHER HAND--GRABS CHARLIE'S JACKET.

CHARLIE LOSES HIS BALANCE--AS A UNIT, THEY SLIDE OVER THE EDGE--CHARLIE GRABS A BUSH--THEY DANGLE.

VIRGINIA

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!? CHARLIE!

CHARLIE

Leggo, you bitch!

VIRGINIA

Don't let me die!

Virginia looks up at Charlie with the weight of their lives together--with her Christian yearning--with her sweetness of character.

Charlie howls--pulls Virginia up to him--onto the trail.

Charlie collapses, sobbing--rain pelts the pair.

VIRGINIA

Are you insane?!?

CHARLIE

I've been so bad!

Virginia stands over Charlie--judging him as he sobs.

Virginia softens at Charlie's abject defenselessness.

Virginia kneels--holds Charlie--rocks him like a baby.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT - THE CAVE - BIG SUR - DAY

Whipped by gale force winds, Charlie and Virginia enter a cave in the cliff face.

INT. CAVE - BIG SUR - DAY

Charlie and Virginia lean against the cave wall, looking out at the sheets of rain obscuring their view of the ocean.

CHARLIE

So what do we do?

VIRGINIA

We're gonna beat the devil, Charlie.
(beat) But we never discuss it. Except where he will never trespass.

CHARLIE

He goes anywhere he wants.

VIRGINIA

Not everywhere. (beat) We're gonna get back to the car. Then we're gonna drive to the Camaldoli Hermitage. They'll take us in for sure.

EXT. THE TRAIL - DAY

In a driving rain, Charlie and Virginia battle their way against the wind, picking their way across the cliff face.

INT. THE DUCKWORTHS' CAR - DUSK

Virginia's driving.

As the windshield wipers slap the rain off the glass, Charlie warms his hands in the gust of the dashboard blowers.

CHARLIE

There's one more thing.

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA

Careful...

CHARLIE

He already knows. (beat) My infertility? Cliff did that to me on my 13th birthday. I think he figured if I had no kids, I'd be bound to him. (starts to cry) I know you wanted kids...

Virginia reaches over, takes Charlie's hand.

CHARLIE (CON'T)

He's been with me for as long as I can remember. Maybe it goes back in my family. Some kind of curse.

VIRGINIA

I admire you.

CHARLIE

Don't admire me for the wrong reasons.

VIRGINIA

What are the right reasons?

CHARLIE

How do you do it?

VIRGINIA

Do what?

CHARLIE

Forgive me.

VIRGINIA

I see no alternative.

CHARLIE

It must cost you.

VIRGINIA

Someone else already paid.

EXT. NEW CAMALDOLI HERMITAGE - BIG SUR COAST - NIGHT

A MONK guides the Duckworths to a tiny cabin--unlocks the door--lets them in.

INT. THE CABIN - MORNING

Sleeping Charlie and Virginia lie entwined.

BRIGHT SUNLIGHT BREAKS THROUGH A CLOUD AND THROUGH A WINDOW--BATHES THEIR BED IN BRILLIANCE--THEIR EYES OPEN SIMULTANEOUSLY--THE DUCKWORTHS TAKE IN THE WONDER OF THIS SIMPLE HOLY PLACE.

INT. DUCKWORTHS' CAR - DAY

Heading north on Highway One, Charlie's back at the wheel.

INT. CARMEL VALLEY LIBERTY CHURCH - DAY

The Duckworths confer with the pastor from adjacent pews.

PASTOR

That's quite a story. You're assuming I'll honor confidentiality?

CHARLIE

I've committed no crimes.

The pastor considers the Duckworths' predicament.

PASTOR

(to Charlie)

I don't mean to sound harsh. But... have you considered psychotherapy?

CHARLIE

Do you or do you not believe the devil walks the earth?

PASTOR

Let's leave that for the Catholics and the snake handlers.

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA

Cute. They teach you that in the seminary?

PASTOR

I am properly rebuked. (beat) The only defense against the demonic is to stand firm. See Matthew 4, Ephesians 6 and I Peter 5.

CHARLIE

As in "Get behind me, Satan"?

PASTOR

That's a paraphrase, but, yes.

CHARLIE

That's it? Stand firm? Are you kidding? This guy Cliff can do anything!

PASTOR

Okay, then. Call Ghostbusters.

EXT. ROBINSON CANYON ROAD - ABOVE CARMEL VALLEY - DAY

The Duckworths arrive at the San Vicente Rancho exit. The BMW turns left--stops at a low pillar--Charlie punches the gate combination into the board--the electronic gate swings open.

INT. DUCKWORTHS' CAR - DAY

VIRGINIA

Listen closely. Are you listening?

CHARLIE

I'm all ears.

VIRGINIA

He will say anything to you. Do not listen. Do not respond. I know how confrontational you can be.

MORE

CONTINUED

Charlie nods.

VIRGINIA (CON'T)
Our lives depend on it.

EXT. THE TRAIL TO CLIFF'S CABIN - SAME

Charlie and Virginia walk the path.

VIRGINIA
"Look to yourselves; that we do not
lose those things we worked for,
but that we may receive a full
reward."

INT. CLIFF'S CABIN - DAY

Rufus dozes in a sunny spot on the floor--Cliff, naked,
resting in his easy chair--sits bolt upright.

CLIFF
Rufus! (Rufus lifts his heads)
Intruders.

Rufus rises, trots out the open door.

EXT. THE TRAIL - DAY

The Duckworths round the bend and arrive at the lake.
Cliff's cabin sits on the opposite side.

They stop, survey the scene.

RUFUS (OS)
Y'all have a reservation?

Charlie and Virginia turn in the direction of the voice.

Virginia nearly faints at the sight of the three-headed
boar.

Charlie pulls out his pistol--fires three times--each a
direct headshot.

MORE

CONTINUED

Rufus lunges forward--just before he reaches the Duckworths, he goes down--the earth shakes.

Across the lake, Cliff, naked, appears on the balcony.

CLIFF
(calling out)
Hey! Firearms are illegal here!
I got a good mind to turn you in!

VIRGINIA
(whispers)
Ignore him.

CLIFF
Hang on! Lemme put on something
decent!

Charlie and Virginia walk down to the lakeside.

VIRGINIA
Put that gun away. For good.

CHARLIE
Why? Worked on the pig.

VIRGINIA
If you fire, it'll mean you've listened to him. I doubt bullets'll do any good against him.

CHARLIE
(tosses the gun away)
Good point.

Cliff, wearing multi-colored form-fitting garb, appears on the lake--walks toward Charlie and Virginia.

CLIFF
Well, hey, if it isn't the Fuckworths. Where ya been hidin'?

MORE

CONTINUED

Cliff, still on the water, stops ten yards from the Duckworths.

Virginia takes Charlie's hand.

VIRGINIA

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers..."

Cliff smirks.

VIRGINIA (CON'T)

"...against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

CLIFF

Ri-i-i-ght. Charlie, where you stand on this? You with titless?

CHARLIE

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able...able..."

VIRGINIA

"...to withstand the evil day, and having done all..."

CHARLIE & VIRGINIA

"...to stand."

Cliff lurches backward as if struck--gathers himself--waves his left arm.

A SHADOW APPEARS IN THE LAKE, JUST UNDER THE SURFACE-- BREAKS THE SURFACE--WE SEE A MASSIVE CREATURE--COMBINES THE HEAD OF A GOAT WITH THE BODY OF A FISH, THE SAME AS THE TATTOO ON CHARLIE'S BACK--RISES UP AND UP--TOWERING OVER THE LAKE--SHOOTS FIRE FROM ITS EYES.

MORE

CONTINUED

VIRGINIA

"Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one."

Cliff reels backwards--waves his right arm--the skies darken--WE HEAR DISTANT THUNDER.

CLIFF

Your baby Jesus sucks cock. Charlie... tell 'er 'bout that middle schooler you fucked in Soledad.

Charlie ignores Cliff.

CLIFF

Hey, you've been my bitch goin' back four generations...

LIGHTNING strikes the lake--the lake CATCHES FIRE--the GOATFISH MONSTER and Cliff are in their element.

CLIFF (CON'T)

...Your great-great-great grandfather Hezekiah sold his soul, and all his male descendents', for a tobacco plantation! Owned a passel-a slaves!

VIRGINIA

"And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

CLIFF

(dripping with sarcasm)
Okay, y'all wanna play Dueling Banjos?

MORE

CONTINUED

CLIFF (CON'T)

"I saw heaven standing open and there
before me was a white horse, whose
rider is called Faithful and True.
With justice he judges and makes war!"

Cliff shifts in his palms--throws feces in his right hand at
the Duckworths--hits Virginia in the face--throws the shit
in his left hand upward--shit changes into a BLACK HORSE.

Charlie moves to wipe Virginia's face clean.

VIRGINIA
(whispers)

Leave it.

FOUR BLACK HORSES ridden by SWORD-WIELDING DEMONS appear in
the black sky--they ride down toward the Duckworths.

As the horses and demons approach:

VIRGINIA

"These have come so that your faith--
of greater worth than gold, which
perishes even though refined by fire--
may be proved genuine and may result
in praise, glory and honor when Jesus
Christ is revealed."

The demons on horseback close in on the Duckworths.

CHARLIE
Ain't lookin' good.

VIRGINIA
LORD! I CALL ON YOU!

WE HEAR A BOOMING VOICE COMING FROM NOWHERE.

VOICE
I am Alpha and Omega, the first and
the last. Who is and was and who is
to come, the Almighty.

MORE

CONTINUED

SEVEN GOLDEN LAMPS appear in the sky--the horses/demons melt away just as they reach the Duckworths.

A FIGURE appears among the lamps: Clothed in a body length garment, the figure's face is composed of BLAZING, NEARLY BLINDING LIGHT--his hair is long and white.

In his right hand: SEVEN STARS--he throws them into the heavens.

A TWO-EDGED SWORD emerges from his mouth.

BLAZING MAN

(to Charlie)

I have the keys of Hades and Death.

CLIFF

(to Charlie)

No, Charles, you're not on acid. This is their show. You buyin' into it?

VIRGINIA

"I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is."

CLIFF

(to Virginia)

I've watched you when you were alone. You and that dildo shame the Whore of Babylon!

CHARLIE

Fuck you, Cliff.

VIRGINIA

No!

Charlie has acknowledged Cliff--Cliff's eyes blaze with victory--walks across the remaining watery, flaming distance--enters Charlie's body--Charlie's eyes turn a brilliant red.

MORE

CONTINUED

CHARLIE walks like a HERKY JERKY MARIONETTE toward the flaming lake.

VIRGINIA
Charlie! No!

CHARLIE
(in an otherworldly voice)
Fuck you, cunt.

Virginia runs toward Charlie.

As she runs:

VIRGINIA
"Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art
an offence unto me: for thou savourest
not the things that be of God, but
those that be of men!"

Charlie stops. His body droops as Cliff oozes out of it. Cliff leaps into the lake of fire and disappears.

Charlie has no sense of balance--wobbles on the edge of the lake--Virginia leaps to grab him--grasps his wrist--Charlie starts slipping into the lake of fire.

EXT. SOMEWHERE IN THE HEAVENS - NIGHT

Charlie sees an OPEN DOOR--walks through.

WE SEE the Man with the blazing face on a THRONE.

There's a RAINBOW around the throne--SEVEN LAMPS in front of it--24 OTHER THRONES sit in a semi-circle--occupied by ELDERS wearing GOLDEN CROWNS.

WE HEAR LIGHTNING, THUNDER, DISTANT VOICES.

FOUR LIVING CREATURES appear: one is LION-LIKE; the second is CALF-LIKE; the third has CHARLIE'S FACE; the fourth is EAGLE-LIKE. Each has SIX WINGS, with EYES all over their heads.

MORE

CONTINUED

CREATURES

(all together)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.

The 24 elders fall from their thrones--kneel to the man with the blazing face, worshiping him.

An ANGEL flies up to Charlie--hands him a KEY--points to a HORIZONTAL DOOR that sits as though it leads to a basement.

EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

Virginia squeezes Charlie's wrist as he slides downward.

VIRGINIA

I...will...not...let...go!

EXT. THE HEAVENS - NIGHT

Charlie opens the door--SMOKE ESCAPES--followed by a SWARM OF LOCUSTS with FACES OF MEN, CROWNS of GOLD, TAILS like SCORPIONS'.

ONE LOCUST has CLIFF'S FACE.

LOCUST WITH CLIFF'S FACE

(to Charlie, in weird
distorted voice)

I am Abbaddon.

Cliff-the-locust wheels around--leads locusts downward--they disappear.

EXT. THE LAKE - DAY

The lake is frozen. Snow covers the hills and trees. Virginia stands bereft, on the shore.

An ANGEL, clothed in a CLOUD, RAINBOW around head, FEET like PILLARS OF FIRE, descends from the sky--comes to earth, one foot on lake, one foot on land.

MORE

CONTINUED

The angel holds a SMALL BOOK in one hand.

ANGEL
(calling upward)
Let us delay no longer!

Charlie appears next to Virginia.

CHARLIE
Give me the book.

ANGEL
Take it and eat it. It will be
sweet as honey in your mouth. It
will make your stomach bitter.

The angel hands the book to Charlie.

Charlie eats the book--the sky goes black.

Charlie and Virginia look skyward.

WE SEE a WOMAN clothed with the SUN--the MOON under her
feet--on her HEAD, a CROWN OF TWELVE STARS.

The woman is PREGNANT--groans with pain of childbirth.

WE SEE a GREAT RED DRAGON--SEVEN HEADS and TEN HORNS--a
CROWN on each head--its TAIL SWINGS, cleaves the night--
HUNDREDS of STARS FALL.

The dragon poses before the birthing woman--ready to devour
the soon-to-come child.

The BABY EMERGES--the woman immediately clasps the baby to
her breast, protecting him from the dragon.

WOMAN
Down with you, Satan!

The dragon transforms into our conventional image of SATAN
--Satan falls downward--crashes through the lake's icy
surface.

MORE

CONTINUED

WOMAN (CON'T)
(as she comes
down to Virginia)
Now is come salvation, and strength,
and the kingdom of our God, and the
power of his Christ...

The woman places the baby in Virginia's arms.

WOMAN (CON'T)
...for the accuser of our brethren is
cast down, which accused them before
our God day and night.

The woman SPROUTS TWO WINGS--flies off.

WE SEE the INFANT CHARLIE in Virginia's arms.

The snow melts--the lake turns back to water--Winter
changes into Spring--FLOWERS BLOOM everywhere--Cliff's
cabin crumbles into the lake.

VIRGINIA
(to Charlie in her arms)
It's okay now, Charlie.

Virginia bares one of her breasts--puts it in the infant
Charlie's mouth.

Charlie suckles.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END

Copyright 2009, NADJA PRODUCTIONS
First Draft: September 17-October 7, 2009
Second Draft: October 15, 2009
Third Draft: November 10, 2009
Fourth Draft: January 11, 2010