

DICE AND ICE

by

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FADE IN:

BEGIN OPENING CREDITS:

1 EXT. HIGHWAY - MORNING TWILIGHT

As the sun rises, a Greyhound bus rolls down the New Jersey Turnpike. The sign on the side advertises "Atlantic City Tours"

CUT TO:

2 INT. GREYHOUND BUS - MORNING

The bus is crammed with all sorts of people on their way to Atlantic City. All different age groups are represented, from young to old. Some reading, some sleeping, others talking about the casinos.

DAVE MORETTI, a well-built but boyish looking thirty-year old, is sitting quietly in the back. Dave, a serious looking person when it comes to business but more serious when it comes to sports, adjusts his glasses while reading a book on "How To Beat The Odds".

In the seat next to Dave is NICK CHRISTIE. Nick, a handsome and charismatic thirty-year-old, with the attitude of someone who just 'wings it' through life and doesn't take anything too seriously, is flirting with a cute RED-HEADED GIRL seated across the aisle from him.

Dave turns to Nick and nudges him in the ribs.

NICK

(glances over)
Yeah?

DAVE

You know that blackjack gives the player the best overall odds at winning against the house...

NICK

(rolls his eyes)
I'm in the middle of a conversation over here.

Dave shifts in his seat, leaning forward to address the girl across the aisle.

DAVE

Excuse us...

Dave leans back in his seat, and focuses his attention back

to Nick.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Listen, Nick. Although the betting in craps is usually larger and it progresses at a faster rate of play...I was just thinking that maybe we should stick to playing blackjack to be safe.

Nick stares blankly at Dave.

NICK

Are you going to shit an egg?

DAVE

What?!

NICK

Shit an egg. You're chickening out on me, so I was wondering if you were going to shit an egg.

DAVE

I am not chickening out! I just want to make sure that we know all our options and think this through as thoroughly as possible, where we can make the safest bets and get the best odds.

Nick shakes his head in disbelief.

NICK

Com'on Dave, we've been through this same argument about a thousand times.

DAVE

I know. But maybe...

NICK

Maybe what?! Do you want to spend the rest of your life being like everyone else? Working day to day, just getting by?

DAVE

I'm happy working for a living, like every other normal person.

NICK

For once in your life think big, will you! You have to be willing to

take a chance!

Nick starts to get excited as his pitch builds.

NICK (CONT'D)

We've been working all summer long on this craps system. It's a sure thing. It can't miss! I've got a feeling about this trip...There's something big in store for us!

DAVE

I don't know how I let you talk me into these things? The only thing in store for us is losing all our money and going home broke!

NICK

Sure, with a negative attitude like that. Think positive, man.

Nick puts one arm around Dave, while gesturing with his other an imaginary picture in the air.

NICK (CONT'D)

Picture it. A week from now we'll be retired, laying on the beach in Rio de Janeiro...Sipping champagne ...Surrounded by gorgeous babes!

Dave and Nick stare at each other. Nick tilts his, looking at Dave with pleading eyes.

DAVE

You're such an asshole.

Both smile.

DAVE (CONT'D)

But we stick strictly to the system. No deviations. And none of your wild hunches or feelings!

NICK

It's a deal partner.

DAVE

Okay. Let's go over it some more.

Dave reaches under his seat and pulls out a duffel bag. He unzips it and takes out a mini craps table. He hands Nick a

pair of dice. Nick starts shaking the dice.

NICK

Let's see that Nick Christie luck!
Come on seven!!

As Nick rolls the dice, Dave watches carefully with a notebook and pen with which to record the results.

CLOSE UP:

INSERT a shot of the dice landing in the mini table and coming out a *SEVEN*.

BACK TO SCENE:

Nick flashes a big smile and starts *singing...*

NICK

When my baby looks at me I go to
Rio...de Janeiro...

END OPENING CREDITS:

CUT TO:

3 INT. DARKENED ROOM

There are four MEN, dressed in tuxedos, loading and checking Uzi's.

Another MAN sits alone in a corner of the room loading a .38 police revolver. He is dressed in a police officer's uniform.

CUT TO:

4 INT. CASINO BASEMENT/BOILER ROOM

A MAINTENANCE MAN outfitted in a Staff uniform is busy hooking up large air tanks to the casino's ventilation.

Labels on the sides of the tanks read: *ETHER.*

CUT TO:

5 EXT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL - DAY

The Greyhound tour bus pulls up in front of the hotel. The people get off and congregate around the hotel entrance, as PORTERS and DOORMEN scurry to help with the luggage.

Dave gets off the bus and looks around. Nick follows, his attention, and his charming smile, still focused on the Red-headed girl from across the bus.

A bubbly HOSTESS leads everyone into the lobby.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - DAY

Salvatore Bolzana's sprawling multi-acre estate is located in a rural area of New Jersey. Fir trees line the half-mile driveway, which winds through a beautiful wooded area, up to the house. The elegant Colonial style forty-roomed house, complete with a wrap around porch, is picturesque. A gazebo sits in the manicured backyard, overlooking a kidney shaped swimming pool. A small army of armed security guards constantly patrols the grounds of the estate.

CUT TO:

7 INT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S OFFICE - DAY

It is a dark and richly decorated office that reflects wealth and power.

Seated in a high-back leather chair in front of his huge oak desk and smoking his trademark Romeo y Julieta cigar is SALVATORE BOLZANA.

The sixty-three-year-old impeccably dressed Salvatore, looks much more like a distinguished lawyer than the powerful established crime boss of Atlantic City's underworld.

FRANK DUCCA, a muscular good-looking man who looks like an ex-football player and is Salvatore's loyal and trusted personal bodyguard, walks into the office.

FRANK

Everyone is in place and ready, Mr. Bolzana.

Salvatore sits back in his chair and nods with approval as he exhales a big cloud of smoke.

CUT TO:

8 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

The group from the bus are signing in at the front desk and receiving their room keys.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - DAY

An isolated Victorian mansion sits high atop the Cliffside, which overlooks the ocean below. A helicopter circles the mansion and lands in the front yard.

The PILOT gets out and walks across the driveway, passing a red Ferrari Testa Rosa and a blue Porsche 959, on his way towards the entrance of the mansion.

CUT TO:

10 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - DAY

Pacing around the middle of his sleek and overly extravagant decorated den, surrounded by chrome and glass furnishings, is JOHNNY ZINTANIO.

Johnny is a fortyish, ruthlessly insane, junior crime boss who is trying to further his career by taking over Atlantic City's underworld.

Also in the room is TONY CLARK, a crafty-looking, curly-haired strong-arm for Johnny.

Tony lights up a cigarette just as DANNY GIAMETTI enters the room.

Danny who is also a strong-arm for Johnny, has a gentle nature about him that is offset by his dark gangsterish looks.

DANNY

Yo, Johnny, the pilot just got back with the chopper. He's ready when you are.

Johnny bends over a glass table and finishes a line of cocaine that was laid out.

He stands up and rubbing his hands briskly together.

JOHNNY

All right. Danny, you stay here and take care of business until I return. Tony, you're with me. Let's go get paid!

Johnny and Tony leave.

CUT TO:

11 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY

Nick and Dave are walking down the hallway looking for their room. They come to a halt in front of number 927, unlock the door and enter.

CUT TO:

12 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Their hotel room is of average size with two twin beds. Nick and Dave walk around inspecting the room.

Dave looks out the window that has a picturesque view of the boardwalk and the ocean below.

DAVE

Check out this cool view.

Nick throws his overnight bag onto a bed.

NICK

Great...Let's go hit a casino!

DAVE

Chill out. We just got here. The casinos aren't going anywhere.

Dave plops down on the other bed.

NICK

Well, what do you want to do?

DAVE

I'm kind of hungry...How about you?

NICK

Now that you mention it...I could chow down at a buffet or something.

DAVE

How about we go pick up our rental car first and get that out of the way. Then we'll can find a restaurant and stuff our faces...And then we can hit a casino?

NICK

Sounds like a game plan.

CUT TO:

13 INT. CASINO CONVENTION ROOM - DAY

There is a large fancy sign just inside the entrance to the convention room which reads: *DIAMOND EXHIBIT & AUCTION - BY*

PRIVATE INVITATION ONLY.

Standing next to the sign, on both sides of the doorway are two POLICEMEN, who are checking invitations of people going inside to the auction.

Everyone is dressed to the nines. This is a black tie affair.

The Policemen close and lock the doors as the final guests enter the room.

CUT TO:

14 INT. CASINO - DAY

Nick and Dave walk into the casino and take in the exciting ambiance of it.

There are crowds of people gambling everywhere. Blackjack and roulette tables are filled. Slots are being pulled excitedly. Lights and glitter all around, blinding the eye.

They laugh as they witness a fat lady screaming and jumping in ecstasy as her slots machine rings aloud with hundreds of coins pouring out.

As Frank Sinatra croons, "Luck be a Lady" from overhead speakers, Nick snaps his fingers to the tune, flashing a big smile at Dave as they head towards the craps area.

CUT TO:

15 INT. CASINO CONVENTION ROOM - DAY

It is a very elegant setting. The guests are all having a great time. Waiters are serving caviar and constantly pouring champagne.

Several guests are gathered around a large crystal punchbowl in the center of the room. The mood is proper and mannerly, but festive.

There are three UNIFORMED GUARDS, discreetly walking around the room, keeping an eye on everyone.

The guests are looking at the diamonds in their glass display cases. Inspecting them closely before the auction begins.

Crossing the room from one display case to another walks, MARIA RENATTE, a stunningly beautiful blonde with deep blue

eyes. Maria has an air of confidence and sophistication about her that is evident in the way she carries herself. Just about every head in the room turns to watch her move.

She glances around and then at her watch as the time advances to twelve o'clock.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. CASINO ROOF - DAY

The helicopter Pilot gingerly sets the chopper down on the roof of the casino.

The doors open and Johnny gets out, followed by Tony.

CUT TO:

17 INT. CASINO CONVENTION ROOM - DAY

The two Policemen are standing stolidly at their post by the front entrance.

The Policeman on the right astutely bends down to tie his shoe. Unholstering his revolver, he stands back up and puts a bullet into the head of the other Policeman.

Immediately, four MEN dressed in tuxedos pull out Uzi's from under their jackets.

MEN
(simultaneously)
FREEZE!

Two of the Men go to both the exits to prevent anyone's chance of escaping.

One of the Uniformed Guards draws his weapon, but is quickly riddled with shots from several Uzi's.

Panic erupts. Women begin screaming. Guests huddle together in fear. Husbands try to calm their crying wives. There are several shouts for help.

The Policeman/Bandit fires a few shots into the crystal punchbowl, shattering it, and spilling its contents onto the floor...getting everyone's attention.

POLICEMAN/BANDIT
Please be quiet! It's no use
screaming because these walls are
soundproof, so no one is going to

here you...Do as I say and no one else will have to die. Now, everyone down on the floor! Move it!

The frightened guests comply instantly, getting on the floor quickly. The Men with the Uzi's shove some who are slower down.

Two of the Men goes around to the display cases and attaching a compass-like device to the top, cuts the glass.

The Policeman/Bandit follows behind them collecting the diamonds into a single pouch.

Maria is laying quietly on the floor, concealed behind one of the display cases. She reaches up and carefully trips a silent alarm button hidden underneath the case. Reaching into her purse, she pulls out her cell phone, and sends a quick text message.

Maria then starts to pull out a mask.

CUT TO:

18 INT. CASINO CONVENTION ROOM ENTRANCE DOORS - DAY

A WAITER loiters casually around the convention room entrance. A tone goes off in his vest pocket.

He pulls out a cell phone...glancing at the text message from Maria.

He quickly proceeds to lock and bolt the **entrance doors** to the convention room.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. CASINO CONVENTION ROOM FIRE EXIT DOORS - DAY

The person dressed as the hotel Maintenance Man also has a similar cell phone which goes off.

He promptly locks and chains the outside **fire exit doors** to the convention room.

CUT TO:

20 INT. CASINO BASEMENT/BOILER ROOM - DAY

Another of the men dressed as hotel MAINTENANCE STAFF receives the same message.

He opens the valves, releasing the gas from the tanks of either into the vents marked **CONVENTION ROOM**.

CUT TO:

21 INT. CASINO CONVENTION ROOM - DAY

The Policeman/Bandit has just finished filling the pouch with the last of the diamonds from the cases.

CLOSE UP:

INSERT a shot of the vents as they start to emit the **GAS** into the room.

BACK TO SCENE:

The room starts to become foggy as the gas fills up the entire area quickly. Everyone starts to choke and cough from the gas. People begin to get dizzy and pass out...sprawled about the floor, unconscious.

POLICEMAN/BANDIT

What the fuck's going on?! Let's get out of here! I've got all the stuff!!

One of the Men tries to open the entrance doors but finds that they won't budge.

UZI MAN 1

These doors are locked from the outside! We can't get out this way!

POLICEMAN/BANDIT

(coughing)
Try the other ones! They can't all be locked!

The other Men rush over to the fire exit doors and find that they are also sealed shut.

UZI MAN 2

All the exits are locked!! We're trapped...in....here...Can't....
.....breathe...

Policeman/Bandit and his Men all collapse to the floor, finally succumbing to the gas.

Maria stands up, wearing a small gas mask. She crosses the

room, stepping carefully over people, to where the Policeman/Bandit is out cold.

She removes the diamonds from his possession. She then goes over to one of the vents, removes the grate, and disappears into it.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. CASINO ROOF - DAY

Johnny is pacing frantically, all the while looking anxiously at his watch.

Tony exchanges nervous glances with the Pilot, who seated in the helicopter.

JOHNNY

They should have been out by now,
they're way overdue! This thing was
supposed to go smooth...So help them
if they've screwed it up!

Tony peers down over the edge of the roof.

ANGLE ON:

Looking down from the rooftop, the street below is crowded with police cruisers flying up the road...Blazing lights and blaring sirens, as they pull up to the hotel frontage.

BACK TO SCENE:

TONY

Hey Johnny, there's a ton of cop
cars pulling up out front! Oh shit,
here comes the friggin SWAT team!

Johnny joins Tony near the edge of the roof and gazes down.

JOHNNY

Something's wrong...Get me out the
fuck out of here!

Johnny and Tony jump into the helicopter, as the Pilot revs up the blades and takes off.

CUT TO:

23 INT. CASINO - DAY

Nick and Dave are engrossed in heavy play at the craps

table. Nick is throwing the dice, while Dave places their bets.

NICK

All right, let's see that seven!
Give it to me!!

Nick rolls a losing point.

DAVE

(calculating to
himself)

According to the system, we change the bet to the pass line and go with the shooter...Then decrease the bet as the come out point wins...And to an increase only after the shooters loss, when a seven shows.

Dave reaches to move the bets around on the table.

NICK

Wait! I feel a lucky roll. I can feel a seven coming next!

DAVE

We had a deal, Nick. We agreed to follow the system for the entire trip!

NICK

You're right, we agreed. Okay, make the bet according to the system.

Nick shakes the dice fervently, heating them up, as Dave places more bets.

CUT TO:

24 INT. CASINO BASEMENT/PARKING GARAGE - DAY

The Waiter is helping Maria out of the ventilation shaft.

Moving through the basement, she starts to change her clothes. She also removes blue contacts and a blonde wig, revealing her own beautiful large brown eyes and auburn hair.

WAITER

Right on time. How did it go, Maria?

MARIA

Real smooth. They never knew what

hit them.

WAITER

(laughing)

Yeah, right out from under their noses.

They are joined by the Maintenance Man, who is carrying the two empty tanks of either, slung over each shoulder.

WAITER (CONT'D)

Mr. Bolzana sure knows how to plan things.

MAINTENANCE

The van's parked over here. We'd better hurry!

Maria stops dead in her tracks.

MARIA

Hold up, plans have been changed.

The Waiter and Maintenance Man stare blankly at her. Maria hurriedly hands over her clothes to the Waiter, and points to the tanks that the Maintenance Man is carrying.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(tension in her voice)

You two get rid of this stuff and take the van...I'm going another way with the diamonds. I'll meet you back at Mr. Bolzana's.

MAINTENANCE MAN

Okay, Maria...Whatever you say.

Maria runs off in the opposite direction.

WAITER

(shrugs)

Can't argue with the boss's gal.

CUT TO:

25 INT. CASINO - DAY

Nick and Dave are still playing craps, with Dave now rolling the dice. Both their expressions reflect stressful looks. After another losing outcome, Dave raises his hands in defeat.

DAVE

Damn! That's it...We're down two hundred bucks already. Time to call it quits for today.

Nick scoops up the dice quickly.

NICK

Not yet. I know that we can win it right back. I've got this feeling!

DAVE

There you go with that feeling shit again. No way! We had a deal.

NICK

Come on, Dave.

DAVE

Be sensible, Nick. We're here for a whole week. Do you want to run out

DAVE (CONT'D)

of money in the very first afternoon?

Nick puts his hands together as if he is praying.

NICK

Another play...Just one more?

DAVE

I'm leaving now...And I'm taking the rental car. If you want to stay, find a way back yourself.

NICK

That's fine.

DAVE

And don't come asking me for any money, if you lose all of yours.

NICK

Chickenshit.

Dave gives him the finger, as he leaves the casino.

Nick turns back to the game to continue play. But after another roll and loss, he decides to stop for the day.

Nick starts running through the casino, jostling people, in his haste to catch with Dave. He barely misses upsetting a waitress with her drink tray full, as he heads out the door.

CUT TO:

26 INT. CASINO CONVENTION ROOM - DAY

The Police have arrived and have taken over...trying to sort out the crime scene. Detectives are interviewing the still groggy guests and staff. Other investigators are dusting for prints and searching and bagging clues.

Crowd control is necessary since there are also TV crews, reporters, press, and photographers all adding to the chaotic atmosphere.

The Police have handcuffed the Policeman/Bandit and his Men, and are bringing them out under heavy escort.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. CASINO PARKING GARAGE - AFTERNOON

Nick comes dashing through the front doors and sees Dave driving off.

He sprints across the parking lot after the car, cutting between the parked cars.

Just as Maria is pulling out, Nick cuts in front of her car, causing her to slam on the brakes. The car skids to a stop, lightly hitting Nick and knocking him down.

Maria gets out and runs around to the front of the car nervously.

MARIA

Oh God! I didn't even see you! Are you all right?

Nick starts to get up slowly.

NICK

(out of breath)
Yeah, I think so.

Maria helps Nick off the ground.

MARIA

I'm so sorry.

NICK

Don't worry about it. It was my fault. I'll have to stop running through parking lots without looking.

Nick starts rubbing his leg and walking with a slight limp.

MARIA

You're limping...Are you hurt?!

NICK

It's nothing, just a stiff muscle.
It'll work itself out.

Maria looks around nervously.

MARIA

I feel so bad...Can I give you a
lift somewhere?

NICK

No thanks. I'm only a little way up
the road...At the Oceanview Hotel.

Nick points, indicating the direction towards the hotel.

MARIA

(anxiously)

That's a bit more than a little way
up the road, especially on a hurt
leg...Besides it's right on my way.
Hop in.

Nick shrugs his shoulders and accepts. They both get into
her car and drive away.

CUT TO:

28 INT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE AFTERNOON

Salvatore is seated at his desk smoking a cigar. Frank
enters very businesslike.

SALVATORE

What's the word, Frank? What is
taking them so long?

FRANK

I'm afraid that I have some bad
news...Our two maintenance men in
the van were stopped by the cops as
they were leaving the casino. It
seems that someone tipped the cops
off.

Salvatore leans forward, over his desk.

SALVATORE

And what about Maria and the

diamonds?

FRANK

I don't know...It seems that she wasn't with them. No one has heard from her.

Salvatore steeples his fingers, his thoughts deep in consternation.

SALVATORE

Frank, you take care of those two that the cops have...I don't want them talking to anyone. Then find Maria. She has to be around someplace.

Frank turns and walks briskly out of the room. Salvatore leans back in his chair, thinking out loud to himself...

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

That little bitch! She had better not even be thinking of double-crossing me or I'll make her wish that she'd never spilled out of her whore of a mother's womb...Before I kill her.

CUT TO:

29 INT. MARIA'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Nick and Maria keep glancing at each other during the drive to the hotel. There is a very strong mutual attraction between them.

NICK

I really appreciate this.

MARIA

Don't mention it. It's the least I could do after almost running you down back there.

NICK

By the way, my name's Dominick... But my friends call me Nick.

Nick extends his hand. Maria smiles politely and shakes hands with him.

MARIA

Well, I'm very pleased to meet you, Nick...I'm Maria. So, where were you going in such a hurry anyway?

NICK

I was trying to catch up to my friend, who just left. I was going to stay and play a little longer, but then figured that I'd better

NICK (CONT'D)

save some money for the rest of the vacation.

Maria brakes slowly as the car approaches a red light. She turns her full attention towards Nick.

MARIA

Here on vacation, huh?

NICK

Yeah, my friend and I are down here for a little R & R. We came down from New York to hit it big...Then we're going to fly off to somewhere exotic...Maybe like Rio.

MARIA

Yeah...Good luck with that.

NICK

A skeptic, huh? Well, I'll have you know that we even stopped at one of those boardwalk fortunetellers on the way to the casino this morning. And she told me that something big was going to happen to me on this trip!

Maria rolls her eyes.

MARIA

I don't think that I'd put much faith in what those gypsies tell you. It's a little naive, don't you think?

NICK

Maybe. But you've got to have dreams. When you stop dreaming, you're dead.

Maria diverts her attention back to the road, as the signal changes to green.

MARIA

So, what do you do for a living back in New York?

NICK

My friend and I are both cops.

MARIA

(slightly off-guard)
Cops...Really?

NICK

Yeah, really...You got something against cops?

MARIA

They make me a little nervous.

NICK

We make everyone a little nervous...It kind of comes with the territory.

MARIA

I hear that it's a good career...although, I guess that there's also an element of danger.

NICK

That's no problem...That's my middle name.

MARIA

(perplexed)
Your what?

Nick arches an eyebrow in a display of cockiness.

NICK

Danger...It's my middle name.

Maria wrinkles her expression in mock bemusement.

MARIA

It should be corny.

NICK

Ha, ha...But not for long because we've got this system that's going to hit. I can feel it!

MARIA

You seem pretty sure of this system
of yours.

Nick turns sideways in his seat, facing Maria.

NICK

You've got to think positive in
everything you do...That's the key
to success.

MARIA

So what, you don't like being a cop?

Nick settles back and looks straight ahead.

NICK

Oh, it's alright, I guess. But it
was never really my passion. My
friend and I joined the force after
we got out of the military...It's
kind of an easy segue.

MARIA

Which branch were you in?

NICK

We were both in the United States
Marine Corps.

Maria smiles, obviously impressed.

MARIA

A Jarhead, huh?

NICK

We prefer the term Leathernecks,
thank you.

They look at each other, smiling flirtatiously as their eyes
meet.

NICK (CONT'D)

So, I take it that you're a local?

MARIA

Born and raised.

NICK

And how about you...What do you do
for a living?

MARIA

(avoiding)
Um...I...work for my uncle. Oh,

MARIA (CONT'D)

here we are already!

Maria pulls up in front of the hotel and puts the car in park.

NICK

Hey, thanks a lot for the ride. It was real nice meeting you, Maria.

MARIA

Same here. Who knows, maybe we'll run into each other again.

Maria blushes slightly.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(embarrassed)

Sorry...No pun intended.

They both laugh. Nick starts to open the door, then quickly turns to Maria.

NICK

Say...How would you like to get together for a drink later? You could show me the town.

MARIA

(caught off guard)

Um...Maybe...

NICK

How about around eight o'clock?

Maria ponders for a moment...calculating.

MARIA

Okay...Why not. I'm currently in the middle of moving. Here's my cell, and the number of the motel where I'm crashing temporarily.

She writes her name and telephone number of the motel, handing it to Nick, as he gets out of the car and waves her off through the window.

NICK

Thanks again!

Maria waves back as she drives away.

She watches Nick for a few seconds, his image getting smaller in her rear view mirror...Then her smile fades away,

and her expression changes as her thoughts turn to more serious matters.

CUT TO:

30 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - AFTERNOON

Johnny is pacing back and forth furiously, after finding out about the heist, and how he was set-up and ripped off by Salvatore Bolzana. Tony and Danny are seated in the room.

JOHNNY

So, fucking Sal thinks that he can rip me off like it's nothing. That old bastard is going to pay!

DANNY

Word on the street says, that chick Maria who works for Sal pulled the job.

TONY

And that she hasn't been seen nor heard from since. Not even by her own boss.

Johnny stops pacing and turns to them.

JOHNNY

Well, well, that's interesting to know. Listen Danny, you send a couple of men to locate this Maria.

Danny nods.

DANNY

Sure Johnny. I'll put word on the street with a cash reward.

JOHNNY

Get going.

Danny leaves the room on his mission. Johnny begins pacing again while contemplating something. Tony stands and lights a cigarette.

TONY

How about me?

Johnny goes over to Tony and putting his arm around his shoulder, draws him close indicating secrecy.

JOHNNY

Tony, I want you to find out how Sal

knew about our plans to heist the diamonds. There's a leak in this organization. I want you to find me the traitor...And blow the cocksuckers brains out!

CUT TO:

31 INT. MARIA'S CAR/ROADSIDE - LATE AFTERNOON

Glancing around cautiously, Maria pulls off to the side of the road and cuts the engine.

She reaches into her purse and pulls out her cell phone, pushing the buttons, and entering an eleven-digit number. Still glancing about, she waits impatiently for the connection.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. MADISON AVENUE, MANHATTAN - LATE AFTERNOON

The afternoon sun glares off the skyscrapers which line a street that offices some of the worlds most powerful lawyers. A faint phone ringing is heard from somewhere inside one of the buildings.

CUT TO:

33 INT. MADISON AVENUE OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

Sunlight floods in through the large corner windows of the office, which overlooks Madison Avenue from twenty stories up.

The office decor is polished black and white. Art Deco styled art hangs on the walls, alongside several diplomas. The sparse furniture consists of a black leather sofa with matching chairs.

Seated in a swivel chair, SIDNEY MITCHELL, ESQ, is reading a law brief. Sidney is in his mid-fifties, jovial and slightly overweight but finely dressed. He reaches across his desk to answer a ringing phone.

SIDNEY

Hello...Maria! I was expecting your call...

CUT TO:

34 INT. MARIA'S CAR/ROADSIDE - LATE AFTERNOON

Maria speaks softly into her phone, while her eyes dart about with constant paranoia.

MARIA

I've got the diamonds, Sidney, and everything's cool, so far. And, I think that I've found someone to transport the diamonds to New York for me...Unknowingly of course. I'll give you the all details when I'm safely away from here. I've got a ticket to leave late tonight, but first I'll have to set this guy up with the diamonds.

She nervously bites her fingernails while speaking.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Also, I have to stall Sal. Don't worry, he won't know a thing about you...This is going to work out real sweet. I'll text you tomorrow and tell you where to send my cut after you fence the diamonds. Oh, and Sidney, don't even think of double crossing me...Or Sal WILL know about you!

Maria clicks off her cell, composes her confidence, and makes another call.

CUT TO:

35 INT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - LATE AFTERNOON

Sal sits in a recliner in his den, sipping a glass of red wine and watching his three-year-old granddaughter, ANGELICA, playing on the rug at his feet.

She rolls a small ball towards him. He smiles lovingly and rolls it back to her, as the phone rings. He picks up the receiver.

SALVATORE

Yeah...What the hell is going on Maria?! Where the hell are you?!!

CUT TO:

36 INT. MARIA'S CAR/ROADSIDE - LATE AFTERNOON

Maria fidgets with her fingernails while talking to Sal.

MARIA

I want to renegotiate my cut from the heist. I want a fair share of what I deserve for a change. Wait, Sal, just listen. First of all, I don't want anyone trying to nab me. If I see any one of your goons, the diamonds go to the cops. Second, I want my own life. I'm sick of you controlling me. That's what I'll trade you the diamonds for. I give them to you...You give my share and leave me alone. Then I split. Those are the terms or I go to the cops! Oh, and don't think that I'm stupid enough to still have the diamonds with me...They are safe, for now. They're my insurance. You taught me well. I'll contact you tomorrow.

She disconnects the call, slumps back against the seat in exhaustion, and breathes in a deep sigh of relief.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(to herself)

If this doesn't work, I'm dead for sure.

Maria starts the engine and speeds away.

CUT TO:

37 INT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - LATE AFTERNOON

Sal's face turns red with rage, as he bellows forth profanities and slams the phone down in its cradle.

His granddaughter Angelica begins bawling.

CUT TO:

38 INT. COUNTY JAIL - HOLDING CELL AREA - LATE AFTERNOON

The crowded cell is full with over a dozen prisoners. Among the prisoners are both of the Maintenance Men - from Salvatore's crew - who were caught in the van. They're sitting against the back wall, talking between themselves.

A CORRECTIONS OFFICER walks over to the bars and whispers something to a gray-haired ELDERLY INMATE.

The Officer leaves swiftly, walking away down a dingy colorless corridor, and locking a door as he exits.

The elderly Inmate goes over to two large BLACK INMATES standing in a corner. They huddle together in private conversation. After speaking, the Elderly Inmate hands them something, turns, and goes to the far side of the holding cell.

The two Black Inmates go straight towards the two Maintenance Men, grab them and slit their throats.

Holding their necks and gasping for air, both Maintenance Men fall to the floor. As rivers of blood gush from their necks and through their fingers, they bleed out and die in a matter of seconds.

The two Black Inmates walk immediately over to the toilet. They discard razor blades into it and flush it. None of the others in the cell seem to notice anything...or care.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. COUNTY JAIL - LATE AFTERNOON

The doors at the front entrance to the jail open and Frank comes strolling out with a grin on his face. He begins whistling gaily as he gets into a curbside car, and drives away.

CUT TO:

40 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Dave is laying on a bed watching SportsCenter on the TV. Nick comes out of the bathroom wrapped in a towel, just having finished a shower. He glances at the clock on the wall and noticing that it is almost eight o'clock, picks up the phone.

NICK

You should see her, she's really hot looking. She's got these beautiful dark eyes. You know, kind of exotic.

DAVE

I'll bet you that this chick has major problems.

NICK

Why do you say that?

DAVE

If she goes out with you!

Nick flips Dave the middle finger.

NICK

You're just jealous.

Nick mockingly admires himself in the mirror.

NICK (CONT'D)

Not everyone can be blessed with an irresistible smile, coupled with my enchanting personality and charm...

DAVE

...And filled with so much bullshit that your eyes are brown.

NICK

Ah yes...My eyes are another one of my attributes.

DAVE

Oh God! Stop torturing me, you fucking narcissist, and make the phone call.

Nick laughs and starts to dial the number that Maria gave him.

CUT TO:

41 INT. SLEAZY BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT

It is a seedy room, with yellowed peeling wallpaper and broken furniture, in an old run-down boarding house.

Maria is seated on a stained and shabby sofa. She is busy taking the diamonds from the pouch, wrapping them in tissue paper, and placing them inside a large ornamental conch shell.

Maria looks at her watch, showing that the time is eight o'clock, just as the phone rings.

CUT TO:

42 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Nick is holding the phone, listening while it rings.

NICK

(into phone)

Maria?...Hey there, It's Nick... Remember, your hit and run, or hit and limp, so to speak...So, how

about drinks?...Cool...That'd be awesome. I'll meet you out front...Twenty minutes sounds good ...Alright, bye.

Nick disconnects and turns to Dave with a big grin on his face.

NICK (CONT'D)

She's coming to pick me up!

CUT TO:

43 INT. SLEAZY BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT

Maria is rushing around, preparing to leave. She grabs the seashell (containing the diamonds) and wraps it up in a sweater. Carrying a suitcase and an overnight bag, she hurries out the door.

In her haste, she forgets her plane tickets and leaves them sitting on top of the dresser.

CLOSE UP:

INSERT the plane tickets sitting on the dresser, tucked under the corner of an old jewelry box.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. SLEAZY BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT

Maria comes out of the building. She is carrying her suitcase in one hand, while balancing her overnight bag and the shell wrapped in the sweater in her other.

She manages to get settled into her car that is parked in the driveway. She backs out into the road, heading to her rendezvous with Nick.

As she drives off down the street, another car pulls away from the curb following her at a discreet distance.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. PATIO BAR ON THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Maria and Nick are sitting at a tropically decorated patio bar, overlooking the ocean, and drinking strawberry daiquiris.

While they are chatting, TERRI MURPHY, an energetic girl in

her mid-twenties with long blond hair and smiling blue eyes approaches them. She leans across the bar and interrupts their conversation.

Maria looks up in surprise and delight.

MARIA

Terri!

The two women lean across the bar and exchange light kisses on each other's cheeks.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I was looking for you earlier.

TERRI

My shift just started a few minutes ago.

Terri turns to Nick.

TERRI (CONT'D)

Hello there, handsome!

MARIA

Nick, I'd like you to meet my best friend in the whole world...Terri.

Nick and Terri shake hands, exchanging greetings.

TERRI

So, what are you two up to this evening?

NICK

Just strolling down the boardwalk. Maybe go for a walk on the beach later.

MARIA

And you promised to win me a stuffed animal too.

NICK

Whichever one you want.

TERRI

Now you're in trouble. You have no idea...She literally won't let you leave until you win her one.

Maria and Nick finish their drinks, pay their bill, and say their good-byes to Terri.

As they walk out onto the boardwalk, Maria looks back at Terri and waves. Terri waves back and gives her a thumbs up sign.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Maria and Nick walk to the various game booths. Nick picks a shooting game and succeeds in winning a giant stuffed panda for Maria.

CUT TO:

47 EXT. BOARDWALK PIER - NIGHT

Maria and Nick are on a spinning spider ride, laughing and screaming along with everyone else.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Maria and Nick are munching on corn dogs and ice cream, while walking among the crowds of people on the boardwalk.

CUT TO:

49 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Maria and Nick end up walking hand in hand along the beach. Silhouetted by the moon, they kiss softly yet passionately.

CUT TO:

50 INT. MARIA'S CAR - NIGHT

Maria and Nick are quiet and serene on the drive back. But Maria keeps glancing nervously into her rearview mirror, as if she expects that she is being followed. They pull up in front of the hotel.

NICK

Well, here we are.

MARIA

Yeah.

They look at each other in silence for a moment.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I want you to know that I had an absolutely wonderful time tonight. Actually, the best that I've had in

a long time.

NICK

Me too. You're a real sweet girl.

Nick touches her delicately on the cheek. Maria's eyes start to tear up.

NICK (CONT'D)

Hey there, beautiful...What's wrong?

MARIA

Nothing. I'm just happy.

Nick leans over and kisses Maria. She reciprocates eagerly.

NICK

Would you like to go out again?

MARIA

Definitely.

They embrace and kiss good-night. As Nick starts to get out of the car, Maria grabs his arm and pulls him back.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Wait a minute! I have something for you.

Maria reaches into the back and takes out the conch shell that was wrapped in her sweater. She offers it to Nick.

NICK

A seashell?

MARIA

They're my hobby. I go diving to find ones that catch my eye and I clean them up...This one is very special.

Nick looks it over.

NICK

Cool. But why are you giving it to me?

MARIA

It's a present. A gift given in faith of things hoped for. Think of me and keep it well.

NICK

I will...Thanks.

Again, they kiss good-night.

MARIA

I'll see you.

NICK

Drive careful going home.

Nick opens the door and turns to get out. Maria pulls him back to her again, kissing him long and hard. They lock eyes, smile, and say good-night reluctantly.

When Nick leaves, Maria drives away towards her apartment with tears streaming down her face.

CUT TO:

51 INT. SLEAZY BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT

The front door opens and Maria enters the dark apartment. She walks over to the dresser and starts searching around. Suddenly, the lights come on and she freezes in terror.

Turning slowly, Maria sees Danny standing in the middle of the room holding her plane tickets in his hand.

DANNY

Are you looking for these?

As Maria walks into the center of the room in a stupor, Tony comes up from behind her and hits her over the head with the butt of a gun.

She falls to the floor unconscious.

CUT TO:

52 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - DAY

Johnny is in his parlor with Danny. They are both seated around a coffee table with a mirrored surface, cutting lines of cocaine to form the outline of a dragon.

JOHNNY

I think we've got a whole new art form here.

DANNY

I don't think they'd put it in any galleries.

JOHNNY

It sure would give a new meaning to the term 'High Art'.

The door opens and Tony comes in, dragging Maria behind him. She definitely appears to have been roughed-up.

He throws her to the floor near Johnny.

TONY

Tough chick. I had to hurt her bad before she gave up any information.

Johnny looks at Maria then at Tony. Maria hangs her head in shame.

JOHNNY

So what did you find out from Sal's little whore?

TONY

It seems that she stashed the diamonds with some guy named Nick. She was out with him last night. We were following her when she dropped him off. He's staying at the Oceanview hotel...But she claims, he doesn't know that he has them. They're hidden in some kind of a seashell.

Johnny motions to Danny.

JOHNNY

Send Monet and Renee to get this Nick and bring him here to me, pronto.

Danny nods in compliance and leaves.

Johnny bends over the desk and snorts up the cocaine dragon. He tilts his head up quickly and yells as the rush charges his adrenaline.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Ahhhh, the dragon roars!

Johnny stands up and strides over to Maria.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

To the Chinese, the dragon is a symbol of great strength and respect...I am a fucking Dragon!

Johnny grabs Maria by the hair, pulling her half way off the floor. She winces in pain.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

(furious)

You thought that you could pull a stunt like that and get away with it? Don't you know who I am?! I'm the person who is going to eliminate Salvatore Bolzana and all the other pissant organizations in this town.

Johnny lets go of Maria and picks up an open kilo of cocaine from the table.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

This is the stuff that dreams are made of. I'm building an empire. And I need those diamonds as a cornerstone. I'll control the distribution for the entire eastern seacoast.

Johnny walks over to a large bay window, staring up at the cloudless blue sky, while stroking the kilo like it was a pet.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I'll parlay it all into the largest drug empire, expanding all over the world. I'll be running the whole show. Me! I'll have the money and power to do whatever I want...The power to buy or destroy anyone who gets in my way. There will be no stopping me...I'll be like a goddamn Emperor.

MARIA

You're mad!!

JOHNNY

Yes, maybe...But there is a pleasure in being mad, which none but madmen know.

Johnny spins around, glaring at Maria.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I think it was Crown who said that, but don't quote me.

Johnny leaves the room, laughing sinisterly. Tony follows behind him, closing and locking the door.

CUT TO:

53 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Dave is watching a football game on TV, while Nick is on the phone trying to call Maria. Dave is holding the seashell, looking it over.

NICK

I can't believe that she's not picking up my calls.

Nick hangs up the phone.

DAVE

Take a hint...She's avoiding you.

NICK

Impossible.

DAVE

Avoiding you big time.

NICK

I was incredibly charming.

DAVE

Avoiding you like the plague, Dude.

Dave starts tossing the seashell in the air and catching it like a football.

NICK

Hey, be careful with that!

Dave holds it to his ear.

DAVE

She even gave you a defective present. I can't hear the ocean inside.

As Nick walks over to a small refrigerator to grab a beer, Dave gets up and imitating a quarterback, hikes back to pass, substituting the seashell for a football.

DAVE (CONT'D)

He fades back for the long bomb...Sees his receiver deep in the end zone...He releases it!...Nick! Heads up!

Dave throws a pass with the seashell.

It flies through the air towards Nick.

But Nick gets caught off guard, fumbling with the beer in his hand, and misses it.

The seashell lands on the floor and shatters!

NICK

Nice going, asshole!

DAVE

Oh man, I'm really sorry...Hey look!
There was something inside!

Dave points curiously at the broken seashell.

Nick bends down and picks up the tissue paper from among the pieces of seashell. He brings it over to the coffee table and unwraps it. He finishes opening the tissue.

ANGLE ON:

INSERT a close shot of the diamonds, shining with a cold glassy brilliance.

BACK TO SCENE:

DAVE (CONT'D)

Holy shit, Batman!

NICK

Diamonds?!!

Just then there is a break in the football game. The local news cuts in with a special bulletin:

TV NEWSWOMAN

(on screen)

Here's an update on yesterday's diamond heist, at the Tropics Casino, which left two security guards and a police officer dead. The diamonds were being displayed for a special auction. Event organizers are placing the value of the stolen diamonds at approximately one hundred million dollars... In a related story, two men who were in police custody are now dead, in what some say was an execution to keep them quiet. The local police were questioning the men in the now notorious diamond heist. The police department has established a direct

Hotline for anyone who has any information regarding the diamond heist. A substantial reward is being offered for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators of this crime. All calls will be kept confidential.

TV NEWSWOMAN (CONT'D)

We will keep you updated as this story unfolds. Now back to your program...

The football game comes back on.

Nick and Dave sit stunned, gawking silently at the TV screen.

CUT TO:

54 INT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - DAY

Salvatore is at his desk, going over some paperwork, when Frank walks in.

FRANK

We just received a call from our informer at Johnny Zintanio's. They picked Maria up last night, and they're holding her now.

Salvatore leans back in his chair and lights up a cigar.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Our man said that she didn't have the diamonds in her possession. But, she gave up the name of some boyfriend of whom she'd given them to. I've got his name and address right here.

Frank produces a slip of paper from his shirt pocket.

SALVATORE

Excellent! Take Rocco with you and go to this boyfriend's place. Come back with the diamonds...And him.

As Frank strides away briskly, Salvatore grins serenely.

CUT TO:

55 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Nick and Dave are in a heated discussion over what they

should do about the diamonds.

DAVE

I say we go straight to the cops!

NICK

We are cops.

DAVE

I mean the locals.

NICK

How do we even know that these are the same diamonds from the news?

DAVE

I don't think that there are too many batches of diamonds floating around Atlantic City.

Dave lies back on the bed as if exhausted.

NICK

I don't know...

DAVE

Wake up, Nick! It isn't like you found a pearl inside an oyster. These are from a major fucking crime!

NICK

It just seems hard to believe that she could have had anything to do with that crime. She's so nice.

DAVE

Oh man, stop thinking with your dick. You saw the news. She's guilty!

Nick gets off the bed and walks over to the table where the diamonds are laying. He stares at them, lost in deep thought. Dave walks over and stands next to him.

NICK

I want to give her a chance to explain. I looked up the address of the motel where she's staying. It's not too far from here.

DAVE

You don't know what this chick is mixed up in.

Nick gathers up the diamonds and puts them in his pocket.

NICK

Yeah...Well, I'll see you in a little while.

Nick walks slowly towards the door.

DAVE

Want some backup?

Nick shakes his head no.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Watch yourself, Nick.

Nick nods and leaves. Dave goes to soak in a hot shower after being overwhelmed by the turn of events.

CUT TO:

56 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - DAY

Johnny is growing enraged and confused, having just been informed by Tony that 'Danny' is the traitor who works for Salvatore.

JOHNNY

Are you fucking sure?

TONY

Our sources are 100% proof positive. I've confirmed them myself.

JOHNNY

It's just so hard to believe...Danny a fucking traitor?! We grew up together!

Johnny plops down on the couch and sinks down in disbelief. Tony sits next to him, snaking a comforting arm around Johnny's shoulder.

TONY

I know how you feel. I too was shocked when I found out.

JOHNNY

Well, you know how to deal with that double crossing bastard. I want Sal Bolzana to know that I am not a person who can be fucked with!!

CUT TO:

57 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL ROOM - DAY

The door to the room breaks open and Frank enters. He is accompanied by ROCCO, another heavyweight bruiser who works for Salvatore.

They start going through everything in the room, tearing it apart, and looking for the diamonds.

Dave comes out of the bathroom and finds Frank and Rocco annihilating the room.

DAVE

What's going on here?! Who the hell are you?! What the fuck is going on?!

Frank and Rocco advance on Dave.

Dave picks up a lamp, makes a lunge forward, and smashes it into Rocco's face. Rocco goes down.

Frank grabs Dave around the neck from the rear. Dave reacts quickly and crashes his fist into Frank's crotch. Then gripping Frank's elbow, to the right of his throat, Dave bends forward and lurches to his left, lifting Frank off the ground and throwing him through the air.

Frank goes sailing into a set of Venetian closet doors, shattering them to splinters.

Rocco gets up and tackles Dave, who manages to wrestle free and they both jump up and face off against each other.

Rocco takes a step, swinging his arms. Dave pivots on his left foot, shooting his right foot high into the air and ramming it into Rocco's face. Rocco is stunned. Dave then leaps up and delivers a powerful sidekick to Rocco's chest, sending him sprawling backwards.

Frank Recovers from the closet and pulls out a gun...he points the gun directly at Dave's head.

FRANK

That's enough of this Romper Room crap! If you even flinch, you're a dead man...And that's a guarantee.

CUT TO:

58 EXT. SLEAZY BOARDING HOUSE - DAY

Nick drives up, parks, gets out of his car, and looks around at the decaying neighborhood. Moving solicitously, he

enters the front door of the boarding house.

CUT TO:

59 INT. SLEAZY BOARDING HOUSE - DAY

Nick goes into the dark room cautiously. He switches on the lights and notices that all the furniture has been destroyed and slashed open. The entire place is in shambles. He rummages through a few drawers quickly, then departs swiftly.

CUT TO:

60 EXT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - DAY

Johnny's helicopter flies across the estate grounds, hovering over the front lawn for a few seconds...Danny's dead body is dropped out. The helicopter soars away as fast as it came.

Several ARMED/PATROLING GUARDS respond but the helicopter is already out of sight. Puzzled, they inspect Danny's dead body...finding that his tongue has been cut out.

CUT TO:

61 INT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - DAY

One of the Patrol Guards knocks on the office door. Salvatore looks up from his desk and motions for him to enter. The Patrol Guard informs Salvatore about the body. A curious look crosses Salvatore's face momentarily...then he bursts into laughter.

CUT TO:

62 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Arriving back at the hotel, Nick goes to the front desk and speaks to the clerk on duty. The clerk hands Nick an empty padded manila envelope and a marker. Nick leaves and goes down the hallway into the men's room.

CUT TO:

63 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL - MEN'S ROOM - DAY

Nick enters the men's room, goes into one of the stalls and locks the door.

He sits down and takes the diamonds out of his pocket. He

opens the tissue paper and takes another, closer, look at them.

As if resisting temptation, Nick looks away and stuffs the diamonds into the envelope and seals it quickly. He addresses it to himself. He leaves.

CUT TO:

64 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

As soon as Nick exits the men's room, he deposits the envelope in a mailbox for inter-hotel mail. He hands the marker back to the clerk and heads back to his room.

CUT TO:

65 INT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - DAY

Salvatore is standing beside his desk, smoking a cigar and watching his grandchildren through a window, as they play in the backyard.

Dave is sandwiched between Frank and Rocco at the front of the desk. Salvatore turns to face Dave.

SALVATORE

You expect me to believe that you know absolutely nothing about the diamonds?

DAVE

I don't really give a shit what you believe, because I don't even know what you're talking about. So you better call off these goons or you'll have some trouble.

Frank slugs Dave in the stomach hard, causing him to double over in pain.

FRANK

You ought to learn to show a little respect.

SALVATORE

Now then, if we may continue. You say that you don't have my diamonds. Well, for your sake, you better hope that your friend Nick does...And that he's willing to trade them for your life!

Salvatore picks up the phone and places a call to the hotel.

CUT TO:

66 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Nick has just entered the room, and is looking around at the wreck, when the phone rings. He rushes over to the nightstand to answer it.

NICK

(into phone)

Dave, is that you?...What the fuck is going on?...Hello?...Yeah, this is Nick. I'm listening... What?... Diamonds?...

Nick sits down on a bed and listens intently.

NICK (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Yeah, I got it....I'll bring the diamonds...No cops...Right. You just make sure that nothing happens to my friend or you'll be sorry!

Nick hangs up the phone, laying back into the pillow to clear his muddled thoughts.

CUT TO:

67 EXT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL - DAY

A red Ferrari convertible pulls up in front of the hotel. Two gorgeous bikini-clad twins, MONET and RENEE, step out and head into the hotel. The Valets and Doormen stumble over and fight with each other, in attempt to get the doors for the voluptuous beauties.

CUT TO:

68 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Nick is on the floor doing push-ups, burning off his nervous energy. The ringing phone startles him. He snaps up and answers it.

NICK

(into phone)

Yeah?...Two girls?...I'll be right down...

Nick heads out the door in a hurry.

NICK (CONT'D)

(to himself)

It must be Maria and her friend.
Now I'll find out what this is all
about.

CUT TO:

69 INT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Nick asks the Clerk at the front desk about the girls. The Clerk points towards the front entrance, indicating that they are waiting outside. Nick walks outside.

CUT TO:

70 EXT. OCEANVIEW HOTEL - DAY

As soon as Nick exits the hotel, Monet and Renee appear on either side of him. Nick has an inquisitive look upon his face as both girls slip their arms around him and give him a kiss on each cheek.

His expression changes to concern when Monet presses a small handgun into his side.

MONET

How would you like to go for a ride,
handsome?

Nick glances down at the gun.

NICK

Do I really have a choice?

RENEE

(bubbly)

Not really...Come on, you can sit up
front with me!

They all get into the Ferrari. Renee starts it up and they speed away.

CUT TO:

71 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - DAY

The door to the den opens and Nick is thrown onto the floor. He has been handcuffed.

MONET

Johnny will be back shortly. He's really looking forward to meeting you.

RENEE

In the meantime, hey, just make yourself comfortable.

The Girls leave, closing and locking the heavy wooden door.

Nick struggles to his feet and looking up, comes face to face with Maria.

CUT TO:

72 EXT. DESOLATE AIRFIELD - DAY

Johnny and Tony are standing along side of their helicopter, watching as a Lear Jet lands on the abandoned airstrip.

The door of the jet opens and three men exit down the steps. The first two are SOLDIERS carrying automatic weapons. They flank a staunch well-tanned man in his late fifties. He is GENERALISSIMO ORTEGA, a corrupt but powerful South American drug lord.

Johnny rushes over to greet him.

JOHNNY

Welcome, General Ortega. It's good to see you again.

Johnny and the General shake hands.

GENERAL ORTEGA

Johnny, my friend, how's business?

JOHNNY

Very good. And how was your trip, any problems?

The General puts his arm around Johnny.

GENERAL ORTEGA

No problems. Everything right on schedule. Now let's get on with our business...Do you have the diamonds?

JOHNNY

Um...There's been a minor little delay...

The General spins around and grabs Johnny by the shirt. Tony takes a step forward. The two Soldiers raise their weapons.

GENERAL ORTEGA

Delay! We had a deal! The first shipment of cocaine will soon be delivered on time as planned. I expected the payment of the diamonds today, as originally agreed. You led me to believe that you were a man whose word could be relied upon!

Johnny carefully pries the General's fingers from his shirt.

JOHNNY

You can rely on me, General Ortega. By tomorrow, I will have everything straightened out and the diamonds will be in your hands in return for the cocaine, just as we agreed.

GENERAL ORTEGA

They had better be! I would not want to be in the shoes of the man who broke his word with me! I will go now. We will meet again tomorrow at the arranged place.

JOHNNY

Don't worry, General. I'll be there with the diamonds.

The General turns hard and gets back onto the Lear jet, followed by his two Soldiers.

Johnny watches with contempt as the doors close and the jet taxis back down the runway. He turns and addresses Tony.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

That fuck thinks that he scares me with his threats! He just better have that shipment...or those soldiers are going to be looking for a new Generalissimo to command their army!

CUT TO:

73 INT. GENERAL ORTEGA'S LEAR JET - DAY

The General and his two Soldiers have each settled into their seats, inside the posh aircraft.

SOLIDER 1

Excuse me for asking General...But did you not make a deal for the cocaine with Mister Bolzana?

GENERAL ORTEGA

Yes. I made the same deal with my friend Salvatore Bolzana...Also in trade for the diamonds.

SOLIDER 2

Why would you make a deal with both men if only one can deliver the diamonds?

The General smiles slyly and twists the end of his mustache between his thumb and his forefinger.

GENERAL ORTEGA

For an old American tradition called the sport of competition. And, for insurance of course...If you have two squads attacking from different directions, one will surely reach it's objective.

The two Soldiers nod in agreement and understanding.

CUT TO:

74 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - AFTERNOON

Nick and Maria are still locked alone in the den. Nick is upset at being used.

MARIA

Oh Nick, are you all right?

NICK

(sarcastic)

I'm just freaking dandy!

MARIA

I'm so sorry. I never meant to get you involved in any of this.

NICK

Never meant to get me involved?!
You set me up! You used me!!

Maria takes a few hesitant steps towards Nick, then stops.

MARIA

No. I needed someone to help me. I

was so confused...

NICK

I'm pretty confused myself...How about last night on the beach? You really had me fooled.

MARIA

You've got it all wrong. That wasn't supposed to happen...I mean...That wasn't a part of this...

Nick is angrily pacing about the room.

NICK

Oh really, that wasn't part of this? Then tell me something...What the fuck am I doing here?

Nick holds out his shackled hands towards her.

NICK (CONT'D)

This is a hell of a way to spend a vacation!!

Maria sits on the floor, burying her head in her lap.

MARIA

(despondent)

Everything turned into such a mess...I don't know...

Maria breaks down and begins to cry. Nick goes over to where she is and kneels next to her.

NICK

Stop crying. Come on, We have to find a way out of here before they get back.

Maria straightens up and looks at Nick.

MARIA

(sincerely)

Nick, I really am sorry. Please believe me! Maybe I did set you up. Maybe I did need your help...But now I need you! I just want you to know that last night on the beach just happened...And it was for real.

Maria reaches out and gently pulls Nick close to her and kisses him softly. Nick smiles gently at her.

NICK

Let's see if we can get out of here.

Nick goes over and looks out of a window. He sees that they are three stories up. He runs his hands through his hair while eyeing a huge oak tree close to the house.

NICK (CONT'D)

Do you think that you can climb down that tree?

Maria joins him by the window.

MARIA

I'm sure that I could. But how are you going to with those handcuffs on?

NICK

I'll manage.

Nick looks around the room and goes over to the desk. He takes the desk chair and props it against the door, under the doorknob.

NICK hurries back to the window and opens it.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'd better go first in case I fall. I wouldn't want to land on you and bring you down too.

MARIA

Be careful!

Nick starts out the window, out onto the ledge.

CUT TO:

75 EXT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - AFTERNOON

The helicopter lands in the front yard. As Johnny and Tony exit, Monet and Renee greet them.

CUT TO:

76 EXT. REAR WINDOW, JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - AFTERNOON

Nick is starting to make his way down the huge oak tree, but going is difficult because the handcuffs hamper him.

He pauses and looks up to see Maria climb out of the window and onto the tree.

CUT TO:

77 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - AFTERNOON

Johnny and Tony walk down the hallway, to the door to the den. Tony unlocks the door and pushes against it.

TONY

Shit! The door's braced.

JOHNNY

Get that fucking door opened now!

Tony rams it with his body.

CUT TO:

78 EXT. TREE OUTSIDE JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - AFTERNOON

Nick and Maria continue descending down the tree.

Nick is about five feet from the bottom when his grip slips, sending him falling through the branches the rest of the way down!

MARIA

Nick! Are you all right?!

NICK

Yeah, I'm okay. How are you doing?

MARIA

Fine. I'll make it.

Nick gets off the ground and watches Maria, who is almost halfway down.

CUT TO:

79 INT./EXT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - AFTERNOON

The door to the den bursts open, shattering the back of the chair, as Tony comes crashing in.

Johnny rushes in towards the open window and looks down. He pushes Tony back towards the door.

JOHNNY

Get them! Go!!

Johnny draws out a revolver and fires out the window. As Nick reaches up to help Maria down from the tree, they hear

gunfire and look up to see Johnny hanging out the window.

As Nick and Maria make their way around to the front of the house, Monet and Renee see them running, and intercept them.

NICK

Uh-oh, It's the double-mint twins!

Nick and Maria swing their fists simultaneously, striking Monet and Renee. The twins go down.

Nick and Maria jump into the Ferrari. Nick turns the key in the ignition and starts the car.

MARIA

How are you going to drive with those things on?

NICK

You're going to have to shift.

Maria puts the car into gear, and Nick burns rubber down the driveway.

Tony comes running out the front door followed by two other henchmen, VINNIE and REGGIE, who are both carrying shotguns.

Monet and Renee, having recovered, join up with them.

TONY

Girls, take the Porsche and go after them! Vinnie, Reggie, yous two follow in the Hummer.

They split up and get into their respective vehicles to chase after the escaping Ferrari.

Tony lights up a cigarette and stands on the steps watching them disappear into the distance.

CUT TO:

80 EXT. HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

The Ferrari speeds down the paved highway. The Porsche and the Hummer trying to keep pace, follow it.

The cars turn off an exit ramp, which brings them Downtown, right into the heart of the city.

CUT TO:

81 EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY STREETS - AFTERNOON

The Ferrari careens around a corner and through a red traffic light, causing cars going in the opposite direction to slam on their brakes.

The Porsche, close behind, skids through the turn and up onto the sidewalk. It fishtails and rams into a FedEx Box, popping it loose and propelling it end-over-end down the sidewalk, sending several pedestrians diving out of its way.

The cars continue to weave through traffic, dodging around the other cars.

ANGLE ON:

INSERT a shot of a school bus which has broken down in the middle of the street and stopped traffic.

BACK TO SCENE:

The Ferrari veers off into an open underground parking garage to avoid the jam. The Porsche does the same.

CUT TO:

82 INT. PARKING GARAGE - AFTERNOON

The Ferrari speeds through the parking garage, which runs parallel with an underground shopping mall. Shoppers inside the stores are visible through its glass walls. Traffic is backed up, waiting in line to get a ticket to park.

The Ferrari slows to a stop.

CUT TO:

83 INT. FERRARI - AFTERNOON

Nick grimaces, looking around at the situation. Maria sits silent and scared.

NICK

It's too narrow to turn around.

Maria glances behind them.

MARIA

Here they come!

NICK

Quick...Put it in reverse.

MARIA

What are we going to do?!

Maria shifts the gears into reverse.

NICK

Let's go shopping!

Nick starts backing up fast, then cuts the wheel sharply.

CUT TO:

84 INT. UNDERGROUND MALL - AFTERNOON

The Ferrari smashes through the glass entrance doors to the mall!

Maria shifts into first, as Nick smokes the tires, spinning the Ferrari around 180 degrees, heading into the mall.

Shoppers dodge out of the way, mothers grab their children and duck into stores for safety, while security guards chase after the Ferrari yelling for it to halt as it flies through the mall corridor. Maria is frozen in her seat, hanging onto the dashboard for dear life.

Nick floors the gas pedal, running the Ferrari out through another set of glass doors at the opposite end and back out to the street.

CUT TO:

85 EXT. MAIN STREET - AFTERNOON

The Porsche comes backing out of the parking garage and heads down the street, catching up to the Ferrari.

The chase proceeds away from the city, towards the coastline highway, at a blistering speed.

CUT TO:

86 EXT. COASTLINE HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Both cars race along the coastline highway, which gradually rises up a Cliffside.

As they maneuver through the turns of the embanking and twisting road, the Porsche pulls alongside of the Ferrari.

Monet and Renee smile devilishly at Nick, bashing into the Ferrari, trying to force it off the road.

CUT TO:

87 EXT. TUNNEL THROUGH THE CLIFFSIDE - AFTERNOON

Narrowing shot of the road up ahead, where it lanes into a tunnel cut through the cliffside.

ANGLE ON:

INSERT a caution sign that warns: "SINGLE LANE: WAIT FOR LIGHT"

CUT TO:

88 EXT. COASTLINE HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

The two cars go straight towards the tunnel, side by side, vying for single control of the lane.

At the last possible moment, Nick lays on the gas, shooting the Ferrari ahead of the Porsche a split second before they enter the tunnel.

Maria startles in her seat, as the passenger side scrapes along the wall of the tunnel as they disappear into the darkness.

CUT TO:

89 EXT. OTHER SIDE OF TUNNEL - AFTERNOON

The cars come racing out, the Ferrari closely tailgated by the Porsche.

CUT TO:

90 EXT. COASTLINE HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

As they enter another long stretch of highway, the Porsche again pulls to the inside of the road alongside the Ferrari and tries to run it off the cliff.

CUT TO:

91 INT. FERRARI - AFTERNOON

Nick is steering wildly, fighting to stay on the road. Maria clutching tightly onto the dashboard.

NICK

Do you think they're angry with us for hitting them back there?

MARIA

I'd say that they are a mite pissed, since it seems that they're trying

pretty hard to kill us!

NICK

I'm going to try something. I want you to throw it into first gear when I say.

Nick cuts the wheel hard to the right, ramming the Porsche. The Porsche retaliates and cuts hard to the left.

NICK (CONT'D)

NOW!!

Maria using both hands, downshifts the car into first gear at the same time that Nick slams on the brakes.

CUT TO:

92 EXT. COASTLINE HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

The Porsche crosses over in front of the Ferrari and crashes through the guardrail...it sails through the air, plummeting over the cliffside and into the ocean below!

Nick idles the Ferrari past the site slowly, when suddenly the back of the car erupts from a shotgun blast!

Nick and Maria look back to see the Hummer gaining fast...with Reggie hanging out of the window, shooting at them.

Nick hits the gas.

The chase is back on!

CUT TO:

93 EXT. UP THE HIGHWAY AND AROUND THE BEND - AFTERNOON

A GASOLINE TANKER has jack-knifed across the highway, hidden from oncoming view by a bend in the road.

There are several WORKMEN setting up flares across the highway.

CUT TO:

94 EXT. COASTLINE HIGHWAY APPROACHING BEND - AFTERNOON

The Ferrari pulls away, around the bend, ahead of, and out of sight of the lagging Hummer.

Nick spots the gasoline tanker too late as the Ferrari flies around the bend. He is going way too fast and cannot slow

down.

The Workmen wave flags as the Ferrari heads straight at the middle of the gasoline tanker.

CUT TO:

95 INT. FERRARI - AFTERNOON

Maria starts screaming in horror. Nick grabs her head and shoves it down in the seat.

NICK

Duck!!

Nick and Maria hunker down low as the Ferrari goes under the gasoline tanker.

CUT TO:

96 EXT. HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

The Ferrari goes right under, barely clearing, through to the other side and beyond.

Nick and Maria watch as the Hummer comes flying around the bend but cannot stop in time.

It hits the gasoline tanker broadside.

ANGLE ON:

INSERT a long shot as gasoline tanker explodes into a giant fireball!

CUT TO:

97 INT. FERRARI - AFTERNOON

Nick and Maria look away from the fire and hug each other tightly. Nick revs the engine, pulling away and leaving the scene.

CUT TO:

98 EXT. HARDWARE STORE - LATE AFTERNOON

Maria comes out of the hardware store carrying a pair of bolt cutters and a hacksaw. Nick is waiting on the hood of the Ferrari.

MARIA

The guy in there said that these things should do the trick.

NICK

What did you tell him?

MARIA

(point of laughter)

I told him that my boyfriend and I lost the key to a pair of handcuffs that we were using on each other...And that I'd left you tied up in a very kinky position.

They both share a well-needed laugh.

Maria uses the bolt cutters to cut the middle links of the handcuffs apart. Then Nick takes the hacksaw and goes to work on the bracelets around his wrists.

CUT TO:

99 EXT. ROADSIDE MOTEL - EVENING

The Ferrari pulls into the parking lot of a roadside motel and drives around to the back.

Nick and Maria get out and walk back around to the entrance. They pass a black pickup truck parked in front, on their way to the office.

CUT TO:

100 INT. ROADSIDE MOTEL OFFICE - EVENING

Nick and Maria are inside the motel office. Nick rings the bell on the counter.

The NIGHT MANAGER, a lanky Goth looking twenty-year-old boy, approaches them from the opposite side of the counter.

NICK

We need a room for the night.

NIGHT MANAGER

Just fill out the registration form.
Will that be cash or charge?

Nick fills out the form on the counter.

NICK

Cash.

NIGHT MANAGER

That'll be forty dollars.

Nick hands him money. The Night Manager gives Nick the key.

NIGHT MANAGER (CONT'D)

Room seven. On the end. Checkout is at Noon.

NICK

Thanks...um...Is that your truck out front?

NIGHT MANAGER

Yeah. Ain't she a beauty?

NICK

I've got a little proposition for you...

CUT TO:

101 EXT. REAR OF ROADSIDE MOTEL - EVENING

The Night Manager is sitting in the Ferrari, gunning the engine, a gigantic grin on his face.

CUT TO:

102 INT. ROADSIDE MOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Nick and Maria enter the cheaply furnished motel room.

Nick tosses the keys onto the dresser, As Maria sinks down onto the bed in total exhaustion.

NICK

Did you see the look on that kids face when I asked, if he wanted to trade his truck for a Ferrari?

MARIA

I'm sure he thought that you were crazy.

NICK

Totally...But at least we can get around without being noticed for the time being.

Nick walks over and sits on the edge of the bed, next to Maria. He starts caressing her leg.

NICK (CONT'D)

I think that we should have a talk

and, you know, get things
straightened out.

MARIA

Don't you mean that I should finally
explain what all this is about?

NICK

I'd appreciate it.

MARIA

You don't have to. I owe it to you.

Maria sits up and faces Nick. She takes his hand and holds
it tightly, as if it gives her strength. Maria looks into
her lap and begins to speak...the words coming out slowly.

MARIA (CONT'D)

This is going to be hard for me.
I've never told anyone this before.

NICK

Just take your time.

MARIA

(ashamed)

My mother had me when she was only
sixteen...She didn't love me...I was
a burden...I was unwanted...I never
knew who my father was...

Maria is shaking, on the verge of tears. Nick kisses her
hand, encouraging her to continue.

MARIA (CONT'D)

(apprehensive)

She used to work for Sal Bolzana...
She was a whore. Well, she got into
some big gambling trouble or
something and went to Sal for help.
I was real young, so I'm not sure
exactly what happened. But Sal's
kind of owned me since I was
little...I belong to him.

Shocked, Nick runs his hands through his hair, while shaking
his head.

NICK

What?!!

MARIA

I know that it sounds awful. But my mother was murdered and he's the one who brought me up. He trained me to work for him since I was little, doing different cons and scams. I guess I'm grateful that he never put me out on the street to whore for him. I never knew anything else! He raised me! And I suppose that I've felt a certain loyalty to him...

Nick stands up, wrinkling his expression in mortification.

NICK

Loyalty?...He used you!

Maria stands up and puts her arms around Nick.

MARIA

I know that...now that I'm older. But he would never let me leave. I've hated him for that. I was always afraid of him!

NICK

And now?

Maria crosses her arms and stands defiantly in the center of the room.

MARIA

I just couldn't take it anymore. I guess double-crossing him on the diamond heist was my revenge...And my liberation.

NICK

It's understandable how you felt. But the robbery was still illegal. How come you never just went to the police?

Maria sits back down on the bed.

MARIA

The cops would never believe me...He owns half of them. I would have ended up in jail or dead. I couldn't see any other way out.

Nick sits next to her and takes hold of her hand again.

NICK

What exactly happened at this heist?
I heard on the news that some people
were killed.

MARIA

I didn't have anything to do with
that! That was Johnny Zintanio's
men who killed those people during
the heist. We just gassed the place
to put everyone to sleep...Then all
I did was take the diamonds and
vamoose.

NICK

I take it that this is the same
Johnny whose house were recent
unwilling guests at?

Maria nods her head and allows a little smile.

MARIA

Right. Johnny Zintanio and Sal
Bolzana are rivals. They're
fighting over control of Atlantic
City. Anyway, the whole auction was
a set up.

NICK

What do you mean?

MARIA

Johnny promoted it. Half of the
people there were investors who owed
Johnny money. After the diamonds
were stolen, the insurance companies
would cover the losses. And Johnny
got away with all the diamonds. It
was a big score for him...Until Sal
got wind of it. And that's where I
entered.

Nick lays back on the bed, letting it all sink in.

NICK

So you figured that Sal was ripping
off Johnny...And you would just be
ripping off Sal?

MARIA

Yes. Besides I was going to donate
most of it to an orphanage...I have
a weak spot for parentless children.

Maria lies on her side and faces Nick, who rolls onto his side to face her.

NICK

How come you stopped and gave me a ride after the robbery?

MARIA

I didn't need to attract attention for a hit and run, especially with millions of dollars worth of stolen diamonds in my possession and cops swarming all over the area.

NICK

Why didn't you just leave after that?

MARIA

I had planned to. I had a plane ticket for that evening. But first I had to get rid of the diamonds. They had to somehow be transported to a fence up in New York...

NICK

And since I'd mentioned that New York was where I was from, our date was used to set me up?

Maria touches Nick's face gently.

MARIA

Please forgive me...I was so confused and scared. I didn't know where to turn or who to trust. You seemed so nice...

NICK

Yeah, nice enough to take advantage of.

MARIA

I didn't mean to use you...I guess that I needed somebody's help.

Maria starts to cry and buries her head in Nick's chest. He pulls her close to him.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Please don't hate me. I'm really not a bad person...I try so hard to do what's right...I just want people to like me...

NICK

I do like you. And I know that deep down that you're not a bad person. I'll help you...We'll work things out together.

Maria looks up at him, like a lost little girl.

MARIA

I'm scared.

Nick strokes her hair.

NICK

It'll be all right.

MARIA

Oh Nick. Take me with you. Where ever you go...Away from here. Please...Don't leave me!

NICK

Don't worry. I won't.

MARIA

Hold me...

NICK

Forever.

They embrace tightly and kiss deeply.

CUT TO:

103 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S MANSION - NIGHT

Johnny is seething with anger, while pacing back and forth across the room.

Tony finishes speaking on the phone and hangs up.

TONY

The chopper's still up. They're searching south of the crash site now.

JOHNNY

They couldn't have gotten too far!

TONY

We've got everyone looking for that Ferrari...It won't be long before someone spots it.

JOHNNY

(to himself)

They must have stopped somewhere...

TONY

The word is out on the street. I've offered a lot of money.

JOHNNY

I don't care how much it fucking costs!

Johnny picks up an antique vase off of the table and hurls it against the wall.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I want those motherfuckers found!!

TONY

Don't worry Johnny. We'll find them.

JOHNNY

You better.

Johnny glares threatening at Tony.

CUT TO:

104 INT. ROADSIDE MOTEL - EVENING

Nick and Maria are kissing passionately. They stop, staring at each other with an unspoken connection, both realizing that they have the same needs and desires.

DISSOLVE TO:

BEGIN MONTAGE:

Nick starts to undress Maria slowly, Undoing one button at a time, kissing her at each interval.

DISSOLVE TO:

Maria removes Nick's shirt, kissing his chest as she does.

DISSOLVE TO:

Nick and Maria are lying naked on the bed. Nick pulls Maria on top of him, lifting her up under the arms and kissing her body.

DISSOLVE TO:

Nick is on top of Maria. Their bodies are interlocked in passionate lovemaking.

DISSOLVE TO:

Nick and Maria are kissing while laughing with playful sensuality.

DISSOLVE TO:

Nick kisses and nibbles at Maria's body, ever so slowly working his way down her stomach and beyond, while she lays on her back in ecstasy.

DISSOLVE TO:

Maria is kissing and nuzzling at Nick's neck and chest as he strokes her hair gently.

DISSOLVE TO:

Maria is on top of Nick and they are making love again.

END MONTAGE:

CUT TO:

Nick and Maria are lying quiet and serene, snuggling close to each other, having fulfilled their amorous desires for the moment.

CUT TO:

105 INT. ROADSIDE MOTEL (SHOWER) - NIGHT

Nick and Maria are enjoying a relaxing hot shower together. The tiny bathroom fills up with steam while they discuss the trade for Dave.

NICK

I can't let you go with me.

MARIA

But you don't know these people. I can help.

Nick vehemently shakes his head in protest.

NICK

It's just too dangerous!

Maria takes a step back and places her hands on her hips.

MARIA

Oh really? And who was the one who started all this diamond business in the first place...You are involved on account of me!

Nick raises his hands, conceding to Maria's reasoning.

NICK

All right, you win.

Maria encircles his waist with her arms and draws him close to her.

MARIA

Besides, I feel responsible for what happened to your friend.

Nick rinses off and steps out of the shower. He grabs a towel and begins drying himself.

NICK

We've still got a couple of hours before the trade.

MARIA

That warehouse isn't too far from here.

NICK

I'll go and get the diamonds, then swing back and pick you up.

MARIA

You better!

NICK

I promise that I will.

Nick leans into the shower and kisses Maria. He leaves the bathroom.

Maria leans against the shower wall, letting the pulsating water wash away her troubles and tensions.

CUT TO:

106 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

Johnny is in the back of his white plush-interior limousine,

snorting a line of cocaine. The back door whisks open.

Tony climbs in and knocks on the glass partition. As it slides down, he hands the DRIVER a slip of paper.

TONY

Take us to this address fast!

JOHNNY

Did you to tell the pilot to show our appreciation to the gentleman who gave us the information?

TONY

It's all been taken care of.

CUT TO:

107 EXT. REMOTE AREA OF HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The Night Manager is slumped over the in the driver's seat of the Ferrari. Blood drips down his face from a bullet wound in his head.

The Pilot walks casually away from the car and gets into the helicopter.

CUT TO:

108 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Nick retrieves the manila envelope containing the diamonds (which he mailed to himself earlier), from the Clerk on duty at the front desk.

CUT TO:

109 INT. ROADSIDE MOTEL (BATHROOM) - NIGHT

Maria is partially dressed and is standing in the steam filled bathroom vigorously drying her hair with a towel.

She wipes the condensation from the mirror. Johnny is smiling at her in the reflection!

JOHNNY

It's good to see you again, Maria.

Maria screams. Johnny grabs her by the back of her hair and smashes her head, face first, into the mirror. It shatters, as she collapses unconscious.

CUT TO:

110 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Nick is just walking out the front doors, when the Clerk at the front desk calls him back and hands him the phone.

CUT TO:

111 INT. JOHNNY ZINTANIO'S LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

Johnny smiles while speaking into a cellular phone. Tony is guarding a frightened Maria.

JOHNNY

Hello, Nick. This is Johnny Zintanio. You don't have to make that trip all the way back to the motel for Maria. I did you the favor and picked her up for you. You don't have to thank me. But tomorrow at noon, you will meet me at the casino on the marina and give me the diamonds or I will kill your girlfriend. I'll be waiting in the craps area.

Johnny turns off the phone and smirks snidely.

CUT TO:

112 EXT. PATIO BAR ON THE BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Nick comes running in and pushes his way through the crowd of people. He leans over the bar and grabs Terri by the arm.

NICK

I need your help...Maria's in trouble!

CUT TO:

113 INT. PICK-UP TRUCK - NIGHT

Nick and Terri are on their way to the warehouse to meet with Salvatore. Nick has just finished explaining the whole story to Terri.

TERRI

Oh God, poor Maria...What can we do?

NICK

I want to try to rescue Dave. Then

we'll still have the diamonds to trade for Maria.

TERRI

How are you going to do that?

NICK

Well, I'll need you as a distraction.

TERRI

It sounds risky, but I'd do anything for Maria.

CUT TO:

114 EXT. BACK OF WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A huge giant of a man, BIG MICKEY, who works for Salvatore is guarding the back entrance to the warehouse. He leans against one of the two Lincolns parked near the door.

Terri strolls up to him, acting like a hooker.

TERRI

Hi there, big guy.

While Big Mickey gives her a quick once-over, Terri seductively sucks her thumb.

BIG MICKEY

Beat it.

TERRI

I can't, I'm the distraction.

BIG MICKEY

The what?

As Big Mickey turns his full attention to Terri, Nick comes up from behind and hits him across the back with a baseball bat.

Big Mickey turns around, brushing his shoulder as if waving off a pesky fly. He grabs Nick and lifts him over his head, throwing him through the air.

Nick bounces hard off one of the hoods of the Lincolns, spilling violently onto the ground.

Big Mickey advances on Nick, who is staggering to his feet.

Reacting quickly, Terri reaches into her purse and pulls out a TaserGun. She approaches Big Mickey and zaps him in the

neck.

Big Mickey starts convulsing in spasms. Terri steps in front of him and kicks him squarely in the crotch.

Nick picks up the baseball bat, rushes over, and swings for the bleachers...catching Big Mickey square in the head. The bat cracks in half as Big Mickey goes down and out.

Terri throws her hands in the air.

TERRI

Touchdown!!

CUT TO:

115 EXT. BACK OF WAREHOUSE NIGHT

Nick and Terri walk softly up a stairwell in the rear of the warehouse. Reaching the top of the stairs, they stand among rows upon rows of cases and kegs of beer.

CUT TO:

116 INT. FRONT OF WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Salvatore smokes a cigar while standing in a clearing inside the front of the warehouse. Next to him are Frank and Rocco who are guarding Dave. Also there, armed with an Uzi, is another GOON who works for Salvatore.

SALVATORE

It's almost midnight. Rocco, go out back and check on Big Mickey. See if anyone has shown up yet.

ROCCO

Sure boss.

Rocco disappears down one of the aisles.

CUT TO:

117 INT. BACK OF WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Rocco walks further down the aisle towards the back of the warehouse, he spots Terri there.

ROCCO

Stop right there!

Rocco raises his gun, aiming at Terri.

Suddenly, the wall next to him, made up of full cases of

beer, begins to tremble. Rocco looks up as the entire wall topples down on top of him.

Nick is standing where the wall used to be...smiling.

CUT TO:

118 INT. FRONT OF WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Salvatore is startled by the loud 'CRASH' and immediately draws out his gun.

SALVATORE

What the hell was that?!

Frank and the Goon cover Dave with their weapons.

DAVE

(cocky)

That'd be Nick.

FRANK

Shut up, asshole!

Salvatore motions to the Goon.

SALVATORE

Go check it out!

The Goon unlocks the safety on his Uzi and walks cautiously towards the back of the warehouse.

CUT TO:

119 INT. BACK OF WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The Goon scans the area carefully while walking down the aisles. Rounding a corner, he sees Nick pushing a fully stocked handcart towards him.

The Goon fires his Uzi at Nick, who shields himself behind the cart...the shots ricocheting off the merchandise.

Nick continues advancing, trapping the Goon down a dead ending aisle. Unable to move out of the way in the narrow aisle, the handcart, gaining momentum, rams into the Goon...pinning and crushing him against the wall.

Nick grabs the Uzi from the immobile Goon, smashing the butt of the weapon into his face, and rendering the Goon unconscious.

Nick quickly retreats back the way he came.

CUT TO:

120 INT. FRONT OF WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Salvatore and Frank exhibit signs of alarm, while standing readied for trouble.

Unexpectedly, several beer kegs roll into view. Salvatore and Frank begin shooting aimlessly at the kegs which are rolling towards them.

Dave takes advantage of their inattention, head-butting Frank in the face. Dave then does a hook-kick, catching Frank in the side of the head and knocking him down.

Nick swings down from a catwalk, like Tarzan, firing a wildly.

Tumbling to the floor, Nick rolls behind some beer kegs, but pops back up quickly and fires at Salvatore who ducks behind an old desk for cover.

Dave runs and dives behind the beer kegs, next to Nick, just as Frank opens fire and sprays the kegs full of holes from which beer spews forth.

NICK

It just breaks my heart to see all
that beer go to waste.

Dave smiles at Nick who winks and hands him an Uzi.

The battle heats up as both sides exchange steady bursts of gunfire.

Terri sneaks up and crouches next to them. Dave looks at her in surprise.

DAVE

Reinforcements?

TERRI

A friend in need.

Nick turns to Terri and Dave.

NICK

I'll hold them off. Pull the truck
around and get ready to take off.

Terri escorts Dave by the arm, leading him off towards the back.

Nick continues the fire-fight with Salvatore and Frank.

CUT TO:

121 EXT. BACK OF WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Terri and Dave come bursting out the back door. They get into the pick-up truck and drive it up to the door.

CUT TO:

122 INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Nick is making his retreat down the back stairwell, when a dazed Rocco pops out and starts firing down at him.

Nick fires back up at Rocco, hitting him several times. Rocco falls down the stairs, dead.

Nick turns and runs out of the building.

CUT TO:

123 EXT. BACK OF WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Nick jumps into the back bed of the pick-up truck.

NICK

Get out of here! Go!!

Dave floors the gas pedal and the truck speeds away.

As they pass the Lincolns, Nick shoots out the tires on both cars.

NICK (CONT'D)

That'll slow them down.

They speed out of sight just as Salvatore and Frank come running out of the back door.

Seeing the flat tires on both cars, Salvatore loses his composure and starts banging his fists on the hoods.

SALVATORE

I'll get those sons of bitches! I swear on my grandchildren...They'll pay!!

CUT TO:

124 INT. TERRI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is a small but comfortable two-bedroom unit. Brightly painted with several vases full of flowers give it a warm and cheery ambiance.

Terri is busy in the kitchen making sandwiches for them, while Nick finishes explaining the whole story to Dave.

Dave, who was pacing around with agitation, plops down into a beanbag chair. Nick stretches out on the couch.

DAVE

That's some fucking story!

Terri serves them the food and sits next to Nick.

TERRI

One of you can sleep in the spare Room. The other will have to crash on the couch.

NICK

Thanks, Terri. I'm sure that we'll all feel better after a good night's rest.

Terri turns to Nick, looking at him with a frightened gaze.

TERRI

I'm worried about Maria...

Nick puts a reassuring arm around her shoulder and gives her a light peck on the cheek.

NICK

She'll be fine. Tomorrow, at noon, we will make the trade for her.

Terri nods in satisfaction.

DAVE

Then we get the fuck out of this town!

They all try to force a smile to release the tension from the events of the day.

CUT TO:

125 INT. CASINO ON THE MARINA - DAY

Nick and Dave walk through the casino, oblivious to all the gambling excitement around them.

They approach a high priced craps area, which has been roped off. Johnny is the lone player throwing the dice.

He looks up and motions to the Pit Boss to admit them. Nick and Dave enter slowly.

NICK

So you must be Johnny?

JOHNNY

How did you know?

NICK

A cockroach always stands out,
regardless of the environment.

Johnny laughs and rolls the dice.

JOHNNY

That's funny. I like a person with
a sense of humor.

NICK

I wasn't trying to be funny.

JOHNNY

Well, mister comedian, are you a
gambling man? How about a wager on
the dice?

NICK

What sort of wager?

Johnny holds up the dice, shaking them temptingly.

JOHNNY

If you win...You get Maria back, and
you get to keep the diamonds.

NICK

And if I lose?

Johnny leans close to Nick.

JOHNNY

(whispering)
Then I get to kill you.

NICK

No thanks.

Johnny laughs and throws the dice on the table.

JOHNNY

Hey, I'm just kidding. I have a
sense of humor too.

DAVE

Yeah, a sick sense of humor.

JOHNNY

Do you have the merchandise?

Nick nods.

NICK

But first I see Maria. Where is she?

JOHNNY

She's waiting outside for us.

Johnny flippantly tosses a hundred dollar bill at the Croupier.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Come along. Let's go make our little exchange.

Nick and Dave follow Johnny through the casino.

As they pass the lounge, they fail to notice Salvatore and Frank have been observing them covertly.

CUT TO:

126 EXT. PIER BEHIND CASINO ON THE MARINA - DAY

Nick and Dave walk out onto the pier with Johnny. Tony and the Pilot are holding Maria at gunpoint.

MARIA

Nick!

Maria tries to run to him, but is held back.

NICK

Are you all right?

MARIA

I'm fine. I'm glad to see you.

Johnny rolls his eyes.

JOHNNY

Isn't that sweet?...Enough of this lovey-dovey shit! Let's see the diamonds!

Nick takes out a blue pouch from his pocket and opens it, revealing the glittering diamonds.

Johnny snatches them from Nick. He examines them closely with a jewelers loop, mesmerized by their beauty.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

They're finally mine. I'll have power now!

Nick takes a threatening step forward.

NICK

Now let Maria go. We had a deal!

Johnny shakes his head, negatively.

JOHNNY

Had a deal. I'm afraid that you're not going to like me much because I'm not keeping my part of the agreement. Sorry, but you're all going to have to die.

Suddenly taking everyone by surprise, Salvatore, Frank and TWO BODYGUARDS (who also work for Salvatore) ambush and surround the group.

The Pilot reaches for his gun but is quickly gunned down by silenced bullets from one of the Bodyguard's weapon.

SALVATORE

I hope that no one else is that stupid.

Johnny glares angrily at Salvatore.

JOHNNY

What the fuck do you think you're doing?!

SALVATORE

I'm reclaiming what is rightfully mine.

JOHNNY

Fuck you, Bolzana! You don't know who you're dealing with!

Salvatore walks confidently up to Johnny and stares down authoritatively at him. Nick, Dave and Maria watch, frozen in the drama of the moment.

SALVATORE

Yes I do...A two-bit drug-addict punk, who thinks he can muscle his

way into my territory.

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

You're just a low level scumbag with no respect for anyone. Yes, Johnny, I know who I'm dealing with...Your mistake was not knowing who you were dealing with.

Salvatore takes the diamonds away from Johnny.

JOHNNY

You'll be sorry, you old fuck!!

SALVATORE

I really don't think that you're in a position to make any threats.

Salvatore steps back from Johnny and walks over to Nick and Dave.

The two Bodyguards grab Nick and Dave by the shirt collars.

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

And you two are going to die for meddling in my affairs.

NICK

What about Maria?

SALVATORE

Oh yes, I take it that you two have become lovers? Well, bid to her a fond farewell for she also has a rendezvous with death.

Salvatore motions his head and the Bodyguards lead Nick and Dave over to the chopper sitting on the Landing Pad next to the pier.

Salvatore lights up a cigar and addresses Johnny.

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

I have to leave now. I have a previous appointment that I must prepare for. It's a meeting at the Ghost yard with a mutual friend of ours...You know General Ortega, don't you Johnny?

JOHNNY

You son of a bitch!

Salvatore heads for a Scarab boat docked at the pier.

SALVATORE

Frank, put the girl in the boat.
 She's coming with me. I'll deal
 with her later...Tony, kill them
 all, and dump the bodies out at sea
 for the sharks.

Frank drags Maria into the Scarab boat...they pull away, out
 of view.

Tony holds a gun on Johnny while marching him towards the
 chopper.

JOHNNY

Tony, you're the traitor?...But what
 about Danny?

Tony shrugs his shoulders and laughs.

TONY

Danny was like the most loyal person
 who worked for you. That gruesome
 motherfucker would have done
 anything for you. He would have
 given his life for you...Which, come
 to think of it, is what he did.
 But, he found out about me, so I had
 to make you think that he was the
 one who double-crossed you...So I
 could kill him, and take him out of
 the way.

JOHNNY

(bewildered)
 But why?

TONY

You're an insane madman with these
 maniac delusions of grandeur.

They stop beside the chopper. Nick and Dave are shoved
 inside, closely guarded by the one of the Bodyguards. The
 other Bodyguard stands next to Tony.

JOHNNY

Hey Tony, we can make a deal...

TONY

I already have a deal with Mr.
 Bolzana.

Johnny lunges at Tony

JOHNNY

You rat bastard! I'll kill you!!!

The Bodyguard reacts quickly, restraining Johnny. Then Tony pistol-whips Johnny across the skull, knocking him out cold.

TONY

Put him in the chopper.

The Bodyguard loads Johnny into the chopper. Tony climbs into the pilot seat, starts the engine, and lifts off.

CUT TO:

127 INT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - AFTERNOON

Frank and Big Mickey are positioned the parlor. Maria is seated on a couch, looking timid and fearful, next to a placid Salvatore who is smoking a cigar while sipping brandy.

SALVATORE

Big Mickey, make sure that our men are there at five-thirty sharp. I want this exchange to be as precise as Swiss clockwork.

BIG MICKEY

Everything's all set, Mr. Bolzana. The boats are ready and the men are waiting for your orders.

SALVATORE

I want you to personally accompany them. I'll ride with Frank in the Scarab.

BIG MICKEY

Yes, Sir.

Big Mickey gets up from his chair and leaves the room to carry out his orders. Salvatore glances at his watch and then at Maria.

SALVATORE

Well my dear, just about now your friends should be taking a nice little swim.

Maria turns sharply in her seat to face Salvatore.

MARIA

You murderer!

SALVATORE

That's the price one has to pay for interfering in my plans. You should know that by now.

She turns away and hangs her head.

MARIA

(pleading)

But they didn't do anything to you on purpose. Their involvement was by accident, on account of me. You didn't have to kill them.

Salvatore gets up and faces her, explaining as if to a child.

SALVATORE

Oh, but I did have to...Or else what kind of respect would people have for me. I would look like a soft old man. Which, by the way, is why I also had to kill your accomplice Sidney, as another example of what happens to those who think of crossing me.

Maria shakes her head in sadness, as tears roll slowly down her flushed face.

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

Don't mourn over it. I feel like I did the world a favor by getting rid of a lawyer.

Salvatore leans down, taking Maria's cheeks in his hand and he squeezing hard.

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

And you, my dear, will also have to be dealt with.

She stares at him with frightened doe-like eyes.

MARIA

What are you going to do with me?

Salvatore changes his grip on Maria's face to a soft caress.

SALVATORE

It would be a shame to kill such a

beautiful girl...You might still have some value to me. I do believe that my friend General Ortega deals in white slavery and could get a pretty price for you.

Maria shakes her face away and spits at Salvatore. He laughs and starts to turn away, then swings back fast and backhands Maria hard across the face.

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

You stupid little bitch! You had it good working for me! Now you've thrown it all away...Just like your mother! Frank, tie her up until we leave.

Frank grabs Maria who begins to struggle wildly to no avail. She finally gives up and starts to cry.

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

What a waste. It's such a pity how your plans to deceive me have turned out. Your friends end up as shark food, and you'll end up a slave on the black market.

MARIA

Fuck you!!

Salvatore smiles gently.

SALVATORE

No, my dear, you'll not have that pleasure anymore.

CUT TO:

128 EXT. OCEAN - AFTERNOON

The helicopter is out at sea, hovering about three hundred feet above the choppy waves below.

CUT TO:

129 INT. HELICOPTER - AFTERNOON

Tony is alone in front, piloting the chopper. Nick and Dave are seated in the back, the two Bodyguards covering them with machine guns.

Johnny is on the floor between them, feigning unconsciousness, and reaching by slow degrees inside his jacket.

NICK

You guys are making a big mistake.
There's no need to kill us.

DAVE

Just let us go and we'll forget
about the whole incident. It's
cool...No hard feelings.

In the split second that the two Bodyguards laugh and glance at each other, Johnny springs up and lunges out at the Bodyguard on the right, stabbing him in the chest with a switchblade.

Nick And Dave take advantage of this opportunity and attack the other Bodyguard, overpowering and disabling him.

Tony turns to see what is happening as Johnny picks up a fallen weapon.

JOHNNY

(insane with rage)
I'll teach you to double cross me!
Nobody tries to fucking backstab
Johnny Zintanio! Nobody!!!

Johnny opens fire at Tony, spraying the entire cockpit with shots. The controls and instrument panels explode in a shower of sparks...The helicopter goes out of control. Tony is riddled with bullets, his blood splattering all over the windshield.

Nick grabs Dave by the shirt.

NICK

Come on...Jump!

CUT TO:

130 EXT. OCEAN - AFTERNOON

Nick and Dave jump out of the failing helicopter, just as it explodes.

NICK & DAVE

(in unison)
OH SHIIIIIIIIIIIT!!!

CUT TO:

131 EXT. BEACH - LATE AFTERNOON

Emerging from the waves, Nick and Dave come trudging out of the ocean.

Breathless, they bend to catch some air for a moment and slowly start jogging up the beach.

CUT TO:

132 EXT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - LATE AFTERNOON

Salvatore comes out of the estate with Maria in tow and goes over to a white limousine, parked in front. Frank opens the door for him.

SALVATORE

Let's get this show on the road.

Salvatore shoves Maria in the back and climbs in behind her. Frank closes the door and gets in the driver's side.

CUT TO:

133 INT. TERRY'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Nick and Dave are toweling off while filling Terri in on the details of the past afternoon.

TERRI

We've got to get to Maria!

DAVE

I think that it's about time we called the cops.

NICK

No. If we get the cops involved, they're sure to kill her. She's a threat to them.

NICK (CONT'D)

We've got to save her ourselves.

Dave looks at Nick for a moment, then nods his head in agreement.

DAVE

Okay. But how do we find her?

NICK

Remember Bolzana mentioned a meeting this afternoon at some ghost yard?

Terri perks up.

TERRI

The Ghost Yard is the name of an old shipyard. It's called that because it's a graveyard for junked ships.

DAVE

Is this place far?

TERRI

Not by boat. And my brother owns one. He lets me use it whenever I want.

NICK

Then what are we waiting for?!
Let's go!

They all begin to rush out of the apartment, but Nick stops and goes back to retrieve the Uzi they acquired at the warehouse.

NICK (CONT'D)

We may need this.

CUT TO:

134 EXT. SHIPYARD - LATE AFTERNOON

The deserted junkyard for old ships is stocked with all varieties of boats, from rusted tankers to rotted out sailboats.

A white limousine weaves its way through the spooky surroundings to an end docking area.

Salvatore, Frank, and Maria get out and walk down the dock.

They all get into the awaiting Scarab.

CUT TO:

135 EXT. PRIVATE MARINA - LATE AFTERNOON

Terri leads Nick (carrying Uzi) and Dave to a docking area in a boat filled marina. She stops in front of a sleek looking Cigarette racing boat.

TERRI

Here it is.

NICK

Wow, your brother owns a Cigarette!

Terri climbs aboard.

TERRI

Yeah, he used to race.

DAVE

And he lets you use it whenever you want?

TERRI

Sure.

DAVE

Nice guy.

They follow Terri, climbing in while she revs up the powerful engines.

CUT TO:

136 EXT. SHIPYARD BAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Anchored in the center of the deserted bay is a large white yacht. There are two small speed boats moored alongside it, each containing several men.

The Scarab pulls up and anchors around the back of the yacht. Salvatore, Frank, and Maria board the yacht.

CUT TO:

137 EXT. OCEAN INLET INTO SHIPYARD BAY - LATE AFTERNOON

The Cigarette boat speeds towards the entrance to the bay.

CUT TO:

138 EXT. SHIPYARD BAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Big Mickey stands on the deck of the yacht supervising a mixture of Mafia Men and Soldiers as they load hundreds of kilos of cocaine into the two speedboats.

CUT TO:

139 INT. YACHT CABIN - LATE AFTERNOON

The cabin is spacious, and luxuriously decorated with highly polished brass adorning the nautical decor.

Salvatore and General Ortega sit, side by side on a padded leather bench...the diamonds spread out on a coffee table before them.

Off to the side Frank watches a bound Maria. Carlos, a wiry goateed bodyguard for the General, is also in attendance.

GENERAL ORTEGA

I knew that I could count on you,
Salvatore. We shall have a toast to

commemorate our successful business venture together.

The General claps his hands.

GENERAL ORTEGA (CONT'D)

Carlos, bring us a bottle of the champagne!

Carlos gets a bottle of champagne from a small refrigerator. He opens it and pours two glasses.

Salvatore and the General both raise their glasses in toast fashion.

GENERAL ORTEGA (CONT'D)

I salute you, my old comrade!

SALVATORE

Thank you, General. And may we continue to do lucrative deals with one and other.

As they clink their glasses together, the porthole windows suddenly erupt and shatter from gunfire!

CUT TO:

140 EXT. YACHT DECK - LATE AFTERNOON

The Mafia Men and the Soldiers scramble around the deck for cover. They begin firing their weapons blindly out towards the ocean.

CUT TO:

141 EXT. SHIPYARD BAY - LATE AFTERNOON

The Cigarette boat zigzags through the waters at a high rate of speed while circling the yacht.

CUT TO:

142 INT. CIGARETTE BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

Terri is concentrating on steering the boat at the high rate of speed. Meanwhile, Dave sporadically fires bursts at the yacht with the Uzi.

TERRI

Isn't this a rush?!

DAVE

Yeah, I get a kick out of being a

human decoy!

TERRI

I hope that Nick can get to Maria all right.

DAVE

As long as we can keep them busy.

Dave keeps shooting while trying to keep his balance.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Say, do you have a flare gun?

TERRI

Of course, it's in that trunk back there...Why?

Dave opens the trunk.

DAVE

I've got a wicked idea.

CUT TO:

143 EXT. SHIPYARD BAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Amidst the confusion, an unnoticed Nick swims up to the rear of the yacht. He climbs up a the ladder and aboard the yacht.

CUT TO:

144 INT. YACHT CABIN - LATE AFTERNOON

Salvatore and Frank dash out of the cabin and go above to see what is happening...leaving Maria in the clutches of the General and Carlos.

GENERAL ORTEGA

Well Senorita, you are now my property.

The General smiles at her, as he scoops up the diamonds and puts them into his front shirt pocket.

CUT TO:

145 INT. CIGARETTE BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

Dave takes careful aim at the yacht with a flare gun. He fires.

CUT TO:

146 EXT. YACHT - LATE AFTERNOON

The Cigarette boat continues to encircle the yacht.

As it passes the yacht on the side with the two speedboats, the flair shoots out and lands into one of the speedboats.

The Speedboat immediately catches fire and ignites the cocaine into an uncontrollable blaze. It spreads quickly to the gas tank and explodes.

CUT TO:

147 INT. CIGARETTE BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

Dave looks at Terri with a surprised goofy smile on his face.

DAVE

Talk about a Robin Hood shot!

TERRI

That'll keep them busy for sure.

CUT TO:

148 EXT. YACHT DECK - LATE AFTERNOON

The fire has quickly spread to and engulfed the other speedboat, and is now creeping up the side of the yacht.

The Men and Soldiers rush around frantically as Salvatore and Frank bark out orders in an attempt to gain control over the blaze.

CUT TO:

149 EXT. REAR DECK OF YACHT - LATE AFTERNOON

Nick sneaks along the deck and up to the door to the cabin. As he reaches slowly for the door handle, it opens suddenly and swings outward. Caught off guard, he jumps back in surprise, stumbling backwards.

Exiting the cabin is the General, followed by Maria and Carlos. Maria looks up and sees Nick.

MARIA

Nick!

Carlos raises his rifle and fires at Nick, who dives into the water for cover as bullets rip the waves around him.

The General grabs a screaming Maria and drags her towards the back of the yacht.

Carlos fires a few more rounds into the water, then follows along.

GENERAL ORTEGA

Let us get away from here. We will take Salvatore's boat. I have my merchandise...He can worry about his own problems.

They board and steal Sal's Scarab boat.

CUT TO:

150 INT. CIGARETTE BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

Dave is leaning over the side of the boat helping pull Nick up. Terri scans the waters with a set of binoculars.

NICK

(out of breath)

They took off in a Scarab boat with Maria...

Terri points out in the distance.

TERRI

There!

She hands the binoculars to Nick and revs up the engines.

NICK

I hope that this boat can catch them. smiles.

TERRI

Hang on!

Terri pushes the throttle fully forward. The boat hydroplanes after them.

CUT TO:

151 EXT. YACHT DECK - LATE AFTERNOON

The fire aboard the yacht has been extinguished, but the two speedboats are a total loss. Frank returns from below and reports to Salvatore.

FRANK

The General took the Scarab. He left with the diamonds and Maria.

Salvatore glares out at sea.

SALVATORE

Seems he took the money and ran.
Well, we're going to clear up all
this business and the loose ends.
Turn this thing back around and
follow them. They're going to pay
for my losses. I want those
diamonds back!

CUT TO:

152 EXT. OPEN OCEAN - LATE AFTERNOON

The Scarab and Cigarette boats race across the water.

CUT TO:

153 INT. SCARAB BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

Carlos raises a rifle and takes aim at the Cigarette boat.

Maria intervenes, biting Carlos on the arm, causing him to drop the rifle, and stopping him from shooting at her friends.

He slaps her hard and advances on her.

CUT TO:

154 INT. CIGARETTE BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

They watch wild-eyed as they close in on the Scarab. Nick can hardly control his temper and impatience.

NICK

Give this thing all it's got! Get
me close to that boat!!

CUT TO:

155 EXT. OPEN OCEAN - LATE AFTERNOON

Side by side, the boats race across the open ocean.

As the Cigarette pulls dangerously close to the Scarab, Nick leaps from one boat to the other.

Just upon Nick's landing, the Scarab veers off to the left to shake the Cigarette.

CUT TO:

156 INT. SCARAB BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

Nick jumps onto Carlos and pulls him off of Maria. She watches as the two men engage in a brutal exchange of blows.

Wrestling and fighting, Carlos manages to kick Nick in the stomach, sending him reeling back almost out of the boat.

Carlos quickly converges upon Nick and chokes him while trying to push him overboard.

Maria looks on in frozen horror, as Nick is close to going over!

Battling, Nick turns, and reaching out, grabs a towrope attached to the back of the boat. While holding onto the tow rope with his right hand, Nick grabs Carlos around the neck with his left arm and throws himself backwards and overboard...taking Carlos with him.

CUT TO:

157 EXT. OPEN OCEAN - LATE AFTERNOON

Nick is struggling to hang onto the towrope and fight off Carlos who is clinging to him, all the while being dragged through the water behind the boat.

Nick finally manages to kick Carlos off, breaking his neck and sending him flying into the ocean.

Nick Begins climbing up the rope back towards the boat.

CUT TO:

158 INT. SCARAB BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

As Maria extends a helping hand to Nick who is on the floor coughing up seawater, the General takes out a knife and advances on them.

Maria lunges at the General and tries to prevent him from killing Nick.

In their struggle, the diamonds spill out of the General's shirt pocket and onto the floor.

Maria reacts quickly and stoops down to grab them up. She holds them over the side of the boat.

MARIA

Drop the knife or I'll drop these
into the ocean!

GENERAL ORTEGA

You won't do anything so foolish.

MARIA

I mean it!!

The General stares at Maria for a thoughtful moment, then slowly let's the knife fall from his hand.

Maria tosses the diamonds towards the front of the boat, scattering them all over the floor. The General dives onto his hands and knees to retrieve them.

CUT TO:

159 INT. CIGARETTE BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

Terri pulls back on the throttle and slows down the boat.

DAVE

What are you doing?

Terri points up ahead, in the direction of the Scarab.

TERRI

See those buoys out along that area...

ANGLE ON:

INSERT a shot of warning buoys up ahead.

BACK TO SCENE:

Dave follows her line of sight, looking out at the buoys.

TERRI (CONT'D)

They signify a large reef. If we pass there, we'll run smack into it.

DAVE

Oh shit.

CUT TO:

160 EXT. OPEN OCEAN - LATE AFTERNOON

The unmanned Scarab is heading straight for the reef, full speed and out of control.

CUT TO:

161 INT. SCARAB BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

Nick gets up from the floor and notices the buoys and the out of control boat. He rushes across the boat and grabs Maria with a flying tackle, pulling her overboard with him.

The General, still scrambling around on the floor for the rest of the diamonds, looks up too late. He screams!

CUT TO:

162 EXT. OPEN OCEAN/REEF - LATE AFTERNOON

The Scarab hits the reef at a blinding speed! It flips, end over end, across the water until it finally explodes and disintegrates!!

Nick and Maria watch the tragedy while treading water, as the Cigarette pulls next to them. Dave and Terri pull them aboard.

CUT TO:

163 INT. CIGARETTE BOAT - LATE AFTERNOON

They all exchange hugs and deep sighs of relief.

NICK

Boy, that was close!

Maria throws her arms around Nick.

MARIA

Oh Nick, you saved me...I love you!

Their jubulations are cut short by the sound of piercing sirens wail through the air.

TERRI

Oh, oh!

DAVE

I think that we're going to have some explaining to do.

CUT TO:

164 EXT. OPEN OCEAN - LATE AFTERNOON

A COAST GUARD CUTTER SHIP pulls into view, heading towards the stopped Cigarette.

CUT TO:

165 EXT. YACHT DECK - LATE AFTERNOON

Salvatore and Frank are standing at the bow of the yacht. They see the Coast Guard Cutter next to the Cigarette boat.

SALVATORE

Get out of here. We'll have to deal with them at some other time!

CUT TO:

166 INT. COAST GUARD CUTTER - EARLY EVENING

Nick, Maria, Dave, and Terri are all aboard the Coast Guard Cutter, sitting below in a holding area with towels wrapped around themselves...under armed guard.

CUT TO:

167 EXT. HARBOR - EARLY EVENING

The Coast Guard Cutter heads into the harbor with the Cigarette in tow. The dock is crowded with awaiting police cars and personal.

CUT TO:

168 INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - EVENING

Seated around a large conference table in a sparse and undecorated interrogation room, Nick, Maria, Dave and Terri sip coffee while nervously awaiting their fate.

The door to the room opens and walking in, as if in a formal procession, are the CHIEF OF POLICE, the COAST GUARD CAPTAIN, and two DEA AGENTS.

They all sit at the table, except for the CHIEF OF POLICE who is much too angry to sit down.

NICK

Can I ask what we are being held for? You know we're cops too.

The Chief Of Police, a rotund bespectacled fifty-year-old, leans his heavy frame on the table across from Nick.

POLICE CHIEF

You are being detained for questioning in a murder and drug investigation. And yes, I know that you two are cops...And you are way the fuck out of your jurisdiction!

MARIA

Are we under arrest?

POLICE CHIEF

(with subdued anger)

Not just yet!...We just want some answers as to what has been going on in our city the last couple of days.

Dave leans forward.

DAVE

What makes you think that we know anything?

The Chief Of Police gives Dave a glare that could kill. Dave sinks back into his seat, as the Chief Of Police opens a folder and begins to read aloud to the group.

POLICE CHIEF

You all were involved in a high-speed boat race, which caused quite a scene when the other boat crashed into the reef and exploded. What little remains found of the other boat, have been identified as being registered to Salvatore Bolzana. He just happens to be an underworld kingpin and a major drug dealer. He also happens to be currently under Federal investigation...And that is just for starters!

All eyes turn attention to the stately silver haired Coast Guard Captain who opens his folder.

COAST GUARD CAPTAIN

Two smaller speedboats were found in the shipyard today. Both of these boats were burned up and traces of cocaine were found among their remains. These boats were also licensed to Salvatore Bolzana!

Nick, Maria, Dave, and Terri all shift in their seats as the two young brown suited clone-like DEA Agents open up their folders and stand to speak.

DEA AGENT 1

We've recently been tracking a South American drug lord who had a multi-million dollar cocaine deal supposedly taking place in Atlantic City. His name is General Ortega.

DEA AGENT 2

General Ortega is involved with two reputed mobsters in Atlantic City. One is Salvatore Bolzana. The other is an upstart named Johnny Zintanio.

The Chief Of Police paces back and forth in front of the table, looking each individual squarely in the eyes.

POLICE CHIEF

We have had word that both of these bad men were somehow involved in the diamond heist and murder of three people, including a police officer. Now I'd like one of you to tell us what you know about any of this!

Nick raises his hands in a calming motion.

NICK

I think that we can explain and clear some of this up.

POLICE CHIEF

(sarcastic)
I can't wait to hear this.

NICK

Well, lets see, it all started when we went down to the marina and stumbled in the middle of some sort of meeting or confrontation between those two that you'd mentioned.

Dave leans forward and gets into the story.

DAVE

We overheard Bolzana and Zintanio arguing about some diamonds.

NICK

Then we saw someone get killed and that's when they saw us.

Maria pipes up and gets into the act.

MARIA

Salvatore Bolzana took the diamonds from Zintanio and took me hostage.

DAVE

After he left, they put Nick and me

in a chopper, along with Zintanio,
and took us up to kill us all and
dump our bodies in the ocean.

NICK

But Zintanio killed one of the men
and shot up the chopper with an Uzi.

DAVE

Then Nick and I jumped out just
before it exploded!

DEA Agents exchange bewildered glances.

DEA AGENT 1

What happened to Johnny Zintanio?

NICK

I guess he was killed in the
helicopter explosion.

DEA Agents scribble notes. The Chief Of Police finally sits
and props his head up with his hands under his chin.

POLICE CHIEF

So, what happened next?

NICK

Then we went after Bolzana in
Terri's brother's boat.

COAST GUARD CAPTAIN

Are you talking about the impounded
Cigarette boat?

Terri smiles.

TERRI

Yes. That belongs to my brother.
He lets me borrow it whenever I
want.

DEA AGENT 2

Nice guy...

The others looks at him oddly.

POLICE CHIEF

Anyway...

MARIA

Bolzana had taken me aboard a yacht.
He met with the General and was
making a deal with the diamonds for

the cocaine...Then all hell broke
loose!

Maria waves her arms wildly in the air as she makes her
point.

DAVE

We distracted them by setting the
two speedboats on fire with a flare
gun...

TERRI

...So Nick could swim aboard and
look for Maria.

Nick and Maria smile lovingly at each other.

NICK

But the General escaped in the
Scarab boat with Maria.

TERRI

So we went after them!

NICK

We caught them and I managed to get
Maria off the boat just before it
hit the reef.

Agent 1 raises his pencil to ask a question.

DEA AGENT 1

So, General Ortega was killed in the
boating accident?

MARIA

That's correct.

Nick leans back and clasps his hands together behind his
head.

NICK

And that's all there is to it...We
just happened to be at the wrong
place at the wrong time.

Chief Of Police throws up his arms in disbelief.

POLICE CHIEF

(sarcastic)

Oh, It's all so simple, that I
should have figured it out by
myself.

DEA AGENT 1

Where is Salvatore Bolzana now?

They All shrug their shoulders, indicating that they have no idea of his whereabouts.

POLICE CHIEF

And the whereabouts of the diamonds?

MARIA

They were lost in the-

Nick cuts in quickly.

NICK

-in the drug deal, probably. I imagine that Bolzana must have them.

Nick and Maria exchange secretive glances.

NICK (CONT'D)

If that's all...May we go now?

Chief Of Police nods slowly, and reluctantly.

POLICE CHIEF

For now...But we're going to keep an eye on you all. We're still clearing up this business with Salvatore Bolzana. So, you'd better be careful because you're all witnesses in this investigation.

Nick, Maria, Dave, and Terri get up and leave the room solemnly.

The Chief Of Police waits until the door closes and then speaks, half to himself and half addressing the others still with him.

POLICE CHIEF (CONT'D)

I don't think they're all as innocent as they claim. There's more to this...they're definitely lying about something!

CUT TO:

169 INT. SALVATORE BOLZANA'S ESTATE - NIGHT

Salvatore is sitting in the parlor, with Frank, mulling over the situation. He lights up a cigar.

SALVATORE

Find out all you can about our friends meeting, from our source at police headquarters...And then see if you can locate where they are.

FRANK

And when I find them?

SALVATORE

Just put a surveillance team on them for now.

Frank nods.

FRANK

Do you think that they have the diamonds?

SALVATORE

I'm not sure...I think that they were probably more concerned with getting Maria.

Salvatore sucks hard on his cigar and exhales a big cloud of smoke, slowly into the air.

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

...But I intend to find out.

CUT TO:

170 INT. TERRI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nick and Maria are sitting cozily on the couch. Dave has molded comfortably into the beanbag chair. Terri is pouring wine for everyone. She finishes filling the glasses and passes them out.

TERRI

This should help us unwind.

DAVE

This, plus a few more bottles!

They settle back, enjoying the wine.

TERRI

It's so strange...All that trouble and killing over a bunch of rocks.

MARIA

Twenty-five million dollars worth of rocks!

Dave stares dreamily at the ceiling.

DAVE

Think of all those diamonds
scattered in the ocean...

TERRI

Back to Mother Nature, where they
came from in the first place.

Nick, who has been quiet and pensive, suddenly jumps up with
an idea.

NICK

That's right. Think of it.
Scattered over the ocean floor...

Nick is getting excited as his pitch builds.

NICK (CONT'D)

No one, except us, knows that
they're there...Sitting all over the
bottom near the reef...Just waiting
there for whoever finds them!

Maria sits up straight.

MARIA

What are you getting at?

Nick spins around to face everyone, grinning like he just
won the lottery.

NICK

I'm getting at us going diving for
the diamonds!!

Now Dave sits up too.

DAVE

Whoa, wait a minute. Have you gone
psycho? Who is going diving for
diamonds?

Nick walks over to Dave and kneels down next to him.

NICK

I've been scuba diving before. I
know that Maria dives. Terri has a
boat...Think about it Dave. If we
recover them, they're ours. Free
and clear. No fuss, no muss...Then

we're off to Rio!!

Dave immediately starts to shake his head negatively.

TERRI

Sounds good to me!

MARIA

It's worth a shot! I've got two sets of diving gear.

Nick looks at Dave with coaxing smile. They stare silently at each other for a moment.

DAVE

You're such an asshole. I don't know how I let you talk me into these things.

Dave shrugs, finally yielding.

DAVE (CONT'D)

What have we got to lose? Count me in!

Nick jumps up triumphantly. Then they all raise their glasses and toast the decision.

NICK

We'll go first thing in the morning, okay?

The others nod in agreement. Maria stands up and walks over to Nick. She puts her arms around him and rests her head on his shoulder.

MARIA

But now I think we all need a good nights sleep.

DAVE

You got that right.

TERRI

Too true. Good-night everyone.

They all retire for the evening.

CUT TO:

171 INT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

Nick, Maria, Dave, and Terri enter the apartment, which looks like 'Jacques Cousteau' decorated it. There are artifacts and pictures relating to the ocean all around. Everywhere you look there are seashells...although the people who ransacked her apartment have broken many of them. There is also a lot of diving gear strewn about.

Maria's eyes mist up. Nick puts a comforting arm around her.

NICK

I understand.

Maria nods and starts getting her diving gear. As they all help to gather up the equipment, Maria grabs a large duffel bag from the closet.

MARIA

I've got some special diving items in here.

CUT TO:

172 INT. SALVATORE'S ESTATE - MORNING

An early morning sun shines brightly through the bay window onto the dining room table where Salvatore is eating his breakfast. He looks up from the meal as Frank enters the room.

SALVATORE

Good morning Frank. What's the news?

Frank sits across the table from Salvatore.

FRANK

I just received a call from Big Mickey down at the harbor. He followed our friends there and they just went out on a boat.

Salvatore stops eating.

SALVATORE

How very interesting.

FRANK

That's not all. Last night they stayed at this girl Terri's place, but they left early this morning and went to Maria's old apartment, where they picked up a bunch of scuba diving gear!

Salvatore leans back in his chair, wiping his mouth with a silk napkin.

SALVATORE

That's even more interesting...It would appear that our friends are going on a little sea hunt.

Frank smiles.

FRANK

Then the diamonds must have been in the boat when it crashed! And they're at the bottom of the ocean, by the reef!!

SALVATORE

Yes, they must be. Okay, radio Big Mickey and tell him to get the yacht ready to leave. Also, tell him to make sure there is diving gear aboard. Then bring the car around...I think that we'll take a jaunt out to sea ourselves today.

Frank leaves in haste. Salvatore sits there by himself and starts to laugh out loud.

CUT TO:

173 INT. CIGARETTE BOAT - DAY

Terri is driving the boat while Dave assists Nick and Maria in putting on their diving gear.

Terri slows the boat down and turns to the others.

TERRI

It's just up ahead!

NICK

We're almost ready.

Dave finishes tightening Nick's tank straps.

DAVE

Now remember, these tanks only have enough air for forty-five minutes. So, watch your time and your gauges.

NICK

Don't worry, Mom.

Dave glances at Maria

DAVE

Keep an eye on him, will you?

MARIA

You bet...I'll take good care of him.

Terri cuts the engine, drops anchor and goes to the back of the boat with the others.

Maria opens her duffel bag and takes out several items. She hands Nick a small silver cylindrical-shaped object.

MARIA (CONT'D)

This is a low-charge underwater grenade. We can use it to loosen rocks. Pull the pin and you have ten seconds until it explodes.

Nick looks the grenade over and hooks it onto his trunks. Next, Maria hands him a square pistol-shaped devise.

MARIA (CONT'D)

This is an underwater stun gun. Just in case of sharks. Sort of like the ones that the police use,

MARIA (CONT'D)

except that it's a much higher voltage. It shoots out a powerful prong that will penetrate a shark's thick skin.

NICK

I hope that we don't see any sharks.

MARIA

We probably won't...But just in case.

Terri hands Maria a spear gun.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Maria and Terri look silently at each other for a moment, then hug tightly.

TERRI

You be careful girl.

MARIA

I guess we're all set!

DAVE

Good luck.

Nick and Dave shake hands.

TERRI

Happy hunting.

NICK

See you in forty-five.

Nick and Maria flip over backwards, off the side of the boat, into the deep blue sea.

CUT TO:

174 EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

Nick and Maria swim through the crystal clear-blue water, along the reef. They look all around, admiring the beauty of the hundreds of different types, sizes and colors of the fish there.

Nick grabs Maria's arm and points downward.

ANGLE ON:

INSERT an overhead shot of the remains of the sunken Scarab boat.

BACK TO SCENE:

Spotting the wreckage, Maria follows as Nick descends to the ocean floor. They begin to scavenge along the bottom and through the debris.

CUT TO:

175 INT. CIGARETTE BOAT - DAY

Dave and Terri stare dumfounded as they see the yacht approaching.

DAVE

We are not alone.

CUT TO:

176 EXT. OCEAN - DAY

The yacht pulls alongside the Cigarette boat.

Salvatore is standing at the bow with open arms and a cigar clenched between his teeth. Next to him are Frank, Big

Mickey, and BRACK (another killer)...all sporting high-powered rifles pointing at Dave and Terri.

SALVATORE

Ahoy there! Climb on up!

Dave and Terri look at each other with apprehension in their eyes.

FRANK

Now! Fucking move it or you're dead!!

Frank fires a few warning shots into the floor of the Cigarette boat.

Dave and Terri move quickly, climbing up a ladder and onto the yacht.

SALVATORE

Welcome aboard!

CUT TO:

177 EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

Down near the bottom of the reef, Maria spots a diamond under several pieces of wood.

As she reaches down and upturns a board, the top half of General Ortega'S BODY, his face frozen in terror, pops out at her!

Maria jumps back in surprise and shock.

Nick swims over to her and taking her by the hand, leads her away from the body. She calms down and gives Nick a thumb up, reassuring him that she is okay. They continue their search in a different area.

CUT TO:

178 EXT. YACHT DECK - DAY

Big Mickey finishes tying up Dave and Terri to the mast, while both Frank and Brack are busy getting into their wetsuits.

Salvatore casually strolls back and forth, smoking his cigar.

SALVATORE

Did you really think that you could outsmart me? Although, I must give

all of you credit for having the audacity to try...It's a shame that you're going to die because of it!

DAVE

You can't get away with killing all of us! The police are onto you. We told them everything!

Salvatore shakes his head and smiles.

SALVATORE

The police can't prove a thing. They won't have any witnesses. How would they be able to charge me with killing you, if they never find the corpses?

FRANK

The sharks should have a real feeding frenzy with four freshly dead bodies.

Frank, Big Mickey and Brack laugh heartily, causing Dave and Terri to cringe slightly.

CUT TO:

179 EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

Nick and Maria continue their search, shifting through the sand. Maria points and finds a few diamonds scattered near a brightly colored coral rock. She smiles and puts them into a net bag.

CUT TO:

180 EXT. YACHT DECK - DAY

Frank and Brack have finished putting on their gear.

Frank unsheathes his steel-bladed diving knife and turns to face Salvatore.

FRANK

We're set.

SALVATORE

Take care of business down there, and bring up my diamonds!

Frank and Brack dive into the water.

CUT TO:

181 EXT. UNDERWATER - DAY

Maria holds up the net bag with the diamonds, showing Nick that they have collected a good handful. He nods, looks at his watch, and signals that it is time to go back up to the surface.

As they start upwards together, Frank suddenly appears and grabs Maria from behind.

Nick attempts to help Maria, but Brack swims between them and slashes at Nick with a knife...attacking mercilessly.

While Nick fends off Brack, Maria is tangling with Frank their bodies spinning around and around as they wrestle in the water.

Nick manages to grab hold of Brack's hand that has the knife and strikes it against a sharp piece of coral. Brack's wrist is gashed open and blood gushes out, causing him to drop the knife.

But Brack is able to tear off Nick's mask...and while Nick's vision is blurred without the mask, Brack goes to retrieve the fallen knife.

Nick dives to the bottom and is feeling around the ground for his mask...he finds it and puts it on just in time to see Brack swimming at him with the knife outstretched.

Nick pulls out the stun gun from his belt and fires.

The prongs shoot out, hitting Brack directly in the chest. Brack's body convulses as the voltage shoots through his system.

Nick Unhooks the grenade from his trunks and swims towards Maria and Frank. Nick grabs Frank around the neck from behind. Then pulling the pin, Nick drops the grenade into Frank's mask and lets go of him.

Frank freaks out and tries to reach at it frantically. But time runs out and it explodes inside his mask, blowing apart his face and head! Frank floats away dead.

Nick and Maria embrace, and they begin to swim towards the surface...Unaware that Brack is alive and still in pursuit.

Halfway up they freeze at the sight of a SHARK circling overhead. They float motionless, when suddenly the SHARK

dives right straight at them.

Nick Wraps his body protectively around Maria, to shield her from the impending onslaught.

But the SHARK ignores them and swims past them towards something below.

They watch unnerving, the bizarre scene unfolding before their eyes...as the SHARK follows the blood trail from Brack's bleeding wrist, and attacks, and begins to devour Brack violently.

Nick and Maria swim fleetly away.

CUT TO:

182 EXT. YACHT DECK - DAY

Salvatore is seated smugly in the Captain's chair, like a King, awaiting Frank's return.

Big Mickey who is standing watch, points off the port side of the yacht.

BIG MICKEY

Boss, look!!

Salvatore gets up quickly, his expression changing from surprise to anger in a nanosecond. He pulls out a pistol and points it in the direction that Big Mickey indicated.

SALVATORE

Won't you join us!

CUT TO:

183 EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Nick and Maria are treading water off the port side of the yacht. They swim up to the rope ladder hanging from the side.

CUT TO:

184 EXT. YACHT DECK - DAY

Maria and Nick stand on the deck, water dripping from their bodies...Big Mickey covering them at gunpoint.

Salvatore stands against the rail on the upper deck, his shadow looming over them all.

SALVATORE

It seems that I have vastly underestimated your abilities. You've proved to be a formidable challenge.

NICK

Who do you think you are?! Playing with people's lives, like it's some kind of a game!!

SALVATORE

That's where you are mistaken. Do you really think this is a game?

Salvatore pauses briefly, then pounds his fist hard on the railing.

SALVATORE (CONT'D)

This is business! Now, these games have come to an end. Hand over my diamonds and I promise you all a quick and relatively painless death.

Nick and Salvatore lock eyes. Nick breaks the connection with a sneer.

NICK

Fuck you! You want them? Go and get them yourself!!

Nick flings the net bag containing the diamonds over the side.

ANGLE ON:

INSERT a shot of the bag as it sails through the air, opening up and scattering the diamonds back into the ocean.

BACK TO SCENE:

Salvatore and Big Mickey stare open-mouthed at the diamonds they are losing.

Nick takes advantage of this moment, picks up his air tank, and smashes Big Mickey in the face with it. Big Mickey falls overboard.

Salvatore fires at Nick, hitting him in the shoulder and causing him to go down. Nick grabs his bleeding arm.

SALVATORE

Say good-bye!!

Just Salvatore raises the gun and takes aim to finish Nick off, a spear hits him in the throat. He jerks suddenly with an astonished look on his face and blood pouring from his mouth.

He turns and sees Maria standing there with an empty spear gun in her hand.

MARIA

Good-bye.

Salvatore falls over dead.

Maria drops the spear gun and runs to Nick. Tears are running down her face as she embraces him tightly. They kiss long and hard.

DISSOLVE TO:

185 EXT. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY - EARLY EVENING

A Jumbo Jet sits on the runway, awaiting clearance for takeoff. The logo on the side of the plane advertises for "Brazilian Airlines"

CUT TO:

186 INT. JUMBO JET - PRIVATE, FIRST CLASS SECTION

The First Class area is plush and comfortable. There are bottles of champagne on ice, along with fine Russian caviar. A big screen TV is situated in front of the couch in the front row. The local news program is broadcasting.

TV NEWSWOMAN

(on screen)

The reputed mob leader Salvatore Bolzana was found dead aboard a yacht near Red Reef. It was disclosed today that Bolzana was the chief suspect in connection with Friday's diamond heist from the Tropic's Casino. Mr. Bolzana was under investigation for charges of drug trafficking and kidnapping. The Chief of Police released a statement saying that Mr. Bolzana's murder will be classified as a drug related killing...In a bizarre ending to the case, it seems that the diamonds were lost at sea in a boating accident involving a known South American drug lord wanted by the DEA, the FBI and allegedly

connected to Mr. Bolzana. Police divers have recovered what they consider a good amount of the diamonds, but the remainders were buried during last night's storm. Who knows? Maybe in the future some of the lost loot will churn up for a lucky diver...In other news, A multimillion dollar donation was made to a downtown city orphanage. The donation came just in time, as the orphanage was in danger of closing, due to lack of funds...

Nick switches off the TV. He reaches into his tuxedo pocket and brings out a small net bag containing diamonds. He grins.

NICK

She was right. Some diamonds did churn up for a lucky diver.

Nick walks over and sits down on the couch, next to Maria. On an adjoining couch, Dave and Terri are relaxing together. Nick pops the cork on a bottle of "Dom Perignon" and pours four glasses. He raises his glass for a toast.

NICK (CONT'D)

To life, and the surprises it sometimes has in store for us.

They all raise their glasses.

MARIA

To life!

DAVE

To life!

TERRI

To life!

Nick puts his arm around Maria and flashes a big smile.

NICK

How sweet it is!

They clink their glasses and drink their champagne.

CUT TO:

187 EXT. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY - EVENING TWILIGHT

The Jumbo Jet taxies down the runway and takes off. As it

soars away into the sunset, Nick can be heard *singing...*

NICK (V.O.)

When my baby looks at me, I go to
Rio...de Janeiro...

THE END

FADE OUT: