LARRY THE LIFEGUARD

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. NELSON CHICKEN FARM - DAY

SUPER: HENNESSEY, OKLAHOMA

A wide, open dust bowl.

Chickens run all around the old, dilapidated ranch house.

LARRY NELSON(9), Huckleberry Finn double, gentle, not the sharpest tool in the shed, sprays chicken feed from a bucket. The chickens quickly gobble up the feed.

LARRY

(sotto) But Charlie, don't forget what happened to the man that suddenly got everything he always wanted. What happened? He lived happily ever after.

Larry empties the bucket and hangs it on the chicken wire fence. He grabs a fishing pole and races over to his father CLYDE NELSON (35).

LARRY

(sings) Bad, bad Leroy Brown, baddest man in the whole darn town...

MARILYN NELSON (35), sundress, hangs laundry.

MARILYN Watch your mouth, young man.

LARRY Yes, ma'am. I said darn.

MARILYN That your line of the day, Larry?

LARRY

One of 'em.

MARILYN You done your chores?

LARRY

Yes, ma'am.

MARILYN

Okay, git.

Larry dashes off.

MARILYN

Don't be long! Storm's comin' in!

Clyde adjusts and tests the brakes on a mini bike.

LARRY Is it done, Dad?

CLYDE

Yup.

Larry hops on the mini bike.

CLYDE Easy on the brakes.

Larry FIRES up the mini bike and RACES off.

EXT. WATER HOLE - DAY

Larry power slides his mini bike to a SCREECHING halt just short of the water. He sets down his fishing pole, takes off his shirt and shoes.

> LARRY (sings) Bad, bad Leroy Brown, baddest man in the whole darn town...

Larry dives into the water.

Larry glides through the water with long, powerful strokes. He turns onto his back and enjoys the sunshine on his face as he floats on the still water.

> LARRY (sings) Bad, bad Leroy Brown, baddest man in the whole darn town...

A breeze blows water on his face and ripples the surface. A shadow comes over him. Larry opens his eyes. He sees huge, ominous clouds rapidly approaching.

Larry swims quickly toward his mini bike. He stops as fear fills his eyes. A large, mesmerizing, smoke stack tornado approaches from behind the mini bike. The tornado SCREAMS toward Larry.

Roof shingles and chicken wire SPLASH down all around him.

Larry takes a BIG BREATH and dives underwater.

UNDERWATER

Larry looks up and watches as the black monster passes overhead. He fights off the CHURNING WATER.

Larry surfaces COUGHING up water. It is sunny and still. The mini bike, the fishing pole and his shirt are gone. Debris litters the shore and water hole.

Larry slowly swims to shore. He catches his breath.

Something comes over Larry. He dashes up the road he came from.

EXT. NELSON CHICKEN FARM - DAY

The farmhouse is completely destroyed. All that's left is the foundation, chimney, and barkless tree trunks

Larry races up the road. He stops when he sees the devastation.

DAYS LATER

An old, beat up pickup truck containing a mattress, a chair, a goat, and some chickens in the bed, is parked out front of what once was the farmhouse. A "SOLD" sign hangs from a surviving fence post.

In the background, bulldozers clear the mangled wood and metal, and drop the debris into dump trucks.

INT. PICKUP - DAY

GRANDPA (60), cordial, sits in the driver's seat and Larry sits shotgun. They take one last look of what was Larry's home.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

The tired pickup SPUTTERS and COUGHS smoke from the exhaust pipe as it heads off.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The lone pickup labors down the endless highway.

INT. PICKUP - DAY

Larry looks out at the bland landscape that goes for miles. On the radio, the song "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing" PLAYS.

LARRY (sings) I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony...

Grandpa's look says he's heard enough singing. He turns off the radio.

LARRY Are people in California nice, Grandpa?

GRANDPA Oh, sure. When I was stationed there, it was just like Oklahoma...nice folks, wide open country.

LARRY Where in California?

GRANDPA It's called Orange County. We'll pick up some land along the coast with the money we got from the farm.

Larry spots a building.

LARRY

Stuckey's!

GRANDPA

I see it.

EXT. STUCKEY'S RESTAURANT AND GAS - DAY

Grandpa and Larry exit. Larry licks an ice cream cone.

The pickup heads toward the gas station.

A GAS ATTENDANT (50), Gomer Pyle double, overalls, pulls a dirty oil rag from his back pocket, and wipes his face.

INT. PICKUP - DAY

Larry sees the attendant.

LARRY (sings) I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony. Can I ask him, Grandpa?

GRANDPA

Sure.

Gas Attendant bends down to peer in the window.

LARRY Hey, bud, when's the next Stuckey's?

GAS ATTENDANT You goin' east or west?

GRANDPA

West.

GAS ATTENDANT Seventy-six miles.

LARRY Thanks, bud.

EXT. STUCKEY'S RESTAURANT AND GAS - DAY

The pickup pulls onto the long, empty highway.

EXT. ORANGE COUNTY, CA FREEWAY - DAY

Newly polished Mercedes and BMWs ZOOM passed the much slower, old, bucket of bolts pickup.

INT. PICKUP - DAY

Larry and Grandpa look out at all the speeding cars.

A car ZIPS past.

GRANDPA Where's the fire?

LARRY

(sings) Me and Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Jones...

EXT. RESIDENTIAL BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

The old pickup truck COUGHS and smokes its way past young kids partying in the streets.

It a concrete jungle. No trees, grass, or dirt. The houses have barely a gap between one another.

LARRY There's not a drop of land between houses, Grandpa! Bet they're cheap because there's no land!

INT. PICKUP - DAY

Larry and Clyde are astonished at all the expensive homes and bikini-clad party girls.

LARRY Are we in the right place, Grandpa?

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - DAY

The old pickup lets out a last, tired GROAN as it stops out front.

Neighbors watch with dropped jaws.

It's by far the worst conditioned house. Broken windows throughout. Weeds rise from the tiny, cement yard.

LARRY (O.S.) There any fish'n holes here.

Grandpa points.

The biggest fish'n pond in the world is a block that way.

Grandpa takes down a "FOR RENT" sign off a window. He finds lots of empty beer bottles and marijuana cigarette butts and places them into a trash bag.

Larry, in overalls, takes only a second to feed the tied up goat and the few chickens.

LARRY Chores are a lot easier here, Grandpa.

GRANDPA They should be here pretty soon.

LARRY I reckon I'm ready.

EXT. DAMIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

A late model Mercedes backs out of the garage. MELVIN GILBERT (10), poindexter, follower, walks over from next door and hops in the back seat of the car.

INT. MERCEDES - DAY

MR. DOBBS (45), composed, drives while his son, DAMIAN DOBBS (10), mean, anything for money, rides shotgun.

MELVIN Hi, Mr. Dobbs. Hi, Damian.

The car heads down the street.

DAMIAN Hey, Melvin. You know we're picking up a new kid.

MELVIN

We are.

MR. DOBBS He's just around the corner.

They turn down a street. Damian's jaw drops when he sees Larry, his grandpa, the goat, and chickens.

MELVIN They're at the dumpy house?

Melvin leans between the two front seats to get a better look.

DAMIAN

Holy cow.

MELVIN It's Huckleberry Finn.

MR. DOBBS You boys better be nice.

DAMIAN

No way.

Larry hops in.

LARRY

Howdy!

Damian and Melvin gawk at Larry, then stare at the house and the animals. Mr. Dobbs waves at Grandpa before driving down the street.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - DAY

A Newport Beach police car pulls to the curb.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

The STUDENTS watch as Larry, Damian, Melvin, and other students stand at a blackboard with multiplication math problems in front of them.

Larry stares at his problem of three times five. He scratches his head. Damian, Melvin, other students work their problems. Damian notices Larry. He CLEARS his throat to get Melvin's attention. Damian leans toward Larry.

DAMIAN

(whispers) Eighteen.

Melvin smiles, and leans toward Larry.

Larry writes with a chalk the number eighteen. Damian and Melvin smile.

The TEACHER corrects the answers. She puts a "C" next to Damian's, Melvin's, and the other students answers. She puts an "X" next to Larry's incorrect answer. The teacher crosses out his eighteen and puts the number fifteen next to it.

Damian, Melvin, and Larry walk back to their seats.

DAMIAN Your five looked like a six, Huck.

Damian and Melvin SNICKER.

DAMIAN Melvin and I are going surfing after school. Wanna come?

LARRY

Okay.

LISA MILLER (10), eager, and BETH SNYDER (10), peaceful, follower, look at Larry with adoring eyes.

BETH

It's okay.

LISA You gave it a nice try.

EXT. DAMIAN'S GARAGE - DAY

Damian and Melvin hammer and drill holes into an old, junker surfboard.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Larry waits on the shore in blue jean cutoff shorts facing the giant, beachfront houses. Large waves crash behind him.

The whitewash rolls up the beach embankment nearby. LIFEGUARD RICK (23), muscular, watches Larry from his tower.

Damian and Melvin exit Damian's beach house. They spot Larry.

MELVIN You gotta be kidding.

They approach with three surfboards, including the damaged junker surfboard.

DAMIAN Hey, Huckleberry. This is yours.

Damian hands the junker surfboard to Larry.

MELVIN Yeah, we're giving it to you.

LARRY

Thanks.

DAMIAN Don't you have a bathing suit?

LARRY

This is my bathing suit.

CHUCKLING. Damian's and Melvin's smiles turn to serious looks when they notice the large waves pounding the beach.

Lifeguard Rick eyes the three as they enter the water.

Larry watches Damian and Melvin paddle out. He gets on his submerged surfboard and struggles to paddle out past the whitewash. Damian and Melvin look back and CHUCKLE.

Lifeguard Rick stands and takes hold of his rescue buoy.

A large set of waves approaches. Damian and Melvin try to get past the set. It CRASHES in front of them. A concerned Larry sees their surfboards go flying.

Lifeguard Rick quickly takes his tower telephone off the hook. He grabs his rescue buoy, jumps off his tower, and dashes for the water.

Larry sees Damian and Melvin surface and gasp for air. He ditches his board and swims powerfully toward them.

Another large set of waves CRASHES on the boys. Larry continues toward them. He ducks under as the whitewash approaches.

Lifeguard Rick swims out. Larry reaches Damian who is out of breath. Larry keeps his head out of the water. He swims him to Lifeguard Rick. Damian takes hold of the rescue buoy. Larry swims back out to Melvin who is semi-conscious. Larry keeps Melvin's head above water. He swims him in to shore.

Lifeguards work on Damian and Melvin. Lifeguard Rick is impressed with Larry.

LIFEGUARD RICK You oughta be a lifequard.

Larry ponders this.

INT. LARRY'S - DAY

Old, worn carpet and peeling paint are the nice parts of the tiny place.

A six pack of Cactus Cooler soda rests on the kitchen counter.

A dirty blanket on a tired couch indicates it doubles as a bed.

A large, paper grocery bag overflowing with letters addressed to Larry Nelson in crayon, pencil, and pen overflows onto the coffee table.

INSERT AN OPEN LETTER

DEAR MR. LARRY THE LIFEGUARD, THANK YOU FOR RESCUING ME. I REALLY THINK YOU'RE GREAT! SINCERELY, MIKEY MALONEY

The movie "Jaws" plays on an old TV with "rabbit ears" antenna at a high volume.

An open, sliding glass door leads out to the roof.

EXT. LARRY'S ROOF - DAY

Wooden clothesline pins hold beach towels and several red lifeguard bathing suits with the City of Newport Beach logo on a clothesline.

Larry (25), tan, chiseled body, wears a red, lifeguard bathing suit. He stands on a milk crate leaning at an angle over a railing. He has binoculars to his eyes.

EXT. LARRY'S - DAY

Two SURFERS, including CHASE IRONS (18), carefree, spot Larry on the roof.

CHASE IRONS Hawk's got us covered.

An old station wagon with Nebraska license plates pulls to the curb.

Several TOURISTS, white as ghosts, exit the car with arms full of towels and bags. One of them, NEBRASKA TOURIST (22), female, spots Larry on the roof.

NEBRASKA TOURIST California's loaded with nuts.

The Nebraska tourists head toward the beach.

EXT. LARRY'S ROOF - DAY

Larry struggles to peer through the crowded skyline of other roofs and telephone wires to a peek-a-boo view of the empty beach and ocean.

> LARRY (at the same time as the TV) You're going to need a bigger boat.

Larry notices the Nebraska tourists heading to the beach. He springs into action by grabbing a towel off the clothesline and heading through the glass door.

INT. LARRY'S - DAY

Larry reaches into the refrigerator. It's loaded with Cactus Cooler sodas. He pulls out a few.

Larry places the sodas in a bag, puts on a wide brim straw hat, and heads out the door.

EXT. SEASHORE DRIVE - DAY

Larry moves with a purpose toward a small street leading to the beach that separates the beachfront homes. He briefly admires a large beach house on the corner. He continues onto the beach. EXT. BEACH - DAY

Larry wiggles his toes in the sand and takes a deep BREATH to inhale the sea air.

He keeps an eye on the Nebraska tourists setting up their umbrella and towels as he heads for his lifeguard tower.

LARRY'S LIFEGUARD TOWER

Beth (25) and Lisa (25) lie on their towels in front of Larry's tower. They see Larry approach.

LISA

Hi, Larry!

BETH

Hi, handsome!

They hug Larry. Larry sees a couple of the Nebraska tourists head into the water.

LARRY Behind the tower, please.

LISA Come on, Larry.

LARRY

Nope.

The girls reluctantly move their towels behind the tower.

Larry heads up the stairs to his wooden tower. He unlocks the tower door and enters.

INT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

Larry puts the telephone to his ear. He hears a DIAL TONE. He puts the phone back down on the hook. He hangs a floating rescue buoy on a hanger just outside the door.

Larry reaches into his bag and pulls out suntan lotion, zinc oxide, and sunglasses. He puts the zinc oxide on his nose without taking his eyes off the Nebraska tourists.

Larry puts on suntan lotion. He sees Nebraska Tourist stuck in a riptide and flailing her arms.

Larry hastily pushes the telephone off its cradle. He rips off his hat and grabs the rescue buoy off its hook.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Beth and Lisa watch admirably as Larry jumps down the stairs, sprints to the shore, and dives into the water.

LATER

Larry pumps the passed out Nebraska Tourist's stomach as people gather around to watch. Nebraska Tourist COUGHS out water.

Larry gives mouth to mouth resuscitation. Nebraska Tourist opens her eyes. She sees Larry.

NEBRASKA TOURIST

Pervert!

She SLAPS Larry and storms off.

Larry feels his jaw and heads to his tower.

LARRY'S TOWER

Larry hops up the stairs to his tower. He notices a custom surfboard near the entrance. He puts the rescue buoy back on its hook.

INT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

The bag Larry brought is opened with bags of potato chips and cookies scattered on a desk as if a bear broke in.

Larry puts the phone back on its cradle. He puts on his straw hat.

SURFER TIM (18), laid back, disheveled, is seated in Larry's chair with his feet up on the desk. He EATS potato chips and cookies.

SURFER TIM Can't win, can you, Larry?

Surfer Tim takes a SIP of Larry's Cactus Coolers.

LARRY She was alright.

SURFER TIM She fits right in with Newport. LARRY

Sorry we're not leaving the world as kind as when I was growing up. Why is it all you millenniots are rude and think the world revolves around you?

SURFER TIM

I don't know.

Larry keeps an eye on swimmers.

SURFER TIM

Line?

LARRY You're gonna need a bigger boat.

Surfer Tim ponders it.

SURFER TIM Transformers? Batman?

LARRY

Jaws.

SURFER TIM Never saw it.

LARRY If you did, you'd never go in the water again.

EXT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

TIM'S SURFER BUDDIES, including Chase Irons, carry surfboards. Chase calls up to the tower.

CHASE IRONS

Tim!

INT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

Tim gathers up most of the cookies and chips and puts them in the bag.

SURFER TIM

Yeah!

He puts one cookie back on the desk.

LARRY Have a great day, Tim.

SURFER TIM You, too. Later, Larry!

Larry smiles as Tim leaves with the bag.

EXT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

Tim tosses the bag to his surfer buddies. He grabs his surfboard and heads down the tower stairs.

Larry goes outside the tower. He puts on his wide brim hat. He reapplies suntan lotion and zinc oxide as he scans the water. Lisa and Beth check out Larry's chiseled, wet body.

More BEACHGOERS, including BEACHGOER MOM (40), arrive with their families. They set up their plush towels and expensive umbrellas and cabanas around Larry's crowded tower.

BEACHGOER MOM (to her children) Make sure you swim in front of Larry's tower. Okay?

Her CHILDREN nod their heads.

The beachgoers wear expensive hats and apply costly sunscreen. They make sure sand doesn't get on their towels.

The other lifeguards have very few sunbathers around their towers.

Larry sees an approaching lifeguard pickup truck. He reaches into his tower and pulls out a yellow flag with a large black ball in the center. Larry places the flag into a flag holder.

Larry jumps down the stairs and heads down to the lifeguard truck like a million times before.

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR (30), hopeless, parks his pickup truck on the beach embankment. He speaks into his public address transceiver.

> LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR The blackball flag is up! I need all surfers out of the water!

The surfers ignore Lifeguard Supervisor by catching more waves.

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR Surfers, leave the water immediately!

The surfers catch waves and paddle back out.

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR Leave the water or you will be cited!

Larry takes the transceiver from Lifeguard Supervisor.

LARRY Alright, everyone out.

All the surfers immediately paddle in to shore.

Larry hands the transceiver back to Lifeguard Supervisor.

Larry heads back to his tower.

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR Thanks, Larry.

LARRY

No problem.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Beth and Lisa wait at the tower stairs. Larry walks down the stairs with his bag. The two girls each have an arm around Larry as they walk toward the street between the beachfront houses.

EXT. SEASHORE DRIVE - DAY

A shiny, black transportation car stops. Damian and Melvin hop out with school knapsacks. They spot Larry, Beth, and Lisa and head toward the beach.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Larry keeps looking back at the water for swimmers. Beth turns his head around.

BETH You're done for the day. Lisa spots Damian and Melvin.

LISA Hey, they're back!

Lisa and Beth run to Damian and Melvin. Lisa gives Melvin a tight hug and kiss as Beth does the same with Damian.

Larry strolls up.

DAMIAN Thanks for watching over our women, Larry.

Lisa opens up Melvin's knapsack and pulls out a medical book.

LISA Did you have to learn all of this?

MELVIN

Yes.

Beth rifles through one of Damian's law books.

BETH And you learned all of this?

DAMIAN Yeah, piece of cake. (to Larry) You wouldn't understand it, Larry.

MELVIN Hey, Larry, how 'bout some golf sometime?

LARRY Can't. It's my busy season.

Damian and Melvin BUST UP LAUGHING.

DAMIAN

Busy season?

MELVIN Come on, man. You're a lifeguard.

DAMIAN We're going to have the keys to the city some day, and you'll still be babysitting the beach. MELVIN Can't be a lifeguard forever, Larry.

CHUCKLING. Larry watches Damian take Beth to his beachfront home, and Melvin escort Lisa to his home next to Damian's. Larry heads across the street to his dilapidated rental.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER - DAY

A line of HOMELESS PEOPLE, including HOMELESS JERRY (65), mild, and HOMELESS MARY (55), amiable, slide trays across steal flashing. Larry on the other side of the flashing places bowls of soup on the trays.

HOMELESS JERRY Thanks, Larry!

LARRY You're welcome, Jerry. How's everything?

HOMELESS JERRY Fine, thanks.

HOMELESS MARY

Hi, Larry!

LARRY Hey, Mary! How's the world treating you!

HOMELESS MARY Great! What's the line today?

LARRY But you and me ain't no movie stars. What we are is what we are.

HOMELESS MARY Alice Cooper!

LARRY

Yup.

INT. LARRY'S - DAY

More paint peels from the walls. The couch has lots of stuffing coming out. Several large grocery bags overflowing with letters sit in a corner. An open can of Dr. Pepper is on the coffee table.

The movie "Spiderman" plays on a flat screen TV at high volume.

The sliding glass door leading out to the roof is open.

EXT. LARRY'S ROOF - DAY

Wooden clothesline pins hold beach towels and several red lifeguard bathing suits with the City of Newport Beach logo on a clothesline.

Larry (55), tan, crow's feet wrinkles, wears a red, lifeguard bathing suit. He stands on the same milk crate leaning at an angle over a railing. He has binoculars to his eyes.

> LARRY (at the same time as the TV) Remember, with great power comes great responsibility.

Larry struggles to peer through the more crowded skyline to the tiny, peek-a-boo view of the empty beach and ocean.

Larry sees beachgoers, on the street below, headed toward the beach. He grabs a towel off the clothesline and enters the house.

INT. LARRY'S - DAY

Larry reaches into the refrigerator. It's loaded with Dr. Pepper sodas. He pulls out a few.

Larry places the sodas in a bag, puts on a wide brim, straw hat, and heads out the door.

EXT. DAMIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Damian (55), obese, angry, exits in a suit and tie carrying a briefcase.

DAMIAN

Okay! Okay!

His wife, Beth (55), not as pretty, packed on the pounds, stands in the doorway in a robe.

BETH

Don't forget to pick up some milk on your way home.

DAMIAN

I know!

EXT. MELVIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Melvin (55), exits towards his Mercedes in a suit and tie. Lisa (55), nasty, stands in the front doorway in her robe.

> LISA Did you take out the trash? Today's Wednesday so you have to take out the trash!

MELVIN I'll do it right now, Dear.

DAMIAN Have her take it out for once.

MELVIN

SSSSHHHHH.

Damian freezes when he sees AO DONG (35), stunning, Chinese woman, watering the plants at the corner beachfront house in her bikini. Her father, LONG DONG (60), businessman, serious, stands nearby.

DAMIAN

There she is.

MELVIN

Smokin'.

DAMIAN Somebody stop me. Everybody Wang Chung tonight.

MELVIN

Owwwwww!

Ao looks over. Damian and Melvin quickly look away.

Larry heads toward the small street that leads to the beach between the beachfront houses.

LONG You no date Americans.

Long sees Larry approaching.

LONG Like bum who coming.

AO All the Chinese men you set me up with are ugly or boring.

LONG They have good job!

Long walks off.

Larry notices the large, corner beachfront house has a "FOR SALE" sign out front.

EXT. MELVIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Damian and Melvin CHUCKLE as they watch Larry.

DAMIAN

Look at surfer clown. Going to work without a care in the world. What am I saying? That isn't work.

MELVIN Work is making patients wait for an hour after their appointment time.

DAMIAN Padding the clients' bills.

CHUCKLING.

They see Larry admiring the house.

MELVIN No, you can't afford it.

DAMIAN You're a lifeguard. You live in a bathing suit. Larry smiles at Ao. MELVIN No, you can't afford her, either. DAMIAN You're a lifequard. Ao smiles and talks with Larry. Their CHUCKLING stops. EXT. SEASHORE DRIVE - DAY Ao admires Larry as Larry admires the house. LARRY It should go right away. AO I don't know. None of our other houses are moving. LARRY What's your name? AO Ao. Ao Dong. I live right there. Ao points next door. LARRY Owl? Like the bird? AO A-0. LARRY I'm Larry. L-A-R--AO I know. I hear everyone calling you. You're the lifeguard. EXT. MELVIN'S HOUSE - DAY DAMIAN She obviously doesn't know what he does for a living.

They watch Larry continue toward the beach. Larry steps onto the sand.

MELVIN He's headed to the office.

DAMIAN You mean his beach box?

MELVIN Five feet by four feet.

Beth and Lisa startle Damian and Melvin from behind.

BETH That beach box is closer to the water than our place.

Damian and Melvin straighten up.

LISA You gonna stare at the Chinese girl all day or go do some surgeries? And take out the trash!

Lisa and Beth head back to their houses.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Patients, including DISGRUNTLED PATIENT (40), wait in the waiting room to be called. Disgruntled Patient looks at his watch. He heads up to the nurse's window.

Melvin, in doctor's clothes and stethoscope around his neck walks over.

MELVIN

(to nurse) Let's do a lot of unnecessary X-rays.

DISGRUNTLED PATIENT I've been waiting over an hour!

MELVIN Tough. My time's more valuable than yours.

Disgruntled Patient storms out.

MELVIN Get him for an office visit.

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Damian flirts with his LEGAL SECRETARY (30), stunning. Damian places some papers on Legal Secretary's desk.

> DAMIAN Pad these bills for me.

LEGAL SECRETARY Yes, Mr. Dobbs.

INT. DAMIAN'S CAR - DAY

Damian drives along Seashore Drive passed the beachfront homes. He spots Larry dripping wet and carrying a surfboard.

DAMIAN

Keep moving. Nothing to see here. Just a fifty-five year old fool who spends his days at the beach.

INT. DAMIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Damian enters. He takes a seat on a sofa facing the ocean. Beth strides by.

> BETH Larry saved thirteen people today.

> > DAMIAN

Oh, no way!

BETH

Yup.

DAMIAN Someone swallows a little saltwater and they call it a rescue.

BETH The L.A. camera crews were down here. I bet he's on the news tonight.

DAMIAN

He's a glorified beach babysitter. He saves a few people who shouldn't have been out there. He should let them drown...it's survival of the fittest. The tide would've brought them in eventually. We'd be getting rid of a lot of JADAs.

BETH What's a JADA?

DAMIAN Just another dumb American.

Damian sees Melvin with his nose up against his sliding glass door.

DAMIAN

What do you do? Watch Larry all day? Why don't you clean the house for once and have a hot meal ready when I get home?

EXT. DAMIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Damian opens the door and goes outside.

MELVIN Thirteen rescues, my eye!

DAMIAN If someone gets stung by a

jellyfish, they call it a rescue.

MELVIN What are we gonna do?

DAMIAN

Plenty.

Lisa opens a sliding glass door next door. She has their Great Dane, TINY, on a leash.

LISA Take Tiny on a walk right now!

MELVIN

Yes, dear.

Melvin heads next door.

BETH (O.S.) Damian! Are you going to fix the toilet, or should we start going in the ocean?

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

MONTAGE: AO ON BAD DATES

--A fat, Asian man stuffs his mouth with food.

--A skinny, bespectacled, shy, Asian man doesn't talk or make eye contact with Ao.

--An overly aggressive, elderly, Asian man can't keep his hands off Ao.

EXT. SEASHORE DRIVE - DAY

Damian and Melvin supervise as HISPANIC AUTO DETAILERS wax their cars.

DAMIAN

Hey, you missed a spot!

One of the detailers uses a cloth to quickly buff the spot.

Surfer Tim and his buddies drive down the street in a vintage VW beetle with surfboards on top. Rock music BLARES from the car.

Tim parks the VW near Damian and Melvin who could kill Tim with their eyes.

DAMIAN Turn that down!

SURFER TIM

What?

MELVIN

Turn it down!

TIM'S SURFER BUDDIES

What?

DAMIAN Turn the radio down! SURFER TIM I can't hear you! The music's too loud!

LAUGHTER from the car.

Larry approaches signaling to Tim to turn down the radio. The music stops.

INT. DAMIAN'S - NIGHT

Damian and Beth host a cocktail party with some CLOSE FRIENDS, including Melvin, Lisa, and PETER JONES (55), enthusiastic, and MARTHA ABRAMS (45), grateful.

PETER You know Larry the lifeguard?

MELVIN Sure. I went to school with him.

PETER You went to school with him?

DAMIAN I went to school with him, too.

PETER Larry went to medical school and law school?

DAMIAN Elementary school. He lives right over there.

MELVIN In the bum house.

PETER Get him over here.

LATER

The guests swarm Larry who's dressed in a bathing suit, t-shirt, and thongs.

PETER Thank you so very much, again, for saving my son.

Damian and Melvin are in a corner. They can't believe the amount of attention Larry receives.

LARRY Not a problem. It's my job.

DAMIAN You call that a job.

MARTHA

We have something in common. Larry saved my Linda...pulled her out of a riptide before she went into the rocks.

MELVIN

(to Damian) You didn't know we went to school with superman, did you?

PETER Tell us about some of your recent rescues, Larry!

Damian clenches his fists.

EXT. LARRY'S ROOF - DAY

Larry has the binoculars to his eyes. The TV plays The Revenant.

LARRY (at the same time as the voice from the TV) As long as you can still grab a breath, you fight.

Larry sees Ao heading toward the water. He quickly grabs a towel off the clothesline and heads into the house.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Larry heads toward his tower with a goody bag. He checks the large waves crashing into shore.

Larry checks up and down the coast for other swimmers. He keeps an eye on Ao, who sets up her towel.

INT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

Larry sets the goody bag on his desk. He notices Ao going into the water.

Larry rubs some zinc oxide on his nose. He sees Ao get knocked down by whitewash. She gets back up.

EXT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

Larry hangs his rescue buoy on its hook, but never takes his hand off it.

A large wave crashes over Ao. Larry yanks the rescue buoy off its hook. He jumps down the stairs and dashes to the water.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

A large riptide carries Ao out farther. Larry swims with powerful strokes toward her.

Larry finally reaches Ao. He gives her the rescue buoy. Larry swims into shore with Ao behind him.

Larry carries a semi-conscious Ao to shore.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Larry sets Ao down. He immediately gives Ao mouth to mouth resuscitation.

Ao starts to come to. Larry removes his lips from hers. Ao pulls him back to her and they hold each other tightly.

Larry tries to pull himself away. Ao kisses Larry. Larry looks around to see if anyone is watching.

A LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR (30), in a lifeguard pickup truck pulls up next to them.

LARRY Can you watch things for a few minutes? I wanna walk her home.

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR You got it, Chief.

Larry picks up her towel and things. He wraps her in the towel.

AO Why did he call you Chief?

LARRY Cause of the zinc oxide.

Larry and Ao head toward Ao's place.

EXT. AO'S HOUSE - DAY

Ao dries her hair using her towel.

AO Thanks for rescuing me, Larry.

LARRY Be careful out there.

He turns to leave.

AO Can I get you a lemonade?

LARRY I better go back.

Ao kisses Larry.

AO Thanks again.

Larry watches Ao enter through her sliding glass door.

LATER

Larry waves outside Ao's place. Ao, in a bathing suit, smiles when she sees Larry and goes outside.

AO

Hi!

LARRY

Hey, Ao!

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Larry gives Ao a swim lesson. The two laugh and splash each other.

EXT. AO'S - NIGHT

Larry and Ao have drinks on her beach porch.

Beer cans litter the tower. Damian and Melvin drink beer on Larry's tower.

DAMIAN

Lawyer big time is when you become a Washington lobbyist. Those guys make the big bucks.

MELVIN

But you don't just start out as a lobbyist.

DAMIAN

Lobbyist is even above congressman...more money.

DAMIAN

No, first you become a congressman. Collect some kickbacks, get the nice pension, have everyone at your beck and call.

MELVIN

Don't you gotta start out on a city council in some rinky-dink town? Then work up to mayor, and then--

DAMIAN

That'd take forty years. You should've gone to law school instead of med school.

MELVIN

Yeah, right. Lie, throw mud in the machine of justice to confuse the jurors, and make the victim look like the perpetrator until the case ends.

DAMIAN The end justifies the means.

Damian turns back toward his house. He sees Larry and Ao.

DAMIAN I don't believe this guy.

Damian and Melvin stare at Larry and Ao.

MELVIN Lisa says he rescued her.

DAMIAN C'mon! She swallowed a little saltwater.

EXT. AO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ao massages Larry's shoulders.

AO Why don't you take the corner house? That way, you can keep an eye on the swimmers.

LARRY I couldn't afford that, Ao.

AO I won't charge you.

LARRY

What?

AO It hasn't sold. If it does, you can move.

INT. DAMIAN'S CAR - DAY

Damian, in a suit and tie, backs out of his driveway. He heads down Seashore Drive.

Damian's eyes get big. He SLAMS on the brakes. He stops just short of Larry who's dragging his tired couch across the street.

> DAMIAN What are you doing, Larry?

LARRY Hi, Damian! I'm moving.

DAMIAN Where to? Your tower? Damian cracks a smile.

LARRY

No, here.

Larry points to the large, corner beachfront house. Damian's smile vanishes.

LARRY And the rent is only a dollar a month. Can you believe it?

Damian is stunned.

DAMIAN

What?

LARRY I have to throw in some swim lessons, but I don't mind.

Damian drives off in a state of shock.

Damian sees posters of Larry on street posts promoting the City of Newport Beach.

Damian drives through a business district. Larry's poster is in all the storefront windows.

EXT. DAMIAN'S - DAY

Damian and Melvin have cocktails. They watch Larry grilling hamburgers with Ao at his new place.

DAMIAN Why does he get to live on the beach?

MELVIN He didn't earn it.

DAMIAN He didn't get a criminal off.

MELVIN I did four years each of pre-med, med, and residency, and he's on the beach just like me. DAMIAN I don't get it. I thought only doctors and lawyers had licenses to steal.

MELVIN Now you can add lifeguard.

EXT. LARRY'S - NIGHT

Just outside the sliding glass door is Larry's clothesline of bathing suits and towels. A high table and director's chair are under an umbrella. A hanging lifeguard rescue buoy makes it look like a lifeguard tower.

INT. LARRY'S - NIGHT

The house is nearly empty except for the few items Larry had at his old place.

Larry carries a bag of overflowing letters. He opens a closet door which contains several bags of letters. Larry places the bag in the closet on top of the other bags. He takes out a new paper bag and closes the door.

Larry places the new bag on the coffee table and lies down exhausted on his beaten couch. The couch is in front of a sliding glass door facing the beach. He stares out at the ocean from his high perch, and closes one eye.

SLURRING VOICES from the beach. Larry pops up from the worn couch. He watches a young, DRUNK GIRL and DRUNK GUY with a blanket meandering out toward his lifeguard tower.

DOOR BELL. Larry pops up.

Larry and Ao walk hand and hand over to the couch.

AO This couch doesn't really go with the house.

LARRY

It doesn't?

AO It's kind of dirty. Let me get you a new one. Ao is surprised.

Larry peeks over at Drunk Guy and Drunk Girl on the beach.

Ao's smiling expression turns horrific when she sees the clothesline and other items on the balcony.

AO We need to have those items inside!

LARRY

Why?

AO Uhh, they might blow over.

Larry keeps an eye on the young couple. Drunk Girl falls down.

LARRY

Blow over?

AO

Yeah, and you get enough sun anyway, Larry. Besides, if the clothesline is inside, behind you, you'll have a better view of the swimmers.

Larry uses his binoculars to keep an eye on the couple.

LARRY Okay, I'll move them.

Larry sees Drunk Girl enter the water. He grabs the rescue buoy.

AO We'll keep the lower floors empty in case someone wants to buy it.

LARRY

Gotta go.

Larry rips off his t-shirt and dashes down the stairs with the rescue buoy.

From the balcony, Ao watches Larry run to the water. She watches him dive into the water and pull Drunk Girl from the water.

LATER

Ao serves the young couple coffee. They shiver while wrapped in Larry's beach towels.

DRUNK GUY

Sorry, Larry.

DRUNK GIRL Thank you, Larry.

AO I better get going.

LARRY Oh, I got the rent.

He pulls some crumpled bills out of a coffee can.

AO A dollar a month, right?

AO

Yes.

Still a little foggy, Drunk Guy and Drunk Girl can't believe what they heard. Larry pulls out a twenty dollar bill.

LARRY Here's twenty months.

Incredulous looks from Drunk Guy and Drunk Girl.

AO And a security deposit.

LARRY

How much?

AO

Dollar.

Larry pulls a handful of coins from the coffee table. He counts it out as he places them in Ao's hand.

LARRY There's fifty, sixty, seventy, ninety-five, ninety-six... AO If someone buys the house, I'll give you a refund.

Drunk Guy pinches himself.

DRUNK GUY

Ouch!

Larry places the last coin in Ao's palm.

LARRY One dollar. I don't need a receipt.

DRUNK GIRL Do you have any more houses for rent?

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - NIGHT

A banner from the ceiling reads "High School Reunion. Class of 1981. PEOPLE in suits, ties, and formal dresses drink.

Damian, Melvin, Lisa, and Beth sit alone at a table. Lisa and Beth shove piles of food into their mouths.

Miserable Damian and Melvin watch as Larry is mobbed by former CLASSMATES, including CLASSMATE MAN (55), and CLASSMATE WOMAN (55).

CLASSMATE MAN My wife and I are extremely grateful to you, Larry, for saving our grandson.

CLASSMATE WOMAN And saving my daughter seven times! She admitted she has a thing for you!

LARRY So what are you all doing now for work?

CLASSMATE MAN I'm a builder.

CLASSMATE WOMAN I sell real estate. MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Stocks.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.) I'm CEO of a tech company. But we want to hear about you, Larry.

Damian can't believe what he's hearing. He sees CITY MANAGER CARL SPARKS (55), angry to everyone except Larry, and MAYOR ANNA GARCIA (55), extremely agreeable, approach.

> CITY MANAGER SPARKS I need you to increase the lifeguard budget fifteen percent next year.

Mayor Garcia scribbles down notes into a notebook like a secretary taking dictation from her boss.

MAYOR GARCIA Consider it done.

Damian stands and straightens his tie and jacket.

DAMIAN Mayor Garcia, City Manager Sparks.

Mayor Garcia and City Manager Sparks quickly move right by. Embarrassed, Damian takes a seat. Damian and Melvin watch the mayor and city manager walk directly to Larry and shake his hand.

> CITY MANAGER SPARKS Larry, you'll be happy to know the mayor has agreed to increase the lifeguard budget.

The crowd CHEERS.

MAYOR GARCIA Your department is just too important, Larry.

More CHEERING and CLAPPING.

MAYOR GARCIA The council has decided on Larry Nelson Way instead of Larry Nelson Street. We think it's more quaint. CITY MANAGER SPARKS And the statue of you saving the swimmer is going in the city center instead of down at the beach, so more people can see it.

Damian and Melvin can't believe what they're hearing.

CLASSMATE MAN How many rescues you got this week?

CLASSMATE WOMAN Any celebrities?

LARRY Oh, you don't want to hear--

MALE VOICE

C'mon, Larry.

FEMALE VOICE Yeah, tell us.

LARRY Well, I saved an actor a couple weeks ago.

Damian perks up. He listens in on Larry's conversation.

INT. LARRY'S - DAY

Three STUNNING BEACH GIRLS (20's) in skimpy bikinis, including HOLLY (23), dutiful, are on their hands and knees scrubbing the floors and washing the windows and walls. DOOR BELL.

Holly opens the door and finds Damian and Melvin holding six packs of beer and bags of potato chips. The men see the other girls.

> DAMIAN Is Larry around?

HOLLY He's upstairs in the tower.

MELVIN

The tower?

HOLLY Third floor on the balcony. MELVIN We should've been lifeguards.

DAMIAN

Don't be a fool.

The two men see the bland interior.

DAMIAN

He likes to keep it simple.

MELVIN

Kind of like tent camping indoors.

DAMIAN

Only plainer.

LARRY'S BALCONY

Larry, in a heavily mustard stained t-shirt, has binoculars to his eyes keeping watch over swimmers. Damian and Melvin go out though the sliding glass door.

LARRY

Hi!

DAMIAN Brought you some hops, Larry.

MELVIN Just seeing your new place old buddy.

LARRY I can't drink right now 'cause I'm still keepin' an eye on things.

DAMIAN You getting paid for this, Larry?

LARRY

Naa.

Damian and Melvin can't believe it.

DAMIAN When will you be done?

LARRY Well, I'm never really-- MELVIN We wanna take you to dinner.

LARRY After the sun goes down.

Damian and Melvin leave.

INT. FLEMING'S STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

The rich wood and leather interior makes the place smell of money. Clean cut waiters and waitresses crisscross the marble aisles with bottles of wine.

A clock reads "8:17p.m." Damian and Melvin sit in a booth in suits and ties.

Damian looks at his watch.

MELVIN Where could he be?

DAMIAN Back at his place with the three hotties.

MELVIN I should've been a lifeguard.

Melvin spots City Manager Sparks, Mayor Garcia, and other high level officials in a nearby booth.

> MELVIN Got the city manager and mayor here.

DAMIAN We need some bigger wheels.

Damian spots BOARD PRESIDENT JOE MCCORMICK (60), respectful.

DAMIAN That's the president of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, Joe McCormick.

MELVIN See, my doctor friends were right. The political types do hang out here. Let's see if Larry can get us to Washington.

Melvin looks toward the front door. His eyes get big.

MELVIN He won't dressed like that.

Damian and Melvin watch a dripping wet Larry putting on his mustard stained t-shirt. He's in a bathing suit and thongs.

HOSTESS CINDY (18), cooperative, lights up when she sees Larry. She opens the door and gives Larry a tight hug.

HOSTESS CINDY

Hi Larry!

LARRY

Hi Cindy!

Cindy grabs a towel and pats Larry dry.

HOSTESS CINDY

Late rescue?

LARRY A night surfer ran into the rocks.

Cindy leads Larry toward his table.

HOSTESS CINDY Wanna wear one of our jackets?

LARRY Naa, I'm good. Your mom still staying out of the water?

HOSTESS CINDY No. Not since you gave her that swim lesson.

LARRY

Great!

Board President McCormick spots Larry.

BOARD PRESIDENT MCCORMICK Larry! How you doing?

Board President McCormick pops up from his seat.

Great, Joe!

BOARD PRESIDENT MCCORMICK Sit down. I'll buy you a steak.

LARRY

I can't.

BOARD PRESIDENT MCCORMICK Let me get you a drink. Who are you with.

LARRY Couple old friends. Damian Dobbs and Doctor Melvin Gilbert.

Larry points at Damian and Melvin who flash wide grins. Board President McCormick looks at the two men.

> DAMIAN I handled the Watson case a couple years ago.

BOARD PRESIDENT MCCORMICK I don't remember.

The two grins vanish from Damian and Melvin.

LATER

Damian and Melvin watch Larry dig messily into a slice of chocolate cake.

Smiling Hostess Cindy and several waiters and waitresses approach with a leather, guest check holder. Hostess Cindy places the check on Larry's table.

> HOSTESS CINDY We all chipped in. You're meal is free...

Damian and Melvin smile.

HOSTESS CINDY

...Larry.

The smiles vanish from Damian and Melvin. Hostess Cindy slides the check in front of Damian.

HOSTESS CINDY (Whispers to Larry) Thanks for saving my mom. Hostess Cindy gives Larry a big kiss. She gets chocolate on her face, but doesn't mind. She wipes the chocolate from her face with her finger and licks the finger.

HOSTESS CINDY

Bye, Larry.

Damian stuffs some bills into the check holder. He hands it to a waitress. Hostess Cindy and the group leave.

DAMIAN

I'd like you to introduce us to your friends, Larry.

Damian and Melvin help lift Larry out of his seat. They each get chocolate on their hands. They use napkins to wipe their hands.

The three saunter over to the mayor's table, but they're gone. Damian and Melvin look at Board President McCormick's table. A busboy wipes the table.

INT. SANDWICH SHOP - DAY

It's a local dive shop for surfers.

Larry walks over to the counter wearing only his red, lifeguard bathing suit. He's accompanied by Damian and Melvin.

SURFER TIM

Line.

LARRY I think to myself what a wonderful world.

Tim doesn't know.

DAMIAN

Louis Armstrong. What A Wonderful World, idiot.

Damian and Melvin glare at Surfer Tim, who glares back.

Larry casually steps between the three to break them up.

Sandwich Shop Owner GEORGE (60), excitable, slides a can of Dr. Pepper across the counter.

GEORGE Hey, Larry! How ya doing?

LARRY

Great!

GEORGE Like I had to ask. We'll get your order right up.

LARRY

Thanks, George.

GEORGE One large double L!

Sandwich Shop Owner writes on his notepad. He tears off the sheet and hands it to the SANDWICH MAKER.

MELVIN One large what? You didn't order anything.

LARRY One large of me.

DAMIAN

What?

GEORGE A Lifeguard Larry.

George points up at the menu which reads "LIFEGUARD LARRY SANDWICH: ROAST BEEF, SWISS CHEESE ON SOURDOUGH."

Damian and Melvin shake their heads. Larry walks away without paying. He drinks his Dr. Pepper.

Damian and Melvin order. George punches numbers on the cash register. He extends his hand.

DAMIAN

I'm a lawyer.

MELVIN And I'm a doctor.

GEORGE Which means you're loaded.

Damian and Melvin reluctantly pay for their meals.

Damian and Melvin notice several framed, black and white, eight by ten photos of Larry on the wall (with dignitaries, beautiful women, surfers, doing "The Thinker" pose, etc.). They shake their heads. EXT. SANDWICH SHOP - DAY

Larry, Damian, and Melvin exit. A sign on the door reads "NO SHIRT, NO SHOES, NO IN (UNLESS YOU'RE LARRY)."

Larry has mustard and mayonnaise stains all over his red bathing suit. He licks an ice cream cone which dribbles down his chin.

Damian spots a poster of Larry in the window promoting a black tie charity event for non-profit organizations, including Larry's homeless shelter.

DAMIAN You going to be at this thing?

LARRY

Oh, sure.

MELVIN You got a tux?

LARRY

Naa.

DAMIAN He's Lifeguard Larry. He doesn't need a tux. Are there going to be politicians at this thing?

LARRY

Oh, sure.

Damian gets serious all of the sudden.

DAMIAN We'd like to go, but we don't have any tickets.

LARRY Don't worry. I can get you in.

Ice cream dribbles down his chest.

EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Valets park shiny Mercedes, Range Rovers, Porsches, and other high end autos.

A Mercedes pulls into the crowded carport and is immediately tended to by valets. Damian and Melvin hop out in tuxedos. Doormen hold open the front doors, and the two men enter the hotel.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

CHUCKLING. Damian and Melvin straighten out their jackets and bow ties as they head down a corridor with meeting rooms on each side.

> MELVIN What's he gonna wear if he doesn't have a tux?

DAMIAN A Larry outfit, complete with mustard stains!

The two LAUGH.

MELVIN

I offered him a suit to be nice, but he says he can't wear 'em.

DAMIAN

Why not?

MELVIN He feels like a Boa constrictor's around him.

DAMIAN He'd just get food stains all over it. Make sure he orders ribs.

MELVIN I gotta see the look on the politicians when Larry starts wiping his hands on his shirt!

LAUGHING.

DAMIAN This will finally be the end to this goofball!

BALLROOM

The cavernous room is loaded with finely-decorated tables and VIPs sipping cocktails. An ice sculpture of Larry welcomes guests. This will be too big an event for the great Larry to take over.

Damian and Melvin enter and hand their tickets to a RECEPTIONIST at a table. They cast their unbelieving eyes at the Larry sculpture.

MELVIN

You gotta be kidding.

DAMIAN

I'd like to take a torch to that.

The men keep an eye out for Larry as they meander through the crowd. Damian spots Board President McCormick.

DAMIAN

There's McCormick.

Damian spots more executives.

DAMIAN

There's the CEO of Datsui Corporation. We represented them on some things. Look, there's Jim Marshall, the CEO of Marshall Technology. He's talking to--

MELVIN State Senator Stevens.

DAMIAN Holy cow! This is a jackpot.

MELVIN

You sure?

DAMIAN

This place has more VIPs than the Academy Awards red carpet. This is just what we need, Melvin.

MELVIN Maybe Larry can introduce--

DAMIAN

Where is that idiot?

Damian and Melvin look all around. They finally look up at the front of the room at the long, head table. Their jaws hit the floor.

MELVIN

No.

CHUCKLING.

DAMIAN I thought he doesn't wear suits...in a tuxedo of all things.

MELVIN That's what he told me.

Larry wipes his runny nose with his tuxedo t-shirt.

LAUGHING.

DAMIAN I don't believe this guy.

Larry squirms as he eats barbecue ribs. His napkin is covered in barbecue sauce to the point where it is rendered useless and still gets all over Larry's face and tuxedo t-shirt.

Damian and Melvin grab champagne off a passing waiter's tray.

Larry spots Damian and Melvin. He excitedly pops out his seat to reveal he's only wearing his red, lifeguard bathing suit. Damian and Melvin SPIT out their champagne as they try to keep from LAUGHING.

> MELVIN You gotta be kidding.

DAMIAN It's Larry, so you know we're not kidding.

Larry heads toward the two men.

MELVIN This oughta be good.

BOARD PRESIDENT MCCORMICK Hey, Larry! Come here. I want you to meet some people. Damian and Melvin grin as they watch Board President McCormick shake hands with Larry. He LAUGHS, and pulls out his handkerchief, and wipes his hand. BOARD PRESIDENT MCCORMICK Good old Larry, always enjoying his food! The grins vanish from Damian and Melvin. Board President McCormick pulls Larry over to a group of VIPs including Jim Marshall and State Senator Stevens. BOARD PRESIDENT MCCORMICK I want you to meet some very good friends of mine. JIM MARSHALL Hey, Larry! Good to see you again! How's the world treating you? LARRY Fine, thanks, Jim. JIM MARSHALL When are you going to take out my daughters, Larry? He points at two STUNNING WOMEN nearby. JIM MARSHALL They're very interested in you. Damian and Melvin look on in disbelief. JIM MARSHALL

We got an opening on our board of directors. I hope you'll consider it. Oh, let me introduce you to State Senator Stevens.

LARRY

Hello, sir.

STATE SENATOR STEVENS Call me, Bob.

Damian's and Melvin's mouths are wide open.

STATE SENATOR STEVENS You may not know me, but I know you. I've been wanting to meet you for some time.

Other VIPs swarm around Larry.

STATE SENATOR STEVENS We could use someone like you in the state senate. Someone who's down to earth and will listen to the people, not just brush them off once they get in office.

JIM MARSHALL I think Larry would make an excellent representative of the people.

STATE SENATOR STEVENS You ever thought of running for office?

The senator hands Larry his card. He uses his handkerchief to wipe barbecue sauce off his hands.

LARRY

Oh, I--

State Senator Stevens looks over Larry's bathing suit, thongs, and barbecue stained jacket and face.

STATE SENATOR STEVENS Damn! I've gotta back you.

Larry drools down his chin. State Senator Stevens pulls out his hanky and laughs as he wipes Larry's chin.

> STATE SENATOR STEVENS We gotta get you married off so you got someone to clean up after you!

LOUD LAUGHING.

BOARD PRESIDENT MCCORMICK And nag you not to be such a slob!

JIM MARSHALL Put the cap on the toothpaste, take out the trash, put the toilet seat down! MELVIN It's happening. It's Larry.

DAMIAN

Follow me.

Damian and Melvin hustle through the crowd and exit.

OUTSIDE GIFT SHOP

Damian and Melvin wait impatiently while The HOTEL MANAGER (40), attentive, unlocks the gift shop.

DAMIAN It's part of a gift package that's going to be auctioned off.

HOTEL MANAGER I wouldn't do this for anyone else, but since it's for Larry's charity I'll make an exception.

DAMIAN

Great. Thanks.

INSIDE GIFT SHOP

Hotel Manager flips on the lights.

Damian and Melvin each grab a bathing suit and thongs off the racks. Hotel Manager has a funny look on his face.

Damian shoves some bills into Hotel Manager's hands.

DAMIAN

Thanks!

MELVIN

No bag necessary!

Damian and Melvin dash out of the gift shop.

BALLROOM

Damian and Melvin enter OUT OF BREATH wearing bathing suits and thongs below the waist like Larry, and their tuxedo jackets. Their faces, hands, and clothes are smothered in barbecue sauce.

MELVIN

You're sure about this?

DAMIAN You saw how they treated him; practically made him President.

Damian and Melvin march down to Larry who is still surrounded by VIPs.

DAMIAN

We just gotta make sure Larry introduces us.

People stare and point at Damian and Melvin. SNICKERING. CHUCKLING.

Some of the VIPs on the outer circle surrounding Larry spot Damian and Melvin. They give odd looks.

Damian and Melvin work their way into the circle toward Larry, State Senator Stevens, Board President McCormick, and Jim Marshall.

More people see the oddly dressed men. Pointing. CHUCKLING. LAUGHING.

Two burly SECURITY GUARDS (20s), grab Damian and Melvin and hall them off.

LARRY (O.S.) Damian, Melvin!

Damian, Melvin, and the security guards stop. They see Larry waving to them.

SECURITY GUARD You know Larry?

DAMIAN He's been our best friend since grade school.

The security guards release Damian and Melvin who stride toward Larry and the VIPs.

JIM MARSHALL Don't forget about my private jet, Larry. Any time you need to take a vacation--

DAMIAN Larry? A vacation? MELVIN His whole life's a vacation.

DAMIAN All he does is sit on the beach, get tan, have girls hang all over him.

MELVIN You want him to take a vacation from his vacation?

LARRY This is Damian Dobbs and Melvin Gilbert.

State Senator Stevens looks at the stains covering the two men.

STATE SENATOR STEVENS You must be really close to Larry.

LAUGHTER.

STATE SENATOR STEVENS Well, Larry, I know you're a busy man, so I won't take up any more of your valuable time.

State Senator Stevens, Board President McCormick, and others shake Larry's hand and leave.

Flabbergasted, Damian and Melvin storm off.

JIM MARSHALL Hey, Larry, are they lifeguards, too?

LARRY No. One's a lawyer and one's a doctor.

JIM MARSHALL They are two sick puppies.

INT. DAMIAN'S CAR - DAY

Damian drives to work in his suit and tie with a scowl on his face.

Something catches Damian's eye.

Ahead, workers string a large banner across the busy street which reads in part: 25th ANNUAL LARRY NELSON CHARITY TRIATHLON.

DAMIAN That tears it.

INT. EYE DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

DOCTOR TED WILLIAMSON (50), eye doctor, old-fashioned, examines Damian's eyes.

DR. WILLIAMSON Everything looks good. You can continue representing criminals.

DAMIAN

C'mon, Ted.

A light bulb goes on in Damian's eyes.

LATER

DR. WILLIAMSON Sorry, Damian. I won't tell Larry his eyes are going bad when they aren't.

EXT. SEASHORE DRIVE - DAY

Larry walks towards his house. Beachgoer Mom waves when she spots Larry.

BEACHGOER MOM

Hi, Larry!

LARRY

Hi!

Damian drives up alongside Larry. He rolls his window down.

DAMIAN Hey, Larry. Oh, wow! You're really squinting!

LARRY

I am?

DAMIAN When was the last time you had your eyes checked? I've got an eye doctor friend who can check you out for free.

LARRY

You do?

DAMIAN I'll have him come to my office.

INT. DAMIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

EXAMINATION ROOM

Damian wears a disguise that makes him look like Albert Einstein. Larry has no idea. Damian has a large, high power flashlight to Larry's eyes. Larry squints repeatedly.

DAMIAN

(changing his voice) Yeah, it's worse than I thought. You've been in the sun too much, Larry. You must stop being a lifeguard, or you will lose your sight.

Larry drops his head.

LARRY

Thanks, Doc.

Larry walks out of the room. Damian rips off the disguise.

Damian approaches a morose Larry.

DAMIAN What'd he say?

LARRY I gotta stay out of the sun.

DAMIAN How can you lifeguard? EXT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

Damian runs to the base of the tower with a grin. He stops on a dime when he sees Larry in his tower sporting high end sunglasses.

> DAMIAN Larry! I thought you couldn't lifeguard anymore.

> > LARRY

I told Ao, so she went and got me these great sunglasses...UV protection, polarized--

DAMIAN You oughta get a second opinion.

LARRY Thanks for the concern, but I'll be alright.

Damian perks up.

DAMIAN I'll be right back.

Damian trots toward his house.

LATER

Damian and Melvin arrive back at Larry's tower. They step up the ladder and enter the tower.

INT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

Damian and Melvin see lots of health magazines, fresh fruit, carrots, and water on his table. Larry keeps an eye on the swimmers.

LARRY

Hi Melvin.

MELVIN You oughta listen to the doctor, Larry.

DAMIAN Yeah, you wouldn't want to get sued 'cause you couldn't see someone drowning. Damian secretly pulls a black marker from his pocket. He takes the cap off.

MELVIN I don't think I've ever been up here before.

Larry is preoccupied with watching the swimmers.

DAMIAN I don't know why you do this, Larry. Freezing your butt off in the winter, drying up like a dry prune in the summer. You could've been rich like Melvin and me.

Damian carefully places the tip of the marker on Larry's back, leaving a blotch.

MELVIN Hey, Larry! Did you know you got a suspicious mole on your back?

LARRY

I do?

INT. DAMIAN'S OFFICE - EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Damian, in a different disguise, examines Larry who only wears his bathing suit. Damian studies Larry's back with a gigantic magnifying glass.

> DAMIAN (changing his voice) I want to do a biopsy on this. In the meantime, you'll have to quit your job and stay out of the sun.

Larry has a horrified look.

LARRY

But--

DAMIAN Stay out of the sun. You're a rotting carcass. EXT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

Damian and Melvin trot over. Shock comes over them when they see Larry in his tower. They climb up the ladder.

INT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY

Larry keeps a close eye on the swimmers. He is completely covered from head to foot in clothing. He has zinc oxide all over his face, his wide brim straw hat, and sunglasses. On the table are several bottles of SPF 100 suntan lotion.

Damian and Melvin enter.

DAMIAN

Larry?

LARRY

Yeah.

DAMIAN What are you doing?

MELVIN I thought the dermatologist told you to quit your job and stay out of the sun.

LARRY I'm out of the sun.

MELVIN Not if you have to rescue someone.

Larry eyes a swimmer caught in a riptide.

DAMIAN How can you save anyone dressed like that.

Larry sees the swimmer struggling. He gets up.

LARRY

Watch.

Larry grabs his pants around the hips. He yanks hard. The tear away sweats, similar to the ones professional basketball players use, come right off. Damian and Melvin are surprised. Larry rips off his long sleeve shirt.

EXT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY Larry grabs the lifequard buoy off the hook and heads down the ladder. He heads toward the water. INT. LARRY'S - DAY A nervous Ao and her father, Long, enter with a key. LONG When we sell this house? AO I don't know. Long heads up the stairs. AO You know what the rest looks like. LONG Paint on third floor is no good. Ao grabs Long by the arm. AO I'll get some opinions from an interior decorator. LONG We can do. THIRD FLOOR Long sees the couch and clothesline of bathing suits and beach towels. LONG No home man! He punches numbers on his cellphone. AO I'll get rid of him! Long sees the City Of Newport Beach on the bathing suits. Ao bites her nails. LONG No home man in my house!

Ao grabs his phone and pushes a button.

AO It's not a homeless guy. I'm letting someone stay here. LONG He not Chinese? AO No. LONG And not rich? Ao shakes her head. Long sees a pile of stained, dirty clothes. LONG Are you sure he's not homeless? AO No. He's the lifeguard who--LONG Lifeguard? No! AO Better because my dad is rich? Better because we have some property? LONG No. AO He's a sweet man. I love him. LONG American? AO You'll like Larry. Long looks at the logo on the bathing suits. LONG Larry the lifeguard? EXT. LARRY'S TOWER - DAY Larry looks intently out at the ocean using his binoculars. Ao and Long, in his suit and tie, approach.

Long keeps a skeptical eye on Larry.

AO Larry, please meet my father.

LARRY

Hi, Ao!

Larry puts down his binoculars. Ao watches as Larry gingerly steps down the tower ladder, careful not to put too much weight on his legs.

Long watches Larry kiss Ao.

AO Larry, this is my father, Mr. Long Dong.

Long cautiously shakes hands with Larry.

LARRY Nice to meet you, Mr. Dong. You didn't need to get dressed up to meet me.

Larry keeps an eye on the water.

AO

He always dresses like this. He can't relax. Larry's the one who rescued me.

LONG No swim with big waves.

AO

Yes, I know father. Larry, when you get a chance, how about an English lesson for my father?

Larry sees a swimmer caught in a riptide.

LARRY Sure, I gotta go. Nice meeting you.

Ao and Long watch Larry force himself up the tower ladder. He grabs his rescue buoy, steps down the ladder, and slightly hobbles toward the water.

> LONG No need lesson...my English good.

Ao's look says she isn't buying it.

LONG He not young, smart, or handsome, but he poor.

LATER

Ao and Long watch with great interest as Larry brings the swimmer onto land.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Larry jogs in agony. GASPING. He stops and rubs his knees.

Larry spots several lifeguard recruits in the distance. They are all in front of his lifeguard tower and wearing red swim suits.

LARRY'S TOWER

As Larry approaches the recruits his mouth is agape.

The recruits try to stretch and jog, but fail miserably as almost all of them are obese.

The worst among them, by far, is HEAVY FREDDY (20), black, obese, who is afraid of the ocean.

Holly files her nails. She brushes her hair in a mirror. She is the only one in excellent shape.

City Manager Sparks heads off Larry.

LARRY You gotta be kidding, Carl.

City Manager Sparks pulls Larry aside.

CITY MANAGER SPARKS SSSSHHHHH. They're the only ones that responded to our ad.

LARRY

But, Carl--

CITY MANAGER SPARKS This is what America gets after years of sitting in their mom's basements playing video games and eating junk food. Larry spots Heavy Freddy. He is surprised.

LARRY

What?

CITY MANAGER SPARKS Just go through the test...run 'em down the beach.

LARRY

They can run?

CITY MANAGER SPARKS Then walk 'em down the beach.

LARRY A starving American nowadays is someone who hasn't eaten in the last two hours.

Larry strides toward the recruits.

The recruits head down the beach. Heavy Freddy walks alongside Larry.

HEAVY FREDDY I'm kind of afraid of the ocean.

Larry can't believe this.

LARRY Well, one of duties is to go out and rescue people.

HEAVY FREDDY I can stay in the tower and let you know if I see someone in trouble.

LARRY We're lifeguards. We're not life security guards that observe and report.

He jogs down the beach. Heavy Freddy tries to keep up. He trips and rolls side over side down the beach slope. He crashes into a kid's sandcastle.

A school bell RINGS. Larry walks along the buildings. Larry is stunned to see most of the students are obese, text messaging, and eating junk food.

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL

Water polo players swim and practice throwing balls into the goal net. The water polo coach, BECKY STEVENS (30), appealing, BARKS out orders to the players.

BECKY

Look for an open man!

Larry enters through the gate and heads straight to Becky. Becky smiles when she sees Larry.

BECKY Hey, Larry! Everyone outta the water!

She gives Larry a tight hug. The water polo team, made up of obese kids, gets out of the water and heads toward Larry and Becky.

LARRY

I hope you can--

Larry's smile turns into disbelief when he sees all the obese water polo players waddling toward him.

LARRY (to Becky) Wanna come back to lifeguarding?

INT. GLADYS'S HOUSE - DAY

It's sports memorabilia galore with several trophies and photos of former Olympic diver GLADYS JONES (65), homely, no nonsense, tough, are scattered about.

Gladys lifts heavy weights. She GRUNTS with each lift.

GLADYS If I go back to lifeguarding I want free reign. No letting some young punk telling me how to do my job. Got it?

LARRY Got it, Gladys.

GLADYS Good. Now let me work out.

Larry leaves with a smile.

INT. LARRY'S - NIGHT

Larry and Long, in a suit and tie, sit on the couch. Long eyes the clothesline of bathing suits and the stuffing coming out of the couch with a shocked look.

Larry makes notes on a paper attached to a clipboard.

LARRY What do you do?

LONG Internet. Internet business.

LARRY What does your company do? What kind of business?

LONG My company make companies get big.

He throws his arms out wide.

LARRY Your Internet company helps companies get big?

Larry jots notes.

LONG Yes. Get big fast.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Holly, Gladys, and the obese recruits man their lifeguard towers.

The towers are much closer together to accommodate the slow, heavy lifeguards.

BARNEY JACOBY (28), conniving, and his two FRIENDS eye Holly who fixes her makeup in a mirror.

Barney whispers to his two friends. His two friends giggle as they watch Barney enter the water in front of Holly's tower. Heavy Freddy stands in toe deep water in a thick wetsuit. Larry stands in knee high water facing Heavy Freddy with his arms out.

LARRY

C'mon, Freddy.

HEAVY FREDDY The water's too cold.

Heavy Freddy runs up the beach slope to avoid the whitewash.

LARRY You're the last person who needs a wetsuit.

Barney SPLASHES water as if he's drowning. Larry keeps an eye on Barney.

Larry notices other swimmers getting caught in riptides. Larry sees that the lifeguards in the towers aren't responding to the swimmers.

LARRY

What the--

City Manager Sparks watches Larry hobble past Heavy Freddy and head toward Barney.

LARRY

Let's go.

Heavy Freddy waddles after Larry.

Holly spots Barney splashing. She brushes her hair before grabbing her buoy and heading down to the water.

City Manager Sparks watches as Holly swims passed Larry. Out of nowhere, Gladys motorboats by Holly and Larry.

Larry heads to the other swimmers in danger. The lifeguards still haven't responded.

Gladys flings her buoy to a not too happy Barney who ignores it.

GLADYS

Grab it!

Barney splashes it away. He eyes Holly.

BARNEY

Help!

Gladys places the buoy in Barney's hand. He promptly drops it and ducks underwater.

Barney pops up near Holly.

BARNEY

Save me!

Holly tosses her buoy to Barney. The two swim in to shore.

Holly and Barney exit the water.

Gladys swims to shore dragging a swimmer.

Larry swims to shore with a swimmer holding onto his lifeguard buoy. He sees that the other lifeguards are staring at their cell phone screens, eating, and watching beautiful girls.

Barney fakes like he's swallowed seawater. He lies down on his back with his eyes closed. Holly puts an ear to his chest. A hint of a smile appears on Barney.

Holly locks both hands together. She pounds on Barney's chest. Barney is surprised.

BARNEY

Ouch!

Barney rubs his chest.

HOLLY Do you want mouth-to-mouth?

BARNEY

Yes!

HOLLY Okay, lie down.

Barney has a big grin as he closes his eyes.

Gladys gives Barney mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Barney tries to put his hands around his rescuer, but he can't get his arms around her big body. Something's wrong.

Barney opens his eyes. He's surprised to see Gladys giving him mouth-to-mouth. Barney pushes Gladys aside and springs to his feet.

> BARNEY I'm feeling much better!

Barney hustles to his two friends who are doubled over laughing.

Larry reaches shore with the swimmer. He looks to each side of him. More swimmers are being helped to shore by other swimmers.

LARRY

Hey! Come on!

Some of the lifeguards see Larry. They put down their phones and head toward the water.

LARRY

Let's go!

Swimmers roll up on shore with the tide. Larry drags as many swimmers onto dry land as he can. The lifeguards assist and give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

The situation is under control as the swimmers are all taken care of. Larry takes DEEP breaths.

LARRY Didn't you see the people drowning out there? Didn't you see them washing up on shore?

Ao pulls Larry away to cool off.

AO

That's not like you, Larry. Maybe it's time to think about retirement.

LARRY

I can't!

Larry storms off.

City Manager Sparks intercepts Larry.

CITY MANAGER SPARKS Hey. What's with the limp?

LARRY Knees are a little sore. What's with the lifeguards?

CITY MANAGER SPARKS They'll be okay. I noticed Gladys and Holly left you in their wakes.

LATER

City Manager Sparks and Larry experiment with Larry using a surfboard.

LARRY This way, I won't have to run from the tower. I'll already be in the water.

City Manager Sparks watches Larry paddle out.

Larry gets in the way of surfers trying to surf.

Larry runs over some swimmers.

City Manager Sparks signals Larry to come in. A disappointed Larry paddles in to shore.

Larry jogs up to a cross-armed City Manager Sparks.

Larry lights up when he spots a man with a paddleboard.

LATER

Larry stands on a paddleboard as he paddles out past the swimmers. He turns the paddleboard around to face the beach. Larry can only see the backs of the waves. He can't watch the swimmers. Frustrated, Larry paddles in to shore.

EXT. LIFEGUARD BOAT - DAY

A gloomy Larry rides aboard looking for potential swimmers in trouble.

LARRY I can't spot anyone from out here.

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR We don't do a lot of spotting. We pretty much just respond to calls.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Larry sits on a Sea Doo close to shore. SEA DOO INSTRUCTOR (20), gives pointers to Larry.

SEA DOO INSTRUCTOR It's like riding a motorcycle. Have you ever ridden a motorcycle? LARRY I used to ride a mini bike.

SEA DOO INSTRUCTOR Good. Start it up.

Larry STARTS the Sea Doo.

SEA DOO INSTRUCTOR Speed is your friend with the Sea Doo. If you don't have any speed, you won't have control. Give it some juice.

Larry hits the accelerator. The Sea Doo TAKES OFF.

Larry races around barely missing swimmers who duck underwater.

An approaching wave acts as a takeoff ramp. Larry flies through the air to the astonishment of Sea Doo Instructor.

Larry looks on the left handlebar for the brake.

LARRY Where's the brake?

Larry heads for a pier at high speed. He closes his eyes. Larry luckily squeezes through the pilings and goes out the other side.

Larry looks back, relieved. He looks forward just before he SLAMS into a jetty. The force launches Larry over the jetty. He flies through the air and lands in the water on the other side.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

A dripping wet Larry has a towel around him. City Manager Sparks and Sea Doo Instructor examine the Sea Doo which is a total loss.

> SEA DOO INSTRUCTOR Why didn't you let off the gas?

LARRY I never hit the gas. I was on the brakes the whole time.

Larry demonstrates by pulling the gas lever.

City Manager Sparks and Sea Doo Instructor give each other blank stares.

EXT. LARRY'S BALCONY - DAY

Larry watches as Surfer Tim installs an Internet camera pointed at the water.

LARRY Find a truly original idea. That's the only way I'll ever distinguish myself. It's the only way that I'll ever matter.

Larry sees that Surfer Tim doesn't understand.

LARRY A Beautiful Mind.

SURFER TIM I thought you lost your mind.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Larry and Ao move down he aisle.

AO

No one is indispensable, Larry. At some point, someone will have to replace you.

Larry flashes anger.

LARRY You gotta see how out of shape these guys are.

AO Maybe they'll outlaw lifeguards eating junk food.

LARRY These guys not eating junk food for an hour is called going on a diet.

Ao notices that Larry leans over the shopping cart using it as a rolling walker.

CHECKOUT

Ao and Larry stand in line. Ao notices that Larry constantly checks his cell phone. On the split screen is live footage of four different beaches. Larry keeps an eye on the swimmers.

> HOSTESS CINDY Hey, Larry! What's that?

> > LARRY

A new way to keep an eye on the swimmers when I'm not working.

People look over their shoulders.

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER - DAY

A line of homeless people slide food trays along the steel flashing. Larry and other volunteers place soup and bread on the trays.

> HOMELESS JERRY Hi, Larry! How's it going?

Larry keeps an eye on his phone which shows a live view of the water in front of his tower.

> LARRY Fine, Jerry. How's the world treating you?

> > HOMELESS JERRY

Great!

LARRY

Hi, Mary.

HOMELESS MARY

Hi, Larry!

Larry taps his cell phone screen. A split view shows live coverage at four different beach locations. Larry scans the swimmers at all locations.

Ao enters. She smiles when she sees Larry.

Larry spots a swimmer too close to some rocks. He panics as he punches buttons on his cell phone.

LARRY You got a swimmer too close to the rocks at Thirty-Second Street!

LARRY

Hurry!

Larry puts the cell phone down. The line of homeless people has backed up.

Ao watches as Larry never takes his eyes off his cell phone as he uses a ladle to pour soup, but the soup misses the bowl.

Ao grabs a towel and wipes up the mess.

AO What are you doing, Larry?

LARRY

Oh, sorry.

AO One thing at a time.

Ao sees that Larry can't keep his eyes off the phone. She turns Larry's cell phone over so he can't see the screen.

INT. LARRY'S - DAY

Larry gingerly slow dances with Ao.

AO What's wrong with your legs?

LARRY Nothin'. Knees just ache a little.

AO Did you have them checked?

Larry shakes his head. He keeps his eyes on the swimmers through the balcony door. Ao turns his head towards her.

AO It's your day off.

LARRY Don't have any days off.

Larry looks out the balcony door. Ao breaks away from him.

AO

Be right back. Why don't you get started on the dinner?

Ao takes off down the stairs. The sound of the front door OPENING and SHUTTING.

Larry pulls items from the refrigerator.

LATER

Empty roll tubes and invisible tape are on the couch.

Ao tapes the last sheet of brown paper to the balcony sliding glass door. All the windows facing the ocean are covered with brown packaging paper.

AO

Let's eat.

Larry's expression says he's not happy with the covered windows and door.

Larry and Ao sit at the candlelit table in front of the plates of spaghetti and glasses of wine.

An antsy Larry can't take his eyes off the covered balcony door. He pops up and starts toward the balcony.

LARRY

Let's watch the sunset.

AO

Sit!

Larry takes a seat at the table like a scolded child.

AO You can't watch every swimmer, Larry.

LARRY

I have to.

AO

Why?

Ao watches nervous Larry quickly spin spaghetti around a fork.

Larry takes a DEEP breath. He rises from his chair.

LARRY

I just wanna check--

AO

No!

Larry plops down on his chair.

AO No one's going to drown! If they do it's not your fault! You can go to the funeral.

Ao flashes a look of disbelief, but it quickly changes to feeling sorry for Larry.

AO What happened, Larry?

Larry's eyes well.

AO Why are you like this?

Larry's lips quiver. He turns his head away from Ao and rises from his seat. Ao gets ready to scold him.

LARRY

I'm not going to look out.

He takes what seems like an eternity to answer.

LARRY

About a month into lifeguarding...what am I saying? I know the date...never forget it. July tenth, nineteen eighty-eight.

Larry walks to the balcony sliding glass door. He gazes at the brown paper covering as though he can see through to the ocean.

INTERCUT - FLASHBACK JULY 10, 1988 AND TODAY

Tourists pack every square inch of beach building sandcastles, eating, applying sunscreen, and lying under umbrellas.

LARRY It was a packed, hot, summer weekend. A Sunday. The waves were huge...worst nightmare for a lifeguard. I was assigned to the state beach where all the tourists (MORE)

LARRY (cont'd)

go.

Larry drops his head and SIGHS.

LARRY

You gotta be on your A game cause a lot of them don't know how to swim.

Ao gets up and walks over behind him. She puts her arms around his waist for support.

Larry lifts a piece of tape and brown paper. Ao slaps his hand. Larry releases the tape and paper.

LARRY All you can do is keep your eyes and head moving back and forth, like you're watching an eight hour tennis rally.

Larry reaches for the brown paper and tape. Ao grabs his wrist and pulls it back to his side.

LARRY There were two eleven-year-old boys...not strong swimmers. I saw them go in, but there was so much going on.

A WRINKLY ELDERLY LADY (80), approaches Larry.

WRINKLY ELDERLY LADY Young man, will you keep an eye on my towel while I go use the restroom?

An OBESE LADY (60), approaches Larry.

OBESE LADY Young man, does this bathing suit make me look fat?

Obese Lady spins around trying to act like a model. She falls over.

TOURIST MOM (45), clueless, approaches Larry.

TOURIST MOM Will you keep an eye on my kids while I go grab something to eat? Tourist Mom turns and points at ten young children including babies in diapers.

LARRY I looked back at the two boys. They already started getting pulled into the rocks. I hustled in as fast as I could.

Larry dashes toward the water. He tries to dodge thrown Frisbees, footballs, whiffle balls, etc., but is struck several times.

LARRY When I got to them, they were getting tossed into the rocks and then raked back down into the water.

A tear rolls down Larry's face and splashes onto Ao's arm. Ao looks up at Larry with a concerned look.

> LARRY I swam to the one I thought was hurt the most. I got him away from the rocks and went back for the other one. He was in bad shape.

Larry's lips quiver as tears stream down his face. Tears fall down Ao's cheeks.

LARRY

I got him away from the rocks, but as I'm getting him out of there, the other one passes us going back to the rocks.

Tears stream down Ao's face.

LARRY

I yelled for him to swim away. Kick! Kick! I told the one I'm with to kick, and then I went back for the other. This went on for what seemed like forever. It plays in my head to this day. I see the horror on their faces.

END INTERCUT - FLASHBACK

Ao's grip tightens around Larry's waist.

AO

Did they...?

LARRY

One.

AO So you saved one?

Larry nods.

LARRY

His parents still send me letters on the anniversary of...telling me not to worry about it, to go on and live my life.

AO

Larry, you gotta look at it that you saved one of them.

LARRY But I lost one! The only one I ever lost.

Larry unwraps Ao's arms from his waist and heads downstairs.

AO What about when you can't do this anymore, Larry? Then what?

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Larry and his doctor, DOCTOR IVERSON (50), examine X-rays on an X-ray illuminator.

DR. IVERSON Knee osteoarthritis.

LARRY

Huh?

DR. IVERSON The cartilage has worn off in the knees, Larry. It's bone on bone. You shouldn't run anymore.

LARRY But I have to for work. What about swimming? DR. IVERSON Swimming's okay.

Larry ponders this.

INT. DAMIAN'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Several wealthy people in formal attire sip cocktails.

Damian and Melvin laugh as they huddle together.

DAMIAN He'll be here anytime. I told him it was a swimsuit party.

CHUCKLING.

MELVIN

You could've told him the President was going to be here. He'd still show up in a bathing suit.

Beth answers the door. Larry enters in a bathing suit, t-shirt, and thongs.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Larry!

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.) Hey, Larry's here!

The guests surround Larry like he's the President, a top sports celebrity, and actor all rolled into one. They shake Larry's hand and pat him on the back.

Damian and Melvin are stunned.

MALE VOICE (O.S.) How've you been, Larry!

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.) How come you never call me?

Veins bulge from Damian's and Melvin's faces.

DAMIAN The greatest human on the planet's here.

MELVIN I don't believe it. Lisa sees Larry limp.

LISA What's wrong, Larry?

Damian and Melvin show interest.

Larry uses a table to keep standing.

LARRY Doc says I can't run anymore.

BETH

What?

The crowd huddles even tighter around Larry.

BETH How will you be a lifeguard?

LARRY

I don't know.

Damian and Melvin try to hide their grins as they join the group.

DAMIAN

What a shame!

MALE VOICE (O.S.) We'll come up with something, Larry.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The sound of hammers POUNDING nails and drills TURNING screws.

It looks like half the city, including Jim Marshall, Mayor Cindy Garcia, Hostess Cindy, Holly, Homeless Jerry, Homeless Mary, Beachgoer Mom, Surfer Tim and his buddies, are in front of Larry's tower building a giant slide.

The slide starts at the top level of Larry's tower and goes all the way to the ocean.

EXT. DAMIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Damian and Melvin watch the construction.

DAMIAN We'll make him through.

Damian speaks into his cell phone.

DAMIAN Call city hall.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Holly tries to HAMMER a nail, but continually misses. She spots Larry picking up a hammer.

HOLLY That's okay, Larry. We got it.

Holly takes the hammer from Larry. She goes back to hammering and missing the nail.

LATER

The crowd CHEERS as they watch Surfer Tim and his buddies pour buckets of water down from the top of the chute. Larry sits at the top of the chute wearing swim fins and his lifeguard buoy.

Mayor Garcia turns toward the water and cups her hands to act as a megaphone.

MAYOR GARCIA

Ready?

In the water is Ao, flapping her arms like a drowning victim.

AO

Yes!

MAYOR GARCIA

Go!

Larry lets go of the railings. He ZOOMS down the chute all the way into the water.

As Larry hits the water, he flips from feet first to a perfect swimming position headfirst. He quickly swims out to Ao and kisses her. The crowd CHEERS.

A police SUV pulls up to Larry's tower.

City Manager Sparks and SUV POLICE OFFICER (30), exit the SUV. They head over to Mayor Garcia.

CITY MANAGER SPARKS We're getting complaints from residents that this is an eyesore. We gotta get rid of it.

DAMIAN

This is an outrage! If I ever find out who complained, I'll sue 'em!

Damian puts his arm around Heavy Freddy.

DAMIAN But even without Larry we're in good hands with the new recruits.

GRUMBLING.

SURFER TIM They don't come close to Larry!

LIFEGUARD SUPERVISOR Larry would whip Heavy Freddy!

HOSTESS CINDY I'm for Larry!

TIM'S SURFER BUDDIES Me, too!

CHEERING.

MAYOR GARCIA Hold on! Hold on!

The CHEERING subsides.

MAYOR GARCIA

I want Larry to stay on as much as any of you, but the city can't take the chance of a lawsuit if someone drowns under his watch.

GRUMBLING.

MAYOR GARCIA

And I'm sure Larry wouldn't want anyone to drown on account of him.

HOLLY Larry's in better shape than Heavy Freddy!

HOMELESS MARY

Yeah!

MAYOR GARCIA How do we know? Larry's knees--

City Manager Sparks lights up.

SURFER TIM How 'bout if Larry finishes ahead of Heavy Freddy in the triathlon, he stays on?

HOSTESS CINDY What if he doesn't?

Everyone looks at City Manager Sparks.

CITY MANAGER SPARKS Then he has to retire.

Larry drops his head.

City Manager Sparks and Mayor Garcia nod in agreement.

CITY MANAGER SPARKS (to everyone)

Deal?

EVERYONE

Deal!

CHEERING.

CITY MANAGER SPARKS

Larry?

LARRY

Deal.

Damian and Melvin flash frowns. Damian sees Heavy Freddy eating a donut. He yanks the donut from Heavy Freddy and heaves it into the ocean.

The SUV Police Officer writes frustrated Damian a littering ticket.

MONTAGE - HEAVY FREDDY'S LIFEGUARD TOWER GETS CHANGED

--Damian and Melvin, throw bags of potato chips, donuts, and cookies out of the tower.

--Heavy Freddy carries his generator and electrical cords down the ladder.

--A microwave oven, a toaster, deep fryer, etc. are tossed from the tower and land on the sand.

Damian and Melvin grin as they watch Heavy Freddy working up a sweat as he jogs on the beach. Damian SNIFFS the air. Smoke passes by the window.

Damian and Melvin go outside behind the tower. They are surprised to see a large, barbecue smoker. They open the lighted barbecue to find an abundance of meat being cooked.

An upset Heavy Freddy watches Damian kick the smoker off the tower.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Larry trains hard swimming. Surfer Tim, his buddies, and several others from the community offer encouragement.

EXT. BEACH NIGHT - NIGHT

Damian and Melvin walk backwards carrying open bags from the shore up to Larry's tower. Along the way, they disperse sharp, mussel shells from the bags.

Damian and Melvin use heavy ropes to tow a slab of concrete across the beach.

MELVIN They never taught us this in med school.

DAMIAN They did in law school. They taught us every dubious trick.

Damian and Melvin use shovels to remove sand at the base of the ladder leading up to Larry's tower.

Damian and Melvin slide the concrete slab into the hole. They cover it with a thin layer of sand. Larry uses binoculars to scan the swimmers. He spots a swimmer in trouble.

Larry grabs the lifeguard buoy off its hook. He steps down the ladder and hops onto the sand. THUNK.

LARRY

Ouch!

Larry grimaces, but hobbles off. He steps on the mussel shells, but continues toward the water in pain.

LARRY

Ouch! Ouch!

EXT. LARRY'S - NIGHT

Larry lies on his couch covered with bags of ice on his legs. Ao tends to him.

AO You can't do the race tomorrow, Larry.

LARRY I'm not going to quit lifeguarding.

AO Can they postpone it? It is named after you.

LARRY

No.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Numerous race entrants stand under a banner which reads "TRIATHLON START."

Heavy Freddy sees Larry stretching to loosen up. He stretches causing his body to jiggle.

MALE VOICE (O.S.) On your marks! Get set!

The SOUND of a STARTING GUN being FIRED.

The contestants dash for the water. Holly finishes putting on makeup.

Heavy Freddy gets to the water and dips his toes in. He hugs himself from the cold. He slowly moves into deeper water.

Larry is in front of the pack with strong powerful strokes.

LATER

Larry exits the water and limps up to a mass of bicycles. He gets on his bike and pedals off along the boardwalk.

Several others exit the water and hop on their bicycles. Holly exits the water. She brushes her hair.

Holly steps into a flat bucket of water. She steps out and pat dries her feet with a plush towel.

Larry grimaces as he pedals on. A few bicyclists pass him.

Heavy Freddy exits the water. Damian and Melvin greet him.

DAMIAN

Move! Move! Move!

Heavy Freddy can barely move up the beach slope. He GULPS air. Damian and Melvin each take one of Heavy Freddy's arms and escort him to the lone bicycle.

Heavy Freddy falls over, knocking down Damian and Melvin. The three men roll down the beach slope.

LATER

Several bicyclists put down their bicycles at the end of the bike riding segment. They run along the beach with other runners.

Tim and others greet Larry with CHEERS. Tim holds a two-way radio. Larry struggles as he gets off his bike. He massages his knees.

EVERYONE

Go, Larry!

LARRY Where's Freddy?

SURFER TIM Back aways but he's gaining. Larry looks off to the side. His eyes get big when he sees Heavy Freddy pedaling his bicycle.

Heavy Freddy GULPS air as he gets off his bicycle.

DAMIAN

Go you fat tub of goo!

MELVIN

C'mon!

Heavy Freddy lays his bicycle down and waddles after Larry.

Damian and Melvin jog to Damian's car, and get in.

LATER

On a secluded shoreline, Damian and Melvin hide behind large rocks about twenty feet from each other. A couple triathlon runners run between the two.

Damian throws the end of a thick rope to Melvin. They quickly cover the rope with sand. They hold onto the ends.

They peek from behind the rocks. Melvin sees Larry approach.

MELVIN

Here he comes!

DAMIAN

SSSSHHHHH!

Damian and Melvin duck out of sight.

Just as Larry passes between the two rocks, Damian and Melvin pull the ends of the rope. The rope goes taut. Larry trips and does a face plant.

Larry looks down at the rope. He sees Heavy Freddy approach. He slowly gets up and hobbles off.

Damian and Melvin appear from the rocks.

DAMIAN C'mon! Let's go!

MELVIN

You got him!

Heavy Freddy trips over the rope and tumbles onto the sand.

DAMIAN

Go!

Heavy Freddy slowly gets up.

DAMIAN

This way!

Heavy Freddy, Damian, and Melvin head over to Damian's car. They all hop in. The car SPEEDS off.

LATER

A crowd near a pier waits for Heavy Freddy and Larry. They CHEER when they make out a slow approaching entrant on the other side of the pier.

HOMELESS MARY

Oh, shoot!

HOSTESS CINDY

No.

The cheering subsides. Heavy Freddy crosses under the pier.

DRUNK GUY

Where's Larry?

HOLLY

Did he quit?

SURFER TIM Larry would never quit!

DRUNK GIRL

There he is!

The crowd CHEERS when they spot Larry in the distance.

Larry slowly gains on Heavy Freddy who slowly puts one foot in front of the other. He closes in on a banner which reads "FINISH."

Larry crosses under the pier. The crowd CHEERS.

SURFER TIM Come on, Larry!

Both men use every ounce of their energy.

Heavy Freddy is just short of the finish line. He turns to see where Larry is. He trips and falls on the sand. Heavy Freddy tries to stand, but can't muster the strength. He looks on hopelessly as Larry closes in.

> DAMIAN Elephant seal! Do the elephant seal!

Damian and Melvin dive onto the sand next to Heavy Freddy. They demonstrate by inchworming themselves forward like elephant seals by using their arms to pull their bodies forward.

Heavy Freddy inchworms himself forward like an elephant seal. He runs out of strength.

Heavy Freddy sees Larry is about to catch him. He musters any remaining strength. He rolls side over side toward the finish line.

Larry sees Heavy Freddy is about to cross the finish line. He dives for the finish line, bounces off of Heavy Freddy, and is launched backwards. Heavy Freddy rolls across the finish line. The crowd is stunned.

Larry, with dropped head, crosses the finish line exhausted.

Damian and Melvin have huge grins as they hug Heavy Freddy.

INT. LARRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's more somber than a funeral. Larry lies on his couch covered with bags of ice on his legs. Ao tends to him.

AO You knew this day was going to come, Larry.

LARRY I wish I could hit rewind and be twenty again.

Larry doesn't notice that Ao places one of the bags of letters on the coffee table.

AO That's not going to happen.

LARRY Maybe Damian and Melvin were right. Maybe I should've had a different job. A real job that pays more and then-- Ao places more bags of letters on the coffee table.

AO

You're lucky because you found out what you were good at and pursued it. And we're all lucky because of it.

Ao puts more bags of letters on and around the coffee table.

AO

Do you know how many people go through life in the wrong jobs? Fighting rush hour traffic so they can be unhappy for eight hours? And then fighting rush hour traffic on the way back just so they can get up and do it again the next day?

Ao dumps one of the bags onto Larry's lap. Letters rain down on him.

AO Try to tell these people that you're a failure.

Larry ponders this. He picks up one of the letters and reads it.

INSERT THE LETTER

Dear Lifeguard Larry Nelson,

I know that my son's passing has affected you, greatly. Please do not worry about him as I know he is in a better place. We are all very thankful that you saved his friend, George. Go on with your life, Larry.

Sincerely, Marge Magruder

> LARRY (V.O.) You can't guard every mile of coastline, Larry.

Ao uses the TV remote to turn on the TV. Olympic synchronized swimming is on. SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING ANNOUNCER (40), announces.

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING ANNOUNCER (O.S.) This is the top rated team. They really enjoy what they do, and it shows.

Larry watches the synchronized swimmers.

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING ANNOUNCER (O.S.) Look how they swim in such perfect harmony!

Larry's eyes get big.

LARRY I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony.

He sits up on the couch.

LARRY I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony.

Ao sees Larry spring from the couch.

LARRY I'd like to teach the world to swim in perfect harmony!

Ao gives Larry a strange look.

INT. AO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Long PUNCHES keys on the computer keyboard.

Larry, Ao, and Long have their eyes eagerly on the computer monitor.

Ao points at the monitor.

AO Can you move this down here and push this up over here?

Long masterfully maneuvers and CLICKS the computer mouse.

LARRY

Yeah!

AO You'll be teaching people worldwide, Larry.

ON THE MONITOR

A monitor's address box reads "Larry's Swim Lessons."

A headline banner reads "LARRY THE LIFEGUARD'S LIFESAVING TIPS." Under the banner are several podcast screens with titles including "How To Stay Safe At The Beach", "How To Stay Afloat Using The Eggbeat Method", "How to escape Rip Currents", etc.

Long clicks on the "How To Stay Afloat Using The Eggbeat Method" video. In the video, Larry demonstrates to viewers how to do the Eggbeat Method of swimming.

> LARRY (V.O.) (on the video) Just move your hands in tight circles like this. You stay afloat a long time without using a lot of energy.

> > AO

You should have beautiful girls, like Holly, help give the lessons to get more viewers.

LARRY You could be one of the girls.

Larry kisses Ao.

EXT. HAWAIIAN BEACH - DAY

Larry and Ao relax on lounge chairs.

Ao notices Larry sit up and lower his sunglasses to get a better look at a swimmer in a riptide.

Ao sees a lifeguard grab his buoy and spring down from her tower.

AO

It's covered.

Larry watches the lifeguard dash to the water, dive in, and swim out to the swimmer. He smiles at Ao and lies back down. EXT. DAMIAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Damian and Melvin sit out on the porch, intoxicated, drinking cocktails.

BETH (O.S.) Did you take the trash out?

DAMIAN

Yes! Witch.

Damian and Melvin look over at Larry and Ao's place.

MELVIN It was a nice wedding.

Beth stands nearby in the doorway behind Damian and Melvin.

DAMIAN We never should've made him almost drown.

Beth is shocked.

MELVIN He never would've been a lifeguard.

DAMIAN He never would've been anything if it weren't for us.

MELVIN Now look what he's become.

EXT. SEASHORE DRIVE - DAY

A Chevy pickup truck with a "JUST MARRIED" sign on the back window pulls in front of Larry's house.

Larry gets out in a bathing suit and flip flops. He spots something. He heads down the street with mouth agape.

Damian and Melvin sit disheveled with dropped heads in chairs in front of their houses. Nearby are a few lamps, cooking pans and utensils, and their framed diplomas.

> LARRY What's going on?

DAMIAN We got thrown out. MELVIN They're divorcing us.

LARRY

What? No.

MELVIN We haven't slept or eaten anything in two days.

Larry lights up.

LARRY I got a beach house for you!

DAMIAN

You do!

MELVIN

We couldn't.

Larry picks up the lamps.

LARRY

Follow me.

Larry, Damian, and Melvin head toward Larry's house.

Larry crosses the street and heads down the street he used to live on.

DAMIAN Where are you going?

LARRY To your new place.

Damian and Melvin follow Larry to the old, dilapidated house Larry used to live in. A "For Rent" sign is out front. LANDLORD MARILYN (60), clips a hedge.

> LARRY Hi, Marilyn! I gotcha some new tenants.

LANDLORD MARILYN Hello, Larry!

Larry pulls out a fat wad of bills.

LARRY How much for first, last, and security? Damian and Melvin are stunned.

LARRY Hey guys, go to any restaurant,

and tell 'em I said you could eat for free. They won't charge you.

Larry hands Landlord Marilyn several bills.

LARRY You're all set. If you need anything, you know where I am.

Larry heads toward his house, then stops.

LARRY Oh, if you go up on the roof and lean over the railing, you can see the ocean.

Damian and Melvin, still in shock, watch Larry head to his house, kiss his wife, Ao, and enter his beachfront mansion.

MELVIN We should've been lifeguards.

FADE OUT.