

Under Neon Rainbows
by
Reggie Davis

Based on, West of Fifth Street
The Children of San Francisco
Skid Row
By
Reggie Davis MSW

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EXT. SAN FRANCISCO TENDERLOIN CITYSCAPE -- ESTABLISHING --
NOON -- MONTAGE

We HEAR the angry cacophony of the inner city streets, see its claustrophobic conditions, its hopeless yoke on the prowling PROSTITUTES, TYRANNIES, HUSTLERS, HARD-CORE JUNKIES cruising among decaying peep shows, adult sex shops, and massage parlors.

Its in the middle of an overcast day, and VENUS a way to young prostitute is sleeping like a rock out in the open, during the day as a safety precaution - a bag of her personal belongings tightly grasped in her lap. By making herself vulnerable she finds an odd sort of protection that's known as "Natural Surveillance."

The rain starts Venus is brought back to life. She slowly gets up and walks under an awning for shelter.

She looks "beautifully" damaged. Someone whose life takes as hard as she gives. With the eyes you own when you've survived every war you've lived.

A mobile Beach Vacation Billboard that reads: "LIFE'S A BEACH." Catches her attention.

(V.O.)

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow?"
Some people spend their whole life
dreaming about the other side.

Images shows a rainbow caught at the bay after a spring shower. Image triggers a feeling - and a memory - from long ago.

(V.O.) (CONT'D)

But, if magic is all we ever know.
It becomes easy to miss what's
really going on.

EXT./INT. CHEVY CAMARO - DUSK

A CHEVY CAMARO pulls up. Two BOYS are inside laughing, making "blow job" gestures. After some negotiations Venus climbs in.

EXT. MOTEL COURTYARD/OBTRUSIVE FLICKERING "RAINBOW" NEON SIGN
- NIGHT

INT. RAINBOW MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

FLASHES:

Venus sexually assaulted, One boy holds her face and mouth and head as the other assaults. With her mouth covered and her head immobile she can only stare at the roof.

TIME CUT:

Venus' eyes close. Her body draws into a fetal position. The Boys" leaves after dropping some cash. Passing a small framed photograph of a young girl, similar to the ones in the "Runaway Room" of the local police station.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO TENDERLOIN STREETS - NIGHT

Venus hustles on the street for a fix.

EXT. MOTEL COURTYARD/OBTRUSIVE FLICKERING "RAINBOW" NEON SIGN
- SERIES OF SHOTS -

Venus finds herself evicted, her personal belongings packed inside her VOLKSWAGEN BUG.

Venus inside shooting up.

Venus drives erratically. The bug veers off the road and into guard rail.

Venus arrested, her arm still tied off with a syringe plunged into a vein.

INT./EXT. POLICE CAR/TENDERLOIN STREETS - DAY

From the back seat of the patrol car her eyes trace along "life" on the blighted tenderloin streets.

INT. COUNTY JAIL WOMAN'S DETENTION CENTER/ BOOKING ROOM - NIGHT

Venus booked into County Jail in connection with prostitution and drug-related charges. The booking area is like a chaotic DMV.

INSERT MUGSHOTS

We see the raw, hard, wasted faces of prostitution in a series of arrest mug shots. Venus' is among them.

INT. COUNTY JAIL WOMAN'S DETENTION CENTER/ HOLDING TANK - NIGHT

The over crowded, claustrophobic cold grey concrete room has minimal furnishings and a shared toilet in the holding cell that offers minimal privacy. Venus sits squashed between two WOMEN on a metal bench, knee to knee. A young black HOOKER, is next to her, asleep, with her head in Venus' lap. Another hooker, hops up on a tiny ledge, staring out the tiny window.

INT. OAKLAND'S WOMAN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND DORMITORY - NIGHT

Venus discovers A GLENDA BARBIE DOLL in a bedside locker in the sterile concrete 12 x 4 concrete housing unit, lacking in ambiance and decor. It contains little else besides a bed, toilet and washing facilities. Next to the doll is the crushed, sparkling star burst crown. And the lavender "magic" wand. Smiles, she traces the doll's perfectly "made up" face.

VENUS

(a voice vibrant with emotion:)

"Four paper dolls all in a row. One said "sorry but I have to go" Three little dolls all in a row, two said, "sorry but I have to go" One little doll"....

Her eyes say everything. Loss, anger, regret.

VENUS (CONT'D)

...."One doll left behind"...

INT. EAST BAY FAMILY HOME/BEDROOM [PAST] - DAY

Bedroom is littered with dolls. Many of them are cut, burnt, spindled and mutilated.

VICKI (V.O.)

"I'm there little princess."

VICKI (YOUNG VENUS) is dressed as a princess.

VICKI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I know they think I'm beautiful cause every time I come to play, they always blink at me".

Vicki grabs one of the dolls. She looks at the doll critically before flinging her aside. Then she picks another one. It's a doll in a beautiful dress, with sparkling eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VICKI (CONT'D)
 "Yes, I think so too. Very pretty".

VENUS (V.O.)
 She hugs her with a coo; 'what a sweet little thing she is'.

Vicki tares the doll's dress off. Then very carefully, she goes through her body.

VICKI (CONT'D)
 "This is Kelly. Everyone thinks she looks like me. 'You're looking pretty today. Do you want to play?'

Vicki faces kisses the doll, sets her aside. Vicki goes back searching through the mess of dolls, she flings one so hard, that its plastic head comes off. She stops, picks up a KEN doll.

VICKI (CONT'D)
 "Hi Kenny."
 (In a deeper male voice)
 "Do you want to play?"

She manipulates Ken's arms around Kelly.

VICKI (CONT'D)
 "You like that?"

VENUS (V.O.)
 Kelly doesn't respond. Her painted eyes staring away at something Vicki is not sure what? She looks at Ken. "too overdressed!". She fumbles at his clothes, letting her hand go between his legs. He's wearing plastic briefs. She's used to boxers. She smirks at this. "They must come off!"

VENUS (V.O.)
 She scratches him a bit, but nothing. He just smiles at her.

VICKI
 "Let's just pretend".

(V.O.) (CONT'D)
 It frustrating that his fingers won't move, but she compensates for this as much as possible by moving Kelly so that every possible inch on her small body is covered by him.

She covers Kelly's body with Ken's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VENUS (V.O.)
 Ken moves down, first on her
 "chestiscles", then down to her
 tummy.

Vicki sexually acts out with dolls.

VENUS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 (precocious sex play)
 The middle of her legs.... Kelly
 doesn't blink she just keeps
 staring and smiling 24/7 even when
 you break her head off.

She rips the dolls head off and puts the Barbie's head on the
 Ken doll and the Ken's doll head on the Barbie's.

SKIPPER-KEN DOLL
 "And someday. I'll be bigger and
 stronger, and you'll be sorry!"

KEN-SKIPPER DOLL
 "Geee whiz, Skipper! That would be
 swell! NOW SHUT UP AND KIZ ME!!"

Vicki makes the two dolls kiss. The front door opens. Vicki
 quickly tosses the dolls aside. In steps a MIDDLE-AGED MAN. A
 plain looking man but with a look to him.

INT. OAKLAND WOMENS CORRECTIONAL DORMITORY - [PRESENT] NIGHT

VENUS
 (clutches doll)
 She looks at him, with those deep
 brown eyes. He's grinning hugely
 now. "What's all the trouble,
 Cinderella?"

Venus is sickened, sweating, tense. This man is familiarly.

VENUS (CONT'D)
 (fights past the hurt)
 Nothing?

Venus squeezes her eyes shut, as if to silence the ghost. The
 dolls magical wand SOUNDING, brings a childlike smile to her
 face.

INT. OAKLAND WOMENS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY - SERIES OF SHOTS -

Venus goes through drug detoxification program.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She's engages in a 12-step inmate facilitated groups.

Venus is discharged to sober living housing.

EXT/INT. GREYHOUND BUS STATION [SEVERAL DAYS LATER]

Venus boards a Greyhound bus. She notices a LITTLE KID blowing bubbles while another CHILD chases them.

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - TRAVELING

Venus looks out picture window, follows the bubble trail up to the sky, in each of the bubbles the world is reflected.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO TENDERLOIN CHURCH PARKING LOT - NIGHT

VIDEO VIGILANTE catches a "JOHN DOE" on camera engaged in public sex with a STREET HUSTLER DERRICK RODRIQUEZ

We witness the "Video Vigilante" On air Interview of drug addict and street hustler Derrick Rodriguez at 5 foot 8 and around 160 pounds, Derrick doesn't impose, but his bare arms are a testament to his favorite prison pastime, the bench press. His blue tank top reveals the tattoos on his biceps.

ANGLE -

DERRICK ON CAMERA

A white visor eclipsing the street lights yellow glare. His face glistens in the heat, even though its after 10 pm.

FLASH ON VIDEO
SCREEN:

ROLL CREDITS: "DERRICK TALKS ABOUT A 'JOHN' SAN FRANCISCO, CA
USA A JOHN TV PRODUCTION. PICTURE START:...5...4...3..2..1...

VIDEO VIGILANTE (O.S.)
Your shaking?

ANGLE -

DERRICK ON CAMERA

His occasionally twitching eyes and trembling hands betray addiction and sleepless nights.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK
Yeah. Got this bipolar thing.
I become one "crazy cracker!"
Especially without a fix.

VIDEO VIGILANTE (O.S.)
So, do you consider yourself
a "sex worker?"

DERRICK
"Sex workers of the world
unite, you have nothing to
lose but your chains (unless
you are happy wearing them)"
(fist pump)
No, I'm a hustler baby ask
about me!

CAMERAMAN (O.S.)
(Slang/joking)
"Hustla?"

DERRICK
H.U.S.T.L.E.R - "How U
Survive This Life Everyday
Resourcefully". "See this
hustla is lookin good
(flashes a wad of cash)
and makin money!"

VIDEO VIGILANTE (O.S.)
Doing?

DERRICK
"Sellin? Beggin? Bootleggin!"

CAMERAMAN (O.S.)
Dude, guess you a real
machofucker!

DERRICK
(grabs his "package")
Gang-sta as fuck, yo!

VIDEO VIGILANTE (O.S.)
So, sensitive
question...Orientation?

DERRICK
Orientation?

VIDEO VIGILANTE (O.S.)
In other words, are you gay
or straight?

CAMERAMAN (O.S.)
(sarcastically)
Fag, or just metro?

DERRICK
(with macho swag)
"Gay for pay! Purely for
entertainment purposes."

He starts posturing when his sexuality is disputed.

DERRICK
Fo sho yo!" Dude I'm
straighter than a honeymoon
dick!

VIDEO VIGILANTE (O.S.)
So...."Customers?"

DERRICK
Any body who prefers to fuck as far
away as possible from the trappings
of Valentines day, and "mamma stays
safe at home."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The Video Vigilante notices track marks on Derricks arms.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (a friendly but rushed
 smile)
 Hey. It may not lead to "THE
 YELLOW BRICK ROAD", shit has
 all the trappings of
 'Wonderland!"

VIDEO VIGILANTE (O.S.)
 So how'd you get "started?"

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (matter -a factly)
 Came from a Hicktown. Daddy
 cooked speed, So I knew it
 early on. When I was 10 my
 dads best friend asked me.
 "You want to party?" Not
 really willing, said I would
 try it....He shot me up, and
 he dope raped me. From the
 time I was 10 to like 14.

VIDEO VIGILANTE (O.S.)
 That's like....wow...

Derrick's eyes flash downward for a moment.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Took the alternative to suicide.
 Hopped on a Greyhound, peace out!

Derrick hand gestures. He pounds his chest with his fist
 twice, then gives the peace sign.

VIDEO VIGILANTE (O.S.)
 Turned?

DERRICK
 This boy...you know all
 "goodie goodie" and shit, got
 his ass turned out, into a
 sexual freak, and can't get
 enough of it! Fuckin addicted
 to it!
 (touches himself)
 Shit's all recorded in the
 skin and the organs.

Derrick propositions Video Vigilante.

DERRICK
 Now steady jockin 24/7.
 (grabs Vigilante crotch)
 Down some trouser trout,
 knead them balls and ice the
 cake!

VIDEO VIGILANTE
 (pushes him to the
 ground)
 Knock it off!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DERRICK
(mildly embarrassed)
.....Facts is facts.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Hey man, It's been real, it's
been fun. Just ain't been
real fun!

Derrick forms the fingers of his left hand into the shape of an imaginary gun.

DERRICK
Dear God. You can't fire me, I
quit!

Turning imaginary gun on himself - "firing" - he crumbles to the ground, playing dead with both comical and convincing gestures.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - LATER THAT NIGHT -

Derrick rises with cold sweats and gooseflesh and that shitty sick feeling of withdrawal. He runs through the tenderloin streets to the parking lot of a big-box retailer, enters a beat up 1976 Ford Pinto.

INT. FORD PINTO - NIGHT

Derrick rummages through the clutter, recovers a half empty bottle of gin, along with a "bullet" of crank. He snorts. He continues to rummage and finds a bag of green gummy soldiers. (Candies inspired by the classic toy army men.)

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Crips bang blue, Bloods bang red,
Military bangs green.

He munches down a handful, then takes two of the soldiers.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(holds up Solider 2)
The coward: Every platoon has one.
Everything about his body language
says he afraid, and too busy
regretting all the girls he never
kissed. If these toys where in
color there'd be a yellow stain
across the front of his pants.

He picks up Solider 1.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
Badass mambajamba!
Still too much macho, and not
enough tenderness.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SOLIDER 1
Spoken: "Derrick is such a
faggot!"

SOLIDER 2
Meaning: "I would love to
drink Derricks c*m, but I
hate being gay, and certainly
don't want any one else to
know that I am."

He eats several of the candy soldiers, and takes several more
out the bag.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(picks up Solider 3)
"Nothing exciting to see here" says
the Binocular pointing guy, "fights
over there."

SOLIDER 4
Dumb ass: "I hatez Faggots!
UR A FAG?!"

SOLIDER 5
Smart person: "No sorry, I'm
not homophobic like you, I'm
not even hetero. To bad you
just outed yourself."

SOLIDER 4
Dumb ass: "uh.....wait, fuck
shit! I hate myself."

DERRICK
(pops solider 4 into his
mouth)
Those army guys ain't just
tough they're tasty too.

Derrick climbs into the back of the Pinto, pulls down the
back seat, crawls into the trunk, and into a fetal position,
leaving the back seat slightly cracked open for air.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO TENDERLOIN - [TIME LAPSE] LATE AFTERNOON
TO NIGHT

The city has transformed into a city inhabited by the hard-
core.

EXT/INT. FORD PINTO - NIGHT

Derrick greets an impressively beautiful, six foot tall
TRANSVESTITE. There's an exchange, cash for crank.

INT. TENDERLOIN CRACKHOUSE - NIGHT

The room is a pit. The walls are covered with addicts,
peeling off like paint, dropping to the floor. We see Derrick
propped up in a corner, "fixing". The tension going out of
his body. He falls down onto the scarred and cluttered floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The room has acquired that friendly "heroin glow". Derrick's attention turns to the corpus of Jesus on a cross on the wall.

DERRICK
 (makes the sign of the
 cross)
 Jesus?
 (small voice. Faint)
 Jesus.

We close in on JESUS' large brown redemptive eyes, so unimaginably full of love and compassion.

<p>ADDICT 1 (seeing Jesus through that "friendly glow") Ah shit!</p>	<p>ADDICT 2 We'll I'll be damned!</p>
---	--

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (eyes to cross, his face
 grows rapturous)
 No your not. Big up to JC. Respec',
 man.

<p>ADDICT 1 (inebriated) Dude, lets go see if Spiesus Christ man can turn some of that water to wine yo!</p>	<p>ADDICT 2 (junked up) How the hell he gonna do that?</p>
--	---

<p>ADDICT 1 (turning around) Miracles boi! Miracles!</p>	<p>ADDICT 2 (turning around) Chances maybe only one in eleventy billion, but miracles still happens!</p>
--	--

Derrick falls into a state of religious epilepsy.

ADDICT 1 (O.S.)
 Miracles boi! Miracles!

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

We see Derrick inside a telephone booth, he's huddled over the receiver.

DERRICK ON PHONE
 (in conversation)
 Dude, I'm getting out of dodge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A CHILD curb side blows bubbles. Second CHILD, watches in anticipation of more bubbles. The joy written all over their faces.

ON PHONE (O.S.)

D?...D?...

DERRICK ON PHONE

Dude, remember when we were kids, Pokemon was life, a kiss made the pain go away, the ice cream man was God, and green veggies were the devil!....Everything was easy and fun.

ON PHONE (O.S.)

Yeah. I though we got smarter when we got older.

Derrick watches the "rainbow" color bubbles float up into the air and swirl around him.

DERRICK ON PHONE

Before my gramps died, he told me to stay a kid forever..."It's worth it." He says. I'm all like "I'm not a kid, I'm 13!"...Got there way too fast. (beat). Some people spend their whole adult lives tryin' to correct their childhoods.

INT. PINTO - DAY

Derrick scans the blurring city-scape. He turns on the static filled radio. A covered version of the song. NEON RAINBOW by the BOX TOPS fills the interior.

(singing)

*The City lights, the pretty lights,
they can warm the coldest nights*

EXT. 580 HIGHWAY - DUSK

PINTO zooms down the highway, passes a billboard with a pointed yellow arrow.

(singing)

*All the people going places.
And life is love.*

EXT. SANTA CRUZ BOARDWALK/ BEACH TOWN - NIGHT

Artist REDD GUTHRIE walks down the SANTA CRUZ BOARDWALK among the brilliant displays of the BOARDWALK'S neon lights.

(singing)

In a neon rainbow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Freckled and fair skinned he has wild, electric blue eyes, instead of green and a golden tinge to his red hair and slight ginger beard.

EXT/INT. RED'S SANTA CRUZ BEACH TOWN APARTMENT - NIGHT

Redd enters the sterility of the grey concrete rooms. We take a random exploration through the spaces which has been camouflaged with his outsider art.

INT. LIVING AREA - SERIES OF SHOTS - NIGHT

Redd pulls a video, and into VHS player.

Angle on video label: "TIME CAPSULE CONVERSATION DO NOT WATCH UNTIL THE FUTURE." We pull into television screen, and see a video he made of himself 20 years ago.

ON VIDEO: A PLAYFUL CHUBBY 12 YEAR OLD REDD APPEARS HOLDING UP A BIRTHDAY CARD. OUTSIDE GREETING READS - NOW YOU'RE 12. FEATURING TWO KIDS BLOWING BUBBLES.

ON VIDEO: CHUBBY REDD BLOWING BUBBLES/CATCHING THEM.

CHUBBY REDD
(singing/monkeying around)
"Bubbles bloating all around
Blow a bubble up it goes."

ON VIDEO: CHUBBY REDD FALLS TO THE GROUND, BUBBLES POPPING ON HIS SKIN. HE'S LAUGHING AT THE TICKLE OF THE NEW SENSATION.

(singing)
"Bubbles falling to the ground."

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

A mirrored medicine cabinet hangs crooked on the wall. Redd, in reflection.

REDD
(singing)
"Bubbles - bubbles
blow away my troubles."

He begins popping pills: Psychotropics, antidepressants, sedatives, stimulants until he's completely anesthetized. He spray paints the bathroom mirror black.

INT. LIVING AREA - NIGHT

REDD'S "TIME CAPSULE CONVERSATION" Video continues to play on loop in the background. In the foreground Redd works on all fours surrounded by a litter of art supplies as well as a cornucopia of pharmaceuticals.

He draws a self- portrait after each use. Some are jubilantly colored and peaceful, becoming quirky and odd, with continual usage then down right disturbing. Each betrays an "experience", taken over a 5 day binge.

Redd, sobers up from binge, stares intently at a whimsical hand-painted porcelain small of a young boy playing a accordion.

INT. LIVING AREA - NIGHT

A sober Redd plays an accordion, he studies himself in a full length mirror, he removes his shirt reveals his overtly pale skin

REDD
 (takes a dramatic breath)
 Go dare now!
 Get naked foo'

On a daring impulse, he sheds his pants, stands naked and bends into a ridiculously sexy pose.

REDD (CONT'D)
 I don't know why you work so hard
 to dress well when you look so good
 naked.

Suddenly he becomes extremely self-consciousness, quickly dresses.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

REDD
 Whatever....Snow boy....

Red takes a flannel shirt and puts padding on the shoulders/ towels attached with tape that brings his shoulder height up to the top of his head. With the shirt over the towels, and still hanging well below his waist, from the rear he looks like a headless man. He puts a very thin white hankie over his face with slits for eyes. The costume provides for him a sense of complete anonymity. He faces a full length mirror.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REDD (CONT'D)
 (muffled; to self in
 mirror)
 I have moved on to the realm of
 anonymity.

EXT. SANTA CRUZ BOARDWALK - AFTERNOON

Redd dressed in decapitated man suit, strolls the Boardwalk
 with his accordion entertaining the tourist.

REDD
 (singing, muffled)
*"Accordion Man, Accordion Man does
 whatever an accordion can. Plays
 rock tunes; sweet surprise Catches
 chicks just like flies. Look out!
 Here comes Accordion Man".*
 (to a group of gathering
 TOURIST)
 You know along with tap dancing
 lessons, accordion lessons are
 responsible for baby boomers raised
 in the 1950's being large consumers
 of prozac and psychotherapy.

Tourist laughing.

REDD (CONT'D)
 (muffled)
 I shit you not!...accordian
 to....news...Gacy, Bundy and Idi
 Amin all played the accordian and
 coincidentally they listed "Lady of
 Spain" as their favorite song.

A FEMALE PERFORMANCE ARTIST wearing a pink t - shirt that
 reads: "Have Wand, Will Enchant!" Skates by Redd wearing a
 neon rainbow tutu interwoven with strands of blinking LED
 lights, plus fairy wings (flapping). She's blowing bubbles,
 giving into the bliss.

SINGING
*"All the people going places,
 smiling with electric faces,*

She turns, looks at him all sparkling eye and smile, blowing
 bubbles in his direction through her Enchanted Bubble Blowing
 Wand.

SINGING (CONT'D)
and life is love."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

"FAIRY" PERFORMANCE ARTIST continues blowing bubbles through her wand, on the boardwalk among the squeals and laughter of children dancing under her bubble storm. Soon she is confronted by a POLICE OFFICER.

POLICE OFFICER
You like bubbles.

PERFORMANCE ARTIST
I do. I think it makes people smile.

POLICE OFFICER
If the bubble touches me, you're going to be arrested for assault. Do you understand me?

PERFORMANCE ARTIST
They're bubbles?

POLICE OFFICER
Knock it off with the bubbles.

PERFORMANCE ARTIST
I'm putting it away.

POLICE OFFICER
Right. Thank you.

PERFORMANCE ARTIST
But I would also like to know why?

POLICE OFFICER
If you want to bait the police, blow that on me or that other officer, and it gets in her eyes you will be going into custody.

PERFORMANCE ARTIST
I understand.

POLICE OFFICER
Then put it away.

PERFORMANCE ARTIST
I am doing that at this moment. I'm just trying to keep people happy.

POLICE OFFICER
My heart bleeds.

PERFORMANCE ARTIST
Mine too.

She blows one more strand of bubbles. Officer knocks the wand out of her hand.

POLICE OFFICER
Knock it off!

REDD
(approaching)
Hey. What's the charge?

Officer stares at Redd - he blatantly flicks his eyes from his head down to his feet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

POLICE OFFICER
Conspiracy to commit
mischief. Now mind your
business!

REDD
(picks up wand)
"Sticks and stones will break
your bones, but bubbles will
get you arrested."

POLICE OFFICER
(handcuffing "fairy"
woman)
Yo home boy watch yourself!

REDD
Can't you see that her
intention is greater than
just frivolously blowing
bubbles, there's a much
deeper purpose...
(looking at "fairy"
woman)
In doing what she loves, and
that it makes a
difference...Bubbles make
people smile, and all those
smiles have to be a good
thing.....Don't You think?

Redd places his hand on his shoulder. The Officer shrugs it
off.

POLICE OFFICER
(testily)
I don't get paid to think.
(up in redd's face)
There is this thing called duty. A
honorable calling which is
thankless and low paying. Working
my ass off twelve hours a day.
Dealing with the ignorant, the
drunk and the stupid. Constantly
harassed wasted forms of life on
this planet, going out there day
after day protecting your sorry
asses! Spending long nights away
from family dealing with donut
jokes from people who have no
fucking clue!

Officer removes his reflective sunglasses, he's in his
fifties quite handsome, his hair cut short, military-style.
He moves like an athlete he once was, but his eyes tell us
he's not happy, and hasn't been for some time.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
Still I'm not hesitant to put my
life on the line.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

So your happy little smiling ass,
and your crazy street-freak friends
can play at make believe, like your
freaking Mr. Rogers. So when you
find your fucked up self in a
detrimental situation, in which a
cop is needed --then you'll be
thankful. Until that time, shut the
fuck up!

REDD

(suddenly subdued)
Forgive me. That was a
stupid
question.

POLICE OFFICER

Some people need to be set
straight before they do
something really out of line.

REDD

But is it justified?

POLICE OFFICER

(eyes flash angrily)
You want to talk
justified...if you ever touch
an officer of the law again,
brute force will be used and
you'd most likely end up
being carried out of a church
with six of your friends and
family carrying your casket!
And I do have the authority
to do so!

REDD

"And You WILL Respect my
Authoritaah!"

Police Officer leans close, whispers....

POLICE OFFICER

Boy I'm going to give a bit
of advice. Eat a dirty girl
and you'll get a tongue
disease. Cause "life's a
bitch!"

REDD

That's an amazing quote! Good
for when your in one of those
real shitty moods on a real
shitty day...

Officer looks at Redd sharply.

REDD (CONT'D)

" You know what, everyone must hate
me right know cause it seems like
there all being ass holes."

Angry and self-conscious, officer turns.

REDD (CONT'D)

"Hey, life's a bitch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

POLICE OFFICER
Your pushing it!

REDD
"I Da cop,5-0, tha motherfuckin
popo thoughtfully hope not to
subject myself to complete right
hand suicide for being unable to do
anything more on this.
(beat, passionate)
PIECE OF FUCKING SHIT PLANET CALLED
EARTH WITH SOME HEART!"

Police Officer looks down as if that were not true, or the way in which it is too complicated to go into.

POLICE OFFICER
....Hey. That's how things are.

REDD
(handing wand to officer)
Doesn't have to be.

POLICE OFFICER
(off of redd's expression)
It's not that simple.

Officer "confiscates" the wand.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
This doesn't mean a damn thing.

Redd smiles and walks off.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
I should have been a firefighter.
My brother Jeff is a firefighter.
He's heroic, brave, and hot as all
fucking get out.
(to other cop)
This one here can go.

Officers escorts "Fairy" Woman to police van. She boards police van, looks back to Redd, smiles tenderly.

FAIRY WOMAN
(to redd; her face
brightens with a smile)
We need more days like this, go
blow some bubbles....turn a
stranger into a friend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

INT. COFFEE SHOP NEAR BEACH - DAY

Redd enters the coffee shop, minus the costume drama. The coffee shop isn't crowded, only 5 people in the shop, all in their own worlds, unaware of each other, playing on their lap tops, reading a book or writing a paper. Redd chooses a table in the middle of the room, sits down pulls the bubble solution out of a bag, along with a bubble blowing wand.

He slowly brings the wand to his mouth - hesitates - glances around the room. No one looks at him. He takes a deep breath, feels a tad awkward. But then ...he blows!...and immediately the bubbles blew back in and smack him in the face! Because of the ceiling fan overhead!

RESTAURANT PATRON

(chuckling)

Turn around to avoid the breeze.

He spins around, blows again, And OLDER GENTLEMAN in front of Redd looks up. Sharing his favorite bubble blowing story.

OLDER GENTLEMAN

(watching bubbles)

...I use to go to the store on my lunch break, and buy an eight pack of Bubble, and hand them out to the small children who came in the bank. They were so happy to get them. One little boy did a dance right there...I asked him "is that your happy dance?" "Yes!"...Guess I would dance too if someone gave me bubbles.

PATRON

(dancing around)

Look! I'm doing the happy dance right now!

WOMAN PATRON

(continuing)

You know you can put all your troubles inside bubbles. And watch them float away....It really does work....you have to really let it go...that's the hard part.

REDD

(dancing around;
smiling/animated)

Me too!

Before he know's it, everyone in the shop is involved in conversation, volunteering bubble blowing stories, enjoying each other's company. The coffee shop is filled to the brim with life and fun story swapping!

INT. REDS APARTMENT-NIGHT

An excited Redd enters. He goes into his bedroom, opens a closet, and hangs up his decapitated man suit. He settles his attention on the full-length mirror on the open closet door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REDD
 (forced gaiety)
 I'd love to.
 (smiling)
 Really? Absolutely.

His stare becomes much more critical. He wrinkles his face, skeptical. He starts to cry: brief, staccato SOBS that seems to escape against his will. Suddenly he SLAPS himself, hard.

REDD
 Stop it! Confidence is sexy!
 Confidence is sexy, confidence is
 sexy!...You are a piece of ripped
 man art!

EXT. INTERSTATE 80 GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL/ TRUCK STOP - DAWN

Venus exits Greyhound bus. She notices the parked PINTO and Derrick inside amusing himself by drawing faces in the condensation on the window.

INT. FORD PINTO - DAY

DERRICK sings "Chasin The Neon Rainbow" at the top of his lungs. He takes out a bullet.

DERRICK
 (looking at himself in
 rearview mirror)
 What?!... I got low self-esteem!

He takes a "bump" from the bullet. Shakes his head, makes a violent face, as the dope burns a hole in his sinus.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 "La La Lala lala lala la la....I
 may be dumb...But I'm not a dweeb.
 (wipes some white residue
 from his nose)
 ...I'm just a sucker with no self
 esteem.

He takes another "bump". Checks himself in rear-view mirror before he rips it off.

EXT/INT. TRUCK STOP DINER - DAY

Venus enters. She sits just inside the diner's window, continues to watch Derrick amuse himself.

INT. DINNER LATER - DAY

Venus exits diner, running smack into and inebriated Derrick.

VENUS
Hey! RESPECT space!

DERRICK
Sorry.

VENUS
I'm just a bit extra touching about
people walking right through me!

DERRICK
Happens to me a lot. It's simple.
I'm a Scorpio sun. Taurus rising.

VENUS
I hear you. Sagittarius Sun.
Aquarius Rising.

DERRICK
Names Derrick....friends call me
Rick...The life of the party.
Totally hilarious. Will totally
smoke you out and then buy you a
frappuccino.

impersonating

PERSON 1
"Hey dude, where'd you get
that frappuccino?"

PERSON 2
"Totally Rick!"

PERSON 1
"Of course! I thought you
looked like you were having
the best time of your life.
Rick is so awesome!"

PERSON 2
"I love Rick. He's so much
fun!"So....

VENUS
Venus.

DERRICK
You know she's the only planet in
our solar system that spins
clockwise. RETROGADE MOTION
BITCHES.

VENUS
Sush!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Derrick pulls out a vial"....opening.

VENUS (CONT'D)

Your not doing what I think your
doing?

He sneezes, blows the powder all over his face. He wipes his
cheek and licks his mouth jokingly.

DERRICK

(displays vial)
Ritz (ritalin), for my Attention
Deficate Disorder...

VENUS

Deficit.

DERRICK

No...I read 3 chapters of a book
while taking a shit, thanks to my
add....anyway we're talkin' watered
down speed. I find it way better
than adderall personally ..keen?

VENUS

I'm good.

DERRICK

My dipshit parent, "I gave my Ricky
Ritalin so he would sit down and
shut up instead of acting like a
kid. I would be up shit creek if I
had to rely on my parenting
skills."

He rummages through his pockets, removes a pill.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Xanax?

VENUS

No thanks.

DERRICK

(pops pill)

VENUS

(shaking his head, amused)
You're starting to freak me out a
little.

He gazes into her eyes intensely.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DERRICK
(shoots her a deep stare)
STALK STARE!

Derrick does not defect from the stare for several seconds and without blinking.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(screaming)
"HE'S FREAKING ME OUT!"

THUG
Hey cock-sucker! Why don't you
leave her alone!

THUG is rude, abusive & harassing in an alcohol fuelled rage.

DERRICK
Cock-sucker?

THUG
Boi I'll fuck you dry! Yall
think Deliverance was
Saturday morning cartoons
bitch!

DERRICK
(to Venus)
Who says "yall" anymore?

VENUS
(trying to suppress her
amusement)
I think you should cool it.

DERRICK
Who the fuck are you talking
to! Beotch! You best take a
two-step back home to hog-tie
country, before something
really nasty and really crazy
goes down in here!

Thug grabs Derrick and jerks his head down forcing him near his crotch.

THUG
Here's some chrome you can polish.

Derrick starts posturing.

DERRICK
How'z about me 'n' you take this
little bout of fisticuffs outside,
huh? What's it gonna be?"

Two thugs lunge forward knocks Derrick to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (peeks at their crotches)
 You know your prick is just like
 you; hangs around with nuts all the
 time. Your next door neighbor is a
 real ass-hole. Has a head you can't
 think with. His best friend is a
 real pussy!

Redd goes for a "crotch grab."

THUG
 (pained)
 Fuck!

The thugs go ballistic.

DERRICK
 Party's on!

VENUS
 Run!

DERRICK
 Yep. I right behind yeah.

They both sprint from the Diner.

EXT. DINER - DAY

Venus rushes to catch her departing bus.

VENUS
 Shit!

DERRICK
 Wait! You can catch a ride
 with me.

VENUS
 Fuck.

DERRICK
 (Sad puppy dog look)
 Sorry.

VENUS
 Cute very cute, pathetically cute,
 now what was that about a ride?

EXT./INT. PINTO - DAY

PINTO is littered with paraphernalia of living in a car.

VENUS
 Ah, the ford pinto, ting KABOOM!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK
We're talkin about a habitation
synonymous with home in many hobo
and pimp communities and circles.

EXT/INT. PINTO - DRIVING -

DERRICK
(sorting through a stack
of tapes)
Now road-trip music. We got
Steppenwolf, "Born to be
wild". Bruce Springsteen,
"Born to run".

VENUS
I see a theme here.

DERRICK
Yeah. I tend to see my life,
with a musical sound-track
already playing.

VENUS
Tom Petty, "Runnin' down a
dream".

DERRICK
But the ultimate.

Derrick pops in a tape SONG - "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" by
Elton John.

VENUS
You know I've listened to
this song so many times. I
just don't get it.

DERRICK
Easy. It's the case of "the
grass is always greener on
the other side". Your like
fine where you was at. "I
should of stayed on the
farm", I should of listened
to my old man".

VENUS
"Now I hustle night and to
the daylight."

DERRICK
(slang voice)
"Yo, V! What you up to today,
mang?"

VENUS
(slang voice, in reply)
"Man, same old, same old.
Everyday I'm hustlin."

DERRICK
Fast life. He likes to wheel
and deal. Faster life. He
likes to rob and steal. Even
faster life. How long can a
good thing last?
Your future can be your
past....
(singing)
...."When are you gonna come
down"....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS
(singing)
 "When are you going to
 land?" ...

SERIES OF SHOTS - DRIVING -

Pinto drives down long stretch of costal highway off route 1
 at dusk.

DRIVING through funky beach town along a long stretch of
 public access road to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

Pinto passes under the Boardwalk banner, reading "MAGIC-
 LAND" Spelled out in animated NEON lights.

EXT/INT. FORD PINTO/ SANTA CRUZ BEACH FRONT PARKING LOT -
 DUSK

Derrick and Venus eat junk food, staring out into the surf.

VENUS
 So where are we going to sleep?

Derrick pulls her back until they're laying side by side on
 the wide seat.

DERRICK
 You gotta love living a
 downsized lifestyle.

VENUS
 Especially when your broke.

DERRICK
 Completely fucking spent.
 Skint.

VENUS
 And when you're "skint?"

Venus sits up, and strips.

VENUS (CONT'D)
 Come on.

DERRICK
 No. I'm straight,

VENUS
 Suit yourself.

She exits the car, runs into the surf.

DERRICK
 (strips, runs into the
 surf)
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Shit! Usually I do this with a
bottle of sloe gin and a hook up!

EXT. BEACH - SUNRISE

Derrick/Venus on the beach at sunrise.

DERRICK

Good call on the skinny dip.

VENUS

So now what to do?

DERRICK

(sparking up a joint)
Magic-land!

EXT. SANTA CRUZ BOARDWALK - DAY

Venus/Derrick on the boardwalk, taking on every amusement the
Boardwalk has to offer.

EXT. TIKI BAR/PIER - DUSK

An intoxicated Derrick and Venus at a Tiki bar on the
Boardwalk.

DERRICK

(downing a beer)
Ah the reason I get up in the
morning and the reason I pass out
at night! (beat)
Whew! I got pee, pee!

VENUS

Okay, then go.

DERRICK

Can you undo my shorts fur me?

VENUS

Go away.

DERRICK

(to bartender)
Where's the toilet?

BARTENDER

Closed till 8 but that tree over
there works for piss.

DERRICK

Man I'm like in mid-wee.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARTENDER

Try the one down the pier.

EXT. BOARDWALK/PIER - DUSK BALMY EVENING

Derrick walks the length of Boardwalk to the Pier. Here the shine and decay vie for space against the boardwalk glitter. Derrick urinates behind a vandalized public toilet.

EMMANUEL (V.O.)

Hey

The pontificating EMMANUEL approaches, impeccably dressed in a black suit and dark glasses, reflecting Derrick's face.

ON HIS NOVELTY TIE, THE GRAPHICS FEATURE AN EDITORIAL CARICATURE OF A BLOATED LIMBAUGH - ESQUE "WITCH" IN FULL MELT-DOWN MODE.

DERRICK

(on tie)

Freakayy

EMMANUEL

(removes his sunglasses)

Douchebag of the high odor. On the C, Dude, was a "fuck of you" talent! I mean who else you know can shove "oxys" in his mouth; rail it up the nose and talk out his ass at the same time!

DERRICK

"Yo! Don't be so stingey with that oxy man, break me off like 20 milleys or somethin' I'll pay you back tomorrow, I swear! (rough neck voice) "Listen fish, you owe me! I didn't make sure Big Mike didn't shiv ya at mess for nothing. So now you better put on these panty house and get you knees dirty right quick cuz you my punk now."

EMMANUEL

You got some issues man!

DERRICK

ISSUES?! What are you, some kind of girly man? Women have issues. Men have PROBLEMS!"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Emmanuel grabs Derrick's arm, notices track marks. His fingers trace along the bruised needle holes.

EMMANUEL

How's your "situation" going bro?"
"Shit was going good, now its got a
'wicked witch' in it."

Derrick snatches his arm back.

DERRICK

Oh yeah? I see, you got jokes huh?

EMMANUEL

Yeah I do fucker -- you know I
still love you though, "Dawg."

Emmanuel tosses down an 8 ball, Derrick cautiously retrieves it.

EMMANUEL (CONT'D)

"You gotta "La-la-la-la-love" love
the wonderful things he does!"

Emmanuel displays a cornucopia of "pharmaceuticals"

DERRICK

Cause' he's the fuckin' wizard of
ooh's and aah's!

Emmanuel lights up a joint.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Dude, you're camping on that!

puff puff pass

Derrick takes a monster hit. Emmanuel takes a "hit" with a dramatic inhale. With a wizardly gesture and quickly exhaling.

EMMANUEL

So puffs the Wizzard!
"Expelliarmus!"

DERRICK

(with gestures)
Lightin' Bolts! Lightin' Bolts!

Derrick remains entranced by the visual chaos growing around him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EMMANUEL
 (following Derricks gaze
 across the street)
 BAM! Bullet through the window and
 down the rabid hole we go!

EXT. URBAN GHETTO OPPOSITE THE SANTA CRUZ BOARDWALK - DUSK

EMMNANUEL
 Roll one, smoke one, and will all
 be having fun! Cause when you live
 like this you're supposed to party.

Derricks directs his attention to the gritty urban ghetto
 across the street.

DERRICK
 I am actually, definitely,
 officially Konfused with a capital
 K hole.

EXT. URBAN GHETTO OPPOSITE THE BOARDWALK - DUSK

Derrick notices from across the street what appears to be a
 small child, but as she approaches (crossing the street) the
 figure is not a child at all but a "little person".

EMMANUEL
 "The snapper is a'snappin'

DERRRICK
 So does she charge half prices for
 her services?

She sashays up to Derrick. As she approaches we can see she
 is a bit older than most of the girls on the street. Her face
 etched with canyon deep wisdom.

EMMANUEL
 Shorty makes bank, workin' the
 adults only area of "It's a Small
 World at Disneyland".

She takes a hit off a tiny glass pipe. Before pulling Derrick
 "down to her level" and in for a kiss. Thrusting her tongue
 deep into his tonsils, allowing her coke washed, E&J flavored
 crack-hale roll into and overflow his senses.

DERRICK
 (major contact high)
 Wow!

Everything around him becomes murky and atmospheric.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIDGET PROSTITUTE

(croaks out)

Aw shit, you fool is gonna be
dealin' out the dying.

EMMANUEL

Up here in this "God damn you"
"circus" of satanic painted beast,
coked up - insanely happy 24/7.

DERRICK

Can't sleep, clowns will eat me.

The URBAN GHETTO provides a visual sound-track to Emmanuel's
personal musing's.

EMMANUEL

All thanks to the ringmaster. The
reigning king of Sad-town.

MIDGET PROSTITUTE

Sweet black baby Jesus!

EMMANUEL

He strides into the spotlight
turning an ear right as the
paranoia sets in.
Cause he gets off on the cries. The
violence-gasm sends him into
twitches.

MIDGET PROSTITUTE

(continuing her strut)

Yeah, I see yo' ass slidin
'rounding up on the highway but da
law of physics say you got to fall
down brutha.

EMMANUEL

When we roar the ringmaster smiles.
He twirls his mustache which is the
same deep black as his immaculate
suit; the non-color accentuates the
facelessness of the man. He lacks
definition in his eyes and his
chin, even his color is shifting,
always one step ahead of our
comprehension. The ringmaster is
like that, too slick to be human.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MIDGET PROSTITUTE

(sudden whisper)

"Yeah you get's to pick and choose
how high you get by how you pick
and choose how hard you get to
fall."

EMMANUEL

The crowd roars again and this time
the ringmaster concedes to start
the show. The ringmaster always
relents to the people, he covets
their grand parade of ills, for we
are also the show.

MIDGET PROSTITUTE

Cause sooner or later you got to
fall. And I ain't see you fall yet.

EMMANUEL

The stampede is instantaneous.

DERRICK

(hyper-ventilating,
sickened, sweating)

You bite the gutter then they want
to stomp on your head.

EMMANUEL

The armed struggles, minor brawls,
disagreements, jealousies spit and
hiss angry words, the crack-ling
madness, games turn vicious. The
moment we're let out we explode and
before long first blood spills.
Might be a stabbing, a robbery
turned bad, or a dispute that ended
in blows, it doesn't matter, cause
the ground is always thirsty.

MIDGET PROSTITUTE

(deft creepiness)

I wait around all day waitin' to
see you falls.

EMMANUEL

I've lost sight of the master.
Still I know he stands so close you
can smell the rot on his breath but
all I can do is give him the
finger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MIDIGET PROSTITUTE

(waves a warning finger)

Cause you'll be falling any day now
But I'll come back and watch you
some other day, 'cuss now I gotta
go fly high and away!

She returns to the hustle and flow of the other side of the street.

EMMANUEL

"Tisk, tisk, what a pity, sometimes
life can be so shitty."

A school bus full of CHILDREN idles in a boardwalk parking lot. We see their little, and excited faces pressed to the window. One child shoots Derrick a warm smile.

DERRICK

.....Yeah....gotta go...

EMMANUEL

....Right..Peace out!.. 'Though I
walk through the valley of death'
with a big ass chip on my shoulder.
I will fear no evil because I'm the
baddest mother fucker in the ML
valley!

Emmanuel struts away. (A modified crypt walk)

EXT. BOARDWALK/ ARTIST HAVEN - LATER

Derrick catches up to Venus at ARTIST HAVEN.

VENUS

Where you been?

DERRICK

(gangsta-like/attempting
cool)

Chillin with some mad "locals" up
in the hood.

VENUS

The hood?

REDD (O.S.)

Where thugs and wangsters hang out
slangin' caine and droppin' beats.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGLE

Redd paints the facade of a building creating thought provoking street art.

DERRICK
Thanks for the info MC White-Out.

REDD
Aw dawg why you doin' me like that?

Redd turns, a Cheshire grin on his face.

REDD (CONT'D)
Sup Dawgs?

VENUS
(playing in)
Wuddup!

REDD
Ya wanna run with my crew?

Redd mounts his Mobile Graffiti Machine. A rigged up bike with a lever arm and six spray paint cans attached that spray's bubbles and paints rainbows.

REDD (CONT'D)
Come check out my show, think
booze, and charity.

DERRICK
(whispering to venus)
One man show is another man's WTF!

REDD
(makes a peace sign)
Peace and much love!

He starts a tiny motor, and BAM, the paint cans start spraying and lifted in a giant arc, creating a rainbow on the wall that's a least 20 feet high as it is wide.

INT. ART EXHIBITION/ INSTILLATION - NIGHT

Derrick/Venus negotiate their way through the SCENESTERS, LOCALS, TOURIST, PATRONS, ETC. Derrick becomes sidetracked by a no cash bar.

DERRICK
(making his way to the
bar)
Toss me the boozage...right here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PROMOTER (O.S)

Here, we have work from the countries most prestigious outsider artist. They show a talent and artistic insight that is often deemed missing in the cookie-cutter products of many of the world's art schools.

INT. ART INSTILLATION - NIGHT

Venus and Derrick walk through instillation, filled with enigmatic fairy-tale like figural images; many are wounded, with stitching across troubled faces, zippers for mouths, and abused bodies made from hardware scraps and throwaway bits and pieces. Some positioned in provocative ways.

REDD (O.S.)

I know you guys think I'm CRAZY. Maybe a little on edge, a little off kilter but only 99.999% at least on the basis of the art I make, the life I have lived Personally, I don't consider myself now at the age of twenty-five to be stark raving mad.

DERRICK

This shit could ruin a person on many levels.

Redd works on an art piece.

REDD

(in a rush; a lot of hyper nervous energy)

Though my six attempted suicides, eight psychiatric incarnations, sexual perversions/ violence and drug abuse, would certainly have deemed me a lunatic in the eyes of many. Then I'm in good company with all the other suicidal, tormented or sacrificed Avant-garde; de Sade, Goya, Holderlin, Blake, Friedrich, Kleist, Nietzsche, Dostoyevsky, Van Gogh, Edvard Munch, Stringberg, Esnor, Kirshner, Dali, Artaud, Pollock-those of divine purpose, and messianic purport. Then like them. I am quite willing to fall.

EXT. BOARDWALK - LATE NIGHT

Derrick/Venus on the BOARDS. Redd hurries to catch up to them.

REDD
Hey guys wait up! So what you think?

VENUS
It's...different.

REDD
Come on, this ain't the Midwest, no pseudo-politeness.

DERRICK
Dude you totally ptsd'ed my ass!

REDD
You're upset.

DERRICK
Gee golly! Really?!

REDD
Dude. Sorry?

DERRICK
Why don't you go and play hide and go fuck yourself!

VENUS
Be nice!

DERRICK
Victim - hype! Victim - hype!
Hey, its all good...So lets have another drink, shall we?

Derrick makes a beeline to one of the boardwalk bars.

REDD
I think we should go after him.

EXT. BEACH/BOARDWALK - LATE NIGHT

The threesome walk along "main street" among the conveyor belt of elsewhere eccentrics, soaking up the social atmosphere and visual ambience.

EXT./INT. VARIOUS CLUBS/BARS - LATE NIGHT

MUSIC blends within the din of drink and excited conversation.

EXT. BOARDWALK/BEACH - NIGHT

DERRICK
 (intoxicated)
 No, I'm not drunk. Just chemically
 inconvenienced and you guys.... the
 bestest friends in the whole
 world... ever!

Derrick is completely trashed. He lets out a very impressive, drunk testosterone - charged ROAR.

REDD
 (intoxicated)
 If I wasn't so drunk you would look
 really stupid just about now.

There is an unquestionable charm about Derrick. Redd laughs with a boyish bashfulness.

DERRICK
 What is so funny Dude!

REDD
 You.

They're face-to-face in an intensely tight Close-up. Derrick kisses him, catches his bottom lip.

REDD (CONT'D)
 Umm, Dude, you just kissed me, you
 know that, right?

DERRICK
 (smiling)
 This is some full-on Bromance!

He gives Venus a smack too.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 And you. "It ain't your booty, it's
 yo beauty" -- I mean your just an
 overall beautiful person.

EXT. BEACH CAMPSITE - LATE NIGHT

The Threesome spend a night at a campsite on the beach.
Eating "junk food" and sobering up.

REDD
(looking curiously at
Venus)
You know who you're like?

VENUS
Who?

REDD
Miss Dorothy.

VENUS
(charmed)
Miss? Yeah! Flawed relationships
and all (beat) I'll tell you about
Miss Dorothy.
She got this really good guy. This
Mr. Right?" But she's got kind of a
promiscuous past. She's got some
"movies" out there. Insecure -
"Miss" - no self-esteem girls like
me think they'll be famous because
some guy tells you how beautiful
you are. Promises you a lucrative
"modeling" contract. Only to be
famous in such films as
"Interracial gang bang", and
"Bareback blvd. Girls"

DERRICK
(lights up a joint)
"Hot Hispanic Hustler's"

They give him a look.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
I'm just sayin'

VENUS
So...were suppose to be good? Now
his "friends" are watching a
porno...."Porn rocks!" "Wait! Omg!
Dude is that?" "So do we ask for an
autograph or a blowjob?" "Dude you
know you my bro?"....I was his
"dream girl". No kids, good cook,
cleans your place without even
asking, just offers.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS (CONT'D)

(beat) Any ways you know the rest.
 "Gotta keep your priorities
 straight yo, Bro's before Hoe's"
 (struggling for dignity)
 He didn't dump me right away. I was
 his back-up girl. For some reason
 okay at being second best, used
 only for convince? The "sloppy
 seconds". Seems it's always been
 Mr. Convince.

DERRICK
 And quite possibly Mr.
 Herpes/Chlamydia/Syphilis.

VENUS
 (helpless laugh)
 Mr. Multiple personality
 disorder.

VENUS (CONT'D)

With two heads, unfortunately the
 smaller less talented of the two
 heads defines the course of action
 in the vicinity of a person with
 one head.

REDD

Okay....Well as the official fairy-
 tale re-teller I'm granting you,
 guys...interim fairy-tale status!

VENUS

Do I get my happy ending?

REDD

Sure.

DERRICK

(imitating Asian woman
 voice)
 "You want happy ending? (slang.
 Handjob)

REDD

ANYWAY! We all know how the story
 goes the Mooney all-American girl
 from the heartland gets a calling
 to cross America. So this tornado
 comes along.
 "I am going to take you on an
 adventure THROUGH SPACEEEEE
 WHOAAAAAAA!!!!"

DERRICK

Talking tornados. Great.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

REDD

Common its a figurative storm.
So since she pretty much has no
other option.

DERRICK

(twisting his nipples)

"Damn dude, I didn't know you was a
TWISTER, lighten up on that grip".

REDD

Dorothy sucks it up and starts down
this crazy road... oh, also there
is a good witch -- this rainbow
incarnation of awesomeness! (beat)
Pretty soon she runs into this
scarecrow,

(walking with disjoined
movements)

who is severely depressed because
he has no brain although how is
that possible and holy shit! A
talking scarecrow!

DERRICK

(still twisting)

"It ain't no screwdriver son, why
you twistin' so hard!?"

REDD

So he agrees to come with Dorothy
to see the wizard.
So they walk for a while and the
conversation kinda drags a little
because, hey no brain.
So they keep walking and pretty
soon they run into this Tin Man
effort rusted real bad!
There's some Lysol powder, toilet
bowl lime, and rust remover
nearby....mix....squirt...comes
right off.

DERRICK

Then the tinman wakes up..."like
holy shit after I railed those two
fat lines of K, I was stuck for
like a million years!"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

REDD

Now this Tin "man" is straight up flippy with PTSD I mean if you think about it he'd probably seen some pretty fucked up things standing there for a million years...

DERRICK

And some fucked up shit pre-frozen era.

REDD

So this Tin man is a shell-shocked wreck.

DERRICK

(striking up a joint)

"I am a tool of a cold steel Satan in a titanium shell!"

(imitating a woman's voice)

"You cruel, heartless monster!"

Derrick lets loose a private confession.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

(threatening male voice)

"Hold my shit! I'm gonna go teach him how it feels to have his heart broken!....for realz. I'm going to beat the shit out of him!"..." POW! BANG! BOOM!"

(throws sucker punches)

....Somebody Call 911!...

"No daddy please, don't hit me again, I'll wash the dishes better tomorrow."

REDD

....Okay? So here is the tale of "Miss" Dorothy Wannabe. So will she and her crew remain steadfast on the yellow brick road, or will they wander off and become part of the obvious wreckage strewn along the way?

A heavy quiet. The mood shifting.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

VENUS

How come I feel like I'm waiting
for something that ain't going to
happen?

We pass their reluctant faces.

DERRICK

Shit. I'm feeling so damn sorry for
myself right now.

EXT. CITY STREETS - A DAY IN THE LIFE MONTAGE -

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Pedestrian traffic, a quick blur of faces and vehicle traffic crowd the street. We focus on one figure. Redd wearing Wal - Mart khaki's and, a Wal -Mart logo shirt. A vicious bump from a passer-by yanks him back to the workaday world. A kind of tedium has engulfed him.

INT. WAL - MART - EMPLOYEE ROOM - MORNING

It's Redd's first day of work. He walks over to a mirror to see how he looks in his new uniform. He feels a little silly. He puts on his name tag takes another look in the mirror, sighing unhappily.

INT. FOOD CHAIN KITCHEN - DAY

Derrick tucks his hair into a hairnet. Pulls a baseball cap over the hairnet. He's wearing a hideous food chain uniform (polyester shirt, in clashing colors of fast food yesteryear) He doesn't look especially happy working behind the deep fryer.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NIGHTLIFE - NIGHT

A big LOUD BLARE wakes us to a warm August night filled with packed sidewalks, jammed traffic, taxis, trucks, buses, honking of horns, etc.

EXT/INT. DOWNTOWN NIGHT/STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Were caught up in the cities night time pulse party in progress. WAIT STAFF scurrying here and there. PEOPLE jammer and jab. We see Venus attired in skimpy shorts and a slightly-too-tight, extra low cut shirt, slinging beers, balancing a tray and zigzagging through the masses, avoiding a few ass-grabs and comments on the way.

INT. DOWNTOWN NIGHT CLUB/STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

The stage is awash in a kaleidoscope of flashing lights
DANCERS sway provocatively to the rhythm of the music. Venus
studies the Dancers.

MANAGER

(approaching)

You ever think about dancing? You
can make more paper in one night
shaking your ass than most will
make breaking their ass.

WAITRESS

Honey, don't even think about it.
Let me tell yeah the shit doesn't
stop when the music does.

VENUS

Yeah, tell me something I don't
know.

INT. APARTMENT - EVENING

An inebriated Redd wears Superman pajamas, complete with foam
muscles. Derrick, wears a Santa hat with Mickey Mouse ears,
titter-totters on a chair.

DERRICK

Hey! I'm claiming Drunken Immunity!

REDD

You are exempt from any deeds
committed following a alcohol blood
content of .02%.

Derrick tips over onto the floor.

REDD (CONT'D)

Case dismissed!

Derrick disappears into the bathroom. He returns, with a vial
of crank.

REDD (CONT'D)

Man?

DERRICK

Diamonds baby!

He takes a hit, offering to Redd.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REDD
No way man. I'm good.

DERRICK
Come on!

REDD
Man?

Offering a pinky full.

REDD (CONT'D)
Shit.

Redd takes the hit.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Venus enters. Redd and Derrick are completely wasted. This time Redd, wears the Super Man pajamas, balances on a chair.

REDD
Truth! Justice and the American way!

DERRICK
Jumper! Jumper!

He recklessly jumps off a chair.

REDD
Ah...not actually cool.

DERRICK
Hey, girl...how are ya?

VENUS
(frustrated)
WORKING!

DERRICK
"Going to work now, Dear.....may not be home for dinner."

REDD
I had to work today. I have to work tomorrow, but alas I'm not alone and understand that I'm being paid because my boss is too much of a pussy to do my job for me!

The two dissolve into wheezing spasms of laughter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS

You need to stop! Both need to stop. We're suppose to be turning our lives around.

DERRICK

"Change of lifer?" No can-do! We are "ghetto" trapped! There is no upgrade for us!

VENUS

You've given up.

DERRICK

I'm just facing facts. What I'm giving up on is aspiring to be mediocre. But I'm willing to get drunk, heavily inebriated, though to a lesser extent than shitfaced. on "Mediocre."

Derrick mixes a cocktail of alcohol, drugs and prescription pharmaceuticals in a plastic solo cup.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

1 part Vodka, a sprinkle of meth, and handful of downers, and a coke rimmed solo cup. After two of these bad boys. I'm neither high or low, just stuck in the middle.

Derrick slugs back the drink.

REDD

Wonder Drunk powers, ACTIVATE!

VENUS

This isn't funny anymore.

DERRICK

What's funny as hell is the fact that the most insidious influence on the world today ain't the violence, the drugs, smoke, drink or so called "sexual perversions" us "pay as you hoe" (types) are so good at, but our pursuit of being trivial, "Hi my name is Joe Schome." and our tolerance of being third rate, and that's why I CHOOSE to be "A bad - ass - boi, baby!"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

REDD
(wheezing)
(with suppressed
laughter,)
One ultra-cool motherfucker!

DERRICK
(downs a drink)
Annihilation of inhibitions;
Complete freedom;

VENUS
With all the "Ok well I don't give
a shit!" attitude.

DERRICK
(cups genitals with
his right hand)
Awesome to an extreme level! Who
without compromise will tear you a
new asshole, drink all your liquor,
bone your ben or betty, and do it
all with a smile on my face.

REDD
Sam Elliott's mustache....badass.

VENUS
Unspoken Rules of Being Badass.
A badass does not talk about being
a badass, doesn't try to look
tough.

DERRICK
Whose tryin.
(stretches his eyes wide-
open)
Look! Closed tear ducts!

REDD
Yo, that's mad tough, yo!

DERRICK
Suffering for us tough people is
endurable. "No more hanging around
your pal Jimmy. He can't stop
getting involved in fights and
drugs! He's no friend to you!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

REDD

That Tsutomu Yamaguchi was one badass mofo: he lived through TWO atomic explosions! He eats atomic bombs for breakfast!"

VENUS

(directly)

A badass does not give up. They'll always push, no matter how hard it gets. So you haven't had it good your whole life, but you intent to change that, and get out of the "ghetto" if that's where your at, you do what's right, yeah you don't take shit from anyone, and stand up for your friends....

REDD

....And don't let them take shit from anyone!

DERRICK

(gangsta posturing)

Yall Know it!

(singing)

"killing motherfuckers like it ain't no thang!"

Venus intentionally moves a step in his path. He would have to move her to get her out of the way...

VENUS

Have you seen someone get shot? They don't struggle for air and say something whitty and dramatic before they go...They just fall on the ground, shit their pants, and have their brains gone to the back of their fucking heads. But hey, I guess that would be considered cool in your little make-believe "gangsta" world, right?

Side steps her.

DERRICK

(barks a laugh to cover his embarrassment, his self-consciousness)

Oh fo sho yo!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

VENUS
(directly)
Then that's the saddest face I've
seen in all my life.

Something's has slipped under his perfect guard. Derrick
pours another drink. Venus exits into kitchen.

DERRICK
(unsettled)
You don't watch it, you'll turn
into a real bitch!

REDD
What's happening to us?

DERRICK
(drunken frustration)
Us?! "Oh REDD, you dah best".
"I'm here for you man".
"You're like Puffs Plus, you
Emotional Tissue Box".

REDD
You just love hating!

DERRICK
Don't let it get you down son.
Haters gonna hate.
(puts on a pair of dark
sunglasses)
With my hater blockers on, them
haters can see me but I can't see
them.

Venus exits the kitchen.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(to venus)
Where ever you go there will always
be haters. Now they just disappear
from my sight.
(catches his reflection in
wall mirror)

Derrick starts to unravel.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(self-contempt fills his
face)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

DERRICK (CONT'D)

No one wants to see your trifling...slobass....*"Slob on my knob like corn on the cob, check in with me and I'll do the job, lay me on the bed and I'll give you head, you don't have to plead, you don't have to beg."* ...And he still thinks he's sexy...

Derrick throws a beer bottle across the room, It misses Venus by inches and crashes against wall mirror. He walks over and starts picking up the pieces of the broken glass...trying to put it back together. Derrick cuts his hand on a shard stuck deep in his skin.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Don't think so!...Hell to the Nah!

Derrick pulls out the shard, takes it to his already scared wrist. Venus grabs his hand, stops him.

VENUS

No!...
(a brief stare down)
....No.

DERRICK

Why not!?...No one will believe this shit!...It's like those born again people...

Makes a 'who believes them or cares' face.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Common, smile a little. Yeah, it's sick, but funny in a crowd.

VENUS

(takes the broken glass from him)
It's not funny.

DERRICK

(contentious)
It's a joke. Purely for amusementry. (beat) I'm a joke. I was a joke. Now I'm a bigger joke.

Redd, rushes into the bathroom. Redd returns with a couple of band-aids.

REDD

Let's put a bandage on that owie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

He badges Derrick's hand.

REDD (CONT'D)
 Sometimes you can't fix things
 right away, but you have to settle
 it down, or at least put it off for
 a while.

Derrick pulls himself away.

DERRICK
 (stalks out the door)
 Look, I just can't..... I'm
 out!

EXT. APARTMENT DOOR - NIGHT

Derrick leans back against the door, quickly deflated.

DERRICK
 (deflated)
 Shit.

EXT./INT. PINTO - END OF THE NEXT DAY

The last orange rays of sun come through the window. Derrick
 bloodshot eyes stare out the window at the fading sunlight.
 There's a near empty bottle of vodka on the dashboard.

EXT. PINTO - DAWN

Derrick takes the "Walk of Destiny" (Walking while drunk,
 where you don't think about where you're going, you just let
 your feet take you.)

EXT./INT. REDS APARTMENT DOOR - DAY

Derrick KNOCKS. Door opens to Redd in the doorway. Pause.

DERRICK
 Hey?

REDD
 (careful)
 ...hey.

DERRICK
So... How's our girl?

REDD
 Working.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK
I'll tell yeah, that's one tight
piece of work...girl has her shit
together.

REDD
Yep?

DERRICK
Look....I Know I fucked up majorly.

REDD
Dude our friendship?

DERRICK
I know I need to take myself the
fuck down.

REDD
Way down.

DERRICK
Look I should probably go.

REDD
Yeah.....No!.....So what you
gonna do?

DERRICK
Just walk out of Mc Dandles and a
crazy homeless man runs up to you,
"I'll suck you dick for a
cheeseburger!"
(points to himself)

REDD
Dude?

DERRICK
Sorry!

REDD
....Look.....You're still welcome
here.

DERRICK
(approaching)
Only til I know what I'm gonna do.

REDD
Agreed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DERRICK
 (extends his hand)
 Eh yo son, pass the sauce?!

REDD
 (shaking hands)
 ...Word up?

INT. REDS APARTMENT [LATER]

Venus and Redd "discuss" Derrick's return.

VENUS
 (shakes her head)
 "My boyfriend isn't bad, you just
 don't know him like I do."

REDD
 Okay. I get it.

Soft KNOCK at the door. Derrick enters without waiting for a reply.

DERRICK (O.S.)
 Hey?

Derrick stands in the doorway. He quickly realizes this ain't a happy reunion.

VENUS
 (carefully)
 Hey?

DERRICK
 (FLASHES a big one)
 I'm back! How'd you been?

VENUS
 The same I've always been.

DERRICK
 (opens his palms in a
 parody of innocence)
 Jeez. Sorry.

VENUS
 Really?

Awkward silence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK

Hey, its a "sorry" day when you can't get over something that can't be changed and are unwilling to accept the graciousness afforded to you as a person today, regardless of the past!

VENUS

Hey, Redd have you seen Billy Bull shit recently?

REDD

Yeah, yesterday.

DERRICK

Oh...okay....I See how it is.
(points to the door)
You want me to go? I'll go?

Pause. A look between them.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

(feeling chastised)
Look! What do you want from me?!

VENUS

I want you to change!

Derrick's expression shifts.

DERRICK

(in a whisper)
....Okay...

And at first it comes out silent. His pain has always been private...maybe the one and only thing left all his.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

....Okay...Everyday I do the wrong thing and everyday I find out how to stop from doing the wrong thing...and I'm trying, but I don't stop...

Derrick shrugs his helplessness.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

(His eyes linger on hers for a brief moment)
Okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VENUS

....Okay...One day at a time.

Venus moves to his side and puts a comforting arm around him. Redd joins in.

REDD

Hey, are we okay here?

VENUS

We're good.

TIME CUT:

INT. DANCE/STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Venus is on stage. She abruptly WALKS OFF mid-song, heads toward the dressing room, disappears through the curtain.

INT. BACKSTAGE/BATHROOM - NIGHT

Venus drops to the floor. She draws her knees up to her chest, shoves her clenched fists hard against her legs.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Derricks glassy eyed look rest on Redd.

REDD

Why are you looking at me like that?

DERRICK

(grinning foolishly)
Music!

Derrick breaks into a surprisingly on-key rendition of "The Stripper."

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Wa Wa, Wa Wa....

Derrick slowly shimmies out of his shirt. Redd continues laughing and stomping whooping him on. Derrick, going for the belt.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Wa Wa, Wa Wa...

Derrick proceeds to slide out of his pants, soon he's practically doing a lap dance. Redd shoves him off pussyfooting around the undeniable sexual tension.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REDD
You're such a freak!

DERRICK
(leaning in for a kiss)
An in-between the sheets superstar!

Something ignites between them. The intimacy soon turns predatory and sexually aggressive.

REDD
Come on stop it!

INT. APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

An exhausted Venus enters from work.

DERRICK
I'm only playing with you man come-
on your too damn serious lighten up
dude. Smoke a blunt or something!
No fuckin' sense of humor.

VENUS
What's you're problem!

DERRICK
Sorry! Jeez!

VENUS
Bullshit!

DERRICK
(lights up a joint)
No, bullshit is thinking your the
girl next door. Maybe the girl next
floor.

Derrick drops his pants, and shorts. Placing his penis and balls behind his legs, holding his legs tight together so it looks like a "beaver."

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(laughing)
"Girl is like a jewel in the
gutter. Shines out like a flower".

REDD
Dude!

DERRICK
Hey this fucker ain't the local
golden boy!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS

Nothings changed with you. You haven't changed at all, have you?

DERRICK

What can I say?

She heads to the door.

REDD

For Christ sake just apologize!

DERRICK

What am I apologizing for?

REDD

Where you going?

VENUS

(to derrick)

Someone has to work.

DERRICK

You know what a stripper is? A "woman" who seeks to relive her chaotic childhood experience by disrobing and rubbing her snatch on a brass pole in front of men that care for her like her father did!

REDD

Don't!

VENUS

You got something to say. Say it!

DERRICK

Buy a diary baby cuz I'm not keeping secrets anymore!

VENUS

Say it!

DERRICK

"In Texas you got cows, tractors, and hoes.

(to Venus)

In New York you just got hoes".

VENUS

Is that all you got? Name calling? Really? You want to blame the honesty game?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DERRICK

Get out of town!" She gonna tell on me!

VENUS

Derrick "He's such a closet case, he says he likes women, but we all know he wants a big warm one up his ass!"

DERRICK

Ouch! I was expecting the length but not the girth!

REDD

Come on guys.

VENUS

(to Derrick as much as to herself)

Who can blame him really, shitty childhood and all.

This hits home. Derrick picks up a bottle of vodka, which he quickly downs.

DERRICK

Fuck that shit up!

Derrick drains vodka bottle dry.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

(does the drunk dance sideways)

Ricky hate's himself to guts. He's his own victim. His mommy drinks a lot and is always mad.

He's her own little victim.

Still thanks to moms getting knocked up she landed one of the lead roles in "Fat Pregnant Anal Whores XXII", and made enough money to stay high for a month.

Derrick looses his balance, and falls to the floor. He punches the floor, his hand is bleeding.

VENUS

(approaches, reaches for his hand)

Your bleeding.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DERRICK

Just a different flava of hurt.
(flinches, snatches his
hand away)
Don't get it twisted. I'm still
"sexii" (n. sexy) as hell.

VENUS

(softly)
I can't help you if you won't let
me.

DERRICK

Try helping yourself first.

VENUS

(moving to the door)
Fine.

DERRICK

You're so much better than I am!
Beyond fuckin' com - pare!...

VENUS

No I'm not. I'm not better, I've
just learned to live with myself.

DERRICK

You know what my mommies deathbed
advice to me was?

REDD

D enough!

DERRICK

Stop worrying about keeping the
damn floor clean! The floor ain't
never gonna be clean enough! And
even if It did get clean it
wouldn't stay that way.
That shit gets more profound every
time I think about it.

VENUS

The hardest thing is just showing
up for the day..I bust my ass all
day, then come home feeling, dirty,
tired, and sorry...But I show up,
doing the best I can, that's all I
can do. (keep praying and believing
there is something better out there
for me)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

She exits.

INT. APARTMENT - EVENING

REDD
What the fuck man?

Derrick's glib with drink in hand.

DERRICK
(jokingly parading his
anger, and hurt)
What can I say. I suffer from "Fuck
- ophrenia. that debilitating
condition where "one" is forced to
bare the psycho - logical scars of
being fucked over for a long-ass
period of time by "anonymousness"
who bash, cause inside "they"
craves the butt-loving.
"Anonymousness" that knows no
fear...cause it's easy to be brave
when your targets can't fight back!
All laying the groundwork for this
said individual who at times can
suddenly
(up in Redds face)
SNAP!"

REDD
You going to hit me?

An embarrassing sting.

DERRICK
Come on!

Redd's eyes fill with tears.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(tries to toss it off)
I'm just playing!...

Redd fights against it but the tears begin to come.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
....come on...

Derrick looks up with a child's fear and guilt.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(with great effort)
...Shit...sorry...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REDD
(more upset than angry)
I don't believe you anymore!

DERRICK
(turns/breaks down)
Man!..... Please.

His break down surprises Redd, he rushes up to him.

REDD
(embracing him)
Hey...don't...Dude I'm just being
all pissy.

DERRICK
(tightening up
uncomfortable by the
closeness)
Don't...

Derrick begins hyperventilating. He pushes:

DERRICK (CONT'D)
(defensive/there is panic
in his voice)
Get off me!

Derrick swings, catches Redd in the face, his nose bleeding.

REDD
Shit! I'm bleeding!?

Derrick scares himself by his actions as much as he scares Redd.

DERRICK
I'm....

Redd punches him, but he doesn't hit back...he just backs away.

REDD
Fuck you!

Derrick realizes where his anger has taken him. He attempts to apologize with his eyes.

GLENDIA (V.O.)
The Scarecrow and the Tin man were
rotting and full of rust -
stripped of love and all their
trust.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Derrick backs out the door.

EXT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Derrick crumbles...his turn to cry like a kid himself.

INT. SUBWAY TRAIN: REFLECTION IN WINDOW OF VENUS - NIGHT

We move in closer to see her somber reflection looking out at the world seems to speed by at an inhuman pace. What she sees in reflection is a woman with life screaming past her out of control.

EMMANUEL (V.O.)

There is no yellow brick road. But
you can follow the asphalt straight
to the grave.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

VENUS exits subway station.

CRAZY GUY

"Ladies they smile at you and walk
away."

She passes the homeless CRAZY GUY follows her giving her a taste of his "poetry."

CRAZY GUY (CONT'D)

"The candy-man knows your life
ain't sweet. That's why he makes
candy."

A fine mist falls through the air and collects on flashing neon signs that cast an unnatural glow. They read "Live Nude Girls".

EXT/INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Girls walk around offering boob grabs for \$1, and pussy touches for \$3. Venus giving private dances which translates to everything you can imagine but penetration.

EXT. STRIP CLUB - A WET AND MISERABLE RAIN SLICK NIGHT

An intoxicated Venus exits. HOOKERS, and JUNKIES prowl the rains slick streets.

CRAZYGUY

Heheheh. "The candy-man knows your
life ain't sweet."

INT. REDDS BEDROOM - DAY

Redd sits on the edge of bed in his decapitated man's outfit.
Once again, conspicuously alone.

CRAZYGUY (V.O.)
"That's why he makes candy."

EXT. CITIES TENDERLOIN STREETS - NIGHT

Redd walks through the congregations of the tenderloin.

TRANSIENT
Man, I know you ain't walking
through the TL, damn trannys and
crackheads all wanna piece of ya!

REDD
No worries. It'll all be good.

TRANSIENT
I ain't playing dawg, watch
yourself, this is real. You'd
better exercise some street smarts.
If you look like a victim you'll
probably be one!

REDD
(looking around)
"No Shit Sherlock"

TRANSIENT
"Fuck you Watson" This (place)
ain't nothing to fuck with.

EXT. TENDERLOIN STREETS/ "HOE" STROLL - DUSK

Redd spots Venus on the "hoe stroll." He rushes up to her,
stares her right in the face...re-discovering her.

There's an awkward instant followed by too much cheerfulness.
They hug, at first it's a clumsy hug.

VENUS
Please don't say you feel sorry for
me. I hate that.

REDD
You'll get no "whiney whiney" from
me.

Now they hug, really hug, each gulping back the tears.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS

It's crazy how things happen so fast you don't even realize its happening. You know?

REDD

It's okay? We've all done some dumb shit. We got this Three Stooges Syndrome thing goin' - like when all three of the Stooges are tryin' to get through the door at the same time, and getting stuck.

VENUS

This fools stuck on stupid.

Redd runs his hand over her tears soothing her face.

VENUS (CONT'D)

A french fry short of a happy meal.

REDD

Were gonna be okay.

They smile. Venus kisses Redd on the cheek.

VENUS

Your always so optimistic, nothing brings you down.

REDD

We got to keep believing things will get better no matter how hard they seem.

She reluctantly begins to pulls away. Redd holds on to her.

REDD (CONT'D)

No.

VENUS

I guess we got to keep reaching for those "impossible" dreams.

REDD

You gotta have dreams. You close your eyes, you experience sometimes something great and powerful.

VENUS

Sometimes something scary.
(pulling away)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VENUS (CONT'D)

Dreams are like people, they come and go, and some times you feel its too hard to let go.

REDD

Why?

VENUS

I can't risk hurting you. Cause I'm hurting right now.

REDD

(flexing)

Hey, I'm a big boy! Look I even got on my Big Boy Pants.

(toying with zippers, and buttons, etc)

Got all these zippers, and buttons, and belt-holding-apparatus-type things. Takes a great amount of (finger) strength and finesse to handle.

VENUS

You don't understand! The shit I'm going through. I don't want you in it!

REDD

Guess "I wouldn't want to be in your "shit-uation".

VENUS

(lite laugh)

"Shit-uation?"

REDD

Yeah. It's how Sean Connery pronounces the word 'situation'

(impersonating)

'What'sh the shit-uation, M?"

She puts her arms around him.

VENUS

(hugs him, pulling away)

You know -- you're just too sweet.

REDD

Hey, Where do you get off... where do you... "sweet?" "SWEEEEEEET!" I'm not sweet. I'm dark were talkin one-bad-scene. And mysterious;

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

REDD (CONT'D)

(cause if you go) you will more
than likely spend your entire life
wondering what made that Redd so
interesting!

Venus continues to pull away.

REDD (CONT'D)

(shouting after her)

Some people lose the only true best
friend they will ever have, and
even when they get...if they ever
get new "best friends"...that old,
real best friend will always be on
their mind.

VENUS

(appreciative smile)

Cause they're family?

REDD

(gently; tears glistening
in his eyes)

People who for some reason or
another claim each other. You love
them.

VENUS

(blows a kiss)

They love you back.

EXT. TENDERLOIN STREETS/SIDE STREET - NIGHT

Venus ducks into a side street, tears begin streaming down
her face. She takes a hit from a "bullet" of smack. She
closes her eyes, opening, her eyes are now dreamy, far away,
as if she had mentally transported herself to some distant
place.

INT/EXT. TENDERLOIN STREET BAR - NIGHT

We see hard hitting images of male prostitution in the gay
cruising zone. In particular one JUNKIE HUSTLER dumpster
looting and stealing other peoples' recyclables.

A tweaking Derrick approaches, pulls his hoodie all the way
down, and sunglasses over eyes BARELY open. Wide eyed junkie
scampers about rapidly in a mouselike manner

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUNKIE HUSTLER
Yo D? Dude, your fuckin
twitching and grinding your
teeth like a goddamned
crackhead.

DERRICK
(laughing, euphoric as a
motherfucker)
Maaaaan...last night I was
tweaking and fucking, like
for 6 hours straight!
"Yo dog, that wasn't a party!
That was that tore-back
tweekasaurus-rex white trash
meth hound Slick Rick a.k.a.
Spunderfella get'in tweekie
freekie deekie banged by 10
twacked out spunderfellas!"

He falls over, tweaking out on the ground. (Not really
passing out, just loosing control of his body, while
conscious).

JUNKIE HUSTLER
Boi, you doin' too much for the
dopey.

EXT. URBAN THOROUGHFARE/MOTEL - DAY

Redd walks to motel (A low-rent hideout) on an urban
thoroughfare just off an highway exit. Redd knocks on room
201.

EXT./INT. URBAN THOROUGHFARE/MOTEL ROOM 201 - DAY

A shirtless Derrick is lying on the bed -- sprawled on his
back, one shoe off and sound asleep. Wakes up with that
spaced- out "what the fuck is going on feelin" you get the
morning after a party where you've been "rollin all night.

DERRICK (O.S.)
You! Go away!

REDD
Come on! Open up.

Opens door.

REDD (CONT'D)
Wassup, my favorite mofo???

Derrick SLAMS the door in his face.

DERRICK (O.S.)
Fuck off!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REDD

Come on! Open the door....okay your asking for it!..."Open the fuckin' door you miserable excuse for an...accident!"..

Door clicks slowly opens.

DERRICK

Seriously?

Redd strolls up, sides-steps Derrick. He assess the pathetic surroundings; sheet covered windows, walls scarred by water stains, peeling paint and a splintered bathroom door.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Ain't it quaint. I only need to pound one out in the toilet to make it home sweet home!

REDD

Damn dude what happened to you?

DERRICK

"Sorry officer, been partying all night." Dudes been giving it straight, pumping some hard earned coinage into...

Derrick grabs Redd's groin - almost molesting.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

Mr. Party time here!

REDD

Hey, man don't do that.
(pushes him away)
Dude! Stop! Maybe I should just go.

DERRICK

Oh okay....bye bye.

REDD

"Just don't give two shits."

DERRICK

You know how I do.

REDD

Yeah. Your so fuckin' romantically bipolar.
A true member of the 4F club:
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

REDD (CONT'D)

"Find 'em. Fell 'em. Fuck 'em.
Forget 'em"....I'm out.

DERRICK

Fuck? Wait!

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Derrick stands court over a small plate of coke. Redd snorts a line. He can feel the drug surging up inside him. Their conversation is machine-gun like.

REDD

(high, sweating bullets)
Swagg Daddy you are wicked
damn sexy!

DERRICK

(flashes a fine big
grin; swagger in his
walk)
Yo, I'll spank you when your
bad, and kiss it better
afterward.

REDD

(giggles nervously)
I'm ready to place nice
daddy.

DERRICK

Sho' you be my hoe?

REDD

(laughing
uncontrollably)
I'll be like your hoe - nado
and "tear up" everyone in
your path.

DERRRICK

(whispers intensely)
Daym! So would you "whore
yourself out" for Panda
Express's orange chicken?

REDD

(rigid with pent up
energy)
Hoe fo sho!

DERRRICK

(playfully muscling
Redd)
Yo son.

REDD

Jokey?....ha...ha....seriously?!

DERRICK

Question? What does a big fat white
woman and a Brick have in common?
Answer. Sooner or later, they will
both be laid by a Mexican.
Go ahead and laugh, it is true, but
just a joke.

Derrick is curled by the window -- MESMERIZED by an unseen
neon sign outside the window. His eyes fill with a million
colored lights.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRRICK

This pragmatic solution has been arrived at in the final analysis by this here economically challenged individual seeking an alternative to his own procurement by those higher in the food chain on the 'strip's readily available tarmac: ratio of hoes to neon signs at 1:100th.

EXT. CITYSCAPE -- ESTABLISHING -- NIGHT

City skyline, overcast. Looks like rain. Derricks' Pinto moves slowly in a not-so-great neighborhood.

EXT. MOTEL COURTYARD - NIGHT

REDD

(already uncomfortable)
Man!? I'm not going! I'm not going! I'm not going!

DERRICK

Dude, it's not like you're busy.

Derrick gives Redd a bump from a bullet off the back of his hand.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - SERIES OF SHOTS - NIGHT

A silent, nervous. Redd sits on the edge of a bed in a nondescript room with little furniture.

The JOHN a sleazy forty-year-old man, watches from the side.

ON THE WALL: a door opens behind Redd, looks like a bathroom, and a WRESTLING MASKED (wired) Derrick enters. He's naked (oiled) except for a jock-strap.

He seems to be saying something (talking, gesticulating, smiling, cajoling) to a nervous Redd who nods "yes" meekly.

Derrick pushes him back onto the bed, becomes sexually aggressive. He swings a naked Redd around and sodomizes him. The brutalized become brutal in their turn.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Redd stares at his naked body, captured in the mirror, aware of the bruise marks on his skin.

EXT. MOTEL - DAWN

Derrick smokes away on a cigarette, strangely exhilarated. Redd approaches. His emotions so pulverized he can hardly speak.

DERRICK
Dude. That was some crazy ass
shit!

REDD
"Sodomizin Sam definitely got
his man this time!"

DERRICK
...y'okay?

REDD
Hey. I'm fuckin' fantastic!

DERRICK
(gangsta bravado)
Hey! This is crazy ass
gangsta
Son. You're not even ready
for this shit! Just go home.
This real life shit gets too
hard. Pockets are ruined,
shits taken, and the pink
little bikes of little girls
are stolen. We on real life
shit son!

REDD
(his voice is cracked
with emotion)
Dude, count me in, word up!

Redd gives Derrick a pissed-off shove.

DERRICK
Dude. Don't wet your panties!
Big ass drama! Look, all you
had to do was just leave me
the fuck alone!

REDD
I get it. "Get the fuck out
of my office and don't let
the door knob sodomize you on
the way out!"

DERRICK
Man, please. I don't do guilt
trips! Pure enabling only!

REDD
"It wont hurt, trust me." You
know that shit is illegal in
texas!

DERRICK
You can fuck off, going on
about that shit again!

REDD
"So did you have fun last
night?"
"Yeah, I got ass raped!
Totally scammed!"

Redd laughs, making light of something so heartbreaking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK
 (turning his back to
 him)
 Whatever man.

REDD
 (wounded)
 Whatever? Who cares,
 right?...I accept your
 apology.

An uncomfortable beat. Redd walks away. Derrick walks away
 opposite direction.

DERRICK
 (In his frustration)
 Fucking - fuckin' bullshit is what
 this is!

Derrick reaches into his pocket, takes out a Quaalude which
 he quickly swamps for a hit of meth. Derrick escapes to his
 car.

IN THE CAR DRIVING

Tears well up in his eyes. He fights for composure. He
 reaches into his pocket, pulls out an empty bullet of crank.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 (SLAMS the steering wheel)
 Damn...fuck!...

EXT. TWEAKER RAVINE - NIGHT

Pinto is parked in a desolate and depressing remote rural
 area. This tweaker ravine has an overall sense of a meth
 binge circumference of a swapmeet/circus/traphouse all
 containing raiments of lighters, empty malt liquor 40oz
 bottles, and rusty syringes. The area is filled with strung-
 out tweakers, including Derrick.

EXT. RAINING BEACH DUNES/BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Redd stomps through the dunes on a "drinks and pills" binge.
 He falls out in a patch of yellow poppies. The look on his
 face is like that of a small child who has experienced some
 terrible confusion.

INT. REDDS APARTMENT - MIDNIGHT

An inebriated Redd barricades himself inside his apartment.
 Loud dramatic music plays in the background (1812 overture).

REDD
 God? Heaven? Hell?...

He turns, walks backward, taking baby steps to the open
 window ledge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REDD (CONT'D)
Reincarnation?...

He turns, looks out the window, stares down five stories to the ground imagining.

REDD (CONT'D)
(overcome with vertigo)
Maybe...not.

Redd sits on window ledge. And open news paper on the floor catches his attention. As he speaks we see CLOSE SHOTS on the newspaper headline.

HEADLINE

16 -YEAR OLD ALMOST DIES AFTER MASTURBATING 42 TIMES WITHOUT STOPPING.

REDD (CONT'D)
Sad.....Who was counting?

INT. APARTMENT BATHROOM - MIDNIGHT

REDD (O.S.)
(mastubating)
Okay. 1 drop of jizz is made up of
40 drops of blood....

TIME CUT:

REDD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(exhausted)
"Redd the 'bathlete' completed the
Masturbathon 26.2 times in his
personal best time 3 hours 26
minutes, and 19 seconds!"...And
he's still alive!.....

INT. LIVING SPACE - MIDNIGHT

Redd sharpens several pencils, sticks them up his nose.

REDD
Urban legend: "Young man overcome
with stress, puts pencils up his
nostrils, during an exam and brings
his head down on the desk. The
pencils go into his brain, killing
him..."

Redd targets the wall.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REDD (CONT'D)
instantly!"

He's about to go for it.

REDD (CONT'D)
 ...wait...no...ugh,
 God....Aaahhhhhhhhchooo!

The pencils, fly out his nose. Redd can't help but to laugh. Falls to the ground in a fit of laughter. Turns his attention to television playing video: A CONVERSATION WITH MYSELF AT 12

REDD (CONT'D)
 (small and vulnerable in a
 clumsy crouch)
 Hey I don't know, kid.

IMAGE ON SCREEN

Redd's twelve year old self - blowing, and playing with bubbles.

REDD (CONT'D)
 You know...there's this movie,
 "After Life" The story is, that at
 death, you have one week to choose
 one memory to keep for eternity.

He looks of nostalgically.

REDD (CONT'D)
 One memory out of a lifetime of
 memories.

A beat. Redd retrieves a shoe box.

REDD (CONT'D)
 Maybe I should of hoped when I got
 old, my memory fails me. So I'll
 have nothing to regret.

Redd opens shoe box, pulls out a 45. He looks at it...it's implications and possibilities.

REDD (CONT'D)
 "Mary had a little lamb, it
 vanished one sunny day."

MOVE IN TO Redd's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

REDD (CONT'D)
 "It shuffled off this mortal coil
 as Chinese takeaway".

BRIGHT FLASH and LOUD BANG is heard.

INT. DERRICK'S TENDERLOIN MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Derrick passed out on the bed. He suddenly bolts up in panic to a SHATTERING sound.

EXT. BOARDWALK - DAY

Derrick RUNS down the Boardwalk.

INT. VENUS TENDERLOIN MOTEL BATHROOM - DAY

Venus bent over, her head beneath the water, between her knees. Air bubbles breaks the surface followed by a RUSHING sound. She lifts her head. A flash of panic rushes over her face.

INT./EXT. REDDS APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

EMS buses breaking to a stop at apartment, POLICE holds the crowd back. Venus moves through the crowd. She approaches Derrick sitting on the curb apologetically seeking words.

INT. REDDS APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Venus pushes her way through the crowd, stands over the covered body.

VENUS
 (sudden and stunned hurt)
 No.

Derrrick enters frame.

DERRICK
 (staggered)
 Shit.

Momentary devastation slips under Derricks perfect guard. Both stand in stunned silence.

POLICEMAN approaches FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR stands over the covered" body."

POLICEMAN
 This one takes the cake.
 (lift's cover)
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)

Ta and da!

We see an inflatable humanoid Mannequin.

FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR

Uhh....

POLICEMAN

Someone's Inflate-a-mate.

As the covers are pulled all the way off the (helium filled) mannequin floats up to the ceiling.

DERRICK

(following it up)

Son of a bitch.

REDD (O.S.)

I've been trying to sweep him of his feet for months.

(singing)

"Shot through the heart!"

Redd appears with an Air Zone Dart Blaster.

REDD (CONT'D)

(to Derrick/*singing*)

"You give love a bad name!"

"Quick draw" and darts mannequin, pops it.

REDD (CONT'D)

(watches deflating mannequin fall to the floor)

We had a bad fight last night, but I think I can patch things up.

POLICEMAN

Not sure whether to laugh or shake my head.

FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR

(to Redd pointing up)

How did you?

REDD

Scientifically! See you take the weight of the doll multiplied by gravity as the force acting downwards.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

REDD (CONT'D)

So its 0.5 kg heavy, it's force downwards would be the mass, 0.5, Timesed by the force of gravity (9.8 in Mechanics or 9.81 in Physics) which give a downward force of 4.9 N.

FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR

Yeah....Okay...

Venus rushes Redd, hugs him, his left ear bleeds through a bandage. Derrick remains totally surprised, staggered, most of all relieved.

REDD

Ouch!

VENUS

Your ear?

REDD

Yeah. I've been trying to axe myself all day. I ate pills - a near empty bottle of vitamin C. Unfortunately I woke up and all that's happened was frequent urination. I'm thinking, "Damn! I must be the worst suicidist in the universe!" Then. "The gun." It's best to stick to the classics. Creativity only makes things complicated...so I'm thinking "let's go for the gold!" I aimed for the head...ended up "Van Goughing" the ear.

DERRICK

You could of shot your whole damn head off!

REDD

Yeah, guess I could of? That was very undude.

(touched)

You're worried ahh.

Derrick, smiles, shows Redd his middle finger.

REDD (CONT'D)

Remember In High Plains Drifter, when Clint Eastwood, shoots Elijah Wallach ear off.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

REDD (CONT'D)

"He shot my ear off! He shot my ear off!" His partner with absolutely no sympathy "Well he could of shoot your whole head off!" That's when "Oh shit EPIPHANY -- I've been practically retarded for such a long time!

Any situation you're in, there is a worst situation possible. If your being attacked by a Rottweiler, it could of been a mountain lion. You get mugged by two men, well it could of been three. Its always worth being grateful that things aren't worst. Pretty amazing shit huh?

VENUS

Amazing.

PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS approaches.

REDD

....The last two times they were wearing blue? Maybe I'm color blind as well as...

Redd is escorted and strapped into a gurney.

REDD (CONT'D)

CRAZY! Some peoples kids eh?

POLICEMAN

Do you know if he has any family?

DERRICK

(thoughtful pause, simple and direct)

Yeah....We are.

Venus hugs Derrick. For a moment, his serious demeanor dissolves and the oddest thing happens. Derrick laughs. It's an odd and charming laugh, the kind a tough guy keeps well-hidden. It surprises Venus, and Redd who smiles back.

REDD

(singing)
"We are family..."

VENUS

(to Policeman)
 So what happens now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

POLICEMAN

He'll be taken to county put on an
involuntary psychiatric hold.

Redd taken to the ambulance, pass Venus and Derrick he grabs
hold of their hands. There is a sense of community. A
community of heart and spirit.

REDD/VENUS/DERRICK

(singing softly; in unison)
We are family.

TECHNICIANS roll the gurney away. Derrick snaps Redd on the
side of the head affectionately.

REDD

Got all my "sista's" with me."

Venus gestures to Redd as he disappears into the back of the
ambulance.

INT. REDDS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Slowly the house empties out Venus and Derrick are left alone
in a very careful silence. They move around the space with a
slow and somber grace.

EXT/INT. REDDS WORKROOM - NIGHT

VENUS opens the door to Redds workroom, stares into the dark
interior. She begins to walk away, but reversing herself,
something catches her eye, a light switch is thrown the
interior lights up.

VENUS

Derrick!

DERRICK (O.S.)

Yeah?

VENUS

Can you come here for a minute.

Derrick walks to the doorway. Steps into the interior;
concrete surfaces are etched in graffiti art, and volumes of
scribbled writings. Redd's life condensed into this one
physical artifact, a personal parable, that seems to be the
architectural anchor to the whole apartment.

ANGLE ON VENUS' HAND

Venus' fingertips touching the wall, feels like reading
Braille, caresses every image, every word.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS (CONT'D)

(reciting)

"He maneuvered his way until he encountered the void inside his head."

One IMAGE brings order to the chaos. An oversized "Monochrome Rainbow" The image is extraordinary meaningful.

VENUS (CONT'D)

"And smiled as he painted a monochrome rainbow and how he's desperate to tear it open, to the point it bleeds colors and he can finally see all the hidden traces of beauty, that have been living inside it."

Rainbow mural appears surrealistically alive.

VENUS (CONT'D (CONT'D)

"He constructed a portal, freed up the happiness living inside, and colored his reality. His hands now the lightest blue." Violet-orange and ruby-reds.....Gather up your colors, and weave them into rainbows.
TRASH ANY COLOR YOU LIKE!"

Venus spies a bucket filled with tubes of oil paints. A spectrum of colors is revealed.

VENUS (CONT'D)

I think this one needs a little tweaking.

INT. REDDS WORKROOM - SERIES OF SHOTS - DUSK TO DAWN

Venus. Hands-on squeezes out a scribble of white painted in the arc of the Monochrome Rainbow. Then glazes a thin layer of red at the top of the arc.

Derrick catches on. Yellow over laps the red and blue over the yellow. Violet is added next to the blue at the bottom of the arc. The vibrant colors raises the energy of the space.

They step back, each smeared with paint (wearing the rainbow). Both collapse to the floor into a sense of overwhelming release and relief.

DERRICK

You know what a rainbow walker is?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VENUS

Educate me.

DERRICK

Rainbow walker is a person who is void of all color. In this void a vacuum is created where all logic is sucked in and destroyed. This included the inability to follow simple spoken or written direction, or communicate with anyone on any real level. Like me, pejoratively, and ironically.

VENUS

Were going to be okay. We just got to get well.

DERRICK

Ah rehab. The first rule of rehab - "Nobody likes a Quiter!"

VENUS

Well this time it'll be different.

DERRICK

Why?

VENUS

Cause you got me.

Grabs Derricks hand.

DERRICK

I tried everything God, religion, shrinks, prayin, 12 steps, detox.

VENUS

Maybe that's the good think that comes out of all this. It's like this feeling of hope and fear that mingles together with pure need.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TIME CUT:

EXT/INT. NA MEETING #1 - NIGHT

Venus and Derrick enters, taking a seat.

PARTICIPANT 3
 People used to explore the
 dimensions of reality by
 taking LSD to make the world
 look real.

PARTICIPANT 4
 The world is weird and we
 take prozac to make it look
 normal...go figure.

Meeting in progress.

ANGLE BANNER

"Nothing can out do the therapeutic value of one addict
 helping another addict."

FACILITATOR
 Most people wonder what NA meetings
 are like, it's probably gonna be
 not like you expected. Many
 emphasize the 12 step program NA
 uses, the sponsor-system and the
 "higher force". What makes NA
 unique is that all of this is
 voluntary. It is not religious, but
 there is a spiritual aspect to the
 program for those who want it. A
 higher spiritual force that's
 inside everyone and love is that
 force that we to this day don't
 know everything about but live in
 awe of.

DERRICK
 Gotta tell yeah. I'm a bit
 suspicious of this meeting
 business.

Venus grabs Derrick's hand, reassuring. Facilitator flashes
 his tee - shirt.

FACILITATOR
 Spirituality: "Live and let live."

INT. NA MEETING #4 - NIGHT

VENUS
(standing)
I'm Venus and I'm addicted....I'm
an addict.

GROUP
Hello Venus!

She helps a tentative Derrick to his feet.

DERRICK
Hey... Derrick....and I'm...an
addict.

GROUP
Hello Derrick!

TIME CUT:

EXT./INT. PRE TREATMENT PHASES - SERIES OF SHOTS -

Venus and Derrick going through 24 hour medically supervised
Detox.

Venus and Derrick go through Day/Night Addiction Treatment.

Venus and Derrick in individual therapy sessions during the
day and group sessions in the community at night.

Venus and Derrick put their life-skills in motion,
interacting in real-world environments: Work, job training,
school.

Continuing an independent lifestyle meshed with frequent
outpatient treatment interventions.

EXT. SANTA CRUZ BOARDWALK - DAY

Derrick steps out of a tee -shirt shop wearing a tee that
reads: **S.O.B.E.R: SON OF A BITCH EVERYTHING'S REAL**

Venus and Derrick walk the boards.

DERRICK
What don't I look happy? I'm mean
now what? I'm 50 pounds over-
weight, look like crap and still
have a bad attitude.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS

It's going to take some time to get use to. We just got to chill.

DERRICK

"Yo dawg, sober chilling at my place tonight?" "Yo that sounds bomb yo."

VENUS

(fist pump)
Sobreviviremos!

DERRICK

What?

VENUS

"We will Survive".
(Loud and sudden:running)
COMMON!

DERRICK

(running after her)
Slow down! What are we doing?

VENUS

(running at a breakneck pace)
Running.

DERRICK

(fighting for a breath, struggling to keep up)
I know that but why...are....we...

VENUS

For the natural high, feels good no matter what. Some people totally dedicate themselves to running. It takes endurance, patience, and commitment. You don't just give up after 5 seconds, or you'll never get anywhere.

DERRICK

Okay, I smell what you're stepping in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VENUS

(sprinting)

Hey its something to feel good
about, and feeling good about me is
my full-time job!
It'll help with that gut!

DERRICK

(getting winded)

A belly full of near beer.

VENUS

"Dad, is it that you have a big
belly or very tight trousers?"

Derrick with a expression of intense concentration rushes to catch up with Venus. With a determined look on his face, he catches up to her, and passing -- his face flushed with triumph.

DERRICK

Funny!.. But I'm... passing ya! Eat
my dust!

A look of pleased surprise comes over her face.

TIME CUT:

EXT. REDS APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

A clean cut -- groomed Derrick steps outside (short combed hair, clean shaven face). An equally fresh face Venus steps out in a colorful pattern dress. She's not wearing makeup, and her hair is pulled back in a ponytail. Both look healthy, vibrant and alive!

DERRICK

You know what I want to do?

VENUS

What?

DERRICK

Come on!

EXT. BOARDWALK - DAY

Derrick and Venus rent a pair of city bikes. Riding a bit reckless but carefree, they overflow with energy and giggles.

VENUS

This is fun. But I'm still wondering what the big deal is.

DERRICK

What do children do? They learn how to ride bikes. They have bikes. I never did. They take the minor risk of getting up on two wheels, for a taste of freedom!

Derrick begins to perform some tricky bike acrobatics.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

(does a little celebratory fist pump)
Look! I'm flying!

For each it's a period of youth returned, their faces filled with sheer uncomplicated joy.

VENUS

(covering it all with a layer of sweet giddy laughter.)
Wasn't bikes with me. It was roller skates and pogo sticks!

EXT. DILAPIDATED CONCRETE BOARDWALK BUILDINGS/RAINBOW MURAL - DUSK

Derrick and Venus ride up on one of Red's Rainbow Mural made totally out of tropical skittles, arching over the entrance of a "littered" alley way. The giant fresh gleaming blue and gold gem, relieving all the "waste" around it.

CAPTIONED

Rainbow Skittles by Pseudononymous Bosch

"Everything is OK, when the world is falling down around you. A happy ending? Or sticking ones head in the sand."

Venus picks one off, pops it in her mouth.

DERRICK

(dramatic)
Yucky!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS
 (offers Derrick one)
 Yummy...nothing like a blast of
 rainbow? You want one?

DERRICK
 (pounds his chest)
 Oh yeah, 10 of 'em please need to
 prove I'm a man!
 (opens his mouth)

She pops the skittle in his mouth.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 Umm... Exactly like nazis, you can
 rid the world of as many as you
 like and never get a bad taste in
 your mouth.

VENUS
 (eyes rainbow, thinking)
 I think its time for a jailbreak?

DERRICK
 (on rainbow)
 Mr. Nutterz needs to come home.

INT. STATE HOSPITAL - ADMISSIONS DESK - MORNING

Venus checks in at the hospital. Clerk hands her a sign in
 sheet, with name tag.

INT. STATE HOSPITAL - MEN'S DORM VISITATION ROOM - MORNING

Venus and other VISITORS are escorted into Visitation Room
 taking a seat. Redd is seen intermittently visible through
 the confusion of the other patients.

VENUS
 Hey.

REDD
 (approaching)
 (He seems slightly thrown
 by what he sees.)
 Wow look at you! You sho clean up
 good! Hot, attractive, in a damn
 legit way.

Redd takes a seat opposite Venus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VENUS

Thank you. I've been working on getting my stuff together.

REDD

(tiding himself)
Ah, sorry about the prison orange.
I look like a sick pumpkin monster.

VENUS

Okay pumpkin. So how you holding up?

Pulls out a pack of cigarettes.

REDD

(chain smoking, gestures wildly with his hands)
Crazy! Multiply that by like 300 then stick me in a tiny room painted baby blue and make me talk about issues, just watch me go!

Playing with the distorted intensity of a true "mental patient".

VENUS

Redd?

REDD

(his mind going a mile a minute)
It's like playing a game of stick the yellow shapes in the right spots and wait for the red box to explode and blow pieces everywhere!
"Ward #6!" fruitloopville!" -

VENUS

Redd!

Stifles his "hysteria" takes a deep breath, and continues, completely calmed down.

REDD

...What?!

VENUS

We got to get you out of here.

REDD

(confidential whisper)
Yeah.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

REDD (CONT'D)

This place is driving me crazy!
You'd think all the anti-
depressants, anti-anxiety drugs,
everyone is on around here, we'd
all be a hell of a lot calmer.

VENUS

(laughing)

ASAP.

REDD

(excited face)

So. The plan?

VENUS

Appendicitis?

A beat. Venus and Red exchange a look. A big, grin appears on Redd's face.

REDD

(slang)

Ah! Appendixplosion!"

"I vibin yo pilosophies. Yo
brainchild!

(rubs hands together,
psyched)

Coolness. You know when I was 15 I
faked it, I had to go to church
camp, did not want too. Did the
whole stomach hurts, and "I'm going
to puke!"

I mean it was totally bogus
bullshit. Cause why was I going to
church camp again? I'd spent a week
earlier that summer, Oh and listen
to this, the reason I was getting
to go back, AGAIN, good grades!
Like that was some kind of reward.
You know what my brothers got?

VENUS

What?

REDD

Shot guns! I ask you on what planet
is that fair. (beat) So I'm like in
the backseat of the car, turned up
the volume on the pain thang.
So off to the ER.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

REDD (CONT'D)

Doc took blood, x-rays, even stuck his hand up my....I'm telling you being 15 and having a grown man stick his gloved hand up your butt ain't no party.

VENUS

Can you fake that I have the skin of a 21 year old, and a gazillion dollars? I need that to happen.

REDD

Now what you mean...But that's not the worst thing.

VENUS

Oh...oh...

REDD

I put my hands under the covers to touch the bandages.

VENUS

Okay?

REDD

No pubic hair!

VENUS

(Laughing)
Too funny.

REDD

So I touched the area again and guess what?

VENUS

I'm so afraid to ask.

REDD

Someone had taken my underwear! My pubes gone, and I'm not wearing any undies. Mommy!

VENUS

(laughing)
Stop!

REDD

But you know what. Next summer I went to camp and I was damn happy about it! That and when my pubes grew back. Hallelujah!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

VENUS

So let me get this straight -- you faked sickness. You ended up getting your first anal experience. Free landscaping. You lost your appendix, and your underwear were gone in the morning. Did they take you to a hospital or a frat house?

REDD

Good question?

VENUS

Freaking hilarious and wrong on so many levels. (beat) So are you ready for an encore?

Redd raises an eyebrow.

INT. MENS DORMITORY - SERIES OF SHOTS -

Redd pacing the cold floor in wet socks, and little else. Breaks out in a fever.

Redd in kitchen pantry grabbing leftovers. Shoving the food into his mouth, chewing about 20 times (counting), slowly spitting it on the floor next to his bed, adding some instant oatmeal to the mix.

Redd in bathroom twist then punches himself in the nose, causing a nose bleed.

PSYCH ATTENDANTS doing "rounds" finding a fevered and very nauseated, "vomited" slightly bloodied Redd.

EXT/INT. COUNTY HOSPITAL/EMERGENCY - FRIDAY NIGHT

There's a blazing "EMERGENCY" sign on the crowded side street. Ambulances line up outside.

INT. EMERGENCY - FRIDAY NIGHT

We enter Hospital Emergency Room, replete with trauma of all kinds. Rows of plastic chairs face a TV bolted to the floor. The seats are filled with the nightly back ups of drunks, addicts, assault victims, the homeless, and the "regulars", spilling over against the walls.

Redd is wheeled in by PSYCH ATTENDANT. They pass the security desk. Passing eight filled stretchers lined against the wall, leading past triage and NURSES station.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARGE NURSE
Don't even think about stopping.
Park him down there.

PSYCH ATTENDANT
Shit! I'll be here all fuckin
night!

Attendant slows at the last in a long line of stretchers.
NURSE takes vitals.

PSYCH ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
How long?

Nurse applies pressure to Redd's stomach.

REDD
(dramatic)
Ouch!

CHARGE NURSE
There's no inflammation, he's low
priority.

PSYCH ATTENDANT
(pulling out a smoke)
I need a moment.

CHARGE NURSE
Quickly!

INT. ER - LATE NIGHT - SERIES OF SHOTS -

NURSE leaves Redd in the care of an ORDERLY. 15 minutes later
there is a CODE CALL.

HOSPITAL STAFF rush into the CRITICAL CARE UNIT.

Redd unattended, slips his hands through the restraints. He
climbs down off the gurney, inches his way down the length of
the corridor.

Redd passes the waiting room where an obscenely shouting
patient is being restrained by a PATROLMAN and HOSPITAL
SECURITY. In the corner the PSYCH ATTENDANT is fast asleep.

Redd clears the security desk, exits out the automatic door.

EXT. STATE HOSPITAL - LATE NIGHT

Outside Redd breaks into a stride -- runs off down the
streets, eyes shining, gulping air blissfully. His whole face
beaming.

EXT. BOARDWALK - DAY

Derrick and Venus walk down the boards. After a few moments, we begin to HEAR Redd's voice from far off.

REDD'S VOICE
(barley audible)
Hey....guys.....guys....

Derrick cocks his head, and turns, grinning.

His POV

Far in the distance is a figure running up the boards. Venus turns, looking at the figure running towards them. She's smiling and on the verge of tears at the same time.

CAMERA PULLS BACK as Venus and Derrick starts to move toward Redd.

They come together in the middle of the boards and embrace. It's an emotional reunion: AD LIBBING and LAUGHING, TALKING and CRYING.

EXT./INT. REDS APARTMENT BUILDING - DUSK

Redd is ushered into apartment. The shabby chic live-in, light industrial space is now much more neat and smartly furnished (like a suburban home) with a separate gallery room. It's central focus the rainbow mural. Some of the insulated drywalls painted over. The focal pint in the sparsely furnished living space is the vintage 20" TV.

VENUS
So how you feeling?

REDD
Feeling a bit like a normal person
in a normal life.
(looks around)
Never thought I'd live in such
suburbia.

DERRICK
Well... welcome back...
(under breath)
but please don't hurt me.

VENUS
(punches Derrick)
Stop it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Redd can't help but stare at clean cut (combed hair, clean shaven face) Derrick.

REDD
I owe you guys for the breakout.

VENUS
No problem.

DERRICK
What? Dude your totally giving me the look.

REDD
(looking at Derricks
stereotypical clean cut
guy look)
Dawg, went and got clean on us!

Gives Derrick a chummy arm tap.

DERRICK
Clean cut and smooth below the neck.

Derrick goes into the kitchen.

REDD
I could soo hit that!

Venus shakes her head.

DERRICK (O.S.)
Coke?

REDD
What?! I thought this was a sober sleepover?

Derrick returns with several soda bottles from the refrigerator.

DERRICK
(hands him a bottle)
Soda?

REDD
Classic.
(takes a sip)
Have a coke and a smile....Smile,
cause your happy, cause you feel
like it, cause life is good. That's
where Gracie comes in.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

REDD (CONT'D)

You know during recovery, I met Gracie, more like "she" found me. I was totally blind-sided "OH MY GOD! YOUR FREAKIN GRACIE!" She is the exact definition of "da one da only".

VENUS

Love the name Grace. Just never been the virtuous name type.

DERRICK

Venus Aphrodite Copulate? Yeah go figure.

VENUS

Haha.

DERRICK

Slutty goddess who slept around with most everyone in and out of Mt. Olympus.

"Venus must hate me! i haven't gotten laid in a greek century!"

VENUS

(throws a towel at him)

Funny Guy!

Derrick gives a "Hey, what can I say?" shrug.

REDD

More like Funny-Lame!

VENUS

I wish I was like Grace, how is she so horribly perfect?

REDD

That's just the thing. Its not about being her, she's a one-of-a-kind original. But being a one-of-a-kind original. Like JG said, "It better to be a first rate version of yourself than a second rate version of someone else." And that's were "she" steps in. Gracie will encourage, motivate and believe in you when no one else does. By her sheer will alone as a result of her love for you, will achieve greatness! (And be just like "her")

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

VENUS

So what is this greatness?

DERRICK

Its what Tony the tiger says.
"Tony" IM GRRRRRRRowing tired of
this shit. "Unicorn" That's just
great tony, go sniff some more
"frosted" flakes!

REDD

Its what you do to make this world
a better place, providing a purpose
to those who have no purpose, and
to sustain it, mitigate it from
damage, and praise it in any way
they can, that is pure greatness.
Greatnum greatness!
I mean just look at me.

(accent)

"One sober Irishman!"
Yeah, I know what your thinking an
impossibility!

DERRICK

There is not a sober Irishman in
the entire world!

REDD

Just goes to show you that Gracie;
always thinking about others first.
Always wants us to be happy. When
She falls in love with you, she
really is in love with you, and
will be for a very long time. She
will never betray you, and be one
of the most trustworthy people you
will ever met.

Derrick lets out a good-natured groan of frustration.

DERRICK

I still don't understand, a SOBER
Irishman!

REDD

(confidentially)

Okay. Northern Free Presbyterian. A
bit more British than Irish.

DERRICK

Knew it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

REDD
Still better than the french.
Racist?

DERRICK
Maybe?

Redd approaches Derrick, puts his hand over his heart.

REDD
Ole Gracie will charm even the most
hard-hearted. She'll make you
laugh, make you think and sometimes
make you cry. But one things for
sure, she will make you feel
something. Its like, life stoked to
the next level.

DERRICK
(breaking out a round of
near beer, toasting)
To all the next level type
shit in the world!

REDD
(toasting)
AMEN.

VENUS
(toasting)
To living full out!

DERRICK
You've gotta live the dream
baby!

REDD (CONT'D)
We the sovereign members of
"the dream" duly establish
this declaration of our
political, moral,
theoretical, intellectual,
ideological, philosophical,
physical state of mind. The
dream is the everlasting
pursuance of a unique goal
that is sacred to the man
that holds it.

VENUS
The dream will drive every
action of its members and
will be the everlasting
mantra and battle call by
which we live our lives.
Every member shall join
together to help their fellow
brother or sister in the
pursuance of "the dream".

DERRICK
(chuckles to self)
In the world I affectionately call
"the dream" we use words such as
"Wingman" the "Dirty Sanchez", the
"Donkey Punch", the "Pink Dragon",
the "Snatch Burger", "The Shocker"
and your favorite and mine, the
"Blue Dolphin".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

REDD (CONT'D)
 Dude get your mind out the gutter.
 Everyman shall respect "the dream" of his fellow brother or sister and shall actively assist his brother or sister in his or her chosen dream. In the world of "the dream" every man or woman is free to pursue happiness as he sees fit.

DERRICK
 In the world of "the dream" we strictly forbid cock blocking.

REDD
 And once a man or woman. Has achieved his or her dream she shall come down from his chosen summit and not only let his fellow brothers and sisters know what its like to "live the dream." But shall help them live their own. We hold these truths to be self evident that all "dreams" are created equal and the active pursuance thereof is honorable, noble, and the ultimate state of mind.

DERRICK
 And our testosterone we here by establish "the dream"

VENUS
 And the actions by which we "LIVE THE DREAM"

REDD
 By the powers ordained by our loving creator.

DERRICK
 (amused grin)
 "Follow your dreams!"

Derrick suddenly becomes quiet and contemplative, not in his usual "on" mode. He takes a deep breath.

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 But, by the end of our lives, you can bet that reality will have rejected 99% of them. So you'll have to lower your standards immensely if you ever what to feel a sense of accomplishment. If you ever want to like yourself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

REALITY
 "Hey you. Yeah you Ricky.
 Ever wanted to break away
 from your hopelessly fucked
 self and become everything
 you've ever dreamed of?"

DERRICK
 Yes! Oh please!

REALITY
 Well TOO FUCKING BAD, I'm
 here to prevent you because
 I'm a bitch like that!

DERRICK
 "Boy, quit acting like a
 homo!"
 "Boy, you look like a homo!"
 "Piss off you fucking homo!"
 "You homo! HAHAAAAAAAAHA."

DERRICK (CONT'D)
 OMG EEEEEW ITS SO GROOOOOS....
 Ah, reality what I've spent the
 vast majority of my life avoiding.

REDD
 But who the fuck cares?! If people
 are really comfortable with
 themselves, and have the maturity
 of at least a 11 year old, they'll
 shut the fuck up and deal with it!

DERRICK
 I had this one childhood friend who
 was a homo...homosexual...I spent
 so much time insulting, bulling
 him, just to keep
 my....normal...hetro...friends off
 my back even though.....I....

Derrick downs another "near beer." Redd puts a comforting
 hand on Derricks arm.

REDD
 Liked him. You think straight men
 would love us, since we remove
 twice as many men and no women from
 the dating pool?

VENUS
 And lesbians, since they apparently
 give them something to watch.

REDD
 Not only that, But by default we
 don't add to the already grossly
 swollen human population.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

VENUS

(put a comforting arm
around Derrick)

God said to have faith, but also to
love and accept all people,
regardless of their 'statistics.'

Derrick turns away. A tear starts to gather in his eye. He
wipes it away before it has a chance to form.

REDD

We didn't choose to have to reveal
to the world "hey I'm gay, now have
a nice day!" Just to have 800
people on our backs telling us,
were faggots and "will burn in
hell!" Oops, that's a sin,
insulting and hurting others.

REDD (CONT'D)

Homophobes can go fucking swim in
shark infested water & stick a red
double-dong 17-inch dildo up their
ass. Now, I must get on a rant!
Dear Homophobic cocksuckers: How
can you tell someone not to love
the person they love? How can you
look at that as something wrong?
Your turn D. Common you'll feel a
lot better.

DERRICK

....It's fucking love. You're
allowed, aren't you? Why shouldn't
other people...

REDD

We...

DERRICK

Be allowed the same privilege? What
makes you so fucking special? How
is...OUR...happiness....happiness..
. going to ruin your life? What are
you so afraid of that makes you
interfere with my life?

REDD

With OUR lives.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

DERRICK

Yes, that's right, OUR lives!
How would you feel if you fell in
love and you were told you couldn't
be with who you love, hmm? How
would you feel if your feelings for
someone were so strong... but you
had to hide it everyday. Hiding
your true feelings 'cause people
hate "your type". People hate your
love. You're told those feelings
aren't allowed, aren't fucking
normal.

(A long, wounded pause)
Even though you feel so amazing,
You wanna tell everyone how happy
you are.

Venus looks at Derrick, moved.

REDD

You don't have half the courage we
have. You live your life just fine.

DERRICK

(emotion and sincerity)
How exactly would you feel if you
loved someone & got the crap beaten
out of you everyday just for that!
How would you feel? Just for
loving. Wouldn't be too happy now.
I didn't think so... Worry about
your own goddamn life you fucking
mindless halfwits. END RANT. :D

REDD

(proudly holds out his
arms spreading them real
wide to Derrick)
... come on up mate and take a bow"

Derrick walks into his embrace.

REDD (CONT'D)

(embracing him)
You're my favorite homo.

DERRICK

Wtf dude?

REDD

Handsome Over Many Others!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

Venus joins in the hug.

EXT. BEACH/BOARDWALK - DAY

Venus, Redd, and Derrick run in and out of several boardwalk stores, shopping for rainbow gear (buttons, gloves, ties, t shirts, etc.) Wearing the rainbow on the boards.

REDD

Dude. There is so much Gayness
around you right now.

They relax on a park bench, enjoying ice cream cones. Derrick is more relaxed than we've seen him --

REDD (CONT'D)

"Good friend, Ricky just passed by
he sure seemed quiet gay about this
wonderful day.

VENUS

"Why yes he did and was, my fine
fellow, as he passed, I sensed a
resistible, but very noticeable
feeling of joy, and a very brief
idea, that touching someone's penis
with ones own could bring a
satisfying feeling of gayness for
the whole day."

DERRICK

Hey. I'm just vibin' joy and
happiness. Coupled with a hint of
homosexual reflection aftertaste.
(beat) Things are gonna be okay.

VENUS

Were getting there.

REDD

Next thing you know you're dancing
around your apartment, dressed up
like a construction worker,
blasting the village peoples songs,
and acting out disco moves.

Redd breaks out into some freestyle disco moves.

VENUS

Get Down to the Disco funk!

They all break out into an impromptu disco dance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK
I got disco fever!

REDD
(singing/dancing)
"Love to Love You Baby"

They "strut" away to the Bee Gee Boogie "Night Fever."

INT. REDDS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Our threesome enters still "strutting."

REDD
Disco was the shit.

They shed their rainbow gear for regular street wear (t-shirts and jeans)

REDD (CONT'D)
You know I did a financial evaluation on my drinking alone. I came to a very conservative conclusion. I've spent over one hundred thousand dollars on the creation of piss. I'm not crying or whining about it, but since I'm no longer indulging. I'm asking myself where am I going to put all this money? Money is migratory so why not create a tangible way of spending it? And I'm thinking "let's cruise out of town!" Complimented with music, acquaintances, food, and in a decidedly stylish manner of course.

Whips out a vehicle brochure for the 2014 Escalade.

REDD (CONT'D)
I'm thinking Escalade? GMT-900 platform packin' an impressive 6.2L V* delivering 409 BHM @ 417 LB Torque!

Venus/ Derrick look over brochure.

REDD (CONT'D)
Talk about bling!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK

(slang)

"Fo shizzle, dat Escuhay be duh mad phat pimped out, and off duh hook, G!

VENUS

\$42,500!

DERRICK

How'd bout a Vintage Chrysler, hardtop coupe.

VENUS

(dramatizing)

Yeah. "Both of his hands in a white knuckle death grip on the steering wheel of his Plymouth Voyager as he speeds in front of everyone, only to slow down and hold up traffic!"

DERRICK

Haha.

REDD

'Derrick is rollin' a blue Chrysler LaBaron with a sweet upgrade death knock option. Tick tick tick BOOM!

Derrick gives Redd an amused fuck- you- smile.

DERRICK

Haters gonna hate! Hey, did you see Snoop Dogg's 300C? Enough said. My first car, a 1971 Delta 88, could hold six adults no problem.

(showing them how its done)

Driving around with my "gansta lean". Sometimes your leaning so hard, your head is partially out the window. Bumping with the beat. The lean shows that you ain't afraid, that you are on point, and that you know the fuck what you are doin' That was a helleva a longtime ago. Still it's pretty badass way to drive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

REDD

You know I've been counting down the days since July and have come down with a bad case of Christmas syndrome. Speaking of which I've been thinking what I want for Christmas.

VENUS

(looking over brochure)
I'd say you already got it.

DERRICK

Dude, its Feburary. Try the Easter bunny.

REDD

Any way, It took me awhile to come up with my other wish this year. I was watching a bunch of children playing on the boardwalk in all their Christmas wonder if finally hit me. The older we get, the more beat up by life, consumed by the clock, work and all the responsibilities of adulthood.

DERRICK

Yikes.

Little Timmy: "I can't wait to grow up!"

Adult Timmy: "Why didn't appreciate my childhood more!"

REDD

We seem to loose that magic we had as children. To nights Christmas eve.

DERRICK

No its not.

REDD

Its our Christmas eve, and my wish for all of us....everyone! Is to find that inner magic we once had as children and let it grow. And allow the whimsical, fantastic, and amazing, back into our lives, our hearts! Hell, we deserve it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DERRICK

AMEN!

Derrick looks at Redd's hand on his. His fingers close around his. There is an inviting warmth.

VENUS

(puts her hand over both
theirs)

You know this friendship thing is something that is much underrated.

DERRICK

My old definition: Permission to treat people like shit without the unfortunate backlash of physical pain that possibly comes with treating complete strangers like shit.

A group hug.

DERRICK (CONT'D)

You know what I really love about friendship?

REDD

Oh God!

DERRICK

You get to bag on another's brothers mutha without resulting in physical conflict.

VENUS

Stop that.

DERRICK

Hey Redd.

REDD

Yeah?

DERRICK

I know everything about your family, especially your mom's nice ass.

REDD

I enjoy our friendship. It's like peeing in your pants.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

REDD (CONT'D)

Everyone can see it but only you
can feel its warmth.

laughing

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING: ENTRANCE - SUNRISE

Derrick, Venus, and Redd sit on the front steps of the
apartment building. Venus has her head in Redd's lap. They
share a bottle of near beer.

DERRICK

(makes a)
(scrunched-up face)

This Near Beer is the worst of both
worlds; all the shitty taste of
beer, and none of the fun!

REDD

Shhhh!

They sit in silence, looking out on the suburban street, the
gray hazy light of pre-dawn.

REDD (CONT'D)

(pleased)

This is the best time. This is the
time I don't think about things,
just --

DERRICK

Hey, its Sunday!

REDD

Shhhh, we're supposed to be having
some quiet Zen time.

The sun breaks the horizon to a warm summer day. A magic
moment..even if it's only been for a few days, weeks, months
here and there, what you see today is a happy, successful
"family". Listening to the beautiful and compelling silence
accompanying the sunrise.

VENUS

(totally laid-back type
of attitude slipping on a
pair of sunglasses,
vibin')

"What is Mind?"

REDD

(putting on sunglasses)

"No Matter?"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS "What is Matter?" REDD "Never Mind."

DERRICK
(slipping on sunglasses as
well)
'I'm vibin yo philosophies.'

They stand quiet and peaceful in their uber state of coolness.

REDD
I'm gonna miss this place. It's
been home for so long.

VENUS
Home? A place where you lived.

DERICK
Awful.

VENUS
Where you grew up.

REDD
Really bad.

VENUS
Or the place where the people you
care about live; that's the one
that works best for me.

REDD
Maybe I wont miss this place as
much as I thought. 'Yo homeslice,
ya'll wanna grab us some eats and
head up to mine's?'

DERRICK
'Yea bruv.

INT. REDDS APARTMENT - NEXT DAY

Camera PANS altered shabby chic furnishings and recycled art pieces.

DERRICK
We gotta do something about this
place.

RED
(pops up from the couch)
A fresh coat of paint?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS

We could bring in some of that boxy modern stuff, and try to conceal some of it? Or....build a style around the stuff.

DERRICK

Well we got a week.

VENUS

Where we going again?

DERRICK

Arizona?

A paint splattered drop cloth unfolds, gently floats down, revealing Venus, Derrick and Redd in paint splattered overalls. Venus wraps items with sheets of bubbled packing plastic. She pops several of the bubbles.

VENUS

Sunshine and Blue skies!

Their ripping long strips of masking tape of the window trim.

DERRICK

Where the cowboys are hardened and tough.

RED

Really Arizona is a great state. And it got four seasons. We'll go to Sedona in the winter, Phoenix the summer and the rest in between.

Redd pulls out a map of the United States, unfolds it, spreads it out on the floor. He traces a course from Santa Cruz to Arizona.

REDD

I mean California is only 4 hours away. Mexico is a short drive.

DERRICK

Sunshine, desert, heat, cactus, golf, and migrant labor. Gotta love Arizona!

VENUS

'The Grand Canyon, Sedona, Flagstaff, Oh-My!

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

A series of packed boxes are stacked by the front door. The whole apartment seems brighter almost magically more cheerful. Venus, Derrick, and Redd at the wall mural.

DERRICK

You know in the past, if someone asked me what life is I'd say. "Life's a bitch and she's back in heat...yup..

REDD

I think the most unfair thing about life is the way it ends. I mean, life is tough. It takes up a lot of your time. What do you get at the end of it? A death! What's that, a bonus?!? I think the life cycle is all backwards. You should die first, get it out of the way. Then you go live in an old age home. You get kicked out for being too healthy, go collect your pension, then, when you start work, you get a gold watch on your first day. You work forty years until you're young enough to enjoy your retirement. You drink alcohol, you party, and you get ready for High School. You go to primary school, you become a kid, you play, you have no responsibilities, you become a little boy(girl), you go back, you spend your last 9 months floating with luxuries like central heating, spa, room service on tap, then you finish off as an orgasm!!... Now that's what life should be!!

Camera PANS their laughing and smiling faces to:

INSERTS

Three chalk drawn faces, in outline drawn on several chalkboards, arranged on the wall like a collage. Venus takes a felt pen from Redd's breast pocket and draws on one of the faces, with confident pen strokes, a bright and cheery smile.

VENUS

(flashes a smile as warm
as summer)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VENUS (CONT'D)

A smile can go a long way, so pass
it on.

Derrick takes the chalk from Venus; draws a smile on second
chalk face with great enthusiasm. Redd takes the chalk from
Derrick; draws a smile on last chalk face.

INSERT

THREE QUICK CUTS of the faces. They all have delightfully
ridiculous smiles drawn on their faces.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING: FRONT DOOR - DAY

Venus, and Redd sit comfortably on the steps. He wraps his
arms around Venus, who sits a step below him. They are
surrounded by packing boxes, and suitcases.

A blue metallic Oldsmobile Rocket V-8 pulls up, grinding its
tires on the curb to the sound of urgent honking. Derrick
steps out, surveying the back of the Oldsmobile, then with
some simian pride he expands his chest, thumps on it with
both fist and yodels a tarzan call. Redd greets him with a
double thumbs up, and a equally broad grin.

REDD

You got it!

DERRICK

Were talking 5.7 -liter V-
8:hemispherical combustion
chambers. This baby's got
personality! Common!

Derrick and Redd stuff the trunk and backseat with the
packing boxes and suitcases, before entering the soft
leathery gray cockpit.

-Driving-

DERRICK (CONT'D)

The world may or may not be on the
verge of some fossil fuel crisis,
but I'm down with a car.

REDD

Gotta admit, got a smooth ride
going here.

VENUS

Swooshing like a soft breeze
through suburbia.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DERRICK

So now we have a wagon to wisk us
to wonderful; all that's left is a
little something called insurance.

VENUS

You didn't!

DERRICK

Joking! You gotta admit. This is
one sexy - assed car!

EXT. TOLL ROAD - DAWN

Several lingering shots of the landscape capture the remote
and beautiful emptiness of it all. We pull back to reveal the
toll road in the center of a white expanse of desert. The
OLDSMOBILE passes us driving down the flat toll road.

A reflection rainbow seems to "hit" the middle lane just
yards in front of the OLDSMOBILE.

The rainbow creates an explosion of yellow light as it hits
the grey tarmac. The rainbow seems to make a cheerful change
for the motorists more used to the motorway's pot holes,
traffic jams, and road works.

EXT./INT. OLDSMOBILE -DRIVING - ARIZONA SONARAN DESERT -
SUNSET

OLDSMOBILE continues down the highway cutting a straight line
through the Arizona Senoran Desert, toward the most beautiful
vista, as it rises to mountains in the distant. The views
opening up are spectacular.

DERRICK

Grand Canyon, Sedona, Flagstaff...

REDD/VENUS

Oh my!

Car speeds up, leaving toiling dust, behind them as they fly
towards the flaming sunset ahead of them.

EXT/INT. OLDSMOBILE - DRIVING

The threesome sing Elton John's: GOOD-BYE YELLOW BRICK ROAD.
Animated talking, and gesturing. Derrick looks up in the
rearview mirror.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REARVIEW MIRROR

Redd pops up from the back seat ("now you see me") joining in the song. He's applies a sunscreen formula of 30 SPF on his pale skin. A satisfied smile on his face.

EXT/INT. OLDSMOBILE - DRIVING - SERIES OF SHOTS -

There's a billboard over a "last Ten Miles" gas station titled: HIGHWAY or YELLOW BRICK ROAD?

Venus rolls down the window. She closes her eyes as she breathes in the wonderful fresh air. She extends her arm and with all fingers at complete attention waves the most heartfelt good-bye.

Derrick does the same but instead of a wave he flashes a couple of gang signs. Looking at the passing landscape...he feels the strange tranquility around him.

Redd rolls down the rear window, pulls out a bottle of "Bubblastic", blows bubbles out the window, laughs, grinning watching them with the open wonder and delight of a child at a magic show.

SOUND OF JUDY GARLAND'S MGM 1938 RECORDING OF "SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW" BLAST OFF THE RADIO. UNDERSCORES AND PUNCTUATES THE SCENE.

A bubble floats gracefully in mid air. Moving forward up and toward us as if it knows where its going, then suddenly BURSTING, filling the screen with its cool, white, radiance. The radiance intensifies. It flares to WHITE - OUT.

END