

"ON THE LINE"

Written by

Jordan Crutchfield

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

SERIES OF SHOTS - LISTENERS TUNING INTO RADIO STATION - DAY

The SERIES OF SHOTS is intercut, with the dialog following the list played over it.

- A) A person turns on the radio in their car. They switch the dials between several stations until they land on a particular morning show.
- B) A person listening in their office.
- C) Transitional shots of radio equipment.
- D) A person listening out on a boat.
- E) The cast of the morning radio station talking into their microphones.

RADIO STATION #1

Traffic is moving slowly down I-95
due to a minor accident on the
southbound median-

STATIC

RADIO STATION #2

...with the highs reaching 74 degrees
today. Make sure you watch out for
scatter showers Saturday as-

STATIC

TODD

...and that's when the fish yanked so hard that it ripped the pole right out of my hands.

ARCHIE
What did you do?

TODD
Dove in after it of course. It's my favorite pole.

STATIC

FEMALE CALLER
Thanks for the advice FRANK!

A deep, smooth voice answers.

FRANK
FRANK is always here for the ladies.

STATIC

CHET
Turns out I left my knife back at home.

TODD
That's no good.

CHET
Yeah I had to reach my hand in there and gut that fish bare handed.

ARCHIE
Wow, you're crazy man.

STATIC

CHET

Tune in tomorrow when we talk about the right kind of hook for the right kind of bait. That's it for us here, catch us next time you're "On the Line".

SCENE 2

INT. RADIO STATION STUDIO - DAY

A man is standing in the room that overlooks the studio. He is intently watching the cast of the morning show currently wrapping up. The show's INTERN walks by, does a double take and walks into the room.

INTERN

Excuse me sir, what are you doing in here?

RICK

I work here. I'm RICK LOVETT, the show's producer.

INTERN

You must be mistaken; BERNARD WILSON is the producer of this show.

RICK

BERNARD passed away in his sleep yesterday. Your GM called me this morning and asked me to step in.

INTERN

BERNARD's dead?!?

RICK

Doesn't matter now, does it?
 (Gestures through the window
 to the cast of the show.)
 What can you tell me about them?

INTERN

(Still flustered)
 Oh goodness... Just the usual I
 suppose... The show's called "On the
 Line"; it's your standard fishing
 program. Topics, call-in's, what-
 have-you...
 (Points to each person he's
 referring to.)
 That's CHET FREEMAN; I guess you'd
 say he's the host of the show. Real
 nice guy. Over there is TODD
 HENDERSON; he handles the reporting
 and other stories. The guy in the
 corner is ARCHIE SANDERS; I'm not
 really sure what his role is, but
 he's always saying something. Hmmm...
 where's FRANK?
 (The INTERN looks around and
 after a second he clicks on
 the microphone to the
 studio.)
 Hey guys, where's FRANK?

CHET leans over to a microphone.

CHET

He's in his booth.
 (Motions to a booth on the
 other side of the studio.)

INTERN

FRANK?

A deep, smooth voice replies.

FRANK
What can I do for you?

INTERN
FRANK can you come out of the booth?

FRANK
Whatever you need.

INTERN
FRANK... guys... the man next to me is
RICK LOVETT. He's the show's new
producer.

FRANK emerges from his booth, and what was an implied large,
built, smooth man is in fact a shorter, slim, average guy named
FRANCIS.

FRANCIS
What happened to BERNARD?

RICK
He died.

CHET
WHAT?!?

SCENE 3

INT. RICK'S OFFICE - DAY

RICK is just starting to settle into his new office when CHET
knocks at the door.

NOTE: These next four scenes may be edited to intertwine.

RICK
Thanks for meeting with me, please
come in.

CHET enters.

CHET

It's no trouble at all, really.

RICK

I wanted the opportunity to get to know all of you since I will be the show's new producer.

CHET

It's just so sudden. I don't think any of us were expecting this.

RICK

Hey it happens, you wake up one morning and your brain explodes.

CHET

Is that what happened?

RICK

Does it matter? We should be focusing on us. This is what matters. Let's get to know each other.

CHET

Yeah, yeah... let's do that.

RICK

So you're the host of the show?

CHET

Well I never really thought of it that way before, but yeah... I guess I am.

RICK
Great... and how long have you been
doing "On the Line"?

CHET
About two years.

RICK
And you've been fishing since...?

CHET
Never.

RICK
Never?

CHET
Never been.

RICK
How is that possible?

CHET
What do you mean?

RICK
How is someone who's never been
fishing, hosting a fishing show?

CHET
It just sort of happened I guess...

RICK
Well if the others are more
experienced than you, then why isn't

one of them hosting? Does your audience respond better to you?

CHET

I'm sorry? None of us has ever been fishing. We don't really know anything about the sport.

RICK

What?

CHET

They didn't tell you?

RICK

Does it look like anyone told me? How is it that you and your staff host a radio talk show about fishing; when none of you has any knowledge about the subject?

CHET

Well we were the old morning show back when the GM decided to change the station's format two years ago. It was either roll with it, or unemployment.

RICK

I see...

(Pause)

Have there been any issues with the fact that none of you know what you're talking about? I can't imagine it's easy to talk about something all day if you don't know what it is.

CHET

It gets a little tricky at times, but our INTERN looks up information for us on the spot if we need it. Truth be told? Like ninety percent of the show involves our callers voicing their own opinions or arguing with each other. People don't seem to care so much about what we have to say, everyone just wants to be heard.

RICK

Hmmm...

CHET

I guess it has been getting a little tough for me though.

RICK

Why's that?

CHET gets serious, contemplative, and absorbed with what he says next. Meanwhile RICK is rummaging through his desk, discarding or keeping items from the previously deceased producer.

CHET

Well my son JOEY started listening to the show this year. While I'm thrilled he's interested in what I do, there's been a problem.

(Pause)

I come up with a lot of stories for the show. You know, cool manly things I've done or just things to make the show interesting. He's... JOEY believes the stories.

RICK pulls an apple out of a drawer. He smells it, dusts it off, and takes a bite.

CONT.

CHET

He thinks they're amazing, and while I want him to look up to me I don't want it to be a fake me. If he ever found out it was all a bunch of lies, he may never respect me again... My wife thinks its ok for now, but I doubt she'll be happy with it, if it keeps going on for years.

CHET looks up at RICK, who is throwing away what appears to be BERNARD's wedding photo. RICK realizes CHET's done talking.

RICK

I'm sorry, what?

SCENE 4

INT. RICK'S OFFICE - DAY

ARCHIE is now in RICK's office. ARCHIE appears to be shy and non responsive.

RICK

So as I'm sure RICK told you, I'm talking to the staff in order to get to know them better. You're name is ARCHIE right?

ARCHIE nods slightly without making eye contact.

CONT.

RICK

Is that short for anything?

ARCHIE says something, but it is inaudible.

RICK

I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.
Could you speak up?

ARCHIE repeats himself, almost painfully.

ARCHIE
Archibald... It's short for Archibald.

RICK
Alright ARCHIE, what can you tell me
about yourself?

ARCHIE just sits, uncomfortably silent. RICK looks at ARCHIE, expecting a response. His expression changes to quizzical, and then he realizes he needs to try a different approach.

RICK
How about I tell you about myself
first?

ARCHIE
Ok...

RICK
I'm actually from Jacksonville
originally. I graduated from UNF in
2002 with a Bachelor of Science
degree in Communications. I worked
on several radio shows for a few
years, but I've been a producer for
WTUB in Tampa for the last five
years. I drove straight in from
Tampa this morning when I was told I
was needed.

There is a pause, but there is no response from ARCHIE. RICK tries again in a hopeful tone.

CONT.

RICK

What about you?

ARCHIE begins to respond. It is quite slow and timid at first. However it quickens as he becomes more familiar with RICK.

ARCHIE

I... I've been here... at the station,
for the last eight years. I've been
on the air for... for three.

RICK

(Asks skeptically?)

Is that hard for you?

ARCHIE

No... not at all. I really enjoy
talking on the radio.

RICK

Is that so?

ARCHIE

Yes. I know I can be a little shy
sometimes...

RICK

A little...

ARCHIE

...but talking on the radio is
liberating. It's easier to talk to
people that way.

RICK

I see...

SCENE 5

INT. RICK'S OFFICE - DAY

FRANCIS is in the office speaking with RICK.

RICK
FRANCIS, is it?

FRANCIS
Yes sir, it is a pleasure.

RICK
Sure, whatever. I'm a little
confused. When I drove in from Tampa
this morning I listened to the show.
I can honestly say that when I met
you I was expecting... someone else.

FRANCIS
I am sorry, what do you mean?

RICK
Well the man I heard on the radio,
"FRANK", is a man of action,
confidence... a manly man.

FRANCIS
And?

RICK
And what? You are nothing like that.
How is that possible?

FRANCIS
"FRANK" is just a character I
created.

RICK

Excuse me?

FRANCIS

I am an actor. I created "FRANK" as an audition piece for my last audition for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

RICK

You auditioned for the Royal Shakespeare Company?

FRANCIS

Twice...

RICK

Twice?

FRANCIS

I was asked to leave the second time... Anyways, before that audition I interviewed for a position on the show using "FRANK" in order to test out the character. After my audition fell through, I decided to take the job while I figure out how I can audition a third time.

RICK

So you're really comfortable pretending to be "FRANK" all the time?

FRANCIS

Well, all the worlds a stage.

RICK

Is it?

FRANCIS tries to lead RICK.

FRANCIS
Shakespeare...

RICK dismissively interrupts him.

RICK
That's nice.

FRANCIS looks disgruntled.

SCENE 6

INT. RICK'S OFFICE - DAY

RICK is now speaking with TODD.

RICK
Ok TODD, why don't you tell me a
little bit about yourself?

TODD
Umm... Ok... I guess I'm just an easy
going guy. I've worked at the
station for the last four years. I
really like working on the radio,
it's a pretty cool job.

RICK
So I know that the others have
expressed their lack of familiarity
with fishing. Do you have anything
against gaining some experience with
it?

TODD

No, not really... I guess I could pick up a book or two about... Oh! What about that fishing game they have at Dave and Buster's? Would that work?

RICK

That's not really what I had in mind. I mean like going to the pier or something like that.

TODD

(Defiantly)

No.

RICK

What do you mean no?

TODD

I'm not doing anything with water.

RICK

And why is that?

TODD

Does it matter? I don't do water.

RICK

This is a fishing show; you do know where fish live don't you?

TODD

I don't care, I just don't like water.

RICK

Ok, fine...

SCENE 7

INT. STUDIO - DAY

The guys are wrapping up the day's show. RICK peaks around the corner.

CHET

...and that's all the time we have for today. Catch us tomorrow when our topic will be..

CHET is drawing a blank. He looks around, motioning that someone make something up.

TODD

(Shrugging)

How to plan your trips according to the weather?

CHET sinks a little with relief.

CHET

That and more, next time you're "On the Line".

INTERN

And we're clear.

The guys let out a collective sigh, CHET stands, stretches, and starts collecting his things.

FRANCIS

You really saved it there in the end
TODD.

TODD

Good show though, right?

CHET

Yeah, overall I think it went pretty smooth.

RICK enters.

RICK

Gentlemen, can I have a word?

CHET sits back in his chair.

CHET

Sure, no problem.

RICK

We just got the Arbitron Ratings in for the last quarter.

CHET

And?

RICK

Your show had a total of four thousand listeners.

FRANCIS

Alright, way to go guys.

FRANCIS starts clapping, and the guys look pleased. RICK isn't reacting, and CHET realizes this.

CHET

Is that bad?

RICK

Its four thousand listeners... out of a million.

ARCHIE

So what does that mean?

RICK

Let me put it to you this way: WXJY, the Spanish News station that plays two hours of mariachi music every day has six thousand listeners.

TODD

I hate that station.

RICK

Your show only has zero point four percent of the Jacksonville market.

TODD

Well at least we're not that far behind them. It's close, right? We aren't doing that bad.

RICK

WAXE, the Urban Adult Contemporary station has about ten percent of the market. That's a hundred thousand listeners... No, you are doing that bad.

TODD

Oh...

RICK

I'm not sure how the previous manager ran things, but with me it's going to

be different. Ratings like these are unacceptable.

CHET

I'm honestly not really sure that BERNARD even knew what ratings were.

RICK

With what I've seen, that doesn't surprise me in the slightest. After seeing this report, I took the liberty to start arranging a few PR appearances in order to start cultivating a bigger audience for the show.

FRANCIS

Do you really think that will help?

RICK

I certainly hope so. I have no reason to believe that some face time with the public will do anything but help build your audience.

CHET

Ok, what do we need to do?

RICK

I've already scheduled you all to appear at the ribbon cutting of a new marina as part of the Southeast US Boat Show.

CHET

Well it sounds like you've got everything under control.

(Pause)

What should we do if anyone asks us something we don't know?

RICK

I don't really think that will be an issue; but if something happens, just stall until I can get you the info.

CHET

Ok, let's do this then.

SCENE 8

EXT. MARINA - DAY

The guys are setting up for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the boat show. RICK, FRANCIS, and CHET are standing around overseeing things, while TODD and ARCHIE are standing away from them.

RICK

Ok, so there will be some pictures, you'll say a few words, and then you cut the ribbon.

CHET

We have to say something?

RICK

Yeah just make something up, it's no big deal.

CHET

Are you sure?

RICK

Yeah.

FRANCIS

Do we get to use those oversized
scissors?

RICK

No... you'll use real scissors... like an
adult.

FRANCIS is clearly disappointed. From behind them a group of
three WOMEN speak up.

WOMAN 1

Excuse me?

They turn around to look at them.

CHET

Can we help you?

WOMAN 2

You are the guys from the show,
right? "On the Line"?

CHET

Yes we are.

WOMAN 3

(Excitedly)
Is FRANK here?!?

FRANCIS perks up, and CHET gives him a confused glance.

CHET

You're looking for FRANK?

WOMAN 1

Of course, we listen every day! We
really want to meet FRANK.

FRANCIS begins to move forward to speak when RICK cuts him off and steps in front of him.

RICK

I'm very sorry ladies, but FRANK
wasn't able to make it today.

WOMAN 2

(Dejectedly)
Oh... ok...

WOMAN 3

Let's go...

The three women walk away. RICK turns back around and is met with FRANCIS' pleading face.

FRANCIS

But... women...

RICK

I can't let them know that
(Gesturing up and down
FRANCIS)
this is "FRANK". You think your
ratings are low now?

FRANCIS

Fine...

RICK

Ok since people are starting to
arrive; let's go position ourselves
near the banner.
(To TODD and ARCHIE.)
Come on guys, we're moving over here.

ARCHIE follows but TODD remains planted to his spot.

RICK
Come on TODD.

TODD
I told you I don't do water.

TODD points at the location of the ribbon; which is on the marina's dock hanging over the river.

CONT.
TODD
I'm fine over here.

RICK jogs over to TODD. He places his arm on TODD to guide him.

RICK
Come on, let's go.

TODD
(Fiercely/forcefully)
NO!

RICK is taken aback.

RICK
Fine then...

RICK returns to the others.

ARCHIE
I'm not sure I can do this...

RICK

Listen; if it gets to be too much
just don't talk... couldn't hurt.

ARCHIE

Ok...

A small crowd has gathered for the ceremony.

RICK

Ok, it looks like it's time to do
this.

CHET

Hi everyone! Thank you for coming
out. We are here today to dedicate
this marina for... its intended use...
You know... boats and uh boating...
Fishing's good too...

CHET continues to stammer on, but it is inaudible as RICK and
FRANCIS talk.

RICK

He's dying out there.

CHET

...Do any of you ski? ...

FRANCIS

What do we do?

RICK

Do it.

FRANCIS

What? Now?

RICK
Shut up and do it.

FRANCIS cuts the ribbon with standard sized scissors.

FRANCIS
(Pouts)
...not the same...

RICK quickly takes the microphone away from CHET.

RICK
Thanks for coming out everyone, we
have to go now.

RICK hurriedly leads the guys away.

CHET
Ok, what do we do now?

RICK
I've got two more events lined up for
tomorrow. They're gonna be great!

FRANCIS and CHET share a skeptical look.

SCENE 9

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

The guys are sitting at a table in the Prime Osborn Center. It is the Florida Sportsman Fishing Show. It is your standard convention environment. ARCHIE, CHET, and TODD are seated at the table handing out shirts to fans and RICK and FRANCIS are standing to the side. ARCHIE isn't interacting with anyone; he just has a Deer in Headlights look.

FRANCIS

Why I am not allowed to give out t-shirts too?

RICK

We can't let people know that you're "FRANK".

FRANCIS

This does not seem fair to me.

RICK

I'll find something you can do.

FRANCIS

Thank you.

RANDOM FAN

Is FRANK going to be here today? I'd love to meet that guy!

FRANCIS perks up.

RICK

He's going to be here later today.

RANDOM FAN

Awesome!

The RANDOM FAN leaves.

CHET

(To RICK)

Really?

RICK

Yeah, why don't you two come over here with me?

CHET and FRANCIS

Ok.

RICK leads them a few feet away to a door to another area of the convention. RICK points to a sign on the wall next to the door. Inside is a large room with a stage, a podium, and lots of seating.

CHET

(Reads the sign.)

"On the Line" live panel? What the heck is this?

RICK

I signed you guys up to host a panel at eleven. It seemed like a good way to get some extra notoriety.

CHET

A panel? You don't understand; we're only good for shaking hands and giving out free t-shirts. They make you talk on panels, people ask you questions...

(There is no real response from RICK)

Questions we won't have answers to!

RICK

Why not?

CHET

Do you see the INTERN here?

RICK actually looks around.

RICK

...No...

CHET

Exactly! There's no one here to feed us answers to the stuff we obviously won't know. Not to mention on the show if we needed to, we could always just go to a commercial break and hope people forgot about it.

RICK

Listen, if anyone asks you anything too tough, then I'll text you a response. Will that work?

CHET

I guess so, but I'm not thrilled with this plan.

FRANCIS

What about me?

RICK

I had them build a booth for you up on stage.

(RICK points to a curtained off booth sitting next to the chairs on stage.)

You can just sit in there. I also had them install a microphone in there so you can be heard, not seen.

FRANCIS

That should work. When do I need to go up there? Like a few minutes before we start?

RICK

No, I need you in there now.

FRANCIS

Now?

RICK
Yes, I can't risk anyone actually
seeing you.

FRANCIS
But this panel starts in two hours.

RICK
I'll bring you a magazine. Get in
there!

FRANCIS
Ok...

FRANCIS lets himself into his booth.

CHET
Are you sure this is going to work?

RICK
Calm down, it's going to be great.

RICK walks away as CHET looks at the stage and appears nervous.

SCENE 10

INT. CONVENTION CENTER PANEL ROOM - DAY

ARCHIE, CHET, and TODD are seated on the stage. "FRANK" is in his booth, while RICK stands off to the side of the stage against the wall. The audience is filled with about 40-50 people. A HOST has a microphone and is introducing the guys.

HOST
Thanks for coming out today, I bet
you're excited to get this going!

The audience claps and nods.

HOST
Alright, then I give you the cast of
"On the Line"!

The audience claps some more.

HOST
We have here: CHET!

CHET
Hi, everybody!

APPLAUSE

HOST
ARCHIE!

ARCHIE timidly nods.

APPLAUSE

HOST
TODD!

TODD
Hey!

APPLAUSE

HOST
...and do we have one more person with
us? Is that you FRANK?!?

FRANK
You know it!

The audience roars with applause. Several women shout "We love you FRANK!"

HOST

We're going to kick this panel off with a little Q and A! Ok, who's first?

A WOMAN walks up to the microphone.

WOMAN

Do you guys enjoy being on the radio?

CHET

Of course, we love our jobs.

ARCHIE nods.

TODD

Yeah we have a lot fun.

FRANK

It's always a pleasure as long as people like you are listening.

Woman

You're amazing FRANK!

FRANK

Thank you sweetheart.

The WOMAN leaves and a MAN takes her place.

MAN

This question is for CHET. A few months ago you did a piece on 4 stroke outboard motor efficiency. You claimed that these were the most efficient motor in terms of emissions. However last week you talked about diesel inboard motors and how they don't create any carbon monoxide in boat cabins. How can you claim that a 4 stroke outboard motor is the most efficient motor when inboard motors don't produce carbon monoxide? What were you judging that on?

CHET

(Stalling)

Well... you see what happened was...

CHET sees that RICK is sending him something on his phone.

CONT.

CHET

...and it's a real simple reason...

CHET's phone vibrates. He looks at the screen and all that is there is: ? (A question mark) CHET gives a quick look back in surprise at RICK; who merely shrugs his shoulders with an "I don't know" expression.

CONT.

CHET

...it was simply an oversight on our part. We meant to say that the 4 stroke motor was most efficient outboard motor...

Man

Ok, I guess...

CHET sighs.

MAN
What about jet drives?

CHET
What are you talking about?

The WOMAN from earlier interrupts them.

WOMAN
FRANK? Why don't you come out here?
We really want to see you!

FRANK
That doesn't seem like a good idea
sweetheart.

MAN
Do you even know what you're talking
about?

CHET
Umm...

The woman starts a chant that builds.

Woman
BRING OUT FRANK! BRING OUT FRANK!

FRANCIS peaks out of his curtain at RICK.

FRANCIS
(To RICK)
What do I do?

RICK looks around quickly for an answer; when he spots a fire alarm over his shoulder. We see FRANCIS' face look quizzical as RICK pulls the fire alarm off screen.

HOST

Everyone head for the nearest
emergency exit!

The crowd and the guys all exit, as the fire alarm blares.
Have an active sprinkler system if at all possible.

SCENE 11

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

The guys are being led through a hallway at Wolfson's Children's Hospital. CHET and TODD are talking with each other. RICK stops them in front of one of the rooms.

RICK

Ok, this is our last stop for the day. We should wait a minute for the photographer to arrive.

FRANCIS

Photographer?

RICK

Yeah, this is sort of a charity thing. I figured it would be good to have someone from the press with us.

TODD

I think we got real lucky with that fire alarm going off.

CHET

Yeah, that guy was about to tear me to shreds.

FRANCIS over hears this.

FRANCIS

Lucky? We were not lucky.
(Turns to RICK)
Tell them.

CHET

Tell us what?

RICK shrugs in ignorance.

FRANCIS

He pulled the fire alarm.

CHET

You did what?

RICK

You guys were about to crash and burn, so I did what I had to do.

CHET

That's illegal RICK, besides someone could have gotten hurt.

RICK

Yeah, but they didn't. Besides I could let the fans see him.

(Motions to FRANCIS.)

FRANCIS

And why not? What was so wrong with them seeing me?

RICK

Just look at you!

The photographer, CANDICE, walks up.

CANDICE

Are you RICK?

RICK

CANDICE?

CANDICE

Yes sir!

RICK

Great! Well he's right inside, so I thought we'd go in and snap a few photos and that should be that.

CANDICE

Sounds good to me.

RICK opens a door to one of the hospital rooms.

RICK

Gentlemen...

RICK motions for them to enter and everyone enters the room.

SCENE 12

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

As they enter the room they see a very sick boy lying in a hospital bed, with his father sitting next to him. The photographer takes occasional picture.

RICK

Guy's I'd like you to meet KEVIN THOMPSON. KEVIN really wanted to meet you guys.

RICK walks over to the father and extends his hand for a handshake.

RICK

HENRY. How are you holding up?

HENRY

Just trying to survive... It's real hard...

RICK
I'm so sorry.

CHET
Hey KEVIN, I'm CHET.

KEVIN
I know!
(Points to each person.)
...and you're TODD... you must be ARCHIE...
(His finger lands on FRANCIS)
...and you are?

FRANCIS
Oh, I'm-

RICK
He's just our INTERN.

FRANCIS looks disappointed.

KEVIN
Oh... so is FRANK not here?

FRANCIS gives RICK a dirty look.

RICK
No, I'm sorry he wasn't able to come
today. He said he was really sorry
and he hopes to meet you soon.

KEVIN
That's good.

RICK

KEVIN here has Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and he told his dad that all he really wanted was a chance to meet you guys.

CHET

Really?

KEVIN

Yeah! You guys are my favorite show to listen to in the mornings! Sometimes I can't get out of bed, and it's real nice to be able to hear your show.

TODD

Wow that is very sweet to hear.

ARCHIE

I'm glad we could help you.

CHET

Is there anything you'd like us to sign, or is there anything we could do for you?

KEVIN

Well there is one thing... but dad says I may be asking too much...

RICK

What is it? I'm sure they wouldn't have a problem doing it.

KEVIN

(Excitedly)

Really?

HENRY

Seriously?

CHET

Of course, we'd love to help. What would you like?

KEVIN

Could you win the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament for me?

CHET

I'm sorry, what?

KEVIN

The kingfish tournament, it's in July. I would really love it if you guys could win it for me. Do you think you could do that?

RICK

Sure thing! It wouldn't be a problem for them.

CHET

RICK, can I have a word with you?

RICK

Give us just a moment KEVIN?

KEVIN

Ok!

RICK and CHET walk over to the side of the room. HENRY follows them.

CHET

What do you think you're doing? You can't volunteer us to participate in a fishing tournament. We've never even been fishing!

RICK

Listen, it's no big deal. Let's just make the kid happy.

HENRY

Excuse me? Is there a problem?

CHET

I was just telling RICK that it may be a bit presumptuous to volunteer us for the tournament.

HENRY

Hey I understand. I told KEVIN it would be a long shot, but he has his heart set on it. He really looks up to you guys.

CHET

Really?

HENRY

Yeah... His mom passed away when he was born, so it's always just been the two of us. When he got sick I thought there was a chance he'd be ok, but the doctors told me that it metastasized to his brain. KEVIN only has a few months left to live.

CHET

Oh my god... I'm so sorry.

HENRY

All I want is to give my son something, anything to make him happy. This would mean the world to him... would you please consider doing it?

CHET

We'll do it.

HENRY embraces CHET in a hug.

HENRY

Thank you so much!

KEVIN

Dad, what's happening?

HENRY

They said they'd do it for you buddy! They're going to win you a tournament.

KEVIN

Yay! Thank you so much! This is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me!

TODD

We're glad to do this for you buddy.

CANDICE

Can we get everyone in for one last photo?

Everyone gathers round KEVIN.

CANDICE

Great... except for you.
(To FRANCIS)

I don't want the INTERN in the shot.

FRANCIS walks away miserably.

CANDICE

Alright everyone. One... Two...
Three...

CANDICE snaps her picture and the flash acts as the scene transition.

SCENE 13

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

ARCHIE

I'm gonna go home now...

FRANCIS

(To RICK)

The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish
Tournament?

TODD

Alright, let's go win this thing!

CHET

I'm surprised you're so excited about
this.

TODD

Why wouldn't I be? It's just a
tournament.

CHET leads him like you would lead a child.

CHET

A fishing tournament...

TODD
So?

CHET
On a boat.

TODD
Okay?

CHET
On the water.

TODD is overcome with a frozen panic.

CHET
(Sarcastically.)
Good to see you're on board with this
plan.

FRANCIS
Why would you agree to sign us up for
this thing, knowing that we are
completely ignorant when it comes to
fishing?

RICK
What's the big deal? This is a
fantastic PR opportunity.
(Emphasizes with his hands)
Fishing Show Lands Big Win! I really
don't see a problem with this.

CHET
We still don't know the first thing
when it comes to fishing, if we show
up for this thing everyone will
instantly know that we are bunch of

frauds. So if your plan is to tank the show, then it's right on track.

RICK

Listen guys, the tournament isn't for another three weeks. I have a great idea on how we can handle this. I'm going to make some calls. You guys run home and pack some clothes; we'll leave from here in four hours.

ARCHIE

We can't just leave at a moment's notice.

RICK

Really? What else do you have to do?

ARCHIE

...ok...

CHET

Are you serious? This is unbelievably short notice.

RICK

If you all want to keep your jobs, you'll be back here in four hours.

CHET

Fine.

ARCHIE, CHET, FRANCIS, and RICK all turn to leave. TODD snaps out of his frozen panic.

TODD

What's happening now?

ACT TWO

SCENE 14

INT. CAR - DUSK

RICK is driving a smaller car with FRANCIS in the passenger seat, and ARCHIE uncomfortably stuck sitting between CHET and TODD. The sun is setting.

TODD

It feels like we've been driving all day... how much longer till we get there?

RICK points to the GPS sitting on the dashboard between him and FRANCIS.

RICK

The GPS says it'll be another hour.

CHET

Another hour crammed in here like sardines? Just where exactly are we going?

RICK

There's this place I found, it'll be perfect for what we need. You guys are going to love it.

CHET

And where exactly is it?

RICK

I'm not telling; it's a surprise.

FRANCIS

It looks like somewhere in South Florida, I think we passed Orlando.

RICK
Hey give me that!

RICK grabs the GPS possessively and places it between himself and the car door.

ARCHIE
Could you please drive faster? I
can't take much more of this. You're
touching my leg!

TODD
Sorry, I was stretching.

FRANCIS
Well you just kneed me in the back.

CHET
An hour?

RICK
An hour.

CHET sighs.

SCENE 15

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

RICK's car pulls up in front of an old two story cabin. RICK opens his door and climbs out.

RICK
Alright we're here; everyone out.

CHET
And where exactly is here?

RICK
Doesn't matter.
(RICK pops the trunk.)

Everyone grab their things and we'll bring them inside.

Everyone grabs their bags out of RICK's trunk.

TODD
What is this place?

RICK
This is where you'll be staying for the duration.

FRANCIS
The duration of what?

RICK
Just go inside and have a look.

They all lumber inside with their bags.

SCENE 16

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

It is a musty 50 year old cabin that while not inhabitable, has clearly not been used in years. The cabin is very open, with a kitchen, sitting area, fireplace, and a central rot-iron spiral staircase leading to open beds on the second floor. CHET clicks on the lights as they enter.

RICK
It's perfect, huh?

CHET
How long do we have to stay here?

RICK
This is going to be home for the next three weeks. What do you guys think of it?

FRANCIS

It seems... quaint...

TODD drops his bag on the table and a large amount of dust rises.

TODD

Cozy.

CHET

I guess we should all pick a bunk and settle in.

RICK

All right I'll see you guys in the morning.

TODD

Where are you going?

RICK

(Dismissively)

My hotel of course.

RICK turns and leaves without saying anything else. The camera is behind CHET and TODD as they watch him leave. After the door closes CHET and TODD turn their head towards each other.

SCENE 17

INT. CABIN - DAWN

6:15 A.M. It is still mostly dark inside, as sunrise is 15 minutes away. The guys are still sound asleep on their old disheveled beds. CHET and ARCHIE are on individual beds, while FRANCIS and TODD are on the top and bottom bunk of the bunk bed respectively.

RICK enters the cabin loudly and flicks on the lights. The guys wince at the light and groan as they start to wake.

RICK

Everybody up!

CHET
Ugh, what was that for?

RICK
We're running late today so we gotta
get moving.

FRANCIS climbs down the bunk bed and heads for the bathroom while ARCHIE rubs his eyes and TODD is still in bed snoring. CHET notices that RICK is carrying a Starbucks coffee and McDonalds bag.

CHET
Well at least you brought breakfast.

CHET reaches his arm out in a "hand it here" motion.

RICK
This is mine.

CHET
You didn't bring us anything?

RICK
No.

ARCHIE
What are we supposed to eat then?

RICK
I don't know; what did you bring?

CHET stares at RICK in an "Are you kidding me?" fashion.

RICK

Anyways, I'll be waiting outside when you guys are ready.

CHET

Fine.

TODD is still snoring.

SCENE 18

EXT. DOCK - DAY

RICK leads the guys from the cabin down to a dock. At the end of the dock is a large tattered fishing boat with a grizzled older man sitting next to it.

RICK

Guy's I'd like to introduce you to Captain SHAW. He's been kind enough to provide his services for the next few weeks.

ARCHIE, CHET, and FRANCIS turn and face RICK

CHET

What are we doing here?

ARCHIE

What does this guy even-

A loud piercing noise interrupts him in mid-sentence and we see that the noise is coming from SHAW. SHAW inexplicably has a chalkboard next to him and is dragging his fingers across it. On the chalkboard a doodle of a boat can be seen.

SHAW

Y'all know me. Know how I earn a livin'. This shark, swallow you whole. Little shakin', little tenderizin', an' down you go. And we gotta do it quick, that'll bring back your tourists, put all your businesses on a payin' basis. But it's not gonna be pleasant. I value

my neck a lot more than three thousand bucks, chief. I'll find him for three, but I'll catch him, and kill him, for ten. \$10,000 for me by myself. For that you get the head, the tail, the whole damn thing.

RICK

Was it ten?

SHAW

Ten thousand dollars. Two hundred dollars a day, either I train them or not.

FRANCIS

Is he seriously quoting Jaws?

ARCHIE

What exactly are you paying this guy to do?

RICK

He's going to train you to be proper fishermen in time for the tournament.

ARCHIE

Well I guess that makes sense.

CHET

I still would have liked a little heads up.

SHAW

Don' just stand there, start loading the gear.

ARCHIE and CHET begin loading equipment onto the ship while FRANCIS stares questioningly at SHAW who is barking orders at the guys.

SHAW

That goes in the aft cabin hatch. Not there! Your mother drop ya on yer head?

(Yelling at FRANCIS)

Why are you staring at me?

FRANCIS

I... I...

SHAW

(Same tone as his last line)

Aye?

ARCHIE interrupts them.

ARCHIE

Where's TODD?

They look around and notice that TODD is standing on shore refusing to come near the boat.

CHET

What are you doing?

TODD

Staying on land, where it's safe.

CHET

Come on, just get on the boat.

TODD

There is no way I'm getting on that boat.

RICK puts TODD in a sleeper hold and he passes out after slight struggle

RICK
(To ARCHIE)
You gonna help me with this or what?

RICK gestures with TODD's unconscious body. ARCHIE runs to help and grabs TODD by the legs. RICK and ARCHIE carry TODD onboard and as they pass SHAW he begins singing Spanish Ladies.

SHAW
(Sings.)
Farewell and adieu to you fair
Spanish ladies. Farewell and adieu
you ladies of Spain. For we've
received orders for to sail back to
Boston. And so nevermore shall we see
you again.

FRANCIS
Yeah, that is definitely Jaws..

SHAW
Hurry up and get on the boat, there's
too much you don't know.

FRANCIS scrambles on board the ship. SHAW follows with a sadistic grin on his face.

SCENE 19

EXT. BOAT DECK - DAY

The boat is completely at sea.

TODD groans awake. What follows is a face paced meltdown.

TODD

What the heck happened? Did someone
atta-

(Notices his surroundings)

No no no, no no! Oh God! Oh God!

(Looks at the others and angrily
demands)

Why? We're all going to die! Die!

Die die die...

(Spins around quickly)

Is it too humid for icebergs?

(Whimpers)

Never let go

(TODD grabs SHAW)

Head for land!

(TODD vomits)

We gotta get out of here!

TODD tries to run into the cabin, but knocks himself out by
running into door.

ARCHIE, CHET, and FRANCIS stand frozen in shock.

SHAW

(Gestures to FRANCIS)

You there! Grab a bucket and get to
scrubbin' that mess.

FRANCIS

Why exactly do I have to do that?

SHAW

I don't give reasons. I give
orders!

(Looks wildly to water)

From Hell's heart I stab at thee; for
hate's sake I spit my last breath at
thee. Ye damned whale.

FRANCIS

Ok, now he's just doing Ahab... Moby Dick?... How am I the only one who sees this?

ARCHIE and CHET remain frozen staring at TODD.

SCENE 20

INT. BOAT CABIN - NIGHT

The group is all seated around a table with a wraparound booth. There is low lighting and feels like the interior cabin of the boat. CHET is dabbing TODD's forehead with a rag and places a bandage on his head.

TODD

How's it look?

CHET

I don't know, it could leave a scar.

SHAW

Don't you worry about it, chief. It won't be permanent. You wanna see somethin' permanent?

(He extends his left hand)

Riggin' rope got caught on the rocks, pulled tight and cut my hand clean open.

FRANCIS

Can you see this tooth right here?

SHAW

Aye.

FRANCIS

No you do not, because that tooth is not real.

SHAW

And why is that?

FRANCIS

I told Jenna Hodges I had a crush on her in sixth grade. She threw a volleyball at my face.

TODD

That's nothing...

TODD stands up, turns around and lifts his shirt revealing a three foot scar straight down his back.

CONT.

TODD

I had to have surgery to fix my back in high school, took months to recover.

ARCHIE

Umm, I've got one.

Everyone turns to ARCHIE, who leans forward to show the back of his head.

ARCHIE

I fell down a flight of stairs as a kid... I ended up with twenty stitches.

TODD

Check this out.

TODD pats his hand on his stomach.

CHET

What happened there?

TODD

McDonalds.

Light laughter.

FRANCIS

What is that one?

SHAW

What?

FRANCIS

That one, there, on your arm?

SHAW

Ah, well. It's a tattoo. I got that removed.

CHET

Let me guess, it says Linda?

SHAW

That boy, that's the U.S.S. Indianapolis.

TODD

You were on the Indianapolis?

ARCHIE

What happened?

SHAW

Japanese submarine slammed two torpedoes into our side, chief. It was comin' back, from the island of Tinian Delady, just delivered the bomb. The Hiroshima bomb. Eleven hundred men went into the water.

Vessel went down in twelve minutes. Didn't see the first shark for about a half an hour. Tiger. Thirteen footer. You know, you know that when you're in the water, chief? You tell by lookin' from the dorsal to the tail. Well, we didn't know. `Cause our bomb mission had been so secret, no distress signal had been sent. Huh huh. They didn't even list us overdue for a week. Very first light, chief. The sharks come cruisin'. So we formed ourselves into tight groups. You know it's... kinda like `ol squares in battle like a, you see on a calendar, like the battle of Waterloo. And the idea was, the shark nearest man and then he'd start poundin' and hollerin' and screamin' and sometimes the shark would go away. Sometimes he wouldn't go away. Sometimes that shark, he looks right into you. Right into your eyes. You know the thing about a shark, he's got... lifeless eyes, black eyes, like a doll's eye. When he comes at ya, doesn't seem to be livin'. Until he bites ya and those black eyes roll over white. And then, ah then you hear that terrible high pitch screamin' and the ocean turns red and spite of all the poundin' and the hollerin' they all come in and rip you to pieces. Y'know by the end of that first dawn, lost a hundred men! I don't know how many sharks, maybe a thousand! I don't know how many men, they averaged six an hour. On Thursday mornin' chief, I bumped into a friend of mine, Herbie Robinson from Cleveland. Baseball player, bosom's mate. I thought he was asleep, reached over to wake him up. Bobbed up and down in the water, just like a kinda top. Up ended. Well... he'd been bitten in half below the waist. Noon the fifth day, boy, a

Lockheed Ventura saw us, he swung in low and he saw us. He'd a young pilot, a lot younger than boy, anyway he saw us and come in low. And three hours later a big fat PBY comes down and start to pick us up. You know that was the time I was most frightened? Waitin' for my turn. I'll never put on a lifejacket again. So, eleven hundred men went in the water, three hundred and sixteen men come out, the sharks took the rest, June the 29, 1945. Anyway, we delivered the bomb.

FRANCIS

(Incredulously)
Seriously?

SHAW

No, tripped on a lawn dart and hit some rocks.

SCENE 21

INT. CABIN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A fire is roaring in the fire place, while the guys are settling in. TODD is wrapped in blanket drinking coco, reminiscent of trauma victims in an ambulance.

FRANCIS

Well that was a rough first day.

CHET

I don't know; it could have gone worse right?

TODD

That SHAW guy is freaking crazy.

CHET

He wasn't the one who had the
meltdown.

TODD

Shut up... I'm just saying he's kind of
weird.

FRANCIS

Well I am glad that I am not the only
one who noticed it.

CHET

He's just eccentric, besides RICK
wouldn't have us out here if this guy
wasn't on the level.

ARCHIE

I wouldn't be so sure about that.

TODD

You guys can do whatever you want but
I'm not going out there again.

ARCHIE doses off.

CHET

Come on it's just some water; it's
not that big-

TODD

Goodnight.

TODD leaves in a huff.

CHET

What's his problem?

FRANCIS

Hey I am far more concerned about SHAW than I am the open water; I mean he is clearly just impers-

CHET

Let's turn in for the night; it's going to be a long day tomorrow.

FRANCIS

(Dejectedly.)
Fine...

CHET and FRANCIS leave and as they do the camera pans with them; then returns to show ARCHIE still asleep in his chair. The light is turned off and after a beat ARCHIE shudders awake. He whimpers when he realizes that the others left him by himself.

SCENE 22

EXT. BOAT DECK STERN - DAY

The scene mirrors the chum scene from Jaws (Using the same music cue if possible) FRANCIS is sitting at the stern of the boat looking out at the water. SHAW approaches carrying two large buckets of slop. He drops them heavily in front of FRANCIS which startles him.

SHAW

Grab a scoop and get a' tossin'

FRANCIS grabs a scoop and they each begin tossing the mysterious slop into the water. The score from Jaws plays in the background. There is about four to five beats of them tossing slop into the water, then FRANCIS pauses.

FRANCIS

Captain SHAW?

SHAW

(Still tossing slop)
Aye?

FRANCIS
We are bass fishing, right?

SHAW
Aye.

FRANCIS
Then why are you throwing chum?

SHAW
This just leftovers..
(Showing his scoop to FRANCIS)
Garbage disposal broke,
(Shrugs)
Good a' place as any.

FRANCIS looks into his bucket, and pulls out a half eaten drumstick or apple core. He grimaces and tosses it overboard.

SCENE 23

INT. CABIN KITCHEN - NIGHT

CHET, FRANCIS, and TODD are standing around the kitchen. ARCHIE is seen walking upstairs.

CHET
I'd say that was a better second day,
wouldn't you?

TODD
Well I stayed inside this dusty cabin
all day so I wouldn't know. Did you
learn anything interesting?

CHET
No, I guess not...

FRANCIS

I learned what SHAW had for dinner yesterday...

TODD

Can we go somewhere? I'm feeling a little cooped up here.

CHET

Sure, I don't think it would be the worst thing. I think RICK dropped of a rent-a car for us this morning.

FRANCIS

So where should we go?

TODD

I wanna have some fun, but I'm starving too.

CHET

I think the only thing I saw on the way in was a sign for a Karaoke Bar.

FRANCIS

Do you think there may be ladies there?

CHET

Ummm it's possible, I suppose.

FRANCIS

I would love to meet someone, but I have yet to have any luck.

CHET

Well we could help you out or something.

FRANCIS
You guys will be my wingmen!?!

CHET and TODD
Sure.

FRANCIS
Alright! Can we go right now?!?

CHET
(Chuckles.)
Sure thing.

CHET, FRANCIS, and TODD exit through the front door and turn off the lights. ARCHIE walks back downstairs.

ARCHIE
Guys?
(ARCHIE turns the lights back on
and looks around)
Hello?

Slow zoom on ARCHIE's increasingly sad face as "One is the Loneliest Number" plays.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

A) ARCHIE is binge eating chocolate ice cream. He moans with mouth full: WHY?

B) ARCHIE is fully clothed weeping in the fetal position in the shower.

C) ARCHIE is in a feral like state with a full beard, torn clothes and grunting like a gorilla.

The sound of the door is heard as CHET walks in on feral ARCHIE.

CHET
Sorry, I forget my wall.....et.

Awkward three shot back and forth between CHET and ARCHIE, in silence.

SCENE 24

INT. KARAOKE BAR - NIGHT

It's a Friday night at a local Karaoke bar, and while not packed it is decently filled. ARCHIE, CHET, and TODD are seated at a booth.

CHET

(To ARCHIE)

Hey, I'm glad you decided to come out with us.

ARCHIE

I thought you guys didn't want me around.

CHET

When you didn't speak up we thought you wanted to stay. You gotta be more open man.

ARCHIE

I'll try... its just hard.

CHET

Hey it's a step right?

ARCHIE

(Timidly)

I guess so...

TODD

Where did FRANCIS go?

ARCHIE

He told me he wanted to go change so
he could impress the ladies better.

CHET

What?

The bathroom door creaks open.

TODD

Oh, here he comes.

FRANCIS emerges decked out in over the top suave clothes and in FRANK persona. "Stayin Alive" is playing. FRANK pauses for a few seconds after he walks out of the door in order to admire himself and adjust his collar. He then struts across the bar, saying random "Hey"s and "How are you?"s while giving clichéd gun fingers.

CHET interrupts the moment and the music.

CHET

Sit down...

FRANK

What's your problem man?

CHET

Why are you acting like that?

FRANK

FRANK has what it takes to woo the
ladies.

TODD

Based on what?

KARAOKE HOST

Next up is...

(Reading piece of paper)

The smoothest thing to hit your ears
since silk?

FRANK

I'm up!

CHET

Where are you going?

FRANK

To give all the ladies a special
treat.

FRANK struts onto the stage.

FRANK

Ladies, this is for you.

FRANCIS begins singing Lou Rawls' "You'll Never Find Another Love
Like Mine" in FRANK voice.

FRANK

(Sings.)

You'll never find, as long as you
live. Someone who loves you tender
like I do. You'll never find, no
matter where you search, Someone who
cares about you the way I do. Whoa,
I'm not braggin on myself, baby But
I'm the one who loves and there's no
one else, no-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh one
else.

CHET

That's enough, go get him.

TODD

Alright.

TODD leaves to go get FRANK.

CHET

So how are you liking this?

ARCHIE

I don't know... It's different, and I'm nervous... but it's also nice.

CHET

Great, I know it can be tough but you just have to keep trying.

ARCHIE

Why are you being so nice to me?

CHET

It's what friends do.

ARCHIE

Oh...

TODD and FRANK return.

FRANK

Why did you cut my music? The ladies were loving it.

CHET

Ok, you need to stop that. You aren't going to find a woman that way.

FRANK

And why not?

CHET

Women are looking for something real; they can tell when you're full of crap.

TODD

Why don't you just be yourself?

FRANK

Because no woman would want that. I can't even talk to women as myself; at least using "FRANK" allows me to say something.

CHET

Yeah, something shallow and uninteresting.

TODD

Ok, you see that pretty girl at the bar?

FRANK

Yeah?

TODD

You are going to walk up there and ask her how she's doing. No gimmicks. No lines. Just have a conversation.

FRANK

Can I still be "FRANK"?

CHET

Ok, but I doubt it will help.

FRANK walks up to the WOMAN at the bar.

FRANK

How are you doing today?

WOMAN

(Turns to face FRANK)
Excuse me?

FRANK gets flustered.

FRANK

Ugh... I... umm...

FRANK spins around in panic to leave and accidental bumps into another woman sitting a nearby table. The woman, STEPHANIE, stands up and is a perfect match for FRANCIS.

STEPHANIE

Hey!

FRANK sees her and is disarmed.

FRANCIS

Oh I am just so sorry; I did not mean to bump into you like that.

STEPHANIE

You do not have to worry about it, it is perfectly fine.

FRANCIS notices she has a book in her hand.

FRANCIS

(Excitedly)

Are you reading "Much Ado About Nothing"?

STEPHANIE

Of course, it is my favorite after all.

FRANCIS

It is mine as well!

Back at the table ARCHIE stands up.

ARCHIE

He's all over the place, should I go rescue him?

CHET

(Shoos ARCHIE back down)
No, no no! This is perfect; we should just leave him alone.

FRANCIS and Stephanie are visible conversing in the background.

CHET

(To TODD)
Ok be honest, what's with you and water?

TODD

Well when I was little and my folks took us to the pool, my brothers thought it would be funny to dunk and hold me underwater. They got carried away and I nearly drowned.

(In the background: STEPHANIE: I'm an actor too!)

CHET

Wait, you've been swimming before?

TODD

Yeah I know the basics I guess, and all that stuff about how bodies are supposed to float. It's just every time I get near a pool or any amount of water I remember how it felt to run out of air and not be able to escape. I remember all of that and I just... loose it..

CHET

How exactly do you bathe?

TODD

Well I can handle taking a shower as long as the water doesn't build up. My shower clogged once and I didn't bathe for a month.

CHET

Wow that's... Was that the month where you wore like six Greeks worth of cologne?

TODD

Yeah...

CHET

That was gross.

TODD

Yeah...

FRANCIS returns.

FRANCIS

Wow that was interesting; I guess you never know who you will meet.

ARCHIE

So it went well then?

FRANCIS

Well I got scared and caused a little accident. However I do believe I can approach the woman at the bar again; and successfully this time!

CHET

What about that woman you bumped into?

FRANCIS
STEPHANIE? She was a wonderful woman; what about her?

CHET frustratingly motions to him and then to Stephanie and gives him a "Do you get it?" Look.

FRANCIS
Oh!...

The guys nod in agreement.

FRANCIS
Are you sure?

The guys express frustration.

SCENE 25

EXT. BOAT DECK - DAY

ARCHIE and FRANCIS are talking to each other, CHET is looking out to sea, and SHAW is standing near a small table with a knife.

SHAW
I'm gonna show you all how to clean and gut your fish.

CHET
But we haven't caught any fish yet.

SHAW
We're gettin' to that, just shut up and gather round.

ARCHIE, CHET, and FRANCIS walk over to SHAW.

SHAW

Where's the other one of you?

FRANCIS

You mean TODD?

SHAW

Sure, why not.

ARCHIE

He's still down in the cabin.

FRANCIS

I will go see if I can get him to
come out here.

FRANCIS enters the cabin as SHAW pulls a live two foot fish out
of a container.

SHAW

Now first you start with the scales,
you take your knife and scrape off
like this.

(SHAW removes a section of
scales)

I'm not gonna hold your hand and have
you practice this, it's like
shreddin' cheese. A baby can do it.

FRANCIS returns from the cabin.

FRANCIS

Alright I talked to TODD, he said he
would be willing to try and come out.

CHET

That's good.

SHAW

Next you stick your knife clean up
his end and come around with it.

SHAW is gutting the fish as he says this. CHET and ARCHIE
grimace at the sight of it

SHAW

(To CHET)

Get over here and try it for
yourself.

CHET

Ok... I guess I should, I told plenty
of stories about doing this bare
handed...

Upon hearing this SHAW grabs CHET's hand and shoves it up inside
the fish.

SHAW

Reach in there good and pull out its
entrails.

CHET

Oh god... I can't-

CHET vomits and ARCHIE leads him to sit down.

CHET

I'm sorry I didn't mean to.

SHAW

You gotta always keep on your guard
cause these bastards can get tricky.

TODD emerges from the cabin.

TODD

Ok, let's take this real slow, I-

SHAW

Think fast boy!

SHAW throws the fish directly at TODD's head. TODD catches it after it hits him, then panics after he realizes what's happening.

TODD

Why?!?

TODD essentially plays Hot Potato with the fish until it flops overboard. SHAW stares nonplussed at TODD.

SHAW

Why would you throw away a perfectly good fish like that?

ARCHIE

I don't think he meant to.

TODD

Pppbbttt... Oh god, it touched my mouth...

SCENE 26

INT. BOAT CABIN - NIGHT

The guys are seated around the table, with SHAW and TODD at opposite ends.

SHAW

Well that was a pathetic display if I ever saw one.

CHET

Sure it was a rough day, but it
wasn't that bad was it?

SHAW

I've seen wee girls make finer men
then you lot.

TODD

Maybe next time don't throw a fish at
my face.

SHAW

(Growing stiff and grouchy.)
You ain' got what it takes to be a
fisherman, boy.

TODD

It's not like it matters.

SHAW

What was that?

FRANCIS

Hey everybody calm down.

TODD

Why should I care with this guy
thinks of me?

SHAW

(A bit labored)
Boy you don't how wrong you are.

TODD

Listen, I don't care about you and I
certainly don't care about fishing.

SHAW begins to grab his left arm.

CONT.

TODD

You're just one man; you're not the freaking Gorton's Fisherman! Can you even grasp how pointless you are? If I want a fish I'll go to Publix; they offer a hell of a lot more than you do. And another thing-

TODD's rant is ended abruptly by SHAW keeling over from an apparent heart attack. CHET and FRANCIS rush to help SHAW.

TODD

He's ok, right?

SCENE 27

INT. FUNERAL HOME - NIGHT

The guys are standing in front of SHAW's coffin at an older looking funeral home. RICK is off to the side speaking with a woman.)

TODD

I can't believe he's dead.

CHET

I can't believe you killed him.

TODD

I did not kill him.

FRANCIS

You made him so angry his heart exploded.

TODD

You can't prove that.

CHET
The Coroner disagreed with you.

TODD
(Scoffs)
What does he know?

(RICK approaches the guys)

ARCHIE
Who were you just talking to?

RICK
Oh that was his wife.

FRANCIS
He was married?

CHET
Wow... how is everything?

RICK
It's ok guys; we have pretty good
liability insurance.

CHET
That is not what I meant.

RICK
Oh I forgot to get her attorney's
info from her...

RICK turns to head in her direction. CHET grabs RICK.

CHET
Oh no, you don't; TODD.

TODD nods and leads RICK away.

RICK
We just don't want to be sued for-

TODD puts one finger up to RICK's face.

TODD
Shhhh shhh shhh shhh shhhhhhhh...

ARCHIE
What do we do?

FRANCIS
Do we say something?

CHET
I think we should, come on.

ARCHIE, CHET, and FRANCIS approach SHAW's widow.

CHET
Ma'am, we are so sorry about Captain
SHAW, if there's anyt-

JANET
Captain SHAW? His name was RICHARD
MORRIS and he was a retired
CPA. (Mutters) He only got the name
from that guy in Jaws.

FRANCIS

I KNEW IT!

CHET speaks over the top of FRANCIS' line.

CHET

Wait, but he said he had been captain of his vessel for twenty three years.

JANET

Five years ago he had sort of a late life crisis and spent our hard earned money on that stupid boat. Then he tries to make everyone call him Captain SHAW. As you can see it didn't exactly sit well with our friends. Most of them left, but those that stayed around pitied him. Who can blame them; I lost any respect I had for RICHARD years ago. What kind of man needs to fake who he is? I loved him, I always will; but it was just never the same. These are the memories I'm left with... Will you excuse me?

CHET

(Solemnly)

Of course...

JANET leaves to speak with someone else.

FRANCIS

What do we do now?

TODD

I guess we should get going.

FRANCIS

Where do we go?

CHET
(Looks at coffin)
I know where we should go.

SCENE 28

INT. BOAT CABIN

The group is shown sitting around the table in the interior cabin dejectedly.

CHET
This is just crazy..

FRANCIS
How can someone just walk around
pretending to be someone else like
that?

CHET
I dunno, but haven't we been doing
kind of the same thing?

TODD
So what's your thing? You know... the
saddest thing you've done.

CHET
That would be three months ago.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

CHET is shown telling his son a bedtime story.

CHET
...the end.

JOEY

Did you really catch all of those
fish daddy?

CHET is visibly uncomfortable.

CHET

Yeah... yeah I did...

JOEY

Daddy?

CHET

Yeah buddy?

JOEY

You're my hero.

The pain is clearly visible on CHET's face.

CHET

Night buddy.

CHET turns to leave and his face is shown hurting more.

END FLASHBACK

FRANCIS

I tried to woo the operator on QVC.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

FRANCIS is shown in a red smoking jacket with a snifter of brandy
in his hand. He is using his FRANK persona.

OPERATOR

...and the bracelet is encrusted in cubic zirconium which is both pleasing to the eye and light on the wallet. The whole collection is available for four easy payments of \$49.95.

FRANK

That sounds delightful. So tell me a little more about yourself.

END FLASHBACK

FRANCIS

Twice.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

OPERATOR

...and where would you like your Open Hearts by Jane Seymour necklace sent?

FRANK

You can go ahead and just give that to yourself sweetheart-(Dial Tone)
Hello? Hello?

END FLASHBACK

CHET

Wow that's... something...
(To TODD)
What about you?

TODD

That surprise pool party you guys threw for me a couple of years ago.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

A backyard pool party is shown, with CHET and family, FRANCIS, and others shown having a fun time in the pool. TODD can be seen peering through a window.

TODD

(Muffled.)

Thanks for the party, guys. Hope everyone's having a great time... No, no I'm fine in here... Can I get a hotdog?

END FLASHBACK

CHET, FRANCIS, and TODD turn and look at ARCHIE.

ARCHIE

TODD's pool party..

BEGIN FLASHBACK

A version of the previous shot is shown, and the camera zooms and pans out and reveals ARCHIE sitting in his car dressed for the pool party. (Snorkel, ect.) He is unable to force himself out of the car, openly weeping, while All By Myself plays.

END FLASHBACK

CHET

I don't think that any of us are who we want to be.

TODD

Hey at least there's still time, right?

FRANCIS

Not for SHAW.

There is a reflective pause and TODD raises his glass.

TODD

To SHAW.

CHET, FRANCIS, and ARCHIE raise their glasses too.

All

To SHAW.

There is a moment of silence followed by TODD beginning to sing. He slowly rises as he sings, and by the end CHET, FRANCIS, and ARCHIE have joined in as well.

TODD

(Sings.)

Farewell and adieu to you, Spanish
Ladies... Farewell and adieu to you,
ladies of Spain

All

(Sings.)

For we've received orders for to sail
back to Boston. But we hope in a
short time to see you again. We will
rant and we'll roar like true Yankee
sailors, we'll rant and we'll roar
all on the salt seas. Until we
strike soundings in the channel of
old England; From Ushant to Sicily is
thirty-five leagues. We hove our
ship to with the wind from sou'west,
boys! We hove our ship to-

The song is interrupted by someone off camera.

WAITRESS

EXCUSE ME!

(Enters frame)

Will you please keep the noise down?
This is the last time I'm going to
ask, next time I'll be forced to have
you banned from Red Lobster.

CHET

We're sorry Ma'am; we were just
honoring a friend who's no longer
with us. It won't happen again.

The guys sit down, and there is an awkward beat.

ARCHIE

So, what do we do now?

FRANCIS

I guess we just go home.

CHET

We can't do that; we can't just walk
away from this.

TODD

I'm not sure if you noticed our
trainer is dead.

CHET

I have a plan, if you'll trust me.

TODD

Alright...

FRANCIS and ARCHIE nod in agreement.

SCENE 29

EXT. DOCK - DAY

ARCHIE and CHET are standing next to the boat at the end of the dock. FRANCIS walks up to them.

FRANCIS

JANET said we could use the boat while we are still here.

CHET

Alright, lets load the ship and get out there.

ARCHIE

So how are we going to learn without SHAW?

FRANCIS

Can you honestly say we learned anything with him?

CHET

Fair point,
(Gestures with phone)
anyways I pulled up some tips on how to fish. Should be helpful.

ARCHIE

So what are we supposed to do about TODD?

TODD is shown cowering at the other end of the dock.

CHET

Have you ever heard of immersion therapy?

SCENE 30

EXT. BOAT - DAY

TODD is strapped to the bow of the ship, like a mermaid.

FRANCIS

It looks like a storms coming in.

TODD weepingly sings Spanish Ladies as the water splashes in his face and cuts him off sporadically.

ARCHIE

Should we turn back?

CHET

We've got to learn this sometime,
besides it's just a little
rain. What's the worst that can
happen?

SCENE 31

EXT. WATER - DAY

The first thing that is shown is the last part of the ship slipping underwater as ARCHIE, FRANCIS, and CHET watch from the life raft.

FRANCIS

So what did we learn?

CHET

Boats sink fast.

ARCHIE

Hey where's TODD?

The three gaze quickly around. TODD bobs up to the surface. He is lying face down in the water with a life jacket on.

CHET

(Sighs)
Go get him...

SCENE 32

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

TODD is wrapped up in blankets lying across the couch; ARCHIE can be seen wringing out wet clothes over the sink; FRANCIS is sitting in an armchair while CHET adjusts a log in the fireplace with a poker.

TODD keeps muttering in the background, while audible to the audience it is mostly ignored by CHET and FRANCIS.

TODD

(Mockingly.)
Don't worry TODD; the water is safe!

FRANCIS

We should just leave...

CHET

We can't just give up.

FRANCIS

I would say sinking a boat is a pretty good point in which to quit anything.

TODD

Did I die?

CHET

Come on, it's not like any of us has ever driven a boat before.

FRANCIS

You hit a tree!

CHET

I know.

FRANCIS

UNDER WATER!

CHET

I KNOW!

(Pauses and then says to himself)
Like I was supposed to know about
sonar.

TODD

I'm pretty sure I died...

FRANCIS

None of it matters anymore. We lost
our teacher, our boat, and our time.
If you have any more bright ideas I
would love to hear them.

TODD

I think I saw God...

CHET

We still have a week left before the
tournament right? Well, we should
use it to keep training.

FRANCIS

Because we accomplished so much
already.

TODD

...and Grandma...

CHET

I know it's a long shot. I also know that even with training we might not stand a chance of winning; but we promised KEVIN. You do remember KEVIN right?

FRANCIS' tone calms.

FRANCIS

Of course I do... I honestly feel the same way.

(Pause)

I just wanted to make sure that if we did this, that we were committed to it. What do you suggest we do?

TODD

It was nice...

CHET

We still have rods and equipment, and we still have a dock. Let's just get out there and teach ourselves what we need to know.

FRANCIS

And what about him?

(Gestures to TODD.)

TODD

Where was Grandpa?

CHET

Well we said we wanted to work at changing ourselves too, right?

CHET and FRANCIS look at each other and then at TODD. They nod in agreement.

SCENE 33

SERIES OF SHOTS - Day

The order of montage scenes is yet to be determined. This is the list of scenes by character. The song playing during this montage is "You're the Best Around".

[TODD Shot 1: The guys are on the dock, CHET is in the water motioning for TODD to join him. TODD shakes his head no; ARCHIE and FRANCIS grab TODD intending to throw him in the water. TODD pushes ARCHIE away, shoves FRANCIS into the water, and runs away.

TODD Shot 2: An inflatable kiddie pool is set up outside of the cabin. TODD is in it, flailing around like he is drowning. (Think Little John in Robin Hood: Men in Tights) ARCHIE, FRANCIS, and CHET are standing around nonplussed. CHET tosses in a life preserver while maintaining his previous reaction.

TODD Shot 3: TODD is sitting in a filled bath tub with water wingies and a snorkel on. He is slightly shaking. CHET gives him a questioning thumbs up and he responds with a shaking kind of hand.]

[ARCHIE Shot 1: Cabin Interior. FRANCIS and CHET demonstrate a friendly handshake. CHET then offers ARCHIE his hand and ARCHIE wearily accepts, and after a few seconds is less uncomfortable.

ARCHIE Shot 2: Cabin Exterior Wide. Just as in the first shot, FRANCIS and CHET demonstrate a hug. CHET then offers a hug to ARCHIE, who backs away timidly. This turns into a run and subsequent chase from ARCHIE, CHET, and TODD.

ARCHIE Shot 3: Shot 2 continuation. ARCHIE is still running to avoid a hug from FRANCIS and CHET. As ARCHIE runs past a tree TODD runs around it and hits ARCHIE to the ground with a slamming hug/tackle. TODD celebrates while CHET and FRANCIS shake their arms while shouting "No!"]

[FRANCIS Shot 1: FRANCIS is sitting at table fabricated to look like a romantic candlelit dinner for two. TODD is sitting across from him with a blonde wig on. CHET and ARCHIE are observing with clipboards in hand. FRANCIS leans forward and says something in obvious FRANK persona, TODD gasps in horror, slaps FRANCIS across the face, picks up a pocketbook and leaves.

FRANCIS Shot 2: TODD is now wearing a red wig. FRANCIS spills wine on his arm while trying to pour it for TODD. In his effort to clean it, his napkin and then arm catch fire. CHET pulls a fire extinguisher on him.

FRANCIS Shot 3: TODD is now wearing a brunette wig. FRANCIS says something and TODD giggles in return. FRANCIS then loses himself in the moment and begins to lean in for a kiss. ARCHIE, CHET, and TODD all have a "whoa!" reaction and FRANCIS snaps out of it.]

[CHET Shot 1: The guys are out on the dock trying to figure out the fishing equipment. TODD is observing the various lures and bait with a disgusted face. ARCHIE is tossing bread to the fish. FRANCIS is getting tangled in fishing line trying to thread a pole. CHET is practicing his casting. As he casts his line, the rod flies out of his hands and into the water. He looks to see if anyone noticed. Since they did not he slowly leans over and picks up another rod.

CHET Shot 2: CHET attempts to gut a fish the way SHAW showed him. He vomits seconds after starting. TODD leans in and pats his back.

CHET Shot 3: CHET succeeds in gutting a fish bare handed (The actual gutting occurring just out of frame.) CHET gives an enthusiastic Rocky style victory air punch, notices the smell of the fish guts on him, and then pukes again.]

SCENE 34

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

ARCHIE and CHET are seated on the couch. Their belongings have been packed up and are sitting in front of them. CHET is looking through his bag.

CHET

It looks like I have everything here.
Wait... did we pack up the food?

ARCHIE

I think FRANCIS did a couple of
minutes ago.

CHET

Good, I guess once they're ready we can get going.

ARCHIE

Do you think we're ready for this?

CHET

Well the tournament's tomorrow, so we're as ready as we can possibly be.

CHET's phone rings.

CHET

Hello?

(Pause)

Oh, hey RICK.

(Pause)

Yeah we're leaving in a few minutes.

(Pause)

Eight o'clock at the registration table? Yeah, I'll tell them. Hey, what about—?

(Pause)

Alright, see you in the morning.

ARCHIE

What did he say?

CHET

Just telling us where to go.

FRANCIS and TODD come down the stairs carrying their bags.

TODD

Well she did give you her number; are you planning on calling her?

FRANCIS

What does it matter, I would probably never see her again anyways.

TODD

If you like her, then it's worth a shot.

(To CHET)

So what's the plan?

CHET

If we've got everything packed, then we're heading out.

FRANCIS

We got everything from upstairs.

CHET

Alright, let's get going.

The guys grab their things and head out the door. CHET is the last to leave, lingering for a moment. He takes a contemplative look around, and then heads out. The door and hallway are out of frame and you see the lights go out and then hear the door close.

ACT THREE

SCENE 35

INT. CAR - NIGHT

TODD is driving the car. CHET is sitting in the passenger seat, while FRANCIS and ARCHIE are in the back seat. ARCHIE is asleep and FRANCIS is barely awake.

CHET

How much longer do we have left?

TODD

(Looking at the GPS)

It says about four hours... I'd guess we'd be back around six a.m.

CHET

I was hoping to be able to go home and see my family before the tournament.

TODD

I'm sorry CHET; I just wasn't comfortable driving as fast as RICK did on the way down. It is dark, and pretty late.

CHET

Don't worry; I don't blame you I just—

FRANCIS jerks wide awake.

FRANCIS

What time is it?

TODD

It's like two fifteen.

FRANCIS

Can we stop somewhere for breakfast? I am starting to get hungry.

CHET

I don't think anything is open right now...

(To TODD)

You said we'd be getting back around six?

TODD

Give or take a few minutes.

CHET

Ok, we'll stop for breakfast when we hit Jacksonville... Cracker Barrel will be open then.

(Looks around and finds something.)

Here's a granola bar if you need it to hold you over till then.

FRANCIS

(Sleepily)

Ok... thanks...

FRANCIS takes the granola bar and falls asleep.

CHET

(To TODD)

Would you mind if I gave my wife a call?

TODD

Not a problem with me.

CHET dials his phone.

CHET

Ringling...

(Pause)

Hey sweetie, sorry I know I woke you up.

(Pause)

I just wanted to let you know that I won't be able to stop by the house before the tournament.

(Pause)

Well we won't be getting in until just before we need to be there.

(Pause)

No, you don't have to come. I wouldn't want JOEY or you to see me embarrass myself or anything.

(Pause)

Yeah I know... I just want to do what's best for him.

(Pause)

I love you to sweetheart, I'll see you tomorrow.

CHET hangs up the phone and stares at it contemplatively for a moment.

SCENE 36

EXT. MARINA PARKING LOT - DAY\

The guys arrive, park, and get out of their car. Each of them stretches a bit as they get out, although ARCHIE has clearly only just woken up.

CHET

Looks like this is it.

TODD

I guess we should be looking for a registration table.

ARCHIE

I'm so hungry. Do you guys think we could find something to eat?

FRANCIS

We already ate.

ARCHIE

What? You ate without me?

CHET
We tried waking you up, but you
wouldn't budge.

ARCHIE looks down showing signs of hunger and feeling left out.

CHET
Here.

CHET tosses a small Styrofoam container to ARCHIE. ARCHIE opens
it.

ARCHIE
A muffin?

CHET
We knew you'd be hungry.

ARCHIE is taken aback.

ARCHIE
Thanks...

CHET
Alright let's find the registration
table.

TODD points at something.

TODD
I think that's it over there.

CHET
Let's do this!

SCENE 37

EXT. MARINA - DAY

This is a slow motion shot of the guys walking triumphantly towards the registration table. The intro to "The Final Countdown" plays. Intercut scenery shots. One shot of FRANCIS stumbling into a trash can/some other object while still in slow motion. The guys arrive at the Registration table and someone points to their left. They turn and see a large line of forty plus people. The music cuts. TODD says: "Oh..." CUT TO the guys standing at the end of the line and "The Final Countdown" intro starts again with them Slow motion waiting. An establishing shot transitions to the next scene.)

SCENE 38

EXT. MARINA - DAY

The guys are still standing in line at the registration table. They observe a large number of participants.

FRANCIS

Wow, there are a lot of people here for this.

TODD

I guess this thing is more popular than we thought.

CHET

Don't worry; this is going to be just as much about luck as it will be about skill.

FRANCIS

And since when has our luck been good?

CHET
That's true; although I'm sure that—

REGISTRATION WORKER
Next!

TODD
That's us.

The guys approach the table.

REGISTRATION WORKER
Are you four competing as a team or separately?

CHET
We're a team.

REGISTRATION WORKER
Name?

CHET
I'm CHET, he's TODD, that's FRANCIS,
and this is ARCHIE.

REGISTRATION WORKER
I meant your team name.

CHET
Oh I'm sorry... Umm well we're the
radio show "On the Line"...

REGISTRATION WORKER
Oh that's you guys?

TODD

You've heard of us?

REGISTRATION WORKER

Of course, your producer is over there telling everyone about how your show is competing for a terminally ill child.

CHET

He's what?

The REGISTRATION WORKER points to RICK who's standing nearby animatedly talking to passersby. RICK spots them and waves at them. CHET glares at him.

REGISTRATION WORKER

Well I for one think what you're doing is great. Now here are your badges and your scorecards. You can track what you've caught on here. Good luck guys!

CHET

Yeah, thanks.

They turn to head over to RICK.

SCENE 39

EXT. MARINA DOCK

The guys approach RICK who standing near the dock.

CHET

What exactly do you think you're doing?

RICK
What do you mean?

CHET
I mean telling everyone here about
KEVIN.

RICK motions for them to follow and they walk down the dock.

RICK
Oh that! That's just good publicity.

CHET
Not if we lose!

RICK
Well then don't.

CHET is stunned in frustration.

TODD
So how exactly is this going to work?

RICK
What do you mean?

TODD
Well how are we going to compete
without a boat? We sank the last
one. Are we just supposed to fish
off of the dock and hope for the
best?

RICK stops walking and turns around to face them.

RICK

Not exactly. I have a little
surprise for you guys.

CHET
I'm a little tired of your surprises.

RICK
Don't worry about it. Are you ready
for it?

CHET
Sure..

RICK moves his hands and points to a nice new boat sitting next
to them at the dock. He does this in the style of the Price is
Right's showgirls.

FRANCIS
Is that a boat?

RICK
(Proudly)
It's your boat.

TODD
Where did you get a boat?

RICK
Doesn't matter.

ARCHIE
Who's going to drive it? None of us
really know what we are doing with
one.

RICK
I have that taken care of,
(Gestures behind them)

Gentlemen?

They turn and see a professional boat captain behind them.

CHET

Who is this?

SKIPPER

I'm going to be your SKIPPER for the remainder of this tournament. Leave all of the driving to me.

CHET

Oh... ok then...

SKIPPER

Now who's ready to leave?!?

CHET shrugs.

FRANCIS

I am!

TODD

Not me...

ARCHIE

Let's go!

SKIPPER

All aboard!

ARCHIE, CHET, FRANCIS, and the SKIPPER all climb aboard the ship. TODD is still standing on the dock nervously stalling.

RICK
What are you doing?

TODD
Just... admiring the craftsmanship of
the uh... boat...

RICK
Oh really? You know about boats?

TODD
Yeah... I know tons... this vessels is a
uh... well built piece of nautical
ingenuity that uh... incorporates-

RICK, having lost all patience with TODD, screams at him.

RICK
Get on the damn boat!

TODD
Right away sir!

TODD scrambles aboard.

SCENE 40

EXT. BOAT - DAY

The guys have been on the boat for a few hours, without catching any fish.

FRANCIS
Three hours...

CHET
What?

FRANCIS

It has been three hours since we started; and not a single one of us has caught a fish.

CHET

I'm sure it will pick up and we'll be catching fish in no time. Besides, I'm sure it's been just as slow for everyone.

FRANCIS

Oh really?

FRANCIS points to a boat about fifty yards away as one of its crew members pull up a very large fish and they begin celebrating.

CHET

Seriously?

FRANCIS

From what I have observed; we are the only boat who has yet to catch anything.

In the background you can hear the other crew celebrating. CHET pulls his hook out of the water and examines it.

CHET

We've all got the right bait on our hooks right?

ARCHIE, FRANCIS, and TODD check their hooks.

ARCHIE

Yeah, this is what that site said to use.

FRANCIS

My hook is fine.

TODD

There isn't any on mine.

CHET

What? Did a fish steal it?

TODD

No, I didn't put any on there.

CHET

Why the heck not?

TODD

I didn't know it would make that big of a difference.

CHET grabs some bait and puts it on TODD's hook. CHET is somewhat agitated.

CHET

Here, we'll put some bait on here and see if that helps.

CHET casts TODD's hook out and hands him the rod.

TODD

How will we know?

CHET

We'll just have to wait.

SCENE 41

EXT. BOAT - DAY

An hour has passed without any change.

FRANCIS

An hour.

CHET

I know.

FRANCIS

This is not working.

CHET

I know.

FRANCIS

What if we moved the boat?

CHET

Do you think that would help?

ARCHIE

It could... if everyone but us is catching fish it is possible we are just in a spot that doesn't have any fish.

CHET

It sounds like a solid idea to me.
Where do you think we should go?

FRANCIS

Well, based on what I have observed;

(FRANCIS points off to a group of boats that is nearly out of sight.)

That area over there seems to have a large number of fish.

CHET

Alright I'll let the SKIPPER know.

FRANCIS

Tell him to hurry; we do not have a lot of time left.

ARCHIE

I'll go tell TODD.

ARCHIE walks over to TODD.

ARCHIE

Hey TODD they're going to be-

SKIPPER

(In the background)

Let's do it!

The SKIPPER accelerates the boat rapidly and turns it swiftly to the right. The force of the turn knocks TODD into ARCHIE. TODD's elbow collides with ARCHIE's face and knocks him out and overboard. TODD recovers and quickly sees that ARCHIE is in the water. He does a split second double take between the guys and ARCHIE and you can tell he realizes that there is not enough time to tell the others what's happened. TODD jumps in after ARCHIE.

SCENE 40

EXT. WATER - DAY

TODD is swimming as hard as he can to reach ARCHIE, but he is not a strong swimmer.

TODD
Oh god, oh god...

TODD can see ARCHIE face down in the water.

TODD
Come on!

When TODD get's about four feet away from ARCHIE, ARCHIE slips underwater.

TODD
No you don't!

TODD takes a deep breath and dives under to get ARCHIE. He emerges about five seconds later with ARCHIE in his arms. TODD is panting and struggling to keep the two afloat. After a moment TODD sees the boat approach.

TODD
Thank God...

The boat pulls alongside them and CHET rushes forward.

CHET
Let's get them on board!

CHET and the SKIPPER reach down and bring ARCHIE on board. FRANCIS extends an arm to TODD and he slowly climbs on board.

FRANCIS
That was amazing!

TODD

Is he ok?

The SKIPPER begins using the chest compressions of CPR and as he does ARCHIE coughs up the water in his lungs and comes around.

TODD

Thank God..

TODD sinks down in exhaustion.

SCENE 43

EXT. BOAT - DAY

TODD and ARCHIE are wrapped in towels seated together and trying to recover. FRANCIS and CHET are finishing cleaning up the boat. ARCHIE is a little shook up.

CHET

That should about do it.

ARCHIE

I can't believe you saved my life.

TODD

Why not?

ARCHIE

You hate water, and it was a crazy risk...

TODD

So? You would have died. I wasn't going to let my friend die.

ARCHIE

Thank you...

TODD

It's fine, cheer up man.

CHET

Alright guys, we're going to head in.

ARCHIE

What? Why?

CHET

Well for starters you nearly died; we should probably just take you back.

ARCHIE

No, we have to keep going.

CHET

Really?

ARCHIE

That kid is depending on us.

CHET

If you're ok with it then...

ARCHIE

I'm fine, let's catch some fish!

CHET

Alright.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

The guys are each focused on their own poles. There is a slight tug on CHET's pole.

CHET
What was that?

TODD
What was what?

CHET
I think something just happened.

TODD, ARCHIE and FRANCIS come closer to take a look.

FRANCIS
Really?

CHET's rod lurches and CHET grabs it.

CHET
I got one!

TODD
Pull it in!

CHET struggles for a moment but ends up pulling in his fish. The fish is only about ten inches long.

FRANCIS
Is that a small one?

CHET

Yeah the other guys are pulling in bigger ones; but this is a start. We can do this. Let's keep at it!

TODD

Yeah!

SERIES OF SHOTS - BOAT - DAY

There is 36 second montage of the guys fishing and becoming increasingly successful at it. The final shot is of CHET pulling in, and proudly holding a very large fish. The song playing in this montage is Paul Stanely's "Live to Win".

SCENE 45

EXT. MARINA DOCK - DUSK

The guys are disembarking the boat at the end of the day.

TODD

Well I guess this is it..

CHET

Yeah we did the best we could.

Two men approach the guys on the dock. They appear extremely eager.

GRAND MARSHAL

Excuse me?

CHET

Can I help you?

GRAND MARSHAL

We are in charge of the tournament this year. Your SKIPPER radioed ahead and told us what happened.

CHET

Yeah it was really scary; but TODD dove right in and saved him. He's a hero.

GRAND MARSHAL

What are you talking about?

CHET

What are you talking about?

GRAND MARSHAL

(Gestures to the fish that CHET is carrying.)

That fish, may I see it for a moment?

CHET

(Apprehensively confused.)

Sure.

The two men take the fish from CHET and place it on a nearby scale. They look at the results and then measure the fish with a tape measure. They then return to CHET.

GRAND MARSHAL

Well that confirms it.

CHET

Confirms what?

GRAND MARSHAL

You sir, have caught the largest fish of the day. You are our winner!

CHET is stunned.

FRANCIS
Really?

GRAND MARSHAL
Of course! Congratulations!

TODD
Wow!

ARCHIE
I would hope so, I nearly died!

CHET
This is unbelievable...

TODD
What should we do now?

CHET
I guess we should go find RICK.

SCENE 46

EXT. MARINA - DUSK

The guys see RICK, who is on the phone.

RICK
Yeah they're saying that he pulled in
the winner. How quickly can we have
some extra cameras out here for the
ceremony?
(Pause)
That's great, thank you so much.

CHET
Hey RICK, did you hear?

RICK
Of course! I told you this would
work!

FRANCIS
Did you honestly believe it though?

RICK
No, not really... but hey, here we are!

FRANCIS
(Rolls his eyes.)
Of course...

TODD
So what happens now? Do we get like
a trophy or something?

RICK
Yeah, there will be a ceremony in
just a little bit. We'll have—

HENRY THOMPSON walks up from behind them and interrupts.

HENRY
Excuse me?

CHET
Mr. THOMPSON?

HENRY is acting somewhat timid and down.

HENRY
Hello everyone, I just heard that you
guys actually did it... you won?

TODD

We sure did! CHET bagged a whopper
of a fish; you should totally see it!

FRANCIS

KEVIN is going to love this!

CHET notices something is wrong with HENRY.

CHET

HENRY, what's wrong?

HENRY

It's KEVIN... he... he passed away this
morning...

TODD

What?

FRANCIS

What are you doing here then?

HENRY

I wanted to let you all know in
person. KEVIN really wanted you all
to know how much what you've done
meant to him.

CHET

I'm so sorry HENRY, is there anything
we can do?

HENRY

You all have done so much already;
there is really nothing that can be
done. If you don't mind I'd like to

stay and watch the ceremony before I go back to the hospital.

CHET

That's perfectly fine; you do whatever you need to do.

HENRY leaves.

TODD

I can't believe he's gone... I mean we won right?

RICK

Well he did have a terminal disease.

CHET

RICK. Shut up. Just shut up.

RICK

No, I mean it... He had a terminal disease... there was nothing you could have done. This isn't a movie or something where winning the big game helps someone pull through. It's life... and it's fragile.

CHET

You're right... I'm not sure what I was expecting to happen...

RICK

Don't beat yourself up... I lost my wife last year. You don't really think about things like this if you haven't lost anyone.

CHET

I'm sorry, I had no idea.

RICK

Don't be sorry CHET. It hurt, deeply... It always will; but that doesn't mean I don't treasure every single memory I have of her. Life brings death, and you can either spend yours focused on the hardships or you can just make the most of the time you have left.

CHET

Wow...

GRAND MARSHAL

They're ready for you now, gentlemen.

RICK

Thanks. You guys just get out there and try to enjoy the moment. Oh, and make us look good... ratings and all.

CHET

(CHET sighs and rolls his eyes.)
Yeah we will.

SCENE 47

EXT. MARINA - NIGHT

A small stage has been set up. There is a podium and a large trophy. There are at least a hundred people seated in the audience. The guys begin to walk onto the stage when a woman calls to them.

CHET'S WIFE

CHET!

CHET turns around and see's his wife and son. They trot over to him and he hugs them both.

CHET
What are you guys doing here?

CHET'S WIFE
Like I told you this morning, JOEY
and I love you and wanted to support
you.

JOEY
Dad, did you really catch the biggest
fish here?

CHET
I really did buddy.

JOEY
I'm really proud of you Dad.

CHET
Thanks, I love you so much.

JOEY
I love you too Dad!

CHET hugs them both again, and then says to his wife.

CHET
Thank you.

CHET'S WIFE
For what?

CHET
For coming, for loving me, for
everything... I'm done pretending to be
anyone else but me.

RICK
CHET! Get up there!

CHET
I gotta go baby, I love you.

CHET'S WIFE
I love you too.

CHET joins the others on stage.

GRAND MARSHAL
Now that everyone is here, I'd like
to announce the winner of the Greater
Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament!

LIGHT APPLAUSE.

CONT.
GRAND MARSHAL
It is my pleasure to present to you
our winners CHET FREEMAN and the cast
of "On the Line"!

MAJOR APPLAUSE.

CONT.
GRAND MARSHAL
Gentlemen, would one of you like to
say something?

The guys look between themselves and they all motion for CHET to speak.

CHET
Are you sure?

They all nod.

CHET
Hello everyone, I'm CHET FREEMAN.

LIGHT APPLAUSE

CONT.
CHET
I am the host of "On the Line" and I have to say it's a real pleasure to be standing up here today.

REPORTER
CHET, is this your show's first victory?

CHET
Yes it is...
(Looks at the guys, then to his family, and then to HENRY)
In fact, this is the first time we've ever been fishing.

There is a degree of confused chatter from audience. RICK is giving CHET the "Kill it" sign.

REPORTER
Are you saying that your entire radio show, dedicated to fishing, has no experience with the sport?

CHET

Before we entered the tournament, none of us knew anything about fishing. We just pretended to know about fishing in order to keep our jobs.

REPORTER

So you are all a bunch of frauds?

Before CHET can answer HENRY interrupts them.

HENRY

They are not frauds! My son KEVIN passed away this morning. His dying wish is that these men, the hosts of his favorite radio show, compete and win this tournament. I thought it was some impossible thing; I even discouraged him to ask because I thought no one would ever agree to that. It was even more impossible to believe that they would actually do it... and while I can't begin to tell you how devastating it is to lose my only son... I can tell you that these men selflessly fulfilled his dying wish. I couldn't care less what they do or do not know; they made my son happy before he passed away and that's all that matters to me.

CHET

I wanted to come clean about this because I'm tired of pretending to be someone I am not. I'm just a regular guy on the radio.

(Pause)

FRANK... You guys want to meet FRANK?

(Looks to FRANCIS)

FRANCIS starts to get up; RICK puts his arm on FRANCIS to stop him. FRANCIS angrily pushes his arm off and walks up to the podium.

FRANCIS

My name is FRANCIS Moore and I am "FRANK". "FRANK" is just a character created for an audition and I honestly don't care who knows it anymore. I want to introduce a very close friend of mine; ARCHIE SANDERS.

ARCHIE sits timidly for a moment until coaxed by the other guys.

ARCHIE

Hi everyone, my name is ARCHIE... and I'm very nervous... I'm not good with people... but I really like talking on the radio... my friend TODD saved my life today... TODD?

TODD

My name is TODD HENDERSON and I'm terrified of water. I hate it... It scares the crap out me; but today I dived into the river in order to save my friend's life. I'm still terrified of water... but I guess I know what will get me in it. Umm... CHET?

CHET

This is who we are, just a couple of guys with a show. While we may not have known a thing about our show before; we certainly know a lot now. If people feel like listening to us still, we'll be happy to have you listen.

The audience breaks into applause.

SCENE 48

INT. STUDIO - DAY

CHET is on the air.

CHET

...And that's what happened. We came clean about everything and honestly it felt great. Our new show focuses on fishing from anyone's perspective and you all seem to love it. The best thing is that my son looks up to me now more than ever and I've actually done some of my crazy stories now.

ARCHIE

I still can't believe you sunk that boat.

CHET

I know right!

CALLER

Hey I ran my boat over a loose log last spring and it sunk like a rock.

CHET

No kidding!

STATIC

SECOND CALLER

TODD did you really dive in to save ARCHIE?

TODD

Yeah, I was terrified and once I was in I was so sure I was going to die... but I just had to try, I wasn't going to just sit there and watch him die.

SECOND CALLER

Well you are a hero man; I'd never be able to do something like that!

STATIC

THIRD CALLER

My question is for FRANCIS. Whatever happened to the woman you met in the Karaoke bar?

FRANCIS

You mean Stephanie? Well I called her back after the tournament and... we have been dating ever since. She is a fantastic woman.

ARCHIE

I can honestly say that I like you a lot better now that "FRANK" is gone.

FRANCIS

Actually "FRANK" is not gone. I received a call from the Royal Shakespeare Company last week. They heard about the whole "FRANK" incident and they offered me a third audition.

STATIC

CHET

The crazy thing is that our ratings have gone way up since the tournament. You guys seem to really enjoy the new show and we certainly love being here to put it on for you. Anyways, that's it for today's show. For everyone here, I'm CHET Freeman. We'll catch you next time you're "On the Line".

THE SOUND OF THE RADIO TURNING OFF

THE END

CREDITS