ONE NORMAL DATE
FADE IN.

INT. POLICE OFFICE - DAY

RANI, late twenties, stands at a desk with two men, Cartwright, mid fourties, and a YOUNGER OFFICER.

Behind the desk sits a SERGEANT, late fifties, resting his arms on a clipboard.

The men watch in silence as Rani draws with her finger on the desk.

RANI
I don’t know. Troy, my boyfriend, he’s acting weird lately. Like he’s up to something. We always argue. I really thought he was the one.

The men GLANCE at eachother.

SERGEANT
Have you tried talking to him?

RANI
I have tried. But he’s become secretive and I think I know why too...

Rani pauses carefully EYEING each man.

RANI
... Last month I caught him giving Lucky a facial. Lucky is a dog. My dog.

The men stand there in silence, frowning.

The young OFFICER licks his lips.

SERGEANT
Your boyfriend gave your dog... a facial? You saw this?

RANI
Not the act itself. When I walked in he was trying to cover himself with a towel. He said it was an accident... It just went off...

(MORE)
In Lucky’s direction. What do you guys think?

CARTWRIGHT
He’s a fucking pervert! If that was my dog I’d have fucking killed him! I’ll kill him now! What’s your address?

SERGEANT
Shut up Cartwright!

CARTWRIGHT
What’s with all the perverts on the planet? I got a similar story. I get home yesterday and catch my wife and neighbour naked on the loungeroom floor. She’s hunched over giving him a butt cake.

RANI
A what?

The young OFFICER casually licks his lips.

CARTWRIGHT
A butt cake! She was taking a shit on his chest!

Rani frowns.

CARTWRIGHT
So when they realise they’re busted, my neighbour flips over and starts rubbing his chest clean on the carpet. I just spent three thousand dollars on a brand new fluffy carpet. I didn’t even let friends enter the house with their shoes on and here’s this idiot rubbing butt cake into the carpet.

RANI
So what did you do?

Cartwright lifts his hands revealing HANDCUFFS.

CARTWRIGHT
I fucking killed ‘em!

SERGEANT
That’s enough! Get him out of here!
The young officer drags Cartwright through another door.
The Sergeant signs the clipboard and hands it to Rani.

SERGEANT
Find yourself a normal boyfriend.
One who loves animals but doesn’t
love animals. Know what I’m saying?

EXT. CITY - DAY
A beautiful clear day.
Rani is dressed in a COCA-COLA cyclist courier outfit.
She rides through heavy traffic, stopping at various shops to
make parcel deliveries.

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON
Rani rides on a push bike along the footpath.
She stops outside her house to see -
- the letter box has been KNOCKED off its perch.
She glances around -
all the neighbour’s letter boxes have been knocked off.
Rani wedges it back onto its perch and pulls out the letters.
One letter catches her attention. She tears it open.

RANI
About time.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD - AFTERNOON
Rani wheels her bike to the house, still reading over the
letter.

RANI
Lucky? Here boy.

She WHISTLES.
RANI
Lucky? C’mom boy. Mummy’s home.

She glances around.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Rani takes her helmet off and hangs it on a hat stand.

RANI
Troy, I hope you didn’t leave the side gate open...

She looks around to see -

The living room has no furniture.

RANI
Troy? Here boy.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM

BAM!

Rani bursts open the bedroom door -

The room is empty.

RANI
You took the bed? That was mine!

She notices -

her clothes in a pile on the floor.

RANI
Arsehole!

INT. HOUSE - LAUNDRY

Rani storms through the laundry and stops at another EMPTY SPACE.

RANI
Arrrgghhh! How am I supposed to wash my clothes?

She opens the back door.
EXT. HOUSE – BACK YARD – AFTERNOON

The backyard is empty except for a DOG LEASH hanging off the clothes line.

At the very end of the leash is a LETTER.

    RANI
    Lucky? C’mon boy! LUCKY!

Rani stomps towards the leash –

WHAM! Rips off the letter in one swoop, tearing it open.

It has CUT OUT LETTERS from a newspaper, just like a ransom note.

It reads: I GOT LUCKY. IF YOU WANT TO GET LUCKY THEN STAY AWAY FROM ME.

    RANI
    That doesn’t even make sense!
    Arrghhh!

INT. HOUSE – LIVING ROOM

Rani stands in the living room on the phone.

    RANI
    I’d like to report a robbery...
    Well not quite, it was my ex boyfriend who has a key. Yes the address is fifteen Syner Place. S-Y-N-E-R, yes I know what that spells but it’s pronounced Syner. Ok thank you.

She hangs up the phone.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

INT/EXT – HOUSE – AFTERNOON

Rani opens the door to see Officer HARRY, mid fourties. He polishes his NAME BADGE.

She does a double take back at her phone.
HARRY
Are you Rani Price?

RANI
That was quick.

HARRY
Not really, I hate doing these reports. I can’t type to save my life.

RANI
You’re not here about the robbery?

HARRY
No, I’m here to give you this.

He hands her an envelope. Rani proceeds to open it.

HARRY
Do you know a Troy Dumont?

RANI
That’s my ex, he’s just taken my furniture...

Harry cuts her off.

HARRY
Troy Dumont has taken an AVO out against you. You are not allowed within fifty metres of Troy or his immediate family.

RANI

She flashes the ransom note.

Harry reads it.

HARRY
He got lucky? Good for him.

RANI
Lucky is a dog!
HARRY
So he got lucky with a dishlicker. You should steer clear of him if he’s into that.

RANI
Lucky is my dog! He took my dog! He took my fucking furniture!

Harry glances over Rani’s shoulder.

HARRY
So with formalities out of the way. I’m Harry.

He SMILES.

Rani doesn’t.

He WINKS.

Rani doesn’t.

HARRY
You have no boyfriend now huh?

Rani stares at him blankly.

RANI
Oh for God’s sake!

BAM!

She slams the door.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

JULIE, mid twenties, struggles with a single mattress. She drags it off the roof of a MINI COOPER.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Inside the living room sits SOPHIE, mid twenties. She paints her nails as she relaxes back on a bean bag.

Rani finishes attaching an ANSWERING MACHINE to her phone.

Julie drags the mattress inside -
BANG!
She lands on the mattress in front of Sophie.
Dust sprays over Sophie!

SOPHIE
Julie! My nails are still wet!

She studies the dust effect on her nails.

SOPHIE
Actually it looks quite good in the light.

JULIE
You carry the rest of the stuff inside.

Rani takes a seat on the mattress.

RANI
Thanks for helping out. I spent all afternoon crying.

Rani looks at Julie.

RANI
First I get a cheque for two grand, then I find the note from Troy, then I get an AVO from the cops.

Julie reads the note.

JULIE
That doesn’t even make sense. Why didn’t he write a note?

RANI
He hates his own writing. He said once he had to write a letter of apology to an old boss and he did over a hundred rewrites for just a letter.

JULIE
That’s just weird.

RANI
I know, but he’s got my dog now and I can’t go near him.
SOPHIE
Well you got two grand and a block of land. You’re doing better than most girls I know.

Julie nods.

JULIE
Bimbo does have a point. Wouldn’t it be nice if you could buy something to get back at Troy.

Rani stands up and looks out the window.

She smiles.

INT. TROY’S BEDROOM - DAY

TROY, mid thirties, sits in his bedroom watching a small television, eating popcorn.

The bedroom is absolutely CRAMMED with the house belongings, fridge, washing machine, sofa chairs, bed.

The sound of Lucky BARKING can be heard.

MARISA (O.S.)
Troy, I can’t control this dog! It keeps chewing the clothes off the line.

TROY
Yeah, strange dog huh?

A male NEWSREADER is on TV.

NEWSREADER
Police are still baffled as to the whereabouts of a mysterious man riding a horse through suburbs destroying property and keeping residents awake at night...

TROY
Weirdos I tell ya.

MARISA (O.S.)
Are you going to write in mum’s birthday card? That’s my good underwear! Troy... Troy!
Troy reluctantly gets up.

EXT. MARISA’S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

MARISA, late thirties, struggles with Lucky as it HANGS off a pair of jeans with its teeth, riding the clothes line.

Troy wanders out, still munching the popcorn.

    MARISA
    I already hate this dog of yours.

    TROY
    It’s not mine.

He sits on the back steps.

Lucky still clings for dear life going round and round.

Marisa keeps spanking Lucky with each new cycle.

    MARISA
    Get off!

    TROY
    Nothing funny ever happens in my life! I think it’s Rani’s fault. She drained the life out of me. My dream to be a comedian is over.

He shakes his head.

    MARISA
    I thought Rani was kind of nice.

    TROY
    I don’t want to spend the rest of my life with a bicycle courier. I deserve to have better. I’m destined to be famous Marisa.

Marisa gives up with Lucky and walks towards Troy.

    MARISA
    You’re not wrong there.

    TROY
    What do you mean?
MARISA  
I was meaning to ask why your telephone number was doing there.

TROY  
Doing where?

Marisa points up.

HUGE skywriting words spell out: GIRL WANTS DATE CALL 9990 0001.

PLOP!

Troy drops the popcorn.

TROY  
Bitch of a bitch!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Rani, Julie and Sophie sit at a plush restaurant.

Joining them are EVELYN, late twenties and CYNTHIA, mid thirties.

They all laugh out loud.

EVELYN  
Did you really do that?

Julie shakes her head.

JULIE  
She’s crazy!

CYNTHIA  
Have you checked your answering machine?

RANI  
No I came straight here after work. I’m sure Troy will have left some nasty messages.

She laughs.

CARTER, the restaurant manager, mid thirties, arrives at their table. He gives Evelyn an awkward kiss hello.
EVELYN
Carter, these are my friends.

Carter nods smiling.

EVELYN
I met Carter at the hospital, two weeks ago and he invited me to eat here for free.

CARTER
I just didn’t think there would be five of you. Ladies enjoy yourself, everything is on the house.

He gives Evelyn another awkward kiss then leaves.

JULIE
Lobster for me tonight.

SOPHIE
Can anyone spell loo ... Loos ... Los .... Looser? Nevermind.

JULIE
Obviously you can’t!

Harry walks past their table -
And WINKS at Rani.

RANI
That’s the cop who gave me the AVO.

They all watch as Harry sits at a table by himself.
He WINKS again.

CYNTHIA
He’s not bad.

JULIE
You are kidding Cynthia?

Cynthia SNEAKS a WINK back at him.

JULIE
So what are your plans for tonight?
RANI
Just read a book or something. God I miss my dog. It’s so unfair.

SOPHIE
Julie and I are having a small party tonight at our place. Some of my dancing friends are going to be there.

She glances at Julie.

SOPHIE
Julie is going to show us a seance.

RANI
Temptation temptation.

SOPHIE
Well it sure beats reading. Can anyone spell loo... Los ... Louster...

EXT. CAR PARK - NIGHT

Rani watches as Julie reverses her car. She stops it next to Rani.

JULIE
You sure you don’t want a lift?

RANI
Looks crammed in there already. That’s ok, I feel like going for a walk.

She taps the back window and waves at Evelyn and Cynthia.

RANI
See ya.

SOPHIE
Owww there’s no room in here, Julie I think your arse is bigger than the car!

Rani watches them drive away.
EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Rani wanders along a main street and stops at a NEWSSTAND.

The headlines for the paper reads: BEWARE OF THE RECKLESS HORSEMAN.

    RANI
    Weirdos.

INT. JULIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JULIE -

Stares into emptiness. A RED GLOW is cast upon one side of her face.

    JULIE
    You must abide by the rules. For ye who does not abide will in turn subside, and by God you’ll wish ye had abided if you have subsided.

BRRRP!

Julie EYES left to right.

    SOPHIE (O.S.)
    Oh my God Julie, what was in that lobster?

    JULIE
    It wasn’t me.

Julie rests a RED LAMP back onto a table.

In the room are Sophie, and two fellow DANCERS, both mid twenties. All of them sit around a small coffee table.

    JULIE
    If you’re not going to take it seriously, then forget it.

The Dancers compare their hair in the light.

Sophie compares the end of her hair with one of the Dancers.
SOPHIE
Oh wait, are those split ends? Get away from me, I heard those things are contagious.

JULIE
Ok shut up! Everyone put their index finger on the glass.

On the coffee table is a crudely made OUIJA BOARD with an empty glass.

Everyone places their finger on the glass.

Julie looks up.

JULIE
We call upon the spirits who wish to be contacted.

SOPHIE
Preferably the good looking ones.

JULIE
It’s a spirit. You won’t see it!

SOPHIE
What’s the point in that?

JULIE
Did you train to be this dumb? We call upon the great and mighty... Eeek!

They all watch -
- the GLASS move quickly across the board.

It spells: S-H-U-T-U-P

Julie glances up, confused.

JULIE
Did I just get told to shut up?

The glass slides again to spell: S-I-N-N-E-R

SOPHIE
That’s the name of Rani’s street.
JULIE
It’s not spelt like that!

She takes her finger off the glass.

SOPHIE
If it knows where Rani lives then it might find out where we live too.

Sophie grabs the glass and walks away.

JULIE
Chickens! Just be sure to wash the glass.

SOPHIE
It was is in the dishwasher this morning.

INT. JULIE’S HOUSE – KITCHEN – NIGHT
Sophie fills the glass with water.
Julie wanders in.

JULIE
I want to help Rani get Lucky.

SOPHIE
She’s not a bad looking girl, she’ll find a date.

JULIE
I’m talking about the dog! She had Lucky since he was a pup.

SOPHIE
And how do you suppose to get the dog back?

JULIE
Troy’s sister. She’ll know where Troy is. Wouldn’t surprise me if he’s staying with her. Being the cheap bastard he is.

SOPHIE
He knows we’re Rani’s friends, he won’t hand it over just like that.
Julie moves closer in a seductive manner.

JULIE
Then you can find a way to convince him...

Julie abruptly moves back.

JULIE
Just don’t call him a loser, ‘cause you can’t say the word!

SOPHIE
I’ve never been one, so I never needed the word in my vocabulary!

Julie glances at -
the GLASS.

JULIE
Was that the glass we used?

Sophie looks at the glass then -
GULPS down all the water.

SOPHIE
Yep!

Sophie goes into a COUGHING FIT.

Julie pounds on Sophie’s back.

JULIE
Water go down the wind pipe?

Sophie leans up. She TWITCHES and SWAYS. A deeper voice can be heard from within Sophie.

Her face CONTORTS and she gives and ANGRY look.

JULIE
Are you alright?

SOPHIE
Do I look alright sinner? And what’s with the pounding? Do I look like a fucking bongo drum to you?

Sophie tries to walk only to have MAJOR PROBLEMS.
SOPHIE
This sucks already! How does your species walk with only two legs?

She uses her hands to help move her legs.

The Dancers walk into the kitchen.

SOPHIE
Whoa, look at you two sinners! Just be sure to be bad girls and I’ll see you soon!

They look at Julie confused.

SOPHIE
Now if one of you will kindly kill me, I’ll be on my way home!

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rani flicks on the living room light and pushes a button on her answering machine.

MACHINE (V.O.)
You have five...

Rani walks toward the kitchen.

MACHINE (V.O.)
...hundred and forty two messages.

RANI
Say what?

She races back and pushes another button.

MACHINE (V.O.)
Message one...

MALE (V.O.)
Hi, I’m ringing about the advert in the sky? Well I grow dates. Got a whole plantation on my farm. Put ’em on your breakfast...

Rani punches the button.

RANI
That’s not what I meant!
MACHINE (V.O.)
Message two...

HEAVY BREATHING can only be heard.

Rani punches the button.

MACHINE (V.O.)
Message three...

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A single light is on in Rani’s house.

MACHINE (V.O.)
Message two hundred and twenty...

WOMAN (V.O.)
Hey bitch, you have to advertise in the paper just like the rest of us!

A DARK SHADOW rides down the street on a HORSE.

SMASH!

The shadow clubs Rani’s letter box off its perch.

Then the NEIGHBOUR’S. And so on.

EXT. HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT

Rani sits on the back steps staring at the leash still hanging from the clothes line.

MACHINE (V.O.)
Message four hundred and twelve...

RANI’S MUM (V.O.)
It’s your mum here. Doris said she saw your telephone number in the sky. Why would someone do that? And why’s your phone engaged all the time?

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rani sits on the bean bag, studying photos of her block of land.
MACHINE (V.O.)
Message five hundred and forty
two...

COUNCIL (V.O.)
Good afternoon ma’am this is Sydney
Council and we’d like to express
that it is against the law to do
graffiti in the sky. That’s right,
we own the sky as well! It is not
there for your purpose...

Rani yawns and glances at her watch.

INT. SOPHIE’S BEDROOM – DAY

Sophie’s bedroom has posters of FAMOUS MODELS in various
poses.

All the posters have been defaced and scribbled on, making
them all have horns with some holding pitch forks.

Julie opens the bedroom door and spots Sophie.

She smiles at the artwork.

    JULIE
You ready?

    SOPHIE
Are you going to kill me now?

    JULIE
No. We’re going to see Troy’s
sister.

    SOPHIE
Will she kill me? Finally get rid
of Murphy’s curse.

    JULIE
Hopefully!

INT. MINI COOPER – DAY

Sophie sits in the passenger seat. Her hair is matted and
messy and she appears to have not slept.

Julie keeps doing a double take at her.
JULIE
Are you wearing the same clothes from yesterday?

Julie looks away, frustrated.

JULIE
You shouldn’t have drank the water. Are you possessed? Am I talking to Murphy?

SOPHIE
I ain’t Murphy sinner! Murphy put the curse on me that every time one of your stupid species do a seance I get sucked through a void. He thinks it’s funny!

She leans closer to Julie, invading her personal space.

SOPHIE
And why do you fucking idiots always use a glass? You try and fit your ass in a glass!

JULIE
Get away from me Sophie!

SOPHIE
I ain’t no fucking softie!

JULIE
I said Sophie! You’re Sophie!

Sophie leans back in her seat.

SOPHIE
You stupid sinner! You don’t know what to call me! Make up your mind! Murphy, softie, Sophie!

EXT. VACANT BLOCK - DAY

Rani walks through her block of land. Tall trees and thick shrubs are everywhere.

Amongst the bush land is a BURNT-OUT CAR.
RANI
How am I supposed to get rid of that?

She kicks at the door.

BANG!

It falls off.

She grabs her bike and throws her helmet on.

RANI
Who the hell’s doing this?

EXT. MARISA’S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Troy is in the backyard helping to lift the washing machine onto the back of a small ute.

He hands the male DRIVER some money and a bit of paper.

TROY
That’s the address. It’s a bit far from here but no-one uses it.

He watches as the ute drives away.

Julie and Sophie walk into the backyard.

Sophie still has trouble walking.

TROY
Hello hello.

He studies Sophie.

TROY
Bad hair day?

SOPHIE
We’re here to get Lucky.

TROY
Let me look for a paper bag and I’ll see what I can do.

JULIE
We’re here for Rani’s dog.
Troy looks at Lucky -

- who is riding the clothes line, clinging to another pair of jeans.

TROY

As you can see Lucky is having a great time... Are those my jeans?

Troy glances back at the girls.

TROY

Anyway I couldn’t bear to traumatize the poor thing by moving him again.

JULIE

That’s Rani’s dog!

TROY

No it’s mine. I was with Rani for ten years. I remember this dog.

JULIE

Ten years? You were together for two! She’s had the dog longer than she’s had you!

Troy is baffled.

TROY

Well I don’t know what happened to my other eight years, but I blame her anyway.

SOPHIE

We’re here to get Lucky.

TROY

Hello? We already established that? Can you spell loser Sophie?

SOPHIE

Can you spell get fucked sinner?

Troy is stunned.

JULIE

Will you shut up Sophie!
TROY
I’m not giving you the dog. Now get off this property.

He watches as Julie and Sophie leave.

He stomps past Lucky and smacks its hide as it circles past.

TROY
Let go of them Rover!

INT. MARISA’S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Marisa sits on the sofa placing a FAKE BEARD on a mannequins face.

Troy picks up the phone, punching in some numbers.

MARISA
Who you calling?

TROY
I got a friend looking for a pet dog. I’ll sell them that pants chewing mutt.

Marisa nods.

TROY
Rani thinks she can get back at me with that stunt she pulled? Let’s see how she likes this.

Marisa looks at a NOTE in her hand: RANI 99900001.

EXT. CAR PARK - DAY

Rani walks out of the front office of a TELEVISION NETWORK and jumps on her bike.

She rides through the car park and notices –

- an OLD MAN sitting in a car watching her with a pair of BINOCULARS.

He realises he’s been busted and starts his car.

Rani keeps watching the old man –
CRASH!
She collides with a CAR reversing out of its space.
Rani FLIES off her bike -
THUD!
She lands hard on the ground.
DARBY, mid thirties, stylish and handsome, races out of the car.

DARBY
Dude, are you alright?

RANI
Do I look like a dude?

Rani takes her helmet off.
Darby is surprised. He smiles and helps her up.
Rani glances at the number plate which reads: DARBY.

RANI
Darby? You should change it to dummy!

DARBY
I’ll look into it. Wow!

RANI
Wow? What do you mean wow?

DARBY
I mean, you’re lucky, that sort of wow!

Rani checks over herself. Her courier radio is broken.

RANI
Can I use your phone?

DARBY
Sure just come back to the front desk with me.

RANI
Who’s wowing now?
Darby watches as Rani storms away. He glances at her REAR.

**DARBY**
Only chick I ever hit on a bike turns out to be a wowser!

**RANI**
What?

**DARBY**
I said wow!

INT. TELEVISION STATION - FOYER - DAY

Darby walks behind the desk next to EARL, the security guard.

**DARBY**
Earl you mind if we let this girl make a call. Is it important?

Rani frowns.

**DARBY**
I’m joking!

Rani SNATCHES the phone off Darby and punches in the number.

**RANI**
Hello Base? Yeah this is rider four-one-seven Rani.

**DARBY**
Rani, cute name. Kind of name that makes you want to say wow!

**RANI**
Yeah base, I’m going to have delays. No I’ve had a car accident.

She looks over herself.

**RANI**
I don’t know, I’m going to check with a doctor. I’ll ring back later.

She hangs up and watches as -
Darby flicks through letters.

DARBY
Damn it! I thought he’d know by now! Everything alright with you?

RANI
No thanks to you! Pompous git!

DARBY
Hey I let you use the phone.

She walks away.

RANI
I can see why you work in a place like this.

DARBY
You don’t like television?

RANI
No thank God I don’t have one!

INT. HOSPITAL - EVELYN’S OFFICE - DAY

Rani lays out on a bed as Evelyn checks over her.

Sitting on Evelyn’s desk is Cynthia.

EVELYN
I’d sue him, unless he was cute?

RANI
Yeah he wasn’t bad. Just arrogant. And he over-used the word wow.

CYNTHIA
Shame you didn’t meet that Rod guy.

Evelyn checks Rani’s spine.

EVELYN
From that new show?

RANI
I don’t watch TV.
CYNTHIA
It’s a new show called ‘On-Rod’. He runs around and does the show live from stranger’s houses.

RANI
No this guy looks like a producer. All smug and up himself. Darby was his name, it was on his number plate.

They all laugh.

CYNTHIA
Too sexy for my car...

EVELYN
So did you check your answering machine?

Rani tries to get up.

Evelyn pushes her back down.

RANI
I had over five hundred messages!

EVELYN
What?

CYNTHIA
Get out!

RANI
I did... and...

CYNTHIA
And what?

RANI
I now know five hundred more loons than I care to. There was a small amount that I’ve bothered to ring back.

EVELYN
So what’s a small amount? Hundred? Two hundred?

Rani glances at both of them.
RANI
Four. I’m extremely fussy. But I guarantee that I’ve called the best of the bunch!

INT. PUB - NIGHT

RANI puts on a brave face.

Next to her is BOB, mid fourties. He wears a hand written STICKER with his name on it.

They both watch -

CALVIN, late twenties, DANCE by himself to a live band called YURBOX.

Nobody else is on the dance floor.

Calvin POIRS a beer over his own head.

CALVIN
I am the lizard king!

Rani smiles and glances at Bob.

BOB
Look at him go.

RANI
Yeah I know.

BOB
So have you been here before?

RANI
No, this is my first time here.

BOB
Me too, I thought this place would be better. What was I to know huh?

The lead singer of the band laughs at Calvin.

CALVIN
I am the lizard king!

Both Rani and Bob laugh.
BOB
So hey, I was wondering if you wanted to join me and my friends.

RANI
I’d love to Bob, but I’m here... with him.

They both look at CALVIN, who -

STAGGERS towards the table.

He grabs Bob’s beer and DRENCHES himself.

CALVIN
Whooooaaa! You’re not dancing?

Rani glances at Bob.

RANI
Please help...

BOB
Good luck!

Bob leaves the group.

Calvin drops in his chair exhausted.

CALVIN
Is it your shout?

RANI
Five hundred possible dates and I got you?

CALVIN
Hey lady, you’re the one who’s writing your number in the sky. I just thought whhhooooaa, there’s a crazy woman I’d like to meet.

Rani smiles.

CALVIN
So you got five hundred dates? And I’m number one? How lucky is that? You’re going to be so busy for like... the next two years!

Rani’s smile drops.
RANI
Wait... I’m not going on five hundred dates!

CALVIN
I know we just met but hey, you might want to get a sponsorship deal with a condom company. Otherwise you don’t know what you’ll catch!

Rani waves her hand to get his attention.

RANI
I’m not like that! I’m not going on five hundred dates!

CALVIN
You’re not? You mean this is it? Five hundred possible dates and you picked just me?

Calvin jumps out of his chair.

CALVIN
Whooooaaaaa! I am the lizard king!

Rani shakes her head.

RANI
You stink of beer! I’m going home!

CALVIN
I’ll walk you.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Rani walks with Calvin through a park.

CALVIN
So, you know, what do you do?

RANI
I’m a bicycle courier. Trying to pay off some land in the outer suburbs. Are you following the footsteps of Jim Morrison?

CALVIN
Who’s Jim Morrison?
Rani is stunned.

RANI
You don’t know Jim Morrison? The Doors? I am the lizard king!

CALVIN
Someone is using my line?

Rani notices that he is serious.

RANI
It would appear so. Have you been this crazy rebellious guy all your life?

CALVIN
No. I use to study architecture.

What?

Calvin flicks his hair. Beer lands on Rani.

RANI
Do you mind? An architect? What happened?

CALVIN
I was in my final year at Uni and I visited Italy and saw some of the most beautiful churches there.

They both stop.

CALVIN
I must have stayed in one spot for hours. Just adoring every little detail. The craftsmanship from centuries ago. By the end of it I thought... Fuck that! I can’t compete with that sort of work! So I went home.

RANI
I didn’t think the story was going to end like that?

CALVIN
Neither did I, but hey that’s life.
He looks around.

CALVIN
Well I’m parked here.

Rani is confused.

RANI
Where? Here in the park?

CALVIN
Yeah. Do you want a ride home?

RANI
In what?

Calvin WHISTLES.

A large HORSE trots from behind a tree.

Rani’s jaw drops.

Calvin grabs the reins and pats the horse.

CALVIN
This is my horse. He’s called Lizard!

RANI
You have a horse called Lizard? And you are the lizard king?

Calvin looks down.

CALVIN
Well, sometimes a man gets lonely... But you know, let’s not go there.

He looks up excited.

CALVIN
So you still want a ride home?

RANI
No thanks, I live just around the corner. I can walk from here.

Calvin grabs Rani around the waist and pulls her closer.
CALVIN
Until the next time we meet...

RANI
I’d rather not...

SPLAT!
Calvin gives Rani the SLOPPIEST KISS.
He jumps on Lizard and waves his hand like a cowboy.

CALVIN
I am the lizard king!

Rani cringes.
Calvin RIDES away into the darkness.
Rani wipes her mouth.

INT. JULIE’S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
Sophie sits in front of the television.
An AD for DEVIL’S BUTTER comes on. Sophie’s two dancer friends are dressed like SEXY DEVILS.

DANCERS TV
Devil’s butter win, win, win...
Tastes so good it must be a sin...
From ear to ear, you will grin...
Won’t make you fat, will make you thin...

SOPHIE
I find that insulting!

Julie walks in dressed in black.

SOPHIE
Think your species can take the piss out of me?

JULIE
Are you coming to Troy’s?

SOPHIE
Who’s that?
JULIE
The guy we saw today? The one with the dog?

Julie searches for the car keys.

JULIE
Probably better without you. You’re not going to do anything stupid? Like kill yourself.

SOPHIE
Murphy’s law, if I kill myself, I go to Heaven and who wants to go to Heaven? But if you can find someone who’s willing to kill me then I’ll be your best friend!

JULIE
Find you an exorcist!

SOPHIE
Don’t be fooled by them! It’s all a con. Don’t ever pay a priest to get rid of me when I’ve already told you how. Just like this devil’s butter thing, that’s a con, why would I want to make butter?

EXT. MARISA’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Julie stops the car several houses down.

Outside -

Troy hands over Lucky to JARRAD, thirties. Jarrad hands over some money.

JULIE
Shit!

Jarrad carries Lucky back to his car and starts the engine.

INT. MINI COOPER - NIGHT

Julie follows Jarrad down quiet streets.

HONK!
JARRAD
You crazy son of a bitch!

Julie spots -
CALVIN riding along the footpath, clubbing letter boxes.

JULIE
What the hell?

CALVIN
I am the lizard king!

Jarrad SCREECHES around a corner to get away from Calvin.

EXT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION – NIGHT

Julie parks her car opposite a fenced off mansion.

She watches as -

Jarrad stops at the gate and punches in a code.

The gate opens and he drives inside.

One HENCHMAN stands outside on the footpath and lights up a cigarette.

JULIE
Christ, it’ll be easier to buy a new dog!

Julie’s attention falls on -

A lone WOMAN laughing to herself. She’s dressed like an ESCORT.

She leaves through the gate with Jarrad.

JARRAD
Same time next week.

He slaps her on the rump.

She laughs again.

JULIE
I wonder?

Julie smiles.
INT. JULIE’S HOUSE – LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

JULIE storms in excited.

Sophie still sits watching TV.

    JULIE
    I got an idea and I need you.

    SOPHIE
    Does it require my death?

Julie races out of the living room.

    JULIE (O.S.)
    No. We’re going to play dress ups!

She comes back in and throws a heap of clothes on the sofa.

    JULIE
    Stand up. We’re going to see what
    you look like as an escort.

    SOPHIE
    A what?

    JULIE
    An escort... Like a sinner.

Sophie smiles, then catches on.

    SOPHIE
    Fuck you sinner! I ain’t no sinner!
    Your damn species are the sinners!

Sophie leans closer, studying Julie.

    SOPHIE
    Dressing the Devil up as a sinner.
    Did Murphy send you?

    JULIE
    Here try these on.

Julie hands Sophie some clothes.

Sophie begins to strip. Julie turns around.
JULIE
You know you got that dance thing
tomorrow at Funland?

SOPHIE
Nup, don’t know what you’re on
about!

JULIE
Suppose, I have to help you with
that as well? Are you finished yet?

Julie turns around to see -

- Sophie dressed with a MINI SKIRT under her arms, covering
her breasts and a fancy SHIRT tied like a nappy.

SOPHIE
Do I look like a sinner, sinner?

Julie sighs.

JULIE
Oh God, even the Devil is dumb!

INT. TELEVISION STATION – FOYER – DAY
Darby flicks through more letters.
Rani walks in.
Darby notices her and smiles.

DARBY
Oh hello. It’s Runny right?

RANI
Rani. We need to talk.

EXT. CAR PARK – DAY
Rani buckles up her helmet.

DARBY
Your what?

RANI
Suing. I’ve been advised it’s the
best thing to do.
DARBY
By who?

RANI
A friend of mine who’s a doctor.

DARBY
But not a lawyer. Look you weren’t hurt. You got straight up and made a call on the front phone.

RANI
Mental anguish! I’m hurting on the inside.

DARBY
I don’t think that’s related to this topic!

Darby shrugs.

DARBY
You know what, do it! I can’t stop you. I just wished it was under different circumstances that we got to know each other. Can I at least make it up to you with dinner?

RANI
No, already got a date with a stud muffin tonight!

She rides away.

DARBY
Lucky you.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT
Rani sits at a table by herself at Carter’s restaurant.
Carter walks up to her table, slightly bemused.

CARTER
Your date has arrived.

He steps out of the way to reveal -
- MARISA DISGUISED AS A MAN.
She wears a suit and has a beard covering her face.

Rani looks at Carter.

RANI
Please help....

CARTER
Good luck...

Marisa leans over Rani and KISSES her.

Rani stunned -
- EYES her surroundings. She can’t move.

Marisa sits down, scratching the beard.

MARISA
Sorry I’m late, had trouble with my beard.

Rani looks at her dubious like.

RANI
Have we met before?

Marisa covers her face with the menu.

MARISA
I don’t think so. I’m George.

RANI
You look familiar.

MARISA
I get that alot. Being a man and all that. Waiter!

Carter walks back to them.

CARTER
I’m the manager not a waiter.

MARISA
I’ll have a bottle of vodka.

CARTER
A glass of vodka?
MARISA
A bottle! What would you like Rani?

RANI
Did I tell you my name?

Marisa covers her face again with the menu, waving her hand.

MARISA
Yeah yeah, over the phone.

Rani nods, confused.

RANI
A glass of water.

Carter looks at his staff.

CARTER
A glass of water and a bottle of vodka for the weird Russian!

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER - NIGHT

RANI glances at -

An EMPTY BOTTLE of vodka.

Marisa giggles as she tries to slurp down soup. It’s getting everywhere in the beard.

RANI
Do you want a napkin?

Marisa rubs her fingers through the beard wiping the soup, laughing.

MARISA
So you said you were a courier?

RANI
Did I? I don’t remember telling you that?

MARISA
How many drinks have you had?

Marisa laughs -

CLINK!
Knocks over the empty bottle.

    RANI
    This is my second glass of water.

    MARISA
    Hey -

Carter look at Marisa.

    MARISA
    What did you put in the water? My
date is drunk! George... George...
My name's George!

Marisa stands up.

    MARISA
    I have to pose like a cherub
fountain.

    RANI
    Huh?

    MARISA
    I got to take a piss!

She imitates a man urinating, laughing.

Carter walks to their table.

    CARTER
    The bathrooms are that way.

    MARISA
    And no more water for this one!

Marisa staggers toward the bathrooms bumping into PATRONS
along the way.

Carter and Rani watch as -

MARISA decides which bathroom door to open. She bangs open -
- the FEMALE door.

Several SCREAMING voices can be heard.

Rani jumps to her feet.
RANI
I thought it was a woman! There was something wrong with her!

CARTER
Her or you?

Rani catches -

a SMUG look from Carter, as he races to the mayhem.

Several WAITERS pull Marisa out of the bathroom.

Rani wanders over to Marisa.

HARRY -

Jumps out of his chair towards the ongoing madness.

HARRY
Everyone relax. I’m a cop.

RANI
Harry? What are you doing here?

HARRY
I’ve been eating here for the last week. I see your date is a trouble maker! I hate trouble makers!

Harry proceeds to handcuff Marisa.

MARISA
Rani. I think I love you.

RANI
Who are you?

HARRY
Let’s find out -

He tears away the beard in a ‘Scooby Doo’ fashion revealing -

Marisa with patchy globs of GLUE stuck to her face.

RANI
Marisa? I’m going to throw up!

HARRY
A woman? Why are you dating a woman?
RANI
I didn’t know it was woman.

HARRY
I think it’s time you went out with... a real man.

He WINKS.

INT. FUNLAND - CHANGEROOMS - DAY

Sophie sits in a change room with Julie in front of a mirror.

Around them, several dancers are dressed as GHOULS and MONSTERS.

Sophie keeps smiling.

SOPHIE
I’m proud of you sinner! You brought me here to make me feel welcome.

She puts an arm around Julie.

SOPHIE
When you get to hell, I’ll make you an honorary guest. I’ll even make you in charge of murderers, how’s that sound?

Julie is stunned.

JULIE
No thanks.

SOPHIE
Heaven won’t offer you that. They give you a harp and that’s it! If you don’t know your musical scales then it’s useless, you’re stuck with a fancy cheese grater and no cheese!

JULIE
I’ll think about it!
SOPHIE
Well don’t take too long you fucking sinner! I want to go back home!

All the dancers ABRUPTLY stop.

Julie gazes at them.

JULIE
Cramps.

They all slowly nod.

EXT. FUNLAND - WATER RAPIDS - DAY
Rani and Harry sit together on the water rapid ride.

They notice -

A FUNLAND STAFF WORKER holding a bucket by the sidelines.

HARRY
Yeah my wife isn’t interested in outings like this.

RANI
Your what?

SPLASH!

The staff worker throws a bucket of water at them.

RANI
What are you doing?

He points to a sign which reads: FOUNTAINS OUT OF USE.

RANI
So why keep the ride going if it’s not working?

The staff worker shrugs.

Rani glares at Harry.

RANI
Why did you force me to go on a date with you if you’re married?
HARRY
‘Cause you look like fun.

He WINKS.

RANI
Fun? What do you mean fun?

SPLASH!
Another STAFF WORKER drenches Rani.

RANI
Arrgghh! Stop it!

HARRY
This sort of fun! Aren’t you having a good time?

He WINKS.

RANI
Stop doing that!

They cruise around a corner.

Rani notices -

several STAFF holding buckets.

HARRY
Hopefully when my wife has the baby she’ll be more fun like you.

RANI
What? She’s pregnant?

SPLASH!

Rani stands up and screams.

Harry WINKS.

RANI
Stop doing that!

HARRY
What? The twitch?

SPLASH!
Rani stands there dumb founded.

INT. FUNLAND - CHANGEROOMS - DAY

JULIE
Is there any way you could let the real Sophie come back?

SOPHIE
Like that is it? Not good enough for you sinner? Well you can forget the promotion in hell!

Julie is USHERED out.

JULIE
Just follow the other girls and get dressed in your costume!

Julie is pushed out of the change room.

Sophie watches as the other DANCERS apply makeup.

She grabs a lipstick and foundation then –

– proceeds to use them BOTH AT ONCE on her face.

SOPHIE
I get it. Like dress ups!

EXT. FUNLAND - FOOD AREA - DAY

Rani stomps toward a food store, leaving wet puddles with each step.

She stops at the counter, waiting to be served.

DARBY
That’s a new seductive look for you...

Rani glares at Darby and moans.

DARBY
You could start your own catalogue. Call it the Rani wet season.

She flicks her hair.
DARBY
I got something for you. To make up for our accident.

He lifts up a COCA-COLA bag.

DARBY
Matches your cute courier outfit.

She SHOVES the bag away.

RANI
Get it away from me! In fact you get away from me!

The SHOP OWNER waits for Rani’s order.
She does a double take at Darby.

RANI
I... just want a coke.

Darby offers the bag, raising his eyebrows.

DARBY
Those subliminal messages.

RANI
What are you doing here?

DARBY
My crew are filming the Halloween Dance.

RANI
My friend is in that. She’s the lead dancer.

DARBY
Will you reconsider and take the bag?

RANI
No. You may think I’m some wet squeegee from the suburbs, but I’m not!

She storms off leaving a puddle trail.
EXT. FUNLAND - CAR PARK - DAY

A black car comes to stop in the car park.

Jarrad steps out of the driver’s seat.

MURPHY, early fourties, suave and cool, steps out from the passenger side.

LUDAVAR, late sixties, steps out of the car. He carries a COCA-COLA bag.

MURPHY
Kind of risky doing a deal in such a public place.

LUDAVAR
No, it’s perfect. People laughing, having fun, no-one is going to pay attention to you.

MURPHY
So who’s the contact?

LUDAVAR
A woman. Very beautiful. You no think with your dick and double cross me!

MURPHY
Ludavar, this is me you’re talking to. I’d never do such a thing!

Jarrad hands Murphy a handgun.

JARRAD
Murphy, take this in case. Just be careful, sometimes the hammer jams.

MURPHY
You giving me a dodgy gun?

JARRAD
No it’s good, it’s good.

Murphy hides the gun.

Ludavar hands over the bag.
MURPHY
So how will I know what the contact looks like?

LUDAVAR
She’ll be standing near the roller coaster, carrying this exact type of bag. She’ll tell you a password.

MURPHY
Which is?

Lucky jumps out of the car. Ludavar pats it.

LUDAVAR
The password is named after my new dog, Sinner.

EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE AREA SEATING - DAY

Rani sits down between Julie and Harry.

She notices -

Darby standing by the side of the stage, directing his CAMERAMAN.

RANI
I hate that man!

JULIE
Then why do you keep staring at him?

She glances at Harry.

HARRY
Yeah, you are staring at him.

RANI
You’re married. You’re not even supposed to be here with me!

She opens the can of coke.

FIZZ!

It SPRAYS all over her.
RANI
Could this day get any worse?

EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE - DAY
LIGHTS shine onto the stage -
The HALLOWEEN DANCERS all jog out, ready in their positions.
SOPHIE still struggles to grasp the human walk, DRAGS herself
to the centre stage -
- in front of a microphone.
She wears a MINISKIRT under her arms and a SHIRT as a nappy.
Her hair is SPIKED OUT like a peacock’s tail. Across her
forehead is written SINNER in lipstick.

EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE AREA SEATING - DAY

HARRY
So which one is your friend?

RANI
The one... with... with a... mini-
skirt over her boobs and the nappy.
Harry frowns, trying to understand the costume.
Rani stares at Julie -
- who COWERS in her chair, trying not to be seen.

RANI
What is she doing?
Julie tries to answer then shrugs.
Rani glances back at Darby and the cameraman.
Darby gives Rani the THUMBS UP signal.

RANI
Damn it!

EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE - DAY
Sophie spots Julie.
FUNLAND (V.O.)
Today’s Halloween Dance Spectacular is sponsored by Devil’s Butter...

SOPHIE
I find that offensive!

The opening to Michael Jackson’s THRILLER booms out.
The dancers start their routine –
Sophie looks over her shoulder at the dancers.

SOPHIE
What’s the matter with you sinners? Stop doing that. Did Murphy tell you to do this?

Sophie clenches her fist at the sky.

SOPHIE
Why do you taunt me Murphy?

She points at Julie.

SOPHIE
She promised me that someone would kill me. It’s been two days now! What’s going on?

EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE AREA SEATING - DAY
Both Harry and Rani stare at Julie.

JULIE
She’s nuts!

Julie stands up.

JULIE
Just dance will ya!

CHILDREN start to cry.
EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE - DAY

SOPHIE
Want to see me dance?

She parades out of sync with the music, flapping her elbows, bumping into other dancers.

SOPHIE
Laugh it up Murphy! Laugh it up!

She waves both her hands at the crowd giving everyone the finger.

SOPHIE
Butter this!

EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE AREA SEATING - DAY

Harry watches, shaking his head.

HARRY
Is this part of the show?

Rani has her eyes closed.

RANI
There’s no place like home. There’s no place like home...

EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE - DAY

Sophie leans down toward a crying FAT BOY.

SOPHIE
C’mon kid, I’ll put you in charge of all the murderers in hell. Heaven can’t offer you that. All you got to do... is kill me!

Sophie gives up. She looks at the crowd.

SOPHIE
None of you bastards are welcome in hell!

TWO SECURITY staff pull Sophie off to the side near Darby and the cameraman.
SOPHIE
Do I look like I belong on this earth? Somebody anybody!

The security staff walk away.

Darby tries to hold back a smile.

DARBY
I think you captured the true essence of Halloween there.

SOPHIE
What do you want sinner?

DARBY
I heard your Rani’s friend. Can you give this to her.

EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE AREA SEATING - DAY

Rani watches -
Darby pass the COCA-COLA bag to Sophie.

RANI
That bastard! He can’t buy me off like that! Arrrghhh!

Harry looks at Julie.

HARRY
Rani sounds frustrated.

He WINKS at her.

Julie frowns.

JULIE
Huh?

EXT. FUNLAND - STAGE - DAY

Sophie takes the bag and drags herself away.

DARBY
Ummm, Rani is that way?
SOPHIE
    If you’re not going to kill me then
    fuck off!

He looks at the cameraman, shaking his head.

DARBY
    Westies!

EXT. FUNLAND - PATHWAY - DAY
Sophie does her best at walking, holding the bag.
Her attention falls on -
SCREAMING.
She sees the roller coaster.

SOPHIE
    Great, a device that kills.

EXT. FUNLAND - ROLLERCOASTER - DAY
Murphy waits at the bottom of the stairs to the ride.
Something catches his eye -

MURPHY
    Tell me that’s not her?

Sophie STAGGERS about.

SOPHIE
    You’re all a bunch of dirty
    sinners!

Murphy storms towards her. He stares at the lipstick on her
forehead.

MURPHY
    Why don’t you make it obvious?

SOPHIE
    What do you want sinner?

MURPHY
    I know who you are.
Sophie throws her arms in the air.

   SOPHIE
   Finally! Can you help me?

   MURPHY
   That’s what I’m here for! Give me the bag.

They swap bags.

   MURPHY
   Look at you, you’re off the planet! Cops are going to spot you a mile away!

   SOPHIE
   Who cares? Just hurry up and do it!

Murphy lifts his bag.

   MURPHY
   It’s done!

   SOPHIE
   It is? I thought I’d be in hell by now!

   MURPHY
   How much did you take? If there’s anything missing, I swear I’ll kill you.

   SOPHIE
   You do that sinner!

   MURPHY
   Hey, enough with the password!

Murphy shakes his head and walks away.

Sophie looks at the sky.

   SOPHIE
   I’ll get you for this Murphy!

MURPHY is confused -

- He paces back.
MURPHY
How do you know my name?

SOPHIE
Are you still here sinner?

MURPHY
Quit saying the password. How do you know my name?

He starts to nod.

MURPHY
You’ve done your homework. I’m not afraid. If you and I meet again, I will kill you.

Sophie leans her head against Murphy’s.

SOPHIE
Kill me, kill me, kill me, kill me... C’mon sinner do it!

Murphy pushes her away and composes himself.

MURPHY
You’re crazy! I’m crazier!

SOPHIE
Oooh, crazy bag boy!

Murphy walks away.

EXT. FUNLAND - PATHWAY - DAY

Rani, Julie and Harry walk along the path trying to find Sophie.

JULIE
I’ll check down this way.

Rani and Harry wait.

RANI
Sorry about this.

HARRY
That’s ok...

Harry notices -
A sexy tall WOMAN, dressed in sunglasses and a business suit, carrying a COCA COLA bag.

She walks past them.

HARRY
That’s Long Legs Loretta. I didn’t know she got out of gaol? Looks like she’s still up to her old tricks.

Rani watches as -

Harry grabs Loretta. Loretta struggles -

POW! Harry has his handcuffs out - forcing Loretta to the ground.

HARRY
Rani, can you come here? Open the bag.

Rani unzips the bag. Inside are packets of cocaine.

HARRY
I’m on a date Loretta and now I have to take you in. Why do you have to be a trouble maker?

Harry looks at Rani.

HARRY
I’m sorry, do you have a ride home?

RANI
Sure, Julie can give me a lift.

Harry jumps to his feet and -

- embraces Rani by her shoulders.

HARRY
Thanks for today.

RANI
Wait a second...

Harry leans her back and SMOOCHES her.

HARRY
Maybe we can do something later.
He WINKS.

    RANI  
    Ok, was that a wink or a twitch?

INT. MINI COOPER - DAY
Julie drives her car out of the Funland car park.
Rani sits in the passenger seat.
Sophie lays in the back, crying.

    SOPHIE  
    You bastards promised me I’d be back in hell. This is my hell. I hate this place.

Julie notices as they drive by -
LUDAVAR playing with Lucky in the car park.

    JULIE  
    That guy has a dog like yours.

Rani daydreams facing the other direction.

    RANI  
    Yeah they’re a popular species.

    SOPHIE  
    Wish I could say the same for your species!

EXT. FUNLAND - CAR PARK - DAY
Murphy walks back to the car carrying the bag and a drink.

    LUDAVAR  
    Who said you could stop to eat?

    MURPHY  
    I was hungry. Sorry boss.

He hands Ludavar the bag.

    JARRAD  
    Was she good looking?
MURPHY
Ugliest thing I’d ever seen! She belonged on a beastiality video.

JARRAD
What I’d give to see one of those videos!

Ludavar opens the bag and pulls out -
A CAN of cola.

They all stare at a bag full of COCA-COLA.

LUDAVAR
Idiot! I told you not to think with your dick!

JARRAD
Why didn’t you check the bag?

MURPHY
I wasn’t going to check the bag in public!

Ludavar throws a can at Murphy.

LUDAVAR
Half a million dollars for twenty four cans of coke! Idiot!

MURPHY
She double crossed us! We’ll get the money back, I’ll make sure.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rani, Julie and Sophie walk into Rani’s house.

Julie pushes Sophie onto the bean bag.

JULIE
Stay!

Rani unzips the bag to see -
Neat bundles of CASH.
RANI
And to think I told him to keep it away from me?

Julie glances over Rani’s shoulder.

JULIE
Holy shit Rani...

Sophie laughs to herself.

SOPHIE
Holy shit... I made that up. Good to see it’s still used centuries later.

Julie shakes her head.

JULIE
Rani, who gave you this?

RANI
It’s from Darby. The other day I told him I was going to sue over the accident, and he got worried.

JULIE
That’s alot of hush money.

Rani pulls out several bundles.

RANI
I could pay off my land and build my house. Sophie, what did Darby say?

SOPHIE
Who are you?

Rani glances at Julie.

JULIE
Sophie is not herself lately. This is Rani. This is our friend.

SOPHIE
Friend, Rani, yep. I remember. He said your Rani’s friend, give her this.
RANI
I don’t believe it.

SOPHIE
Well it’s the fucking truth sinner!

RANI
I mean I believe you, I just can’t believe the situation...

SOPHIE
Oh... he also said in order to appease your God you must sacrifice me and release the devil within.

Rani and Julie stare at Sophie.

SOPHIE
Why would I lie?

RANI
Well I can’t leave it here. Troy still has a key and might show up. I know where I can take it.

EXT. STREET - DAY
Rani wheels her bike out onto the footpath. She spots the OLD MAN with BINOCULARS standing at a neighbour’s frontyard.

RANI
You! I remember you! Hey -

The Old Man, promptly pulls out a walking stick - then slowly struggles across the street.

RANI
Hey! Oh for God’s sake! I’m not even trying and I’m going to catch you! Why do you keep watching me?

The Old Man opens his car door.

RANI
I’m going to call the police. I know cops! Officer Harry! He’ll fix you!
The Old Man drives away.

EXT. VACANT BLOCK - DAY
Rani carries the bag onto her land.
She notices -
- a RUSTED BIKE and a WASHING MACHINE.

RANI
This is not a dumping ground!

She walks closer to the washing machine.
Flips the lid open, pulling out -
- BLACK UNDERWEAR.

RANI
They’re mine! God damn it Troy!

She dumps the bag inside the washing machine.

INT. TELEVISION STATION - FOYER - DAY
Rani walks into the foyer and hands Earl some envelopes.
Darby walks out from an elevator and smiles at Rani. He checks over the mail.

DARBY
Did you like my gift?

RANI
Actually no...

Darby looks at her surprised.

DARBY
No?

RANI
I mean don’t get me wrong. Why so much?

DARBY
Because I like you. I thought you’d like that... You know?
He gestures to her OUTFIT.

**RANI**

You think you can just buy me like that?

**DARBY**

Would you change your mind if I doubled it?

**RANI**

Doubled? Are you mad?

Darby looks at her confused.

**RANI**

You must earn a killer pay packet working here.

**DARBY**

What do you want from me? A million dollars?

Both Darby and Earl laugh.

**RANI**

To hell with you, I’m still going to sue!

INT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Rani sits with QUINCY, late thirties, at a comedy club.

They both have glasses of wine as they wait for the main act to start.

**RANI**

I haven’t met a lot of people called Quincy.

**QUINCY**

What made you call me back?

**RANI**

You had a nice voice. Why did you call?
QUINCY
I thought it was some radio promotion. God I hate that, false advertising.

Rani sips her wine.

RANI
Well I’m better than a radio promotion.

Quincy SLAPS the side of his head.

QUINCY
Earth to lunar girl! We don’t revolve around you.

RANI
I was hoping you were someone normal!

QUINCY
I was hoping to be on my way to Fiji!

Quincy half leans under the table.

QUINCY
Just got to do something...

He lifts up -

A rubber COLOSTOMY BAG.

QUINCY
Can you hold that? I got to attach my new bag, just can’t see while it’s dark. I’ll be back.

He quickly races to the bathroom.

Rani holds the bag in disgust.

Marisa walks past Rani’s table.

MARISA
Rani?

RANI
Oh no! What are you doing here?
MARISA
I work here. What are you doing here?

RANI
I’m on a date.

MARISA
Thought you were here to see Troy do his stand up tonight.

RANI
What? Troy’s here?

MARISA
Still think about him do you? I guess I wasn’t good enough.

Marisa snatches the colostomy bag.

MARISA
You’re not allowed to bring your own wine! It’s the law.

Marisa storms away.

RANI
Wait, Marisa!

A SPOT LIGHT shines down as - CURTAINS slide apart.

TROY nervously wanders out to a mike.

TROY
How’s everyone doing tonight? So, you know, my girlfriend left me a week ago and took all the furniture...

Rani SPITS out her wine.

RANI
Bullshit!

Quincy walks back to his seat.

QUINCY
Where’s the bag?

RANI
It got confiscated.
QUINCY
They took my colostomy bag? Lady, you suck!

Rani glances around. She spots Marisa --
- POURING the contents into PATRONS wine glasses.

RANI
This can’t be good...

TROY
And she sold my dog which I had for ten years...

Rani stands up.

RANI
You sold Lucky? You bastard!

Troy tries to block out the spot light.

TROY
Rani?

Rani storms over to the stage.

Troy is shocked.

TROY
Hi honey...

Rani grabs the mike.

RANI
This guy stole my furniture and sold my dog. Then he took an AVO against me.

QUINCY
You two suck! I’m not laughing!

People begin to laugh.

MARISA
Why don’t you kiss and make up?

RANI
What?

The Patrons start urging them to kiss.
Troy SWEEPS Rani off her feet and holds her in both arms.

He looks into her eyes.

    TROY
    I missed you.

    RANI
    I hate you. No...

Troy gives her a WHOPPING PASSIONATE KISS.

    QUINCY
    Does anyone know where my colostomy bag is?

The SOUND of VOMITING can be heard.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

RANI lays asleep -

A HAND gently caresses her cheek. She smiles.

    RANI
    Mmmm, that feels nice Darby.

    TROY (O.C.)
    Who?

Rani’s eyes dart awake.
She faces Troy in bed.

    RANI
    No... We didn’t? Did we?

Troy smiles.

    RANI
    I must be out of my head!

She sighs then turns over -
- to see MARISA asleep on the other side.

Rani ABRUPTLY jumps up.
RANI
Arrgghh! I must be completely out of my head!

Rani climbs out of the bed, looking for her clothes.

RANI
You two must have spiked my drink.

Quincy walks into the room wearing just a towel.
His colostomy bag hangs over the towel.

QUINCY
Spiked your drink? With what kind of fluids?

Rani glances at Quincy.

RANI
Oh my God, please don’t say fluids!

Rani quickly gets dressed.

QUINCY
You suck lady! I thought you were supposed to be on a date with me? Instead we all come here for some -

RANI
Shut up! Just shut up!

QUINCY
Relax, nothing like that happened, I was with her.

He points to Marissa snoring.

QUINCY
You’re not my type anyway...

Rani notices -
- the bag starting to FILL as Quincy talks.

QUINCY
... I don’t trust women that write stuff in the sky. You do know the council owns that?

She glares at Troy.
RANI
I don’t love you Troy. I’m more than happy with this AVO. Don’t contact me.

Troy shrugs.

She walks past Quincy.

QUINCY
What no kiss? Don’t you be ringing me, pissing in my ear if you get depressed.

Rani glances at -

the BAG -

- then cringes.

EXT. BONDI BEACH - DAY

Rani rides her bike along the beach.

She spots -

DARBY directing two ACTORS, a BLONDE MAN and WOMAN. His cameraman patiently waits.

There’s a LARGE CROWD watching.

DARBY
It wasn’t convincing. C’mon it’s a special on romance and you two are kissing like two frigid kids...

He looks at a sheet of paper.

DARBY
Oh wait, that can’t be right?

He looks at the actors.

DARBY
The info here says you both have the same surname?

They both smile and nod.
DARBY
You’re not... brother and sister?

They both smile and nod.

DARBY
How many takes have we wasted on these pervs?

Rani laughs.

RANI
Serves you right.

Darby glances at Rani. Then smiles.

DARBY
I’m going to show you how I want it done.

He drags Rani in front of the camera.

RANI
Do you mind?

Darby caresses her face.

DARBY
Not at all...

RANI
That’s not what I meant...

Darby PLANTS one on her lips.

Darby lets her go and they stare at eachother.

RANI
Wow.

DARBY
Who’s wowing now?

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sophie holds a large mirror for Rani to see herself.

Julie lays on the mattress.
JULIE
He took the dressing table as well?

RANI
He took everything.

JULIE
So who’s the date tonight?

Rani thinks for a moment.

RANI
I forgotten his name. He’s coming to pick me up. I hope this guy is normal.

SOPHIE
Sinner, ain’t none of your species normal.

Rani gives Sophie the finger, in front of the mirror.

Julie smirks.

RANI
This has been nothing but a disaster. The first guy, was some crazy idiot who rides a horse. The next date turned out to be Troy’s sister. The third date is a married cop. Fourth guy takes me back to Troy’s house, where I then slept with Troy!

She looks at Julie pleading.

RANI
All I want... is one normal date! Plus my dog has been sold. This sucks I hate everything.

Sophie lowers the mirror.

SOPHIE
Welcome to my world, or your world...

JULIE
I wasn’t going to tell you this, but Sophie and I are going to get Lucky back.
RANI
Lucky isn’t at Troy’s house.

JULIE
I know where Lucky’s new owner lives.

Rani is surprised.

RANI
You do?

SOPHIE
Don’t look at me. I don’t know what she’s talking about?

Julie stands up eager to tell.

JULIE
I guarantee I’ll get Lucky back tonight. Just don’t ask me any questions.

Rani smiles at her.

RANI
You two are the best!

Rani hugs both of them.

SOPHIE
Stop it!

INT. RESTAURANT – NIGHT

Carter is at the front door with Rani.

CARTER
I have a business to run, the first sign of trouble and I’ll kick you both out. Understand?

RANI
I understand.

CARTER
Is your date a man, and I mean not a woman dressed as a man, or a man dressed as a woman, is it a man dressed as a man?
RANI
Yes, I promise.

Carter sighs, still suspicious.

CARTER
Okay, you can come in.

Rani smiles at her date which happens to be –
- MURPHY, who looks stressed.

Carter offers them a table. He hands them both a menu each.

RANI
You were about to tell me what you do for a living.

MURPHY
I’m a courier.

RANI
Really, me too! I work for TNT as a bike courier. What company are you with?

Murphy flicks through the menu.

MURPHY
I mainly do deliveries for one company. Ludavar?

Rani shakes her head.

RANI
I haven’t heard of them.

MURPHY
I didn’t think you would have. They’re a quiet company.

RANI
Wow. They must pay pretty well. Is that an Armani suit?

Murphy smiles.

Rani smiles.
RANI
   This is nice. Someone normal to talk to.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT
An ESCORT walks along the footpath in front of a low hedge shrub.
TWO HANDS grab her -
Pulling her over the shrub.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT
BAM!
Julie slugs the escort into dreamland.
Sophie quickly lays down next to the escort.

   SOPHIE
     Great, now do me sinner!

Julie sighs.

   JULIE
     Don’t tempt me!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT
Murphy and Rani are laughing and enjoying drinks.

   MURPHY
     Problems? I’ll tell you about problems.

He takes a gulp from his wine.

   MURPHY
     I lost a package and my boss is furious!

They both laugh.

   MURPHY
     He just wants to kill me, I can tell.
RANI
I’ve lost items over the years and you get into so much shit over it!

MURPHY
Yes, that’s exactly it. I’m in such deep shit!

RANI
What was it? Well I mean you don’t have to tell me.

Murphy pauses. Takes another swig.

MURPHY
It was five hundred thousand dollars worth.

Rani stops laughing.

RANI
Oh my God! Wasn’t it insured?

Murphy gazes for a moment then BURSTS out laughing.

Rani joins in.

MURPHY
Insured? That’s so funny! I’m going to tell that to my boss. Insured!

Murphy smiles pointing at Rani.

MURPHY
I like you Rani, you’re funny.

Carter strolls up to the table.

CARTER
The bill, thank you.

MURPHY
I’ll get this.

Carter hands Murphy the bill.

Murphy flips it open. His attention falls on -

HARRY walking through the front door.
Harry is guided by a WAITER to his usual spot - next to Murphy and Rani.

MURPHY
Shit!

BOOM!
Murphy is off like a rocket. The bill thrown in the air.

Rani, stunned, watches as -
- Murphy flies out the front door.

Harry is oblivious to what has happened.

Carter STOMPS his feet on the floor.

CARTER
I knew it! I knew it! You just can’t bring someone normal here can you?

RANI
What did I do?

CARTER
My restaurant had an impeccable record, then you showed up with your transsexuals and now you’re trying to do a runner on me!

HARRY
Hi Rani, eating alone?

He WINKS.

Rani moans.

EXT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - NIGHT

Julie and Sophie walk to Ludavar’s mansion.

Jarrad and a Henchman wait out the front smoking.

Sophie is dressed in the escort’s clothing.

Jarrad looks at them suspicious.
JULIE
Evening...

JARRAD
What happened to the usual girl?

JULIE
She’s sick. I’m here because it’s not safe around these areas.

SOPHIE.
You should see what happened to some chick back there... Owww! Get off my foot!

Jarrad and the Henchman quickly eye each other.

JARRAD
Okay, you come with me.

He drags Sophie. Julie follows.

JARRAD
Not you.

JULIE
If I don’t go in, then she doesn’t go in. Those are my boss’s rules.

JARRAD
Fine, but not inside the mansion.
Just wait out in the gardens.

Sophie looks at the Henchman as they walk past.

SOPHIE
Ha ha, my cousin the Grim Reaper is going to get you.

He blows smoke in her face.

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - GAMING ROOM - NIGHT
Ludavar waits with several more HENCHMEN.
Inside the room is a large TV and a BAR to one side.
They watch as Jarrad and Sophie walk in.
LUDAVAR
Who’s this?

JARRAD
New girl. Usual one is sick.

LUDAVAR
What’s that smell?

SOPHIE
That would be me. Gas keeps coming out of this part...

She points to her bum.

SOPHIE
I was told by the TV to eat my butter, so that’s all I’ve been eating. Now this gas just won’t stop.

Ludavar looks at Jarrad for an explanation.

He starts to laugh.

LUDAVAR
Is she serious?

SOPHIE
Whatever you do, don’t believe the ad. I don’t make butter! For once in my eternal life, I’m telling the truth!

All the men laugh at her.

EXT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - GARDENS - NIGHT
Julie sneaks around the gardens.

JULIE
Lucky? Here boy.

She keeps walking further around the property.

EXT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - NIGHT
Jarrad walks outside and notices Julie has disappeared.
JARRAD
Hey, where’s the other lady?
The Henchman points to the side of the mansion.
Jarrad follows after Julie.

EXT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - GARDENS - NIGHT
Lucky trots up to Julie, wagging his tail.
Julie leans down ON HER KNEES patting Lucky.

JULIE
Hello baby. Rani’s missed you. I bought you some biscuits.
She drops the dog biscuits by her knees.
Her mobile rings.

JULIE
Hello? Rani? He did what?

JARRAD -
sneaks to the edge of a bush, peeks around to see -
JULIE with her back to him -
LUCKY’S head between her legs.

JARRAD
What the hell?

JULIE
I can’t talk now, I’m in the middle of getting Lucky. Oh that kind of tickles...

Jarrad GRIMACES.
He sneaks away.

EXT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - NIGHT
Jarrad wanders back to the mansion.
He looks at the Henchman who’s lit up another cigarette.
JARRAD
I thought if I saw a woman and an
animal doing it, I’d be turned on,
but I’m not. It’s quite disgusting.

The Henchman COUGHS and hits his chest.

Jarrad walks back to the mansion.

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - GAMING ROOM - NIGHT

Jarrad walks back in to see -

SOPHIE flapping her elbows -

- standing up on the bar kicking glasses at everyone.

The Henchmen are trying to get near her -

Ludavar hides behind his chair.

SOPHIE
I make butter win, win, win....
Fuck you all, your species sin...
Kiss my arse with a great big grin
You bunch of fatty’s, should be thin...

Ludavar glances at Jarrad.

LUDAVAR
Get this loon out of here!

SOPHIE
Oh C'mon sinner, I’m just getting
the hang of walking!

JARRAD
Lady, get off the bar and get the
fuck out of here!

SOPHIE
My name is not lady. My name is
Luu.. Lucy.. Ligh... Why can’t I
say my own name? Loo... Los.. I am
the evil looozenger, bow down
before me... the guardian of hell!

Jarrad can’t make head or tails of Sophie’s ramblings.
JARRAD
Lady, I’m already there!

Jarrad drags her off the bar.

LUDAVAR
Get her out of here! And cancel any dealings with that brothel!

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Jarrad drags Sophie to the front door.

LUDAVAR (O.S.)
Jarrad! Where’s my whisky?

Jarrad sighs.

JARRAD
Somebody kill me!

SOPHIE.
You and me both sinner!

JARRAD
You. There’s the door. Get the fuck out!

Jarrad races back upstairs.

The front door opens revealing -

- MURPHY. He does a double take.

MURPHY
You? What the fuck are you doing here?

He WHIPS out the handgun.

MURPHY
Where’s the money?

SOPHIE
That’s it sinner!

He pulls the HAMMER back.

Sophie looks up.
SOPHIE
This one’s for you Murphy!

MURPHY
Sure is!

CLICK!

Nothing happens.

MURPHY
No! No!

He aims the gun to the roof.

BANG!

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION – GAMING ROOM – NIGHT

LUDAVAR is frozen.

In his hand is the remains of a BROKEN WHISKY GLASS.

JARRAD
Are you alright boss?

He quickly looks at the Henchmen.

JARRAD
Crazy bitch has got a gun! You two come with me. We’ll go around the back.

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION – FRONT DOOR – NIGHT

Murphy aims the gun back at Sophie.

SOPHIE
Alright, this time. Right here!

She pounds on her chest.

CLICK!

SOPHIE
I hate you Murphy!
MURPHY
I hate you too... with a passion!

CLICK!

MURPHY
What’s the matter with this? Jarrad gave me a dodgy gun.

Murphy aims the gun at the ceiling.

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - GAMING ROOM - NIGHT
Ludavar is about to take a seat -
BANG! BANG!
Bullets fly through the cushion.
Ludavar holds his chest, gazing around.

LUDAVAR
She must be from the Carpone Family! Those sneaky bastards.

INT/EXT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT
Murphy checks the barrel. Flicks the safety.

MURPHY
This time.

Sophie nods.

SOPHIE
Hey, I’m on your side. Let’s do this right.

POW!
Murphy is clubbed from behind by Jarrad.

Murphy drops on the floor.

Jarrad points his gun at Sophie then realises she’s not holding a weapon.

JARRAD
It wasn’t you shooting?
SOPHIE
No it was him sinner! Now you
fucked everything!

JARRAD
Get out of here!

Sophie walks out the front door.

EXT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - NIGHT
The HENCHMAN lays in the garden dead of a heart attack.
Sophie walks past him.

SOPHIE
Lucky bastard!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT
Julie hides behind a tree holding Lucky.

JULIE
Are you alright? I heard gun shots.

SOPHIE
You’re all a bunch of nutters! Just wait, when you go to hell I’ll make all your lives a misery.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT
Harry and Rani walk towards Rani’s house.
She notices her letter box off its perch.
She picks it up and puts it back.

HARRY
That’s happening allot around here. Is that your van?

They both glance at -

A WHITE VAN waiting out the front of her house.
RANI
Nope. Must be a neighbour’s. Thanks for... paying my bill. The manager said I was banned for life.

Harry leans closer.

HARRY
So you think we could maybe do this again?

RANI
You know what, a friend of mine thought you were cute, I don’t know why, so how about I give you her number and you leave me alone?

Julie’s mini pulls up behind the van.

Rani smiles as Sophie walks out holding Lucky.

RANI
Oh my God, Lucky! My baby...

Rani hands Julie the keys.

RANI
Can you take him inside?

Julie and Sophie go inside the house.

The VAN DOOR slides open revealing –
– A BLINDING LIGHT.

Both Rani and Harry shield their eyes.

RANI
Now what?

The light is from a VIDEO CAMERA.

DARBY (V.O.)
Rani?

RANI
Is that Darby?

DARBY
What are you doing here?
RANI
I live here, what’s your excuse?

Darby scratches his head.

DARBY
All the time it was you.

RANI
How do you know where I live? Oh no... That old man?

DARBY
He’s a detective.

Julie walks out.

JULIE
Wow, it’s that guy from On Rod.

RANI
But your name’s Darby?

DARBY
Rod Darby. You just kept calling me Darby.

RANI
Oops. You’re a TV host?

DARBY
I wanted to do a special on the mysterious skywriter.

Another CAR stops out the front.

MURPHY climbs out, nursing the back of his head.

RANI
Murphy? Why’d you run off?

MURPHY
Rani, I just wanted to apologise for running out like that. I had to come back, I felt so guilty.

Sophie walks back out.

SOPHIE
I can’t control that dog.
MURPHY
You? No, impossible! What the fuck?

Murphy aims his gun -
glancing around the neighbourhood.

MURPHY
Everyone inside!

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
Murphy paces back and forth.
Rani, Julie, Sophie, Harry, Darby and his cameraman are lined up against a wall.

MURPHY
Need to sit down and think...

He notices no furniture.

MURPHY
What are you, a squatter?

Lucky wanders in.
Murphy stops.

MURPHY
You stole my boss’s dog?

RANI
It’s my dog. His name is Lucky.

Murphy looks at the collar.

MURPHY
The collar says Sinner!

Sophie laughs.
Murphy points the gun at Sophie.
CLICK!

Everyone sighs. Sophie laughs.

SOPHIE
This guy can’t shoot shit!
Harry gets a boost of confidence and steps forward.

BANG!

Murphy fires at the floor.

MURPHY
Listen cop, the gun works, just not on wonderwoman!

Harry steps back, confused.

MURPHY
Okay, where’s the money?

RANI
What money? Was it a lot of money?

MURPHY
I told you, five hundred thousand dollars worth.

Rani looks at Darby.

RANI
Arrgghh! I thought the money was from you. Then what did you give Sophie?

DARBY
Twenty four cans of coke.

Murphy shakes his head.

MURPHY
That was you? I ought to shoot you... But I like your show! So where’s the money now?

RANI
I hid it. On a block of land.

MURPHY
Bet you thought you were going to buy a house with it?

RANI
Crossed my mind.
MURPHY
Here’s what we’re going to do.
Rani, Rod and the camera guy are coming with me.

DARBY
Can we still film our show?

MURPHY
I don’t care. Crazy girl, tie up the cop and you, whoever you are.

JULIE
Julie. What happens to crazy girl?

MURPHY
I’m hoping she’ll go to hell!

SOPHIE
Finally, someone who understands...

MURPHY
She doesn’t make any sense, so be my guest...

Murphy looks at Sophie.

MURPHY
...go to the police. You sound like a raving lunatic. They’ll never believe you.

SOPHIE
Fuck you sinner! I hate the lot of you!

Murphy smiles at Julie.

MURPHY
Need I say more?

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - GAMING ROOM - NIGHT

Ludavar pours himself another whisky.

LUDAVAR
I don’t know what’s got into Murphy? Where’s he gone?
JARRAD
When he woke up he called me alot
of names then said he was going to
find the crazy escort.

Jarrad’s mobile rings.

Ludavar sips his whisky.

JARRAD
What channel?

Jarrad hangs up his mobile and grabs a TV remote.

JARRAD
Murphy is on television.

The TV shows –

DARBY driving a car. He looks at the camera, which pans back
and forth to RANI and MURPHY sitting in the back.

Murphy keeps waving the gun to shoo the cameraman away.

DARBY (TV)
If you’ve just tuned in you’re
watching On Rod. We’re doing
something different with the show
tonight... We’re looking for stolen
money.

MURPHY (TV)
It’s not stolen. It’s my boss’s.

DARBY (TV)
But it wasn’t Rani’s, so
theoretically she stole it.

The camera pans back to Murphy and Rani.

MURPHY (TV)
When you put it like that, then
yeah it’s stolen.

RANI (TV)
I never stole no fucking money!

SMASH!

Ludavar drops his glass of whisky.
INT. CAR - NIGHT

DARBY
Do you mind not swearing. The ABA don’t allow it for eight thirty programs.

HONK!
Darby waves at PEOPLE along the curb.

MURPHY
What are you doing?

DARBY
I can’t ignore my fans!

He looks at the camera.

DARBY
A big cheerio to everyone’s sisters out there!

Murphy looks at Rani.

MURPHY
So what’s the deal with you? I thought I could trust you. I was already thinking about taking you to Italy to meet my mother.

RANI
I hear the churches there are beautiful. Craftsmanship in the details...

MURPHY
Yeah they are. No-one can compete with Italy’s architecture.

They both nod.

INT. TROY’S BEDROOM - NIGHT
Troy sits in the bedroom watching the show. His mouth agape.

RANI leans closer to the camera -
RANI (TV)
If you’re watching Troy, this is all your fault!

INT. QUINCY’S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
Quincy sits alone in his living room just in a towel.
His colostomy bag is VERY FULL.

RANI (TV)
As far as I’m concerned, you suck!

QUINCY
That’s my line! God that pisses me off!

POP!
The colostomy bag BURSTS spraying everywhere.

QUINCY
Arrrgghhh!

INT. CAR - NIGHT
Murphy scratches his forehead.

MURPHY
Why did you think he gave you half a million dollars?

Darby and Rani glance at eachother.

RANI
He hit me with his car. I thought it was hush money.

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - GAMING ROOM - NIGHT
Darby leans towards the camera.

DARBY (TV)
It was an accident. She got up straight away and made a phone call from my work.
MURPHY (TV)
So instead you pay her off with a bag full of cola?

Darby shrugs at the camera.

DARBY (TV)
It was a joke.

Jarrad sits next to Ludavar, glued to the TV.

LUDAVAR
So how did this guy get our money?

JARRAD
No, he never got the money. He was the one who gave us the coke.

LUDAVAR
What’s with this soap opera?

EXT. CAR - NIGHT
Darby stops the car at a set of lights.
Along the curb walks -
MARISA. She notices Rani in the car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT
Marisa taps on the window.

DARBY
Hi, how are you? Yeah we’re filming live.

He looks at Rani.

DARBY
I got to acknowledge the fans.

MARISA
I keep thinking about when we kissed...

Darby does a double take.
DARBY
Not in this life!

The lights change and Darby quickly drives away.

MARISA (O.C.)
Rani... Come back!

MURPHY
You know her?

RANI
Yes, we dated the other night.

The three MEN start to snigger.

RANI
Yes, she kissed me!

INT. TROY’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Darby leans closer to the camera.

DARBY (TV)
Only On Rod do you hear such confessions! Let’s see the other networks beat that!

Troy is dumbfounded.

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION – GAMING ROOM – NIGHT

Ludavar hits Jarrad.

LUDAVAR
See that was what I wanted. Women kissing! Why couldn’t you get me her? Instead of that... lunatic!

JARRAD
Sorry boss!

INT. HOUSE – LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

Sophie sits against a wall giggling to herself. She keeps glancing at -
JULIE and HARRY taped back to back with the bean bag between them. Neither can sit comfortably.

JULIE
That’s it! You win! Cut me free and I’ll kill you!

Sophie jumps to her feet.

SOPHIE
Really? You’d do that for me sinner?

She hugs Julie.

Harry moans, trying to hold their weight.

SOPHIE
I’ll look for something to cut the tape.

She races off to the kitchen.

HARRY
Good thinking. Trick her into letting us free!

JULIE
What trick? I really am going to kill her! Nag, nag, nag! Kill me sinner, I hate this planet, your species this, your species that.

EXT. VACANT BLOCK - NIGHT
Darby stops the car.
They all step out of the car.
Murphy keeps his gun drawn.

MURPHY
Throw me the keys.
Darby tosses the keys.
Murphy gestures to Rani.

MURPHY
Lead the way.
The cameraman walks backwards keeping them all in view.

Darby and Rani walk together ahead of Murphy.

**DARBY**
So what’s the plan?

**RANI**
Well, I was thinking of giving him the money and keeping my life! What’s yours?

**DARBY**
We could knock him out! Be heros...

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**INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION – GAMING ROOM – NIGHT**

Ludavar and Jarrad still watch.

**LUDAVAR**
So close to getting the money and now these two want to play hero?

**JARRAD**
I know, it’s so suspenseful! And to think there’s not a thing we can do to warn Murphy.

**LUDAVAR**
How about you fucking call his mobile!

**JARRAD**
Oh yeah. I forgot it was live.

---

**EXT. VACANT BLOCK – NIGHT**

Murphy’s mobile rings.

**MURPHY**
Everyone, hold up.

He answers the mobile.

The cameraman positions himself to get a better view of them.

**DARBY**
This is live TV, that’s so rude!
He notices the washing machine and dumped car.

DARBY
Were you going to move your belongings in first, then build your house around them?

RANI
Funny! Just like the way you kiss.

DARBY
I don’t kiss funny, do I?

Murphy hangs up.

MURPHY
Shit! You kissed some chick back there and you’ve kissed this guy?

Rani stops and thinks.

RANI
There’s been alot of kissing this week. Spring started yet?

MURPHY
For the record, I know what you two are planning. I don’t want to kill anybody, but if I have to it’s going to be that guy...

He points to the cameraman.

MURPHY
Sorry friend, but you’re a little too quiet for my liking. Always watch the quiet ones. Now Rani, where’s the money?

She points to the washing machine.

Murphy glances at it, suspicious.

MURPHY
Just like that. It’s in a washing machine?

He wanders to the washing machine and flips the lid open – pulling out the BLACK UNDERWEAR.
Darby sniggers.
Murphy joins him. He shows that it’s a thong.

    RANI
    Oh like you’ve never seen
    underwear?

Murphy drops his hand in again and pulls out –
The COCA COLA BAG.

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - GAMING ROOM - NIGHT
Ludavar and Jarrad CHEER.

    MURPHY (TV)
    Hey camera guy, have a look at
    this...

The camera zooms closer as Murphy opens the bag revealing –
MONEY stacked perfectly.

    MURPHY (TV)
    I came through boss! I told you I
    would!

He zips the bag closed.

    LUDAVAR
    Somebody make me another drink. Now
    we celebrate.

EXT. VACANT BLOCK - NIGHT
Murphy holds the bag in one hand.

    MURPHY
    Nice meeting you all.

He proceeds to leave.

    RANI
    Wait! Aren’t you even going to kiss
    me goodbye? I mean, I’d like to...

Murphy considers. He walks back to them.
MURPHY
Sure, make it quick!

SQUISH!

Murphy stops in his tracks. Looks down -

MURPHY
Fuck! These are two hundred dollar shoes! Why do you have horse shit on your property?

The sound of GALLOPING can be heard from the darkness.

Murphy waves the gun confused -

MURPHY
Get the damn light out of my face!

BAM!

Murphy is knocked over by Calvin, riding his horse.

CALVIN swoops up -
- The CAMERAMAN. They ride out to the street.

Darby and Rani are speechless.

DARBY
Did he just kidnap my cameraman?

RANI
That was Calvin!

Murphy moans.

RANI
Quick, grab the money!

Darby grabs the bag.

Rani lifts up -
- the RUSTED BIKE.

DARBY
That’s our getaway vehicle? Can’t we take his car instead?

Murphy gets to his feet, still woozy.
Rani peddles out of there like mad.

    DARBY
    Wait for me!

Darby races after her and jumps on.

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION – GAMING ROOM – NIGHT

Ludavar holds another glass of whisky. He can’t blink.

TV Calvin turns around, GRINNING like a mad man.

    CALVIN (TV)
    I am the lizard king!

    JARRAD
    I got to admit, I didn’t see that coming!

SMASH!

Ludavar drops the whisky.

EXT. BUSHLAND – NIGHT

Rani steers the bike through bushland.

Darby leans on the rear structure of the bike frame. One hand holding Rani, the other holding the bag.

    DARBY
    Were all your dates this exciting?

    RANI
    This isn’t a date!

    DARBY
    Would you consider going out on a date?

She glances back at him.

    RANI
    Maybe, but without the cameraman.
INT. TROY’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Troy watches as –

The camera is flipped around, showing the CAMERAMAN. He just nods with a smile.

CALVIN (TV)
Hey, put that back on me...

The camera flips back to Calvin.

CALVIN (TV)
...as I was saying, whoever you are Mr Jim Morrison, I challenge you. You will soon discover that I am the real lizard king!

EXT. BUSHLAND – NIGHT

The SEAT on the bike drops off.

DARBY glances at –
- the RUSTED SEAT POLE near his rear.

DARBY
Murphy's law! Do you even know where you’re going?

RANI
I have a more serious issues to worry about...

She stops peddling and just rides.

She lifts the HANDLE BAR up and shrugs.

RANI
The handle bars just came off!

DARBY
So how long before we –

CRASH!

They fly off the bike and TUMBLE down a hill.

Darby gets to his feet and helps up Rani.
DARBY
You ok?

RANI
Two bike accidents, both times with you.

DARBY
That’s some luck you got there.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Rani and Darby find their way to a quiet street.

Darby talks on his mobile.

DARBY
We’re on some street with trees on either side. Where are we?

RANI
How should I know?

DARBY
Yeah I know, what right does that guy have stealing my cameraman? I don’t know who he was?

RANI
He was my first date.

DARBY
Rani says he was her first date. My producer wants to know was he a high school love?

RANI
No...

Calvin rides through some bush land further up ahead.

RANI
...Yes!

DARBY
Rani can’t make up her mind. I’ll call you back.

Calvin trots towards them.
Rani carries the bag.

RANI
I want to know why you were on my property?

SCREECH!
Murphy flies around a corner in his car.

CALVIN
Can’t answer that!

RANI
Take the bag! It’s what he’s after...

Calvin reluctantly takes the bag.

RANI
Ride through the bush. He won’t be able to find you.

Rani watches as -
Calvin rides along the street.

RANI
I said the bush!

MURPHY winds down the car window - poking his head out.

Rani smiles at Darby.

RANI
Well he can’t do anything to us now.

Darby caresses her cheek.

BOOM!
Murphy SNATCHES Rani as he drives past.

Darby stands there alone, caressing air.

INT. TROY’S BEDROOM - NIGHT
Troy shakes his head.
The TV shows -

RANI, held around the waist by Murphy, as they catch up alongside Calvin.

Rani gives up struggling.

TROY
What has she got a magnet in her arse?

EXT. STREET - NIGHT
Calvin -
does a double take at Rani riding on the outside of the car door at twenty miles an hour.

MURPHY
Tell him to give you the bag.

RANI
Been a change of plans.

CALVIN
But you said -

RANI
I know what I said! Give me the bag!

MURPHY
Tell him to pull the horse over.

CALVIN
Pull the horse? Hey, what I do with my horse, in my time, is my business!

He leans the bag over to Rani who -

- realises what Calvin just said. She pulls her hands away, shaking them.

RANI
Eewwww! And you kissed me!
MURPHY
What? You kissed this guy as well?
Just get the bag, I can’t hold you forever.

Calvin makes the horse stop.

Murphy stops in front of them. He lets Rani go who -
KISSES the tarmac.

MURPHY
That’s all you seem to do. Give me that!

He grabs the bag from Calvin.

MURPHY
Get off your high horse. Both of you!

Calvin and the cameraman jump off the horse.

Darby catches up, puffing out of breath.

DARBY
What did I miss?

INT. LUDAVAR’S MANSION - GAMING ROOM - NIGHT

Ludavar, Jarrad and all his Henchmen are glued watching the TV.

MURPHY (TV)
Are you still filming? I quit! I’m going back to Italy. I’ll give you the money, then I’m out of here!

Got it?

Ludavar looks around.

LUDAVAR
Sinner, here boy. Someone go find my dog.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Murphy throws the bag in the car.
MURPHY
Sometimes fate throws people into our lives for a reason. To wake us up, and make us question what we’re doing with our lives.

He closes the car door and pops his head through the driver’s window..

MURPHY
I realised now what fate was telling me... I hate people! Can’t stand them! You’re all idiots!

Murphy drives the car away.

Darby looks at Rani.

DARBY
Geez, that was pretty negative.

Darby checks his watch.

DARBY
The network is going to be pissed. We’re fifteen minutes over time. Better turn the camera off.

The cameraman does so.

They start walking along the street.

RANI
Hope Julie and Harry are alright?

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SOPHIE is taped up, HUGGING the bean bag.

Julie leans over her shoulder.

SOPHIE
Stop it sinner!

JULIE
This time you sing with me. He’s got the whole world, in his hands. He’s got the whole wide world....
SOPHIE
Stop it! You're evil! Murphy help me!

INT. LUDAVAR'S MANSION - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT
Murphy walks inside, exhausted.
HENCHMEN applaud and pat him on the back.

MURPHY
Where is he? Upstairs?

INT. LUDAVAR'S MANSION - GAMING ROOM - NIGHT
Jarrad and Ludavar stand up CLAPPING.
Two HENCHMEN stand by the bar.
Murphy drops the bag in front of Ludavar.

LUDAVAR
My boy Murphy! What a show!

MURPHY
I'm out boss. I retire.

Ludavar opens the bag.
Murphy glances at Jarrad.

MURPHY
This time I checked the bag.

Ludavar pulls out a piece CARDBOARD with several HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS neatly glued next to each other.
Murphy is shocked.
Ludavar drops his hand in the bag again and WHIPS out -
A CAN OF COLA.

Ludavar turns the cardboard over to reveal hand written words: I AM THE LIZARD KING!
Now I have forty eight cans of coke and some change. What should I do now, open a shop?

Jarrad and the Henchmen draw their handguns.

Let me help you... retire.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT
Calvin walks alongside Rani and Darby.
Police SIRENS ring out in the distance.

Was that you smashing letter boxes?

Maybe.

... why?

I use to work for the post office. They fired me for having lewd photos of thoroughbreds.

I shouldn’t have asked.

Calvin stops and climbs onto Lizard.

I can’t be around when the cops arrive.

He throws Rani a SADDLE BAG.

Someone left a shit load of money in your washing machine back there. I spent some to get by.

If you had the money all along, then what was in the other bag?
DARBY
Cola. I use it to clean the shit out between Lizard’s hoofs. It’s a great dissolver.

He waves his hand.

CALVIN
I am the REAL lizard king!

Rani smirks to herself.
Calvin rides away.

DARBY
Hasn’t he heard of the Doors?

RANI
Obviously not.

She leans closer.

DARBY
So you think maybe you and I...

RANI
You and I what?

She grabs Darby by the scruff.

DARBY
Hey, I’m not easy...

She kisses Darby.

EXT. BONDI PAVILION - DAY

Rani and Darby pose in front of the beach for photographers.

MARISA and TROY stand by a newsstand, watching from a distance.

Troy flicks through magazines.

RANI’S FACE is on the cover of several mags.

One reads: HOW I CAPTURED THE HEART OF A TV CELEBRITY.
TROY
Bitch of a bitch! She didn’t even want to be famous! It’s so unfair.

MARISA
Don’t think you’ll be able to get her back. They look happy together.

BY THE BEACH EDGE -
Julie and Sophie sit with Lucky between them.

SOPHIE
Pleeeasssee?

JULIE
Enough already! I told you I’m not going to kill you!

Sophie begins to sulk.

SOPHIE
Sinner!

JULIE
At least I’m not Murphy’s bitch!

Rani and Darby kiss as -

MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHERS take photos.

RANI -
- glances behind at a clear sky.

The sky is littered with hundreds of personal SKYWRITING ADVERTS.

FADE OUT.

The End.