

THIEF: GABRIEL'S GAME

Written by

Gary Rademan

With the assistance of

Sandra E. Watson
Thomas Pascal

Based on:

THIEF

Written by

Michael Cornetto
Sandra E. Watson
Thomas Pascal
Gary Rademan

With the assistance of

Gabriel Moronta
Jeff Bush
Elisabeth Dubois
Toby Elmers

© 2010

grademan@new.rr.com

This screenplay may not be used or reproduced without the express written permission of the authors.

FADE IN:

EXT. GABRIEL'S MANSION - DAY

Impressive structure. Green carpet of lush grass, trimmed hedges, and a pond.

JEANA (O.S.)
Gabriel, why do you pay for the upkeep
on all this? You need money not
maintenance. Send the help home!

EXT. ENTRYWAY - DAY

GABRIEL, mid twenties, tanned, handsome, stands in the middle of the cement apron outside the door.

GABRIEL
Already done, Jeana. Now, move the
camera so I'm in the center.

JEANA, mid twenties, small, supple and a cute off center smile, stands on a ladder by the door. She adjusts the camera angle and locks it in.

She checks her hand-held monitor.

MONITOR: He dances with a slight rhythm - slow and sexy.

GABRIEL
Now a close up.

MONITOR: His face fills the small screen. He preens for the camera.

His antics cause her to laugh.

JEANA
Ha ha. Color signal, okay. Wireless,
okay. I do need a sound check, my
pretty boy.

GABRIEL
Test.... Test... I am the best.

He snaps on his sunglasses. His smile is ace.

GABRIEL
Fabulous! That should do it for the
security cameras.

She climbs down the ladder.

JEANA

You're in a good mood. What happens
when our anti-friends get here?

GABRIEL

Am I not an actor?!

INT. SECURITY ROOM - DAY - SAME

A small room with high-end digital recording equipment and a bank of eight monitors.

The monitors cycle through a multitude of locations showing Gabriel and Jeana setting cameras.

EXT. ENTRYWAY - DAY - LATER

JOHNNY, mid twenties, overweight, rings the bell. He holds a ring box in his hand. He fidgets and plays catch with the box.

Johnny looks at it for a moment and opens the box to reveal the diamond engagement ring...

Gabriel snatches the ring from Johnny's hand.

He man hugs him with one arm. Or it could be a head lock.

GABRIEL

Quit playing with it. You'll lose it.

(brightly)

Hey, you did it! Johnny, I wasn't sure
you'd do it. You manned up! My man,
manned up.

Johnny swells with pride.

JOHNNY

Yeah. Nice, huh?

Gabriel holds it up to the sun between two fingers. The diamond facets reflect rainbows.

GABRIEL

Fabulous!

He drops the ring. Picks it up.

GABRIEL

I'm sorry.

He hands him the ring.

GABRIEL

Did you get it at Robert's Diamonds?
Did he do right by you? Sometimes, he
can be a little tight.

JOHNNY

Perfection "carat-teed."

JOHNNY

Is she here? Did you tell her?
Remember, it has to be a surprise.

GABRIEL

You're the first. Getting a little
anxious, are we?

Gabriel smiles to reassure him.

GABRIEL

I think you'll make a great couple.
This'll make this weekend huge for
you. Let's go in and check on Jeana.

JOHNNY

You ever think of asking her?

He hesitates for a moment.

GABRIEL

I have an idea. Come on in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A large well-stocked bar at the back of the room. The
furniture arrangement encourages close conversations.

A chubby male hand puts the engagement ring on the finger of a
slim female. Her light skin and black nail polish complement
the ring's brilliance.

JOHNNY (O.S.)

Cherry, you've been in my heart since
we met in grade school. I've loved our
time together in high school. This
question is long overdue. Will you
marry me, Cherry?

JEANA (O.S.)

Oh, yes, yes. My darling, Johnny, why
did you ever wait so long?

Johnny is on his knee, his face tilted upwards. Jeana sits
like a princess in the chair.

Her black lipstick shows off her white smile. She pulls her hand from his, admires the ring.

JOHNNY

You think she'll like it? Should I go a little more romantic on the whole thing? Or, should I really pop it up for a big finish?

JEANA

It'll be alright. Loosen up, will you?

She continues to admire the ring. Johnny and Jeana sit alone in the room. Gabriel sticks his head in the door.

GABRIEL

Is my man ready?

She drops the ring into Johnny's hand.

JEANA

Do you want to ask her right away?

GABRIEL

I'll get her when she comes in.

JOHNNY

No! Not yet.

Gabriel shakes his head. Johnny notices.

JOHNNY

I'm not saying I won't do it. Just not right away.

GABRIEL

Perhaps at dinner or afterwards?

Johnny looks nervous as he departs. Gabriel frowns.

GABRIEL

I really need him to step up this weekend.

JEANA

I know he will. And so will the others.

She gets a concerned look on her face.

JEANA

I'm just wondering if the means justify the ends. He seems like he's still a nice guy.

GABRIEL

We go with our plan as is. Acting is everything to me.

She embraces him and moves in to kiss him. He deftly avoids the kiss.

JEANA

I know, I know. But I am only going to wait so long for you and your damn virginity to make a decision.

She exhales and blows a strand of hair away from her face. He watches her exit without comment.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

An old beat-up RV pulls into the driveway. The RV parks in a spot farthest away from the mansion entrance.

Gabriel dashes out of the front entryway. The dirty window prevents him from seeing the driver. A tattooed arm hangs out the window.

The exhaust pipe blows out thick smoke as it slows down. Oil drips from underneath the RV onto the pristine concrete.

GABRIEL

Hey, you can't park here! Turn around!
Damn it! You can't park here!

The side door opens. RODDY, mid twenties, tall, imposing, exits first.

RODDY

Gabriel, how ye be?

GABRIEL

Damn it, Roddy. I knew you were involved. Who owns this piece of crap?

JIMMY, mid twenties, boy scout good looks, exits the RV.

GABRIEL

Jimmy, good to see you man. What are you doing in the RV?

JIMMY

Gabriel, hey man! Just picked us up a ride with --

DARNELL, mid twenties, tall, thin with an afro and sparse chin hair, opens the driver's side door. Short grin.

DARNELL

Me.

GABRIEL

Hey Darnell. You really want to park that out back...

DARNELL

Great idea. Roddy, here you go.

He throws the keys to Roddy.

DARNELL

Park it in the back.

GABRIEL

Okay, okay. Just don't let Roddy drive it. He breaks stuff. And no dumping your tanks either.

DARNELL

Okay. She can hold it. Can't you girl?

He pats the RV.

INT. FOYER - DAY

A lush entryway as you'd expect. The doorbell rings with fanfare. Gabriel opens the door.

CHERRY, mid twenties, still smoking hot, waits in the doorway.

CHERRY

Hey, Gabriel!

GABRIEL

Come on in girl and tell me about yourself. Johnny's here and dying to see you --

CHERRY

I want you to meet a friend of mine.

He looks at her ring finger. Nothing. He exhales.

GABRIEL

Well, where is she? Or he?

FRANCES, mid twenties, a thin, pale woman with pert breasts, walks from behind Cherry. An overnight bag sits beside her.

CHERRY

I'll see you both inside.

He opens his mouth, shuts it. Cherry exits.

FRANCES

It's me.

GABRIEL

Me, who?

FRANCES

Remember, that night at the drive-in
in high school?

GABRIEL

Normally, I love games...

EXT. DRIVE-IN - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Gabriel and a MALE CLASSMATE, thin, pale, sit in the front
seat of a car.

GABRIEL

Relax.

The classmate has a round "oh" upon his lips. Gabriel moves
in, their eyes inches apart.

GABRIEL

Shh...

Gabriel slides his head down and out of view.

FRANCES

Shh...it.

INT. FOYER - DAY (PRESENT)

GABRIEL

Frances?

FRANCES

That's right.

She spins into a centerfold pose.

FRANCES

I had a sex change. A complete sex
change, by the way. You like?

He sputters. She entices.

GABRIEL

I wish all my leading ladies looked as
gorgeous as you.

She beams as he scrutinizes her.

GABRIEL
Does anyone else know? I mean of course, Cherry knows.

FRANCES
Yup, but she's the only one.

He grins.

GABRIEL
Want to have some fun?

FRANCES
I thought you'd never ask. Beautiful mansion, I'll want a full tour later.

She hugs him.

GABRIEL
You always were strange.

She kisses him on the cheek.

FRANCES
And you weren't?

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Cherry enjoys the center of attention. Their voices overlap.

JIMMY
-- Cherry, you look wonderful.

RODDY
-- Hey, Cherry, how they hanging?

DARNELL
-- Hi, girl. It's been a while.

JEANA
-- Nice to have another girl here.

Johnny holds back from the inner circle. He scowls from across the room. Frances and Gabriel enter arm-in-arm.

JIMMY
You've been holding out on us? Who's she?

Cherry watches for the reaction.

Bottled water in hand, Roddy eyes Frances like prey.

GABRIEL
Let me introduce a beautiful woman in
my life.

RODDY, JIMMY, DARNELL
Hello, Nurse!

Gabriel smiles.

GABRIEL
Better known to you as Frances.

Roddy spits out his water.

RODDY
What the hell?!

Darnell stares at her in fascination.

DARNELL
Frances?

CHERRY
He had a sex change.

FRANCES
Surprise!

Cherry dashes over, hugs her.

CHERRY
I told you only Roddy would freak.

The group tries not to stare but fails.

RODDY
Always was a strange one.

JEANA
Well, everyone is here so...

GABRIEL
Let's head to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriel stands before the group. Jeana stands next to him.

GABRIEL
You are my friends. Granted, my
dysfunctional friends.

Light laughter.

GABRIEL

It's been five years since high school and I wanted us all to reconnect.

Roddy and Johnny doubt.

RODDY

What the fuck? I mean, we were barely friends before. Not that I want to stop a party.

JIMMY

We are friends. Just some of us are better at it than you.

RODDY

Okay, so how many times have you called me?

JIMMY

Exactly one. Last week when I called you about this party.

Gabriel holds up his hand.

GABRIEL

Okay. I'm tired of being an actor in Hollywood and need some friends around me for a while.

Pauses for effect.

GABRIEL

That's a lot to ask, to be friends again after five years, but it's just for the weekend, so let's all give it a try. It'll be fabulous!

JEANA

(sarcastically)

And if you liked that, go see one of his movies on DVD.

Uneasy laughter.

GABRIEL

I do have ideas for this evening's activities. I'll grab you when it's time.

FRANCES

Can't you give us a hint?

CHERRY

Please?!

The girls pout.

GABRIEL
No. I have several bedrooms
available so go pick your rooms.

JIMMY
What time do you want us back?

GABRIEL
When you're hungry, say about 8:00.

DARNELL
I bet the caterer brings a
feast fit for a beast.

GABRIEL
I'm going to cook. The staff is off
for the weekend.

RODDY
Oh no! That's it, we're all dead.

FRANCES
I bet Gabriel is a great cook. Oh
my, I must be tipsy already I
almost said cock.

The girls laugh but the boys look uncomfortable. Frances winks
at Gabriel. The group separates.

GABRIEL
I'll be in the kitchen!

He waits a moment, then exits.

RING. Darnell goes through his pocket, takes out his cell
phone. He looks at it, shrugs, and puts it back.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen is big enough and stainless steel enough to feed
an army. The blender stands empty. Gabriel's at the
refrigerator where he pulls out a large plate of appetizers.

He places the plates on the island counter top and hides the
caterer's wrappings and boxes.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Cherry and Jimmy move closer together.

CHERRY
...and you never said a word?

JIMMY
 Never. I wanted to. Oh, man, you
 were incredible. You are
 incredible.

Closer still... they kiss. Roddy enters the room and clears
 his throat.

RODDY
 Am I interrupting something?

CHERRY AND JIMMY
 Yes!

Cherry and Jimmy scoot away from one another.

RODDY
 Good.

He sits on the sofa right in the middle of them. They have to
 scoot over even more. He puts his arms around them and shakes
 them.

RODDY
 It's so good to be here with my
 good-old, good-old friends.

CHERRY
 You too, Roddy, even if you
 are still a pain in the --

RODDY
 Ooo! Let's go on a tour of the place.

Both Cherry and Jimmy shake their heads.

RODDY
 Guess I'll just have to go on my
 ownsome.

He stands and leaves the room. Cherry and Jimmy stare at each
 other in amazement then break into laughter.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Johnny enters. Frances stands in a corner and drinks a glass
 of wine.

JOHNNY
 The ten foot rule?

FRANCES
 What rule is that?

JOHNNY

It's a ten foot bubble most of us
different people have around us. No
one willingly comes inside the bubble.
The horror!

She chuckles.

FRANCES

That's a good one. In my case, I'd
estimate it's fifteen to twenty feet.

JOHNNY

It's great though, when you move, the
bubble moves with you.

He moves like a giant bubble in slow motion. He stands on his
toes, puffs his cheeks, and pushes his arms out from his body
while flexing up and down on his legs.

FRANCES

When you move to the punch bowl, they
scatter like spooked antelope at a
watering hole.

He likes that one.

JOHNNY

You move to the beer tap, they'll send
someone in. Under duress.

She laughs.

FRANCES

But even when you're in a crowded
place, the bubble collapses but never
goes away.

JOHNNY

Yeah.

FRANCES

Yeah.

Silence.

FRANCES

Ask me something.

JOHNNY

I can't think of anything.

FRANCES

Not a thing?

She strikes an inviting pose.

JOHNNY

No. Wait, what did you call Cherry for a nickname?

FRANCES

Prick. And I was Pussy.

JOHNNY

That's it! There must be a real story behind that. Tell me. If I knew, I forgot it.

FRANCES

Just one of those things that seem funny at the time. An on location joke.

JOHNNY

On location?

FRANCES

You had to be there.

JOHNNY

Oh. Hey, what do you call a bubble buster?

FRANCES

Prick?

JOHNNY

Friend.

He leaves as a ten foot bubble. Frances smiles and shakes her head.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

In another corner of the room, Jimmy flirts with Cherry. They ignore everyone else.

JIMMY

Cherry?! You haven't aged a day...

CHERRY

Sure I have.

JIMMY

You're still just as beautiful as the day I met you.

CHERRY

You think. Really?

JIMMY

Really.

They hug. Johnny watches uncomfortably. Jimmy pulls in a bit closer to Cherry and they kiss. Johnny clears his throat. He exits with disgust on his face.

INT. JOHNNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Johnny throws his duffel on the bed and starts unloading. Jimmy enters.

JIMMY

Huh? All the rooms are the same?

Johnny reverses things and packs. His lips turn to thin lines.

JIMMY

Where do you think you're going?

JOHNNY

The fuck away from here.

Jimmy grabs Johnny's arm, spins him around.

JIMMY

Just what is your problem?

Johnny pushes Jimmy away.

JOHNNY

You're my problem.

And pushes again. Jimmy raises his hands for peace. Johnny stares him down.

JIMMY

What did I do?

JOHNNY

You couldn't wait to get your hands on her, could you?

Johnny's breathing heavy now.

JIMMY

Who?

JOHNNY

Oh! Give me a break.

JIMMY

I don't know.

JOHNNY
Cherry!

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Darnell strolls quietly down the hall.

JIMMY (O.S.)
Cherry? Well, uh... We always had this
great relationship and...

Darnell stops in front of the open door.

JOHNNY (O.S.)
I knew it. I fucking knew it.

JIMMY (O.S.)
Knew what?

Darnell listens.

INT. JOHNNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy and Johnny continue their argument.

JOHNNY
Knew coming here was a waste of time.

Johnny goes to his duffel and starts packing again.

JIMMY
Come on man, don't do this.

Johnny grabs the ring box and opens it.

JIMMY
If I offended you somehow, I'm sorry.
But please don't leave, it would spoil
the weekend for...

Johnny turns, the open case in his hand. The ring sparkles in the light.

JOHNNY
I was planning to propose to her.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Darnell's spying eyes go wide as he sees the ring.

JIMMY (O.S.)
Propose? Uh, that's fantastic.

JOHNNY (O.S.)
I'm not going to anymore. Not after
what I saw.

JIMMY (O.S.)
That meant nothing. Believe me. Cherry
and I are and always have been just
friends.

JOHNNY (O.S.)
She was my first love.

Darnell almost bursts into laughter but maintains control. He
strolls away.

JIMMY (O.S.)
All the more reason not to quit. The
Johnny I know was no quitter.

JIMMY
Look, I'm sorry. You deserve her more
than I do.

JOHNNY
Who am I kidding? She doesn't want
someone like me. I'm a fat loser.
Well, you're free to have her now,
because I just don't care anymore.
Whatever, man.

Jimmy points at the ring.

JIMMY
Hey, maybe if I really loved her, I
would have been smart enough to bring
a ring too.

Johnny throws the ring across the room. Jimmy catches it and
smiles. He throws it straight back at Johnny.

EXT. POND - NIGHT

Roddy finds Darnell smoking a cigarette.

RODDY
Are we having fun yet?

DARNELL
Maybe. Get this, Johnny's going to
propose to Cherry this weekend. A
bright and shiny diamond ring no less.

RODDY
You sure?

DARNELL
Saw it. Heard it.

RODDY
That asshole. Completely Johnny.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Cherry walks back to her room.

JOHNNY (O.S.)
I can't!

JIMMY (O.S.)
You can!

She follows the voices to Johnny's room.

INT. JOHNNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Johnny and Jimmy look shocked to see Cherry standing there.

CHERRY
What can't Johnny do?

An awkward silence.

JOHNNY
I can't copy season number three of
How I Met Your Mother for Jimmy
because it's illegal.

Johnny reaches his hand to conceal the ring on the table.

CHERRY
Why can't he just rent it from your
parent's videos store?

JOHNNY
Good idea. Thanks. You going to be
around later?

CHERRY
Yeah. Reunion, all weekend.

She shakes her head and exits.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - LATER

Cherry and Frances walk to dinner.

FRANCES
I didn't know Gabriel cooked.

CHERRY

I don't think he does, I bet he's
hiding the take out boxes right now.

FRANCES

Cherry?

CHERRY

Yeah?

FRANCES

Do you remember how unhappy I was in
high school?

CHERRY

I always thought we had fun, doing
each other's hair and stuff.

FRANCES

So, you don't remember?

CHERRY

It doesn't matter what I remember. It
matters what you want to do in the
future.

FRANCES

Thanks, I love you.

She puts her head on Cherry's shoulder. Cherry rubs her
friend's arm.

CHERRY

I know you do.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Cherry and Frances enter to find the others waiting.

RODDY

It's about time. Gabriel wouldn't let
us eat until you got here.

DARNELL

And for all my high school friends, I
say we don't eat until we say grace.

Cherry's overcome.

CHERRY

That's beautiful, Darnell!

They all shrug and bow their heads.

DARNELL

We pray in gratitude and even with our crummy attitude, may we be blessed and pass the test and thank you God for...

Silence.

DARNELL

For...

Silence. Cherry peeks. Underneath the table, she rubs Darnell's leg with her foot.

CHERRY

For being the best.

Darnell opens his eyes and stares at Cherry.

DARNELL

Salute! Le Chaim! Cheers!

WHOLE GROUP

Cheers!

Except Johnny who's engrossed in his thoughts.

JOHNNY

I'll be back. I gotta get something from my room.

He exits. Roddy and Jimmy take turns looking at each other and then to Darnell and Cherry, who are having some kind of moment.

CHERRY

Here, you oughta try some cream cheese with the salmon.

She spreads it on Darnell's cracker. Darnell watches her intently, not knowing whether to watch the cracker or her.

CHERRY

And then you take a pickle, like so...

The eating continues. And even some drooling from Roddy as his soup trickles out of his open mouth.

RODDY

Do you guys remember that time...

EXT. SIMPLY, MICHIGAN - NIGHT (EIGHT YEARS AGO)

SUPER: Eight years ago

A familiar group of EIGHT TEENAGERS straggle down a dark street in loose formation.

TEEN RODDY, skinnier with a touch of acne, grins at his friends. His eyes peer out through his long hair.

RODDY (V.O.)
Want to have some fun?

TEEN DARNELL, before tattoos and a growth spurt, pops a smile.

DARNELL
What you got, man?

The group circles around the ringmaster.

RODDY
See that bar at the end of the street?

TEEN JIMMY, still has to grow into his jaw, assumes his best tough guy persona.

JIMMY
Yeah.

RODDY
There's a wedding reception in there tonight.

He nods at the Just Married sign on the door.

TEEN GABRIEL, handsome with braces, doubts.

GABRIEL
Who wants to ruin someone's wedding night?

JOHNNY
I don't know, this is sick.

TEEN JOHNNY, really overweight, looks to Cherry.

CHERRY
No, don't want to. I'm heading home. Frances, you coming?

TEEN CHERRY, smoking hot with long hair, and her shadow leave.

TEEN FRANCES, effeminate, pale skin, turns around and give s a shy smile to Gabriel. Stumbles as he turns back.

JEANA
You go if you want, I'm up for it.

TEEN JEANA, goth girl, smiles like hell's kitten.

DARNELL
Awesome. What are we gonna do?

JOHNNY
Actually, I don't want to know.
Cherry, Frances wait up!

Johnny dashes after them.

RODDY
Losers are gone. Time for some fun.

The remaining five stand outside the bar and note the bride and groom through the window with the neon beer sign.

Roddy sneaks up to the side door, gazes back at the group with the thumb's up sign. He creeps toward the door. Opens it and yells...

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT (PRESENT)

The group listens to Roddy's story.

RODDY
Fuck the slut! We all did!

The group howls.

CHERRY
You, said that?! What a naughty potty mouth.

RODDY
It was so damn funny. These guys in tuxes pour out of the bar yelling...

EXT. SIMPLY, MICHIGAN - NIGHT (EIGHT YEARS AGO)

RODDY (V.O.)
"You assholes are dead!"

The words come out of the mouths of THREE PISSED-OFF MEN in tuxes. They come crashing through the door on Roddy's heels.

RODDY
Run!

The group takes off at full tilt. Running side-by-side down the street.

JIMMY
(sarcastically)
Nice, one Roddy.

GABRIEL

Agreed.

DARNELL

Bad as hell!

JEANA

Split up. Meet at my house.

RODDY (V.O.)

Darnell, Jimmy and I split left,
Gabriel and Jeana split right.

DARNELL (V.O.)

Let me take it from here. I was scared
shitless and running faster than The
Flash...

Darnell runs, jumps hedges, fences, ducks under clothes lines until he misses one and hits his neck. His feet fly up, back parallel with the ground and drops.

Out of wind, he can't move. Jimmy and Roddy come up behind him and pick him up.

RODDY

Grab him. They're right behind us!

JIMMY

Come on! We gotta go!

Darnell stumbles, then runs.

DARNELL (V.O.)

(raspy)

I hate rope.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Everyone laughs and drinks. Johnny looks pissed.

JOHNNY

And I, of course, wasn't fast enough
to get away even though I was halfway
down the block. I ended up getting
slapped by the bride.

He touches his cheek.

DARNELL

Hey, I don't remember hearing that.

JOHNNY

No one asked, I didn't tell.

RODDY

Okay, tell it, Fat Boy. We want to hear it.

Johnny relaxes. Looks at Cherry.

JOHNNY

At least, Cherry and Frances got away.

Cherry and Frances look at each other, shake their heads.

JOHNNY

Nope, joker man, I'm in too good a mood for bad memories.

MONTAGE:

A) Gabriel and Jeana waltz in the dining room while clearing the table after dinner.

B) Johnny cleans up in his room. Showers, shaves. He wears boxers.

C) Roddy, Darnell and Jimmy drink beers in the living room. They laugh at one of Roddy's jokes.

D) Gabriel and Jeana continue their waltz in the kitchen.

E) Johnny puts on a clean shirt. He digs in his duffel bag and pulls out a picture of Cherry and him in high school graduation robes and caps. He looks at it and sighs.

F) Cherry and Frances talk - deep in conversation. Cherry puts her hand on Frances's knee as if to encourage her.

G) Gabriel and Jeana finish clean up and their waltz. Big finish. Gabriel hurries off.

H) Gabriel arrives at Johnny's room. Gabriel looks in the mirror, fusses with Johnny's hair.

I) Jeana joins Cherry and Frances in the living room. She oozes excitement as she listens to the conversation.

J) Johnny pulls out his ring box, pops it open, and admires the ring before...

END OF MONTAGE

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

...Cherry grabs the ring from Johnny's hand. Angry.

CHERRY

Johnny, what makes you think that I want to marry you or anyone?

The BEATS of jungle drums in the background.

CHERRY

I know that we were close in high school and everybody knew you had a crush on me, but please, a wedding proposal? Five years later?!

She gets an inkling.

CHERRY

How many of you knew about this? And didn't tell me.

She looks around the room.

GABRIEL

Well, it wasn't exactly a secret...

JEANA

I think it's about time there was a proposal in this place. I think it's adorable.

RODDY

(to Darnell)

This is awesome. Johnny's getting his chestnuts roasted over an open fire.

CHERRY

Take your ring and...!

She pulls back her throwing arm and releases the ring... it's intercepted by Roddy. She dashes out of the room. Frances follows.

RODDY

Want to have some fun? Ring fling!

He throws the ring to...

DARNELL

Ring-coming!

He tosses it back to...

RODDY

Ring rong!

He slings it high over Johnny.

JOHNNY
You assholes are dead!

He jumps a few inches, misses the ring...

As it flies high over to...

GABRIEL
I don't want it!

He throws it like a hot potato to...

JIMMY
Here you go. Don't sweat it.

He snatches the ring and flings it to Johnny but Roddy intercepts it again.

RODDY
I got it.

Roddy cranks his smile to diabolical and runs out of the room. Johnny composes himself.

RODDY (O.S.)
Come and get the ring/before I give it
a fling/and wouldn't that be a
terrible thing/if this ring were to
grow wings...

Johnny speed walks as fast as his bulk will allow, heads out of the room.

JOHNNY
Your ass is mine.

JEANA
Gabriel?

Jeana motions for him to go after the two men.

GABRIEL
Johnny will never catch him.

JIMMY
Well, I'll put a stop to this right
now. Pony up, Darnell. We gotta rope
Roddy in as usual.

Darnell and Jimmy leave.

GABRIEL
Fabulous!

Jeana gives Gabriel a dirty look.

JEANA
I'll go check on Cherry.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Johnny creeps, his arms in boxer position, no Roddy. He creeps further. Peers around the corner...

Darnell and Jimmy jump back.

JIMMY
Shit, Johnny! When did you get stealth mode?

JOHNNY
I'm not talking to you two thieves!

JIMMY
What do you think that for? We're looking for Roddy right now.

JOHNNY
You ruin things with Cherry and then you play keep away with the ring. That's not exactly friendly.

JIMMY
Or accurate. Not even close.

DARNELL
You screwed up on your own.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT - SAME

Roddy sits at the top of the stairs.

He admires the ring, notes the crystals on the chandelier. His eyes go back and forth between the two. Eureka.

He tosses the ring at the chandelier... it misses and drops to the floor. He goes downstairs and retrieves it. Shines it up with his shirt tail.

He climbs the stairs and tosses the ring again. It bounces a few times among the crystals before it catches.

He goes downstairs, looks up. Does not see the ring. Smug smile.

Roddy hears indistinct voices O.S., dashes out.

INT. SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriel stands, watches the screen, wears a smug smile to match Roddy's.

GABRIEL
Well played.

He turns off the lights and leaves.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

Frances hides in one of the doorways. She stares at the ring as Johnny hurries in. She leans back.

JOHNNY
Roddy!

No Roddy. Johnny runs out the main hallway.

Frances pokes out of the half closed door. Walks to the stair railing. Reaches for the chandelier. Misses by several feet.

Removes her shoes. Hikes her skirt up. Crawls over the railing. Stretches for the chandelier. Almost there. She loses her grip. Regains it.

Her hand slips. Hangs by the railing two floors up. Gravity pulls at her feet. She's slipping. Her underwear shows. Becomes clear her sex change looks legit.

Roddy enters and sees Frances's legs hanging above, He centers himself underneath her.

RODDY
I know what you were doing.

FRANCES
I can't hang on...

And she falls on top of Roddy. They extricate themselves.

RODDY
You're lucky I came back to admire it.
If it's gone, I know who to blame.

FRANCES
I wouldn't dream of touching that
thing.

She brushes her clothes. He watches with a bemused smile.

RODDY
I'm heading off to the pool. See if
there is such a thing as one-size-
fits-all Speedos.

FRANCES
Why didn't we hang out in high school?

RODDY
Pool. Speedos. See you.

She moves to block his way.

FRANCES
Why did you hide the ring up there?

He studies her.

RODDY
One, it was pure inspired genius and
two, it was...

He searches for words. She completes his sentence.

FRANCES
Because you want Johnny and Cherry to
take their time.

RODDY
Your syllables.

INT CHERRY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Cherry sits on the corner of the bed. She attempts not to cry
but does anyway. Jeana stands next to her and rubs her back.

JEANA
I thought you and Johnny were a hot
item in high school.

CHERRY
That was five years ago, not five
weeks ago. Besides, everyone knew he
had the crush on me.

Frances walks in and hands her a fresh tissue.

FRANCES
You liked him well enough to kiss him.

CHERRY
I thought you had the crush on Johnny.

JEANA
He was here early today...

FRANCES

Let's not get our thongs in a twist, ladies. I like him. Just before dinner, he was being so charming.

JEANA

Jimmy and you flirting and kissing like in high school probably didn't help.

CHERRY

That's my business!

She throws a mini standing-in-place tantrum.

CHERRY

All he had to do was talk to me!

JEANA

Roddy and Jimmy are looking good ladies. Maybe a little reconnecting action tonight...

FRANCES

Oh, what was that Jeana about an adorable proposal? Are you ever going to get that ring from Gabriel?

JEANA

Never mind, I thought we were talking about Johnny and Cherry.

She bumps Frances on the way out.

FRANCES

So did I. Are you okay?

CHERRY

Yeah, seeing you two go at it made me feel better.

FRANCES

Truly okay?

CHERRY

Yeah.

Not very convincing.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Johnny sets up a chair against the wall and sits in it. Darnell and Jimmy walk in.

JIMMY
So, just like the sheriff in the Old West, no one can sneak up on you.

JOHNNY
I'll get my man eventually.

DARNELL
I don't think you'll ever get that woman of yours. She's so mad at you, that you'll be in the clubhouse for mutts for a long time.

Gabriel walks in.

JOHNNY
Did you see Roddy?

GABRIEL
You mean the ring.

JOHNNY
I want both.

GABRIEL
So what about Cherry?

JOHNNY
She's pissed. And she's never going to get unpissed.

GABRIEL
Give it some time, my man.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Roddy knocks at Cherry's door. No answer. He closes his eyes. Presses his forehead upon the door. He snaps himself out of it, opens the door with confidence.

INT. CHERRY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Roddy rummages through Cherry's things. He finds a makeup bag, grins wildly.

EXT. FRONT - NIGHT

Frances, Jeana, Gabriel and Darnell stand in front of Darnell's RV. Weird noises from above.

RODDY (O.S.)
Look at me! We-hee-hee!

They raise their heads to a high window in the mansion. Roddy the joker has makeup all over his face, laughs like a maniac.

GABRIEL
Roddy you better not break even one
vase or I'll --

Gabriel storms inside. Frances, Jeana and Darnell stand there. They break into laughter, head in.

RING. Darnell rummages through his pockets, pulls out his cellphone.

DARNELL
I want to take this call.

He waits for everyone to go inside. Goes over by his RV. He paces as he talks.

DARNELL
Yeah... No, I don't have it yet but I
will... Now quit calling me!

He hits the palm of his hand on the RV.

INT. CHERRY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriel knocks on the door.

GABRIEL
Roddy? Cherry?

After a moment, he throws the door open. Looks left, looks right... empty.

He sees on the mirror "The Ring + Johnny = Loser" written in lipstick. Gabriel chuckles as he wipes the mirror off.

He leaves a shadow of the message on the mirror.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Darnell stands by the kitchen bench and imitates Gabriel.

DARNELL
Hey, you can't park here! Turn around!
Damn it! You can't park here! Damn it,
Roddy. I knew you were involved. Who
owns this piece of crap?

Johnny and Jeana laugh with him.

Frances walks in.

JEANA

He always gets so serious. Be back soon, I'm gonna find him.

FRANCES

Hey. I need to find him too, I'll help you.

JEANA

Okay, whatever.

Jeana and Frances walk out of the kitchen.

Roddy pops his head in the doorway, makeup on his face. Darnell howls with laughter. Roddy walks over to Johnny, goes for his shirt.

JOHNNY

No way. Not a chance in hell!

RODDY

Come on! Come here.

Johnny moves towards the door. Roddy moves too quick for him.

RODDY

Gotcha!

Roddy wipes his face on Johnny's shirt.

JOHNNY

Get the hell off me!

RODDY

Or what, big boy?

Johnny puts his fists up.

JOHNNY

Or I'll punch you right in the nose.

Roddy laughs.

RODDY

Can't wait, sunshine.

Roddy laughs as he runs off. Darnell laughs too, silenced by a stern look from Johnny.

JOHNNY

And where's my ring?!

INT. POOL ROOM - NIGHT

Johnny enters and spots Roddy in the water. Face down. Arms outstretched. Not moving.

Johnny goes to the pool edge. No waves. Johnny reaches for Roddy's arm...

Roddy grabs Johnny and pulls him in.

RODDY

What's the rule Johnny? Huh,
Johnny? You've seen enough movies to
know!

Johnny gasps for air.

JOHNNY

Never touch a floater!

RODDY

That's right, big boy.

Roddy pushes Johnny's head under.

RODDY

Now, it's time to find out if fat
lover boy can swim.

Johnny gasps for air.

JOHNNY

Where's my ring?

RODDY

Oh my. "Fat lover" sounds a lot
like "flubber" to me.

Roddy hops on Johnny's back pushing him below the water. Johnny spins around and pops back up coughing.

JOHNNY

You're an asshole.

RODDY

Is that why you're always wanting
to kiss me?

Roddy puckers his lips and Johnny seems confused. Then it registers with a vengeance. Johnny take a swing at Roddy.

Roddy twists into the water and swims away. The swing misses him. Johnny follows quickly.

He grabs Roddy's leg but Roddy kicks him away. Roddy's enjoying himself.

Johnny isn't. He's takes the matter seriously, a quick burst of speed and he's on Roddy's back. Johnny brings his elbow down hard against Roddy's spine. Roddy screams out but it quickly becomes bubbles under the water.

JOHNNY

(mutters)

I've always wanted to do that.

And he's falling backwards. Roddy has his leg. Roddy pops above the water.

RODDY

That fucking hurt you know!

And he pulls Johnny by his legs. Johnny lies flat back in the water, thrashing. He tries to get leverage but can't.

RODDY

Thought you were better than me,
Fat Boy! Well, whose got the upper
hand now?

The crotch of Johnny's pants are against Roddy's belly. Johnny tries to take a swing at him but it doesn't work.

Roddy grabs Johnny's pants by the belt. O.S. Jimmy clears his throat. Both turn to look.

JIMMY

What's going on here?

RODDY

Johnny's decided to marry me
instead of Cherry. Didn't you
Johnny baby?

Johnny glares at both men.

JOHNNY

Fuck --

Roddy lifts Johnny's legs and Johnny's head goes below the water before he has a chance to finish.

RODDY

Always thinking about sex.

Johnny splashes about trying to get his head above water.

JIMMY

Let him go.

And Jimmy and Roddy stare down each other. Meanwhile, Johnny isn't yet above water.

Then Roddy relents. He releases Johnny's legs.

JIMMY
What the hell is it with you two?

Johnny has caught his breath. He lunges at Roddy.

JOHNNY
Fucking son of a bitch.

Roddy makes a smooth move and Johnny misses him. Johnny splashes into the water with a belly flop. Roddy swims toward the deep end.

Johnny, back again, wades toward Roddy.

JIMMY
Johnny!

JOHNNY
I'm gonna fucking kill him.

JIMMY
Let it go.

JOHNNY
But --

JIMMY
He's not worth it.

Johnny thinks about it for a moment. He looks toward Roddy.

JOHNNY
I wouldn't marry you if you were
the last man on earth!

Roddy laughs loudly. Johnny realizes what he said, blushes, and hurries out of the pool. Roddy treads water and smiles.

RODDY
(to himself)
Priceless.

Roddy spies Jimmy still standing at the side of the pool. He swims over to the side.

RODDY
Come on in the water's fine!

JIMMY
Sometimes you're such a jerk.

RODDY
Because I invited you for a swim?

JIMMY

Grow up. And while you're at it,
return the ring.

RODDY

Never!

JIMMY

No less than I expected.

And Roddy pushes off from the side and backstrokes across the pool. With a big smile, he watches Jimmy shake his head for a moment and then walk off.

Roddy's smile turns serious.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeana closes the door and pauses.

She pulls her scrapbook from under the bed. She carries it to her favorite chair.

She opens her treasure with care. She breathes in the smell and grins.

The first pages contain class pictures of Gabriel from grade school. Below each picture is a bubble letter message "I love Gabriel" in faded ink. Old tear drops spot the surface.

The next pages contain pictures of Gabriel as a teen with song lyrics of love in the background.

Jeana wipes her eyes at the pictures of his plays and the leading ladies. Her smile is proud although her lips tremble.

She skips the next couple of pages to a cover of People magazine issue titled "Flash in the Pan Actors."

Jeana folds the scrapbook and rests a moment. She gets a look of conviction on her face, puts the book back under the bed.

EXT. FIRE PIT - NIGHT - LATER

The gang follows Gabriel to the fire pit in the middle of the hedge maze not far from the pond. The pit features torches, sand, bench seats, and a fire. They sit down. Some sparring equipment sits nearby.

GABRIEL

First off, Johnny would like his ring
back. It cost him a lot...

Cherry scoffs.

GABRIEL

So, I'd like to play a variation of spin the bottle called piss and tell. The bottle spins and you get to piss and tell. Jeana, you go first.

Jeana scoots up on her seat. Gabriel keeps his best profile to the camera.

JEANA

Well, I hear that Cherry has gone completely bitch side. She's a control freak who craves the ring but wants Jimmy instead.

Jimmy's face turns red and looks straight at Cherry. Johnny hangs his head. Roddy's eyes glow with anticipation.

RODDY

This is going to be good.

CHERRY

No need to spin the bottle. Jeana, you poor misguided slut. You are --

Jeana jumps off her bench, tackles her. They roll. Gabriel grabs Jeana. Roddy pulls back Cherry.

RODDY

Looks like piss and tell is the best game ever.

The fire pit glows, reflects in Gabriel's eyes.

GABRIEL

I say we give it another try.

FRANCES

Do you want to kill us all?

She looks incredulous at Gabriel.

RODDY

Why don't you grow a pair? Don't be so scared all the time.

Frances looks almost feline when she gazes at Roddy.

FRANCES

Roddy and I will go next, dearest. Give me the safe sticks or whatever they are. I guess Cherry and Jeana couldn't wait to claw each other.

She points to two cushioned staffs shaped like giant ear swabs. Gabriel throws a staff at each Roddy and Frances.

GABRIEL

They're actually called pummeling batons. They can sting like hell but that's about it. Now remember, let us know your piss and tell.

Frances and Roddy spin the batons. Circling away from the fire.

RODDY

I've got 50 pounds on you. It's going to sting.

FRANCES

That depends if you can hit me.

He swings and misses as she sidesteps. Gabriel watches with intense interest.

RODDY

Why do you have to be so weird?

She swings and meets his block.

FRANCES

You couldn't keep your eyes off me when I twirled in.

He smacks her baton hard.

FRANCES

The fooler didn't like being fooled. Did you?

Another smack and a move at the end that almost caught her. She spins and hits him with a stinger on the shoulder.

He levels the staff at her and pushes her chest back. She steps backwards with it. He extends himself. She hits a glancing blow to the balls.

RODDY

You're the nicest girl I ever met.

Darnell cheers for his buddy. Jimmy and the others watch in silence.

DARNELL

Come on, put her away.

But in true Darnell fashion, changes his tune.

DARNELL

Don't hit the girl too hard.

Darnell gets his signals crossed.

DARNELL
I mean he used to be a guy.

JIMMY
Darnell, be quiet.

Gabriel looks at Jeana and widens his eyes. He suppresses his smile.

Frances turns and pummels Roddy with a series of blows. He waits and deftly swipes the staff over and under into her crotch.

RODDY
Oops, hope I didn't miss anything important to you.

She counters with a fast swat across his face and hears a slap that satisfies.

FRANCES
I've been wanting to slap you like that since I saw you, joker man. Feels good, kind of wonderful, I imagine.

He rubs his jaw. She rubs her crotch.

RODDY
You are one fucked up woman.

Gabriel grabs the pummeling batons.

FRANCES
Ha! You just called me a woman in front of witnesses.

RODDY
They'll never remember.

They smirk at each other. Gabriel offers the batons up.

GABRIEL
Okay, who wants to go next? Johnny and Cherry? No, no, sorry I asked, Cherry has already participated. But if you want to...

No takers. Everyone heads back to the pool entrance. Gabriel and Jeana lag behind.

GABRIEL
Fabulous! Like Roddy said, best game ever.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Moderate by studio executive standards but impressive. The mementos are spectacular.

Jimmy and Gabriel enter. Gabriel sits behind the desk and offers him a chair. Jimmy stands.

GABRIEL
The Children's Cancer Cure Group? So that's where you work?

JIMMY
Yes, ever since they helped my sister.

GABRIEL
I'll need a certain something from you tonight. Can you do that?

JIMMY
What is it?

GABRIEL
A substantial amount to be paid within thirty days.

JIMMY
Deal.

GABRIEL
What no moral quandary? No wrestling with righteousness?

JIMMY
Nope, I'll do it.

Jimmy exits. Gabriel stays behind and opens a desk drawer. He pulls out a letter from a bank with --

"Ten Day Foreclosure Notice"

-- stamped across it. He scoffs and tosses it back in his desk drawer. He leans back in his chair and gets a contemplative look on his face.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - RV - NIGHT

Darnell sits on the steps of his RV smoking a doobie. Jeana stands next to him.

JEANA
Gabriel is a good guy. A little strange.

DARNELL
Is he good enough?

She bends toward him, lets her cleavage show.

JEANA
Maybe not in every aspect. But what's a virgin to do?

DARNELL
You're not a virgin. I remember that even if you don't. Damn, are you telling me that he's been hanging onto his cherry for that long. Uh-huh, no guy does that unless he...

JEANA
Can't. Or won't for some reason I can't begin to understand.

DARNELL
Why are you letting me in on this?

JEANA
Because he has something special to ask you.

DARNELL
Okay...

JEANA
He knows that you owe a huge amount of cash to your bookie. And if he were to have the police check this RV for stolen goods, they'd find something...

She lets that settle.

DARNELL
Whether there was any or not. Shit, what does he want?

JEANA
The ring. Planted on... well, I'll let you know.

DARNELL
No problem. All you to do was ask and offer me a split of whatever scheme you're running...

Jeana unzips his pants.

JEANA
What's good for the movie star is good for the starlet.

INT. HOME THEATER ROOM - NIGHT

The theater consists of a modern style projector, a large screen, leather viewing chairs, and a killer sound system.

Gabriel watches a movie. He sits alone in one of the leather chairs. Cherry listens by the door.

The movie blurs and runs without sound.

GABRIEL
 (at the screen)
 No, no, no! What are you? An actor or
 a prop with legs?!

Cherry walks in and sits in the chair behind him.

CHERRY
 You could act better than that fool
 back in high school.

Gabriel jumps at the intrusion, a little disoriented.

GABRIEL
 Hey.

CHERRY
 You took my breath away.

GABRIEL
 Keep talking, pretty woman.

CHERRY
 I'm wondering, why are you in your own
 screening room yelling at one of your
 movies?

GABRIEL
 It settles me.

CHERRY
 I can see that, yelling equals
 settled. Got it. Obsessing over the
 past while ignoring the future. Got
 it.

GABRIEL
 Good advice. I'll start watching the
 movies I could have starred in, if...

CHERRY
 What?

GABRIEL
 What?

CHERRY

Tell me.

GABRIEL

I haven't admitted it to myself yet.

CHERRY

Spill.

He hesitates.

GABRIEL

If I hadn't been so determined to work on film not movies.

CHERRY

So, you're selective like John Travolta. Big deal.

He grimaces.

GABRIEL

After a while you get branded as difficult.

He switches gears.

GABRIEL

Why don't you kick Johnny in the fat butt?! He humiliated you. If I had known in advance, I wouldn't have invited him.

CHERRY

I don't know what's got into him. Really don't care to know at this point.

She stands, gives a quick wave, and exits.

CHERRY

Going to the pool.

He watches the screen for a moment. He scoffs. He turns the system off with his remote control and exits.

INT. POOL ROOM - NIGHT

Cherry enters. Quiet and empty. She glides along the floor up to pool side. She looks at the water with longing.

Viewed from behind:

-- She wiggles out of the pants. Her well-toned backside covered by form fitting panties.

-- She takes off her top revealing a jogging bra.

-- Her panties and bra fall behind her.

-- The dim pool lights outline Cherry's athletic build as she pauses a moment.

She dives in, takes her time before resurfacing.

Cherry starts her laps, says a little ditty.

CHERRY

Roddy is a joker/Jeana is a bitch/
Frances is a girly now/and Johnny
lost his ring/Yeah, we're all
fucked up.

The water surges as she gets faster and faster.

CHERRY

Jimmy is a prince/Gabriel is an
acting goon/Cherry is so damn
lost/and Darnell is a dunderhead/
Yeah, we're all fucked up.

INT. SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriel sits on the chair and feet on the console table. Jeana joins him and sits on the table.

GABRIEL

I think my incentives have been
received rather nicely. How did
Darnell's go?

Jeana nods.

JEANA

I think he would have gone for it
without all the extra stuff.

GABRIEL

Like the blow job?

JEANA

Yeah.

GABRIEL

Sometimes a director wants to see how
committed his actors are to a project.

JEANA

I must get an A-plus. And a night-time
cable award.

GABRIEL

My incentive to Jimmy went well. He folded too soon. I was looking forward to a tense moment while he argued, but no, all too easy.

JEANA

You are going to honor their deals? Gabriel. Gabriel!

GABRIEL

They'll get paid out of their portion of the show proceeds.

JEANA

Good.

GABRIEL

If we make any money.

JEANA

Not so good.

GABRIEL

We'll have to wait and see what incentives the others may need to play naughty. Not Roddy, Frances or Cherry. Plenty of spice there. And Johnny's just fine as his plain old self.

JEANA

(to herself)

I better get mine...

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Spy-themed music plays while Gabriel pulls a black turtle neck over his head to complete his black ensemble. He's one mean mother. He smirks.

On Gabriel's bed sits a large black case. He coolly strides over to it. Then he smiles as he pulls out a gun.

Gabriel turns quickly toward the sound. He cocks the gun. Aims at the camera. Pulls the trigger. Then everything goes black.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

Darnell opens the front door.

GABRIEL

Where do you think you're going?

Darnell jerks back as if caught after curfew.

DARNELL
 I was going for a smoke in my RV.
 Maybe a phone call. Why do you care?

He gazes at Gabriel in his night commando outfit.

DARNELL
 Why are you dressed like that?

GABRIEL
 Darnell, my boy. We are going to
 have some fun...

Gabriel puts his arm around the still edgy Darnell and guides him toward the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

GABRIEL (O.S.)
 (yelling)
 Hey everyone! Meeting in the living
 room!.

Jimmy shows surprise when Gabriel and Darnell enter.

JIMMY
 Hey guys. What's up?

DARNELL
 Ask Gabriel, man. He has something
 against me going for a smoke.

Frances and Jeana enter.

FRANCES
 What's going on?

JEANA
 Why the summons?

Jeana looks at Gabriel's outfit.

JEANA
 Seriously, what's going on?

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriel stands at attention in front of Darnell, Frances Jimmy, and Jeana.

JIMMY
 What's in the bag?

FRANCES

Come on. You know you're just dying to tell us so --

JEANA

-- tell us already.

Gabriel holds the bag tightly.

DARNELL

He ain't gonna to tell us. Look at that shit-eating grin.

GABRIEL

Not until everyone is here. We need Johnny, Cherry and Roddy. Wait, I hear someone coming.

Roddy wanders in, looks around the room.

RODDY

What the fuck is going on here?

Everyone looks to Gabriel as he reaches into the bag and pulls out a --

GUN

-- which he points at Roddy.

Roddy gulps. The rest of the gang look stunned. Gabriel savors the moment.

RODDY

Look, Gabriel. I apologize. I'll return the --

DARNELL

Give him a chance, man.

Gabriel aims at Roddy's chest, pulls the trigger.

CLICK.

A red splotch on his shirt. He looks confused, comprehends as his painted fingers rise.

RODDY

Fuck you, asshole!

Darnell slumps into a chair, a sigh of relief.

DARNELL

A paintball gun. It was just a paintball gun.

Sighs of relief escape the gang.

RODDY
I'm going to kill you.

Roddy lunges for Gabriel who easily sidesteps his attacker.

GABRIEL
I take it I have one recruit for
paintball?

RODDY
Johnny and Cherry don't know yet?

Gabriel shakes his head.

RODDY
I'm so in. Gabriel, you're still on my
list.

Gabriel nods, tosses them each a bag.

JIMMY
Me want big gun. Me like see Big Chief
Gabriel almost make squaw piss her
pants.

RODDY
You just made the list, buddy.

FRANCES
Boys and their guns. Is there one that
shoots piss balls?

RODDY
Very funny, Frances. You just made the
short list.

FRANCES
Talking from experience, short stuff?

JEANA
I want one that shoots metal pellets,
got any of those?

DARNELL
I worry about you, Jeana. I really do.

GABRIEL
Enough yapping. Go get dressed. Quick.
I'll leave a bag for Johnny and Cherry
in their rooms.

(as if announcing a
wrestling match)
It's time for paintball!

INT. SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT

Two of the eight monitors show Cherry in the pool room and Johnny watching her from the changing room. A third monitor reads "Motion detected in front hallway" and switches on to show the progress of the six paintball commandos.

INT. POOL - NIGHT

Cherry slows her laps down. Stops, floats on her back, closes her eyes... at peace.

Click. The lights go on. Cherry opens her eyes.

Everyone is dressed as bad mothers in black - six shooters, six guns - pointing at her.

Cherry screams.

Johnny bursts in from his hiding place in the changing room. He looks around the pool. His mouth opens, snaps shut.

RODDY
(looking at Cherry)
Dear Penthouse, I never thought this
would happen to me...

The six shooters point their guns at Johnny. He screams, it sounds like when Cherry screamed. Gabriel raises his gun.

GABRIEL
To the maze and beyond!

RODDY
(to Johnny)
You, you fat motherfucker, get your
gear and gun and come on!
(to Cherry)
You, you sensual lovely woman, get
your gear and gun and come on!
(to Darnell)
Was that too harsh?

Darnell attempts to speak.

RODDY
Fuck it, lets go!

Johnny doesn't move.

RODDY
I said let's go, Fat Boy!

He shoots Johnny in the leg. Paint splotch.

JOHNNY
Ow! What the hell?!

Roddy runs off, the other shooters follow.

JOHNNY
If I was slightly more fit... I
would... boy, I would...

Cherry stands behind him, clothed. She and Johnny lock eyes for a moment.

CHERRY
Enjoy the show?

JOHNNY
No. I mean definitely yes. I mean... I
just can't win with you, can I?

She avoids looking at him, speeds off. He follows at his pace.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

A huge hedge maze goes off into the distance.

BAM, Roddy sprints left, BAM, Gabriel right. Jeana follows Gabriel.

BAM. BAM. BAM. Darnell, Frances and Jimmy shoot off in different directions.

Silence.

In a different part of the maze, Jeana walks with Gabriel.

GABRIEL
I was expecting the other two to get involved, but oh well. This is still going to look amazing on camera. And we have plenty of time left.

Gabriel points out a few cameras with his gun. Jeana smiles.

JEANA
You, dear Gabriel, really are a genius for putting this weekend together so we can all reconnect.

Gabriel smiles.

INT. CHERRY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Cherry rushes to squeeze into the paintball gear.

INT. JOHNNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Johnny gears up. He grabs a gun on the bed, checks it. Locked and loaded.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

FRANCES (O.S.)
Cameras? Are you serious?

Jeana and Gabriel spin to Frances standing there. Gabriel laughs, the actor kicking in.

GABRIEL
Um, what?

FRANCES
You just mentioned cameras. Are they for security? Or something else?

GABRIEL
Security obviously. Why else?

Frances walks in Gabriel's face.

FRANCES
Don't mess with me, Gabriel.

Gabriel looks to Jeana for support.

JEANA
Frances. Frances.

FRANCES
Jeana, don't. Gabriel, if you're creating conflict this weekend just for the sake of filming it, that's not right. A reunion, my ass. We trusted you Gabriel. You let us all down.

GABRIEL
They're just security cams!

Frances stares at Gabriel.

FRANCES
Whatever, I don't want to play this stupid game anyway.

Frances turns, walks away.

BANG. Gabriel shoots a paintball into Frances's back. Frances spins around, raises her gun.

GABRIEL

Go-Go-Go!

Gabriel and Jeana sprint off, Frances chases.

FRANCES

Wait until I tell the others!

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

In another part of the maze, Roddy slinks around a corner. He brings his wrist radio to his mouth.

RODDY

Bravo bravo charlie roger roger.
What's your position? Over under
through and out.

Darnell huffs and puffs as he plods down another bushy path. He's covered in splotches of paint. Roddy's voice blares from his headset.

RODDY (O.S.)

Wilco roger alpha alpha ten four
twenty, you there?

Darnell stops. Sniffs. He bends down and eyes a small weedy looking bush.

DARNELL

Gabriel! What have we here? A magical,
mystery medicinal bush?

He starts picking buds. His headset blares.

RODDY (O.S.)

Darnell! Damn it, where the hell are
you?!

DARNELL

Right here, man.

RODDY (O.S.)

Why didn't you answer?! I've been
calling you!

DARNELL

The fuck you have! You've been going
on and on about some guy named Roger.
Anyway, I gotta go. I'm busy.

Darnell takes his headset off and throws it to the side. He smells one of the buds he picked and smiles sweetly.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

Roddy calls Darnell's name as he taps the ear piece on his headset. He turns a corner.

Johnny points his gun at Roddy's crotch. He grins as Roddy instinctively raises his hands.

JOHNNY

I got you now, you son of a bitch. No
joker man, no bullshit. Where's my
ring?

Roddy backs up but Johnny matches pace.

RODDY

Johnny! What a surprise.
(into mic)
Darnell! Could use some backup!
Darnell!
(pause)
Shit!

JOHNNY

What's the matter? Did your butt buddy
Darnell switch teams?

RODDY

Heh. Heh. That's very funny Fat --

JOHNNY

Boy?

RODDY

Now, Johnny, you know I call you that
because --

JOHNNY

Say it!

RODDY

Johnny.

JOHNNY

Say it!

RODDY

Alright, Fat --

CHERRY (O.S.)

Boy! Fat Boy!

They turn toward Cherry's voice. Cherry has her gun pointed at Johnny. Johnny and Roddy seem embarrassed. Johnny lowers his gun.

CHERRY
Everyone used to call you that. It was
your nickname.

JOHNNY
But I'm not fat anymore.

RODDY
Yeah, you are --

Cherry aims her gun at Roddy.

RODDY
-- not fat.

CHERRY
No matter what they call you, Johnny.
There's one thing you can be sure of.
We all love you.

Johnny goes starry-eyed. He takes a step toward Cherry.

JOHNNY
Even you?

Cherry is uncertain how to answer. Neither pay attention to Roddy as he takes the opportunity to escape. Then Cherry spots him.

CHERRY
Roddy. He's getting away...

But Johnny doesn't care.

JOHNNY
Do you? Do you love me?

CHERRY
Yes, Johnny, I love you.

Johnny looks over the moon. Cherry bites her lip.

CHERRY
But not that way.

She hesitates then dashes off after Roddy.

CHERRY
I'm gonna get you, Roddy.

Johnny deflates. His gun drops to the ground as he falls to his knees.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

Jimmy turns a corner. He aims his gun into the distance, then with concern, lowers it.

Johnny's on his knees, crying. Jimmy approaches.

JIMMY
Hey. What's wrong?

Johnny wipes his eyes but still sobs.

JOHNNY
I'm such an idiot. How could I think she could ever love a fat fuck like me?

JIMMY
Cherry?

Jimmy is sympathetic.

JOHNNY
Yes.

JIMMY
She loves you though.

Johnny shrugs.

JOHNNY
But not that way. She just told me... And it's because she loves you! You son of a bitch!

Johnny stands full of anger.

JIMMY
No! Wait! You don't --

JOHNNY
You goddamn bastard!

The sound of Johnny's "bastard" echoes through the maze.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

Darnell sits on the ground sniffing a bud when he hears the echo. He gives it no more than a moment's thought then returns to his precious.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

Cherry chases Roddy down a path. They both laugh.

The echo catches Cherry's attention. She stops and turns in the direction of Johnny's voice.

Roddy tackles her. Then he lies on top of her, laughing as she struggles to free herself.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

Johnny lunges at Jimmy. But Jimmy hops out of the way. Johnny falls to the ground, his gun lies near him. He eyes it.

JIMMY
I don't love her, you idiot.

JOHNNY
Bullshit!

Johnny rolls over, his gun in his hand. He aims at Jimmy. Jimmy aims back.

JOHNNY
All this time, you've been playing me.
Haven't you?

Jimmy looks sad.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

Gabriel and Jeana scoot away from Frances. She chases them for a few moments, then stops, puffing.

FRANCES
Shit!

Frances shoots the closest camera. She turns round a corner, straight into Darnell.

FRANCES
Darnell, I need your help.

DARNELL
Yeah man, WO-man, let's do it, let's
hang out or something...

FRANCES
See those cameras? Hit them with your
gun.

He throws his gun at the camera and misses it.

FRANCES
No, dunderhead, shoot it with your gun
and hit the lens.

DARNELL
Easy, girl. Give me a second here.

Darnell retrieves the gun. He shoots at a camera which Frances just shot.

FRANCES
No, you dunderhead, the ones that haven't been shot at yet.

Darnell shoots at another camera, misses it completely.

FRANCES
Useless.

Frances motions to Darnell to follow. She runs off.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

Jimmy points his gun at Johnny's face. Johnny points his gun at Jimmy's crotch.

JIMMY
Oh, come on.

JOHNNY
I need to do this.

Jimmy puts one hand over his crotch.

JIMMY
No, you don't!

JOHNNY
Yes, I do. Move your damn hand.

JIMMY
Fuck this. You're my friend. And this is only paintball...

Jimmy shoots Johnny in the face, leaving a paint splotch on his cheek. Johnny reacts in surprise, shoots Jimmy in the hand protecting his crotch.

JOHNNY
Shit, that stings!

JIMMY
Yeah, stings like hell!

JOHNNY
You used your peace maker routine to get the drop on me.

JIMMY
 You never know what will happen if
 your balls are in the line of fire.

Frances and Darnell come around the corner. Frances notes the
 paint splotch on Johnny's cheek.

FRANCES
 Great, I found you two. What's going
 on?

JOHNNY
 Nothing.

Jimmy nods.

JIMMY
 Where are the others?

FRANCES
 Don't know. But we need to get Gabriel
 back.

JIMMY
 Why?

Frances puts her arms around Jimmy and Johnny.

FRANCES
 Follow me and see, boys.

They disappear into the maze.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

Roddy and Cherry continue to wrestle and laugh. They get close
 and kiss.

RODDY
 Do you remember... when... you know?

Cherry thinks for a second, bursts out laughing. Frances,
 Darnell, Johnny and Jimmy stop just feet away from the couple.

JOHNNY
 I should have shot you all in the damn
 crotch.

Roddy and Cherry hear this, stand up.

Frances aims her gun at Cherry who moves back. Frances shoots,
 hits a camera.

FRANCES

Guys, Gabriel's been filming this whole game... and probably the whole weekend, for a stupid TV show he's making.

The group looks confused and angry.

RODDY

You serious?

CHERRY

What the hell?!

Frances nods.

FRANCES

So, the question is now... are you ready to get him back?

Everyone agrees. Frances grins.

FRANCES

Roddy, you got some more of that paint you're wearing?

EXT. MAZE - CENTER TOWER - NIGHT

Gabriel and Jeana look down on the maze from above. A security camera sits in plain view.

GABRIEL

The lighting would be better in the day, but I like the night --

FRANCES (O.S.)

Hey, Gabriel!

Gabriel and Jeana turn to the sound. He stares at the monitor.

The defiant cohorts stand in line facing the camera. On Francesca's signal, they turn around, drop their pants, six pair of butt cheeks:

"(GA) (BR) (IE) (L S) (UC) (KS)"

The last pair of cheeks belong to Frances who turns around and points at her crotch with her mouth in an O.

Gabriel bends over as if in pain.

GABRIEL

Shit!

Jeana runs to him.

JEANA
What's wrong?

Then she glances at the monitor. She chuckles.

GABRIEL
It isn't funny! They all know!

JEANA
So what? We already have enough
footage for the pilot. We can always
edit it later.

GABRIEL
I thought I could convince them once
it was done. And I had such a finale
prepared! Damn it.

JEANA
Gabriel, you know that some times
things don't happen when and where you
expect them to. Sometimes there's
surprises. Like in poker. Sometimes
you have a good hand, sometimes it's
bad. Most of the time it's not going
to win. That's just life.

GABRIEL
Poker as a life philosophy?

JEANA
Well, I'm right, aren't I?

Gabriel stares at her for a long moment.

GABRIEL
No.

JEANA
No?

GABRIEL
No. Because you didn't figure in the
Gabriel factor.

JEANA
The Gabriel factor?!

Gabriel stands.

GABRIEL
They may think they have a unbeatable
hand. But I haven't played all my
cards yet.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT

The six butt flashers celebrate. Darnell approaches Frances, concerned.

DARNELL
You think he taped everything?

FRANCES
Yes.

Darnell seems distraught.

DARNELL
All the rooms. Even Johnny's?

Jimmy and Roddy perk up.

FRANCES
I'm sure he did.

Darnell wrings his hands.

DARNELL
I got to go.

He turns to leave but Jimmy runs to meet him.

JIMMY
Whoa! Darnell, buddy, where you going?

DARNELL
I have to see a man about a --

GABRIEL (O.S.)
This game is not yet over!

Everyone turns, confused. They try to locate the voice.

RODDY
It's Gabriel.

JOHNNY
No shit, genius!

Everyone boos and hisses at the disembodied Gabriel.

GABRIEL (O.S.)
Silence!

CHERRY
Where's it coming from?

RODDY
I would say the middle of the maze.

GABRIEL (O.S.)
I am the great and powerful Gabriel!

RODDY
Looks like there's still a bit of fun
left.

Roddy and Cherry head off.

DARNELL
Yeah, shame I have to go.

JIMMY
Well, you can't miss this. Nothing
could be that important.

And Jimmy takes the reluctant Darnell by the arm, leads him
into the maze.

GABRIEL (O.S.)
The beneficent Gabriel has every
intention of granting your requests.

Frances looks toward the center of the maze, smiles. Then she
looks at Johnny. He's looking down, kicking stones with his
feet.

FRANCES
Come on. Let's go.

Johnny shakes his head.

FRANCES
Oh, come on. There must be something
you want from the beneficent Gabriel
like revenge?

Johnny shrugs.

FRANCES
You want the ring, right?

Johnny shrugs again.

FRANCES
Or, maybe something else...

Johnny looks at Frances, shyly smiles.

FRANCES
That a boy. Come on.

She runs off into the maze. Johnny chases after her.

EXT. MAZE - CENTER TOWER - NIGHT

Gabriel sits in front of a microphone, Jeana stands behind him with perplexed look on her face.

GABRIEL
Bring me the broomstick of the Witch
of the West!

PING! PING! PING!

Paint balls hit the side of the tower. It's under siege.
Gabriel panics.

GABRIEL
Pay no attention to the man in the
tower!

PING! PING! PING!

Gabriel throws a number of switches and dials.

PING! PING! PING!

Ad lib shouts from outside calling for Gabriel's head.

GABRIEL
I am the great and powerful Gabriel!

Then he gives up, exasperated.

PING! PING! PING!

He looks at Jeana, pleading.

JEANA
Let me get this straight, that was
your final card? Quoting lines from
the Wizard of Oz?

PING! PING! PING!

GABRIEL
So it wasn't a great hand, I was
bluffing. I'm an actor, that's what I
do.

JEANA
You're on your own.

She turns and starts to walk out.

PING! PING! PING!

GABRIEL

Do you know how many times I wanted to say that to you when we were in school?

Jeana stops.

GABRIEL

But I didn't and you know why?

Jeana turns, she knows why.

PING! PING! PING!

JEANA

Give me the mic.

Gabriel does.

JEANA

Okay people, listen up.

The noise outside stops.

JEANA

The game is over.

Some disappointed shouts from outside. Then a stray PING.

JEANA

It's over, got it?

Quiet.

JEANA

Good! I want you all cleaned up. And afterward we meet in the living room for a discussion of tonight's events.

RODDY (O.S.)

We want Gabriel!

Shouts of agreement from outside.

JEANA

You can have him in the living room, after you're cleaned up. That is all.

Gabriel looks at Jeana in awe.

GABRIEL

You think they'll calm down?

Jeana nods.

JEANA

As long as you do exactly as I say.

Gabriel is interested.

JEANA

How convincing are your tears?

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The gang waits for Jeana and Gabriel. Frances wipes off some paint from Johnny's face. He blushes and locks eyes with her.

JIMMY

I just don't like being filmed for any reason. Creepy.

JOHNNY

Why? Afraid of the toilet cam? Who knows the range of a toilet cam? Anyone? Didn't think so.

JIMMY

I was thinking of the pool cam when you were caught with your pants down.

Anger simmers in Johnny's eyes.

CHERRY

Pool cam?

Cherry's face turns pale then angry. Darnell relaxes in his chair as his face takes on a serene look.

DARNELL

I really don't care about who pissed who off. Just as long as I get my cut. Preferably in cash this weekend.

Roddy reacts to Darnell's mention of cash and wants to ask Darnell a question but --

Cherry strides over to Darnell and spins his chair so they face each other.

CHERRY

This is serious! Gabriel breaks our trust so he can make a reality show? And all you can do is whine about getting your cut. You're no different than in high school. You didn't give a shit about any of us then and you don't give a shit now.

Darnell sputters speechless.

CHERRY
You're a loser!

Cherry looks for another target.

RODDY
If anyone here is still a loser,
it's your fiancé, Johnny.

Before Cherry reacts, Frances pushes Johnny back, and jumps into the fray.

FRANCES
Everyone's a loser except you
Roddy?! Is that it? Who's the big
jock who still acts like he's
seventeen?

RODDY
Oh shut up. You're just another man
trying to hide from the past.

Frances slaps Roddy.

Roddy moves to strike back when Jimmy grabs his arm.

JIMMY
Roddy.

Roddy throws Jimmy's hand off. Frances cries as Jimmy comforts her.

Roddy's face drains of emotion. Johnny shoots a death ray look to Roddy.

Gabriel strolls in. All eyes center on him. Jeana follows and hides in his shadow.

GABRIEL
(as Bobby De Niro)
You wanna piece of me? Huh?

Gabriel assumes a boxer's pose and shuffles around. The gang clamors for Gabriel to explain the cameras.

Jimmy quiets the gang.

JIMMY
Gabriel, we were discussing what
you were thinking when you invited
us -- your friends -- to the
reunion?

GABRIEL
Jimmy, always the peace maker, eh?

JIMMY
Call it a character flaw.

GABRIEL
Except you use it to befriend
people who are down and vulnerable.

JIMMY
What? At least I'm not a scared
little boy hiding behind an actor's
façade.

GABRIEL
Anything else?

Everyone shouts, their complaints overlap.

JOHNNY
-- Asshole!

DARNELL
-- What's my cut?

CHERRY
-- We trusted you!

FRANCES
-- How could you do this?!

Jeana nods. Gabriel picks up a vase and hurls it at the wall.

SMASH!

In the silence that follows, Gabriel sobs.

GABRIEL
I'm out of money. I'm in debt up to
my hairline...

CHERRY
How can that be? Big expensive
mansion. I don't get it.

Everyone hangs on his next words.

GABRIEL
I made and spent millions. A few bad
decisions along the way. And quite
simply, scripts don't come my way
anymore.

Gabriel sobs a bit more. Desperation on his face.

GABRIEL

Then I had this idea for a reality show I could produce and make some big coin. But it had to a genuine bunch of dysfunctional friends. And I tell each of you as my friends...

Gabriel looks up at each of his friends with tears in his eyes. Jeana wears an unconcerned mask.

GABRIEL

I am sorry.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Gabriel hangs his head as he toys with a shard of broken vase. Jeana notes the others gazing out the window or at some nameless spot on the ceiling.

Jeana secretly pulls something from her pocket, and places it in Gabriel's hand. Her hands cling to his for a moment.

He looks at her, and she, at him.

JEANA

Gabriel, this isn't the end. It's just the beginning.

Frances turns and looks disgusted. Gabriel tucks it in his pocket.

GABRIEL

Can I do this? Is it right?

JEANA

You were always there for me, Gabriel. And how do we ever know what's right except --

Frances stands up. Sick of them both.

FRANCES

I'm going to bed. Maybe I can dream you both out of my life.

Johnny doesn't feel so harsh and stands up, with the look of forgiveness on his face.

JOHNNY

I'm sorry, Gabriel, Jeana. She never meant it.

Gabriel and Jeana stare searchingly.

GABRIEL

Maybe.

Johnny walks off. Roddy breaks the silence with a melody from something.

RODDY

Let's play Name That Tune.
They're just a bunch of party
poopers. Come on the night is
young. Name that tune!

GABRIEL

The tune is, it's getting late and
I think we should all go to bed.

RODDY

Oh come on Gabe, don't cave now.

GABRIEL

No really. It's late.

Everyone except Roddy and Darnell head upstairs.

INT. SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT

Gabriel dials up excerpts from the video. Jeana joins him and closes the door behind her. Together they watch.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- A) Jimmy watches Cherry and Roddy kissing.
- B) Frances stares at Roddy as he spits out his drink.
- C) Johnny endures Cherry's rage at the proposal.
- D) Cherry tells Johnny she loves him but "not that way."
- E) Darnell talks on the phone to his bookie.
- F) Roddy fights Johnny in the pool.
- G) Jeana smiles at Gabriel when testing the cameras.
- H) Gabriel shouts at Darnell in his RV.

END OF SERIES OF SHOTS

GABRIEL

These are fabulous!

JEANA

We're going to have get you a new
annoying word.

GABRIEL
I can't wait for the finale.

JEANA
Which you haven't told me yet. Time to squeal.

GABRIEL
Nope. Not yet. It's underway as we speak.

JEANA
Why won't you trust me with anything?

She punches him in the arm. Scoffs.

JEANA
Based on what I've seen, they are not going to be happy.

GABRIEL
Trust me, I know these people. They are definitely not going to be happy.

INT. JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT - SAME

Johnny peeks in the room. He enters and searches the room. Checks the bedding, his overnight bag. No ring.

Notes the open window. Pokes his head out. Smiles as he climbs out.

EXT. JIMMY'S ROOM - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

JIMMY
Hey, Johnny Quest. Sit down and take a load off. Been a spell since we had a one of our rooftop talks.

They sit in silence. Jimmy offers him a beer as if it was a peace offering. He opens one himself. Johnny considers and accepts.

JIMMY
Nothing like a cold one with a friend.

JOHNNY
What do you know about my wandering ring?

Jimmy takes a slug of beer.

JIMMY

Let me ask you this: Was it your idea to propose to Cherry?

JOHNNY

You know, I've been crazy about her since before high school. Why?

Another slug of beer.

JIMMY

I just had an idea that all the shit going on this weekend may have been contrived.

JOHNNY

What?

Jimmy eyes Johnny.

JIMMY

Think about it.

Johnny has a eureka moment.

JOHNNY

Gabriel... and Jeana. But why?

JIMMY

Use your noggin.

JOHNNY

Because he's a narcissistic bastard who only thinks of his acting career or money. He and Jeana deserve each other.

He drops his empty beer bottle to the ground. He enjoys the sound of the glass breaking.

JOHNNY

Oops.

JIMMY

Oops? That was imported.

JOHNNY

God bless America! I still don't know whether to hit you or not.

JIMMY

Here's the shitty part. Gabriel offered me a donation to my children's fund, if I wouldn't say anything to you.

JOHNNY
Consider yourself hit.

Jimmy opens another and salutes with the bottle. Johnny ducks back into the room.

Jimmy stares at a small red light in the corner. He flips a finger at the camera and continues to drink his beer.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Johnny walks toward his room. He looks like a thunder cloud coming in fast.

Frances pokes her head out the door.

FRANCES
What's wrong?

He pushes on into her room, any port in a storm.

JOHNNY
Gabriel's a liar!

FRANCES
Well, we knew that.

JOHNNY
No, I mean he lied to me about Cherry and me being a good couple. Well maybe not lie, but he led me on for his stupid TV show.

She rubs her hand on his back.

FRANCES
You know, he probably knew I had my sex change. He was too nonchalant about it when I showed up.

He simmers and boils over.

JOHNNY
I want to get my ring back and wreck that TV show.

FRANCES
How do we do that?

JOHNNY
We? I need help but you weren't even my second choice. Maybe Jimmy...

FRANCES
But I have an idea where the ring is.

JOHNNY
Oh, not you too!

He yells out in frustration.

FRANCES
Roddy asked me not to.

JOHNNY
What are you thieves doing around here? First my heart and then my dignity! I'm leaving this shit palace and sending Gabriel a bill!

FRANCES
Keep it down, way too noisy for a thief in waiting. Especially, one who wants to get even.

She brightens her face.

JOHNNY
What are you talking about? Just say it.

FRANCES
You want to get even. I can help you get the ring and we can get the video. It's late and we should be okay.

JOHNNY
Alright, you go get the ring and I'll get the video.

He hugs her. She leans into it.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT

Frances carries a long dust mop up the stairs. She hangs over the railing and inhales as she stretches the mop to the chandelier...

The ring is gone. She checks the entire chandelier. She throws the mop down to the floor below and strides out to the hallway.

INT. FOYER - NIGHT (EARLIER)

Roddy knocks the ring off the chandelier with a towel, grabs it off the floor, and puts it in his pocket. He smiles into the camera and puts his middle finger on his lips.

INT. BACK HALLWAY - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Johnny walks down the hall to an unmarked door. He pulls on the door handle. It's locked.

JOHNNY
(whispers)
Shit.

Someone approaches. He hides around the corner. He holds his breath as he hears the key in the lock.

JEANA (O.S.)
Johnny, give me two minutes to erase something on one of the discs. Then you can come in and get what you want.

He peers around the corner. Jeana stands there alone.

JOHNNY
Like I trust you, Gabriel clone.

The arrow hits target. She looks tired.

JEANA
That may be so but I'm in a hurry, he'll be here to check the video.

JOHNNY
You know this is all a bit too easy.

Frances approaches her from behind and grabs the key. She throws it to Johnny with a small metallic noise as it hits the floor.

JOHNNY
You throw like a girl.

Frances smirks.

JEANA
You two are really too cute but you're wasting time. You can watch me do what I need to. You know, I can always scream.

FRANCES
I don't trust her or him.

Johnny scrutinizes her.

JOHNNY
She won't scream.

JEANA
Okay, now or never.

The key lands in her outstretched hand.

INT. SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT

Frances and Johnny follow Jeana into the room and marvel at the security system.

JOHNNY
My dad would kill to have one of these systems.

FRANCES
Alright, do what you gotta do.

Jeana runs the video to the spot where she interviewed Darnell. She hits the erase button and takes out the master discs. Hands them to Johnny.

Frances recognizes the posture of the couple Jeana erased. She smirks.

JOHNNY
Why are you doing this?

JEANA
Maybe I want Gabriel to stay here.
Maybe I don't want to be part of this anymore.

JOHNNY
Then give me the backup and the dailies.

She has them in his hands.

JOHNNY
Too easy.

FRANCES
Do you know who has the ring?

JEANA
No.

He looks at her. Jeana voice trembles.

JEANA
I don't. Gabriel doesn't tell me anything. Now go!

He and Frances exit. Jeana follows with a smile on her face.

INT. HOME THEATER - NIGHT - SAME

The door to the home theater opens and in pops a male figure in a black commando suit splattered with paintball splotches.

He opens the cabinet and removes the stereo and amplifiers. The figure picks up one piece at a time for a separate trip down the hallway. He's returns twice for the equipment. He has one piece left.

The figure hears something O.S. and hides between the leather chairs.

The cabinet door hangs open. The commando stares at the door. He throws his shoe at the equipment door. It hits, closes the door, and rolls out of sight.

The lights turn on. Jimmy wears a t-shirt and gym shorts. The commando stands and shakes his index finger at him. Jimmy looks at the commando and sighs.

JIMMY
Good night, Gabriel.

He leaves the lights on.

The commando takes the last piece out the door.

EXT. FRONT - RV - NIGHT

The commando loads the stereo equipment in the RV. He locks the door when finished.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Frances and Johnny stand outside Johnny's room.

JOHNNY
Thanks for being there for me.

She gives him a kiss.

FRANCES
I'd like to be there more.

He gives her a kiss. She smiles and turns to her room. Johnny watches her walk back. Johnny scurries into his room.

INT. JOHNNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Johnny shuts his door. He leans his back against it.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jeana has apparently forgotten something. She turns back. Cherry eyes Jimmy and calls to him. He stops at his door. Cherry saunters over.

CHERRY
Jimmy, you know what we could do --

JIMMY
You, could do. I have a headache.

He enters his room and shuts the door in Cherry's face. She stands there in cold shock.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Darnell draws out the coke.

DARNELL
Want some?

RODDY
Sure, why not.

DARNELL
My drug man. He might put a bullet in my head anytime. Then again, it might be my bookie.

RODDY
Shit! How much do you owe?

DARNELL
Too much, but if I could just make a payment, it'll keep him happy long enough to maybe just wanna break my arm.

RODDY
Talk to Gabriel?

DARNELL
I talked with Jeana, same thing.

RODDY
The schemers of Simply High. Any help?

DARNELL
I never know what those two are thinking.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Johnny exits his room and looks both ways. He tiptoes across the hall to Frances's room. He knocks on the door.

INT. FRANCES'S ROOM - NIGHT

Frances opens. She holds her sheer robe tight at the neck.

FRANCES
What do you think?

JOHNNY
I-I thought that I think that
there, then, this...

FRANCES
Did you come just to stutter?

Johnny leans in and kisses her. A real kiss. She responds as they fall into the room, closing the door behind.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Roddy holds out a grand to Darnell.

RODDY
Would this help?

DARNELL
You serious? Not a joke?

Roddy nods.

RODDY
You've always been my best bud.

Darnell gives Roddy a huge man kiss. The money flies. They both fall off the couch.

RODDY
Man, I think that's the second time
you've planted those rosy red lips
on my face! Just back off a bit,
hey!

Darnell laughs.

DARNELL
You know I'm just happy, man.

RODDY
What are best buds for!

Darnell looks at Roddy, tilts his head.

DARNELL
Aw, come here...

Darnell moves in for another kiss on Roddy. Roddy puts his hands up to stop Darnell. They both laugh.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Several bottles of empty beers are scattered on the table. Roddy and Darnell lie on the floor, passed out.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Cherry waits outside Jimmy's door and reaches up to knock but pulls her arm back when she hears voices from the living room.

She walks toward the voices.

INT. JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jimmy tosses and turns.

EXT. MAZE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Jimmy walks around a corner of the maze. Roddy and Cherry kiss. They stop when they see Jimmy. Cherry giggles, and kisses Roddy again

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Darnell is on top of Roddy. Roddy moves beneath him. Cherry enters and let's out a surprise squeak.

CHERRY
Sorry.

She turns to leave.

RODDY
Cherry? Cherry is that you?

CHERRY
Oh, yes?

RODDY
Thank God. I need help. Darnell passed out. I can't get him off me.

Cherry laughs. She goes over to provide assistance.

CHERRY

I remember a time when you used to say that about the girls.

RODDY

Well times change, we get older.

Cherry grabs Darnell's arms and heaves.

CHERRY

You don't need to remind me.

RODDY

You look great. I certainly wouldn't kick you out of bed for eating crackers.

With Cherry's help Darnell's removed from Roddy.

CHERRY

No. You're just trying to get me there in the first place.

Roddy sits up and helps push Darnell onto the couch. This concerted effort leaves them close together.

RODDY

And if I was, would I succeed?

CHERRY

Stranger things have happened, joker man. Stranger things have happened.

Cherry pulls away and looks around.

CHERRY

But first you would have to tell me something.

RODDY

You aren't going to make me play piss and tell again? Are you?

CHERRY

No.

Roddy breathes a sigh of relief.

CHERRY

But I was just wondering why there's money all over the floor?

INT. FRANCES'S ROOM - NIGHT

Johnny lies shirtless. Frances lies with her head on his chest. They both smile.

FRANCES
It started in high school.

JOHNNY
What did?

FRANCES
My crush, on you. Then this weekend
it all came back.

JOHNNY
You had a crush on me in high
school?

Frances nods.

JOHNNY
I wish you had told me.

FRANCES
It wouldn't have done much good.

JOHNNY
No. I suppose not. No way was I
gay.

FRANCES
And neither was I.

Johnny pauses a moment, then nervously.

JOHNNY
Am I gay now?

Frances laughs.

FRANCES
No, silly. And I'm not either.

JOHNNY
Oh, good. For a moment there...

FRANCES
And you don't suddenly decide you
are, either.

JOHNNY
Yes, ma'am.

Frances beams. She gives him a big kiss.

JOHNNY
What was that for?

FRANCES
You called me ma'am.

She puts her head back down on his chest.

INT. HALLWAY - OUTSIDE MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeana knocks on the door. Gabriel opens it.

JEANA
Did you do it?

Gabriel smiles. She pushes him inside his room and closes the door.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeana enters the room. She throws her arms around Gabriel. Pushes him back into the room with a big wet kiss. Gabriel resists. He pushes away.

GABRIEL
Whoa! What's this about?

JEANA
A reward for a job well done.

She presses against him again. Kissing him hard, pushing both of them onto the bed, her on top. He pushes Jeana off of him. Jeana is pissed off.

JEANA
You know, I don't get you?

GABRIEL
You. Don't get, me?

JEANA
I was the one who got you out of trouble. Without me you wouldn't have the show. Without me you wouldn't be able keep the house.

GABRIEL
Thank you, but what am I supposed to do now, give you a thank you fuck?

That pushes her over the edge.

JEANA

A thank you fuck! I'm the one making the concession here. Out of the goddamn goodness of my heart. I was going to give you a thank you fuck but after the way you're acting I don't think that I will!

Gabriel sighs. Jeana shoots a pained look at Gabriel. He looks back at her sternly.

GABRIEL

You've done this before. Thrown yourself at me. Has it ever worked? Once?

Jeana thinks. She shakes her head.

GABRIEL

There's a reason, Jeana. There's a reason it doesn't work. What's the reason?

Tears glow in her eyes.

JEANA

I don't know.

GABRIEL

Think.

JEANA

You wanted, wanted to be a virgin.

GABRIEL

That's what I told everyone. Everyone except you. I confided in you Jeana and you don't even seem to remember it.

JEANA

I'm sorry. I should remember - I really should...

Gabriel, with a slight look of regret, crosses and holds her in his arms. At first she resists then she falls into them. Her tears flow freely.

GABRIEL

This will be our secret.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - LATER

Jeana leaves the master bedroom, her head held low. She takes a few steps then she turns back toward the door. Jeana sighs.

She walks down the hallway past the guest bedroom doors. A grunt from inside of one of them, then a moan. She moves her ear closer to hear.

RODDY (O.S.)
Oh yeah baby, move that ass.

She pulls her ear away. She spins around 180 degrees, a disgusted look mars her face.

Jeana walks past the living room. She looks in. Darnell snores away on the couch. A pile of cash sits on the table in front of him.

She is at the front door. She exits, leaving it open. She crosses the front lawn without stopping.

INT. FOYER - DAY

Gabriel runs to the entryway and looks out. He shakes as he opens the door to the driveway. Darnell's RV stands there.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

He continues to shake as he crosses the distance to the RV.

GABRIEL
Darnell? Anyone?

No answer. He puts the key in the lock, opens the outer door and finds a note:

"Gabriel, we're at the pond." No signature. A little drawing of a stick figure labeled Gabriel in a hangman's noose.

EXT. MAZE - DAY

Gabriel heads for the pond. He walks through the hedge maze turns a corner, and hears the sound of a paintball gun.

SPLAT!

A red splotch appears on his shirt. He hears laughter. He grits his teeth and walks on. He turns another corner and is hit again.

SPLAT!

Another red splotch. More laughter.

He sees the camera's red record lights on and half grins with his head down. He continues to make his way through the maze.

GABRIEL

Guys, you can quit with the ambush already. I come in peace. God, I can't believe I said that. I need a new dialogue coach.

He sees the pond up ahead. The fire pit sits nearby, sparring equipment still left out.

EXT. POND - DAY

Johnny stands there like a gunslinger.

The gang stands nearby: Jimmy, Darnell, Roddy, Cherry, Jeana, and Frances. Most of them frown and have their arms crossed.

GABRIEL

Is it so wrong to want to be on TV?

JOHNNY

I have the video discs right here.

He holds them in view. Gabriel looks unfazed.

GABRIEL

I don't have the ring. Roddy does. You can check the disc. Frances knows.

Johnny looks at Roddy and then Frances.

JOHNNY

What is it with you two? Are you all thieves or what? Well Gabriel, even if you did have the ring, I wouldn't give you the discs.

GABRIEL

Sounds like your playing piss and tell. Well, I want to play too.

Roddy throws the two opponents each a pummeling staff. Everyone else watches in silence.

RODDY

Slap that bitch, Johnny!

GABRIEL

Jeana, a little help here!

JEANA

I'd like a decision on us. Seems you don't trust me with all the details.

Gabriel takes a powerful swipe at Johnny. Fat Boy absorbs it and holds his staff up to hit Gabriel in the head.

Johnny hesitates. Gabriel folds.

GABRIEL
Hold it. Hold it! Not my face.

JOHNNY
Then hand me the ring.

GABRIEL
Sure thing Johnny. You hand me the discs and the backups. Thought I didn't know about those, did you?

JOHNNY
I figured you'd figure it out. Just like I figured you try and weasel all the total drama action out of the situation.

Johnny and Gabriel still hold their staffs.

GABRIEL
I'll put mine down, you put yours down.

They comply.

JOHNNY
Now here's the discs...

GABRIEL
And here's the ring...

They extend their offerings to each other when...

Roddy jumps in between them and grabs the ring and the discs. He throws the ring in the pond.

SPLASH!

And the discs follow.

SPLASH!

JOHNNY
What the hell did you do that to my ring for?

GABRIEL
And my video discs?!

Both Johnny and Gabriel move with menace towards Roddy. They pick up the pummeling staffs. The gang grumbles.

EXT. POND - DAY

The concentric circles in the pond from the splashes fade.

Jimmy steps up.

JIMMY

That's enough guys. Damage is done.

Both Johnny and Gabriel back off Roddy. Johnny makes a delayed hit on Roddy.

RODDY

Easy.

Darnell dives in the pond. SPLASH!

DARNELL

Finders keepers!

Jeana steps up.

JEANA

The discs weren't real. I took care of that. And Roddy?

RODDY

I swapped the real ring for the fake ring.

DARNELL

(yells)

What? No bling?

Still in the water.

RODDY

(yells back)

Sorry, big guy.

FRANCES

And I thought that Roddy had hidden --

RODDY

Which was very brilliantly hidden in the chandelier --

FRANCES

-- the ring because he wanted to give Cherry and Johnny some time without a proposal bearing down on them.

Cherry fawns over Roddy. Johnny gazes at Frances.

JOHNNY

Gabriel, when did you swap out the ring? Never mind, it was when you dropped it yesterday? And you talked me into proposing to Cherry?

GABRIEL

Yes, I was the slap on your behind. Sorry, everybody. But it was good television, right? Who doesn't want to be a star?

He waits for everyone to respond. They close in on him and throw him in the pond. Another SPLASH!

GABRIEL

Jeana, were the cameras on?

He backstrokes with Darnell. Jeana whispers to Johnny.

JEANA

Have your ring appraised as soon as possible.

EXT. FRONT - RV - DAY

There RV is still the only vehicle in the driveway. Gabriel again walks the distance. The key still works.

INT. RV

Gabriel opens the door and enters. There's a little kitchen inside. On the table is a pile of papers. Gabriel walks over to them and picks one up.

GABRIEL

The releases...

CLICK!

Gabriel turns toward the sound. Jeana stands in the back of the RV. She points the gun at Gabriel. He sticks his hands up.

JEANA

All signed and waiting for you.

GABRIEL

How...

JEANA

While we were waiting for you to get dressed. Funny, even though they were pissed, they seemed very excited at the prospect of being on television.

GABRIEL
Who wouldn't?

JEANA
Too bad you won't get to see the
finished product.

Jeana aims more carefully, one eye closes. Gabriel panics.

GABRIEL
Wait!

JEANA
Wait? Wait? How long am I supposed
to wait, Gabriel? Let's see, it's been
five years, how many do I have to
wait? Five, ten, twenty years...

She expects an answer but doesn't get one.

JEANA
...till we're dead? I can
take care of that right now.
Poison, I see, hath been his
timeless end: O churl! Drunk all,
and left no friendly drop/To help
me after --

Gabriel sneers.

GABRIEL
You're such a drama queen! Quoting
from Romeo and Juliet, really?

JEANA
I should just shoot you right now.

Gabriel stares her down.

GABRIEL
Go ahead. I dare you.

Jeana's finger twitches on the trigger.

GABRIEL
I double dare --

BANG!

A look of surprise on Gabriel's face, an explosion of red on
his shirt. He falls backwards toward the ground.

A look of regret crosses Jeana's face. She throws the gun from
her hands, runs toward him.

She looks over his motionless body, her eyes fill with tears.

JEANA

Oh! Gabriel. I'm so sorry...

She kneels near his body. She looks puzzled. She shakes him.

JEANA

Gabriel? Gabriel!

She panics.

JEANA

Are you okay? Gabriel, say something!

Gabriel sits up.

GABRIEL

Got ya!

Jeana jumps back. Gabriel laughs. She recovers and slaps him on the shoulder.

JEANA

You son of a bitch. You had me worried.

GABRIEL

Well you shot me.

JEANA

But you knew it was a paint gun.

GABRIEL

What makes you think I knew?

JEANA

You double dared me. You never double dare me unless you know I'm joking.

GABRIEL

You know me too well.

JEANA

Not well enough lately.

GABRIEL

Stay around then, help me with the show.

JEANA

I'd like that. And I promise, I won't try to seduce you. Unless I'm drunk. Feeling in a particularly vulnerable mood or --

DARNELL (O.S.)
Unless she needs a rebound.

Darnell climbs in the RV. He smiles. Johnny climbs in after him, as does Cherry, Frances and Jimmy.

GABRIEL
Everyone's here! One big party --
Hold on, where's Roddy?

JOHNNY
Fire this baby up, big man.

Gabriel looks shocked.

The RV starts up -- REVS and REVS and REVS.

The window between the main compartment and the driver slides down and Roddy sits in the drivers seat.

GABRIEL
No, no, no! Roddy is not driving!

Roddy smiles, changes gears, and pulls out.

RODDY
You can't fight it Gabriel... don't
fight it! This is gonna happen!

Gabriel looks to each of the people one by one in the RV - looking for answers. Everyone smiles back at him.

A siren wails as a police car follows. Darnell looks horrified. Everyone looks at Gabriel.

DARNELL
Tell me you didn't!

Gabriel sighs, smiles, leans back - relaxed.

GABRIEL
I guess now isn't the right time to
tell you all about the sequel...

FADE OUT.

THE END