

Waking Up In Kansas

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&

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FADE IN:

EXT. MOBILE HOME PARK - MORNING (BLACK & WHITE)

A title card reads:

"Needles, California."

JULIE, a hungry-looking redhead in her 30's, donning a bathrobe and stiletto heels, steps out of her trailer. Drops her bathrobe, exposes her bikini-clad body and struts over to a flagpole in her yard that she wraps her legs around.

INT. JAMES KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

SUNNY JAMES (30's), mousy brown hair, faded GRETCHEN WILSON Concert T-shirt, jeans and RED REEBOK SNEAKERS, talks on the phone while setting a variety of cereal boxes on the Formica table. During her conversation, she glances out the window at Julie, who rehearses her pole dance on the flagpole.

SUNNY

(in phone)

Mother, Aunt Emma's been dying for the last fifteen years.

(beat)

A lot of people have thyroid conditions.

(rolling her eyes)

And cataracts.

(hollers off)

Kids! Breakfast!

We HEAR a KNOCK at the SCREEN DOOR in the living room.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Ma, someone's at the door.

(beat)

Okay, fine. I'll go with you to the nursing home, but I've gotta run to the store first.

She hangs up and enters the living room, as her son JESSIE (5) bolts into the kitchen holding a BLUE GINGHAM DRESS. Sunny's daughters BECKY (11), and TAMMI (8), chase after him.

BECKY

Jessie, gimme that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSIE

No!

Sunny opens the screen door to WALLY (30's), a handyman dressed in greasy overhauls and wearing a baseball cap.

SUNNY

Morning, Wally.

WALLY

(tips his cap)

Sunny. Look, I wanted to give you a heads up before my mother swings by--

Too late. Wally's mother, LOUISE (60's), raven hair with a shock of white down the middle, pushes Wally aside and shoves a check in Sunny's face.

LOUISE

Your rent check bounced-- *Again!*

SUNNY

Sorry, Louise. Bobby gets paid tomorrow. I'll be sure to write you a new one.

We HEAR the SOUND of a BUZZ SAW from another room.

LOUISE

Famous last words. What's that buzzing noise?

SUNNY

Bobby's working on the new family room.

LOUISE

Did it ever dawn on you that you need a permit from me to add on a family room?

SUNNY

Well, I...

Becky and Jessie play tug-of-war with the dress.

BECKY

Jessie, if you don't let go of my Dorothy dress I'm gonna tell--

The dress's collar RIPS off into Jessie's hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BECKY (CONT'D)

MOM!

SUNNY

(to Louise)

Duty calls.

As Sunny heads into the kitchen, the family dog, BUDDY, darts inside from outdoors and nearly knocks Louise on her ass.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

What's all the racket over?

Becky grabs the dress's collar from Jessie.

BECKY

He ruins everything!

SUNNY

He's five years old, Becky. He's allowed to ruin things.

BECKY

Like daddy does with you?

SUNNY

What's that supposed to mean, young lady?

BECKY

I hear people talk. Especially grandma.

TAMMI

Yeah! She says if daddy's what he eats, then he's cheap, easy and fast!

SUNNY

Yeah, well I'm gonna teach all three of you a lesson about what other people say, including grandma: "Believe none of what you hear and a fraction of what you see." Now eat your cereal before the bus comes.

She moves about the room, picks up scattered clothes. Becky follows her while holding the blue dress.

BECKY

Mom, can you fix this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SUNNY

Later.

BECKY

I need you to fix it or the director's gonna be pissed!

Sunny shoots Becky a look.

SUNNY

Watch your mouth, missy. I promise, I'll get to it later.

(hands Becky the clothes)

Toss these in the washer.

Sunny grabs a grocery list from the refrigerator that is held by a NASCAR magnet, glances at it and sets the list down on the counter before heading to the back of the trailer. Once Sunny is gone, Becky tosses the clothes in the trash.

INT. TRAILER/PLYWOOD EXTENSION - CONTINUOUS

Sunny lifts a sheet of plastic tarp to see her husband, BOBBY (30's), receding hairline, SAWING a sheet of plywood that his buddy RANDY (20's), steadies between two sawhorses. Randy has shoulder-length, sandy blonde hair and a chiseled physique.

SUNNY

Bobby? ... Honey?

She unplugs the buzz saw. Both men look over at her.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

The rent check bounced. Louise needs another one by tomorrow.

BOBBY

What Louise needs is a good lay.

He grabs two beers from a cooler, tosses one to Randy, then pops his open and takes a swig.

SUNNY

I've been thinking, maybe I should get a part-time job.

BOBBY

Why? So your mother can throw in my face about how incompetent I am?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Bobby, momma's never said you were...

Bobby plugs the SAW back in, drowning out her words.

FURTHER DOWN THE HALLWAY

stands Jessie, who has witnessed the conversation.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - LATER

A School bus HONKS its HORN. Becky and Tammi bolt out of the James' trailer carrying their lunch boxes and school books.

INT. JAMES LIVING ROOM - SAME

Sunny grabs her shoulder-strap purse from a closet, then turns to find Jessie on the couch glued to a CARTOON on TV.

SUNNY

Jessie, the bus is here.

Jessie runs over to Sunny and clings to her legs.

JESSIE

Don't leave me, mommy!

SUNNY

Leave you? ... Sweetheart, I'm not going anywhere.

JESSIE

Promise?

Sunny kneels eye level to him and crosses her heart with her finger.

SUNNY

Cross my heart, hope to die.

Sunny gives him a peck on the cheek and then scoots him outside, reflecting on his demeanor.

INT. DATED STATION WAGON - LATER

As Sunny backs out of her driveway, she sees her PREGNANT neighbor, MARY ANN (30's), hanging laundry on her line.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Morning, Mary Ann!

MARY ANN

What's so good about it?

SUNNY

There ain't nothing worse than being pregnant in this heat.

MARY ANN

Oh no? Try being married to a deadbeat husband who thinks laying me like a piece of linoleum is the answer to all our problems.

They both gaze over at Julie, spread-eagle on the flagpole.

SUNNY

Talk about buns of steel, huh?

MARY ANN

I prefer buns of cinnamon myself.

INT. PLYWOOD EXTENSION - CONTINUOUS

Randy looks outside and sees Sunny drive away. Then he moves in close behind Bobby, who hammers plywood to the wall.

BOBBY

(jerks around)

What the fuck, bro?

RANDY

Not what. *Who*.

He cocks Bobby's head in Julie's direction outside.

INT. STATION WAGON - MOVING - DAY

Sunny tools down a desolate stretch of road, as a D.J. gives the triple digit forecast. Sunny cranks the air conditioner knob to high-- POOF! Dust shoots through the vents.

She shuts off the air, then glances down at a wad of coupons in the side pocket of her purse among some old photographs of her kids. Realizes she's forgotten--

INT. JAMES KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - LATER

The GROCERY LIST that is on the counter. "*The Flintstones*" opening THEME SONG is playing on TV, as Sunny picks up the list and crosses to the TV.

THEME SONG (ON TV)
LET'S RIDE WITH THE FAMILY DOWN THE
STREET/THROUGH THE COURTESY OF FRED'S
TWO FEET...

Sunny moves to the TV to shut it off, when she hears SEXUAL MOANING coming from down the hallway.

INT. TRAILER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sunny closes in on her bedroom, passing framed family photos of the James' in happier times hanging on the wall.

THEME SONG (O.S.)
WHEN YOU'RE WITH THE FLINTSTONES/
HAVE A YABBA-DABBA-DOO TIME/A DABBA
DOO TIME/YOU'LL HAVE A GAY OLD TIME!

Sunny slowly opens the bedroom door, observing Bobby, Randy and Julie engaged in a Ménage à Trois, and brings a hand over her mouth to silence a GASP.

EXT. TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Sunny SHOVES OPEN the screen door and storms to her car.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME

Bobby reacts to the SLAP of the SCREEN DOOR.

EXT. JAMES' TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby runs outside zipping his jeans, as Sunny shakily tries putting the keys in the ignition.

BOBBY
Sunny, I can explain. C'mon, get out.

No response. Bobby reaches inside the car for the keys.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I'm talking to you, woman!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

(slaps away Bobby's hand)
Don't call me woman! They have a name for people like me-- It's called a wife!

BOBBY

Yeah, then why the hell don't you start acting like one!

Sunny hops out of her car and engages in a heated argument that peaks the attention of Mary Ann, Louise, Wally and other DENIZENS in the park.

SUNNY

What did you say?

BOBBY

You heard me! Bad enough you let yourself go to pot-- but to have to put up with your bitching and moaning too?! I'm sick of your shit!

SUNNY

My shit?? You bring some, some-- flagpole floozy into our bedroom with another guy, and your sick of my shit?! Does the term "Don't shit where you eat" mean anything to you?!

Julie sheepishly exits the James' trailer and hurries back over to her own trailer, as Randy steps out and up to Bobby.

RANDY

Now *that* was a hot piece of ass.

Rage fills Sunny's eyes, as Bobby coaxes Randy to his truck. Sunny grabs a nearby HOOLA HOOP and creeps up on Bobby, who turns, and instinctively SWATS the hoop aside, which CLIPS Sunny in the mouth. Blood trickles from Sunny's lip.

BOBBY

(reaching out to Sunny)
I didn't mean to...

SUNNY

(SWATS away Bobby's hand)
Don't! ... touch me.
(gets back in her car)
I want you gone by the time I get home.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BOBBY
It's my trailer!

LOUISE
It's MY trailer! Honestly, Sunny. What do you do with all his money? It's not like you spend it on makeup or clothes.

SUNNY
Shut it, you old witch!

Louise is stunned into silence, as Sunny glares at Bobby.

SUNNY (CONT'D)
Fine. You stay. But I'm taking the kids.

BOBBY
Like hell you are.

As Bobby heads back to the trailer, Sunny eyes his RED RAM PICKUP parked behind her in the rear view mirror. Bobby reacts to METAL CRUNCHING, and looks back at Sunny SMASHING her back bumper into the pickup. Bobby sprints over to her--

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I'll fuckin' kill you!

-- Only, he STUBS his toe on a bicycle, breaking his stride.

SUNNY
And FYI? Mama never called you incompetent-- She called you IGNORANT, you dumb-ass!

She throws her WEDDING RING at him and PEELS AWAY. Mary Ann and other Housewives APPLAUD from afar. Bobby GRUMBLES under his breath, when-- The LAWN SPRINKLERS go off around him.

INT. STATION WAGON - MOVING - DAY

A distraught Sunny grabs a tissue from her purse to dab her bleeding lip, when she sees a photograph of her kids dressed in Halloween costumes. She smiles slightly...

SFX: CAR HORN.

Sunny looks up and SWERVES back into her lane as an oncoming Winnebago drives past her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She sees the DRIVER'S HAND flip her "the bird" in the rear view mirror and then looks back to the road with widening eyes at a SHARP BEND road sign.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Sunny's car CRASHES through a string of guardrails.
- B) Sunny's car ZOOMS down a steep embankment.
- C) Brush SLAPS against the car windows and windshield.
- D) Sunny's purse and all of her coupons, photo, etc. are tossed about her tumbling car.
- E) Sunny's car THUDS onto a pile of boulders.
- F) Sunny's head slumps forward against the HORN.

EXT. JAMES TRAILER - DAY

EDIE, Sunny's mother, 60's, paisley sundress, Jackie-O style sunglasses, pulls into the driveway BLOWS her CAR HORN. No sign of Sunny. Edie hobbles out of the car with the aid of a cane and notices Bobby's dented pickup truck.

INT. JAMES LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - LATER

Edie hesitantly enters, as if she's not welcome here. The SHOWER is heard running as Edie enters the kitchen. She snoops in Bobby's lunch box finding: a sandwich, cologne, wadded up bowling shirt and condom packets.

BOBBY (O.S.)

Give it to me.

Holding the condoms, Edie turns to Bobby, who is freshly showered, with a towel wrapped around his waist.

EDIE

I bet you say that to all the girls.

She dangles the condoms. Bobby grabs the condoms and tosses them back into his lunch box.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

Don't flatter yourself, Edie. When you were a girl, Lincoln was in office.

He heads down the hallway, with Edie following him.

EDIE

Where's Sunny?

BOBBY

Shopping.

EDIE

She told me she was going shopping this morning.

BOBBY

I not her babysitter.

EDIE

God knows you could use one.

BOBBY

(turns to Edie)

You know what I wish, Edie?

EDIE

That your I.Q. was higher than the inseam in your pants?

BOBBY

I wish my Attila-the-Hun mother-in-law would get off her high horse thinking that no one's good enough for her precious daughter.

EDIE

Not no one. Just you.

BOBBY

I've gotta get dressed for work.

(drops his towel)

Unless you wanna gimme a hand.

Edie WHACKS Bobby in the groin with her cane, wiping the smug grin off his face.

INT. JAMES LIVING ROOM - LATER

As Edie walks to the front door, she sees a suitcase in the corner. She then lifts the suitcase on the coffee table and opens the lid, finding Sunny's clothes inside.

INT. SUNNY'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Sunny slowly lifts her head from the HORN. Blood trickles down her face from a GASH on her forehead. Through blurred vision, she looks out the windshield at an endless sky that is still in black and white.

She tries pushing open the crunched driver's side door to no avail. Crawls over to the passenger side, opens the door and steps outside...

EXT. EMBANKMENT - CONTINUOUS

Onto a pile of boulders. She squints, as her vision comes into focus and NOW IN COLOR, seeing a crystal blue sky with a couple large soaring birds in the distance.

Without warning, her feet slide forward from under her on scattering pebbles. She looks down realizing that she's standing over a steep ravine. Suddenly, the rocks begin to give way beneath her, and she scrambles to sturdy ground--

WHOOSH! The rocks bottom out, sending her CAR PLUNGING into the water below.

Sunny peeks over the embankment seeing the front of her car disappear below the water's surface. Through a blinding sun, she gazes up at the steep climb back to the main highway.

BOBBY (V.O.)

It's none of your business what happened!

EXT. TRAILER PARK - AFTERNOON

Dressed in his blue-collar work uniform, Bobby heads to his pickup carrying his lunch box, with Edie nagging behind him.

EDIE

You made it my business when you said "I do!" Now tell me what's going on.

Julie pulls up alongside them in her car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

(to Bobby)

Did you get everything squared away with
your wife?

Bobby shoots her a look to keep quiet. Too late. Edie puts two-and-two together, and hobbles to her car at the same time the school bus pulls up. Becky, Tammi and Jessie get off the bus and run in Bobby's direction.

BOBBY

(to Edie)

I'm gonna be late for work. Can you keep
an eye on the kids 'til Sunny gets home?

Edie drives off, waving to the kids.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

You goddamn...!

Becky approaches Bobby, looking around for Sunny's car.

BECKY

Daddy, where's mom?

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATE DAY

Sunny crawls to the top of the embankment; her face caked with dust and dried blood. Visibly disoriented, she looks down the desolate highway in both directions, then begins walking east along its perimeter...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OPEN ROAD - LATER

A beat-up El Dorado pulls to the side of the road. Sunny rounds a bend and sees the UNIDENTIFIED DRIVER open the car door and leave a SMALL DOG outside. As the car pulls away, Sunny chases after it hollering:

SUNNY

Hey! You forgot your dog!

Sunny stops, sympathetically gazing down at the canine.

EXT. HIGHWAY - MAGIC HOUR

An exhausted Sunny stumbles on some loose roadside gravel, with the dog in her arms. A COYOTE HOWLS in the distance. Sunny cuddles the dog closer like a security blanket.

INT. JAMES KITCHEN - EVENING

Bobby, on the phone, grabs a beer from the fridge. Becky stirs a pot of macaroni and cheese on the stove, as Jessie SQUIRTS Tammi with a water pistol at the table.

BOBBY

(in phone)

-- Sunny James. Do you know if she was in there this morning?

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - SAME

KRISTY, a gum-chewing cashier in her 20's, is on the phone while flipping through a trashy tabloid.

KRISTY

My shift just started.

(then)

Hey, is this Bobby?

INT. JAMES KITCHEN - AS BEFORE

Bobby on the phone.

BOBBY

Yeah. Who's this?

KRISTY (V.O.)

It's Kristy! Long time no see, stranger.

I get off at midnight if you wanna...

Bobby catches Becky trying to eavesdrop.

BOBBY

Errr... Some other time.

He hangs up.

BECKY

Was she there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY
The cashier didn't know.

Jessie continues squirting Tammi with the water gun.

JESSIE
Bang! Bang! You're dead!

TAMMI
Daddy, make him stop.

BOBBY
Jessie, put that thing down.

Jessie turns the water pistol on Bobby-- Splash! Splash!
Bobby YANKS the water gun from Jessie's hand.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Goddamnit! I said put it down!

Jessie flees down the hall CRYING. The girls stare at Bobby.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, but your mother's disappearing
act's got me worried sick.

BECKY
Now you know how she feels when you do.

She plops the macaroni and cheese pot on the table and exits
down the hallway with Tammi. Bobby slumps into a chair,
silent, staring at the water gun.

INT. 16-WHEELER CAB - MOVING - SAME

BILLY RAY (30's), 80's style rocker hairdo, bushy sideburns,
with his name embroidered on his work shirt, sees Sunny
walking up ahead.

BILLY RAY
What in the...?

Lowers the SONG playing on the radio, as he pulls alongside
Sunny.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)
You okay, ma'am?

Sunny shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

Hop in.

Billy Ray reaches over and opens the passenger door, only Sunny is hesitant to get inside. She looks around at the surrounding darkness and finally climbs up into the cab.

INT. 16-WHEELER - MOVING - LATER

Billy Ray looks over at Sunny, with the dog on her lap, she ogles a montage of BIKINI CLAD BEER MODELS taped to the dashboard and overhead visor.

BILLY RAY

Would you like one?

Sunny looks over at him, as he lifts the armrest. Inside is a makeshift cooler filled with beer. Sunny nods her head "no."

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

How 'bout a towelette?

Sunny doesn't get it... Until Billy Ray lowers her visor and she sees her bloodied face in the mirror.

SUNNY

... How?

BILLY RAY

You tell me?

Only, Sunny doesn't remember. As Billy Ray reaches across her lap, the dog NIPS at his hand but misses.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

Easy, tiger.

He strokes the dog's head, and then opens the glove compartment. Digs through a mix of takeout condiments, empty cigarette packs, CD's, and grabs a towelette that he hands to Sunny.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

Here you go.

SUNNY

Thank you...

She searches for Billy Ray's name, he answers with:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILLY RAY

Billy Ray.

Sunny smiles, and then looks in the visor mirror, dabbing her forehead with the towelette.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

What's your name?

Sunny thinks... Then, lowers her eyes to a FAITH HILL CD in the open glove compartment.

SUNNY

Faith.

BILLY RAY

That's pretty. Where you from, Faith?

SUNNY

(matter-of-factly)

My mother.

Billy Ray chuckles... Sunny joins him, as if by osmosis.

INT. EDIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eddie plays Internet Poker. Every hutch shelf and tabletop is filled with COLLECTIBLE DOLLS. Ironically, MARIE OSMOND is on TV pushing a line of dolls on QVC.

SFX: PHONE RINGING.

Eddie sees the name JAMES on Caller ID, and eagerly picks up.

EDIE

Sunny?

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

with Bobby, in his living room, watching a SPORTS GAME on TV.

BOBBY

It's me.

EDIE

Oh. Sunny come home?

BOBBY

Not yet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EDIE

I'm calling the police.

BOBBY

You call the police, Edie and I'll-- !
 (catches himself)
 Look, I know Sunny. She just got hot
 under the collar is all.

Becky creeps into the kitchen and quietly picks up another phone, eavesdropping on their conversation.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

But just in case she don't come home tonight, would you please swing by in the morning and see the kids off to school? I've gotta work a double tomorrow for missing work today.

EDIE

(re: poker hand)

Does a straight beat a flush?

BOBBY

Huh?

EDIE

Does a straight beat a flush? I can never remember.

BOBBY

Have you heard one word I said?

EDIE

Loud and clear. And I love my grandchildren more than life itself, only I'm not Sunny, who's at your every beck and call while you're out banging every beck and call girl!

She hangs up and is WIPED OFF-SCREEN. Bobby BANGS the phone down, then sees Becky hanging up the phone in the kitchen. They share a look, before Becky heads down the hallway to her room.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Billy Ray's semi WHIZZES past a road sign that indicates he's leaving ARIZONA and entering NEW MEXICO.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILLY RAY (V.O.)

-- And you can forget my second wife. The two of us never saw eye to eye.

INT. SEMI- CAB - MOVING - SAME

Sunny sips a beer, listening to Billy Ray's story.

BILLY RAY

She used to say: "Billy Ray, if you want breakfast in bed, sleep in the kitchen!"

SUNNY

Touché!

She raises her beer can and BELCHES, surprising herself.

BILLY RAY

(smiles)

I take it you don't get out much?

As Sunny thinks, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK - BOWLING ALLEY

A PREGNANT Sunny and Bobby bowl with Mary Ann and her blue-collar husband, PETE. Bobby's eyes drift to a stacked BLONDE WOMAN bowling next to them with other WOMEN in a league.

MARY ANN

Come up with any names for the baby yet, Sunny?

SUNNY

I'm liking the name Rhett.

She catches Bobby WINK at the Blonde Woman.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Bobby?

BOBBY

(looks back at Sunny)

Hmmm?

SUNNY

I'm thinking of naming the baby Rhett.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

What the hell kinda name's that?

SUNNY

Only one of the most debonair and dashing names in movie history.

PETE

You lost me at debonair.

MARY ANN

I should've lost you instead of my virginity at the county fair.

PETE

You loved every minute of it.

MARY ANN

You mean all thirty seconds of it.
(Pete nuzzles her neck)
Stop it... Pete!

She succumbs to Pete's sloppy sexual advances.

MARY ANN (CONT'D)

Ah, what the fuck.
(to Sunny/Bobby)
We're outta here.

Goodnights are exchanged before Mary Ann and Pete exit. As Sunny tallies the bowling scores, Bobby looks back over and flirts with the Blonde.

SUNNY

You okay with the name Rhett?

BOBBY

No.

SUNNY

Why not?

BOBBY

'Cuz Rhett sounds like rat. No kid of mine's gonna grow up being compared to a rodent.

SUNNY

Alright, you pick one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BOBBY

Jessie.

SUNNY

Jessie? -- Jessie James?? You wanna name our son after some gun slinging outlaw?

Bobby sees the Blonde exit to the ladies room.

BOBBY

It's a power name, Sunny. Men like power names. I've gotta hit the john.

He heads to the restroom, looks back to make sure Sunny isn't looking, then exits into the ladies room.

INT. LADIES ROOM - LATER

Sunny enters and passes a closed stall door that is SHAKING.

BLONDE WOMAN (O.S.)

Did you lock the door?

BOBBY (O.S.)

Who cares?

Sunny stops in her tracks, then slowly backs up and squats down seeing Bobby's pants and the Blonde's panties wrapped around their respective ankles.

BILLY RAY (V.O.)

Faith?

INT. SEMI - MOVING - NIGHT (THE PRESENT)

Sunny looks over at Billy Ray.

BILLY RAY

Is there something you want to tell me?

Sunny shrugs.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

Is that bump on your head from a boyfriend?

SUNNY

I... I don't have a boyfriend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILLY RAY

Husband?

Sunny gazes down at her bare ring finger, then back at Billy Ray. She nods her head "no," and then leans her head against the window, staring out at passing desert terrain with heavy eyes.

Billy Ray looks over and sees that Sunny's eyes have closed. He then reaches up in the sleeping bunker behind him for a blanket that he tucks behind Sunny's head.

EXT. MOBILE HOME PARK - MORNING

Julie steps out of her trailer in high heels and a bathrobe, and drops her robe as we PUSH IN on--

INT. JAMES KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bobby cracks eggs into a smoking hot skillet on the stove, but is distracted by Julie's daily striptease routine on the flagpole out the window. Becky enters.

BECKY

You're doing it wrong.

Bobby quickly looks down and grabs another egg.

BECKY (CONT'D)

Mom scrambles the eggs in a bowl first.

BOBBY

Yeah, well, your mother's not here. So dad's making...

PLOP! A whole egg and its shell falls into the skillet.

BECKY

A mess.

She takes over.

BOBBY

Do you think you could get your brother and sister off to school so I can go to work?

BECKY

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY
You're a lifesaver.

He kisses her forehead and moves to his lunch box, as Becky scrapes the burned eggs in the skillet into the sink.

BECKY
Mom never fixed my dress for the school play. Do you know ladies at work who sew?

No response. Becky turns around. Bobby is gone. When she turns back around to the sink, she looks outside through the window seeing Bobby pull up to Julie's in his pickup truck.

IN. BOBBY'S TRUCK - SAME

Bobby's eyes take a small trip over Julie's body on the pole.

JULIE
You must be worried sick.

BOBBY
Couldn't sleep a wink.

JULIE
Want some coffee... or something?

BOBBY
Something.

INT. JAMES' KITCHEN - SAME

Becky looks out the window at Bobby following Julie into her trailer.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - MORNING

SHERIFF MORGAN (60's), white handlebar mustache, who has the gruff gusto of someone who's carried a gun on his hip his entire life, bites into his morning donut when the PHONE RINGS. Morgan washes it down with a swig of coffee, then answers with:

MORGAN
Sheriff Morgan.

INT. JAMES KITCHEN - SAME

Becky, on the phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BECKY

I'd like to report a missing person.

(beat)

My mom.

INT. BILLY RAY'S SEMI - MORNING

Sunny's eyes flutter open. Looking through the windshield she sees a BILLBOARD in front of a gas station/truck stop featuring cutouts of "The Wizard of Oz" characters: Dorothy, The Scarecrow, Tin Man and The Cowardly Lion.

The inscription on the billboard reads: *WELCOME TO DOROTHY'S HOUSE & CORONADO MUSEUM.*

Billy Ray approaches the truck carrying a cardboard takeout, with the dog tagging behind him. Billy Ray opens the driver's side door and hops in with the dog.

BILLY RAY

Mornin'.

SUNNY

Good morning.

BILLY RAY

I gotchya' some breakfast. Tiger already ate his.

(off Sunny's look)

Your dog?

He hands her a takeout coffee and a wrapped egg sandwich.

SUNNY

... Right. Where are we?

BILLY RAY

Kansas. Liberal, Kansas.

SUNNY

Do I live here?

BILLY RAY

I don't know where you live, and I really wish I could offer you something more than a fried egg sandwich and a cup of Joe, only I've gotta get back on the road.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Well, if you'd like some company...

BILLY RAY

-- Faith? I sort have to meet someone up in Dodge City.

SUNNY

I see... Well, thanks for everything.

She pops open her door. The dog, who we now come to know as "Tiger," hops outside.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

Wait.

Sunny turns back to him, rather excited that he's reconsidered taking her with him. Instead, Billy Ray pulls out his wallet and hands her some money.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

Take this. There's a cheap motel across the street if you wanna get cleaned up.

Sunny hesitantly takes the money, gazing into his eyes.

SUNNY

You've got kind eyes, Billy Ray. The kind a woman could get lost in; I don't care what your second wife told you.

Billy Ray reflects on Sunny's words, as she gets out the truck and closes the door.

EXT. TRUCK STOP/OZ GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

As Billy Ray pulls away in his truck, Sunny observes the giant cutouts of Dorothy, The Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion next to the billboard.

She sips her coffee as she walks, gazing off at a Wizard of Oz Museum, "Land of Oz" playground for the kids, and a replica of Dorothy's Kansas home.

Then, she looks up at a STOP sign that has another sign atop it that reads: *Yellow Brick Road*.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sunny follows the handmade brick road to a nearby mom-n-pop establishment known as THE RAINBOW MOTEL, with Tiger trailing behind her.

INT. RAINBOW MOTEL LOBBY - SAME

Quaint, decorated with "Wizard of Oz" paraphernalia. WILLIE (WILLIAM), 30's, a pointdexter -- floodwater pants, black rim glasses, shirt and bow tie -- tugs at the knob on an old vending machine.

EXT. RAINBOW MOTEL - SAME

Sunny steps up to the door with Tiger, reading a handwritten note on a giant bell with no string: "Bell Broken. Please Knock Before You Enter."

INT. RAINBOW MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Willie now has both feet planted on the vending machine and both hands on the knob, tugging with all his might.

WILLIE

C'mon, you stupid piece of junk!

He falls backwards on his ass, at the same time Sunny KNOCKS then enters, with Tiger running in front of her.

WILLIE (CONT'D)

Get back outside!

SUNNY

But the sign said...

WILLIE

-- Not you-- It! If my mother finds one iota of dog hair in here she'll skin all three of us alive!

Shoos Tiger to the door. Sunny scoops Tiger up into her arms.

SUNNY

I get the hint!

She marches back outside.

EXT. MOTEL/OZ GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Willie catches up to Sunny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLIE

Ma'am? I'm sorry, but you don't know my mother. She's heartless.

SUNNY

No reason for you to be.

She spots a Super 8 Motel about a block away.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Do you know if the Super 8 allows dogs?

WILLIE

They do.

Sunny counts the wadded up money that Billy Ray gave her.

SUNNY

I've got thirty-five dollars.

WILLIE

They charge fifty-nine, plus a canine fee.

SUNNY

Oh... Can you recommend another place?

WILLIE

(beat)

Follow me.

He walks back to the motel. Sunny follows him with Tiger.

SUNNY

What about your mother?

WILLIE

She went to Oklahoma City to visit my aunt for a couple days.

He moves to an end bungalow, furthest from the motel's lobby, pulls a wad of keys from his pocket and opens the door.

INT. BUNGALOW - CONTINUOUS

Sunny, Willie and Tiger enter. It's a cozy unit, complete with a fridge and double-burner stove.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

That is very nice of you, only I don't want to get you in trouble.

WILLIE

Can't get me in anymore trouble than I'm already in.

SUNNY

What'd you do?

WILLIE

Got stuck somewhere over the rainbow.
(off Sunny's blank look)
That was a joke.

Sunny forces a polite smile. Willie hands her the room key.

SUNNY

What do I owe you?

WILLIE

Nothing.

SUNNY

I've got to give you something.

WILLIE

What do you know about fixing vending machines?

INT. MOTEL LOBBY - LATER

Willie watches Sunny tinkering with the vending machine knob with the aid of a screwdriver.

SUNNY

Hand me the WD-40.

Willie grabs a can of WD-40 from a nearby toolbox and hands it to her. Sunny oils the knob and gives it a tug-- PRESTO! The knob releases, sending a GUSH of Sugar Babies packets into the machine's tray.

WILLIE

You did it! I've been trying to fix this thing for eons.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Just needed a little elbow grease.

Willie opens a packet of Sugar Babies and pops a couple in his mouth. Bites down. *Ewww!* Spits out the candy.

WILLIE

They're a little stale.

(offers the bag to Sunny)

Would you like one?

SUNNY

(smiles)

I'll pass.

She starts to exit.

WILLIE

Maybe you'd like to have dinner later? My treat.

SUNNY

Maybe.

Willie adoringly watches her exit.

EXT. MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

As Sunny walks down the porch to her bungalow, she HEARS a WOMAN'S VOICE, smoky from nicotine, ask:

WOMAN (O.S.)

Are you a good witch or a bad witch?

Sunny backs up and looks into the open doorway of bungalow, where she sees JOLENE, a buxom woman dressed as "Glinda The Good Witch," puffing on a cigarette.

SUNNY

Who, me? Well... I'm not a witch at all.

JOLENE

(cynical)

That's original.

(holds up a script)

I'm rehearsing my lines.

SUNNY

Lines for what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOLENE

Hello! -- Oztoberfest? Biggest thing to hit these parts, outside of a tornado.

(turns slightly)

Hey, would you mind zipping me up?

Sunny is hesitant to enter, upon seeing the TATTOO of a SNAKE on Jolene's exposed back.

JOLENE (CONT'D)

Honey, the asp don't bite.

INT. JOLENE'S BUNGALOW - CONTINUOUS

Sunny enters and moves behind Jolene, struggling to zip up the back of Jolene's pink chiffon gown.

JOLENE

You work here?

SUNNY

Just visiting.

JOLENE

Where from?

Sunny thinks. Can't remember and skirts the issue.

SUNNY

It won't zip all the way up.

Jolene turns sideways, looking in a wall mirror.

JOLENE

I haven't worn it since the new implants.

(cups her boobs together)

Try it now.

Using all her might, Sunny zips the dress to the top.

JOLENE (CONT'D)

Whew! The price us girls pay for beauty, huh?

She extinguishes her cigarette, places another one in her lips, and offers one to Sunny.

JOLENE (CONT'D)

Would you like one?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY
I don't smoke.

JOLENE
(lights up)
Lucky you. I started when I was fourteen.

SUNNY
That's a long time.

Jolene shoots her a semi-disdained look, then finally notices the bump on Sunny's forehead.

JOLENE
What's your name?

SUNNY
Faith.

JOLENE
You lost?

SUNNY
What makes you ask that?

JOLENE
Your eyes. They're the yolks of two sunny-side uppers 'bout to be flipped towards the dark side of humanity.

Sunny gazes into Jolene's eyes, heavily outlined with blue eye shadow and glitter... When FRED, a 70-something little person dressed in MUNCHKIN attire, rushes in.

FRED
Jolene! Andy said if you aren't backstage with the rest of the cast in one minute, he's docking you an hour!

JOLENE
Tell Andy to kiss my ass!

She catches Fred, eye level to her ass, ogling it. Jolene thrusts her hip, knocking Fred clear back to the door.

JOLENE (CONT'D)
Scram, you little pervert!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Fred turns in the doorway, makes an obscene tongue gesture at her, then runs off.

Jolene picks up a huge rhinestone TIARA and pins it atop her wig.

JOLENE (CONT'D)

It's amazing him and those other Ewoks are still alive.

SUNNY

Ewoks?

JOLENE

The munchkins. They may be older than dirt, but they can drink an entire fraternity under the table.

We HEAR a BUS HORN. Outside, a school bus pulls up to "The Oz Playground," with a fleet of rambunctious KIDS running out from it.

JOLENE (CONT'D)

It's showtime.

She picks up a magic wand and heads to the door.

EXT. MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Sunny follows behind Jolene.

JOLENE

We've got a dress rehearsal for an elementary school if you want to see moi in action.

ANDY (30's), shoulder length hair, trendy attire, steps out of a Big Tent with a banner that reads: "WIZARD OF OZ PLAYHOUSE."

ANDY

(to Jolene)

Jolene! Inside! Now!

JOLENE

Bite me, pencil dick!

(to Sunny)

I'm guessing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jolene drops her cigarette on the porch and grinds it out with the tip of her pointy glitter stiletto, then struts off towards the playhouse.

As Sunny heads to her bungalow, she looks off at a young girl and boy playing tug-of-war over a toy.

FLASHBACK - JAMES TRAILER

Becky and Jessie play tug-of-war over the blue gingham dress.

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

The previous scene isn't enough to spark Sunny's memory, as she exits inside her own bungalow.

INT. SNACK CAKE PLANT - DAY

Sheriff Morgan walks by BLUE COLLAR WORKERS packing snack cakes into boxes from a conveyer belt. He approaches the PLANT MANAGER, and they chat, with the Manager pointing to Bobby on a forklift through the open doors of a loading dock.

EXT. LOADING DOCK - LATER

Morgan questions Bobby, who is still seated in his forklift. Randy eavesdrops while loading boxes into the back of a Semi.

MORGAN

Your daughter said she went missing yesterday morning.

BOBBY

Kids have vivid imaginations.

MORGAN

She seemed worried.

BOBBY

Yeah, well, like I said...

MORGAN

-- Worried that you might be seeing another woman.

Bobby shares a look with Randy.

INT. BIG TENT - KANSAS - DAY

An AMATEUR CAST performs a scene from "The Wizard of Oz" to school kids, where Dorothy, played by a teenage girl named APRIL, is confronted by The Wicked Witch, whose name is PEARL. Pearl has a hard time remembering her lines.

Jolene is also on-stage, surrounded by the munchkins. April holds a BLACK TERRIER that portrays Toto, and Andy is seen in the wings on book.

PEARL

(to April)

Give me back my slippers! I'm the only one that knows how to... knows how to...

ANDY

(hard whisper)

Use them!

PEARL

(looks off at Andy)

How's that?

ANDY

(hard whisper)

You're the only one who knows how to use them!

PEARL

I am?

Sunny enters the back of the tent, with Tiger in her arms. She sits in a folding chair, watching, as Jolene jumps in with her next line to cover for Pearl.

JOLENE

(to April)

Their magic must be very powerful or she wouldn't want them so badly.

PEARL

You stay out of this, bitch, or I'll fix you as well!

Andy rolls his eyes at Pearl's obscenity. Sunny snickers, as Tiger GROWLS at the terrier that April is holding.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Shhh! Tiger, keep quiet.

JOLENE

(to Pearl)

*Oh, rubbish! You have no power here.
Begone before somebody drops a house on
you, too!*

PEARL

Very well, I'll bide my time.

(to April)

*And as for you, my fine lady. It's true I
can't attend to you here and now as I'd
like, but just try to stay out of my way--
just try! I'll get you, my pretty, and
your little mutt, too!*

Suddenly, Tiger LEAPS out of Sunny's arms and runs down the aisle and onto the stage, YAPPING at Toto. Sunny hurries to the stage, when Toto leaps out of April's arms, with the two dogs chasing each other around the stage.

Andy GASPS in the wings. As Sunny reaches the stage, Andy steps out from the wings and grabs Pearl's broomstick.

ANDY

(to Tiger)

Ruin my show, will you?!

He raises the broom as if he might use it to strike Tiger.

SUNNY

No!

She holds up her hand, blocking the broom, which WHACKS Andy in the nose.

The Cast Members snicker at Andy's expense, as Sunny scoops up Tiger.

ANDY

(to Sunny)

What'd you do that for?!

SUNNY

Because. You were gonna hit my dog.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANDY

(near tears)

I wasn't going to hit him!

SUNNY

You could've fooled me. I'm sorry, but the idea of picking on a small, innocent creature is just so... *cowardly!*

She heads back down the aisle, apologizing to the kids in the audience.

PEARL

That girl's got balls.

ANDY

Pearl! This is a family show.

JOLENE

Honey, who you kidding? This dog and pony show is nothing more than a daycare center for the delinquents who pump out those miserable rugrats.

She plasters on a phony smile, and looks out at the kids in the audience.

ANDY

If they're so miserable, why do you come back and perform year after year?

JOLENE

`Cuz the ten bucks an hour beats the lousy tips I get for wrapping my legs around a stripper pole.

Fred and the other munchkins gather around Andy.

FRED

Ten bucks an hour?! We get a lousy six-fifty!

"*Yeah's*" and "*That sucks*" from other disgruntled munchkins.

ANDY

If you don't like it, don't let the stage door hit you where the good Lord split you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The munchkins all head off to the exit.

ANDY (CONT'D)
 Okay, all right! I'll give each of you a
 bottle of Wild Turkey.

CHEERS from the munchkins.

ANDY (CONT'D)
 Now everyone get back in your places and
 pick up where you left off before we were
 rudely interrupted.

He looks out at Sunny, who exits the tent with Tiger.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMES' TRAILER - EVENING

Bobby enters, kicking the front door shut behind him with his foot. He marches into the kitchen where Becky cooks burgers in a skillet on the stove. Tammi and Jessie are seated at the table. Bobby SLAMS his lunch pail on the counter. Becky snaps her head in Bobby's direction.

BOBBY
 You want me to go to jail? Is that what
 you want?
 (off Becky's nod "no")
 Then why'd you call Sheriff Morgan?

BECKY
 Because, I...

BOBBY
 You what?!

BECKY
 (her lip quivers)
 I want us to be a family again.

Bobby is at a loss for words, as we MOVE IN ON the burgers sizzling in the skillet.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - NIGHT

DENA, a surly waitress in her 30's, tosses burger & french fry platters down in front of Sunny and Willie, who are seated at a both.

DENA
Anything else?

WILLIE
Ketchup would be nice.

Dena reaches in her apron, pulls out some ketchup packets, and tosses them down on the table.

DENA
Don't choke.

She walks away. Sunny and Willie proceed to open the packets and apply ketchup to their burgers and fries.

SUNNY
She's not very friendly.

WILLIE
She's still mad at me because I broke off our engagement.

SUNNY
How come?

WILLIE
My mother didn't like her.

Sunny looks off at Dena, glaring at Sunny with animosity.

SUNNY
(looks back at Willie)
Do you do everything your mother tells you?

WILLIE
I have no other choice.

He takes a bite into his burger.

SUNNY
That's sad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Willie lifts his eyes to her, chewing, with a look that says:
 "How so?"

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Sad that you can't be your own person.

Sunny takes a bite of her burger. Willie reflects on her remark.

INT. JAMES' TRAILER/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby sits on the couch, staring aimlessly at a SPORTS GAME on TV. He reaches in his pocket and pulls out Sunny's wedding ring that she threw at him, and begins fingering it between his thumb and pointer finger.

EXT. RAINBOW MOTEL - NIGHT

Jolene stands in her bungalow doorway smoking a cigarette, as Sunny and Willie walk back from the diner. Good nights are exchanged, and then Willie exits inside the motel lobby as Sunny heads to her bungalow.

JOLENE

How was your date?

Sunny turns, somewhat startled.

SUNNY

Oh... No date. We just had dinner.

JOLENE

That's more than he offered me when I first met him. He's a momma's boy, you know?

SUNNY

I think he's old enough that he shouldn't let his mother interfere with his personal life.

JOLENE

Voice of experience?

SUNNY

(beat)

No... Voice of reason.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOLENE

(smiles)

So what's the reasoning behind wearing a five year old concert T-shirt?

Sunny looks down at Gretchen Wilson's image on her shirt, then back at Jolene.

SUNNY

I... didn't pack any clothes.

JOLENE

We can fix that.

(eyes Sunny's face)

Amongst other things.

She nods for Sunny to step inside her bungalow.

INT. JOLENE'S BUNGALOW - LATER

Jolene faces Sunny, applying makeup to her face. We do not see Sunny's face or the attire she wearing... yet.

JOLENE

And look up?

She applies mascara to Sunny's eyes, sets down the brush, and then hands Sunny a hand mirror.

JOLENE (CONT'D)

Voila!

Sunny ogles her reflection: painted up face, teased hair, hoop earrings and shiny halter top.

SUNNY

I look so...

JOLENE

Say it.

SUNNY

Cheap.

JOLENE

Cheap?? Honey, no offense, but this is a drastic improvement over what you looked like earlier.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Really?

Jolene places her pointer and middle finger on either side of her nose replica of *Bewitched*.

JOLENE

Witches honor.

ANDY (O.S.)

I always wondered where the coven headquarters was.

Sunny and Jolene turn to Andy, who invites himself in, carrying a Cowardly Lion outfit.

JOLENE

Andy, what do you want?

ANDY

I need your sewing basket. The lion's tail and ears are hanging on by a thread.

JOLENE

Let me guess, you fired the costume designer?

She hands Andy a sewing basket.

ANDY

She gave me attitude. Besides, I didn't like her taste.

(giving Sunny the once-over)

Her stonewash jeans were so yesterday.

SUNNY

(taking umbrage)

Was that directed at me?

ANDY

If the red Reebok sneaker fits...

SUNNY

I already told you that I was sorry about my dog.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANDY

Sorry doesn't cut it. I put my heart and soul into these productions, and the last thing I need is to be humiliated by someone of your caliber.

Sunny gets up from her chair holding the hand mirror and faces off with Andy.

SUNNY

Excuse me, but before you go passing judgement on MY caliber, maybe you should take a good long look at yourself.

She raises the hand mirror. Andy SHRIEKS thinking she's going to hit him. Only, she places the mirror in Andy's hand.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

(turns to Jolene)

'Night, Jolene.

She grabs her original shirt on her exit.

JOLENE

Night, sweetie.

(to Andy)

Pearl's right. That girl does have balls. Maybe at some point in your life you'll grow a pair and pick on people your own size... or gender.

Andy shoots her a look that says: "*Very funny.*"

INT. SUNNY'S BUNGALOW - NIGHT

As Sunny washes the makeup off her face in the bathroom, she hears Tiger BARK. Realizing someone's KNOCKING at the door, Sunny grabs a towel and dries her face en route to the door. She opens the door to Andy, who is holding the Cowardly Lion costume and sewing basket.

ANDY

I owe you an apology.

SUNNY

It's okay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDY

No, it's not okay. I've just... been under a lot of stress lately.

SUNNY

I understand.

ANDY

No... No, I don't think you do.

SUNNY

Sure I do. These shows mean the world to you, so when someone like me comes along in my stonewash jeans, it sort of steals your thunder and makes you feel inferior.

ANDY

(studies Sunny's face)

Who are you?

SUNNY

I wish I knew.

ANDY

If it's any consolation, you're not alone. So, are you any good with a needle and thread?

SUNNY

(shrugs)

I... I think I've done some sewing in my time.

ANDY

Well, time is of the essence. The gig doesn't pay much, but it'll look good on your resume.

Sunny steps slightly further into the doorway and gives Andy a hug.

EXT. RAINBOW MOTEL - NIGHT

Dena, smoking a cigarette, walks past the motel seeing Sunny hugging Andy. Dena watches as Sunny leads Andy into her bungalow and closes the door behind them.

DENA

Whore.

INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Julie performs a pole dance routine on a dinky stage to a clientele of MEN, the majority of whom are older than dirt.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - LATER

Julie enters and sits at a mirrored dressing table where another STRIPPER is applying her makeup.

STRIPPER

How's the crowd tonight?

JULIE

If we *both* ran naked through that crowd,
the only thing we'd raise is dust.

She tosses a small wad of one dollar bills on the table, and then lights up a cigarette.

STRIPPER

There's always Vegas.

JULIE

Been there, done that. I just want to
settle down with someone, you know?

STRIPPER

Any prospects?

JULIE

Yeah, only he's married.

STRIPPER

Aren't all the good ones?

JULIE

Who says he's good?

The Stripper laughs.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - MORNING

Sheriff Morgan questions Mary Ann as she hangs up laundry.

MORGAN

Did they fight a lot?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARY ANN

No more than anyone else in the park.

Mary Ann's husband, Pete, pops his head out of their trailer window.

PETE

Where's the toilet paper, old lady?

MARY ANN

Aisle six, next to the paper towels.

PETE

What the hell am I supposed to use?

Mary Ann flings a towel at Pete, then turns her attention back to Morgan.

MARY ANN

Nah, if I were Sunny, I would've been the one threatening him.

MORGAN

Who?

MARY ANN

Her husband. Bobby. The day of their argument he told her he was gonna fuckin' kill her.

(beat)

I'm quoting.

As she turns her back to hang an article of clothing, Morgan looks across the way at Bobby stepping out of his trailer and walking to his pickup.

A CHORUS singing *Ding Dong, The Witch Is Dead!* BOOMS UP.

EXT. ROADSIDE - NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA - DAY

MUSIC CONTINUES as a CYCLIST peddles past the DOWNED GUARDRAILS that Sunny's car smashed through. The Cyclist makes a U-Turn on his bike and looks over the embankment, seeing Sunny's back bumper exposed in the ravine below.

EXT. OZ GROUNDS - KANSAS - DAY

Previous MUSIC continues. Billy Ray pulls up in his big rig. He gets out and heads to the Rainbow Motel, when he catches a glimpse of Sunny inside the big tent through the open flaps.

INT. BIG TENT - CONTINUOUS

Sunny is in the aisle fitting an ACTOR wearing the Cowardly Lion costume, while other actors rehearse the *Ding Dong, The Witch Is Dead* number on-stage. From the corner of her eye, Sunny sees Billy Ray enter.

SUNNY
(to Actor)
How's it fit?

ACTOR
Like a glove.

The Actor heads to the stage, as Billy Ray approaches Sunny.

BILLY RAY
Hey there.

SUNNY
Hi. I thought you were in Dodge City?

BILLY RAY
I got called back out on the road, so I thought I'd swing by and see how you were doing.

Sunny flips around a badge that's pinned to her shirt that reads: *FAITH - COSTUME DESIGNER*.

SUNNY
Doing great! Andy says it'll look good on my resume.

BILLY RAY
Andy?

SUNNY
The director.

BILLY RAY
I didn't know you designed costumes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Me neither.

BILLY RAY

Look, Faith, I was wondering...

Andy steps out from the wings, abruptly ending the rehearsal.

ANDY

(hollering to Sunny)

Faith, Fred split the back of his pants.

FRED

Who cares?

ANDY

I care. You're not wearing underpants.

Sunny picks up her sewing basket.

SUNNY

(to Billy Ray)

Gotta run. Will I see you at the festival?

BILLY RAY

Depends on my schedule.

SUNNY

Don't let your schedule rule what you really wanna do in here.

She gently places her hand over Billy Ray's heart before heading to the stage. Billy Ray lingers, admiring Sunny from afar.

ON STAGE:

Sunny begins pinning the back of Fred's ripped pants. Jolene steps out from the wings and looks off at Billy Ray, as she approaches Sunny.

JOLENE

That your boyfriend?

Sunny glances off at Billy Ray just before he exits.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY
(turns back to Jolene)
Nah, Billy Ray's just a friend.

JOLENE
You sure about that?

SUNNY
Yeah. Why?

JOLENE
'Cause if you're not doing him, I will.

Sunny accidentally pricks Fred with a pin.

FRED
Oww!

SUNNY
Now, Fred, it was only a little prick.

JOLENE
(ogles Fred's crotch)
You can say that again.

Sunny stifles a snicker.

INT/EXT. SNACK CAKE PLANT - DAY

Sheriff Morgan makes his way to the loading dock, where Bobby mans his forklift. Randy is nearby, sees Morgan first. Randy motions to Bobby, who shuts off the engine.

MORGAN
(tips his hat)
Mr. James.

BOBBY
There a problem?

MORGAN
You could say that. We found your wife's car, only she wasn't in it.

BOBBY
What do you mean she wasn't in it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MORGAN

I was hoping you could explain that down at the station.

BOBBY

(smirks)

Are you shittin' me? You think I had something to do with Sunny's disappearance? Buddy, I gave that woman everything she ever asked for.

MORGAN

Not according to my information. Now, you can either come to the station or I can issue a warrant. Whichever one works for you, "buddy."

Bobby shares a look with Randy, and then hesitantly steps down from the forklift.

INT. BIG TENT - DAY

Rehearsal's over. Sunny passes by JOE, the lighting designer, who is on a high ladder fidgeting with the lights.

JOE

Faith, would you mind running over to see what's taking Andy so long with them gels?

SUNNY

Sure.

EXT. OZ GROUNDS - LATER

Sunny makes her way to a Winnebago, overhearing Andy talking to someone inside.

ANDY (V.O.)

I am happy to see you, only... you've come at a bad time.

MAN (V.O.)

(rather loudly)

Tell me, Andy, when *is* it a good time for me to come see you? Hmmm? When you're far away from crowds and your family, is that how it works?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sunny creeps up closer to the Winnebago and peeks inside a window next to the door, seeing Andy facing off with TYLER, 30's, handsome.

ANDY

Would you keep your voice down?

TYLER

Not a problem-- As a matter of fact, you won't have to hear it ever again.

As Tyler turns to leave, Andy reaches out for him.

ANDY

Tyler, you know I love you.

TYLER

(turns)

You have a funny way of showing it.

Suddenly, the Winnebago door swings open, nearly hitting Sunny. Tyler marches outside and heads to his car, with Andy stepping out into the doorway.

ANDY

Tyler, wait!

Tyler hops in his car and PEELS away. Feeling as though he's being watched, Andy looks over and sees Sunny. No telling how long she's been standing there.

Beat.

SUNNY

Um... Joe asked me to tell you that he needs the gels.

Andy silently heads back into the Winnebago, as Sunny heads across the grounds to The Rainbow Motel. Willie is standing outside, holding Tiger by a leash.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Did he get out?

WILLIE

No. But you have to.

He hands the leash over to Sunny, and heads into the motel.

INT. MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Sunny attempts to enter with Tiger, but Willie blocks the doorway.

WILLIE

You can't come in, Faith.

SUNNY

Did your mother come back?

WILLIE

No, it's what you've been doing behind my back.

SUNNY

(slight smile)

Willie, would you stop the word play and tell me why you're so upset?

WILLIE

I heard you're playing me.

SUNNY

Playing you??

WILLIE

Dena said she saw you with Andy.

SUNNY

Andy?? Willie, Andy's... taken.

WILLIE

Do you have to rub it in?

SUNNY

Not taken by me. Besides, he's not really my type.

WILLIE

What is your type?

SUNNY

I'm not sure. And I'm sorry if I led you on. I just wish we could remain friends.

WILLIE

Dena says when a couple breaks up, they can't ever be friends.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Sounds to me as if Dena still has a thing
for you.

WILLIE

I already told you, my mother doesn't
like her.

SUNNY

Any particular reason why?

Willie shrugs.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Willie... did Dena break your heart?

Willie gazes at Sunny. She's hit the nail on the head, but he
won't admit it. The PHONE RINGS inside.

WILLIE

I have to get that.

He closes the door on Sunny.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - LATE DAY

Bobby sits across the desk from Sheriff Morgan, whose deputy,
NEAL ANDREWS (30's), leans against the wall behind him.

MORGAN

(to Bobby)

So you're telling me that after your wife
caught you in bed with the stripper and
this Andy character...

BOBBY

-- Randy.

NEAL

(undertone)

Homo.

Bobby shoots Neal a look, as Morgan continues with:

MORGAN

That you never left the trailer?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

Well, I... I went outside and tried to talk some sense into her.

MORGAN

Then what about the suitcase?

BOBBY

What about it?

MORGAN

Your mother-in-law said that it was packed with your wife's clothes. She also mentioned that a pile of clothes were in the trash can.

BOBBY

Yeah? So?

MORGAN

So, was that maybe just a cover to make it look she was coming back?

BOBBY

She was... IS coming back.

NEAL

(undertone)

That's what they all say.

Bobby angrily SPRINGS up from his chair.

BOBBY

Shut it, Barney Fife!

Neal whips out his gun, aiming it at Bobby.

NEAL

Bring it on, perv-O!

Morgan reaches back and lowers Neal's arm that's holding the gun.

MORGAN

Neal, relax.

Neal does, as Morgan turns his attention back to Bobby, gesturing for him to sit back down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Mr. James, I have eyewitnesses who heard you threaten to kill your wife. Now, why don't you tell me what really happened.

Bobby slumps forward and puts his hands in his face.

BOBBY

Oh my God. It was just a fight. I would never hurt her!

(looks back up)

You gotta believe me! She left to go to the store and I haven't seen or heard from her since.

Morgan and Neal exchange looks.

EXT. OZ GROUNDS - KANSAS - DAY

Sunny and Jolene sit at a picnic bench. Jolene watches Sunny sew the familiar blue gingham dress.

JOLENE

You're actually a really good seamstress.

SUNNY

'Ya think?

JOLENE

I know. Did you used to work for a tailor or something?

Sunny lifts her eyes to Jolene's.

SUNNY

I honestly don't know.

JOLENE

Seems to be a running theme with you. Honey, let me ask, were you with someone who was...? How shall I put this?

(beat)

Controlling?

As Sunny ponders her answer, Andy approaches, panicked.

ANDY

Stop sewing!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sunny and Jolene stare at him.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Dorothy just quit. Got a real job in
Wichita.

JOLENE
Smart girl.

Andy curls his lip at Jolene, then looks to Sunny.

ANDY
Can you sing?

SUNNY
Me??

ANDY
Yes. Can you carry a tune?

SUNNY
Oh, well, even if I could, I couldn't
stand in a front of crowd of people.

JOLENE
Trust me, honey, the parents who bring
their kids to the show get so shitfaced
they could care less about your singing.
Just pretend you're at a karaoke bar.

Sunny blinks.

INSERT - FLASH IMAGE

Sunny sings at a karaoke bar, with Bobby, Mary Ann and Pete
sitting at a table near the stage.

BACK TO SCENE:

Sunny blinks, bringing her out of her flashback.

ANDY
(to Sunny)
Please, Faith? It would mean the world to
me.

Beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY (CONT'D)

I'll do it on one condition.

ANDY

Name it.

SUNNY

Tiger gets to play Toto.

ANDY

(rolls his eyes)

Fine, Tiger plays Toto-- Only I can't pay you the extra seven-fifty an hour like the rest of the cast. You, or Tiger.

Sunny smiles.

SUNNY

Done deal-- Owww!

Suddenly, Sunny gets a sharp pain in her arm, holds onto it as if she's bleeding.

JOLENE

You okay, Faith?

SUNNY

Yeah, it just... it felt like I was being poked with a needle or something.

Jolene looks down and sees the needle and thread from the dress has poked Sunny's arm.

JOLENE

You are.

As Sunny gingerly removes the needle from her arm, a few drops of blood drop on the front of the gingham dress. Andy quickly grabs it from her.

ANDY

Careful of the dress!

INT. CASINO FLOOR - LAUGHLIN, NEVADA - DAY

Edie sits at a WIZARD OF OZ penny slot machine. She makes the sign-of-the-cross with her hand, then presses the SPIN BUTTON.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Beat.

Suddenly, lights flash, with SIRENS and BELLS going off. A CENTRUM SILVER CROWD shuffles over to see what the commotion is, as Edie looks up at the top of the machine. She's hit the progressive Jackpot for \$4,200 and change.

EDIE

Hot damn!

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Bobby is locked in a cell. Neal sits at his desk playing CANDY CRUSH on his iPhone. Sheriff Morgan isn't present.

BOBBY

I know you can't keep me for more than 24 hours.

NEAL

(without looking up)

Sheriff Morgan can keep you here as long as he likes.

BOBBY

Look, I know I'm allowed at least one phone call.

Neal smirks.

NEAL

'Ya can't make booty calls from jail.

Bobby grows more frustrated.

BOBBY

I'm gonna tell you something-- When I do get outta here? I'm getting me a lawyer who'll take your sorry badge away for depriving me of my rights!

Neal looks up from his iPhone, and then casually strolls over to the jail cell.

NEAL

Alright, hot shot, who is it you wanna call?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY
My mother-in-law.

NEAL
(through a snicker)
If she's anything like mine, you might
wanna make that booty call.

BOBBY
Just dial the damn number!
(off Neal's look)
Please?

NEAL
What is it?

INT. CASINO - DAY

Edie gets her picture taken, holding a huge check for \$4,200.
Too much noise and excitement to hear her phone RING in her
purse.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

Neal walks back towards his desk with his iPhone.

NEAL
No answer. Can try later.

BOBBY
But... I need someone to check on my
kids. They get home from school around
three.

NEAL
I'll call child services.

BOBBY
Whoa-- Child services? Why the hell would
you call them for?

NEAL
(sarcastic)
Hmmm... Let's see. 'Cuz their deadbeat
dad's being held on suspicion of murder?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

I didn't murder Sunny! -- Did we have problems? Yes. But what couple doesn't? She was my everything.

(slumps on the single cot)

My everything, only... I screwed up.

Bobby lies down, with his back to Neal. Neal appears somewhat sympathetic.

INT. AIRSTREAM TRAILER - OZ GROUNDS - DAY

Sunny sits at a cramped dressing table mirror wearing the blue gingham dress as Jolene shapes her hair into pigtails. The table itself is covered with makeup, and there are stacks of scripts on an overhead shelf.

JOLENE

You never answered my question earlier.

SUNNY

What question was that?

JOLENE

If you'd been with someone who was controlling your life.

Sunny thinks. Then answers with:

SUNNY

I'm in control of my own life.

JOLENE

And don't you forget it. That's the problem with some women. They think men have the upper hand over them, when all it takes is a little guts and glory to stand up for themselves.

Sunny studies Jolene's face in the mirror's reflection.

SUNNY

Why do you do this festival?

JOLENE

Because... It's the one time of year I feel as if truly have magical powers, you know? Not to mention look beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

You're very beautiful.

JOLENE

(smiles)

You have no idea what lies beneath these
silicone implants... No idea.

She resumes brushing her hair. Sunny looks at her reflection in the mirror, now detecting an emptiness in her eyes... When Andy pops his head in the door from outside.

ANDY

There's a pair of ruby red slippers in my
closet.

And he's gone.

JOLENE

Not the only thing in his closet.

Jolene laughs, which turns into her smokers' cough. Sunny continues to stare into the mirror, searching for some clues as to who she truly is, when she feels a sharp pain in her abdomen. Jolene sees Sunny holding her stomach.

JOLENE (CONT'D)

Honey, you okay?

SUNNY

Yeah, I just... had a little pain in my
stomach is all.

JOLENE

You're not... pregnant, are you?

SUNNY

God, no! I don't even have kids.

JOLENE

Me neither.

(beat)

Not that I know of.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY

Neal arrives at the James' trailer, exits his car and eyes the surroundings, when Edie pulls up in her car. Edie steps out, gives Neal the once-over in his deputy's outfit.

EDIE
Who are you?

NEAL
Deputy Andrews.

Without missing a beat, Edie chimes in with:

EDIE
What'd Bobby do now?

NEAL
You wouldn't happen to be his mother-in-law?

EDIE
I've been called worse. Did you find Sunny?

NEAL
Not yet. Sheriff Morgan's out doing another search, and... I didn't want to call child services until I contacted you.

EDIE
(confused)
Child services?

NEAL
Your son-in-law's been arrested and booked on suspicion of murder.

Edie pales, as the school bus pulls up in the b.g. Becky, Tammi and Jessie get off the bus and head in their direction.

NEAL (CONT'D)
Maybe you can take the kids to your house 'til we get more concrete evidence.

EDIE
Of course.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Neal heads to his car, as the kids approach Edie. AD LIB "Hi, Grandma" from the kids. Becky then turns her attention to Neal, watching him like hawk as he gets into his car and drives away.

BECKY
(turns to Edie)
Grandma, who was that guy?

EDIE
It's not important.
(upbeat)
Go pack your things. You're coming to my house.

BECKY
Where's dad?

EDIE
He's... working... overtime.

JESSIE
Did mommy come home?

Edie strokes Jessie's head.

EDIE
Not yet, sweetie.

JESSIE
She said she wouldn't leave!

Jessie runs off to the trailer.

BECKY
(to Edie)
Is dad in jail?

Edie purses her lips for Becky to keep quiet, so that Tammi doesn't catch on.

EDIE
Chop-chop, go pack your things, and I'll treat you all to dinner.

As Becky and Tammi head to the trailer, Louise approaches Edie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LOUISE

Edie... Long time, no see.

EDIE

(coldly)

Hello, Louise.

LOUISE

A little birdie told me Sunny upped and flew the coop.

EDIE

She didn't fly any coop, Louise. She's missing.

LOUISE

Yeah, well, I'm missing one month's rent from her and that cartoon cassanova she's married to-- And if I don't get it? I'm gonna hitch that trailer to a big rig and have it hauled over to the dump!

EDIE

How much do they owe you?

LOUISE

Six hundred clams.

Edie reaches in her purse, pulls out six \$100 bills, and then pulls out an extra \$10, handing it all over to Louise.

EDIE

Here's six hundred and ten.

Louise raises a curious eyebrow.

LOUISE

What's the extra ten for?

EDIE

A box of hair color.

(nods to Louise's white streak
in her hair)

That streak of white makes you look like a witch!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Louise's mouth drops, as the kids come racing out of the trailer with duffle bags. Becky is also holding the blue gingham dress for her school play, which we focus on, as we--

CUT TO:

INT. BIG TENT - LATE DAY

Sunny is on-stage, wearing the gingham dress and holding Tiger, singing a refrain of "*Somewhere Over The Rainbow*" to an audience of KIDS and ADULTS.

JOLENE

Dressed as Glinda, stands in the wings watching Sunny sing.

SFX: SIRENS.

Audience and cast members scramble out of the tent, as Jolene hollers off to Sunny with:

JOLENE

Tornado warning! You need to get to your
bunglaow!

And she's gone, leaving Sunny somewhat dazed as what to do.

EXT. OZ GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Sunny steps out of the big tent carrying Tiger, with the SIRENS continuing to SOUND in the distance, as myriad people hurry into cars and busses. Sunny looks up at the blue sky.

SUNNY

(confused)

It's not even windy.

Suddenly, a loud THUNDER CLAP spooks Sunny and Tiger. Tiger jumps from Sunny's arms and takes off running, with Sunny chasing after him.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Tiger, come back!

As Sunny chases after Tiger, a small drizzle of rain begins to fall. The wind kicks up, as Sunny chases Tiger further down the road.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Tiger, stop!

Tiger stops briefly and looks back at Sunny, before turning and running further down the road.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

I said STOP!

Strangely, all of the sirens, rain and wind stops. Sunny's words draw people out from their shelters: Jolene from her bungalow, Andy from his Winnebago, Willie from the motel, Dena from the diner. Even the people and kids who ran to their cars and busses stare in awe, as Sunny approaches Tiger and scoops him up into her arms.

Fred steps up next to Jolene.

FRED

It's like she has magic powers.

Jolene reflects on Fred's words, as he walks away.

ANDY

(addressing everyone)

The warning's lifted. Show's back on.

As everyone heads back to the tent, Jolene moves to Sunny.

JOLENE

Faith, don't ever do that again!
Tornadoes are serious around here, you
could've been killed!

SUNNY

That was weird. Do storms really happen
that fast around here?

JOLENE

Sometimes. Just depends. But when that
siren sounds, you have to find shelter.
No questions, got it?

SUNNY

Yeah, it just... just seemed like it was
over before it got started.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOLENE

Seriously? I could've spent the last 2 hours stuck in my bungalow with a man.

SUNNY

You mean two minutes.

JOLENE

No, two hours.

Sunny stares at her.

JOLENE (CONT'D)

You okay?

SUNNY

Yeah... Yeah, I'm... nervous is all.

Andy pops his head out from the big tent.

ANDY

Jolene! Faith! Let's go!

And he disappears back into the tent.

JOLENE

That one there needs a serious bitch slap.

She puts her arm around Sunny's shoulder and walks her to the tent.

INT. SERVICE STATION GARAGE - DAY

Sunny's beat-up station wagon is lifted up on a hoist, with a MECHANIC inspecting beneath, as Sheriff Morgan talks to a plain-clothes OFFICER.

MORGAN

Any evidence to suggest she was killed?

The Officer hands Morgan a paper bag marked: *EVIDENCE*.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OFFICER

No, all we found were some photos of kids, which I presume are hers, a few coupons and her purse hanging on a boulder above the ravine.

MORGAN

Did you check the basin?

OFFICER

The diver's did a search earlier, only it's so shallow I could've done one with a naked eye.

MORGAN

Nothing?

OFFICER

Nada.

The Mechanic steps up to them, wiping his greasy hands on a rag.

MECHANIC

Well, the brake lines aren't cut, transmission fluid's full-- No freon in the air conditioner, but other than that, she was in okay driving condition. If you ask me, the woman just lost control.

OFFICER

In more ways than one.

Morgan gives the Officer an inquisitive look.

MORGAN

How's that?

OFFICER

Sheriff, this isn't the first time I've worked on cases like this. From what you've told me, the woman had a bad marriage, stuck at home with-- How many kids?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MORGAN

Three.

OFFICER

Stuck at home with three kids and no life
of her own.

(beat)

People snap.

Morgan reflects on the Officer's theory.

INT. EDIE'S HOME - DAY

Becky, Tammi and Jessie sit around the kitchen table, as Edie pulls food out from various McDonald's bags that she sets in front of the kids.

TAMMI

Mom says McDonald's makes you fat.

EDIE

That's the problem with your mother, she
tries too hard at being perfect.

BECKY

She never finished sewing my dress for
the play, Grandma.

Edie looks over at the gingham dress.

EDIE

When's your play?

BECKY

Saturday. Can you sew?

EDIE

(slight snicker)

Sweetie, last thing I sewed were my wild
oats. I'll take it to a tailor first
thing in the morning.

JESSIE

Do you think mommy will ever come home,
grandma?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Edie frowns, and runs her hand over Jessie's head.

EDIE

Of course she will, sweetie... Of course she will.

INT. BIG TENT - LATE DAY

Jolene and Sunny, in costume, are on-stage with other cast members performing the scene where "Glinda" tells "Dorothy" how to go back to Kansas. Sunny holds Tiger.

SUNNY

(to Jolene)

Oh, will you help me? Can you help me?

JOLENE

You don't need to be helped any longer. You always had the power to go back to Kansas.

SUNNY

I have?

SCARECROW

Then why didn't you tell her before?

JOLENE

Because she wouldn't have believed me. She had to learn it for herself.

Billy Ray enters the back of the tent, and takes a seat.

SUNNY

(to Jolene)

If I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't go looking any further than my own backyard, because if it isn't there, I never really lost it to begin with. Is that right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDY
(softly, smiling)
Perfect.

JOLENE
(to Sunny)
That's all it is.

SCARECROW
*But that's so easy. I should've thought
of it for you.*

TINMAN
I should've found it in my heart.

Suddenly, a HECKLER speaks up from the audience.

HECKLER
I should've taken a whiz before this
thing started! -- How much longer?

CHUCKLES from the audience, as Andy motions for Jolene to
pick up the pace.

JOLENE
(to Tinman)
She had to find it out for herself.
(to Sunny)
*Now, those magic slippers will take you
home in two seconds. Close your eyes.*

Sunny closes her eyes...

JOLENE (CONT'D)
Tap your heels together three times...

Sunny taps her heels together three times.

JOLENE (CONT'D)
*And think to yourself, there's no place
like home... There's no place like home.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SUNNY

*There's no place like home... There's no
place like home...*

A YOUNG CHILD in the audience SCREAMS to his mother:

YOUNG CHILD

I want to go HOME!

HECKLER

Makes two of us, kid!

CHUCKLES from the audience and cast members, as Andy throws his script up in the air in defeat.

ANDY

I give up.

Even Sunny can't help but chuckle. She opens her eyes, seeing Billy Ray at the back of the house giving her a "thumbs up."

EXT. BIG TENT - DUSK

A carnival-like festivity. People play games, and are eating and drinking as Sunny walks the grounds with Billy Ray. Sunny is holding Tiger.

BILLY RAY

First a seamstress, now an actress. What other tricks do you have up your sleeve?

SUNNY

We'll see. I don't even know what I am capable of these days.

BILLY RAY

Well, you've come a long way from the woman I found wandering on the road.

SUNNY

And I want to thank you again for bringing me here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Jolene, Andy-- even the munchkins,
they've all become like a family to me.

(looks to Tiger)

Isn't that right, Tiger?

Billy stares adoringly at Sunny and then asks:

BILLY RAY

Where's your family, Faith?

Sunny looks to him.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

Your real family.

SUNNY

(slight shrug)

I don't have one.

BILLY RAY

Are you positive? -- Because I'd really
like to know for sure before...

SUNNY

Before what?

BILLY RAY

Before I ask you out on a date.

SUNNY

(smiles)

What do you call this?

Billy Ray motions to Tiger.

BILLY RAY

A crowd.

AT A BEER TENT

Jolene drinks with the munchkins, when she spots Sunny
laughing along with Billy Ray.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOLENE

You go, girl.

She lifts her beer bottle and tilts her head back to drink, when she catches Fred trying to sneak a peek under her dress. With a single JERK of her knee, she sends Fred rolling.

Beat.

FRED

She's hot for me.

BACK TO SUNNY AND BILLY RAY

SUNNY

I'll put Tiger in my room and change, and meet you back here in, say... 10 minutes.

BILLY RAY

I'll be waiting.

Sunny moves through the crowd towards the motel, when she hears:

ANDY (O.S.)

Faith?

Sunny turns and sees Andy standing in the doorway of his Winnebago.

SUNNY

Hey, Andy. Look, I'm sorry if I messed up some of the lines...

ANDY

No, you were the quintessential Dorothy, and I want to thank you for... Well, for opening my eyes.

SUNNY

I don't understand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDY

You're so... naive-- And I mean that in a good way, how you... how you just are so accepting of... everyone! Faith, there's something I want to tell you because I know you won't judge.

(beat)

I'm gay.

SUNNY

I know.

ANDY

You... you do?

SUNNY

Uh-huh. And so does Jolene, and Fred, and a lot people, only... No one cares.

ANDY

They don't?

SUNNY

Nope.

She steps in closer to Andy.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Love is love - shouldn't matter if it's gay or straight. You love Tyler, right?

ANDY

(choking up)

Yes, more than you know.

SUNNY

Then what are you waiting for? Call him, and let him know.

Andy pulls Sunny in for a hug, when Sunny backs away.

ANDY

Sorry.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SUNNY

You were squishing Tiger.

Andy smiles, as Sunny walks away...

EXT. RAINBOW MOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Sunny passes by the open door to the lobby en route to her bungalow, when she HEARS:

DENA (O.S.)

I don't know what you got goin' on with that Faith chick, but--

WILLIE (O.S.)

-- Nothing. We're friends. That's all.

Sunny backs up, and peeks in the doorway at Dena and Willie.

DENA

I wish I could believe you. It bothered the be-Jesus outta me seeing you out on a date with her.

WILLIE

It wasn't a date, Dena. In fact, she gave me advice about you!

Dena shoots Willie a look.

DENA

Really. Advice?

WILLIE

Yes. Good advice.

Willie steps up to Dena, puts his hand on the small of her back, pulls her close to him and kisses her passionately.

Dena pulls away, smiling at Willie.

DENA

What about your mama?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLIE

I really don't care. I love you.

DENA

I love you too, Willie!

They kiss again, with Willie pulling away this time.

WILLIE

Let's get a room.

He moves behind the counter and grabs a bungalow key.

DENA

(devious)

Willie, you're wicked.

WILLIE

(moving out from behind the
counter)

I'll show you wicked.

Sunny hurries to her bungalow, as Willie grabs Dena by the hand and exits the lobby.

DENA (O.S.)

I've missed your big, thick willie,
Willie.

INT. SUNNY'S BUNGALOW - MOMENTS LATER

Sunny rushes in with Tiger, who she sits on the bed. Sunny sits next to the dog, catching her breath.

SUNNY

Love is in the air, Tiger.
(nuzzles noses with Tiger)
Love is the air.

She reaches behind her back to unzip her gingham dress, and goes to stand up, as we--

SMASHCUT TO:

INT. JAIL - DAY

Bobby gets up from his cot, upon Sheriff Morgan's entrance. He is carrying the bagged evidence, which he tosses on his desk. Neal, who sits at his desk, lifts his eyes from his iPhone, as Morgan moves to Bobby's jail cell.

NEAL

What's the good word, sheriff?

Morgan gazes through the bars at Bobby.

MORGAN

I wish there was one.

He pulls his keys out from his pocket, and unlocks Bobby's cell. Then, he nods his head for Bobby to step out.

BOBBY

What's going on?

MORGAN

You're free to go.

Neal gets up from his desk, moving closer to the men.

BOBBY

Does that mean you found my wife?

MORGAN

No. Neal, give Mr. James a lift home.

NEAL

Wait a second, why's he a free man if you didn't find his wife?

MORGAN

Because we've got no evidence.

Neal nods to the bag on Morgan's desk.

NEAL

What do you call that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MORGAN

Nothing substantial.

(over Neal's protest)

Would you just take the man home?!

Bobby smiles triumphantly at Neal. Neal gives Bobby a slight shove towards the door and they exit, as Morgan moves to his desk and sits down.

Morgan picks up the bag and empties its contents onto his desk: Sunny's purse, coupons, photo of Sunny's kids, and another of Sunny and Bobby in happier times at a Gretchen Wilson concert. Sunny wears her Gretchen Wilson T-shirt.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

(focused on Sunny in the
picture)

Where are you?

INT. SUNNY'S BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Sunny has changed into her Gretchen Wilson T-shirt, stonewash jeans and red Reebok sneakers. She takes one last look at herself in the mirror, and then turns to Tiger, on the bed.

SUNNY

How do I look?

Tiger stretches his neck up and HOWLS at the ceiling. Sunny frowns.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Gee, thanks.

And she heads to the door...

EXT. RAINBOW MOTEL - NIGHT

Sunny steps out of her bungalow and passes by the closed bungalow door Willie and Dena entered, when a big dated Cadillac Seville pulls up outside the lobby. WILLIE'S MOTHER, who has an uncanny resemblance to Louise, steps out and heads to the lobby entrance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SFX: TIGER HOWLING.

Willie's Mother looks over and sees Sunny. As she moves in Sunny's direction, we HEAR Tiger HOWLING inside Sunny's bungalow.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

Who are you?

SUNNY

I'm Faith.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

You staying here?

SUNNY

Yes.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

Where's that howling coming from?

Sunny grows nervous, knowing she must be Willie's mother.

SUNNY

Oh, um... I have a...

WILLIE'S MOTHER

A what?! Cat got your tongue? Speak up!

SUNNY

I have a dog...

Sunny's words are overshadowed by the SEXUAL MOANS from Willie and Dena coming from inside their bungalow.

WILLIE (O.S.)

Oh, Dena! I love 'ya baby!

DENA (O.S.)

Love you more, my sexy, silly Willie!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Willie's Mother looks at the door with an arched eyebrow. Then, she pulls a master key from her purse and goes to put it in the lock. Sunny grabs her arm.

SUNNY

Please, don't go in there.

Willie's Mother shakes away Sunny's hand, and inserts the key in the door.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

Take your hands off me!

She opens the door on Willie and Dena, in bed. Dena pulls the sheets up, covering her breasts. Willie hops out of bed, scrambling for his clothes.

WILLIE

Mother! You're back.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

Not soon enough!

(to Dena)

Beat it, you greasy-spoon diner diva!

(to Willie)

And YOU, in my office!

SFX: TIGER HOWLING.

WILLIE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Just where the hell is that howling coming from?

She marches down to Sunny's bungalow, with Sunny following her.

SUNNY

Please, I can explain...

Willie's Mother unlocks the door, seeing Tiger. She turns to Sunny, with her nostrils flaring.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SUNNY (CONT'D)

It's not Willie's fault. You see, me and my dog had nowhere else to go, and I sort of begged him to let us stay.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

Let me tell you something, missy. I did not work my way up from nothing to allow some white-trash vagabond and her little dog leave their stench in MY motel.

She scoops up Tiger, and then heads to the lobby with Sunny following her. Willie and Dena, both dressed, step out of their bungalow and move toward the lobby area.

SUNNY

I might be white-trash, but it beats being a bitter, old woman who thinks she's better than everyone else.

Willie's Mother pivots around, glaring.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

You may scare other people, but you don't scare me. Give me my dog, and I'll gladly leave.

She reaches out for the dog, only Willie's Mother holds it in her possession searching its neck for tags.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

Does your dog have tags?

SUNNY

Well... Not that I know of.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

(smiles evilly)

Does the word euthanasia mean anything to you?

WILLIE

Mother, just give her the dog.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WILLIE'S MOTHER

Shut up and call the pound.

WILLIE

No, YOU shut up! Ever since I was a little kid, you bossed me AND Father around, until he grew a pair of balls and left! -- Well, if you aren't careful, I'm gonna leave too, then you'll have no one to boss around.

(beat)

Now, give Faith her dog.

Willie's Mother reluctantly hands Tiger over to Sunny.

SUNNY

I'll go get my things, and we'll be gone in no time.

WILLIE

You're not going anywhere, Faith. You can put Tiger back in your room.

(beat)

I'M in charge now.

SUNNY

Oh, I don't wanna cause any trouble.

WILLIE

There won't be any trouble.

(to his mother)

Isn't that right, Mother?

No response.

WILLIE (CONT'D)

I said, isn't that RIGHT, Mother?

Willie's Mother MUMBLES under her breath, as she exits inside the lobby. Willie turns to the women.

WILLIE (CONT'D)

That felt good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Dena rubs her hand up and down his leg.

DENA

It sure did.

Willie smiles, and then addresses Sunny:

WILLIE

We sort of have some unfinished business
to tend to.

Sunny smiles, as Willie and Dena exit inside their bungalow.
Sunny then heads to her bungalow.

FROM AFAR

Willie's Mother peeks out from the lobby, seeing Sunny set
Tiger down inside her bungalow.

SUNNY

(to Tiger)

You be a good dog. Okay?

Willie's Mother arches her eyebrow. She obviously has
something devious in store.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Sheriff Morgan is bagging up Sunny's remnants back into the
"Evidence" bag, when the phone RINGS. Morgan picks up.

MORGAN

Sheriff Morgan.

INTERCUT WITH:

NANCY LEWIS (30's), in a nursing uniform is on the phone at
the reception area of a hospital.

NURSE LEWIS

Sheriff Morgan, my name's Nancy Lewis. I
am a nurse at Mercy Hospital.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MORGAN

What can I do for you, ma'am?

NURSE LEWIS

We admitted a patient a few nights back. We're calling her Jane Doe because she had no identification, and we're contacting the surrounding counties who may have had any missing person's reports filed.

Neal enters, SLAMMING the door behind him.

NEAL

I still can't believe you released him like that.

Morgan holds up his hand for Neal to keep quiet, and then picks up the photo of Sunny from his desk.

MORGAN

(in phone)

What's this Jane Doe look like?

EXT. OZ GROUNDS - NIGHT

Sunny makes her way through the crowds, and meets up with Billy Ray.

SUNNY

Hi.

BILLY RAY

Hey. I thought you ditched me.

SUNNY

Nah. I just had a run-in with a witch.

Billy Ray snickers.

BILLY RAY

Wanna beer?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Sure.

Sunny turns, and heads to the beer tent, when Billy Ray gently grabs her arm.

BILLY RAY

I was thinking of somewhere more...
private.

Sunny reacts.

EXT. OZ GROUNDS - KANSAS - LATER

Billy Ray opens the passenger door of his 16-wheeler and helps Sunny up into the cab. He then closes the door, and moves to the driver's side.

INT. BILLY RAY'S CAB - CONTINUOUS

Billy Ray hops up into the passenger seat, lifts the lid on the arm rest between him and Sunny, and hands her beer. Then, he grabs one for himself. He toasts Sunny with his beer.

BILLY RAY

Cheers.

SUNNY

Cheers.

They each sip their beers. Then, Sunny gazes out at the carnival lights and people.

BILLY RAY

Penny for your thoughts.

SUNNY

(turns to Billy Ray)
Cheapskate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BILLY RAY

(smiles)

Times are tough. But like they say, money don't buy you happiness.

SUNNY

Then what does?

BILLY RAY

According to my mother, love. Stayed with my old man for... God, how long were they married; forty-five, forty-six years? Mind you, they weren't all good ones, but she stuck by his side 'til the day he died.

(beat)

Looking back, I'm not sure if it was love or stupidity, knowing how he used to... you know?

SUNNY

Cheat on her?

BILLY RAY

(shrugs)

Some call it cheating, others call it God's natural order of why some men think with their you-know-what instead of their brain.

Sunny chuckles, and then stares into Billy Ray's eyes.

SUNNY

I said it before, and I'll say it again. You've got kind eyes... The kind a girl could get lost in.

Billy Ray leans in to kiss Sunny, but just as their lips are about to meet--

SFX: SIRENS.

Sunny sits up, startled.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Tiger!

BILLY RAY

It's just a tornado warning.

SUNNY

He'll run, like he did before!

Sunny hops out from the passenger side, as Billy Ray hops out of the driver's side.

EXT. OZ GROUNDS - NIGHT

Billy Ray sees an enormous dark funnel cloud in the distant sky. This is no warning! Billy Ray looks off at Sunny, fighting gusty winds en route to her bungalow.

BILLY RAY

Faith, wait up!

TIGHT on Sunny, passing familiar faces like Jolene, Fred, Andy, etc., all AD LIBBING for her to take cover.

EXT. RAINBOW MOTEL - NIGHT

Fighting the gusty winds, Willie's Mother steps up to Sunny's bungalow holding a broom. She opens the door with her master key seeing Tiger GROWLING at her presence.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

Growl at me, you mangy mutt, and I'll bite your ears off!

She moves deeper into the room, SWATTING the broom at Tiger.

WILLIE'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Get out! Go on! Beat it!

Sunny steps into the doorway of her bungalow.

SUNNY

Leave him alone!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Willie's Mother turns, glaring at Sunny, while holding the broom.

WILLIE'S MOTHER

The same goes for you, before I bounce
you back to whatever planet you fell
from.

Something Willie's Mother said triggers Sunny's memory.

FLASHBACK - TRAILER PARK

Louise stands in the doorway of Sunny's trailer, shoving a check in Sunny's face.

LOUISE

Your rent check bounced-- *Again!*

SUNNY

Sorry, Louise. Bobby gets paid tomorrow.
I'll be sure to write you a new one.

LOUISE

Famous last words.

BACK TO SCENE:

Tiger darts out of Sunny bungalow room, with Sunny chasing after him. Willie's Mother steps into the doorway CACKLING like a witch.

EXT. OZ GROUNDS - NIGHT

Sunny fights the wind gusts in attempt to catch up to Tiger, when a big GUSH lifts her from feet and knocks her on her back. Her head hits the ground with a DEAFENING THUD, and suddenly her world goes into a SLOW MOTION FLASHBACK:

-- Sunny looks over at Becky, as Jessie rips Becky's blue gingham dress in the trailer.

-- Sunny, driving in her car, swerves out of the way of the oncoming Winnebago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- Sunny's car goes over the embankment.

-- Sunny hollers at the unidentified person who lets Tiger out of their car.

-- Sunny walks roadside, holding Tiger, when Billy Ray pulls up alongside her in his 16-wheeler. Billy Ray lowers the SONG playing on the radio, as he pulls alongside Sunny.

BILLY RAY

You okay, ma'am?

Sunny shrugs.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

Hop in.

Billy Ray reaches over and opens the passenger door, only Sunny is hesitant to get inside. She looks around at the surrounding darkness and then scoots Tiger into the cab, before attempting to climb in herself.

Suddenly, Sunny's eyes roll in the back of her head, and she collapses outside on the road. Billy Ray scrambles out from the driver's side, and checks Sunny's pulse. Nothing.

BILLY RAY (CONT'D)

(panicked)

Jesus Christ!

He whips out his cell phone and dials 9-1-1.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

9-1-1 Dispatcher.

BILLY RAY

I have an emergency on I-95, about 20 miles outside of Needles.

(beat)

A woman's stopped breathin'!

BACK TO SCENE IN KANSAS:

With SIRENS blaring in the b.g., Sunny slowly rises to her feet.

BILLY RAY (O.S.)

Faith, look out!

Sunny glances over at Billy Ray, and then turns to a blur of RED COLORED LIGHTS on a carnival ride that has been uplifted from the wind and WHIZZING in her direction.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROADSIDE - DUSK (FLASHBACK)

Sunny is wheeled into the back of an ambulance, whose SIREN is ROARING and a RED LIGHT atop is FLASHING. As the PARAMEDIC goes to close the door, Sunny looks out, seeing a concerned Billy Ray standing outside of it.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sunny is wisked down the hallway on the stretcher. Through blurred vision she looks up at DOCTORS and NURSES, with AD LIBS about "*Low pulse rate,*" "*Blood loss,*" etc.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATE NIGHT - BLACK & WHITE (THE PRESENT)

Sunny lies in a bed, head bandaged, with her eyes closed. Slowly, her eyes flutter open, seeing the image of a man standing bedside. As her vision becomes clearer, so does the man. It's Bobby, smiling, as he gently strokes her cheek.

BOBBY

Welcome back, Sunny.

Sunny appears dazed and confused as to where she is, and then looks over and sees Sheriff Morgan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

(looking back to Bobby)
What... What's happened?

BOBBY

You were in an accident.

SUNNY

(thinks)
The carnival ride?

BOBBY

The what?

SUNNY

The carnival ride in Kansas.

Bobby shares a look with Morgan, as Nurse Lewis enters, pushing a wheelchair.

BOBBY

(to Sunny)
It was a car accident, Sunny. You're
lucky to be alive.
(beat)
Let's get you home.

MUSIC BOOMS UP, as Bobby helps Sunny out of bed and to the wheelchair. Wish list SONG: "*Goodbye Yellow Brick Road.*"

INT. BOBBY'S PICKUP - EARLY MORNING

MUSIC continues, as Bobby drives Sunny home. He occasionally glances over at Sunny in the passenger seat, who stares aimlessly out the window at the passing landscape.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - MORNING

Bobby's pickup pulls up to the James' trailer. Bobby gets out and then helps Sunny out from her side. As Bobby helps Sunny to the house, Sunny looks off at Julie, rehearsing her routine on the flagpole. Julie doesn't spark Sunny's memory.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Has she ever eaten a carb?

INT. JAMES TRAILER - LATER

Bobby helps Sunny inside. There's a homemade "Welcome Home, Mom" banner that the kids made, who all rush over and hug her. Edie moves to Sunny from the kitchen and hugs her.

EDIE

Welcome home, darling.

Only, Sunny doesn't respond. It's apparent she's still confused as to what's happened.

BOBBY

I'm gonna go to work, Sunny. I missed a lot of days while you were gone. You don't mind, do you?

Sunny nods her head "no." He moves to the kitchen and grabs his lunch pail, as Jessie wraps his hands around Sunny's legs.

SUNNY

(smiles)

I missed you too...

She's forgotten his name. Looks to Edie.

EDIE

Jessie.

SUNNY

Right... Jessie.

BECKY

Mom, are you okay?

Bobby heads back into the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

Your mother'll be fine. She just needs
some rest.

He gives Sunny a peck on the cheek.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I'll see you tonight.

And he exits.

EDIE

(to the kids)

You kids better get ready for school.

TAMMI

I want to stay with mommy.

JESSIE

Me too.

Sunny sees Becky's gingham dress draped over the sofa. Sunny moves to the dress, picks it up, and then sinks onto the sofa.

EDIE

Your father's right. Your mother needs
her rest.

(scoots the kids out from the
room)

You can spend time with her after school.

Becky turns back.

BECKY

What about my dress?

EDIE

I'll worry about your dress.

Becky leaves with the other two kids. Edie moves to Sunny, and sits next to her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EDIE (CONT'D)

I wasn't sure I'd ever see you again.

Sunny remains focused on the dress.

SUNNY

Where'd this come from?

EDIE

You made it, for Becky's play. I promised her I'd bring it to a tailor and have the collar fixed.

Edie reaches for the dress, only Sunny holds it in her custody.

SUNNY

No, I can do it... I'm a good seamstress.

Edie gives her an odd look.

EDIE

A seamstress? I've never heard you use that word before.

SUNNY

(looks at Edie)

Where was I?

EDIE

You were in the hospital.

SUNNY

Are you sure?

EDIE

I'm positive.

(beat)

Honey... do you want to go back?

SUNNY

(smiles)

I'd love to, only... I live here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SUNNY (CONT'D)

I doubt Bobby would wanna pack up and
move to Kansas.

EDIE

I meant the hospital.

SUNNY

Why would I wanna go back there?

EDIE

Because, your body went through major
shock. You were in a coma for three days.
Doctor said you would likely have short
term memory loss.

SUNNY

But it was so real... And I had friends,
and a job, and... I met someone who
really cared about me.

A TEAR trickles down Sunny's face. The kids enter the room.
Jessie runs over to Sunny.

JESSIE

Don't ever leave me again, mommy.

SUNNY

I won't.

JESSIE

Promise?

Sunny's crosses her heart with her finger.

SUNNY

Cross me heart, hope to...

She stands up before finishing her thought.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

I better finish this dress.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Edie watches her exit down the hallway. She's obviously worried about her.

INT. SUNNY & BOBBY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Sunny sits on the edge of the bed, sewing the collar onto the gingham dress. Edie enters, holding a cup of soup.

EDIE

I made you some soup. It's all I could find in your cupboards.

SUNNY

I'm not hungry.

EDIE

You need to eat, Sunny.

SUNNY

Later, mom.

EDIE

How 'bout I run to the store and buy some groceries?

SUNNY

Okay.

Edie turns to leave, and then turns back.

EDIE

You don't have to live like this, Sunny.

SUNNY

(looks up)

Like what?

EDIE

Here. Like this. Pretending everything's... hunky dory! You and the kids can stay with me. Better yet, I'll buy you your own trailer-- Hit three progressive jackpots in the last month.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

What are you talking about?

EDIE

Don't you recall what happened before
your accident?

SUNNY

No. Tell me.

EDIE

Bobby, he... that woman next door...

SUNNY

What woman?

Edie wants to tell her, only she knows Sunny's probably not
in any condition to handle the truth.

EDIE

Never mind.

(beat)

I won't be long.

She exits. Sunny stands up, holding the now finished dress
against her body, ogling her reflection in a mirror.

FLASH IMAGE:

INT. AIRSTREAM TRAILER - OZ GROUNDS - DAY

Sunny sits at a cramped dressing table mirror wearing the
blue gingham dress as Jolene shapes her hair into pigtails.
The table itself is covered with makeup, and there are stacks
of scripts on an overhead shelf.

JOLENE

You never answered my question earlier.

SUNNY

What question was that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOLENE

If you'd been with someone who was
controlling your life.

Sunny thinks. Then answers with:

SUNNY

I'm in control of my own life.

JOLENE

And don't you forget it. That's the
problem with some women. They think men
have the upper hand over them, when all
it takes is a little guts and glory to
stand up for themselves.

INT. JAMES' TRAILER - NIGHT

Sunny, Bobby, Tammi and Jessie are seated at the kitchen
table, eating. The kids are enjoying this. Bobby? Not so
much. Becky enters, wearing her gingham dress. She does a
twirl.

BECKY

How do I look?

TAMMI

Like a train wreck.

Becky picks up a fish stick and flings it at Tammi. Jessie
joins in on the food fight, as the dog BARKS.

BOBBY

It's like a frickin' zoo in here!

Life at the James' is back to normal, whatever that is, when
we HEAR KNOCKING at the door. Sunny goes to stand up to
answer the door, when Bobby stands up.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I'll get it, it's probably Randy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

Randy?

BOBBY

(Duh!)

Randy. He's helping me build the family room?

He grabs a six-pack from the fridge, moves to the front door, and opens it to Randy. As they head down the hallway, Randy looks to Sunny.

RANDY

Nice bandage, Sunny.

The guys stifle their snickers, as Sunny tries remembering who Randy is.

INT. JAMES' TRAILER HALLWAY - LATER

Sunny stands outside the tarp that covers the half-finished family room, listening to Bobby and Randy's conversation.

RANDY (O.S.)

She remember anything?

BOBBY (O.S.)

No. It's weird, dude. It's like she has a frickin' cassette tape for a brain that someone erased.

RANDY (O.S.)

Lucky you.

BOBBY (O.S.)

Yeah. Let's hope she doesn't wake up.

INT. SUNNY & BOBBY'S BEDROOM - PRE-DAWN

Bobby and Sunny lie in bed, sleeping, with their backs to each other.

SFX: CAR DOOR SHUTTING.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bobby's eyes slowly open, and he gets out of bed, careful not to wake Sunny. He moves to the window and looks outside at Julie moving from her car to her trailer. Bobby looks back at Sunny, whose eyes are still closed.

Bobby slips on his pants, puts on a shirt, and sneaks out of the room... When Sunny's eyes pop open.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - PRE-DAWN

Sunny creeps across the way to Julie's trailer. She stops, hearing Bobby and Julie's MOANS of passion inside.

RANDY (V.O. FLASHBACK)

She remember anything?

BOBBY (V.O. FLASHBACK)

No. It's weird, dude. It's like she has a frickin' cassette tape for a brain that someone erased.

RANDY (V.O. FLASHBACK)

Lucky you.

BOBBY (V.O. FLASHBACK)

Yeah. Let's hope she doesn't wake up.

INT. EDIE'S BEDROOM - PRE-DAWN

A sleeping Edie, hair in enormous pink curlers, is awakened by the RINGING PHONE on the night stand. Edie groggily reaches out and brings the phone to her ear.

EDIE

Yello.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

Sunny awakens each of her sleeping children in their respective bedrooms.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAWN

Bobby steps out of Julie's trailer with a satisfied look on his face, and then heads to his trailer... When Sunny and the kids step out of the trailer, all toting suitcases. Bobby raises a curious eyebrow, as he approaches Sunny.

BOBBY

What's going on?

SUNNY

(calmly)

I'm *moving* on, Bobby. You should too.

As she tries to get around him, Bobby grabs her arm.

BOBBY

What the hell's that supposed to mean,
woman?

Sunny looks down at his arm, and then back into his eyes.

SUNNY

It means you live in a fantasy world if
you think I'm gonna put up with this. I
deserve better than someone of your
caliber.

She goes to get around him, only Bobby blocks her path. Mary Ann, Wally, and other denizens are drawn out into their front doorways like in the opening.

BOBBY

MY caliber? I work my ass off so you can
putz around this trailer all day-- doing
what, Sunny?

SUNNY

According to you, nothing, but that'll
change. You'll see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Edie pulls up in her car, and steps out. Sunny and Edie begin loading Sunny and the kids' suitcases inside the trunk, as Bobby continues to hound Sunny.

BOBBY

Oh, I suppose you're gonna get a job?
Pfft! You ain't worked a day in your
life. I'M the one who pays the bills
around here.

SUNNY

It's your trailer.

BOBBY

Yeah, that you lived in. How 'bout you
fork over the rent for this month?

EDIE

I already did.

BOBBY

You stay outta this, you old bag!

Edie goes to swat Bobby with a piece of luggage, only Sunny grabs her arm. Edie lowers her arm, as Sunny calmly turns to Bobby.

SUNNY

Not in front of the kids, Bobby.

Edie scoots the kids inside the car, as Sunny hollers off:

SUNNY (CONT'D)

Buddy! C'mon, boy!

The dog comes running and hops in the backseat of the car. As Sunny goes to open the passenger door, Bobby grabs Sunny's arm.

BOBBY

(harsh whisper to Sunny)
You wanna play hardball? I'll see you
court.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Sunny gently shakes free from Bobby's grip, and then turns to open the car door.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I went through hell while you were missing, and this is the thanks I get?

With her back to Bobby, Sunny listens to Bobby's rant.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Poor Sunny, playing the victim, claiming she was in Oz-- And you say "I" live in a fantasy world?

(beat)

I pity the dumb bastard who winds up with you, you frigid bitch.

Sunny slowly turns around, smiling, and gently strokes Bobby's face. He smiles back, as though he's talked some sense into her, when she suddenly SLAPS his face.

SUNNY

THAT'S what you call a bitch slap.

She turns back around and opens the car door, leaving a stunned Bobby rubbing the side of his face.

INSERT:

Mary Ann, watching the confrontation from her doorway, as her husband Pete steps up behind her in a sleepy state.

PETE

What's going on?

MARY ANN

Sunny finally grew a pair of balls.

Pete smiles, as he steps in and grinds against Mary Ann.

MARY ANN (CONT'D)

Back off, Pete, before I cut yours off.

BACK TO SCENE:

Bobby hollers off at Sunny, as Edie pulls away in the car.

BOBBY

You're going down, Sunny! When I get
custody of my kids, you'll be left with
nothing-- 'Ya hear me? Nothing!

People return inside their trailers, as the car disappears from Bobby's sight. He looks around at his rundown trailer, half-finished family room jutting off the back. Kids' toys in the yard. His banged-up pickup. It's apparent that he realizes he's the one left with nothing but an empty life...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Data on the marquee reads: "The Wizard of Oz."

INT. SCHOOL STAGE - WINGS - DAY

It's a few minutes before curtains. Sunny primps the blue gingham dress that Becky is wearing.

BECKY

How do I look?

Sunny takes a step back, smiling at Becky's appearance as "Dorothy."

SUNNY

Like a super star.

(beat)

Break a leg.

She kisses Becky's forehead, and then turns to leave.

BECKY

I bet you'd like to break daddy's, huh?

Sunny turns back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY

No... I'm tired of fighting, sweetie.
From this day forward, we're going to be
the family I always imagined us to be.

(beat)

Happy.

She WINKS at Becky, and then exits.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - LATER

Edie is seated next to Tammi and Jessie. Sunny moves down the aisle, and sits next to Edie.

EDIE

Nervous?

SUNNY

Nah, Becky knows this part like the back
of her hand.

EDIE

I meant you.

(off Sunny's look)

You were a young bride; never really had
any time to be on your own, or even play
the field, for that matter.

Sunny thinks about this, as the house lights dim. PEOPLE APPLAUD, as instrumental MUSIC of "*Somewhere Over The Rainbow*" begins playing. Billy Ray makes his way to the empty seat next to Sunny.

BILLY RAY

This seat taken?

SUNNY

Nope.

As Billy Ray sits, Sunny divides her attention between the stage and Billy Ray.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNY (CONT'D)

I'm Sunny.

BILLY RAY

Billy Ray. Nice to meet you.

SUNNY

Do you know someone in the play?

BILLY RAY

My son. You?

SUNNY

My daughter.

BILLY RAY

Have we met?

SUNNY

I think I'd remember your kind eyes.

From Billy Ray's POV, Sunny's eyes turn to color.

BILLY RAY

Maybe we could have coffee sometime?

SUNNY

Maybe.

They both turn their attention back to the stage.

BILLY RAY

I have Faith we've met before.

Sunny turns to Billy Ray, whose eyes are now IN COLOR. The MUSIC SWELLS, as Sunny smiles, and we...

FADE OUT.