

STUCK WITH FIONA

Written

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. TWO-STORY APARTMENT COMPLEX - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Two units up, two down. ELLA MAE (60s), dumpy, constantly wears a droopy apron, paces back and forth with a large bag of cookies. VEHICLE approaches (O.S.).

Ratty old engine smoking jalopy chugs INTO VIEW, rolls up the driveway. Skids to a stop--

QUIN DUNIVIN (30s), handsome, command presence, tool pouch hooked on belt, leaps out. Ella Mae rushes up.

ELLA MAE

Got a glimpse of them, Quin. They took off in a VW Bug.

Quin pads up the stairway. Bursts into his unit--

INT. QUIN'S UNIT

CAMERA follows him into the kitchen - bathroom - living room. Ella Mae looks on.

ELLA MAE

They were wearing sunglasses and wigs. Must've had a key. I called Fiona but got no answer.

Quin checks desk drawers. Pauses, brainstorms.

QUIN

Far as I can tell, only things missing are my notes. But it looks like they got Jan's things.

ELLA MAE

Meant to tell you, Quin. After you left for work she moved out. Was going back to Texas.

Though stunned, Quin takes it in stride.

QUIN

Could've left me a lousy note.

Ella Mae, stuck for words, manages to give a heartfelt response.

ELLA MAE

Wanna cookie?

EXT. DUPLEX - LEFT UNIT - DAY

Establishing. Mid-scale, neglected landscape.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Cortez Canyon?

INT. MID-SCALE DUPLEX - LEFT UNIT

The voice: KLAUS KRUPP (50ish), seedy, cheap hairpiece, wrinkled suit, nervously on the phone, seated at his desk. Moves a magazine aside: "Magic Romance Makers."

KRUPP
We need it before Fiona finds out
it's real. Letter proving so is due
today... Yeah, hurry!

Hangs up, adjusts his toupee. His snarl exposes nicotine stained teeth.

INT. JITTERS' UNIT

Cluttered with computers, laptops, monitors, wires, reams of paper, books, etc. JITTERS (mid-20s), spaced out look, facial tick, picks up a cup. Quin barges in just as--

Jitters gulps down a triple-espresso.

QUIN
Jitters. Did you...!
(downbeat)
How many?

Jitters holds up five, then six trembling fingers. Quin turns to Ella Mae.

QUIN (CONT'D)
He's jacked-up on six triples.

ELLA MAE
He's helpless after five. I could
give him some of my Vicodin.

QUIN
Naw. It'll take more than that to
bring him back down.

ELLA MAE
You gonna call the police?

Quin ignores the question.

QUIN
Milo home?

ELLA MAE
I'll check.

Jitters babbles gibberish in the b.g.

EXT. FOUR-UNIT APARTMENT - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ella Mae SIGNS to MILO (30ish), pleasant, across the street.
He SIGNS back, shakes his head.

Quin piles into the jalopy. Ella Mae steps up.

ELLA MAE
No help. Milo just got home.

QUIN
(livid)
Fiona's snake-attorney has to be
behind this, Ella Mae.

ELLA MAE
Is it about that brooch?

QUIN
No doubt. I'll head to the Canyon
and get in Fiona's face.

Battery grinds. Engine belches, comes to life, then lurches.
Quin speed-dials his phone, backs out into the street. Floors
the gas peddle.

INT. SMALL MOUNTAIN CABIN - DAY

FIONA (70s), scatter-brain, goofy hairdo, flowery housecoat,
answers her phone.

FIONA (ON PHONE)
If you're a damn telemarketing
loser, hang up!

INT. JALOPY - MOVING - DAY

Quin snaps back at Fiona.

QUIN (ON PHONE)
It's me, Fiona, and I am real
pissed! Krupp's people broke into
my apartment!

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION:

FIONA

Why?

QUIN

Cause you didn't sell him that damn brooch. Three-hundred shekels for a worthless piece of glass is far more than fair!

FIONA

Tough tamale, Quin. I promised my father, your grandfather, that I'd never sell it!

QUIN

But now these jerks have your address. They could be there any minute. Least you can do is to hide my pickup!

INT. FIONA'S CABIN - DAY

NOISY VEHICLE approaches (O.S.). Fiona panics. Yanks open a desk drawer. Finds, removes a HOLY BIBLE and a blue cloth bag. Beats a path out the rear door.

EXT. QUIN'S PICKUP - BACKYARD

Fiona opens the passenger door. Reaches inside, hesitates, hears the VEHICLE stop (O.S.).

She bolts back to the cabin.

INT. FIONA'S CABIN

Fiona enters just as TWO THUGS in their forties, sunglasses and masks, burst in the front door.

UGO, dirt-ugly, huge gut, missing a THUMB. His accomplice, PUNCHY, pancake-flat nose, SNIFFS constantly.

UGO snatches the cloth bag from Fiona. Dumps out contents; all costume jewelry.

Questions Fiona in a notable squeaky voice.

UGO

Where's the Belgium Pride? This is all cheap crap.

FIONA
 Watch your tongue, mister! Those
 are my family heirlooms.

Ugo belts out to Punchy.

UGO
 Toss the joint.

EXT. JALOPY - FREEWAY TURN-OFF - DAY

Quin fumes while a COP issues him a citation.

INT. FIONA'S CABIN - DAY

Ransacked. Ugo is frustrated, Punchy non-plus. Fiona surveys
 the room, lays into them.

FIONA
 Now you butt-wipes happy? Told you
 I didn't have it.

PUNCHY
 Butt-wipes? That wasn't very nice.

FIONA
 Live with it, snot-box.

Ugo eyes a switch on the wall suspiciously.

UGO
 What's this?

FIONA
 Hey, don't touch that! It's my
 emergency alarm. Everyone in the
 Canyon has one.
 (Ugo doubts it)
 Heavy rains last winter washed out
 our road.

UGO
 I'm touched. Cough up the rock or
 we torch the place.

FIONA
 Surely you wouldn't burn down an
 old lady's cabin.
 (to Punchy)
 Would he?

Punchy's stumped.

PUNCHY
Would we, Ugo?

Ugo comes unglued.

UGO
Don't say my name!

PUNCHY
Sorry...

Punchy pouts. Ugo fiddles with a button on the alarm box that triggers a LOUD SIREN--

Punchy assumes a boxer stance - throws jabs and air-punches, bobs and weaves--

Ugo claps his hands. Punchy stops.

UGO
You idiot! You're not in the ring
no more.

SIREN blares sporadically. Ugo pounds the alarm box to no avail. Snaps at Punchy.

UGO (CONT'D)
Cuff the old hag.

Punchy handcuffs Fiona's hand to an unseen object behind her desk. Ugo turns MUSIC full-blast on her radio.

UGO (CONT'D)
We'll be back, granny.

FIONA
Can't wait, maggot-puss.

INT. COLEMAN HOUSE - DEN - DAY

DANA (30ish), knock-out looks, very shapely, decked out in designer jeans and a blouse, plays keys on her computer like a concert pianist. She stops--

Opens a window, causes the SIREN to bellow louder (O.S.).

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE

Dana sprints to a CRV parked near the mailbox: "COLEMAN."
Slips into the driver seat.

INT. FIONA'S CABIN

SIREN stops. MUSIC drones on. Fiona fumbles in her pocket for her phone. Presses dial tones with a shaky finger.

FIONA

Quin! Those two dirt-donkeys just stole my Bible! I was gonna hide my Belgium Pride in it, though not sure I did.

QUIN (ON PHONE)

What about my pickup?

FIONA

They took it too.

QUIN (ON PHONE)

(beside himself)

Thanks, Fiona! Were they wearing wigs and masks?

FIONA

Yeah. How'd you know that?

INT. JALOPY - MOVING - FOUR-LANE ROAD

Quin's phone on speaker. He grits his teeth.

QUIN

Just a wild guess. What kind of car did they have?

FIONA (ON PHONE)

Volkswagen Spider.

QUIN

You mean, Bug?

FIONA (ON PHONE)

Bug, spider, snake. Take your pick, just find them!

QUIN

Even though I'm unarmed? You're blithering nuts.

FIONA (ON PHONE)

Oh, please. The gun barrel was only an inch or so long.

QUIN

Stay put. I'm on my way.

EXT. DANA'S CRV - MOVING - DIRT ROAD - DAY

Spews dust along a dirt road that sweeps around a blind curve just as the VW Bug looms dead ahead--

DANA (O.S.)
Shhhhhiiii--

She hits the brakes - nothing! - Plows into the back of the VW Bug that catapults forward.

VOLKSWAGEN BUG

Rear end caved in. Ugo and Punchy, sans their sunglasses and wigs, squeeze out. Fiona's SIREN blasts again--

Punchy bobs, weaves, dances. Ugo slaps his hands together again. Punchy stops, blinks, shakes his head.

PUNCHY
What happened, Ugo?

Ugo points to Dana seated in her CRV.

UGO
Broad ran into us.

SIREN STOPS, mercifully. Dana climbs out of the CRV, looks around, dazed.

UGO (CONT'D)
My car's history. Get her key.

Punchy whips a 9-mil gun out of his pocket as a NOTE slips out, drops in some weeds.

Dana sees him, scatters--

UGO (CONT'D)
Shoot the bitch!

Punchy intentional fires over Dana's head - she stops in her tracks, petrified. Ugo frowns at Punchy.

UGO (CONT'D)
You sure that was a blank?

PUNCHY
Yeah. I loaded the gun--

Punchy fires again - the slug ricochets off a rock and hits Ugo in his foot - he screams, hops about--

Tumbles down to the bottom of the ravine. Punchy and Dana gawk at him. Ugo looks up, shakes his fist.

UGO
Like hell they're blanks!

Punchy checks the gun.

PUNCHY
Gosh, Ugo. I'm sorry.

Dana points to a bush next to Ugo.

DANA
Key's in that bush.

Ugo feels through the bush with both hands.

DANA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You realize that's poison ivy?

Ugo yanks his hands out of the bush, jumps back. Something RATTLES (O.S.) - Ugo turns, sees--

COILED RATTLESNAKE about to launch - Ugo scampers up the ravine, screams all the way.

EXT. DANA'S CRV

Ugo scratches his itchy hands. Dana challenges him.

DANA
What'd you do to Fiona?

UGO
Shut up!

He grabs Dana's arm. Turns to Punchy.

UGO (CONT'D)
Get that pickup in the back.

Punchy high-tails it to the cabin. Ugo shoves Dana who's off balance - she screams rolls down the ravine.

Punchy powers up in Quin's pickup, stops quickly and sprays Ugo with dust. Ugo enters the passenger side, coughs. Punchy stomps on the gas--

They blast off down the road.

EXT. LONG SHOT - DIRT ROAD - DAY

Quin navigates the smoking jalopy around a curve lined with trees - Punchy and Ugo ramble directly toward the jalopy from in his pickup--

Quin hits the brakes - Punchy sideswipes the jalopy--

That flies off the road - crashes into a tree.

Punchy and Ugo keep on booking down the road.

EXT. JALOPY

Steam rises from the radiator. Quin shoves the door open. Spills out, a bit rocky.

Quin's back on the road when a MALE TEENAGER wheels toward him on a motorcycle. He stops. They chat. Quin straddles the rear fender-seat, they buzz off.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - BY FIONA'S CABIN - DAY

Dana, hair messed, bloody lip, lumbers up the side of the ravine. The Teenager and Quin arrive on the motorcycle.

Quin thanks the Kid and hops off. The Kid roars off. Quin's indifferent to Dana.

QUIN

Who're you?

DANA

Dana Coleman, Fiona's friend.
Two creeps shot at me and took
her pickup.

QUIN

It was my pickup. Same bastards
ran me off the road in a borrowed
car. Did you see Fiona?

Dana shakes her head. They dart toward the cabin.

INT. FIONA'S CABIN

Quin kicks the door in. Fiona, still 'handcuffed' on the floor, squawks at him.

FIONA

Bout time you got here.

She's only cuffed to a chair leg. Quin points to it.

QUIN
Why didn't you just get up?

FIONA
(sees the chair)
Now you tell me.

Quin tilts the chair. Helps her up.

QUIN
I asked just one thing. Don't lose
my truck.

FIONA
Like I did it on purpose? Had you
called earlier I would've moved it.

QUIN
You're impossible.

FIONA
Take a pause, hotrod. I'm an old
lady.

QUIN
Right. Old and...

Dana can't believe the banter.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Where's the key?

FIONA
What key?

QUIN
Handcuff key Ned left here. He told
you about it.

FIONA
Been nice if you had reminded me.

Dana watches Quin rout through the desk. He finds the key,
frees Fiona. Dana eyes Quin with contempt.

DANA
Are you Quin?

QUIN
I am. You Mrs. Coleman's daughter?

Quin does a cursory check of the room.

DANA

Yes. Fiona told me you fixed the brakes on my mom's SRV. Well guess what? They gave out.

QUIN

(salty)

Did Fiona also mention your mom's car needed brake fluid?

He pulls a can of brake fluid off a book shelf and slams it on a table. Fiona slaps her forehead.

FIONA

I forgot that last part.

Quin gives Dana a pathetic look.

QUIN

Nothing new with her. If not that it'd be something else. How did you get involved in this?

DANA

The alarm sounded. I'm house sitting for my mom who left on vacation.

Fiona shows Dana a framed photo of a HANDSOME SOLDIER in his Army uniform.

FIONA

My beloved father. Malachy Sean Dunwoody.

DANA

And a handsome man he was.
(under her breath)
I see where Quin got his looks.

Fiona proudly holds up a color photo of a DIAMOND BROOCH encased in a silver frame.

FIONA

Here's what those two suck-heads want. "The Belgium Pride."

DANA

Oh, my. It's beautiful--

KRUPP (O.S.)

--Absolutely beautiful!

INT. MID-SCALE DUPLEX - LEFT UNIT - DAY

Modestly furnished. Krupp is admiring a similar photo of the Belgium Pride. Phone rings. He answers, listens.

KRUPP

No, Ugo. You two blunder-heads screwed up. Cause I damn well know Fiona has it... Her son owns the pickup.

Paces impatiently.

KRUPP (CONT'D)

He won't call the cops, Bank's trying to repossess it... Where? What the hell you doing at the Doctor's office...? Crap.

Call ends. A SQUEAK (O.S). He spins and sees a manila envelope drop inside through a MAIL SLOT onto the floor. Grabs it, tears it open and reads.

EXT. RAVINE NEAR FIONA'S CABIN - DAY

Quin crawls up the side. He hands Dana her car key, slaps dust off his clothes.

DANA

Thanks.

Quin inspects the CRV's front end.

QUIN

No damage thanks to your heavy bumper.

Checks the VW Bug. Scrapes mud off the rear license plate.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Jot down this number.

Dana jots it down on a notepad. Quin yanks the mangled trunk lid open, looks inside. Checks the engine.

QUIN (CONT'D)

These bastards are connected to Fiona's attorney.

DANA

Who's he?

QUIN
A Kraut crook.

Finds both pairs of sunglasses and wigs in the Volkswagen back-seat. Dana grabs the note Punchy had dropped.

DANA
The boxer dropped this.

They have a look: "RAW DE-KISS - GARL FILLT."

QUIN
It's either in code or someone
can't spell for shit.

Dana ogles at Quin, talks to herself.

DANA
This guy's annoying, but he's also
gorgeous.

INT. FIONA'S CABIN - KITCHEN

Quin, Dana and Fiona have coffee at the table.

FIONA
Guy with the gun kept sniffing.
Called the fat-guy, Ugo.

QUIN
Describe them.

DANA
Sniffer's nose was flat. Like it'd
been broken several times.

FIONA
And he's dumb as dirt. He called
the other guy, "You-Go."

DANA
Fat one looked Italian. Around
forty, squeaky voice.

QUIN
The Punch-drunk?

DANA
Bout the same age. He only wanted
to intimidate me.

QUIN
How's that?

DANA

Intensionally shot over my head.
 (puzzled)
 Cops are your best way to find the
 pickup. Why not call them?

QUIN

The bank's trying to recover it.
 Also, in the way outside chance the
 brooch is real, Fiona would be up
 doo-doo creek.

Dana keeps digging.

DANA

Earlier you alluded to an attorney.
 How does he fit in?

FIONA

Klaus Krupp. He handled my dear
 father's estate. I was to receive,
 \$40,000 but he never paid me!

QUIN

Schmuck owes everyone in town.
 Lately he's been hiding.

FIONA

Even got booted out of his office,
 which his third ex-wife owns.

QUIN

I'm tapped. No wheels equals no
 work. Car I was clobbered in got
 totaled when Cheech and Chong ran
 me off the road.

Dana feels short-changed.

DANA

Must be more to this. Where does
 the brooch come into play?

FIONA

(melancholy)
 The Belgium Pride. My dad took it
 off a Nazi in France during the
 War. Said it protected him.

QUIN

(impatiently)
 It's a replica. Real one's been
 missing since the thirties.

FIONA
 Mine's the real one! I vowed to my
 loving father I'd never sell it.

Quin sits back, drained.

QUIN
 It's only glass, Fiona.

FIONA
 Glass, my ass! It saved Dad's life.

Fiona's mind drifts...

INT. DAMAGED HOUSE - (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

Massive damage, pocked marked by cannon fire and bullet
 holes. MUFFLED EXPLOSIONS (O.S.). GERMAN SOLDIER devours
 scraps of food at a table--

Freaks when an AMERICAN SOLDIER wielding a rifle busts
 through side door - cuts loose with a burst of rounds into
 the ceiling - the German cowers.

German is kneeled on the floor. American pats him down, finds
 a DIAMOND BROOCH. (FLASHBACK ENDS)

BACK TO SCENE

Fiona's still on Quin's case. Dana listens intently.

FIONA
 The brooch is gonna be your's once
 I start pushing up clover.

QUIN
 Pleasant thought. Stay with Bernie
 till things settle down.

FIONA
 Okay. But call Ned.

Quin frowns. Fiona solicits Dana for sympathy.

FIONA (CONT'D)
 He's my brother. He was a cop at
 LAPD till he got the boot.

QUIN
 He was there thirty-five years till
 the court determined he was
 certifiably crazy.

DANA
I say call him anyway.

Uncomfortable silence. Hard glances are exchanged.

EXT. MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY

Establishing. People mill about.

UGO (O.S.)
Nee help. Can't pee by myself.

PUNCHY (O.S.)
I'm not gonna touch that thing.

INT. MEDICAL BUILDING - MEN'S RESTROOM

Ugo and Punchy at the URINAL. Ugo's hands are heavily bandaged. One big toe, also bandaged, protrudes from his cut-out shoe.

Punchy UNZIPS Ugo's fly timidly - he yelps!

UGO
You caught a hair!--

DOOR OPENS (O.S.). A STRANGER pops in. He's shocked.

STRANGER
Perverts!

PUNCHY
Hey! We ain't no pre-verts!

Stranger spins, zips out the door.

UGO
Watch it, Punchy!--

Ugo cuts loose - URINE splashes every which way as Krupp walks in. His eyes bulge.

PUNCHY
Poison ivy, boss. Some broad shoved
Ugo down a ravine.

KRUPP
And your toe?

UGO
Oh. Uh... Cut it on a rock.

KRUPP
Lucky it wasn't your family jewels.

Krupp departs bitterly.

INT. MEDICAL BUILDING - HALLWAY

Krupp removes a paper cup of coffee from a machine.

Ugo limps up with Punchy.

KRUPP
Two-eighty for coffee. Bad as
Starbucks!

UGO
Did the mail come?

Krupp waves a letter.

KRUPP
It's the real Belgium Pride!
Officially verified by a UCLA
Professor who specializes in
European culture.

UGO
It's worth ten million bucks?

KRUPP
Twelve. But when it's cut into
smaller stones the value will at
least quadruple and they'll be
impossible to trace.

PUNCHY
I'm gettin' me a Jaguar.

Three happy crooks drunk on hope.

INT. FIONA'S CABIN - DAY

Quin and Dana clean up the mess. Quin calls out.

QUIN
Don't forget your meds, Fiona.

FIONA (O.S.)
Have a little faith, Quin.

Dana queries Quin.

DANA
Who's Bernie?

QUIN
Sister Bernadette. She hung up her
beads several years ago. Fiona and
her are buds.

Fiona exits her bedroom with a suitcase.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Bernie's not home. You got her key?

Fiona nods. Quin turns to Dana.

QUIN (CONT'D)
You gonna feel safe at your mom's
house?

DANA
I'm not sure. But bein'gs you need a
car I'll loan you mine, providin'
you let me go with you to find
those two guys.

QUIN
Too risky.

DANA
Baloney. Those two dump trucks are
more stupid than dangerous.

Quin smells a rat.

DANA (CONT'D)
I'm writing a crime novel. It'd
help my research if I was working
in the trenches, so to speak.

QUIN
And I thought Ned was nuts.

Dana bristles. Quin takes her on.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Might be good literary fodder but
we could end up in deep shit.

DANA
Using my CRV would sure beat
hitchhiking.
(beat)
But one caveat. Fiona's right, Ned
should help us.

QUIN
(beat, softens)
I'll call the jerk.

DANA
(brain flash)
It would be convenient if I lived
closer to you.

QUIN
Unit adjacent to mine's vacant.
Ella Mae's the manager. She'll let
you use it. Shower's not working,
but you could use mine.

DANA
You sure about the shower?

QUIN
Yeah. Long as you behave.

Dana frowns, doesn't like the sting.

INT. DANA'S CRV - MOVING - DAY

Quin maneuvers along the dirt road with Dana.

DANA
Fiona may be hung up over the
brooch, but you should be a more
sympathetic to her... Why don't you
call her, mother?

Quin ignores the statement.

QUIN
Long story.

DANA
She have an income?

QUIN
Social Security.

DANA
She drive?

QUIN
Not anymore. Her friend Bernie
takes her places. Usually to get
groceries or maybe a doctor's
appointment.

DANA
 (caustic)
 Nice somebody helps her.

QUIN
 Careful now. It's not like I don't
 do anything for her.

Dana's look begs an explanation.

QUIN (CONT'D)
 I cover most of her expenses,
 including some medical bills. Also
 bought the cabin for her.

Though put in her place, Dana takes another shot.

DANA
 Fiona said you have a sister?

QUIN
 Bridget. A flight attendant.

DANA
 Does she help out?

QUIN
 She has her own problems. Been
 raising two kids on her own since
 her shit-head husband split.

DANA
 Where does she live?

QUIN
 Houston.

Quin's fangs come out.

QUIN (CONT'D)
 Your mom's nice. Shame it doesn't
 run in the family.

Dana flashes an icy stare. Then, a marginal grin.

DANA
 Okay. I pushed too hard.
 (sad memory)
 My dad died when I was six. Mom
 raised me alone, too.

QUIN
 Sorry.

EXT. COLEMAN HOUSE

Quin walks out with a suitcase. Dana locks up.

EXT. NED'S OFFICE - DAY

Rundown mall. One of the units has a sign on the window:
"Perkins Private Investigation."

INT. NED'S OFFICE

Tacky at best. NED (70s), craggy face, sparse stringy grey hair and beard, pets an OLD DOG while he enjoys a WW11 film on an old black & white TV starring JOHN WAYNE.

DATED FILM POSTERS line the walls, "CASABLANCA" among them. Publicity photos of ZSA ZSA GABOR and other past actors also seen. Call comes in. Ned grabs it.

NED

Ned Perkins, Private Investigator.
Gumshoe is what I do.
(surprised)
Quin-me-boy. How be you?

Old Dog cuts loose with a MAJOR FART.

NED (CONT'D)

Hold on, lad--
(to the dog)
Your timing sucks, Noodles.

Ned trains a blowing fan at Noodles.

NED (CONT'D)

What kinda problem?

Checks his calendar. Month of May is blank.

NED (CONT'D)

No, Hombre. Not on the Sabbath.

QUIN

You don't attend church, Ned.

NED

Mmm, good point. Anyway, I'm pretty well booked this month.

Ned flips the page to June. All days blank.

NED (CONT'D)

But I can squeeze you in now.

NICK

Fine, be there shortly. Meanwhile,
run a license plate for me.

INT. DANA'S CRV - MOVING

Quin at the wheel. Dana's next to him.

QUIN

Should warn you. Ned's the kind of
guy who senses danger at every
corner. But he's harmless.

Dana's uneasy.

INT. NED'S OFFICE

Dim lighting. Noodles snores like an elephant. Dana enters.
Quin stops in the doorway.

QUIN

Hold on. Left the photo in the car.
Be right back.

He leaves. TOILET FLUSHES (O.S.). Ned dallies out a door.
Spots Dana - whips a MAGNUM REVOLVER with a six-inch barrel
from his holster.

NED

Who're you, pretty-face?

Dana quakes. Quin scurries in.

QUIN

Gun down, Ned! She's with me.

Dana's breathing is troubled. Ned holsters his weapon.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Ned, Dana. Dana... my Uncle Ned.

NED

Meant no harm, precious. Can't take
chances these days.

Dana tries to talk, but the words don't come out.

NED (CONT'D)

Shot seven crooks during my cop days, and I'm proud to say most of them deserved it.

Dana blinks.

MOMENTS LATER

All seated. Ned addresses Quin and now relaxed Dana.

NED

DMV lists Ugo Bugalucci registered owner on that plate.

DANA

Must be the big guy who harassed me. Ordered his punch-drunk friend around. I can identify them.

NED

Damn. Where are my manners?

Rummages through a small floor refrigerator. Fishes out a can of BEER, holds it up for Dana.

NED (CONT'D)

Fancy a pint?

DANA

No thanks, Ned.

Quin gestures no. Ned cracks the beer, swallows some down. Dana eyes Noodles.

NED

Noodles. Mere pup when I found him during a buy-and-bust gig back when I worked Narc.

DANA

How'd he come by that name?

NED

He was scarfing down Chinese noodles that had spilled out of a garbage can. Nobody claimed him, so...

DANA

Nice you provide him with a home.

Takes in the room. Reads a sign on the wall: "WATMOABOA."

DANA (CONT'D)

Watt - Mow-uh - Bow-uh. That an old Native Indian proverb, Ned?

NED

Nope. It's how LAPD describes our City Council members. "We're at the mercy of a bunch of assholes."

Dana's sorry she asked.

QUIN

What about my truck, Ned?

DANA

(cuts Quin down)
And Fiona's brooch?

Quin mentally fights off the insult.

NED

Damn thing's bogus.

QUIN

Yes, Ned. We know that.

Quin hands him Punchy's note. Ned studies it.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Make any sense?

NED

Fiona write this?

QUIN

No. What about this Ugo Bugalucci character?

NED

"One Thumb" Bugalucci. Wannabe hitman for the New York mob. Blew his only job--
(giggle attack)
Shot up some Judge's car. Should've got a medal.

Quin turns to Dana.

QUIN

Does fat-man have both thumbs?

DANA

Didn't notice. Maybe Fiona did.

QUIN
Highly unlikely. Go on, Ned.

NED
Cost Ugo his career and a thumb his boss ordered to be sliced off.

Ned scrutinizes Punchy's note again.

NED (CONT'D)
Raw-de-kiss... Lousy speller.

QUIN
You don't miss a thing, Ned.

NED
Raw...? Maybe it's Rodriquez?

QUIN
Could be. What about Garl-fillt?

NED
I'm blank... Maybe it's Garfield?
Garfield Avenue?

QUIN
Computer might help. Got one?

NED
Naw. Too temperamental for me. Push this button, push that button, then press this, that. They drive me loco.

QUIN
How'd you run the DMV info?

NED
Shut your gob, kid. You want your uncle tossed in the slammer?

Quin changes gears.

QUIN
Does LAPD have a moniker file?

NED
Yeah. But it'd take a genius to crack their computer.

Quin relaxes.

QUIN
I know just the man.

INT. DANA'S CRV - MOVING - DAY

Quin drives. Dana's curious.

DANA
Where'd Ned get all that film
memorabilia?

QUIN
From Zsa Zsa Gabor. Many moons
ago Ned found her missing poodle.
She took a liking to him.
(fondly)
Ned's had John Wayne's poster
forever. He loved the Duke.

Quin enjoys the moment.

DANA
Regarding Jitters. You suggested
he's not 'right' in the head--

QUIN
We're here.

EXT. JITTER'S UNIT - DAY

Quin and Dana make their way up the stairs.

QUIN
Didn't say Jitters is crazy.

DANA
But the way you described him--

QUIN
He's agoraphobic, never goes
outside. And he's also hooked on
triple-espressos, which do not mix
well with his meds.

They pause at the door.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Don't be surprised if he's bouncing
off the walls.

DANA
Do we need a net?

Quin grins. Cracks the door, peeks inside.

INT. JITTER'S UNIT

Jitters appears normal. Quin enters, Dana follows. Quin does the intros. Dana and Jitters shake hands.

Jitters sits down at a computer. Twists, cracks his head, takes in a deep breath, and begins pounding keys rapid-fire. Quin and Dana admire his acuity.

Ella Mae waltzes in with a cup of espresso, hands it to Jitters. He drains it in one swallow while concentrating on the screen. Stops suddenly.

JITTERS
What's going on here?

QUIN
Explain.

JITTERS
I breached British Intelligence.

DANA
How exciting.

JITTERS
(giddy)
Remember that pregnant French actress who jumped off the London Bridge and nearly drowned?

QUIN
No. And who cares?--

DANA
Isabella something.

JITTERS
Uh huh. Her friend claimed Prince Andrew was the daddy.

DANA
Really?

JITTERS
Wait - disregard. It was some other Royal creep. The Duke of--

QUIN
(jumps in)
Abort that before some James Bond bastard comes looking for us!

Jitters nods. Pounds some keys, waits...

JITTERS

Ah! LAPD Moniker File. Yes, Fresno,
we have lift off!

They concentrate on the screen.

JITTERS (CONT'D)

Six hits. Five deceased... and some
guy who lives in Barcelona.

QUIN

Scratch them. That cuts it down to
Punchy and Ugo Buglalucci.

JITTERS

Bugalucci? Sounds like a skin rash.

Rapid-taps more computer keys, waits.

JITTERS (CONT'D)

Expunged.

Quin's phone rings. Sees the name, thumbs it open.

INT. NED'S OFFICE - DAY

Ned handles the phone while spoon-feeding Noodles a vomit
appearing liquid.

QUIN (ON PHONE)

What's up, Ned?

NED

Giving Noodles his bladder control
medicine.

QUIN (ON PHONE)

So nice hearing that.

NED

Meet an old pipeline of mine,
"Sam-the-Scam." Works the theater
district. You should find him at
"The Blue Rose" tonight, be there
before eight.

QUIN (ON PHONE)

How will I recognize him?

NED

He'll recognize you and Dana.

EXT. THEATER DISTRICT - NIGHT

Quin and Dana alight from her CRV several doors down the street from the "The Blue Rose" theater. Marque in bright lights reads: "Menopause Mania" - "Opening Night."

EXT. THE BLUE ROSE THEATER

SAM-THE-SCAM (60s), Mickey Rooney-like butter-ball, hair disheveled hair, cracked sunglasses, wheelchair-bound, near the entrance, sucks on an inhaler.

Quin and Dana come his way.

QUIN

Think we found him... Sam?

Sam looks away obliquely as though he's blind.

SAM

Ned was right. He said to expect a Mick and a foxy lady.

Gestures behind him.

SAM (CONT'D)

In the alley, five minutes.

Quin and Dana scurry off as a OLDER COUPLE saunter up. Sam raises a paper cup. Husband fishes in his pocket for change, drops it in the cup.

SAM (CONT'D)

May our dear Lord bless you.

The wife elbows her husband. He angrily jams several bucks into Sam's cup. With "Mission Accomplished," the woman's smug as she and her husband move on.

EXT. THE ALLEY - NIGHT

City, traffic NOISES (O.S). Sam monitors his phone with an earpiece, wheels up to Quin and Dana.

SAM

I don't give a tiny rat's tush
whose Bar Mitzvah it was, Max, you
didn't get back to me!

(listens)

Why? Because that shit-bag stock
you sold me tanked!

Sam gestures to Quin to be patient.

SAM (CONT'D)
Make it up to me, you schlub.

Jerks his ear piece off.

SAM (CONT'D)
Stockbrokers. Ticks on a dog's ass.

Braces himself to get up. Quin moves in.

QUIN
Allow me.

SAM
(offended)
Didn't Ned tell you about me?

QUIN
Uh, yeah.

Sam stands up with ease. Removes his shades, gestures with his inhaler.

SAM
I'm a pro, kid. Things like this are props. They're merely tools of my trade. Comprende?

Quin has egg on his face. Sam folds the wheelchair, secures it in a storage room behind a dumpster.

SAM (CONT'D)
So. Punchy Duarte's an ex-prize fighter who couldn't punch his way out of a bowl of menudo. His East LA homies call him, "El Quinada Cristo." The glass jaw.

QUIN
Know where we can find him?

Ned goes off subject, reminisces...

SAM
Ned ever mention he saved my life?

Quin's surprised. Gives a head shake.

SAM (CONT'D)
We crossed paths after I got back from 'Nam. I was already going down the toilet, head first.

QUIN
Booze, drugs?

SAM
Both. Rather than taking me to
County, Ned dumped off my sorry
ass near Palmdale.
(sigh)
Had to hitchhike back to town.
Sobered me up.

Relishes the memory.

SAM (CONT'D)
Realized he did me a huge favor.
Not long after that I swore off the
Devil's milk, and found work.

DANA
As a scam artist?

SAM
Not at first. My career evolved.

QUIN
(impatiently)
About Punchy, Sam.

SAM
Oh, right. Punchy and another clown
do muscle work for hire.

QUIN
They spill blood?

SAM
Not exactly. They just intimidate
people who get caught up in sticky
situations.

QUIN
Like, gambling debts? Witness
intimidation... divorces?

SAM
Yeah, the usual crap. Don't know
were this Krupp guy is. You want me
to keep snooping?

DANA
Please do, Sam. Quin's IT friend
is checking him out, but we don't
have his address.

Quin reaches into his pocket.

QUIN
What do I owe you?

SAM
Huh? Do I look like indigent?

Quin gives an embarrassing shrug. Hand shakes follow.

QUIN
Thanks, Sam.

Quin and Dana amble toward her car.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Getting late. You hungry?

DANA
I'm famished.

QUIN
I'll do cooking honors at my place.
You like pot roast?

Dana can't believe her ears. She lies.

DANA
Love it.

Quin circles the car. Dana shimmies into the passenger seat. Mumbles to herself.

DANA (CONT'D)
Great looks and he cooks? Somebody
pinch me!

She comes back to reality.

DANA (CONT'D)
Who am I kidding? I'm probably
dreaming.

EXT. VACANT UNIT - NIGHT

Quin intros Dana to Ella Mae. They chat.

DANA
Then it's okay?

ELLA MAE
No problem, dear. Did Quin mention
that I gave the bed away?

QUIN
Oh, right. Slipped my mind.

Dana doesn't buy it. Ella Mae gives Dana a key, offers her some cookies.

INT. QUIN'S UNIT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dana's on the couch. Calls out to Quin who's busy in the kitchen (O.S.).

DANA
Sure you don't need any help?

QUIN (O.S.)
Positive. By the way, I honestly did forget Ella Mae got rid of that extra bed. You believe me?

DANA
(amused)
Trying to.

Quin steps up with two bottles of red wine.

QUIN
Cab or Merlot?

DANA
I prefer Merlot.

Quin uncorks the Merlot. Pours two glasses.

DANA (CONT'D)
Did Jitters go to college?

QUIN
Briefly. Dropped out because he knew more than his professors did. Worked at IBM, but he quit cause nobody could figure out what he was doing.

DANA
So he's self-employed.

QUIN
Sure is. He bought this place, then the house across for street Milo who's deaf.

DANA
They related?

QUIN

No. Milo likes living near people who sign. Ella Mae does, so Jitters fixed him up. Ella Mae manages our units.

DANA

Jitters has a good heart.

QUIN

Roger that. Most of his bucks come from patents that he designed.

They clink and drink.

QUIN'S KITCHEN NOOK

Spartan. Table's set. Dana's impressed.

DANA

Aren't you the domestic one.

She sits down. Microwave DINGS on the counter.

QUIN

Perfect timing.

Slides two TV dinners out, plops them on the table. Dana utters under her breath.

DANA

Yep. A fuckin' dream.

QUIN'S LIVING ROOM

He and Dana on the couch. He sips a shot of liquor. Dana polishes one off, licks her lips.

DANA

Lemoncello, you say. Quite tasty.

QUIN

Italians have it after meals. They say it soothes the stomach.

Pours two more shots. Hands Dana one. She raises her glass.

DANA

To Italy.

They drink up.

QUIN
I'll sleep on the couch.

DANA
No. I won't let--

QUIN
Hush, woman. You're my guest.

Dana finishes her drink. Holds her glass up for another hit. Quin pours.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Let's make this the last one.

Dana eyes him in a wanting manner.

INT. QUIN'S BEDROOM

Dana is sprawled in bed under a sheet and a blanket fast asleep. A toilet FLUSHES (O.S.). Quin exits the bathroom on unsteady legs.

He ambles over to Dana. Looks down at her, "considers the opportunity." His conscience prevails. He shrugs, heads to the living room.

NEXT MORNING

Dana stirs in bed. Her breasts all but exposed. Quin comes in with two mugs of coffee and a glass of water--

Dana's unhinged, yanks the sheet up over her breasts.

DANA
I don't believe this! What happened last night?

QUIN
Nothing. I carried you in here like a gentleman.

DANA
How'd I get undressed?

Quin searches for words...

QUIN
Reckon that'll have to remain our little secret.

Dana's head flops on the pillow in despair. Quin gives her two aspirins. She washes them down with the water.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Couch was hard. I crashed in my
sleeping bag next door.

Quin gives her a mug of coffee.

DANA
Honestly? You didn't...?

QUIN
It's against my religion.

DANA
What religion?

QUIN
I'm a practicing Hasidic Mormon.
That happened right after I lost my
membership in Scientology.

Dana's eyes widen.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Why would you refuse to have sex
with me? You trying to protect some
uncharted territory?

DANA
That's none of your business.

Beat. Then Dana has a mood swing.

DANA (CONT'D)
Broke up with my fiancé last fall.
I wasted a year of my life. I don't
need any more stress.

QUIN
Why the split?

DANA
For starters, he still lives with
his mother. He's Italian.

QUIN
A momma's boy.

Dana acknowledges the point with a gesture.

DANA

And he's also a perennial college student. Told me work is "below his dignity."

QUIN

I feel the same way.

Dana gestures for Quin to turn. He does. Dana gets up, dons a robe, "weave-walks" toward the bathroom.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Doesn't seem fair that you didn't ask me if you took advantage of me last night.

Without looking back, Dana flips him off as she plods into the bathroom.

QUIN'S KITCHEN

Quin on the phone, seated at the table. Dana enters, sits across from him. A laptop and two glasses of fruit juice are on the table.

QUIN

Yes Ira, it's glass. If you can replicate it, give it a shot. Get back to me ASAP.

Hangs up. Dana toys with a glass of juice.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Ira's one of Ned's old cronies. He's a diamond cutter. If he can duplicate the brooch, it might work on Krupp.

DANA

Not an easy task.

QUIN

Got a better suggestion?

Dana shakes her head slowly.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Did the shower help?

DANA

A bit. I feel alive again.

Dana sees Punchy's note on the table. Quin lifts the laptop. Shakes it, slaps it.

DANA (CONT'D)
On the blink?

QUIN
Yeah. But after I located two
"Rodney's." One's a print shop,
other one's, "Rod the Tailor."
Phone numbers disconnected.

Holds up his notes.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Ned came up with two more possibles
in East LA. Let's kick-out.

DANA
Okay. Maybe fresh air cures brain
damage.

EXT. DANA'S CRV - MOVING - DAY

Quin at the wheel. Dana, sporting sunglasses, takes in the buildings as they cruise by.

DANA
Nine-two-one-two will be on my
side.

Quin glances at her.

QUIN
Think any of this will help you
with your novel?

Dana manages a wry smile.

EXT. ROD'S BODY & PAINT SHOP - DAY

Quin stops in front. Dana removes her shades.

DANA
I'll wait. The aspirins seem to be
helping me back to normal.

Quin peppers a young HISPANIC in greasy overalls with questions. He renders head-shakes to each question. Quin returns to the car.

QUIN

Rod's son. Old man's visiting relatives in Mexico. Kid's too young and his dad's too old.

DANA

Rod's Bar & Grill's our last hope.

EXT. EXOTIC CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Goodwill atmosphere. Homemade sign: "CLOTHES TO DYE FOR." FEMALE CLERK, blue-spiked hair, positions a clothing rack in front of the place as Quin

Quin and Dana pull up at the curb.

DANA

Not a bar and grill anymore.

QUIN

Right. But we came this far, let's go jaw at her.

They approach the Female who hangs psychedelic garb on the rack. Quin's phone buzzes. He takes it.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Yeah, Ned?

NED (ON PHONE)

Sam would like to see you at his office. It's behind a cheap bar on Pico, block west of Bradley.

QUIN

What does he have?

NED (ON PHONE)

Maybe a new guacamole recipe. You wanna formal invitation?

CLICK. Quin pushes his phone's off-button.

DANA

What'd Ned say?

QUIN

Something about guacamole.

EXT. SAM'S "ALLEY OFFICE" BEHIND A BAR - DAY

TWO HOMELESS GUYS serve sandwiches and coffee to a gaggle of other HOMELESS MEN & WOMEN lined under a make-shift roof. HUSKY LAPD UNIFORM chomps down a donut.

Quin and Dana wheel up in the CRV. Sam greets them.

SAM
Sandwich, coffee?

DANA
We're fine, Sam. Thanks.
(scans area)
Quite an operation you have.

SAM
We open for lunch daily except Sunday. That's when the Mission Church feeds them.

QUIN
Got running water here?
(Sam frowns)
If the Health Department gets wind they'll shut you down.

SAM
One of their female brass almost did, till Harvey showed up.

Sam gestures toward Husky Cop.

SAM (CONT'D)
He's been humping her ever since.

Quin's amused. Dana not so.

DANA
Does he pay for his food?

SAM
Didn't you notice he's a cop?

Dana acknowledges her flub with a shy grin.

SAM (CONT'D)
Twenty-four donut shops donate their day-old sweets to us thanks to Harvey. Damn pity more cops aren't like him.

DANA
What about the sandwiches?

SAM
Sticky-Fingers Flanagan provides
them. An old Marine buddy of mine.
He's a union rep now.

Dana's expression begs for more.

SAM (CONT'D)
Won't say where he gets them.

TWO HOMELESS GUYS argue in line.

SAM (CONT'D)
You get ham, Bob. Just like the
others. Mustafa and Sol get lamb
because pork's against their
religions!

Bob points to a SMALL MAN leaving the line with a cup of
coffee and a sandwich.

SAM (CONT'D)
Read the damn rules, I wrote them.
Page four, "Nobody will be slighted
on religious beliefs."

Bob shrugs it off, moves on. Sam turns to Quin.

SAM (CONT'D)
My guy confirmed the attorney's
name is Krupp just like you said.
Sounds like a Gestapo Agent in an
old World War Two film.

DANA
Your friend, can we talk to him?

Sam takes it like a body blow.

SAM
Francis OD'd last night on smack.
May God rest his soul.

Ned arrives in a RED VAN. Gets out, walks up.

NED
Did Jitters run Krupp?

QUIN
Yeah. The State Bar suspended his
license. Will that help?

NED

Could. Attorneys who're under investigation must maintain their addresses with the Bar.

QUIN

Should we call them?

NED

No. Cause they'd realize their Restricted File had been broached. They call it the "Snake Pit."

QUIN

Suggestions?

NED

Ironically the Bar's Confidential File has limited security.

QUIN

Then I'll have Jitters try his magic on that one.

EXT. DANA'S CRV - DAY

Dana and Quin approach. Dana's phone trills. She answers it as they get in.

DANA

Hi, Mr. Katz... Fifteen chapters thus far... Roughly three-hundred pages... Yes Sir, ciao.

Dana hangs up. She's nervous.

DANA (CONT'D)

Hate lying to him. Only finished twelve chapters.

QUIN

Don't hurry. "Rush the master, end with trash." Giano Fantuzzi.

DANA

Who the hell's Giano Fantuzzi?

QUIN

Just made him up.
(stupid grin)
But it sounds intellectual, huh?

Dana's eyes roll.

INT. DANA'S CRV - MOVING - DAY

Quin eases through traffic. Dana takes him on.

DANA

Why won't you acknowledge Fiona's
your mother?

QUIN

(taken aback)
Where'd that come from?

DANA

If it's cause her mind's slipping.
You should be ashamed.

Quin internalizes. Then pours it out.

QUIN

I was conceived when Fiona's life
was fueled by alcohol. She referred
to it as her fuzzy days.

DANA

What lead her to drink?

QUIN

Dunno. She bedded down with anyone
who'd spring for drinks.

They stop at a signal.

QUIN (CONT'D)

She lived with two different guys
off an on. One's my father.

DANA

Who are they?

QUIN

Moses Finklewitz, a rare coin
dealer, and Thaddius R. McDunivin,
a whiskey-soaked Merchant Marine
from Ireland. Fiona named me after
the drunk.

Dana gestures for more.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Fiona finally sobered up after she
got pregnant with me.

DANA

And you still won't forgive her.

QUIN

Would you...? Not knowing if you're
a matzo ball or an O'Brian potato?

Dana changes gears.

DANA

So whatever happened to Thaddius
and Moses?

QUIN

Thaddius croaked in a London cat
house. Last anyone heard, Moses was
in India searching for the meaning
of life.

Dana gives up.

DANA

What caused your financial fall?

Struck a nerve.

QUIN

Guy bungled the wiring on a house
I built. Burned down. Bastard lied,
said he had insurance.

DANA

Did the owner sue you?

QUIN

Big time. I settled outa court for
six-hundred grand, wiped me out.

DANA

And your girlfriend left you.

QUIN

Yeah, but no big deal. When the
judgement came down she got colder
than a well-digger's ass.

DANA

Must you be so graphic?

QUIN

Must you censor my answers?

DANA

(shrugs)
You working now?

QUIN

Barely. Just finished a patch-up
roof job at a market.

Quin looks off at nothing.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Last month I signed a contract to
build a four-plex. Problem is, work
must start by next Monday or the
deal becomes void.

Dana lets it ride. Signal changes. Quin drives off, engine
dies. Attempts to restart, battery just grinds.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Doesn't sound good.

Engine starts on the third try.

EXT. JITTERS' UNIT - DAY

Quin and Dana climb the stairs.

QUIN

Remember now. Jitters's a tad odd.

They go OFF CAMERA entering the unit. A small car pulls up
the driveway. Ella Mae bounces out quickly, carrying a large
bag of COFFEE BEANS--

Quin bursts out of Jitters' unit.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Scramble Ella Mae!

ELLA MAE

Had to buy more coffee beans--

Stumbles as she comes up the stairs.

INT. JITTERS'S UNIT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jitters moves oddly. Bumps into computers and some other
objects. Quin guides him clear of things while they walk in
circles. Dana feels helpless.

Ella Mae grinds coffee beans in the b.g. Dana fears for her
safety, moves aside as Quin leads Jitters by her.

DANA

How many did he have?

QUIN

None. Which is worse than too many.
It's a chemical balancing act.

Jitters mumbles. Quin calls out.

QUIN (CONT'D)

ETA, Nurse?

ELLA MAE (O.S.)

Pouring! - Pouring!

Ella Mae hustles up with a cup of steaming triple-espresso. Presses it lightly against Jitter's lips. He polishes it off, spills a little.

ELLA MAE (CONT'D)

That was the usual triple dose.

Quin monitors Jitters whose pace gradually slows down and he stops. His head lolls, he blinks repeatedly.

QUIN

He's coming around.

Ella Mae pours another cup and hands it to Jitters while Quin steadies him. He chugs it down, shivers.

Dana edges closer to the action.

ELLA MAE

That should do it.

Quin nods. Jitters yaks on and on without completing a full sentence. Shakes his head, looks around... Finally.

JITTERS

Quin. Did I code-out again?

(Quin nods)

Dang.

DANA

(to Quin)

He ever get injured doing this?

QUIN

No. Broke a monitor once.

Jitters wipes his sweaty face. Takes a deep breath.

JITTERS

Okay, team. I'm at your service
once again.

Quin and Dana hover around Jitters who pounds keys on his computer. Ella Mae APPEARS with a two sacks of cookies.

ELLA MAE
Cookie, anyone?

Ella Mae sets a plate of cookies down by Jitters. Without looking, he grabs a couple, and Dana takes one. They chomp away which makes Ella Mae's day.

JITTERS
Yummy as usual, Ella Mae.

Ella Mae relishes the glory. Goes to the kitchen. Jitters sees something on the computer screen.

JITTERS (CONT'D)
Quin. I got the Bar Association.
Here's the Restricted File and the
usual warning stuff.

Dana catches a phone call in the b.g.

JITTERS (CONT'D)
Bam! Per executive order issued
on this date, Klaus Otto Krupp is
hereby suspended indefinitely.

QUIN
(reads it)
Yada-yada-enchilada. It shows his
address, but is it good?

Quin scribbles it down. Jitters checks his watch.

JITTERS
Sleep time. My Doc insists I take
naps. I'll be in my bedroom.

Quin nods as Jitters leaves. Dana winces and closes her phone in the b.g. Approaches Quin.

DANA
My publisher again. I have to get
back to work on my novel.

QUIN
Sounds like he owns you.

DANA
(sigh)
He does, in a manner of speaking.
(MORE)

DANA (CONT'D)

It's my first novel and I received a very generous advance. Anyway, what's next?

QUIN

I'm not convinced we have Krupp's correct address, so I need to check it out.

Quin starts for the door. Dana's worried.

DANA

Wait up. What if his two gorillas are there?

QUIN

You worried about my safety?

Dana's non-plus. Quin has an epiphany! Tromps back.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Been wanting to do something.

Dana's face reads abject fear as Quin coils his arms around her waist. Plants an sensual kiss on her lips--

Dana resists slightly, then goes for it full hog. Now locked mouth-to-mouth their bodies twist and thrash about--

Bump into a table - knock a gaudy-looking flower pot off that shatters on the floor--

They continue grinding on - slam against the wall - seconds later they break, both winded.

Their love-gymnastics left no need for interpretation. Dana's flushed, her blouse hangs out, hair askew.

Quin hasn't quite finished.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Call that make-up for me not taking advantage of you last night.

Retreats to door. Dana hasn't moved. Lone tear dribbles down her cheek.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Well? No thank you - no I love you?

He spins, leaves. Dana shivers, her mouth hangs open, she blinks. Finally, barely audible:

DANA

Thank you... I love you.

Ella Mae enters. Picks up pieces of the broken pot.

ELLA MAE

You okay, Dana?

Dana looks like she just got laid.

Ella Mae's clueless.

DANA

I think...

(catches breath)

Think I'm in--

ELLA MAE

Trouble? Naw. I hated that ugly pot. Let me brew you a cappuccino, honey. You'll feel better.

INT. NED'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ned brushes Noodles' hair. Catches a phone call.

NED

Ned Perkins, Private Investigator.
Gum-shoe is what I--

QUIN (ON PHONE)

Saddle up, Tonto. Jitters hit pay dirt. Krupp lives West L.A.

NED

Not ate yet. Meet me at the Burrito Grande. Twenty minutes.

EXT. BURRITO GRANDE - NIGHT

Crummy part of town. Quin sits on a wooden bench next to Noodles who's sleeping. Ned steps up with two fat burritos, hands one to Quin. Noodles wakes up.

NED

Gotta pee.

Hot-foots it to "MEN/HOMBRES" door. Quin looks at Noodles.

QUIN

Here, Slug. I'm not hungry.

Quin gives his burrito to Noodles. He wolfs it down within seconds, licks his chops, farts, flops back down and resumes his nap. Ned gets back.

NED
I'll eat my butt-blaster in the car, Quin.

INT. DANA'S CRV - NIGHT

Quin turns the key, the battery grinds... dies.

QUIN
No time to wait for a jump. Let's take your van. Dana's car should be safe here.

They climb quickly into Ned's van. Noodles jumps in between them. On the seat is a package: "SUPPOSITORIES."

QUIN (CONT'D)
You got a hemorrhoid?

NED
No, Noodles does. Giant mother. Wanna see it?

QUIN
Not my idea of entertainment.

EXT. MID-SCALE DUPLEX - LEFT UNIT - NIGHT

Lights off. Quin and Ned wait at the door. Ned peeks inside.

NED
No guarantee this is the place. Let's try next door.

ADJACENT UNIT

Ned raps on the door. It opens. WILBER (50s), beard, slight build, deadpan expression.

QUIN
Evening, sir. We're looking for--

WILBER
If you're bill collectors you got the wrong house. Get lost.

Wilber points to a sign by the door: "DEAF OCCUPANT."

QUIN

Sorry. Didn't notice that.

Quin scribbles on a note pad: "KLAUS KRUPP." Holds it up, points to the other unit.

WILBER

Don't recognize the name.

Ned jots down another note: "IS HE AN ATTORNEY?"

WILBER (CONT'D)

Dunno. But he's never screwed me out of anything.

Third note: "HE DRIVE A WHITE PICKUP?"

WILBER (CONT'D)

No. It's a Hatchback, diaper-brown color.

Quin displays his driver's license. Wilber squints at it. Then, mockingly.

WILBER (CONT'D)

Your name is Moses?

QUIN

Go by my middle-name. Quin.

WILBER

Yeah. That fits.

Dog BARKS (O.S.). Wilber frowns, turns.

WILBER (CONT'D)

Damn mutt barks all day.

QUIN

Thought you were deaf.

WILBER

Naw. I'm anti-social, uncomfortable around people.

QUIN

We classify as people.

WILBER

(wryly)

I'll give you guys a pass. If I see a white pickup I'll call you.

INT. NED'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Quin sees a dog-eared old copy of the Yellow Pages.

QUIN
Yellow Pages? That piss-colored rag
has been obsolete for years.

NED
Says who? Name Rod on that note
Dana found might be in it.

Quin fingers few some pages.

QUIN
Rod. Rod Rigas...? Rodriquez?

NED
Gimme that.

Ned snatches the Yellow Pages. Flips through them, finds:

"ROD'S FLORAL SHOP - RODNEY RIGAS, OWNER.

QUIN (O.S.)
Yeah. Could be him, old-timer.

EXT. ROD'S FLORAL SHOP - NIGHT

Krupp, cheap old suit, squeezes out an ugly brown hatchback
that's seen better days.

INT. ROD'S FLORAL SHOP

ROD RIGAS (40s), effeminate, neat-as-a-pin, smiles while
Krupp picks out a bouquet of flowers.

ROD
Hot date, Mr. Krupp?

KRUPP
Taking a lovely woman to dinner.
My new dating service lined me up
with a perfect match.

Rod gestures to the bouquet.

ROD
Yesterday's pick, as usual. Priced
low of course.

KRUPP
They look fine to me.

Rod hides his true feelings. Rings up the sale.

 ROD
 (smiling)
Your two associates took my old car
Mr. Krupp. Many thanks.

INT. DANA'S VAN - MOVING - NIGHT

Quin guides through moderate traffic. Ned pets Noodles who sleeps between them.

 QUIN
Should be getting close.

 NED
Next block, right side.

They pass Krupp's hatchback stopped at a signal.

INT. ROD'S FLORAL SHOP

Rod smiles at a WOMAN who leaves with a flower pot. Quin and Ned enter. Rod gushes over Quin.

 ROD
How may I help you, Sir?

Ned, quietly to Quin.

 NED
Not the way he'd like to.

 QUIN
Mr. Rigas?

 ROD
Rod, please.

 QUIN
Rod. I'm Quin, my friend's Ned.

Rod glances marginally at Ned, and back to Quin.

 QUIN (CONT'D)
You own a Volkswagen Bug?

ROD
Used to. One of my clients did me
the favor of junking it.

NED
He say where he junked it?

ROD
Didn't ask. Actually two friends of
my client handled it.

QUIN
Is the client, Klaus Krupp?

Rod's worry antenna springs up.

ROD
Problem?

QUIN
Friend of mine's car smashed into
your Bug this morning up in Cortez
Canyon.

ROD
Hope there's no police report.
My insurance is sky-high.

QUIN
No cops involved. Are you concerned
about the damage?

ROD
Gosh no, it was a clunker. I bought
a new van last week.

NED
You seen Krupp lately?

ROD
You just missed him. He bought a
bouquet for a dinner date this
evening.

QUIN
You have his home address?

ROD
Sorry. I seldom ask for one.

QUIN
Okay, Rod. Thanks.

ROD
 You're most welcome.
 (sheepishly)
 May I ask why you're looking for
 Mr. Krupp?

QUIN
 Sorry. It's rather personal.

He and Ned boogie off.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Krupp pursues a chunky WOMAN (mid-40s), so-so looks, rushes out the front door. Angrily pitches the bouquet Krupp bought into a trash bin.

Krupp snatches the bouquet. A VALET watches him chase the Woman. She jumps into the backseat of an idling taxi. Krupp catches up, peers inside.

KRUPP
 Only said that the house Cabernet's
 nearly as good and it's four--

Watches pathetically as the taxi whisks away.

KRUPP (CONT'D)
 --dollars a glass cheaper...

VALET (O.S.)
 Which car is yours, Sir?

KRUPP
 (snaps back)
 I parked it on the street!

EXT. BROWN HATCHBACK

Krupp sulks as he reaches his car at the curb.

KRUPP
 I'm not Elon-fucking Musk.

INT. OLD HOUSE TRAILER - NIGHT

Ugo rubs his hands together, attempting to relieve the itching. Phone RINGS in his pocket. Punchy fumbles inside Ugo's pocket, retrieves the phone.

Presses it to Ugo's ear.

UGO
 Yeah, boss...? My itchy hands are
 driving me up the wall.

INT. BROWN HATCHBACK

Krupp on the phone. His anxiety level peeks.

KRUPP
 Why'd I end up with some Italian
 putz and a Mexican moron?
 (listens)
 Remember our agreement. No results
 means you don't get paid!

Boiling mad. Starts the engine.

KRUPP (CONT'D)
 Horse-pucky! We need to burn Fiona.
 Meet me at my place.

EXT. KRUPP'S NEIGHBORHOOD - TOOL SHED - NIGHT

Nobody in sight. LOUD FART explodes (O.S).

QUIN (O.S.)
 Was that you?

INT. TOOL SHED

Crammed with tools. Quin glares at Ned. LARGE CAT is perched
 on a shelf above Noodles who is sleeping on the floor.

NED
 Did Noodles eat your burrito?

QUIN
 Yeah.

NED
 Bean burrito? Knowing that he's
 a virtual fart machine?

Quin boots the door open and leaves. Ned awakens Noodles.
 They split quickly.

THE CAT

His eyes slowly close, his head drops, he keels over and
 falls off the shelf.

EXT. DANA'S CRV

Quin and Ned approach.

QUIN

We've done enough for one day.
Let's return tomorrow.

Ned nods.

EXT. FOUR-PLEX APARTMENT - NIGHT

Quin climbs out of the CRV with groceries and unknowingly drops his phone in some shrubbery.

Dana comes out of the vacant unit to the landing at the top of the stairway. Sees Quin.

DANA

Lovely! Another gourmet TV dinner,
Chef Quin?

Quin trudges up the stairs.

QUIN

Be grateful, woman.

EXT. DUPLEX - LEFT SIDE - NIGHT

Krupp's hatchback sits in the driveway. Punchy TOOLS UP in his dull green sedan with Ugo.

EXT. DUPLEX PATIO - LEFT SIDE

Punchy and Ugo stand by. Krupp, wearing gloves, has an envelope and another pair of gloves.

KRUPP

Put these on, Punchy.

Punchy dons the gloves. Krupp hands him the envelope.

KRUPP (CONT'D)

It's to the FBI. Explains Fiona has the Belgium Pride. Mail it in the overnighter.

PUNCHY

Great idea, boss.

UGO
 Right! That'll spook the old gal
 into selling it.

CAMERA PULLS BACK

Wilber listens to them from his patio directly next door.
 His ears perk up. Krupp shows Punchy and Ugo the bouquet his
 date tossed out.

KRUPP
 My mother's birthday is tomorrow.
 Got her these. Nice, huh?

Captive audience. Ugo and Punchy nod like bobble-heads.

INT. QUIN'S UNIT - NIGHT

Dana wears one of Quin's dress shirts that reaches her knees.
 Quin gives a "thumbs up."

QUIN
 Perfect fit. Wanna share my bed?

DANA
 Not a chance.
 (afterthought)
 When's the shower gonna be fixed?

QUIN
 The plumber's on vacation. Ella
 Mae's been trying to find another
 one. Call one yourself if you
 doubt me.

Dana frets. Realizes she went a step too far. Gestures an
 apologetically.

INT. DUPLEX - LEFT SIDE - NIGHT

An INTRUDER snoops in the shadows as a streak of light
 illuminates a note on Krupp's desk. The Intruder scans it,
 hears a key RATTLE in lock (O.S.)--

Intruder scoots out the rear door as the front door opens.
 A light goes on. It's Wilber.

Krupp enters the front door. Halts in the doorway, senses
 trouble. Scopes out the room.

INT. DUPLEX - RIGHT SIDE - NIGHT

Wilbur dials his phone. Waits, listens impatiently.

INT. QUIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dana wakes up, stretches. Quin comes out of the bathroom, shirtless. Dana smiles.

QUIN
Good morning.

DANA
Ditto.
(coyly)
Last night was good.

Quin's landline phone rings. He picks up.

QUIN
Yeah, Ned. Why didn't you call me
on my cell?
(looks around)
Don't see it. What'd your rock
cutter friend say...? Good, where
does he live?

Quin jots down the address. Hangs up, looks at Dana.

QUIN (CONT'D)
I'm meeting the cutter at ten.

DANA
I'll make breakfast after I shower.

She pecks him on the cheek on her way to the bathroom. KNOCK on the door (O.S.).

LIVING ROOM

Quin opens the door. Ella Mae holds up his phone.

ELLA MAE
Found it in the shrubs.

QUIN
Thanks, Ella Mae.

ELLA MAE
Some guy was asking for Moses?

Phone RINGS. Quin answers it when Ella Mae tries to get his attention.

QUIN
 Quin, here - hold on.
 (to Ella Mae)
 Yes?

ELLA MAE
 Wanted to tell you something but it
 slipped my mind.
 (gives up)
 I'm gonna make my cookie rounds. If
 I remember what the heck it was
 I'll let you know.

She departs. Quin's back on his phone.

QUIN
 Go on, Wilbur.

WILBER (ON PHONE)
 Late last night I heard the new
 tenant talking with two guys about
 a pickup. Maybe it's the one you
 asked about?

QUIN
 Could be. Get their names?

INTERCUT PHONE
 CONVERSATION:

WILBER
 Just Krupp, the new guy. He called
 one of them, Punchy. I didn't catch
 the other guy's name.

QUIN
 Did Punchy sound Hispanic?

WILBER
 He did. Didn't see the third guy.
 But they came in an old green car.
 Unknown make.

QUIN
 Anything else?

WILBER
 After they left I used my lock
 skills to enter the place. Found a
 note with an address, 442 West
 Canada Drive.

QUIN
That's where I live.

WILBER
Now there's a chilling thought--

Pauses, feels squeezed.

WILBER (CONT'D)
Hold on. You guys dope dealers?

QUIN
Not unless pimping espresso beans counts. Thanks, Wilber.

Quin hangs up, looks at Dana.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Things are starting to percolate.

INT. FIONA'S CABIN - DAY

BERNIE (60s), kind weathered face, greying hair, blue jeans and a blouse, stands by while Fiona comes out of the bathroom with a vial of pills.

Fiona hears a KNOCK at the door. She's spooked. Pushes the drapes a bit, peeks out a window.

FIONA
Look like real estate agents.

She opens the door. An FBI credential is thrust toward Fiona. Startles her and Bernie.

FEMALE (O.S.)
FBI. Mrs. Dunwoody?

Fiona's flushed. THRASHER, all business, steps in with her male partner, VANDOVER, male, tall, lanky.

FIONA
(re: Bernie)
This is Sister Bernadette. She's my spiritual advisor.

Bernie's eyebrows shoot up.

THRASHER
I'm Special Agent Thrasher. My partner, Agent Vandover.
(eyes constrict)
(MORE)

THRASHER (CONT'D)

You familiar with a diamond brooch
known as The Belgium Pride?

Thrasher displays a photo of the brooch.

FIONA

Can't say I am.

Bernie puts her glasses on. Studies the photo.

BERNIE

Fiona. That looks like the one your
father gave you.

Fiona looks like she just shot the Pope.

EXT. TWILIGHT ARMS - DAY

SENIOR CITIZENS scattered about. Quin and Dana tool up in her
sedan, stop at the entrance.

DANA

He's lives here? How old is he?

They alight from the car.

QUIN

Beats me. Ned says he stays here
to avoid his blood-sucking wife and
kids who want his money.

INT. TWILIGHT ARMS - IRA'S ROOM - DAY

Quin and Dana hover around IRA (60ish), slender, bald, who
examines a photo of Fiona's brooch.

IRA

Looks familiar.

He searches through books on a shelf. Selects one that is
deteriorating badly. Thumbs through the pages, a couple fall
out. Finds something.

IRA (CONT'D)

Yes! The Belgian Pride. Here, have
a gander.

Quin and Dana study the photo.

QUIN

Sure is. Can you copy it?

IRA
You're not at K-Mart, young man.

QUIN
How much will it cost?

IRA
(warmly)
For Ned's nephew, no charge.

He pats Quin on the back. Scans the page, reads aloud:

IRA (CONT'D)
The French artist who designed it
engraved his initials on the metal
casing.
(looks up)
You see any letters on the brooch
your mother has?

QUIN
No. But I didn't look for any.

Quin's phone sounds. He answers.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Yeah?

FIONA (ON PHONE)
Two FBI Nazis called me when I was
at the cabin!--

QUIN
Slow down, Fiona!

INTERCUT PHONE
CONVERSATION:

FIONA
A Gestapo-like bitch and her
beanpole partner. They asked me
about the brooch.

QUIN
Why'd you go back to the cabin?

FIONA
You said to take my meds with me
but didn't tell me where I stored
them, Quin. You keep forgetting I'm
an old lady!

QUIN
Sure, my fault. You still there?

FIONA (ON PHONE)
 No, I'm at Bernie's. They also
 asked about you.
 (proudly)
 But don't worry cause I plucked
 their wings. I told them you went
 Salmon fishing in Baja.

QUIN
 (an octave up)
 There aren't any Salmon in Baja!

FIONA (ON PHONE)
 That's what they said. Oh, and my
 damn doctor called. Wanted to find
 out if I have Al's Hammer. Hell-
 fire! I don't even know anybody
 named Al.

QUIN
 Listen, Fiona! Are there initials
 engraved on the brooch?

FIONA (ON PHONE?)
 Yeah, G-L-C. My father figured it
 indicated the artist's name.

QUIN
 Okay, thanks. Just don't go back to
 the cabin.

Ends the call.

DANA
 Who's the artist, Ira?

Ira opens a book: "EUROPEAN ROYAL TREASURES. Fingers through
 pages. Stops, reads.

IRA
 Brooch was gifted to Belgium
 Royalty in the 17th century by
 French artist...

Quin and Dana fidget.

IRA (CONT'D)
 Gerard Luc Cluzet. G L C!

Smiles break out. Quin grabs Ira's arm.

QUIN
 How long will it take to duplicate
 the brooch?

IRA

Call me first thing tomorrow morning. But remember, I don't live here if anybody asks.

INT. DANA'S CRV - MOVING - NIGHT

Quin at the wheel. Dana yawns.

DANA

Gee. Fiona must be smarter than you think, Mr. Einstein.

QUIN

Knock off the smart-ass routine. If we recover she'll get busted once the Feds find out.

DANA

Sure. Then she'd be out of your hair. Would you like that?

QUIN

Keep that crap up, and I won't sleep with you anymore.

DANA

It was merely a test, precious. By the way, I won't be able to go with you tomorrow. Gotta work on my novel.

QUIN

That's okay. Ned'll be with me.

Quin love-pats Dana's leg.

INT. HOUSE TRAILER - NIGHT

Unkept. AVERY (40ish) drunk, pig-gut, soiled clothes, tokes up a bong. Inhales deeply, dials his cell.

AVERY

Mr. Krupp. My Security guy contact at Zycoff said he'll do it.

KRUPP (ON PHONE)

Fine. You trust him?

AVERY

Known him years, never lied to me. When do we get paid?

KRUPP (ON PHONE)
Right after it's done.

LIGHTNING flashes - illuminates the room. A beat later
THUNDER cracks - CLICK, the line's dead.

AVERY
Okay, but don't - Hello...? Mr.
Krupp...?

EXT. FOUR-PLEX APARTMENT - DAY

Ugo and Punchy stake-out in Punchy's green car several doors
down the street. Ugo's on his phone.

UGO
Quin showed up at the four-plex
with the dame, boss. Just like you
said they would.

KRUPP (ON PHONE)
Go back in the morning and when
Quin leaves, snatch the girl and
take her to the warehouse.

UGO
Got it. Did Avery call?

KRUPP (ON PHONE)
Yeah. It's all set. I should get
there before you guys do. Can you
drive yet?

UGO
Yes. My hands are better.

KRUPP
You drive the pickup. Punchy can
take the girl in his car. And for
God's sake, be sure the gun has
blanks in it this time.

UGO
Done, boss. Did it myself.

CAMERA PANS DOWN

AMMO BOX on Ugo's lap. Bold print: "PALEN MFG." Printed below
is: "J.D. GREEN, CEO" - ".38 CAL. BULLETS."

INT. QUIN'S UNIT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Quin crawls into bed. Door OPENS (O.S). Dana enters.

QUIN
Finish your novel?

DANA
Don't I wish.

Dana sits on the bed, sleepy-eyed.

DANA (CONT'D)
Though I did crank out a couple
more chapters.

Rubs her eyes.

QUIN
Never asked what the story's about.
Is it contemporary?

DANA
Yeah. A model's wealthy husband
gets kidnapped in Spain, but much
more sinister evolves.

QUIN
Like?

DANA
For starters, the husband's in
debt to a major narcotics dealer
who wants him murdered.

QUIN
How intriguing. I love comedies.

DANA
Must you always be nasty?

Treks into the bathroom, out of Quin's view, though we can see them both. Dana undresses.

QUIN
Did you miss me?

DANA
You gotta be kidding.

Now in panties and bra, Dana slips into skimpy silk negligée.
Re-enters the bedroom.

QUIN

Forgot to put a chocolate on your pillow. Slither into bed and let me make up for it.

DANA

I'm too tired, Mr. Book Critic.

QUIN

Well at least that's different than saying you have a headache.

Dana crawls into bed.

EXT. PRIVATE GARAGE - DAY

Ugo backs Quin's pickup out. Punchy waits in his car.

INT. QUIN'S UNIT - DAY

Dana's busy on her novel. Catches a phone call.

DANA

You just interrupted a soon-to-be famous novelist at work.

QUIN (ON PHONE)

Famous, not sure. I'm with at Ira at Twilight Arms. He did a bang-up job on the brooch.

INT. TWILIGHT ARMS - IRA'S ROOM - DAY

Quin on the phone, marvels at the BELGIUM PRIDE replica Ira has created. Ned and Ira huddle around him.

INTERCUT PHONE
CONVERSATION:

QUIN

Can't tell the difference from the real one.

DANA

What was Ira's fee?

QUIN

He cut it in half after I told him you'd sleep with him.

DANA
Thanks, pal. Anyway, I'm slammed.
Say goodbye.

QUIN
Be there shortly.

Call ends. Dana's perplexed. Hears the SHOWER running next door in the vacant unit.

EXT. VACANT UNIT - DAY

Note on door: "SHOWER'S FIXED - ELLA MAE." Dana steps up, cracks the front door. Somebody turns the SHOWER OFF (O.S.). Dana enters slightly.

DANA'S POV

CURVY BLONDE (30s), nude, partially covered with a small towel is in the bathroom. She whirls.

BLONDE
Who're you?

Dana's devastated. Choke out her words.

DANA
Nobody important I guess.

Leaves in a huff, slams the door behind her.

EXT. QUIN'S UNIT - DRIVEWAY

Dana bolts out the door with a suitcase like a lion about to pounce on its prey--

Descends the stairway to the sidewalk. Sees Milo working at a bench in his garage across the street. He waves, she waves back tepidly.

Punchy's car rolls up, stops. Ugo leaps out the rear door and menaces toward Dana--

Clamps his fat hand over her mouth - muscles her into the back seat - piles in after her--

Punchy lays a strip of rubber taking off.

Milo glances left, right - totally confused.

INT. BLUE CAR MOVING - DAY.

Rain continues. Ned pours coffee from a thermos into a mug, hands it to Quin.

QUIN
Sam thinks you're a gem, Ned.
(confused)
So whatever happened to Fiona?

NED
(wise old bird)
Maybe you never appreciated her.

QUIN
Meaning...?

NED
She had her hands full with you
kids. Ever hear her squawk about
it? No, she didn't.

Quin takes it like a gut-shot.

QUIN
Jeez... You're right.

Quin does some soul searching.

NED
And she never bitched about Moses
or Thaddius.

NED (CONT'D)
Two yo-yos. That Irish schlep
Thaddius could never hold a job.
And Moses? Damn hard to believe his
father was a Rabbi.

QUIN
Why didn't Fiona dump them?

NED
You got me. I just want you to
appreciate that Fiona always loved
you and Bridget.

Quin lets it soak in.

NED (CONT'D)
Raising kids alone can be hell.
Just Ask Bridget.

QUIN

Guess I was always too wrapped
up in my own life to think about
Fiona.

NED

Privilege of youth.

Quin chews on Ned's words. Ned picks an emotional scab.

NED (CONT'D)

She busted her buns, kid. Remember
all that sewing she did?

QUIN

She was always mending clothes.

NED

While you kids got all your stuff
from Goodwill.

QUIN

Did she meet Bernie at the Church?

Ned renders a nod.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Main reason Fiona likes Bernie so
much is because she'a never pushed
religion on her.

NED

Fiona put it a different way to me.
Bernie didn't try to make her eat
fish. Fiona hates fish.
(encouraged)
Have I humbled you?

QUIN

Like a ton of lead you old goat.
(upbeat)
Shall I drop you off at your
office?

NED

Please do. Noodles needs a bath and
his gums need massaged.

QUIN

Didn't need that last part.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Light rain. (30s), scuzzy, long straggly hair, bad teeth, shabby clothes, drags a dirty moth-eaten blanket out of a commercial trash bin.

Shields his head with the blanket, shuffles toward a old dilapidated warehouse with huge letters: "ZYCOFF CHEMICALS." Krupp arrives in his hatchback.

EXT. OLD WAREHOUSE - LONG SHOT - DAY

Several scattered junked cars. Krupp's car maneuvers past a sign: "NO TRESPASSING." Rolls over the tip of a steel pipe protruding from the ground.

He parks and alights. Glances around, hoofs it toward the warehouse. Unlocks a steel door, goes inside.

CAMERA PANS

Back to the hatchback. Oil seeps from the undercarriage and onto the ground.

EXT. MOM & POP STORE - DAY

Ugo leaves with a large bag of groceries. Climbs into Quin's pickup. Punchy arrives in his car.

EXT. OLD WAREHOUSE - ARIEL SHOT

Rain continues. Ugo parks Quin's pickup. Punchy parks next to Krupp's hatchback. Dana's terrified; tagged and gagged in Ugo's backseat. Punchy drags her out.

TRASHED SEDAN

Junky arranges a makeshift bed in the backseat. Drains wine from a bottle. Climbs out, sees Quin's pickup.

INT. QUIN'S PICKUP

Junky blinks from the rain, yanks the passenger door open. Reaching in, pulls Fiona's Bible out of the glove box.

Junky stares awkwardly at the Bible.

JUNKY

Like this'll do me any good--

LIGHTNING FLASHES! - THUNDER EXPLODES! Junky gets zapped - drops the Bible - flies back off his feet, splashes in muddy water.

AN EPIPHANY

Junky's face is blackened - he struggles to his feet - looks skyward - tents his fingers in prayer.

JUNKY

It's you, God! Yes, my salvation!
Yes-Yes!--

RELIGIOUS MUSIC BREAKS OUT

CAMERA PANS to include the pickup. Flames flicker inside the cab. Smoke curls out--

JUNKY

I accept thee in my heart - Cast my
sins away. Oh, yes! I believe!--

Looks about--

JUNKY (CONT'D)

Yes, my beloved Lord!

Sprints off - his feet splash in the rain - he dodges debris and potholes--

JUNKY (CONT'D)

My spiritual inspiration, Dude of
all Dudes - Hallelujah!

Falls, splashes in mud and a goo-like substance, bounces back up, keeps on trucking--

JUNKY (CONT'D)

The lightning was a nice touch my
Holy one! - I believe in you, only
you, big-bro -
(hands clasped)
Damn right I do!

He vanishes around a building: "GOMEZ FERTILIZER, CO" as the RELIGIOUS MUSIC fades out...

INT. OLD WAREHOUSE - DAY

Myriad of machinery, pipes, boxes. Krupp is on an upper walkway by an office. Rope tied to the railing runs down to a huge vat of murky liquid on the ground floor.

Vat sign: "DANGER/PILEGRO - ACID - Skull & Bones" marking.

EXT. FOUR-UNIT APARTMENT - DRIVEWAY

Ella Mae dials phone. She and Milo are on pins and needles. Quin and Ned wheel up and stop.

ELLA MAE

Was calling you, Quin. Two guys
just abducted Dana!

Quin and Ned bail out.

ELLA MAE (CONT'D)

Milo said Dana was in the driveway.
Seconds later she was gone.

She signs to Milo. He signs back rapidly.

ELLA MAE (CONT'D)

Slow down, Milo. You're stuttering!

Milo repeats. Ella Mae turns to Quin.

ELLA MAE (CONT'D)

Signers don't really stutter but
their difficult to understand when
they speed-sign--

QUIN

Go on.

ELLA MAE

They took Dana in a green sedan.

Milo stares bright-eyed at Quin and Ned.

QUIN

Ask him what Dana was doing.

ELLA MAE

(signs to Milo)
Anything else?

Milo signs. Ella Mae interprets.

ELLA MAE (CONT'D)
No. But Dana was terrified.

QUIN
No shit. Thank him, Ella Mae.

Quin and Ned charge up the stairway.

INT. VACANT UNIT NEXT TO QUIN'S - DAY

Ned and Quin frantically search for clues. Quin's phone rings. He takes the call.

QUIN
Yes?

KRUPP (ON PHONE)
Is this Quin Dunwoody, Fiona's son?

QUIN
Yeah. Who's this?

KRUPP (ON PHONE)
Klaus Krupp.

QUIN
Speak, you bastard.

KRUPP (ON PHONE)
Tell Fiona my offer for the brooch
is now five-hundred bucks.

QUIN
Not necessary, I have the damn
thing. Return my pickup, and the
brooch is yours.

INT. DUPLEX - LEFT SIDE

Krupp toys with Quin.

KRUPP
No foreplay. Right to the point.
I like that.

INTERCUT PHONE
CONVERSATION:

QUIN
Come on, Meatball! Stop pissing
around with me. If you wanna make
a deal, spit it out.

KRUPP

Your girl went for a ride with two of my associates.

QUIN

That's quite obvious.

KRUPP

Okay, Quin. Deliver the brooch to the Zycoff warehouse and you'll get your pickup.

QUIN

Where is the place?

KRUPP

Take Acton Road off Highway 14. Go east on Louzil Pass four miles and the road stops. I'm gonna be there with your pickup.

QUIN

Got it. But I'm bringing bring my uncle who has a doctor appointment. He's old and feeble, won't cause any problems.

KRUPP

What's wrong with him?

QUIN

Fibrotalia Dilegaupius, stage two.

KRUPP

Okay. But hurry.

CLICK. Quin re-dials.

QUIN

Krupp just called. Wants to meet us. My pickup for the brooch.

NED (ON PHONE)

Sounds like a set-up.

QUIN

Chance we gotta take. He's got Dana. I gotta an idea but we'll need Sam's wheelchair.

NED

I have an extra key for the storage room he uses.

INT. NED'S OFFICE

Ned listens to Quin's spiel on the phone.

NED

Meet me there. I'll bring my goody bag.

QUIN (ON PHONE)

Goody bag?

NED

Cop stuff. Tape recorder, three smoke grenades, rope, condoms, and so on. The condoms won't help you, they're extra large.

QUIN (ON PHONE)

You're scaring me, Ned.

EXT. DANA'S VAN - THEATER DISTRICT - ALLEY - DAY

Quin removes Sam's wheelchair from the storage room while Ned watches. Quin crams it into the backseat where Noodles is snoring.

Ned pats the MAGNUM housed in his holster.

QUIN

That necessary?

NED

Old habit. Tyrone-Huge goes with me when I smell danger. Like Robert Duval said in "Apocalypse Now."

QUIN

He loved the smell of napalm in the morning?

NED

Yeah. Man. That's poetry!

Quin shakes his head. Ned removes an ODD SHAPED PISTOL from his "goody bag."

QUIN

What's that?

NED

Tranquilizer Gun. Got it from an Animal Control Officer. I used to bang her mother.

QUIN
But we're not after four-legged
creatures, Ned!

NED
No prob, me-boy. The round load
isn't lethal to humans, but it has
an instant four-Martini effect.

Quin's spent. Leans against the car, self analyzes.

QUIN
What the hell am I doing...?

NED
You're on a roll, dear nephew.
Just like Robin Williams was in
"Good Morning Vietnam."

QUIN
Enough, Ned.

NED
Point made.

Ned slides the tranquilizer gun into a leather pouch attached
inside one of the wheelchair arms.

EXT. OLD WAREHOUSE - DAY

Quin and Ned arrive in the van. Ned dons a surgical mask
while Quin removes the wheelchair.

PUNCHY (O.S.)
They're here, boss.

Ned's head tilts to one side. Quin "assists" him out of the
van, and into the wheelchair.

PUNCHY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
That old turd looks half-dead.

KRUPP (O.S.)
Don't take your eyes off them.

Quin wheels Ned to the warehouse.

INT. OLD WAREHOUSE - DAY

Dana's secured by a taut rope, face-up on the plank that
teeters over the vat. The rope's tied to the runway railing
near Krupp, directly above Dana.

Krupp, on the runway above Dana, hovers over her. Gestures to Punchy to move closer to her.

Ugo places a large pot in a microwave near the bottom of the stairway. Sets the timer.

KRUPP (O.S.)

You and your horse appetite, Ugo.
Move over by Punchy!

Krupp bites his nails. Ugo joins Punchy who trains his 9-mil at the door. The door squeaks open. The wheelchair nudges the door jam as Quin pushes Ned in.

Dana sees them, struggles helplessly on the plank. Ned utters to Quin.

NED.

WATMOABOA, partner.

Krupp calls down.

KRUPP

Lock up, Quin. Then put the key
back in the lock.

NED

(to himself)
Gene Wilder, "Son of Frankenstein."
"Put... the candle back."

Quin turns the key in the lock mechanism, making an eerie metal-to-metal CLICKING SOUND. Pockets the key. Pushes Ned toward the stairway at the bottom of the runway.

Ugo pats Quin down, looks at Ned who "drools." Ugo's face twists into an uglier mass than before.

UGO

Is he breathing?

QUIN

He always looks bad.

UGO

Fibro... Dig - Digga... Is it
contagious?

QUIN

Much so. Stand clear if you haven't
been vaccinated.

Ugo shudders. Then:

UGO
Fuck this.

Rubbernecks up at Krupp.

UGO (CONT'D)
They're clean, boss.

Krupp feels the power.

KRUPP
Cough up the brooch, Quin.

QUIN
Soon as I remove Dana's gag.

Quin powers his way over to the vat. Pulls Dana's gag off. Her chest heaves. Quin, softly.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Sorry I got you in this mess.

DANA
(tearing up)
My fault, Quin. But you gotta do something.

QUIN
I'll give the fake brooch to Krupp if he releases you.

DANA
But if he refuses? You promised Fiona you'd do your best not to lose the brooch.

QUIN
(floored)
My God, Lady. We're in shit-city and you're worried bout that. Are the fumes getting to you?

Krupp shouts (O.S.).

KRUPP
You're outa time, Quin. Give it up!

QUIN
Right, sweetheart.

Quin turns to leave.

DANA
Quin, wait! Kiss me... for luck.

Ugo's fat paws ENTER FRAME - put Quin in a chokehold and pull him away. Dana cries out.

DANA (CONT'D)

Quin!

Punchy MOVES IN. Replaces Dana's gag.

RUNWAY - BY THE OFFICE

Quin climbs the stairway. Ugo's behind him with a handgun. They reach the runway. Krupp's chest puffs up.

QUIN

Release her and the brooch is yours.

Krupp doesn't give an inch.

QUIN (CONT'D)

Dammit Krupp. I'm asking you for one of your damn kidneys!

KRUPP

Is the brooch on you?

Quin kills time. Tugs his collar.

QUIN

Yep.

Krupp draws a knife from inside his waistband.

KRUPP

If you're conning me. I'll slice your nuts off!

QUIN

Both of them?

KRUPP

One more thing, your girlfriend would get an acid bath. Sure would be a nasty way to go.

He presses the knife's blade against the rope holding the plank Dana's strapped on--

QUIN

Stop!

Quin holds up the phony brooch.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Here, take it.

Krupp extends his hand. Quin steps back a peg, glances down at the vat.

QUIN (CONT'D)
I doubt your monkeys would let her die, Krupp.

PUNCHY (O.S.)
(calls out)
I heard that, mister! We ain't no monkeys!--

KRUPP
Shut up, Punchy!

PUNCHY (O.S.)
Okay, boss. Sorry.

KRUPP
(tight-jawed)
Last chance, Quin.

Quin throws the brooch against Krupp's leg - it bounces off, slides down the runway.

Krupp gives chase, drops to his hands and knees, stretches for the brooch as it trickles off the runway--

Hits the floor - SHATTERS to pieces.

KRUPP (CONT'D)
It broke! It was phony!

QUIN
Not true, Krupp. It was real glass.

Quin spins - shoves Ugo in the face - he tumbles---

Down the stairs - ricochets off a post--

Smacks against an odd looking large machine--

Quin heavy-foots it down the runaway - Krupp splits in the opposite direction--

Ned's sprawled on the floor minus his Magnum and reading glasses by the overturned wheelchair. Quin doesn't see him. Calls out softly.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Ned...

Krupp snakes his way through more machines and obstacles.
Reaches the rear door. It's locked.

QUIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You'll need this, Krupp!

Quin on the runway wiggles the key. Krupp sees him, notices
Ugo get up on rubber-legs not far from Quin.

Krupp points to Quin, shouts to Ugo.

KRUPP
He's over there, Lard-ass!

Ugo spots Quin, staggers his way toward Quin - lunges at him
just as he steps aside--

Ugo keeps going - slams into a shelf of bottles and vials
that smash on the floor--

His momentum continues head-first into a cement pillar which
makes a loud CRACK!

He staggers, drops to the floor.

KRUPP (CONT'D)
Don't just stand there, Punchy!

Punchy racks a round into the 9 mil chamber. Edges toward
Quin's general direction.

Ugo stands up. Feels his head and tries to blink away the
cobwebs, zigzags drunk-like toward Quin.

Quin readies the FIRE EXTINGUISHER in striking position.
Ugo, still dazed, walks right by him--

Quin inches toward Ned with the fire extinguisher--

QUIN AND NED

Poor lighting area. Ned searches for his glasses.

NED
Can't find my specs.

QUIN
Forget it. Where's your gun?

Ned locates the Magnum.

Punchy's head swivels, looks for Quin. Ugo staggers up.

PUNCHY
You okay, Ugo?

UGO
Elvis alive. Bleached hair sort of
his curly beard for to him...

KRUPP (O.S.)
I'm waiting, you imbeciles!

QUIN AND NED

Hunker down behind a large machine.

NED
I'll get the tranq-gun.

Ned crawls to the wheelchair. Retrieves the tranquilizer gun
from the leather pouch.

Slides it across the floor toward Quin off target--

It skids under a machine far from Quin's reach. He curses,
his eyes dart around looking for Ugo and Punchy.

PUNCHY (O.S.)
Ugo. I see him!

Punchy fires at Quin who ducks - glass SHATTERS behind him.
Ugo is still "out of it." Punchy growls.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
Thought the gun had blanks!

UGO
My father too or some, yes opera.

PUNCHY
What?

Ugo's eyes cross, his head lolls.

UGO
He when there is. Never not though
but work when be can't.

PUNCHY
What...?

Ugo scratches his groin two-handed.

QUIN AND NED

Slump down, look in Punchy's general direction.

QUIN
There's Punchy!

NED
Can't see shit. Here, take this.

Hands Quin the Magnum. Quin takes aim at Punchy. Lowers it, confused. Bends the barrel, grumbles.

QUIN
This thing's rubber!

NED
Of course. You think LAPD would let
a psycho carry a real gun?

QUIN
What am I supposed to do with it?

NED
Rod--

BANG! - They both duck as something CLUNKS (O.S.) - WATER
CASCADES down, splashes over them.

NED (CONT'D)
Rodney King the guy, and if that
doesn't work jam it up his manure
chute!

Ugo trudges toward them. Quin raises the extinguisher and
levels it him, pulls the trigger - A short pathetic blast of
chemicals sprinkle across the floor.

Ugo's oblivious to the action, walks in circles. Punchy's
head pops up behind a pallet. He points his gun at Quin who
raises the RUBBER MAGNUM.

Quin and Punchy stand motionless like two statues.

FUNERAL SILENCE... The microwave DINGS! -

Punchy drops the gun, assumes his boxing position: snorts,
bobs, weaves, throws air punches--

Quin gawks at him.

QUIN
Fuck!

Grabs Punchy's gun off the floor. Spins, sees Krupp climb out of a broken window.

Quin trains the gun on Punchy and Ugo.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Lights out, losers. Don't move.

Quin hands Ned Punchy's gun.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Watch 'em while I get Krupp.

Quin sprints to the rear door.

EXT. OLD WAREHOUSE - DAY

Quin's white pickup fully engulfed in flames. Krupp sees the oil leaking under his car.

KRUPP
Shit!

Quin scrambles out of the warehouse and legs after Krupp who draws a gun--

Quin dives behind a large clump of abandoned tires.

KRUPP (CONT'D)
You had your chance, Quin.

QUIN
You're not going anywhere Krupp.

Punchy and Ugo hobble out of the warehouse. Ned is on their heels. They spot Quin's burning pickup.

NED
Oh, fudge.

QUIN
Krupp's armed, Ned. Pin him down while I go help Dana!

Quin jaunts back to the warehouse.

INT. OLD WAREHOUSE - DAY

Quin unties Dana--

She slips off the plank, collapses in his arms.

Krupp, Ugo and Punchy march in with heads hanging. Ned trails them with Punchy's gun. Ned shows Krupp's gun to Quin.

NED

Krupp's heater. It's plastic!

Punchy spots the tranquilizer gun under the machine. Pulls it out, has a look.

PUNCHY

A Mattel? I got one of these on my tenth birthday.

NED

Don't touch the trigger!--

Punchy (naturally) squeezes the trigger it discharges a dart, strikes Krupp in the thigh--

Krupp screams bloody murder, jitter-bugs about.

NED (CONT'D)

Stop whining, Krupp. It's a mild sedative I got in Tijuana.

Krupp slows down, grows drowsy. Pleads to Quin.

KRUPP

I hay gunz, Quin. Awn-nus, I being sqwure wiff woo.

QUIN

What about Punchy's gun?

Krupp's words slur more as he chides Ugo.

KRUPP

Uuu tol me id had bwanks!

Ugo whimpers. Quin confronts Krupp.

QUIN

What about the acid bath?

Krupp's eye lids droop, he sways.

KRUPP

Iz wadder. Chek id yrr-zelv.

Quin rips Krupp's toupee off, lobs it into the vat--

It SMOKES - GOES POOF and DISINTEGRATES within seconds. Krupp's eyes balloon.

KRUPP (CONT'D)

I did-in no, Quin. But I nev wud
hurd a lay-dee. Intim-dade laydeez
bud nay-er hurd thum.

UGO

My uncle Tiano in be Sicily he
left handed. But once too, never,
hurd lay-dee.

Ugo blinks a couple times. Glances around the room. Shakes his head.

UGO (CONT'D)

Did I just wake up?

Blank expressions abound.

MALE (O.S.)

POLICE!

EIGHT COPS waving guns charge in like madmen - scare Dana shit-less. Ned and Quin gesture to Krupp, Ugo and Punchy to raise their hands.

EXT. OLD WAREHOUSE - DAY

Cop cruisers scattered. Krupp, Ugo and Punchy are hauled off in one of them. Quin, Ned and Dana are delighted.

NED

Wanna prosecute them, Quin?

QUIN

Naw. I say let them stew in County
awhile. You agree, Dana?

Dana nods. Wraps her arm around Quin.

TIME LAPSE

Quin's pick-up reduced to burnt shell. He, Ned and Dana examine the remains. Dana spots the Belgian Brooch on the ground near Fiona's Bible.

DANA

Look!

QUIN

I'll be damn.

Several pages of the Bible had been cut out. Quin scoops it up, along with the Belgium Pride.

NED

So Fiona hid the damn brooch in her Bible.

They head for Ned's van. Dana stops, glances around.

DANA

Where's my car?

QUIN

Oh. Meant to tell you. It's in the shop. Wouldn't start.

EXT. NED'S VAN

Noodles bails out as though it's on fire. Quin, Dana and Ned step up. Their faces distort.

QUIN

Ned! Your precious mutt cranked off another gas bomb.

Ned checks inside the van.

NED

Wrong. It's diarrhea.

QUIN

Enjoy cleaning it up. Dana and I'll bum a ride with one of the cops.

EXT. UNDERCOVER COP CAR

Dana rags on Quin in the backseat.

DANA

That blonde in your apartment this afternoon. Who is she?

QUIN

My sister, Bridget.

Dana feels like a boob.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Junky holds up handwritten sign: "JESUS SAVES." Dana and Quin whiz by in a cruiser driven by a UNIFORM COP.

Beat later. Ned's head sticks out of the van drivers window, rolls past the Junky. Noodles is leaning out of the passenger window.

INT. FIONA'S CABIN - DAY

Quin, Dana, Ned sit wiped-out at the table. Bridget enters, neutralizes the tension. Quin introduces Dana to her.

QUIN
Dana. My sister, Bridget.

Bridget responds cheerfully.

BRIDGET
Hi, Dana.
(curiously)
Do I know you?

Dana wants to crawl under a rock.

DANA
I... I'll explain later.

NED
We're waiting for the Feds,
Bridget. Expect them any minute.

Fiona comes in from her bedroom, relaxed. Quin stares at her.

QUIN
Seriously, Fiona. You never heard
about that French artist? Your Dad
didn't mention his name?

FIONA
Only thing I know about the French
is they all smoke and eat cheese.

QUIN
Just don't screw up. Tell the feds
you thought the brooch was phony.

FIONA
Hey! A little respect, please?
After all I'm an--

THE OTHERS
(in unison)
--old lady!

CAR ARRIVES (O.S.). They all freeze.

BRIDGET
Let me try to kiss them off.

QUIN
Lotsa luck.

Bridget steps outside. Quin looks sternly at Fiona.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Don't offer anything to them. Okay?
(whispers to Dana)
Watch her muck it up.

They sit in silence. A beat. The door swings open, they jump. Bridget leans inside.

BRIDGET
They wanna see Fiona.

They hold their breath. Quin and Fiona get up.

FIONA
I'm cool, Quin. Ella Mae gave me
three of her Viking-Dan pills.

QUIN
(blown away)
You took three Vicodin?

Fiona's offended.

FIONA
Vicodin-Schmike-a-din. Stop with
the damn nick-piking!

EXT. FIONA'S CABIN

Quin and Fiona mosey up to the Agents. Fiona blurts out.

FIONA
I didn't know it was the real
Brooch! Swear to God!

Quin's face is ashen. Thrasher and Vandover are amused. Fiona waits for her poison.

THRASHER
Oh don't fret, Mrs. Dunwoody.
The Belgium Ambassador told us if
anybody finds it, they won't be
prosecuted.

Quin's overwhelmed with relief.

THRASHER (CONT'D)
King of Belgian offered a million
dollar reward for it.

Fiona responds with bullshit-innocence.

FIONA
How nice.

Ned and Bridget walk up. Vandover queries Quin.

VANDOVER
Sir. Are you and Mrs. Dunwoody
related?

Moment of truth. Quin hesitates, then:

QUIN
Uh... Yeah, she's my mother.

Fiona gives Quin a major hug. Dana, ditto.

FIONA
I'll buy you a new pickup with the
reward money Quin.

QUIN
Thanks. But put it in writing cause
you'll forget it. Okay... mom?

Fiona nods. Tears of joy by all. Everyone waves to the Agents
as they drive off.

Ella Mae's car arrives. She gets out, toting bags of cookies.
Jitters bounces out next. Helps pass them out.

LONG SHOT

Quin and Dana embrace as the others chat rapid-fire as they
wander back to the cabin. Quin's phone buzzes.

MAN (ON PHONE)
Sgt. Owens, LAPD. Are you Moses
Dunwoody?

QUIN
Yeah. I go by... yeah, that's me.

SGT. OWENS (ON PHONE)
We found your wallet in a CRV.

EXT. JD'S BURRITO GRANDE - DAY

SGT. OWENS on a phone. Dana's CRV is at the same spot where last seen. Minus the doors, wheels, engine, hood, etc.

SGT. OWENS
Even her bumpers and rearview mirror. You can pickup your wallet at our Hollenbeck Station.

EXT. FIONA'S CABIN

Quin pockets his phone. Looks at Dana.

QUIN
The CRV was stripped out.

Dana's expression turns South.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Fiona's getting me a new pickup. I'll buy you another car.

DANA
No, Quin. You don't have--

QUIN
Hush. Decision's been made.

Dana gives him a loving hug.

QUIN (CONT'D)
Will any of this be in your book?

DANA
Perhaps. But it'll need to include a love angle.

QUIN
That's easy. You could start it off with a romantic dinner.

DANA
Not a bad idea. Providing the woman cooks, not the man.

QUIN
There be any pre-marital sex?

DANA
It's my story, Buster. Don't complicate things.

INT. FIONA'S CABIN

Ned and Fiona eyeball Quin and Dana who are now lip-locked in the distance.

NED

Fiona. They remind me of what Bogie said to Claude Rains.

Fiona waits anxiously.

NED (CONT'D)

I'm quoting. "Louie, this looks like the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

Fiona takes a stab at it.

FIONA

Driving Miss Daisy...?

Ned anguishes. Fiona snaps her fingers.

FIONA (CONT'D)

I got it! Sleepless in Cincinnati.

Ned acquiesces with a hapless grin.

NED

Close enough, old girl.

Atmosphere is downright peachy.

FADE OUT.