

The Best Revenge

by
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FADE IN

INT. TRENDY CLUB - NIGHT

1996 - Credits roll over a man in nice club. His name is ANDY ROGERS, 25. He is wandering around the club drinking a soda looking at women. He is a plain man, out-of-style-glasses sit perched upon a once-badly broken nose that is featured prominently on his face. If you look up computer geek in the dictionary, his picture may be displayed. It's been a while since he has seen a barber, but it is entirely possible that he cuts his own hair. His choice of clothing more functional than stylish; off-brand khakis and a too-large button-down shirt adorn with the remains of lunch. He tries to approach a woman and is shot down just by a timely raise of her eyebrow.

INT. VENTURE CAPITALIST OFFICE - MORNING

Andy pitching his website, SellitFree.com to venture capitalists. He points to a simple hand-made chart. The chart reads "Estimated Home Internet Users" It has columns showing 1997, 1998, 1999.

The VC's glance at each other skeptically.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Andy is walking out, rejected again.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Andy on a bad date. Andy is on a date and looks very uncomfortable sitting across from woman. He spills some sauce on his shirt and she laughs at him.

INT. ANDYS APARTMENT - NIGHT

A dark apartment. Sparse, but clean. The only light comes from a brightly-lit aquarium. Colorful fish swim happily in the well-kept aquarium. The door opens, it's Andy and he's carrying a bag from the fish store and one from McDonalds. He walks over to the tank and greets the fish.

ANDY

Hey Bill, Jeff, Larry, Meg..
where's Pierre? Oh, there you are.
How are you guys tonight?

He opens the bag from the fish store.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Here's a new friend.

Andy slides in bag with filled with water and another brightly colored fish into the top of the aquarium.

ANDY (CONT'D)
This is Linus. Linus say hi to
Bill, Jeff, Larry, Meg and Pierre.

He reaches in the bag once more and pulls out a bag with blood worms, a tropical fish treat.

ANDY (CONT'D)
And a special treat because I've
been working so much lately.

He feeds the fish their treat and sits in front of the tank to eat his own dinner.

INT. ANDYS OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

2002 - In a small office, Andy is hunched over a computer typing furiously. He reaches for his Pepsi. It's gone. He looks at his cheap watch. 3:15 a.m. He yawns then slides down to sleep on the floor in a sleeping bag.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - AFTERNOON

2005 - The camera follows the halls and meeting rooms of a medium size company. Inside the office building, people in their 20's and 30's are partying hard. Expensive bottles of champagne are being poured over heads. Half-naked men and women run wild, kissing and hugging each other. This is what 75 instant internet millionaires looks like. The camera stops at an opened office door. A nameplate on the door reads Andrew Rogers.

INT. NICE EMPTY OFFICE - AFTERNOON

An older Andy sits in a much larger office now. A bottle of beer sits on his desk. He is talking on the phone while holding up a check and looking at it. An older man sits across the desk from Andy. He is INVESTIGATOR BOB, a large, scary man.

ANDY
(looking at the check)
I said I can't help you.
(beat)
Yes, I was the president. But, I'm
not anymore.
(beat)
Why am I here? Good question.

We finally see the check he has been staring at. It is a check for \$130 million dollars!!

ANDY (CONT'D)
You will have to take it up with
the new legal department.
(beat)
Their number? Sure here, let me
transfer you.

He hangs up without transferring the call and opens a large envelope and retrieves three files. The names on the files are: ROBERT HEALY, MELISSA WHISBY, and PHIL CUMMINS. He looks at them as a young man knocks on the open door. Andy looks up to see JASON, early 30's, head programmer. Jason is holding a bottle of champagne as he leans against the door.

ANDY (CONT'D)
What do you need Jason?

JASON
Thanks for the party.

ANDY
Don't thank me. I'm not paying.

JASON
Well thanks anyway. It's been quite
an experience working for you.

ANDY
Okay, anything else?

Jason is bummed. He thought that finally Andy would become one of them, maybe become have a little fun.

JASON
You going to come have some drinks
with us?

ANDY
I don't know. I'm a little busy
wrapping things up.

JASON
I understand. I'll leave you alone.

ANDY
Thanks Jason.

From behind, an attractive young woman grabs Jason and starts kissing him. They fall out of the doorway.

Andy smiles and goes back to the files, opening the first file, Robert Healy. Pictures scatter on the desk.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Sorry Bob. Things are a little crazy around here.

INVESTIGATOR BOB

I tracked down all of the old friends you ask about. I had my assistant record a cassette with all the information that's in the files.

Andy is looking at various pictures on his desk. Picture of Bobby at graduation, pictures of two dirty boys ages 8 and 10, his wife, their house, his place of employment, their minivan.

INVESTIGATOR BOB (CONT'D) (V.O.)
(CONT'D)

Robert James Healy, Bobby, thirty four years of age, born Detroit, Michigan, Graduated from Redford Township High School, barely, married to Theresa Ordman. They have two kids who are headed for reform school. He's a press operator for Moore Machine Engineering for 13 years. Bobby's supervisor, Ken Trellac, owes big gambling debts. Bobby and Theresa owe \$18,000 in credit card bills. Bobby owes \$84,000 on the house. He drives a rusty four-wheel-drive pickup. Theresa is a part-time records clerk at a local hospital and drives an eight year old minivan. They make about \$44,000 with her salary. Hobbies include drinking beer and baseball cards.

Andy almost smiles.

ANDY

Still into baseball cards.

INVESTIGATOR BOB

Your friend isn't exactly living the American dream.

ANDY

He wasn't my friend.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

SUBTITLE: "Westland Elementary School - 1979"

A group of eight-year-old boys are gathered around a boy sitting on a smaller boy. The smaller boy, Andy, is almost crying. The larger boy, Bobby, is obviously enjoying being the tormentor.

BOBBY

I want that baseball card.

ANDY

No, it's mine.

BOBBY

It's just one card. I want it or else.

ANDY

No!! My dad gave it to me. You can't have it.

BOBBY

So what? Have him get another one for you. Oh, I forgot, he's dead.

ANDY

It's special. Get off me!!

Andy is struggling. Bobby is enjoying the torture.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Get off of me. I gotta go pee.

Andy really has to go. He begs.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Please Bobby, I really gotta go.

Bobby just laughs. Tear wells up in his eyes. He stops struggling. Andy wet his pants. Bobby notices and jumps off Andy.

BOBBY

Shit, Andy did pee his pants!!!!

The other boys laugh at the smaller boy.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

(Laughing)

Hey Pee Boy.

The other boys gather around Bobby, joining his laughing.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

(Chanting)

Pee Boy. Pee Boy. Pee Boy.

The other boys join in the chant. Andy runs away, crying.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

SUBTITLE: "Westland Elementary School - 1981"

Bobby and Andy, now 10 year old boys, are fighting. Actually only Bobby is fighting, Andy is trying to avoid the kicks and punches of the larger Bobby.

BOBBY

You told on me for copying, I know you did, you little snitch. I got suspended for three days. My dad's going to kill me.

ANDY

I didn't-

The flurry of punches subsides and Andy lifts his head to look and is greeted by a hiking boot to the nose. Andy is out cold. Bobby reaches down and into Andy's pocket. He pulls out a baseball card. A 1954 Topps Al Kaline card. Andy's father's favorite player. Andy's prize possession.

BOBBY

I told you I'd have this card one day.

The screen goes black.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Andy asleep in a hospital bed, his face and head bandaged. The unseen doctor speaks to Andy's unseen mother.

DOCTOR (V.O.)

He has a concussion and a severely broken nose that require surgery in the future. He need to stay overnight and we will release him in the morning. Just a precaution.

A tear slides down Andy's cheek.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

SUBTITLE: "Redford Union High School - 1988"

Nerdy Andy is now 17 and trying to talk to a girl by her locker. He is attempting to ask her on a date.

ANDY

If your....um..not doing anything
...would.. would .. you like...

Bobby comes strolling down the hall in his varsity jacket, surrounded by some teammates and cheerleaders. He runs his hand through his cool mullet.

BOBBY

(Yelling to the girl Andy
is about to ask out)

Is Pee boy going on a date? Better
watch out, he might pee on you
while you are making out!!

The boys and girls all laugh at the comment. Andy looks down, red-faced, ashamed. As Bobby walks away, Andy looks up at him, eyes burning with years of hatred.

The girl he was asking out is ashamed too. She just turns and slowly walks away.

INT. BOBBY'S HOUSE - EVENING - PRESENT DAY

SUBTITLE:"A Former High School Star Athlete - Present Day"

A sloppy, overweight Bobby is sitting on the couch with the television remote and a can of beer. His dirty t-shirt barely covers his beer belly. He is only in his 30's but appears much older. Baseball cards are sitting on the table in front of him. Bobby looks reverently upon them, his pride and joy. His boys chase each other, wrestling around the living room. Bobby belches loudly.

BOBBY

Hey, you animals, go outside. I'm
here with my cards.

The boys turn and flip him off then run out the front door. Bobby smiles like a proud father and finishes the beer.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Hey, T, bring me a beer.

His wife THERESA, 32, comes in the room, putting in an earring. She could still be pretty with a little work, but can't afford the time or money to do anything for herself.

THERESA

Bob, dinner is in the crock pot.
I'm late for work. Can you get your
own beer?

BOBBY

Come on... just get it you're up. I'm tired, I work all week. I put food on the table. At least you could get me a damn beer.

As usual, she does as ask. It's just easier than arguing.

THERESA

Fine. Will one beer be enough, or should I pack you a cooler?

Bobby thinks about this. Not a bad idea.

BOBBY

Do we have a cooler?

She brings the beer and walks away.

THERESA

(under her breath)

Maybe a catheter so you don't have to get up to use the bathroom?

BOBBY

What?

THERESA

Nothing.

INT. ANDYS OFFICE - LATER - PRESENT DAY

Andy gets up and looks at his former employees having fun, bring happy.

INVESTIGATOR BOB

Do you want me to go over your other two friends?

ANDY

They weren't my friends. I'll read them later.

Andy looks around and finds an envelope. He hands it to Investigator Bob.

ANDY (CONT'D)

That will cover everything including the flights and hotel room, and the cameras.

Investigator Bob opens the envelope and looks at the check. He is very satisfied.

INVESTIGATOR BOB
Thanks. The cameras are fantastic.
The guy who built them can't tell
the difference.

ANDY
Where are they going to be placed?

Investigator Bob counts out loud.

INVESTIGATOR BOB
The lamp cam for the living room,
one in the coffee maker in the
kitchen, a radio cam for the
bedroom and two clock cams for the
business office.

ANDY
He put one in the coffee maker?

INVESTIGATOR BOB
He's a savant with those things.
Use to make them for medical use
but that got to boring for him.

ANDY
How far does the server need to be
to pick them up?

INVESTIGATOR BOB
Suppose to have a range of about a
thousand feet.

ANDY
Awesome. When are they going to be
ready?

INVESTIGATOR BOB
Give me a week. Then set up the
server and watch them anywhere you
have internet access.

ANDY
I am truly impressed. I'll be
calling you soon.

Andy rises. Inspector Bob gets up and shakes Andy's hand.

INVESTIGATOR BOB
Whatever you need, Mr. Rogers.

INT. ANDYS APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Andy's apartment is almost bare except for a few boxes. Moving men are there picking them up. Some people are there carefully catching the fish and placing them in a bucket. Andy is on the phone.

ANDY

Hey, Mark, it's a done deal. I got the big check.

INT. MARKS OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Seated in a nice office, Mark Goss, 34, is lawyer without looking like a lawyer. Dressed casually, he may be lacking the killer instinct that most motivated lawyers have. Maybe it's because he's just made millions on the sale of Andy's company. Mark picks up a check.

MARK

I got one too. They sent it Fed-Ex. And a shirt.

ANDY

How's everything?

MARK

Everything's all set. I'm in the new office right now.

INT. ANDYS APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

ANDY(O.S.)

Good. I have some things to take care of first, then I'll be there. I emailed you a list of more people I want hired. They work for Cummins Information Service.

MARK

Didn't you use to work there?

ANDY

Same place. Hire them and get a list of their customers. I want to put Cummins out of business.

MARK

What do I offer them to leave Cummins?

ANDY

Won't have to offer them much, Phil
is a cheap ass. Don't use my name.

MARK

Got it. Anything else?

Andy picks up the Bobby file from the desk.

ANDY

I need you to hire a woman. Her
name is Theresa Healy. She's a
records clerk at Mott Hospital. Pay
her forty-five or fifty grand and
benefits.

MARK (O.S.)

What do you want her to do?

ANDY

Anything she's remotely qualified
for.

MARK (O.S.)

Old girlfriend?

ANDY

Wife of a schoolmate.

MARK

(repeating)

Wife of a friend.

ANDY

He wasn't my friend.

INT. MARKS OFFICE - AFTERNOON

MARK

Got it. I'll get her hired.
Anything else?

ANDY (O.S.)

Not that I can think of. I'm
finally getting my nose fixed. I'll
be in for a few days recuperating.

MARK

See you when you get here.

INT. ANDYS APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Andy walks over to Ginny, the young woman catching his fish.

ANDY

Are they going to make the trip safely?

GINNY

Yep, they should be fine. I'm going to fly them out myself. They will have their own seat. Just call when the new tank is set up.

ANDY

Great, I will. May be a couple of months until I'm settled.

GINNY

No problem. You must really like these fish to spend this much. Most people who move just flush them down their toilet.

ANDY

I could never do that, they aren't just fish, they are my friends.

INT. BANK INTERIOR - MORNING

Andy is waiting for the bank manager. The customer leaves the bank manager JOE PRISOCK, greets Andy with a hearty handshake. JOE is an young man who dresses like a Wall Street Banker.

JOE PRISOCK

Andy, my man. What's going on? How's everything?

Joe has a knowing smile.

ANDY

Excellent. It's excellent.

JOE PRISOCK

Internet godfather made you an offer you couldn't refuse. It's awesome.

Andy's turn to smile.

ANDY

More than I expected. I'm not complaining.

JOE PRISOCK

Those venture guys are so pissed they didn't have a piece.

ANDY

They didn't want to talk to me when I started it. You did. And I appreciate that.

JOE PRISOCK

They like low risk, risk. I like to invest in the idea. And you had a great idea. And I appreciate the stock options.

Andy smiles.

ANDY

I need to do something with this check. I need some cash too.

He hands Joe the check, who looks at it. He tries to be cool, but can't help it.

JOE PRISOCK

Fuck me. That's a shitload load of numbers.

ANDY

(Smiling)

I need some cashiers checks.

JOE PRISOCK

How much?

ANDY

I don't know. Enough to buy a couple houses, cars.

JOE PRISOCK

I'll make it a half million in cashiers checks.

ANDY

I want to leave 20 million in your bank, 20 million transferred to this bank account in Detroit.

Andy hands him a slip of paper.

ANDY (CONT'D)

And the rest transferred to a brokerage account.

Hands him the last slip. Joe writes down the information.

JOE PRISOCK
How much cash do you want?

ANDY
How much do you have here?

Joe smiles.

JOE PRISOCK
Got time for lunch? My treat.

INT. TOPLESS BAR - AFTERNOON

Andy and Joe are in the bar sitting at a VIP table. Strippers swarm them like, well, like strippers on a couple of millionaires. Mounds of twenty dollar bills litter the table. Joe notices Andy's discomfort.

JOE PRISOCK
Loosen up. This is supposed to be fun.

ANDY
I'm having fun.

He's not having very much fun. He actually looks scared.

JOE PRISOCK
You look like you rather be hunched over a computer.

It's the truth, he would rather be over a computer.

ANDY
I'm okay. I just don't relate well to women face-to-face.

Andy looks slightly uncomfortable as a stripper rubs her fake breasts on his face.

JOE PRISOCK
It doesn't look like you're face-to-face right now.

Joe laughs. Andy doesn't.

JOE PRISOCK (CONT'D)
What are you going to do for the rest of your life?

He backs away slightly. He is clearly afraid of her.

ANDY

I'm not sure. I think I have enough
to live on for a while.

JOE PRISOCK

You're 33?

ANDY

Yep.

Joe does mental mathematics.

JOE PRISOCK

You can spend six thousand a day in
here until you are 92 years old.

Andy looks around. Smiles a little.

JOE PRISOCK (CONT'D)

You staying in the area?

ANDY

No. Going home to Michigan for a
couple months. Going to get a new
car and take my time going there.
Unwind.

JOE PRISOCK

What kind of car?

ANDY

Not really sure yet. Thinking about
a Saab Wagon.

Joe is nearly disgusted.

JOE PRISOCK

Are you sure you're 33?

Andy nods.

JOE PRISOCK (CONT'D)

Then why are you buying a station
wagon that is designed for an upper-
middle class housewife to drive
their kids to tennis and piano
lessons?

ANDY

It's not a station wagon.

JOE PRISOCK

Yes it is.

ANDY
They are safe, reliable.

JOE PRISOCK
That how you want people to think
of you? Safe and reliable?

A stripper comes between them. Joe speaks to her.

JOE PRISOCK (CONT'D)
Crystal, what do you think of a man
who drives a Saab wagon.

CRYSTAL
(dismissive)
I don't really think of them.

JOE PRISOCK
And why is that?

CRYSTAL
Because they are family men who are
boooooorrrrrring.....

Joe looks at Andy.

JOE PRISOCK
See?

ANDY
So I should base my car-buying
decision on what a woman who takes
her clothes off for a living
thinks?

JOE PRISOCK
Can you think of a better reason?

Andy thinks about this.

ANDY
What do you suggest Crystal?

CRYSTAL
Something fast. Exotic.

JOE PRISOCK
Porsche. Definitely Porsche.

EXT. PORSCHE DEALERSHIP - AFTERNOON

Andy pulls into the dealership and parks his 1993 Honda Accord. He is dressed casually, jeans and a generic polo shirt, old running shoes, carrying a briefcase.

INT. PORSCHE DEALERSHIP - MOMENTS LATER

He walks in and looks at the black 911 GT2. He opens the door and climbs inside. The leather feels fantastic. This car is a young mans dream machine. A salesman walks over. He is dressed in an ill-fitting double breasted suit(off the rack, not tailored), wearing too much cheap cologne. He is not in the mood to answer questions or waste his time with this young man.

SALESMAN

Can you be helped?

He yawns and checks the time on his fake Rolex.

ON WATCH

It ticks, not sweeps. An obvious fake, "Rolex" is spelled "Rolax"

ON ANDY

ANDY

Actually, you can. It is exotic, how fast does it go?

SALESMAN

(very snotty)

It's very, very fast and very, very expensive.

This salesman is a complete asshole.

ANDY

What about the mileage? What kind of mileage does it get?

SALESMAN

People who can afford the fine piece of German craftsmanship do not have to worry about the price of gas.

The salesman turns his back and walks away.

ANDY

(Loudly)

What about people who can afford it but are interested in conserving fuel?

Andy thinks about how stupid the gas mileage argument is and walks out the door.

EXT PORSCHE DEALERSHIP - MOMENTS LATER

Andy is at his old car. He looks around at the Porches. He wants one.

ANDY

Fuck him.

Andy starts walking back in the dealership.

INT. PORSCHE DEALERSHIP - MOMENTS LATER

Andy walks over to a desk where a young man, BRENT is working. Brent is a low-key salesman and he looks like he should be selling Chevys to hard working folks, not high-end luxury sports cars.

BRENT

Hi, can I help you sir?

ANDY

I hope so, how much is that car?

BRENT

Do you mean the black GT2? Nice car.

ANDY

Yes, I want it. I want to drive it out the door today.

Brent punches some numbers on the computer.

BRENT

Car, taxes, title, delivery, prep, total of \$196,830.

ANDY

That the only one you have?

BRENT

I'm afraid it is the only one we have at this time.

ANDY

Then I'll have to take this one. How much commission will you make on this car?

BRENT

I'm not sure, I've never sold a GT2.

Andy feels empowered by the money. It's intoxicating. His demeanor even his physical stance is transformed.

ANDY
What's that other salesman's name?
(pointing to the other
salesman)
That asshole who wouldn't sell me
the car.

BRENT
His name is Chris.

ANDY
(shouting)
Hey Chris.

Chris looks over and rolls his eyes.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Hey polo, come here, I want to show
you something.

Chris walks over to them. Andy smiles at him.

ANDY (CONT'D)
I want you to watch this.

Andy opens his briefcase and removes a thick stack of \$100 dollar bills. Chris is unimpressed.

CHRIS
That's just wonderful. Get a new
printer? Or are you a drug dealer?

Andy smiles.

ANDY
(to Chris)
I want you to tell me to stop when
I get to the amount of commission
for selling this car.

He starts counting the bills out. After about 40 of the \$100 bills.

BRENT
I think that's about right..

Chris scoffs at this.

CHRIS
How would you know? It would be
more, much more.

Andy counts out about 20 more.

ANDY
This closer?

CHRIS
Yes, that's close.

Andy takes the money and hands it to Brent. Brent stands with his mouth open.

BRENT
What is this?

ANDY
It's a bonus.

Brent is speechless. Andy turns to Chris.

ANDY (CONT'D)
How's it feel there, polo? That's about six grand sitting in his hand. It could be yours, you could be celebrating tonight, bragging to all your salesmen buddies about your big sale, but you fucked up. You couldn't even give me the gas mileage. You were too big, too important. How's it feel now, sporto?

Chris turns and walks away.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Here sporto -

Andy throws a hundred dollar bill on the ground.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Thanks for your most valuable time. And another thing, real Rolex hands sweep, they don't tick. Just for future reference.

Chris stops and considers picking it up, but his pride doesn't allow him to bend down. He covers his watch with his hand and walks away.

Andy turns back to Brent.

ANDY (CONT'D)
When can you have it ready?

BRENT
Ready to what?

ANDY
Ready for me to drive off the lot.

In the background Chris walks near the hundred dollar bill on the floor and casually tries to move it with his foot.

BRENT
About two hours.

ANDY
I want it. I'll leave some cashiers checks for part and I'll pay the rest in cash when I pick it up, okay?

BRENT
(Astonished)
Yes, sure, fine. But we have forms to fill out to satisfy the governments prying eyes, you know.

ANDY
Everything is straight. Call whoever you need.

BRENT
Great.

ANDY
Can you suggest a restaurant close and pick me up when it's ready?

BRENT
Yes, absolutely, I'll come pick you up myself. Do you have a trade-in?

ANDY
Great. No trade-in. You'll need these.

Andy gives him some cashiers checks, his drivers license and turns to leave. Brent sits, still stunned at what has just happened. Just before he leaves, Andy turns.

ANDY (CONT'D)
By the way, what kind of mileage does it get?

EXT. BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

Andy pulls his car into a parking lot next to a bus stop. He pulls his duffle bag and briefcase from the back seat and walks over to a 50ish woman standing, waiting for the bus.

ANDY

Ma'am? Excuse me, but I was wondering if you have a car?

WOMAN

(Backing slowly)

Yes, I have a Cadillac and a Jaguar, I just ride the bus for the stimulating odors.

(beat)

Do you think I would be waiting for the bus if I had a car? What do you want anyway?

ANDY

I want to give you my car.

(he points to it)

That green one over there. I have the keys and title right here.

He pulls the title out of the briefcase.

WOMAN

Is this real? Are you crazy? Get out of here, you're scaring me.

Andy moves closer. She readies her purse to hit him.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I'll hit you if you come any closer...

He backs away.

ANDY

Really, I want you to have it, I just sold a business and have lots of money. I'm buying a new car and I want you to have my old one. It runs well.

WOMAN

(looking around)

Am I on TV? Is this one of those reality shows?

She smiles, looking for a camera.

ANDY

Please, take it. Here, I'll give you some money for insurance, too.

Her eyes light up.

WOMAN

You're going to pay me to take your car? Well, I don't care if you are crazy honey, I do need a car.

She reaches for the stuff from his hands and quickly backs away.

ANDY

Thank you very much, it means a lot to me that you get this car.

The woman checks the VIN, making sure it's all legitimate. She is satisfied that it is the right car.

WOMAN

What kind of mileage does it get?

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Andy is sitting there listening to a small tape recorder play the assistant reading the highlights of the next file, Melissa Whisby. Pictures show her then and now, was and still is pretty. Her daughter, her house.

ASSISTANT'S VOICE (V.O.)

Melissa Marie Whisby. Married at 20, now divorced. One daughter, Samantha, who is six. Works as an administrative assistant. Makes \$8.75 an hour. Ex-husbands whereabouts unknown. Owns a small house in a deteriorating part of town. No boyfriend. She drives a ten-year-old Taurus.

EXT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

SUBTITLE: "Westland Elementary School Playground - 1982"

Andy walks near a group of girls. The tallest, an 11-year-old Melissa, calls out to Andy.

MELISSA

Hey Pee-boy, when are you going to get that nose fixed?

(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I can't even look at you look at
you while I eat.

The girls laugh.

ANDY

It costs a lot of money to get that
done.

MELISSA

And we can all tell by your clothes
that you're poor.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I guess Pee-Boy is Poor Pee-Boy

The girls laugh and point at him.

EXT. SCHOOL GYM CLASS - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

SUBTITLE: "Pierson Junior High School Gym - 1985"

A junior high gym class is in session. In half the gym some boys play basketball. Some boys just stand around and watch the girls on the other side of the gym. Andy stands alone watching a cute girl talk with her friends. They giggle and point at Andy. He shyly looks off to the side, secretly hoping they are talking about him. The camera pulls back to a 14-year-old Melissa is sneaking up on unsuspecting Andy. Most of the girls are watching Melissa. She sneaks up behind and pulls his shorts down. His privates are out for everyone to see. The other kids laugh. Andy runs off, tripping on the shorts around his ankles.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

SUBTITLE: "Redford Union High School - 1989"

Andy standing by his locker. Melissa and her cheerleader friends walk past.

MELISSA

(to her friends)

(pointing to Andy)

There's Poor Pee Boy. You know he
looks at my boobs the whole hour in
English. It's so degrading.

The kids all laugh. She comes closer to him. She's so close he can smell her. She thrusts her ample chest toward him.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Here, touch them, poor pee boy.

Andy edges away, afraid of her. Afraid of them.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
 (moving closer)
 C'mon, touch them pee boy, touch my
 boobs. Please?

Andy backs away.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
 (pointing down to his
 crotch)
 Look!!! Pee boy's got a little
 erection!!

There is a mixed reaction of laughter and squeals of disgust.
 Andy turns red and runs away, as the kids laugh.

INT. MELISSAS HOME - MORNING

SUBTITLE: "A Former High School Prom Queen - Present Day"

Melissa is now a single mother raising a daughter. The former
 prom queen has been reduced to raising her daughter, by
 herself, living barely above poverty level. Samantha, a
 beautiful six year old, is sitting in the hallway surrounded
 by her clothes.

MELISSA
 C'mon, you're going to be late
 baby.

SAMANTHA
 I hate these clothes. The other
 kids make fun of me.

MELISSA
 I'm sure they don't. I think you're
 exaggerating a little. Six-year-
 olds don't notice clothes.

SAMANTHA
 Yes they do. All the kids wear
 Tommy or Baby Phat. Nobody wears
 clothes from Wal-Mart.

Samantha walks with her head down.

MELISSA
 Some kids wear them or Wal-Mart
 wouldn't sell them.

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Samantha is finally dressed. They walk out and climb into the rusting Taurus. Melissa turns the key. It won't start. Shit. Not again.

SAMANTHA
I guess I'll walk.

INT. RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Andy is at a table reading the file. Brent, the salesman, walks to the table. He startles Andy.

BRENT
If you're not done, I'll come back.

ANDY
No, I was just finishing up.
Please, have a seat.

Brent sits across from Andy and hands him the keys.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Did you eat? Would you like something?

BRENT
No, I just had a sandwich, thanks anyway. The car is all set, I dried it myself. It's beautiful.

ANDY
Yes, it's great. Anything I should I know before I drive it to Michigan?

Brent thinks for a minute.

BRENT
Buy a radar detector and condoms.
It's a magnet for cops and women.

EXT. PORSCHE DEALERSHIP - AFTERNOON

Andy stuffs his duffle bag and briefcase in the passenger seat and slips behind the wheel. The clutch is slowly released and the sleek car rolls out the driveway. And he stalls it. Even the car is embarrassed. He starts it and finally drives away.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

SUBTITLE: "Redford Union High School - 1988"

Andy is walking out the school door when a voice calls to him.

GIRLS VOICE

Andy, wait up.

Andy turns and sees that it's Melissa. He's very confused.

ANDY

I didn't know you knew my name.

MELISSA

Don't be silly. Of course I do.

She's up to something he feels.

ANDY

Usually I'm Pee-boy or geek or hey you.

MELISSA

Those are just nicknames, everyone has them. I didn't realize that it bothered you.

ANDY

Well since this is the first time you've talked to me, you couldn't have know it bothered me.

MELISSA

Well let's forget all that stuff, we are almost graduates now.

ANDY

Uh-huh.

Waiting for the punch line.

MELISSA

I don't know if you heard, but my date can't make it down for the prom. Some fraternity thing. I was wondering if you would mind going with me?

Andy can't believe it.

ANDY

You're kidding right? What's the matter with all the other guys?

MELISSA

They all have their dates already.
Please, I can't miss my own prom.

Her eyes well up, she's almost crying.

ANDY

I don't know. Bobby going with you
guys?

MELISSA

No, we can't stand him either.
Please, will you do it?

She breaks down and cries. Andy relents.

ANDY

Okay. I'll go with you.

Her face brightens.

MELISSA

Really? You'll go?

ANDY

Yea.

She hugs him tightly. He even smiles a little.

MELISSA

That's so great. I'm excited.

ANDY

So what do I do? I've never been to
one.

MELISSA

We are all chipping in on a limo. I
already paid our share. Just rent a
tux and be ready at 7:30. We are
going to cruise around and drink
for a little while before the prom.
Does that sound like something you
want to do?

Andy is genuinely happy, maybe his luck is changing.

ANDY

Yea, sure, that sounds great.

EXT. ANDYS MOMS HOME - EVENING - FLASHBACK

Andy is standing outside his home dressed in a baby blue
colored tux with a corsage.

He keeps looking up and down the street for the limo. Still convinced that it's a trick. Suddenly the limo appears and stops in front of the house. The door opens and to Andy's surprise, Melissa exits the limo.

MELISSA
Are you ready?

ANDY
Yea, I guess.

He's very stiff and unsure.

MELISSA
Come on, liven it up a little.

They climb inside the limo.

INT. LIMO - MOMENTS LATER

The in-crowd greets Andy like they've know him for years.

GUY 1
Here's a beer, Andy, let's get the party started.

The guys all yell and act like teenage guys. Andy takes the beer, open it and takes a swig. He nearly gags, not yet having acquired the taste for beer.

INT. LIMO - LATER

Music plays over the kids partying. Andy is even enjoying himself.

GUY 2
Hey, beers almost gone. We are going to need to get more.

Guy 1 opens the limo divider and talks to the driver. Andy turns to Melissa.

ANDY
Where are we going?

MELISSA
Somewhere in Detroit that sells to anyone with money.

EXT LIQUOR STORE - NIGHT

The limo pulls up to the liquor store in a bad area. People loiter outside the store.

GUY 2

Andy, you're closest to the door,
go grab us a case of Bud.

ANDY

Are you sure they will they sell to
me?

GUY 2

They will sell to anyone with
money. Do you need cash?

Andy is gaining confidence with his new friends.

ANDY

No, I got it.

Andy exits the limo.

EXT. LIQUOR STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Andy walks quickly toward the door. A man speaks.

MAN

Hey man, you got a dollar?

Andy looks down, not wanting a confrontation and walks by him
into the store.

EXT. LIQUOR STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Andy comes out of the door carrying a case of Budweiser. The
limo is gone. The man speaks again.

MAN

I think your friends took off.

Andy just dies inside.

MAN (CONT'D)

Looks like you're not going to be
needing all those beers. Mind if I
grab me one?

Andy is resigned to his fate. He hands the man the entire
case of beer.

MAN (CONT'D)

Thanks man.

EXT. HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON - PRESENT DAY

Andy drives down the highway in his new Porsche, music blaring.

EXT. WHITE BUILDING - DAY

Andy pulls into the underground parking garage to a beautiful white building that has no signs telling us what is inside. He finds a spot and pulls the Porsche in.

INT. WHITE BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Inside the building, Andy is ushered into a large waiting room. The beautiful receptionist knows his name, and speaks to him.

RECEPTIONIST

Good morning Mr. Rogers, Dr. Katzman will be with you in a few minutes.

ANDY

(nervous)
Thank you

RECEPTIONIST

Don't be nervous, it's much easier that an IPO or an SEC inquiry.

Andy laughs at her business jokes. Smart, funny and beautiful. Andy looks at the original oil paintings on the walls. An impressive collection.

Dr. Katzman enters the waiting room.

DR. KATZMAN

Good to see you Andy. Feeling well?

ANDY

Yes, fine, a little nervous, but good.

DR. KATZMAN

That's normal. We'll laser the eyes today and do the nose tomorrow. You should be out of here in four or five days.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Inside the eye doctor's operating room, Andy is undergoing laser surgery to correct his eyesight.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - MORNING

Inside Dr. Katzman's sterile operating room, Andy is undergoing plastic surgery to have his prominent nose done.

INT. RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

Andy is sitting in his recuperating suite, which could pass as a high rollers suite in Las Vegas. He is reading a book about picking up women. His nose is covered with a bandage. He picks up the phone and dials a number.

INT. MARKS OFFICE - DAY

Mark is at his desk.

MARK
TM Computer Associates.

ANDY (O.S.)
Hey Mark.

MARK
Who is this? Andy?

INT. RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

Andy in the suite.

ANDY
Yea, I'm a little bandaged up from the surgery. Everything going okay there?

MARK (O.S.)
Yep, going really good. Got the guys hired. They are killing Cummins.

ANDY
Great.

INT. MARKS OFFICE - DAY

Mark is at his desk.

MARK
When will you be here?

ANDY (O.S.)
About a week. Have to heal a little. Keep me posted.

MARK

Okay, I'll E-mail you updates every day. I'm not sure why you're doing all this, but is it going to be worth all this trouble?

INT. RECOVERY SUITE - DAY

Andy in the suite.

ANDY

It better be, I've been thinking about this for years.

INT. DOCTOR KATZMAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Andy is sitting in a chair while Dr. Katzman is cutting the bandages off. A pretty nurse is standing near, assisting Dr. Katzman. They remove the bandage.

DR. KATZMAN

Looks good.

NURSE

Yes. Very nice work Doctor.

Andy is hopeful.

ANDY

Do I look much different?

NURSE

You remember that girl from "Dirty Dancing" who got her nose done?

ANDY

Yea, no one recognized her. She hasn't worked since.

DR. KATZMAN

It's a big change, you'll like it.

The nurse offers a mirror, but before we see his face...

INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Inside a trendy salon, we see Andy from behind, hair cut into a stylish cut with highlights.

STYLIST

Much better now, I didn't know if we could do it Andy...

ANDY
It looks great, I feel like a new
man...

Shown from the neck down. He pays for the haircut and gives the stylist a \$100 tip.

INT. OPTICAL STORE - DAY

A fancy optical store where Andy is buying sunglasses. His face is still hidden.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY

A fancy jewelry store where Andy is buying a real Rolex. His face is still hidden from us.

INT. CLOTHING STORE DAY

A mens clothing boutique where Andy is buying a new wardrobe with the help of some pretty and anxious saleswomen.

SALESWOMAN 1
Those Gucci pants look fabulous
with that sweater...

He isn't sure about the adoration, but he's getting use to it pretty quick.

SALESWOMAN 2
You are not getting your old
clothes back, they are going right
into the trash...

She throws his clothes in the garbage.

INT. CLOTHING STORE DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Andy is trying on clothes and shoes at a furious pace. Arms reach in with more clothes. One hand pinches his ass. The curtain is opened to reveal a new Andy. His face looks completely different. The nose is in proportion with his face. He is surprisingly handsome.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

At the cash register, Andy is gathering his bags...Saleswoman #2 slips a business card into one of his many bags.

SALESWOMAN 2
(whispering into his ear)
It's got my home number, please
call me.

Andy walks out with a big grin.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER PARKING LOT - LATER

Andy gets to his car and realizes that he can't fit all of his bags in the small car.

The Porsche squealing out of the parking lot, his old duffle bag left on the ground, like a butterfly's discarded cocoon.

EXT. HOTEL BAR -EVENING

In a small, dark hotel bar, Andy is having a beer at a table, contemplating dinner, and going over some notes. The bar isn't crowded, but there is a few people mostly businessmen. The waitress approaches.

WAITRESS

Can I get you another beer?

ANDY

Yes, and the salmon appetizer, please.

WAITRESS

No problem.

Andy looks at his notes. Phillip Cummins file....

INT. CUMMINS OFFICE - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

SUBTITLE: "Cummins Computers Inc. - 1995"

The office is small, intimate. Eight young men sit at computers, typing furiously. A man with huge glasses that make his eyes look like giant insect eyes walks in the room. This is PHIL CUMMINS.

PHIL

May I have your attention please?

The programming comes to a halt. All eyes are on Phil.

PHIL (CONT'D)

It has come to the attention of management, me, that someone here has used the office internet connection to look at dirty pictures. As we all know, this is against company rules.

Phil looks directly at Andy.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Now, I don't want to embarrass the person who visited these sites, one being blondbimbos-dot-com, another being nastysluts-dot-com. Lets just say that we wish to have you men working, not looking at naked women performing unnatural acts. Some with farm animals.

The guys laugh, most looking at Andy.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Andy, I want to see you in my office.

Andy follows Phil into Phil's office.

INT. PHILS OFFICE - DAY

Phil sits in his chair, a little smirk on his face. Andy is obviously pissed about being singled out.

PHIL

Anything you want to say?

Andy is ashamed and pissed off.

ANDY

Everyone here goes on the web. You know that.

PHIL

Not as much as you.

ANDY

I'm not on more than anyone else.

PHIL

I log the sites that each computer visits during the day and the duration. You want the print out?

ANDY

I can't believe you spy on us. That's got to be against the law. It's fascist.

PHIL

No, it's totally within my rights as a business owner. I see everything you do while you are here. I am Big Brother.

Andy sits there.

PHIL (CONT'D)
You have nothing to say?

ANDY
Yes, I need to get back to work.

Phil is steaming, but he needs Andy.

PHIL
One more time, and you're gone. If I need to set an example, I will.

ANDY
That's not fair.

PHIL
Fair is what I say is fair. I'm the boss. I write the checks. Understand?

ANDY
But-

PHIL
(interrupting)
I don't want but's. I want you to work. I want it done now, and I want it done right.

Andy gets defensive.

ANDY
For all I do, I don't get any credit for anything.

Phil stand up, face red.

PHIL
You get the credit I give you. You want more credit, you become the boss.. Right now, you're a goddamn geek who can program. That's all. You're not even that good at it.

Andy is really angry, almost on the verge of tears.

PHIL (CONT'D)
What? Are you going cry?
Christ...get out..

Andy gets up and walks to the door.

PHIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Stay off the porno sites, pervert.

His coworkers laugh as Andy goes to his desk, deletes the program he was working on and walks out the door.

INT. PHILS OFFICE - DAY

SUBTITLE: "Cummins Information Service - Present Day"

Present day. Phil is sitting at his desk, barking orders into the phone, being a complete asshole.

PHIL
I don't care if your kids are sick,
get your ass in here.

He listens.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Then quit, it's your choice. I
don't give a shit. I can find a
million of guys that can program.

He slams the phone down.

The camera pans around the office. There are now three times as many programmers. Business is good. Phil's voice comes over the intercom.

PHIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Jeff to my office.

A man in his 30's gets up and walks to Phil's office.

JEFF
Hey Phil, you wanted to see me?

PHIL
Jeff, made too many errors last
month.

JEFF
I realize that. My son was sick and
my mind wasn't on work. He's doing
better now though.

PHIL
(Uncaring)
I don't need excuses. You cost this
company, my company, money.

JEFF
I'm sorry, it won't happen again.

PHIL
I know it won't. You're fired. Pack
your things and leave the building.

Jeff is in shock.

JEFF
You can't do this. I have a family.
My son has doctor bills.

PHIL
Yes. I'm afraid I can do this. You
should have thought about that
before.

Jeff is furious. Phil is unconcerned.

JEFF
(seething)
You...

Jeff is so pissed he can't talk. Phil just points to the
door. Jeff gets up, a defeated man.

INT. HOTEL BAR - EVENING

Andy puts down the notes and notices a beautiful woman
sitting down at the table next to him. She looks over and
smiles politely.

SUSIE
Hi.

ANDY
How are you?

SUSIE
I'll be glad when this week is
over.

ANDY
Rough week?

SUSIE
Very rough. My son is home sick and
I'm here working. I feel like a
terrible mother.

ANDY
I'm sure his dad is taking good
care of him.

SUSIE
Dad doesn't take care of anything
but himself, that's why I divorced
him. My son is with my mom.

ANDY
Can I buy you a drink?

SUSIE
No, that's okay. Expense account.

She's confident.

ANDY
What do you do?

SUSIE
I'm a corporate trainer. Software.
And you? What are you doing in here
in the middle of nowhere on a
Tuesday night?

ANDY
Going home. Literally. I'm going
back to the Detroit area. for a
while anyway.

SUSIE
From where?

ANDY
San Jose.

SUSIE
Ah, another Silicone Valley
tragedy. Run out of capital?
Underfunded?

Andy smiles shyly.

ANDY
Well, actually we got bought out.

SUSIE
Bought out good or bought out bad?

ANDY
Good, very good.

SUSIE
That's great, a success story. What
did you do?

ANDY
Programming, mainly.

SUSIE
You don't really look like a
programmer, but I guess that's a
bad stereotype, huh?

Andy smiles at the memory of his former self.

ANDY
Not really.

SUSIE
I'm Susie, by the way.

ANDY
You look like a Susie, you know,
kind of perky. I'm Andy.

They shake hands.

SUSIE
Nice to meet you Andy.

ANDY
Nice to meet you Susie.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

At a table, Susie and Andy are finishing a second bottle of wine and sharing some slightly drunken conversation.

SUSIE
So what are you going to do? You
can't just retire at 33. You'll go
crazy.

ANDY
I have some things planned. I
started a small computer company,
maybe some subsidized housing for
the disadvantaged,. After that, I'm
not sure.

A mischievous look in his eyes.

SUSIE
Housing for the disadvantaged?
That's a nice idea. Have some
fun planned somewhere along the
way?

ANDY

Yes, lots of fun. I'm planning some surprises for some special people who have made an impact on my life.

SUSIE

That's great. Some teachers? Old friends?

ANDY

Yes, and a special boss who treated me a little different for everyone else.

An slim devilish smile crosses his face.

SUSIE

I'm sure they will all enjoy seeing you.

ANDY

Yes, something I'm sure they will remember for a long, long time.

They both smile, for obviously different reasons.

ANDY (CONT'D)

You wanna go for a ride?

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MORNING

Hung-over, but feeling great, Andy, a silly grin on his face, is checking out of the hotel.

DESK CLERK

Was everything to your satisfaction sir?

ANDY

Yes, everything was perfect, thank you.

Andy signs the credit card receipt and walks out the door, almost in a daze.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

The Porsche is parked at an odd angle. A bra hangs from the rear view window.

Andy climbs in and starts the car. He tosses the bra out the window. He changes his mind, climbs out, and picks it up.

The Porsche burns rubber out the driveway and squeals the tires when it hits second gear.

INT. PORSCHE - DAY

Driving down a freeway, doing about 90, Andy is on the phone.

ANDY
Hey Mark, I should be in around
6:00 or 7:00 a.m.

INT. MARK'S OFFICE - DAY

MARK
Driving through the night?

ANDY (O.S.)
Yea, it feels good, you know, just
driving, no thinking about work. No
programming. It's nice.

MARK
What are you thinking about?

INT. PORSCHE - DAY

ANDY
All the fun I'm going to have.
What time will you be in the
office?

MARK (O.S.)
I'll be there at 7:00. You know
where it's at, right?

ANDY
Yea, I'll meet you there.

Andy hangs up. The music kicks up and the Porsche goes even faster

EXT. SMALL OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

Andy is asleep in his cramped car. A thud awakens him from a restless sleep. He looks up to find Mark looking at him. Andy exits the car. Mark finally gets a good look at Andy.

MARK
Wow, they really did a job on you.

ANDY
Do I look much different?

MARK

Much? You could have come up to me
anyplace else and I wouldn't have
known you.

Andy Grabs his briefcase

ANDY

Good. That's what I wanted to hear.

They walk into the building.

INT. MARK'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Mark and Andy sit opposite each other at Mark's desk.

MARK

Here are the keys to your
townhouse, everything's been
delivered. Six month lease. Paid in
advance.

Mark hand him the keys.

ANDY

Thanks. How's business?

MARK

Great. Easy to do business when
profit isn't your main motivation.

Andy opens the briefcase and sets the folders on the table.
Melissa's picture falls out. Mark notices.

MARK (CONT'D)

New girlfriend?

ANDY

Have you ever known me to have a
girlfriend?

MARK

Okay, bad question. So who is she?

ANDY

Someone I went to school with.

MARK

You want me to hire her too?

ANDY

No, I'm going to help her in my own
way.

Andy slides Melissa's folder to him.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Remember that cheerleader who
looked down at everyone at school?
The bitch who was the queen of the
school.

Mark picks up the folder.

MARK
Sure, we had one at my school, the
one who had the male teachers
wanting to see what was under that
sweater. I know the type.

ANDY
She's now a divorced woman with a
little girl, a mortgage, a deadbeat
ex-husband, and a eight year old
Taurus.

Andy smiles.

MARK
There's nothing sadder than an ex-
prom queen driving a car that she
wouldn't be caught dead in the back
seat of when she was in high
school. What about her?

ANDY
Made my life hell.

MARK
How did she even notice you?
Usually girls like that don't
notice guys like you that far below
her social circle.

ANDY
I wasn't that far down.

A little indignant.

MARK
Yes you were, I saw the pictures. I
know exactly who you were because I
was you in my high school. I didn't
even rate an insult. Our prom queen
wouldn't know me from Bill Gates.
Why are you going to help her?

ANDY

Who says I'm going to help her?

MARK

What are you going to do?

ANDY

Give her exactly what she's looking for. A single, rich guy to take her away from all her troubles.

MARK

And then?

ANDY

And then leave her worse than she started.

MARK

Wow, that's cold.

ANDY

Tell me you wouldn't want to get even with those assholes who messed with you.

MARK

It does sound pretty appealing.

Andy peeks out at Theresa.

ANDY

Is Theresa she excited?

MARK

Completely. She can't believe the money she's making.

ANDY

Good.

MARK

What did she do to you?

ANDY

Nothing, I have never met her. It's her husband.

MARK

How is hiring her going to piss him off?

ANDY

You'll see. I have to go, a little low income housing foundation needs starting.

MARK

I'm not sure I want to know.

Andy gets up.

ANDY

I need your car, mine's a little - uh - noticeable.

MARK

I've noticed. I forgot something.

Mark reaches in his drawer and pulls out a small box. He hands the box to Andy. Andy opens it and pulls out a business card with the name Andy Gates name on it.

ANDY

Nice.

EXT. VERY NICE NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

Andy pulls up in front of a house in Mark's Volvo. He looks at some papers and looks up, checking the address. He gets out and walks to a house. A woman in her 60's opens the door.

ANDY

Mrs. Heigle?

MRS. HEIGLE

Yes, who are you?

Andy extends a hand.

ANDY

I'm Larry Applewhite. I represent a group of investors that are purchasing homes in the area.

Mrs. Heigle shakes his hand.

MRS. HEIGLE

Really? Why are you purchasing homes in this area?

ANDY

We have a number of rich foreign businessmen and their families who wish to relocate here from their homelands because of recent internal struggles. I'm sure you have heard of their troubles.

She has no idea what he's talking about.

MRS. HEIGLE

Oh, my. Yes, I have.

ANDY

Because they wish to live in the same area, I am authorized to offer you up to twice the market value for your home and an additional \$75,000 for your home furnishings.

Her eyes light up like she's got all sevens on the slots.

MRS. HEIGLE

(very excited)

Why, I'll have to talk to my husband, but I'm sure he will be delighted to sell. You know we have been looking to downsize anyway.

ANDY

Could you be out in a week if I through in an additional \$20,000?

MRS. HEIGLE

Oh, my.

EXT. ANOTHER HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Andy walks up to the door and knocks. A pretty, young woman in her 20's answers the door in a outfit from a local novelty bar/restaurant. A button says "Welcome to O'Shannons"

ANDY

(checking his list)

Mrs. Davis?

YOUNG WOMAN

I'm sorry, The Davis' are on vacation, I'm just here watering plants for them. I live next door.

Andy checks the address book. It can't be. Phil's wife?

ANDY
You are Mrs. Cummins?

YOUNG WOMAN
Close. I'm Mrs. Cummins daughter.

Well little Lisa grew up to be a knockout.

ANDY
(improvising)
Hi Lisa, you just saved me a trip
to your house. I'm doing some
demographic research for marketing
research and would like to ask you
a few questions.

LISA
How did you know my name?

Is he busted? How did he know?

ANDY
(pointing to her chest)
It's on your button

LISA
(slightly embarrassed)
Sorry, forgot I was wearing this,
but I do have to go now. I have to
work in a little while.

ANDY
(smiling)
O'Shannons?

LISA
(smiling back)
The button again, right?

ANDY
Yep.

Andy looks at the outfit and her body for maybe a second too long.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Well, I'll let you go to work now,
Lisa.

LISA
Thanks, good luck with the research
thing.

She closes the door. Wow. What a knockout.

INT. VOLVO - AFTERNOON

Andy is driving the Volvo, talking to Mark on the cell phone.

ANDY

Yes, my venture in real estate went well, I'm buying a house.

(beat)

I'll tell you over drinks, an hour. How about O'Shannons?

EXT. O'SHANNONS - LATER

Andy is in Mark's Volvo waiting for him. The Porsche roars into the parking lot, into the empty spot next to Andy. Mark looks over at Mark and smiles.

They exit the cars and begin walking in.

MARK

Just being in that car changes a guy. I think I'm hard.

ANDY

Yea, it's pretty nice.

MARK

Nice? That's all you can use to describe this beautiful piece of machinery?

ANDY

It's just a car. You put gas in it and it goes.

Mark is appalled.

MARK

You don't deserve that car.

ANDY

Did you stall it?

Mark is ashamed.

MARK

Twice.

INT. O'SHANNONS - MOMENTS LATER

Typical chain restaurant/bar. Cute servers, decent-but-bland food. Andy is looking around, searching for Lisa. Andy spots Lisa serving a group of people drinks. She is smiling and joking with the customers. Andy talks to the hostess.

ANDY
(pointing toward LISA)
We'd like a table over there, near
the window.

The hostess grabs a couple menus and leads them to their
table. They sit.

MARK
Why are we here? I wanted a good
steak and a cigar, not buffalo
wings and single administrative
assistants.

ANDY
(pointing to LISA)
Her.

MARK
Who?

ANDY
(pointing)
The waitress right there.

MARK
I believe they are called servers
these days.

ANDY
I wasn't aware there was a
difference.

Mark is looking at her.

MARK
Cute. Who is she?

ANDY
Phil Cummin's daughter. I met her
this morning when I was house
shopping.

MARK
Phil your ex-boss? You were trying
to buy Phil's house?

ANDY
No, his neighbors' house.

MARK
Why?

ANDY

So college students will have a few places to study or unwind a little after school.

MARK

I see.

LISA comes to the table.

LISA

What can I get you guys?

She recognizes Andy and smiles.

LISA (CONT'D)

Hi, did you get all your research done?

ANDY

Yes, I did thank you.

LISA

That's good, sorry I couldn't help, you know, job and everything.

Andy smiles.

ANDY

I'll have a Labatts.

MARK

Two.

Lisa smiles brightly at both of them.

LISA

Two Labatts. I'll be right back.

She turns and leaves. Mark's eyes follow her ass.

MARK

Research?

ANDY

She was at a neighbor's house, I had to make something up.

MARK

Now about the house.

ANDY
 About the houses. Well, Phil is a complete fanatic about his house, his lawn, everything.

EXT. PHILS HOME - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

SUBTITLE: "Years earlier..."

Old Andy is standing on Phil's porch waiting for Phil. He watches some young boys playing baseball in the street. Phil comes out of the house as the ball lands on his perfectly manicured lawn. He rushes out the grab the ball.

PHIL
 (screaming, almost foaming)
 THAT'S IT!!!! IT'S MY BALL!!!!

The boys cower in fear.

PHIL (CONT'D)
 I told you. STAY OFF MY LAWN!!!!

Andy can just look in amazement at Phil's outburst. Phil runs out and grabs the ball. He walks back with an evil grin on his red face.

PHIL (CONT'D)
 Little bastards.

INT. O'SHANNONS - MOMENTS LATER - PRESENT DAY

Andy and Mark are at the table.

ANDY
 I'm going to turn the house into a party house.

MARK
 Sounds fun, but how are you going to get people to come to a party to someone's house that they don't know?

ANDY
 Just like fishing, got to use the right bait.

MARK
 Which is?

ANDY
 Alcohol and music.

Mark is impressed and maybe a little worried.

MARK

What's your plan with her?

He nods to Lisa.

ANDY

Plan? Nothing.

A smirk comes across his face.

MARK

You must have something in mind,
you wouldn't have come here...

ANDY

I don't know. Do you think it's
overkill messing with his daughter?

Mark picks up the menu.

MARK

Overkill is spending a few hundred
thousand on a house just to piss
him off.

Andy shrugs.

ANDY

Yea, but I'll get some of the money
back when I sell it. How's Phil's
business?

MARK

Dwindling at an alarming rate.
It's not a hard sell, though,
Cummins has been overcharging them,
and the service isn't the best.
They were really understaffed. I'm
paying a guy to work there and
slide me information.

ANDY

Damn, that's a great move.

MARK

Possibly illegal too, but I haven't
checked into that.

Lisa appears with their beers.

LISA
Two of Canada's finest. Anything
else, guys?

ANDY
Not sure yet.

LISA
OK, I'll check back in a little
bit.

She turns and walks away. Both guys watch her shapely ass.

MARK
I think she likes you.

ANDY
(laughing)
I think she's a little out of my
league. She's smart, funny,
beautiful.

MARK
You're right, she's in my league.

ANDY
And probably has a boyfriend.

INT. O'SHANNONS - LATER

Lisa is taking away their dinner plates.

LISA
You guys all set? Another beer?
Dessert?

ANDY
No, I'm good, thanks.

MARK
I'm good, stuffed.

LISA
Can't take all the excitement here?

The guys smile at her.

MARK
Where do you go for excitement?

LISA
Usually the library.

ANDY
What are you studying?

LISA
Getting my masters in education.

MARK
That must keep you busy, bet your
boyfriend hates that you can't
spend much time with him.

LISA
No boyfriend. The last one was
tired of competing with school. He
lost.

Andy gets up.

ANDY
Please excuse me.

Andy goes to the bathroom.

MARK
Would you mind if I ask you a
personal question?

LISA
Sure as long as it's not about a
part of my anatomy.

Cute and funny.

MARK
Would you like to go out for coffee
sometime?

LISA
I don't drink coffee, but I love a
cold beer.

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATER

Andy and Mark are leaving O'Shannons. The parking lot is
partially full. Mark throws Andy the keys.

ANDY
Do you mind driving the Porsche?
Lisa saw me in your Volvo and I
don't want her to see me in my car.
I don't think she'd believe a
marketing man would drive a
Porsche.

MARK
Sure, but you owe me.

Andy tosses the keys back.

ANDY
Thanks for understanding.

MARK
Going home?

ANDY
Have a stop to make first, then
home.

EXT. CORNER BAR - EVENING

Andy is sitting in the Volvo studying the file on Bobby. There is a picture of his boss, KEN TRELAC. Ken is a painfully skinny man in his 40's. Not exactly the picture of health.

ANDY
(to himself)
Okay, Ken Trelac, bookie's name is
Big Alan. No last name.

Andy walks into the corner bar.

INT. CORNER BAR - NIGHT

It's very smoky, noisy. Typical blue-collar bar. Mostly men sit at the bar watching a ball game on TV, a few are scattered at tables. Others play pool or darts. Andy looks around then sits at an empty seat at the end of the bar with the best view of the entire bar. A bartender comes over.

BARTENDER
What can I get ya?

ANDY
Beer, Labatts.

The bartender walks away. Andy surveys the bar, looking for Ken. Not there yet. A loud voice comes from the pool tables. Andy looks over. It's Bobby who is there playing pool. The bartender brings his beer, and takes the money. A voice from behind him speaks.

KEN
Anyone sitting here?

Andy turns to face KEN. He looks like his picture, tall, painfully skinny, with a cigarette hanging out of his mouth.

ANDY
No, nobody sitting here.

KEN
OK, thanks. Hey Billy, can I get a
Bud?

The bartender, Billy, brings Andy's change and Kens beer.

KEN (CONT'D)
Who's winning?

ANDY
Not sure, just got here myself.

They watch the game in almost silence, except for the urging,
moans and groans from Ken, who has bet a bundle on the game.

KEN
Shit, I can't believe I'm having
this fucking year.

ANDY
Losing your shirt?

KEN
Shirt, pants, my whole fucking
wardrobe.

ANDY
Damn, that sucks.

KEN
Fuckin' Tigers. Never have any
pitching.

ANDY
(softly)
Big Alan still hassling you?

Ken turns.

KEN
What?

Ken is not sure he heard him right.

ANDY
I said is Big Al still fucking with
you?

Ken looks at Andy, sizing him up.

KEN

You're too small to be collecting money, look too clean to owe him money. What do you know about the Big Alan, and what do you know about me?

Andy sits quietly, looking at Ken. A tense minute later.

ANDY

You owe the bank a load on your house, and owe Big Al over \$15,000 and the interest is killing you.

Ken looks at Andy.

ANDY (CONT'D)

You're a supervisor at Moore Machine Engineering and make about thirty-five grand a year.

KEN

So who the fuck are you? A cop? Fed?

ANDY

No, I'm not anything like that.

Ken takes a drink.

KEN

So what do you want?

ANDY

I'm the guy who's going to pay off your debts. If you want me to help you.

KEN

So what, now I owe you. I fail to see how this is going to help me.

ANDY

It will. You aren't going to pay me back with money. You're going to do something for me.

Ken laughs.

KEN

What the fuck? Do I have to kill someone?

ANDY
No, nothing illegal.

KEN
Hey, I ain't gay. I ain't doing any
strange sex shit with you.

ANDY
I'm not asking you to do anything
sexual. Don't flatter yourself.

Ken is more at ease.

ANDY (CONT'D)
All you have to do is fire someone.

KEN
Who?

ANDY
Robert Healy.

Andy points to him over playing pool.

KEN
Bobby? Hell, I'll do it tomorrow.
When do I get the money?

ANDY
He can't know I paid you to fire
him. You have to find a reason.
Make something up, I don't care. If
he doesn't get fired, or finds out,
I will buy Moore Machine
Engineering and close the place.

KEN
You can do that?

ANDY
Tomorrow if i want.

Andy is dead serious and it shows.

KEN
No problem.

ANDY
And I'm only paying the interest
until I know he's gone and until I
know he doesn't know. I don't want
you two cutting a deal.

Andy is surprised how easily he slips into this role.

KEN
He don't mean that much to me.

Andy is watching Bobby play pool.

ANDY
Is he any good?

KEN
At his job?

ANDY
Pool.

KEN
He's pretty good, thinks he's
better than he really is.

INT. BAR - AT THE POOL TABLE

Bobby is strutting around, enjoying beating the guy.

INT. BAR - AT THE BAR

ANDY
Does he always act like an asshole?

KEN
Pretty much. It's even worse when
he's trying to show off for a
woman.

ANDY
But he's married.

KEN
Not after a few beers, he's not.

INT. BAR - AT THE POOL TABLE

Bobby is waving a five dollar bill around, enjoying his win,
browbeating the loser.

BOBBY
Damn, you suck. Why do you bother
to bet money?

INT. BAR - AT THE BAR

ANDY
Still a fucking asshole.

Andy reaches his hand in his pocket and peels off a couple
off hundred dollar bills. He tosses them in front of Ken.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Here, a little bonus.

Ken grabs them and quickly puts them in his pocket, nervously looking around.

EXT. MERCEDES DEALERSHIP - MORNING

Andy is walking around looking at cars.

ANDY
So what does Melissa usually do
right after work?

INT. MARKS OFFICE - MORNING

Mark is seated at his desk talking on the phone.

MARK
(reading a report)
Picks up her daughter from the
sitter, then grocery shopping, or
fast food for dinner. Where are
you?

EXT. MERCEDES DEALERSHIP - MORNING

Andy is walking around the lot looking at cars.

ANDY
Mercedes dealer. How should I
approach her?

MARK (O.S.)
I don't know, you knew her. What
was she like?

ANDY
I didn't know her at all. She gave
me a hard time in school, but I
never knew her personally. All I
knew was what a bitch she was to
me. I don't know how to meet a
woman with a kid. What do you say
to them?

He stops at a nice S500.

INT. MARKS OFFICE - MORNING

Mark is seated at his desk talking on the phone.

MARK

Maybe flatter her or something.
Give the kid some candy.

ANDY (O.S.)

Yea, sure, she'll think I'm a child molester or something.

MARK

I have complete faith in your ability to pick her up. She's broke and lonely. Which one are you getting?

EXT. MERCEDES DEALERSHIP - MORNING

Andy is walking around the lot looking at cars.

ANDY

I just don't know if I can be convincing enough. I think it's going to be hard to fake interest in her. Maybe the S55 AMG Sedan.

MARK

You'll be alright. She's got to be lonely. Nice choice on the S55, but the mileage isn't very good.

ANDY

It's okay, I'm not really worried about the mileage.

MARK

Mind if I keep the Porsche a little longer?

ANDY

No problem. I feel a little funny driving it.

MARK

That funny feeling is called testosterone.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Andy is waiting out in the parking lot of the building Melissa works in. He sees her get into her aging sedan. She starts it and pulls out.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Andy follows close behind. She stops at a house and goes inside. She comes out with her daughter. Andy follows them to a Walmart.

INT. WALMART - BOOKS - MOMENTS LATER

Andy is following them at a safe distance.

SAMANTHA

Mommy, can I get this book?

Melissa looks at the price tag. It's too much.

MELISSA

I'm sorry honey, not this week..

SAMANTHA

I never get anything.

Melissa and Samantha walk away. Andy picks up the book she wanted and puts them in his basket.

INT. WALMART - CLOTHES - MOMENTS LATER

Melissa is looking through sale jeans for Samantha. Andy moves closer, looking at the jeans also.

MELISSA

You need new jeans, go try these on.

SAMANTHA

I don't like them, they're not cool.

MELISSA

Sam, jeans are jeans, go try them on.

SAMANTHA

Mom, nobody wears these. They all wear Tommy Girl or Polo or Baby Phat.

MELISSA

Little girls do not need sixty dollar jeans that they will outgrow in six months.

SAMANTHA

But Mom.

Andy smiles at them. Melissa notices Andy standing there watching them.

ANDY

I'm sorry, but watching you and your daughter reminded me of my sister and her daughter. I miss them and watching you two made me feel a little homesick.

This relaxes Melissa a little.

MELISSA

Where are you from?

ANDY

California.

MELISSA

Are you here on business?

ANDY

No, I'm here for good.

MELISSA

By choice? Who leaves California to come here?

ANDY

Yes, I knew some people in the computer business here that needed a hand. So now I'm a business owner.

MELISSA

God if I was in California, I'd never come back here. Sun, sand.

ANDY

I missed the change of seasons.

MELISSA

Hard to take that nice weather all the time?

ANDY

Something like that.

MELISSA

What does your company do?

ANDY

We do computer repairs, custom programming, networks. Just about anything computer related.

MELISSA

Business doing well?

ANDY

Yep. Pretty good, very good actually. Everybody needs their computers working.

SAMANTHA

Us too, our computer is broke again.

Andy looks down at her.

ANDY

Well, I will just have to do something about that then, won't I?

MELISSA

That's okay, we don't have the money to get it fixed right now.

ANDY

(handing her a business card)

Here. I have some new technicians that I need to test. No charge to you. As a matter of fact, you would be doing me a favor.

MELISSA

I don't even know your name, I'm Melissa and this is Samantha.

ANDY

Andy R...Gates, no relation. Nice to meet you, Melissa, Samantha.

He almost slips up but catches himself. Melissa smiles for the first time. Melissa is still wary. Is this a scam?

SAMANTHA

Please, Mommy, I need it for my homework.

MELISSA

You sure it won't cost anything?

ANDY
Nothing at all.

Melissa looks at Sam and Andy. She's got nothing to lose, the computer is dead anyway.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Call me tomorrow. I'll arrange to have it picked up.

MELISSA
I guess there's no harm in trying.

ANDY
Like I said, you're doing me a favor. I appreciate it.

Melissa smiles for the first time.

MELISSA
Great, I'll call you tomorrow.

SAMANTHA
Thank you.

MELISSA
We have to go now, thank you again.

Andy watches them go.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Mark and Lisa are seated at a table in a very nice restaurant. They are both enjoying a nice bottle of wine.

LISA
So why aren't you married, doing the corporate law-firm thing?

MARK
I don't like to work for anybody.

LISA
All lawyers work for someone. Somebody pays them.

She takes a sip.

MARK
True, I guess what I meant was that I don't want some senior partner pressuring me to bill hours so he can retire to Miami a few years early.

LISA

Did law pay for that Porsche?
Perhaps a gift from Daddy or an
appreciative drug defendant?

MARK

Law did. I have a old college
classmate who I did some work for.
I got stock instead of cash and
they got bought out.

LISA

I thought it would be more
intriguing, like a drug dealing
defendant had to pay you with the
car because he had his cash seized.
Maybe the proceeds from a bitter
divorce.

MARK

No, just a lucky business deal.
More wine?

LISA

Yes, please.

Mark pours her another glass.

MARK

What about your family? What do
they do?

LISA

My dad owns a computer business.
They sell systems and do support,
custom programming.

MARK

Why aren't you in the family
business?

LISA

As much as I love my dad, I could
never work for him. He can be
rather.....abrasive.

MARK

Sometimes bosses have to be that
way to run a business.

LISA

I guess, he's had a hard life. His
dad died when he was very young.
Him and my grandma were very poor.
(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

That's what drives him to succeed.
He thinks a man is a failure if he
doesn't have money.

MARK

Well money isn't everything.

LISA

(flirtatiously)

Says the man driving the obscenely
expensive Porsche.

He smiles. Quite a woman.

INT. PHIL'S HOUSE - LATER

Mark and Lisa are on the porch after their date.

LISA

Come in for a drink?

MARK

Sure. I'd like to meet your
parents.

LISA

They turn in pretty early. Maybe
another time.

They walk into the living room. Mark sits while Lisa walks to
the kitchen.

LISA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Beer good?

MARK

Perfect.

Lisa walks back in carrying two beers. She hands Mark one.

MARK (CONT'D)

Thank you.

LISA

Thank you for dinner.

They lean in and kiss.

INT. ANDYS CAR - SAME TIME

Andy is watching them on his handheld computer.

INT. TM COMPUTER ASSOCIATES - MORNING

Andy is sitting at his desk. Mark walks into Andy's office, very happy after the date.

ANDY

Let me guess. A great date that ended up with a some serious kissing and what I believe to be second base last night.

Mark is floored. How the hell did he know that? Andy laughs. He hits a few keys on the keyboard.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Come here.

Mark goes over to the computer. He sees Phil's living room, kitchen and living room, all live on the computer. He's slightly pissed, but impressed nonetheless.

MARK

I didn't see that.

An assistant rings in.

ASSISTANT

Andy, Melissa Whisby on line two.

ANDY

Thank you

Andy picks up the phone and pushes line two.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Good morning Melissa, how are you?

INT. MELISSAS HOUSE - MORNING

Melissa is sitting on her bed getting ready for work.

MELISSA

I'm good thanks. Still want to repair my computer?

ANDY

Absolutely. I'm going to bring you a loaner to use while yours is being repaired.

MELISSA

You don't need to. We have gone this long without it. We can go a little longer.

ANDY

It's standard procedure. We do it with all our customers. What is your address and when will you be home?

MELISSA

I'm home every night after 6. 4480 Negaunee. Redford.

INT. TM COMPUTER ASSOCIATES - MORNING

Andy at his desk.

ANDY

Great, someone will be there tonight to deliver and set up your loaner and pick up your computer.

MELISSA

I really appreciate this. Thank you again for your kindness.

Andy is a little shocked by the genuine appreciation in her voice.

EXT PARTY HOUSE - LATER

Andy is closing on the house. Andy, the former owners and the agent are busy signing paperwork. Most of the furniture is still there, but the house has no personal items. A check and a handshake complete the deal.

INT. ELECTRONIC STORE - AFTERNOON

Andy is walking around in a large electronic store with two laptop computers in his arms. He stops at some huge speakers. A salesman approaches him.

SALESMAN

Hi, can I help you?

ANDY

I think you can. I like loud music. Real loud.

SALESMAN

Loud, like feel-the-floors loud?

ANDY

No. Loud like annoy-the-neighbors-three-blocks-away loud. You have anything like that?

The salesman smiles.

SALESMAN

I think I can help you.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - DAY

Andy is in the attic with one of the new laptop computers. He is clicking along furiously, slowing to look at some papers next to him. He stops typing and looks very happy. The camera pans around to show the computer screen. The four cameras in Phil's house are working perfectly. Andy can even control the cameras from the keyboard.

INT. NICE DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Andy is in the girls section. He is looking at girls jeans and cannot believe the price. He walks up to the register and buys them anyway.

INT. NICE LIQUOR STORE - AFTERNOON

Andy walks into a large beer and wine store. He walks up to a man with a clipboard behind the counter.

ANDY

Excuse me? Are you the manager?

The man turns to face Andy.

MANAGER

Yes, how may I help you?

ANDY

My company is going to be having some parties and am going to need some alcohol. A lot of alcohol.

MANAGER

How many people are you expecting to attend?

ANDY

I'm not sure, five or six hundred maybe.

MANAGER

Wow, quite a lot of people. You'll need a variety of wines, liquor, mixers, beer. Did you want to go economy, mid or top shelf.

ANDY

No wine, just lots of liquor and beer.

MANAGER

For that many people, you'll probably need a 12 or 15 kegs of beer. Any preference on what kind?

ANDY

Nope, lots of shot glasses too.

MANAGER

Any specific liquor? Premium?

ANDY

Whatever is popular now, vodkas, the stuff college kids do shots of now.

MANAGER

Jagermeister and Red Bull is a very popular drink. Flavored vodkas. When are you going to need all of this?

ANDY

I need it Friday, is that going to be a problem?

MANAGER

No, I can put in an order today. It will be here early Friday morning. I'll need a deposit.

ANDY

No problem. Can you deliver it?

MANAGER

Yes, but its extra.

ANDY

That's okay, put it on this credit card.

He hands the manager a credit card.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Keep the number on file. I want a new delivery of everything every Friday.

The manager is a little shocked, but happy.

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Andy pulls up in front of Melissa's house. He is still driving Mark's Volvo. It is a small home, but well-kept. The neighborhood is in a bad part of the city. He pulls up and takes a new laptop in it's box and a bag from the back seat. He walks up to the front door. Samantha comes to the door.

ANDY

Hi Samantha, how are you?

SAMANTHA

Hi.

(yelling to Melissa)

Mommy, it's that computer guy from Wal-Mart.

Melissa walks to the door. She opens the door and ushers him in. The house is small but well-kept.

MELISSA

Hi, I didn't expect you to show up personally. I thought one of your guys would come pick it up.

ANDY

Well, I had other things to bring over, too.

He holds up a bag.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Remember when I was telling you about my niece in California, well I was so touched by seeing you two together, I wanted to. Well-

Andy doesn't know how to explain the bag.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Do you mind?

MELISSA

What is it?

ANDY

A few things I picked up. Can I?

Melissa is unsure.

MELISSA

I guess it's okay.

Andy hands the bag to Samantha.

ANDY
 (to Samantha)
 Here...these are for you.

Samantha opens the bag and is amazed at all the things. Its the jeans and books that she wanted.

SAMANTHA
 Mommy, look!! Baby Phat jeans!!

MELISSA
 (warily)
 Were you following us in the store?

Andy is genuinely embarrassed.

ANDY
 I wasn't at first, but I missed my niece so much, watching Samantha made me feel so much better. It's the least I could do.

Melissa seems more at ease with this explanation. Andy picks up the computer box. Time to change the subject.

ANDY (CONT'D)
 Here's your loaner computer. Like a quick course on it?

He starts taking it out of the box.

MELISSA
 No, I think I can figure it out.

ANDY
 Are you sure?

MELISSA
 Yep, I'm the go-to girl at work about these things.

ANDY
 Have you guys eaten dinner?

SAMANTHA
 Not yet, we couldn't figure out what we were going to eat.

MELISSA
 Would you like to join us for dinner?

ANDY

Well, I was hoping you would join me for dinner.

Melissa isn't sure.

SAMANTHA

Wow, I love to go out to dinner...where are we going?

ANDY

Anywhere your Mom wants.

Melissa smiles. She doesn't have this opportunity often.

SAMANTHA

Mommy, can we go to Chuckie Cheeses?

MELISSA

Honey, I don't think Mr. Gates wants to go to a children's restaurant for dinner.

ANDY

Andy. Please. Anywhere is fine with me. What's a Chuckie Cheeses?

SAMANTHA

It's a wonderful place, with games, and everything. It's my favorite place in the world.

Andy smiles at her beaming face. The icing melts a little.

ANDY

Then I think we should go there, Samantha.

INT. CHUCKIE CHEESE - EVENING

Andy and Melissa are having plastic cups of beer and watch Samantha play. Melissa catches him watching.

MELISSA

You're enjoying this, I can tell. How come you're not married with kids yet?

Melissa is right, Andy is enjoying watching Samantha play.

ANDY

Never found the time or the right woman. I spent most of my 20's hunched over a computer.

MELISSA

I wish I had, instead of getting married right after high school. But then I wouldn't have her.

They watch Samantha.

ANDY

Where's her father?

MELISSA

Hard to say, last time she got a letter, he was in Colorado. I've given up trying to get any support from him. It's hard on her though, Daddy can't do anything wrong in her eyes.

ANDY

That's too bad, I'm sorry.

Samantha comes up to them.

SAMANTHA

Mommy, I'm all out of tokens.

MELISSA

Sorry, babe, no more money.

SAMANTHA

Awwwwww

Andy reaches into his pocket and pulls out a five dollar bill. He hands it to Samantha.

ANDY

Here, go have fun.

Samantha smiles brightly.

SAMANTHA

Thank you!!

Samantha runs off.

MELISSA

You didn't need to do that.

ANDY

I know I didn't, but it makes me feel great watching her have fun.

MELISSA

I don't want pity. We are doing okay just by ourselves. I can't give her everything she wants, but, who gets everything they want?

Silence. She's a proud woman.

ANDY

So what were you like in high school?

MELISSA

Me? I don't know. Not many people liked me, I don't think.

ANDY

That's surprising, you look like the popular type.

MELISSA

I don't think I treated people very nice. I was a cheerleader, popular..you know...

ANDY

I know the type.

More than she knows.

MELISSA

What about you? You look like you were a jock, baseball maybe?

Andy smiles.

ANDY

The closest I got to a baseball was getting them thrown at me in gym class. I was the computer geek. I had one date in high school and it ended very badly.

He takes a sip of beer.

MELISSA

Lucky you. I had to fight off high school football player's hands every Friday and Saturday night.

Andy laughs.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Now all those guys who were the big shots are thirty pounds overweight, sitting at the bar, reliving those high days. Do you miss high school?

ANDY

Not in the slightest. It was the worst time of my life. I think that's a reason I never wanted to have children because I didn't want them to go through what I went through.

MELISSA

Was it really that bad?

ANDY

Sure was. Got beat up, laughed at, it was terrible. What about you? Do you miss high school?

MELISSA

I guess in a way I do. But I traded an education for a social life. I didn't do as well as I could have. Instead of studying and going to college, I wanted to have fun.

ANDY

Was high school the high point of your life?

She pauses. He's hit a vulnerable spot.

MELISSA

I guess. I had lots of friends. I was homecoming queen and everyone thought I had it made. But I didn't. I had the same problems everyone else had. I was insecure, I had my own troubles. I just hid them like most teenagers.

ANDY

Hard to believe someone with your self-confidence would have been insecure.

MELISSA

This isn't self-confidence. It's life.

(MORE)

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I won't let Sam make the same mistakes. She's going to study and go to college.

Andy looks at her with respect.

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - LATER

Andy is carrying Samantha into the house.

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

She's asleep on his shoulder. Andy lays her in her bed. He touches her head

SAMANTHA

(still sleeping)

G'night Daddy.

A chill runs down Andy spine, just hearing those words....

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Andy and Melissa walk to the living room. They both start to speak.

	ANDY		MELISSA
Would..		Tha...	

They laugh.

MELISSA

Go ahead.

ANDY

No, you go first.

MELISSA

You go.

ANDY

Would you like to do this again?

MELISSA

Yes, I would, but I'd like to cook for you, I don't see you cooking up a home cooked meal for yourself very often.

ANDY

I would like that very much.

MELISSA

Good, when would you like to join us?

ANDY

What's today? Tuesday? How about Thursday? They should have your computer done. I'll deliver it and make sure everything is working.

MELISSA

That sounds good, Samantha will be excited.

Andy picks up the computer and leaves with a smile on his face. A smile that scares him a little.

INT. PHIL'S COMPUTER PLACE - DAY

Phil is working at his desk, going over some numbers. He looks around then slides a finger up his nose.

INT. ANDY'S CAR - SAME TIME

Andy is watching Phil on his PDA. He laughs at Phil's finger in his nose.

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Music plays over Andy having dinner at Melissa's house. They are having fun, enjoying each other's company.

INT. PHIL'S COMPUTER PLACE - MORNING

Phil is working at his desk, clearly frustrated. The phone rings. Phil answers it.

PHIL

Cummins Information Systems
 (he listens)
 yes Mr. Ashley, I know you
 (he listens)
 If you give me a couple days, I
 will have someone out there

Phil is left holding a dead line. Another customer is gone. A young man knocks on his door.

ED

Hey Phil.

PHIL

What do you want? Aren't you suppose to be working?

Ed sits in the chair across from Phil.

ED
Phil, I'm leaving, I got another offer.

Phil stands up.

PHIL
(angry)
You're leaving? After all the things I've done for you, you're going to fuck me. You ungrateful prick. When is your last day?

Phil gets up and walks toward the door before turning around.

ED
It was going to be two weeks from today, but I think it was yesterday. Consider the four hours I worked today as my gift to you, bitch.

Ed walks out. Phil picks up a stapler and throws it against the wall. He grabs his chest and reaches for his heart medicine.

INT. SEAFOOD RESTAURANT - EVENING

Andy, Melissa and Samantha are having dinner at a seafood restaurant. Andy is looking over the menu while the waiter waits for him to order.

ANDY
I'll have the grilled chicken and wild rice.

The waiter writes down the order.

WAITER
Thank you.

He takes the menus and leaves.

MELISSA
You don't like fish?

ANDY
I like fish, I just like to watch them swim around in a tank.

Samantha laughs.

SAMANTHA

I had a goldfish, but he died.

ANDY

I'm sorry to hear that.

SAMANTHA

It happens.

Andy smiles at this precious little girl.

INT. ANDYS CAR - EVENING

Andy, Melissa and Samantha are going home after having dinner. The car is very quiet.

MELISSA

Who needs some music?

SAMANTHA

I do.

MELISSA

Any CD's?

ANDY

I'm afraid not.

Melissa turns on the radio. Static. She pushes the buttons. None of the stations are programmed.

MELISSA

You don't like music?

ANDY

I don't really listen to music much. I don't know anything popular.

MELISSA

Sam and I will have to make you one, some good music.

ANDY

That would be great.

Samantha smiles in the back seat.

INT. UPSCALE POOL HALL - EVENING

Andy and Investigator Bob walk into the pool hall. They walk around, watching the players. He sees a crowd of people watching a game. Investigator Bob points to a woman surrounded by people watching a game in progress.

INVESTIGATOR BOB
That's her. She's damn good.

Andy looks through the maze of people and sees an attractive woman playing. She is good. Really good. She beats the man soundly. The crowd leaves. Andy makes his way over to her.

ANDY
That was very impressive. You should give lessons.

SARAH
Actually, I do give lessons. Fifty bucks an hour.

ANDY
So you're a professional.

SARAH
Yes, need a lesson?

ANDY
Actually, I want you to teach someone else a lesson.

SARAH
A gift for someone?

ANDY
Something like that.

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A knock on the door. Samantha opens it to find Andy standing there with his hands behind his back. She's excited to see him.

SAMANTHA
Hi Andy!

ANDY
Sammy!! How are you cutie?

She blushes at his comment.

SAMANTHA
Mommy, Andy's here.

MELISSA (O.S.)
Well let him in, silly.

She opens the door, trying to look behind his back.

ANDY
Hey, don't peek!

She laughs.

SAMANTHA
Is it for me?

ANDY
Maybe...

SAMANTHA
What is it?

She giggles. Melissa comes in.

MELISSA
What are you two laughing about?

SAMANTHA
Andy has something and he won't let
me see what it is.

Melissa looks at Andy: I hope you didn't bring her anything
else.

ANDY
It's nothing big.

He gives her a fish bowl with two goldfish swimming happily.
Samantha squeals with delight. Melissa smiles.

SAMANTHA
Can I keep them Mommy?

MELISSA
I can't say no now.

Andy gets a mock glare from Melissa.

SAMANTHA
What should I name them?

ANDY
I always name my fish after people
I like and admire.

SAMANTHA
Let's see. I like my kindergarden
teacher so I'll call this one Ms.
Hoff.

MELISSA
What about the other?

She thinks about this.

SAMANTHA
His name is Andy.

She smiles broadly. Andy is touched.

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - LATER

Andy and Melissa are watching TV on her couch, holding each other.

MELISSA
Can I get you anything?

ANDY
No, I'm good.

A noise from the hall. Samantha appears.

SAMANTHA
Mommy, I can't sleep. I need a story.

Melissa gets up.

MELISSA
Sure honey.

SAMANTHA
Can Andy read it to me?

Melissa turns to Andy who smiles.

ANDY
I'd love to read you a story.

Samantha smiles a huge smile.

EXT. STREET, COLLEGE DORMS, BARS - DAY

Andy is passing out flyers, advertising parties at the house he bought. Handing them out on college campuses.

INT. PHIL'S HOUSE - LATER

Mark and Lisa are on the porch after another date. They enter the house.

LISA
Staying for a drink?

Mark looks around for the camera.

MARK

No, I have to be in court in the morning.

INT. MOORE MACHINE - MORNING

Bobby is standing by his press, sipping coffee, not working. The P.A. system sounds.

P.A.

Bobby to the office, please.

Bobby hears this and rolls his eyes. Then starts off to the office.

INT. KENS OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Ken is sitting at his messy desk. Bobby walks through the door.

BOBBY

Yo, what's up? I'm not being productive sitting in here.

Bobby flops down in a chair across from Ken.

KEN

You haven't been very productive at all lately, Bobby. They are letting you go.

Bobby is floored. He can't believe it.

BOBBY

You're shittin' me. What the fuck? I work hard every day.

KEN

Wasn't my call.

BOBBY

This is fucking bullshit.

Bobby stands. Ken holds up an envelope.

KEN

Sorry Bob. Please clean out your locker. I have your last check for you right here. They decided to pay you for the entire week, if you don't make this hard.

Bobby reaches for the check. Ken pulls it back.

KEN (CONT'D)
 I'll bring it to you in the parking
 lot when you're through cleaning
 out your locker.

INT. TM COMPUTER ASSOCIATES OFFICE - MORNING

Theresa is working at her desk. Her phone rings.

THERESA
 Good morning, this is Theresa.

BOBBY (O.S.)
 (offscreen)
 They fired me. I don't have a job.

THERESA
 What happened? What did you do?

BOBBY (O.S.)
 (offended)
 I didn't do anything, they just
 fired me.

THERESA
 They had to fire you for some
 reason, what did they say?

Mark calls Theresa. Bobby is still talking to her.

THERESA (CONT'D)
 I have to go now, Mark needs me.

BOBBY (O.S.)
 I'm talking to you right now.

THERESA
 We can talk later. Things will be
 fine, I'm making more than you were
 anyway.

BOBBY (O.S.)
 (pissed at that statement)
 Yes, I remember.

She hears something in the background. Pool balls crashing
 against each other.

INT. CORNER BAR - DAY

Bobby at a pay phone at the bar.

THERESA (O.S.)
 Where are you?

BOBBY
Having a beer. It's been a rough
day, I need to relax.

THERESA (O.S.)
It's not even eleven o'clock.

BOBBY
So? It's not like I have anything
to do.

THERESA (O.S.)
You can get home and start the
dinner, do some washing.

BOBBY
I don't know how to do that stuff.

He takes a big drink of beer.

THERESA (O.S.)
Come on, Bob, help me a little.

He looks over at the pool tables and is waved over.

BOBBY
Got to go honey, my game.

THERESA (O.S.)
Bob, don't -

Bobby hangs up on her and walks away.

INT. TM COMPUTER ASSOCIATES OFFICE - MORNING

Theresa is working at her desk. She slams down the phone.

THERESA
Asshole.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Andy is in the party house. A knock on the door. Andy walks
over and opens it. It is a young man, JEREMY, 23. He is
carrying a clipboard.

JEREMY
I have a delivery out in the truck.

Andy look out at the van. The liquor and beer.

ANDY
Great.

JEREMY
Where do you want it?

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LATER

The kitchen is full of beer and alcohol. Full kegs sit on the floor. Jeremy is finally done bringing it all in. He hands the clipboard to Andy.

JEREMY
I need you to sign this, please.

Andy signs the paper.

ANDY
Thanks.

Andy pulls out a twenty and tips him.

JEREMY
Thanks man. You must be having a kick-ass party.

ANDY
Hopefully. Why don't you come over, bring some friends.

JEREMY
Really? That would be awesome.

Jeremy notices the kegs of beer getting warm.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
You better get those on ice. They will get warm.

Andy forgot about this. He pulls out a hundred.

ANDY
Can you help?

JEREMY
I would, but I have another delivery. Go to Home Depot and grab some garbage cans. Fill them with ice and you're all set.

ANDY
I'll do that. Thanks.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Andy pulls up, his backseat full of garbage cans. A Best Buy truck sits in the driveway.

A Jeep with three guys sits in front of the house. Andy gets out of his car and walks to the Jeep.

ANDY
You guys here for the party?

GUYS
Yea... (ad lib)

ANDY
I need some help getting ready, you guys interested in earning some money? Like a hundred each?

GUYS
Hell yea... (ad lib)

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LATER

The kegs are on ice. The stereo booms, interrupted by some static on the radio. Andy and the guys are enjoying a few cold ones.

GUY 1
Have any CD's?

ANDY
No, do you needs some?

GUY 2
Yea, this radio shit isn't going to get it. We need some shit they don't play on the radio.

GUY 3
A Playstation 2 and some games would be cool too.

Andy reaches in his pocket and pulls out a wad of bills. He starts peeling hundreds off.

ANDY
A grand buy enough fun?

GUY 1
Two would make it really sweet. We could get a ping-pong table. Play some beer pong.

Andy peels off more bills and hands them to the guys.

GUY 2
Man, this is awesome. You are going to have a kickass party tonight.

EXT. PHIL'S HOUSE - EVENING

Phil is out watering his manicured lawn. Mark arrives in the Porsche. Phil looks appreciatively at the gleaming car.

MARK
Hi, Mr. Cummins?

PHIL
Yes.

MARK
(reaching out to shake)
Mark Goss, nice to meet you.

Phil shakes his hand.

PHIL
Phil Cummins.

Mark looks over the lawn Just like Andy said, it's perfect. Not a blade of grass out of place.

MARK
You have the nicest lawn on the block.

A proud Phil looks over his pristine lawn.

PHIL
Thanks, takes lots of work to keep it looking like this. That's a nice car.

MARK
Thanks. Takes me where I need to go.

PHIL
How does a young guy like you afford a car that costs, what 60, 70 thousand dollars?

Phil looks at another car loaded with kids driving past.

MARK
Something like that

Phil just looks at him and the car.

PHIL
That's quite a bit for a car.

MARK

What's the point of having it if it just sits in the bank?

Phil shakes his head.

PHIL

So what do you do that allows you to spend that much on a car?

MARK

I'm a lawyer. I hear you're into computers Mr. Cummins.

Phil is distracted by more cars pulling into the driveway of the party house.

PHIL

Yes, I own a computer company. We lease systems, custom programming, that sort of thing.

MARK

A full service company. That's great

Lisa comes out of the house. Both guys turn to her.

LISA

Hi Mark, I see you've met my dad.

MARK

Yes, we have been talking.

Lisa notices the cars at the neighbors.

LISA

Looks like the new neighbors are having a party.

Phil looks over there.

PHIL

I don't like them already.

Lisa takes Marks arm.

LISA

Well, we better go.

MARK

Nice meeting you, Mr. Cummins.

PHIL
Yes. Same here.

Lisa and Mark climb into the Porsche and leave. Phil watches, a little jealous. Phil looks at more kids pulling up to the houses and shakes his head.

INT. BOBBY'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Theresa walks in the house. It is a complete mess. Beer cans are strewn about the living room. Bobby is asleep on the couch. She walks toward the kitchen, crushing a beer can, waking Bobby.

BOBBY
Hey...I'm glad you're home, I'm starved.

She is pissed. She walks into the kitchen, then back out to the living room.

THERESA
You couldn't even clean up after lunch?

BOBBY
You know I don't clean.

THERESA
Well, now that you have so much free time, you should do a little cleaning. The house was clean this morning before I left, now it's a mess.

Bobby is ignoring her.

THERESA (CONT'D)
I'm serious, you have to do something.

He momentarily diverts his attention from whatever he was watching.

BOBBY
I did do something, categorized my cards by teams instead of alphabetically.

The boys come running through.

THERESA

You're categorized your cards by teams instead of alphabetically when the house looks like this? Have you checked their homework?

BOBBY

No.

THERESA

Have you even looked for a job?

BOBBY

No.

THERESA

If you don't get a job soon, you should sell your baseball cards.

BOBBY

No fuckin' way. I love those cards more than anything.

THERESA

Well, these days you seem to spend more time playing with them than you play with me.

BOBBY

(imitating her)

Well, they're in better condition than you are.

THERESA

Oh yea? Just let me know when they start supporting you, so I can stop doing it.

Damn that hurt. Bobby looks almost wounded. Then he reaches for a beer and everything is okay once again.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

College kids are partying hard. They are playing beer-pong in the living room. The music is mainly rap and LOUD. Couples wait outside the closed bedroom doors for their turn. It's a bash of epic proportions.

INT. PHILS HOUSE - NIGHT

Mark and Lisa pull up back at Phil's house. The party is raging. A small smile comes to Mark's face. Cars are parked all over. Loud music comes from every window.

MARK

Your neighbors all have wild parties at the same time?

LISA

No, they are all new, some new people from overseas, I think.

MARK

They like rap?

LISA

Evidently.

They get out and walk up the driveway. Phil comes out.

LISA (CONT'D)

Dad, why are you up so late?

PHIL

(re: party)

Can you believe this? It's like they put fliers up or something.

Mark notices something on Phil's car.

MARK

I think someone threw some gum on your car.

Phil reaches for it. It's not gum. It's a used condom. A freshly used dripping condom. The three of them are extremely repulsed to the point of dry heaves.

EXT. PHILS HOUSE - MORNING

The neighborhood is trashed. Empty and smashed bottles are everywhere. Furniture is on the lawn, along with clothes and a few passed out kids.

Phil looks around at the houses and the destruction. His once-perfect lawn has two tire tracks across it.

PHIL

Shit.

Phil consumes some heart medicine.

INT. ANDYS CAR - AFTERNOON

Andy is taking Melissa and Samantha for a ride. They look like a happy family.

MELISSA

I don't know why you won't tell us where we are going.

ANDY

It's a surprise.

They pull into a Ford dealership.

MELISSA

Are you getting a new car? What's wrong with this one?

ANDY

Too small. Not enough room.

The girls look at each other. They park and go into the showroom.

INT. FORD DEALER - AFTERNOON

They go over to an Expedition. Samantha climbs in. Andy ushers Melissa into the big truck.

ANDY

Climb in, see what you think.

MELISSA

I won't be driving it, it doesn't matter.

ANDY

Yes, it will matter. I want you to drive it. I'm buying it for you.

She climbs down and walks away.

MELISSA

No, you're not, I can't accept it.

ANDY

Please, you need a new car. Yours barely runs.

Melissa turns to him and tells him her fear.

MELISSA

So I'll be driving around in a 40 thousand dollar vehicle until you decide you don't want me around.

ANDY

That won't happen.

MELISSA

That always happens, guys like you never stay around.

ANDY

I know you don't need me to buy it, but I want to. I need to know that you and Samantha are safe. Please, just look at it, take it for a ride.

INT. EXPEDITION - LATER

Melissa is driving the Expedition home, a worried grin on her face.

INT. ANDY'S CAR - LATER

A smiling Andy is driving his car behind Melissa in her new vehicle. Samantha sits next to him.

SAMANTHA

You make my mommy happy.

ANDY

I do?

SAMANTHA

Yes..she doesn't cry at night anymore when I'm in bed.

ANDY

She cries?

SAMANTHA

She use to. I heard her.

Samantha reaches over and holds Andy hand. He's on the verge of crying now.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

What kind of mileage does that thing get anyway?

INT. PHIL'S BUSINESS - MORNING

Phil is prioritizing the bills for payment. The group insurance bill is marked with a huge OVERDUE. He's going broke, talking to clients that have jumped to Marks company.

PHIL

They are new, they are undercutting
my prices just to get your
business. In six months they will
raise their prices.

(beat)

You won't be able to come back,
I'll be out of business.

The customer hangs up. Phil slams the phone down. The phone
rings again. Phil answers.

PHIL (CONT'D)

This is Phil

(beat)

Yes, I'm aware that it's overdue.

(beat)

I'm trying the best I can.

(beat)

I already have two mortgages on my
home and they are overdue too.

Phil is suddenly holding a dead line. He looks at the phone
then goes back to the bills.

INT. ANDYS CAR - AFTERNOON

Andy smiling, watching the entire scene on a handheld
computer.

INT. CORNER BAR - NIGHT

Andy, Sarah and Mark walk into the bar where Bobby hangs out.
Bobby is there playing pool, being loud, being himself. They
sit and order drinks. Sarah goes to the table and puts her
quarters on the side of the table. She looks at Bobby,
suggestively smiling at him. She gets back to the table and
they watch the game.

ANDY

Can you beat him?

SARAH

Oh, yea. These tables are small,
wide pockets. I should beat him
pretty bad.

MARK

Are you going to play him for
anything?

SARAH
I'll let him win the first game,
tease him a little, then I'll
embarrass him.

ANDY
How are you going to do that?

SARAH
I'll let him gain a little
confidence, show a little leg, then
watch out.

The camera pans to the pool table where Bobby wins the game
and hi-fives his buddies.

BOBBY
OK, who's next....

Sarah gets up and goes to the table...

BOBBY (CONT'D)
You must be new here. Never seen
you before. I'm Bobby, some women
call me Big Bob..

She looks up at him and smiles shyly.

SARAH
I'm Sarah.

She puts the coins in and racks the balls.

BOBBY
What are we playing for honey?

SARAH
Sarah. We can play for a beer if
you want.

Bobby breaks, makes a few balls. Sarah isn't playing well,
she misses some easy shots.

ON ANDY AND MARK

They are watching Sarah and Bobby playing pool.

ANDY
How are things going with Lisa?

MARK
Really good. She's a great girl.
Woman.

ANDY

You don't have to do that for me.

Mark looks at him seriously.

MARK

I'm not. I'm doing it for me. She's everything I want in a woman.

Andy can't believe this.

ANDY

But her father?

MARK

I'm not dating her father.

ON SARAH

Sarah is buying a beer for Bobby at the bar. She winks at Andy and Mark on her way back to the table. She hands Bobby the beer.

SARAH

Again?

BOBBY

Sure. What are we playing for this time?

SARAH

Are you the adventurous type, Big Bob?

Bobby looks at his friends and laughs.

BOBBY

Well sure, I'm up for just about anything.

SARAH

Lets play a game for something really fun.

BOBBY

Anything you want baby.

Bobby's friends laugh and shout...

SARAH

If you win, you can do anything you want to me, for hours.

BOBBY
And what if you win?

SARAH
You owe me a hundred bucks and you
don't get me.

BOBBY
You're on baby!! Do you live far?
Because I'm going to want you as
soon as I sink that eight ball.

His friends laugh. Sarah racks the balls. Bobby breaks. He makes a couple balls. Sarah walks around the table studying the balls. She makes the first ball, a pretty simple shot.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Hey she made one.

He and his friends laugh. Sarah lines up another shot and makes it. And the next. Bobby's friends are laughing. Bobby is getting more and more pissed with every shot she sinks. He reaches in his pocket and counts his money. Sarah catches him looking.

SARAH
Did you bet without having the
money to back it up?

BOBBY
I have the money, bitch.

He's getting pissed.

SARAH
Oooohhhh. I'm a bitch now.

She sinks another. And another. Finally she sinks the 8-ball. Bobby's friend are laughing at him. He's so pissed.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Hey stud, you got my hundred bucks?

BOBBY
Fuck you. I'm not paying you shit.
You hustled me.

Sarah acts surprised.

SARAH
You're not going to pay me?

BOBBY
 (angrily)
 No, I told you, I'm not paying you
 shit.

He throws his cue on the table.

SARAH
 Okay. No problem.

Sarah walks over to the bartender. She whispers something in his ear. He nods and walks over to turn down the jukebox and the TVs. The bar is quiet.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 (loudly to the entire bar)
 Excuse me, please....does anyone
 here know the guy in the blue shirt
 near the pool table? Bobby is his
 name, or as he likes to think of
 himself Big Bob.

The bar patrons look at Bobby and laugh. Yes, they know him.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Well, tonight he played me a game
 of pool. If he won, he could have
 me-

Men in the bar hoot and holler.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 -anyway he wanted-

Men in the bar hoot and holler more.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 -but, if I won, he would owe me a
 hundred bucks. Now, I would have
 paid up if I lost. I didn't lose
 though, I won. And guess what? Big
 Bob doesn't have money to pay me.

The bar glares at Bobby. He's clearly embarrassed.

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Now, I've played in a lot of bars,
 but I can't seem to recall a man
 ever playing for more than he had
 in his pocket.

The patrons shout things at Bobby. Mark and Andy join in,
 even egg the crowd on.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Now, I know in a pool hall, that kind of shit would be enough reason to get his ass beat. Since I'm a little woman, I was wondering if someone could help me with a way to teach him a lesson about betting without having money.

A large, tattooed man in a black leather motorcycle vest in the crowd speaks up.

MAN

I'd be happy to kick his ass for you darlin'.

Bobby doesn't look happy, in fact he looks scared.

SARAH

Awwwww, that's sweet, but, I don't like violence. Lets think of some other way.

EXT. CORNER BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby is walking out of the bar, using a bar napkin to cover his privates. The entire bar watches him walk out. They are laughing at him, even his so-called friends. Sarah is in front of them, holding his clothes.

SARAH

Since he's only using one napkin in front, I'm guessing they call him Big Bob because of his mouth.

Everyone laughs. Bobby continues walking.

INT. PHILS HOUSE - NIGHT

Phil is looking out the upstairs window, very upset. The party is very loud and very crowded. Phil is on the phone.

PHIL

This is the third night in a row. Why can't you do something?

Unhappy with the result, he slams the phone down.

EXT. PHILS HOUSE - NIGHT

A very drunk young man staggers over to Phil's and urinates on his lawn. Phil is banging on the window in a fit of rage. The drunk man waves a happy wave to him.

INT. ANDYS CAR - NIGHT

Andy is laughing in his car, watching Phil's fit.

INT. MORNING - BOBBY'S HOUSE

Theresa is running around getting ready for work. Bobby is sleeping in the bed.

THERESA

Bob, get up, I have to leave. The boys need to eat.

He turns over, covers his head with the pillow.

THERESA (CONT'D)

Come on, I need your help.

BOBBY

(yelling under the pillow)
GODDAMN IT!!! I'm fucking tired and I want to sleep.

She's not in the mood to take any shit.

THERESA

Tired from staying out half the night? You need to get up. Now.

BOBBY

(furious)
Who the fuck are you talking to?
I'm not one of the boys.

THERESA

Well at least they manage to clean up after themselves half the time. And where did your clothes go last night? I could have sworn you were dressed when you left.

BOBBY

Just go. I'm tired of listening to you.

THERESA

I'm going to work. I want you out when I get home. I've had enough.

BOBBY

Where am I going to go?

THERESA

I don't care. I just don't want you here.

BOBBY

Maybe I'll go to Florida to stay with my mom.

THERESA

I'm sure she will enjoy paying your bills and cleaning up after you as much as I do.

BOBBY

Just go.

THERESA

Don't even think about using any household money either. Sell your cards if you need money.

She leaves the bedroom, slamming the door. Bobby just groans.

INT. PHIL'S BUSINESS - MORNING

Phil is in his office. He is going over a bank statement. The phone rings. He answers it.

PHIL

Hello, this is Phil.

The look on his face says it all. The call he's been dreading. The bank.

PHIL(CONT'D)

Yes, I know it's a little late.

(beat)

What about equity in my business?

(beat)

I see.

He hangs up the phone.

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Andy and Melissa are sitting watching T.V., holding each other. Outside a car races down the street. Some gunshots ring out. The car squeals off again. Andy nearly jumps out of his skin. Melissa is surprisingly calm and unaffected.

ANDY

What the hell was that?

MELISSA

Sounded like a thirty-eight. An AK forty-seven is much louder.

ANDY

This isn't funny, it's dangerous.

MELISSA

It's my way of dealing with it. I can't change the situation right now.

ANDY

I can. I don't want you two living in fear. This is dangerous.

MELISSA

No, we can't move. This is our home.

ANDY

You can't live here. I'll buy a bigger house. With room for all of us.

MELISSA

We can't. I won't live with you.

Andy turns to her and gets down on a knee.

ANDY

Then marry me.

She looks at him astonished.

EXT. BOBBY'S HOUSE - DAY

Bobby is carrying the last things to his truck. A pillow, sleeping bag and his prized baseball cards.

INT. PHIL'S BUSINESS - MORNING

Phil is in his office. His head is in his hands. He lowers his hands, showing his tear-streaked face. He picks up the phone, hits the PA button.

PHIL

(over the phone)

Will everyone please come to my office?

INT. PHIL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Phil seated at his desk. What's left of the crew is assembled in his office.

PHIL

As you all know, we are losing business rapidly. We don't have enough money to last another month. I've done what I can.

Phil starts crying again. They guys have never seen him this way.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I am going to try to get you all jobs at the new place. I know you all aware of it. Most of your former coworkers work there. Friday will be our last day.

He breaks down.

INT. ANDY'S CAR - SAME TIME

Andy is watching Phil on his handheld computer. He smiles.

ANDY

One down.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - MORNING

Andy, Melissa and Samantha are in the Expedition, going to look at houses.

SAMANTHA

Can I have a big pretty bed with the thing on top?

MELISSA

A canopy?

SAMANTHA

Yep, a canopy. And I want a big, pink stuffed teddy bear to put in the corner. What do you want for your room Mommy?

MELISSA

Oh, I don't know, maybe a big bed and a whirlpool bath with a television and a fireplace.

SAMANTHA

What about you Andy? What do you want in your bedroom?

ANDY

Your mom. That's all I want.

Samantha laughs.

SAMANTHA

That's silly. Mom will have her own room.

Andy and Melissa look at each other. No need to go into this area right now.

EXT. HOUSING DEVELOPEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Andy, Melissa and Samantha are out looking at houses. The first is in a new luxury development. Expensive houses. They park at the model and up to the house.

MELISSA

We don't need to live here, they're so big.

ANDY

We are a family, we need the room.

MELISSA

Let's get something smaller, these are too much.

ANDY

They are find. If you think they are too big to clean, we can get a cleaning lady.

INT. LARGE MODEL HOME - LATER

The agent is showing all of the features. A large kitchen. Living room. Samantha is in a bedroom just standing there, amazed at the size. She walks to the attached bathroom. They watch her. She walks around the room.

SAMANTHA

This room is all mine?

They nod to her. She opens the door to a bathroom.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

A bathroom too?

Melissa walks over to the bathroom. It's huge.

MELISSA
This is bigger than our kitchen.

SAMANTHA
And I can have it any color I want?

They nod again.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Can I have a big fish tank full of
pretty fish?

ANDY
Yep, if I can come in here and
watch them with you.

SAMANTHA
I'd like that.

They continue through the house. Andy reaches into his pocket
and pulls out a credit card. He hands it to Melissa.

MELISSA
What is this?

ANDY
A credit card. I need you to
decorate our house.

MELISSA
No, I can't. I'll mess it up. I
don't know what you like, how you
want it decorated.

ANDY
You have good taste. You'll do
fine.

MELISSA
But it's your house.

ANDY
It's our house. For all of us,
right Sam?

SAMANTHA
Right.

Big smiles.

INT. SMALL BAR - EVENING

Bobby is sitting all alone at a small bar, not his usual hangout. He looks terrible. He walks over to the pay phone and drops a quarter in and dials.

INT. BOBBY'S HOUSE - EVENING

Theresa is sitting at the table helping the boys with their homework. The phone rings.

THERESA

Hello?

INT. BAR - EVENING

Bobby on the pay phone.

BOBBY

Are you ready for me to come home yet?

THERESA (O.S.)

Well, you're really trying to win me back aren't you?

BOBBY

You know I'm not good at this.

INT. BOBBY'S HOUSE - EVENING

Silence. Neither of them talk.

THERESA

Where are you staying?

BOBBY

Do you care?

THERESA

I want to know where I should forward the divorce papers.

INT. BAR - EVENING

Bobby on the pay phone.

BOBBY

That's not funny

THERESA (O.S.)

Show some initiative Bob. Get a job and we can talk about fixing us.

BOBBY

I'm looking every day. There's just not much work for what I do.

INT. BOBBY'S HOUSE - EVENING

THERESA

Well do something else then. Just do something.

She hangs up the phone.

INT. BAR - EVENING

Bobby slams down the phone. He walks over to the bar and reaches in his pocket. He doesn't even have a dollar, just some loose change. He walks out.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Andy and Melissa, Mark and Lisa are having dinner at a very fancy restaurant. A waiter pours the wine and walks away.

MELISSA

(to Lisa)

So how long have you two been dating?

LISA

A little over a month.

MARK

Five weeks and two days.

Lisa looks at Mark, she's touched.

ANDY

I'm impressed.

LISA

That he knew to the day?

ANDY

No. That it's been over five weeks.

LISA

(to Mark)

Is this a new record, honey?

MARK

It's true, I haven't worked very hard at some of my prior relationships. But Lisa is worth working for.

MELISSA

Will you please excuse me?

Melissa gets up.

LISA

I'll come with you.

Lisa and Melissa leave.

ANDY

Nice touch.

MARK

It's not an act, she's great.

ANDY

I'm telling Melissa tonight.

MARK

She's going to be devastated. She looks at you with those eyes.

Andy knows this.

ANDY

The same ones Lisa has for you?

MARK

But I'm not setting Lisa up to tear her down.

ANDY

No, but you're helping me destroy her Dad's company.

Marks sighs.

MARK

I'm not happy doing it. I don't want to hurt her.

ANDY

We're not hurting her. We are hurting her father. The same one who fucked me over. Who's side are you on?

Mark looks up at Andy.

MARK

My side. I care for Lisa a lot, more than I have cared for anyone in a long time. And I have a feeling it's going to end badly.

ANDY

So does marriage. You get married and either you get a divorce or one of you sees the other laying dead in a casket. It works out bad for everyone.

MARK

It's what you do in between the time you get married and you're laying there in the casket is what counts.

INT. LADIES BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Melissa and Lisa are in applying makeup.

LISA

Andy seems like a great guy.

MELISSA

He is. My daughter adores him. He was a little standoffish at first. I don't think he's been around children much. What do you think is wrong with Andy and Mark?

LISA

What do you mean?

MELISSA

Any men their age not married must have something wrong with them.

LISA

I'm wondering too.

They both laugh.

MELISSA

I really don't care. Andy is a good man and good to Samantha. That's enough.

EXT. PHILS HOUSE - EVENING

Phil and his wife are trying to sleep, but the loud music is keeping them awake. Finally a pissed off Phil sits up.

PHIL

I've had enough, I'm heading over there.

Phil bends over to pull on his pants and suddenly grabs his chest. His wife looks at him anxiously.

MRS. CUMMINS

Are you okay Phil? Should i call someone?

Phil sits.

PHIL

No, I'm fine, just need to sit down.

He's not fine, he's scared.

INT. CARD STORE - EVENING

Bobby is in there bartering with the owner over the sale of his cards.

BOBBY

C'mon. You know they are worth more than that.

STORE OWNER

Sorry, that's all I can give you.

Bobby looks at the cards, his lifelong mission.

BOBBY

But there is an Al Kaline rookie in there.

STORE OWNER

Sorry, that's all I can give you.

BOBBY

Fuck.

Bobby walks out the door.

INT. MELISSAS HOUSE - EVENING

Andy and Melissa pull up to Melissa's house. He's very distant.

MELISSA
You've been quiet since dessert.

They get out of the car.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Are you okay? What's wrong?

Andy sits on the porch. Melissa sits next to him. He doesn't look at her.

ANDY
Just tired, that's all

MELISSA
You sure?

ANDY
Yep. That's all. You going up tonight to pick out Samantha's bedroom set?

MELISSA
She's so excited about it. Imagine, furniture that actually matches.

ANDY
Where are you getting it from?

MELISSA
Hillside Furniture. They are a little more expensive.

ANDY
That's fine, get whatever she wants. I'm going to go now.

Andy gets up and gives Melissa a quick kiss.

MELISSA
Going to say bye to Sam?

ANDY
She sounds like shes busy. Give her a kiss for me.

MELISSA
Okay.

Something's wrong but she can't figure it out. Andy gets in the car and leaves.

INT. ANDY'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Andy is dialing a number on his cell phone.

ANDY
The truck will be at Hillside
Furniture within an hour.
(beat)
Just bring it to my office.

He hangs up the phone and drives off.

EXT. PHIL'S BUSINESS - EVENING

Andy drives up to Cummins Computers. The parking lot is almost empty. Andy gets out of his car and walks to the door. Andy knocks on the glass door. A young programmer comes to and unlocks it.

ANDY
Is Phil here?

PROGRAMMER
Yes, he's in his office.

Andy's not sure where to go.

PROGRAMMER (CONT'D)
Follow me.

The programmer leads Andy through a once-busy office. Finally Phil in his office, looking old and tired. Phil looks up and brightens a little.

PHIL
Got your nose fixed, didn't you?

Andy is surprised at Phil recognizing him.

PHIL (CONT'D)
You look good. Being rich looks
good on you. I always knew you
would.

ANDY
Would what?

PHIL
Be a success. You had the drive.
Something about your resolve to get
something done.

Andy is a little embarrassed at the attention.

PHIL (CONT'D)

I tried to contact you, to tell you how proud I was of you. You made a fine business out of nothing. Something to be proud of.

ANDY

Like you did. How's business?

PHIL

Good. Really good.

Said with no conviction.

ANDY

Hear you have been having a little trouble with the competition.

PHIL

It's nothing. Minor setback. They always are.

The brave front.

ANDY

I hear they got all your best guys, your accounts, everything.

The word everything is about 8 syllables long. Phil realizes that Andy did it. Phil's face is getting red. He wants to yell. He tries to talk, nothing comes out. He grabs his chest and falls face first on his desk. Andy walks out of Phil's office and walks past the programmer.

ANDY (CONT'D)

You should call 9-1-1, I don't think Phil is feeling so well.

INT. HILLSIDE FURNITURE - EVENING

Melissa and Samantha are looking at a little girls bedroom set. Samantha jumps on the bed, happy as can be. Melissa smiles and nod her head. She can have that one.

At the register the salesman is trying to talk them into a more expensive mattress set.

SALESMAN

The Beautyrest WorldClass has 850 coils where the Beautyrest Exceptionale has 1230 coils. The mattress with more coils will last much longer.

MELISSA

She's six years old and weighs about forty-five pounds. She will do fine with the cheaper mattress.

He enters the information into the computer/register.

SALESMAN

Great, if there's nothing else you need, the total is \$1478.92.

She gives the cashier Andy's credit card. The salesman runs it through.

SALESMAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, ma'am, this sale was not approved.

Melissa is shocked.

MELISSA

Can you try it again?

The credit card is rejected again.

SALESMAN

So you have another card?

She is embarrassed. She can't leave quick enough.

MELISSA

No, that's fine, thank you.

She grabs Samantha's hand and walks out.

EXT. HILLSIDE FURNITURE - MORNING

Melissa is looking for the truck. The space where she parked the truck is empty.

MELISSA

Shit.

She dials the cell phone.

ANDY(O.S.)

Hi.

MELISSA

Andy, someone stole the truck!!

No answer.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Honey?

ANDY

The truck wasn't stolen. And the credit card was canceled.

He hangs up. She can't believe it. She can only stand there.

EXT. BOBBYS TRUCK - NIGHT

Bobby is sound asleep in his truck. His head is on his prized collection of baseball cards. He is awakened by something hitting his windshield. He sits up in the seat and looks around. He is in a Walmart parking lot.

He gets out of the truck and looks around at the near empty parking lot. Satisfied that there is nobody looking, he unzips his pants to take a piss. Suddenly lights are upon him. Bright lights. Revolving lights. Police lights.

CUT TO:

Investigator Bob sitting in a nearby minivan, smiling.

INT. MARKS OFFICE - MORNING

Mark is sitting at his desk when a smiling Andy comes in the door holding a the box containing Bobby's baseball collection.

ANDY

Guess what's in the box?

MARK

(bitter)
Your soul?

ANDY

What?

MARK

Phil's in the hospital. Heart attack last night.

Andy's composure doesn't change.

ANDY

And Bobby is in jail. Urinating in public. Indecent exposure. Means he's on the sex offenders list. It's a good morning so far.

(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)

You didn't try to guess what was in the box.

MARK

I don't care what's in the fucking box.

Andy pulls out his prize possession, the 1953 Al Kaline rookie card.

ANDY

A 1953 Al Kaline rookie card. The very card my dad gave me before he died.

MARK

I'm happy for you and your card. Phil is in the hospital. Don't you care?

ANDY

Not particularly, though I did make sure 9-1-1 was called. In a way, I actually saved his life.

MARK

You did?

ANDY

I was there.

MARK

You gave him a heart attack?

ANDY

No, years of stress and being an asshole gave him a heart attack. Fast food probably didn't help.

MARK

Melissa's called about ten times already this morning. She's asking me what's going on. I told her I didn't know.

ANDY

I have about 20 messages from her on my cell. She's pissed.

MARK

What's she pissed about?

ANDY

(proudly)

About the credit card I gave her
being cancelled while she was
shopping.

MARK

And having her shiny new Expedition
stolen while she was in the store.
She walked home from the store. She
was scared to death. Samantha cried
all the way home.

ANDY

Repossessed. It's mine, not hers.

Mark looks out the window. Melissa pulls in driving her old
car.

MARK

You have company.

Andy looks out the window.

ANDY

Shit.

Mark smiles.

EXT. TM COMPUTER ASSOCIATES - DAY

Card still in hand, Andy walks out the door to head off
Melissa before she goes inside. She rushes to him but stops
when she sees his expression; cold, distant.

MELISSA

Your cell phone broke? Why didn't
you return my calls?

ANDY

I got you calls. I ignored them.

She is totally confused.

MELISSA

Why? Why would you do that?

ANDY

How do you feel?

MELISSA

About what? What do you mean?

ANDY

How did it feel to be left
somewhere far from home? Kind of
scary, wasn't it?

MELISSA

Of course it was. I didn't know
what to do. The truck was gone, the
credit card didn't work.

ANDY

Did you ever do that to anyone?
Just leave them anyplace because
you thought it was funny?

MELISSA

Of course not. That's a shitty
thing to do to someone.

She's beginning to remember.

ANDY

What about pulling someone's shorts
down in gym class?

She's speechless.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Starting to remember? I look a
little different now.

She stares in disbelief.

MELISSA

That was you?

ANDY

Was me. Is me. Have you ever
thought of me in the past fifteen
years?

MELISSA

Not really.

ANDY

Not even to laugh about what all of
you did to me in school? Didn't you
tell the people you work with about
the time you pulled my pants down
in front of the entire gym class?

Andy is venting all of his years of frustration.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Remember me peeing my pants? Or leaving me down in Detroit? I walked all the way home. Got robbed on the way.

Melissa looks hard at him. She thinks.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Yep, that was me. I don't look the same, do I? The nose finally got fixed. Remember when Bobby broke my nose? I do, I remember it like yesterday. As much as it hurt, it didn't hurt as much as him taking this.

Andy shows her the card.

ANDY (CONT'D)

This card was the last thing my father gave me before he died. Bobby took it after he broke my nose.

Melissa doesn't answer.

ANDY (CONT'D)

He put it in my hand and hugged me, told me he loved me. It was the last time I heard those words from him.

He starts tearing up and looks away.

MELISSA

I don't know what to say.

ANDY

Say good-bye.

Melissa breaks down and cries.

MELISSA

I thought you loved me. Thought you loved us. How could you do this?

Samantha comes out of the car and sees her Mommy crying. She's upset. Samantha hugs Melissa.

SAMANTHA

Mommy...Mommy..stop
crying..please..

Andy starts walking to the door. Samantha runs toward him, grabs his leg.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Where are you going? You have to make Mommy feel better, like you did before.

ANDY

I'm sorry Samantha. I really am.

He walks away, leaving her on the sidewalk confused.

INT. MARKS OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Andy walks into Marks office. Drained, confused.

MARK

That feel pretty good?

ANDY

Does it look like it felt good?

MARK

No, it looked like you just destroyed a woman and her little girl.

ANDY

I'd say that's a pretty good description.

MARK

So what's next?

ANDY

With what?

MARK

You, your life, this mess you created.

ANDY

There is no mess. I'm leaving town. Moving somewhere warm and sunny. There's nothing left here for me.

MARK

Going to go rub it in? Tell them your grand plan in person?

ANDY

I don't know.

MARK

Go ahead, be proud. You planned your whole life to destroy them, may as well enjoy seeing them miserable.

MARK (CONT'D)

What about this business?

ANDY

Close it. Sell the assets.

MARK

You can't.

ANDY

Why not?

MARK

The people who work here. The innocent people who have families and mortgage payments.

Andy hadn't thought that far ahead.

ANDY

Give them insurance and six months severance.

MARK

That's your solution?

ANDY

At least they are getting that much. Most business close and screw their employees.

MARK

Melissa and Sam? Bobby and Phil? What about them?

ANDY

They got what they deserved.

Mark is disgusted at Andy.

MARK

Samantha didn't deserve anything. That little girl loves you. She's in pain right now. Doesn't that mean anything to you?

ANDY

What about me? What about my pain?

MARK

Your pain. You can have anything you want right now, but you are too bitter. Every second since high school has been about the month you've been here. You did it. You accomplished your goals. You got your card. You got even with the people who pissed you off and now you have so much money you couldn't spend it all in five lifetimes. What's next? Going to ruin my life because I'm pissing you off right now?

ANDY

No, I'm leaving.

MARK

Well you already ruined my life. I love Lisa and I'm not going to be able to be with her because of you. Do you know what's that's like? To love someone so much and not be able to be with them?

ANDY

No, I don't.

Andy can't look at Mark.

MARK

You're going to die alone, a bitter old man who can't mature beyond high school.

INT. JAIL - MORNING

Bobby is sitting across from Andy in the county jail visiting area.

BOBBY

Who are you? My court appointed attorney?

ANDY

Nope. I'm the guy with your baseball cards. Including a 1953 Al Kaline card.

BOBBY

You came to visit me in jail to tell me that you broke into my truck and stole my baseball cards?

ANDY

And to tell you that I got you fired, I gave your wife a job, I had you embarrassed in front of your friends, all of which got you removed in your house.

Bobby sits staring at him.

ANDY (CONT'D)

I didn't steal all your cards. One of the cards I was taking back. I was surprised you still had it.

BOBBY

Which one?

ANDY

1953 Al Kaline.

Bobby sits thinking for a few minutes until it comes to him.

BOBBY

Pee boy.

ANDY

Yep

BOBBY

I'm going to beat your ass when I'm out of here.

ANDY

By the time you get out of jail, I'll be somewhere warm, sitting around my pool, ordering something to eat from my maid. And you will be a homeless, unemployed, overweight, soon-to-be-divorced man.

BOBBY

I'll find you.

ANDY

You don't have the money to pay for gas to get to Lansing.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

In the middle of nowhere, Andy is driving the Porsche somewhere warm. He's getting nothing but static on the radio.

He sees the CD Melissa made for him and get it.. On the road is an accident that happened about ten minutes ago. A mother crying as her child is taken away on a stretcher. He pops the CD in the stereo. Instead of a song starting, it's Samantha's voice.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

Thank's for everything Andy. You are going to be the best daddy I ever had. I love you.

The song "Put a Little Love on Your Heart" by Dusty Springfield starts playing. He tears up and does a U-turn.

INT. MARKS OFFICE - EVENING

Mark is in his office. Andy walks in. Andy's changed.

MARK

Forget something? Some store clerk shortchange you so you want to blow up her house?

ANDY

I need your help.

MARK

Nope, I'm done. You spent all your help from me. I'm not for sale anymore.

ANDY

I love her.

MARK

You can't do this to her.

ANDY

I have to. I have to fix things. With all of them.

MARK

I'm not sure it's possible.

ANDY

Can you help me? Will you help me?

MARK

You owe them. Big time.

INT. ALL NIGHT DINER - EARLY MORNING

Andy and Mark are going over the plan to make everything right.

ANDY
I'll get Bobby his job back.

MARK
That's a start. He's still in jail.

ANDY
What do I do?

MARK
Contribute to the prosecutors
campaign fund. That usually works.

ANDY
Do you know him?

MARK
The prosecutor? Of course.

ANDY
Can you do this for me?

MARK
I can.

ANDY
Okay, will you?

MARK
Yes.

Andy goes down the list.

ANDY
I want you to give the computer
company to Phil.

MARK
I'm going to? No, I'm afraid not.

MARK (CONT'D)
What an I gonna say? "Hey Phil, I
ruined your company and your
reputation you took years to build,
but here take this one. Sorry." And
I hope you don't mind if I marry
your daughter.

ANDY
I'll do it. He won't have to know
you were involved.

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Samantha is playing on the front lawn. Andy pulls up in the Porsche and gets out. Samantha looks at him.

ANDY
Is your Mommy home?

SAMANTHA
Yes.

ANDY
How are you?

Samantha turns away.

ANDY (CONT'D)
You don't want to talk to me?

She shakes her head no. Melissa comes to the front door.

MELISSA
Did you want something?

ANDY
Yes.

MELISSA
The fish maybe?

ANDY
I want you back. You and Samantha.

MELISSA
(cooly)
Really. This another attempt to
play out your little revenge
fantasy? Didn't make us cry enough
last time?

ANDY
I love you, both of you. I want to
be with you.

MELISSA
Not again.

ANDY
I didn't know how wonderful and
caring you would turn out to be.
What a great mother you would
become.

Melissa has heard enough.

MELISSA

Just stop. You're the first man I cared enough about to even think of letting Samantha get close to. You put on a good act, we thought you loved us.

ANDY

I do love you. Both of you. I want to take care of you both.

MELISSA

Then how could you do this to us?

Andy can't even look at her.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

God, you must have really hated me. Was I that terrible?

ANDY

I hated what you did. I never knew you. I just knew a girl who hurt me.

Melissa stands.

MELISSA

You're right, I was a girl. I was stupid. Maybe you should have tried to know me before trying this bullshit charade. And you have gotten your revenge, so leave. Now leave. The only two men she has gotten close to have both left her. She thinks it's her fault.

ANDY

Please, let me stay. I love you both. I want to take care of you both.

MELISSA

Sorry, we are not for sale. I'm not interested in an immature man who spent quite a bit of time and money just to make me and my daughter miserable.

ANDY

I'm sorry.

MELISSA

Who else did you do this to?

Andy is silent.

ANDY

Bobby.

Melissa laughs.

MELISSA

Bobby Healy? You wasted your time on that loser? God, all you had to do was just look at him and know that he got what he deserved. So what did you do to him?

ANDY

I don't really want to say.

MELISSA

Come on, be proud of what you did. Brag about it. If this was high school Bobby would brag about it.

ANDY

I had him fired.

MELISSA

And?

ANDY

And put in jail.

MELISSA

Anything else?

ANDY

(hopefully)

I got his wife a good job when he got fired.

MELISSA

I'm sure it wasn't out of the goodness of your heart. So do you feel better now?

ANDY

Of course not. I feel like shit.

MELISSA

This isn't high school. This is life.

ANDY

I'm going to make things right. For you, for Bobby and his family.

MELISSA

Don't do anything else for us. You have done enough.

ANDY

But I want you.

MELISSA

You had me, had us, but you decided that pride and revenge were more important than love.

Melissa turns and walks in the house.

INT. CORNER BAR - EVENING

Andy walks in and sits at the bar. The bartender comes up.

ANDY

Bud please.

The bartender walks away without a word.

ON THE DOOR

Ken comes walking in the door. He takes the seat next to Andy without seeing it's Andy.

The bartender brings Andy's beer. Ken looks at Andy.

KEN

Shit.

He starts to walk away.

ANDY

I was hoping you'd be here.

KEN

Why? Got someone else's life I can fuck up?

ANDY

No, nothing like that.

Ken sits. The bartender brings Ken a beer.

KEN

That man, Bobby, lost his family because of you. Well you and me.

ANDY

I know.

KEN

A family needs a Daddy. Even if he is an asshole. A Daddy is a Daddy. A husband is a husband.

Ken takes a long drink of beer.

KEN (CONT'D)

Does it feel good to throw away money just to ruin someone?

ANDY

Not anymore.

KEN

Why did you do it then? Why did you make me do it?

ANDY

I thought I would feel better. He treated me very badly growing up. Tormented me.

KEN

Well he couldn't have caused too much damage, you seem to be doing okay.

ANDY

I am.

KEN

Then why did you want to do it? Just because you could?

ANDY

I wanted him to feel the pain I felt when he fucked with me.

KEN

Well you caused him a lot of pain, that's for sure. Are you happy now?

ANDY

Not really. Not yet

KEN

Going to take his wife and kids too? You took the rest of his manhood, may as well fuck his wife.

ANDY

I don't want to do anything else. I came here because I want you to give him his job back. I'll pay you.

KEN

I'll hire him back but I don't want anymore of your money. I don't like you. I may not have a great life, but at least I know who I am. I'm not totally satisfied with the way I turned out, but I'm content. I come here, I have a few beers, I go home, I go to work. Why couldn't you just be happy being rich?

ANDY

I though getting even would make me happy.

KEN

Why couldn't you come back as the high school success story? Rub everyone's nose in your money. What's the saying? Living well is the best revenge.

ANDY

I am a success.

KEN

No you're not. You're a miserable person. It's oozing out of you.

Andy takes a drink of his beer and walks out.

EXT. JAIL - MORNING

Theresa is waiting outside of the county jail. A tired and disheveled Bobby is surprised to see her. He walks to the van and opens the door.

BOBBY

Thanks. How did you know I was here.

THERESA

Mark told me. He got you out. The charges were dropped he said.

BOBBY

How the hell did your boss know I was in jail?

Something is very strange.

THERESA
Ken called the house. You can have
your old job back.

BOBBY
Fuck that asshole. I'm not going
back there.

Theresa glares at him.

THERESA
Am I dropping you off at your truck
for good or are you coming home?

Bobby relents.

BOBBY
Same pay?

THERESA
Yep, just like you never left.

EXT. BOBBY'S HOUSE - LATER

Theresa and Bobby pull up to their house in their vehicles. Andy is sitting in the Porsche in front of their house. Investigator Bob is in his car behind Andy's. They all exit their vehicles. Theresa is surprised.

THERESA
Hi Andy. What are you doing here?

ANDY
I need to talk to you and your
husband.

BOBBY
Well if it isn't my old friend
Andrew.

Bobby looks at him and start walking toward him. Investigator Bob steps forward. Bobby does not want to mess with him. They all enter the house and sit.

THERESA
Bob, how do you know Andy?

BOBBY
Old buddy from school days.

ANDY
Buddy? I was your punching bag.

THERESA

So why are you here Andy?

ANDY

The reason for everything. I'm the reason Bobby was in jail.

BOBBY

Everything?

ANDY

Your job, her job, jail.

They stare at him in disbelief.

THERESA

How did you do all that?

ANDY

I paid people. To fire you. Hired Theresa, who is doing a great job by the way.

She smiles.

BOBBY

Why the fuck did you do it? You like going around messing with peoples lives?

ANDY

Some things you did to me, Bobby.

Bobby looks at him and studies him.

THERESA

Bob, what's he talking about?

Bobby looks down.

ANDY

In third grade, a sadistic bully wouldn't let me go to the bathroom, so I wet my pants. Growing up, your husband never let me or anyone else forget it.

THERESA

Bob, is this true?

BOBBY

We were just kids, Christ. We all did crazy shit to each other.

(MORE)

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Joking around and fights are part of being a kid.

ANDY

It wasn't joking to me. I was hurt.

THERESA

So you did all this just to get even? Hard to believe you went to all this trouble.

ANDY

What about the kick in the face? The night in the hospital? My father's 1953 Al Kaline rookie card? Want to tell her Bob?

THERESA

So why are you telling us this now?

ANDY

Because what I did was wrong. I don't want to cause anymore problems, I want to make it up to you.

BOBBY

How are you going to do that?

ANDY

I'm got you your job back. The charges were dropped.

THERESA

I think that's enough. What about my job, Andy?

ANDY

It's yours for as long as you want it.

THERESA

So why did you do it?

ANDY

I thought it would make me feel better. Maybe it would make the pain I felt growing up go away.

THERESA

Did it?

ANDY

Not yet.

Andy hands her a piece of paper.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Here is my phone number and the
address of a house I own. It's not
in very good shape, but I'm paying
to have it remodeled. I hope you'll
take it.

Andy reaches in his pocket. He pulls out an envelope and
hands it to Bobby.

ANDY (CONT'D)
I want you to have this too.

Bobby starts opening it.

THERESA
What is it?

BOBBY
Cash.

THERESA
We can't accept it. Bob, give it
back.

ANDY
Please keep it.

EXT. BOBBY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby and Andy are on the porch by themselves.

BOBBY
So you did okay for yourself.

ANDY
Yea, pretty good.

BOBBY
What did you do to get all the
money?

ANDY
Internet. My business got bought
out.

Bobby looks out at the Porsche.

BOBBY
That's pretty nice.

ANDY
Thanks.

BOBBY
Is it fast?

ANDY
Extremely fast.

BOBBY
Take me for a ride?

Andy tosses him the keys.

ANDY
You drive.

The new friends walk toward the Porsche.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY

Andy walks into a expensive jewelry store. An attractive woman is there to greet him.

SALESWOMAN
Hello, is there anything I can show you?

ANDY
I'm looking for an engagement ring.

SALESWOMAN
What style are you interested in?

ANDY
I don't know, something nice, something classy.

SALESWOMAN
What is your price range?

ANDY
No range. I want something perfect. Something that says I love you totally and completely.

SALESWOMAN
Totally and completely four or five figures?

ANDY
Six figures.

SALESWOMAN
 (shocked)
 Six figures?

EXT. MELISSAS HOUSE - EVENING

Andy stops in front of Melissa's house. He gets out and walks to the house carrying a ring box. He tries to knock. He turns around and walks away.

MELISSA (O.S.)
 Couldn't face me?

Andy turns around.

ANDY
 Afraid to.

MELISSA
 That's fine. Samantha and me are use to having men walk out on us. Something I'm sure she will get use to.

Andy starts to walk up to the door.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
 Don't bother, we've had enough pain.

He holds up the ring box.

ANDY
 For you.

She won't touch it and turns away.

MELISSA
 Please leave.

She slams the door.

EXT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Andy walks up to Phil's room. Mrs. Cummins is outside the room.

ANDY
 Mrs. Cummins?

MRS. CUMMINS
 Yes?

ANDY

Mrs. Cummins, I'm Andy Rogers, I use to work for Phil. Do you remember me?

She is pleasantly surprised. She ushers him in.

MRS. CUMMINS

Oh yes, of course. Phil talks about you all the time. Brags to everyone who will listen that he knew you when you were young. Likes to think he inspired you, but I think he just likes to think things like that.

Andy is very surprised.

MRS. CUMMINS (CONT'D)

You heard about the heart attack then?

ANDY

Yes, I did. Is he going to be okay?

MRS. CUMMINS

Yes, he will need angioplasty when we get insurance again. But he should be fine.

ANDY

Can I see him?

MRS. CUMMINS

Sure, he's resting in bed. Come and say hi. He will be thrilled to see you.

ANDY

I'm not so sure.

INT. PHILS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Phil is laying in hospital bed. He looks up at Andy and looks away. He's not happy.

PHIL

Come to finish me off?

ANDY

No, come to help you out.

PHIL
Finishing me off would be helping
me out.

ANDY
I came to help. I need to make it
up to you.

Phil exhales deeply. His heart rate drops.

PHIL
Why did you put me out of business?

ANDY
I don't know. Revenge. Rid myself
of some pain.

PHIL
So you ruin my business to make
yourself feel good?

ANDY
Seemed like the right thing to do
at the time.

PHIL
And now?

ANDY
Not such a good idea.

PHIL
I'm sorry you felt like that. I had
a business to run. A man's family
is the most important thing in the
world to him. My family needed me
to make a living, to prosper, you
can understand that, can't you?

ANDY
I couldn't then. I do now.

PHIL
How are the guys working out for
you? Are you taking care of my...
the customers?

ANDY
I don't want this company, the day-
to-day aggravation. I'm through
being in business. I want you to
run it. I'll be a minority owner.

PHIL

After running me out of business,
you want to give your company to
me?

ANDY

I already told you, I'm through
being a businessman. There are
customers who need you. Men who
need jobs. You are the best man to
run it. We'll be partners.

PHIL

I'm not in a position to turn you
down. I'll have to take the
charity.

ANDY

I'm trying to make it up to you,
it's not charity. Just repaying you
for the damaged I caused. I don't
want to see these good men lose
their jobs.

Phil smiles.

PHIL

I don't like what you did, but
you're doing the right thing for
people who need you.

Andy smiles.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Anything else?

ANDY

Now about your neighbors house....

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Men are repairing and cleaning the party house that was
almost destroyed by the parties. Bobby and Theresa are
walking up out of it.

EXT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy has hired a band to serenade Melissa. He sends the ring
to her tied to a helium balloon. She pops it along with his
dreams. He leaves the ring on the ground and walks away
devastated.

INT. MELISSA'S OFFICE CUBE - DAY

Dozens of roses are on every available horizontal surface of her small cube, even on her chair. She returns from lunch and starts throwing them away.

INT. MELISSA'S OFFICE CUBE - DAY

Melissa sits at in her cube working. A woman's voice comes from over the cube.

VOICE

Melissa, go to the window.

Melissa goes to the window and joins her co-workers who are staring at an object in the sky. Melissa finally sees what they are looking at. It's blimp with a message"

"Melissa, I'm sorry, Marry me, Love Andy"

Melissa just sighs and closes the blinds.

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Melissa is sitting on the couch reading a story to Samantha. The phone rings.

MELISSA

Hello?

ANDY (O.S.)

Please don't hang up

MELISSA

Please stop all of this. The calls at work. You're going to get me fired. Or did you buy my business too?

ANDY (O.S.)

No, I didn't buy it. Did you go out and get the ring that night?

MELISSA

Yes.

ANDY (O.S.)

Is it there?

Melissa picks up the box.

MELISSA

Yes, I have it.

ANDY (O.S.)
What are you going to do with it?

MELISSA
Give it back.

ANDY (O.S.)
So I can come see you and Samantha?

MELISSA
Some day, maybe. Not now. It's too soon.

ANDY (O.S.)
When will I know?

MELISSA
You'll know. Bye Andy.

Melissa hangs up and looks at Samantha.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Was I too mean?

Samantha shrugs her shoulders.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
You sure?

Samantha shakes her head no.

INT. MELISSA'S HOUSE - DAY

Melissa and Samantha enter the house. Melissa puts the mail on the table. There is a small box in the mail. Next to the mail an answering machine blinks with messages. Melissa plays the message. It's from Andy.

ANDY (V.O.)
Melissa, Words cannot express the pain I feel, knowing I hurt you and Samantha the way I did. I have worked hard to get where I am today, but would give it all up, just to be with you two again. I have finally felt every love song. I want to be your partner in life, to take care of Samantha. I will understand if you don't want to see me again, but I have started a college fund for Samantha and funded it through the state of Michigan college fund. They will be sending you information.
(MORE)

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It is non-refundable, so please use
it for her education. Know that I
love you both completely.

The line clicks off. Samantha looks at Melissa with hopeful eyes. Melissa opens the small box. It's Andy's prize baseball card. It's in a plastic case. A note on it says "Please give this to Samantha"

EXT. ANDY'S BACK YARD - AFTERNOON

SUBTITLE: "Two months later"

An outdoor wedding is taking place. The camera shows the legs of the guests, the aisle, then finally the camera pans up on the groom and the best man. It's Mark that's getting married, Andy is the best man. Phil is there smiling.

EXT. FRONT OF THE HUGE HOME - AFTERNOON

Melissa and Samantha pull up in to the circular drive of a huge house. A valet opens the door and escorts Melissa out of the car. They both gaze up in amazement.

INT. FOYER OF THE HUGE HOME - AFTERNOON

As they walk into the grand foyer, a host greets them.

HOST

May I have your invitation, please?

Melissa hands the personalized invitation. The host reads the invitation.

MELISSA

Pretty fancy, huh?

Samantha smiles brightly.

HOST

Ah. Ms. Whisby and this must be
Miss Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Yes, it's me.

HOST

Please follow me.

The host leads them up a beautiful winding staircase. They come to a door.

HOST (CONT'D)
Miss Samantha, you may put your
coat in here.

INT. SAMANTHA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The host opens the door to a room every little girl would dream about: TV, video games, the canopy bed and stuffed animals everywhere. A huge aquarium, Andy's old aquarium full of colorful fish. Samantha's name painted on the wall. Samantha is speechless. Melissa is choked up. Samantha walks around the room in a daze. Melissa fumbles in her purse. She takes the ring out and puts it on.

The host ushers them to another room.

HOST
Please, follow me Ms. Whisby.

INT. MASTER SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

He opens the door to the room. It is a huge bedroom with a jacuzzi next to the window, a fireplace and a huge bed.

SAMANTHA
Mommy, did Andy build these for us?

MELISSA
Yes, honey, he did.

She reaches over to touch the ring on her finger.

EXT. GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

The guests are seated. Lisa and Mark are exchanging vows. Andy is the best man. He looks a little sad. He looks toward the back of the garden. He sees Melissa and Samantha and smiles. As they smile back, Melissa touches her ring once again. Andy sees her touching it and knows they will be together.

FADE OUT