

INT. SAN DIEGO, CA - PERCY'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

A tiny flame flickers from the nearly spent CANDLE as it sits on a CLOCK RADIO. The radio, an empty bottle of wine and two wine glasses clutter a small nightstand next to the bed.

Clothes are strewn everywhere. **WILD PARTY NIGHT**

Flowing wax crawls down the front of the CLOCK RADIO. It flips to 6:25 AM. The flame burns out. Darkness. Barely visible is the back of a WOMAN. She's passed out laying on her side.

Inches away a man gasps...mutters incoherently, his head jerking back and forth.

CLOSE ON PERCY POWERS.

He's thirty-two, charming (when he wants to be), and good looking (especially if you've had a couple drinks). At this moment, his hair jumps out in all directions. Some pressed in sweat against his forehead. His face grimaces in torment.

Suddenly, a burst of light floods the bedroom and PAUL MICHAELS rushes through the door. His big beer belly is covered in the usual attire, a Hawaiian shirt. Round glasses, the way he speaks...the dude's smart.

PAUL
Percy! Percy, rise and shine. Come on,
you're late.

Startled and confused, Percy bolts upright in his bed.

PAUL
What's wrong with you? Now come on,
let's get going.

In one quick movement, Paul drags Percy from his bed.

As he's herded out of the bedroom, Percy looks back to see the woman still sound asleep.

IN THE FRONT YARD

Paul shoves Percy out the front door, like a puppy that just peed on the carpet. Dazed, Percy straightens up wondering why a MAN and WOMAN are staring at him.

In horror, he realizes...he's NAKED.

PERCY
Jesus Christ, I don't have any clothes
on.

He turns and grabs the door handle...LOCKED.

PERCY
Shit! Open the damn door, Paul.

PAUL
Come on, I have something in the Bronco
you can put on. Don't worry about it,
it's the big day.

Paul throws him in the passenger's seat of the Bronco then
jumps behind the wheel. He tosses Percy a pair of BOXER
SHORTS.

PAUL
(laughing)
Here, put these on for now. You'll
probably need to change them soon anyway.

Tires squeal. They head down the street.

PERCY
What's going on? Where are we going?

PAUL
Don't play dumb with me, dude. You lost
the bet; no time to regret.

The BRONCO is now hauling ass down a highway.

PERCY
Wait a minute I didn't lose. The bet's
not over yet. I can still win. There's
still a week left. I can still win.
Just ask Becka.

Without warning, a head pops up from the back seat. It's
BECKA. Twenty-one. Sassy. Enthusiasm of a ten-year-old in
Disneyland for the first time.

BECKA
No way, you lose. Sorry, but I brought
you an extra pair of these. I'm sure
you're gonna need them.

She holds up another pair of BOXER SHORTS. She and Paul
burst out laughing like a couple late night drunks.

PAUL
Hey, we're here, buddy boy. Let's go pay
the piper.

EXT. BUNGEE TOWER - DAY

Percy gets out of the Bronco to find a CROWD of people
gathered around a bungee PLATFORM.

PAUL
Time to rock and roll.

Paul drags him to an elevator cage and pushes him inside.

Percy whirls around as the cage door SLAMS SHUT. An OLD MAN
turns and smiles. He is small with a skinny, unshaven face

and decaying teeth. Surely he's escaped from the bowels of somewhere nasty.

OLD MAN

Going up.

The old man begins to laugh. Becka and Paul join in. A feeble hand pulls back on a lever, kicking the elevator into motion. We hear a loud mechanical SOUND.

Petrified, Percy retreats, his finger's tightly clenching the mesh of the cage.

OLD MAN

Of course this is a one way trip for you, isn't it?

Percy gasps for air. We hear the SOUND of the elevator clanging to a stop. The door swings open, and Paul shoves him out.

ON THE BUNGEE PLATFORM

PERCY

I'm not ready for this yet. Damn it, will you listen to me? I can't do this.

PAUL

Sure you can, it's easy. Besides, you have to jump, you told everyone you could do it. Look, they're all waiting for you.

POV of Paul as he points down past the edge of the platform. The crowd below look like ants.

PERCY

Listen to me. I can't do this. Do you understand me? This is not something I have power over.

PAUL

Sure you can, buddy boy. Look, it's easy. They just tie the bungee around your ankles, and you leap. See, they already have 'em on us.

Percy sees a bungee cable securely tied around Paul's ankles.

Around his ankles...NOTHING!

PERCY

Hey wait! I don't have anything around my feet!

PAUL

It's OK, you don't need anything. Let's go, buddy boy.

Paul grabs Percy and jumps from the tower.

THEY HURL TOWARDS THE GROUND.

PERCY
Aaaaaaaaahhhhhhhh!

INT. PERCY'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING (REALITY)

The echo of his SCREAM fades away, as Percy sits up in the darkness of early morning.

His chest is HEAVING.

He looks at the clock radio from which he hears Paul's VOICE.

PAUL (V.O.)
It's now 6:30 on what looks to be another Tequila Sunrise. You are listening to the Percy and Paul Showgram minus Percy, who should be draggin' his sorry ass in any minute now. Let's go to the newsroom for a morning update.

Percy turns off the radio.

PERCY
Fuck!

He sits for a moment to collect himself. NONA, a pretty woman in her late twenties is passed out next to him. He nudges her.

PERCY
Hey Nina, wake up. It's time to get up. I've gotta go.

NONA
It's Nona you asshole. What time is it anyway?

Raising her head, she looks at the clock on the night stand. She notices the melted candle running down the clock.

NONA
Hey, we melted the frickin alarm clock. I know I'm great in bed, but that's a first.

PERCY
Come on, get your ass up. I gotta go. I'm late.

NONA
Go. Just let me sleep. I'll lock the door behind me.

PERCY
No, now get up.

NONA

Do you hate all women or just the ones who won't give you a blow job in the parking lot of Piggly Wiggly? What, you afraid I'll be here when you get back?

PERCY

Look, I'm late and...I'm having the place fumigated this morning. On the other hand, maybe you should just stay, then I won't have to put up with your crap anymore.

She puts her arms around Percy's neck kissing him. He pulls away. Emotional attachment...not his bag.

NONA

You're a lot more fun when you're drunk. Look, if and when they come to fumigate, I'll leave. Okay?

PERCY

Fine, but don't get too comfortable. The guy's gonna be here early.

NONA

Whatever.

Nona crashes back into her pillow. Percy looks at her with indifference. He heads to the bathroom.

IN THE BATHROOM

He turns on the water at the sink. Looking up, he notices his reflection in the mirror.

Dark deep circles. Puffy bloodshot eyes. Pathetic.

EXT. PERCY'S HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Hustling out the front door, Percy steps off his porch just as a newspaper flies past him. Startled, he looks for the culprit. He eyes the villain. A PAPER BOY riding by on his bike.

PERCY

Hey!

The boy screeches his bike to a stop.

PAPER BOY

Good morning, Mr. Powers.

Percy picks up the paper lying at his feet.

PERCY

If you can't aim any better than that.

He fires the rolled up paper back at the boy.

PERCY
Then don't bother.

The boy ducks as the paper nearly clips him in the head.

PAPER BOY
Geez! I'm sorry!

PERCY
(muttering)
God damn, kids.

Percy rounds the corner and walks through his backyard to a small guest house behind his swimming pool. He peers into a bedroom window and taps on the glass.

PERCY
Tiger! Tiger! Tiger, wake up. It's
Percy.

He knocks a little louder on the window.

PERCY
Wake up Tiger, it's me, Percy.

The blinds fly up, and we see the face of TIGER, a young man with DOWN'S SYNDROME. His sleepy face instantly transforms with the realization it's Percy.

A huge smile crosses his face.

TIGER
Hold on a sec, Percy. I'm coming to kill
you.

He quickly unlocks the window and slides it open.

PERCY
Okay, Tiger do that later, but can you do
me a favor first?

TIGER
Sure. What's the matter?

PERCY
I need you to be bug man again.

TIGER
Bug Man! Oh no, not bug man.

PERCY
I really need your help.

TIGER
I don't know. Will... I mean is her...

PERCY

What? I need to go to work.

TIGER

Will her caboose be covered this time?

PERCY

Her what? Oh,... yes her caboose will be covered. You got your key, right?

Tiger shows him the key on a string which is around his neck.

INT.PERCY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

The front door opens and Tiger enters. He has a spray can strapped on his back and it bangs against the door as he walks in.

TIGER

OK, the bug guy is here. I sure hope that no one is home so they won't get no bug spray on them. I'm spraying the living room now and...and I'm about to go to the kitchen to spray.

Tiger wanders to the kitchen spraying along the baseboard of the walls imitating an exterminator.

TIGER

Here I go, spraying the bugs in the kitchen now. I'll be going to the bedroom pretty soon so I hope no one is in there asleep or something.

He stops, taking a glass from the cupboard, and sprays it full from his "bug spray" can. He DRINKS the light red substance. He then sprays along the counter top.

TIGER

Hi ho. Hi ho. It's off to the bedroom to kill bugs I go. Sure hope there's no bugs sleeping in Percy's bed.

He cautiously heads down the hall to Percy's bedroom.

INT. PERCY'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Still sound asleep, Nona rolls over pulling off the sheet covering her ass.

Tiger knocks and enters the room spraying along the baseboard.

TIGER

Okay all you bugs, time to hit the road cause the bug man's here.

NONA
What? AAahhhh! Shit, you scared me.
Who are you?

TIGER
I'm the bug guy, and you're not supposed
to be here.

Then it happens. Tiger's eyes lock right on her...ass.

TIGER
Oh, jeez-maneez, your caboose! Oh, boy.
Instinctively, he covers his eyes with both hands. The spray
from the nozzle spews into the air.

NONA
Hey, watch it. Aaahhhhh.
Tiger is either scared or excited, he's not sure which. He
starts to run in place, liquid bug stuff rains down from his
nozzle.

TIGER
Aaahhhhh. Oh, boy.

NONA
Wait! Settle down. Stop spraying me
with that stuff!

Nona covers herself with the sheet.

TIGER
Oh, jeez. You better go, lady. This
stuff is poison, you know. No one's
supposed to be here when I do this.

NONA
This doesn't look very dangerous. It
smells like Kool-Aid.

Nona dabs her finger in the Kool-Aid on her arm then puts it
to her tongue.

NONA
It even tastes like Kool-Aid.

TIGER
Oh, jeez. Of course it tastes like Kool-
Aid. That's the way we make it. You
don't think bugs are gonna eat poison
that tastes bad do you?

NONA
I don't know, I never thought about it.

TIGER
Look lady, you better get in the shower
and get that poison off your caboose! I
(MORE)

TIGER (cont'd)

heard of a lady who got some on part of her caboose. After that, every time she sat down, she tipped over.

NONA

You're kidding?

She bolts from the bed and runs for the bathroom wrapped in the bed sheet.

TIGER

Jeez-maneez! Percy, I'm gonna kill you.

EXT. RADIO STATION - LATER THAT SAME MORNING

Percy bolts around the corner of the building only to find a long line of SMALL CHILDREN holding hands and filing in the front door.

He checks his watch. Late. Really late.

The line of kids inches along moving inside. The last LITTLE GIRL in line stops and glances down at her untied shoe. She looks up with incredibly cute eyes.

LITTLE GIRL

Can you tie my shoe, please?

Percy glares at her.

PERCY

What am I, your mom?

He forces his way past the line of children.

INT. RADIO STATION STUDIO - MINUTES LATER

The flashing sign on the wall says ON THE AIR. Paul Michaels sits alone at the mic with headphones on.

PAUL

Now listeners, if anyone's near the Thrifto Gas station just west of the Encinitas off ramp, our friend James could use a little assistance.

Percy comes rushing in mouthing "I'm sorry." Paul picks up an orange sitting on the desk and throws it at Percy.

Percy ducks then sits down and puts on his headset.

PAUL

James, enlighten our listeners about your predicament.

We hear the VOICE of JAMES from the phone lines.

JAMES (O.S.)

I was on my way home from college in San Francisco when I stopped to put some gas in my car. I gave 'em my credit card, but it's expired. I don't have any cash and these guys won't let me go without paying for my gas.

PERCY

What did you expect, a free stick of jerky and a big "thanks for not paying"?

JAMES (O.S.)

Yeah, I know. It's just that my folks called late last night and told me my grandfather past away. I took off in kind of a hurry, I guess, and didn't plan too well.

Paul flips Percy the "you asshole" look.

PAUL

I think under the circumstances we can see how it would slip your mind. If anyone's in the area, could you please rescue our friend James. The station will be more than happy to reimburse any good samaritan nice enough to lend James the money. How much is it?

JAMES (O.S.)

Fifteen bucks. Heck, I'll pay them back with interest.

PERCY

Hey guys, you hear that?

PAUL

What, I don't hear anything.

PERCY

That's the sound of no one coming by for interest on fifteen bucks.

Paul now looks like he's ready to punch Percy's "smart ass mouth."

PAUL

Money's not the issue here, Percy.

PERCY

Yeah right. Look, the first person to stop by and give James fifteen bucks will receive round trip airfare to the Aerosmith concert next month in Las Vegas.

PAUL

Percy!

PERCY

You want to get the guy help don't you.

The HONKING of several car horns are heard on the phone line.
We hear a SMASHING SOUND. Heavy metal colliding.

PERCY

That didn't sound too good.

JAMES (O.S.)

Holy shit! There's like ten cars
screaming up here, and they're all waving
money out their windows. What do I do?

PERCY

Put the first one to give you money on
the phone. Our producer will help them.

JAMES (O.S.)

Thanks guys.

PAUL

(faking a laugh)

Well Percy, once again you're the hero.
Now, you want to tell us about your
special assignment, which brought you in
late.

PERCY

My what? Uh... yes, yes, I did finish my
uh special assignment. But, I'm here
now, and where are we?

PAUL

We were preparing to introduce our guest
this morning. You mentioned finishing
your special assignment which is why you
were late. So, perhaps you could
enlighten our listeners as to your
whereabouts. We have about six minutes
to kill.

Paul's patience is long gone. He's seething.

PERCY

I was looking for ...for..

PAUL

For what? A life?

PERCY

Well, I wasn't actually looking for
anything. I was...talking to someone. I
was talking tosome kids. About what
would...you know, what would be the
perfect night out on the town.

PAUL

Oh, really. And what, pray tell, was the urgency of this ever so convenient search for truth in today's youth?

PERCY

I was looking for ideas for our junior listener's contest.

Percy smiles. Nice improvisation.

PAUL

Our junior listeners? You want to elaborate on this a little bit?

PERCY

Not really.

Paul glares at him. Busted.

PERCY

Actually, I wouldn't mind. It's really pretty simple. Listeners, we want to know why your child deserves to have the "mutha of all party nights".

PAUL

We all know how much you adore children, Percy. I guess we should have known you would want to take them out for an exciting evening, all by yourself. Ok mom and dad, fax in your letter explaining why your child deserves to have a awe-inspiring evening with Percy. Our Fax number is 555-1099. Oh, look at the time. Hey, Jack Staton, the hunk doctor from the hit show "Miami Terminal", is on the phone.

Percy looks worried.

INT. ILENA DORAN'S HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

We see two sheets of paper sitting in a fax machine. A hand, belonging to an older woman, punches in a phone number. The fax rings, before connecting and sending the pages.

The CAMERA pulls away from the fax machine, dollies across the room, down the hall and stops at a partially opened bedroom door, with a STOP SIGN hanging on it.

We peek through the crack of the open door:

INT. SAMMY DORAN'S BEDROOM

The morning light softly filters through the mini blinds. A striped shadow stretches across a small dinosaur covered blanket.

ILENA DORAN sits on the edge of her son SAMMY'S bed. Ilena, late twenties, is a striking Latina-American woman.

She is immediately endearing.

Sammy, seven-years-old, has sad blue eyes. Something's wrong deep inside.

ILENA
Sweetheart, it's time for you to get up.
Come on now, we made a deal. Baby, I'm
not going to let you stay home anymore.
You're getting too far behind.

The boy remains motionless.

ILENA
Sweetheart, I know you don't feel like
going to school, but you can't spend the
rest of your life in your pajamas.

She pauses looking deeply into his lifeless eyes. The boy obliquely gazes at the ceiling.

ILENA
OK, I'm not going to be nice about this
anymore. Sammy, you're getting up.

She lifts him from under the dinosaurs.

ILENA
I laid out some clothes for you to pick
from, so choose what you want.

The boy stands still, staring down at his bare feet. She kneels down grasping him firmly by the shoulders.

ILENA
Sammy, listen to me. I'm standing my
ground this time, and you are going to
school.
(she raises her voice)
Do you understand me?

She peers into his eyes looking for a sign; for something, anything.

Suddenly, his eyes well up with tears, and a stream starts to run down from one eye. She pulls him to her in a tight embrace.

ILENA
Oh, sweetheart. What am I going to do
with you?

INT. RADIO STATION HALLWAY

Tension inflames the air around Percy and Paul as they walk down the hallway.

PAUL

You offer up free airline tickets to Vegas for an Aerosmith concert, which doesn't exist! Their last concert of the year is in Florida, tomorrow night. Do you have any concept of how expensive last minute airline tickets are? And then you create another contest without management's consent. Look, I want you to understand something right now. It's time you left Percy's world and joined the rest of us in reality. I mean it, I'm serving notice.

PERCY

Look, I'm sorry. I'll make it up to you.

Becka chases them down.

BECKA

Hey, guys! Wait a second.

PAUL

What's up?

BECKA

A meeting has been called for two. The suits are all coming in.

PAUL

Son-of-a-bitch! There goes our bonus. What have I told you? Don't go off half-cocked on the air.

PERCY

I didn't go off half-cocked. You know me; I always go off fully-cocked or not at all.

DECKER

There you guys are!

AARON DECKER rounds the corner. He's the non-working CEO(50's). Arrogant. Fat. Raised with money.

DECKER

(sharply)

Alright, who's idea was this kid's contest?

Percy looks at Paul for support, but is greeted with silence. Paul refuses to bail him out.

PERCY

This is gonna sound crazy, but for some reason, I thought we had got the go ahead on this one.

(getting defensive)

Maybe I'm thinking of something else.

(MORE)

PERCY (cont'd)

Anyway, I don't think there's any reason
to start screaming at anyone over this.

Percy braces himself for a tongue lashing.

DECKER

Oh, I'm gonna scream all right! Scream
for joy!

(breaking into a smile)

The fax machines and phones are ringing
off the hook! Everyone wants their kid
to win a night out with you, Percy.
Especially a lot of single moms. You sly
dog, you. Great idea! I'll see you two
at the meeting.

Slapping Percy on the back, Decker marches off.

BECKA

(surprised)

I don't get it, you hate kids.

(checking her watch)

Hey, I gotta give the next traffic
report. See ya.

She scampers back to the studio.

ECU on Paul.

PAUL

You are so lucky.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF THE RADIO STATION - MINUTES LATER

As Percy walks up to his VIPER, a BMW zips up next to him.
The dark tinted window slides down.

Inside, ALLISON BENTLY. She is a beautiful, missile-toting
executive with a ball-buster mentality.

She takes one last pull on her cigarette.

ALLISON

Hey, good looking.

PERCY

What are you doing here? Did my alimony
check get lost in the mail, or has one of
the Navy destroyers docked?

Allison steps from her car. She looks gorgeous with her
blond hair, tight business skirt and white blouse.

She's unbuttoned the blouse just enough to give a little
treat.

ALLISON

Alimony, that's a good one.

PERCY

I thought your new husband forbid you from leaving the house?

ALLISON

A lot of men don't want their wives to work.

Allison is silent for a moment, then:

ALLISON

Bernie passed away a few months ago.

Both are quiet.

PERCY

(sarcastic)

At his seventy-fifth birthday party, he looked like he had at least another month in him.

ALLISON

That's nice. You're such an ass.

PERCY

Am I imagining things or were your boobs flying over the Superbowl last year?

ALLISON

I was wondering when you'd notice.

PERCY

I'm betting Bernie died of a heart attack, am I right?

ALLISON

Yeah, he...

(catching herself)

I had the enhancements after he died. A woman needs every advantage she can get in business. I have to support myself now.

PERCY

Who are you trying to kid, Bernie was loaded.

ALLISON

He also had a lot of debt.

PERCY

What do you want, Allison? You wouldn't be here if you didn't want something.

ALLISON

I don't want anything. I'm here to warn you. There's some funny business going on at your station, and it might just effect you.

PERCY

Yeah, right.

ALLISON

Look, Bernie left me enough money to buy into K101. I'm the new general manager and...

PERCY

Why would you buy into that piece of crap?

Percy opens the door to his Viper and jumps inside.

ALLISON

I'm going to turn it around and make a lot of money, that's why. The point is, I know what's going on in town. Maybe if you'd pull your head out of your butt you'd see what's going on in the rest of the world.

PERCY

I see things just fine.

The Viper's engine roars to life. He shoots her one last nasty look, then SQUEALS out of the parking lot.

INT. ILENA'S DEN - DAY

Ilena stands behind her desk, phone held to her ear by her shoulder. She cradles a crying INFANT while a SMALL CHILD plays next to her feet.

We see a LATINA WOMAN, early thirties, bent over a chair changing the diaper of a SECOND SMALL CHILD.

ILENA

I know it's short notice, but I could use a big favor, Thomas. I really need something tonight. I don't think you grasp the immediacy of the situation.

The baby she's holding is crying harder now. The little boy tugs at her arm.

ILENA

What did you say? Shhhhhh. What? Call him, and see what he says. Okay. Okay, Call me right back, alright. Thank you.
(to the woman)

I think we found a temporary place for you.

WOMAN

I am so sorry, I didn't mean to be a burden to you. I am no good to anyone. All I do is cause problems wherever I go.

ILENA

You're not a problem for me. This is what we do here. We help people just like you. It's Ok. Really, it's Ok.

The phone RINGS.

ILENA

There, that's probably good news.

She picks up the phone.

ILENA

Hello, Thomas, is that you? Yes, this is the Doran residence. I'm sorry, I was expecting someone else. Oh, hello Mrs. Williams, how are you today? Yes, Sammy is at home with me today.

She turns her back to the woman.

ILENA

I thought he would be ready to come back as well, but he just isn't ready yet. I know what the doctor said but he's not up to it. Believe me, I wish it was that simple. I know my son and I know he is not ready to go back to school yet.

Ilena begins to pace as she listens.

ILENA

Are you threatening me, Mrs. Williams?

The Woman walks over and gets her baby from Ilena.

ILENA

Go ahead and call social services, that's who I work for. Well that's what it sounds like to me. I am not yelling, I am just...yelling. Look, I'm sorry. I'll have Sammy back in school by the end of the week. I know it's going to be hard for him to catch up. Thank you. Good bye.

Ilena hangs up the phone. She fights back the emotions. Pushes them back down deep.

WOMAN

You have trouble of your own, don't you?
I'm so sorry.

There is a KNOCK at the door. FIONA ILKO, Ilena's personal live-in assistant, sticks her head in. Fiona is in her late fifties, Latina-American, very opinionated, but loyal as Aunt Bea.

FIONA
I'm sorry to interrupt, but there is a
matter of urgency here.

ILENA
It's okay. What's up?

FIONA
I think you better come out here.

ILENA
Excuse me, I'll be right back.

ILENA'S LIVING ROOM - AT THAT SAME MOMENT

Standing, we see an African-American woman, DEON HAWKINS
(30's), tall, slender and frail from ABUSE. A toddler
huddles at her feet. She cradles an infant in her arms.

The woman's face is swollen and bruised. One eye is nearly
closed.

ILENA
Oh, my! Hi, I'm Ilena. I hope you got a
few licks in too.

The woman smiles slightly.

ILENA
Please, sit down. It looks to me like
you could use a little help here. Who
sent you? Maurice?

She nods yes.

ILENA
Let me just finish something in my
office, I promise I'll be right back.

INT. FAX AND COPY ROOM OF RADIO STATION - DAY

Becka is making copies when a new fax buzzes out next to her.

She snatches the fax up and noticing that it is a contract
for new radio show called "THE PAUL MICHAEL'S SHOW".

Very surprised, she hears footsteps and sets the fax back in
the fax tray. Paul rounds the corner.

PAUL
Hey.

BECKA
Hey.

Paul grabs the fax.

PAUL
Did you read this?

BECKA
Read what?

PAUL
Good, I didn't want to explain it to you.
Bye.

BECKA
Bye.

Becka is bewildered.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM OF RADIO STATION - DAY

A production meeting is in full swing, lead by Decker.

DECKER
This kid's contest should give us a lot
of bang for the dollar, but the Aerosmith
concert is way out-of-line. We're
exceeding the budget as it is.

PERCY
I'm sorry, I thought the goal of the show
was to stay number one?

DECKER
It really doesn't do us any good to be
number one, if we lose money in the
process, does it!?

PAUL
You're right, that was our fault. We
just got a little anxious.

DECKER
Good. Now remember I want everyone in
attendance for our big bash on the
twentieth.

PERCY
This isn't black tie, is it?

DECKER
Yes, and that doesn't mean wearing a
black tie around your head like you did
last year.

LAUGHTER is heard from a couple staff members.

PERCY
(giving a puzzled look to the
woman next to him)
Did I do that?

She nods yes.

DECKER

We want to make a good impression on Mr. Ortega, the new owner of our sister station in Tijuana. There are rumors he wants to buy this station. Let's see, is there anything else...Oh, how's the fund raising contest going? I hear Paul's raised forty thousand for Father Joe. How much do you have so far, Percy?

PERCY

I have sixty eight bucks, an IOU from my ex-wife and six beaver skins.

The entire staff cracks up.

INT. PERCY'S OFFICE - DAY

Becka drops a huge pile of faxes on Percy's desk.

BECKA

These are today's faxes alone. Unbelievable! We've never had a response like this. When are you gonna start reading all of these, Percy?

Percy is preoccupied reading the morning paper.

PERCY

What? Oh, that. I don't know. I'll get to it.

BECKA

Hey, Percy can I talk to you about something? Personal, ya know?

PERCY

If you're lookin' for a therapist, my degree is in bartending.

BECKA

Let's see, Becka and Percy are in the same room. I wonder who could use a therapist? Surprise, it's the dickhead behind the desk.

PERCY

Was that an insult?

BECKA

Percy, the Arbitron diary's are hitting homes right now. You need to take advantage of this promotion, and you need to get back into the show more.

PERCY

I suppose I have been a little...

BECKA
Nonexistent.

PERCY
Nonexistent? I'm not sure I'd go that far.

BECKA
I'm gonna tell you something, and I hope to God you don't tell Paul I told you, but he might be looking at starting his own show. Without you!

PERCY
What!

BECKA
I'm not sure I blame him, the way you've been leaving him holding the bag. He's burning out.
(getting very animated)
And I'm sorry your wife left you and you had a bad divorce and all that stuff, but you can't expect everyone to carry your load while you're out all night drinking and feeling sorry for yourself every n...

PERCY
Could you speak a little louder, I don't think the people in Arizona heard you.

BECKA
I'm sorry, but you act like an eighteen year-old with a free pass to the Mustang Ranch.

PERCY
The Mustang Ranch...do you even know what the Mustang Ranch is?

BECKA
No. But that's what Decker said.

PERCY
Decker said that?

Realization is sinking in.

PERCY
Are you too mad to help me out?

BECKA
I'm not mad, I'm just...disappointed.

PERCY
Okay, get one of those interns in here and start screening these faxes. Then bring me the best, and I'll read them on the air every day.

BECKA

Here.

She whips out a pile of faxes from her back pack and slams them on the desk. Percy is taken by surprise.

PERCY

Thanks Becka. That's...

BECKA

Nice. I know. Nice is what people do to people they like. This boy here is my favorite.

(she points to the top fax)

And you better get some money raised, or you're gonna be shittin' bricks when you gotta jump from that bungee tower. Bye.

She heads out the door.

INT. PERCY'S VIPER - DAY

Percy's on his cellular phone.

PERCY

Hi, is Don Jacobs in, please? This is Percy Powers. Thank you. Don, Percy. You've raised the money for sure, right? This is a done deal? I'm telling you, this is very important. I can't jump off a tall woman let alone a god damn bungee tower. Just make sure this goes through. Call me tomorrow. Bye.

INT. PERCY'S HOUSE - DAY

Percy opens the front door and finds Tiger lounging on the couch.

TIGER

Hey, Percy. I'm gonna kill you.

PERCY

Yeah, well get in line. You hungry?

He heads toward the kitchen.

TIGER

No. Don't ever ask me to be bug man again.

PERCY

Okay. You thirsty?

Percy opens a cupboard and extracts two glasses. He sets them on the counter then jumps back startled.

PERCY

Oh, man! Look at this. Ants! There's hundreds of 'em all over. Where the hell did they come from?

TIGER

It looks like a giant ant farm in here.

He examines the Kool-Aid on the counter.

PERCY

What's all over the counter?

TIGER

I don't know. Maybe it's Kool-Aid.

PERCY

Kool-Aid! Why would there be Kool-Aid all over...Oh, no you didn't. Tiger, tell me you didn't spray Kool-Aid all over this house.

TIGER

Okay, I won't.

INT. PERCY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Percy and Tiger are asleep on his couch. Junk food everywhere. The TV plays blindly in the B.G. Percy wakes and nudges Tiger.

PERCY

You wanna sleep on the couch or go to your house?

TIGER

My house! This couch sucks. It's lumpy.

PERCY

From your fat ass sitting on it all the time.

Tiger rubs his hand on his butt.

TIGER

All the more for the girls to love.

As they walk to the front door, the DOORBELL RINGS. Percy opens it to find Allison with a bottle of wine in her hand.

ALLISON

Surprise.

TIGER

Venom! I thought she moved to hell?

PERCY
Tiger!

ALLISON
You little troll.

PERCY
Allison! It's not his fault, I told him that. Good night, Tiger. I'll see you later.

TIGER
Good night.

ALLISON
Good night, Tiger.

TIGER
Good night, Venom.

ALLISON
It's Allison, and you know it!
Tiger snickers on his way out the door.

PERCY
Your pimp give you the night off?

ALLISON
That's an original one. I'm here to make peace between us.

With a leery eye, Percy watches her walk past him.

PERCY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

The bottle of wine sitting on the coffee table is now empty. Percy and Allison are on the couch.

ALLISON
It wasn't easy for me to come over here?
Silently, they sit next to each other. Allison slides close.

ALLISON
I'm really sorry for the way I handled things. Leaving, I mean.

No response.

ALLISON
I just wanted you to know that.

PERCY
Whatever. So, what are your plans for the Crusty Fart morning show? You gonna can 'em?

ALLISON

Rusty and Art are already looking for a new home. Why, are you interested?

PERCY

Hell no! I was just curious?

ALLISON

It's an interesting prospect. Maybe I'll kick the idea around with the suits.

PERCY

Don't bother. I think it's time for you to go.

ALLISON

Oh, I get it. Percy's still mad, so he's gonna put me through the wringer for awhile. It's okay, I can wait.

PERCY

There's nothing to wait for.

She snuggles up, lying her head on his shoulder. Percy doesn't reciprocate.

ALLISON

I used to lay in bed at night thinking about you, wondering what you were doing, who you were with. It didn't take long for me to realize, I still had feelings for you.

PERCY

I still have feelings for you, too. Let me see if I can find the words to describe them. Despise. Repulsed. Nauseated.

ALLISON

I'm serious. I realized I still love you.

PERCY

When did this realization hit, before or after you slipped grandpa his Viagra?

ALLISON

Okay, that's it! I'm not taking anymore of this. This is exactly why I left you in the first place. Everything's a damn joke with you.

Allison clangs her wine glass on the coffee table and bolts towards the door. Not sure what he wants...

PERCY

Wait.

Allison stops. A slight smile forms, before she turns back to him.

Allsion 1. Percy 0.

INT. RADIO STATION STUDIO - MORNING

Percy and Paul are on the air.

PAUL

Let me make sure I understand. This little ten-year-old girl pulled her uncle out of the path of a speeding beer truck? Where did this happen?

PERCY

I don't know, in front of their house, I guess. What does it matter?

PAUL

Well, I'm curious why there was a runaway beer truck in front of a University City home at eight o'clock in the morning. When did beer distributors start making home deliveries? Look at the top of the fax; where did this fax originate?

PERCY

Platinum Ladies Topless Lounge.

PAUL

Next. Becka brought this one to our attention. "Dear Mr. Percy, my son recently lost his father, and now I fear I am losing him. When I look into his eyes I no longer see the joy and excitement of a little boy, but rather the pain and despair of a child who would rather die, than go on without his Papa. My son needs something special to prove life is worth living. Someone to bring joy back into his life. Please, Mr. Percy, help him mend his broken heart."

Silence.

PAUL

Now, that is a heartfelt appeal.

PERCY

Boy, sounds like that little guy got a bum deal along the way.

PAUL

Let's take a couple of phone calls from our listeners and see what they think.

PERCY

Hello, you're in the air with Percy and Paul. Who are we talking to?

KATHY (O.S.)

Kathy.

PAUL

Are you a parent, Kathy?

KATHY (O.S.)

Yes, I am, and I have to tell you I am still wiping the tears from my eyes.

PERCY

That beer truck story got to ya, did it?

KATHY (O.S.)

Don't be stupid, Percy. That poor little boy deserves to win this contest. I remember when my son lost his dog. It took weeks for him to get over it. I can't imagine what he would've gone through if he'd lost his dad.

PAUL

Okay, thank you for calling, Kathy. Well, stupid, I mean Percy. We have one vote for the boy who's dying of a broken heart.

PERCY

Hello, you're in the air with Percy and Paul. Who am I talking to?

BOB (O.S.)

This here is Bob Thomas, down here at Discount Tire and Rims. I lost my little brother when I was six years old, and I'm here to tell you I nearly didn't make it through that whole dang ordeal. This little fella needs your help. Now don't go messin' this thing up. Just give it to him, ya hear me. Bye.

PAUL

Well, thanks for calling, Bob.

PERCY

Yeah, thanks for sharing, Bob. The coffee is in the back of the room by the twelve step books next to the contribution basket.

Paul gives Percy the "you idiot" look.

PAUL

Percy, you probably don't remember, Bob. He owns Discount Tire and Rims, that

(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)

great chain of tire stores, here in San Diego. He's probably our biggest sponsor.

PERCY

That Bob? Oh...Thanks for calling, Bob. I think we definitely have a front runner here.

INT. SAMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sammy is tucked neatly under his dinosaurs as Ilena reads to him.

ILENA

"Safe at home at last, little Roberto went to sleep in his own bed. The end." Did you like that story?

The boy remains silent...emotionless.

ILENA

Sweetheart, I want you to listen to me. I know you miss your daddy. I bet you feel this bad feeling in your tummy whenever you think about him, don't you?

He looks up into her eyes.

ILENA

It will get better, I promise you. Do you want to know what will make that bad feeling go away? Doing things you enjoy is all you have to do. Really, it's that easy. Just like when we read this story. Did you notice while we were reading the story the bad feeling went away? That's why it's very important for you to start playing with your friends again. While you're playing and having fun, you won't get that bad feeling. And you know what else will keep you from getting that bad feeling? Seeing your friends at school.

Sammy rolls over against the wall.

ILENA

Sweetheart, I know it's going to be hard, but you can't miss so much school.

Suddenly, there is a loud CRASH. SCREAMS.

ILENA

What is that? Stay here, Sammy!

ILENA'S LIVING ROOM - AT THAT MOMENT

Ilena reaches the living room to find her front door kicked open. DARNELL PEALER, African-American (20's), has glassy eyes and looks CRAZED. He's yelling at Deon and Fiona.

DARNELL

Just get the kids, and let's go to the crib. Do you hear me, woman? Move!

FIONA

Please sir, settle down, and let's talk about this rationally.

DARNELL

There ain't nothin' to talk about.

He pushes Fiona away as Ilena approaches from behind.

ILENA

Please sir, there is no need for anyone to get hurt.

DARNELL

Shuttup, bitch! Deon, let's go, now!

Horrificed, Ilena sees Sammy's baseball bat lying on the floor. As Darnell steps forward to grab Deon, Ilena snatches the bat. SMACK! She slams it down on his foot.

DARNELL

Owwwww!

Darnell hops on one foot holding the other. Ilena sees her opening...THUMP, she smashes the other foot. Darnell falls backward in agony.

DARNELL

Oh shit! Don't hit me again!

Grabbing her purse, Fiona pulls out a can of pepper spray and squirts Darnell in the eyes.

FIONA

Take that, you bully.

DARNELL

Damn. Stop it, I'll leave. I'll leave.

INT. ILENA'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

We see FLASHING police lights slashing through the windows. On the floor sits Darnell. His arms wrapped tight against his body in DUCT TAPE. Two ICE BAGS are taped to the top of his feet.

Ilena talks to OFFICER SPENCER as an EMT helps Darnell hobble outside.

ILENA

I feel bad for braking his toes.

OFFICER SPENCER

He deserved a lot more than that, ma'am.
If you need anything else, give us a
call. Good night, ma'am.

ILENA

Good night, and thank you.

As Ileana shuts the door behind the policeman, she turns to
see Sammy watching from the hall. He looks up at his mom.
CONFUSED. SCARED. He turns and runs away to his room.

ILENA

Sammy, wait.

Fiona enters from the hallway.

FIONA

Deon and the children are all settled in.
How did he know she was here?

ILENA

She didn't want him to worry about the
kids, so she called him. He claimed he
just wanted to know where they were
incase he needed to contact them.

FIONA

Codependent women. Loco.

ILENA

I can't believe this. I am never letting
anyone stay in my house again. I don't
care what their situation is.

FADE OUT AND FADE IN:

INT. PERCY'S OFFICE - DAY

Percy's office resembles a Freshman's dorm room. Promotional
crap everywhere. He's nervously tossing a Nerf basketball
through a small hoop on his wall. He sees Becka jet past his
office door.

PERCY

Becka! Hey, come here, will ya. Listen,
I was wondering. If you aren't busy
tonight, I've got the old company credit
card.

BECKA

Forget it. I know what you're thinking,
you butthead. You want me to come along
and keep track of your contest winner?

PERCY

No! I just thought you might not have
anything going on, and this is gonna be a
(MORE)

PERCY (cont'd)

lot of fun. We're going to see what's his name. You know, the big fish...black and white, uh teeth.

BECKA

Shamu.

PERCY

That's it! Shamu. And we're going to that new spaceship place. You know, where you blow up ships and stuff.

BECKA

Wow, sounds like a real testosterone rush. This is going to be a tough one to pass up, but no thanks.

PERCY

Look, I'll give you seven hundred and fifty bucks if you go.

BECKA

No Percy! Just relax and have some fun. Being nice won't kill you.

PERCY

Maybe you're right. Who knows, maybe his mom's a babe.

BECKA

The woman's husband just died for crying out loud. At least this one's dead and not just out of town.

(Percy shoots her a nasty look)

Oooops, did I say that? I'll see ya later. Have fun.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF RADIO STATION - AFTERNOON

PAUL

You're all set at Virtual World. Here's the tickets for Shamu. Fireworks commence at ten thirty.

PERCY

Well, we wouldn't want to miss the fucking fireworks, would we? Paul, please go with me. If you go along, I'll give you my Viper.

PAUL

Liar! Lighten up. This could be a lot of fun.

A white van with an Action Five television logo on the side pulls up. Two men eagerly jump out and hustle over to Percy and Paul.

DOUG WILLIAMS, is an eager 23-year-old intern. Following along is, SKY SOBOLEWSKI, a long haired laid back surfer dude.

PERCY
What is this?

PAUL
Decker thought we should get some publicity out of this. Human interest story.

PERCY
Great! DJ humiliated, details at five. Just stay out of my way. You got that?

DOUG
No problem.

Percy stomps off to the waiting limo.

DOUG
Who put the bug up his ass, man?

EXT. ILENA'S HOUSE - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

The black limo cruises to the curb in front of Ilena's house. The white television van barrels to a stop behind it.

Percy beelines for the front door trying to out run Doug and Sky who are dragging out video equipment.

INSIDE ILENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Fiona, drying her hands on a towel, scurries to the door and opens it.

PERCY
Hi, are you Mrs. Doran?

FIONA
No, I'm Fiona Ilko. I'm Ilena's assistant. I'm afraid she had an emergency and had to leave. Can I help you?

PERCY
I'm here to pick up Sammy Doran.

FIONA
For what?

PERCY
I'm Percy Powers. He's the winner of my radio contest. Didn't you get a call from my station?

FIONA

Sammy won! That's great, but no one called us.

PERCY

Oh, perfect. Becka, I'm gonna kill you. When is Mrs. Duran coming back?

FIONA

Well, I'm not sure. Hopefully, soon.

Percy looks over his shoulder and sees the two intern idiots fumbling their way up the walkway with a video camera.

PERCY

I don't think you understand. You see those guys? They're a television crew, and we don't want to look like fools on camera.

Avoiding the issue, Percy forces his way inside and shuts the door.

PERCY

Where's the kid? The boy, Sammy. Is he here?

FIONA

Yes he is, but...

There is a KNOCK on the door.

PERCY

Hey, we'll be right out, guys. Well, why don't we just grab the little guy and make the best of the situation.

FIONA

I don't think that is such a good idea.

There is another KNOCK on the door.

PERCY

Hey kids, can we say, "wait a damn minute"!

The door handle clicks, and the door begins to open, but Percy quickly shoves it shut.

PERCY

What are you deaf?

Sammy strolls up behind Fiona holding a small dinosaur.

PERCY

Hi there, kid. Look lady, those guys out there are here to tape a little boy winning a contest. They want to see him and the nice radio man here climb into
(MORE)

PERCY (cont'd)

the big limo and drive into the sunset.
So, why don't we just leave a note for
this little boy's mother, and we can all
go out and have a god damn good time.
Alright!?

FIONA

I don't think that would be a good idea.
I'm sure Ilena will be home soon.

Once again the door inches its way open. Perturbed, Percy
puts the palm of his hand on the door to shut it tight.

PERCY

(towards the door)

This is the last time I'm gonna...

Suddenly, the door slams open...SMACK, right in Percy's face.

PERCY

Ow! What the hell are you doing?

Ilena steps through the door.

FIONA

Ilena! You're back.

ILENA

What's going on in here? Who is this?

PERCY

If you promise not to hit me again, I'll
introduce myself. I'm Percy Powers.

Ileana gives him the "who?" look.

PERCY

Of the Percy and Paul radio show.
Someone at my station was suppose to call
you this afternoon.

ILENA

Mr. Powers, I have no idea what you're
talking about. I've never heard of your
radio show, and I haven't talked to
anyone at your station. What do you
want?

PERCY

Oh right, like you've never heard of my
radio show? You sent me a fax about your
son.

FIONA

Perhaps I can explain.

ILENA

I never sent you or anyone else a fax
about my son.

PERCY
Are you Ilena Doran?
(pulls out papers)
I have your original fax with your name
and address right on it.

FIONA
I can explain this.

PERCY
Now, unless your name is Sybil, and you
don't remember which personality sent
this...

ILENA
Excuse me!? You had better watch your
mouth buddy, or one of the sweeter
personalities might just knock that smirk
right off your face.

FIONA
(shouts)
I sent the fax.

PERCY AND ILENA
What?

FIONA
I sent the fax.

ILENA
You sent a fax in my name?

FIONA
It's just a little contest, I didn't
exactly sign away the house.

ILENA
Well, this is ridiculous. Obviously, I
can't send him out on such short notice.

PERCY
Wait a minute! We've gone to a lot of
trouble to set up this night for you and
your son.

ILENA
Even if he did want to go, I can't go
now. I've got to go back to the
hospital.

FIONA
Ilena, that is just an excuse. I can go
to the hospital for you.

ILENA
Oh, I don't know. It's up to Sammy.
(she kneels down)
Sweetheart, you've won a contest, and we
(MORE)

ILENA (cont'd)

can go with this man and do some fun things if you want to go.

Sammy is silent.

PERCY

(kneels down to Sammy)

Hey, dude. Look, you don't know me very well, but that's okay, because I don't know you very well either. You are so lucky, do you know that? You won a contest on my radio show. If you go with me, we're gonna have a lot of fun. First of all, you're going to be on TV. I'm not kidding. There's a cameraman on your porch right now. Look out the window if you don't believe me.

Sammy crosses to the window and peeks out.

PERCY

Is he still there, or did your mom knock him out or something?

A small smile. He nods yes.

PERCY

We're going to a place where we can fly spaceships to Mars. What do you think of that?

Hey, wait a minute. Sammy's interest is piqued.

ILENA

Would you like to go, sweetheart?

The boy says nothing. Percy notices the dinosaur in Sammy's hand. Think fast. Think fast.

PERCY

That's not all we're going to do? We're going to see a huge dinosaur that swims in a big tank. Yeah, his name is Shamu, and I think I can arrange it so you can pet him, if you want.

ILENA

Dinosaur! Shamu is not a dinosaur.

PERCY

Couldn't you just work with me here a little, I'm kind of struggling, you know.

Sammy tugs on his mother's arm.

ILENA

You want to go? Are you sure? He doesn't know the difference between a dinosaur and a mammal.

PERCY
You're a big help, lady, you know that?

ILENA
Alright, but here are the ground rules.
If he gets too tired or upset, we come
right home.

PERCY
No problem. If he wants to come home,
all he has to do is say so.

ILENA
Are you really a nincompoop, or are you
just playing the part of the obnoxious
DJ?

INT. LIMO - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Sammy cautiously climbs into the limo and sits in the seat
directly across from Tiger. Tiger sits quietly drinking a
soda and watching TV.

TIGER
Hello.

Ilena steps in next.

ILENA
Oh! Hello.

TIGER
Hi, I'm Tiger. I'm Percy's brother. Can
we just keep that between us.
(giggling at his joke)

Ilena postures herself next to Sammy as Percy climbs in.

ILENA
I won't tell a soul. My name is Ilena,
and this is Sammy.

TIGER
Are you his mom?

PERCY
Stop asking so many questions.

TIGER
Percy paid me to come.

PERCY
Tiger! Will you just...don't talk so
much.

TIGER
Why can't I talk? You said you wanted me
to come because he doesn't talk.

PERCY
 (embarrassed)
 That's not what I said.

TIGER
 Yes, it is.
 (to Ilena)
 Then he gave me fifty dollars. See!

Tiger whips out the fifty dollars to prove it.

BUSTED.

PERCY
 Look, it's not what you think. I just
 thought Tiger might help make things go a
 little easier. I'm not all that great
 with kids.

ILENA
 Or adults, from what I've seen.

INT. LAUNCH AREA OF VIRTUAL REALITY WORLD - LATER

The high tech launch area is filled with rows of futuristic
 spaceship cockpits. Computer terminals provide navigational
 information to the pilots. High on the walls hang monitors
 covering spaceship races already in progress.

The four listen to CASSANDRA, a tall cute Gothgirl in her
 twenties. She wears a white lab coat, as do all the
 employees.

CASSANDRA
 Okay, I've written down all of your
 fighter pilots' handles, and we're ready
 to board.
 (Looks at Ilena)
 Annihilator, you're in pod number 9.

PERCY
 Annihilator!

ILENA
 Is that bad. Should I pick something
 scarier? How about Percy?

TIGER
 (laughing)
 That's a good one.

CASSANDRA
 Haystack, you're in pod 10, over here.

PERCY
 Not Haystack again? You're suppose to
 scare off your enemy, not entice the cows
 to come home for dinner.

TIGER

Dad told me the best wrestler in the world was a big mean guy named Haystack. Say your prayers, Percy.

Tiger bangs and flops his way in. Cassandra maneuvers Percy and Sammy to the next pod.

CASSANDRA

The Silent Knight is in pod 11.

TIGER

(yelling from his pod)
You named him a Christmas song?

PERCY

Mind your own business, Mr. Dairy Farm Snack.

Sammy tentatively slips inside the pod. Cassandra cradles her arm under Percy's, pulling him close, then escorts him to his ship.

CASSANDRA

If you want, I can come back and hold your flight stick through the rough spots.

PERCY

If it gets that rough, I'll just hit the ejector seat.

CASSANDRA

Oh, you are funny.

Percy escapes Cassandra's clutch by diving into the Pod. Cassandra spins around nearly running over Sammy.

CASSANDRA

What's up?

PERCY

I think he's a little scared.

CASSANDRA

Why doesn't he just ride with you?

PERCY

I'm claustrophobic as it is.

CASSANDRA

Just sit on his lap, hun.

Sammy quickly seizes the opportunity and climbs onto Percy's lap. Uncomfortable can't fully describe Percy's expression.

CASSANDRA

You two look awful cute in there together.

INSIDE THE COCKPIT- LATER

Percy and Sammy are deeply engaged in a space battle on Mars. Ships are firing phasers at them as they race the corridors of the Red Planet. The pilots communicate through a built-in intercom system.

PERCY

What's that? Whoah, there he is, fire your phaser.

Sammy strikes the green phaser button and holds it down.

PERCY

Haystack, prepare to be munched.

TIGER

By you and whose army?

PERCY

Hey, Annihilator. How's your ship flying?

ILENA

I don't understand this. My spaceship keeps exploding.

PERCY

That's because the Silent Knight is a bomb launching maniac who shows no mercy.

The sound of another EXPLOSION is heard in the background. Then Ilena hears a sound she has not heard in a long time:

Sammy LAUGHING out loud.

PERCY

That's a kill! The Silent Knight torches his mom.

ILENA

Was that Sammy laughing?

PERCY

That's affirmative. Perhaps next time you'll think twice before telling him to eat his broccoli.

ECU on Ilena. She is cautiously pleased.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF SEA WORLD - NIGHT

Fireworks fill the warm evening sky. Tiger and Sammy sit on the roof of the limo, their feet hanging through the sunroof. Percy and Ilena lounge on the hood of the car resting their backs on the windshield.

TIGER

Wow! I like that one.

ILENA

I think you made a good decision,
bringing Tiger along.

PERCY

He's helped me through some pretty
difficult times. He tends to make you
look at things the way they really are.
No B.S., you know. Things are the way
they are with him, and he'll tell you.

ILENA

He's very sweet.

(quietly)

You know, you're an enigma, Mr. Powers.

PERCY

Why do you say that? And call me Percy.

ILENA

Okay, Percy. You say you don't like
being around children, and yet you
obviously love to spend time with Tiger
who has the mind of a little boy.

PERCY

Yeah, well he's my brother not my kid.

ILENA

Is that what you're afraid of? Having a
child of your own?

PERCY

I'm not afraid of anything. That's just
something that's never gonna happen.

(Pauses)

What happened to Sammy? I mean, he's
not...?

ILENA

Mute? Hardly. He was reading by age
four.

PERCY

Wow. What's wrong, if you don't mind me
asking.

ILENA

Look, this is kind of personal, and I
don't really know you that well.

PERCY

I'm sorry, I shouldn't pry. On the other
hand, I went to a seminar examining the
psychological effects of Rock and Roll on
(MORE)

PERCY (cont'd)

hamsters, and I'm half the price of a good shrink.

ILENA

Look, the fireworks are over; we should be going.

INSIDE THE LIMO - LATER THAT NIGHT

Tiger is sleeping, his head resting on Percy's shoulder. Ilena is sitting across the limo from Percy, Sammy fast asleep in her lap.

PERCY

I guess from looking at Sammy's blond hair and blue eyes, it's safe to say he isn't 100% Hispanic.

ILENA

He's also Irish and German. His father and I met in Mexico City while he was visiting a University there. My father hated the idea of me dating an American and forbid me from seeing him but.

PERCY

But, you did anyway.

ILENA

When I married Daniel my father disowned me. He has never seen his only grandson.

PERCY

That sucks.

INT. SAMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Percy carries a sleeping Sammy to his bed, then watches as Ilena covers him up with dinosaurs. Ilena kisses Sammy on the cheek and motions for Percy to follow her.

ILENA'S LIVING ROOM

The LIGHTS are soft and JAZZ music plays on the STEREO.

ILENA

Can I offer you something to drink or eat?

PERCY

No, thank you. Look, I want to apologize for the way this evening started.

ILENA

I was just about to say the same thing to you.

Percy surveys Ilena's home. It's NOT what he expected. Exquisite furniture, paintings and antiques quietly fill the room, understated.

He notices a mantle full of pictures resting above the fireplace.

PERCY

My mother used to say you can tell a lot about a family by the pictures they have in their house.

Percy looks at a picture of a handsome, tall man with blond hair, playing with Sammy at the beach.

PERCY

Is this Sammy's father?

ILENA

Yes, it is. I'm going to have a cup of tea, would you like one?

PERCY

I should be going...all right, sure Tiger's asleep out there anyway.

ILENA

Make yourself at home. I'll be right back.

As Ilena leaves the room, Percy is intrigued by a picture of Sammy, as a baby, in the arms of his father.

In the B.G., on the radio, we HEAR a SEXY LATIN SONG which is familiar to us. Percy hums along with the radio as decides to look for Ilena in the kitchen.

IN ILENA'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Ilena is on her hands and knees looking in a lower cabinet.

Percy is immediately drawn to the sexy curve of her arched back. His eyes slide along the silk skirt covering her ass, down her legs, locking on the ANKLE BRACELET suspended around her left ankle.

Ilena locates her tea...

ILENA

Oh! You scared me.

PERCY

I'm sorry I just thought I would come out here and...

ILENA

And what, look at my ass. Did you get a good look?

PERCY

No! I was looking at your ankle bracelet. Why would I look at your ass?

ILENA

What's wrong with my ass?

PERCY

Nothing. You have a very nice ass.

ILENA

So you were looking at my ass.

PERCY

Well if I was, you can't blame me. You have a very sexy...you're a very beautiful woman.

ILENA

Is this the part where I pant in anticipation, as you knock everything off the table, throw me down on my back and hump me like a squirrel in heat.

PERCY

What?

ILENA

Isn't that how your little brain plays this scenario out? Throw out a few compliments to the sex-starved single mom, and she'll lay down for you, right? I'll let you in on a little secret. When I decide to sleep with someone, it'll be anyone but you.

PERCY

That's not what I was thinking at all.

ILENA

What were you thinking?

For the first time in his life, Percy draws a blank.

PERCY

I...I...I was thinking, with a great ass like that, it's sure a good thing you weren't on my high school wrestling team.

SILENCE. They stare at each other.

Suddenly, they both burst out laughing.

ILENA

That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard someone say.

PERCY

Well, what do you expect. When you get mad like that, you scare the hell out of me, and who knows what's gonna come out of my mouth next. I think I'll just say
(MORE)

PERCY (cont'd)

good night before I get myself into more trouble.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Opening the door, Percy turns to Ilena.

PERCY

Well, good night.

They hear a RUSTLE behind them. Sammy walks up rubbing his eyes. Without warning, he runs up to Percy and hugs him around the waist.

Percy doesn't know what to do. A moment later, Sammy sleepily turns and walks back into his bedroom.

Ilena clearly doesn't know what to think or say. Her eyes fill with tears.

The sexy Latin song continues to play in the B.G.

PERCY

Although you certainly do have a nice rear end, the first thing I should have complemented is the love you show for your son. Good night.

There is a moment between them and then Percy walks away.

INT. INSIDE THE LIMO - MOMENTS LATER

Percy sits in the seat across from Tiger and releases a big sigh.

TIGER

How come you didn't kiss her good night?
You always kiss the girls good night.

PERCY

Don't you have some sheep to count?

TIGER

You finally find a good one, and then you don't kiss her. You're crazy.

Tiger flops down on the seat and closes his eyes. Percy sits alone in the dark and HUMS the sexy Latin song he heard in Ileana's house.

FADE OUT:

INT. ILENA'S BEDROOM - SUNRISE

Sunlight warmly fights through the window blinds. Ilena is awakened by SOUNDS of cupboard doors slamming and a radio squabbling.

She crawls out of bed and stumbles towards the kitchen.

IN THE KITCHEN

Sammy sits at the kitchen table devouring his Captain Crunch. Ilena watches in total bewilderment.

She realizes the VOICE on the radio is familiar.

PERCY (ON RADIO)

Don't forget, tonight Paul and I will be at Beer World for a Q98 beer tasting party. The festivities start at seven, and we'll be your hosts until nine.

PAUL (ON RADIO)

Or until Percy passes out, whichever comes first. It's now twenty minutes after the hour of seven. Stay with us, in ten minutes we will chat with Joan Dixon, author of "Teaching Intimacy To Your Man". See if you know what intimacy really is. And now, with a traffic update, here's Becka.

ILENA

Oh, it's late. Sammy, hurry get your backpack, or you'll miss your bus.

Sammy looks up a bit startled, but then quickly runs off to his room, zipping past Fiona.

Ilena and Fiona look at each other in complete wonderment.

INT. ILENA'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Hot shower water. Steam. Ilena steps into the shower and turns on a shower RADIO. MUSIC plays softly. She starts to wash her hair, but stops to change the DIAL. We hear the VOICE of JOAN DIXON, a guest on the show.

JOAN DIXON (ON RADIO)

It's important in a relationship for a woman to know what a man is thinking. Let me ask you a question, guys. In a relationship, would you like a lady to more actively pursue you sexually?

PAUL (ON RADIO)

Well, that depends on your definition of actively.

PERCY (ON RADIO)

In your case, Paul, it means sex more than once a month.

Ilena giggles.

BACK AT THE RADIO STATION STUDIO - SAME TIME

We see Percy, Paul and Joan Dixon, an attractive woman in her forties, sitting with their headphones on.

JOAN DIXON

When making love to a woman, what is the last and only item you want her to be wearing?

PERCY

That's a hard one.

PAUL

That's what she said.

JOAN DIXON

Do you two ever grow up?

PAUL

I'm stumped. Something sexy, I suppose. Like sexy underwear maybe.

PERCY

You dig those tub socks, don't you, Paul?

JOAN DIXON

Actually, that's the second most popular answer.

PERCY

Tube socks?

ILENA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ilena chuckles again.

BACK AT THE STUDIO

JOAN DIXON

No! Sexy underwear. What about you, Percy? What do you want to see?

PERCY

Aaahhhh. I think it would be something very personal, like...like jewelry. Maybe an ankle bracelet.

ILENA'S SHOWER

JOAN DIXON (ON RADIO)

You're right. Jewelry is the number one answer.

Ilena approvingly glances down to see soap suds cascading down her leg swirling around her ANKLE BRACELET.

INT. ILENA'S KITCHEN - LATER

The TV SCREEN shows Tiger, Sammy, Ilena and Percy walking around at Sea World.

The CAMERA pulls back, and we see Ilena sitting at her kitchen table finishing a sandwich while watching the news story on a small TV.

She looks up a phone number from a phone book and DIALS it.

ILENA

Yes, I'd like to speak to Percy Powers.

INT. PERCY'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Percy and Paul are watching the same news show.

PAUL

They're playing the hell out of this thing. The kid's mom looks like a Betty.

PERCY

Yeah. She's hot.

(pausing to think)

It's more than that though. There's something mesmeric about her.

PAUL

I applaud your attempt to use a word with more than two syllables, but there is no such word as mesmeric.

PERCY

I'll tell you one thing, I'd like to take her for a ride on Mr. Lucky.

PAUL

You are a pig, you know that?

The phone rings, and Percy punches the speaker phone.

PERCY

Yo.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

I have Ilena Doran on the phone for you.

PERCY

Really. Thank you, put her on.

(To Paul)

Might be time to pull out Mr. Lucky's saddle.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION:

ILENA
(on the speaker phone)
Hello, this is Ilena Doran.

PERCY
Hi there. You caught me by surprise.
You're not planning a law suit are you?

ILENA
(laughing)
No. I just saw us all on TV and I...I
know I didn't act very appreciative last
night. I wanted to tell you thank you
again.

PERCY
You're welcome again, and don't worry
about it. It was late, and we were both
tired.

Percy gives Paul the "thumbs up" sign.

The SOUND of Ilena's beeper is heard. She looks at it.

PERCY
Hello?

ILENA
Yes, I'm sorry. I just got an important
page I need to respond too. Well, thank
you again.

PERCY
Wait a minute. Listen, I was wondering.
I know we didn't get off to a great
start, but I uh...I'd like to make it up
to you. The radio station's having a
promotion tonight at Beer World Tavern.
Why don't you stop by and be my guest.

ILENA
Beer World!
(pauses)
Look, I didn't call you because I'm
interested in becoming a celebrity
stalker. I just wanted to say thank you.

PERCY
I didn't mean to imply anything, I was
just trying to be nice.

ILENA
Well, no thank you and good bye.

The phone line goes dead.

PERCY

Good bye.

PAUL

I think you can send Mr. Lucky back to the barn now.

PERCY

Bite me! I don't know why I even asked her out.

PAUL

Is that what you just did? It sounded more like "hello, would you like to meet me for alcohol and if you shower, we can have sex".

PERCY

What? I was just...

PAUL

Trying to get laid. I could tell by listening to her for just thirty-seconds, the woman has class. Beer World! You know, I can actually remember a time, when I wanted to be just like you. Now, I think I'd rather be anyone but you.

ECU on Percy reflecting on the words he knows are true.

INT. BEER WORLD TAVERN - NIGHT

Bored to tears, Percy lounges at a table underneath a banner depicting the station's call letters. An empty beer bottle sits half full in front of him.

Percy's emptiness is unmistakable as he watches Paul dance with his beautiful Asian wife, MARTA.

Marta heads for the restroom and Paul make his way towards Percy.

PAUL

Two beers, that' it?

PERCY

I'm trying to watch how much I drink. That's what everyone wants, isn't it?

PAUL

It's not what other people want that's important. It's what you want. Hey, there's Amy. I'll be right back.

Percy's watches Paul cross the dance floor where he greets a pretty woman. She wears an executive suit with a tight fitting skirt. Percy's eyes run down her legs until they stop on an ANKLE BRACELET.

ECU on Percy.

He seems lost, almost mesmerized by her ANKLE BRACELET.

PAUL

Percy! Hello. Hey, Amy said Allison's been hired to turn things around at 109. Did you know that?

PERCY

Do I care, no.

PAUL

Well, just make sure you keep your distance.

PERCY

I need you to tell me this?

PAUL

Yeah. We don't need you using your little head instead of your big one again.

The band starts to play the sexy Latin song Percy first heard at Ileana's home.

MARTA grabs Paul's hand and pulls him towards the dance floor.

MARTA

Come on, let's dance.

Across the room Percy notices the back of a woman whose build and hair color are reminiscent of Ileana's. His eyes wander down her leg, but...NO ANKLE BRACELET.

PERCY

(to himself)

What is that song?

Scanning the room, he spots a sexy RED HAired WOMAN sitting alone at the bar. He locks in and heads for her.

AT THE BAR

PERCY

You don't happen to know the name of this song do you?

RED HAired WOMAN

Sorry. It's beautiful, but I don't know.

PERCY

Don't be sorry. Is anyone sitting here?

RED HAired WOMAN

No, but I'm getting ready to leave.

PERCY
Hold it, right there.

RED HAIREd WOMAN
What?

PERCY
Move you head a fraction to the right.
She tilts her head for him.

RED HAIREd WOMAN
Like that? Why?

PERCY
This is gonna sound crazy, but I just
wanted to see the way that overhead light
slightly reflected off your little
mustache there.

RED HAIREd WOMAN
Oh, thanks a lot.

PERCY
No, I'm serious. There is something very
sexy about the faint little mustache of a
true redhead.

RED HAIREd WOMAN
Ummm. How do you know I'm naturally red?

PERCY
Are you trying to tell me you're not?

Paul, still dancing with his wife, glances up just in time to
see Percy leaving with the woman. His look is one of
disappointment.

INT. ILENA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ilena is sitting at the kitchen table attentive to paperwork
in front of her. Fiona is at the stove behind her, starting
water for tea.

FIONA
Would you like some tea?

ILENA
What? Oh, yes that would be nice. Thank
you. Sammy was so eager this morning.
But when he came home, he looked
exhausted.

FIONA
He was up late last night.

ILENA

I know, but I was hoping all the excitement yesterday was what he needed to get going again.

FIONA

You must remember, when you're sick you need more than one dose of medicine.

ILENA

Meaning what?

FIONA

That he had fun with Mr. Percy and today he was a little better. Maybe they could get together again.

ILENA

Are you loco? First of all, he isn't the kind of man who would take the time to care about anyone but himself. And besides, that man has the mentality of oatmeal.

FIONA

Maybe you need to sprinkle a little sugar on that oatmeal.

INT. PERCY'S OFFICE - DAY

Percy is sitting at his desk when NORMAN, a cute chubby three-year-old, waddles in his office waving a sticky sucker.

NORMAN

Suck.

Horror fills Percy's face.

PERCY

Go away, kid, you're bothering me.

NORMAN

You want suck.

Norman strolls around Percy's desk and tries to climb up on his lap. His sticky sucker lands in Percy's lap and sticks.

PERCY

Oh, man!

(peeling the sucker off)
Go away. Go. Shoo.

NORMAN

(holding his hands up)
Up.

Percy rolls his chair backwards trying to get away, but Norman thinks he's playing and gives chase. Finally, Percy stands and picks him up.

PERCY

You need to go away. Oh, my God! You
smell wretched.

Holding Norman out as far away from his face as possible,
Percy rushes to the hallway.

PERCY

Whoever lost their toxic spill come claim
him.

A YOUNG WOMAN walks bye.

PERCY

Is this your's?
(she nods no)
Well, take him anyway, will ya?

The woman flinches and walks away. Becka bolts down the hall
out of breath.

BECKA

Norman, there you are. Sorry. His mom
asked me to watch him for a few minutes.
(she grabs Norman)
Boy, somebody needs a change. Percy, we
have a problem.

PERCY

Whatever it is, it can't be as bad as
Norman's.

Becka hands Percy a news story from the AP wire.

BECKA

The money from Don Jacobs. I don't
think...

PERCY

Embezzlement charges...Don Jacobs
indicted. Under arrest. A half million
dollars bail!

The two look at each other in shock. Finally:

BECKA

Hello bungee tower.

INT. PERCY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A half eaten bowl of popcorn sits on the coffee table next to
a large glass of soda. Percy is engaged in rapid channel
surfing.

Six RINGS of the door bell. Percy drags himself to the front
door.

TIGER
Hi.

PERCY
What's up?

TIGER
Nothing. Wanna watch TV?

PERCY
I am watching TV.

TIGER
Want to watch it with me?

PERCY
Do I have a choice?

TIGER
No. I gotta be home in a half hour
anyway cause mom's calling.

PERCY
How come mom only calls you?

TIGER
Cause you're a jerk and never return her
calls.

Tiger trucks past and plops down on the couch.

TIGER
What are you watching?

PERCY
Laker game, a rerun of the Brady Bunch,
Star Wars, and some stupid movie on the
Spanish Channel.

The Phone RINGS four times, clearly irritating him.

PERCY
Hello, what?

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Allison sits back in her high back office chair, her feet
propped up on her desk.

ALLISON
Is that how you answer your phone now?

PERCY
No, that's how I belch in French. What
do you want?

ALLISON

I'm afraid my news isn't good. Paul is definitely getting his own show. To hear him tell it, he's been carrying you for sometime.

PERCY

Yeah, right.

ALLISON

Well, your ratings are down, largely because you've become, and I'm quoting your audience here, "cynical and mean spirited". If you read between the lines, maybe the partnership has run its course. Look, I'm leaving the office now, why don't I come by, and we can talk. I want to bounce something off you.

PERCY

I don't think this is a good idea, Allison.

ALLISON

I haven't been there for you in the past. I want you to know, I'm here for you now. I'll be by in an hour.

PERCY

Fine. I gotta go; I'm in the middle of a great movie.

He hangs up the phone.

TIGER

How do you know this is a great movie? They're talking in Spanish.

PERCY

I don't know if it's a good movie or not. I just told her that because I didn't want to talk on the phone anymore.

TIGER

If you didn't want to talk, why did you answer the phone?

PERCY

Because it rang. I don't know! Must there be an answer for everything!?

TIGER

Why wouldn't there be an answer for everything?

PERCY

Do not ask me another question.

TIGER

Just one more. Tomorrow's Saturday, will you take me spaceship racing?

PERCY

What's in it for me?

TIGER

Maybe you could ask that other boy and his mom. Then you could kiss her.

PERCY

Where do you come up with this stuff?

TIGER

I'll take that as a yes. Thanks.

Tiger affectionately slips his arm around Percy's neck.

TIGER

Hey, Percy.

PERCY

Yeah.

TIGER

Can we watch something in English?

INT. PERCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

We hear someone having sex at a feverish pitch. Suddenly, Allison barks out.

ALLISON

Now! Spank me, damn it.

PERCY

Are you sure, my palm print's already embedded on your ass?

ALLISON

Spank me. Fuck me. Spank me. Fuck me.

PERCY

You're confusing me. Which is it?

ALLISON

Spank me! Now!

SMACK.

ALLISON

Ow!

PERCY

Too hard?

ALLISON
(screaming)
No, again.

One last spank, and Allison screams in ecstasy. They quickly collapses on the bed, spent. A moment later:

Percy lifts the sheet covering Allison's breast.

PERCY
How did you get Goodyear's name off the side of those puppies anyway?

ALLISON
As usual, hiding behind a joke. Why do you have to be such a dick to me?

PERCY
Don't feel special, I do it to everyone.

ALLISON
You can avoid the issue as much as you want, but you know what just happened here? It's us, Percy and Allison. We're magic together. It's always been that way, ever since we did our morning show together.

PERCY
That was a long time ago. And, one night of pin the tail on Allison doesn't constitute getting back together.

ALLISON
Can we act like adults for like two minutes? I know you're mad, but get over it already. Christ, what do want from me blood?

(pauses)
You know, from your audience's point-of-view, it's gonna look like Paul walked away from you, if you're off the air for even a short period of time.

PERCY
How can you just jump from spanking, to sex, to business, in ten seconds?

ALLISON
If you think about it, it's all kind of related, don't you think?

PERCY
No, it's not. At any rate, I need to talk to Paul before I make any decisions.

ALLISON
Go ahead. He'll just deny it. You do realize your contract can be broken by
(MORE)

ALLISON (cont'd)

ether of you with only fourteen days notice. Listen, I know you said you weren't interested, but I've been talking to my management. They're willing to step up to the plate to the tune of three point five million over three years. That's an increase in salary of 35%.

PERCY

Really!

ALLISON

Take your time and think about it, I'm not going to make an offer to that obnoxious jerk out of Chicago for a week or so. I told you I was here for you, this time.

Allison rolls over and goes to sleep.

FADE OUT AND FADE IN:

PERCY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Allison lies out cold on the far side of the bed.

In the quiet of the night, Percy lies wide awake staring at nothing. He has never felt lonelier in his life. He slips silently from bed.

PERCY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He picks up the phone, dials a phone number written on a scrap of paper and drops down on the couch.

INT. ILENA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sound asleep, Ilena is startled awake by the RINGING of the phone.

ILENA

Hello.

PERCY

Hi, Ilena. This is Percy Powers. I'm sorry to call so late.

ILENA

What time is it?

Percy grimaces at the question.

PERCY

About one, I think. I'm sorry about the hour, but I was wondering. I'm taking Tiger over to race spaceships tomorrow morning and he wanted to know if Sammy and you might like to join us.

A sleepy smile crosses Ilena's face.

ILENA
Tiger wanted to know?

There's an awkward silence. Percy bangs his head on the side table.

ILENA
I'd like to, but we have other plans.

PERCY
Oh. It was just a thought.

ILENA
I'm taking Sammy to the aquarium. Would you like to join us?

PERCY
Oh, that sounds kind of...

ILENA
Educational.

PERCY
Yeah, that's what I was about to say.
We'll meet you there, what time?

ILENA
Nine. Good night.

Ilena hangs up the phone, hugs her pillow and drifts off.

Surprised by her acceptance, Percy leans back on the sofa and falls asleep.

EXT. BIRCH AQUARIUM - TIDEPOOLS IN BACK - MORNING

Tiger and Sammy are in front of a crowd which is following an AQUARIUM GUIDE. Ilena and Percy linger behind the crowd.

AQUARIUM GUIDE
Now, if you'll follow me back inside,
we'll continue our tour.

TIGER
Can we see the Tuna Fish tornado now?

AQUARIUM GUIDE
The what? Oh, you mean the school of
Sardines that swim in a circle. Sure,
follow me.

ILENA
He's so cute. What the hell happened to
you?

Percy flips her the "bite me" look.

PERCY

Wanna hang out here a bit? I asked the tour guide to keep an eye on those two.

ILENA

You did, huh? Sure.

DISSOLVE TO:

Enjoying the ocean view, Ilena and Percy chat on the aquarium deck.

ILENA

I've been in the US for four years. Not counting the college years.

PERCY

You went to college here in the States?

ILENA

I didn't actually go to college; I worked cleaning the rest rooms in the dormitories.

PERCY

Oh.
(pauses)
You're kidding right?

ILENA

You're really not sure, are you? Yes, I went to college. I recieved my Masters from USC.

PERCY

Masters? Wow. USC's a good school.

ILENA

You're surprised? What exactly did you imagine my background to be? A poor Mexican girl comes to the US to live off of your welfare system?

PERCY

That's not fair. I don't know what I expected. I don't know anything about you. Maybe I have got some preconceived notions.

ILENA

Preconceived notions are the roots of racism.

PERCY

Is it racism if you aren't aware you have a preconceived notion?

ILENA
Good comeback.

Hummm. Maybe he's not so stupid.

There is silence. Not uncomfortable silence, but the good kind of silence. Like when you suddenly realize you're enjoying a stranger's company.

ILENA
The doctors call it "Elective Mutism".
It's triggered by a traumatic experience.

Not sure of what to say, Percy simply leans in closer, giving Ilena all of his attention.

She speaks softly to avoid prying ears. This is very difficult for her to say.

ILENA
It was Sammy's sixth birthday party. It was pouring rain outside, and this drunk man showed up screaming at the top of his lungs, "I know you're sleeping with my wife!" Daniel, my husband, went outside to try and talk to him, but the man attacked him. I was calling 911 when I heard the gun shot. Sammy had run outside to help his father and...he saw him...
(pauses)
He hasn't spoken since.

PERCY
That's terrible. I'm sorry for your loss.
(pauses)
Was he cheating?

ILENA
No, of course not. He was a terrible flirt, but he would never cheat on me. I just thought maybe you should know what happened.

DISSOLVE TO:

The couple are watching Tiger's "Tuna Fish Tornado" inside the aquarium.

PERCY
For some reason, this kind of reminds me of my torrid one year marriage. Just a lot of spinning round and round and no one going anywhere.
(pauses)
Then one day Allison came home and said
(MORE)

PERCY (cont'd)

"I'm leaving; it's your fault, and I'm not wasting time on a therapist."

ILENA

Why? Did she give you a reason? Did you expect it?

PERCY

We had some problems, but who doesn't. I didn't think anything was insurmountable. I was willing to let her use the remote control part of the time. I only watched one football game a week, and I always made sure the toilet seat was down. Well, almost always.

ILENA

It sounds like you were willing to give a lot.

PERCY

It seemed like a lot at the time. Her issues started mounting when we were trying to have kids.

ILENA

What happened?

PERCY

This specialist said I was firing blanks. Two days later, she left.

ILENA

Just like that? That must have been devastating. She really hurt you; I hear it in your voice.

PERCY

It's no big deal. It's in the past now.

Tiger and Sammy scamper around the corner at Mach speed.

TIGER

Did you know the male Sea Horse is the one who has the babies?

ILENA

No, I didn't.

TIGER

And you know what a Sea Horse sounds like underwater?

ILENA

No, what?

TIGER

Blub, blub, blub.

The comic duo bust up laughing. Ilena is delighted.

TIGER
This is for you, Ilena.

He gives her a beautiful SEA HORSE hand crafted from crystal.

ILENA
Oh, my gosh, thank you. You shouldn't have bought me anything.

TIGER
I didn't, Percy did. I just picked it out.

ILENA
Oh.

PERCY
It's from both of us. Just a thank you for inviting us.

ILENA
Well, thank you, both. We should get going.

PERCY
Listen, I was wondering. Tiger and I goof off when I have free time. Maybe we could all just, you know, spend some more time together.

ILENA
Well, maybe. I just don't want to confuse Sammy. I'm afraid he may get the wrong idea.

PERCY
What wrong idea?

Ooops! He's got your there, girl.

ILENA
(blushing)
Why don't we try a couple of days a week. I'll try to clear some time.

PERCY
Good. I'll give you a call.

ILENA
Sammy, come on. It's time to go. I'll talk to you soon.

Sammy scoots up to Percy and hugs his waist again. Slightly embarrassed, but ultimately pleased, Percy strokes Sammy's head.

Sammy looks up with his big blue eyes. He opens his mouth to speak, but the words just won't come.

PERCY

If it's okay with you, we'll come by and see you later this week. Okay?

A smile. A nod yes.

INT. RADIO STATION STUDIO - MORNING

The atmosphere is far from relaxed, but the boys are in "the zone".

PERCY

Sandra, this is Percy Powers of the Percy and Paul Show. Listen, we have the Love Doctor in the studio, and we are trying to help one of our listeners who has a problem. Do you know a gentleman by the name of Max?

SANDRA (O.S.)

I used to.

PERCY

Oh oh. Love Doctor, this is serious.

PAUL

Sandra, listen to me. Max called me, drowning in remorse and confided that his attempts to reconcile with you have been spurned.

INT. DONNA'S COFFEE HOUSE - SAME TIME

We see an ECU of only SANDRA'S MOUTH.

SANDRA

You got that right, I told him to kiss my ass!

PAUL (O.S.)

What if his actions weren't as intentional as you thought? Do you want to go on living the rest of your life not knowing for sure.

SANDRA

What are you saying, that I made a mistake?

BACK IN THE STUDIO

PAUL

I spoke to Max a few minutes ago, and here is what the poor man told me. Listen carefully.

Paul loads a cartridge with Max's VOICE recorded on it.

MAX (V.O.)

"I want her back. I realize that I was just nervous about getting married, but I love her more than anything".

PAUL

We asked him why he slept with another woman. He said this.

Paul hits the play button and the cartridge spins out the answer.

MAX (V.O.)

"I didn't sleep with her. She just gave me a ride home cause I was too drunk to drive myself".

PAUL

Do you think you may have judged him too severely?

SANDRA (O.S.)

How do I know the fool isn't lyin'?

PAUL

I don't have that answer, but you heard him speaking from his heart. What does your heart tell you?

SANDRA (O.S.)

I don't know.

PAUL

Sandra, Max is waiting for you, at a phone booth, one block away on the corner of "A" street and seventh. If you can forgive him and still want him, go tell him. He's waiting for you, right now. Good bye.

With the push of his finger, Paul hangs up the line.

We see a HAND turn up the volume on an kitchen radio, and when the CAMERA pulls back we realize we are in:

ILENA'S KITCHEN

Deon, MELODY, a shy thin woman with thick glasses, and CHANTEL, a large, loud African-American woman, are huddled around the kitchen radio.

Ilena walks up behind them.

ILENA

We're ready to start ladies.

DEON

Shhhhh.

CHANTEL
If that girl don't take him back, she's
wacked, that's all!

ILENA
What girl...

DEON, CHANTEL AND
MELODY
Shhhhhhhh!

BACK AT THE STATION

PERCY
We have Max on line 4.

PAUL
Max, is that you?

MAX (O.S.)
I'm here, man. What did she say?

PERCY
It's safe to say, she's pissed at you.

MAX (O.S.)
I told you. It's all over, I just know
it.

PAUL
Well, the Love Doctor has struck out
before.

MAX (O.S.)
Yeah, you're probably right. I don't
have much to offer her.

PERCY
Wait a minute, Max! How can you say
that? You have your love. Do you know
how many people go through life without
someone to love them?

PAUL
Do you see her yet, Max?

MAX (O.S.)
No. Wait, there's someone comin' round
the corner. Maybe it's her...No, it's
not her.

Jodi motions for them to take a break.

PERCY
Jodi, just hold on! It's not the end of
the frickin' world it we don't get an ad
on the air. Max, do you see her yet?

MAX (O.S.)
Nothing man.

SILENCE. A radio station's kiss of death.

We see a HAND turn up the volume on a car radio, then we see TWO WOMEN in an office huddle closer to their radio. Next we see Melody, Chantel, Deon, Ilena and THREE OTHER WOMEN from the support group all hanging on every word.

BACK AT THE STATION

MAX (O.S.)
She's not coming. I blew it. Thanks for trying guys. I guess it's just not meant to be.

PERCY
Don't say that! Nothing is just meant to be. If you want her...

Through the phone line we hear **HONKING**. First the tinty toot of a small Japanese car. Then a old Dodge truck joins in along with the distinctive sound of a Mercedes. Now dozens of cars horns are blasting away.

PERCY
What's going on down there, Max? What's all the noise?

INT. PHONE BOOTH - SAME TIME

EXTREME CU OF MAX'S MOUTH.

MAX
I don't know. Car horns just started honking down the street and it's gettin' louder. There's a crowd of people walking this way. Oh my God! It's her.

IN THE STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

PERCY
Does she have a gun?

PAUL
Shut up. What does she look like? Is she happy? Sad? What?

MAX (O.S.)
It's hard to say. Aw, she's lookin' good. She's sashaying and lookin' like a million dollars. Oh, thank you guys.

PERCY
That honking is our listeners in the area. How cool is that? Hey, Max.

MAX (O.S.)

Yeah.

PERCY

You take care of her, you hear.

MAX (O.S.)

For the rest of my life man, for the rest of my life.

Max's howl of celebration evaporates as the phone line goes dead.

PAUL

You are listening to Q98. We'll be back in a minute.

Percy and Paul give each other high fives.

INT. ILENA'S KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Ilena and the girls are all cheering and laughing.

MELODY

It was meant to be for them.

CHANTEL

That was so sweet. Ilena, is your boy Percy that romantic in real life?

DEON

What are you talking about?

CHANTEL

Ilena's dating, Percy Powers, the most eligible bachelor in town, that's all.

MELODY

You're dating Percy Powers. Why didn't you tell us?

Ilena is taken back by their excitement for her. She smiles shyly.

ILENA

It wasn't. They're not dates.

CHANTEL

(with attitude)

Uh huh. Once might not be a date. Twice is definitely dating.

ILENA

We're just friends.

ALL THE GIRLS

Yeah, right. Uh huh. Sure.

CHANTEL

If it were me, I'd be in the kitchen
right now baking him a love pie, topped
off with a order of barenaked Chantel ala
mode.

INT. RADIO STATION STUDIO - HALLWAY OUTSIDE PAUL'S OFFICE -
LATER

Percy is met with a partially closed door. He raises his
fist to knock, before realizing Paul is on the phone. He
listens.

PAUL

We need to work out a few of the details,
but I'm comfortable with the show's
format. The thought of being on the air
alone is a bit unsettling, but I'm sure
the anxiety will pass quickly with each
show. When are we going to announce
this?

Betrayal.

EXT. ILENA'S HOUSE - DAY - LATER

Percy steps up to the front door rings the DOORBELL. Ilena
opens the door.

ILENA

Hello.

PERCY

Hi. I made it.

ILENA

I see that. You said on the phone you
wanted to take Sammy to a movie.

PERCY

Yeah. I thought we could all go see that
new picture about the kid and his dog.

Sammy walks up to the door.

PERCY

Hey there, little dude. You ready to go?

Ilena swings opens the screen door, and Sammy steps out on
the porch.

ILENA

Give me a hug, sweetheart.

Sammy gives her a hug. Percy's face...wait a minute, this
isn't the plan.

PERCY

Aren't you coming?

ILENA

No, I have too much work to do.
Are you two going to be okay alone
together?

PERCY

Oh sure. I just thought we were all
going.

ILENA

Maybe next time. I've got to get back
inside. Have fun, sweetheart.

Ilena smiles, waves goodbye and closes the door. Percy looks
at the kid, uncomfortably.

EXT. ILENA'S HOUSE - DAY - DAYS LATER

Percy rings the DOORBELL. Sammy opens the door and then
shuts it behind him.

PERCY

Where's your mom?

Sammy shrugs his shoulders and grabs Percy's hand pulling him
toward the car. We see Ilena peeking out the window as they
walk away.

EXT. PARK BENCH - MISSION BEACH - LATER

The two sit on a park bench. Joggers zip past. Between
them...a to-go bag from a local hamburger joint.

PERCY

Ever put catsup and mayonnaise mixed on
your fries?

Sammy give him a look of disgust.

PERCY

What!? It's good. I bet your mom
doesn't even let you eat good stuff like
this, does she?

(no reply)

Didn't think so. Does she let you eat
donkey guts or pig eyeballs, good stuff
like that?

(no answer)

Did you know that in the southern tip of
Italy the people turn purple on Easter
Day? All of 'em. They wake up purple.

(nothing)

What do you want for Christmas this year?

Now he's got Sammy's attention. Sammy thinks for a second,
then simply shrugs his shoulders.

PERCY

You're a tough nut to crack, you know that?

(pauses)

I may be changing my job, you know. My partner of ten years snuck up behind me and stuck a big knife right in the middle of my back and then twisted it....

Shocked at the description, Sammy stops eating.

PERCY

I don't know what to do. I really don't like the idea of working for Venom, that's what Tiger and me call my ex-wife. She would make my life a living hell.

(pauses)

So, do you think your mom likes me?

(no response)

Verdict's still out, huh? I'm glad we had this little talk. Come on, it's time to get you back.

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY

Percy, Allison, and DANA, Percy's agent, are huddled around a conference table reading contracts.

DANA

Well, this is certainly a lucrative offer. Are you sure Paul is leaving you?

PERCY

I heard him myself.

ALLISON

Call his Agent if you don't believe it.

DANA

If it's true, I don't want to tip our hand. We want it to sound like you left him, not the other way around.

PERCY

It was his choice. So is everything cool on this contract?

DANA

For the most part, but I insist that this contract not be disclosed to the public until after the second quarter.

ALLISON

That's seven weeks away. We want to start publicity now.

DANA

Percy's year-end bonus is paid out on the thirty first of next month. I don't want

(MORE)

DANA (cont'd)

to give them any reason not to pay it.
I'm going to hand write that condition on
the contract.

ALLISON

Fine.

Dana writes the conditions on the document.

DANA

It's up to you, Percy.

Percy pauses for a second. Finally, he grabs the contract,
signs it and hands it to Allison, who also signs.

ALLISON

Welcome aboard.

PERCY

Dana, can you excuse us? I need to speak
to Allison in private.

DANA

I'll show myself out.

Dana lets herself out of the office.

PERCY

I don't want to upset you, but I don't
think we should continue seeing each
other, now that we're working together.

ALLISON

Fine with me.

PERCY

Fine? Uh...good. I'll see you later.

Surprised by her agreement, he leaves. MR. NORTON(50's),
scum bag in a designer suit, enters from a second door.

MR. NORTON

Well?

Allison waves the contract and smiles.

ALLISON

I thought for sure they were gonna call
Paul's agent and bust me. Did you hear
the part about the disclosure?

MR. NORTON

Who cares? He's just bait to unload this
piece of crap station anyway.

ALLISON

What if we can't sell it by the time he
comes to work? How are we gonna pay his
salary?

MR. NORTON

If it goes that far, we'll force his partner to sign on and split the three million salary. We make a killing either way.

ALLISON

You think Paul will do that?

MR. NORTON

Are you kidding me? One's worthless without the other. We'll toss in another half mil to make it look like we're trying.

Norton reaches behind him and locks the door. He crosses to Allison and unbuttons the front of her blouse.

MR. NORTON

Now, why don't we celebrate properly?

He pushes her back on the top of her desk.

INT. PERCY'S VIPER - DAY

Tiger's hands dart back and forth out the top of Percy's convertible, as he plays with the force of the wind.

TIGER

It doesn't make any sense to me. If it's being carried by a boat why don't they call it a shipment?

PERCY

Because that's called cargo.

TIGER

So what is a shipment, then?

PERCY

It's something being transferred by a car or truck.

TIGER

If it's being carried by a car, why don't they call it cargo?

PERCY

You're doing this on purpose, aren't you?

Caught in the act. Tiger laughs loudly.

They cruise to a stop in front of Ilena's house.

INT. ILENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Ilena answers the door. You can tell by her expression; she's pleased.

ILENA
Hey, you. I thought you were coming to see Sammy tomorrow?

PERCY
We were in the neighborhood so we took a chance that you might be home.

TIGER
What do you mean in the neighborhood? We've been driving for half an hour and almost got ran over by a truck to get here.

PERCY
Do you realize how difficult you make it for me to lie?

TIGER
That's my job, to make his life miserable.

ILENA
You're very good at your job. Why don't you say Hi to Sammy. His room is down the hall on the right.

Tiger bolts past her for Sammy's bedroom.

ILENA
I can't begin to tell you how much better Sammy's been lately.

Percy glances inside and sees Chantel, Deon, Melody, and the other girls peeking around the corner. Melody shyly waves at him.

PERCY
I didn't realize you had guests. Tupperware?

ILENA
It's a support group.

PERCY
How about if Tiger and I hang out with Sammy until your meeting's over?

ILENA
Alright, but I'm pretty busy today.

PERCY
What's new?

OUT IN ILENA'S FRONT YARD - MINUTES LATER

The boys play a daring game of lawn darts. One dart soars high over Ilena's hedge and lands in the neighbor's yard. A cat comes running out causing all three to laugh.

IN ILENA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Looking out her living room window, Ilena is mesmerized watching them play.

Ilena can't help sneaking glances while the meeting continues. Suddenly, she sees Sammy staggering holding one of the large darts which appears to be stuck in his chest.

She gasps and jumps to her feet. When Percy jumps up and down pretending one is stuck in his ass, she realizes it's all part of their play.

She giggles out loud. The ladies in the group all look at her.

ILENA

I'm sorry. I was just...

CHANTEL

Just watching that hunk of a man in your front yard, is what you was doin'. Don't deny it, girl.

Totally nailed, the other girls giggle.

IN THE FRONT YARD

We see Percy and the boys attempting to play soccer, but it looks more like a three car pile up.

BACK INSIDE ILENA'S LIVING ROOM

Out of the corner of her eye, Ilena sees Tiger kick the ball into Sammy's face. As Sammy puckers up to cry, Ilena watches Percy give him a little hug for comfort. His tenderness surprises her.

Ilena can't take it anymore, she looks down at her watch.

ILENA

Oh, look at the time! We need to wrap it up, now.

MELODY

We have another fifteen minutes.

CHANTEL

Melody, did a big ol' mug of rootbeer hit you upside the head when you were a baby!? You heard the woman, it's time to go!

INT. ILENA'S BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

Ilena looks at her reflection in the mirror. Her hair is pulled back and a bit messy. She caresses her cheek and stares attentively at herself. After nearly a year of self-imposed exile, perhaps the time has come.

Pulling out the hair clip, she releases her beautiful black hair and brushes it out. Fighting the urge to stop, she applies lipstick and a small amount of rouge. She lets go of a heavy sigh. The small, but significant transformation, is complete.

A SOFT KNOCK is heard at the bedroom door.

ILENA

Yes.

The door opens as Fiona quietly steps into the room.

FIONA

Well, are we getting ready for the ball Cinderella?

ILENA

I was just fixing myself up a little.

FIONA

You look beautiful. He really likes you, you know.

ILENA

Oh Fiona. My heart is racing. I don't know if I can do this.

Fiona walks to Ilena and pulls her tight in an affectionate hug.

ILENA

I think about him all the time. I feel like I'm falling in love, and I don't even know him. It's crazy.

Fiona pulls Ilena from her embrace and holds her face in her hands.

FIONA

Life's crazy sometimes. That's what makes it exciting.

EXT. ILENA'S FRONT YARD

Ilena coyly strolls into the yard. She finds Percy holding Sammy upside down by the ankles trying to shake a soccer ball free from his hands.

PERCY

You can't use your hands in soccer. Let go, or I'll shake your brains out.

ILENA

How do you shake out something that isn't there?

Percy sets Sammy down on his head.

ILENA

Did you know those lawn darts you were playing with are illegal?

PERCY

Really. I wondered why the neighbors threw em' in the garbage. All finished with your meeting?

ILENA

All finished. I have another meeting in an hour though.

PERCY

When do you take time out?

ILENA

Oh, look at your arm. You're bleeding.

PERCY

Oh yeah, I owe you a new sprinkler.

ILENA

That's bad! Come with me.

INT. ILENA'S KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER

Percy sits at the kitchen table pretending to be annoyed by the medical attention he's receiving. She pours a small amount of antiseptic on his cut.

PERCY

Ow! What was that? Battery acid?

ILENA

No, it's Drano. It's supposed to flush out the B.S. I may need to get another can for you.

PERCY

You are a laugh a minute, you know that.
(choosing his words carefully)
I was wondering. I have to go to a party tonight, and I haven't had a chance to ask anyone. The truth is I couldn't think of anyone I wanted to go with...until now.

ILENA

Oh. I...I...yes. I think Fiona can stay with Sammy.

PERCY

Really? I mean good. Okay. It's kind of a big to do so you might have to...

ILENA

Take a bath?

PERCY

(getting defensive)

Oh, no. I just meant the dress is formal so...

ILENA

(laughing)

I'm sure I can scrape something together. What time?

PERCY

I'll pick you up at seven. Hold still, you have a piece of cotton in your hair.

He reaches forward and gently picks it from her hair. Both defenses drop. Their eyes lock. Percy leans forward to kiss her.....Tiger and Sammy burst in the front door.

TIGER

Let's go. I'm hungry.

They instinctively pull back. A smile from both of them.

PERCY

I'll be here at seven.

INT. PERCY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Putting the final touches on his bowtie, Percy admires his tuxedo clad body in the mirror. Tiger sits on the bed watching as Percy breaks into a little song and dance.

PERCY

I'm lookin' good. I'm sexier than...

TIGER

Brand Pitt!

PERCY

(heading for the living room)

Brad Pitt, oh yeah. Why I'm sexier than...

TIGER

George Clooney!

PERCY

George Clooney, hell yeah, sing it my brother. I'm sexier than...

TIGER

Dan Rather!

PERCY

Dan Rather?

Tiger shrugs and looks at the phone.

TIGER

Mom thinks he's cute. Hey, you got a message.

PERCY

Probably some woman's magazine wanting to shoot a photo spread.

Percy hits the answering machine on the side table.

ILENA (O.S.)

Hi, Percy, this is Ilena. I'm sorry, but I totally forgot I have a guest coming in from out of town. I'm afraid I have to cancel. Perhaps we can get together another time. I'll talk to later. Bye.

TIGER

Oh, no, Ilena can't go.

The disappointment is brutal.

INT. BALLROOM OF A LARGE HOTEL - NIGHT

The ball room is extravagantly decorated; 1930's Latin tropical flair. Palm trees and lush greenery add to the feel. Ice sculptures adorn the long tables lined with exotic foods.

The guests, dressed in beautiful evening gowns and tuxedos, mingle and sip exotic drinks. A band plays softly as Percy sits by himself at the bar. Paul notices and wanders over.

PAUL

You look a little woebegone. What's going on?

PERCY

Oh nothing that a little stab in the back won't cure.

PAUL

Alright, I've had it. What the hell's wrong with you?

PERCY

What's wrong with me, is you! I know all about your new show and your fat new contract. Did you really think you could keep it from me?

PAUL

I planned on telling you about the show.

PERCY

What I don't understand is how you could do this to me. The guy who took a 25% pay cut to be your partner! The same guy who sat with your wife in the hospital for two days after your car accident. Remember me, the guy you named your cat's litter box after.

PAUL

Are you finished? First of all, I'm hosting a two hour Jazz show for PBS Radio on Sunday nights. I'm donating my big fat salary back to them. And second, they ask me to keep it quiet until my participation was approved by our station.

PERCY

Oh, this is bad.

PAUL

No, I'll tell you what's bad. Bad is you, professing a two day vigil in my hospital room when we both know your main objective was hosing that nurse with the big hooters. You're my best friend, don't you think I would talk to you before making any life changing decisions?

PERCY

Oh man. You're gonna kill me.

PAUL

Now what did you do?

The MUSIC of the band, mixed with the CROWD NOISE that fills the ballroom, is heard over their animated conversation. Finally:

PERCY

I'm really sorry, man. I don't know what to do?

PAUL

You're really amazing sometimes. You know what their next move will be? They are gonna want us both to work for the amount you signed for.

PERCY

That's not good?

PAUL

Not unless you like a seventy some percent drop in income.

Becka bolts up to them.

BECKA

"They're heeere". Mr. Ortega is so handsome. I don't know what it is, but Latino men look so, I don't know, distinguished, almost regal?

Several eloquently dressed COUPLES file into the ballroom.

Percy suddenly realizes that one woman, accompanying MR. ORTEGA, looks familiar.

IT'S ILENA.

She looks AMAZING, in a beautiful long evening gown, her dark hair pulled back tightly.

PERCY

What the hell is this!?

LATER

As the evening progresses, we see Percy sneaking looks at Ilena. Ilena notices Percy and tries to catch his eye. He stubbornly looks away, keeping his distance.

After another trip to the bar, Percy scans the ballroom for Ilena and finds her dancing with Mr. Ortega.

He's had it! He darts over to Becka and grabs her hand.

PERCY

Want to dance, Becka?

BECKA

I guess...

Before she can answer, Percy yanks her onto the dance floor next to Ilena and Ortega. The music is slow and soft. Ilena turns, finding herself looking directly into Percy's eyes.

PERCY

(to Ilena)

This could have been you, you know.

Ilena only smiles at him.

PERCY

Company from out of town, huh? Where's he visiting from, the old folks home?

As Ortega swings her away slowly, Percy can't tear his eyes away.

BECKA

Are you alright?

PERCY

I'm fine.

He breaks for the balcony.

OUT ON THE BALCONY

Percy leans over the balcony, absorbs the lights of the city.
Ilena strolls up behind him.

ILENA

Don't jump, things aren't that bad.

PERCY

You must've had quite the little laugh.
I've been sitting here all night with
visions of you at home playing Parchesee
with Aunt Trini. Then I find you here
looking like Cosmopolitan's woman of the
year, hanging on the arm of some old fart
who...never mind.

He turns his attention back to the city lights below.

PERCY

What are you doing out here anyway? You
shouldn't upset your date, at his age, he
might have a heart attack.

ILENA

You know, if I didn't know any better,
I'd think you were jealous. Considering
he's scheduled to run in a marathon in
the morning, I would say my uncle's heart
can stand the strain.

PERCY

Ortega's your Uncle?

ILENA

Not that I owe you any explanations, but
I had no idea we were coming here
tonight. I understand he's part owner in
several radio station. He might be your
new boss soon.

PERCY

So I've heard.

Ilena moves next to Percy and gives him a playful body check
with her hip.

ILENA

My uncle's a wonderful man. He wants to
help me start a program for abused women
in Mexico. Did you know at least one in
every five women are abused in Mexico?

PERCY

No, I didn't know that. You're not gonna
move are you?

ILENA

I don't know. Maybe. It's hard raising
a son without family nearby.

(turning towards the lights)

The lights of the city are beautiful
tonight.

PERCY

So are you.

Ilena looks down.

PERCY

Why is it so hard for you to accept a
compliment?

ILENA

It never sounds sincere to me.

PERCY

I'm very sincere.

ILENA

I hope you are. It's my problem.
Believe me, there is nothing in this
world I would like better than to...open
up more.

PERCY

What are you worried about? I've pretty
much cornered the market in looking like
an ass. Am I right?

ILENA

You have a point there.

PERCY

Well, let's have it. Tell me something
about you. Something I don't know.
Something you've never told anyone.

ILENA

I wish it was that easy. It's just that
I let someone take away who I was once. I
don't want that to ever happen again.

PERCY

And?

ILENA

You don't understand.

PERCY

Maybe you're making it more complicated
than it really is.

Ilena hesitates for a moment then:

ILENA

Have you ever done something so horrible that every day you wish you could take it back?

PERCY

Oh yeah. One time I made a sign that said "He's faking it, trip him", and I taped it to the back of this blind guy that used to come into the station.

ILENA

(blurting out)

My husband's death. I called the man who killed him. I called and told him my husband was sleeping with his wife.

PERCY

Wow, your story is worse than mine.

ILENA

Can you believe I was so stupid? I thought he would keep her away from Daniel, and that would be the end of it. I didn't know what else to do. So I called him.

PERCY

He put you in that situation.

ILENA

They weren't sleeping together.

PERCY

Oh!

She pushes on as the tears start to flow.

ILENA

I lied to you before, Daniel had cheated on me. Many times. I had no more trust to give him. I had been so hurt and humiliated. I felt like I couldn't take it anymore. So, I called him. If I just would have left things alone.

PERCY

It's not your fault. You didn't know.

Percy pulls her tight against his chest.

From inside, we hear the band's electric guitar as it sings out the opening notes from the sexy Latin love ballad we first heard at Ileana's home.

After a moment, they begin to sway gently to the music and Ilena settles down.

ILENA

I love this song. A friend gave me a tape of soft music to listen to while in labor with Sammy. Just as he was born, this song began to play. Whenever I hear it, I think of how blessed I am to have him in my life.

Percy's look...he can't believe he has such a special woman in his arms.

PERCY

I want to tell you something, and maybe it's not the time or the place, but I have to say it. So if you could just get into your Percy mode for a minute and indulge me. Ilena, I need you to let me in your life. Maybe I'm being selfish, I don't know, but I love being around you. I want to be with you. You're in my brain constantly, and I can't get you out.

ILENA

Let's be honest here. I'm in your brain because you can't have me. I know what kind of man you are.

PERCY

You're wrong. It's like I've been going through the motions of another person's life. I'm not really this mean asshole. It's just that it's been the only way I could function.

(pauses)

Then one day, I just start to miss things, you know. Suddenly I couldn't remember what it was like to laugh. I mean really laugh hard. Or to want to go to someone just to see them smile when they realize it's your eyes they're looking into.

With every ounce of her being, she has fought this moment.

ILENA

Don't do this to me.

Percy pulls her across the balcony out of sight of the ball room.

Behind a row of greenery and palm trees, they begin to explore each other. First he kisses the palm of her hand. Then her shoulder and neck.

Ilena runs her fingers threw Percy's hair. God, she forgot how good this could feel.

Suddenly, she shoves him back against the wall of the building. She glares into his eyes, clinching her teeth.

ILENA

If you hurt me or my son, I swear I'll
hack you to death with an ice pick.

PERCY

I promise, I will never hurt either of
you.

Ilena kisses him. **HARD.**

Percy spins, pushing her back against the wall and they kiss deeply. This train has been building steam for a long time and the BRAKES ARE GONE.

His lips slide down her neck, making his way to the top of her chest. His mouth slips past the front of her low cut dress kissing the top of her breast.

The CAMERA PANS UP to a CLOSE UP of Ilena's face as she glances towards the crowd inside. Finding no voyeurs, she closes her eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PERCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In a CLOSE UP, we see Ilena's face. The CAMERA pulls back to find her lying in bed, Percy on top kissing her neck and arms. The Latin love ballad continues to play.

The CAMERA slowly PANS down their bodies, past their hips, sliding over their thighs, down to Ilena's leg, easing to a stop on her ANKLE BRACELET, as her foot softly caresses the back of Percy's leg.

FADE OUT AND FADE IN:

INT. PERCY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Ilena awakens slightly startled. Quickly she scans the unfamiliar settings. She looks for Percy, but he's gone.

She hears a THUD coming from above her. Faintly, she HEARS a voice from outside.

Jumping out of bed, she grabs a T-shirt and a pair of boxer shorts from a dresser.

She slides open the glass door leading to the back yard.

PERCY'S BACK YARD - MORNING

Ilena strolls into the crisp morning air, onto the patio surrounding a swimming pool.

PERCY (O.S.)
I could use a little help here.

She turns her attention higher and is puzzled to find Percy sitting on the roof.

He is leaning back on his hands with his feet resting in front of him. He looks paralyzed.

There is a ladder propped up against the roof, as he sits wearing only a pair of shorts.

ILENA
What's wrong?

PERCY
I'm terrified of heights.

ILENA
Well, that's a pretty stupid place to be if you're afraid of heights.

PERCY
I really don't need you to be a smart ass right now!

ILENA
Sorry. What do you want me to do?

PERCY
Help me down.

ILENA
How?

PERCY
I don't know. Just help me down!

ILENA
(laughing)
Alright. Hold your horses. I don't know why you're snipping at me; I didn't put you up there.

Ilena scales the ladder, then crawls over and sits next to him.

ILENA
Now, you want to tell me what you're doing up here?

PERCY
I thought, if I could climb up here and jump into the pool, maybe it would give me enough guts to jump off a stupid bungee tower.

ILENA

From the looks of things, I don't think you're going to be jumping off any tower. Wow, what was that?

PERCY

What was what?

ILENA

Didn't you feel that shaking? The house kind of moved back and forth a little. There it goes again! Can't you feel that?

PERCY

Oh Jesus! Get me off of here!

ILENA

Maybe it's an earthquake.

(giggling)

Could be the whole house is gonna fall down and crush both of us.

PERCY

Will you quit screwing around! It's not funny!

ILENA

I'm sorry. Just relax.

PERCY

I can't relax.

ILENA

Think of something else. Here.

(She kisses him)

Does that help?

PERCY

A little. Do that some more.

EXT. POOL SIDE - MINUTES LATER

The two now sit on the pool ledge with their feet dangling in the water.

PERCY

This is so typical of my life right now. Everything I try to fix, I screw up.

ILENA

What is it you need to fix?

PERCY

Well, for one thing, I was conned into believing Paul is leaving our show, so I signed a contract to do a show without him.

ILENA
Without talking to Paul first?

PERCY
Bright, huh. Now, if we want to stay together, we'll probably have to take a huge pay cut.

ILENA
There must be a way out of that. You'll think of something.
(pauses)
Speaking of staying together, this thing that just happened. Between us, I mean.

PERCY
You know I was gonna talk to you about that. I don't want you to freak out or anything, but...
(pauses)
Are you free for the next sixty years or so?

INT. PERCY'S OFFICE - DAY

Becka, Paul and Percy lounge around the office in discussion.

BECKA
I'll see if he'll talk to us, but I doubt he'll do it.

PAUL
Tell him I said Percy's sorry for calling him a candy ass on the air.

PERCY
Becka, tell him I said I'm sorry.

BECKA
It might work coming from you.

There is a knock on the open door. It's Ilena.

BECKA
Hi, Ilena.

ILENA
Hi Becka. Paul.
(she looks at Percy)
Hey.

PERCY
Hey.

There is a quiet moment. Did someone turn on the sauna.

BECKA
Well, I'll go see what he says.
(to Ilena)
(MORE)

BECKA (cont'd)

Okay, I just have to say this.
You are so good for him.

PERCY

Becka!

BECKA

Well, she is.

PERCY

Go away. And don't come back.

BECKA

All right. See how much nicer he is.
Bye.

ILENA

Bye. I like her.

As Becka trots out the door, Paul starts to leave.

PAUL

Don't forget our meeting with the
lawyers. See ya, kiddo.

ILENA

Bye.
(to Percy)
Lawyers?

PERCY

We're looking for loopholes.

Shutting the door behind Paul, Percy pins Ilena to the door
and gives her a kiss. A long kiss with tongue.

ILENA

Wow. Are you happy to see me, or did you
bring a pickle back from lunch?

PERCY

Actually, it's a Babe Ruth, and it is my
lunch.

He pulls an extra large Babe Ruth candy bar from his front
pocket.

ILENA

That's not very healthy. How about I
make us a big dinner tonight and we can
have a little sleep over.

PERCY

Tomorrow's Saturday. I sleep in on
Saturday.

ILENA

I know.

PERCY

If I'm in your house in the morning,
Sammy's probably gonna see me.

ILENA

I know.

They kiss again.

ILENA

I have a favor to ask of you?

PERCY

Okay, but I'm warning you, I haven't
shaved yet.

Dropping to his knees, he starts to unbutton her jeans.

ILENA

(Smacks him on the head)

Not that! My Uncle asked me to fly down
and meet some people. In Mexico City.

PERCY

You're not still considering moving there
are you?

ILENA

It doesn't hurt to look at all my
options. Besides, my Uncle thinks he can
get my father to meet with me.

PERCY

(standing)

That would be great. So what's the
favor?

ILENA

I don't want Sammy to miss any more
school and Fiona's out of town at her
sister's for a week.

PERCY

He can stay with me.

ILENA

Are you sure? You wouldn't accidentally
leave him in the bathroom of a strip club
or somewhere?

PERCY

Only if he doesn't tip the girls enough.
It's a done deal. He stays with me.

EXT. SAN DIEGO AIRPORT - DEPARTURE TERMINAL - DAY

Percy and Ilena are standing next to her mini van.

ILENA
You have my Uncle's phone number?

PERCY
Look, you better get out of here before
you miss your flight.

Ilena leans into the car window and kisses Sammy and Tiger.

ILENA
Bye, guys.
(to Percy)
Oh, by the way, don't do anything with
your lawyers until I call you.

She kisses Percy and darts off.

PERCY
Wait a minute, what do you mean by that?

Ilena simply smiles over her shoulder and disappears into the crowded terminal.

EXT. LA JOLLA BEACH - DAY

Percy's lounging on a beach chair with the boys on each side of him.

The boys lay back trying to be cool like Percy. Tiger, has his boom box playing next to him.

PERCY
What do you guys want to eat tonight?

The boys flip a conniving look at each other and smile.

TIGER
Pizza!

PERCY
I got news for you two guys. We are not
having pizza every night.

The familiar sexy Latin song begins to play on Tiger's boom box.

PERCY
Tiger, crank it up.

Tiger turns up the volume.

PERCY
It's that song. I love this song. I
wish I knew what the name of it was?

SAMMY
It's called *Alegría De Mi Corazón*.

PERCY
(butchering the words)
Alegría De Mi Corazón?

SAMMY
It means *My Heart's Joy*. It's my mom's favorite song.

PERCY
Yeah, she said it was playing right after you were born...

Percy's head snaps in Sammy's direction.

PERCY
What did you just say?

SAMMY
It's my mom's favorite song.

PERCY
You talked. Don't pretend you didn't talk, cause we both heard you.
(to Tiger)
You heard him, right?

TIGER
(nonchalantly)
Yeah, I was sitting right here.

PERCY
Why haven't you been talking?

SAMMY
I didn't have anything.

PERCY
That's what I told your mother, and she called me an nincompoop.

SAMMY
She says that when you do something stupid.

TIGER
Sometimes I don't have anything to say.

PERCY
Oh, right. The only time you don't have anything to say is when your mouth is full of food. And even then, I've heard you sing all the words to Hotel California.

Tiger and Sammy laugh.

SAMMY
Plus, you two never gave me a chance to talk.

Percy and Tiger look at each.

PERCY AND TIGER

Ooooooh.

PERCY

Tiger, I think the flood gates have been opened.

INT. K101 RADIO - ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY

Percy, Paul and Allison are sitting around a conference table.

ALLISON

Well, I talked to the management and they said if you come on board, Paul, we can raise the salary another half million.

PAUL

How gracious. We only have to take a decrease in salary of seventy-two percent.

ALLISON

Yeah, I know. I wish I could make it more.

There is a KNOCK on the door. Mr. Norton and MR. HUERTE, a small Latino man in an expensive suit, walk in.

MR. NORTON

Sorry to interrupt. Mr. Huerte, this is Allison Bentley.

ALLISON

(she shakes his hand)

Hello. Mr. Huerte this is Percy Powers and Paul Michaels.

(They shake hands)

They currently have the number one radio show in San Diego.

MR. HUERTE

Yes, I have heard of them.

MR. NORTON

Allison, perhaps you should table your discussion, so we can talk with Mr. Huerte.

MR. HUERTE

Yes, I am anxious to finalize our deal.

PERCY

What deal is that?

ALLISON

That's none of your business.

MR. HUERTE

It's okay. My associates and I wish to buy this station.

ALLISON

Well, Mr. Huerte, I'm sure you understand the potential cash windfall that will follow with the number one show in the city.

PAUL

Actually you only have half of the show.

ALLISON

We can discuss that later.

PERCY

Why don't we discuss it now.

ALLISON

I said we will talk about it later, and I will make it worth both of your time. Do you understand me?

Silence.

MR. HUERTE

Are you saying that you have already negotiated a contract with these gentlemen?

ALLISON

Yes, a binding contract.

MR. HUERTE

I see. Well, we have a problem. My associates and I wish to convert the format over to a Spanish-speaking station. I was under the impression that all the contracts with talent were coming to an end. This would not be a cost-effective purchase for us.

ALLISON

Wait! Actually, perhaps we can work something out. Mr. Huerte, may we have a moment alone with Percy and Paul?

MR. HUERTE

Of course.

He leaves the room.

PAUL

Looks like you got your tit in wringer here.

PERCY

More like, the blimps are caught in the hanger door.

ALLISON

Look, you guys don't want to work here for the amount we can pay you, so we're willing to let you out of the contract.

Crossing to her desk she pulls out his contract.

MR. NORTON

No harm, no foul. Right?

ALLISON

What do you say we just tear this up and forget about it?

Percy and Paul look at each other in amazement.

PAUL

We want five percent of the gross sales of the station.

MR. NORTON AND

ALLISON

What!

PERCY

Okay, ten percent.

ALLISON

Forget it!

PERCY

Fine. Where's my office, Senorita?

PAUL

You've been taking Spanish lessons.

MR. NORTON

Two percent and that's it.

PAUL

Done.

PERCY

Wait! I don't want any of this place. Let's just give it to them.

PAUL

Are you sure?

Percy pulls out his copy of the contract.

PERCY

On the count of three we tear them up. One, two, three.

They both tear them up.

ALLISON

There, that's it. That was easy.
(throwing the torn contracts
in the air)
Thank you, guys. This is very
understanding of you. You know how
important it is not to burn bridges in
this business.

PAUL

Do we ever.

PERCY

Could you ask Mr. Huerte to step inside?
We'd like to say goodbye.

ALLISON

Sure.
(she hits the intercom)
Ask Mr. Huerte to please come back in.

WOMAN'S VOICE

(O.S.)

He just left. He said to tell you his
boss, Mr. Ortega, just called and he is
no longer interested in the station.

PERCY

Hum. What do you make of that?

PAUL

I don't know. Seemed like a nice guy to
me.

PERCY

Just goes to show ya'. You can't trust
anyone these days.

MR. NORTON

What the hell just happened?

ALLISON

I don't know. I'll call him back.

PAUL

Well, it's been nice doing business to
you. Have a good day.

The guys walk out of the room giving each other a high five.

INT. PERCY'S KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING

Percy, Tiger and Sammy are trying to make a pizza.

SAMMY

Mom puts chopped onions in a bowl with
butter and nukes 'em.

TIGER
If you nuke 'em won't we eat radiation?

SAMMY
Are we gonna eat radiation?

PERCY
Of course not.

SAMMY
Why not?

PERCY
Because microwaves aren't nuclear.

TIGER
Then why do they say nuke 'em?

PERCY
It's just an expression.

SAMMY
Would you get radiation if you ate a
nuclear submarine sandwich?

PERCY
Okay, the stupidity convention is over.

The two comedians bust up. The phone RINGS.

PERCY
Okay, that's your mom, we want to
surprise her when she come home, so don't
say anything, okay.

SAMMY
Okay. Can I answer the phone?

Tiger and Percy look at each other.

TIGER AND PERCY
No!

PERCY
Hello.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

Ilena is nestled in bed at her Uncle's Villa in Mexico.

ILENA
Hi. How's everything going?

PERCY
Great, thanks to you and your uncle. I
owe you guys big time.

ILENA

He was happy to help. Is Sammy behaving?

PERCY

Like an angel. When are you coming back?

ILENA

Well, if it's alright with you, I'd like to stay a couple more days. I'm having lunch with my father tomorrow.

PERCY

That's great.

ILENA

Yeah, I'm excited, yet nervous. Is Sammy near, I want to say hi.

PERCY

Actually, Sammy's in the bathtub.

Sammy turns around and looks at Percy funny.

SAMMY

I'm not...

Tiger puts his hand over Sammy's mouth.

ILENA

Again. He was in the bath last night when I called. How do you get him to take baths so easily? I practically have to use a garden hose to clean him at home. Hey, you know what? I miss you.

PERCY

I miss you, too.

ILENA

Well, sounds like you've got things under control there. I guess I'll say good night.

FADE OUT AND FADE IN

EXT. SAN DIEGO AIRPORT - DAY

Percy, Tiger and Sammy are waiting at Ilena's gate as she steps into the terminal.

PERCY

(to Sammy)

Alright, try to keep your pie hole shut for a few minutes. Let's surprise her, okay?

TIGER

He can't be quiet.

SAMMY
I can be quiet if I want.

TIGER
I bet a dollar you talk in less than a minute.

SAMMY
Okay.

Ilena hustles out of the airline gate.

ILENA
Hey, you.

She grabs Sammy and gives him a hug and kiss, before hugging Percy and Tiger. She hands Tiger and Sammy each a sombrero.

ILENA
Hi guys. Look what I brought you. It's a sombrero. You wear it to keep the sun out of your eyes.

TIGER
Looks more like a straw space ship.

SAMMY
(rolling his eyes at Percy)
I think maybe I'll just wear mine at home.

TIGER
Sucker. Pay up.

SAMMY
Oh, shoot!

Ilena is stunned.

ILENA
Sammy?

Kneeling down, she hugs her son. Here come the tears again. The good kind.

PERCY
How do you shut him off? He's like Don King on speed.

ILENA
This is wonderful.

SAMMY
Mom, can I borrow a dollar?

PERCY
You may not think it's so wonderful in a couple of hours.

As they walk through the terminal, Sammy is chattering nonstop.

SAMMY
Mom, did you know Percy has a pair of those thong underwear? Tiger showed me.

PERCY
You are so dead, Tiger.

EXT. ILENA'S FRONT YARD - NIGHT

A soft porch light cascades down on Percy, Ilena and Sammy, as they sit on the porch swing.

SAMMY
Can I go see my Grandpa and Grandma this summer?

ILENA
I think they might come to see us first.
(she looks at her watch)
Sammy, tell Percy good night then go get ready for bed.

SAMMY
Good night.

Sammy hugs Percy and gives him a high five before going inside.

PERCY
See ya, Don King.

ILENA
Are you spending the night?

PERCY
Don't take this wrong, but I have to be up in a few hours. If I get in that bed with you, there won't be any sleep going on.

ILENA
You're right about that.

PERCY
How about a late night date tomorrow?

ILENA
Humm. Sounds wonderful. Fiona will be back in the morning. You make me very happy. I didn't think I would ever be this happy again.
(snuggling up to him)
Hey, you know what?

PERCY
What?

ILENA
I love you.

PERCY
You do?

She looks deeply into his eyes and nods her head yes.

PERCY
I love you, too.

He softly kisses her.

PERCY
I gotta go, or I'll never get up in the morning. I'll see you tomorrow.

Percy kisses her again then trots over to his car, waves goodbye and pulls away.

In a CLOSE UP of Ilena we see she is beaming.

INT. PERCY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

In the black, we hear the sound of the DOOR BELL. Clad only in his boxer shorts, Percy opens the door.

ALLISON
You bastard!

She throws a roundhouse punch but misses, falling to her knees.

PERCY
What the hell are you doing here? It's two in the morning.

ALLISON
Is it that late? I'm sorry, I didn't realize the time; I was out looking for a new job, you prick!

She takes another swing. Missing again, he grabs her waist keeping her from falling on her face.

ALLISON
You ass. We had a deal.

PERCY
No, you had a deal.

ALLISON
I'm gonna tell everyone you have a tiny dick.

PERCY

Go ahead, I'll tell everyone you have a big dick. After today, who do you think they'll believe?

She stumbles over to his couch and drops in a drunken pile.

ALLISON

You see, this is what's wrong with you? While we were married, you showed more affection for your retarded brother, then you ever did for me.

PERCY

Shut your damn mouth, or I swear to God I'll shut it for you. God, I am so glad you left.

ALLISON

Oh, spare me. Look, I know I was wrong. I'm sorry. Gosh, I don't feel so well.

PERCY

Wrong about what? Lying to me, being married to me or leaving me? The winning lottery numbers?

ALLISON

You forgot one. I was wrong bout having children. There, you happy now?

PERCY

What?

(pauses)

It was you? You're the one who can't have kids. Why didn't you tell me?

ALLISON

I was afraid you'd hate me. I'm going to throw up.

She shoves Percy aside and rushes to the bathroom. SOUNDS of vomiting are heard through the door. Percy weighs what he's just heard.

Allison stumbles back and plops next to Percy.

PERCY

I guess we can rule out morning sickness.

ALLISON

Shut up! Look, I'm sorry, okay. I'm ashamed of the way I've acted. Maybe with time, you can learn to forgive me. Who knows, we might even get back together.

She lies her head in Percy's lap and closes her eyes.

PERCY

I think I'd rather spend my life with
someone who shares my dreams, not someone
who tries to rip 'em apart.

Percy, still dazed, sits for a moment staring off into
oblivion.

PERCY

You might as well know, I've found
someone I love and it ain't you.
(he shakes her)
Wake up! You're not staying here.

ALLISON

What!? I can't get up, I'll die.

PERCY

Good, do it in the street. Allison?
Allison?

OUT COLD. He gets up and puts a pillow under her head. He
goes to the wall and turns out the light.

FADE OUT AND FADE IN:

INT. ILENA'S CAR - MORNING

With the distinct look of a disheveled mother, Ileana drives
like a wild woman, cutting in and out of traffic on a side
street.

She gives Sammy a "you knuckle head" look.

ILENA

I can't believe you waited until your bus
arrived to remember you forgot your book
report. You are gonna be so late.

SAMMY

I said I'm sorry. Like eighty times.

ILENA

Today is a busy day for me and I'm
already behind schedule. It's a good
think I love you so much. Do you know
where the spare key is?

SAMMY

Under the big plant on the porch.

EXT. PERCY'S HOUSE - MORNING

The car rolls to a stop, and Ilena jumps out quickly running
to the front porch. She tilts the large plant and grabs the
key.

PERCY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She walks through the front door, hustles over to the dining room table and sorts through a stack of papers.

Ilena reaches for one of Sammy's books and accidentally knocks over a candle stick sitting in the middle of the table.

CLUNK.

PERCY'S BEDROOM - AT THAT SAME MOMENT

Soaking wet from a shower, Allison steps from the bathroom investigating the distant CLUNK.

BACK IN THE LIVING ROOM

Locating Sammy's book and paper, Ilena rushes back to the front door. She grabs the door handle to leave, when she... hears something behind her.

She whips around to find Allison standing in the bedroom doorway, wearing only a bath towel.

ALLISON

You scared me. I wasn't expecting anyone. You're probably here to clean. You might want to start in the bedroom. It's a disaster in there. I'll be out in a few minutes. I was supposed to be gone by now.

Ilena's speechless. She bolts outside and slams the door behind her. Weak in the knees, she leans back against the door, trying desperately to catch her breath. Finally:

ILENA

You son of a bitch!

INT. HALLWAY OUT SIDE ILENA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Sammy's listening outside Ilena's bedroom. Fiona walks up behind him. CRASH. Something shatters inside.

SAMMY

Mom!

FIONA

It's okay. Your mother is just upset. Go to your room, and let me talk to her.

Sammy reluctantly walks to his room.

FIONA

Ilena! Listen to me. You need to stop this. You're scaring Sammy. Ilena!

INSIDE ILENA'S BEDROOM

Ilena is sitting on her bed, her face buried in her hands.

ILENA
Leave me alone!

She stands and paces like a caged animal. After a moment:

She snatches up the CRYSTAL SEA HORSE sitting on her night table and hurls it, smashing the dresser mirror.

ILENA
I won't do this again!

INT. RADIO STATION STUDIO - MORNING

Jodi, the show's producer, holds up a paper with a message that reads. Percy - IMPORTANT PERSONAL PHONE CALL. LINE 2.

PERCY
This is Percy.

FIONA
Mr. Percy, something terrible has happened.

PERCY
Fiona? What's wrong?

FIONA
It's Ilena. She has packed and says she is taking Sammy to Mexico, permanently.

PERCY
What! Why? What happened?

FIONA
She and Sammy went over to your house to get Sammy's home work. The next thing I knew, she was back home and started packing bags.

PERCY
What!? Oh, shit! Allison. She was supposed to be gone. Fiona, believe me, I would never hurt her.

FIONA
It's not me you have to convince.

PERCY
Is she going to the airport?

FIONA
No, she is going to drive. She's taking the back road down highway 69. She said
(MORE)

FIONA (cont'd)

it would give her a chance to think things out. She's not thinking clearly at all.

PERCY

Thanks, Fiona. I'll find her.

PAUL

What's going on?

PERCY

I need your help.

INT. ILENA'S CAR - HIGHWAY 69 - LATER

Ilena's eyes are puffy and red as she silently stares at the highway in front of her.

A car speeds up next to Ilena trying to get her attention. She's lost and doesn't notice.

INT. RADIO STATION STUDIO - MORNING

Paul is on the air talking to a caller.

PAUL

She won't pay attention to you?

TED (O.S.)

No, you can tell she's pretty upset.

PAUL

Is there a listener in the area who has a piece of paper and a pen? Maybe you can write a note and hold it up. Percy, are you on the line yet.

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Percy is sitting in the back seat with a headset and mic on.

PERCY

Yeah, I'm in the traffic copter now. We're just about to take off. Oh crap. Here we go. Oh God, oh God, oh God. Do you have a barf bag in here?

BACK AT THE STUDIO

PAUL

Okay, I'll let you know when we have contact. Listeners, it is imperative that you help the Love Doctor this morning. We have a very special situation here, and it concerns my partner, Percy. There is a beautiful lady out on Highway 69, south of the city, who is very upset. We need you to help us. We need to get her to listen to us on the radio.

INSIDE ILENA'S CAR

The brake lights FLASH several times from the car in front of Ilena.

SAMMY

Mom, I think those people are trying to tell us something.

ILENA

Just ignore them. They're probably some weirdos.

As Ilena powers past them, Sammy looks at the car and notices a piece of paper the DRIVER is holding up.

The paper says, **TURN YOUR RADIO TO PERCY AND PAUL'S SHOW. 98.** Sammy NODS his head yes.

He reaches over and turns on the radio.

IN THE STUDIO

Paul is in high gear as he talks to a listener named SUSIE.

SUSIE (O.S.)

I think we got the little boy's attention. He nodded his head yes, so I think he's turning on the radio.

PAUL

Great, thank you, Susie. Stay on the line in case I need you. Ilena, I hope you're listening. This is Paul.

INSIDE ILENA'S CAR

PAUL (O.S.)

Ilena, this is serious. It's important that you listen to what Percy has to say to you.

Ilena is shocked to hear her name on the radio. She looks at Sammy, who has a broad conniving smile from ear to ear.

Ilena's expression is one of confusion and pain.

PAUL (O.S.)

Ilena, I've known Percy for a long time. There have been times when he was the biggest jerk in the world but most of the time has been a true friend to me. One thing I will tell you for certain. I have never seen him so absolutely head over heels in love with someone as he is with you. Please, just hear him out. Are you there, Percy?

INSIDE A TRAFFIC COPTER

Percy is seated in the copter slouching back in his seat, nearly paralyzed with fear.

PERCY

Ilena, please listen to me. I don't know what happened this morning, but I can imagine it has something to do with my... Look, I need for you to... What I mean is...You need to know...Things aren't...I think I told you...

BACK AT THE STUDIO

PAUL

Percy! You sound like a guest star on Hee Haw.

INSIDE THE TRAFFIC COPTER

PERCY

Ilena, you told me once that the hardest thing in the world is to give your trust, once it's been broken. You gave me your trust, and I swore to you I wouldn't abuse it. Please believe me, Ilena. I did not break your trust.

IN ILENA'S CAR

Ilena's emotions are bubbling up from deep inside.

PERCY (O.S.)

Ilena stop the car. I'm in the air above you. Stop and let's go home. I'll explain everything. I swear to you things aren't what you think. You made that mistake once before, please don't let it happen again. I want to spend the rest of my life with you.

A car swings up next to Ilena and flashes a hand-made sign that reads, **STOP AND GIVE PERCY A CHANCE.**

Another car whips in front of her, and a LITTLE BOY holds a sign up in the back window that reads, **PERCY LOVES YOU! DON'T LEAVE!**

AT THE STUDIO

PAUL

Ilena, I think you should hear from someone you know to only speak the truth.

He picks up a phone line.

PAUL

Tiger, you there?

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION:

TIGER

Yeah.

PAUL

Tiger, I was wondering. I know this cute girl in the office who's looking for a boyfriend. Should I ask Percy to go out on a date with her?

TIGER

No, Percy has a girlfriend.

PAUL

How do you know he has a girlfriend?

TIGER

Cause he don't kiss any other girls anymore. He only kisses Ilena now.

PAUL

Have you been spying on him?

TIGER

Yeah, and Sammy too.

PAUL

You think he likes Ilena, Tiger.

INSIDE ILENA'S CAR

ECU of Ilena as she listens.

TIGER (O.S.)

No! He loves her.

(spelling it out)

L-o-v-e. That's how you spell it. I know that for a fact. That's why he's so happy. Plus he's glad that Sammy talks now, cause that makes Ilena happy.

PAUL (O.S.)

Tiger, if Allison was over at Percy's house, does that mean Percy likes her too?

TIGER (O.S.)

No. Percy would rather eat pancakes filled with tacks than look at Venom. Can I go, I have to pee?

PERCY (O.S.)

Sure. Thanks, Tiger.

AT THE STUDIO

Paul hangs up the phone before leaning into the mic.

PAUL

Ilena, what does your heart tell you?
Have you ever known Tiger to not tell the
absolute truth?

SILENCE. All we hear is the flapping of helicopter blades.

We see a HAND turn up the volume on a car radio.

TWO MECHANICS lean in intently listening to the radio of a
car in their repair bay.

THREE WOMEN are gathered around a desk radio hanging on every
word.

INSIDE ILEANA'S CAR

Sammy reaches over and puts his hand on his mother's arm.

SAMMY

Mom.

IN THE STUDIO

Paul looks at Jodi and Becka in the control booth, shaking
his head, no.

Suddenly we hear a car horn honking, then two, and then
several horns start to blare.

PAUL

Where are those car horns coming from? I
hear car horns on your phone line Susie.
Are those horns what I think they are?

SUSIE (O.S.)

Wahoo! She's pulling over. You did it.

ECU on Percy as he closes his eyes and lets out a sigh of
relief.

We see the three women in the office jumping up and down with
excitement, while the two mechanics give each other a high
five.

EXT. HIGHWAY 69 - SAME TIME

The helicopter lands a safe distance away from the highway.

Percy hands the PILOT a half full barf bag, then jumps out
and gives him the thumbs up. The copter soars away.

He then races to Ilena, who is standing next to her car. The
car horns are going crazy as they embrace.

PERCY

Are you okay?

ILENA

Don't let go of me. Don't ever let go of me.

PERCY

I'd give you a big kiss, but I blew chunks up there. Listen, that was my ex-wife at my house. She came over drunk and tried to pick a fight, then passed out drunk on my couch. I let her know I'm in love with you. I want to spend the rest of my life with you.

ILENA

I shouldn't have jumped to conclusions, but I...

PERCY

Shhhh. It's over now. Let's go home. She did confess something important to me. She's the one who can't have children, not me.

ILENA

Yeah, I know.

A puzzled look quickly turns to realization.

ILENA

You're the one who said Mr. Lucky didn't need a saddle. Are you okay with that?

A proud, somewhat cocky expression fills his face.

PERCY

Yeah, I'm more than okay with that.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BUNGEE TOWER - DAY

The CAMERA shoots down on a CROWD gathered together. In the crowd, we see Fiona holding a BABY, Paul, Tiger, Sammy, Becka, the girls from the support group and many others from the story.

They are all looking up and chanting "jump, jump, jump." The CAMERA whirls around to a shot of Percy and Ilena standing on a bungee platform.

ILENA

We're almost there. Are you sure you want to do this?

PERCY

Are you kidding me? It's taking me a year to get up here. I'm not backing down now.

They both inch up to the platform. Ilena looks down and we see her POV of the tiny people below.

ILENA

Oh, my gosh. If we're gonna do this,
let's do it, cause I'm about to pee my
pants.

PERCY

As Butch said to the Sundance Kid.

PERCY AND ILENA

Oh, shit!

The CAMERA is below looking up at the platform. The two jump and are caught, mid air, in a FREEZE FRAME. The credits begin to roll.