

THE WATERMELON FIELD

by

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EXT: NEAR BAKERSFIELD, CA - SENIOR CARE FACILITY - MORNING

A run down, dirty, senior care facility the very site of which conjures up the smell of Lysol and urine.

It is located beside a large agricultural area directly beneath enormous power lines.

There are row after row of watermelons stretching out across the valley away from the care facility.

INSERT - ROAD SIGN

BAKERSFIELD 25 MILES

A car speeds its way along a road that leads to the care facility. Looking out a rear side window of the car is an 80 year old man named JOE WALKER.

Still a handsome man for his age, he is thin, his eyes are blood shot -- he has oxygen tubes running from his nose.

He watches the rows of watermelons flying by outside the car window. He sees migrant workers in the field.

INSERT - SIGN

HAPPY SMILES SENIOR CARE FACILITY

The car pulls up to the entrance of the care facility. His daughter HOPE and Hope's fiancée LAMAR get out.

They are met by orderlies. The head orderly is finishing a candy bar chewing with his mouth open wide. They pull Joe from the car

JOE

Wait a second, just wait a second!
Take it easy would ya'. Look, I
said wait a second!

HEAD ORDERLY

I got him, you grab the tank.

LAMAR

This is it Pops. Nice, don't ya'
think? Took me a long time and a
lot of searching to find this
place.

JOE

I'll bet.

LAMAR

How 'bout it Hope what do ya'
think? A little slice of heaven
ain't it?

The power lines pop, crackle and sizzle with electricity.

HOPE

I'm not sure about this Lamar, it
doesn't look anything like the
pictures in the brochure.

LAMAR

Nonsense, this is great. Look, it
even has a satellite dish. Pops
you'll be able to watch all of your
favorite shows 24/7.

JOE

(to Hope)

Why? Why now? I can still get
around. I can take care of myself.

HOPE

Papa please, Lamar and I, well, we
went through all of this with you
already.

JOE

You know I could have stayed in my
house, my house. It's not like I
don't have the money.

HOPE

Papa you know with your emphysema
and the liver problems you
need...more help. More help then
we're able to give you right now.

LAMAR

Pops, you know this is all about
love, protecting you from yourself
and protecting the family money.

JOE

(finger to Lamar's face)

You shut up!
Hope, OK, you win. Listen, I'll get
someone to check on me once in a
while. I've already taken the
initiative and quit smoking. That
counts for something.

HOPE

Papa, you were forced to quit smoking because you couldn't breath.

JOE

Well, that's one way to look at it but what about the drinking? I haven't touched a drop for six months.

HOPE

Papa.

JOE

Four months.

HOPE

(patiently)

Papa, the doctor said if you didn't your liver was going to quit on you. We had no choice doing this because you refused to take care of yourself.

JOE

OK, Ok, look you can still live in my house if you want, but not that asshole. I love being around the grandkids. He doesn't because they're not his.

LAMAR

Ouch Lovie, now that just plain hurts and I can't believe you're standing there listening to him. You know those kids are near and dear to my heart.

HOPE

Lamar, please give me a moment. Papa, now you listen here, he cares a lot more for them then their biological father ever did.

JOE

What's with this biological hog-wash? Johnny's their father and he loves those kids, loves'em as much as we do.

(thumbs Lamar)

That worthless pile of flesh couldn't care less. He's a gold-digger and a liar on top of it.

HOPE

Papa, don't talk that way about the man I love, about the man I'm going to marry. If Johnny would have loved me and the kids, he would have been there for us. Lamar...was and is, Johnny was not.

JOE

You two may have had your problems but Johnny was always there for the kids. Just because you two couldn't work it out there's no need playing the situation off of Jesse and Johnny Junior.

HOPE

That's my business and I'm not going to discuss it with you. What we're doing today is for your own good and weather you choose to realize it or not Lamar cares for you as much as I do.

JOE

I can feel the love alright, the love for my house and money.

LAMAR

Pops, now you're just plain sticking a knife in me right here, right here.

(touches his heart)

All I want is to see you safe in a good place that can take care of all your needs.

JOE

Good place! You call this dump a good place!

LAMAR

Keep it calm Pops, remember the blood pressure and the old ticker.

JOE

My blood pressure and heart are fine and stop calling me Pops. You cooked up this God-damned, senile, incompetent crap. You sold it to my daughter, my doctor, my former lawyer and even the judge.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

You stole my money and my house and worse yet separated me from the only family I got.

LAMAR

Look, we're only moving in to keep an eye on things until, well you know, the situation changes.

JOE

You mean until I kick the bucket. Hell, you'll probably want the bucket too.

HOPE

Papa!

LAMAR

Don't bother Lovie dear, that just goes to prove what I've been saying all the long. Listen to him, out of control, totally out of control.

JOE

(lunges at Lamar)
Why you son of a_!

HOPE

(overlapping)
No Papa, don't make this any harder on us than it already is!

Joe grabs Lamar's collar, they scuffle and get tangled in the oxygen tubes. Joe starts coughing -- he is pulled back and restrained by the orderlies.

LAMAR

Look Lovie, what have I been telling you all the long? We're here not a moment too soon!

INT. CARE FACILITY - ACTIVITIES ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A group of residents, most 80-something, are sitting inside at a table by a wire enforced window overlooking the front entrance.

SARAH, a well weathered English women has one hand on her walker and with the other points out the window.

SARAH

Here comes another one, poor thing.

DUKE, a slightly crotchety, 75-something, unshaven, Texan, snaps the pages of his newspaper into order and looks over his glasses.

DUKE

By the looks of it he's not going down without a fight. My kind of man.

NATE, a hansom, immaculately well groomed, African American is reading a book and drinking tea.

NATE

Oh heart, lose not thy nature; let not ever the soul of Nero enter this firm bosom. Fight on oh Cesar, fight on!

JERRY, a Jewish New Yorker, takes a bite of a bagel and throws it down on his plate -- takes a sip of his coffee and makes a face.

JERRY

Can't say as I blame 'em. Look at this place, this food, it's more of a dumping ground than an assisted living community.

DUKE

(yells out the window)
Give 'em hell buddy! You got your senility license now, you can do whatever you damn well please and no one can do a thing about it! Old fart power!

SARAH

You better be quite Duke, or Dr. Bodere will do something about it. You know what happened the last time.

DUKE

Like I really care.
(looks nervously over his shoulder)
Let 'em put me in isolation. I can take it standing on my head.

SARAH

Talk some sense into him Nate.

NATE

Ah, this lion is a very fox for his
valour and a goose for his
discretion. (MSND 5.1.211-212)

SARAH

Jerry.

JERRY

Sarah's right Duke. It just ain't
worth it anymore. You'll make
things harder for all of us.

DUKE

Harder for all of us? Let me tell
you something. Weather you choose
to accept it or not it gets harder
every day for all of us, like it's
just about to get harder for that
poor bastard out there right now.

(pulls out a monocular)

Old poodle-pants must be
celebrating. That's the second one
this month.

JERRY

It's not fair, it's just not fair.
You save all of your life, play
straight, work hard and for what?
You pay off your mortgage, pad your
savings for your golden years only
to be shuffled off by the fruit of
your loins to a dump like this.

DUKE

Rotten fruit Jerry, a smelly rotten
fruit it is.

NATE

(holds up a finger)

Now is the hour of our discontent.

DUKE

Nate, my old friend, you can surely
say that again.

NATE

Say what? I didn't say anything.

DUKE

One of these days I'm gona' get you
a God damn tape recorder so you can
hear all the high brow stuff that
comes out of your mouth.

NATE

A tape recorder? Why do I need a tape recorder? When I was on stage I never missed a line or a word.

DUKE

Is that so?

NATE

Nor syllable my friend, nor vowel.

DUKE

Nor whatever, I still say it would be good to tape record yourself so you can hear it.

NATE

I can hear it when I speak it my good man. When I do say something important you will be the first to know.

DUKE

Thanks for the warning.
(looks out the window)
Speaking of Mr. Personality there goes the welcoming committee right now. Boy would I like five minutes in his office. Just five minutes.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CARE FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

DR. BODERE, a southern, 40-something waddles briskly across the drive toward the car with chest out, back arched and rear end sticking upward.

Bodere gets within inches of their faces while shaking their hands. Hope and Lamar are bludgeoned in the olfactory by Bodere's halitosis -- they retreat.

DR. BODERE

Welcome folks, welcome. It's so nice to meet you all. Oh and this must be our new arrival, John. I'm Dr. Bodere the director of Happy Smiles.

Bodere flashes his overdone smile at Joe, exposing his bad, crooked teeth. He pats his oily hair and shakes Joe's hand.

Joe is driven back by Bodere's breath. He repositions his oxygen tubes and wipes the breel-cream on his shirt.

HOPE

It's Joe, my father's name is Joseph Walker.

DR. BODERE

Well now Mr. Walker, I'm sure you're going to enjoy our facilities and all the top-notch care that Happy Smiles will provide you.

JOE

I'm sure I won't.

HOPE

Papa's feeling a bit overwhelmed today, what with the change and all.

DR. BODERE

Understandable, completely understandable.

(whispers to Joe)

Look, friend, the sooner you accept your situation the better your stay will be.

HOPE

I'm his daughter Hope and this is my fiancée Lamar.

DR. BODERE

A real pleasure Lamar. We spoke on the phone didn't we?

LAMAR

That's right Doc.

DR. BODERE

Your fiancée is a man that really knows a good value when he sees one. You couldn't have found a better situation for your family and your father.

LAMAR

See Lovie, what did I tell ya'?

HOPE

I guess so.

LAMAR

You say goodbye to your father while I get the luggage.

DR. BODERE

(to the orderlies)

Gentlemen, bring Mr. Walker please.
No need to come inside Miss Walker.
We say our first good-byes at the
doorway. I feel it's better that
way. Gets them right into the
routine and right into the Happy
Smile program.

LAMAR

This place is the best.

Joe is led inside -- Hope tears-up.

HOPE

Lamar, are you really sure we're
doing the right thing?

LAMAR

Strength Lovie, strength. Now is
not the time for weakness. Believe
you me, it's for the best.

Lamar sets the suitcases by the door.

HOPE

You're right, I have to be strong
for Papa's sake.
(calls to Joe)
Papa, be good. I'll be back next
week to visit and we can talk some
more.

LAMAR

That's right. Come on now precious,
we need to get going. We've got to
get our home ready for when the new
furniture arrives.

HOPE

My dad's home.

LAMAR

Was lovie, was. By the way, I
ordered an extra large dumpster to
get rid of all that old junk. If
everything goes OK we can be in by
next weekend.

Joe overhears, turns but is pulled back by the two strong
orderlies.

DR. BODERE
You're getting off on the wrong
foot with me my friend. Take him
inside.

Dr. Bodere looks toward the window of the activity room. Duke
and the others quickly look away.

INT. INSIDE THE CARE FACILITY - ACTIVITY ROOM - LATER

DUKE
Like I was saying, just five
minutes in that son of a bitch
Bodere's office.

JERRY
Duke.

DUKE
No, I'm serious just five minutes
in that office is all I'd need to
get the goods on him.

JERRY
Duke.

DUKE
Jer' let me finish. Look at this
place, just look at it. There's no
up-keep whatsoever and the way
we're cared for and the slop that
passes for food. I just know he's
bank rolling our pensions, social
security checks and anything else
that crook can get his hands on.
I'm sure of it.

Everyone around the table is pointing with their eyes. Dr.
Bodere clears his throat.

DUKE
Like I said, I'm sure the good
Doctor has everything well in
order. I mean doing the best he can
under the circumstances and all.

DR. BODERE
Seems old habits die hard don't
they Duke? Perhaps you didn't learn
quite enough from your last session
in time-out isolation therapy.

DUKE

(visibly frightened)

No, I mean yes, I mean no...on the lies and rumor part and yes, yes I learned plenty enough, thanks Doc.

DR. BODERE

Good, good, now please keep your opinions to yourself and maybe you can stay out of therapy.

JERRY

Look Doctor, you have no right to_
(Duke shakes his head)

DR. BODERE

Look Jerry. It is Jerry isn't it?

(Jerry nods slowly)

Jerry, I run this facility and I run it well. I've been given complete charge by every resident's family or guardian to provide for their needs as I see fit. I provide for you, all of you, despite the measly sums that your little social security checks and/or pitiful pensions dole out every month.

NATE

Look here my good man_

DR. BODERE

No you look. If I hear one more word from any of you, any of you, about how this facility is run, you'll have a lot more than the living conditions to worry about. Have I made my self crystal clear?

DUKE

Crystal.

SARAH

Quite.

JERRY

Yes, I guess you have.

DR. BODERE

And you! What about you?

NATE

To say nothing, to do nothing, to know nothing, and to have nothing, is to be a great part of your title, which is within a very little of nothing. (AWTEW 2.4. 23-26)

DR. BODERE

Now, just what is that suppose to mean?

Nate looks straight ahead, sips his tea as if not hearing the question.

DUKE

He's in total agreement, totally.

DR. BODERE

(eyes Nate suspiciously)
Good, I'm glad we've had this little discussion. One more thing, Mr. Walker is the latest addition to our growing family. Make him feel welcome and Duke if I find out that you've told him so much as one of your lies, well, there are worse things than isolation therapy. Just keep that in mind.

DUKE

(points to his head)
Right Doc, right here.

INT. JOE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joe is escorted to his room.

HEAD ORDERLY

Here ya' go Pops.

JOE

Wonderful, now everyone is calling me that.

HEAD ORDERLY

Listen carefully Pops, this is how it works around here. Breakfast is at 8 am sharp, lunch is at noon and dinner is at 6. If you miss 'em you're gona' get mighty hungry.

JOE
Where's the restroom?

HEAD ORDERLY
Shut up and listen will ya'. You get one sheet change a week. The maids will come around on Monday morning 7 am sharp. If your not out of bed, well, guess what?

JOE
Something tells me I sleep in dirty sheets for the rest of the week.

HEAD ORDERLY
Hey, you catch on quick. It's right over there.

JOE
What?

HEAD ORDERLY
The crapper. Anymore questions?

JOE
Yea, where is everybody?

HEAD ORDERLY
How the hell should I know?

JOE
What about the functions?

HEAD ORDERLY
(guffaws)
Functions?

JOE
Like it said in the brousure.
Shuffle board, movies, music night,
that kind of stuff.

Another orderly brings in Joe's suitcases and tosses them on the bed. The head orderly pulls out another candy bar -- sniffs the wrapper like a cigar.

HEAD ORDERLY
This guy's a regular clown.

JOE
I'm serious guys.

SECOND ORDERLY
He's serious.

HEAD ORDERLY

You're serious? Look Pops the activity room is at the end of that hallway. There's cards, scrabble, monopoly and whatever other games you gray-hairs like to play. We do a movie matinee at the theater in town once a week but ya' got ta get on the list, OK.

JOE

Gray-hairs? Why are you such an angry young man? I'm the one who has a right be angry.

HEAD ORDERLY

(candy bar in Joe's chest)
Look Pops, just keep your nose clean and stay out of trouble and the time you have left will pass quickly. Now get unpacked, the nurse will be up to take you for your physical.

JOE

Physical?

HEAD ORDERLY

Physical!

JOE

(thumb to the oxygen)
What about this?

HEAD ORDERLY

If you run out see the shift nurse and she'll get you a fresh one. Now get unpacked.

The orderlies leave. Joe starts to unpack his suitcase -- stops -- goes to the doorway of his room.

He looks up and down the hallway to make sure the orderlies have gone.

Joe reaches into a small compartment on his oxygen tank dolly and pulls out an unopened pint of Wild Turkey Whiskey.

He starts to open the bottle but sees something in his suitcase and stops.

JOE

No! For their sake I can't.

He pulls t-shirts from his suitcase, puts them in the dresser drawer and places the whiskey under them.

Next he takes out a picture of his daughter and then of his two grandchildren.

JOE

I miss you two so much. How in the hell did I let myself get into this mess?

JERRY

(startles Joe)

Been asking myself that for the past two years. I'm sorry, I didn't mean ta catch you off guard. Name's Jerry, Jerry Lowenstein. My friends call me Jer.

Shakes Jerry's hand.

JOE

Joe Walker, I just got in.

JERRY

I know, we saw your grand entrance from the war room.

JOE

Hope I didn't make too much of a spectacle of myself.

JERRY

For heavens sakes, not at all. We've all been through that at one time or another.

JOE

What's the war room?

JERRY

The war room, AKA the activities room. It's called that 'cause the only activity we got going on around here is plotting and skeeming how we can get out.

JOE

You've been at it for two years without any luck?

JERRY

Not a very good track record I
guess but I've had my moments of
glory, however small. May I?

Jerry reaches for the picture in Joe's hand.

JOE

My grandkids. Johnny Junior, nine
and Jesse, seven.

JERRY

Oh they're cute. I can sure see why
you miss 'em so much.

JOE

I do, even my daughter.

JERRY

Even?

JOE

Hope, that's her name, she kind of
got me into this mess. Her and that
no good boyfriend of her's.

JERRY

Hope, now that's a pretty name.

JOE

Yea, we kind of had her late in
life. Just when I had given up on
ever having a child she came along.
Guess that's why my wife gave her
that name, it was the one thing she
never gave up on.

JERRY

That's nice Joe.

JOE

Well, it's my story. What about
you? Got any grandkids?

JERRY

Funny you should ask. I'm not
bragging or anything but, oh, what
the hell I'm bragging, these are
mine.

Two dozen pictures fold out of Jerry's wallet.

JOE

Wow, how do you keep all the names straight?

JERRY

It's a challenge believe me especially with the twins.

JOE

You've been blessed.

JERRY

You bet and I love every one of 'em. Not a favorite in the bunch.

JOE

Are you sure about that?

JERRY

Well, little Jerry does get preferential treatment from time to time.

JOE

Excuse me for asking Jerry but it looks like you got a lot of family. What the heck are you doing in a dive like this?

JERRY

You want my life story or the Reader's Digest special?

JOE

Let's start with the condensed version and if we need to expand we'll go from there.

JERRY

Fair enough. Now let me see, where do I start? Oh yea, like a lot of senior citizens I thought I had enough put away to take care of things and we did, up until Hester, that's my wife, got sick.

JOE

I'm sorry to hear that Jerry.

JERRY

That's OK it was a while ago.
Anyway when she was diagnosed with
Alzheimer's it nearly tore me apart
but we were still committed to go
on as a couple as long as we could.

JOE

Did it hit her fast?

JERRY

No, that evil, maniacal disease
took its own sweet time. Breaking
her down piece by piece, bit by
bit, memory by memory. After five
years she didn't even know my name.
It's been ten years now and she has
to be fed from a tube and kept
hooked up to a ventilator.

JOE

You mean she's still alive?

JERRY

God knows I tried to help her go. I
tried to give her some dignity but
those sons of bitches weren't
having it.

JOE

Did the doctors stop you?

JERRY

Stopped me, called my children and
called the police. So here I am,
end of story. What about your wife
Joe?

JOE

I lost my wife to, but she was very
much alive and kicking with
memories intact when she walked out
the door.

JERRY

That must have been hard.

JOE

Yea, it was. Not that I didn't
deserve it mind ya' but it wasn't
any less of a surprise when she
took Hope and left.

JERRY

That's too bad Joe.

JOE

Ah, no sour grapes here. Like I said it was mostly my own fault I reckon. Between my drinking and my pig headedness I pretty much shot myself in the foot, hell, probably both feet.

JERRY

We all live and learn.

JOE

I guess so but why do we have to learn some things too late?

JERRY

Ah, there in lies the rub.

JOE

The rub?

JERRY

I think it's Shakespeare. Nate says that a lot.

JOE

Who's Nate?

JERRY

One of the gang here. Use to be a darn fine stage actor too 'til his memory started going bad.

JOE

How bad?

JERRY

For him it comes and goes. He can be perfectly fine one minute and the next, well, it's a good thing he has his Shakespeare and his long term memories.

JOE

I see.

JERRY

Anyway, you can meet him and the rest of our little group later.

(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

When you're done unpacking come down to the activities room and I'll introduce you to everyone.

JOE

Sounds good. It was real nice meeting you Jerry.

JERRY

(winks)

Like wise Joe, see you in the war room.

Jerry leaves -- Joe stares out the dirty window of his room to the watermelon field -- eyes the dresser drawer with longing.

INT. CARE FACILITY - ACTIVITIES ROOM - LATER

Joe hesitates at the door with oxygen bottle in tow. Duke, Sarah, Nate, and Jerry are at their usual table.

There are other care facility residents milling about, playing card games or watching TV.

Joe reluctantly enters -- his bottle bangs against the doorway -- they all turn around. Jerry waves Joe over.

Sarah fusses with her hair and straightens her dress -- Duke lowers his copy of Cabo Living magazine observing her.

JERRY

Hey Joe, over here, Joe, over here.

BOBBY, an 80-something man in a bathrobe brushes past Joe in a wheel chair. Bobby bumps Joe's oxygen bottle.

BOBBY

Hey, why don't you watch where I'm going. Just kidding. The names Bobby.

JOE

Nice to meet you.

Bobby and Joe head for the others.

JERRY

Everyone this Joe, today's new arrival.

SARAH

Hi Joe, welcome. It's good to have some new blood around here.

NATE

Mak'st thou this shame thy past time? Act II, scene IV, King Lear. Welcome Joe, welcome.

JOE

You must be Nate. Joe was telling me you're a fine actor.

NATE

Ah, here does comes a flattering rascal. (Cymbeline 1.5.149..50)

JERRY

Shakespeare remember.

JOE

I remember.

JERRY

This is Sarah former school teacher extraordinare and Bobby who you already met. He use to play minor league ball and later ran his own printing shop but we think he was just running a booky joint.

Bobby pulls out a glove and ball from his lap and starts throwing the ball into the glove.

BOBBY

Speak for yourself Lowenstein. Pitcher, I was a pitcher for the Winston-Salem Cards to be exact.

JOE

Yea, what years?

BOBBY

50 to 53, I use to play with Earl Weaver and had one inning at St. Luis in the big show. Welcome to paradise Joe.

JERRY

And over here last but surely not least, the rebel of our group, Duke who use to be the road manager for a rock group of all things.

JOE

A rock group? I guess that might be fun if you like that sort of thing. Anyone I've ever heard of?

DUKE

A little band called Stephenwolf?

JOE

Oh yea. As I recall they're very loud.

DUKE

To some I suppose. Welcome to paradise lost, Joe.

SARAH

Duke, remember what the doctor said this morning!

DUKE

That's right. I'm sorry, it's so nice to make your acquaintance in such a lovely place like this.

JOE

Thanks, I wish I could say the same but one of us should be truthful don't you think?

DUKE

Ah, a man after my own heart. What did I tell ya' Sarah? Have a seat Joe we need to form an alliance for this week's episode of senior survivor. Looks like you're gona' be here a while.

JOE

As a matter of fact probably not long at all.

DUKE

Oh yea?

JOE

Yea, as soon as I can get my daughter to understand a few things, I'm out of here. She's coming back next week and we're going to talk about it.

DUKE

I see, how wonderful. Well I certainly wish you the best on that Joe, I really do.

NATE

(confused)

Yes my new friend, good luck on...good luck on...whatever it is you're undertaking.

JOE

I'm serious, it's all just been a misunderstanding about my situation. I'll get it cleared up with my daughter Hope and be back in my own home soon enough.

DUKE

Right, and the Easter Bunny's gona' bring us all a big basket of colored eggs and chocolates.

SARAH

Duke, don't be such a doomsayer. Look Joe, I'm sure that everything will work out for the best with you and your family.

JOE

Thanks Sarah, I know it will. It was nice meeting all of you. I guess I'll go back to my room and finish unpacking for now.

Sarah -- big smile -- shakes hands with Joe. She holds Joe's hand longer than necessary.

Duke puts down his magazine, folds his arms and studies Sarah's flirtation.

Joe, uncomfortable, pulls his hand away and leaves pulling his oxygen bottle.

DUKE

That poor son of a buck is taking a slow boat up a river in Egypt.

BOBBY

Up a river in Egypt?

DUKE

De-nial.

JERRY

Didn't we all?

DUKE

And you, you're just encouraging him.

(mocking)

I'm sure everything will work out for the best.

SARAH

Oh Duke, don't be such a stick in the mud. We were all holding on to that in the beginning. Why crush it for him?

DUKE

Better us than Bodere?

SARAH

Yea, well you keep that up and Bodere will make good on his threats.

BOBBY

Duke's right Sarah, Joe's only kidding himself if he thinks his daughter's gona' change her mind. That goes for you too Jer.

NATE

Let the man have his dream for in time he shall understand.

(waving one arm)

His passions, like a whale on ground, will confound themselves with working. (HIV 4.4. 40-41)

JERRY

My kids care they just don't know the truth of it yet.

DUKE

Oh yea, the truth of it is you're stuck in here and they're out there and there's only one thing you can do about it.

JERRY

Oh yea, what?

DUKE

We get off of our keasters and finally make a plan.

BOBBY

You've been make'n a plan for the past two years. You're gona' have ta dust it off like you need ta dust off yourself.

Duke holds up his copy of Cabo Living and taps on the cover.

DUKE

Go on, go ahead, I'll be sending you a postcard from paradise before you know it.

JERRY

I'm tired of waiting. I'll be dead by the time you make your plan. I want to spend time with my grandchildren now and keep my promise.

INT. CARE FACILITY - EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER

Joe is led into the exam room by a nurse. Dr. ROMAN is female, good looking and 30-something. She studies Joe's records.

NURSE

Doctor here's our new arrival.

DR ROMAN

Hello, you must be Mr. Walker.

JOE

In the flesh.

DR ROMAN

How do you do? I'm Dr. Roman.

JOE

(they shake hands)

I've been better. Joe, call me Joe. Wow, cold hands warm heart.

DR ROMAN

Sorry about that Joe, take off your shirt please and get up on the table.

JOE

So soon? And we hardly know one another.

DR ROMAN

A sense of humour. I like that. How long have you been on the bottle?

JOE

I don't drink...anymore.

DR ROMAN

(points to the oxygen)

I see. Actually I meant that bottle.

JOE

Oh, just this month. I don't really need this stuff. I just don't want my daughter worrying that's all.

Joe removes the oxygen tubes from his nose then his shirt -- the Doctor begins her examination.

DR ROMAN

Breathe in deep for me please?

Joe takes a breath, coughs, turns red and fights for air. The doctor quickly replaces the oxygen tubes and Joe recovers.

DR ROMAN

We'll just leave that in for the time being. You a smoker?

JOE

Not anymore.

DR ROMAN

When did you quit.

JOE

Last month.

DR ROMAN

I see, well good for you. It's never too late. OK, remove your pants and lay on your left side.

JOE

Excuse me?

DR ROMAN

A bit shy are we?

JOE

Not usually, but is this necessary?

DR ROMAN

Everyone admitted has to go through a preliminary check up. It allows us to verify your conditions and it's required by the insurance company.

JOE

I can tell you my condition. My condition is that I'm eighty years old.

DR ROMAN

That may be but we need your vitals and a few other rudimentary checks.
(puts on a rubber glove)

JOE

Wait a minute, you can't be serious?

DR ROMAN

Come now Mr. Walker surely you've had your yearly physicals. This can't be any surprise to you by now?

JOE

The day that stops being a surprise is the day I start worrying. Besides you're just a kid. You could be my grandchild for goodness sake. Don't you have someone more my age and more...

DR ROMAN

More what exactly?

JOE

More ugly for starters.

DR ROMAN

I'll take that as a complement. Now lay on your side and pull down your boxers.

Joe reluctantly complies. The doctor examines him.

JOE

Wow, holy Jesus that's cold!

DR ROMAN

Sorry about that Mr. Walker. You're prostate seems in order and there's no sign of herniation.

JOE

Just humiliation.

DR ROMAN

Now, that wasn't that bad. Pull up your boxers and sit up for me please.

JOE

Gladly.

She takes off the gloves, washes her hands and attaches a blood pressure strap to Joe's arm and begins to pump.

JOE

What are you doing working in a dump like this anyway?

DR ROMAN

I know there's room for improvement but I wouldn't exactly call this place a dump.

JOE

Yea, what would you call it exactly?

DR ROMAN

Granted it's not the Mayo Clinic but everyone has to start somewhere. Besides my mother is getting to the point where she'll be needing care that our family just can't give her at home and I wanted to understand this side of it.

JOE

Doc you can try to understand it all you want but unless you've been there, here, old that is, you're never really gona know until that day comes.

DR ROMAN

That may be, but I've got to start somewhere.

JOE

How many brothers and sisters do you have Doc?

DR ROMAN

Two brothers and one sister.

JOE

Then start by making your family understand. I'm not just talking about putting up with some old fart with a bad attitude. I'm talking about self reliance and dignity taken into consideration.

DR ROMAN

Sometimes a person can be stubborn and not see the real situation. Sometimes even in the best of circumstances a care facility is the only option.

JOE

I hear what you're saying. When the time comes, it comes and there's not a damn thing you can do about it. All's I'm talking about is a fair shake not some quick brush-off like throwing away an old rag that's seen better days.

DR ROMAN

And you think by us putting our mom in a good, clean home where people can care for all her needs is a brush off?

JOE

No, there's a time and place for everything just make darn sure that it's time. That's all I'm saying.

DR ROMAN

I'll keep that in mind Mr. Walker. Thanks for the advise.

JOE

After all we've just been through together, please, call me Joe.

DR ROMAN

Thanks Joe.

EXT. CARE FACILITY - DR. BODERE'S OFFICE - FOLLOWING MORNING

DR. BODERE

(requisition in hand)

And just what exactly are these? A new exam table, bulk oxygen storage and a DEFIBRILLATOR! No, no and NO!

DR ROMAN

But those are things I need to give the residents proper care.

DR. BODERE

Look Maria, when I took you on here you understood that our situation was one of, how should I say, a conservative application of resources and funds.

DR. ROMAN

Yes, but I don't see what_

DR. BODERE

No you don't but I do. I have a facility to run. I have the dubious responsibility of taking our tenants popery sums of medicare, social security and pensions and making them work for the good of the whole.

DR ROMAN

The whole?

DR. BODERE

This facility Maria, this wonderful facility, doesn't run like a well oiled machine because I sign this or that on a whim.

DR ROMAN

I wasn't implying that we shouldn't manage our resources I_

DR. BODERE

Or just because someone says they need it or just because someone cries ouch.

DR ROMAN

But this stuff is necessary, especially for an isolated facility like Happy Smiles.

DR. BODERE

Stuff? Happy Smiles functions because I'm diligent in my duty. I do not sign for "stuff". Do I make myself clear?

DR ROMAN

Very, but you need to take a closer look at the condition of Happy Smiles and_

DR. BODERE

That will be all Miss Roman, thank you very much.

(she turns reluctantly)

Wait, how is our new arrival, Mr. Walker?

DR ROMAN

Memory's good, good mobility for his age, blood pressure's fine and except for the emphysema he's actually in decent shape. I know were running a business but I'm wondering what he's doing here and so is he. Does he have any family?

DR. BODERE

We seldom get the whole picture. I can assure you, Mr. Walker is incapable of living on his own and needs all the care this fine facility can provide.

Bodere writes a prescription and hands it to her.

DR ROMAN

What's this?

DR. BODERE

I would like to have him on that as soon as possible.

DR ROMAN

This is for mental confusion. He doesn't need this.

DR. BODERE

Please don't question me on this Miss Roman. After all, I have years of experience, you on the other hand do not. Good day.

Once in the hallway Dr. Roman takes a deep breath, tears up the prescription and throws it in the trash.

EXT. CARE FACILITY - YARD AREA IN BACK - THAT AFTERNOON

Duke is working in a make-shift vegetable garden. He is wearing knee pads, a ridiculous looking hat, sun glasses and a sweaty, tie-died t-shirt.

Sarah is sun bathing in an old yard chair with her walker beside her. She has a beat up sun reflector pressed up against her neck.

Nate can be seen in the background reciting prose to a group of facility residents.

The power lines running overhead are popping and cracking with electricity.

Duke looks up from his gardening, removes his gloves -- touches his ears, nose and chest.

SARAH

What's wrong?

DUKE

I swear ta God my ears and nose are getting bigger.

SARAH

(pulls cotton out of her ears)

What's that you said?

DUKE

(points overhead)

I said I think my body parts are getting larger from exposer to that.

SARAH

I can't say that I've particularly noticed.

DUKE

You should be careful, you're gona' turn into a prune one of these days or worse yet get skin cancer.

SARAH

I past the point of no return a long time ago.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

Better to be a tanned prune than a pasty white one.

DUKE

You'll never be that, not to these eyes you won't.

SARAH

You can be such a lovely mush-bucket when you put your mind to it. How's that garden coming along?

DUKE

The jalapenos are growing like weeds but the green beans and tomatoes look thirsty no matter how much water I put on 'em.

SARAH

We're practically in the desert here. You should get some shade cloth to cut the sun a bit.

DUKE

You kidding, I have a hard enough time getting the seeds. Where am I gona' get shade cloth?

SARAH

Ask Manny, I bet you he has some.

DUKE

Manny? Who in the hell is Manny?

SARAH

He's the foreman of the field hands. They use that stuff all the time.

She points toward the fields of watermelons. There are immigrant workers turning the watermelons.

DUKE

You know you're right. That's a great idea.

SARAH

I still get them from time to time you know.

Duke gets up with his cane and walks to the edge of the facility property to an 8' high fence with barbedwire at the top.

SARAH
Be careful Duke!

DUKE
(waves)
Ola amigos, que tal?

The workers look up smile and wave back. Duke waves over the foreman.

DUKE
Habla Engles?

The foreman waves at Sarah.

FOREMAN
Hello Sarah, how are you?

SARAH
Fine, Manny, fine. That's my friend Duke.

DUKE
How do ya' do?

FOREMAN
Good, thank you. Duke, like the famous actor?

DUKE
That's right pilgrim. You got some real nice crops. What are they, melons?

FOREMAN
Watermelons, yes sir, the very best.

DUKE
I can tell. Hey Manny, I was wondering something?

FOREMAN
Yes sir, what can I do for you?

DUKE
Look, Manny, I need a little favor.

FOREMAN
Anything for a friend of Sarah's.

DUKE
Yea, how do you know her?

FOREMAN

Sarah? Señor she is a wonderful lady. Three years ago before Bodere took over I worked for the facility as a janitor. Miss Sarah taught me English, helped me get my green card and then my citizenship. I can never repay her kindness.

DUKE

Why doesn't it surprise me?

FOREMAN

What?

DUKE

I mean yea, yes she is a fine lady that's for sure. Sometimes a bit too fine.

FOREMAN

Yes. It's a shame she has to live in this place at this time in her life. The time when she should be the closest to her family. In the village in Mexico where I grew up we honor our elders. We don't send them away to some strange place and forget about them.

DUKE

Well Manny my new friend, welcome to the good old U.S. of A.

FOREMAN

Oh, I'm sorry, your favor señor?

DUKE

Oh yea, you wouldn't happen to have any_ (looks back)

SARAH

SHADE CLOTH!

DUKE

Just a little piece to cut the sun a bit off of my tomatoes and green beans.

FOREMAN

Sure, I think I might be able to find you a piece in my truck. How much did you need?

DUKE
Enough to cover that little plot of
soil over there.

FOREMAN
Wait here I'll be right back.

Dr. Bodere is watching from the window of his office. He sees Duke talking to the foreman.

The foreman returns from his truck -- throws a piece of shade cloth over the fence -- passes some wooden poles through the fence.

FOREMAN
There you go, good luck with the
tomatoes and green beans.

DUKE
Good luck with the melons and
thanks a million.

FOREMAN
My pleasure Duke, if you need
anything else just let me know.

Duke turns and runs into Dr. Bodere who is now standing directly behind him.

DR. BODERE
What do you think you're doing?

DUKE
Shade cloth, shade cloth for my
garden. The Jalapeno peppers are
doing great but my tomatoes and
green beans are suffering something
terrible.

DR. BODERE
Jalapeno peppers, tomatoes and
green beans? Give me that.

DUKE
What?

DR. BODERE
I said I'll take that.

DUKE
Come on this is mine, he gave it to
me. What's the big deal?

Bodere yanks the shade cloth and poles from Duke's arms.

DR. BODERE

You know very well nothing goes in or out of here without my expressed consent.

DUKE

(overlapping)

But Doc you don't understand I_

DR. BODERE

It's totally understandable; if you eat that stuff and burn off the lining of your stomach this facility has to fit the bill and your families will have us in court.

DUKE

In the first place I'm from El Paso, Texas. I've been eating chili peppers all my life. Second place is I pay a pretty good chunk of change every month to be in this dump not my family. I think I should be able to grow and harvest a few veggies. What's the harm?

DR. BODERE

Besides the health risk which I already told you about I have other things to consider.

DUKE

Other things?

DR. BODERE

Let's say I let you have a vegetable garden today and tomorrow someone wants to have rabbits and the day after someone wants to raise sheep. It goes on and on and before you know it there will be a ninety year old sitting back here pulling teats on a 800 pound heffer. I simply will not have that. It's a matter of principle.

DUKE

Heffer's teats? All I want is to put my gums around are few fresh vegetables with my dinner. Is that too much ta ask?

DR. BODERE

Listen to me very carefully. No one, no one mind you, so much as passes gas in this facility without my permission, is that clear?

DUKE

(under his breath)
You controlling sack of_

DR. BODERE

Excuse me?

DUKE

Clear.

Steps closer and gets in Duke's face -- Duke grimaces.

DR. BODERE

I want you to know that I've been keeping a list of all your infractions, a very long list. Now, I want you to get rid of that weed patch immediately.

DUKE

What?

DR. BODERE

I said, pull it up or I'll have someone do it.

Bodere throws the shade cloth and poles back over the fence into the field. Duke seething, walks back to his garden.

SARAH

What was that all about? What on earth are you doing?

Duke starts yanking up his plants one by one. He looks around to see if Bodere is looking -- picks the Jalapenos and puts them in his pocket.

DUKE

Polecat breath's not gona' let us keep the garden that's what it's all about.

SARAH

You can't be serious.

DUKE

As a heart attack.

SARAH

Duke stop, let's talk to him again.

DUKE

He's not gona' budge. I'd rather it be me than his goons that do this. How in the hell do you get Heffer teats from a vegetable garden?

SARAH

Excuse me?

INT. CARE FACILITY - DR. BODERE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Duke creeps down the hall and enters Bodere's office. He finds his private bathroom and enters.

He sits down on the toilet seat, puts on rubber exam gloves and removes a large jalapeno from a plastic bag.

DUKE

Work your magic sweetheart.

Next Duke pulls out a yard of toilet paper without tearing it off. He cuts the chili in two and wipes it down the center of the toilet paper then rewinds the paper back on the roll.

INT. CARE FACILITY - DR. BODERE'S OFFICE - MORNING

Dr. Bodere enters his office and picks up the newspaper left by the door. He checks his watch and happily flips open the first page.

He enters the bathroom, shuts the door and starts his daily ritual.

INT. CARE FACILITY - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Bodere bursts out of his office into the hallway. His face is contorted into a silent scream.

He grabs at his bottom as he is half jumping, half running down the hallway.

Duke and the others hear the commotion, go to the doorway of the activity room and watch from down the hallway.

DUKE

You can run but you can't hide Mr. Jalapeno Pants.

NATE

The music of his own vain tongue
doth ravish like enchanting
harmony.

JOE

What's going on?

DUKE

In El Paso it's known as the chili
wake-up call.

SARAH

Duke, you didn't do what I think
you did?

INT. CARE FACILITY - DR. ROMAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Bodere nearly knocks down Dr. Roman's office door to get in.

DR. BODERE

(jumping about)

Help me! Help me! Dear God I'm on
fire!

DR ROMAN

Slow down and tell me what's the
matter?

DR. BODERE

MY ASS, MY ASS!

DR ROMAN

What about your ass?

DR. BODERE

MY ASS IS ON FIRE! DEAR GOD HELP
ME!

DR ROMAN

OK, OK, get on the table and let me
have a look.

DR. BODERE

Have a look, have a look, don't you
have something I can put on it.

DR ROMAN

Sorry, I don't know what to give
you if you don't let me see it
first.

DR. BODERE
This is so humiliating.

Bodere bends over the table and pulls down his pants. He cringes in pain. Dr. Roman cringes as she examines his rear end.

DR ROMAN
You got a hell of a rash going on back here. What were you doing when this happened?

DR. BODERE
I was reading the paper.

DR ROMAN
Reading the paper?

DR. BODERE
If you must know I was reading the paper while partaking in my morning constitutional.

DR ROMAN
I see, this might sting a bit, hold still.

DR. BODERE
OUCH, my God, what are you doing back there, drilling a hole?

DR ROMAN
Trying to neutralize whatever it was you got on your...bottom. What did you say that you were doing?

DR. BODERE
I wiped myself and immediately I felt a sharp burning pain like a dagger. Is it serious? Will I be OK?

DR ROMAN
You'll live. Did you have anything on your hands, did you use any chemicals or eat anything spicy?

DR. BODERE
No, no chemicals.

DR ROMAN
Well then it was probably some type of spice or hot chili. Hold still this cream should do the trick.

DR. BODERE

OH...OH...I don't like spicy food
and I sure as hell haven't been
picking peppers.

(beat)

Duke.

DR ROMAN

What?

DR. BODERE

Oh Duke, Duke, Duke, you're gona be
sorry you ever messed with me.

INT. ACTIVITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Duke is playing checkers with Nate. Dr. Bodere enters with
two orderlies. Duke turns, looks over his glasses at Dr.
Bodere who is breathing very hard.

DUKE

Oh shit, here we go.

DR. BODERE

Take that one to his room and see
that he is confined there until
further notice.

(turns to go - turns back)

As for the rest of you be
forewarned. If I have one more
problem, even the most miniscule,
mundane bending of the rules,
you'll all be confined to your
rooms, do you understand?

(Slow nods)

Good. Have a nice day folks.

Bodere exits as the orderlies manhandle Duke up from his
seat. Checkers go flying into Nate's face. Duke punches one
of the orderlies and they scuffle.

DUKE

Get your hands off me. I can walk
out on my own!

SARAH

(overlapping)

Duke, Duke! Get your hands off of
him!

Sarah tries to intervene and rolls over the orderlies foot
with her walker

SECOND ORDERLY

(overlapping)

Ouch! Back off lady unless want you
some of this.

DUKE

Now you want ta pick on ladies do
ya'. OK, the rules just blew out
the window.

Duke bites him in the leg and hits the other orderly in the
crotch with his cane.

SECOND ORDERLY

Ouch! He bit me. That old coot bit
me! I think I'm bleeding. I'm gona'
need a shot!

Duke breaks free and maneuvers like a champion wrestler.

DUKE

That's right sonny-jim, you wanted
some of this now come and get it.
I'm as mean and rabid as they come.
(Duke growls)

After much wrangling they finally subdue Duke and remove him
from the activity room.

INT. CARE FACILITY - JOE'S ROOM - NEXT MORNING

Joe is laying in bed watching the price is right. Jerry pops
his head into Joe's room.

JERRY

There's one lucky son of a gun.

JOE

What?

JERRY

Barker. Old as dirt and still has
the same gig he's been doing for
the past forty years.

JOE

If I had hostesses like that I'd
show up for work every day for
forty years.

JERRY

Yea, I guess you got a point there.

JOE
Any word on Duke?

JERRY
Confined to his room again.

JOE
How can he do that?

JERRY
Oh Bodere can do it alright. It's right in the contract that our families sign to get us into this place. ANY UNRULY RESIDENT MAY BE ISOLATED IF THE DOCTOR DEEMS IT NECESSARY.

JOE
What can we do?

JERRY
Just wait. It's never easy but this isn't the first time. He'll give Duke some quite time to reflect, threaten him real good and then he'll be back.

JOE
You sure know the ins and outs of this place. How'd you make your living Jerry?

JERRY
I was a number cruncher for over fifty years.

JOE
CPA?

JERRY
Yea and a damn good one.

JOE
Numbers and me don't get along. I could barely keep the books straight at my store.

JERRY
Store, what kind of store?

JOE

Owned a hardware franchise for almost forty years until the warehouse stores came along and made things so cheap and impersonal that they ran me out of business.

JERRY

Yea, that seems to be what folks want now a days. Cheap and impersonal.

HEAD ORDERLY

Mail call Lowenstein, here ya' go.

Tosses Jerry a letter from the hallway and moves on. The letter hits Jerry's chest and lands on the floor.

JERRY

Thanks for nothing you gorilla!

Jerry retrieves the letter from the floor.

JOE

Is he always that way?

JERRY

Oh no, this is one of his better days. Aaaah, a letter from little Jerry.

Opens it quickly, reads -- becomes visibly sad.

JOE

What? What's wrong?

JERRY

My grandson, they're sending him up north to his cousins for the rest of the summer. I won't even get to see him before he goes.

JOE

Jerry can't you get out of here for a few days to visit your family.

JERRY

Can't, they won't let me.

JOE

You can't be serious?

JERRY

Dead serious. His parents bring him here for visits.

JOE

I'm sorry.

JERRY

Not as sorry as I'm gona' be.

Jerry leaves the room, crumples the letter and throws it into the janitor's cart in the hallway.

Joe, concerned for Jerry, gets up to follow but stops in the hallway -- too late Jerry is gone.

On the janitor's cart Joe notices an opened pack of Marlboro cigarettes with a pack of matches shoved behind the plastic cover.

He hesitates for a moment -- looks around then steals the cigarettes. Joe quickly goes back inside his room, goes into the bathroom and shuts the door.

He leaves his oxygen bottle on the outside with the hose running under the door. He sits in the darkness until a match explodes into flames.

Joe has a cigarette in his mouth -- he brings the burning match slowly up with his trembling hand almost to the cigarette and stops.

JOE

No, I'm not gona' No! No! No!

Blows out the match.

INT. CARE FACILITY - ACTIVITY ROOM - FOLLOWING MORNING

Nate is eating breakfast and Bobby is reading a folded over paper and marking it with a pencil. Joe walks up to the table.

JOE

Mind if I join you?

BOBBY

Be our guest.

JOE

Where is everybody.

BOBBY

Sarah's in her room. The Duke thing got her pretty upset.

JOE

You didn't see Jerry by any chance.

NATE

Jerry who?

BOBBY

I haven't. Something wrong?

JOE

I'm not sure. He just seemed a little down yesterday and I_

Bobby straightens -- looks at something out the window.

BOBBY

I think I know where Jerry is.

JOE

Where?

BOBBY

We got a loose canon.

JOE

What do mean?

BOBBY

Take a look outside. I could be wrong but I think Jerry is making a break for it.

They see Jerry creeping from vehicle to vehicle until finally finding one with the keys in the ignition. He quietly gets into the van.

JOE

Just what I was afraid of. We've got to stop him!

NATE

Too late now unless you want to volunteer to drive the chase vehicles.

EXT. CARE FACILITY - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

HEAD ORDERLY

Lowenstein come on get out of there
and stop messing around.

SECOND ORDERLY

(taps on the door)
Open up now Mr. Lowenstein.

Jerry hesitates -- starts the ignition, throws the van into gear and pulls away spraying the facility with gravel.

An orderly who is removing oxygen tanks from the back of the van is sent flying. Oxygen bottles roll about in the back of the van.

Dr. Bodere hears the gravel hit the building -- goes to the window and sees the incident in mid coffee sip.

DR. BODERE

(spits out coffee)
Don't just stand there. Go after
him you morons!

EXT. THE CHASE - CONTINUOUS

A mad chase ensues. Jerry is barreling down the road beside the watermelon field. Two orderlies get into a sedan and are in fast pursuit. Jerry looks back.

JERRY

You're not gona' get me, not today.

Jerry reaches behind and shoves some oxygen bottles out the open back door. They tumble end over end toward the sedan.

HEAD ORDERLY

Watch it! Watch it!

The sedan maneuvers around the tanks and speeds forward behind the van. Jerry sees them in the rear view mirror.

JERRY

Not giving up, fine. You asked for
it, bombs away.

Jerry cuts the wheel hard to the left and back to the right. A dozen bottles tumble out of the back of the van.

The bottles slam against the oncoming sedan sending the car flying out of control into an irrigation ditch.

The rear end of the van disappears in the dust. Jerry sees a cell phone on the front seat -- picks it up and dials.

JERRY

Hello Lisa. Yea, it's your father.

(beat)

From the care facility of course.

Could I speak with little Jerry?

(beat)

No, I just want to say goodbye before he leaves for his cousin's.

Thank you. Hello Jerry, it's your grandpa listen up_

INT. CARE FACILITY - DR. BODERE'S OFFICE

The two orderlies enter bruised and beaten. The head orderly pulls a smashed candy bar from his shirt pocket -- salvages some pieces which he puts in his mouth and chews.

DR. BODERE

How could you let that old fart get the drop on you like that? And how many times have I told you don't leave the keys in the vehicles?

HEAD ORDERLY

Sorry doctor but_

DR. BODERE

Shut your Snicker hole and listen up. Take the other car and go after him. Here's the folder with all his family's information and check the hospital first. If you two come back here without him you can start looking for new employment. Now get out.

HEAD ORDERLY

Yes sir.

DR. BODERE

GO!

EXT. SAN FERNANDO VALLEY - LITTLE JERRY'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

A van slowly drives through a neighborhood and stops in front of a home. LITTLE JERRY (8 years old) is waiting in the front yard. Little Jerry gets in the van and the van drives away.

INT. SAN FERNANDO VALLEY - ICE CREAM SHOP -LATER

LITTLE JERRY

Grandpa, I don't know why I have to go to my cousin's for the summer. All my friends are here and I won't get to see you until school starts.

JERRY

I don't like it either Jerry but it's what your parents want and there's not much I can do about it.

LITTLE JERRY

Why are you living out there in that place? Why aren't you closer?

JERRY

It's a long story. A story that one day you'll be old enough to understand.

LITTLE JERRY

Mom and Dad said it's because you can't take care of yourself anymore. They said you tried to hurt grandma.

JERRY

I can take care of myself just fine and you know I'd never do anything to hurt your grandma.

LITTLE JERRY

They said you turned off grandma's life machine and if it hadn't have been turned back on grandma would have died. Is that true?

JERRY

(beat)
Yes Jerry, it's true.

LITTLE JERRY

Then you did try to hurt her.

JERRY

It's kind of complicated Jerry but the truth is grandma was gone a long time ago, so was the person I knew and loved.

LITTLE JERRY

But we were there just last week, I saw her.

JERRY

You saw a body Jerry. Grandma, isn't there anymore. Just a body.

LITTLE JERRY

But, where did she go?

JERRY

No one knows. There's this terrible disease, so terrible it doesn't just make you feel bad it steals your memories.

LITTLE JERRY

Steals your memories?

JERRY

Yes, just like making a hole in a bag of sand. Little by little it all goes until it's empty. It takes a little piece at a time until it's all gone...who you are and all your memories.

LITTLE JERRY

Is it curable?

JERRY

No it's not, but maybe someday.

LITTLE JERRY

What about grandma? She's still at the hospital. Will they be able to fix her someday?

JERRY

No Jerry, no. Your grandma can't be fixed anymore. She's just a shell.

LITTLE JERRY

But she's alive, I saw her.

JERRY

I'm afraid Jerry, that was just her body.

LITTLE JERRY

Grandma died?

JERRY

Yes, you could say that. At least the part that matters.

(looks at his watch.)

I better get you back before your parents find out.

LITTLE JERRY

Where will you go grandpa?

JERRY

I got a promise to keep and after that I guess I'll have to see where the road takes me.

INT. CARE FACILITY - JOE'S ROOM - FOLLOWING MORNING

Joe is sitting on his bed. Suddenly his daughter Hope walks in.

HOPE

Hello Papa.

JOE

Hope! Boy is it good to see a familiar face.

HOPE

Papa, I brought you a few of your things from the house.

JOE

Thanks, but I was kind of hoping you we're coming to get me out of here. What's that?

Hope sets a box on the bed and takes out a wooden plaque with a gold plated hammer on it.

HOPE

It's your best store award from the hardware company. I thought you might like to put a few of your things up. You know, make it kind of homey.

JOE

Thanks and thanks for not bringing him along.

HOPE

Papa.

JOE

Look Hope, I'm sorry I know I was difficult, stubborn and at times just a big pain in the ass.

HOPE

I'm not gona' disagreed with you on that.

JOE

I think I know now you were just trying to help me. I guess what I'm trying to say is I'm ready to be helped and I'll really try to make things better.

HOPE

Papa, If I believed that for one second I'd_

JOE

Listen, you can believe it. All I want to do is live in my own home. I don't want to cause anymore trouble and I'm willing to do whatever you say to make it work.

HOPE

I wish I could believe that.

JOE

Please Hope...no smoking, no drinking and I'll take my medications on time and get cleaned up every morning, I promise.

HOPE

Do you really mean that?

JOE

With all my heart.

She touches her father's hand gently.

HOPE

Papa, do you remember when I was a little girl and you use to take me to the park. I'd try and feed the ducks bread crumbs and the geese would always chase me around trying to get some until they knocked me over.

JOE

I remember. Those geese were as big as you. I tried to chase 'em away but, you said you loved it.

HOPE

Every minute of it.

JOE

Your mama sure didn't. We got into the biggest fight over that.

HOPE

I remember. She was convinced that those geese were gona' pull my eyes out and you'd have to bring 'em home in a plastic baggy.

JOE

And she'd have ta raise a blind daughter with a white cain.

HOPE

(beat)

Papa, Papa listen to me. Please don't make me regret this.

JOE

No more trouble, you have my word.

HOPE

What about Lamar?

JOE

(beat)

OK, I'll do whatever it takes to get along with Lamar, I promise.

HOPE

(they hug)

I love you Papa. Let's get your things and go home.

Hope goes to the dresser to get Joe's things. Suddenly Joe remembers that the cigarettes and whiskey are in the drawer.

JOE

Wait! I'll get those.

HOPE

No Papa sit down it's OK.

JOE

No really I can_

He tries to stop her but it is too late -- she opens the drawer -- pulls out his shirts and sees the whiskey and cigarettes.

HOPE
What the hell is this?

JOE
Hope I've got a good_

HOPE
(shakes the bottle at him)
Some things never change. This is the same stuff that made you abuse mama. The same stuff that drove us away.
(tosses the pint at Joe)
Here, kill yourself but I'm not going to be around to watch.

She leaves -- Joe is crushed.

INT. SAN FERNANDO VALLEY - ALZHEIMER'S CARE FACILITY - LATER THAT DAY

There is the sucking sound of a ventilator system. An elderly woman is laying in a bed. She is thin, pale and catatonically staring up at the ceiling.

The door to the room slowly opens -- Jerry enters and approaches the bed. He smiles and gently kisses her forehead.

JERRY
Hello sweetheart how have ya' been?
I just saw little Jerry today. Boy is he getting big. You'd be so proud of him.

Jerry removes some pictures and a few personal items from a bag and places them beside her.

Among the things are a wedding picture of Jerry and Hester, a small, stuffed teddy bear and two Chinese, takeout food boxes. He opens one of the boxes and begins to eat.

JERRY
I got ya' the egg noodles, you know from the place down the street the one you were always crazy about. You wouldn't recognize the old neighborhood either. Boy has it grown.

(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

Looks like there's more asphalt than trees anymore but "Se la vi" as you use to say, right Hes? "Se la vi".

Jerry finishes his noodles -- unplugs the alarm and unplugs the machine at the side of Hester's bed. He holds her hand and strokes her hair as she passes away.

JERRY

Well dear, if they figure out what I did here today you may not see me at the services. What the hell, I made my piece with that a long time ago. It's enough for me that you know I kept up my end of the bargain. You're free now. I love ya' Hes' always did and always will. 'Till we meet again on the other side.

Jerry puts the things back in the bag and leaves. As he walks across the parking lot the two orderlies suddenly come out of nowhere and grab him.

HEAD ORDERLY

Going somewhere Lowenstink?

JERRY

Get your hands off of me.

They duct tape Jerry's hands and muscle him into a car. The head orderly searches Jerry's pocket and finds a set of keys and tosses them to the other orderly.

HEAD ORDERLY

Here you bring the van I'll take old free-bird here back with me.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - PALMDALE, CA

Hope and Lamar are in the kitchen. Movers are bringing in boxes. Lamar is busily typing a letter at a computer.

MOVER

Lady, where do you want this stuff?

HOPE

Just put those in the living room and the rest can go in the garage for now.

LAMAR

In the garage? Come on Lovie Dove the sooner we get things back to normal the better.

HOPE

Back to normal for whom?

LAMAR

For us of course. Look, I'm sorry Lovie, I'm sorry I had to say I told you so. I told you he would never change and I'm sorry you had to be disappointed yet again.

HOPE

Lamar shut up.

MOVER

Lady, what's it gona' be?

HOPE

OK, put those in the guest room and the rest in the living room. I still have to go through some things in here.

The mover looks at Lamar for approval. Lamar nods his head.

LAMAR

Now you're talking sweet-kins. We'll just move in, get it over with and behind us.

HOPE

What's that you're writing?

LAMAR

Just a letter.

HOPE

A letter to who?

LAMAR

Pops.

HOPE

You've been writing to Papa?

LAMAR

Why yes, I just thought he could use it right now with his relapse and all.

HOPE

Oh, Lamar.

LAMAR

(covers the screen)

What?

HOPE

I feel so bad 'cause, well, I was thinking that you were being so insensitive about this whole thing and then you do something like that. Well, it's so sweet of you.

LAMAR

Just part of my duties as your future husband dear, just part of my duties. Now you go on and fuss with the movers. I'll finish this up.

Lamar types Hope's name to the bottom of the letter and hits print.

INT. CARE FACILITY - ACTIVITY ROOM - FOLLOWING MORNING

Joe enters the activities room pulling his oxygen bottle. Sarah waves him over. She is playing cards with Nate and Bobby.

JOE

Any word on Jerry?

BOBBY

Not a word.

JOE

How about Duke? He holding up OK?

SARAH

OK so far. He said it'll take more than Bodere can dish out to break him.

JOE

You spoke with him?

SARAH

Notes under the doorway. Kind of made me feel like a little school girl again.

JOE
Could you deal me in?

SARAH
You got it.

JOE
Good morning Nate.

NATE
Why hello, I don't believe I've had
the pleasure.

BOBBY
Christ, it's groundhog day again.

Joe obligingly shakes his hand.

SARAH
Five card, aces high.

JOE
You play cards a lot?

SARAH
Only when I feel the need to give
these guys a good licking.

BOBBY
Keep an eye on her Joe. I think she
cheats but we haven't been able to
catch her at it...yet.

SARAH
Sounds like loser's talk to me.

JOE
Boy I sure hope Jerry knows what
he's doing.

BOBBY
Me too, but anything has to be better
than rotting in here for the rest
of our unproductive lives.

SARAH
Look, someone's coming.

A car and a van in a plume of dust are rapidly approaching
the facility. They pull up in front and come to a screeching
halt.

Jerry is yanked from the car, his hands still ducked taped
behind his back.

EXT. CARE FACILITY - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

JERRY

Get your hands off of me. I'm a resident here not a criminal.

HEAD ORDERLY

Get moving Papillon.

Dr. Bodere meets them at the entrance.

DR. BODERE

Good job. Where did you catch him?

HEAD ORDERLY

At the hospital just like you said.

DR. BODERE

Good, did anyone see you?

HEAD ORDERLY

Nope. We grabbed him on the way out.

DR. BODERE

Oh my, are you sure it was on the way out?

SECOND ORDERLY

Yea, something wrong?

DR. BODERE

Just forget that you were even there and get him inside.

JERRY

You're too late Bodere. I got to see my grandson and I got to keep my promise to Hester.

DR. BODERE

(gets in Jerry's face)

Well now, you've been a busy little beaver haven't you. Personally Jerry, as long as Happy Smiles is not impacted, I couldn't care less what you've been doing.

JERRY

You heartless bastard.

DR. BODERE

Go ahead, go ahead, get it out of your system.

(MORE)

DR. BODERE (CONT'D)

You're back now and your going to stay back. You're never leaving this place again at least not while you're alive.

Jerry head bops Bodere and makes his nose bleed.

DR. BODERE

Oh God, my nose! Get this pain-in-my-ass inside. Look at this! I'm already late for a meeting in town with the directors.

JERRY

Yea, well you better wipe your ass before you bleed all over the place.

Two orderlies muscle Jerry away.

INT. CARE FACILITY - ACTIVITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BOBBY

That a boy Jer, give 'em one for me! They're bringing him inside come on.

JOE

Where are they taking him?

BOBBY

I don't know come on let's take a look.

They go to the hall doorway of the activity room as Jerry is hauled past.

Jerry struggles to a halt in front of them. They try to man handle Jerry forward.

BOBBY

Well, how far'd ya get?

JERRY

Back home. I made it back home! I saw my grandson. I got to say goodbye to little Jerry.

HEAD ORDERLY

Get out of the way.

NATE

I would the milk thy mother gave
thee when thou suck'dst her breast
had been a little ratsbane for thy
sake! (HVI 5.427-29)

HEAD ORDERLY

What did you say to me?

SARAH

Can't someone do something to stop
this?

JOE

Look guys, there's no reason to
treat him like that.

Joe puts a hand on the shoulder of the biggest orderly. With one hand the orderly pushes Joe back inside the activities room. He stumbles almost falling over his oxygen bottle.

HEAD ORDERLY

Look pops, shut your trap and stay
in there or we'll do two for the
price of one.

Jerry struggles again, suddenly grabs his chest and slumps down.

SARAH

Oh my God, something's happened to
Jerry. Call Dr. Roman quickly.

HEAD ORDERLY

If you're faking this old man I'll
give you a working over myself.

SARAH

Do something for God's sake, can't
you see he's in trouble?

The orderly holds on to Jerry with one arm and grabs his radio with the other.

HEAD ORDERLY

Ed, Ed come in.

THIRD ORDERLY

Go ahead.

HEAD ORDERLY

We got a situation at the AR get a gurney up here right away, call Dr. Roman, have her and the nurse meet us at the MR.

INT. CARE FACILITY - MEDICAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Doors burst open. Jerry is rushed in on a gurney, his body lifeless, his skin pale.

Bobby, Nate, Sarah and Joe are at the door. Dr. Roman and the nurse rush past them and start to examine Jerry.

DR ROMAN

How long has he been this way?

HEAD ORDERLY

Just happened in the hallway.

DR ROMAN

What were you doing to him?

HEAD ORDERLY

Nothing, just bringing him in from his outing.

DR ROMAN

What's this?
(cuts off duck tape)

HEAD ORDERLY

We had to restrain him for his own good.

DR ROMAN

Mr. Lowenstein, Mr. Lowenstein?
Jerry can you hear me?

SARAH

Is he going to be OK?

DR ROMAN

I don't know yet. Look, I know all of you are concerned but you'll have to leave and let me work. I'll let you know what's going on as soon as I can.

They reluctantly turn and leave. Dr. Roman preps Jerry's arm and gives him an injection.

HEAD ORDERLY

Well?

DR ROMAN

Could be a heart attack by the looks of it. The best I can do is stabilize him until we can transfer him to the hospital in town.

ORDERLY

Bodere isn't gona' like this.

DR ROMAN

You just call the ambulance, I'll deal with Bodere.

INT. CARE FACILITY - ISOLATION ROOM - LATE THAT NIGHT

Duke's sullen, but determined face is illuminated by one small, side light -- he lays in bed, covers pulled up to his chin.

Suddenly there is a scratching sound followed by several clicks at the door -- the handle wiggles.

Duke slowly reaches for his cane and pulls off the covers. He is wearing pajamas with red chili peppers on them.

Carefully he creeps to the backside of the door to wait for the intruder. The knob slowly turns -- Duke stiffens raising the cane over his head preparing to strike.

The door creaks open -- a head pops in -- Duke brings down the cane down hard. The cane is deflected -- he rolls and falls to the floor.

SARAH

(whispers)

Just what the hell do you think your doing?

Duke looks up from the floor on his back. Sarah has him pinned down with her walker.

DUKE

For Christ sake I could have killed you.

SARAH

Not from down there you wouldn't have.

DUKE
You ever think of knocking?

SARAH
And bring those goons running down here to see what's going on. Besides, you just made enough noise to take care of that.

DUKE
Let me up, quick.

Sarah pulls her walker off of Duke. He gets up and checks the hallway.

SARAH
Well?

DUKE
We got lucky this time. What are you doing here anyway your gona get yourself in the same hot water I'm in? What gives?

SARAH
Jerry.

DUKE
What about Jerry?

SARAH
Not good I'm afraid. Duke...he escaped.

DUKE
What's not good about that?

SARAH
Bodere's Gestapo found him and brought him back.

DUKE
Sounds like I'll have company in isolation.
(beat)
What, what else?

SARAH
We're not sure. Jerry May have had a heart attack brought on by the this whole mess and being bullied about.

DUKE

How is he?

SARAH

Don't know. Doctor Roman was working on him and then the ambulance came.

DUKE

Jesus.

SARAH

Duke...it could have been anyone of us. I'm scared, for the first time in my life I'm really, really scared.

Duke closes and locks the door. They go to the bed and sit down together.

DUKE

It's OK, come over here.

SARAH

You think when you get to be my age...you've seen everything, done everything, felt everything. Something comes along like this...you know, the whole situation. It knocks it all out from under you. Bloody hell, it's like starting from square one.

Duke holds her close.

DUKE

It's OK old girl, everything is gona be OK.

SARAH

(overlapping)

STOP CALLING ME THAT!

Duke's is startled -- his trembling hand moves to cover her mouth but pulls back. His other hand lovingly strokes the back of her neck.

DUKE

(tenderly)

Shssss, OK.....OK.

SARAH

I'm sorry...I still don't do this...old thing very well.

DUKE
Who in the hell does?

Sarah gently takes Duke's face with her hands and turns it slowly -- looks straight into his eyes.

SARAH
Duke.....it's still me, me inside here...that 24-year-old girl from Manchester. All I want to be able to do is to get up and run through that God damned door again. My mind says yes but this bloody body of mine.....ah bollocks!

Duke pulls her close and kisses her forehead.

DUKE
Look at me...look at me...we'll get through this. Together, somehow we'll get through this. I know I've that I've never said much about us and what you mean_

Duke swallows hard.

SARAH
(whisper)
What?

DUKE
I'm just...well, I'm glad we found each other even now, even on the back end like this and all.
(with her finger she catches a tear on Duke's cheek.)
Christ, now look what you've done.

SARAH
You know, you can be quite...something when you want to be.

DUKE
I hope I can...I will be.

They kiss -- Duke turns out the light.

INT. CARE FACILITY - ACTIVITIES ROOM - MORNING, NEXT DAY

Nate, Joe, Bobby and Sarah are sitting quietly together. Sarah's back is to the door.

Duke limps through the door of the activity room holding the small of his back with one hand. He straightens, makes a painful grimace then smiles a devilish, delightful grin.

DUKE

Well, what in the hell is wrong with the welcoming committee? The Duke is back and better than ever.
(Sarah turns, her eyes are teary)
What? What's wrong?

SARAH

Jerry...Jerry died last night.

DUKE

(beat)
He didn't deserve to go like that. Son...bitch, I'm getting back at that weasel if it's the last thing I do.

SARAH

Duke, please don't do anything foolish. You could end up like Jerry.

DUKE

Jerry's free that's more than I can say for us.

SARAH

Don't say that, please don't say that anymore.

DUKE

It's payback time and this one will be for old Jer.

JOE

What are you planning on doing?

DUKE

Getting the goods on Poodle Pants and getting out of here. I can't die in his place, I won't, I refuse to.

BOBBY

Come on now Duke, don't talk like that.

DUKE

I mean it.

SARAH

Duke, don't make this more difficult than it already is. What are we suppose to do break out of here?

DUKE

That's exactly what I intend on doing. Who's with me?

BOBBY

I'm with you Duke. You say when and I'll be there.

NATE

Now step I forth to whip hypocrisy. Count me in my friend, count me in. Ah, what a valiant flea that dare eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion. (HV 3.7. 145-46)

SARAH

There was a time I would have said no but now I don't see there's much to lose. What about you Joe?

JOE

I'm Sorry Sarah, I just got this letter from my daughter. I haven't opened it yet but I'm sure she's come to her senses about my situation.

DUKE

Someone needs to come to their senses and it ain't your daughter.

JOE

Look she was going to take me home the other day but we had a little misunderstanding. I don't want to screw this up like I screwed up a lot of other things in my life, OK?

SARAH

That's understandable.

JOE

Thanks Sarah. I can promise all of you, when I get out I'll do what I can to make sure someone knows what's going on in here.

DUKE

Well now, thank you Mother Teresa.

JOE

Come on, give me a break.

DUKE

Give you a break? Look out there.
Go on...take a good hard look.

JOE

Yea, just what I'm I suppose to be
looking at?

DUKE

Watermelons, as far as the eye can
see, row after row of watermelons.

JOE

Now who needs to come to their
senses? What the hell does that
have to do with anything?

DUKE

It's represents humanity Joe,
humanity. Look at 'em, the melons,
they ripen in sun, suck up all the
nutrients they can to get them
through the season. Then comes
harvest time and what happens?

JOE

They get picked.

DUKE

Yea, but only the fat juicy ones
get sent off to market. You know
what they do with all the ugly, old
busted melons Joe?

JOE

Well, no, not really.

DUKE

They leave 'em in the field to rot
cause no one wants 'em. Then they
turn 'em over into the dirt and use
'em for fertilizer.

JOE

Great! Jerry just died and your
talking about farming. What's your
point?

DUKE

Jesus H Christ, do I have ta paint
ya' a picture? Open your eyes.
You're a busted melon that's been
left behind, left behind to be
turned over into the dirt for
fertilizer.

JOE

You speak for yourself.

NATE

(overlapping)

Old age, that ill layer-up of
beauty, can do no more spoil upon
thy face. (HV 5.2. 242-43)

DUKE

Fine then, I'll speak for my self.
I don't know about you guys but
I want to go to market! I'M GOING
TO GO TO THE GOD DAMNED MARKET!

SARAH

He's right...we've been abandoned
by our families and Bodere is
controlling everything from our
social security checks to our bowel
movements. Hell, we can't even get
cab fare.

Bobby throws his baseball hard into his glove.

BOBBY

I hear what you're saying and I got
ta tell ya' I'd rather die trying
then stay another year in this
place and end up like poor old
Jerry.

DUKE

People, this time I,m seriously
planning a breakout, a real
breakout. One that involves
planning, strategy and most
importantly a place to go. Who's
in, Nate?

NATE

Ah, a front row seat for me if you
please. I wouldn't miss this
curtain call for anything in the
world.

DUKE

Sarah, come on, you of all people. Your kids dumped you here to enjoy your golden years while they take vacations with your money. When was the last time one of 'em came to see you.

SARAH

I can't argue with you Duke. You know I'd follow you anywhere but you better have a darn good plan.

DUKE

I promise not to disappoint. Bobby?

BOBBY

Hell, you know you don't have to ask me twice.

DUKE

Joe, your last chance, you in or not?

JOE

I just don't know.

DUKE

You don't know? Come on Joe, you got nothing here. That good for nothing boy friend of your daughters has her twisted around his finger. You need to go on the offensive and stop wasting your time bargaining for a little piece of what's rightfully yours in the first place.

JOE

Look, I'm as upset as anyone about Jerry's death but I'm not gona' just run off and get myself into the same kind of trouble. I'm sorry you guys but I don't want to do anything that's going to screw up my chances of going home.

DUKE

Fine, just remember, once we set the cart in motion it's gona' be awfully hard to fit on an extra wheel. We got things to do if we want to pull this off.

JOE

Don't worry about me just send a postcard when you get to where you're going. I'm going back to my room so I can read this.

Joe holds up the letter and walks away.

DUKE

Suit yourself. OK, here's where we start; Bobby I know you used to be a printer. Can you help us out with some new ID's.

BOBBY

Of course I can. I'll need old drivers licenses and a few new pictures. Bruce owes me a favor. I'll see if I can get my hands on Bruce's laminator.

DUKE

Great!

SARAH

Fake ID?

DUKE

Keep it down will ya'. Look, access to our money has been cut off. You said about going on the offensive well this is it.

SARAH

That's criminal and sounds very risky.

DUKE

Hardly criminal seeing as it's our money to begin with. Risky maybe, but without it were dead in the water.

NATE

Art thou bedlam? This knaves tough begins to double. (HV 5.1. 68-69)
(HVI 2.3.89)

DUKE

We pay a little trip to a few banks to make a few transfers and get a little traveling change. Here's what I need from you guys. I need pictures of your family members.

(MORE)

DUKE (CONT'D)

Tell 'em anything, just get 'em to send some pictures of the ones who are pulling the strings.

NATE

Pulling the strings?

DUKE

Controlling your cash. Sarah, I need hair color, makeup and wigs, at least three different colors and three wigs. Here's a list of a few other things we're gona need.

SARAH

Wigs, hair dye and makeup?

DUKE

Yes, and one more thing.

SARAH

Sure.

DUKE

Before I went into isolation Jerry told me he had the goods on Bodere. I need you to get your hands on that stuff and make copies of it. It's got ta be in his room somewhere.

SARAH

I'll see if I can find it.

DUKE

Great.

NATE

And me my good man, what about me?

DUKE

You're gona give everyone a few acting lessons.

NATE

Acting is not something one picks up over night. It takes a lifetime of training, study and practice of the craft.

DUKE

Look we're not trying to win an academy award here.

(MORE)

DUKE (CONT'D)

I Just don't want anyone looking nervous when we go to the bank. It has to be smooth. Nothing fancy just keep it simple.

NATE

I don't do simple. Every performance is award winning. There is no chastity enough in language without offence to utter vile encounters. (MAAN 4.1.97-98)

DUKE

Good then you'll make this one no exception. So in the meantime get me those pictures and Bobby get going on the Id's.

SARAH

Fake ID's I don't know Duke. I still say we could get in a lot of trouble

DUKE

Look my dear, we're personas non-grata remember. Nobodies gona' give us the time of day unless we're someone else. Understand?

SARAH

I guess you're right. What else can I do to help?

DUKE

Glad you asked. In a word, Espanoil. Didn't you say use to teach Spanish in high school.

SARAH

Yes, of course. Have you gone crazy?

DUKE

Like a fox my dear, like a fox. Everyone needs to learn a few basic words and sentences.

SARAH

I don't see how learning Spanish is going to get us out of here.

DUKE

I'll reveal the master plan in due time.

(MORE)

DUKE (CONT'D)

Now, we're gona' need transportation and a diversion. Bobby do you know if Charlie still has that prescription for medicinal weed?

BOBBY

Weed?

DUKE

Mari-juana.

BOBBY

You are crazy. What do we need that for?

DUKE

I'll let you know about that when the time comes.

At that moment Dr. Bodere enters with an orderly. Nate taps Duke on the shoulder.

NATE

I pray thee, good Mercutio, let us retire; the day is hot, the Capulets abroad. (R&J)

DUKE

What? Oh, OK. Everyone has their assignments, get to them. Let's meet outside in the garden in three days and I'll lay out the plan.

EXT. CARE FACILITY - JOE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joe excitedly opens and carefully reads his letter. He lowers the letter and lets it fall.

JOE

Duke's right. I'm never getting out of this place.

INT. CARE FACILITY - COMISARY - NEXT MORNING

Sarah is talking with the facility store attendant.

SARAH

Good morning Bruce and how are you?

BRUCE

Fine Mrs. Taylor what can I do for you?

SARAH

Oh, I'd like to order a few things from town if I could.

BRUCE

Sure Ms. Taylor what do you need?

SARAH

(hands him a list)

Here you go. I thought I'd just right it down you know I'm so forgetful.

BRUCE

Did you know that you got three different kinds of hair color and wigs on this list Mrs. Taylor?

SARAH

Shssss, please Bruce, a girl never knows when she'll need a little change of appearance.

BRUCE

And you got enough makeup on this list to make Tammy Faye jealous.

SARAH

It's my only weakness. Trying to look my best and all.

BRUCE

No problem, but the van's already gone in to town today. I won't be able to get you this stuff until tomorrow morning.

SARAH

That's fine Bruce, just fine.

BRUCE

I'll put it on your account when the stuff comes in.

SARAH

Oh, don't do that, girls also like to keep their beauty secrets a secret.

BRUCE

Sorry Mrs. Taylor but Dr. Bodere wants a record of all transactions.

SARAH

Please Bruce, just this time.
(she hands him money)

BRUCE

OK, just this time but Mrs. Taylor this is probably way more than I'm gonna need.

SARAH

If there's any left keep it. God bless you Bruce and have a nice day.

BRUCE

You too Mrs. Taylor.

INT. CARE FACILITY - ACTIVITIES ROOM - THAT EVENING

Nate has Duke and Sarah in front of him.

NATE

OK everyone, repeat after me, to be or not to be that is the question. In pentameter if you don't mind.

The group repeats as the orderlies look on.

HEAD ORDERLY

What do you suppose that's all about.

THIRD ORDERLY

Old Shakespeare over there used to be an actor. That's his acting club he just started. Pretty good don't you think.

HEAD ORDERLY

Whatever, just keep an eye on 'em. When they get together they're always up to no good.

NATE

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. (H 3.1.56)

The group repeats again -- the orderlies leave the room.

DUKE

All's clear, go ahead.

NATE

Now Sarah, repeat after me, good morning I'd like to make a withdrawal and transfer some money.

SARAH

Good morning, I'd like to make a withdrawal and transfer some money.

NATE

Very good but you have to make eye contact and whatever you do don't look away. Very nice now Duke, your turn.

DUKE

You two keep going, I'll be fine.

NATE

Very well my good man. I had rather have a fool to make me merry than experience to make me sad. (AYLI 4.1. 28)

DUKE

Where's Bobby? He was suppose to be here for his lessons and bring the ID's.

NATE

Only this fine student have I seen. Now Sarah my dear repeat after me.

INT. CARE FACILITY - PATIO AREA - MORNING, NEXT DAY

Bobby is in a wheel chair -- troubled -- looking out through the fence -- Duke approaches. Duke stands beside Bobby as they look out across the fields.

DUKE

Well, how about those Dodgers?

BOBBY

Don't patronize me. The Dodgers suck and you know it.

DUKE

Well they had that winning streak didn't they?

BOBBY

You call three games a streak.
Thanks for being so insensitive.

DUKE

Ok, fine, if that's the case why do
you stick with 'em?

BOBBY

Why do lemmings get together and
jump off a cliff? Some things just
defy all rational reasoning.

DUKE

By the way, where did you get to
yesterday? I was looking all over
for you. You were suppose to get
your lessons with Nate and Sarah.
What? What's wrong?

BOBBY

I'm embarrassed Duke.

DUKE

Don't worry it'll be a snap.
There's always a first time for
everything.

BOBBY

No, that's not it.

DUKE

Whatever it is I'm sure we can work
it out and _

BOBBY

Duke I don't have any money to get
from the bank. All I have is my
social security. That plus what the
military gives me just barely
covers the cost for me being in
this place.

DUKE

OH, I see.

BOBBY

I can't go with you guys. I'm sorry
Duke, I just don't have the cash.
Here, I've got those magazine
articles you were looking for. Page
24.

Bobby hands Duke a magazine but doesn't let go. They're both holding on to the magazine.

Bobby pulls the magazine back and slaps it into Dukes hand. Duke cautiously opens it to page 24. Inside are the fake ID's.

DUKE

What's with page 24?

BOBBY

That's my old number when I was playing ball.

Duke shuffles through the ID's.

DUKE

Holy Jesus, you got Nate looking like Huggy-Bear on this damn thing. Sarah's is fine but look at me. I'm smiling like I just took the most satisfying shit of my life.

BOBBY

Hey it's not my fault. You do what you can with you have to work with. They'll be fine.

DUKE

I sure hope so or we're going from one prison to another.

BOBBY

They'll be fine, trust me.

DUKE

Bobby, about the money situation, I think we can work something out.

BOBBY

Oh no, I don't take charity!

DUKE

Look here you, I'm not some soft hearted smuck, OK. Let's get that straight. If you think for one minute that I'm gona let you get a free ride then think again.

BOBBY

Good! No charity and no sympathy.

DUKE

Let's just call it an arrangement.
Until we can get your finances
handled.

Bobby throws his ball hard into the glove.

BOBBY

No charity, as long as there's no
charity.

DUKE

Would you stop with the charity
crap already. Come on.

Duke pushes Bobby inside.

INT. CARE FACILITY - JOE'S ROOM - FOLLOWING MORNING

Joe is standing by the pay phone in the activities room. He
puts in change out of a plastic cup and dials.

JOE

Hello, yes my name is_

BANK LADY (V.O.)

The account number please sir.

JOE

(unfolds a paper)

Ah sure, wait just a second. OK
127388424.

BANK LADY

Your password please.

JOE

(covers his mouth)

Studabaker.

BANK LADY

I'm sorry sir but that has been
changed. Do you have another
password?

JOE

Changed, what do you mean? All I
want is to check my balance. I can
do that without a password can't I?

BANK LADY (V.O.)

I'm sorry sir but without the correct password from the prime account holder First National cannot give out that information.

JOE

But I'm the account holder, it's my money.

BANK LADY (V.O.)

Sorry sir but I can't help you.

JOE

And that's another thing. My name is Joe, Joe Walker I've banked at First National for years. Look there must be some kind of mistake.

BANK LADY

No mistake sir.

JOE

Well then can you tell me who is the prime account holder?

BANK LADY

I'm sorry sir but we can't give out that information.

Joe slowly hangs up the phone.

EXT. CARE FACILITY - PATIO AREA - THREE DAYS LATER

DUKE

All right who wants to go first?

SARAH

I've got the wigs, hair dye, and makeup.

BOBBY

Makeup? You're not getting me to put that stuff on.

DUKE

It's for the bank. You won't be needing it. Our friend Bobby here has made other financial arrangements so it will be just me Nate and you Sarah for the bank run. Now, whose next, Nate?

NATE

What?

DUKE

The acting lessons, how are they coming along?

NATE

Acting lessons, what acting lessons?

DUKE

Here we go again. Take this.

NATE

And what is that?

DUKE

A tape recorder. It's on permanent loan from the night nurse.

NATE

Pilfered!

DUKE

Look, I just thought you could use it to record some of your better lines for posterity.

NATE

A wonderful idea.

DUKE

I put a few little things on there myself.

NATE

A thousand thanks my good man. How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world. (MOV 5.1.90)

DUKE

Yea, you're welcome I think. Sarah what about Jerry's papers?

SARAH

I think I got everything we need.

DUKE

OK Madahari, how did you manage that?

SARAH

Borrowed a key from the nurses desk. I think we have enough to put Bodere away for a long time.

DUKE

Great, It does my heart good thinking of poodle pants picking up the bar of ivory off of the shower floor for the next twenty years.

BOBBY

Oh, here's the other stuff you asked for.

DUKE

(grabs the baggy of pot)
Put that down for Christ sake.

Suddenly Joe is standing behind them.

JOE

Is it too late to be counted in?

DUKE

Way too late.

SARAH

Oh nonsense Duke.

DUKE

(Duke looks at the others)
Impossible, we're way too far along on the preparation. We'd have to get you an ID, acting lessons and then there's Sarah's Spanish 101.

BOBBY

I can get ya the ID quick enough.

SARAH

I'll catch you up Joe. Have a seat. We haven't even heard what your plan is yet.

DUKE

Lucky for you this women has me wrapped around my better judgement. Fine, your in but you got ta get your hands on a pare of wire cutters.

JOE

Done.

DUKE

OK, sit down and listen up.

JOE

Thanks Duke, who do I see about the acting lessons?

NATE

Acting lessons? Yes, why look no further.

BOBBY

Good to have you aboard Joe.

DUKE

OK, here's what you've all been waiting for.

NATE

Go forth good man. Delays have dangerous ends. (KHVI 3.2 33)

DUKE

Hey, what can I say, I'm an artist. All right, I've been talking with Manny and I've got some good news.

NATE

Manny, Manny? Sounds like some mafioso.

DUKE

Actually he's the foreman who runs the crew in the fields over there. He owes Sarah a favor and has agreed to give us a ride as far as the market.

NATE

A market! Good heavens.

DUKE

My friends, one week from tomorrow is harvest time.

SARAH

That's great Duke but Manny can't put all of us in his pickup and drive us out of here unseen.

DUKE

No he can't. That's why ladies and gentlemen we're taking the watermelon truck to market and to freedom.

NATE

What? How absurd.

BOBBY

How is that gona' work?

SARAH

Duke you can't be serious. That big, high truck out there? How are we going to get out there and into that thing?

DUKE

Simple, see that fence over there? We put on our disguises, cut a hole in the gate, then we walk, roll and shuffle our way through.

SARAH

Fine, what about Bobby here and Joe's oxygen bottle for that matter?

BOBBY

Yea, what about me?

DUKE

We'll roll Bobby out, mingle with the workers, use the lift on the back of the truck and away we go..

SARAH

How do you mingle with a wheel chair, walker and an oxygen bottle?

JOE

Hey, I'm good ta go I don't need this stuff?

Takes off his tubes and immediately gets short of breath, coughs and quickly puts it back on.

DUKE

I see.

JOE

I'll manage don't worry about me.

SARAH

That's fine and good. Let's say we have no problems and make it on the truck then what? Then where do we go?

DUKE

Two words, Farmer's Market, Los Angeles.

NATE

I believe that's four words.

DUKE

Whatever, look, we get there, change our cloths and take the bus the whole way to the border.

BOBBY

Genius, pure genius.

DUKE

Thank you Bobby.

JOE

Wait, you're talking about leaving the country?

DUKE

What did you think we were gona' do have our loving relatives put us in the guest house. I've got this little place by the ocean in Cabo San Lucas. Not even my nephew knows about it.

JOE

We're suppose to take a truck full of melons going to the farmer's market and then a bus to Mexico. Come on.

DUKE

You got a better idea Mr. Johnny come lately?

JOE

Well, no I don't.

DUKE

Then listen up. Next Tuesday is movie matinee day in town. This is what we need to do.

INT. BAKERSFIELD, CA - DARK MOVIE THEATER. - AFTERNOON

Duke and the others are watching a movie. There is an orderly on both sides watching them. Nate gets up -- Sarah hands him a bag.

THIRD ORDERLY

Where do you think you're going?

NATE

That soda went right threw me good man. I'll bust if I don't go soon.

THIRD ORDERLY

OK, but make it quick.

Nate uses the phone in the lobby to call a cab -- reaches the restroom and fights hard to remember. It finally comes to him.

He removes his jump suit. Underneath are a fine shirt, tie and slacks. He opens the bag, removes the makeup and wig.

Nate masterfully puts on a dark colored, afro wig, make up and a fake mushtash.

He checks his new ID and leaves the theater out the back exit. Nate reaches the street where a cab is waiting.

CAB DRIVER

Where to mister?

(Nate hesitates)

I said where to mister?

NATE

Well, I'm not quite sure.

CAB DRIVER

Come on buddy, I don't have all day.

Nate struggles to recall then instinctively reaches for a paper in his pocket and reads.

NATE

(whispers)

The Credit Union on Chester and Mason.

CAB DRIVER

What?

NATE

I said the Credit Union on Chester
and Mason. Step on it my good man.

The cab zooms away.

INT. BAKERSFIELD, CA - THE BANK - CONTINUOUS

Nate struggles once more and again has to reach into his
pocket.

This time he pulls out the tape recorder that Duke got him.
He turns it on and puts it to his ear.

DUKE (V.O.)

Mr. Phelps your mission should you
choose to accept it is...just
kidding. Nate, this is Duke if
you're listening to this it means,
well, its just a little reminder of
what you're doing at the bank.

Nate becomes focused once again. He finishes the tape and
goes to the teller window.

BANK TELLER

Hello may I help you.

NATE

Yes dear, I would like to make a
small withdraw and a wire transfer
of some founds please.

He hands her a paper and his ID. She examines the ID very
carefully looks at Nate and hands back at the ID.

BANK TELLER

Sure Mr. Washington I'd be glad to
help you with that. Is this the
bank and account where you would
like it sent.

NATE

Yes please, my dear.

Nate glazes over and has another memory spell.

BANK TELLER

The bank in Cabo San Lucas, how
lovely I've always wanted to go
there. Is it nice?

NATE

Excuse me?

BANK TELLER

Cabo, is it nice?

NATE

Oh Cabo, Cabo what can't I say
about Cabo, o most insatiate and
luxurious woman? (TA 5.1.88)

She fills out the paperwork and stamps the transfer. He comes
in and out of his memory spell.

BANK TELLER

Oh, that was lovely thank you Mr.
Washington. Here you go, you're all
set.

NATE

Oh no, thank you my dear. You are
the fount that makes small brooks
to flow. (HVI P3 4.8. 54)

BANK TELLER

Oh my, well, thank you again.

INT. BAKERSFIELD, CA - DARK MOVIE THEATER. - CONTINUOUS

Nate leaves the restroom after removing his disguise. He
makes his way down the row and sits down.

The orderly sitting behind them taps him on the shoulder.

THIRD ORDERLY

What took you so long. Was there a
line or what?

NATE

What on earth are you taking about
you tiresome man?

Duke is trying to point to Nate's face. One half of the
mustash is still glued on above his lip. Duke quickly reaches
up and removes it.

DUKE

How did it go?

NATE

How did what go?

DUKE
Never mind.

Duke reaches into his pocket and removes the transfer receipt

DUKE
Thank God for little miracles.
Alright Joe you're next.

HEAD ORDERLY
Where do you think you're going?

JOE
Nature calls.

THIRD ORDERLY
Wait, I'll help you with the
bottle.

JOE
Ya' want ta hold it for me once I
get there too? I can handle it.

THIRD ORDERLY
OK smart-ass suit yourself.

Arriving at the bank Joe pulls the pint of Wild Turkey from his pocket, pops the cap and start to raise the bottle to his lips. Without taking a drink he slowly lowers the bottle.

JOE
No God Damn it, not again, not this
time.

Joe awkwardly pulls his Oxygen bottle out of the cab and enters the bank. After some time he exits the bank confident and smiling.

Joe has the cab driver stop at a hardware store where he picks up a pare of wire cutters.

It is Duke's turn -- he leaves the theater and makes it to his bank branch. Duke tells the cab driver to wait and hurriedly enters the bank.

He fills out a transfer and withdrawal slip with shaking hands. He heads to the teller window.

DUKE
(very nervous)
Hi there, I'd like to make a little
withdrawal and also a transfer.

He hands the teller his ID -- he looks at Duke suspiciously.

BANK TELLER

Just a minute, ah Mr. Larson, I'm gona' need to run this by my supervisor. I'll be back in a minute.

DUKE

Now is that really necessary?

BANK TELLER

I'm afraid so, it'll only take a minute.

DUKE

OK, I'll be right here.

A minute passes then five -- Duke checks his watch. Suddenly the teller and the supervisor are returning along with a uniformed guard.

The guard and supervisor both have determined looks on their faces. As they round a counter Duke can see that the guard is carrying bags of money.

The supervisor escorts the guard to the vault on the other side of the bank. Duke finally exhales as the teller returns.

BANK TELLER

Sorry for the wait Mr. Larson here's the cash and here's a receipt for the transfer. Is there anything else I can help you with today sir?

DUKE

No I think that was quite enough for one day. Thanks.

BANK TELLER

Thank you sir and have a nice day.

Duke quickly leaves the bank, gets in the cab breathing hard and sweating profusely. He returns to the theater.

SARAH

Well, how did it go?

DUKE

Flawlessly. Now it's your turn.

Sarah exits the bathroom pushing her walker and wearing a Dolly Parton wig. -- gets in the taxi and speeds away. At the bank she checks her makeup in the cab and gets out.

SARAH

Now don't you go any where
sweetheart. I'll be right back.

CAB DRIVER

Yes Mam.

Inside the bank Sarah fills out a slip and walks her way to
the window.

BANK TELLER

Yes Mam, may I help you?

SARAH

Of course you can my dear. I'd like
to make a little withdrawal and a
little transfer.

She pushes the withdrawal slip and ID with one finger. The
teller looks at the ID -- looks at Sarah's face and back at
the ID.

BANK TELLER

Mam I'm sorry I'm gona' need
another form of ID.

SARAH

I, I beg your pardon young man.
Just what you are implying?

BANK TELLER

Nothing Mam, you just look a little
different from the photo that's
all.

SARAH

Oh for heavens sake I bank here all
the time and now I need a second
ID. Now listen here young man you
just get my things in order and
I'll be on my way.

Sarah impatiently looks away and taps her hand on her walker.

BANK TELLER

Mam, Mam, your second ID please.

Sarah looks over to the supervisor's desk and sees a gray
haired woman in her early sixties.

SARAH

Oh very well two can play that
game. Is that your manager over
there?

BANK TELLER

Yes it is.

SARAH

I'd like to speak to her please.

BANK TELLER

But Mam.

SARAH

Right now please.

BANK TELLER

Yes Mam.

He takes the ID to the manager, she studies it, looks up and goes over to Sarah.

BANK MANAGER

What seems to be the problem Mrs. Ferguson?

SARAH

This young man is telling me that I look old.

BANK TELLER

I, I didn't say that.

SARAH

You didn't have to it was very clear in your tone of voice and the way you, well_ (to the manager) He, he laughed at my hair.

BANK TELLER

(guffaw slips out) Mrs. Turner I don't know what to say.

SARAH

Some of us older folk are sensitive about those kind of things and you'd do good to remember that young man.

The manager hands the ID back to Sarah.

BANK MANAGER

Willard, please prepare Mrs. Ferguson's transactions and come see me before you go on your break.

Sarah throws her head back.

BANK TELLER

Yes Mam.

INT. JOE'S HOUSE - PALMDALE, CA - CONTINUOUS

A toilet flushes -- the bathroom door opens -- Lamar steps out pats himself on the chest with both hands and takes a deep breath.

LAMAR

Now that was good one.

He walks to the living room and begins picking up Joe's belongings to examine and take inventory. Lamar yells from the living room to the bedroom.

LAMAR

Lovie dear, I don't know why you insist on keeping the rest of this junk in here.

HOPE (O.S.)

Lamar, it's not junk it's Papa's stuff and we talked about this already.

LAMAR

I know, I know, you said you want to hold on to it for a while longer for sentimental reasons. Whatever that's suppose ta mean.

HOPE (O.S.)

It means that I can't just walk in here and throw away my father's memories just like that.

LAMAR

OK, OK, don't get your hair up. Mind if I go through a few things and check what's in here?

HOPE (O.S.)

Whatever.

In the bedroom Hope sees dozens of pictures of the grand children and of her.

Hope picks up a picture of her and Joe when she was a child in the park feeding the ducks.

Holding the picture she starts to go into the bathroom but recoils back -- she grabs a can of deodorizer, pinches her nose shut and sprays.

Lamar yells from the living room

LAMAR (O.S.)

Sure was good of your ex to take the rug rats until we can work through all this. Man this could take weeks maybe even months.

She goes to the kitchen still holding the deodorizer. On the refrigerator are more pictures of her and the children.

She notices an opened letter on the table addressed to her from Joe. She reads it.

INSERT LETTER:

"HOPE, IN YOUR LAST LETTER YOU SAID THAT I NEVER TRIED AND THAT I HAVE BEEN A TERRIBLE BURDEN ON YOU AND THE GRANDKIDS. VERY WELL THEN, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL I PROBABLY DO NEED TO BE HERE. PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME ANYMORE. I WILL NOT BE WRITING OR BOTHERING YOU ANY LONGER, YOUR FATHER"

She goes to the living room still holding the deodorizer. Lamar is making a mess tossing things aside he has deemed worthless.

HOPE

What the hell is this?

LAMAR

(doesn't look up)

Someone's got ta go through all this junk. Would ya' look at all the crap he's collected over the years. It's a good thing we got here when we did. There's no telling where he might have hid something. We got ta go through all this stuff. Hell, I had an uncle use to keep a wad of hundreds in the water closet behind the toilet. Don't ya think that didn't take me a long God damn time ta find.

Lamar opens a box on the coffee table filled with hard candy. He quickly eats a piece, smells the box then searches through the candy with his fingers.

Not quite satisfied he dumps the candy on the sofa for a closer inspection. Looks up slowly to see Hope watching his every move.

HOPE
Stop it!

LAMAR
I'll be done in a few minutes.

HOPE
I SAID STOP IT!

LAMAR
Huh?

HOPE
Stop going through his things right NOW!

LAMAR
What's wrong Lovie sweet-kins?

HOPE
Don't call me that.

LAMAR
What did I do?

HOPE
(holds the letter out)
You know damn well what you did.

LAMAR
I was just trying to take the burden off you in your hour of need.

HOPE
You wrote letters to my father from me?

LAMAR
Now Lovie calm down.

HOPE
You signed my name to them?

LAMAR

I can explain. You know as well as I do that your dad is a dysfunctional alcoholic who is a danger to himself as well as others. We got the papers to prove it. I've seen it before, I know.

Hope points to the candy on the sofa and other things Lamar has thrown in disarray.

HOPE

Look at that, just look. The only disfunction here is what you've brought through the door.

LAMAR

I beg your pardon.

HOPE

Get out.

LAMAR

Now let's talk about this a minute.

HOPE

GET OUT!

LAMAR

You need me. We're good together.

HOPE

Your good for yourself

She sprays Lamar in the face with the deodorizer.

LAMAR

Ouch my eyes! Wait, what are doing?

HOPE

I said get out of my dad's house now.

LAMAR

But_

Hope starts spraying Lamar again. He is blinded stumbling his way to the door falling over chairs and tables.

Hope empties the can on Lamar as he falls out into the yard. She throws the empty can hitting him in the forehead.

INT. CARE FACILITY - NATE'S ROOM - FOLLOWING MORNING

DUKE
(whisper)
Nate...Nate.

Nate finally stirs.

NATE
Good lord man what hour of the day
is it?

DUKE
It's time, time to blow this place.

NATE
Who are you?

DUKE
It's Duke. It's your friend Duke.

NATE
I'm sorry sir but if you don't
leave my birth immediately I'll be
forced to call the purser.

DUKE
Good God not now, please not now.

NATE
PURSER, OH Purser, there's a
strange man in my birth.

DUKE
OK, OK I'm going, just shut up.

NATE
Where I'm I? This doesn't look like
my home. I, I should be home by
now.

DUKE
Sleep my friend, just sleep
everything will be OK. I promise
I'll be back to get you. We'll get
to where we're going and I'll be
back to get you. I won't leave you
here.

Duke sees the tape recorder on the night stand picks it up
and hits the record button and begins to speak softly.

INT. CARE FACILITY - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Duke creeps down the hall finally stopping in front of Bodere's office. He removes a letter from inside his coat and looks at it with a small flash light

INSERT LETTER:

LETTER

Bodere: We have copies of all the records. Well, at least enough to put you a way for a while. Put that on your list, Duke"

Duke folds the letter and slides it under Boderes door with other papers.

DUKE

Sit on that a while poodle pants.

Duke moves down the hallway and ducks into a side room.

INSERT SIGN: "PERSONNEL ONLY"

Once inside the room he makes his way through the tables and chairs of a break room to a coffee pot on the far side by a window.

He removes the bag of marijuana from his pocket and sprinkles some into the filter of the coffee machine. He checks his watch and flips on the coffee machine.

EXT. CARE FACILITY - YARD AREA IN BACK - PRE-DAWN

Duke and the others are assembled just before dawn in the garden.

All are wearing field worker outfits with scarfs covering their faces.

Mexicans are already hard at work in the fields picking melons.

SARAH

Duke, where's Nate?

DUKE

I'm afraid we've got to go without him. He didn't even know who I was.

SARAH

Oh dear, I'm sorry.

DUKE

So I'm I. All right everyone it's the moment of truth. I'll push Bobby. Joe you and Sarah help each other. What in the hell is that? I said only bring what's necessary.

JOE

It's my best store award. I'm not leaving it behind.

DUKE

OK, fine let's just get going.

Duke cuts an opening in the fence. One by one they make their way through the fence.

They start to cross the field toward the truck as dawn begins to break. They greet the workers with their broken Spanish.

INT. CARE FACILITY - PERSONNEL BREAK ROOM

The orderlies are drinking coffee in the staff quarters.

One orderly goes to the vending machine to get a candy bar but they are all out. On the table are dozens of empty wrappers.

One orderly looks out and sees what appears to be a row of migrant workers.

One of the workers is in a wheel chair bumping over the rows of melons while another is pulling an oxygen bottle followed by a person with a walker.

The orderlies vision blurs slightly. He slowly lowers his coffee and quickly calls over the other orderly.

HEAD ORDERLY

Would you look at that. I knew they were revamping the handicap laws but that's just plain pathetic.

SECOND ORDERLY

I'd say, pretty soon they'll have 'em crawling ta work.

INT. CARE FACILITY - NATE'S ROOM - LATER

Nate sits up in bed -- something is not right. He struggles through the fog of his memory.

Slowly and painfully he reaches for the tape recorder on the night stand and flips it on.

DUKE (V.O.)

My dear friend I'm sorry you couldn't make it but I hope you are able to play this, understand and remember. By now we are all on our way to the Farmer's Market.

NATE

The Farmer's Market.

Nate plugs ear phones into the recorder and continues to listen while he gets dressed.

EXT. CARE FACILITY - ON ROAD - LATER THAT MORNING

Hope is on her way with her children to get Joe and take him home.

HOPE

(on cell phone)

Hi Mama, yea, we're on our way out to get Papa and bring him home. I know, I know but we're gona' try anyway. Maybe with the kids there we can work it out together somehow.

(beat)

That's OK mama Lamar just wasn't the man for me and it's better that I found it out sooner then later. I'll tell him, you take care. I love you Mama.

(to herself)

I hope Pop will forgive me. I've been such a stupid idiot.

The melon truck carrying Duke and everyone passes Hope's car as she approaches the facility.

INT. CARE FACILITY - DR. BODERE'S OFFICE

Bodere is wearing a nose brace having his morning coffee, he looks down and notices the envelope by the door. He picks it up and slowly reads.

DR. BODERE

...of a bitch.

His office door burst open.

HOPE
Where is my father?

Bodere quickly puts the letter away in his desk.

DR. BODERE
Your, your father?

HOPE
Mr. Joseph Walker.

DR. BODERE
Yes Miss?

HOPE
WALKER!

DR. BODERE
Yes Miss Walker I can assure you we
are right on top of the situation.

JOHNNY JUNIOR
What did you do with my grandpa?

HOPE
Assure me of what, that you have no
idea where my father is. That you
have no idea when or how he went
missing.

The orderlies enter and one of them whispers into Bodere's
ear. Behind everyone through the open door Nate passes unseen
in the hallway with suit case in hand.

DR. BODERE
Not true Miss Walker we're right on
top of the situation. My associate
here just informed me that your
father and a group of his friends
here took it upon themselves to
have a little outing together. Not
to worry thou, occasionally we have
issues like this. We always get
them back.

HOPE
Outing, what kind of outing?

DR. BODERE
It seems that, well, they got onto
one of the trucks.

HOPE
What trucks?

Bodere points out the window.

DR. BODERE
The melon trucks.

HOPE
Oh my God, you can't be serious.

DR. BODERE
Don't worry we'll get them back we always do. Walter find out where those trucks are heading, take two men and put an end to this little mishap.

HOPE
Little mishap, I got a good mind to sue this place.

DR. BODERE
Now Miss Walker please calm down.

HOPE
Don't tell me to calm down. I'll calm down when I see my father in my car safe and heading back home where he belongs.

Dr. Roman bursts into the office.

DR ROMAN
I just heard. Has someone gone to bring them back?

DR. BODERE
I was just telling Miss Walker here that everything is in good hands. We'll get our problem seniors back here and then you can give 'em the once over. Now, Dr. Roman, if you'll excuse us.

Dr. Roman introduces herself to Hope as Joe's doctor. Through Bodere's office window Nate can be seen calmly getting into Hope's car -- starting it and slowly pulling away.

DR ROMAN
The once over? Some of those problem seniors as you call them, have serious health issues.

DR. BODERE
That will be all Doctor.

DR ROMAN
 (hands him a paper)
 That won't be All!

DR. BODERE
 What's this?

DR ROMAN
 What the hell do think it is...my
 resignation.

DR. BODERE
 Now just a moment.

HOPE
 Well, what about my father?

DR. BODERE
 (to the orderlies)
 Take the van and go after them.
 Mrs. Walker please come with me.

EXT. FARMERS MARKET, LOS ANGELES - AFTERNOON

Duke, Sarah, Joe and Bobby are being lowered on the
 mechanical lift on the back of the melon truck.

They see Nate standing by a fruit stand. He is dressed in a
 fine suit with suitcase in hand.

DUKE
 Nate! How in the heck?

Nate reaches into his pocket and pulls out the tape recorder.

NATE
 What you cannot as you would
 achieve you must perforce
 accomplish as you may. (TA 2.1 106)

DUKE
 (hugs Nate)
 I never heard Shakespeare sound so
 good.

FOREMAN
 I called the cab company they
 should be here any minute

DUKE
 Manny, thanks for everything.

FOREMAN
 (John Wayne voice)
 You're welcome pilgrim.

SARAH
 Where to now? LA is a big City.

DUKE
 To the bus station and on to the
 promised land.

BOBBY
 Oh, the sweet smell of freedom.

JOE
 I think that's the broccoli.

A stocky woman with tattoos, a halter top and apron comes out from behind a market stall. She approaches Nate.

SALES PERSON
 Hello there handsome can I help you
 with something?

NATE
 Oh lady of boundless tongue, who
 late hath beat her husband, and who
 now baits me. (WT 2.3 90-92)

SALES PERSON
 Are you trying to sweet talk me?

NATE
 Hold up, fair slut, your apron
 montant. (TA 4.3 136-37)

Sales lady's mouth is hanging open.

DUKE
 Get Mr. Friendly out of here. It
 looks like we've got company.

From down the alleyway of the farmer's market comes the three orderlies from the facility.

BOBBY
 Leave me guys and get out of here.
 I'll keep 'em busy.

DUKE
 Not a chance Bobby. We're in this
 together.

(MORE)

DUKE (CONT'D)

Nate you and Sarah take Bobby to the street and wait for us. Joe come with me and bring your bottle.

Nate and Sarah quickly wheel Bobby away to the street. Duke and Joe duck behind the market stalls.

Duke and Joe create the classic rolling fruit and vegetable diversion and escape to the street where there are two cabs waiting.

They zoom off as the orderlies burst out of the market all covered with smashed fruit and vegetables.

Bodere, Hope and Hope's children pull in just as they are zooming away.

HEAD ORDERLY

They got away. You just missed them.

HOPE

That does it, I'm calling the police right now.

DR. BODERE

Wait, wait, wait! Miss walker let's not get ahead of ourselves. We can still salvage this situation.

He grabs her arm -- she pulls away.

HOPE

(on cell phone)

Hello, I'd like to report a missing person.

INT. ON THE BUS - SOMEWHERE IN SAN DIEGO - LATER THAT DAY

Duke removes a cassette player from his bag, pops in a cassette, hits play and cranks the volume.

Stephenwolf's Born to Be Wild blasts throughout the bus. As the song finishes Bobby takes out a bottle from his bag.

JOE

I think we've seen the last of that place, Bodere and his goon squad.

BOBBY

Amen brother here's to greener pastures.

(MORE)

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I've been saving this for a special occasion and I can't think of one better.

They distribute plastic cups.

DUKE

You been hauling that the whole way?

BOBBY

If you think I'd leave this behind you're crazy.

(raises his glass)

To Jerry and to a new tomorrow.

SARAH

To Jerry and a better today.

NATE

Here, here. Let us not burden our remembrances with a heaviness that is gone.

BOBBY

Come on Joe bottoms up. What's wrong?

JOE

No thanks, I quit for good. I can't help thinking about the boys and my daughter. You think I'll ever see my family again?

BOBBY

Of course you will Joe. What about you Sarah? Have any family that you want to see again?

SARAH

I've got a niece who lives in England. A nice young girl who I haven't seen in years.

BOBBY

Nate, do you have any relatives and love ones?

NATE

None who's company I'd care to partake of. Alas the stage, my only love she was.

SARAH

Bobby?

BOBBY

Last of the Mohicans I'm afraid.
Duke?

DUKE

(looking out the back of
the bus)

What?

BOBBY

You got family you want to see once
we get settled in?

DUKE

The only family I got left is that
little piss-ant of a nephew of
mine. He got me into this mess in
the first place. I want to see him
like I want to see Rosie O'Donald
in a thong bikini.

(beat)

Oh Christ!

BOBBY

What is it?

DUKE

I knew we started celebrating too
soon. Look back there.

A half a mile back they can see flashing light closing in on
the bus.

Up ahead they can see a big sign welcoming them to the
Mexican border.

SARAH

So close yet so far.

DUKE

We ain't done yet.

JOE

Think we can make it?

DUKE

Not without a little intervention.
Bobby sorry I'm gona' need the
chair.

BOBBY

Take it, I can always get another.

As the police cars close in so do the orderlies in the van and behind them is Dr. Bodere, Hope and her children.

JOE

Hope! My daughter she came for me!
(stands up)
Driver, stop the bus and let me
out!

BUS DRIVER

What's the problem back there?

DUKE

Sit down and shut up. You want ta
get us caught.

JOE

It's my daughter. She's come to get
me.

DUKE

Bologne! She's come to make sure
that you go back and don't you
believe anything else. Just take a
look at who's driving the car.

JOE

Bodere.

DUKE

What did I tell you?

SARAH

They're getting closer.

BOBBY

I don't think we're gona' make it.

DUKE

Everybody stand back. Joe take this
up there and make sure that
whatever happens that driver keeps
going.

JOE

Isn't that the vaccination gun from
Dr. Roman's office?

DUKE

I know that and you know that but
the driver doesn't. One more thing.

JOE

What?

DUKE

(holds up Joe's award)
I'm gona need this.

JOE

Sure, I've come this far.

Joe reluctantly positions himself behind the driver. Duke takes Bobby's folded wheel chair to the rear of the bus.

The police, orderlies and the car with Hope and Bodere are closing fast.

The bus driver sees the police lights and prepares to pull over. Joe presses the vaccine gun against his neck.

JOE

No you don't sonny. Just keep on driving and you won't get hurt.

BUS DRIVER

OK old man take it easy, just don't shoot.

JOE

Listen kid, who are you calling an old man.

BUS DRIVER

No, no body sir, I mean I'm sorry.

JOE

Go ahead, make my day.

Duke grabs Joe's award by the hammer handle and hits it against a seat back until the gold hammer breaks free from the plaque.

Duke swings the hammer and busts out the rear window and shoves out the wheel chair.

The chair hits the freeway bouncing end over end causing a huge traffic pile up. The two highway patrol cars slam into the pile up and are stopped.

The van with the orderlies maneuvers around the pileup and speeds up. Bodere comes to a screeching halt and is forced to creep slowly around the pileup.

DUKE

Bobby! I'm gona need your help on this one.

BOBBY

You got it.

DUKE

Think you can hit that windshield with that ball of yours?

BOBBY

Right down the pike.

Duke positions Bobby on the rear seat. Bobby takes aim, does a windup and throws. The baseball slams into the windshield of the van on the drivers side -- the windshield shatters.

The orderlies have to pull over and push out the remaining glass.

DUKE

That will slow 'em down. How are we doing?

SARAH

We're almost there.

JOE

(yells back)

Another quarter mile and we're home free.

(to the driver)

You keep your eyes on the road.

BUS DRIVER

Yes sir.

The orderlies are back on the road, minus the windshield. Their van zooms up within feet of the rear of the bus.

DUKE

Damn! Now we're gona' have to get creative.

Duke searches around in the restroom of the bus.

BOBBY

Find anything to throw?

DUKE

No, hold on, wait a minute.

Duke pulls away a panel and finds the evacuation valve for the restroom holding tank.

SARAH
What is it Duke?

DUKE
The off load for the crapper.

SARAH
Why not? Let 'em have it with both barrels.

DUKE
It's stuck! Wait a minute this will work.

Duke gives the valve several whacks with the hammer from Joe's award. The valve lets loose -- muck gushes out the back of the bus hitting the van.

Without the wind shield the orderlies are covered with excrement from the bus.

The van swerves out of control and flies off the freeway a few hundred yards from the border

SECOND ORDERLY
We've been slimed.

HEAD ORDERLY
I'm gona kill those old people when I catch 'em.

The bus makes it to the border -- screeches to a halt and the door opens. Duke and the others exit the bus. Joe hands the vaccination gun to the driver.

Sarah borrows a shopping cart from a homeless person. Joe and Duke put Bobby in the cart. They all make a hobbling dash for the turn-style crossing.

Dr. Bodere's car comes to a screeching halt behind the bus. Bodere, Hope and her children get out and run after them.

DR. BODERE
Stop them! Those old people there!
They're escapees from a care facility.

Duke and the others hold out their IDs and cross over into Mexico. Bodere and Hope cross over with the US border police a second later.

Guns are drawn by Mexican Border Police and US border police. Bodere tackles Duke and they scuffle on the ground.

Duke slips the bag of marijuana in Bodere's pocket. The Mexican officer draws down on Bodere and Duke.

MEXICAN BORDER OFFICER
You two STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!

SARAH
Don't hurt my Duke!

MEXICAN BORDER OFFICER
Señores get up slowly.

Bodere and Duke stand up with their hands raised.

DR. BODERE
Listen, you don't understand.

MEXICAN BORDER OFFICER
Señores your IDs. Now!

DR. BODERE
ID? I'm an American for God's sake!

MEXICAN BORDER OFFICER
Si señor, you're an American
alright, I can tell. But you are an
American who happens to be standing
on Mexican soil. Now, let me see
your ID.

Bodere reaches in his pocket for his ID and pulls out the plastic baggy of marijuana. The Mexican border officer grabs the bag opens it and sniffs.

MEXICAN BORDER OFFICER
(to other officers)
El es un traficante de narcoticos.
Take him away for booking.

Just then the two orderlies catch up. Everyone holds their noses. Other Mexicans try and hold them but are driven back by the smell.

HEAD ORDERLY
(points at Bodere)
Let us through we're with him.

MEXICAN BORDER OFFICER
Is that right? Take these cochinos
in for booking as well.
(Duke slinks away)
(MORE)

MEXICAN BORDER OFFICER (CONT'D)

You there, halt! All of you come here.

(slowly roll and limp back)

What matter of business do you have in my country?

DUKE

(looks at Sarah)

Growing old, staying out of trouble and just trying to enjoy the last few days we got on this earth with the people that mean the most to us.

The officer motions Duke over and slowly pulls out his handcuffs.

MEXICAN BORDER OFFICER

In that case Señor, you leave me no other alternative then to tell you...you should start that right away, que no?

He slaps the hand cuffs on Dr. Bodere. Bodere and the orderlies are led away kicking and screaming. Hope runs over and hugs Joe -- Joe pulls away.

JOE

I can't go back there. I'd rather take my chances down here then go back there. I don't know why I had that stuff in my drawer but I wasn't and I haven't touched a drop or smoked a cigarette in months.

HOPE

No Papa, I believe you. We came to take you home, back to your home. Papa I'm so sorry.

Joe's grandchildren come running.

JOE'S GRANDCHILDREN

Grandpa!

EXT. CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO - THE OPEN MARKET - LATER

An elderly, African American is seen from behind from his feet to the small of his back.

He is wearing a wind breaker, neatly pressed shorts and open toe sandals.

Slowly he strolls through the open air market in downtown Cabo checking the different types of fruits and vegetables.

He finally comes to a large booth filled with large, green watermelons.

He wraps on one of melons then another until the third rings with the hollow sound of a sweet ripe melon.

Pausing he reaches into the pocket of his wind breaker and pulls out a tape recorder and turns it on.

DUKE (V.O.)

Don't forget the God damn limes again or I'm not sending you to the market anymore.

SARAH

Oh Duke, put a sock in it. Nate just be sure to bring home the avocados and the suntan lotion that I asked for.

BOBBY

The paper, the paper, don't forget the paper. The one with the sport section.

(talking to Duke and Sarah)

Why do we send him? Why don't one of you go? How come we have to send him?

DUKE

Cause he's the only one who can drive that's why.

BOBBY

Well next time you go with him.

SARAH

If you think that I'm riding on the back of that motor scooter you better think again_

Bobby, Sarah and Duke continue to rattle on -- Nate sets the recorder down among the watermelons.

NATE (O.S.)

All's well that ends well. (AWTEW 4.4 35)

THE END.