

JAX SAVAGE'S FUNTASTICAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Written by

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EXT. ITALIAN ROOFTOPS - DAY

A pair of Timberlands dash across terra-cotta tiles.

Their owner, our HERO is a chiseled, athletic man. He leaps across rooftops. Running from danger. Or, towards it.

A small beam of light smacks his face. He squints. Pauses. Looks for the light's source. A reflection from...

A PAIR OF DOG TAGS.

Held in the vice-like grip of a VILLAIN.

VILLAIN

Must be difficult not knowing who
you are. What did this to you.

The Villain is impeccably dashing and groomed, as if Tom Ford designed the man, as well as his suit.

Hero flashes a vile of blue liquid.

HERO

Guess it's time I find out.

Villain delights in seeing his prize. Hero delicately moves forward, reaches out the vile and... tosses it over the side.

Villain angrily follows the vile's trajectory, allowing Hero his chance to tackle him...

And send them both plummeting towards the ground.

EXT. ITALIAN STORE - DAY

With a CRASH, rustic furniture breaks their fall.

The enemies leap to their feet and lock horns. They struggle for leverage in front of the shop's large plate glass window.

HERO

Window shopping anyone?

Glass EXPLODES as Hero tosses them thru the window.

INT. STORE - DAY

The men brush off glass and prepare to tear each other apart. Until they each catch a glimpse at their unusual location.

Barrels of taffy. Rows of lollipops. Sugary goodness. Kids.

It's a candy store!

Villain scavenges for a weapon. A rainbow colored unicorn lollypop. Hero counters with a huge chocolate bunny. It's on.

The weapons are silly, but the fight's intent is deadly.

Hero cracks the bunny over Villain's head and shoves him into a barrel of jawbreakers. Candy CRASHES onto the ground, causing Hero to lose his footing and fall onto the floor.

Villain wraps a liquorice rope around Hero's neck.

VILLAIN

Sweet dreams.

He pulls the candy rope tighter. Night-night Hero.

Hero digs deep and somehow finds the strength to chew through the rope. Free of the choke hold, he taunts his adversary.

HERO

Where does your boss find his
parade of incompetent henchmen?

Villain's nostrils flair as he processes the insult.

Hero waits for a retort, but it doesn't come. The Villain is frozen. Making sense of the situation.

It causes Hero's swagger to morph into genuine concern.

HERO (CONT'D)

Hey. You OK man?

Villain answers. With his clenched fist. SMACK.

The Shoppers gasp. It's as if they weren't expecting that.

VILLAIN

This henchman isn't about to let
his boss have all the fun.

HERO

What's gotten into you mate?

Weird. Hero now seems to have an Australian accent.

VOICE (O.S.)

Cut! Medic.

Headset-Wearing People burst in. A Medic appears with an ice pack for Hero's nose. This is no candy store, it's a...

INT. MOVIE SET - DAY

The steaming DIRECTOR gets in villain's face.

DIRECTOR
You could have broken his nose.

VILLAIN
The price one pays for crossing me.

DIRECTOR
Jax Savage, kill the in-character improvisations. Take the script. Read the pretty words. Comprendre?

Driven by impatience and frustration, JAX SAVAGE breaks character. An up-and-comer that still hasn't made it, his lackluster IMDB credits weigh heavily on his shoulders.

JAX (VILLAIN)
Got it.

Medic helps Hero to his feet. Director addresses his Crew.

DIRECTOR
Ladies and gentlemen, that is a production wrap for Vince Hartman.

VINCE HARTMAN's off-screen demeanor is dignified yet precise. He has the charisma that red carpets and awards shows eat up.

VINCE (HERO)
Was my privilege to work with all of you beautiful people. Thank you.

Jax jealously watches Vince bask in the crew's gratitude and admiration. Admiration he desperately wants. The Director barks a request at Jax.

DIRECTOR
Take five somewhere this exhausted crew can't find you.

The insult stings Jax as he moves to his safe haven...

INT. MOVIE SET - CATERING TABLE - DAY

A massive spread that puts Las Vegas buffets to shame.

A YOUNG GOLDEN RETRIEVER wanders up to the munching Jax. The canine cheerfully BARKS for a treat. Jax offers a cookie.

JAX
Always time for a fan.

Jax punches the "Video" app on his phone and films the pup.

JAX (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hey gang. Day 36. Starting to build
my fan base. Canines welcome.

A bowl of guacamole interrupts the filming.

ALLISON (O.S.)
Try this.

ALLISON, the craft service crew member, tempts Jax. She's food connoisseur savvy lightly seasoned with a food trailer chef's snappy wit. Attractive to boot.

Jax samples the dish. Yum. The cook's not too bad either.

JAX
Certainly tasty miss...

Jax puts his phone down, but neglects to stop filming.

ALLISON
Allison. And seeing as you've had a
rough day, I'd recommend the
organic green tea. Lots of it.

JAX
Thought I'd bring something new to
the table.

ALLISON
Me too. Tell your friends.

Amidst her flirting, Allison delicately slips him her card.
"Greenlight Organic Catering. A Fresh Take On The Expected."

JAX
Wish the scripts my agent sends me
had some fresh ingredients. Waiting
to hear back on a big role in
"Passport". It's gonna be huge.

The name of the script jolts Allison.

ALLISON
My roommate is working on that one.

Jax's eyes lift. Working on?

JAX
Oh. Just started shooting?

ALLISON

A month ago.

The realization crushes Jax. He takes the frustration out by sending the craft service table CRASHING onto the ground.

Shaken by the table turning, the small pup GROWLS at Jax.

Horrified at the scene, Allison lays into Jax.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how long it took me to get this gig? To beat out every established craft service company in Hollywood? I'm back to nothing, thanks to you.

JAX

Hey, without me, you wouldn't be serving organic guacamole to anyone.

Jax realizes his error. Allison cuts off his apology.

ALLISON

Save it for the two hundred people who work fourteen hour days that have zilch to snack on.

JAX

They'll live.

A BURLY GRIP sees the damage. He bursts into tears.

BURLY GRIP

The salsa. Why the salsa?

Jax is out of words. He picks up his phone and realizes the Video app had been on throughout their conversation.

ALLISON

Long way to go before anyone considers you their leading man.

Jax considers the remark as she storms off. Jax looks back at the puppy. GRRR. He realizes he has one on-set ally left.

INT. LUXURIOUS TRAILER - DAY

Jax springs into Vince's mobile McMansion. Whoa. Nice digs.

JAX

Sweet. Hey, Vince. I wanted to...

VINCE (O.S.)
 Few minutes Jax. Get comfy.

Jax pulls out his phone and videos the on-set palace.

JAX
 This is what you're working for.

Still filming, Jax pans over to a large flatscreen TV. He pauses to review the program on the screen...

ON SCREEN

INT. FRANK KELLERMAN'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The iconic children's show "Frank Kellerman's Funtastical Neighborhood". Classic. Charming. Funded by viewers like you.

FRANK KELLERMAN, kind and caring with a Fred Rogers demeanor, wears his signature blue cardigan. He addresses DURHAM, a yellow dog puppet made of foam and felt.

FRANK
 Durham, it's always good to tell
 someone what you're feeling. Don't
 keep everything inside.

DURHAM
 Yeah. Not sharing can be ruff.

Frank turns to PENNY PEACHES, a pig-tailed young woman with a perfectly peach dress and delightful southern accent.

FRANK
 Penny Peaches, do you have
 something to say to Ace Flyer here?

ACE FLYER is a debonair old-school pilot. He seems disappointed over something.

PENNY
 I'm sorry that I dented your car.

ACE
 Thank you Penny. I forgive you.

BOTTLECAP THE PENGUIN, a sophisticated costume character waddles up. One could guess this bird was hatched in Jim Henson's Creature Shop.

BOTTLECAP

Gee Mister Kellerman, it seems like apologizing for something actually makes everything better.

FRANK

Couldn't have said it better myself Bottlecap.

A ornate cuckoo clock goes off. CUCKOO. CUCKOO.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(to TV audience)

We've learned a valuable lesson. Remember it today. Use it everyday.

He winks and turns to his friends. They wave good-bye.

DURHAM

We'll see you again Frank.

Frank picks up a drivers cap as he briskly walks into the...

KITCHEN

Frank opens the door to an adjoining garage. A cool blue tinted smoke emerges. He gives his audience one last wink before walking into the smoke. The smoke fills the screen, then fades into a blue title card with the name of the show: "FRANK KELLERMAN'S FUNTASTICAL NEIGHBORHOOD"

VINCE (O.S.)

Where does Mr. Kellerman go?

BACK TO SCENE

Jax snaps out of it and lowers his phone. Vince holds a duffle bag, his right nostril stuffed with cotton.

VINCE (CONT'D)

Maybe they'll clue me in about it next week during my guest role.

JAX

Odd way to get Emmy consideration.

VINCE

Staying in the spotlight. And what an opportunity to make a role your own and have it live forever.

As Vince grabs his sneakers, Jax takes note of an elaborate Chinese tattoo on Vince's calf.

JAX

Nice tat.

VINCE

Means "destiny". Always mindful of it. As should you.

JAX

Oh, that's taken care of. I'm testing with Logan Burke for the lead in "Justice".

This takes Vince by surprise.

VINCE

Wow. Bit out of your range though.

JAX

I didn't go to Carnegie Mellon to play Cop Number Four all my life.

VINCE

But not everyone plays the big roles either. Do you have talent? Absolutely. You're just not that centerpiece. Like me.

(motions to the TV)

Or Frank Kellerman.

Jax isn't about to be bullied by an A-lister.

JAX

Ok, Vince. I'm not big on the big screen yet, but I'm the center of gravity everywhere else I go.

INT. MODERN HOUSE - NIGHT

House party. Music THUMPS. Lights pulse. Jax uncomfortably watches Young Partygoers frolic. This isn't his scene.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Jax attempts a shot. He sets. Shoots. The ball goes over the backboard. Jax bemoans his skills.

He glances at Two Athletic Men playing a game of hoops. They have something Jax wants. Friendship.

INT. JAX'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Platinum card in hand, Jax loads e-books onto his phone.

ON PHONE SCREEN:

Various basketball titles. He sees "BASKETBALL FOR DUMMIES".

BACK TO SCENE

Jax grimaces at the thought. He reluctantly buys it.

ON PHONE SCREEN:

"COACH WOODEN'S LEADERSHIP GAME PLAN FOR SUCCESS: 12 LESSONS FOR EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE AND PERSONAL EXCELLENCE".

BACK TO SCENE

Buying it is an admission of failure. He taps.

INT. JAX'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Jax slings a leather band Tag Heuer onto his wrist. He gazes into the mirror and gets into character.

JAX

Just because I gave up my badge...

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE 12 - DAY

JAX

...doesn't make me any less of a hero.

Inside a massive soundstage, Jax's performance has entranced LOGAN BURKE, the lanky auteur and his Production Team.

LOGAN

Very, very impressive Jax. Let me huddle with the team outside for a moment. Cool?

JAX

Yes. Definitely. Cool.

Logan flashes an enthusiastic thumbs up as he and his team move outside. Jax's grin could not be more electric.

JAX (CONT'D)
Big time Jax. Big time.

His mind fills with grandeur as he turns to admire the flashy Justice costume and the elaborate movie set that Workers are building for his big role.

His thoughts are interrupted by an cheeky STUDIO GUIDE and his TOURISTS.

STUDIO GUIDE
And here's a sneak peek of one of the sets to be used in next year's blockbuster, "Justice".

TOURIST #1
Who's going to be Justice?

Jax overhears the question.

STUDIO GUIDE
I can tell you that auditions are underway. It's sure to be someone who can deliver an unforgettable performance.

Music to Jax's ears. He whips into character by throwing the Studio Guide in a headlock.

JAX
Where are you going henchman?

STUDIO GUIDE
Uh. The earthquake set?

JAX
It's time for Justice to be served.

Jax grandly whips the Studio Guide towards the construction.

The Tourists rip into applause.

The Studio Guide can't get traction. He trips over his feet and CRASHES into wooden support beams.

CREEEEEK. A large section of the set SNAPS. Plywood buckles and wobbles. A chain reaction of SNAPPING wood starts.

FOREMAN
Everyone get out.

Workers scramble onto scaffolds or hit the ground. The Tourists stand agape at the destruction.

Jax realizes what happened. His expression vanishes. Oh. No.

The destruction comes to rest, with a cloud of dust chasing workers off the set. Jax stands there. Guilty.

Logan and the team rush in and gasp at the damage. Jax's expression tells them everything. Logan calmly walks over to Jax and gently places his arm around him.

LOGAN

We'll be in touch.

He shoves Jax off his set and signals for the door to close.

Covered in dust, Studio Guide cheerfully returns to his pack.

STUDIO GUIDE

Sorry folks. Looks like we won't be seeing any stars on this tour.

The tour departs. Having lost the role of a lifetime, Jax finds an irritating irony in the large sign on the closing door: CLOSED SET.

EXT. STUDIO BACKLOT - DAY

BOOM. Lightning and thunder aid a furious rain storm that pounds production offices and dampens Jax's dreary mood.

Desperate for relief, he roars to the big guy upstairs.

JAX

Could you cut that out?

In this case, the big guy upstairs is an OPERATOR of one of those rain simulator machines.

OPERATOR

Sorry. Didn't see ya there buddy.

The storm stops. Jax sloshes along his trail of self-pity.

YIP. YIP. The Golden Retriever appears out of nowhere.

JAX

Watch out buddy. My bad luck might rub off on you.

The pup becomes interested in Jax's Tag Heuer.

JAX (CONT'D)

Good taste my canine friend.

The dog wraps its teeth around the leather watch band and easily rips it in half. He scoops up the watch and high tails it down the road. Jax flips out.

JAX (CONT'D)
I'm not getting punked by a pup.

He darts after the watch-stealing pup.

EXT. STUDIO BACKLOT HOME - DAY

A nondescript backlot home, complete with mailbox and garage. The pup runs up the pathway and into the facade's open door.

INT. STUDIO BACKLOT HOME - DAY

Jax bursts through the door and scans the fake home. He spots the dog near the interior electrical boxes and assorted pipes. A large sign warns: "CAUTION: GAS". Uh oh.

JAX
Hey, get outta there. Shoo.

The dog casually releases the watch. Jax cautiously tip-toes over and reclaims his Tag Huer.

JAX (CONT'D)
So not cool dog.

With a YIP the pup bounds over to the gas pipes. With a quick push, the pipe breaks. Blue smoke WOOSHES into the air.

JAX (CONT'D)
Oooh, where's my inhaler right now?

Smoke quickly fills the house. Jax starts coughing. The smoke engulfs everything, causing Jax to disappear into the haze.

The smoke quickly begins fading. Jax, still hacking, begins to immerge from the smoke. He hasn't realized that he's wearing a particular, and familiar outfit...

A blue cardigan and slacks.

Jax sees the silhouette of the mischievous dog.

JAX (CONT'D)
There you are you... puppet?

The smoke clears, revealing Durham, Frank Kellerman's loyal foam and felt companion.

DURHAM
Welcome back Frank.

Jax screams. He leaps up and stares at the talking puppet.

JAX
You're talking! And a puppet!
Wait... you're familiar.

DURHAM
Sure. You see me everyday here in
the Funtastical Neighborhood.

The name rings a bell.

JAX
That kids show? Okay, I've just
wandered onto a set. No problem.

Jax notices his outfit.

JAX (CONT'D)
This. This is hard to explain.

Jax realizes he's now standing in...

INT. FRANK KELLERMAN'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Exactly as it was seen in the television show.

JAX (CONT'D)
Some major set dressing. I can't
see where they put the cameras.

Jax curiously examines some framed pictures of Funtastical
Neighborhood residents. MADAME FOUETTE, a elegant ballerina.
BARON VON BLUEBERRY, a blue vampire.

DURHAM
Off to your walk Frank?

Jax looks at the front door, ready to leave the charade.

JAX
Sure. Walk. What ever you say guy
in a really, really small costume.

Jax flings open the door and brushes through the doorframe.
What's on the other side of it completely blows his mind.

THE FUNTASTICAL NEIGHBORHOOD

A picturesque neighborhood full of brightly colored and
whimsical homes. People mow lawns. Lemonade stands aplenty.

BETSY (O.S.)
 Hey Mister Kellerman. Whatcha doin'?

Jax snaps out of his gaze and sees BETSY, an overall wearing tomboy with a perfectly pink bike.

JAX
 Are you talking to me?

BETSY
 Who else would I be talking to?

JAX
 The dog? The dog talks.

BETSY
 You're silly Mister Kellerman.

Jax steps off the doorstep and moves to Betsy.

JAX
 Kid, I'm Jax, not Mister Kellerman.
 Take a good look. Aren't I too
 young to be Frank Kellerman?

Betsy does as asked. Jax wills Betsy to see his faults.

BETSY
 Ya know... Nope. You're definitely
 Frank Kellerman.

Drat. Jax looks around the neighborhood.

JAX
 How do I get off this set?

BETSY
 You know the only way in or out is
 thru town square, past the castle.

JAX
 Town. Castle. Right. I need a grip
 truck or something.

There are no cars in sight, but Jax soon realizes his way out has a bell and white handlebar streamers.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The cheeriest and most imaginative town square you've ever seen. Charming storefronts blend in with whimsical buildings, like the candy store shaped like a gingerbread house.

The square is flanked by an elaborate two-story City Hall a majestic public library and a quaint movie theater. It's all pulled together by the town's centerpiece, a grand gazebo.

Costumed characters, Human Townspeople and Puppets share the sidewalks. It's a diverse work force, meaning your mailman is an alligator and your barber is a porcupine.

Jax maneuvers the pink bike into town square and becomes awestruck by the town's scope and scale.

JAX

They drop some coin on this show.

Distracted, Jax doesn't see BUSY BEAVER and EAGER BEAVER carrying a huge sign that reads "Welcome Hometown Harmony Judges". Eager Beaver notices the distracted cyclist.

EAGER BEAVER

Hey, look out.

The warning snaps Jax. He sees the impending collision.

JAX

Whoa.

Jax's evasive action causes him to SLAM his bike into a fire hydrant. The impact tosses him onto the pavement.

BUSY BEAVER

How's the noggin Mister Kellerman?

Head pounding, Jax checks for bruises. He notices he's still holding the handlebars. The pink bike is sans-handlebars.

JAX

Uh. Tools?

Busy Beaver points to the closest store "Kodiak Brothers Clock Shop".

INT. KODIAK BROTHERS CLOCK SHOP - DAY

DING. Jax thrusts the door open and looks for the shopkeeper. The store's walls are packed with every imaginable timepiece.

JAX

Yello. Anyone home?

Jax walks over to a large stuffed brown bear, which, oddly, is wearing a pair of black glasses. He's GLASSES BEAR.

Jax impatiently looks back to the front of the store. He doesn't notice the stuffed bear come alive. It switches positions, like a bruin street performer.

Jax turns back to the bear. Hey, wasn't this bear...

GLASSES BEAR
Howdy hoo there friend!

Jax's heart stops. Then, it lets him scream. He scampers backwards, running into a short and stocky BOW TIE BEAR.

BOW TIE BEAR
Oh, hey it's Frank.

Jax picks up a wooden chair and poses like a bear trainer.

JAX
Back away. I've seen this at the
Circ Du Solei.

BOW TIE BEAR
He really fell for it Teddy.

TEDDY (GLASSES BEAR)
Not too shabby yourself Freddy.

The Kodiak brothers, while grizzly sophisticated costumed characters, move and talk with a playful sense of whimsy. Teddy is care-free, while Freddy is buttoned up.

FREDDY (BOW TIE BEAR)
Sorry Frank. Trying to liven things
up with business being slow. Sure
beats hibernating. So, what can we
help you with?

JAX
(shows the handlebars)
Pliers.

Teddy taps his feet and waddles over to a tool case.

TEDDY
Give you my best one.

As Teddy searches, Jax curiously examines the store. A hasty assembled shelf of birdhouses catches his eye. Their craftsmanship isn't quality, perhaps explaining the large "FINAL SALE" sign.

JAX
Birdhouse sales are down?

Freddy takes the comment rather personally.

FREDDY
Funny. Folks like their birds in
clocks, not their lawn.

TEDDY
Clocks have kept us in Merry Oaks.

FREDDY
And it'll drive us out unless
people start buying them.

TEDDY
Don't mind him. He's been hitting
the honey a little hard.

Jax realizes that the brothers aren't on the same plane.
Still, he presses.

JAX
Hey, Build-A-Bears. Pliers?

TEDDY
Weren't in my tool case. Might have
left it in the library.

JAX
You'd think the prop master would
have his act together.

The bears blink. Prop master?

TEDDY
Um. Sure Frank.

JAX
So. Gotta go. Keep up the good
acting. Maybe you'll get out of
this silly place sometime too.

FREDDY
You're leaving the Neighborhood?

JAX
There's nothing that could keep me
here a minute longer.

Jax quickly hustles out the door and onto...

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Entering the street, Jax stumbles as a large stack of peach
colored pie boxes blocks his patch.

Jax locks eyes with the familiar face holding the pies.

JAX (CONT'D)
Penny Peaches.

Spicy as cinnamon and tart as key lime, Penny's sugary demeanor and creamy soft face takes Jax's breath away.

PENNY
Frank Kellerman. If I can't count
on you to help me bake, then who in
the name of rutabaga can I trust?

JAX
I've been... somewhere else?

Penny peels off a suspicious glance. She lets it pass and plunges the pie stack into Jax's hands.

PENNY
Dig this.

Penny grabs onto her rickety pie cart and rolls over to a...

EXT. VACANT STOREFRONT - DAY

Penny peers into the window, like a kid looking in an aquarium. Jax reluctantly maneuvers next to her.

PENNY
I was thinking of putting the
kitchen on the right. Making it
open. Let people see their pies
being made. Penny's Pies will be
the tastiest place in town.

JAX
Looks like they have a long wait.

Penny tilts her head. Something's not right.

PENNY
Someone told me that an empty space
is always full when we fill it with
our dreams.

JAX
Your new-age therapist tell you
that one doll?

PENNY
No. You did.

Penny senses something's wrong.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Where you headed to Frank?

JAX
The library.

PENNY
For?

JAX
A book. Why does it matter to you?

Her suspicious glance makes Jax sense Penny doesn't see him like everyone else.

PENNY
Good luck finding your book. Frank.

Penny gives him one last glance before shoving her cart away. Jax brushes off her odd glances.

JAX
What's so weird about getting a library book?

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Jax stands in the large rotunda and gazes at huge shelves of, not books, but people, puppets and animals.

JAX
Oh.

LITTLE MISS MUFFETT chats with a Spider. THE THREE MUSKETEERS practice their swordplay. RAPUNZLE'S hair interfere's with CASEY'S (At The Bat) swings. HUMPTY DUMPTY playfully walks on a shelf, every footstep watched by a group of the KING'S MEN.

The sight of the storybook characters distracts Jax from seeing the white mythical creature trotting towards him.

The rapidly approaching CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP makes Jax aware that he's about to get trampled by... a UNICORN.

JAX (CONT'D)
Whota...

The Unicorn abruptly halts. Jax shakes, notices the beast is hitched up to an elaborate royal carriage. Queen Abigail pops up and addresses her magical steed.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
Perfect instincts Moonstone.

A grand dame of a lady, Queen Abigail's tattered dress and unpolished crown hasn't tarnished her dignified demeanor.

JAX
Jeez lady, where's the parade?

QUEEN ABIGAIL
The mayor has requested you. Please board the royal carriage.

Jax notices the royal driver's name tag.

JAX
(reading)
Queen Abigail. Librarian?

QUEEN ABIGAIL
A royal assists whenever necessary. Even though one is voted out, we have an obligation to assist. Regardless of our successor.

Jax senses her displeasure in her role. He climbs up into the royal carriage and seats himself with a DISH, SPOON and an OLD SEAFARING MAN.

Queen Abigail swings the reins, setting the carriage in motion. Jax attempts conversation with the Old Seafaring Man.

JAX
Been on this show a while buddy?

OLD SEAFAIRING MAN
Call me... Ishmael.

Jax blinks. Okay then. The faint sound of ACCORDION MUSIC hits Jax's ears.

JAX
What's with the music? I thought libraries were quiet.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
Mayor Allegro enjoys how his accordion sounds throughout the halls. Dreadful instrument.

JAX
Sounds like a jerk.

The carriage stops in front of a gathering of Storybook Characters watching the town's tuxedo-clad, accordion-playing Mayor Carol Allegro. His "Mayor" sash sways with every note.

Jax peeks at the Mayor. Holy sugar honey iced tea... it's Vince Hartman. Vince stops his playing when he spots Jax.

VINCE

My friend! Good to see you.

Jax leaps from the carriage and pushes through the crowd.

JAX

Wow. This is crazy. I didn't think it was so elaborate. Good times.

VINCE

Good times. All the time. Now onto some introductions.

Vince motions to two stately men, RICHARD and OLIVER.

VINCE (CONT'D)

These are the gentlemen who will be judging us for Hometown Harmony.

JAX

Is that like the People's Choice Award?

The two gentlemen enthusiastically shake Jax's hand.

RICHARD

Pleasure to meet you sir.

OLIVER

Your mayor is truly generous.

Queen Abigail lets out a bellowing laugh.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Owning every business in town can be perceived as generous, but 'tis hardly the mark of a wise ruler.

Bottlecap the Penguin waddles to Vince's defense. His previously seen sweet demeanor has given way to the overprotective attitude of a political spokesperson.

BOTTLECAP

Unlike some previous mayors, he does what's best for everyone.

The statement stings Queen Abigail. There's a history there.

VINCE

Indeed. I will see to it that the Hometown Harmony award remains here another year.

Jax gushes over Vince's performance.

JAX

Wow. Amazing performance Vince.

Vince smiles, uneasy about being called by that name.

VINCE

I'm sure this Vince person would enjoy that praise.

JAX

Vince. I get it. You can drop the facade.

BOTTLECAP

You've obviously confused Mayor Allegro with someone else.

JAX

Who would confuse the most recognizable face in Hollywood?
(realizing)
And the tattoo.

Jax grabs Vince's pants leg and fishes for a sock.

JAX (CONT'D)

It's the Chinese symbol for...

There is no tattoo on Vince's leg.

Jax gulps. Why is there no tattoo? He looks for reassurance from the whimsical characters. The unicorn. Queen Abigail. Bottlecap. The only explanation is the last thing he wants to admit...

JAX (CONT'D)

It's real. You're all real.

VINCE

Indeed. Now that we know who's who, let's have our town's favorite resident show our judges around?

JAX

Um. Sure. I'll go find him.

With that, Jax bolts for the door. As the crowd tries to make sense of the scene, the Old Seafaring Man clears his throat.

OLD SEAFAIRING MAN

I'll show you gents what's what.
But if we sees a white whale, the
tour may be ending rather abruptly.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Jax tries to wrap his head around the situation.

JAX

600 channels. I'm sucked into PBS.
Not even Masterpiece Theater.

PENNY

Cheerfully rolls her cart along the sidewalk. She waves to a passing antique milk truck and its peppy Driver.

JAX

Carelessly dashes into the street. Right in front of the...

MILK TRUCK

The Driver honks his horn and yanks the wheel...

JAX

Narrowly misses becoming a pancake. He gasps and watches the milk truck speed towards...

PENNY

Spies the incoming truck. Dives to safety. Her pie cart isn't as lucky. The truck CRUSHES it, sending cherry cobbler and key lime exploding all over the...

MILK TRUCK

The Driver flips on the windshield wipers. As pie residue is wiped away, the driver sees he's headed for...

THE TOWN GAZEBO

A flagpole stands in front of the intricately crafted town square masterpiece, suddenly endangered by the approaching...

MILK TRUCK

The breaks SLAM on. SCREECHES to a halt. Inches too short. It CRUSHES the flagpole base. The flagpole SNAPS. The metal pole tumbles. It SLICES into the roof of the gazebo.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SMASHED GAZEBO - DAY

Citizens rush to rescue the Driver. Teddy and Freddy tenderly care for Penny.

FREDDY
You look okay Penny?

PENNY
Can't say the same for my cherry
cobbler deliveries right now.

As she peers at her flattened cart, she notices Jax, suspiciously sprinting away from the chaos he created.

INT. FRANK KELLERMAN'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Durham is awakened by the sound of Jax entering the home and SLAMMING the door. Jax is out of breath.

JAX
Why in the world am I here?

DURHAM
To help people. Happens every day.

Irritated, Jax reaches for his phone. He opens it. No signal.

Discouraged, he glances at the phone and notices a "NEW VIDEO" icon. Curious, he presses the app. A video appears.

PHONE SCREEN:

The episode of Frank Kellerman's Funtastical Neighborhood that Jax recorded back in Vince's trailer.

FRANK
Durham, it's always good to tell
someone what you're feeling. Don't
keep everything inside.

BACK TO SCENE:

Durham looks at Jax's phone.

DURHAM
I haven't seen Ace in a long time.

PHONE SCREEN:

FRANK
 (to TV audience)
 We've learned a valuable lesson.
 Remember it today. Use it everyday.

BACK TO SCENE

A switch goes off in Jax's head. He looks back at the...

PHONE SCREEN:

Frank opens the adjoining garage door. A cool blue tinted smoke emerges. He gives his audience one last wink before walking into the smoke. The smoke fills the screen.

BACK TO SCENE

JAX
 I help people solve problems. Then
 I leave?

DURHAM
 You're the main man in town Frank.

Durham's words stir Jax. He reaches into his pocket and finds his wallet. He pulls out a particular business card:

"Greenlight Organic Catering. A Fresh Take On The Expected."

Allison's berating runs through his head. Redemption calls.

JAX
 (under his breath)
 I'm the main man. The leading man.

It all makes sense. Jax smartly looks in the wall-mirror. He admires himself in the blue cardigan.

JAX (CONT'D)
 Showtime.

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - NIGHT

Dreary Characters fill linoleum tables and shiny velvet chairs. Not even lavish ice cream sundaes can spark Penny, Freddy and Teddy from their gloom.

DING. Jax bursts in. Energized and exuberant.

JAX
 Hey Merry Oaks. What's shaking?

No reply. Jax dials it down.

JAX (CONT'D)
I mean, good evening Merry Oaks.

Jax pulls up a stool next to Penny.

JAX (CONT'D)
And how is Penny Peaches?

PENNY
Oh, it doesn't get any better than seeing my delivery cart flatter than pie crust dough.

TEDDY
And it could take weeks to fix the gazebo. Goodbye Hometown Harmony.

PENNY
Relax your furry head. We have Frank, and he never runs away from helping others. Right?

Jax gulps at her suspicious gaze.

JAX
Well, like I always say...

Blank. Then, he remembers some inspiring words on his phone.

JAX (CONT'D)
Um... what I meant to say was.

He opens his e-book app to the Coach Wooden leadership book. Scans the pages. Ah ha!

JAX (CONT'D)
When individuals work together... anything can be possible.

Penny's stern look brightens. The diners notice. Jax sees a flyer on the wall: "VOTE FOR YOUR HOMETOWN HARMONY AMBASSADOR THIS MONDAY". He plays to the crowd.

JAX (CONT'D)
Cheer up folks. We can still win Hometown Harmony. Count on me, Frank Kellerman, to make sure that this fantastical neighborhood is a... fantastical neighborhood.

He ends with a flourish. The residents see their old Frank in Jax's performance. Penny hesitantly buys it. Still...

PENNY

You sound like someone inkling to be Hometown Harmony Ambassador.

JAX

Nothing wrong with trying something new. Striving for dreams. Opening their own pie shop, perhaps?

PENNY

Who's to say everything won't come apart?

Jax knows that feeling.

JAX

What about you Penny? How can we get your pie business booming?

Penny gives a playful smile.

PENNY

I'll need to see my favorite pie making assistant bright and early.

JAX

Help with pies. Oh, I couldn't...

PENNY

Hmm. Not like you to wiggle out of helping someone Frank Kellerman.

Jax gulps. He's in the sweater. He can't refuse.

JAX

You got me Penny. I truly enjoy helping out in the kitchen.

CUT TO:

A full mixing bowl CRASHES onto a floor.

INT. FRANK KELLERMAN'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Frustrated, Jax stomps over mixing bowl debris and surveys the baking items. Apparently, this has been going on all evening. Durham laps up the ingredients.

JAX

I don't suppose a celebrity chef live down the street. I'm not going to learn baking overnight.

Suddenly, a light goes off in Jax's head.

JAX (CONT'D)
Durham, would I be able to find instructional books, er, people in the library? Like, cooking?

DURHAM
Course they do. Expecting company?

JAX
Something like that.

EXT. PENNY PEACHES' HOME - DAY

A charming peach colored home.

INT. PENNY PEACHES' HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Jax cheerfully floats around the pristine peach-colored kitchen. He hums with confidence as he sets ingredients on the kitchen's center island. Penny asserts her domain.

PENNY
It is my kitchen.

JAX
Exactly why you need a break from it. Anyway, I'm a better baker than a box folder. Relax. I insist.

Penny smiles. She can't help but be smitten with him. As she moves out the swinging door, Jax makes sure she's well out of view. Satisfied, he ducks underneath the island and talks with an ITALIAN CHEF, who is cramped underneath.

JAX (CONT'D)
Let's get baking.

CHEF
Put your ingredients into the bowl.

Jax does as instructed. He tosses the eggs in whole. Drops in two sticks of butter. Empties two glass jugs of milk. Pours in all the flour.

The Chef peeks out. What is he doing?

CHEF (CONT'D)
No. No. It is too much!

JAX
 You tell me that sort of thing
 before I dump it into the bowl.

PENNY (O.S.)
 What the periwinkle?

Jax shoves the Chef down as Penny storms in.

PENNY (CONT'D)
 Is everything okay Frank?

JAX
 (bad Italian)
 Oh. It is too much fun! Ho. Ho.

She buys it. Sort of.

PENNY
 Check the ones in the oven.

As soon as Penny exits, Jax whips open the dual oven doors.
 Steam rises off the pies. Are these done? He turns to Chef.

JAX
 These good Chef Boyardee?

Chef stands up. Peers over to the oven.

PENNY (O.S.)
 Hey, Frank...

Oh no. Jax motions for Chef to disappear.

CHEF
 You told me to... aaahhh!

Jax silences the Chef by leaping onto him. They stumble onto
 the ground. Penny enters and sees nobody. Jax pops up.
 Smiles. Hi! Penny suspiciously continues her thought.

PENNY
 Make sure the milk hasn't expired.

Jax nods. She knows something's up, but heads out anyway.

Relieved, Jax bends down to confront Chef who has started
 cowardly crawling towards the back door.

JAX
 Come back here.

CHEF
 I bid you adieu.

Chef makes a break for the door. Jax pursues him into...

PENNY PEACHES' GARAGE

Jax watches Chef leap out the garage's back door.

Focused on the chase, Jax WHAPS his kneecap into a car draped with a large sheet. Pain sabotages his leg.

JAX
(cursing)
Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

Wincing in pain, Jax notices the thick whitewall tire hidden under the sheet. Curious, Jax yanks the cover, revealing...

A PRISTINE TWO-SEAT HOT ROD CONVERTIBLE

Immaculate exposed engine. Perfect upholstery. Chrome glistens off the sparkling deep purple paint job. It's in mint condition, save for a dent on the passenger-side fender.

Jax is in love.

Penny storms in and freezes at the site of the exposed car.

JAX (CONT'D)
I so need to drive this.

Penny deflects. It hurts her to look at this car.

PENNY
Let's get back to work.

JAX
You can trust me with your car.

Penny scoffs at the remark.

PENNY
It's not my car.

Jax senses some pain in that statement. Penny turns away from the car and goes back into the kitchen.

Jax sees a pair of aviator goggles on dashboard. A glance at the dented fender sparks the name of the car's owner.

KITCHEN

Jax softly approaches Penny, who solemnly drinks lemonade.

JAX
Ace. Ace Flyer.

PENNY

Took me a while to get used to people vanishing from this town. Sometimes they come back. How many mayors have we had? Seven? Don't settle for a favorite pie. Know what I mean?

JAX

Life is a series of guest appearances.

PENNY

Got that right. Had the nerve to say he had a surprise for me. The next morning, he was gone, but that hot rod was still here. Some surprise.

JAX

Maybe you'll see him again.

Something in her eyes wants that to happen. She pushes the feelings down and returns to the moment.

PENNY

I'd like to see my pies getting made. Wish Baron Von Blueberry could help me out. Not likely to happen after what he did.

JAX

What he... did?

Penny gapes at Jax.

PENNY

Don't you remember? What he did to those three little kittens?

Her eyes tell Jax a gruesome story.

PENNY (CONT'D)

He stole their mittens.

JAX

Oh. Well. We should look for him,

PENNY

We all know where he is, but Gerald's not going to let him waltz out of the restricted section.

The name intrigues Jax.

JAX
What's the restricted section?

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - RESTRICTED SECTION - DAY

Two large wooden doors form the entryway to the forboding restricted section. It's like adding Alcatraz to the Library Of Congress.

Jax pesters GERALD, a roly-poly English Beefeater. He's a grizzly highway patrolman forced to patrol a petting zoo.

GERALD
You know its off limits to all persons in Merry Oaks without Mayor Allegro's permission.

JAX
You keep troublemaker stories there, but a woman who kept all of her children in a shoe roams free?

GERALD
I don't make the rules governor.

JAX
We're not kidnapping Mother Goose. Penny needs help with her pies.

"Pies" makes Gerald's mouth water.

GERALD
Right. Pies, you say?

Jax gets it.

JAX
I'm sure a few meat and potatoes pies would make it your way.

It's an offer he can't refuse.

INT. RESTRICTED SECTION - DAY

A small room divided into cells. Each cell has a small barred windows and closed shut with a heavy wooden beam.

Jax peers inside the cells...

The MOANS from a MUMMY imprisoned in an elaborate mummy case startle Jax. Whatever's in there, it's not a happy camper.

Chained to the walls, the WOLFMAN growls at Jax.

JAX
Feeling's mutual pal.

The last window. BARON VON BLUEBERRY, a blue Dracula-like vampire with an insatiable thirst for nutritional facts.

BARON VON BLUEBERRY
Frank. Oh, your skin is so healthy.
You have been eating your greens
and blues. Good. Good.

JAX
Hey. I'm going to get you out.

BARON VON BLUEBERRY
Finally. After years of being in
here for doing nothing.

Nothing?

JAX
What was that?

Alarmed at this exchange, Gerald charges.

GERALD
That's enough of that.

Gerald shoves his wooden halberd at Baron Von Blueberry.

JAX
What's he talking about?

BARON VON BLUEBERRY
Frank. Please. Get us out!

GERALD
This was rubbish. Toodaloo.

Gerald heaves Jax out of the restricted section.

LIBRARY

Jax faceplants onto the floor. The collapse causes something to SMASH.

Jax shakes off the fall and finds the glass face of his Tag Heuer has been shattered.

JAX
My watch. My baby.

Jax stammers to his feet and heads towards the exit. Gerald proudly SLAMS the wooden door shut. A cop saving the day.

GERALD

That's the way the pie crust
crumbles.

Gerald's stomach disapprovingly ROAAARS.

GUARD

No need to rub it in.

INT. KODIAK BROTHERS CLOCK SHOP - DAY

Jax and Freddy stand over the busted watch like doctors examining a patient. Teddy builds a large cuckoo clock.

FREDDY

Gears intact. Still ticking.

JAX

Great, so you can fix it.

FREDDY

Uh. No sorry.

Jax's jaw drops.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Can I offer you a new one.

Freddy pulls out a baby blue watch that features Freddy in cartoon form. His hands are the hour and minute hands.

JAX

Farewell my swiss-made, stainless
steel friend.

TEDDY

Fiddlesticks Frank. You busted your
watch. Not like you broke the
gazebo.

Teddy motions out at the busted gazebo. Jax guilty asks a question.

JAX

How soon until that gets fixed?

FREDDY

Whenever the Beaver Brothers get to
it.

(MORE)

FREDDY (CONT'D)

When you're the only repair team in town, you tend to be busy as, uh, beavers.

JAX

So, it could be a while? How long?

FREDDY

What's your rush? Going somewhere?

Jax can't truthfully answer.

JAX

We won't win Hometown Harmony without it.

Freddy realizes that, but...

FREDDY

It's not our mess to clean up.

Teddy goes back to his clock. He brushes sawdust off the wood-tiled roof. He notices how much the roof looks like the gazebo's roof. A light goes off in his head.

TEDDY

What if it was?

FREDDY

Have you woken out of hibernation early Teddy? We don't know anything about building something that big.

TEDDY

Do you think we can do it Frank?

Placed on the spot, Jax whips out his phone. He has it.

JAX

(reading)

From the towel boy, to the center, the best teams function as one.

The bears don't understand. Jax caves.

JAX (CONT'D)

Yes.

Teddy proudly smiles. Freddy stands his ground.

FREDDY

No. Too big. No time. Where are we going to get gazebo parts?

Teddy's smile clues in Freddy.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
She'll never give us her gazebo.

TEDDY
Won't know until we ask her.
(to Jax)
Take a ride?

JAX
To where?

TEDDY
The only queen in town.

INT/EXT. KODIAK BEARS TRUCK - DAY - TRAVELING

The Kodiak Bears' truck rolls through a majestic forest. Jax is scrunched, with large bears on both sides. Jax notices they're coming upon a huge hollowed out tree.

JAX
Wicked...

The van rolls into the large wooden passageway. While not exactly the Lincoln Tunnel, it's a fairly wide tree.

Daylight peers through the other end of the long tree. The truck zooms out. Jax looks up as he sees...

EXT. QUEEN ABIGAIL'S CASTLE - DAY

A royal, yet whimsical looking castle. A long moat surrounds the fortress, with a drawbridge as the only passage in.

INT. QUEEN ABIGAIL'S CASTLE - STABLES - DAY

As the Kodiak Bears load pieces of an old gazebo into the truck, Jax chats up Queen Abigail as she feeds Moonstone.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
Dare say I'm glad Mayor Allegro's
eyesore was damaged. I always felt
mine suited the town better.

Jax playfully reaches for Moonstone. The unicorn WHINNIES in fear at the gesture. He retreats, bumping into a wishing well. The impact knocks Jax' platinum card from his pocket.

JAX

Whoa. Easy fantasias horse.

Queen Abigail's hand calms Moonstone.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Strange. Unicorns never fear those that are pure of heart. It's like she'd never seen you before Frank.

JAX

Yeah. Weird.

Queen Abigail notices Jax's platinum card. She picks it up and examines it. Jax freezes.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Most interesting.
(reads the front)
Who is Jax Savage?

JAX

A friend. And he needs his card...

QUEEN ABIGAIL

What of this platinum status?

JAX

It's kind of a reward for being smart with what you have.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Well, I believe I did a fine job when I was in charge of Merry Oaks. Would that make me platinum status?

Even with the tattered dress and rusty crown, Queen Abigail still gives an air of pride. Jax gives her a boost.

JAX

Membership has its privileges. I'm sure Jax would want you to be in the club.

Queen Abigail is overwhelmed. She nods.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

While Moonstone may disagree, you have proven yourself to me Frank.

She trots away. Jax sticks his tongue out at Moonstone.

The unicorn SNORTS, which sends Jax scampering over to the Kodiak bears. He sneaks in the last word to the unicorn.

JAX
Horn still looks fake to me.

EXT. KODIAK BROTHERS CLOCK SHOP - LOADING DOCK - DAY

As Freddy unloads the old gazebo parts, Teddy sits at the loading dock desk, humming as he draws something on a paper. The BUZZ of the phone jolts him out of a dream.

TEDDY
Kodiak Brothers Clock Shop.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Freddy Kodiak please.

TEDDY
I'm his brother. I can help you.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Just calling to confirm tomorrow's shipment of clock and watch parts.

Teddy looks down at a crudely drawn sketch of a new gazebo.

TEDDY
I'd like to cancel that shipment.
We've got another project.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
OK. Have a nice day Mr. Kodiak.

Teddy hangs up and stamps "Cancelled" on an invoice.

The company on the invoice reads: "Allegro Supplies Inc."

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

A banner proclaims that today is "Hometown Harmony Ambassador Voting" day. Townspeople mill about as Penny tries to sell her wares to MRS. MULROONEY, who sits with Queen Abigail.

PENNY
Well, with my cart as twisted as a
rhubarb root, I need to stay with
my best sellers.

MRS. MULROONEY
Well. I'll pass. I hope you get
your cart back soon.

PENNY
You and me both.

Jax makes his way through the crowd.

JAX

Hometown Harmony ambassador seems to be quite the deal. Who's this year's front runner?

CLINK. Vince makes a noticeably grand entrance.

VINCE

Good evening Merry Oaks residents. I'm sure you're all familiar with the rules.

Vince slides into a table. Bottlecap waddles in and places a clear mason jar in front of his boss. Vince pulls out a shirt button and CLINKS it into the jar.

VINCE (CONT'D)

One button. One vote. Let's begin.

Characters rise and start PLINKING buttons into Vince's jar.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Another easy win for his Mayorship.

JAX

Why doesn't someone run against him? Penny?

PENNY

No sirree. Too busy making pies that I can't deliver.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Penny, your pies mean the world to Merry Oaks. Don't let your situation damage the town's spirits.

Jax's head flips into gear when he hears "damage".

JAX

Penny. The hot rod. It's the perfect delivery van.

PENNY

Oh no. That car and me go together as well as boysenberry and lemon.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Sometimes, the most unique combinations are created by accident. Salt and sweet.

(MORE)

QUEEN ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
Pie maker and airplane pilot. But
somehow they turn out perfectly
together.

Penny soaks in her words. Jax quips.

JAX
You get the good lines.

A half full mason jar of buttons interrupts the conversation.

VINCE
Queen Abigail does have a way with
words, but today it's the people
that are speaking loud and clear.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
Rarely does the popular vote
reflect one's ability to lead.

The assembled crowd gets a whiff of the showdown.

VINCE
I'm afraid the proof is right in
front of you.

Queen Abigail stares at the jar of buttons. He's right.

She glances at Jax, who shrugs. But, the glance reminds her
of something in her purse, which she presents to the crowd.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
You may be mayor, but I have
platinum status!

The restaurant coos with astonishment. Vince interrogates.

VINCE
What the devil is platinum status?

QUEEN ABIGAIL
It is given to those that prove
themselves wise with what they
have.

The diners begin to make sense of the status. The Old
Seafairing Man turns to Vince.

OLD SEAFAIRING MAN
Where be your platinum status?

VINCE
My man, who are we to judge people
over useless titles, when...

OLD SEAFAIRING MAN
Argh. Yer as rotten as seaweed.

The Old Seafaring Man grabs a flower vase and empties its contents. He places the vase in front of Queen Abigail.

Wrinkled hands rip three buttons off from Old Seafaring Man's antique coat. He drops them all into the empty vase.

OLD SEAFAIRING MAN (CONT'D)
I'm signing up for a new captain.

He winks at Queen Abigail, who blushes.

Jax senses the moment. He rips a button from his sweater and deposits it. CLINK. Penny follows with one as well. CLINK.

The momentum picks up as townspeople follow suit. CLINK. CLINK. CLINK. CLINK.

Queen Abigail glows as the vase overflows with buttons.

JAX
Guess we have a job for you after
all. No hard feelings Mayor?

Vince's cheerful answer drips with seething anger.

VINCE
None whatsoever.

EXT. GAZEBO - DAY

An energized Teddy cuts boards of wood. His cheerful humming abruptly stops when Freddy tosses an invoice into his face.

FREDDY
Are you out of your honey jar?

TEDDY
If we build the gazebo, who knows
what's next. Toys. Furniture.

Annoyed, Freddy picks up a board and starts poking Teddy.

FREDDY
Feel that? Huh? That's how I feel
every day. You jabbing me with your
harebrained ideas.

Teddy grabs a board and whacks at Freddy's feet.

TEDDY

Well, you're always stepping on my paws with your rules.

Poke. Whack. Poke. Whack. It's like two toddlers fighting on the playground. Jax dashes over to break it up.

JAX

Hey. Hey. Lumber down.

The bears stare each other down.

FREDDY

The smaller brained one goes first.

Teddy GROWLS, but Jax gets in the middle.

JAX

Guys, you'll never make the free-throws unless you step to the line.

This stops the bears in their fighting tracks. Huh?

JAX (CONT'D)

Is there no such thing as a metaphor here?

TEDDY

Uh. I usually see the doc about those kinds of things.

FREDDY

Frank. A word.

Jax slides over to Freddy.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

He can't do it Frank. What makes someone jump into something they know nothing about and expect to be great at it?

The question propels Jax to dig into his wallet. Got it.

Jax places Allison's business card in Freddy's open paw.

JAX

Other people can see us a lot differently than we see ourselves. Who do we want them to see?

Freddy ponders the question as he eyes the card's slogan : "A Fresh Take On The Expected". He looks at his brother, cheerfully working on the gazebo.

FREDDY

Be in the shop if you need a hand.

Teddy acknowledges a gentle bow. An Olive branch. For now.

JAX

You going to be okay?

FREDDY

Oh. Sure. Wouldn't be Merry Oaks if everyone was miserable, right?

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Vince angrily sulks in his ornate chair as he thumbs a Hometown Harmony brochure. He turns to Bottlecap for solace.

VINCE

Can't believe they'd pick her. I'm a kind mayor. Generous. Adored.

BOTTLECAP

Afraid that might not be true sir.

Bottlecap hands him a sales graph. The large arrow points up.

VINCE

Ah. Sales are up. Music to my ears.

BOTTLECAP

You're looking at it wrong sir.

Bottlecap flips the sheet around, shocking Vince.

VINCE

In the name of Mozart?

BOTTLECAP

People are finding other ways of getting supplies sir. Growing their own foods. Trading for services.

VINCE

What do we do?

BOTTLECAP

Perhaps I could convince them to sing a different tune.

Vince frowns at his assistant.

VINCE

That is no way to treat the fine folks of Merry Oaks.

BOTTLECAP

But sir, you...

VINCE

Shush. We'll find a solution. Perhaps new business. Place a call to the itsy-bitsy spider.

BOTTLECAP

Sir, the itsy-bitsy spider crawled up the water spout.

VINCE

I see. Jack and Jill?

BOTTLECAP

They go up the hill to fetch their pails of water.

VINCE

What about that construction crew over out by the river. They were building that... London Bridge.

BOTTLECAP

London Bridge is falling down.

VINCE

Falling down?

BOTTLECAP

Falling down.

Vince sits back. Astonished.

VINCE

London bridge is falling down.

(realizes)

Indeed. We need to remind the people of Merry Oaks that mayor will never steer them wrong.

A PURRING ENGINE ROARS

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - DAY - TRAVELING

The hot rod idols in the driveway, plussed with immaculate chrome hubcaps, fuzzy dice and a perfectly peach bow attached to the antenna. Penny mans the wheel as Jax claims the driver's seat. Boxes of pies are safely secured in the back.

JAX

All right. Let's roll.

Penny grabs the wheel. She REVS the gas. SLAMS the stick.

The hot rod lurches forward... at a snails pace.

Jax flashes a bewildered look as Penny cautiously drives. A SMALL BOY on a tricycle passes the hot rod.

JAX (CONT'D)

I thought the point was to get the pies delivered while they were hot.

PENNY

Cool down shug. What's gotten you so hot under the sweater?

CREEEK. The car stalls. Penny sulks.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Oh figs. This was a right silly idea. Not like anyone needs me pushing pies on them these days.

JAX

Penny, your pies keep people comfortable. People love food. And the people that bake and cook are important and loved. Even if they don't get recognized enough for it.

Penny considers his words, though its clear that Jax was talking about someone else. She's in.

PENNY

Hold on.

She CRANKS the engine. Slams on the gas. Yanks the clutch. The engine ROARS. Tires screech then... ZOOM. They're gone.

EXT. 1145 MAPLE - PORCH - DAY

Penny cheerfully floats down the steps to an awaiting Jax as a NEIGHBOR cheerfully holds a boxed pie.

JAX

Let's ease off the clutch the rest of the way leadfoot.

PENNY

I can't slow this hot rod down if I want these pies delivered hot.

Jax notices the mailbox at the end of each driveway.

JAX
Let's leave them in the mailbox.

PENNY
That's not the kind of personal
service Penny's Pies provides.

Pondering what to do, Jax sees A BOY and a GIRL gleefully
play horseshoes. The boy carefully aims his horseshoe.
Tosses. CLANK. The shoe whirls around the stake.

Jax smiles. That's it.

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - DAY - TRAVELING

Jax holds a boxed pie as he reads something on his phone.

JAX
(reading)
Keep your arms shoulder width
apart. Extend with your arms.
Follow through with the wrists.

PENNY
We're almost there.

JAX
Okay. Hit it!

INT. MRS. MULROONEY'S HOUSE - DAY

"LA CUCURACHA" interrupts Mrs. Mulrooney's cleaning. She
looks out the window and sees the approaching hot rod.

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - DAY - TRAVELING

Penny and Jax spot Mrs. Mulrooney move onto the porch.

JAX
OK. Bring it down a bit.

The car slows down, giving Jax the chance to stand on the
seat. He steadies himself. Exhales.

EXT. MRS. MULROONEY'S HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

Mrs. Mulrooney blinks. What's going on?

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - DAY - TRAVELING

Jax patiently waits for the perfect shot.

The car wheels closer. Closer... now.

Jax breathes deep. Arches his back. Raises his arms. Releases the pie. Wrists execute a perfect follow through.

THE PIE

Floats through the air. Slow, yet, oddly perfect. Its arch floats downwards. Falling. Falling.

JAX

Eyes locked onto the pie. Willing it to land safely.

MRS. MULROONEY

Catches the pie as if it was a feather. She is overjoyed.

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - DAY - TRAVELING

Jax returns to the his seated position.

JAX

That was Kareem-esque.

PENNY

Up for some more?

PIE THROWING MONTAGE -

- A KANGAROO PUPPET receives a perfectly tossed pie.
- Jax rapid-fires two pies. TWO DOGS catch the treasures.
- Jax tosses one under the leg to an awaiting OLD WOMAN.

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - TRAVELING - DAY

Feeling free, Penny undoes her pig-tails. Jax stares at her. Mesmerized. Penny returns her passenger's gaze. They connect. Deep. Then, it stops. They both stare ahead. The PURRR of the engine only amplifies their awkward silence.

JAX

There's something going on at four at the castle. I don't know what time it is. Watch broke.

PENNY

I'd be happy to see that you make it there.

JAX

I would be happy to see you there.

Jax catches his gaffe. Penny doesn't mind it one bit.

INT. QUEEN ABIGAIL'S CASTLE - BALLROOM - DAY

A regal ballroom adorned with grand buntings and lavish table settings. Queen Abigail gracefully addresses the crowd.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

As your ambassador, it's my privilege to host the Junebug Dance rehearsal. Are we all ready to choose our King Junebug?

The crowd cheers.

QUEEN ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Excellent, may all the interested dancers step forward please.

A handful of dancers step forward.

Jax enters the room and moves into the assembled crowd.

JAX

Hey. Sorry I'm late.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Ah. Frank. It wouldn't be the same without you. Come forward.

He follows her command.

QUEEN ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Is there anyone else?

VINCE (O.S.)

Yes, your majesty.

The crowd parts as Vince takes to the floor. All the other participants throw in the towel. Queen Abigail is satisfied.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

We have our Junebug Dance competitors.

Jax realizes he's in the show.

JAX

Oh. I'm no good on the dance floor.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Frank, don't be silly. You're one of our finest dancers.

Vince approaches Jax and Abigail.

VINCE

Enjoy your ambassadorship Queen Abigail, but let's remind you why I'm still our town's preferred person.

(to Jax)

Time to give the good people what they want, eh Frank?

Vince struts out to the center of the room. Terrified of blowing his charade this way, he turns to Queen Abigail.

JAX

Twinkle toes can't be good right?

The PIANO PLAYER breaks into "Flight of the Bumble Bee". Vince finds the rhythm then bursts onto the floor. His moves are surgically precise. Jax's eyes split open. He's toast.

JAX (CONT'D)

This competition is over.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

How dare you say that Frank. You, of all people, should be up for any challenge.

JAX

He makes Fred Astaire look like those Third Street Promenade guys.

Queen Abigail won't have it. To illustrate her point, she pulls something out... the platinum credit card.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Be smart with what you have.

The remark sparks something in Jax, who watches Vince's feet dance across the hardwood, like a basketball player.

Ding. Jax whips out his phone and taps into "Basketball For Dummies". He examines diagrams showing footwork drills.

JAX

When guarding, keep your feet
angled, moving toes to heel.

Vince's dance concludes. The crowd politely applauds.

JAX (CONT'D)

On offense, take full strides while
keeping your entire body limber.

Vince walks over to where Jax and Queen Abigail are.

VINCE

The floor is yours.

Jax glares at Vince as he moves onto the floor. The crowd applauds. Jax makes a few taps on his phone before handing it to the Piano Player.

JAX

When I tell you, hit the arrow.

Jax arrives in the center of the silent room. All eyes fall on him. He focuses. Motions to the Piano Player. Hit it.

JAX (CONT'D)

Game 7. Time out. Laker girls time.

From the phone, "HEY YA!" by OutKast bursts into the ballroom...

ANDRE 3000 (SINGING)

*One, two, three, uh! My baby don't
mess around, because she loves me
so, and this I know for shooo...*

Jax jerks his head to the infectious beat and starts to awkwardly move around. His footwork is stiff. His arms flail.

The observers aren't sure what's stranger, the awkward noises from the device, or Jax's odd motions.

Vince gleefully enjoys the display. Pathetic.

Queen Abigail shields her eyes. A dreadful display.

Penny appears on the edge of the crowd and notices Jax's awkward dance. She can't help but break out laughing.

Jax keeps going. Embarrassed. Humiliated. Until he notices...

Penny. Dancing along side him, swaying to the hip-hop beat.

No longer trying to fool someone, Jax lets go.

They move closer together. Her peaceful swaying and his basketball-inspired moves in perfect synchronization.

Townspeople start to feel the infectious rhythm. They giggle and sway. Vince disapproves of the momentum shift.

The entire ballroom is into the song. It's quite a sight to see whimsical characters shaking it like a Polaroid picture. Even Gerald the Beefeater is on his baddest behavior.

Obviously defeated, Vince glares at Jax and Queen Abigail, the two that have stolen his limelight.

A thought pops into his head, causing him to grin like a Cheshire cat. He won't be embarrassed like this again. Ever.

VINCE

Indeed.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE CINEMA - NIGHT

The majestic movie palace's marquee proudly boasts a "CARTOON CAVALCADE". Moviegoers chatter and flow out from the theater.

CINEMA ENTRYWAY

Penny and Jax stroll along and giggle like schoolchildren sharing a secret. Penny tries to wrap her head around the night's screening.

JAX

Never.

PENNY

Not once?

JAX

It's just how it works.

PENNY

The coyote never catches the roadrunner?

JAX

All the Acme products in the world, still can't get it.

Penny stops. Befuddled by the coyote's efforts.

PENNY

He should find another bird. No sense in trying for something that ain't gonna happen.

Jax pauses as the comment rattles inside his head. Penny notices his confused look.

JAX

Penny, could you imagine doing anything else besides making pies?

PENNY

Pretty good at pies.

JAX

Right, but what if, deep down, you really wanted to bake cupcakes. You went to school for it, trained for it, failed audition after audition for it. Would you stop?

PENNY

I wouldn't stop baking until every single Merry Oaks resident told me they'd just eaten a cupcake that tasted like a slice o' heaven.

The comment warms Jax. Their mutual smiles are electric. After a long pause, they notice they're alone.

JAX

I should get back to Durham. He doesn't like to be alone.

PENNY

Nobody does.

They are inches from each other. Jax looks deep into her eyes. He couldn't be falling for an imaginary character.

Could he?

JAX

Well. It's getting late. I guess.

Penny gulps. She timidly speaks.

PENNY

Well, you're in luck.

Penny pulls a small blue box from her apron.

Jax delicately takes the box and carefully opens it as Penny anxiously looks on.

Inside is a baby blue watch with cartoon a Freddy on it.

JAX
Penny. This is awesome. Really.

PENNY
Check the back.

Jax does as instructed. The back has an inscription:

"YOU'RE OUR TOWN'S HERO. THANKS. PENNY"

Jax gulps. His voice quivers.

JAX
That might be overstating it.

PENNY
There's not a single person or creature in Merry Oaks that you haven't helped. There's something heroic in being that selfless.

Another gulp. He could crack. Instead, he composes himself.

JAX
Thanks Penny. Until tomorrow then?

She mimics his sudden business-like demeanor.

PENNY
Ok. Glad you liked it.

Jax nods and slowly walks away, unsure if he's doing the right thing.

Penny stands alone under the humming neon marquee.

PENNY (CONT'D)
They never stick around, do they?

She longingly watches Jax disappear into the darkness. It's crystal clear that she doesn't think of him as just a pal.

INT. FRANK KELLERMAN'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dozing on the couch, Durham is awakened by Jax entering.

DURHAM
Wuuzza. Hey Frank. How are ya?

JAX
Great Durham. Hold on a sec.

Jax crosses through into the...

KITCHEN

Jax yanks the door to the garage. He's relieved to see it's just a garage, vacant of any blue smoke. Durham wanders in.

DURHAM
Everything alright?

The answer to that question is wrapped around Jax's wrist.

JAX
Everything is great Durham.
Absolutely great.

EXT. FRANK KELLERMAN'S HOME - DAY

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood.

Jax springs from the front door and breathes in the tranquility. He's so peppy, you'd think he was in the opening credits of a children's television show.

He flings the gate open and moves over to...

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Jax cheerfully nods to everyone as he rolls through the square on the pink bike. He pedals over to the...

EXT. GAZEBO - DAY

Teddy is hard at work on the gazebo. The roof is repaired, but it still has a ways.

JAX
Marvelous job Teddy.

TEDDY
Thanks Frank. Where ya off to?

JAX
Date with Queen Abigail to make sure Hometown Harmony is on track. Has your brother pitched in?

TEDDY
Some bears never change.

INT. KODIAK BROTHERS CLOCK SHOP - WORKROOM - DAY

Freddy wanders the workroom, a house-shaped cuckoo clock in his hand.

FREDDY
Of course I'm out.

His frustration leads him to the half-assembled gazebo. He GROWLS and SLAMS the cuckoo clock onto the staircase as he plops down to clear his head.

A lone paw rests on the wood, which immediately energizes the bruin. He knocks. Impressed by the sturdy sound.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
They knew what they were doing when they built you.

A thought makes Freddy pick up the cuckoo clock. His ears perk up as he realizes the gazebo is...

FREDDY (CONT'D)
Just like a larger cuckoo clock.

Interesting.

EXT. QUEEN ABIGAIL'S CASTLE - DRAWBRIDGE - DAY

Jax rolls up to the castle's entrance and cheerfully greets the large and imposing THUG GUARD.

JAX
Good morning my friend. Could you let her majesty know I'm here.

THUG GUARD
Haven't seen her sir. Thought she took Moonstone on her morning run.

The Guard points out Moonstone back in her stable.

JAX
Well, I'll just get the Hometown Harmony plans myself.

Jax moves to enter, but the Thug Guard blocks him.

THUG GUARD
Not unless her majesty is in residence.

JAX
I need to get in there.

THUG GUARD
You will. When she returns.

Thug Guard stands his ground. Jax needs a way in. He gets a solution. Points to something off in the distance.

JAX
Look! It's Big Bird!

The Thug Guard spins. The coast clear, Jax runs to the...

STABLE

Jax urgently questions Moonstone.

JAX (CONT'D)
Hey, have you seen...

She rips into a frenzy. Jax backs off. The Thug Guard snatches Jax up and drags him away.

THUG GUARD
Like I said sir...

DRAWBRIDGE

THUG GUARD (CONT'D)
No admittance without her majesty.

Thug Guard forcefully tosses Jax onto the drawbridge. Jax tries to make sense of Abigail's absence.

JAX
Where could she be?

At a loss, he mounts the pink bike and heads to...

EXT. PENNY PEACHES' HOME - GARAGE - DAY

Penny diligently loads the hot rod with pie deliveries. Jax rolls in on his bike. She flirtatiously greets him.

PENNY
Pink is your color.

JAX
Have you seen Queen Abigail?

PENNY

Yes. Tarnished crown. Sour attitude.

Her humor doesn't go over well.

JAX

We've got a town assembly and she's nowhere to be seen.

PENNY

So keep an eye out for her. Hop in. I'm roarin' to go.

JAX

You'll be fine without me.

PENNY

Frank...

Too late. Jax rolls away. Penny grimaces. She turns back to the pies and the hot rod. Can't be too difficult. Right?

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - DAY - TRAVELING

Penny scans the numbers on the mailboxes as she steers with one hand, and a pie in the other.

The car wobbles down the road, narrowly missing parked cars. She spies the correct address. The horn honks "LA CUCURACHA"

PENNY

I can do this. I can.

Mrs. Mulrooney has emerged from her home.

Showtime. Penny takes a deep breath. Countdown.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Three...two...one...

With all her might, she frisbees...

THE PIE

It's a weak toss. No air. It flies awkwardly towards...

MRS. MULROONEY

SPLAT. The pie explodes onto the concrete, causing her to be doused in pie crust and custard.

PENNY

Avoids her customer's angry gaze.

PIE THROWING MONTAGE -

- A pie SMASHES into Kangaroo Puppet's pouch. A custard-covered KANGAROO KID emerges. Not happy.

- Pies CRASH at the two dogs' feet. They howl in sadness.

- Mrs. Mulrooney watches as a pie box SMASHES through her bay window and takes out a shelf of collectible plates.

PENNY

Sinks into the bucket seat and stares at the dent on the hood. This car isn't her good luck charm.

INT. TOWN HALL - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Townspeople anxiously stream into the large assembly hall. On the stage is a large chalkboard with "Hometown Harmony Assembly" written on it. Jax nervously addresses the crowd.

JAX

Before we go through the planning,
just some housekeeping. Has anyone
seen Queen Abigail around today?

The entire room goes silent. All eyes land on Jax.

TOWNSPERSON #1

If the ambassador's missing, we
can't compete in Hometown Harmony.

JAX

I never said she was missing.

TOWNSPERSON #1

Well, do you know where she is?

JAX

No.

This riles the crowd. Penny stomps down the aisle.

PENNY

That went wonderfully. Thanks.

JAX

I'm trying to help this town win.

VINCE (O.S.)

As am I.

The entire room goes silent as Vince strides into the room, with Bottlecap in tow.

VINCE (CONT'D)

Seeing as Queen Abigail has, yet again, let Merry Oaks down in our moment of need, might I suggest we put a new plan into place?

Jax senses something's up. He interrogates Vince.

JAX

The mayor's rival has gone missing. Suspicious, wouldn't you say? Did you see her last night Mayor Carol?

VINCE

Afraid not Frank. I spent the evening with Mrs. Banks locked in a heated game of tidily winks.

Vince addresses the crowd.

VINCE (CONT'D)

Now, I'd like to offer my services. But, the rules state that any new ambassador must be voted in.

Bottlecap places two mason jars on a vacant seat. Jax knows this is bad news. He pleads to the town.

JAX

She wouldn't abandon Merry Oaks.

Nobody offers support. Vince whispers to Jax.

VINCE

It's hard to believe in someone when they never seize the moment.

Jax becomes lost in Vince's statement.

BOTTLECAP

(re: the jars)

If you support the mayor, use the right jar. Queen Abigail the left.

Jax helplessly watches buttons stream into Vince's jar. The gut punch comes when Penny places a button in as well. Vince is overjoyed with his victory.

VINCE

Now, Bottlecap will hand out a new schedule.

Jax grimaces at the convenience of it all. Penny looks over the sheet. She's shocked to learn that...

PENNY

The Junebug Dance is cancelled?

Jax scowls at Vince. Now it's personal.

VINCE

You'll excuse me, I have one last-thing to take care of.

Vince storms away. Penny somberly moves to Jax as the town begins to exit the building.

PENNY

It's what's best for all of us.

Jax nods, but knows it most certainly isn't.

EXT. GAZEBO - DAY

Teddy stops his craftsmanship as Vince strides into the construction.

VINCE

Excellent work Teddy. But it's time some professionals take over now.

TEDDY

Professionals?

BEEP BEEP BEEP. An old pick up truck backs up near the gazebo. Doors fly open and the Beaver Brothers hop out.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Bucky? Chipper?

VINCE

As Hometown Harmony ambassador, I'm assigning them the duty of the gazebo to its original state. The judges must see the proper gazebo when they arrive.

TEDDY

That would be Queen Abigail's gazebo.

This ruffles Vince's sash.

VINCE

I'll remember your courtesy when
the law banning bears from the
town's borders is up for review.

Vince parades away. Teddy turns back to his creation. The huge grizzly bear is powerless to stop the eager beavers from tearing up his project.

INT. PENNY PEACHES' HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Penny is on a mission to assemble ingredients as Jax tries to put the puzzle pieces together.

PENNY

If you can start chopping up the
fruit, I'll mix the dough.

JAX

How can you think about pies when
the Queen is missing?

PENNY

People come and go Frank. Ya get
used to it.

Shocked at her disinterest, Jax lets it ride.

JAX

I guess it's easier to push
yourself away from a piece of
cherry cobbler.

Penny angrily returns the volley.

PENNY

Some pies are an acquired taste.

JAX

And some never change.

PENNY

Well, Frank Kellerman delivers
knowledge from personal experience.

She's right. Jax humbly moves to the door.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Is finding her really so important
Frank?

JAX

Just because someone disappears,
that doesn't mean we stop looking
for them.

Jax quietly exits, leaving Penny to finish her pies alone.

Her eyes fall on a framed picture of Ace. Dashing. Caring.

Perhaps for the first time, Penny realizes that he's not the
kind of person that would disappear without a trace.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Jax wanders the square. Methodically scanning the buildings.

JAX

Where would I put someone where
they wouldn't be found.

His answer is right in front of him...

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - STACKS - DAY

Jax weaves through Storybook Characters. His eyes wander up
to Humpty Dumpty, who carelessly walks on top of a shelf.

HUMPTY DUMPTY

Howdy hoo Frank!

Jax walks up to Gerald.

JAX

Mayor Allegro wanted me to get the
Wolfman for tomorrow's big
celebration. It'll be a howwwwl.

Gerald rolls his eyes, causing Jax to retreat and consider
another way inside. He leans against a tall stack to think.
The shelf wobbles under Humpty's aerobics.

That's it. Stealthily, Jax begins to push the shelf, causing
Humpty to lose his footing a bit. Jax keeps rocking.

Humpty toes dance off the shelf...

HUMPTY DUMPTY

Whoa ho ho.

He CRACKS onto the floor, causing his body to SHATTER into
dozens of pieces.

HUMPTY DUMPTY (CONT'D)

OW. Help. I've had a... great fall.

Story book characters rush to his aid. Gerald sees the fallen character and leaves his post...

Giving Jax the time he needs to slip into the...

RESTRICTED SECTION

Jax interrogates Baron Von Blueberry.

JAX

Have you seen Queen Abigail?

BARON VON BLUEBERRY

No. Just us monsters here.

Defeated, Jax leans against the door.

BARON VON BLUEBERRY (CONT'D)

She could be in the back section.

Baron Von Blueberry points to the room's back wall. Jax takes a look and notices a small crack running through the wall. He gives the wall a push.

WOOSH....

The wall opens, revealing a site that leaves Jax speechless.

STACKS

The King's Men have poorly arranged Humpty's pieces. His mouth is above his lips. An eye is where an ear should go. The LEAD KING'S MAN explains the situation to the Gerald.

LEAD KING'S MAN

I tried the king's horses and all
of my men. We just can't put Humpty
back together again.

As Gerald thinks of a solution, he notices that the restricted section door is wide open.

GERALD

Blimey.

RESTRICTED SECTION - BACK AREA

The faux wall has revealed a hidden back-section, which looks like a prison ward. Jax pops his head in the first cell and sees MADAME FOUETTE. A familiar face from her photo back on Frank's wall.

JAX

Madame Fouette? Why are you in here?

MADAME FOUETTE

It appears we're not model citizens. But you've come to free us, yes Frank?

JAX

Where are the keys?

MADAME FOUETTE

Gerald holds them.

Jax grunts in disgust. Tries to think of a plan. He comes up with something, which requires his phone.

JAX

Okay. I'm going to video you guys, so once people know you're here...

Gerald's wooden spear knock's Jax's phone out of his hand. It flies down the hallway.

GERALD

You flat-footed intruder.

Gerald shoves Jax to the ground. Jax finds a weapon in a small wooden stool. He flings it at Gerald. It KONKS him onto the floor. Jax escapes out the open wall door.

Shaking off the pain, Gerald notices an item at the far end of the hallway....

JAX'S PHONE

The burly beefeater delicately picks up the alien device.

GERALD (CONT'D)

Marvelous.

From the nearest cell, a dashing aviator appears. Ace Flyer.

ACE

What's all the racket about?

GERALD

Just Mr. Kellerman getting into a world of trouble.

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Vince patiently deflects Jax's interrogation.

VINCE

Of course we lock people in the Restricted Section, otherwise Merry Oaks wouldn't be a safe place.

JAX

Is the ballerina's pirouetting threatening to someone?

VINCE

I didn't realize Queen Abigail was locking anyone up until I became mayor. Very jealous personality. What kind of person would deceive the fine people of Merry Oaks?

Jax trembles at the thought.

JAX

So go ahead and release them.

VINCE

I'm afraid that would distract everyone from Hometown Harmony. When we win, we'll bring everyone back during a grand celebration. Clear this whole mess up then.

It makes sense to Jax. Still...

JAX

I need to find Abigail.

VINCE

Frank, the best thing for you to do is go home and rest. I've already sent Bottlecap to find her. Let him deal with whatever silliness she's tangled up in.

INT. QUEEN ABIGAIL'S CASTLE - DUNGEON - DAY

Queen Abigail is tied to a chair.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Help. Anyone help.

Footsteps come from the hallway. Queen Abigail breaths a sigh of relief when Bottlecap pokes his beak through the window.

QUEEN ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
Can you believe this Bottlecap? I'm
a prisoner in my own castle.

Bottlecap unlocks the door and enters.

BOTTLECAP
I'll make sure it stays like that.

Queen Abigail's eyes widen.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
You served me so well. Why do this?

BOTTLECAP
The Mayor wouldn't have won
Hometown Harmony with you in
charge.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
The people believe in me again. You
must see that.

BOTTLECAP
They believe in your platinum
status.

Bottlecap pulls the card out from behind his back.

BOTTLECAP (CONT'D)
Or, they used to.

He places the card in his beak. Chomps down on it.

Queen Abigail watches in horror as the penguin SNAPS the card
in half. He arrogantly tosses the remains onto the floor.

BOTTLECAP (CONT'D)
There. Everything as it should be.

She stares at her torn source of power. The deranged penguin
exits, leaving Queen Abigail alone and without hope.

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Gerald explains the Restricted Section break in with Vince.

GERALD
I can capture him before he finds
the Queen.

VINCE

Everyone would notice he's gone.
He's practically untouchable.

GERALD

Maybe not sir. Have a look at this.

He hands Vince Jax's phone.

GERALD (CONT'D)

He looks different. Like he's
wearing a disguise.

Vince fumbles with the phone until he finds the video.

VINCE

He's an impostor?

GERALD

Yes, that's it. Some bloke named
Jax Savage. From Los Angeles. Odd
place. Everyone looks fake.

Vince soaks in the images of Jax. Wheels begin to turn...

VINCE

Indeed.

INT. FRANK KELLERMAN'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Jax sits at his kitchen table, methodically turning the hands on his watch. He intermittently looks at the garage door, hopeful for signs of smoke. He looks to Durham.

JAX

You haven't seen a blue light
coming from the garage, have you?

DURHAM

No. Planning on leaving soon?

JAX

I don't really know anymore.

DURHAM

If you're going to be around,
howabout a story? You haven't read
me the one about the squirrel and
the turtle.

JAX

My money's on the turtle.

Jax moves over to the...

LIVING ROOM

Moving to the bookshelf, Jax's eyes land on one of the framed pictures on the wall. It's a picture of Queen Abigail and Madame Fouette. That's weird. He points this out to Durham.

JAX (CONT'D)
They were friends?

DURHAM
Queen Abigail helped her open her studio. It wasn't until Mayor Allegro opened his dance studio that she disappeared.

The pieces fall into place. But there's one last question.

JAX
Have people always disappeared from Merry Oaks?

DURHAM
It really started when Mayor Allegro took over. Funny huh?

The mayor's lies hit Jax, who realizes...

JAX
He's got her.

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Vince gleefully pins a large Hometown Harmony pin onto his lapel. His self admiration is interrupted by...

VINCE
Penny Peaches. I was just on my way to see our friend Frank.

PENNY
I want to talk about Ace.

Vince tightens up.

VINCE
We all miss him my dear.

PENNY
He was going to see you the night he disappeared.

VINCE

Penny, people appear and reappear all the time here. It's just, the way things work.

PENNY

We've lost Ace, Madame Fouette, the butcher, the baker...

VINCE

The candlestick maker's still here.

PENNY

I'm going to get Frank and raise a hullabaloo about you.

Vince grins. He has an out.

VINCE

I'm afraid Frank is the one who's done the most harm to all of us.

PENNY

What do you mean?

VINCE

I'd like to introduce you to someone. Name's Jax Savage.

Vince slides the phone in front of her and clicks on the screen. Penny becomes mesmerized by what she sees.

INT. KODIAK BROTHERS CLOCK SHOP - DAY

The tingling TICK TOCK of clocks pierces the silence of the shop as Freddy constructs a clock. Teddy longingly stares out at his unfinished project. Freddy notices the gloom.

FREDDY

Could use a paw.

Teddy solemnly stands and turns to his brother.

TEDDY

I'm gonna go.

FREDDY

Good idea. Get some honey soup in you. Use the good stuff.

TEDDY

See you after hibernation.

This alarms Freddy.

FREDDY

Teddy. We've got a few months.

TEDDY

They don't want our clocks anymore.
There's nothing left for me.

FREDDY

We'll wait until those beavers
sleep. We'll work all night and
rebuild it the way you want.

Teddy seems interested, until a quick glance at the "FINAL SALE" sign on the shelf birdhouses reminds him of something.

TEDDY

We're clock builders. We can't do
anything else.

The solemn bear waves a paw at his brother and walks into the back room. Too shocked to say anything, Freddy's mouth drops open. His heart is as empty as his shop.

INT. PENNY PEACHES' HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Penny solemnly prepares pies. Jax bursts into the room.

JAX

Penny, stay away from the mayor.
You can't trust him.

PENNY

That's a mighty funny statement
coming from you, Jax Savage.

The words hit Jax like a bomb. How does she...

Penny pulls the phone out of her apron. Jax is stunned.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Watch this.

JAX

Penny, where did you...

PENNY

Watch it!

Taken aback by her forcefulness, Jax hits the play button.

ON THE SCREEN:

Jax and Allison fight on the set.

ALLISON

Do you have any idea how long it took me to get this gig? To beat out every established craft service company in Hollywood? I'm back to nothing, thanks to you.

JAX

Hey, without me, you wouldn't be serving organic guacamole to anyone.

BACK TO SCENE:

Jax's berating words scathing him.

PENNY

You need to leave.

JAX

I can't.

VINCE (O.S.)

A fantastically deceptive performance mister Savage.

Vince and the King's Men emerge from the garage and seize Jax. Penny can't bring herself to look at Jax.

JAX

(To Vince)

Takes one to know one.

VINCE

Question my methods Jax, but I did it for the town. Merry Oaks is no place for someone who could pretend to be friendly, yet be so selfish. You are quite the fine actor Jax. You almost had us all fooled.

Boom. Jax's eyes plead with Penny. To her, he doesn't exist.

Jax gets it. The King's Men lead him away. He makes no effort to resist. There's no use in fighting the truth.

INT. RESTRICTED SECTION - DAY

Gerald tosses Jax into the restricted section and slams the door. This gets the attention of the imprisoned townspeople.

MADAME FOUETTÉ

Frank? Why are you in here?

JAX

I'm not Frank. I don't wear a cardigan, these polyester pants, and these horribly uncomfortable loafers.

Ace Flyer pokes his head out. Jax recognizes him.

ACE

Then who are you?

JAX

My name is Jax Savage, and I'm an actor from Los Angeles, California.

ACE

A performer. What sort of roles do you play?

JAX

I've gotten used to being bad guys. On and off the set.

MADAME FOUETTÉ

What role do you want to play?

Jax starts to come alive. Remembering who he is.

JAX

The kind that saves the day. Rescues the girl. The hero.

Madame Fouette makes her conclusion.

MADAME FOUETTÉ

Well then. Save the day.

JAX

Being heroic isn't a real way of life.

ACE

Isn't it now?

For the first time, Jax clearly sees his problem. Still...

JAX

I'd need to rescue the Queen, stop your mayor and help the town win Hometown Harmony. That's not exactly a cake walk.

ACE
Nothing worth doing ever is.

MADAME FOUETTÉ
You can't give up before trying.

In a time of action, Jax takes the easy way out.

JAX
I'll stick with what I'm good at.

Abandoning the pep talk, Madame Fouette and Ace recoil into their respective cells.

Jax reluctantly sits on the floor and prepares to finish his life trapped in this whimsical world.

He rubs his chin along his watch. The watch clicks something in Jax's brain, causing him to remove it and read something inscribed on the back:

"YOU'RE OUR TOWN'S HERO. THANKS. PENNY"

Penny's words awaken Jax. Her belief in him sets him free.

JAX (CONT'D)
I've got a town to save. You in?

Ace springs to life and runs to his cell window.

ACE
Figure a way out of here and I'll follow you anywhere sir.

Jax peers at the huge locks that barricade the doors. He scoffs at them, empowered by his newfound confidence.

He places his hands on the locks. Grips. Squints.

JAX
Coming right up.

Jax yanks with all his might. Pulls. Tugs. Grunts.

The imprisoned townspeople look on. Is this guy serious?

Jax places both feet on the door. Gives it everything.

JAX (CONT'D)
Stupid. Lock. Come. On. Arrr...

He releases his grip on the lock and slams onto the ground.

JAX (CONT'D)

Well. I'm open to suggestions.

A LOUD THUMPING comes from one of the cells. Like a cinder block being dragged over rocks. Jax sees...

THE MUMMY'S COFFIN

Pops into the cell door window. The being inside MOANS as it shakes its coffin. It wobbles and finally tips forward...

SMASH. The coffin crashes through the wooden door and collapses onto the floor.

JAX (CONT'D)

That will work.

CUT TO:

JAX AND THE PRISONERS HOLD THE MUMMY'S COFFIN.

Like a battering ram.

JAX

Now.

The group barrels down the hall and towards the door.

SMASH. The door EXPLODES from the impact. They're free.

They peek out and see...

OUTSIDE THE RESTRICTED AREA

The Library Stories have assembled. Ready to fight.

BO BEEP

You're not leaving. Mayor's orders.

Baron Von Blueberry dramatically lifts his cape and snarls.

BARON VON BLUEBERRY

Messing with Baron Von Blueberry,
will not be good for your health.

Bo Peep steps forward. Then... RAMS her crook into the ground... Flips into the air... SLAMS down... SNAPS her crook in half. Wields them like nun-chucks.

BO BEEP

You'll be wagging your tails, after
I'm done kicking your behinds.

Madame Fouette dances in and lands a pirouette-infused kick into Bo Peep's stomach.

MADAME FOUETTE

Exit stage left Jax Savage.

Jax takes her advice and sprints towards the shelves.

The other Storybook Characters try to stop him, but their efforts are wasted when the Townspeople takes them down.

A melee ensues, pitting neighborhood friends against library stories. It's quite an odd sight.

Jax makes it through the ruckus and exits the library. Hot on his tail, however is Gerald.

EXT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Jax bursts out onto the street. The town is in full swing with Hometown Harmony decorations and activity.

He looks across to Town Hall and eyes Penny setting up a table of pies.

The King's Men roll by on a milk truck, patrolling the town square. Jax retreats to the concrete stair overhang.

JAX

I guess they're onto me.

Desperate for another way across, Jax notices that a nearby building features latticework that reaches up to the roof.

Noticing the layout of Town Square, he could run across the rooftops to get to Penny. It's his only choice.

JAX (CONT'D)

No way to go but up.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE BUILDING - DAY

Jax begins the long climb up the latticework. Suddenly, something drags him down. He scrapes for a tight grip. He peers down at Gerald, who yanks Jax's shoe from below.

GERALD

Not so fast son.

JAX

God save the queen buddy.

He kicks Gerald off the latticework and continues his climb.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE BUILDING - ROOF - DAY

Jax hurls himself onto the roof. He admires his climb for moment, then sizes up the slanted gingerbread roof of the candy shop.

JAX

Up up and away.

He gets into motion. Huffs. Puff. He can do this.

He steps onto the ledge and leaps into the sky...

Jax sails across the gap, super-hero style...

Unfortunately, he can't fly, and is well short of the roof.

He drops towards the ground...

EXT. CANDY SHOP - SIDE - DAY

A large gumdrop breaks Jax's plunge. He steadies himself and searches for his next move.

JAX

Goody. Gumdrops.

GERALD (O.S.)

Got you now bloody impostor.

Gerald leaps across the void and lands on a gumdrop next to Jax. The Englishman rips a piece of liquorice from the side of the house and stars whacking Jax.

Jax dances as he rips a Necco wafer from the gingerbread and uses it as an impromptu shield. The two trade blows.

GERALD (CONT'D)

How'd a wimp like you learn to fight?

JAX

Seven Samurai. Criterion Collection.

Gerald hurls the liquorice and knocks Jax off the gumdrop. He tumbles, but his hands grasp the gumbdrop. He dangles, with nowhere else to go, but down.

Gerald drops his foot onto Jax's fingers. He yelps in pain.

GERALD
Happy trails mate.

Jax's fingers can't hold much longer. Another boot lands on his fingers... which gives him the idea...

Jax starts swinging his feet towards Gerald's gumdrop. He thrusts his loafers into Gerald's sugary platform.

Fully outstretched, Jax begins to wiggle his feet, which start to loosen Gerald's gumdrop. Gerald notices...

GERALD (CONT'D)
What in the blazes...

JAX
Sweet dreams.

Jax yanks the gumdrop from the wall, which sends Gerald tumbling into the faux-snow coconut shavings below.

While pleased with the results, something still bugs Jax.

JAX (CONT'D)
Sweet dreams? I can live with it.

INT. KODIAK BROTHERS CLOCK SHOP - DAY

Freddy passively watches as other shop owners place their goods on display for the Hometown Harmony setup.

He looks over at his shelf of birdhouses. Everyone else is showing their work so...

FREDDY
Let's give this another shot.

He begins to remove his creations from the rickety shelf.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
Why let all that hard...

SNAP. The shelf breaks in two. Freddy's wooden creations SMASH onto the floor. His hard work, gone. He vents with a shop-shaking ROAR and moves into the...

WORKROOM

Freddy flips the workbench, sending tools everywhere.

He spies something else to wreck...

Queen Abigail's gazebo.

He swipes a hammer and gets set to charge, but something on the ground stops him in his tracks.

ALLISON'S BUSINESS CARD.

The slogan "A Fresh Take On The Expected" digs deep into Freddy's mind.

He looks down at the hammer. Not a weapon. A tool. Then to the gazebo. Not a structure. An opportunity.

FREDDY (CONT'D)
Let's get to work.

INT. QUEEN ABIGAIL'S CASTLE - DUNGEON - DAY

Still tied to the chair, Queen Abigail has managed to scoot her way over to her broken Platinum card.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
We're alike platinum status. Easily broken under duress. A regal shell covering a flimsy interior. Sharp edges that...

The pointed edges of the card get Queen Abigail thinking.

She twists her wrists. The rope gives. She has her plan.

Queen Abigail leans in her chair and tumbles onto the stone floor. She wiggles over to the snapped card.

Her loose fingers lift the plastic card and she places the sharp edges against the burlap rope. She saws away.

Rope falls away. Layers unravel. Wrists become looser.

Freed from the ropes, she raps on the cell bars.

QUEEN ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
I have concerns about my living quarters. A word please.

Abigail hides away from the door. The Thug Guard arrives.

THUG GUARD
We won't be moving you your...

Confused, the guard unlocks the door. Abigail wields the credit card. Waits for the right moment...

The door opens and the Thug Guard enters.

THUG GUARD (CONT'D)
Now, where did you...

Abigail pounces. She slices the guard's belt with the card.

The belt falls away, and the Thug Guard drops trow. He notices his Bottlecap boxer shorts are showing.

THUG GUARD (CONT'D)
Huh?

Queen Abigail shoves him down and makes a break for the open door, which is now blocked by Bottlecap.

BOTTLECAP
Ah no. Not today.

Thug Guard wraps her in an unforgiving bear hug.

Bottlecap laughs, but his eyes become attracted to a small bright light that appears on his body.

BOTTLECAP (CONT'D)
Ooh. Pretty light.

Bottlecap follows the light. Queen Abigail realizes the penguin is attracted to the platinum card's reflection.

BOTTLECAP (CONT'D)
I'm gonna get you. Yes. Stay. Darn.

It's now or never for Queen Abigail. She quickly steers the light in another direction... The head of the Thug Guard.

BOTTLECAP (CONT'D)
There you are.

Bottlecap bolts for the light. Thug Guard protests.

THUG GUARD
Uh. Sir... what if you...

SLAP. The blow rattles the Thug Guard, who releases his grip on Abigail. Bottlecap claims victory.

BOTTLECAP
Got it.

The pesky penguin notices his flipper-sized red imprint on the Thug Guard's head, and the guard's impending fist. WHACK.

BOTTLECAP (CONT'D)

Don't hit me. You're supposed to be holding the Queen.

QUEEN ABIGAIL (O.S.)

That won't be necessary.

The duo look...

OUTSIDE OF THE DUNGEON

Where Queen Abigail SLAMS the door shut with a flourish.

She closes the lock and jams the plastic card into the keyhole. She breaks it off, sealing them inside.

QUEEN ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Never underestimate a lady and her powerful platinum status.

She leaves Bottlecap and Thug Guard to their own devices.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Penny methodically moves her pies around the table. Suddenly, she hears a commotion coming from the Library. The Storybook versus Townspeople battle has spilled into the streets.

Penny's confusion turns to shock when she sees...

PENNY

Ace.

She drops her pies and dashes towards her beau.

Ace sees his sweetheart and springs to her. The lovebirds share an epic hug in the middle of the fight.

PENNY (CONT'D)

I thought I'd never see you again.

ACE

Told you I'd be back. But that wretched mayor had other ideas.

PENNY

What do you mean?

ACE

I was going to sell my car so you could start your shop. The Mayor insisted on owning the pie shop.

(MORE)

ACE (CONT'D)

We argued. He locked me away. I didn't mean to be away for so long.

PENNY

Thought you left because of the dent.

ACE

Penny, it's just a car. I'd dent it dozens of times using it to help someone out.

Overwhelmed by his actions, she's horrified to see him become conked on the head by one of the King's Men. Ace is thrown back into the fracas.

PENNY

Ace. Ace.

Suddenly, Penny is snatched up by someone. Jax.

JAX

Please don't hit me.

PENNY

Jax. Ace is here. So is everyone else that's missing.

JAX

I'm pretty sure Abigail is locked up in her castle. We need to get there and check. Right now.

PENNY

I thought you needed to get back to Los Angeles?

JAX

(motions to the fighting)
And miss all this fun?

Penny peeks up at Ace, valiantly fighting off angry townsfolk. She smiles, and offers a solution.

PENNY

We'll use the hot rod. It's locked in the lower level of City Hall.

JAX

That's not a problem.

PENNY

We'd need to sneak past the dozens of King's Men pigging out on pies.

The situation gives Jax an idea.

JAX
Who says we have to?

INT. CITY HALL - ASSEMBLY ROOM - DAY

King's Men joyfully dine on pie. They're completely relaxed, which is why they're caught completely off surprise when...

The wooden doors fly open...

A steel-faced Jax dramatically enters.

Time to kick some rutabaga.

He flips two tables, sending soldiers and pies into the air..

Two Men charge...

Jax spins to the door as Penny enters. She tosses two pies. He catches them mid-air. A perfectly synchronized attack.

Jax spins and SLAMS the approaching guards in the face with merengue and pecan. They spill onto the ground.

Penny spies another group of King's Men. They're hers.

PENNY
Order up.

She sends her pies skimming across the hardwood floor...

Jax times his leap as the pies float underneath him...

The Men foot plant into the pies. They CRASH.

JAX
Nice.

A Man pushes Jax to the floor and starts throwing fists.

Penny arrives and smashes two pies into the soldier's head.

PENNY
I'll bill you for that.

The two make their way past pie-flattened soldiers and square off against their final foes, TWO BURLY KING'S MEN block the lower level stairs.

BURLY KING'S MAN #1
Out of pies.

BURLY KING'S MAN #2
And nowhere to run.

The Burly King's Men swiftly dart towards Jax and Penny.
Jax looks around. No pies. Just two bottles of whipped cream.
Each hand grabs a bottle. The Soldiers converge.
Jax whips out his arms. Presses the nozzles.
Whipped cream explodes into their faces.
The cans empty. Jax flings them into the air and shoves the
defeated Burly King's Men onto the ground.
Without missing a beat, Jax and Penny step over the defeated
crew. Jax takes a moment to realize...

JAX
Funny. There were two of us, and
like seventeen of them. You'd have
thought they'd attack us a group.
Oh well. Jax and Penny scurry down the stairs.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Vince emerges from the barber shop and eyes the fracas. He
turns to see frosting-covered Gerald slop on over to him.
Vince knows what this means.

VINCE
Where did he go?
SCREECH. He sees Penny and Jax speeding away in the hot rod.

VINCE (CONT'D)
They must not rescue Abigail.
A quick glance at a milk truck gives him the solution he
needs to prevent that from happening.

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - TRAVELING - DAY

Jax and Penny speed thru the forest road to the castle.

JAX
If she's there, we need to get her
back before the judging begins.

PENNY

If we don't win. Do you get to leave?

JAX

Sounds like you'd miss me.

PENNY

Nope. You can't bake worth a lick.

Jax smiles, until he sees something in the rearview mirror...

Vince at the wheel of the milk delivery truck. Coming fast.

JAX

He's found us. Hit it.

Penny accelerates, but the milk truck keeps coming.

INT/EXT. MILK TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

VINCE

Pardon me.

He slams the gas. The truck RAMS the hot rod.

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - TRAVELING - DAY

The jolt causes Penny to lose her grip. The car skids to the side, rolls up the embankment, and slides to a stop.

Penny seethes as the truck roars past them.

PENNY

I don't think so.

She slams into reverse, jerking the car back out.

JAX

Cool down Penny. We can catch him.

PENNY

Shug, we're not going to catch him. We're going to beat him.

JAX

Oh dear.

Penny rockets away. The chase is on.

INT/EXT. MILK TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

Vince snorts as he sees the roaring hot rod in his rearview.

VINCE
Some free samples Gerald?

With that, Gerald swings the rear doors of the truck open and pushes two milk canisters out. They bounce at...

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - TRAVELING - DAY

Penny spies the rolling canisters.

PENNY
Hold on.

She expertly maneuvers the car, avoiding both canisters.

JAX
Wasn't so bad.

Jax freezes. Four approaching canisters changes his mind.

JAX (CONT'D)
We're doomed.

Penny looks for options. She finds it... a log in the middle of the road that sticks up into the air.

PENNY
Sweet sassafras.

She accelerates. The canisters approach. Faster. Faster.

Penny maneuvers the left side of the car up the log...

This lifts the hot rod into a side wheelie...

The canisters safely roll past the car...

She SLAMS back down onto four wheels.

JAX
Oh, you'd like the 405.

INT/EXT. MILK TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

Gerald yaps to Vince thru the storage area window.

GERALD
They made it.

VINCE
We'll still get there first.

The truck zooms into the large hollow tree.

INT/EXT. HOT ROD - TRAVELING - DAY

The hot rod follows into the hollow tree. Jax slams the dashboard in disgust.

JAX

It's too narrow to pass in here.

Penny glances around. There is no way to pass them.

But, there's room to go over them.

PENNY

Hold onto your blueberries.

Penny's eyes dart across the top of the tree. Looking for the right amount of room. There it is.

She guns it. Steers towards the side of the tree.

The momentum lifts them onto the hollow wood.

The car climbs the walls. Almost completely vertical.

Jax gulps as they roll right over the delivery truck.

Through the delivery truck skylight, Jax mugs at Vince.

VINCE

Indeed.

The hot rod continues its spiral, rolls down the side wall and speeds back onto the ground -- ahead of the milk truck. Penny is elated by her maneuvers.

PENNY

Hot dog was that exciting.

Jax? Not so much.

JAX

The road. Stay on it. Please.

EXT. QUEEN ABIGAIL'S CASTLE - DAY

The hot rod shoots out of the hollow tree and races up the cobblestone road to the castle.

INT. QUEEN ABIGAIL'S CASTLE - STABLE - DAY

The car skids to a stop near the stone wishing well. Queen Abigail triumphantly walks down the stairs, proudly displaying her crunched platinum card.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
You were right Frank. Membership
has its privileges.

VROOM. Everyone sees the milk truck roar through the gates.

JAX
Tight schedule your majesty.

Queen Abigail hustles to the car. In her haste, the platinum card falls from hand. She reaches the car, but notices...

QUEEN ABIGAIL
My platinum card.

She spies the card. Jax watches as she moves to retrieve her trinket, putting her in the path of the truck.

PENNY
Abigail get out of there.

Jax has one shot. He courageously leaps from the car...

Shoves Abigail out of the trucks path...

Scurries up against the wishing well wall...

He's helpless to move as...

The milk truck SLAMS into the wishing well.

Metal CRUSHES stone. Debris EXPLODES everywhere.

PENNY

Stands in shock at what she just witnessed.

Queen Abigail climbs into the car and slams the door. Her vacant face means she's well aware of what just happened.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
Let's go Penelope.

PENNY
But he's...

QUEEN ABIGAIL
He's bought us time.

PENNY
Queen Abigail...

QUEEN ABIGAIL
The town needs us Penny. That's
what Frank would have wanted.

Penny solemnly corrects her.

PENNY
It's Jax.

Penny plops into her seat. She adjusts her rearview mirror and does her best to hold back a flood of tears. Knowing he's gone, she solemnly speeds away.

THE MILK TRUCK

Vince and Gerald emerge from the cab relatively unscathed.

Vince stumbles over to the remains of the wishing well. There's still an opening to the well, but it's more of a grave site than anything now.

GERALD
Buried under the rubble he is.

VINCE
Farewell Jax Savage. I certainly
hope you're better off there than
you were here.

Vince retrieves Jax's phone from his pocket and soft tosses the device down the well. He turns to Gerald.

VINCE (CONT'D)
We must get to the judges first.
They cannot know that things aren't
alright in Merry Oaks.

Too late.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The Hometown Harmony judges, Richard and Olliver stand on the outskirts of the town-wide fracas, quietly judging.

RICHARD
How do we demerit this exactly?

A stick and knapsack over his shoulder, a solemn Teddy passes by. He is quickly recognized by the judges.

OLLIVER
Aren't you Teddy the clock builder?

TEDDY
Not any more. Town doesn't need me.

RICHARD
Things aren't that bad.

Dish and Spoon barge through their conversation.

DISH
This way Spoon. We fight for
freedom of all utensils!

Oliver looks over at the still-unfinished gazebo.

OLIVER
I preferred the Queen's gazebo.
Wonder what she did with it?

TEDDY
It's in our shop.

RICHARD
Really? Might we take a look at it?

TEDDY
It's not worth your time.

RICHARD
Mr. Kodiak, there's no shame in a
town's icon, even if it's a little
rough around the edges.

Teddy realizes he has nothing to lose by showing them...

CUT TO:

THE QUEEN'S GAZEBO. IN MINT CONDITION.

INT. KODIAK BROTHERS CLOCK SHOP - WORKROOM - DAY

Teddy and the Judges stare in awe and bewilderment at the town's crown jewel, fully restored.

Freddy is delicately sanding latticework when he notices his brother. He greets Teddy with a sheepish grin.

TEDDY
Freddy. This is amazing.

FREDDY

Not too different than a birdhouse.

Teddy turns to the judges.

TEDDY

As you can see, there's a lot more to us than clocks. Freddy knows how to run our business pretty well.

Freddy beams at his brother's confession.

INT. QUEEN ABIGAIL'S CASTLE - COURTYARD - DAY

Moonstone has started to examine the wishing well wreckage. She sniffs up a scent and NEIGHS into the well hole where...

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WISHING WELL - DAY

Jax lies bruised, battered and soaked, surrounded by well rubble. Moonstone's NEIGH jolt him out of his daze.

JAX

Stunt double. Medic. Latte.

He looks up to Moonstone for help.

JAX (CONT'D)

Hey, Moonrock. Give a guy a hand?

The unicorn shakes him off with an accusing NEIGH.

JAX (CONT'D)

Oh, it's the whole pure of heart thing? Well, I'm sorry about the Frank charade. Happy? Can we go about saving the town?

No. She continues to flip out.

JAX (CONT'D)

Oh, so you're fine with abandoning a guy who can help? Great. Stuck in a well. Guess you really know what I'm capable of.

The moment of insight digs deep into Jax. Moonstone considers Jax's plea, then quickly disappears.

Well, that's it. Trapped forever, Jax looks around his new home and gets comfortable.

JAX (CONT'D)
Welcome home.

KONK. A wooden bucket with a rope attached whacks Jax's head. He looks up and sees...

Moonstone stands over the hole, with the other end of the rope clasped in her teeth.

Jax grins. He picks up his phone and grabs the bucket.

JAX (CONT'D)
Kay. Nice and easy.

WHOOSH. Jax lifts off like rocket and zooms up the well.

JAX (CONT'D)
Whooooaa.

Moonstone clears the well rubble with one forceful kick.

Jax flies out of the well -- into the air -- and safely onto Moonstone's back.

JAX (CONT'D)
Good girl.

They're off too...

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Queen Abigail takes in chaotic town square battle from the relative safety of the hot rod.

QUEEN ABIGAIL
My heavens.

She attempts to restore order and hits the car horn, which releases "LA CUCARACHA" into the air. The tune gets the town's attention. The fighting stops as everyone turns to Queen Abigail, who stately exits the car.

QUEEN ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
This is not Merry Oaks. We don't
fight with stories, we're
entertained by stories. Our shop
owners are inviting, not barbaric.

The Old Seafaring Man speaks out.

OLD SEAFAIRING MAN

Belay the talk of the monarchy. No
bejeweled crown and platinum status
can speak to who we are.

A murmur runs through the crowd as Queen Abigail sees the man's point. She delicately removes her crown...

And SMASHES it into the ground.

The town stands in shock at the display. Queen Abigail marches over to a broom, and diligently starts sweeping up scattered debris. She never looks up.

Following the Queen's lead, Penny shuts off the car, and makes her way to the floral stand, where she starts re-potting mangled bouquets.

Clued in to their mistakes, the entire town quickly joins in the clean-up duty. Ace assists Penny.

ACE

I wanted to surprise you, but it
took me away from you. From now on,
I have nothing left to hide.

The word "hide" awakens a thought in Penny's head.

PENNY

Sweet sarsaparilla. I think he's
alive.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

Despite its heavily-smashed front end, the milk truck manages to roar its way through the forest.

INT/EXT. MILK TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

Vince plots as Gerald bounces around in the back section.

VINCE

We'll have the town back in our
control soon enough Gerald.

WHUMP. The truck violently shakes.

GERALD

We hit something?

Gerald looks for clues. Nothing unusual, except for...

FOUR ROOFTOP INDENTS THAT LOOK LIKE HORSE FEET.

GERALD (CONT'D)

Blimey!

WHHS. A unicorn horn pierces through the steel roof.

VINCE

What the devil?

The horn begins to aggressively slice through the roof.

Vince peeks at the mangled rooftop and sees...

JAX ASTRIDE MOONSTONE

JAX

You owe me a dance.

VINCE

Excellent. I'll lead.

Vince swerves, desperately trying to shake the freeloaders.

Moonstone SLAMS her hooves into the roof. She's not going anywhere. Vince commands Gerald to...

VINCE (CONT'D)

Get rid of it.

Jax whispers into Moonstone's ear. She NEIGHS with joy and begins plummeting her horn into the open roof area.

Gerald dances around as he tries to avoid an unfriendly poke. His nose narrowly misses an encounter with the horn. Seizing the opportunity, he takes the horn into his hands.

GERALD

Gotcha!

Jax pats Moonstone on the neck.

JAX

All yours.

Moonstone GROWLS, causing Gerald to realize he's not exactly in the best position.

GERALD

Blimey.

Moonstone rockets her head and catapults Gerald into the air.

GERALD (CONT'D)

Aaaahhhh.

Jax watches as the screaming befeater soon becomes a tiny speck in the sky. He turns back to Vince.

JAX
Game's over Vince.

Vince grins. Not quite.

Both feet hit the breaks. The truck SKIDS and stops hard.

Jax tumbles off Moonstone and plummets into the truck.

Vince hits the gas, causing Moonstone to lose her footing and tumble backwards off the truck.

The mythical creature SLAMS onto the road. NEIGHS in pain.

Jax's blood boils at the sight of the fallen Moonstone. He angrily addresses Vince through the window.

JAX (CONT'D)
Queen Abigail's probably telling
the judges everything.

VINCE
It'll be a short conversation.

Vince REVS. Jax realizes he's on board a killing machine.

VINCE (CONT'D)
You're about to be a permanent
resident of Merry Oaks.

The familiar "LA CUCURACHA" horn snaps Jax out of his worrisome stare. He glances out the back doors and sees Penny and Ace pursuing in the hot rod.

PENNY
Couldn't hide from me forever.

ACE
Jump. You can make it.

Jax shakes his head.

JAX
I'm going along for the ride here.

PENNY
Jax Savage, I'm right tired of
everyone I care about disappearing
on me.

Jax is struck by her confession. A glimpse at her other hand, which tightly grasp's Ace's gloved hand, makes him realize she wasn't talking about him. And Jax is cool with that.

JAX

That won't happen again Penny.

Jax grabs the one of the doors and slams it shut.

PENNY

What in world are you doing?

The wise words of Frank Kellerman give Jax his answer.

JAX

Time for me to head out. Learned
what we were supposed to learn.

Jax flashes a kind wave and slams the door.

EXT/INT. HOT ROD - TRAVELING - DAY

Penny looks to Ace. They know this may not end well.

INT/EXT. MILK TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

Jax heroically grabs an empty metal milk canister. With all his might, he SLAMS it into the wall, desperately trying to get into the driver's cab.

Vince grimaces at the distraction, but remains undeterred, because he's arrived in...

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Queen Abigail chats with Richard and Oliver as the residents finish up their cleaning duties.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Every town has its problems, but
Merry Oaks is strong enough to get
though any debacle.

And with that, the milk truck HOWLS into town.

INT. MILK TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

Vince's target is in his sights. He guns it.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Queen Abigail sees who's behind the wheel.

INT. MILK TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

Jax pumps all his adrenaline into the milk canister. The wall dents, but it's still intact. He soullessly drops the cannister. Victory is Vince's.

VINCE

No where to go Abigail.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Fleeing, Queen Abigail trips. She's a sitting duck.

INT. MILK TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

Jax peers through the window. There's no way he's getting in.

He realizes he doesn't need to, because he digs into his pockets for something that could save the day...

HIS PHONE

Jax winds up and hurls the phone through the window...

It SMACKS Vince's ear. The pain throws him off, jutting the wheel hard.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The milk truck lifts off two wheels -- momentarily flying.

It spins mid-air and CRASHES into the ground.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Inches from death she covers her head.

THE MILK TRUCK

Bounces -- debris scatters --- another mid-air spin.

About to land on Queen Abigail... until.

NEIGH. The Queen peeks up and sees...

MOONSTONE

She sails under the truck and neck scoops up the Queen.
They whisk away as the truck, again, SLAMS into the ground.

INT. MILK TRUCK - TRAVELING - DAY

Jax is violently tossed around the rapidly dissolving truck.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The truck -- coming apart at the seams -- heads right for...

THE GAZEBO

There is a THUNDEROUS ROAR as metal CRUNCHES into the woodwork -- lattice and oak BLAST apart -- the truck splits the gazebo in half, causing the roof to COLLAPSE.

Then. Silence. Smoke swells from the crash site.

Queen Abigail, Penny, Ace and the Kodiak Brothers rush up.

PENNY

Jax. Jax. He's in the back.

The driver's side door pops open and a bloody-nosed and battered Vince emerges. Seeing the town gathered around, he tries to brush off his actions.

VINCE

Indeed. Always wear your seat belt.
Never break Merry Oaks laws.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Kidnapping. Debauchery.

VINCE

That is preposterous. I am the
mayor of Merry Oaks.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Then, you're the person to hear
this particular resident's concern.

The crowd parts way for the formerly imprisoned MUMMY. His outstretched arms and flowing wrappings startle Vince, who slowly begins to back away.

VINCE

Ah. Good to see you out of your...
whoaaaa.

Vince feels himself trip over something, which sends him falling down into... the Mummy's case.

Baron Von Blueberry kicks the cover closed, imprisoning the screaming Vince inside. A MOAN comes from the Mummy, not from his mouth, but from his tummy.

MUMMY

Little hungry after a few thousand years. When's lunch?

PENNY and ACE

The pair desperately try to open the truck's back doors.

PENNY

Jax. Can you hear me?

The doors finally give way and the pair look inside...

INT. MILK TRUCK - BACK - DAY

The back cab of the truck is a mess of wood and metal. Yet, amongst the rubble is a bruised, bleeding and alive Jax. He sees his friends and remarks through a splitting headache.

JAX

Wasn't so bad. I've been on kiddy rides that were worse.

The crowd laughs.

ACE

I don't understand that, but I'll take your word for it.

Jax and Penny share a meaningful smile. He asks...

JAX

I remember hearing about a dance?

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

The town square is alive with music and light, as Townspeople and Storybook characters alike frolic the night away.

A Band plays on the square's newest addition: Queen Abigail's gazebo, back where it should be.

Teddy and Freddy are still putting on the finishing touches of paint when Queen Abigail observes the progress. She wears a "Mayor" sash instead of a crown.

FREDDY

Almost finished your majesty.

She corrects him.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

The town's lead builders will simply address me as your mayorness.

TEDDY

Nice to have you back your mayorness.

QUEEN ABIGAIL

Building something everyone will use I see?

The brothers grin. What to say?

FREDDY

No doubt about it.

Abigail notices a lone resident alone at a table...

JAX

Soaks in the festive atmosphere as he holds an ornate trophy that reads: "MERRY OAKS. THIRD PLACE. HOMETOWN HARMONY AWARDS". Penny tenderly approaches.

PENNY

You think it was the smashed gazebo or town-wide brouhaha that cost us?

The two share a laugh. There's an awkwardness between them, as if this is the last conversation they'll ever have.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Is Los Angeles nicer than Merry Oaks?

JAX

It has its problems. Smog. The Clippers. But, it's home.
(Motioning to the crowd)
This place is perfect.

PENNY

Because of you.

JAX

It's because you have someone who loves everyone and selfishly solves problems. He makes this a funtastical neighborhood.

PENNY

And I hate to see him go.

A tear rolls down her cheek. They share a moment. Their fingers are inches apart. Jax changes the mood.

JAX

Nobody else ever questioned that I was Frank. You never believed it from the moment we met. Why?

Penny confesses.

PENNY

Frank knows his role. He has the answers. He's confident. You didn't know your place. Now, I couldn't tell the two of you apart.

Jax soaks this in. Deeply.

The ROAR of the hot rod breaks the silence. They turn to see Baron Von Blueberry take his new car out for a spin.

BARON VON BLUEBERRY

Ah. Ah. Ah. Wonderful! Wonderful.

Penny and Jax giggle as Ace approaches the table.

JAX

Get a good price for her?

ACE

Enough to get someone's pie shop off the ground.

Penny blushes. Jax smiles, sincerely happy for her.

Ace offers Penny his hand and motions to the dance floor.

Penny looks into Jax's eyes, but they both know she's with who she wants to be with. Jax smiles.

JAX

Get out there you two.

PENNY

Next dance with me?

JAX
I'll be right here.

Pleased, Penny accepts Ace's hand and they walk to the floor.

ACE AND PENNY

Tenderly sway to the music. It's clear that Penny is overjoyed to be with Ace, but that doesn't stop her from looking back at the table...

Where Jax's empty chair quietly rests.

INT. FRANK KELLERMAN'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jax enters and flips on the light, which summons Durham.

DURHAM
Everyone in town okay now Jax?

JAX
They'll be just fine. As always.

The cuckoo clock goes off. Jax and Durham look over.

DURHAM
Time to go?

Jax looks at the pictures of neighborhood friends. The people he helped. The people that believed in him.

He notices the iconic light jacket and drivers cap. He runs his hands over them, as if he's destined to put them on. He does. Jax gives Durham a generous head rub.

JAX
We've learned what we were supposed to learn. Thanks for showing me around.

Durham flashes a warm smile.

KITCHEN

Jax is drawn to the cool blue light flowing out from behind the garage door.

He reaches for the doorknob, but pauses to look around, trying to make sense of his journey in its remaining moments.

Still unsure of what's on the other side, he opens the door, which allows the cool blue light to fill up the room.

Jax steps into the light. The room floods into...

A FLASH OF WHITE. THEN BLACK. AND THE SOUND OF:

Shoes pounding on concrete. HEAVY BREATHING.

A figure emerges from the black, wearing the familiar costume of the superhero Justice...

He dashes through an elaborate...

SUPERHERO LAIR MOVIE SET

A camera glides over the set, which is controlled by Logan Banks, who directs Justice with a megaphone.

LOGAN

Now, stop. Look around. Excellent.

A familiar face watches the filming from the sidelines...

ALLISON

Diligently checks the levels of her catering treats. She notices a freshly baked apple pie. What the?

Jax slides up and offers a plastic fork.

JAX

Try this.

Allison dubiously sizes up Jax.

ALLISON

Your actions have forced me to Velcro things to the table now.

JAX

Eat.

She digs in and consciously tries to not act impressed.

ALLISON

Rome?

JAX

Red delicious.

She motions to the activity.

ALLISON

You turned down the role to play Betty Crocker?

JAX

Conflicted with another gig. Stage
18 actually. Stop by when you wrap?

She glares at him, but is intrigued by the offer.

ALLISON

Don't get your hopes up.

Taking that as a yes, Jax excuses himself

Allison returns to work, but her taste buds can't resist
another bit of pie. She digs in. It's heaven.

INT. STAGE 18 - DAY

Allison wanders through the stage door and weaves through
Crew Members as they set up to film. Judging by the three-
camera setup, this is a television show.

She discretely positions herself by the main camera set up.
An AD begins to call out.

AD

Quiet everyone. We're ready.
And...five...four...

The AD switches to hand signals. Three...Two...

The red light on the camera comes to life. We're rolling. The
AD finishes and points to...

Frank Kellerman. The real one. He's on the...

LIVING ROOM SET

Frank addresses his neighborhood friends: Queen Abigail,
Teddy and Freddy, Durham, Ace and, of course, Penny.

FRANK

Now, you all know to lock your
doors and don't let anyone else in
your homes, right?

TEDDY

Yes Frank.

FRANK

Well, today, someone is here to
talk to you about being safe.

There is a knock at Frank's door.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Ah. There he is.

Frank goes to the door and opens it for...

Jax, dressed as a police officer.

JAX
Good afternoon. I'm Officer Warner.

Jax catches a glimpse of Allison, who's clearly smitten with a man in uniform, albeit one on a kid's show.

Penny walks up to Jax.

PENNY
Are you going to make sure the
Funtastical Neighborhood is safe
Officer Warner?

Jax smiles at the irony of her line.

JAX
I wouldn't have it any other way.

EXT. ITALIAN VILLAGE - SET - NIGHT

Two pairs of shoes tenderly walk across cobblestone streets.

JAX AND ALLISON

Get to know each other as they stroll though the set. Their chemistry is practically overflowing.

ALLISON
I'm going to have to get some more
people. Have a few different teams.

JAX
Well, remember us little people
when you're at the top.

ALLISON
I'll send you a picture.

JAX
I would like that very much.

Allison notices something on Jax's wrist... the light blue Teddy watch.

ALLISON
Souvenir from being on the show?

JAX
Something like that.

ALLISON
If you keep on it, maybe you could
take over some day. Jax Savage's
Funtastical Neighborhood.

Jax smiles at the thought. Does he tell her? No.

JAX
That sweater changes your life. So
I've heard.

The couple continues though the set, as the lights of the San
Fernando Valley below merge into a fantastic sunset vista.

Too involved in their happy ending, they pay no attention to
a familiar Young Golden Retriever walking behind them...

FADE OUT.

THE END