

Gank the Zone

Jarred Hodgdon

FADE IN

EXT. BLUESTONE FRACKING SITE - DUSK

A mountaintop smolders. Cleared of trees, the browned and beaten terrain suffers by the ugly industrial buildings that sit atop the ancient mound.

INT. FRACKING COMPLEX / STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A lone MASKED MAN swiftly enters - gliding towards stacks of steel crates.

His eyes - seen through the slit of his mask - inquisitively widen, seeking something.

He deftly maneuvers through rows of stacks of crates.

"Ah ha!" There it is. His finger glides across a SMALL ETCHED DIAMOND MARKING on the casing of one crate.

With a GRUNT he removes the two heavy crates atop the marked one. Unlatching a series of locks he opens it - several neatly stacked boxes are within the crate.

He opens one up. HARRUMPH. Merely a common diamond sheathed industrial drill bit.

He opens another crate. ARGH. Same deal.

Then upon opening the third - his eyes go wide. "Ah ha!"

Removing his mask, we see PETEY KOPASKY(52). Delighted, the glow of a diamond covered drill bit reflects off his awe struck face. This is not the common industrial diamond drill bit, but a hefty arrangement of the sharpest, most finely cut, and purest retail ready diamonds.

Petey's mouth goes wide with a million dollar smile.

PETEY

Boo-ya.

INT. FRACKING COMPLEX / STAIRWELL AT ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Petey peers through the broken window adjacent to the roof access door. He spots TWO GUARDS patrolling the area.

Petey lifts a walkie-talkie. CLICKS.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY

(sotto)

Papa's in the nest. Bring the
birdie round.

Petey raises his glock and point the weapon. Is he pointing
at Guard One...at Guard Two?

KA-BLAM

He's fires clean through the window of another nearby access
door.

The guards are alerted, race to the door and bolt in.

Petey pulls his mask down and flees his hiding spot.

EXT. FRACKING COMPLEX / ROOFTOP -CONTINUOUS

Petey bolts from the stairwell. Racing towards the edge of
the rooftop.

He eats gravel -- slipping and falling!

Jumping back up- he looks to the nearby access doors the
guards retreated to. The guards burst out the door.

GUARD ONE

You! Get down!

The two guards draw guns out and race towards him.

Petey leaps to his feet. Begins his race towards the roofs
edge.

THWACKA CHICKA THWACKA

We hear the sounds of helicopter blades then see a black
helicopter rise above the roof line.

BLEW BOO BICHEW

Bullets fire from the guards. Ricocheting gravel beneath
Petey's feet.

The guards give chase as Petey reaches the edge of the roof.

He leaps!

Petey swims through the air. His free hand reaching out.

Bingo! He's caught the strut and the copter begins to
ascend.

(CONTINUED)

The guards fire from the rooftop. A few bullets ricochet off the chopper -- non-critical.

PeteY LAUGHS through his mask. His helicopter disappears into cloud cover.

PETEY (V.O)
Boo-ya, baby. Boo-ya.

INT. DAWN'S BUICK RENDEZVOUS - DAY

DAWN (29), looks like a Vulcan child at a human summer camp. She sits in the drivers seat of her SUV, biting her pinky nail as she looks at the laundromat she is parked in front of. Her brother, JULIAN (26), looks like a grown up Cabbage Patch Kid in specs. He studies her face with concern.

JULIAN
There's the soda machine on the second floor of the Cozy Inn.

INTERCUT FLASHBACK

EXT. COZY INN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Julian's hand puts a dollar in the vending machine.

JULIAN (V.O.)
If you put a dollar in but then don't make a selection...

The hand presses the change tab down.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
You can hit the coin return to cancel the transaction but it'll give you coins in return.

Julian picks up the change from the coin return.

DAWN
Yeah, but that's also the machine that eats money sometimes.

Julian shrugs - "Good point".

DAWN (CONT'D)
What about the drive through car wash?

JULIAN
No, they changed it all up. The
machine dispenses tokens now.

DAWN
Goddammit, the bank just had to be
closed on Sunday!

She SLAMS the dash.

DAWN (CONT'D)
This is the only way. We stick to
the plan.

INT. LAUNDRO-LAND - MOMENTS LATER

The door CHIMES as Julian and Dawn enter. LAUNDRO-LADY (55)
eyes the two suspiciously as they enter. Dawn warily lugs a
full garbage bag- sees that she's being watched.

DAWN
(showily)
Get our favorite machine, hun. I'll
get the change.

JULIAN
(inexplicable New York accent)
Okay, sweets.

The bag is handed off between them. Dawn pulls a folded ten
spot from her pocket - positions herself before the change
machine.

She eyes a notice.

INSERT SIGN - CHANGE MACHINE IS FOR CUSTOMERS ONLY

Wincing, she peers over her shoulder - Laundro-Lady is
looking at her.

Julian peers nervously across the room towards Dawn. Dawn
moves to insert her money.

LAUNDRO-LADY
You have one load! That's not ten
dollars.

Dawn freezes. Laundro-Lady has appeared beside her.

DAWN
All I have is a ten.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN

Hey, doll. What's the hold up?

LAUNDRO-LADY

I'll change it for you.

Laundro-Lady produces dollar bills from her pocket. Dawn looks worriedly about - see's an old video game machine.

DAWN

Dig Dug! ...I'm going to play Dig Dug while I wait.

Laundro-Lady halts.

JULIAN

Babe! C'mon already...we gotta get some suds on these duds!

DAWN

Coming.

Laundro-Lady glares at Dawn as she feeds the ten into the change machine.

KA-CHING. Out comes the quarters. Dawn fills her hands.

Dawn makes her way across over to Julian and the laundry machine.

The two look at the quarters - then look at Laundro-Lady. She's still scoping them out.

JULIAN

Hey ah, babe. Where's the soap at?

DAWN

I dunno. You were supposed to pack it.

JULIAN

Me pack it?! No way. You're the worst wife ever!

Dawn is disgusted - glares at Julian.

JULIAN

Hey ah. I mean. We should go home and get the soap and then come back.

DAWN

All right you dumb turd. Let's do that.

The two slowly make for the door, bag in hand.

LAUNDRO-LADY

Hey! Where you going?

DAWN

We'll be back. We just forgot our soap.

LAUNDRO-LADY

I have soap. You buy it here!

JULIAN

Listen. We only use organic.

LAUNDRO-LADY

Change is for customers only. Now wash here!

Laundro-Lady attempts to snatch the bag from Julian. They tug at it. Dawn's eyes go wide.

The bag rips in half. Stunned reactions all around as the bags contents spill to the floor -- garbage.

JULIAN

Start the car! Let's make for it!

Laundro-Lady chases the two out of the doors.

EXT. LAUNDRO-LAND - CONTINUOUS

Dawn is in the SUV starting the ignition as Julian hops in.

INT/EXT. DAWN'S BUICK RENDEZVOUS - CONTINUOUS

Dawn is backing up - tires SQUEALING.

JULIAN

Go, go, go!

We see Laundro-Lady shaking a fist towards the reversing vehicle.

LAUNDRO-LADY

Customers only!

Slamming into gear - Dawn PEELS out.

INT/EXT. DAWN'S BUICK RENDEZVOUS - MOMENTS LATER

Traveling down a suburban road of decaying strip malls.

DAWN

What was with the accent?

JULIAN

You made me pretend like we're husband and wife!

DAWN

Yeah. So? It's more believable. What kind of adult brother and sister do laundry together?

JULIAN

We do!

DAWN

Still- But wait?! Why the accent?

JULIAN

I don't like lying. I needed a persona to make it happen.

Dawn shoots an exasperated expression towards her brother.

JULIAN

Can't we just do our laundry there next time?

DAWN

Naw, those places charge too much. And hobos wash shit with feces all over it.

JULIAN

Well at least they have a change machine there unlike our stupid laundry room. And they have Dig Dug and soda. And hey! You washed poo pants at our apartment one time too!

DAWN

I ate too many peanuts and the yoga class made me stretch too much.

Julian scrunches his nose.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - LATER

Dawn sits atop the washing machine in the narrow laundry room. Julian HAND DRUMS on the upside down laundry basket as he HUMS a Native American sounding tune. Dawn SNAPS gum and looks at Julian critically.

DAWN

Shut up.

JULIAN

Laundry makes me think about the first contact between the Powhatan tribe and European settlers. The first hand accounts of washing and personal hygiene.

DAWN

Speaking of hygiene. I didn't hear YOU shower after hearing you pork your girlfriend last night.

JULIAN

Sorry. But what are we supposed to do? Our rooms are right next to each other.

DAWN

Be considerate I guess? You don't hear my humping.

JULIAN

That's cause you don't do it the same way we do!

DAWN

Same enough!

JULIAN

It's different. I really love Heidi.

DAWN

And you don't think I love Casey?

JULIAN

I'm gonna ask her to marry me.

DAWN

Ew. Why?!

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN

I just think...it's the next step.

BZZZZZZ - The dryer is done. Julian starts binning the clothes in the basket.

DAWN

If that ever happens, she isn't living here. That'll be the end of our cohabitation.

JULIAN

This arrangement was only supposed to be while we were in school remember?

DAWN

School. Another volume in our compendium of failures.

EXT. JULIAN AND DAWN'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The siblings approach their front door.

JULIAN

I'm paying most our rent anyhow. It doesn't seem your whole e-bay business plan is working out.

DAWN

I'm still growing it, man. Lay off.

Noticing.

DAWN (CONTD)

Hold up.

Dawn's hand shoots across Julian's chest protectively - the door is ajar. Dawn raises a finger to her lips: "Shhhh".

Arching on one leg and then -

THWACK

Dawn kicks open the door and rushes in.

INT. JULIAN AND DAWN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

DAWN
YAAAAAA!

Screaming like a banshee she charges towards a FIGURE--

DAWN (CONTD)
AAAAAAhhh!

--Turning, a disheveled dude, Skoodge (32), bites from a block of cheese and registers slight surprise.

Dawn recognizes Skoodge and dives to avoid collision. Skoodge looks down at Dawn, splayed out.

Julian casually enters with their laundry basket.

JULIAN
Skoodge? Hey, man.

Dawn now rises and runs a hand through her short hair - nonchalant.

DAWN
The hell you doing here?

SKOODGE
Just got out. Thought of you first.

Julian starts folding laundry on the couch and observing.

DAWN
Yeah, but how did you--

SKOODGE
--Your folks tole me where to find you. I went by there first.

Julian steps up to give Skoodge a pat to the shoulder.

JULIAN
It's good to see you, bud.

DAWN
You can't just break in here!

After a hearty bite of cheese--

SKOODGE
I didn't want to but it was really hot outside.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN

Yeah. It's like almost a hundred.
Well what brings you by?

DAWN

He said he just got out prison.
Listen please.

JULIAN

Huh. Didn't you go to jail like ten
years ago though?

DAWN

Yes he did. For breaking and
entering, robbery and fuck knows
what else.

SKOODGE

I got a checkered past.

JULIAN

I can't believe you got ten years
though.

SKOODGE

Shit! I got twenty-five to life,
brother. Got out early!

DAWN

Yes the revisionist wisdom of
leniency for our incarcerated
masses- why the FUCK are you here?!

SKOODGE

Where else would I go?

DAWN

Not here. Obla De Obla Da, get the
hell out.

SKOODGE

But, but you were the only woman I
ever been with.

DAWN

That was then! I spelt it out clear
to you already. I'm a lesbian.

SKOODGE

Shoot, girl. Don't say that about
yourself.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN
I'm proud of who I am!!

JULIAN
Hey, c'mon. We're all here now. I
wouldn't mind finding out what
you've been up to.

DAWN
He's been in prison.

CUT TO:

ON TV

EXT. CITY ROOFTOP/ HELICOPTER PAD DAY

Petey, in tuxedo, perches on the side bar of his helicopter.

As the chopper touches down he leaps off and begins to
approach us - pulls a pistol from his breast pocket.

PETEY
The names Petey. Diamond Zone
Petey.

BOND-ESQUE music scores as Petey breaks into a giant, cheesy
ass smile.

PETEY (CONTD)
An I'm on her majesty's order to
bring you the most popular cuts of
the worlds most pristine diamonds
and jewelery.

A BIG DUDE appears and throws his bowler hat at Petey. Petey
shoots it from the air.

PETEY (CONTD)
No credit?!

A LITTLE PERSON with mohawk appears - wielding a sword.

Petey pivots and shoots the mohawk right off the guys head.
Little Person's eyes and mouth go wide.

PETEY (CONTD)
Bad credit?!

Petey does a one-eighty to address camera.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY (CONTD)

Just call me agent double-o I don't care, cause I'm extending credit to anyone and everyone for all your engagement occasions, regardless of your credit history.

And here comes Petey's big juicy smile again.

INT. JULIAN AND DAWN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Julian smiles, amused by the commercial. He sits on the couch while Dawn silently fumes from her seat across the room.

JULIAN

I love that guy.

Dawn rises.

EXT. JULIAN AND DAWN'S APARTMENT / BALCONY - SAME

Skoodge smokes a cigarette looking out at the view of the free world as seen from the small balcony.

The door SLIDES open. Dawn joins him.

DAWN

Gimme a smoke.

Skoodge obliges- bringing one out and lighting it.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I don't do any of the stuff I used to. I'm a normal person now.

SKOODGE

Lesbian though.

DAWN

That's normal.

Dawn takes a drag.

DAWN

I don't even do this. Only this one cause you're stressing me out.

SKOODGE

Yeah. I'm shitting myself too. Dunno what's out here for me.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

Well find something. You can have a few days.

INT. PETEY KOPASKY'S MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

It's a palatial space, home to a wannabe king. Everything is facade and faux, lived in by someone who knows great taste exists but doesn't have it.

Petey sleeps alone in his giant pillow laden bed. His BICHON FRISE DOG nervously nips at the blanket, trying to stir him.

FOOTSTEPS echo from across the home. Getting louder they draw nearer.

BARK-- "Wake up you asshole"

Petey begins to stir and swat the pup.

The jarred door slowly swings open. Booted feet enter.

Petey sits up.

PETEY

What? You hungry you dingleberry?!

The dog runs to the STRANGER and starts BARKING.

Just as we catch glimpse of the military fatigued GOON in gas mask, the man releases a smoke bomb.

Petey reacts.

PETEY

What the?!

The dog WHIMPERS and passes out.

Petey begins COUGHING. FOOTSTEPS as Goon saunters over to Petey's bedside.

Goon's large figure bends down, getting right up in Petey's face. Petey half-heartedly tries to slap Goon, who easily pushes his hand away. Petey COUGHS, eyes fluttering. Smoke circles them.

GOON

Who's your inside man?

Petey draws out all his strength. Punches Goon right in the kisser... very weakly. Goon barely flinches. Petey's eyes roll back.

(CONTINUED)

GOON

Who helped you. We need the name.

Goon hoists Petey out of bed. Drags pajamaed Petey across the floor. Goon violently KICKS open the balcony doors, separating them from their frames.

EXT. PETEY'S HOUSE / BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Goon holds Petey up against the second floor railing. Petey's expansive yard with pool is seen below.

GOON

You don't know? That's fine I'd rather kill you anyway.

Petey's eyes flutter open.

PETEY

Nobody man! I don't know what you're talking about?!

Petey spits on his face. The face that's covered in a gas mask. Goon's head turns, phlegm running down the mask.

Goon begins to hoist up Petey.

PETEY

No! No! NOOOOO!

Goon throws Petey off the balcony. Petey flails and CRASHES into the water of the pool.

AT POOL

As he descends deep in the water, Goon deftly steps onto the balcony ledge and quickly swan dives into the pool.

Goon elegantly enters the water, landing on top of Petey and propelling him to the bottom.

"OOOOF"

The power of the blow registers in Petey's expression.

Goon wraps his hands around Petey's throat. The two thrash about through the water.

Petey spies his robotic pool cleaner.

Petey slyly grabs the cord from the cleaner and quickly draws it around Goon's throat.

(CONTINUED)

Goon reacts - "Huh?!"

Petey draws it tight. Pulling Goon towards him as he chokes him out. The two THRASH about trying to kill each other as they appear at the surface of the water.

With one hand tight on the cord around Goon's neck, Petey uses his other hand to grab the robotic pool cleaner.

As Goon uses his hands to try to free his neck, Petey begins to clobber him on the top of his head with the pool cleaner.

THWACK THWACK THWACK

In the shallow end of the pool now, Petey rises above Goon. Casting the robotic pool cleaner to the side, Petey begins to subdue Goon with more traditional street fighting technique.

He socks Goon in the side. Socks him in the gut.

And then winds up, connecting a solid PUNCH right in Goon's nose.

Goon collapses on top of the water.

Petey HEAVES. Spits. Catches his breath.

PETEY

Bluestone's on to me? Wants a name
does he?

Petey hoists Goon out of the water and slams him on the concrete next to the pool.

PETEY (CONT'D)

And you're the shot across the bow
are you?

Petey gets out of the water and stands above Goon.

PETEY (CONT'D)

Gotta say I'm none too happy about
the shift in tenor of our working
arrangement.

Petey kicks Goon in the ribs. Then drops down - getting all up in his grill.

PETEY (CONT'D)

You wanna know my inside guy?! The
guy who betrayed Bluestone...other
than me that is! I'll tell you-

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PETEY (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 right after you tell me who the
 fuck you are. Who the little inside
 boy ass kisser fuck who tried to
 kill me is. My guy...

Petey rips off Goon's gas mask.

PETEY (CONT'D)
 My guy is...

Petey recoils with surprise.

PETEY (CONT'D)
 You?!

Petey double takes. Looks closer. Looks disgusted. It's
 BARSTOW (51), a man with a chiseled and scruffy mug Petey is
 familiar with. Petey spits in his passed out foe's face.

PETEY (CONT'D)
 No mask now.

PRELAP - GRUNTING, HUFFING and PUFFING. The human GROANS of
 agony and the CLANK of metal hitting metal.

INT. URBAN JUNGLE GYMNASIUM - DAY

Dawn is red in the face and pumping iron with some free
 weights. Spotting her is CASEY (28), Dawn's girlfriend.

CASEY
 Hun. I think that's enough.

DAWN
 (straining)
 I got some more in me.

CASEY
 Why haven't you told me about him
 before?

DAWN
 It was a long time ago. Who gives a
 shit?

CASEY
 I just thought...you always knew
 who you were.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

And not a convert? This again?

Dawn's getting heated - benching with increased vigor.

CASEY

Well to show up at your house. It was obviously a big deal...at least to him.

DAWN

All you need to know is that he's a criminal loser.

CASEY

So much for your progressive views on the prison-industrial complex.

Dawn struggles with the weights.

DAWN

Think I'm a hypocrite?

CASEY

Just sayin'. Put up or shut up.

DAWN

Put this up, bitch!

Dawn, spotted by Casey, gets the weights up and they SLAM into place in their rack. Dawn PANTS and heaves. Casey hands her a towel.

CASEY

Don't call me that, meat-head.

Sitting up, Dawn towels her sweaty forehead.

CASEY (CONT'D)

The only reason I'm letting you get so buff in the first place is so you can carry me over the alter.

"Whassthat?!" - Dawn peers at her in surprise.

INT. URBAN JUNGLE GYMNASIUM - MINUTES LATER

Dawn and Casey run side by side on treadmills. Nearby a silent TV plays a Diamond Zone commercial.

ON THE TV

(CONTINUED)

Petey saunters about in a leprechaun costume with a pot full of glistening diamonds.

DAWN

What'dya mean by that?

CASEY

By what.

DAWN

That subtle hint of yours.

CASEY

It wasn't a subtle hint. It was blunt as a bag of wet mice.

DAWN

I just didn't know you were thinking of that.

CASEY

What about my being makes you think I'm some non-conformist?

DAWN

I dunno. The fact you stuff your face on my box on a daily.

CASEY

Actually I don't and now you think it's a lifestyle choice?

DAWN

No. Sorry. I'm just being a brat.

CASEY

And now we know you have a boyfriend too.

DAWN

Had. He was just my Mark Anthony.

CASEY

The singer?

DAWN

No the Roman ruler! Like a guy I use for fun and power but ultimately discard for my true lesbian passions.

CASEY

That's only in that Cleopatra porno you have. I don't think it's historically accurate.

DAWN

Yeah, well Skoodge wasn't any fun or powerful either.

CASEY

And you should leave the history analogies to your brother.

INT/EXT. HEIDI'S JETTA - DAY

HEIDI (29) starts texting as she pulls her car into a parking spot in a shopping center. Julian's girlfriend - a woman with big sunglasses, a big purse and big attitude.

She continues to text as Julian sits in the passenger seat looking useless.

HEIDI

Well?

JULIAN

(high alert)

Love you, baby.

HEIDI

Great, does love get me a Jim Jam Juice?

His smile fades off his face, then he gets it.

JULIAN

Oh! Yeah sure.

Julian hops out of the car. Before leaving he leans in to query-

JULIAN

Uh. What kind?

HEIDI

The same kind I always get. You remember right?

JULIAN

Yup.

Julian shuts the door. Concerned. He has no idea.

EXT. JIM JAM JUICE - MOMENTS LATER

Julian rounds the corner and is about to enter Jim Jam Juice when he sees next door:

INSERT : The glistening sign for Diamond Zone.

He thinks on it for a second, then tilts back and looks round the corner. Heidi is in the car with her head down texting.

Quickly he ducks into Jim Jam Juice.

INT. JIM JAM JUICE - DAY

Poised in front of the counter, Julian is flustered by an array of choices scrawled in the bright and colorful sign: Juices, jams, boosts, fruits, spreads, veggies, etcetera.

A machine WHIRS in the background. MELISSA (24), in a Jim Jam Juice baseball cap and apron waits behind the counter.

MELISSA

You wanna try a Very Boysenberry
Vanilla Chutney Swirl sample?

Julian is still thinking.

JULIAN

Um, no?

MELISSA

You wanna order then?

Not quite ready but he goes for it anyway.

JULIAN

Yeah, I'll have the P B and J
vanilla. Uh, medium sized?

MELISSA

Greek or regular?

JULIAN

Huh?

MELISSA

The varietal of yogurt?

JULIAN

Greek? Or whichever is more
popular.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

The boost you'll enjoy with that today?

JULIAN

What?!

MELISSA

It comes with a free boost. Some people obviously elect for more. I can definitely recommend this weeks special boost "Prolamin Punch" which produces gluten fighting antibodies.

Julian quickly looks at the sign.

JULIAN

No. I'll take the Femme Fabulous.

INT/EXT. HEIDI'S JETTA - SAME

Heidi is playing a game on her phone.

INT. JIM JAM JUICE - SAME

Julian takes his credit card back from Melissa.

JULIAN

Thanks! I'll be right back.

Julian flashes a big smile. Melissa gives a fake smile right back and her gaze moves to the wall.

EXT. JIM JAM JUICE - MOMENTS LATER

Julian busts out the door. Quickly he peers around the corner. Heidi is still zoned into her phone.

He backs up and hurries into Diamond Zone.

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Julian hustles in.

Petey Kopasky. Huge grin. Right there- up in Julian's face.

Jumping back in shock. "Oh". Julian sees it's a cardboard standee of Petey, dressed as a Centurion.

(CONTINUED)

CHORTLE. Julian turns around to see BERG (22). The lanky security guard tries to contain his snickering.

Julian strides up to the counter. This joint is cramped, bright and gaudy.

Clara (38), prim and serious, stands behind the displays, meets his gaze and waits for him to speak.

Julian realizes he won't be greeted. He starts hurriedly perusing the encased jewelry.

JULIAN

Hi.

CLARA

Hello. Can I be of service.

JULIAN

I'm looking for an engagement ring.

CLARA

Mmm. Hmmm.

JULIAN

Um. Are these all engagement rings right here?

CLARA

I should hope not.

Julian confusedly looks up at her.

CLARA

You are looking at broaches, pendants, necklaces and birthstones.

JULIAN

Oh.

She struts several paces down the cases. Julian dutifully follows.

CLARA

These here are a selection of our more popular engagement settings.

Julian peruses - his eyes land on a gleaming red ring. He points at it.

JULIAN

That one is beautiful. I love it!

CLARA

You shouldn't. It's a ruby.

JULIAN

Oh! But that's nice. It was the gem of royalty for kings.

In the background Berg shakes his head.

CLARA

I seem to remember we had a little war over the merits of monarchical governance.

JULIAN

I dunno then. What do you recommend?

After a hearty flair of her nostrils and a HUFF-

CLARA

Deciphering a womans taste can be like finding a single star in the night sky. Every small pin prick of light a fiery ball of gas that feels as though it is the center of all creation. But I can find the right star, given the proper coordinates... NPR or Beyonce?

JULIAN

Wha?

CLARA

Which is your lucky lass more likely to listen to?

JULIAN

Oh! Beyonce.

CLARA

Anne Hathaway or the Kardashian's?

JULIAN

Yeah, we keep up with Kardashians. They're on the DVR for sure.

CLARA

High heels or flats.

JULIAN
Both. Depending.

CLARA
Plain or Greek yogurt.

JULIAN
That just came up actually--

CLARA
Paris or New York?

JULIAN
She's been to New York a few times
and she has pictures of Paris in
her kitchen--

Clara smirks.

CLARA
Well, I hope you are ready to make
quite a commitment.

JULIAN
Yeah, for sure.

CLARA
One and one quarter princess cut
fourteen carat four prong setting
I-one twelve clarity in a white
gold band with three rows of
diamond accents.

JULIAN
That's a ring? Okay. What's that
run?

CLARA
We offer the best value for our
eternal symbols of love and
devotion, and this particular ring
happens to be marked down to
seven-thousand nine-hundred and
ninety- nine dollars.

Julian WHISTLES, rocks on his heels and then CHUCKLES.

JULIAN
How about one of your more economic
eternal symbols?

Clara pulls the ring out from the case to give Julian a
look.

(CONTINUED)

CLARA

I assure you, this is the least costly ring that could bring you a happily-ever after.

JULIAN

Well you guys are the finance anybody and extend credit no matter what people, right?

With an eye roll:

CLARA

Yeah. Sure, that's us.

JULIAN

Than that is the one I will take.

CLARA

Wonderful. Then I will just need to run a credit report, see two forms of guaranteed identification, proof of employment and salary income. Two pay stubs will do, a home phone and electrical bill or any other mail which would assure us of the legitimacy of your legal residence.

JULIAN

Oh. Well, I never used credit cards. Or have much of that other stuff with me.

Clara puts Petey's ring away.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

My income goes to debt and rent mostly-- but you said in the commercial you wouldn't turn anyone down for credit!

CLARA

Oh we won't turn you down, but I can only offer you items which total no more than seven hundred dollars, I will require a twenty percent down payment, you will enjoy the peak limits of interest rates we could legally charge, and I will have to make an impression of your fingerprints.

Clara pulls a ring from the case...it looks pretty nice!

(CONTINUED)

CLARA

This is the best I could offer you under such conditions.

JULIAN

I don't know much about jewelry, but that looks better than the other one!

CLARA

I thought you might like it. On many accounts its better than that diamond.

JULIAN

Oh yeah? How's that?

CLARA

It is synthesized in a laboratory, it bests the diamond - the very mineral it is trying to imitate - in most of the categories for which the diamond is revered for.

Julian's eyebrows rise - intrigued.

CLARA (CONT'D)

In the color, purity, level of refraction and weight to the hand in normal daily ring wear performance. In every category, including the fact that this is manufactured under well paid union labor rather than harvested in dark caves in perilous corners of the planet under work conditions that are exploitative at best and that of slavery at worst. By every objective analysis this ring is better than that one right over there.

JULIAN

Wow! Than what's the catch.

CLARA

She will hate it.

JULIAN

What?! WHY?!

(CONTINUED)

CLARA

Because it is not that.

--Pointing to the diamond ring.

JULIAN

She probably won't be able to tell.

CLARA

She will tell in an instant.

JULIAN

She's not who you think. Even if she does see the difference. She loves me for me.

CLARA

Of course. I apologize.

JULIAN

I'm going to take that ring.

CLARA

Wonderful. Please fill this out for the credit application. Oh, and be sure to read the no return policy on the back.

INT/EXT. HEIDI'S JETTA - SAME

Heidi is taking a selfie. SNAP.

She closes the phone. UGH - "What is taking him so long?!"

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE - MINUTES LATER

Julian stealthily exits Diamond Zone. He looks around, then ducks into:

INT. JIM JAM JUICE - MOMENTS LATER

At the counter, Julian receives his Jim Jam Juice.

MELISSA

Didn't think you were comin' back, dude.

JULIAN

How could I forget my peanut butter and jelly jam juice beverage?

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

Does your old lady wear big giant sunglasses?

JULIAN

Sky stars! Did I buy the wrong kind of juice?

BANG BANG BANG

Heidi is outside and bangs on the window. She gives Julian a "What the fuck?!" with her arms.

MELISSA

Not cool, man. I hafta wash those windows.

EXT. JIM JAM JUICE - MOMENTS LATER

Julian exits to join Heidi. He follows her heels back to the car.

HEIDI

What took you so long?

JULIAN

Sorry, babe. Crazy line.

Heidi takes a sip.

HEIDI

Ew! What boost did you get?!

She draws another gulp.

HEIDI

Is that fem boost?! Dummy! I like Electro-tie-eet!

INT. PETEY'S WALK IN CLOSET - DAY

Petey's closet has one wall that looks like a shopping mall mens formal wear store. The other side has outfits Petey would consider casual, like Hawaiian shirts and sweat pants.

Petey's in his underwear, his large frame on display in full frontal glory, aided by the large mirror on the back wall of the closet.

He surveys his inventory, gets armfuls of his favorite outfits and hustles them out into his

(CONTINUED)

MASTER BEDROOM

Petey's dog licks at his heels as he throws his clothes atop a mound on his bed.

Barstow is on the floor, tied up with rope and duct tape.

Petey hustles back into the closet - collects more clothes and returns in a mad dash to clear it out. Barstow GROANS through his taped up mouth.

Petey swiftly stomps on his chest and tosses an armful of clothes on the bed.

Petey runs out of the room.

Barstow GROANS. WHIMPERS.

We hear far off RUNNING FOOTSTEPS. The OPENING of a cabinet. Barstow writhes on the floor in agony.

We hear the frantic FOOTSTEPS of Petey returning.

He rushes into the room and then unfurls a bright blue tarp, hastily laying it down in the closet.

Sweating and frantic - Petey rushes to Barstow's side.

PETEY

C'mon, Barstow.

With a GRUNT, Petey gets Barstow from under the arms and begins to drag him towards the closet.

Barstow is barely conscious, but neither resists or aids the difficult dragging process Petey is undertaking. Turning red in the face, Petey struggles but finally manages to get Barstow into

INT. PETEY'S CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

Petey is getting dressed, putting together his version of looking sharp - an off the rack suit paired with a clashing shirt. He inspects himself in the mirror while standing above Barstow whom is bound and tied up.

Pulling his loud tie into place, he looks down - noticing that Barstow is stirring.

Petey crouches down to look Barstow in the eye. He scrunches up Barstow's face so that their gaze will meet.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY
Hewwow widdle man.

BARSTOW
Please. Don't.

PETEY
That wasn't a test of my loyalty.
You would have killed me.

BARSTOW
No. Bluestone! He sent me--

PETEY
--On a mission of exploration and
discovery!? Where I wind up either
dicked or dead! Well you sit tight.
I got business.

Petey walks out of the closet.

BARSTOW
C'mon Pete.

Petey rushes back in. He shoves a sock into Barstow's mouth
then ties a tie around his head to complete the gag.

Exiting, Petey closes the closet door. He takes a key and
locks Barstow in.

PRELAP The MUSIC of the classic video game: Dig Dug.

INT. LAUNDRO-LAND - DAY

Julian and Skoodge huddle at the game cabinet - Julian at
the controls. At a distance, with rows of washing machines
between them, Laundro- Lady glares at their backs.

SKOODGE
That ring? I dunno. That ring is
fairly terrible.

JULIAN
Are you serious?

SKOODGE
That ain't aspirational, that's
kamikaze.

JULIAN
Man. What should I do?

(CONTINUED)

SKOODGE

I dunno what your old lady's like,
but if she isn't fat on your baby,
and you ain't ever even lived with
her, I'd put that booty-ass ring
back in the vending machine it fell
outta.

Skoodge loses his game, indicated by DEATH CHIMES.

SKOODGE (CONT'D)

Shee-it.

Skoodge and Julian switch places, Julian feeds a quarter in
and begins to play.

SKOODGE (CONT'D)

Why didn't you do that three month
rule thing?

JULIAN

I can barely afford to live off
what I make in three months, let
alone ever save up that much.

SKOODGE

Saving. Earning. You think too
much. Jus' snatch that shit.

JULIAN

Steal it?

SKOODGE

Ain't hard. One of my strikes was
for ganking some shit. But that
strike was like the apex of a whole
thieven pyramid made of scott free
bricks.

JULIAN

Well. At least that's all behind
you now.

SKOODGE

Behind me? Says who?

Julian is engrossed in the game.

SKOODGE (CONT'D)

But if you want the girl. If you
need the ring to get the girl. I
say get that ring no matter what
you gotta do.

(CONTINUED)

Julian slams the joystick.

INSERT SCREEN Dig Dug steps away from under the rock just in time. Crushing one of his enemies under the falling stone.

Julian smiles at his success.

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

Petey's BMW backs up into the handicapped spot right in front of Diamond Zone. He bursts out the car door - with a click and a BLEW BEWP from his car key the trunk opens up. He quickly grabs a box and a gym bag from out of it.

Berg comes out from Diamond Zone to help him carry the load.

INT. DIAMOND ZONE / BACK ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

In the tight back room and office, Petey is organizing the boxes and items he has brought in. Clara and Berg watch in the background, concerned.

CLARA

We don't have the liability insurance to hold this kind of stock here.

BERG

Sir, I haven't got my permit to carry yet either. These my only guns.

Berg pulls his pants up and flexes his calves.

PETEY

I'm not hanging a sign out front, I'm just moving some goddamned overstock and last I checked I'm the boss around here!

CLARA

It's just...you seem tense. Just tell us everything is okay?

Petey slyly peeps into a metallic case - it's the case with the stolen diamond studded drill bit.

PETEY

It's all good.

He stows the case in a cabinet then spins round to face his employees.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY

You go my word on it.

Petey shoots a menacing grin towards Berg and Clara.

SKOODGE (V.O.)

Go to jail. Go directly to jail. Do not pass Go. Do not collect two-hundred dollars.

INT. JULIAN AND DAWN'S APARTMENT / KITCHEN AREA - NIGHT

Skoodge reads from a card.

DAWN

How apt.

A game of Monopoly is happening around the small kitchen table. It's a tight fit for Julian, Heidi, Dawn, Casey, and Skoodge.

Julian rolls.

CASEY

What's your plan, Skoodge?

SKOODGE

I'm prolly gonna roll for doubles. Use this as a chance to wait it out and hope someone lands on one of my properties.

DAWN

She means for your life. Now that you have one.

SKOODGE

Oh. Yeah. Prolly I'll, I dunno, stick it out and just see what comes up.

Julian's turn was uneventful.

HEIDI

What about job skills? Didn't they like have a GED program or like some sort of rehabilitation charitable drum circle or something in prison?

(CONTINUED)

SKOODGE

Fuck yeah. They had all of that.

JULIAN

Than what did you do?

SKOODGE

Nothin! I didn't wanna fall into that mess - the politics and social club.

DAWN

You ask me that sounds like typical, no accountable Skoodge bullshit.

SKOODGE

Whyzzat, huh?

HEIDI

You could have like, at least taken advantage of the situation. Gotten some life skills.

SKOODGE

Naw. I'm not a follower. I live based on the luck principal...I'm a lucky dude. And often times, my card comes up bingo. I just have to keep my heart and mind clear of all the fuckin' noise blockin it out.

Dawn pulls her short hair in frustration- "this guy sucks".

CASEY

Fair point. You saw through the systems indoctrination. The world functionally failed you, why should you buy into their so called rehabilitation when, upon re-entry to civilization you face a "no felony allowed" employment culture.

SKOODGE

Fucks right. Ezactly.

CASEY

Those conventional avenues are closed to you now, so why not find another way. A better way!

Dawn sticks out her hand - interjecting.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

Honey? I love you. But you're
talking out of your ass right now.
Have another beer--

She points at Julian.

DAWN (CONT'D)

--lets go have a smoke.

JULIAN

I don't smoke.

DAWN

It's a vape.

JULIAN

That's still gross.

EXT. JULIAN AND DAWN'S APARTMENT / BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Dawn nervously vapes - looks pleading.

JULIAN

You can vape indoors.

DAWN

Casey hates it. Says she'll only
tolerate it temporarily if there is
a degree of humiliation involved.
I'm screwed. In real deep.

After a sharp inhale.

DAWN

The full press has come down hard.

JULIAN

Full press?

DAWN

How do I dump her? I've never been
in love like this. It's usually so
easy. How do I dump the woman I
love?

JULIAN

(surprised)

I don't think you should, dump her.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

She wants to get married.

JULIAN

That's great. Marriage equality!
That's what you fought for.

DAWN

All the protests and organizing
wasn't for me. It's cause I'm a
revolutionary- feminist, humanist,
liberal. But I don't wanna get bent
over and rammed by some goddamned
religious institution that's been
co-opted by the ten eyed civic
government tentacle monster.

JULIAN

Cold feet?

DAWN

It's just.. if this is the last
girl for me, that's so sad. She
already has like a young old lady
face. Imagine what her old old lady
face will look like.

Dawn vapes hard.

JULIAN

Y'know. It's like kismet or
something. We really are so
similar.

DAWN

You do like girls with old lady
features too.

JULIAN

No. Look.

Julian pulls out the ring he bought. Shares it
surreptitiously.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

I'm hearing wedding bells too.
Going to propose.

Dawn manhandles the ring.

DAWN

What the fuck?!

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN
Great right?

DAWN
This is the fakist shit I ever saw.

Julian snatches it back.

JULIAN
Everyone thinks they know her. But they don't.

DAWN
Okay. When she dumps you I'll take that ring off your hands. My ladies against blood diamonds and capitalism. I can sell that Mr Wizard science rock as respect for her world view.

Julian smiles.

JULIAN
Alright. Double wedding.

The siblings give each other a lazy high-five.

INT. BLUESTONE ESTATE / STUDY - NIGHT

The room reeks of an old school idea of old money - mahogany, ferns, leather books. There's a pool table in the large room too.

This is a standoff. NICHOLAS BLUESTONE (72), composed and stately, sits on the business side of a large desk. Across him is Petey - sweaty, disheveled, still in his suit. Standing next to Petey's seat is Barstow - beaten, mouth taped, tied up.

Bluestone speaks with an ever so slight Russian accent.

BLUESTONE
Pray tell. Why have you beaten and dragged Mr. Barstow into my home, into my office, at this hour.

Petey cocks his head inquisitively.

BLUESTONE (CONT'D)
Yes, you presume I should tell YOU that. A power play.
(cocks head again)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BLUESTONE (CONT'D) (cont'd)
You have come upon a thesis so out
with it.

Petey stands - poised to enjoy this.

PETEY
You sent your goon here to whoop my
ass- or kill me. And we're supposed
to be partners you drippy bag of
marbles! And for what?

BLUESTONE
For the spectacle. You presume to
go around our normal business
channels -back slang me - thinking
me old and ignorant. You aren't on
my level, Petey. You shall draw the
short end of the stick in any deal
that should pass between us. In all
deals. I am what wealth and power
looks like. It is something born
into and not earned.

Bluestone cocks his head- slowly rises while holding Petey's
gaze.

BLUESTONE (CONT'D)
In my distant past there was a man
like you - merely a rich man. He
returned from his business on the
silk road to his little European
homeland. To his small village,
this time with more than his usual
wares for sale.

Bluestone makes his way over towards the pool table. He
pulls out a fist sized diamond out of the cue ball return.
Barstow's eyes worriedly follow Bluestone.

BLUESTONE (CONT'D)
Never having to barter, trade, sell
or leverage the wealth of this
diamond. Just possessing it let
everyone who set eyes upon him know
that he was the wealthiest man they
would ever see. This is what you
really want. A symbol of wealth
that is so great it need not be
spent or transacted, but only held.

He walks back to his desk, reaches into a drawer- replaces
the diamond with a cue ball.

(CONTINUED)

BLUESTONE (CONT'D)

That rock came to my family so many centuries ago, and assured that neither I, nor my grandchildren could ever be surpassed by someone like you...a Petey Kopasky.

PETEY

Your strip mall empire wouldn't be moose dung without me! I was- I AM- the flagship!

Barstow looks between the two, concerned.

BLUESTONE

You are the little clown, dancing on the corner to attract the children and the chumps.

Bluestone saunters over to the pool table, sets the cue down and nods at Petey. Petey gets the point and racks the balls.

PETEY

I made your success.

BLUESTONE

I am not involved with my retail outlets and energy endeavors for riches, friend. But for my great great grandchildren, so that they might have an interesting historical footnote about me. I could open a feces and condom store and my progeny would be just as filthy rich.

Bluestone has a weak break- nothing sinks.

PETEY

And you suck at pool either way.

BLUESTONE

And I don't care.

Petey sinks a solid.

BLUESTONE (CONT'D)

Now lets someone else speak their mind.

Bluestone crosses to Barstow's chair - removes the gag.

(CONTINUED)

BARSTOW

Damn. Damn, damn. Thank you.

Bluestone waits - as if expecting Barstow to say more - intrigued. Further words aren't offered and he returns to the game. He takes aim at the cue - strikes the ball and sinks a solid.

BLUESTONE

Got one.

PETEY

It was a solid. I'm solids.

Bluestone takes stock - looks at Petey.

BLUESTONE

What game were we playing?

Smirk.

BLUESTONE (CONT'D)

Now just tell me the name. Whose judgment stepped out on a holiday so far, that they thought you could bring them better opportunity than I. Who helped you with your diamond drill bit charade?

Petey is ready to take delight in this.

PETEY

Your boy. Sitting right there.

Bluestone looks to Barstow - a flash of disappointment on his face.

BLUESTONE

Ah. Then you have found a way to take something from me.

Bluestone makes his way to the desk- leans on it. Stares at Barstow, leans in closer to the mans battered face.

BLUESTONE (CONT'D)

Didn't I pay for your loyalty?

BARSTOW

Not enough.

Bluestone smiles towards Petey.

(CONTINUED)

BLUESTONE

And you all think I shouldn't feel superior to you. That I am not, in fact, better...A rich man can see value in an endeavor beyond the next pay day.

Bluestone makes his way to the pool table. Picks up a pool ball.

PETEY

Why'd you even come after me, Barstow? To pump me for info you already knew?

BLUESTONE

Because his only other option was to tell me the truth.

Bluestone tosses and catches the ball. Barstow looks grim.

PETEY

He would have killed me.

BLUESTONE

Yes. But he would have made it look like self defense. I am said to abhor violence...but now this dirty little situation has fallen into my lap. Hasn't it?

Barstow looks up - pleading.

Bluestone with cue: Toss. Catch. Grin.

Disgust crosses Petey's face. His unseen glare directed at Bluestone.

PETEY

Look. I was relentless. Pumped him for info, access, anything. All the time.

BLUESTONE

You must have. You've reached your grubby fingers into so many of my honey pots.

PETEY

I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

BLUESTONE

Don't be. They're still my honey pots. And you. My little bee, can buzz off. Let's see how your little Diamond Zone empire fairs without the backing of the consortium.

PETEY

C'mon. Please.

Bluestone puts his hand on Barstow's shoulder.

BLUESTONE

Leave here with your head down. You will always treasure the day you learned your place. There could be far worse fates.

Barstow looks up at Bluestone.

BARSTOW

Please. Don't kill me.

BLUESTONE

Kill you? I have more interesting ideas for what to do with my most loyal betrayer.

A demented smile strikes Bluestone's face.

Petey is humiliated - with wet eyes verging on tears.

INT. HEIDI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A neat Ikea and Pier 1 furnished pad.

Julian studies Heidi's face - which is presently transfixed on the television.

ON TV

Swashbuckling Petey the Pirate, wearing a bandanna on his head, big hoop earrings.

PETEY

Yargh. Those other scallywag purveyors of jewels and treasures can walk the plank!

Reveal that he is on a pirate ship. He gives a swift kick in the booty to SCALLYWAG, the gentleman that was standing bound on the plank.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY

Cause I'm swashbuckling prices and
extending credit to every league of
the seven seas!

BACK TO ROOM

Julian takes the TV remote from his girlfriend.

JULIAN

Hun?

She TSKS - snatches back the remote and flips it back on.

JULIAN

I was going to try something
elaborate and cute--

HEIDI

--Can we just have a little quiet
time?

JULIAN

I have something important to do.

HEIDI

C'mon I--

Julian shuffles off the couch - down to one knee. Takes her
hand.

He finally has Heidi's attention - she looks like a deer
trapped in headlights.

JULIAN

Heidi. Sweetie. We've been together
a while now, but it didn't take
long to know--

CHIMING - RINGING - CHIMING . Heidi's phone is going off
from her armchair.

Heidi slowly turns her gaze to the phone. Hesitating, she
picks up the phone and silences it. She goes to set it down,
but in a moment of consideration clicks about for a few
seconds - checking the message.

She returns her attention to Julian, smiling purposefully.

JULIAN

Well, I love you lots. I love you a
ton. So.

(CONTINUED)

Julian pulls the cased ring out of his back pocket. presenting the closed case - Heidi nods her head with polite condescension.

JULIAN

Heidi Hinkle. Would you do me the honor and will you marry me?

Heidi stares with pursed lips, waiting.

Julian snaps to and opens the ring case.

She begins to examine it, cocks her head. Lifts Julian's hand to see the ring in better light. She EXHALES deeply.

Heidi claps her fingers around Julian's and closes the ring case without touching it.

HEIDI

I'm not going to take this personally or feel insulted.

Julian's hopeful face turns to a look of 'uh oh'.

HEIDI

You're just clueless. Clueless.

JULIAN

I. Just love you.

HEIDI

What do you think I'm worth?

JULIAN

More than I could ever hope to give you. Probably a lot.

HEIDI

Did you work hard and sacrifice for that thing? If we start a family, how does that chunk of shit tell me you are prepared to claw and punch and spit to protect me and my babies?!

Julian is crestfallen and confused.

JULIAN

I can promise I'll love you, be good to you and that I'll give you all of me. Always. Hundred percent.

HEIDI

Put that thing away.

(re: the ring)

Show me that you can be enough. You need to make a g-darned hail mary pass now bub.

JULIAN

I will. I promise.

HEIDI

I might want to say "yes" but I need to see some hard work and sacrifice.

JULIAN

I'll get a good ring. Whatever it takes. How much time do I have?

HEIDI

I don't need to give you a deadline. Just man up and get it done.

JULIAN

WHEW. Okay. No rush.

HEIDI

I'm going to have a baby by the time I'm thirty-two. I am going to be married before I have a baby. I am twenty-nine right now. I didn't start this dynamic in our relationship but I'm glad it's begun cause I'll just let you know that I have eligible daddies flirting with me every g-darned day and I have held out stubbornly for you for whatever unknown emotional attachment I have but now that you've shown me what you think I am worth I might just be looking at you a little different until I soon see reason to think otherwise.

JULIAN

Okay. Big rush.

INT. CASEY'S APARTMENT / MAIN ROOM - DAY

Casey is holding her chubby ass cat in the air, spinning and dancing with it to some FOLKY CHEESY MUSIC.

DING DONG DING DONG DING DONG

It's the doorbell and someone persistent on the other side.

Casey sets the cat down - bounds to the door - peeks through the peephole and opens it. Upon opening Dawn kisses Casey's cheek and hustles into the room.

CASEY

I gave you a key so you'd use it.

DAWN

Soon enough my dear.

BLAM - She smacks the ring case onto the coffee table.

DAWN (CONT'D)

After I wife you up.

Casey takes it all in. A huge smile grows on her face - she SQUEALS with delight.

Dawn is taken by Casey's smile and a smile sneaks onto her face too.

INT. CASEY'S APARTMENT / KITCHEN - LATER

Casey and Dawn stand side by side. The elated couple is cheerfully washing and drying dishes together. Casey rinses a wet dish and hands it to Dawn to dry, bumping hips flirtatiously as she does so.

CASEY

I'm really impressed. You heard something I said and took it to heart.

DAWN

Y'know I love you, girl.

CASEY

I love the ring, the fact that you really thought it through--

DAWN

--I'm romantic like that.

(CONTINUED)

CASEY

It's just. How set are you on the ring? I really appreciate that it's not a diamond, I do. But I was thinking we can get each others birthstones, something like that.

DAWN

Yeah. Sure. Whatever, babe.

Casey examines Dawn's face.

CASEY

Mmmm. No. Now I feel bad! You picked the ring out and surprised me, I'm sorry love.

Casey tries to nuzzle Dawn to little response.

DAWN

No really it's cool, I got it from Jules, I wanna make you happy.

Dawn pecks Casey back on the lips. But Casey backs up.

CASEY

Got it from Julian?

DAWN

Yeah. Y'know Heidi doesn't have the same political IQ of you or I. She freaked with this thing not being a blood diamond at all. So swoop, I got a come up on that thing.

CASEY

Oh. I see. You only got this ring cause your brothers an idiot.

DAWN

He's not that stupid.

CASEY

You wouldn't have even proposed to me at all if it wasn't for his table scraps!

DAWN

No. It was just a coincidence. Kismet. Fate

(CONTINUED)

CASEY

You turd.

CASEY

I have no way of knowing what you really want. How far you're really willing to take this.

DAWN

Shit, I just tried to put a ring on your finger!

CASEY

Try harder. This ring is worthless now.

Casey grabs the ring box from off the kitchen counter. She takes the ring out and drops it in the garbage disposal.

WHIRRZZ

She flips on the disposal and tries to obliterate it.

DAWN

You're gonna break the disposal!

There is a grinding sound but it passes and clears through the drain.

CASEY

No. A real diamond might break the blades, but not that one.

Casey smirks. Thinking --

CASEY (CONT'D)

Y'know what. That'll do it. I think I do want a real diamond after all. A cruelty free diamond actually, that'll make a stronger political statement...dontcha think?

GULP. Dawn swallows, she's in for it now.

INT. JULIAN AND DAWN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Julian and Dawn stand above Skoodge asleep on the couch as if they've been watching him for hours.

Dawn bites her nail. The siblings look at each other. Julian nudges Skoodge whom fusses then wakes up.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

We came to terms that might allow
you to stay here for awhile.

SKOODGE

(groggy)

I knew it. I just knew you'd want
me back.

JULIAN

No Skoodge. It's about what we
talked about...discussed.

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE PARKING LOT - DAY

Skoodge is wandering amongst the cars in the basic strip
mall parking lot. Far off in the distance ahead of him is
Diamond Zone, Jim Jam juice and a row of cookie cutter
establishments.

He shuffles casually while looking at Diamond Zone. He looks
left and right, then pauses between two cars.

Skoodge pulls out a pair of cheap binoculars from the front
inside of his pants. Hoisting them up to:

BINOCULAR VIEW

He sees a camera in one outside corner.

A camera in another outside corner.

Berg stands guard, he's got headphones on - bopping his head
around - smoking a cigarette and pacing around the front
entrance.

Skoodge pulls the binoculars down - snide smirk.

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE - MOMENTS LATER

Berg waddles down the way, leaving his post.

Skoodge strides up to the front of the store -- seizing the
opportunity. Tries to look casual walking by--peers in one
window-- takes a few steps down -- peers in another window.

SKOODGE (V.O.)

Alright then. We gone gank the
Zone?

INT. JULIAN AND DAWN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

COMPLETE DARKNESS

DAWN (V.O.)

Our success is predicated on how well we plan this thing. If we want it bad enough it's ours.

From blackness a sheet is pulled away by Skoodge.

SKOODGE

Ah, wa-la.

Skoodge is pleased. Dawn and Julian look down- awestruck.

DAWN

This right here. Is preparation.

We see what Skoodge has revealed. A perfect replica of the Diamond Zone. It is constructed neatly in diorama with a combination of found objects and professional miniatures.

JULIAN

This is like a perfect replica of the Diamond Zone store.

SKOODGE

Just about.

INTERCUT FLASHBACK

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

Skoodge peruses the cases.

He looks to a camera up in one corner.

He looks to a camera up in another corner.

Something catches his eye. He see's in a display case, a really cute gem encrusted squirrel. He mouths, "Oh snaps."

SKOODGE

Each detail is near identical. Diamond Zone is the flagship store in a series of identical strip malls across the greater Bay Area. Petey Kopasky founded Diamond Zone in a partnership with one Nicholas Bluestone, some rich ass old dude.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN

You've done some homework.

DAWN

I'm impressed.

SKOODGE

This honkey Bluestone is running game everywhere. He's deep up in the diamond conglomerates all through the chain, Africa, to Europe and right through these United States. Furthermore he's got an Energy company doin' dirt in the hydraulic fracturing arena, even so close as over there in Tulare.

DAWN

Okay. So what!?

SKOODGE

Point being. This boy blue got the diamonds. The Diamond Zone retail store and fracking? Those are two economic endeavors dependent on diamonds.

DAWN

And?!

SKOODGE

And ol' Bluestone has a secret. This guy tries to pass as you're average red blooded American, but I found evidence that he's a Ruskie.

JULIAN

Can we focus on the particulars of what is going to help us steal these diamonds specifically?

SKOODGE

Sure. For sure, yeah.

We see small details of the diorama - the cases, the cameras, a cheesy framed picture of Petey on the wall.

INTERCUT with interiors of the real store.

DAWN

So, this is exactly what we could expect to find in the store?

(CONTINUED)

SKOODGE

Almost. This back room, we don't know quite what the layout is.

JULIAN

So what? We're only in it for the princess cut diamond for Heidi, and a cruelty free diamond for Casey.

SKOODGE

And whatever I want.

JULIAN

Yeah, like we said. Just one thing, Skoodge.

SKOODGE

How about one bag full of things?

JULIAN

We're not professional criminals.

DAWN

He did make a pretty professional diorama. At least let him have a bag.

SKOODGE

Yeah.

JULIAN

What size of bag? Bags could be big?!

SKOODGE

How about a sack?

DAWN

Like a money bag sack right?

SKOODGE

Or like a potato sized sack maybe.

JULIAN

A sack?! No! You could fit too many diamonds in a sack.

DAWN

I want to be fair here, Skoodge, but he has a point. We have a very specific political and practical agenda here.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN
I got it... "uchi-bukuro"!

SKOODGE
Cootchie what?!

JULIAN
'Uchi-bukuro'. It's a small little sack Samurai would carry their currency in.

SKOODGE
Having trouble visualizing that.

JULIAN
It's like a small little sack- like the small little silky sack Robin Hood would carry for coins.

DAWN
Hey, that doesn't sound so bad! Like Robin Hood, eh?

SKOODGE
Sheeit! Aight, fine. I can work with a cootchie bugaboo. But I don't know how to find one, where to get it, what to ask for.

JULIAN
Don't worry. I got that.

Julian turns his attention back to the diorama and points.

JULIAN
My ring is in this case right here.

DAWN.
Where's mine?

SKOODGE
Same case. One shelf down.

DAWN
What's the plan already?

Skoodge dives into the diorama, uses action figures in place of Dawn, Julian and himself.

SKOODGE
Sure. Let's get to it.

Skoodge moves the Julian figure to the space next to the Diamond Zone model.

(CONTINUED)

SKOODGE

Julian. You gotta get a job at Jim
Jam Juice.

INTERCUT FLASH-FORWARD

INT. JIM JAM JUICE - DAY

Julian works a juice machine - BLENDING then shoveling
peanut butter into the blender. He looks up to a window and
nods at Skoodge.

JULIAN (V.O.)

Hey. But I like my job at the kids
museum!

SKOODGE

That's fine. You're only part time
anyways. You tell your boss that
you want a reduction in hours
because you are taking classes. He
won't question you. Work those
hours around your Jim Jam Juice
job.

INTERCUT FLASH-FORWARD

INT. A ILL HISTORY - DAY

Julian is dressed like Paul Revere talking to BOSS (55),
dressed like Harriet Tubman. They stand before a Gold Rush
display with a Prospector figure. Julian talks to Boss as
she nods her head.

JULIAN (V.O.)

My boss is a she.

SKOODGE (V.O.)

Even better. Just say what I told
you. And make sure you get that job
at Jim Jam's.

JULIAN

Alright.

INTERCUT FLASH-FORWARD

INT. JIM JAM JUICE - DAY

Julian is having trouble at the register. Melissa reaches over him- frustrated. She punches everything up and gestures - "like that". As she turns to leave, Julian takes her arm, spins her and looks her in the eyes - "thank you". A smile breaks on her face and they share a flirtatious look.

DAWN (V.O.)

I am not getting a second job.

SKOODGE

Don't worry. I got something in mind for you.

Skoodge moves the Dawn action figure towards the security guard action figure on the diorama.

INTERCUT FANTASY

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

Dawn, dressed sexily, approaches smiling Berg.

SKOODGE

So we're gonna need a distraction--

DAWN

--I'm not doing blow jobs or anything sexual.

Skoodge moves the Dawn and security guy figures apart on the diorama.

In Diamond Zone, Dawn walks away from Berg as he frowns.

SKOODGE

Okay. I have something in mind for you later then.

Skoodge holds up a weird Rastafarian action figure.

SKOODGE

Here's me.

He moves his Rastafarian counterpart towards the Berg figure.

INTERCUT FANTASY

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

Skoodge approaches Berg. A smile grows on Berg's face.

SKOODGE (V.O.)

Imma deal this dude weed. Get in
real tight with him. Imma smoke out
with him every day if I have to.

In Diamond Zone, Skoodge and Berg walk out together.

SKOODGE

Then on heist day? I distract that
hombre.

DAWN

What if he doesn't want to buy your
weed?

A look of confusion strikes Skoodge.

SKOODGE

Then I'll pretend I'm interested in
his product, and buy weed from him.

JULIAN

Maybe though, he just doesn't like
getting high.

SKOODGE

Security guards blaze. Trust me.
Slangins how I got one of my three
strikes, remember?

DAWN

It's different now then when you
got locked up. There's medical
cannibus and it's practically
legal.

SKOODGE

(smirking)

Things may change darling, but
everything always stays the same.
People will always wanna get faded,
and people will always prefer
gettin' blazed with new friends in
the back of a retail store.

Skoodge takes the diorama figures of him and Berg and moves
them from inside the store to behind it.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

All right, I see where this is headed. Julian is next door in the Jim Jam Juice, you're out back and around the corner distracting the guard, where do I fit in?

SKOODGE

We got the distraction - and the inside man with an alibi. Now all we need is a door.

Skoodge smirks.

INTERCUT DIORAMA WITH

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

SKOODGE (V.O.)

That's where our unknown back room comes in. The front door has the most eyes on it. You can't come in, go out or so much as walk by without being seen.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A security camera is in one corner.

A security camera is in another corner.

A security camera hangs above the door.

SKOODGE

But that back office right there. And it's adjacent toilet. We don't know for sure. But it's a safe bet you have just one cam in the back room there.

DAWN

How do you know?

SKOODGE

They have Tyvex cams in use. Tyvex basic package is an eight cam deal. Counting the seven cams I could get eyes on leads me to believe they have one in that backroom, but the smoke should give you cover and conceal you from it.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN
Wait. What smoke?

Skoodge points at Dawn.

SKOODGE
That's where you come in.

INTERCUT FANTASY

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE /ROOF - DAY

Dawn stands on the rooftop. Holding a line that is being fed into a four inch cast iron pipe that goes down into the walls.

SKOODGE (V.O.)
You're up on the roof.

Skoodge puts a pizza box on top of the diorama. He uses a pen and violently thrusts it into the box to look like a pipe. He puts Dawn's action figure atop it.

SKOODGE
You'll have the explosive device -
feed it right through down the
sewage vent.

DAWN
We are NOT bringing explosives into
this.

SKOODGE
The shitters for Diamond Zone and
Jim Jam Juice share a vent. A
toilet in this side and a toilet on
this side.

Skoodge points from one area to another on top of the diorama.

JULIAN
You're using the vent like a pipe
bomb.

AT DIAMOND ZONE

Dawn feeds the line down the pipe.

SKOODGE (V.O.)
It blows a hole right through the
wall. The door from Jim Jam Juice,
right into Diamond Zone.

(CONTINUED)

BOOM.

A huge explosion creates a hole in the bathroom of Diamond Zone. Debris of porcelain and drywall fly everywhere, along with plumes of smoke.

As the hole in the wall becomes clear, Julian rushes through.

IN THE APARTMENT

Skoodge removes the pizza box.

DAWN

I don't like this idea.

SKOODGE

Relax, one of my strikes was for criminal possession of an explosive device.

(sigh)

Julian. You've been cowering in the corner of the Jim Jam Juice bathroom. You have your face covered with a wet rag to help from debris inhalation. Once the hole is busted out - rush in grab the items on our list - drop the letter.

JULIAN

Letter?

SKOODGE

The decoy. Put the cops on the wrong scent. We make it look like a weather underground type deal. Some pinko political freak who has a thing against diamonds or something.

JULIAN

You're describing Dawn. What if we take the scent off us but put it on her?!

SKOODGE

(re: Dawn)

Hmmm. You're more talk then action. I think we're okay.

DAWN

C'mon. Do I have to blow up a toilet to show how much about action I am.

(CONTINUED)

SKOODGE
That's the plan.

JULIAN
Is that our plan?

Looks all around.

DAWN
Amazingly. It does sound like one.
How is it you actually sound smart
when you're scheming something.

SKOODGE
Oh. Well I just believe in the
principal of planning. Nothing good
can come from chance.

Skeptical looks between Julian and Dawn.

And then a sigh that says, "Let's do this".

MONTAGE

INT. JIM JAM JUICE -DAY

Julian approaches the counter. Smiling, he hands a job
application to Melissa.

She nods her head and smiles back as she slyly throws the a
paperwork in the trash.

BOSS WOMAN (45) TSKS, pulls out the application. She gives
it a glance over, then looks up at Julian.

He shoots her an affable, winning smile.

EXT. FRONT OF DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

Skoodge saunters up to Berg who is standing lookout by the
front door. Skoodge taps him - then with his hands in an
"A-OK" type gesture he brings them to his lips - giving the
international sign for "Do you blaze?"

Berg looks incredulous -folds his brow and shoos Skoodge
away.

INT. CASEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Casey is asleep in her bed.

Dawn sneaks in the room, quietly pulls up the blankets and slides in. Casey stirs awake and violently shoves Dawn out of the bed. Dawn crashes face down on the floor.

INT/EXT. HEIDI'S HOUSE/ DOORWAY - DAY

Heidi's door opens to reveal Julian - standing there with flowers.

SLAM

She closes the door right in his face.

Wait...

Heidi opens it again. Grabs the flowers. She throws them on the ground and stomps all over them.

Then she SLAMS the door, shutting Julian out again.

INT. PETEY'S MANSION / OFFICE - DAY

Petey sits at his office desk engrossed in the computer.

ON PETEY

His eyes scan the screen - concerned.

ON SCREEN

Flashes from news stories:

MOGUL OPENS NEW RETAIL MALL

MAIN STREET 2.0

Petey scans a line of text : "Crown Gems is the billionaires latest flagship chain."

Petey picks up that days newspaper from atop the desk and starts violently beating his computer screen with it.

He throws the paper down on the keyboard - revealing a grand opening advertisement for the "New Bluestone Retail Basilica" - a garish ad for a garish new shopping super structure.

He loses it - grabbing his mug and dumping coffee all over the paper and laptop.

INT. JIM JAM JUICE - DAY

Julian scoops some jelly into a blender, tosses a banana in too. He puts the lid on haphazardly.

He looks up at Melissa as he starts to BLEND. The lid flies off - spraying jelly all over his face.

He barely notices, but Melissa does. She has turned and caught him looking at her.

She is annoyed - no - now her face registers intrigue. She LAUGHS at him, bounds over and helps wipe him up.

EXT. FRONT OF DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

A different day and outfit for Skoodge, but he swaggers by Berg again. Throwing his hands up : "whats up?". Again gives a "let's blaze" hand signal.

Berg still isn't interested but CHUCKLES and waves Skoodge off.

EXT. BLUESTONE BASILICA - DAY

A LARGE CROWD is gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Bluestone Basilica - a garish strip mall.

Bluestone stands center in the throng with a set of giant scissors - poised to cut the ribbon.

Petey's BMW is parked on the periphery.

INT/ EXT. PETEY'S BMW - CONTINUOUS

Petey sits in his vehicle, watching the scene through binoculars. Stakeout mode - a warm cup of coffee on the dash.

BINOCULAR VIEW

We see Bluestone cut the ribbon and the crowd CHEERS.

Petey is miffed - brings down his binoculars in a huff.

YARGH

Knocking the coffee - he spills it all over himself, steam rising from his lap. He HOLLERS and beats his crotch.

EXT. FRONT OF DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

Skoodge swiftly walks by Berg - head nods -the two do a street type handshake.

Berg does a quick look left and right, then follows Skoodge.

EXT. BACK OF SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

A lighter sparks a bowl - weed is blazing.

Skoodge inhales - COUGHS. He covers his mouth and passes to Berg.

Berg hits that ish. He takes a big hit and releases a plume of smoke from his mouth.

SKOODGE

Hey, man. I uh got an idea.

Berg looks at him inquisitively.

BERG

Oh yeah?

END MONTAGE

INT. NEW AGE STORE - DAY

Incense burns, soothing NEW AGE music plays. Julian carries a small, purple, velvet sack past a display of healing crystals and up to the register. He hands the item to BISHOP (57), a white haired LSD burnout.

BISHOP

Nice, brother. Any healing crystals for the sack today?

JULIAN

No thanks, just the baggie.

Julian peruses the glass case in front of the register.

BISHOP

Y'know, this baggies cool for keepin yer edibles and smokables in and whatnot, but for yer healing

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BISHOP (cont'd)
crystals I recommend the organza
bags cause crystals need to see and
be their world.

Bishop smiles and holds up a sheen baggie with crystals
inside.

Julian is distracted by something in the case.

JULIAN
What's that black thing there?

BISHOP
Oh boy, man! That's a scrying
mirror.

Bishop pulls it out. Julian notices a ring on the shelf
under the mirrors location. Bishop holds the mirror up.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
You can see into the future and
other dimensions and stuff with
this baby here. It's what like
Nostradamus and some of the more
accurate weather forecasters use.

The mirror blocks Bishops point-of-view of Julian. Julian's
gaze moves to the ring he spotted.

JULIAN
Yeah. Yeah. It feels like I can
just see my whole future before
me--hey what's that ring right
there?

Bishop puts the mirror down.

BISHOP
Oh that lil' sweetie is a Celtic
eternity band set with a ruby
stone.

JULIAN
Can I see that?

Bishop starts to retrieve the ring.

BISHOP
I would prefer a Kunzite stone
myself, but this is a more western,
material world kinda dealie right
here.

Bishop hands the ring over and Julian checks it out.

INT. JULIAN AND DAWN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Julian, Dawn, and Skoodge sit snugly on the dirty old couch. Their posture stiff - they study the diorama that sits on the coffee table before them.

DAWN

We did it. All the elements
actually came together.

SKOODGE

The power of diorama actualization
at hand.

JULIAN

Um. Guys.

Skoodge and Dawn look to Julian.

DAWN

What is it?

JULIAN

They took me off the schedule at
work tomorrow.

SKOODGE

No! Assholes. No!

JULIAN

Said it's going to be slow, cause
of the grand opening of a new
location at that new shopping mall
thingy.

DAWN

Julian! Shit, you had one thing you
had to do.

JULIAN

It's okay. I figure I can just show
up there like I'm in the area or
something and have to use the
toilet.

SKOODGE

Hell yeah, that'll work!

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

That's so much more suspicious. Who just shows up to work on their day off to use a toilet right at the same time it just so happens to blow up?

SKOODGE

Yeah and I don't even have like the explosives yet.

DAWN

We just went over the whole plan again and you didn't see to mention that you don't have explosives?

SKOODGE

Naw, I was gonna try to get on that tonight.

DAWN

Jesus man are you serious?

SKOODGE

All the fixins are at the hardware store. It'll be an easy grab.

JULIAN

Oh man.

SKOODGE

We go right now. Dip in and get it.

DAWN

No way. Plans scrapped. It's just a sign. This was wrong from the get go. We're not criminals!

JULIAN

But all this planning!

SKOODGE

Yea! An y'know what they say. Ninety percent a successful operation is in the plan.

DAWN

Implicit to that is that the plan is followed to a T. This is going awry in the conception.

JULIAN

I need this!

(CONTINUED)

Julian POUNDS a fist on the table. Shaking the diorama. He looks mournfully at Dawn.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

And I'm doing it, with or without you.

A little piece of diorama tumbles to the ground. Doe faced, Julian picks it up and sets it back.

DAWN

Dammit. Just take Skoodge out and get him what he needs. Just be inconspicuous about it.

INT. PETEY'S BMW / BACKSEAT - NIGHT

Petey is disheveled, broken - PANTING. His normal greasy sheen is overlaid with caked sweat. His suit disheveled, crust, food and maybe vomit remnants all over it. His car is parked, he sits in the backseat.

PETEY

I promised you, mom. I promised the whole world I'd make it to the top of the top.

EXT. SUBURBAN MAIN STREET - LATER

Petey ambles down the street, other PEDESTRIANS are out on the town. As he passes a group of TEENAGERS who are hanging out, a few of them take notice.

SKATER TEEN

Hey! Diamond Dude!

Petey becomes alert, and looks to them.

ANOTHER TEEN

(sotto)

It's that guy. Rad.

Skater teen makes a BRR BRRD BA BRRRR trumpet noise while giving a Superman salute.

SKATER TEEN

(commercial impression)

It's Zone Man. Protecting credit of the meek, harnesser of the power of the diamonds!

Petey recoups and flashes the youngsters his big ol' smile.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY

Hi kids. Just remember to do your homework and stay matrimony minded.

(his commercial impression)

Diamond Zone. Protecting the American way and meeting all your engagement, anniversary and sweetheart needs.

The kids start CRACKING UP and throwing high fives all around.

Petey shakes his hands - delighted. He waves 'too-da-loo' to the kids, turns around and continues down the street. A smile now on his face.

PETEY

Petey ol' boy. That's why you do it right there.

A thought strikes him.

PETEY

I AM the protector. He can't stop me.

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE PARKING LOT - MORNING

Dawn's car trunk is popped open. Dawn, Skoodge and Julian take inventory of its contents.

DAWN

(whispering)

So all this explosive type shit here?

Skoodge picks up a canvas shopping bag and rifles through it, showing the contents to Dawn.

SKOODGE

Lower this end down till you hit the yellow tape mark. Then light the fuse shit here.

Skoodge pulls out his little sack Julian bought.

SKOODGE

An here's my lil' cootcha-boo.

Skoodge pulls out his pipe and weed from it. He hands his sack to Dawn.

(CONTINUED)

SKOODGE

Jus' fill this with the most
'spensive lookin shit you see,
while I go smoke this ish with
Berg.

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - SAME

Petey glides through the front door - looking better, all
cleaned up. Berg stands post next to the door.

PETEY

Good morning!

We see Berg's eyes go wide: "uh oh".

BERG

Morning, sir.

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE PARKING LOT - SAME

Skoodge pockets the weed and the pipe. The three give each
other hesitant looks. Skoodge points to Julian.

SKOODGE

You my man .Just make for the
shitter.

JULIAN

Yeah. I think I really gotta go
anyhow.

DAWN

No! Stay back away from the toilet!

They all look at each other again. Dawn looks nervously
around the parking lot.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I dunno about this.

JULIAN

Yeah. I'm getting scared guys.

SKOODGE

(realizing)

Smash and grab.

Julian and Dawn look at Skoodge: "huh?".

(CONTINUED)

SKOODGE (CONT'D)
Smash and grab. That's what this
shoulda been all along.

Julian and Dawn study each other with consideration.

INT. DIAMOND ZONE / BACKROOM - SAME

Petey checks his inventory in the cabinet, he re-stacks a few metal crates. He looks behind him - no one is there. He opens a metal crate and pulls out a Glock - checks the safety, tucks it in the front of his pants.

A COMMOTION is heard - YELLING.

Petey hustles to the door to the showroom floor. It's ajar, he peaks out to see:

INTERCUT

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

Julian, Dawn, and Skoodge have busted in. They have canvas shopping bags over their heads - crude eyeball holes cut in them. Skoodge has a hand to Berg's throat - holding a clump of his explosive load in the other hand.

SKOODGE
Try anything fuck head and I'll
blow us all up!

DAWN
Yeah, we don't care about anything!
We are anarchists and hate blood
diamonds.

Clara is frantic - SCREAMS. Backs into a corner.

ON PETEY

Petey has his gun in hand - clicks the safety off. He examines the faces of these would be robbers suspiciously.

DAWN (CONT'D)
This is a political crime!

Dawn and Julian hustle about frantically. Julian grabs a receiver to a cordless phone. He starts SLAMMING it against the case that holds his ring.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN

UNGH!

The case doesn't budge. Dawn shoos him out of the way, rears up and kicks with a HI-YA!

She bounces off the unscathed glass, tumbles backwards and falls into the standee of Petey - collapses to the ground.

Berg shoots a quick look to Skoodge : "C'mon, man".

SKOODGE

Shut up you!

Skoodge half-halfheartedly punches Berg. Berg showily falls to the ground, catching himself slightly as he falls to land gently. Julian is too busy to notice.

Petey notices the dramatics from Berg. Scrunches his face as if to say - "what the hell?"

Skoodge crouches down to Berg's level. Winks at him.

SKOODGE (CONT'D)

Let that be a lesson!

Dawn is getting up from the ground, but looks towards Skoodge and Berg and notices:

Berg has his eyes closed but whispers to Skoodge:

BERG

(sotto)

Just get that shit man.

Skoodge turns around purposefully- he catches Dawn looking at him.

Clara tires of Julians POUNDING on the case. Fearfully she rushes over and unlocks it.

CLARA

Just do what you have to and LEAVE!

Skoodge bounds behind the case and races into the back room.

Skoodge races right up to the cabinets. He doesn't notice that Petey stands behind him, having sheltered behind the door. Petey draws his gun upwards. Skoodge pulls out and rifles through the metal cases, creating a CLAMOR.

He opens a case to reveal the drill bit studded with diamonds, just what he was looking for.

(CONTINUED)

Skoodge turns around to flee.

POW

His face meets the butt of Petey's gun. Petey's angry snarl widens into his million dollar smile.

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - SAME

Clara is throwing rings and jewelry all over the counter frantically.

JULIAN

Stop! You're confusing me.

Julian tries adjusting the canvas bag on his head.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

I can't see well.

Dawn picks up rings one by one, holding them up to the light and examining them through her eye holes.

DAWN

Just hand me a conflict free diamond, lady!

(to Julian)

Where the fucks Skoodge?!

CLARA

Just take them all! Use you're bags I'll close my eyes!

DAWN

We're not regular criminals lady! This is a principled heist!

JULIAN

Got it!

Julian hoists his ring up and then pockets it. Clara shoves a different ring into Dawn's hand.

CLARA

HERE! This one.

DAWN

Let's kick rocks! The fucks up with Skoodge?!

(CONTINUED)

PETEY
Gimme some credit.

Petey emerges from the backroom - gun to Skoodge's head.
Dawn and Julian react: "Oh shit".

Dawn darts her gaze back at Berg. Petey glances over too.

Berg starts to stand up. Shakes his head - feigning injury.

DAWN
He's working with you.

Dawn points from Berg to Skoodge. Julian darts his head
about confused. Petey squints -intrigued.

PETEY
Lock the doors, Berg!

Dawn makes a dash for it tears out the doors. Berg tries
earnestly to hustle and stop her but doesn't make it.

Julian looks at Petey. He looks at Skoodge - whom is
petrified.

Julian decides, pivots and makes a dash for the door that
Berg is now blocking. Making a last minute change of plans -
Julian swings to his left. Jumps. Pulls his body into a
cannonball and --

CRASH

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Julian flies through the window!

SLAMS into the sidewalk - rolls and recovers.

He looks back to Diamond Zone with concern in his eyes. But
he leaps to his feet and races across the parking lot to
Dawn's car.

The ENGINE fires up with Dawn at the wheel. Julian smacks
the passenger side door, Dawn unlocks it. He jumps in and
the car SCREECHES - peeling out for an escape.

INT./EXT. DAWN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Pulling out of the shopping center, Dawn struggles to get her car under control and get herself together. Julian pulls the canvas bag off his head.

JULIAN
Ah jeez, ah jeez, ah jeez!

DAWN
Holy shit.

JULIAN
We left Skoodge back there.

DAWN
You kiddin? That turd had an angle
- double crossed us!

JULIAN
(realizing)
I got the ring. Wow.

Dawn's frantic driving improves.

DAWN
Let's get home. Hide this shit. Lay
low.

JULIAN
We have to go back for him.

DAWN
Shut up! He double fucking crossed
us!

JULIAN
He doesn't know any other way.
That's what he learned in prison.

DAWN
I told you from the start. FUCK
that guy he's a piece of SHIT! He's
gonna squeal, then we'll be going
to jail.

Julian's eyes get wet from fearful tears.

JULIAN
I can't go to jail! He won't
snitch! That's the first thing you
learn in jail!

INT. DIAMOND ZONE / BACK ROOM - SAME

Petey is sweating again - jacket off, sleeves rolled up. Berg and Skoodge sit up against the wall - miserable. Petey pistol whips Berg - kicks him.

PETEY

Traitor!

BERG

I'm sorry, sir. I was just tryin'
to get a come up. I was stupid!

Petey paces nervously - points the gun.

PETEY

And you! Bluestone send you?! A
bitty little shit like you?

He gets right up in Skoodge's face.

SKOODGE

Naw man.

Petey slaps Skoodge on one cheek then the other with his Glock. Petey's attention returns to Berg.

PETEY

A come up?! Have you ever heard of
loyalty? Or business ethics?

BERG

C'mon. I got kids.

SKOODGE

Please. I can't go back there.

BERG

Back where?! To Bluestone?

SKOODGE

No! I don't wanna go to prison,
dude.

Petey shoves the gun under Skoodge's nose, mounts and straddles him - beginning to dig in his pockets.

PETEY

Where's your phone?

SKOODGE

I don't have one.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY

What?!

SKOODGE

I just got out. You can't have that
shit in the can, man!

PETEY

Your friends. What's their number?

SKOODGE

Fuck if I know.

Petey picks up the bundled explosives and throws them in
Skoodge's face.

PETEY

What's this shit? You gonna blow me
up?

RING RING RING The phone is going off in the other room.

PETEY

Clara?! Get that!

Clara rushes in with the RINGING phone. Petey crosses the
room to meet half way, takes the phone and answers.

PETEY

(chipper)

Diamond Zone, this is Petey the
Zone Man, speaking.

He listens. There is hesitation from the other end of the
line. Petey hands the Glock to Clara, guiding her to keep it
pointed at Skoodge - she nervously complies. Petey listens
and paces into

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - CONTINUOUS

DAWN (V.O.)

(in her best Batman voice)

We want the punk back.

Petey inspects the surroundings curiously. Most his product
is still there atop the case. There is his standee on the
ground. His own face smiling right back up at him. "What's
that?" He sees a folded paper on the ground.

PETEY

The punk huh? Your compadre that
is?

(CONTINUED)

DAWN (V.O.)
(Batman)
We'll return your diamonds. We just
want him back.

Petey bends down and picks up the note.

His eyes scan the words, he is confused.

INTERCUT WITH

EXT. LAUNDRO-LAND - SAME

Dawn is on the pay phone outside of the laundromat, Julian
waits nervously next to her.

DAWN
(Batman)
Well?

Petey is reading the note.

PETEY
You're some kinda political
activists?

DAWN
(Batman)
You bet we are, mister. And...and.
We hate the fact that capitalism
has taken the purity of human love
and married it to this stupid
cruelty rock harvested on the backs
of human suffering.

PETEY
You're with Bluestone. Your guy
went for my diamond payload.

DAWN
(Batman)
I don't know anything about all
that, I just know the scumbag you
got double-crossed us.

PETEY
Okay, I'll let him go. But bring me
my rocks.

Petey CLICKS OFF and drops the phone.

Dawn looks at the receiver, hearing the TONE. She hangs up
the phone - her and Julian look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN

What are we gonna do?

DAWN

(still Batman)

Go get Skoodge. COUGH

(normal)

We're gonna get that shit for brains.

JULIAN

But he screwed us. Right?

DAWN

He screwed us once, but if we let that diamond guy turn him over to the police? Then we'll be screwing ourselves.

INT. DIAMOND ZONE / BACK ROOM - SAME

Petey stands in the frame of the door between his showroom and the back room - TAP TAP TAPPING his finger nervously.

Clara delights in pointing the gun at the two captors - Skoodge and Berg.

She points the gun at Berg. He looks mournfully towards her as she shakes her head at him.

She moves her gaze to Skoodge. She quizzically studies him. He dances his eyebrows as if to say, "Hey, sugar."

She reacts...shy. Skoodge makes kissy faces. She looks away. She looks back. Clara's intrigued.

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE - MOMENTS LATER

Although one LADY cruises by and looks at the broken glass curiously, others don't notice. A COUPLE sits in chairs outside Jim Jam Juice and pay no mind as Dawn and Julian slink up, canvas bags back on their heads.

JULIAN

Why would he even want us to come? He could easily get his rings back once Skoodge snitches.

DAWN

Shut up, okay? We're fucked in any event - this is our only chance..

Julian tries the door - still locked. Dawn climbs in the window, Julian follows.

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - CONTINUOUS

Petey welcomes the siblings with open arms.

PETEY

There they are - my old pals.

The door is open to the background and we can see Skoodge held at gunpoint by Clara.

Petey approaches as if to hug Julian and Dawn but-

POW. POW.

He socks Dawn and Julian in the guts in quick succession. He pulls off their canvas bags as they keel over in pain.

PETEY

(re Dawn)

Oops! If I knew you were a lady I'd have socked you in the tits!

JULIAN

(sotto)

That's sexist.

Petey grabs them both by the neck pivots them and holds their faces up to the camera.

PETEY

No need for anonymity here.

He releases the two and they rub their heads in pain.

DAWN

Alright we screwed up. Just let us give you the rings back and we can figure something out.

PETEY

Aw. That's no fun.

DAWN

C'mon. You're complicit here now. We didn't use any violence in our crime.

Julian rubs his head and his belly simultaneously.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN

Yeah. You assaulted me and it really hurts.

PETEY

Bluestone sent you, that's a given. So tell me what the idea was, what was the game plan?!

DAWN

We never heard of this Bluestone guy.

JULIAN

Yeah I don't even know who that is!
(tearing up)
I'm really sorry mister. I didn't want to do it but your credit promises aren't what they seem from the commercial!

Julian starts to pee his pants. Dawn notices - grimaces.

Petey notices, scrunches his face in disgust.

CLARA (O.S.)

Petey, I recognize that dummies face. I warned you kid. I knew cubic zarconian would get you into trouble.

Petey studies Julian and Dawn. He steps in real close.

PETEY

Well. If you ain't working for Bluestone, I guess that means you're working for me.

His lips curl up and break into a giant smile.

INT/EXT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

BATA-BATA BATA-BATA WHOOMP WHOOMP WHOOMP

Julian and Dawn are sitting, suited and geared up - deers in headlights.

PETEY (V.O)

You jump when told. You fall. The chutes will be outfitted on a static line. Don't think or try anything stupid.

(CONTINUED)

Dawn leans forward to the pilot, TERRY (60).

DAWN
(yelling)
Aren't they gonna hear us coming?

TERRY
(yelling back)
Naw. This here's a modified Huey.
May not sound it but it runs quiet.
And we're runnin it high and hot.
Ain't no one gonna hear this.

JULIAN
How long have you worked for Petey?

TERRY
I work for myself. Which means
sometimes I work for guys like
Petey.

DAWN
If I had the choice. I wouldn't
work for a dick like that.

TERRY
He pays up front - handsomely. An
easy days work for me. Not like
buzzing drunk newlyweds between
skyscrapers and having to scrub
puke off my deck.

Julian looks at the floor, checks under his shoes. Terry
look back at the two.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Seems you kids just had the
misfortune of stepping into a
pissing match between a millionaire
and a billionaire.

Terry catches something on an indicator.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Oh. This is our stop. Quick! Get
up!

Confusion overtakes Julian and Dawn - they dart their heads
about.

TERRY (CONT'D)
I said git! C'mon!

(CONTINUED)

As the siblings rise, Terry does too. The copter pitches forward, Julian and Dawn lose their balance slightly. Standing, Terry is huge. He grabs both Julian and Dawn with his meat claws. Julian and Dawn are freaking out- SCREAMING.

TERRY (CONT'D)

It was nice meetin you kids, stay outta trouble now.

With a huge shove, Terry throws Dawn and Julian out. Their SCREAMS quickly disappear.

EXT. SKY AT 14,000 FEET - CONTINUOUS

AAAAAIIIIIIIIIIAAAAARRRRGGGGHHH - The screams of Dawn and Julian as they plummet.

EXT. SKY AT 13,500 FEET - SECONDS LATER

Julian and Dawn make eye contact - SCREAMING and trying to flail their arms.

EXT. SKY AT 13,000 FEET - SECONDS LATER

ZZINCC

ZZINCC

PLOOOSH PLOOOSH

Both Julian and Dawn appear to be yanked up. They have reached the end of their static line and parachutes open.

They PANT, recouping from the fearful plummet.

DAWN

Oh, God.

JULIAN

Ugh oh.

As they glide down towards the earth Julian pees himself again. Droplets fall from the bottom of his pant legs.

DAWN

C'mon bro. Have you even drank anything today?!

Descending through cloud cover. The ground below them starts to become clear.

(CONTINUED)

A huge mansion lies below them. Surrounded by rolling hills and a wooded area.

PETEY (V.O)
You'll know it when you see it.
Miss the target? I'll find you and
shoot you through the brain.

The earth moves towards them, seemingly at an accelerated rate.

PETEY (V.O)
Make for the wooded area. Get out
of the gear and collect yourself
for the assault.

Dawn and Julian pull the harnesses strapped to them, course correcting to aim for :

EXT. WOODS AT OUTSKIRTS OF BLUESTONE MANSION - CONTINUOUS

The two parachuters glide above and then into the trees.

CRASH - SNAP - OW! - The noise of humans colliding with forest.

Dawn's figure rises from the plume of dust kicked up in her collision with the forest floor.

She COUGHS. Looks around - 'Where is he?'

CRASH

YARGH!

Julian appears before her, hanging upside down, his parachute tangled in the canopy above.

Dawn shakes her head dismissively at him. She begins to strip away her helmet, parachute and unnecessary gear.

PETEY (V.O)
I've outfitted you with a belt
containing the minimal gear you may
need for this operation.

Dawn inspects the belt around her waist. She opens one clip and removes a leatherman. Pulling out the knife she reaches up and cuts the cords that suspend Julian.

FLOONK - CRASH - UNGH

He plummets and collides with the ground.

EXT. EDGE OF WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Dawn and Julian slink out of the forest, arriving at the expansive and meticulously clean lawns that surround the giant Bluestone mansion. While the huge mansion can be seen in the distance, there is a lot of ground to cross first. The brother and sister begin to walk furtively towards the destination.

PETEY (V.O)

There'll be dogs. Lots of them. You have what you need to take care of it.

EXT. BLUESTONE MANSION GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Dawn and Julian pause upon reaching a white gazebo. Dawn scans the horizon.

Dawn reaches a hand into a pouch at her belt, pulls out pieces of jerky meat.

BARK BARK BARK A mob of DOBERMANS are tearing across the lawn right at the two of them. Quickly, the siblings scale the gazebo and hang off the side.

DAWN

Wait. Throw the meat when they get a little closer.

Dawn is poised to chuck the jerky.

DAWN

You got some too right?

She shoots a glance at Julian - 'Shit'. He is eating one.

JULIAN

Just a piece. I still have a bunch.

BARK BARK BARK The dogs are right up on them now.

Dawn and Julian start chucking the meat down. A few take the bait - nibbling. A few other dogs jump and BARK at the two hanging off the gazebo. The dogs switch places- all of them taking a turn to gnaw on some meat, but they keep up a relentless CACOPHONY of attack.

JULIAN

What'll we do? They're gonna wake someone up.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

If we're lucky we're too far off
and no one's heard.

JULIAN

But they could stay here all night
like this what do we do?

A dog leaps up - nearly snagging Julians foot with his
teeth.

DAWN

Didn't you listen to Petey, dummy?

PETEY (V.O)

The jerky has a sleeping agent. One
bite and any mutt will quickly be
down for the count.

A dog topples over with a WHIMPER. Others keep up the
BARKING assault on the gazebo. But one by one all the dogs
start toppling over with a slight THUMP on the grass.

JULIAN

Oh.

Dawn hops down.

DAWN

C'mon. Let's go.

Julian hops down - kinda tumbles on the grass. Gets up and
shakes his head groggily.

The two start to run for it - hauling ass towards the house.
Julian is keeping up - but he is weaving and wobbling a
bit.

EXT. BLUESTONE MANSION - CONTINUOUS

As they round the corner to the back of the mansion.

YEARGH YEAGH MRFFLE

Jumping back a CRAZED FIGURE leaps at Julian and Dawn.

Julian slips and stumbles to the ground while Dawn puts up
her dukes.

It's a MAN, chained at the neck and wrists and muzzled. He
is at the outer edge of a metal dog enclosure.

(CONTINUED)

Dawn and Julian recover, as the man struggles at the end of his chain, they share a look: "what the fuck?"

His eyes are pleading, his muffled SCREAM seems like a cry for help.

DAWN

Screw it.

Dawn pulls off the mask. It's Barstow.

BARSTOW

Please, PLEASE! You gotta help me.
They feed me dog food!

JULIAN

Why are you out here like this?

BARSTOW

I'm starting to enjoy the taste of
dog food. God, help me!

DAWN

I'm gonna muzzle you right back up,
mister.

BARSTOW

I'm being punished. I was bad. Just
help me...please.

DAWN

Sorry, dude. We got a mission.

BARSTOW

C'mon just get the chains off me.

Dawn looks at Julian - EXHALES.

BARSTOW (CONT'D)

Petey sent you didn't he?

JULIAN

Yeah.

Dawn hits Julian while keeping eye contact with Barstow.

DAWN

We don't know what you're talking
about.

Julian YAWNS.

BARSTOW

I know Petey wants that diamond. I can help you.

Dawn squints, trying to understand this dude.

DAWN

What do you know?

Julian sits down on the grass - listening.

BARSTOW

I know you won't get to it.

DAWN

You don't think?

BARSTOW

Not without my help.

DAWN

Screw it.

She goes to work- trying to take off the collar.

DAWN

Tell me everything you know.

She struggles - this is a heavy duty collar.

BARSTOW

There's guards - two at least. Armed...And you kids don't even look strapped.

DAWN

We have means.

ACCCKK ARGHH AGGGH - Barstow starts choking.

DAWN

Sorry. This thing is like crazy strong.

BARSTOW

Just loosen it!? How are you gonna crack the safe in there if you can't get this off?

Dawn recoils -- confused. She looks up to a room on the second floor of the mansion.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY (V.O)

When you're in the study. The diamond will be in the top left drawer of the desk. There or in the pool table pockets.

DAWN

(accusatory: to Barstow)

You don't know where it is, you can't help us.

BARSTOW

Did he tell you it's in the pool pocket? Trust me, it's not there anymore. Get me free and I'll help you crack that safe though.

Dawn muzzles Barstow up again. His eyes widen - full of fear.

HRRRUNGGGH HAAARRRRGHHH -- He screams behind the mask.

DAWN

Sorry.

JULIAN

What? We can't leave him like that.

Dawn drags her brother up to a standing position.

DAWN

C'mon! WE can't risk failing.

Starting to jog, she forces the groggy looking Julian to keep up.

JULIAN

God. Skoodge could be killed.

DAWN

That's fine by me. I just wanna fuck both these rich assholes, get my ring, and get my girl.

The two make towards a back patio entrance to the mansion.

EXT. BLUESTONE MANSION/ BACK PATIO - CONTINUOUS

A porch light comes on: "uh oh."

Dawn leads - diving behind a row of topiary plants. Julian merely freezes in place.

(CONTINUED)

The door opens, two imposing GOONS start to exit from the house.

Dawn reaches up to grab Julian- tugs him down where he collapses to the ground beside her - just before they could be spotted.

Julian lies face down as Dawn looks pissed. He is more asleep than hiding.

The CHATTING of the Goons approaching can be heard, as Dawn shakes her brother who seems to be snoozing.

Julian barely stirs as the Goons get closer.

MUSTACHE GOON

Sure enough. All the pups is outta the pen. An betcha dollars to donuts its just the early bird again. Buncha mutts chasin a jay.

GOATEE GOON

I wouldn't take that bet now that donuts cost bout a dollar. It's a wash.

MUSTACHE GOON

I'll have to thank that Jaybird too for gittin me a chance ta enjoy the moonlight and a sweet cigarette break.

The goons approach the spot where the siblings have been hiding. Mustache Goon starts lighting a cigarette.

As they pass, in the background we see Julians body, pulled by Dawn, disappearing behind the other side of the topiary plant beds. Goatee Goon takes a quick look back, but doesn't see them.

BEHIND THE PLANTER

Dawn peers over and sees the Goons approaching Barstow. The Goons GIGGLE and taunt the muzzled and chained man.

Dawn watches with concern.

DAWN

(whispering)

They're gonna find those dogs then our goose is cooked.

Dawn looks down at Julian. His eyes are glassy and barely opened - a big, dumb, sleepy grin on his face.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN (CONT'D)

We gotta make our move now.

AT BARSTOW AND THE GOONS

Mustache Goon sucks on his cigarette and watches as Goatee Goon hops about and taunts Barstow.

GOATEE GOON

You ain't bosses favorite no more!

Barstow SCREAMS behind the muzzle. Sweating profusely, he points with his head towards the house.

Mustache Goon grimaces towards Barstow. Then softly takes his hand, steps in close.

MUSTACHE GOON

What'd it taste like?

INCOMPREHENSIBLE PLEAS from behind the muzzle.

Mustache Goon turns over Barstow's hand then extinguishes his cigarette in his palm.

MUSTACHE GOON (CONT'D)

When you bit the hand that feeds you? Dog.

AT THE PATIO BACKDOOR

Julian lies halfway up on the step of the back patio doorway. Dawn's arms reach from inside and quickly drag her brother in. He is semi-conscious and kinda giggles.

AT BARSTOW AND THE GOONS

Mustache Goon spits in Barstow's face.

Barstow shakes. His fearful eyes evolving to a look of fury.

Goatee Goon just CHUCKLES. Mustache Goon allows a grin to overtake his face. He playfully BARKS at Barstow.

The Goons shuffle off, beginning to walk towards the gazebo.

INT. BLUESTONES MANSION / BALLROOM - SAME

Just inside off of the patio is the grand ballroom of the mansion. Ferns on pillars, shiny checkered marbled tiles and serious floorspace. Dawn PANTS from exerting herself, Julian is barely conscious and laying down but manages to glance around. He WHISTLES - it ECHOES.

DAWN

Shut up! Serious echo in here!

JULIAN

No, I mean. This place is nice.
This place is really big!

DAWN

If you won't shut up I gotta get
you outta this echo-ey ass room.
Get up!

She gestures to Julian. He does a half crunch/ sit up attempt, but collapses. Dawn relents and begins to drag him again. She makes for some large doors across the room.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Brother, you are a liability like
none other. This must be my karma
for claiming you as a dependent on
my taxes.

She struggles with the huge double doors to the next room.

Dawn sidles herself through and drags Julian with a GRUNT. The door briefly slams against his head, and he GIGGLES.

INT. BLUESTONE'S / ENTRY HALL - CONTINUOUS

DAWN

Dang. This rooms palatial too!

DAWN'S ECHO

-Palatial too!

DAWN (CONT'D)

Shit!

DAWN'S ECHO (CONT'D)

-Shit!

Dawn covers her mouth.

The room is indeed palatial - two story walls, a chandelier and a wide spiraling staircase leading to the next level.

Dawn looks about hurriedly. She resumes dragging Julian, passing the staircase and moving to the doors across the way.

EXT. BLUESTONE MANSION GROUNDS / GAZEBO - SAME

The Goon's hustle towards the gazebo. Mustache Goon is smoking again.

MUSTACHE GOON
Look what we have here.

The Goons walk amongst the fallen dogs.

GOATEE GOON
Well do we?

MUSTACHE GOON
Do we huh?

GOATEE GOON
Let sleeping dogs lie.

Mustache Goon throws down his cigarette.

MUSTACHE GOON
At every turn! You're either injecting or critiquing some idiom or another. You better zip your lip cause we got Bluestone in there like a sitting duck. A potential threats goin on, and we'll be dead screwed, blued, and tattooed if we don't get to the bottom of this!

Goatee Goon shrugs.

GOATEE GOON
Alright then.

The two hustle off towards the mansion.

INT. BLUE STONE'S / GARAGE - SAME

More a car showroom than a garage. The large hall showcases Bluestone's prized vehicles. Dawn drags her brother down the line of luxury, passing a Rolls Royce and halting at a yellow 1965 Alfa Romeo.

Dawn pops the door open. With a GRUNT she hoists her brother up and dumps him in the driver seat of the car.

(CONTINUED)

Julian bobbles his head - his eyes fluttering.

DAWN

Why are you so dumb? You had to go
and eat the sleepy dog meat?

Julian looks at his sister. Pain behind the sleepy eyes he
struggles open.

JULIAN

I just really want to be married.
Someone should...want...to love me.

He falters. His head falling forward -

SMACK - right on the dash.

DAWN

Julian!

Dawn scoops up his brow and rests his head back.

JULIAN

I love you, sister.

Dawn fixes his hair. She spares a smile for him.

Julian passes out. Sleep drool spills out of his gaping
mouth. Dawn loses her smile real quick.

EXT. BLUESTONE GROUNDS / DOG PEN - CONTINUOUS

The Goons hustle towards the mansion - halting at Barstow.

Mustache Goon rips the muzzle off of Barstow.

MUSTACHE GOON

Alright. Gimme the skinny.

Barstow pauses with a look of consideration. He SNORTS and
then hawks a huge loogie at Mustache Goon. Mustache Goon
braces himself - shoots a finger into Barstow's face.

MUSTACHE GOON (CONT'D)

I'll be right back to take care of
you.

Mustache Goon sprints towards the mansion. Goatee Goon takes
a moment to wink and smile at Barstow then follows.

INT. BLUESTONE'S / ENTRYWAY - SAME

Dawn rockets up the long and winding stairway.

INT. BLUESTONE'S / BALLROOM - SAME

The Goons bust through the large doors and amble in wide sweeping gestures.

MUSTACHE GOON (CONT'D)
 Alright who's here?

INT. BLUE STONE'S / STUDY - SAME

Dawn busts through the double doors. She darts around the pool table checking each pocket - nothing.

She hauls ass to the desk. She pulls the top right drawer open. Nothing! Then pulls drawer after drawer open, nothing that appears to be a giant diamond.

She hits the side of her head. ARGH!

She looks atop the desk. A set of keys. With consideration she grabs them.

INT. BLUE STONE'S / TOP OF STAIRS - MOMENTS LATER

Dawn is running. Backtracking towards an exit.

Halting. She see's the Goons running up the stairs. The Goons see her.

Dawn MEEPS as the two charge at her.

Without hesitation Dawn jump steps off the balcony and flies towards the chandelier.

The Goons halt on the stairs with stares of amazement towards Dawn.

The tips of Dawns fingers barely catch the chandelier. The large, crystalline fixture buckles and swings wildly.

Dawn can't keep her grip as she flails and falls straight down to the ground.

She lands on her back - OOOOF.

The Goons exchange a mesmerized look - "Oh snaps!"

(CONTINUED)

Dawn quickly recovers, rolling to her feet and jetting off towards the garage. The chandelier still swings wildly above her.

Mustache and Goatee rapidly descend the stairs in pursuit, but--

--Bluestone stands at the bottom of the stairs, in silk pajamas, carrying a plate of cookies and a tall glass of milk.

BLUESTONE

What have you done to my chandelier.

He furtively nods his head toward the swinging chandelier.

MUSTACHE GOON

Sir, there's something we need to tell you.

GOATEE GOON

There's been a breach.

BLUESTONE

A breach?

CRASH!! The chandelier falls to the floor and shatters into a million pieces. Bluestone and the Goons react.

INT. BLUESTONE'S / GARAGE - SAME

Dawn returns to the Alfa Romeo. She leans over through the passenger side and shakes her brother. Julian SNORES.

Dawn's head darts around worriedly - from behind her towards the entry way and then back to the vehicle. She spots the keys right there in the ignition.

DAWN

Fine. Guess we're hitting the road.

She leaps into the passenger side of the car. Turns the ignition. The engine FIRES.

INTERCUT WITH

INT/EXT. ALFA ROMEO - CONTINUOUS

She pushes her brothers leg - slams into gear.

She pushes his other leg - PEELS OUT!

Dawn's half crouched over her brother and if she had time to think about it she would be very uncomfortable with this situation. One of her arms steers - the other manipulates her brothers leg on the gas pedal.

The Alfa Romeo guns through the garage past the other vehicles - then CRASHES through the double doors into--

INT. BLUESTONE'S / ENTRY HALL - CONTINUOUS

The Alfa Romeo tears through the room driving right over the broken chandelier.

Specs of prismatic crystal fly everywhere in a spray of glow.

Bluestone and the Goons hustle out of the way, shielding their faces from the flying pieces.

The Alfa Romeo slides and SCREECHES - nearly slams the wall but corrects and CRASHES through the double doors leading into the ballroom.

Bluestone produces a grave look on his face.

BLUESTONE
A breach you say.

INT. BLUESTONE'S / BALLROOM - SAME

Dawn struggles - manipulating her brother to gas the vehicle as she steers.

We see the car careen across the elegant ballroom in a far from elegant fashion.

CRASH!! Now it is out of the room-

EXT. BLUESTONE MANSION/ BACK PATIO - CONTINUOUS

--And flying across the patio.

Careening across the lawn.

AT BARSTOW

(CONTINUED)

A look of horror in Barstow as Dawn guns towards him. Dawn's eyes show determination.

Swerving - slamming on the BRAKES.

The Alfa Romeo barely misses hitting Barstow but CRASHES through the chain he is attached to. The vehicle spins out tossing mud everywhere and spinning a hundred-eighty degrees to a stop.

Julian rubs his eyes and smacks his lips.

JULIAN

Home?

Dawn punches him in the arm. Barstow runs up to the car -gesticulating wildly and SCREAMING through his muzzle

DAWN

(to Julian)

You. Backseat

(to Barstow)

Get in.

Julian hobbles over the seat and into the back. Dawn slides into the drivers side and Barstow gets into the passenger seat.

ROAR! The engine is alive and the tires spin out. Slam - Dawn gets it into gear and races back towards the house.

INT. BLUESTONE'S / ENTRYWAY - SAME

Mustache and Goatee Goon look sullen.

BLUESTONE

You will have my Alfa Romeo back in its garage within the next ten minutes or you won't just be chained out there with Barstow and the dogs. But rather you will be the dog feed itself.

RRRRREEEEEEEWWWW The roar of the engine as Dawn pilots the car right into the room.

Bluestone, Mustache and Goatee all react - diving out of the way.

Dawn grimaces but bears down, the vehicle buckles but hits the stairs and quickly starts an ascent up the spiral staircase.

(CONTINUED)

Barstow SCREAMS behind his mask - Dawn grits her teeth - Julian? He's splayed out in the back SNORING.

Turning with the stairs, Dawn cranks the wheel and puts the pedal to the floor. The car reaches the top of the stairs but--

The momentum of the turn throws it up onto two wheels!

INT. BLUESTONE'S / ENTRY HALL - SAME

Goatee and Mustache look to each other amazed. Bluestone throws a cookie at them.

BLUESTONE

Go get them!

The two hop to and begin a race up the stairs.

INT. BLUE STONE'S / SECOND FLOOR HALL - SAME

The vehicle careens down the hall on two wheels. Dawn HOLLERS somewhat gleefully as Barstow SCREAMS.

Nearing the open doors to Bluestone's study. Dawn steers towards it - the vehicle wobbling. Coming to a stop the vehicle tips and crashes so that it's topside leans into the wall and doorway and it is upright on its side in the hall.

Dawn and Barstow tumble right out of their seats into the study, while Julian snoozes -- jammed upright between the wall and the backseat.

INT. BLUESTONE'S / STUDY - SAME

Dawn and Barstow roll into the room.

DAWN

Crack that safe quick!

Barstow SCREAMS.

Dawn relents, pulls out the keys and unlocks his hand-chains. Barstow rips his muzzle off himself.

BARSTOW

You're a goddamned lunatic!

Dawn gets all up in his grill.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

Woof muthafucka, crack that safe
before I put you down.

Barstow hops to. He runs to the bookcases set behind
Bluestone's desk. He pulls a book out from the shelf set
above the safe. Rifling through it he pulls out a sheet of
paper.

DAWN

What're you doing?

BARSTOW

I don't know how to crack safes.

DAWN

You gotta be kidding me!

Barstow reads off the sheet of paper and starts dialing
numbers in.

BARSTOW

But the old guy doesn't know how to
remember numbers.

Dawn cracks a smile.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. BLUESTONE'S / SECOND FLOOR HALL - SAME

The Goons reach the top of the stairs and start charging
towards the study.

When they reach the end of the hall, they struggle -- the
car is blocking the doors to the study.

They try to rock the vehicle backwards, it rocks but won't
right itself. The motion causes Julian to wobble about, but
he is lodged tight.

Goatee Goon tries to crouch and reach through the small slit
between the car and the study. The rocking of the car causes
his arm to get jammed.

GOATEE GOON

Yoweee!

INT. BLUESTONE'S / STUDY - SAME

Barstow is furiously spinning the combination wheel of the safe. Dawn notices the car rocking, and her brother shaking in his slumber.

DAWN

C'mon!

BARSTOW

I'm hurrying, I'm hurrying... On the second number you go around to the right twice right?

Dawn butts him aside and takes the combination sheet.

DAWN

Useless!

Dawn unlocks the safe in a flash. She yanks out the sole item from the safe -- the giant Bluestone diamond.

DAWN

Holy shit.

Barstow tries to grab it - Dawn yanks her hand away. She shoots a glare at Barstow and then charges across the room to the car.

Without hesitation Dawn jumps into cannonball formation and sails into the Alfa Romeo.

INTERCUT WITH

INT/EXT. ALFA ROMEO / IN HALL - CONTINUOUS

Her inertia drives the small vehicle to toppling towards the side and falling to right itself on four wheels.

In doing so, it lands on top of the struggling Goons.

IN THE STUDY

Barstow see's as Dawn FIRES UP the engine. He makes for it, racing towards the car.

Dawn PEELS OUT - tearing up the carpet and shooting exhaust all over the Goons.

Barstow dives - landing in the backseat on top of Julian just as the vehicle starts to jet into motion.

(CONTINUED)

Mustache and Goatee Goon barely recover - rising up to watch the Alfa Romeo make its escape. They have tread marks and remnants of the dust they just ate all over them.

GOATEE GOON

Well, we're up shit creek.

INT. BLUESTONE'S / ENTRY HALL - CONTINUOUS

The Alfa Romeo tears down the stairs and right past Bluestone. The draft from the cars inertia nearly knocks him over. He watches the car careen through his ballroom and then disappear.

BLUESTONE

Kudos, my greasy friend Kopasky, you claim the day. But now you'll see what happens when you cross the aristocracy.

EXT. BLUESTONE MANSION GROUNDS - SAME

The sports car rapidly disappears towards the woods.

JULIAN (V.O.)

YAWN. Get off me, man. Dawn? We gonna get the diamond or what?

EXT. PETEY'S HOUSE - MORNING

The beaten Alfa Romeo is parked haphazardly in front of Petey's garish, faux white marble two story McMansion.

We hear the loud GRIND of a Juicer.

INT. PETEY'S HOUSE / KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Petey shoves a huge clump of Kale into the juicer. CRUNCH. He looks refreshed and relaxed in his silk robe. The open kitchen area connects to the spacious living room.

Dawn and Julian sit at the large kitchen island - heads hang low from complete exhaustion. In the background Barstow and Skoodge sleep on large sectional couches.

Petey grins at them - and he also wobbles his Glock in their general direction.

Petey pops open the lid to a juicer.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY

I'm amazed. You did it. Wow.

Petey dramatically swings his hand over towards the Bluestone Diamond, which we now see is on the counter. He grabs a nearby apple instead. While keeping his eyes on Dawn he takes a CRUNCHY bite.

PETEY (CONT'D)

(re: diamond)

That's really it. Looks less impressive than one would hope.

The juicer SCREAMS as Petey shoves the rest of the apple in. Petey leans back and stares dramatically at Dawn and Julian. The siblings perk up expectantly. Petey grabs the collector for his juicer.

PETEY (CONT'D)

Whelp. I'm going to go get dressed. Then I suppose you two will want your full remuneration.

Petey takes a long, deep swig of his green juice. Picks up his diamond, smacks his lips and then shuffles out of the room.

Julian and Dawn look at each other then crane their heads around towards Skoodge in the living room.

INT. PETEY'S HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Julian and Dawn stand above Skoodge. Looking down on their former pal as he SNORES.

DAWN

Lil' bitch.

JULIAN

(to himself)

Sexist.

(to Dawn)

I see now why you've had such a complicated relationship with Skoodge.

Dawn kicks the couch.

DAWN

Wake up shithead!

Skoodge stirs, smacks his lips and then awakes.

(CONTINUED)

SKOODGE
Hey. Hey, honey.

Dawn SLAPS him.

DAWN
You're such a nimrod.

Skoodge rubs his cheek.

DAWN
Get up. And get lost.

Skoodge sits up.

SKOODGE
Yeah? Aren't I a hostage or something?

DAWN
You see a gun to your head right now?

Skoodge looks around.

JULIAN
She's saying that here's where we go our separate ways.

SKOODGE
Yeah?

JULIAN
Yeah

DAWN
YES!

Skoodge starts to walk towards the front entrance- halts.

SKOODGE
Can I wait? Catch a ride maybe?

DAWN
GO!

Skoodge takes a few more steps - turns around.

SKOODGE
I'll catch up with you guys later?

Julian takes a few steps in Skoodge's direction.

JULIAN

Y'know. I always thought you were a pretty cool dude, Skoodge. Even when you treated my sister like a dick. That only made me think that she was the cock, but now I know she was right and you were the big chode all along! You convinced us to get into all this trouble here and then you had to get all greedy.

Dawn looks to her brother, thinks to interject, but lets him keep rolling.

JULIAN (CONTD)

Dawn was the cool one all along. So cool that she even let us try and trust you and give you another chance. The state of California may have had the wisdom to rethink its harsh three strikes policy, but I sure haven't. You striked us one too many times. Now go!

Julian points at the door.

SKOODGE

Alright. That's fine.

Skoodge hits the bricks - the door SLAMS.

Dawn and Julian share a look between them - a look that shows appreciation...love. They are about to hug --

PETHEY (V.O.)

Okay, fuckers.

Petey returns. He spins a car key around his finger.

PETHEY (V.O)

Shall we go claim your spoils of battle or what?

Sure.

DAWN

JULIAN
Yeah.

PETHEY

Super. I'll drive, kids.

JULIAN

What are you gonna do with it...the diamond?

(CONTINUED)

Petey dismisses the questions with a wave of the hand, turns away, but then reconsiders. Not missing a chance to boast, he turns back towards Julian and approaches.

PETEY

It is power, you little nipple of a man. I'm going to keep the rock and be the only one to have it.

JULIAN

You already have a really cool house and a bunch of other diamonds though.

DAWN

(sarcastic)

Yeah. And like really nifty television commercials.

Petey smiles - is all up in their face now.

PETEY

Just by virtue of having something bigger and more beautiful than anyone else has or will ever have makes me the king, the best and the most bad-ass mutha whose stink you'll ever be close enough to smell...C'mon.

Petey turns on his heels, but...

JULIAN

Y'know...I was thinking of the Yap.

Petey spins around. Dawn rolls her eyes.

PETEY

The Yap?

JULIAN

An ancient island people. They use stone money, called Rai. These stones are too hard to lift, but it is their primary currency. As time goes by the stones often change hands of ownership.

PETEY

So the fuck what?!

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN

So a Rai might for instance be in my yard, but it could belong to someone else and everyone else in the culture understands that.

PETEY

What's your point?

JULIAN

There's even one stone Rai that fell into the ocean hundreds of yeas ago, but the Yap still uses it as currency.

PETEY

And you stupid?! AND?!

JULIAN

It's a worthless rock. Valuable only through faith and trust.

PETEY

Super. Let's go.

Petey spins back around and starts heading for the door. Dawn shrugs to her brother, the two start following Petey's lead.

DAWN

Hey. You just gonna leave the dog dude here?

Petey halts.

PETEY

Yeah. I actually was. I figured he took me serious by now. But since you suggested it...

Petey turns around. He talks towards Dawn while crossing back towards the couch that Barstow sleeps on.

PETEY (CONT'D)

I figured he wouldn't try to cross me again. Probably wake up and high-tail it outta here never to be seen.

Petey draws out his gun from the back of his slacks. barstow stirs. His eyes open to see Petey pointin the barrel of a gun at him.

Dawn and Julian hug and look away.

(CONTINUED)

PETEY (CONT'D)
(sotto: to Barstow)
Don't let me see you ever again.

Petey points the barrel ever so slightly to the side of Barstow's head.

BLAM

He shoots the couch next to barstow. Julian and Dawn recoil, assuming the worst. Barstow is left alive but Petey lets them assume otherwise.

PETEY (CONT'D)
Now. Will you let me hold up my end
of the bargain?

INT/EXT. PETEY'S BMW - MOMENTS LATER

Petey's vehicle pulls down his long driveway from around the back of his house. Petey grins as he pilots his BMW. Dawn and Julian sit in the backseat, they share a look of concern. A tear falls down Julian's cheek, Dawn wipes it away.

As the BMW pulls out of the long driveway and onto the street, we can see in the background that the Alfa Romeo is no longer parked in front of the house.

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

Dawn and Julian follow Petey through the doors of Diamond Zone. Two WORKERS are setting new glass in the front window.

PETEY
(to workers)
Thanks fellas, you're doin a great
job cleaning this assholes fuck up.

Petey indicates to Julian with his thumb. The Workers just look confused as the three enter.

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - CONTINUOUS

The cases and store have been neatened up - Clara stands stoically at her post.

PETEY
Look who I brought back...You got
the rings these clowns pilfered
yesterday?

(CONTINUED)

CLARA
Certainly.

Clara produces the two glistening diamond rings.

PETEY
Great. Swallow 'em.

CLARA
Huh?

PETEY
That's right swallow 'em.

Dawn and Julian look confused.

DAWN
Nu nuh nuh no!

PETEY
You two bipedal shit stains ain't getting jack outta the Zone. You don't tango with Petey unless you want to get flushed outta the ballroom you nimrods.
(to Clara)
Swallow those goddamned diamonds!

Petey thrusts a finger right at Clara - he seethes, she quivers. Relenting, she struggles but puts a ring in her mouth. Petey looks about for something. He pulls a bottled water out from under the counter and hands it to Clara.

PETEY (CONT'D)
Here.

Handing it off. Clara begins to raise the water towards her mouth, her lips quivering. Petey watches with delight.

Dawn catches Julians eyes then nods to Petey's waist - the gun in his pants.

Clara begins to pour, her mouth filling with water.

JULIAN
NOOOOOOO!

Petey CACKLES with laughter. BUT--

--Dawn dives straight towards his crotch.

Petey's LAUGH trails off as his expression droops. He notices but it is too late.

(CONTINUED)

Dawn has her finger on the trigger...in his pants.

DAWN

Don't move or I'll blow your cock!

Clara spits out the water, the ring landing on the ground.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I mean. I am in a position to shoot
your penis off.

Julian picks up the ring and then grabs the other ring from Clara.

PETEY

You won't do it. You don't have the
balls.

DAWN

I don't need balls. I got a nervous
disorder. I shake real bad. You so
much as flinch and it'll be you
that doesn't have any balls.

Unseen by Petey, Berg, battered and bruised sneaks up from behind. Julian and Dawn take note.

Dawn jumps back as Berg brings the diamond encrusted drill bit down upon Petey's head. Petey collapses to the floor.

The Bluestone Diamond tumbles out of his jacket pocket.

BERG

(re drill bit)

I earned this shit now.

Berg saunters right out the front door with the drill bit.

PRELAP A doorbell - DING DONG

INT. BLUE STONE'S MANSION - DAY

Mustache and Goatee Goon approach the front door. They wear dog collars and heavy chains. Bluestone follows behind them holding the leash.

They open the door to reveal:

SKOODGE

Heyza. I heard you might have a
position open for some muscle.

Bluestone squints. Grimaces. Thinks.

INT. DIAMOND ZONE - DAY

From the main room we can see Petey passed out and laying in the back room. Dawn and Julian join Clara at a counter as she taps on a laptop.

DAWN

Why would Petey go to so much trouble for this thing then?

CLARA

My guess is he didn't know. The fool sells diamonds but doesn't have the eye for quality.

Julian reaches - Clara hands the Bluestone diamond to him.

JULIAN

Still looks beautiful to me.

CLARA

It still is a nice specimen. Even cubic zirconia's are difficult to make that large.

Clara searches the internet.

CLARA (CONT'D)

Yes, here we are. See what a few minutes of surfing the web could get you.

(referring to website)

Bluestone was born Nikolai Bulgakov. Made his fortune in being one of the first to create and market cubic zirconia. Couldn't reap the profits in Cold War Soviet Russia. Looks like he emigrated to the U.S. and changed his name.

Dawn snatches and holds up the Bluestone "diamond".

DAWN

Then this must be his "Rosebud". A fond reminder of humble beginnings.

JULIAN

As for humble beginning...I have a diamond ring burning a hole in my pocket.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN
Alright. Let's go.

As Dawn and Julian start to leave --

CLARA
Hey. aren't you worried what this
guy'll do after he wakes up?

DAWN
We watched him murder someone.

JULIAN
Yeah, it was horrible.

DAWN
But that's leverage. He's not going
to pin us for two rings when we
have that on him.

Clara starts to approach the siblings.

CLARA
I don't think you two know how
lucky you are. Don't you see you
can be charged with criminal
conspiracy, accessories to murder,
and a whole host of other potential
crimes. It would be your word...as
miscreants, against that of an
upstanding local businessman.

Dawn and Julian -- expressions grim.

DAWN
Shit.

Bluffing. Clara breaks a smile and hands over a harddrive.

CLARA
Here. The last few days worth of
security footage.

PHEW!

CLARA (CONT'D)
Just keep you noses clean now.

PRELAP HUFFING and PUFFING

The sounds of someone hauling ass.

EXT. HEIDI'S SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Julian is on foot - tearing through an idyllic suburban neighborhood. He reaches --

HEIDI'S HOUSE

Heidi's DAD is on the lawn raking leaves. Julian runs through a small pile.

HEIDI'S DAD

Hey?!

JULIAN

Sorry Mr. Hinkle!

HEIDI'S DAD

Jesus, the path is right there!

BANG BANG BANG - Julian hurriedly knocks on the door.

JULIAN

Heidi! Heidi!

HEIDI'S DAD

Julian! The whole block can hear you. I formally welcome you to our house, just walk in.

(sotto)

Damn this kid.

Julian looks at him, then goes to open the door -But it opens.

There is Heidi, surprised and curious.

HEIDI

Julian.

JULIAN

I messed up, I really know that now. I thought other people might be right, that you didn't really love me and that you were materialistic or something. After all I've been through now. I know you were right.

He pulls out the gorgeous ring from Diamond Zone. Heidi's Dad just watches from the background - confused. Heidi reacts - delighted.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Without risking everything and busting my ass - being completely scared the whole time too. I would have never known what it would take to sacrifice myself for something.

Heidi is blinking, building tears behind her eyes. She motions to take the ring.

Julian pulls the box away...takes the ring in his hand.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

That's why I can do something even more special now.

He puts the ring in his mouth. He swallows!

Heidi's eyes bulge. Her face screams - 'what the fuck'!! Her Dad shakes his head and puts his arms up in disbelief.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Ouch...You know I've been working hard. Two jobs. Put every dime I made and bought this clear with it.

He pulls out the ruby ring from the hippy shop.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

I picked out something special. From my own heart.

He shows her the ring.

HEIDI

That's just great Julian. You can shit out that g-darned diamond now and shove it up your ass for all I care. Fuck OFF!

She runs inside SLAMMING the door.

Julian is crestfallen, his head bowing down.

Heidi's Dad goes back to raking leaves.

HEIDI'S DAD

(sotto)

Kids a fuckin idiot. I told her that all along.

Julian ambles down the path towards the sidewalk. He veers slightly from the path and walks right through the pile of leaves. Heidi's Dad raises the rake as if to strike and chases him away.

EXT. DIAMOND ZONE - NIGHT.

Stores shuttered. Parking lot empty. A hand clutches a crowbar.

Skoodge emerges from the darkness, closing the gap between him and his future, he walks towards the Diamond Zone.

INSERT FLASHBACK

INT. BLUE STONE'S STUDY - DAY

Skoodge sips a glass of milk, seated in a luxurious chair. Mr Bluestone paces around him.

BLUESTONE

You can prove yourself to me.

He lunges forward into Skoodge's face.

BLUESTONE (CONT'D)

Get me back my diamond.

BACK TO SCENE

FOOTSTEPS. Steady. Purposeful. Skoodge is nearing the entrance.

The door opens. He stops.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

I was expecting someone might come for this.

Emerging out of the shadows...It's Clara.

EXT. WINERY - DAY

A bouquet circles through the air - a bridal bouquet.

It is caught, and is now in the hands of Melissa!

She SCREAMS with delight and hugs Julian, her date.

The WEDDING GUESTS erupt in CHEERS.

So do the bride and bride- Dawn and Casey. The newlyweds embrace.

EXT. VINEYARDS - LATER

Julian strolls with Dawn through a row of grape vines. The wedding reception can be seen behind them far off in the distance.

JULIAN

I'm excited for you. Well, jealous actually.

DAWN

Yeah. I always thought it'd be you first.

JULIAN

Maybe one day. I have the ring after all. And we went through a lot to get it.

DAWN

Yeah. You had to sift through your shit for two weeks.

The brother and sister stop and turn towards each other. All smiles.

JULIAN

Are we bad people?

DAWN

Maybe a little. Sometimes.

JULIAN

But you're a great sister.

DAWN

Yeah. I am.

JULIAN

Let's not do anything that crazy again. Okay?

DAWN

We'll see.

They hug, then start walking back towards the festivities.

(CONTINUED)

JULIAN

Y'know. As shitty a guy Skoodge was. I still hope things come out okay for him.

DAWN

Sorry brother. There's just no hope for some people.

EXT. RURAL AND FORESTED CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY 5 - DAY

From afar we see the beaten Alfa Romeo zooming up the winding highway - an artery within the wild forest.

INT/EXT. ALFA ROMEO - CONTINUOUS

Skoodge is behind the wheel. He looks invigorated, wearing sunglasses - the wind blowing his hair.

He brings up his hand holding his treasure and kisses the Bluestone "diamond".

SKOODGE

Woo HOO!

A hand takes it from him.

It's Clara, she is in the passenger seat.

She hands him the small gem encrusted squirrel. A giant smile grows on Skoodge's face. He leans over to kiss Clara. GUNS the engine, tearing down the highway.

INT/EXT. HELICOPTER ABOVE THE CITY - NIGHT

A helicopter buzzes at the periphery of an illuminated downtown.

Dawn, Casey, Julian and Melissa CLINK glasses. Julian raises in a toast.

JULIAN

To Dawn...to Casey...

Julian BURPS drunkenly.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Hold the whirly steady, man!

Dawn tries to take over.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN
To love. And wealth.

CHEERS all around.

Julian BARFS. Everyone recoils- grossed out. Terry turns around from the pilot seat in disgust.

TERRY
C'mon! Every time!

FADE OUT