

The ANGELS AMONG US All

By Patrick Finerd

(Comedy, Fantasy) - Jake and Grace die at the very same moment on Christmas Eve. He is from Vancouver. She is from Baton-Rouge. They meet in Heaven, but Grace is sent back to life. Jake succeeds then to escape and tries his best to find her down on Earth. But Grace does not recall anything from her sojourn up there. And Jake has his guardian angel on his tail to bring him back.



FADE IN:

OPENING CREDITS

A Christmas tree with glittering lights from bottom to top while a Country song play.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

It is a clear full moon night over a residential neighborhood. A huge house heavily illuminated with Christmas decorations. The garden is covered with fake snowflakes.

A loud party music resounds from inside the house.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

On the doorstep, PEOPLE smoke and drink, noisily chat and laugh. The front door opens and a couple appears.

VINCE (30), relaxed, pleasant, informal, looks quite drunk. GRACE (25) follows him. She is a blonde young woman with sad and aloof eyes. On the threshold, she stares at Scoot, rather worried to see him in such state.

SMOKING WOMAN

Bye Vince. Bye Grace.

GRACE

See you, Trisha.

Vince chuckles and walks down the garden path. He slips on the gravel and nearly falls.

GRACE

(to Vince)

I'll drive. Give me the keys.

VINCE

(woozy)

I'm okay, honeybunch.

GRACE

(sharply)

You're not. You perfectly know I  
don't like you to drive and drink  
that much. Especially by night.

Vince gets nervous.

VINCE

I said I'm okay!

Grace stops walking.

GRACE

(firmly)

Then I'm not coming with you.

Vince turns to her, furious.

VINCE

You what?!

He grabs her arm.

VINCE

Listen, you're my wife. You're going  
everywhere I go.

GRACE

Vince, stop it! You're hurting me!

He releases her and grins a smile.

VINCE

I'm sorry honeybunch. I didn't mean  
to. But, I'm okay.

(beat)

I promise. I'll drive.

(gently)

Come on.

He kindly puts his finger on her nose. Grace cannot help sadly smiling.

GRACE

(playing his game)

Beep.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Vince and Grace pace down the street to a white Civic. They enter the car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Though he has some troubles with the starting key, Vince manages to start the engine. Grace fastens her seat belt.

VINCE

(winningly)

Relax honeybunch. I said I was  
sorry. Okay?

(a beat)

Hey, want to see some magic?

Grace simply smiles. Vince rummages under his seat and takes a small present out he hands to Grace.

VINCE

Merry Christmas honeybunch.

Grace's face enlightens.

VINCE

Hope you'll like it.

Grace takes the present, unwraps it, and opens the little box sized like a jewel box to find--

--a tiny MP3 player.

VINCE

You'll listen to your music anytime you'll want to now.

GRACE

(bitterly)

Yeah, and won't bother you anymore.

Vince cannot find an answer. He just bursts out laughing and slaps his hands.

VINCE

(like a kid)

Okay. Where's mine?

GRACE

At home.

VINCE

Why? Was it too big to be hidden in  
the car?

GRACE

(wisely)

You'll see. It's a surprise.

He speeds up. Grace turns the radio on. A song plays.

SONG ON RADIO "Daddy

just loves his children

every now and then, it's a love

without end, amen, it's a love

without end, amen--"

After a while, Grace turns to Vince.

GRACE

Vince. Why didn't you ever talk

about having a baby? Why don't we

have a normal life like our

friends?

As he drives and acts as if he had not heard her, Vince changes the station.

SONG ON RADIO

"Hark! The herald angels sing glory  
to the newborn king--"

Vince turns the radio off.

VINCE

I'm sick of that Country music and  
Christmas rubbish!

Grace does not answer. From under his seat, Vince takes a  
bottle of whisky, uncorks it, and starts to drink.

Silent, Grace stares at him with some kind of disgust.

The car speeds up in the night.

FADE TO:

INT. JAKE ' APARTEMENT - NIGHT

A small and merely decorated apartment with a tiny Christmas tree on a silent TV set. A little Christmas music plays.

By the window, a large drawing board with many pencils, ink pots, brushes, and an unfinished comics strip page.

Outside, through the window, it snows. A real Christmas night.

On the TV screen, in B&W, young Jimmy Stewart runs and happily shouts through snowy streets.

O.S., a snuffling can be heard.

LINDA (O.S.)

Believe me or not, but it's the most depressing and the most beautiful movie I've ever seen.

JAKE (O.S.) Yeah. "I  
wish I had a million dollars".

LINDA & JAKE (O.S.)  
"Hot dog"!

JAKE (30) is a good-looking guy-next-door kind with a little spark in the eyes. At his side, LINDA (33), a "funny girl", snuffles. They are both slouched on a small sofa and watch TV.

As Jake wears his everyday clothes, Linda wears an elegant red lame dress with a décolleté. She is rather sexy. Jake eats pizza and drinks a soda.

LINDA

It's a real pleasure to watch it  
every Christmas. Thank you for  
having turn your TV in black and  
white. I can't stand those awful  
colorized old movies.

Now on TV, Stewart warmly hugs his kids by a Christmas tree,  
surrounded by many people who sing.

Jake starts to weep.

JAKE (as

an excuse)

I've got something in my eye.

LINDA

(doubtful)

Of course.

JAKE

Oh Linda. What I'd give to have kids? Being married, have a big house, a dog, a life insurance, ten credits on my back and an endearing mother-in-law. A normal life.

LINDA

I know what you mean.

(with irony)

I have that nightmare too.

JAKE

You know, sometimes, I do feel myself like a failure. I'm thirty, alone in life. Unable to create a proper world sale comics.

LINDA

You're not a failure Jake . You've  
got a nice job and a whole life  
ahead.

JAKE

Then, tell me why every girl I  
choose manages to break my heart in  
millions pieces and steps on it with  
the most sadistic smile?

LINDA

(shrugging)

You're a softie and you haven't  
found the right one yet, that's  
why. It's not your fault. It'll  
come in right time.

(singing)

Someday, your princess will come.

JAKE

But Sandy was my princess. She

finally was the girl of my dreams.

The one I was going to cherish all

my life and have a dozen kids with.

Linda bitterly grins.

LINDA

She looked rather like a witch to

me. I could easily see her with a

red apple in hand.

JAKE

No, she wasn't. She was everything

I'd have wished for. Everything.

Brown kinky eyes, long dark hair,

that fringe over her eyes and that

devastating smile that made me melt  
each time I was looking at her.

LINDA

In your dreams, but, hey, I've got  
breaking news for you: girls lie  
too. Anyway, I didn't like her, I  
didn't like her manners--

(beat)

--and, most of all, I didn't like  
her ass.

On the TV screen, movie ends. Linda gets up and stretches.

LINDA

You're sure you'll be alright?

JAKE

(sighing)

I don't know if I'm getting better  
or just used to the pain.

Linda takes her coat and wears it.

LINDA

Yes, I know that you mean. Cheer up  
anyway Jake . It's a wonderful life  
after all. Tonight it's peace on  
Earth and--

JAKE

(interrupting)

Your eye's black.

Linda stands in front of a mirror and realizes her mascara has dripped.

LINDA

I'll fix that in my car.

(beat)

You sure you're not coming. That's  
your final word?

Jake gets up at his turn and his hand awkwardly bumps into the soda can. The soda spills on the floor.

JAKE

Damn. I have to clean that carpet  
again.

LINDA

(twitting)

Leave it. That'd be rather artful  
by the ketchup spot.

Jake sighs.

JAKE

Anyway, I'll make you a promise.

This is the last Christmas I'll  
spend alone.

LINDA

(winking)

I knew it. You're a winner after  
all. A bit awkward, but a winner  
anyway.

He takes her to the door.

JAKE

Am I? Really ?

LINDA

(serious)

Just remember I love you.

JAKE

I love you too.

They hug. Jake opens the door.

LINDA

Merry Christmas.

JAKE

Merry Christmas Linda.

She exits and leaves Jake by himself.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Vince still drives and sips his whisky. Increasingly drunk, he exhilaratingly sings on "Winter Wonderland" tune in front of Grace's dark eyes.

VINCE

(singing out loud)

Lacy things, the wife is missing,  
didn't ask her permission, I'm  
wearing her clothes, her silk  
pantyhose, walking 'round in  
women's underwear--

He laughs by himself.

GRACE

(shaking her head)

That's definitely the last  
Christmas I'll spend with you.

As if he didn't listen to her, Vince lowers his window and waves to some cows.

VINCE

(shouting)

Merry Christmas girls!! Yahoo!!!

He drinks up.

INT. JAKE ' APARTEMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

In front of his bathroom cabinet mirror, Jake stares at his own reflection. He raises a bottle of whisky and cheers to the mirror.

JAKE

(to his reflection)

Merry Christmas.

He chuckles with irony, drinks up and coughs, apparently not used to drink whisky. Then, he opens the cabinet door and faces small boxes of pills.

JAKE (to

himself)

Showtime.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE ROAD - NIGHT

Vince speeds up on the road. The engine roars.

GRACE

Vince, please!

But Vince does not listen to her. He slips again his head out of the window and shouts.

INT. JAKE ' APARTEMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jake takes a mouthful of pills and drinks to swallow them.

JAKE (to

himself)

To Chris.

He swallows and takes another mouthful of pills and whisky.

JAKE (cont'd)

(to himself)

Another mouthful of pills and whisky.

JAKE (to

himself)

To Sandy.

(nervously chuckling)

Merry Christmas girls.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

His head out through the window and still shouting, Vince does not see the truck coming onto the Civic, horn blaring.

Its headlights light inside the car and Grace screams. She protects her face with the hands.

INT. JAKE ' APARTEMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jake heavily collapses on the bathroom tiled floor,  
dropping the pills and the bottle of whisky.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

At the very last moment, Vince enters his head into the Civic  
and pumps the brakes. He sways away inexpertly at the wheel  
and restores the direction. He manages to avoid the truck.

The car slides on the road, speeds on the side and dives onto  
a field to finish its course at the foot of a tree.

The windshield shatters in millions pieces.

INT. JAKE ' APARTEMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

His face glued on the bathroom tiled floor, Jake slowly closes his eyes.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. HEAVEN'S GATES - NIGHT

SLOW OPENING TO REVEAL A SHINING FOG

Through the fog, a FEMALE ECHOED VOICE can be heard as coming from a loudspeaker in many languages.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.) Ladies

and gentlemen, we are glad to

welcome you. You have choose the  
right path--

Slowly, the fog vanishes and reveals a weird place looking  
like a huge airport departure hall. Instead of material  
walls, everything is made out of the same shining fog.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Please stand on line until someone  
will present to you. It won't take  
long before you will be taken in  
charge. Just be patient--

In front of different desks made out of the same fog,  
parallel lines of PEOPLE. People of all ages, all races, and  
all conditions.

As they slowly advance to the desks, a MAN or a WOMAN comes to them and warmly hugs them. Dressed up with long dark coats, they each wear a benevolent smile.

Each NEWCOMER is led by one of them to different escalators made out of fog.

Standing on one line, Jake waits for his turn and seems to not understand what he does there. He just looks hypnotized by the spectacle around him like everyone else.

On a parallel line stands Grace. She still has her sad eyes. Scanning the place, her look meets Jake . As she stares at him, she feels bizarre.

Suddenly, she puts her hand at her heart level as if it was bumping hard down inside of her. She lowers her head to her

chest and smiles. Though she is far from the desk in front of her, she sees an OLD LADY coming to her.

OLD LADY

(sweet)

Would you mind coming with me my  
child?

She gently takes her by the hand and leads her through the hall. As they walk away, Jake turns his head and sees Grace's back of the head.

Puzzled, Jake waits for his turn to be taken in charge. He finally reaches the desk and a woman (ANGELA) comes to him.

She is in her middle-thirties, dark-hair with a bun, and smiling.

She hugs him. Jake ' confusion is deeper.

ANGELA

My name is Angela and I'm the one  
who'll show you around today.

She gently takes him by the hand and they walk to one of the  
escalators.

JAKE

(confused)

Where-- are we?

ANGELA

Is Heaven meant something special  
to you?

JAKE

(confused)

Am I-- dead?

ANGELA

(gently)

Yes, you are.

JAKE

But, I thought because--

ANGELA

(interrupting)

I know. Because you committed  
suicide. But Hell is just a legend.  
There is no Hell. There is just one  
place. Here. Even evil minds are  
welcome. Redemption is offered to  
everyone.

JAKE

(chuckling)

So, I'm really dead.

ANGELA

(as reciting)

You'll be through different levels,  
seven exactly, before you could, if  
you will, become an angel or being  
reincarnated.

Jake interrupts her.

JAKE

(curious)

You mean that I will be able to go  
back?

ANGELA

(embarrassed)

Well, yes. But not how you'd  
expected.

INT. HEAVEN'S GATES - ESCALATOR - NIGHT

They reach a spiral escalator made out of the same clouds and  
start to make their way up.

ANGELA

I'm sure you'll meet people here you  
knew during your existence, friends,  
relatives, and you'll soon be ready  
to welcome newcomers just like I do.

As they go up, Jake turns back and looks down at the huge  
hall.

JAKE

I can't believe it. There are so  
many people.

ANGELA

That's the circle of life, Jake .

JAKE

(floored)

How do you know my name?

ANGELA

We know everything about you.

JAKE

(ironically)

Do you? Really?

ANGELA

Well, not me. But it's all written  
in the Big Book.

(beat)

You'll soon get every answer you  
wish.

As they keep going up, they cross a second escalator on its  
way down. Grace and the old lady are on it.

Grace's EYES AND JAKE ' MEET

IT IS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

They cannot take their eyes off each other. A deep and  
intense look.

Jake does not listen anymore to Angela. All he hears is the  
old lady who tells Grace.

OLD LADY (with

a slight echo)

Don't worry Mrs. McKenna, you'll  
soon be back in Baton-Rouge as if  
nothing had happened.

As Grace goes down and Jake goes up, they keep exchanging  
looks. Jake can see some kind of despair in Grace's eyes as  
she gets slowly away.

While Angela keeps on talking, Jake turns to her and  
interrupts her.

JAKE

What's that escalator?

ANGELA

(mindless)

Oh, that one? It's exclusively for  
people who weren't supposed to die.  
It simply wasn't their time. It's  
their way down back to Earth.

Jake turns a last time to Grace. She grins a little helpless  
smile and mouths "Thank you" to him. Jake can see regrets in  
her eyes as she slightly waves to him before she disappears  
into the shining fog.

ANGELA We'll

soon be arrived.

(with a smile)

Even here we have administrative  
tasks to fill.

They finally reach the top of the escalator.

INT. HEAVEN'S GATES - OFFICES - NIGHT

The entire floor is made of glass wall offices. In each office, a NEWCOMER is seated in front of THREE CLERKS and, apparently, answers questions.

ANGELA

Your soul is going to be weighted  
and judged. A good point for each  
virtue, a bad for every sin.

At the end of one couloir, a shout. A MAN, at the verge of the nervous breakdown, furiously struggles.

THE MAN

(shouting)

I don't want to be dead! There  
should be a mistake! My wife and my  
son need me!

Several angels try to calm him down, but the man keeps on  
violently struggling.

AN ANGEL

(shouting)

Help! We need help!

Angela turns to Jake .

ANGELA

I'll be right back.

She rapidly paces to help her colleagues and leaves Jake by  
himself. He watches her rushing away for a short while, and  
then turns back. The way to the "Escalator to Earth" is safe.

NO ONE IN SIGHT

Slowly, step after step, Jake walks back and gets close to the steps. As he approaches, the escalator automatically moves down.

INT. HEAVEN'S GATES - EARTH ESCALATOR - NIGHT

Jake starts to go down, trying to act naturally. On his way down, he crosses NEWCOMERS and ANGELS on the spiral escalator on their way up.

But the angels are too busy to explain the newcomers that they hardly notice him.

A VOICE RESOUNDS BEHIND HIM

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey you! Where do you think you're  
going!!

Jake turns back and realizes that an ANGEL MAN calls him.  
Jake starts to rush down the stairs and do not look back  
anymore.

ANGEL MAN (O.S.)

Come back here! You're not allowed  
to go down! Stop!

Jake now runs down for a long descent through the shining  
fog. Suddenly, as if there was no more stairs under his feet,  
he slips and disappears into a deep black hole.

EXT. SKIES - NIGHT

Jake falls through a black sky, through clouds, when he sees the earth getting closer and closer as if he was jumping with a parachute.

A LONG, LONG, AND UNREAL FALL

His face is distorted by the incredible fall speed. Now, he can rapidly discern city lights, a city, house blocks, a building, a roof--

He closes his eyes at the moment he is about to crash on the roof.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

A SLIGHT BEEP RESOUNDS

CLOSE-UP OF Grace's OPENING EYES

Grace realizes she's laid in a hospital bed. The room is dimly lighted with a small bedside lamp. Two transparent tubes are connected to her nose and an IV drip is attached to her arm. She looks weak and seems to be sleeping quietly, breathing in rhythm of an ECG monitor at her side.

Grace hardly moves her head. Her eyes scan the room. She notices that Vince is seated by the bed, dozing. He has bruises and a bandage around his head.

Grace slowly moves her arm and her hand meets a steel tray on the table side. The tray falls on the plastic floor in a metallic crash.

The noise wakes Vince in a jump. When he realizes that Grace is waking, he rushes to the bedroom door, and shouts into the hallway.

VINCE

(shouting)

Nurse! She's waking up!!

Vince comes back to the bed. He kneels by Grace, happy, and kisses her hand.

VINCE

Oh, honeybunch. You're back! You're  
back!

He starts to sob. A NURSE enters. When she sees Grace, she  
immediately steps out and call.

NURSE (O.S.)

Doctor Grant! Doctor Grant!

VINCE

(sobbing)

Honeybunch. I'll never leave you  
anymore! I've been so stupid!

He kisses her hand.

VINCE

I love you so. When I think I  
could've lose you! Say something!  
Speak to me!

GRACE

(hardly)

Vince--

VINCE

Yes!

The nurse comes back with DOCTOR GRANT who leans over Grace and gently pushes Vince back.

DOCTOR GRANT

Mrs. McKenna, welcome back. I could say I had a hard poker game with the Bearded One above. Well. Apparently, I won.

(sigh)

But let me tell you, you can  
consider yourself as a miraculously  
healed after one night of deep coma.  
I've never saw that. An incredible  
recovery. The good news is I think  
that you'll both be able to get out  
on tomorrow after an overnight on  
observation.

Grace hardly nods.

DOCTOR GRANT

(to Vince)

Take good care of your wife. She  
came back for you.

VINCE

Yes Doctor.

Doctor Grant and the nurse step out. Vince kneels again by  
Grace and takes her hand.

VINCE

He's right. You're back for me  
honeybunch. It's now time for us to  
have a baby. A beautiful baby from  
you. A lovely baby with his mother's  
eyes.

(beat)

What do you think?

Grace does not answer.

VINCE

Tell me. What about Nicholas for a  
boy? Or Emma for a girl? Or Sandra?  
Or Calvin? Or--

Grace puts her hand on his.

GRACE

(interrupting him)

We'll see later.

VINCE

No problem. You'll choose.

He puts his finger on her nose. This time, Grace turns her head away.

GRACE

Vince. I'm so tired.

She closes her eyes.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. JAKE ' APARTEMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

BLACKNESS

A commercial for Christmas bargain can be heard from a TV

O.S..

CLOSE-UP OF JAKE ' OPENING EYE

He is laid on the bathroom tiled floor, amid the pills, by the empty bottle of whisky. Some pills are even glued on his cheek.

As he moves, Jake puts his hand on the forehead and grins with pain. He hardly stands up, woozy and reclines against the bathroom wall. As he tries to recover, he sweeps the pills off his cheek and sighs.

INT. JAKE ' APARTEMENT - DAY

Jake clumsily steps to the couch and lets himself heavily slouch in it. His hand reaches for the remote and he turns the TV off.

JAKE (to

himself)

What a nightmare.

Someone knocks on his door. At first, Jake does not move, but the knock resounds again and Linda's voice can be heard from behind the door.

LINDA (V.O.)

Jake ! It's me! Open, please!

Jake gets up, walks to the door, takes a look in the peephole, and opens. Linda enters like a fury.

LINDA

Where the hell have you been?

I came yesterday and you weren't home. I started to worry. You even didn't answer the phone.

JAKE

(woozy)

I'm okay.

LINDA

You're okay?! Have you seen yourself? You really look like crap.

Jake holds his forehead and closes back the door.

JAKE

(grimacing)

Please, don't shout.

LINDA

Don't tell me you've got a  
hangover?

JAKE

(nodding)

I have.

He steps back to the couch and sits down, but he misses it  
to find himself butt on the floor.

LINDA

Welcome at last to the adult world.

She leans over him and notices a pill by his ear.

LINDA

I don't believe it.

She goes directly to the bathroom, takes a glimpse and comes back.

LINDA

Don't tell me you did--?

JAKE

(sighing)

Do you realize that I've even  
failed that? Even up there, they  
didn't want me.

LINDA

Luckily, you failed. Are you out of  
your mind?

Jake finally sits on the sofa.

JAKE

Maybe.

(beat)

I have weird souvenirs. Like I was  
dead and came back to life.

LINDA

Jake . Promise me to never do it  
again.

JAKE

I promise.

LINDA

(sharply)

Swear it.

JAKE

(rolling his eyes and sighing)

Cross my heart.

(beat)

Tell me, do we know someone called  
something like McKenna?

Linda sits at her turn.

LINDA

McKenna?

She shakes her head.

LINDA

Nope. Why?

JAKE

Since I woke up, I strangely have  
that name in mind and a city:  
Baton-Rouge.

LINDA

Stop the whisky, would you?

JAKE

It's crazy, but that dream was  
really strong, almost real.

LINDA

(innocently)

Was it in color?

But Jake dose not listen to her.

JAKE

I had a feeling of happiness,  
quietness--

LINDA

(trying to joke)

What kind of pills did you take?

JAKE

I was in Heaven.

LINDA

Why did you come back then?

Jake is about to answer when someone knocks on his door. A bit surprised, he steps to the door and gives an eye in the peephole to see--

ANGELA'S DISTORTED FACE

She stands in front his door, straight-faced.

Pale, Jake cannot believe it. He gives a second look and starts to panic. Linda does not understand.

LINDA

What's wrong? Who is it?

Jake faces Linda and takes her by the shoulders, serious.

JAKE

Linda. Do you trust me?

LINDA

Yes, but--

JAKE

(interrupting)

No question please.

ANOTHER KNOCK ON THE DOOR

Jake disappears into a room and comes back with a bag.

JAKE

Follow me.

He takes his jacket and a scarf, opens the living room window, and passes a leg outside. From behind the door, Angela's voice rises.

ANGELA (V.O.)

Jake ! I know you're here!

Linda looks at Jake as if he was some kind of lunatic, half-amused. He is already outside. She decides to follow him.

EXT. STREET - JAKE 's BUILDING - DAY

Jake steps into the snow, followed by Linda.

LINDA

I never saw you running from a  
girl. Who's she?

JAKE

I said no question, okay?

LINDA

(shrugging)

Okay.

(beat)

Are you going to leave your window  
open?

JAKE (not  
listening)  
Where's your car?

She shows him a red New Beetle and opens it automatically with her keys. Jake rushes in it and slams the passenger door.

EXT. STREET - INT. LINDA'S CAR - DAY

Linda enters the car at her turn, starts the engine, and turns to Jake .

LINDA  
Now?

Jake thinks for a short while.

JAKE

Take me to the airport.

LINDA

Sure?

Jake just nods. As Linda speeds up, Jake turns back to his building entrance.

NO TRACE OF ANGELA

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. STREETS - INT. CAB - DAY

Vince and Grace are seated at the back of a cab, both silent.

Grace looks by the window and apparently avoids Vince's eyes. She's very pale and tired. Vince looks rather nervous.

VINCE

Did you think about it?

Grace emerges from her thoughts and turns to him with a sad smile.

GRACE

Sorry?

VINCE

(smiling)

Did you think about our baby's  
name?

A long beat.

GRACE

Listen Vince, I don't know.

VINCE

Don't know about the name or--  
having a baby?

A long beat.

GRACE

(tired)

Both, I guess.

Vince's smile fades as Grace turns back her face to the  
window.

VINCE

Tell me. Do you blame me about the  
accident?

GRACE

(without looking at him)

Yes.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. VANCOUVER AIRPORT - INT. LINDA'S CAR - DAY Linda  
and Jake arrive in sight of Vancouver Airport.

INT. VANCOUVER AIRPORT - DAY

Vancouver International Airport departures hall looks like  
Heaven's Gates. The same cosmopolitan crowd, the same  
announcements, the same escalators. The serenity in less.

Among the buzzing crowd, Jake looks lost. Linda, on his tail, is still amused.

LINDA

And now, Sir?

Jake does not answer. He steps to an AIRLINE CLERK behind her counter. On his way, his foot kicks a bag and he nearly stumbles.

JAKE

(to the airline clerk)

Next flight to Baton-Rouge?

The woman checks on her computer screen, then smiles to Jake .

AIRLINE CLERK

Gate fourteen. 14:11. Flight

Continental Airlines. Last call.

Linda joins Jake .

LINDA

What are you doing down in

Louisiana?

JAKE

I don't know but I'm sure I must

get there.

AIRLINE CLERK

How will you be paying?

He searches in his pockets.

JAKE (to

Linda)

Forgot my wallet. Lend me some  
cash.

LINDA

No way. I'm coming with you!

JAKE

But--

LINDA

(interrupting)

You want my dinner? I'm coming with  
you!

Stuck, Jake gives in. Suddenly aware that Angela could appear at any minute, he urges Linda. She turns to the airline clerk with her most charming smile.

Anxious, Jake turns back and scans the hall. Angela could be anywhere. Every woman could turn to be her.

Linda keeps on talking with the woman. She looks like flirting. Jake turns back to her and pulls her by the sleeve. She has the two air tickets in hand.

LINDA

(victorious)

I have her phone number.

But Jake does not listen to her, already heading for Gate 14.

INT. CONTINENTAL AIRLINES PLANE - DAY

Jake and Linda are seated side by side inside a crowded  
747. Jake nervously sketches on one of the company magazine  
margin page--

Grace's FACE

Then, he looks through the porthole, lost in his thoughts.  
Linda turns to him with a smile and notices the drawing.

Then, she turns to the plane central alley, intensely  
watching--

ONE OF THE STEWARDESSES' BUTT

FADE TO:

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Grace is seated, alone, on her bed. Someone knocks on the  
door. She sadly stares at the MP3 player.

JODI (V.O.)

Grace, it's me, Jodi.

GRACE

Come in.

JODI enters the bedroom. The freckles on her face prove she is a real pretty young red-haired woman. She closes back the door and steps to Grace.

JODI

How are you?

Grace grins a smile that means "so-so".

JODI

Do you want me to leave you alone?

GRACE

No, Jodi. I need someone to talk with. I've been silent for so many years, wrapped into some kind of invisible second skin. Today, I really don't know where I'm going to.

Jodi sits on the bed by Grace.

JODI

I just met Vince before he leaves to work. He looks devastated. So guilty. I never saw him like that.

(beat)

Do you think you will ever forgive him?

GRACE

(sighing)

I don't think so. Something's  
broken in me. It was as if that  
accident had woke me up from some  
kind of deep lethargy.

(bitterly chuckling)

As if I was living like a zombie  
until then. I can see clearly now.

JODI

Don't tell me you're going to leave  
him after ten years of marriage?

GRACE

I don't know. We shared so many  
things. I'll feel lost without him.  
But, he's not the Prince Charming I  
used to know anymore. I want to be

somebody's hero. Feeling myself,  
talking aloud.

As she talks, Grace seems to recover.

JODI

(happily)

Okay. Let's list his pros and cons  
like we used to do when we were  
teens.

Grace grins a smile.

JODI

First, the pros.

Grace thinks with exaggeration and sighs.

GRACE

He makes me laugh.

Jodi counts "one" with her thumb.

JODI

Good point. Then?

Grace tries to think about something, but cannot find another reason and shakes her head.

JODI

At least, is he-- G.I.B.?

Grace does not get it.

JODI

Well, you know-- G.I.B.

She taps on the mattress. Grace still does not understand.

JODI

(finally)

Is he good in bed?

GRACE Ah,

this? Well, yes.

(beat)

I can't tell you. I only knew him.

He was my first one.

JODI

You mean you never-- with another  
man?

GRACE

(shaking her head)

No. I never needed shopping around.

That's why I married him.

Jodi sighs.

JODI

Okay. If you can't compare, let's proceed differently. Do you usually reach orgasm with him?

GRACE

(embarrassed)

I think so. I've never asked myself that kind of question.

JODI

(dumbfounded)

You're not even sure? That's quite important. Every couple's sex life should be fulfilled. Like one plus one equal one.

GRACE

Talk about yourself. You're single  
for months.

JODI

That's just because I haven't find  
my Mister Right yet. But we talk  
about you, Grace. What about your  
G-Spot?

GRACE

My--?

JODI

(sighing)

It's the most important thing man's  
discovered for women. Imagine a

switch you press on that lights on  
up inside you and--

(in front of Grace's  
puzzled stare)

Forget it. I'll lend you my books.

(beat)

That's all for the pros?

GRACE

Think so.

JODI

Now, the cons.

This time, Grace does not take her time to answer.

GRACE

He told he wasn't ready to have a  
baby. We don't listen to the same  
music, don't watch the same movies.  
We usually don't go out together. He

has his own friends. He never wanted  
me to work. Not even a Mc-Job. I  
just stay at home, waiting for him,  
watching soaps, or doing-- nothing.

JODI

(grave)

I know. Always hurt me to see you  
like this.

GRACE

(chuckling)

All it matters to him are the three  
"B".

JODI

The what?

GRACE (talking  
to herself)

The three "B". That motto rules his  
life: "beer, bowling, and blowjobs".

(sigh)

Yeah, that's perfectly resumes him.

Can you picture this?

JODI

I never could figure all this out.

You seemed so happy together, the  
perfect pair. Everyone envied you.

GRACE

I was just playing his game. What  
else could I do?

JODI

You could run away.

GRACE

Never had the guts.

Jodi stares at her for a while, silent.

JODI

And if someone would ask you to? If  
someone would get you out from this  
squalor?

GRACE

I'm some kind of prisoner. Who  
could find me here, in the  
boondocks?

Suddenly, Jodi gets excited.

JODI

Listen Grace. I've got an idea. You remember my big sister Lou? She moved in Texas. She always begged me to join her. Let's go together, get a real life and our own three "B": boys, boys and boys!

GRACE

(hesitating)

What about Vince? I just can't leave him without an explanation?

JODI

Will he let you go? You'll think about it later. If you'll miss him, it will be always time to come back. And believe me, he will forgive you and grovel before you.

GRACE

I don't know.

JODI

Move your butt, baby. You'll find someone. You're still young. You're cute and smart. And you know the saying: too many men, so less time.

(beat)

I've heard that a woman placed an ad in the paper, saying, "husband wanted". The next day she received two hundred e-mails, saying "Take mine".

Grace cannot help laughing.

JODI

I love to see you laugh. That's the  
little Grace I used to know.

GRACE I

need it so bad.

(thinking)

I have to tell you something I will  
never tell Vince. Maybe you'll find  
me crackbrained, but from my coma, I  
still have unclear memories. A face  
lost in a crowd. A man's face. For a  
while, I'm sure I felt myself happy,  
then desperate. So strange. I even  
remember telling him "thank you" but  
I don't know why.

JODI

(excited)

You mean you met someone up there?

Weird place for a date.

GRACE

I told you, you would find me  
crazy.

JODI

No, no. I do believe in these  
things. I've read a lot about it.  
Maybe you came back to Earth to  
find him?

GRACE

Yes, but If I met him up there,  
that's mean he's dead now.

Jodi's exaltation falls back.

JODI

You're probably right. Well, that's another reason you have nothing to lose to run away with me. You need wide open spaces, to see new faces. A brand new life is offered to you. This time full of happiness and laughs.

Grace is about to speak. Jodi interrupts her.

JODI

(smiling)

Yes. I know. You don't know.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. BATON-ROUGE METROPOLITAN AIRPORT - DAY

Jake and Linda are in Baton-Rouge Airport arrivals hall. They obviously too much dressed up for the local weather. Jake looks for the exit.

EXT. BATON-ROUGE METROPOLITAN AIRPORT - DAY Jake and Linda catch a taxi. The car speeds up.

INT. RICHMOND SUITES HOTEL - ROOM - DAY

Jake and Linda enter a hotel room. Linda is sweating.

LINDA

You do what you want but I'm taking  
a shower. I'm creased!

As she disappears into the bathroom, Jake notices a computer by the TV set. He switches it on, types on the keyboard and

finds the White Pages site. He keeps typing and a list of names appears on the screen.

CLOSE-UP ON THE SCREEN

There are eight McKenna's in Baton-Rouge.

Jake sighs. He prints the page.

LINDA (V.O.)

(from the bathroom)

Jake ! Don't you think I've been patient enough? Can't you tell me now what it's all about?! I really feel like a puppet with you!

Jake is rummaging through Linda's purse and takes some cash. With the printed page, he steps out, slamming the door.

EXT. RICHMOND SUITE HOTEL - DAY

In front of the hotel, Jake hails a cab where he steps in.

EXT. HOUSE - BATON-ROUGE STREET - DAY

SILENT SEQUENCE

Jake is talking with a WOMAN on her threshold. The woman shakes her head. Disappointed, Jake leaves her.

INT. BUILDING LOBBY - DAY

SILENT SEQUENCE

An OLD MAN slams his door on Jake ' surprised face.

EXT. TRAILER - BATON-ROUGE STREET - DUSK

SILENT SEQUENCE

Jake is talking with a much EFFEMINATE GUY who does not stop to smile at him, visibly flirting. He looks like inviting Jake in who refuses, rushing back to the street.

INT. RICHMOND SUITES HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT

As soon as Jake enters the hotel lobby, a voice calls him.

LINDA (O.S.)

Jake !

She stands inside the hotel bar. She is seated in a booth,  
drinking a cocktail.

INT. RICHMOND SUITES HOTEL - BAR - NIGHT

Jake steps to her and joins her in the booth.

LINDA

Where the hell have you been? I was  
worrying to death.

JAKE

Looking for someone.

LINDA

(serious)

Don't you think you owe me some  
serious explanations?

JAKE

I'm not sure you'd quite  
understand.

LINDA

Hey! Call me stupid. I'm not a  
blonde! And most of all, I'm your  
best friend.

JAKE

Okay. But, promise me you will not  
laugh at me.

(beat)

Just after you left on Christmas

Eve--

FADE TO:

LATER

JAKE

--and I finally checked three of  
them this afternoon.

Jake and Linda are now both drinking.

LINDA

This is insane.

JAKE

Always told you I was.

LINDA

No, I mean, you should really  
believe in your story to be here,  
in a town you don't know.

JAKE

Do you?

LINDA

Can't tell you. If it wasn't you, I  
sure would think you're loco.

Suddenly, Jake freezes and spills his glass on his trousers.

Linda follows his eyes. A woman has just entered the bar--

ANGELA

She still wears her long black coat. She slowly walks directly to Jake . He does not know what to do, jammed.

ANGELA

(austere)

Jake . We have to talk.

Linda rearranges her hair, takes a charming pose, and keeps staring at Angela.

LINDA

(to Jake )

Don't you introduce me?

Jake feels increasingly trapped.

JAKE

Linda, this is-- Angela.

Linda holds her hand out to Angela who does not move, just as if she wasn't there.

LINDA

(with a come-hither look)

Pleased to meet you. Jake ' friends are mine too.

She sizes Angela up, trying to guess her shapes under her coat.

ANGELA

Jake , that's really important.

Jake starts to dry his trousers up with a napkin.

JAKE

(confused)

Yes.

ANGELA

Can we talk-- in private?

Linda gets up.

LINDA

Okay. Got it.

As she steps to the counter, Angela sits down, facing Jake .

ANGELA

(gently)

You know why I'm here, don't you?

No need to refresh your mind?

JAKE

(firmly)

I don't want to go back.

ANGELA

You have to. You don't belong here  
anymore. Don't you realize what  
have you done?

Jake nods.

JAKE

I do. Look at me, I'm fine. I've  
got plenty of friends and--

ANGELA

(interrupting)

Don't do this to me, Jake . I know  
now everything about you and why you  
have committed suicide.

JAKE

Who are you?

ANGELA

You perfectly know who I am. Let's  
call me an angel.

JAKE

Alright, you're an angel. Fine to  
me. If you know everything about  
me, then, explain to me why I'm  
here?

ANGELA

Because you don't know what you're  
missing above, freed from your  
skin. Because you're still holding  
to this miserable life of yours  
like every human being. There are  
millions of reasons--

JAKE (with

a smile)

Sorry, you're wrong.

Angela is quite surprised. She beckons Jake to give her his hand.

ANGELA

May I?

Jake gives her his hand. Angela holds it and closes her eyes for a short while. Jake turns to Linda who stares at them, astonished.

FLASHBACK - INT. HEAVEN'S GATE - NIGHT

JAKE ' P.O.V.: as he speaks with Angela, Jake turns a last time to Grace.

She grins a little helpless smile and mouths "Thank you" to him. Jake can see regrets in her eyes as she slightly waves to him before she disappears into the shining fog.

END OF THE

FLASHBACK:

INT. RICHMOND SUITES HOTEL - BAR - NIGHT

Jake turns back to Angela who reopens her eyes.

ANGELA

That's because of her? The woman on  
the escalator?

JAKE

You see. You can't know everything.

(trying to joke)

I'm full of surprises.

Angela looks embarrassed.

ANGELA

Well, I have to be straight with you Jake . If I don't get you back, my hierarchy would be quite angry with me. And that would be the first time for me in eight hundred years.

She lowers her head.

ANGELA

In fact, I maybe won't be able to go back at all.

Jake looks at her, dumbfounded.

ANGELA

You broke Heaven's law Jake . No  
one has ever escaped.

JAKE (happily

surprised)

You mean I'm the first one? I'm  
rather proud of it.

ANGELA

(straight-faced)

That's not the question. This is a  
very serious situation.

JAKE

Listen--

Confused, he tries to remember her name.

ANGELA

Angela.

JAKE

Angela, if I came back it's only to find that woman. I don't know if as an-- angel, you can feel love, but that's what I felt when I saw her. I've got to find her. I'm ready to give up everything I own.

Angela is about to speak.

JAKE Everything,

except my life.

(beat)

I admit I made a mistake. I shouldn't have commit suicide. I was wrong. But, let's suppose for a second that God Himself gave me this opportunity to make up for it. To give me a second chance. Meeting her above. Escaping from there. It just can't be coincidences.

Angela stares at him, thoughtful.

ANGELA

Just one second.

She gets up and, as she steps to the back of the room, she takes out from her coat pocket some kind of cellular phone. She unfolds it and puts it at her ear.

Jake stares at her and turns to Linda who beckons him

"What's going on?".

He shrugs and faces back Angela who turns her back to him, speaking with a low voice on the phone. She hangs up and sighs.

She stays immobile for a short while and steps back to Jake to sit down.

ANGELA

I have permission to make a special agreement with you. You have seven days to find her and be loved in return or you will go back up without a chance to be ever reincarnated or being an angel.

JAKE

(happy)

Okay.

ANGELA

Does the word purgatory mean  
something to you?

JAKE

I missed most of my Sunday school.

ANGELA

(serious)

I guessed. Sojourn in Purgatory is  
greater than the pain that you've  
ever experienced in life. Every day  
you suffered would be multiply by  
ten.

JAKE

And you told me there was not Hell?

Big deal.

(grave)

But, she worth it. I won't fail

this time.

(self confident)

I go for it. Do I have to sign with

my blood?

ANGELA

(chuckling)

Who do you think you are? Some kind

of Faust? No. Your word has just

been taken for granted.

(beat)

I have to precise you also that

you'll find her but I won't help

you in this quest.

JAKE

Why? Are you going to tail me all  
the way?

ANGELA

Yes. I have to. I don't want to have  
to chase you everywhere around the  
planet.

JAKE

(charming)

Fine to me. I couldn't have a  
nicest angel to chaperon me.

Angela is blushing. Jake notices it.

ANGELA

(another topic)

By the way, you forgot this in your  
apartment.

She hands him a wallet.

ANGELA

I know that you Earthling, you  
desperately need it.

JAKE

Thank you.

He slips it into his pocket.

ANGELA

A last thing.

She turns to Linda.

ANGELA

Could you-- gently-- get rid of  
her?

JAKE

But, she helped me till now and--

ANGELA

(interrupting)

Make something up. You're a story  
maker, aren't you? Tell her I'm one  
of your ex-girlfriend.

JAKE

(sarcastic)

You just ask me to lie? Isn't it a  
sin?

ANGELA

(embarrassed)

Well, not a deadly one.

He stands up and walks to Linda.

ANGELA'S P.O.V.

Linda looks disappointed and, reluctantly, she nods. She hugs Jake , turns to Angela, and whispers something to him that makes him laugh. Then, she leaves the bar.

Jake comes back to Angela, still laughing.

ANGELA

What did she tell you so funny?

JAKE

I really can't tell you. You wouldn't appreciate that.

ANGELA

Come on Jake .

JAKE

She was only talking about a  
special part of your body.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A door opens and Vince appears, a bunch of roses in hand. The house is dark and quiet. Vince closes the door.

VINCE

Honeybunch!?

NO ANSWER

He switches on the lights, puts the flowers on a table, and starts to worry.

VINCE

Grace?!

THERE ARE NO CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN THE HOUSE

He opens the bedroom door. Grace is not there. He explores the entire house and enters the bathroom.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Something looks like to bother him. In a flash, he notices that half of the shelves are empty. He rushes out.

VINCE (O.S.)

Grace!!

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

(MORE)

Vince enters the bedroom and opens the wardrobe. All Grace's stuff has disappeared. Vince's fist hits the wardrobe door and goes through.

Pale, he steps backward to the bed and collapses on it. He feels something under him and takes the small MP3 player and an envelop out.

Trembling, he opens it and starts to read.

GRACE (V.O.)

"Dear Vince. I'm gone maybe for a while, maybe for longer. I really don't know. I have to think about all this. I'm sure you'll take good care of you.

GRACE(cont'd)

Maybe it's just a single battle  
lost, but not the war. I hope  
you'll understand that I have  
changed. Please, believe me when I  
tell that I will always love you.  
Grace."

A tear runs on Vince's cheek. He lets himself fall back on  
the bed, and closes his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. RICHMOND SUITES HOTEL - DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

In the hotel dining room, Jake and Angela face each other at a dinner table. Jake is the only one to eat. In fact, he rather looks to gobble down.

JAKE

(full mouth)

I could eat an entire cow. God, I'm starving.

(to Angela)

Are you on the diet?

ANGELA

I don't need to eat anymore.

JAKE

You mean you don't know how a cheeseburger or a crepe suzette taste? What a shame.

Angela shakes her head with a smile.

JAKE

Don't drink neither?

He raises his glass of wine.

JAKE

Well. Cheers.

He drinks up.

JAKE

Sure you don't want to have just a sip. It's refreshing and sweet. You don't know what you're missing.

ANGELA

I usually quench my thirst differently. Wisdom is my only nectar.

Jake stares at her, grimacing.

JAKE

Tell me. Does everybody talk  
through parables where you come  
from?

ANGELA

(with a smile)

An old habit from the boss.

(more seriously)

So, Jake , did you start your  
seeking already?

JAKE

Yeah. They're eight to have the  
same name in Baton-Rouge. I've  
already met three of them. I'll  
meet the five left tomorrow.

ANGELA

I wish you good luck then.

JAKE

Thank you--

(worried)

Wait. You seem too much self  
confident.

ANGELA

(innocently)

Do I?

JAKE

You can't wish me good luck when  
you absolutely want to bring me  
back with you by any means. You're  
up onto something.

He frowns.

JAKE

Do you just actuate people to lie  
or are you a liar yourself?

ANGELA

We, angels, are not allowed to lie.

CLOSE-UP ON ANGELA'S CROSSED FINGERS IN HER BACK

JAKE

One thing I finally know about you.  
That's not fair. I have no secret  
for you and I just know your name.  
Who were you when you lived?

ANGELA

(elusive)

I forgot.

JAKE

Tss, tss. Remember, you can't lie.

ANGELA

Okay. I was a peasant girl in the  
South of France. I died giving birth  
to a beautiful baby who never knew  
her mother.

Jake has stopped eating and he listens to her with a real  
interest.

JAKE

That's fascinating.

He puts his elbow on the table, holding his chin. But he misses the table edge and nearly falls. He stiffens on the back of his chair and stays still.

ANGELA

It is not. I was living in misery.

People were dying very young at this time. Death and woe were everywhere.

JAKE

So, since then you're an angel.

ANGELA

(embarrassed)

Speak lower, please.

JAKE

But, people don't care nowadays.

He suddenly gets up and shouts throughout the dining room.

JAKE

Hey! She's an angel!! My angel!!

CUSTOMERS turn their heads with a smile and are finally back to their dinner as if nothing had happened. Jake sits back and starts to eat again.

JAKE

You see?

(beat)

Let's suppose you walk up to a cop and say: "Hi, I'm Angela and I'm your guardian angel." Well, you'd find yourself spending your night in a drunk tank.

He drinks a sip of wine.

JAKE

You see, people don't believe in anything anymore. I was the same. Sometimes, I was worrying about money, sometimes I wished to have no shoe, no shirt and no problem.

(beat)

People have lost faith. Too many wars, too many diseases, too much misery around. By the way, aren't you supposed to guide us from above?

ANGELA

Man still has his free will. That's makes all the difference. We try to guide you, but, most of the time, you

decide to just not listen to us.

Sometimes, we had no alternative. We have to act. We give man visions he believes in to help him to take the right decision. It's so strong that you actually assume it's true. That's what you call awaken dream.

JAKE

Is there really free will then?

ANGELA

As you said, you don't believe anymore.

Jake looks at his watch.

JAKE

It's getting late. I must find her quick. The clock is ticking for me.

He gets up.

JAKE

If you excuse me.

Angela gets up too.

JAKE

Where are you going?

ANGELA

(naturally)

With you?

JAKE

(shrugging)

Okay.

He paces out the dinner room. Angela simply follows him.

FADE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - INT. JODI'S CAR. NIGHT

On a desert highway, through the night, Jodi drives a three-door coupe. Smooth Country music gently plays on the radio.

By her side, on the passenger seat, Grace sleeps, her head reclined against the window. For a short while, Jodi turns to her with a smile and keeps driving, humming along with the music.

INT. RICHMOND SUITES HOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

From behind a door, a shower noise can be heard with Jake happily humming. Angela is simply seated on an armchair, still wearing her black coat.

The shower noise ceases and Jake appears, his hair wet, wearing a bathrobe. He towels off his hair.

JAKE

You sure you aren't too hot with  
your coat?

ANGELA

I'm fine.

JAKE

(joking)

Are you going to sing me a lullaby?

(chuckling)

It's weird. Are you going to watch  
me sleeping all night long?

She's about to answer.

JAKE

Let me guess. You neither don't  
need to sleep.

She just nods. Jake sits on the bed, sizing her up.

JAKE

What do you need then?

ANGELA

Nothing. We're not supposed to be  
material. We only take a body to  
welcome newcomers or, when it needs,  
to fulfill our mission down there.

JAKE

(amazed)

You mean there are other angels on  
Earth?

ANGELA

Of course, there are.

JAKE

Do you know one called Clarence  
Odd body

ANGELA

Who?

JAKE (shaking

his head)

Forget it. It's just a joke.

Angela hardly moves, even blinks.

JAKE

Are you always that stiff? I mean,  
why don't you try to relax and  
enjoy your stay with me. You're  
sure you don't want to take your  
coat off?

Reluctantly, Angela takes her coat off. She wears a neat  
cotton dress, revealing agreeable shapes. She is clearly  
aware of Jake ' trouble she causes and smiles.

A long beat.

JAKE

A question haunts me for years. I'm  
sure you can answer. Are ghosts  
real?

ANGELA

What you call ghosts are in fact  
wandering souls, men and women, who  
are not aware to be dead. Lot of  
them couldn't find the right path  
and keep acting as if they were  
still alive and suffering.

JAKE

Do they surround us? Can't they see  
everything we do?

Angela scans the room.

ANGELA

Yes. But just a few of them can reach the material world. They're the ones you call ghosts or spirits.

JAKE

Spooky. When I think now I won't go to the toilets without company.

Angela smiles and takes off her shoes.

ANGELA

I'm still not used of that carnal envelope.

She spreads her toes.

ANGELA

I feel better.

After a long beat, she takes a serious pose.

ANGELA

What do you like in her?

JAKE

I really can't tell. It was like I finally reached a safe haven. As if I always knew her. I was feeling warm inside. Retrieving my child soul. I was a new me.

ANGELA

But, you don't know her. This is not love. Sounds rather sexual impulse to me.

JAKE

What do you know about love?

ANGELA

Which love? The earthling love or  
the spiritual one?

JAKE

They're both equal to me. You can  
feel them burning into your chest.  
They both make you fall on your  
knees and be insignificant. The one  
you love can be a real deity for  
you.

ANGELA

You're on the verge of the  
blasphemy.

JAKE (shaking

his head)

I don't think so. In both cases,  
you can feel respect and humility  
for the one you love, God or a  
person.

ANGELA

However, I know you knew greed and  
envy in your life. You've been  
jealous, cheating and--

JAKE

(shrugging)

Nobody's perfect. Were you?

Angela does not know what to reply.

JAKE

I always wished to be as pure as I could reflect myself in-- an angel's tear. But, life down there is so. You rapidly give in and forget. Christian precepts are wonderful, but no more applicable in today life. No one can be a saint anymore. Well, maybe Mother Teresa was.

(beat)

You know, I thought about it before I decided to kill myself. My conclusion was I didn't belong to my time. I was too old-fashioned. Too softie like Linda would say. And awkward too. That's why every girl managed to break my heart.

(beat)

But when I saw her eyes, the way  
she looked at me, and that despair  
on her face, everything became  
clear to me. She was meant for me.  
I had no second thought. I had to  
find her and make her happy. And  
here I am.

Angela stays thoughtful for a while.

ANGELA

(shaking her head)

You can't be right.

JAKE

Think what you want. I have to  
sleep now, if you please.

He switches out the light, takes his bathrobe off, and lies  
into the sheets.

JAKE (V.O.)

Good night Angela.

ANGELA (V.O.)

Good night Jake .

ANGELA'S P.O.V.

As if she was wearing infrared glasses, Angela can see through the darkness. She scans Jake ' body. As he rolls back and turns to her, she stares at his face.

GRACE'S DREAM

A succession of quick shots in Grace's P.O.V.:

- Vince drinking behind his wheel
- the car crash
- Grace stuck inside the car's wreck
- a bright white light that blinds her
- as the bright white light fades the frame turns to negative
- a crowd with many faces and an unclear voice from  
loudspeakers
- the steps of an escalator
- Jake ' face
- then the bright light again and a voice in echo:

JODI (V.O.)

Grace. Grace!

EXT. GAS STATION - INT. JODI'S CAR - DAY

As Grace wakes up, a bright sunray blinds her.

JODI

Grace, wake up!

Jodi is outside the car in a gas station.

JODI

God. You were sleeping so deeply.

Grace stretches up.

GRACE

Where are we?

JODI

Wichita Falls. Four more hours to  
go. I'm exhausted. Mind to drive?

GRACE

I'll be alright after a nice cup of  
coffee.

She steps out of the car and yawns.

GRACE

I had one of my best nights for  
years. No bad dream. No stress.  
Just letting myself go.

JODI I

saw that.

(beat)

Didn't you know you are talking in  
your sleep?

Grace shakes her head.

JODI

You kept saying "Thank you".

GRACE

I can't remember.

She shivers.

GRACE

Spooky.

They step to the gas station store.

FADE TO:

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Vince is reclined over the living room table, sleeping and snoring, an empty bottle of scotch by him.

The doorbell rings. Vince does not move.

RING

Vince grunts and raises his head. He is badly shaved.

RING

VINCE

(shouting)

Alright! 'coming!

He gets up and walks to the small lobby where he opens the front door. He faces Jake and, a few steps behind, Angela. Blinded by the daylight, he raises his hand on the forehead.

VINCE

Yeah?

JAKE

I'm looking for Mrs. McKenna.

VINCE

(aggressive)

Not at home. I'm her hubby. What do  
y want?

He looks at Angela in her long black coat.

VINCE

You're FBI?

Jake frowns and shakes his head.

JAKE

No, no. We're just-- friends of  
her.

VINCE

(woozy)

I don't know you. If you're friends  
of her, find her then. She left me.  
Gone. Kaput!

JAKE

Where is she?

VINCE

(bitterly)

Back to Hell where she should have  
better stay.

JAKE

What do you mean?

VINCE

She came back from the dead with  
some eerie ideas and flew away. She  
said she'd always love me. She'll be  
back.

JAKE

You don't have the slightest idea  
where she could be?

Angela notices that Vince is clenching his fists. She gently  
pulls Jake ' arm.

VINCE

It's none of your damn business!

Buzz off and leave me alone!

He slams the door on Jake ' nose. He's nearly crying, foaming inside.

VINCE

(to himself)

Leave me alone.

EXT. BATON-ROUGE STREETS - INT. TAXICAB - DAY

Jake and Angela are seated on a taxicab back seat. As the CAB DRIVER speeds through the street, Jake looks bewildered.

JAKE (almost  
to himself)

That is the story of my life. As  
soon as I get something I'm holding  
on, I lose it.

He looks desperate and turns to Angela.

JAKE

Okay. Dice have rolled. I'm ready  
to follow you.

Angela looks at him with some kind of pity.

ANGELA

I don't get you. You let it down at  
the first occasion.

JAKE

What can I do? She's gone. I have no  
clue of where she could be. Look at

me. I was stupid to think that it would be a walkover. That she would wait for me. It never crossed my mind she could be married or even less, she could be nowhere to be found.

He reclines his head against the cab window, blue in the face, his eyes lost. They stay silent for a while.

Angela cannot help looking at him, sorry. She sighs.

ANGELA

Let's suppose you're a woman and you're leaving home. Where generally would you flee to when things go wrong?

JAKE

I don't know. When there's no place  
to go-- To her folks?

She simply agrees. A phone rings resounds inside the cab.  
Obviously, Angela's phone. She does not answer, in front of  
Jake ' amazed look.

ANGELA

(shrugging)

They'll leave a message.

JAKE

I thought you weren't supposed to  
help me?

The telephone stops ringing.

ANGELA

You guessed it by yourself. Aren't  
you?

(looking towards the sky)

He guessed it by himself.

JAKE

Big deal. Where shall I find her  
parents?

Angela closes her eyes for a while.

CAB DRIVER

1137 Covenant Drive? Yes, Ma'am.

As Jake turns to her, she innocently puts her hand on her  
mouth.

ANGELA

Oops...

FADE TO BLACK:

Her telephone RINGS again.

EXT. HIGHWAY - INT. JODI'S CAR - DAY

As Grace now drives, she and Jodi happily sing along the Country rock song on the radio. They shake their heads and wildly toss their hair.

GRACE & JODI

(singing at unison)

Girls with guitars, there ought to  
be a song about, girls with guitars,  
there's just no stopping those girls  
with guitars get your money for  
nothing and your guys for free--

Grace's troubles seem forgotten.

On the highway, a road sign reads AMARILLO.

EXT. GRACE'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY

An old house decorated with multicolored shells. The taxicab pulls over the gate. Jake and Angela step out of the taxi. Jake pays and walks to Angela as the taxi speeds away.

JAKE

Why did you help me?

ANGELA

I can't stand seeing a human being suffering. I never could.

JAKE

(keenly)

You'll have a lot of job to do down there.

They enter the garden and pace to the front door where Jake presses the ring at the door. A lady in her mid-fifties opens. She's VIOLET, Grace's mother. She looks tired.

VIOLET

Yes? Can I help you?

JAKE

Hi. My name is Jake Hanson and  
I'm looking for your daughter.

VIOLET

Grace?

Jake turns to Angela who simply nods.

JAKE

Yes, Grace.

Violet stares at them for a short while.

VIOLET

Are you with the FBI?

Jake cannot help smiling.

JAKE

No, no. Just friends of her. May

we-- come in?

Violet stares at Jake .

VIOLET

You have a good face. Come in.

Jake and Angela enter the house.

INT. GRACE'S PARENTS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The rooms are dull and poorly decorated. It looks as if time has stopped inside these walls. Violet leads Jake and Angela to the living-room where the TV is on by a Christmas tree.

In front of the TV, in a wheelchair watching Joyce Meyer on God TV, a man in his early sixties is seated. GEORGE, cannot talk anymore.

VIOLET

Please, sit down.

They three sit down around the table.

JAKE

Is-- Grace here?

VIOLET

I wish. We haven't seen her for ten years. I hoped you would give me some news about her. When she met her husband, she decided she didn't need us anymore, that she had found her own family. We weren't even invited to the wedding.

She gets up and fixes them a cup of coffee.

VIOLET

Two years after, my husband George  
had a stroke. I tried to contact her  
but she even refused to talk to me.

(turning to the Christmas  
tree)

Since then, every Christmas, we keep  
a present for her just in case she  
would pop by.

Close up of a big present at the foot of the Christmas tree.

JAKE

Maybe she will. I've heard she left  
her husband.

Violet sadly smiles and sits back.

VIOLET

I always knew she couldn't be happy  
with him. She was too stubborn to  
admit it.

ANGELA

There always are miracles on  
Christmas time.

VIOLET

Ten years I pray for one. I don't  
believe in miracles anymore.

ANGELA

Don't give up your prayers. There  
is always someone to respond.

Telephone rings. Violet stands up and picks up the phone.

VIOLET (on

the phone)

Yes.

(beat)

Grace!? My princess! Are you  
okay?!

Jake turns to Angela and beckons "Is that you?". She shakes  
her head.

VIOLET (on

the phone)

Of course, I'm glad hearing from  
you. Where are you?

(beat)

Amarillo in Texas? What are you--?

EXT. AMARILLO STREET - INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

Grace stands in a phone booth. Jodi waits for her outside.

GRACE (on

the phone)

Mom, I'm sorry. I've no much time.

Just to say I love you, you and

dad, and I'm okay. Don't worry

anymore.

She hangs up and looks exhausted.

EXT. AMARILLO STREET - DAY

Grace steps out of the phone booth and comes to Jodi.

JODI

So? Was it a good advice?

Grace smiles at her.

GRACE

Thank you.

JODI

(proud of her)

I was inspired.

She hands her the car keys.

INT. GRACE'S PARENTS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Violet is seated back, febrile. She is almost shaking.

VIOLET

I never thought she would ever  
call.

She turns to her husband.

VIOLET

If only he could know.

(to Jake )

She's with her girlfriend Jodi in  
Amarillo, in Texas. It looks like  
she finally had her move.

Jake gets up.

JAKE

I guess we're going to leave you  
now to your hopes.

Violet takes his hand.

VIOLET

My prayer now is that you'll bring  
her back to us. She would deserve  
you.

JAKE

What do you mean?

VIOLET

I can see the love you feel for her  
in your eyes.

Puzzled, Jake turns to Angela.

JAKE

I only wish everyone would agree.

Angela gets up and steps to George. She simply puts her hand on his. The man smiles.

GEORGE

(hardly)

Thank-- you--

Violet cannot believe it. She rushes to George and knees by him.

VIOLET

(emotional)

Did you just talk?! Did you just  
talk?!

George raises his hand and puts it on her head, smiling.  
Violet turns to Jake and Angela.

VIOLET

What have you--

She stops. They are already gone.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - INT. JODI'S CAR - DAY

Jodi's coupé parks in front of a luxurious house made out of  
glass where the sun reflects.

GRACE

You're sure you've got the right  
address?

JODI

Positive.

Jodi leans over to honk and a woman steps out of the house,  
laughing. She happily walks to the car. She's LOU (35),

Jodi's sister, a tall blonde woman, the perfect "cow girl".  
She opens Jodi's door and happily hugs her.

LOU

Little sister! At last!

Jodi gets of the car, followed by Grace.

JODI

Lou, this is Grace. Do you  
remember her?

Lou joins Grace and hugs at her turn.

LOU

Last time I saw you, you were  
wearing pig-tails and splashed  
around in your tiny plastic pool.  
Welcome to the Lone Star state  
girls!

They enter the house.

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The well-to-do and cozy interior of the house is entirely  
dedicated to the Country music. Several guitars are hanged on  
the walls. Grace cannot believe what she sees.

LOU

You can stay all the time you wish.  
Tim is so often out that it seems I  
live by myself.

JODI

(to Grace)

Her husband is the Country singer  
Tim Spears. But Lou does not like  
we talk about it. That's why I  
never told you.

(with a smile)

Sorry.

GRACE

(impressed)

Tim Spears?!

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - DAY

They enter a sumptuous bedroom with silky wall covering.

LOU (to

Grace)

I guess this is your bedroom. No  
one else on Earth has ever slept  
here. You'll be the first one.

Grace scans around the room with a king-size bed and silk  
sheets. On the walls, under frame, a dozen of gold records.  
She sits on the bed.

LOU

Waterbed. You don't mind?

GRACE

(impressed)

No. Fine.

LOU

Or I give you another bedroom.

GRACE

No. That's okay.

LOU

(to Jodi)

I'll show yours, little sister.

Lou and Jodi step out of the bedroom, leaving Grace alone.

She lies down, feeling good, and trying the waterbed.

INT. GREYHOUND TERMINAL - DUSK

In the Baton-Rouge Greyhound terminal hall, Jake talks with a CLERK behind his counter, his Visa in hand.

JAKE

Two tickets for Amarillo.

CLERK

The bus leaves in two hours.

JAKE

Fine.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Lou, Jodi and Grace are seated around a table in a bar where Country music plays loud. They drink Margaritas. Lou looks rather drunk.

LOU

Tim's gone for a three-month tour,  
including Canada. Though he calls me  
everyday, I feel alone. It's hard to  
be a Country singer's wife. I'm glad  
you came to cheer me up. So, how  
things going in Baton-Rouge?

JODI

(sighing)

As boring as usual.

LOU

And mom and dad?

JODI

(concluding)

As boring as usual.

Lou laughs. Jodi notices TWO GUYS who drink at the counter.

She pushes Grace's elbow.

JODI

What do you think?

Grace turns to them and just shrugs.

JODI

(to Lou)

She broke with her husband  
yesterday after ten years of  
marriage. She needs some fun.

LOU (to

Grace)

Cheer up Grace. You're not the  
first and not the last. Listen.  
Let's consider men like Kleenexes.  
You use them and throw them away

first before they do. You see,  
Tim's my third husband and I'm not  
really sure if he's the good one.  
But, never mind.

JODI

(to Grace)

Yes! Enjoy! Remember the three "B"!  
Boys, boys and boys!

LOU (to

Grace)

Yeah, she's right! Have a drink!  
Don't give a damn!

GRACE

I don't give a damn!!

(raising her glass)

To the Kleenexes!!

They three raise and clink their glasses.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. HIGHWAY - INT. BUS - NIGHT

As the bus speeds in the night, Jake and Angela are seated side by side. Like an obsession, Jake keeps sketching Grace's face on a scrapbook.

ANGELA

Why do people keep asking us if  
we're with the FBI?

JAKE

It's the way you're dressed. They  
watched too much TV.

Angela nods to the scrapbook.

ANGELA

(looking at the scrapbook)

You're really talented.

JAKE

Wish everybody would think like you.

It would be easier to sell my own

comics.

ANGELA

Just believe in yourself, Jake .

That's how things work. It'll seem

easier.

(beat)

Do you want me to talk about where  
I come from?

JAKE (shaking  
his head)  
Nothing you could say would change  
my mind. I found my own Heaven down  
here with her.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Lou, Jodi and Grace are dancing on the dance floor. They  
three look rather drunk and have fun. The two guys from the  
counter have joined them.

EXT. HIGHWAY - INT. BUS - NIGHT

Almost everyone sleeps in the bus that speeds into the night.

Angela is still awake. She stares at Jake who sleeps too, but her expression has changed.

Then, she shivers and takes her phone out from a coat.

(MORE)

ANGELA (on

the phone)

What now?

(beat)

What about my behavior? You told me

I had carte blanche to bring him

back. I have a plan and I WILL bring

him back. Do not worry.

(beat)

No, I don't feel anything for him.

Just tenderness. Just like an angel

to an Earthling soul.

(beat)

Yes, I know I can't. That I would  
be severely reprimanded, but I'm  
just doing my task.

ANGELA(cont 'd)

(beat)

I've got static. I can't hear you

and--

Irritated, she suddenly folds her phone up and sighs. Then, she turns again to Jake with a tender smile. Her telephone hums again, but she does not answer. The phone ceases humming.

A telephone rings in her back. A GUY whispers on the seat just behind Angela and Jake . The guy leans over to Angela, his cell phone in hand.

GUY

(whispering)

Are you Angela?

Angela turns to him, ireful, and shakes her head. The guy sits back. The GIRL at his side wakes up.

GIRL (O.S.)

Who's on the phone? And who the  
Hell is this Angela?

By Jake , Angela untied her bun and tosses her hair. The black locks wildly fall on her shoulders.

JAKE ' DREAM

In a big wheat field, a huge crowd made of HUNDRED OF WOMEN of all ages and races. Jake is stuck in the middle, pushed by every woman he bumps into like a pinball ball.

As he is pushed ahead, the crowd gets disbanded to form a path like to a woman--

Grace

She stands in the middle of the wheat field and stares at Jake with a smile. She slowly reaches out her hand to him.

Jake starts to run to her, but, as the soil slunk under his feet, he falls into darkness in an endless dive.

JAKE SCREAMS

EXT. GREYHOUND TERMINAL - INT. BUS - DAWN

JAKE ' P.O.V.

Jake opens his eyes. Angela's face enters the frame.

ANGELA Jake !

Are you alright?

Angela is leaned over him, her hair almost caressing his cheeks, smiling.

JAKE

(almost panting)

Where are we?

ANGELA

Amarillo. I tried to wake you up  
but you were far-gone.

He stares at her.

JAKE

(confused)

You look different.

(beat)

You hair--

ANGELA

(ingenuously)

I have just untied it.

Jake ' eyes have changed. The rising sun forms a halo-like  
around Angela's head. She seems to be aware of the effect she  
has on him.

ANGELA

Something wrong?

JAKE

(perturbed)

No, no.

He gets up.

JAKE

I'm going to have a busy day.

Angela steps back from his way out and follows him.

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - DAY

Grace is slowly waking up in her bed as someone gently  
knocks on the bedroom door. Jodi enters.

JODI

(embarrassed)

Someone's there for you.

Surprised, Grace sits on the bed and stretches. She wears  
golden silk pajamas.

GRACE

Give me two minutes.

She tries to recover from her sleep.

GRACE

Who is it?

JODI

You'll see by yourself.

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Wrapped in a silky bathrobe over her pajamas, Grace enters the living room and sees--

VINCE

He has a bunch of flowers in his hand. As soon as he sees

Grace entering, he falls on one knee. He raises his flowers to her and starts to sing.

VINCE

(singing)

I've just got to show you how  
differently I feel that I can be  
true to you that my love is real.  
But my past will forever haunt me if  
you say that you don't want me I'm  
down on my knees I'm begging you  
please, won't you? Have a change of  
heart Please have a, have a change  
of heart I see what I put  
you through I'll make it up to you--

His voice is trembling and he is obviously moved.

Grace is embarrassed. At first, she does not know what to do. Then she stares at him, totally inexpressive.

GRACE

What are you doing here?

VINCE

(smiling)

Take you back home, honeybunch. It  
is time. I've prepared you a  
welcome back party.

GRACE

How did you find me?

VINCE

Jodi's parents. I told them you  
forgot to give me your address to  
write.

(scanning around)

Nice place.

GRACE (nervously  
chuckling)

I hope you're joking?

VINCE  
(very calm)

No. I'm dead serious. You know, I  
rethought about all this over and  
over. You were right. I was stupid  
and childish. But I can change.

You'll see. Trust me.

GRACE  
Do not start again. How many times  
we've been through this? You're  
going to change. I'll see. Trusting

you. No, Vince. Not this time. Game over. I can think by myself now.

VINCE

But, you never gave me a single warning. How can you change like that? You even wanted a baby from me.

GRACE

It wasn't "like that". Can't you figure one second what you did to me? I'm sure you can't. For once I can talk, I won't stay silent. You never let me talk, always answering for myself, thinking for myself.

Vince is about to speak.

GRACE

Now, you're going to listen to me.  
You wouldn't believe the days and  
nights I spent waiting for you,  
worrying.

(MORE)

Expecting you weren't drunk again.  
Enduring your friends' stupid jokes.  
Feeling like a bauble. I've been  
silent too long. I want a real life.  
I want to gain back the youth you  
stole away from me ten years ago! I  
want to be born again!

Vince succeeds in remaining incredibly calm, though his eyes  
reflect rage and frustration.

VINCE

Fine. Listen to me. I just got one  
thing to say. I'll be there if you  
need. Down deep inside of me I know

you will be back. You still need me.

You'd be nothing without me.

VINCE(cont'd)

I'll stay in town for a few days.

You know my number.

He takes the MP3 player out his pocket.

VINCE

By the way, you forgot your  
present.

He quietly leaves the flowers and the MP3 player on the tiled  
floor and quietly steps out of the house.

Jodi looms from the corner where she was hidden.

JODI

Wow! What a speech! I didn't  
recognize you. Congratulations  
girl!

They hug.

JODI

You're shivering.

GRACE

I'm fine.

She heavily sighs.

GRACE

I just hope I took the right  
decision.

They hug tighter.

JODI

Don't worry. You did.

FADE TO:

INT. HOLIDAY INN RECEPTION - DAY

Jake and Angela enter a hotel reception hall. Angela has a very seductive way of walk and her blouse top is now unbuttoned. Everyone in the hall looks at her. She's radiant.

Jake steps to the reception desk.

RECEPTIONIST

Sir?

JAKE

I'd like two rooms.

Angela joins him and takes his arm.

ANGELA

(to Jake )

Come on darling. Why two rooms?

(to the receptionist)

We're on honeymoon. He's a bit  
confused.

RECEPTIONIST

Name?

JAKE

Hanson.

RECEPTIONIST

(typing on a computer)

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson.

The receptionist holds a magnetic key to Jake . Angela takes it from Jake ' hand.

ANGELA

I'm off to take a shower. Don't be too long. I miss you already.

She paces to the lift and turns back to send Jake a kiss in front of his staggered look.

RECEPTIONIST

(to Jake )

Address?

INT. HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - DAY

Furious, Jake enters the room. Angela is seated on the bed, relaxing.

JAKE

What's that circus?! What game are  
you playing?!

ANGELA

(innocently)

Am I? (seriously)

Maybe you're right. Life's not that  
bad down here. What harm does it  
make to have a little fun? If I have  
to stay a few days, I want to make  
it my way too. I realized I'm  
missing my material life. Don't you  
understand this?

Jake ' anger ceases.

JAKE

Well.

(sigh)

Let's say it's quite  
comprehensible.

Angela sighs.

ANGELA

(mothering)

Jake , stop being that yes-man.  
You're too kind. That's your  
problem. Fight back sometimes. You  
can't go on in life being so laid  
down.

Jake bends his head, shameful.

ANGELA

Promise me you will straight  
respond from now. You'll be more  
self-confident.

Jake nods.

ANGELA

Hold your head up and respond!

JAKE

I will!

ANGELA

Good. Now, would you show me the  
bright side of life?

(with begging eyes)

Please.

Jake is about to speak.

ANGELA

(interrupting)

She'll wait for you just a few  
hours longer. Okay?

Jake nods.

ANGELA

(shaking her hair)

Good! I want to be born again!

FADE TO:

INT. DRESS STORE - DAY

MUSICAL SEQUENCE

Jake and Angela are in a store buying a dress for her.

Several shots where Angela tries different dresses on and  
Jake ' appreciations.

As Angela appears in an beautiful dress, Jake looks  
seduced. She is a really attractive woman.

LATER

It is now Jake ' turn to try some new costumes and be  
appreciated by Angela.

EXT. ROLLER COASTER - DAY

MUSICAL SEQUENCE

Jake and Angela have fun riding a roller coaster.

EXT. AMARILLO STREET - DAY

MUSICAL SEQUENCE

Jake and Angela listen to a Country music guitarist playing in the street.

INT. CAFE - DAY

MUSICAL SEQUENCE

Jake and Angela are seated, in a cafe, both eating a giant ice-cream and laughing. Jake wants Angela to taste his ice-cream. They exchange long intense looks. Jake looks truly seduced.

MUSIC CEASES

Outside, Jake has not seen Grace walking by with Jodi across the street.

EXT. AMARILLO STREET - DAY

Grace and Jodi rapidly walk down the street, chat, when they hear a voice calling.

VINCE (O.S.)

(calling)

Honeybunch!

Grace turns her head and stops. Vince is crossing the street towards them, manifestly drunk.

VINCE

(cynical)

My dear wife. The apples of my eyes.

As you can see, your hubby is

himself, boozy-woozy.

A car has to stop, its tires screeching.

VINCE

(to the car)

Oh, easy does it pal!

He keeps coming to Grace and Jodi.

VINCE

(to Grace)

Enough of your crap, now! You're my  
wife and this time you're coming  
back home with me!

Jodi interferes.

JODI

Get away, you shuffler!

Vince threatens to slap her but he holds his arm back.

VINCE

(to Jodi)

Or what?! You're going to spank me?

I'm sure she wouldn't have leave  
without you! It's all your fault!

(to Grace)

Come with me!

GRACE

(coldly)

It's over Vince. Even if I'd come  
back, I would run away again at the  
first occasion.

She takes her wedding ring from her finger and hands  
to  
Vince.

VINCE

But you told me you'll always love  
me.

Vince pockets the ring.

GRACE

I will-- somehow.

She resumes walking with Jodi, leaving Vince.

VINCE

Honeybunch.

Grace and Jodi walk away.

VINCE

(yelling)

Honeybunch! Honeybunch!!

INT. CAFE - DAY

Vince's voice is heard inside the cafe. Jake turns his head to the street and sees Vince shouting. Looking whom he's yelling at, he notices the two young women walking away.

HE RECOGNIZES Grace

Without a word, he gets up and runs out.

EXT. CAFE - AMARILLO STREET - DAY

Jake sprints out of the cafe and sees Grace turning around the corner. He crosses the street without attention, when he hears a car's tires shrieking.

THE SHOCK IS INEVITABLE

Jake rolls over the car hood and tumbles on the road.

Angela rushes out in the street and runs to him.

ANGELA

(worried)

Jake !!

Panting, Jake tries to stand up, helped by Angela.

JAKE

She was there.

He indicates the place where Grace just was.

JAKE

Help me.

The CAR DRIVER steps out of her car.

CAR DRIVER

Are you okay?

Jake just nods.

CAR DRIVER

Sure?

But Jake is walking away, limping, along with Angela.

ANGELA

Are you really sure?

JAKE

I'm fine.

ANGELA

I mean, are you really sure it was  
her?

JAKE

Definitely. I know now it wasn't  
just a fantasy.

They reach the street corner. Grace and Jodi have  
disappeared. Jake turns back.

JAKE

The guy--

ANGELA

What guy?

JAKE

The guy who was yelling at her. Her  
husband.

He turns back but Vince is now nowhere to be seen.

ANGELA

Are you certain of what you saw?

JAKE

Yes. I can even feel her presence,  
smell her perfume.

Angela looks suddenly annoyed. Jake notices it.

JAKE

What's that face?

Angela grins a smile.

ANGELA

Nothing.

She notices his arm is bleeding.

ANGELA

Let's go back to the hotel.

FADE TO:

INT. HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - DAY

Jake is seated on the bed, half naked. He has a deep scrape on his arm. Angela is seated by him, cleaning the wound with a wet towel. With delicate and sensual moves, she gently rubs his skin.

Jake stares at her. She looks up to him.

Their eyes meet. Imperceptibly, their faces get closer, and closer.

They are about to kiss, when Jake draws a grin and moans.

Angela holds her move.

ANGELA

Sorry.

Wordless, Jake gets up, enters the bathroom, and closes the door.

INT. HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - BATHROOM - DAY

Jake leans over the sink and looks at his own reflection in the mirror. He looks lost.

INT. HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - DAY

CLOSE-UP ON ANGELA'S FACE

A mix of sadness and anger can be read in her eyes.

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Grace and Jodi enter Lou's residence. Grace looks at the verge of the nervous breakdown. Jodi helps her to sit down.

JODI

Stay still. I get you something to drink.

She pours a glass of whisky and hands it to Grace.

GRACE

What's that?

JODI

(nodding)

Drink it up. You'll feel better, believe me. I practiced.

Grace lifts the glass to her lips and frowns.

GRACE

Whisky?

She drinks it up and coughs in front of Jodi's amazed look.

GRACE

More.

Jodi pours her another glass. Grace is about to drink when Lou enters, happy like a little girl.

LOU

(overexcited)

Okay girls. We're having a party

here tonight! I invited everyone I

know. It's going to be huge! Are  
you in?

Grace raises her glass.

GRACE

I'm in!

She drinks bottom up.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - DAY

Jake steps out of the bathroom, dressed up, and opens the  
room door. Angela hasn't moved.

JAKE

I'm off.

ANGELA

Where are you going?

JAKE

(bitterly)

Listen, Angela. I don't need a  
chaperon anymore.

ANGELA Remember.

You're under my  
responsibility.

JAKE

I don't really think you'll  
appreciate where I'm going.

ANGELA

Where to?

JAKE

Hanging bars.

He steps out.

INT. HOLIDAY INN - LIFT - DAY

Jake and Angela stand in the hotel lift.

ANGELA

Are you going to get drunk?

JAKE

Would you stop preaching me? I'm  
just going to look after Grace's  
husband. I'm sure he must hang the

bars around the street where we  
were.

Angela smiles.

JAKE

I can think by myself. Can't I?

INT. BAR #1 - DAY

A loud Country music plays.

Jake , followed by Angela, enters a bar. He scans the place  
but can not see Vince.

INT. BAR #2 - DUSK

Same situation in another bar. The place is rather ill-famed,  
full of Hell's Angels. But no trace of Vince.

INT. BAR #3 - DUSK

A bar with a Jamaican atmosphere.

Still no trace of Vince.

EXT. AMARILLO STREETS - NIGHT

Jake and Angela enter a Country music cafe.

INT. COUNTRY MUSIC CAFE - NIGHT

LOUD COUNTRY MUSIC

Jake and Angela enter the cafe. Once again, Jake scans the place. Vince is nowhere to be seen.

ANGELA

Would you buy me a drink? I never  
tasted beer.

Quite surprised, Jake smiles. He steps to the counter.  
Before following him, Angela raises her eyes to the ceiling.

ANGELA

(sighing)

I perfectly know what I'm doing.

Okay?

She joins Jake at the counter who has just ordered two beers.  
By then, an OLD WINO, wearing a large Stetson hat, is flopped

on the counter, staring at his full glass by a bottle as if he was admiring the Madonna.

Then, he raises his glass.

#### OLD WINO

To Zsa Zsa Gabor. My first and only  
love.

He drinks up and fills his glass again.

As soon as the BARTENDER puts the two glasses of beer on the counter, Angela grabs hers and looks at Jake .

#### ANGELA

Cheers. That's what you usually  
say?

She puts her glass at her lips and pretends to drink. Jake drinks up.

LIKE BY MAGIC, ANGELA'S BEER DISAPPEARS IN HER GLASS

The old wino is about to drink when he sees Angela's glass.

He stays bug-eyes. He drinks his glass bottom up.

After a few gulps, Jake puts his glass on the counter and realizes Angela's empty.

ANGELA

I love that.

JAKE

(puzzled)

You--?

She nods, smiling.

By then, the old wino does not stop to stare at them and watches every move.

ANGELA

Ready for round two?

Astound, Jake orders two more beers. Angela nods to Jake ' glass.

ANGELA (cont'd)

(encouraging Jake )

Come on.

Jake smiles and drinks his glass bottom up. He has foam on his lips. Angela gently wipes it up with her thumb. They both take their second glass and clink them.

ANGELA

Cheers.

JAKE

Bottom up?

ANGELA

(happily)

Okay.

While Jake drinks, Angela's glass is again magically emptied.

This time it is Jake ' turn to wipe the foam up

Angela's lips.

Suddenly, Jake freezes. He sees Vince who steps out from the  
toilets and sits to a table where he had left his drink. Jake  
steps directly to him.

Angela is about to follow him when she is stopped by the old  
wino.

OLD WINO

Can't you fill up my bottle like

you empty your glass?

Angela smiles at him and shakes her head, sorry. Then, she joins Jake .

VINCE

(raising his eyes to them)

Well, well, look who's here. My dear FBI pair. Come on, have a drink with me, and let's celebrate my next divorce.

Between his fingers, Grace's wedding ring. Jake sits at the table. Angela stays up.

JAKE

Where is she?

VINCE

(frowning)

Who are you people?

ANGELA

(sitting)

We're with the FBI.

Struck by Angela's reply, Jake however decides to play her game. He pretends to look for something.

JAKE

(badly lying)

I left my badge at the hotel.

VINCE

(chuckling)

FBI. I knew it.

(sigh)

What has she done?

JAKE

We can't tell, but we need to find  
her.

Vince drinks a gulp.

VINCE (as

to himself)

I found my own Hell here.

(showing around)

Always hate that damned music. I've  
even learned that Country song to  
have her back. For nothing.

(chuckling)

I hate everything.

He empties his glass and stares at Jake who turns to the bartender and beckons him to bring Vince another beer.

VINCE

I always thought she was happy.

Never had to work. I even took a

second job. I made her laugh. But

she wanted a baby. A baby. Who need

a baby nowadays? What fun is it to

walk in a crafty diaper in the

middle of the night?

The bartender brings Vince another glass and steps back.

VINCE

I tried my best. I would never

understand why she does all this to

me.

ANGELA

Did you ask her?

VINCE

What would you ask to a brick wall?

To the iceberg Queen?

ANGELA

She should have some good reasons.

VINCE

Who know what could happen in a

woman's mind?

ANGELA

Her husband?

VINCE

(chuckling)

Touché.

He drinks his beer.

JAKE

So, where is she now?

Vince digs out into his pocket and takes a fold paper he hands to Jake .

VINCE

I don't give a damn anymore.

Jake unfolds the paper and reads it. He gets up. Angela stares at Vince with goodness.

ANGELA

You'll find someone else. She'll be good to you.

VINCE

Go to Hell.

Angela sadly smiles and follows Jake on his way out. Vince stares at them on their way out.

EXT. AMARILLO STREET - NIGHT

Jake walks down a street, inflexible. Angela can hardly follow him.

ANGELA

Are you quite sure of your choice?

Don't you be afraid? Life's full of surprises.

Jake stops and turns to her.

JAKE

What do you mean?

ANGELA

You're going to meet her. Good. But  
if things won't happen like you  
wish? If she does not want you or  
doesn't recognize you?

JAKE

(firmly)

We're meant to each other.

ANGELA

Don't be childish Jake . I would  
have warned you.

JAKE

I want to believe in miracles  
today.

Jake resumes walking.

FADE TO:

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

LOUD COUNTRY MUSIC

The wild party is on. An incredible crowd is gathered in Lou's living room. Extravagant people, couples, cowboys, people dancing.

Lou wends her way through the dancing couples, carrying empty glasses, toward a supper table where Grace and Jodi are chatting.

LOU

(shouting)

Come on, girls. Move your fat! Be  
sexy!!

JODI

(shouting)

We know no one here.

Lou beckons Jodi to wait. She turns to the DJ and signs him  
to stop the music.

MUSIC STOPS

LOU

(talking loud)

Your attention please! I have to  
tell you I have by my side two  
lovely single young women who long  
for a prince charming! It's up to  
you gentlemen!! The race is on!!

Grace and Jodi are blushing.

MUSIC RESUMES

About ten men rush to the two young women.

LATER

Grace and Jodi happily talk with two men (BRAD and KENNY), a glass in hand.

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - LOBBY - NIGHT

The bell rings at the front door. Lou, who walks by, a glass in hand, opens the door. Jake and Angela appear on the doorstep.

LOU

Hi. Can I help you?

JAKE

(hesitating)

I'm looking for Grace.

LOU

Grace? Yeah, of course. She's here. Come in please.

Jake and Angela step in.

LOU

Had she invited you?

JAKE

(hesitating)

Not exactly, but we traveled a long  
way to see her.

LOU

Just a minute. I'm going to get  
her for you.

She gives Jake her glass and leaves them for the living room.

Jake looks very nervous, not knowing what to do with the  
glass. He rearranges his fringe and breathes deeply.

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lou makes her way through the party to Grace. She leans over her ear.

LOU

(shouting)

There's someone for you at the door.

GRACE

(to Jodi)

Vince.

LOU

(shouting)

I don't know. A young man and a  
woman. They said they came a long  
way to see you.

Grace frowns and hesitates.

JODI

(to Grace)

I'm coming with you.

They slip through the dancers to the lobby.

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - LOBBY - NIGHT

Jake stands stiff. Grace enters the lobby and stops. She  
frowns as if she were trying to remember if she knows the man  
standing before her. Jake makes one step to her and reaches  
out his hand.

JAKE

Hi Grace, I am Jake Hanson.

GRACE

(confused)

Do-- Do I know you?

JAKE

We-- met in a special place, a few  
days ago. Don't you remind me?

GRACE

A few days ago? I would remember.

(beat)

Somehow--

(shaking her head)

No, sorry Sir. I don't know you.

No.

She is about to step back.

JAKE

We met up there. In Heaven. We were  
both dead.

Frozen, Grace turns back to him with fearful eyes.

GRACE

No! That's impossible! You're  
lying! I don't know you! Leave me  
alone! Okay?!

She turns her back to him and rushes to the living room,  
leaving Jodi dumbfounded.

JAKE

(calling)

Grace!

JODI

(to Jake )

Do not insist. She said she does  
not know you.

JAKE

Are you Jodi? Just tell her I'm  
telling the truth. I really have to  
talk to her.

As Jodi leads them back on the doorstep, Jake turns to her.

JAKE

If she'll ever remember me, tell her  
I'm staying at the Holiday Inn. Jake  
Hanson.

Jake and Angela step out. Jodi closes the door on Jake ' nose.

(MORE)

EXT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Aghast, Jake walks down the Lou's residence lane to the gate. Angela stands two steps behind him.

ANGELA

You refused to listen to me.

Somehow, I warned you. I wanted to spare you pain and sadness, but you're too stubborn, blinded by what you call love!

JAKE

(desperate)

Want me telling you were right?!

Okay, you were right! From the start. Okay?!

JAKE (cont'd)

I'm only human after all! And you  
are a superior being! An angel! Big  
deal!

ANGELA

Don't be mad at me.

EXT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - STREET - NIGHT

They reach the street.

JAKE

But I want you to explain one thing.  
Why she has no recollection of me?  
Why do I remember everything and not  
her?!

ANGELA

You didn't step through the HBW.

Jake stops.

JAKE

The what?!

ANGELA

What we call the Heaven Brain Wash.

Everyone who's coming back to life

goes through this and gets all his

souvenirs from above annihilated.

You broke the protocol, Jake .

That's why.

JAKE

Then, she will never remember me?

ANGELA

She can't. That's one of the conditions for coming back.

(MORE)

JAKE

(increasingly furious)

You knew it from the start! Why did you help me then all the way? To be sure I would come back with you afterwards? Yeah! A desperate man is easier to handle, isn't it?

(with spite)

You're not better than any human being. If being an angel means to manipulate people, to hurt, to cheat or to lie, I'm not urging to go back up and be like you! Listen. I've still got four days ahead. And I'll do my best to prove her who I am! Whatever you'd do!

(beat)

JAKE (cont'd)

Did I respond enough for you this  
time?!

He keeps walking and stops.

JAKE

And before you ask me, I go back to  
the hotel!

He is already gone and leaves Angela standing there.

LOU'S RESIDENCE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Grace is leaned over the sink, refreshing her face with cold  
water. Jodi enters the bathroom.

JODI

Don't you really know who's that  
guy?

GRACE

I don't. Vince surely sent him. No  
one knows what's happened to me  
besides him and you. It's really  
cruel.

Jodi hesitates for a short while.

JODI

You forgot someone. The guy you met  
up there.

(beat)

Listen. Did you tell Vince about  
it? You said you didn't. So, how  
could he would send this guy to  
tell this tale?

Grace thinks for a while.

GRACE

Remember what we're agreed. If I  
met him in Heaven, he'd surely be  
dead.

JODI

You did come back, didn't you? Why  
not him?

GRACE

But why does he seem to recall  
everything and not me?

JODI

Hey, I don't have all the answers!  
I'm just trying to help you.

(beat)

So, what are you going to do?

Grace turns the water off and towels off.

GRACE

(firmly)

Forget all about this and get a  
real life. Remember?

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The party is still on. Grace closely dances, having fun, with Brad. By the buffet, Jodi chats with Kenny, she keeps an eye on Grace.

CLOSE-UP ON THE WINDOWPANE

Outside, Angela stares at Grace, thoughtful.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - NIGHT

Jake is laid on the bed, hands under his head. He fixes the ceiling. Angela enters the room.

ANGELA

(sweet)

Jake , I'm sincerely sorry.

(beat)

I mean it. I realized that for me  
it was only a mission, but, for  
you, it might be something that  
will change your whole life.

She gently sits on the bed by him.

ANGELA

It's wasn't a lie when I told you I  
wanted to protect you. Human beings  
are so fragile, so emotive.  
Especially you.

Jake looks at her.

ANGELA

Maybe you were right when you told  
me I was jealous. You touched me,  
Jake .

(beat)

May I lay down by you?

Jake nods. She lays down by him, her head on his arm, her  
hair almost touching his lips.

ANGELA

I felt by you something I haven't feel for anyone for so many years. I couldn't help it. You must know that it's perfectly forbidden for us, angels, to fall in love with human beings, to burn our wings. The ones who did became what we call fallen angels. That's why I fought this feeling inside, but the more the deadline gets close, the more I'm scared. Scared to lose you up there.

Jake can smell her hair. He closes his eyes and breathes in.

ANGELA

Something deep inside of me tells me  
that you're not totally insensible. I  
can almost hear your heartbeat banging  
on your chest. Am I wrong, Jake ?

She turns her head to him. Their faces are very close. Angela  
puts her hand on Jake ' cheek and forces him to look at her.  
Their lips are getting closer.

ANGELA

(whispering)

I'll make you forget all this,  
Jake . You will know no more  
troubles. No more pain.

Their lips are almost touching.

Closer .

CLOSER

ANGELA

No more tears.

She caresses his face. Jake closes his eyes again. Her lips touch and they kiss.

A long and languorous kiss. Angela rolls on Jake and they embrace.

Angela starts to undress Jake who lets her do.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - DAY

Jake is awoken by a sunray. Angela is laid by him, on her elbow, staring at him. As he turns by her, she kisses him on the cheek.

ANGELA

Hi, Jake .

JAKE

(feeling well)

'morning.

ANGELA

Did you sleep well?

JAKE (in

a sigh)

Like an angel.

He gets closer to her and about to kiss her but Angela avoids his kiss and gets up.

ANGELA

Thank you for that night.

JAKE

Thank you to you. No one made love to me like you did last night. It was-- divine.

(sighs)

I'm starving.

INT. LOU'S RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jodi has a copious breakfast in the kitchen. Grace enters, woozy, half-asleep, holding her forefront.

GRACE

'morning.

JODI

Already up? You really had your fun last night.

GRACE

I guess.

(beat)

I have a date tonight. With Brad. Did you notice how cute was his round little ass?

JODI

I particularly noticed you drank more than you could bear.

Grace starts to fix her breakfast.

GRACE

Hell with my ex dull life.

(yawning)

I need some coffee.

JODI

And what about that guy of last  
night, Jake ? He looked so sincere  
to me.

GRACE

Told you he was just a stupid and  
cruel. No one can come back from  
the dead.

JODI

But-- Everything you told me. Your  
dream? The face-- lost in the  
crowd?

GRACE

It was an unclear memory. Just a  
dream. You can't build a life on a  
dream, can you?

Jodi stays silent for a short while, staring at Grace. She  
sighs.

JODI

Grace. Would you do me a favor? I  
never asked you anything. Talk with  
that guy. Why don't you invite him  
at the concert on New Year's Eve?

Grace stares at her, confused.

JODI

Sorry, I forgot to tell you. We're all invited to a Country music gig on Saturday night. Invite him and spend the evening with him. You will see if he's a g or not. You have nothing to lose. Then, you'll forget him if you want.

GRACE

I don't even know where to find him?

JODI

He stays at the Holiday Inn.

GRACE

(thinking)

I don't know.

JODI (with

a smile)

Oh, yes. I almost forgot your  
motto.

(beat)

Seriously. Think about yourself.

Think about what you told me about  
what you felt.

GRACE

Holiday Inn?

JODI

(nodding)

His name is Jake Hanson.

GRACE Yeah. I

remember that.

(beat)

Got an aspirin?

FADE TO:

EXT. HOLIDAY INN - TERRACE - DAY

Angela is in on her phone on the hotel terrace, walking around. She wears sunglasses.

ANGELA (on

the phone)

He still has three days left but he won't succeed now. As I expected, she does not have any reminiscence of him and he is close now to come back with me.

(beat)

What about me? I'm perfectly fine.

I'm playing his game to better bring his back. That's all. I can't really

see-- (MORE)

(beat)

How can you say I changed? Maybe I'm enjoying my stay here more than I thought.

(beat)

Yes. Why not? Who wouldn't? I'm an angel but not a saint. If really you don't trust me, go ahead, tell me straightly. Did I ever deceived you in the past? I've been working for you for more than eight hundred and fifty years and how many complaints did you have about me? Huh? Tell me!

(beat)

I lied to him and what? Let's rather say, I sinned by omission.

ANGELA(cont'd)

I had to. It was part of my plan.

Anyway, it's not my fault if he  
escaped.

(beat)

I don't mind to be downgraded to  
second-class angel, I'm just doing  
my job!

She hangs up, furious.

INT. HOLIDAY INN - RESTAURANT - DAY

Angela enters the restaurant where Jake has a copious  
breakfast and sits at his table. Jake stares at her with  
different eyes.

JAKE

(worried)

What's wrong with you? You look  
frenzied.

Angela tries do smile.

ANGELA

I'm alright. Let's say, they urge  
me above to bring you back.

JAKE

Did you tell them we were on the  
way? That I was finally agreed?

ANGELA

Yes. But, they're rather in a  
hurry. They're afraid you'd change  
your mind again.

JAKE

And about the fact we'll stay  
together?

Angela stares straight in his eyes.

ANGELA

(lying)

They agree.

She freezes. She sees Grace who has just entered the  
restaurant and now scans the room.

As Jake turns his back to Grace, Angela gets up and places  
behind him.

ANGELA

I feel you tense.

She starts to massage his shoulders. Jake appreciates and  
closes his eyes.

GRACE (O.S.)

Do I bother?

Jake opens his eyes, but Angela keeps on massaging him.

JAKE

(embarrassed)

No!

He manages to escape Angela's massage.

GRACE

(to Jake )

I wanted to invite you somewhere, but

I realize you have better to do.

Jake gives Angela a dark look.

JAKE

She's only--

Jake does not know what to say.

GRACE

(frowning)

Yes?

JAKE

(stuttering)

She's-- a friend of mine. My best  
friend. She came to support me and  
help me to find you.

ANGELA

(falsely)

Oh, yes, of course.

GRACE

(shaking her head)

Pathetic. I don't know who you are,  
but if you have made a long way to  
find me, you may return where you  
belong.

Upset, she rushes to the restaurant exit. Jake gets up but  
Angela grabs his arm and holds him back.

JAKE

(struggling)

Leave me alone! Don't you see  
you're playing with my life?

ANGELA

Don't you hear her?

Jake stares at her.

JAKE

(realizing)

I can't believe it! You're jealous!

ANGELA

What are you talking about?

JAKE

You're jealous!

Everybody stares at them in the restaurant.

ANGELA

I'm not! I'm just trying to protect  
you!

JAKE

Protect me?! Against what?!

Happiness?!

ANGELA

Remember what we did last night.

Does it mean anything to you?

JAKE

What YOU did!

ANGELA

Jake , you betrayed her.

Jake turns pale as if he was finally realizing what he did. He sighs, escapes from her grab and sprints to the restaurant entrance where he bumps into Jodi.

JAKE (in

a flurry)

Where is she? I have to talk to

her!

JODI

Not now. She's too upset. You have  
to trust me. I'm her closest  
friend. I'm know her the best.

Jake sighs and turns to Angela with anger.

JAKE (to

Jodi)

Can we talk?

EXT. HOLIDAY INN - TERRACE - DAY

Jake and Jodi stand on the terrace.

JODI

Tell me straightly. Did Vince send  
you?

JAKE

Who's Vince?

JODI

Grace's husband.

(beat)

No. You're not.

(sigh)

I'm not supposed to talk to you.

Grace would mad at me. But if you  
really are who I think you are, I  
hope I can get things settled. You  
said you met her in Heaven?

JAKE

Yes. You should think I'm weird--

Jodi cannot help smiling.

JODI

That's what Grace thinks.

Jake sighs.

JAKE

But this is the truth.

(beat)

A few days ago, I committed suicide

and--

FADE TO:

LATER

JODI

(MORE)

Your story is as astonishing as  
Grace's one. She told me she has  
unclear memories from her coma but  
one thing she clearly remembers is  
having tell a man--

JAKE

(interrupting)

--"thank you".

(nodding)

Yes.

Jodi stays dumbfounded.

JODI

(excited)

So, it's truly you. Wow!

JODI(cont'd)

(beat)

I think Grace is simply scared  
about all this. Who wouldn't be?

She happily takes two concert tickets out her pocket.

JODI

Meet her on New Year's Eve. I'll  
try to get her prepared.

Jake takes the two tickets and has a glimpse on them.

JAKE

Thank you. I'll be there.

Jodi puts her hand on his arm.

JODI

Jake , I envy you. You made a long way to find her. That's very--romantic.

JAKE

That's my last chance too.

JODI

Good luck then.

She kisses him on the cheek and rapidly steps out of the terrace.

INT. HOLIDAY INN - RECEPTION - DAY

On his way back, Jake crosses the reception. The receptionist hails him.

RECEPTIONIST

Mister Hanson.

Jake steps to the counter.

JAKE

Yes?

RECEPTIONIST

You forgot this last night at the  
lounge.

He hands Jake his scrapbook.

JAKE

What do you mean last night?

RECEPTIONIST

The waiter picked it up after you  
left.

JAKE

(bewildered)

But-- I stayed all night in my--

RECEPTIONIST

He told me you spent the most part  
of the night drawing and you left  
around three.

Furious, Jake takes the scrapbook and pages through.

JAKE

Thank you.

INT. HOLIDAY INN - RESTAURANT - DAY

Angela sees Jake coming to her. She notices his face.

JAKE

(firmly)

We have to talk.

FADE TO:

INT. HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - DAY

Jake lets Angela enter the room and closes the door behind him.

ANGELA

What's wrong Jake ?

JAKE

(furious)

What the heck have you done to me  
this time?!

Angela stares at him ingenuously.

JAKE

(furious)

Referring the receptionist, I spent  
most of my last night drawing in the  
lounge and left this.

He throws the scrapbook on the bed.

JAKE

What's the trick?

ANGELA

There's no trick, Jake . We made  
love, that's all. He should be  
mistaken.

JAKE

(shouting)

It's full of drawings I don't  
remember!

He tries to calm down.

JAKE

Did you use some kind of awaken  
dream charm on me?

She is about to speak.

JAKE

And no cock-and-bull story this  
time! I warn you!

Angela is stuck.

FLASHBACK - HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - NIGHT

ANGELA (V.O.)

(sweet)

Last night, I tried to seduce you.

Angela is laid by Jake and turns her head to him. Their faces are very close. Angela puts her hand on Jake ' cheek and forces him to look at her. Their lips are getting closer.

ANGELA

(whispering)

I'll make you forget all this,  
Jake . You will know no more  
troubles. No more pain.

Their lips are almost touching.

CLOSER

ANGELA

No more tears.

She caresses his face.

ANGELA (V.O.)

Only, it didn't work.

At the very moment they are going to kiss, Jake gets up, grabs his scrapbook on the room table, and steps out of the room.

ANGELA (V.O.)

You left with your scrapbook and came back early this morning.

END OF THE

FLASHBACK:

INT. HOLIDAY INN - ROOM - DAY

Angela lowers her eyes.

ANGELA

Yes. You're right. I set up all  
this.

Jake stares at her, eyes full of hatred.

ANGELA

Jake . You're the first man ever  
who refuses an angel's love.

She reaches her hand out to him but does not dare to touch him.

ANGELA

I never wanted to hurt you. And I realize that your love for her is true. What can I do to make me forgiven? Tell me. I'll do anything.

(beat)

Anything.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. CIVIC CENTER - NIGHT

A large and crowded concert hall.

On stage, a band plays Country music. The audience swings and cheers to the music beat in a real frantic atmosphere, sweating and singing.

In the VIP Square, several people listen to the music, drink champagne or dance.

Lou is here, talking with a woman.

Grace holds Brad's arm. She looks glad to be with him. They happily clink their champagne glasses.

Jodi is on her own, looking nervous. She looks as if she was expecting for someone.

As the band stops the music, the audience cheers.

Brad leans over Grace's ear and says something. Grace laughs like a little girl. At her turn, she speaks to his ear and they laugh together, drinking.

Grace cheers to Jodi who answers with a smile and takes a glimpse to her watch, impatient.

Then, Jodi smiles. Jake has just entered the VIP Square, followed by Angela. She wears her long black coat and her chignon.

On stage, a female Country singer starts a slow song.

Grace is about to dance with Brad when Jodi pats on her shoulder and nods towards Jake . When she sees him, Grace freezes, angry.

Jodi beckons her to talk to him. Exasperated, Grace steps to Jake and leaves Brad by himself.

GRACE

How do you dare to come here? Who  
invited you?

Jake turns his head to Jodi who smiles at them.

GRACE

What do you want?

JAKE

Just one dance with you.

GRACE

Then you'll leave?

JAKE

As you will.

GRACE

(affirmative)

Then you'll leave.

Jake nods.

GRACE

Just one dance?

(sigh)

Okay.

In front of Angela, Jodi and Brad's amazed look, they embrace and start to dance.

GRACE

Why do you harass me?

JAKE

You don't remember anything, do  
you?

GRACE

Remember what?

(sarcastic)

Being dead or being in Heaven?

JAKE

When we met.

GRACE

No.

JAKE

Even when you mouthed "thank you"

to me?

Grace turns to Jodi, furious.

GRACE

She told you everything. I'm going to--

JAKE

(interrupting)

I was there, Grace.

He turns to Angela and simply nods.

Angela simply closes her eyes as if she'd concentrate on them.

As if she were waking up from a dream, Grace stares at Jake with different eyes.

GRACE

It was you? The man on the  
escalator?

JAKE

(smiling)

Yes, Grace.

GRACE

It was so hazy in my head. How did  
you find me?

JAKE

Let's say I had an angel who came  
down to give me a hand.

He indicates Angela.

JAKE

It hasn't been that easy, but I  
finally made it.

GRACE (turning

to Angela)

You mean, she--?

JAKE

(smiling)

Yes, she is. And she just gave you  
your memories back.

Suddenly, Grace stiffens. She pushes Jake back with some kind  
of fear in her eyes.

GRACE

No, it can't be! It's impossible! I  
never--

Jodi stares at them, floored by Grace's reaction.

GRACE

(to Jake )

I've never been dead! No, we never  
met! You're a liar! It was just a  
dream!

She starts to sob.

GRACE

(shouting)

GET AWAY FROM ME!!

She races out of the VIP Square. Jake does not know what to do  
anymore.

ANGELA

Get her, quick!

With no second thought, Jake pursues her and sprints out of  
the VIP Square at his turn.

INT. CIVIC CENTER - HALLWAYS - NIGHT

Through the hallways, out of breath, Jake runs, searching everywhere, but Grace is nowhere to be seen. On his way, he bumped into several people.

Suddenly, at the end of one hallway, he sees her making her way outside.

EXT. CIVIC CENTER - NIGHT

It is pouring rain.

Jake rushes out. As soon as he steps out, he is instantly soaked and he stops. He sees Grace who runs towards the parking lot.

JAKE

(shouting)

Grace!!

But the rain thudding covers his voice. Jake resumes running after her.

EXT. CIVIC CENTER - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A true hide-and-seek game starts in the parking lot. Jake stops, lost, scanning everywhere around. Grace could be behind any cars.

JAKE

(shouting)

Grace!!

He feels a presence behind him. He turns back and sees  
Angela.

Though the pouring rain, she is not wet, like she was unreal.  
She slowly points her finger to a direction and Jake follows  
it.

Grace is there, running down the road under the rain.

EXT. AMARILLO STREET - NIGHT

Blinded by the rain and out of breath, Grace runs straight  
ahead. She is still crying, at the edge of the nervous  
breakdown.

A few feet behind her, Jake is faster, near to catch her up.

JAKE

(shouting)

Grace!!

EXT. AMARILLO STREET - CROSSROAD - NIGHT

Grace reaches a crossroad and cannot see a car hurling onto her. At the very last moment, Jake catches her up and manages to grab her back into his arms.

The car drives on, horn blaring at her, and disappears into the rainy night. Sobbing, Grace cuddles up against Jake and holds him tight.

JAKE (out

of breath)

Are you okay?

Grace catches her breath, trembling.

GRACE

(panting)

That's the second time you save my  
life. When we were up there, my  
heart started to beat again at the  
moment I saw you. That's why I came  
back to life.

JAKE

Why did you run away?

GRACE

I don't know. I was so scared. All  
this seemed at the same time too  
crazy and too good to be true.

Jake hugs her.

JAKE

I will never let you go now.

She hugs him back.

Jake turns his head and sees Angela. With a benevolent smile, she slightly waves to him goodbye. Jake mouths "thank you" and she simply fades out to disappear like a hologram would do.

Jake hugs Grace tighter and closes his eyes.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A large apartment with white bright walls. The same Christmas song from opening credits plays.

On a corner is Jake ' large drawing board with a finished comics page.

Close-up on different pictures under frame:

- Jake and Grace by the Grand Canyon
- Jake and Grace on a beach with Linda
- Jake and Grace with Violet and George
- Jake and Grace on their wedding day
- a printed comics cover signed Jake Hanson

By the window where the snow falls outside, Jake and Grace are decorating a huge Christmas tree.

Grace turns her back to us.

Jake stands on a footstool. He places garlands on the tree, while Grace hangs glass balls.

GRACE

It would be my first unforgettable  
Christmas. Is Linda still coming  
tonight?

JAKE

Yes, with her new girlfriend. By  
the way, I forgot to say. Your mom  
called and is expecting us for New  
Year's Eve.

Grace turns to take some candy sticks from a hardboard box.

She's pregnant.

Jake steps down and rummages through the box. He takes an angel out and climbs back on the footstool.

Suddenly, Grace puts her hands on her round belly.

JAKE

Are you alright?

GRACE

Yes. She just kicked me.

She sits down.

GRACE

Did you finally think about a name  
for her?

Jake puts the angel on the top of the tree. He realizes then  
that the angel has in fact--

ANGELA'S FACE

FADE OUT:

