

# **"Hey Flipper"**

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## Scene 1 – Opening

EXT. LAGUNA BEACH SURFING – VERY EARLY AM

Expansive view of Laguna Beach California. Camera focuses in on three surfers in particular– DERRICK, CHAD, and JERRY– sitting on their boards waiting for a wave.

Derrick catches a wave very expertly. Chad and Jerry are near each other watching Derrick. They glance back for the next wave. Chad begins to paddle.

CHAD

It's mine.

Chad catches the wave and hot dogs with a few tricks.

Derrick paddles back out to sea.

Jerry looks around for the next wave. He paddles to catch the wave. Just as it looks like he is catching the crest, he falls off in a sea of foam.

Jerry comes to shore and stands next to Chad.

A group of dolphins surround Derrick.

JERRY

Where's Derrick?

CHAD

(pointing out to sea)

He's out playing with the  
Dolphins again.

(cupping his hands and yelling towards  
Derrick)

Hey Flipper. You pervert.

A number of dolphins swim close to Derrick. One dolphin pokes its head high out of the water to stare at Derrick. There is a long stare. The dolphin is unusual in that it has a BLEACHED SPLOTCH on its face. After a moment of time, the dolphin sinks back into the water and rolls on its back presenting its belly. Derrick reaches out and strokes the dolphin's skin.

MARGARET walks up to Chad and Jerry. She looks at her watch.

MARGARET  
Where's Derrick?

They guys point out to sea.

MARGARET  
We've got to go or we'll be  
late to first period.

Margaret looks out and waves toward Derrick.

MARGARET  
Is he playing with the  
dolphins again? He's the  
only person I know who can do  
that.

Margaret glances out to Derrick and waves again; beckoning him in.

A BOY AND GIRL COUPLE with great bodies and small swimsuits walk by.

CHAD  
(stating to Jerry)  
Whoa. Take a look at that.  
Betcha a screamer. I like it  
when they scream.

Jerry turns his head and smiles. Then he turns his head back out to Derrick.

Derrick paddles strongly and catches the next wave in. He expertly rides the wave.

JERRY  
He's so good.

As Derrick walks out of the ocean carrying his surfboard, Margaret runs up to him and gives him a kiss.

DERRICK  
Shit, it's that late.

They all run up the beach and load their surfboards onto the top rack of Derrick's PT Cruiser, changing clothes (showing their bodies in a way to denote that nudity is not an issue with them) and climbing into the car. Margaret is chatting about school and nothing in particular. The boys ignore her.

FADE OUT.

## Scene 2 – School

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CORRIDOR LOCKERS – DAY

Busy hallway with students opening and closing lockers, and talking loudly. BANNER across hallway says "Congratulations Graduates."

Derrick stands in front of his open locker putting in books. Margaret hands onto Derrick. Up walks Jerry and Chad.

CHAD

What's up?

MARGARET

Derrick's been accepted.

CHAD

Really? How soon?

Derrick turns around with a letter in his hand. Jerry reaches out for the letter.

DERRICK

Next Fall. I'm off to Michigan State for the ROTC program.

MARGARET

(butting in)

WE are going to Michigan State.

CHAD

Cool. You can get some milk-fed booty up there.

MARGARET

You're terrible. He's with me.

She squeezes Derrick's arm. He grimaces.

Jerry looks up from the letter, looks Derrick directly in his eyes and hands him back the letter.

JERRY

(said with sincerity and sadness)

That's great. I'm sure you'll do well there.

Awkward silence.

DERRICK

Jerry, don't worry. I'll be back every holiday. We can go surfing then. Hell, I'll need it. Michigan. Winters. You do the math. I'll need to catch up on my surf and ray quota.

CHAD

And babes.

Margaret pushes Chad away.

CHAD

I'm going to UC San Diego. Gotta stay near the beach man

. . .

(Some male and female blonde-headed cheerleaders walk by. Chad turns his head.)

. . . and the California blondes.

MARGARET

(speaking to Chad)

Sex, sex, sex. Is that all that is ever on your mind?

Derrick closes his locker.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH AREA — CONTINUOUS

The group walks to the lunch area and sit at a table. They pull out their lunches.

Margaret stares at Jerry. He becomes uncomfortable.

JERRY  
(looking at Margaret)  
What?  
(Margaret stares annoyingly.)  
What?

MARGARET  
You know.

JERRY  
(looking left and right)  
What?

They all look at Jerry knowingly.

DERRICK  
Did you apply?

They all stare at Jerry. Jerry looks away and down.

JERRY  
I just don't see the point.

MARGARET  
Oh not again. Here it comes.  
Jerry the loser. My father  
is distant and boring. My  
mother is a fanatic. There's  
no purpose to life and I  
can't get my act together.  
Give it a break. In a few  
months, we'll probably never  
see each other again what  
with Chad off to San Diego,  
Derrick and me off to  
Michigan and you . . . well,  
where ever.

A few students walk by and give Derrick high-five slaps on the hand.

JERRY

See, see. That's what I mean. Derrick has it all—captain of the basketball team, class president, a girlfriend and now college paid for. Everyone likes him. He has a future.

MARGARET

(turns to Derrick and Chad turning hands upward)

Am I good or what?

A MALE STUDENT walks by with shirts off holding the hand of his BEAUTIFUL GIRLFRIEND in short-shorts.

CHAD

(not listening to Jerry and Margaret squabble, turns his head to watch the couple walk by)

Bitchin'

DERRICK

So, did you apply like I asked?

JERRY

Yes.

DERRICK

And?

JERRY

Haven't heard back.

DERRICK

I'm sure you'll get in. You are a good student.

JERRY

Not like you.

DERRICK

No, better. I came to you for help with math and

science. I hate how you keep putting yourself down.

CHAD

(speaking to Jerry)

Man, without you, I'll never have gotten through algebra.

MARGARET

Now we do the "build Jerry up" routine.

DERRICK

Margaret, go get us Cokes from the machine over there.

(she gives a look of irritation)

PLEASE.

She puts out her hand and Derrick gives her some MONEY. She gets up and walks away.

CHAD

(speaking to Derrick)

Man, I don't see what you see in her. She can be a bitch.

DERRICK

I've been thinking. After this summer, it could be the last time the three of us are together. I don't want it to happen, but life is pulling us apart. . . So, I have an idea. How about if we load up the car and drive north . . . hitting some of the beaches we always wanted to surf?

JERRY

A road trip?

CHAD

Road trip. Road trip. Road trip.

JERRY

Really??



The guys laugh. Margaret walks back with two Cokes and sits down.

MARGARET  
What did I miss?

CHAD  
We're going on a road trip .  
. . surfing . . .  
(turns his head toward Margaret)  
. . . AND without you.

Margaret scowls.

DERRICK  
We're just thinking about one  
more time together. You  
know, a guy thing.

MARGARET  
(to Derrick)  
And leave me behind for the  
whole summer. No way.

DERRICK  
Just a week. Up and back.

MARGARET  
I trust you but not dickhead  
here  
(pointing towards Chad)  
and Mr. Indecisive  
(Tossing head toward Jerry).  
. . . I'm going and that's  
that.

Silence.

DERRICK  
(To Chad and Jerry)  
It's just a week. Come on  
fella's, she'll stay out of  
the way.

MARGARET  
We could use my Dad's van.  
It's bigger than Derrick's

Cruiser. And if we go as far north as Carmel, I have relatives we could stay with. That'll save money.

Silence.

CHAD  
When are we going?

DERRICK  
How about after graduation?

JERRY  
My folks are going for a vacation that week and want me to go.

DERRICK  
No, I mean RIGHT after the graduation ceremony—that afternoon. We'll be back by the next week.

MARGARET AND CHAD  
Alright.

Margaret and Chad look at each other annoyed.

JERRY  
I'll have to check with Mom and Dad.

Bell rings for next period. They get up and leave.

FADE OUT.

### **Scene 3 – Jerry's Family**

INT. JERRY'S HOUSE – EVENING

Jerry's house is a lower-middle class house showing signs of neglect. Even though this is Laguna Beach, Jerry's family is poor compared to the community.

JERRY'S FATHER sits holding a newspaper in front of TV in the living room. He is fast asleep. JERRY'S MOTHER is sitting in an adjacent Lazy-boy chair doing some crochet.

JERRY'S BROTHER lies on the floor in front of the TV, watching.

JERRY  
(to his parents)  
Has Derrick arrived?

Only the Mother turns her head.

JERRY'S MOTHER  
Shhhh. Your father's  
sleeping.

JERRY  
(in a low voice)  
Is he here?

JERRY'S MOTHER  
No . . . are you going out?

JERRY  
Just for a short time.

JERRY'S MOTHER  
Look here. I'm almost done.

Jerry's Mother shows him the crochet that says, "Jesus loves you."

JERRY'S MOTHER  
Nice, isn't it.

Jerry looks up behind her to a wall of Madonna's, Jesus, and other religious artifacts.

JERRY'S MOTHER  
Oh, you got some mail. I put  
it on your bed.

INT. JERRY'S ROOM – CONTINUOUS

Jerry walks to his room, throws down his backpack, sits on his bed and rips open the letter.

The letter reads:

Dear Jerry Orbach,

We are pleased to accept you  
into the Fall class of  
University of San Diego . . .

.

Jerry breathes deeply, glancing at the letter. He then  
tosses it aside.

KNOCK, KNOCK.

JERRY

Come in.

Jerry's Father walks in. Jerry places some books on top of  
the acceptance letter to hide it from his father.

JERRY'S FATHER

Son, your mother says you are  
going out again tonight.

JERRY

Just for an hour or so.

Jerry's Father eyes Jerry up and down.

JERRY'S FATHER

I know you've done well in  
school this year, and it is  
just a few days to  
graduation, but your mother  
and I think you spend too  
much time away from home.

JERRY

Dad, finals are over, we just  
have practice tomorrow.  
There's nothing left of  
school.

JERRY'S FATHER

Irregardless, you're spending  
too much time with Derrick.

Jerry cringes when he hears his father use the incorrect  
word "irregardless."

JERRY

Dad, the word is  
"regardless." There's no  
such word as "irregardless."

JERRY'S FATHER

That's what I mean. Derrick  
fills your head with thoughts  
that you are better than you  
are. . . that you are too  
good for this family.

JERRY

Derrick's my best friend.  
He's much better than you'll  
ever be. Why, he has been  
accepted into ROTC at  
Michigan. He's going places.

JERRY'S FATHER

Not with you he's not.  
You'll be lucky to get a job  
as good as I've got.

Jerry crosses his arms with a huff.

JERRY'S FATHER

No, you are staying home  
tonight and helping your  
brother memorize his Bible  
sayings for this Sunday.

Silence.

Jerry's Father walks out leaving the door open. Jerry  
reaches for the door and SLAMS it shut. Jerry picks up his  
phone and dials Derrick.

JERRY

Derrick? Yeah, it's me. I'm  
going . . . Yeah, I've got  
to get out of here. My folks  
are driving me nuts. . .  
Right after graduation?  
You've got it. Meet behind  
the house in the alleyway . .  
. I'll have my board and  
everything packed . . . . No,

thank you . . . I can't  
wait.

FADE OUT.

#### **Scene 4 – Graduation**

EXT. SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD – DAYTIME

Hundreds of chairs are set up on the football field in front of a temporary stage. Typical graduation with rows of students dressed in caps and gowns in the front rows, parents behind and a small contingency of students and teachers on the stage. Most of the ceremony is over. Derrick is giving the final speech at the podium.

DERRICK

... and to our class, I say  
goodbye dear friends and  
hello to our future.

Wild CLAPS from the audience.

In the student row, Jerry is seated between Chad and Margaret— acting as a neutral zone between his two friends. Chad gets on his CELL-PHONE, turns away from his friends and engages in a private conversation. Jerry and Margaret are annoyed that Chad is on the phone.

The band begins the final song, the student stand up, throw their caps into the air, and disassemble blending with the mobs of parents.

Derrick shakes a few hands, jumps off the stage to his parents giving a few high-fives along the way. Margaret takes Derrick's hand and drags him over to her parents.

MARGARET'S FATHER shakes Derrick's hand.

MARGARET'S FATHER

That was an excellent speech  
Derrick. You're a fine young  
man. Margaret's told us how  
you have been accepted into  
ROTC at Michigan State. They  
will be lucky to have a  
student as good as you.

MARGARET'S MOTHER shakes Derrick's hand.

MARGARET'S MOTHER  
We are so proud of the both  
of you.

MARGARET  
(to her Father)  
Dad, we would like to use the  
van for a trip.

MARGARET'S FATHER  
Derrick and you?

MARGARET  
Jerry and Chad too.

DERRICK  
It's just for a few days. Up  
to Carmel surfing along the  
way. We'll be careful.

MARGARET  
We can stay with Aunt Helen  
in Carmel.

MARGARET'S FATHER  
I guess so. As long as only  
you or Derrick do the  
driving. When do you want  
it?

MARGARET  
Actually today . . . this  
afternoon.

MARGARET'S MOTHER  
(to Margaret's Father)  
Aren't we moving some plants  
next weekend?

MARGARET  
We'll be back before then . .  
. and we'll help you load the  
van.

DERRICK

I'm sure the guys won't mind  
pitching in to move the  
plants. It'll go faster that  
way.

The parents look at each other in agreement.

MARGARET'S MOTHER

(she takes Margaret and Derrick hands)  
It will be a good graduation  
gift. We'll also give you  
money toward gas.

DERRICK AND MARGARET

All right!

Chad and Jerry walk up.

MARGARET

(to Chad and Jerry excitedly)  
We got the van.

Margaret turns to her parents to introduce Chad and Jerry.

MARGARET

(to her parents)  
This is Jerry . . . and this  
is Chad.

MARGARET'S MOTHER

We've met before boys.  
Congratulations.

MARGARET'S FATHER

Yes, congratulations.

MARGARET'S MOTHER

Are the two of you going to  
college?

CHAD

Yes Mam'. I've been accepted  
to UC San Diego.

MARGARET'S FATHER

Excellent school. What  
major?



CHAD  
Probably pre-Med and then  
transfer to USC.

Margaret's parents look impressed.

MARGARET'S MOTHER  
(to Jerry)  
And you Jerry, what are your  
plans?

JERRY  
Ahh . . . I haven't decided.

Some classmates come barreling over and shake Derrick's  
hand. A few of the girls give Margaret hugs.

MARGARET'S FATHER  
(to Margaret)  
Honey, we'll meet you at  
home. I'll have the van  
filled with gas.

MARGARET  
Thanks Dad. We won't be  
long.

DERRICK  
(to Chad, Jerry and Margaret)  
We got the van. Everything  
OK with you guys?

CHAD  
Cool.

JERRY  
All set.

DERRICK  
I'll ride back with Margaret  
and get the van. Chad, we'll  
pick you up first, then  
Jerry.

CHAD  
Cool.

They walk away; Margaret on Derrick's arm.

Jerry pulls Derrick aside and speaks in a low tone.

JERRY  
Remember, in the back alley.

DERRICK  
Not a problem.

FADE OUT.

### Scene 5 – Seal Beach

EXT. SEAL BEACH – SUNRISE

The door to the van slides open. Chad and Jerry climb out, stretch, and reach for the food box. Through the open door, Derrick and Margaret are seen partially asleep in one sleeping bag on the floor of the van.

DERRICK  
Close the door, man. It's cold.

Jerry reaches over to push the door shut.

CHAD  
(to Jerry)  
Leave it open. Derrick needs to get up.  
(to Derrick)  
Come on man, time to get up. Waves are a'waitin. We're not on this trip so you can spend the entire in the sack.

DERRICK  
Awwaak.

Derrick pulls the top of the sleeping bag over his and Margaret's head.

Jerry rummages through a sack, pulls some granola bars out, and tosses one to Chad.

JERRY

I don't know if I ever told  
you, but I like early morning  
best. . . it's quiet and  
calm.

CHAD

Best of all, the waves are  
clean with no wind.

Chad walks over to the side of the van and SLAPS it a few  
times.

CHAD

Get up lovebirds. We're off.  
See you there.

Chad and Jerry grab their boards and take to the ocean.  
They are not wearing wet suits.

Waves are decent size and breaking long. Chad and Jerry  
ride the waves.

A little while later, Derrick is seen paddling out to the  
guys. He is wearing a wet suit.

JERRY

(to Derrick)

It's breaking good.

Jerry and Chad look cold; their arms crossed.

DERRICK

(to Jerry)

Should have worn a suit.

CHAD

It's summer man. Live like  
you mean it.

Just then Chad takes off trying to catch a wave.

Jerry and Derrick are left alone. Dolphins begin to  
surround them.

JERRY  
(to Derrick)  
Hey Flipper. Look at them  
all.

Derrick and Jerry look around. A few get very close to  
Derrick. One pokes it head up and stares at Derrick.

JERRY  
(to Derrick)  
What is it about you?  
Everywhere you go, you  
attract dolphins.

DERRICK  
Maybe they are related to the  
ones in Laguna?

A few of the dolphins swim under their boards, just below  
their feet.

JERRY  
Woo, that gives me the creeps  
when they do that.

DERRICK  
I think it's my wetsuit that  
attracts them.

JERRY  
Last week you weren't wearing  
one . . . and one of them let  
you pet it.

DERRICK  
Yea, I guess you're right. I  
really don't know.

Chad comes up and the dolphins disappear.

CHAD  
Are you guys going to talk  
all day. Where's the ridin'

JERRY  
You chased the dolphins away.

CHAD  
(to Jerry)  
Again? Flipper here . .  
(indicating toward Derrick)  
has some perverted attraction  
to them. Hey, they've got to  
be better than his bitch.

DERRICK  
Come on, let up on Margaret .  
. . just surf.

The guys take off. Derrick is seen surfing perfectly. Chad hot dogs on the board whereas Jerry is stiff and occasionally falls off his board.

EXT. SEAL BEACH TABLE— MID-MORNING— CONTINUOUS

After an hour or so, the guys come in to the beach. Margaret sits at a table reading with a bag of munchies next to her.

MARGARET  
(to Derrick)  
I've been reading all about  
the University of Michigan.  
I think I'll really dig their  
Theater Arts Department.

She hands the brochure to Derrick.

CHAD  
I'm hungry. Hey, I'm going  
to walk into town and get  
some donuts. Anyone want  
one?

JERRY, DERRICK  
Sure.

MARGARET  
I've eaten.

CHAD  
I'm off. Be right back.

Chad throws a TOWEL over his shoulders and walks past the van to the row of stores and buildings fronting the beach.

JERRY

So, the two of you are really going to Michigan.

Jerry and Derrick begin to change clothes.

DERRICK

To be honest, I really hate the idea. I don't want to leave Southern California. I was born here and have only been in snow once . . . and that was enough. But ROTC is the only way I can swing school.

JERRY

You could stay here and go to JC. They're cheap.

DERRICK

No, it's got to be a real school; one I can use later in life for a good living.

MARGARET

Who can afford a house in Southern Cal . . . and with only an AA degree. And kids cost a bunch. We have plans and it means getting a good education.

Derrick is not comfortable about the conversation about kids.

JERRY

I'm sure if you stayed here, everything will work out. I mean, everything always goes your way Derrick. You've always been blessed.

DERRICK

I've decided for ROTC.

JERRY

Aren't you worried about  
going to war; getting killed?

DERRICK

I don't consider it.

MARGARET

Derrick will be an officer;  
probably medical. He will  
always be safe and then we  
will be set for life.

Derrick looks inside the food box, picks up something, and  
immediately throws it back in disgust.

DERRICK

Where's Chad?

They look around and see Chad across the street talking to  
a BLOND SURFER who is athletic and in his late 30s.

DERRICK

Let's pack up and pick him  
up. I want to hit the road.

Margaret moves into the van.

JERRY

OK.

Jerry gets into the van. They start up the engine and pull  
over to where Chad is standing.

EXT. SEAL BEACH SIDEWALK— MID-MORNING— CONTINUED

A box of donuts sits on the ground next to Chad's feet.  
The Blond Surfer hands Chad a small plastic bag. The van  
pulls up and the door slides open.

Chad is caught off guard and is startled. The Blond Surfer  
walks away.

JERRY AND DERRICK

(to Chad)

Come on. Jump in. We're  
hitting the road.

Chad hurriedly stuffs the plastic bag into his swimsuit acting suspiciously.

CHAD  
(hesitant, then picking up the donuts)  
I . . . Ah . . . A, here  
are the donuts.

Chad glances around for the Blond Surfer but he is nowhere to be seen. He climbs into the van.

CHAD  
Hope you like apple fritters.

MARGARET  
(to Chad)  
Who was that? He's real  
cute.

Chad ignore Margaret.

DERRICK  
To Ventura it is!

## **Scene 6 – Driving Up PCH**

EXT. PCH – DAYTIME – CONTINUED

Aerial shots of van driving up PCH with interspersed cuts of the interior of the van with the kids listening and moving to music.

EXT. VENTURA BEACH – MID-DAY – CONTINUED

The van pulls into Ventura State Beach and parks.

Only a few very young children are seen playing along the edge of the water. No one else is in the water, which is odd for a hot summer day. The lifeguard tower has a no-surf flag posted.

Derrick, Margaret, Chad and Jerry climb out of the van and scan the horizon. The surf is very small and un-inviting.

DERRICK  
Where is everyone?



MARGARET

What's that smell?

CHAD

This sucks.

Derrick leads the way to the lifeguard tower with Jerry and Chad in tow.

DERRICK

(to LIFEGUARD)

What's up? Why is no one in the water?

LIFEGUARD

Red Tide. You can smell it. It's not dangerous, but you shouldn't go in the water.

CHAD

Bummer. I always heard the surfing was good here.

LIFEGUARD

Which way are you guys headed?

DERRICK

Carmel.

LIFEGUARD

Last I heard, the Red Tide extends just a few more miles north. It's OK above Santa Barbara.

The guys scan the horizon.

JERRY

Might as well continue up to Refugio.

CHAD

Refugio?

JERRY

Derrick and I talked about it. It's probably the best

beach campground in  
California. It has a lagoon,  
a cove and palm trees along  
the water. I've always  
fantasized that it was  
Hawaii. My family has camped  
there many times. Guys surf  
near the cliff jutting out  
into the cove.

DERRICK

Yea, it's about 30 miles  
north of Santa Barbara . . .  
so we should be above the Red  
Tide.

They walk back to the van. Margaret looks at them  
quizzically.

DERRICK

(to Margaret)

Red Tide. We're going drive  
above Santa Barbara.

MARGARET

Red Tide?

JERRY

Red Tide is caused by a bloom  
of the toxic alga *Alexandrium  
fundyense*. Millions of  
microscopic plants grow in  
every drop of seawater. They  
turn the water reddish in  
color and give off a  
nauseating smell. The lack  
of oxygen kills small fish  
whose rotting bodies add to  
the smell. In general it is  
not toxic to humans but can  
cause itching and rash. It  
is a naturally occurring  
phenomenon that lasts for a  
few days each year.

Margaret, Derrick, and Chad look dumbfounded, surprised and  
amused.

CHAD  
(salutes Jerry)  
Ok, Mr. Wizard.

Jerry is embarrassed.

DERRICK  
That's why we all cheated off  
you through school.

MARGARET  
Let's go. The smell's awful.

They all climb into the van and drive off.

**Scene 7 – Santa Claus Lane**

EXT. PCH – MID-DAY – COTINUED

Aerial shots of van driving up PCH.

INT. VAN – MID-DAY – CONTINUED

Derrick is driving. No music is playing. They all look tired.

MARGARET  
I'm hungry.

Everyone ignores her.

Through the van window is seen the large SANTA CLAUS atop the restaurant roof of SANTA'S CANDY KITCHEN in Carpenteria (just above Ventura but before Santa Barbara).

The ROAD SIGN says "SANTA CLAUS LANE."

JERRY  
Let's stop.

DERRICK AND CHAD  
It looks dorky.

JERRY  
It's fun. My family always  
stopped here.

MARGARET

I want to eat.

JERRY

(building upon Margaret's urgency)

Yeah, they have hamburgers.

DERRICK

OK.

CHAD

If we must.

EXT. PARKING LOT – LUNCH – CONTINUED

Derrick pulls the van into the parking lot. They all climb out. The parking lot mostly has vans and RVs. A few FAMILIES are walking to and fro.

There are PICNIC TABLES in front of the building near the entrance. The building has large picture windows.

Jerry is excited and pulls the gang along.

A GOOD-LOOKING MAN AND WOMAN in skimpy beach attire walk by holding hands.

CHAD

(turning his head to stare)

Now, that's a Christmas  
present.

They all enter SANTA'S CANDY KITCHEN.

INT. SANTA'S CANDY KITCHEN – LUNCH – CONTINUED

Margaret heads straight to the order window.

CHAD

(to Derrick and Jerry)

Just get me a hamburger and  
fries. . . oh and a Coke.  
I'll be outside holding down  
a table.

Chad pulls out his cell phone, places a call, puts it to his ear, walks outside and sits at a table.

Derrick moves to Margaret's side.

Jerry takes his time looking at all the kitsch on the shelves. He is fascinated by a FIGURINE of a dolphin with Santa Claus perched on top like he is riding a horse. The name—Carpenteria— is stenciled on the base. He picks one up and walks over to Derrick and Margaret.

JERRY  
(showing Derrick)  
Hey Flip, look at this.

Jerry hands the figurine to Derrick.

JERRY  
I want one.

MARGARET  
That's tacky.

JERRY  
No, no, it reminds me of  
Derrick . . . and this trip.

Derrick smiles and hands it back to Jerry.

DERRICK  
What ever you say.

Jerry places the Figurine back on the shelf.

They get to the front of the line and place their orders. They move off to the side waiting for pick up. Margaret looks out the front window toward Chad who is seen chatting wildly on his cell phone. His back is to them and he is hunched over the table. Small plastic bags appear and disappear in front of Chad as he pulls them from his suit. It could be mistaken that Chad is sniffing the contents of the bags.

MARGARET  
What is Chad doing?

Derrick and Jerry turn their heads toward the window.

They all squint.

JERRY  
He's just talking.

MARGARET  
No, I mean the bags.

DERRICK  
I don't see any bags.

MARGARET  
Is that coke?

DERRICK  
I don't see anything.

MARGARET  
I'm sure I saw him sniff one  
of the bags . . . he got  
yesterday . . . from that  
Blonde.

JERRY  
Chad doesn't do drugs.

ANNOUNCEMENT  
Number 23.

DERRICK  
That's ours.

Margaret is transfixed looking out the window. Jerry picks up the food and pays the cashier for the food.

Derrick pulls Margaret along.

JERRY  
(to Margaret)  
You have something against  
Chad, don't you?

They walk out the restaurant/shop.

EXT. PICNIC BENCH — LUNCH — CONTINUED.

They sit down at the table. Chad hurriedly gets off the phone and stuffs something down his pants. He wipes his nose. Chad seems unusually happy and hyper.

MARGARET  
(to Chad)  
Is that drugs you used?

CHAD  
What?

DERRICK AND JERRY  
Margaret!

MARGARET  
I saw you . . . you have  
plastic bags down your pants.

Chad looks at Derrick and Jerry.

DERRICK  
Margaret thinks she saw you  
use coke.

CHAD  
Bullshit.

MARGARET  
Show me the bags. I don't  
want to ride in a car with  
drugs.

Everything stops.

MARGARET  
Show me.

CHAD  
This is bullshit.

Margaret reaches for his pants.

CHAD  
Hell no pervert!

Chad pushes Margaret off. Derrick moves in to put himself  
between Margaret and Chad.

Chad pulls a plastic bag containing LIFESAVERS out of his  
pants and throws them on the table.

CHAD

Have one.

MARGARET

Lifesavers?

CHAD

Lifesavers.

MARGARET

I'm so sorry. But I . . .  
who were you on the phone?

CHAD

Don't' you ever stop?

MARGARET

So, who?

CHAD

My mother. Satisfied? Any  
more questions?

(turning to Derrick and Jerry)

I told you she shouldn't have  
come.

Jerry, while looking over the group, takes a bite out of  
his hamburger then hands the box to Derrick.

Margaret storms away.

DERRICK

(handing food to Chad)

Here. Food will help. We're  
all grouchy.

Derrick walks after Margaret. Jerry sits down with Chad.

JERRY

Man, I never doubted you.

CHAD

Her damn hormones. How does  
Derrick put up with it?



JERRY

Hey, she's his girlfriend . .  
. something neither of us  
have.

CHAD

Who needs them?

Derrick is seen sitting next to Margaret a couple of tables away. His arm is over her shoulders. They take a few bites from their food.

The AFTERNOON WIND comes up.

CHAD

Come on. Let's hit the road  
and get to Refugio before  
nightfall. There we can get  
some distance away from her.

Chad and Jerry stand up, walk to Derrick and Margaret. Chad and Margaret shake hands. They all walk to the van.

### **Scene 8 – Refugio**

EXT. SANTA BARBARA TO REFUGIO – LATE AFTERNOON – CONTINUED.

Aerial shots of the van winding up PCH through Santa Barbara then to the OFF RAMP of Refugio. SIGN on road says "Refugio State Beach." Jerry is driving.

INT. VAN – LATE AFTERNOON – CONTINUED

JERRY

If we park down here, we can  
walk in without paying. We  
can stay until 9 PM. Then  
we'll come back to the van  
and sleep here over night.  
Cool?

DERRICK, MARGARET, AND CHAD

(mumble)

Yes.

EXT. WALKWAY THROUGH CAMPGROUND ALONG LAGOON TO BEACH –  
LATE AFTERNOON – CONTINUED

They climb out of the car carrying a PICNIC BASKET and walk along the creek through the campground.

JERRY

(pointing around)

I really love this place. My family camped here almost every year that my brother and I were in the Boy Scouts.

They pass the palm trees and stand on the beach. To their right is the cove and pinnacle jutting out into the ocean. To their left is endless beach extending all the way to Santa Barbara.

EXT. REFUGIO BEACH AREA — LATE AFTERNOON — CONTINUED

CHAD AND DERRICK

Wow! This IS like Hawaii.

MARGARET

Cool.

The wind picks up and the sun is almost ready to set.

MARGARET

What's that smell?

They all look around.

CHAD

Oh no. Red Tide.

JERRY

Red Tide?

DERRICK

It doesn't seem so bad.

They look out to the water as the last rays of sun set beneath the waves.

DERRICK

It's too late to drive farther north. . . why don't we at least eat dinner here

then back to the van to  
sleep. In the morning we'll  
drive on to PISMO BEACH. Ok?

JERRY

OK.

Margaret throws a blanket down under the ridge to block the  
wind, sits down, and spreads out the food.

JERRY

Chad, may I borrow your cell  
phone? I need to call my  
parents.

Chad throws him the phone and sits down. Derrick also sits  
down. Jerry walks away toward a grassy area that has a  
large SWING SET.

DERRICK

(to Chad and Margaret)

I'm sure the Red Tide won't  
extend up to PISMO BEACH. I  
can barely smell it here.

CHAD

Today was pretty much ruined  
anyway. Let's eat.

They dig into their food.

Jerry is seen arguing on the phone. Sometimes he sits in  
the swing seat, swings a few times, stops, stands up,  
paces, and repeats.

DERRICK

Jerry looks very upset.  
Maybe I should go over to  
him?

MARGARET

He's a big boy. Let him  
alone.

DERRICK

No, I'm his friend. I can  
tell, he needs me.

Derrick stands up and walks toward Jerry leaving Margaret and Chad alone.

EXT. REFUGIO CAMP AREA — EARLY EVENING — CONTINUED

Jerry hangs up and begins to walk fast into the campground.

DERRICK  
(yelling)  
Jerry. Jerry. Wait up.

Jerry walks faster. Derrick runs to catch up. Jerry's face is flushed, almost to crying.

JERRY  
I don't want to talk about  
it.

DERRICK  
Come on man. I'm your  
friend.

JERRY  
What's the point? There's  
nothing you . . . or I can  
do. They are so whacked up.

DERRICK  
Your Dad?

They stop walking.

JERRY  
What has he ever done?  
Insurance, he sells insurance  
and he thinks that's a great  
job. Who the hell is he to  
tell me how to run my life?

DERRICK  
What did he say?

JERRY  
I'm so angry at him . . . and  
my mother too. They had the  
nerve to order me home now.  
Can you imagine? Now. Why?  
Because I'm with my "looser"

friends. That's what they called you. . . loser. You're no loser. You're the best thing in my life. I'm the loser.

They sit down on a log near one of the campsites that has a FIRE BURNING.

DERRICK

You're no loser. Your parents are, but not you.

JERRY

I just can't do anything right. Oh god. I'm going to end up like them.

Pause.

DERRICK

(taking Jerry by his shoulders)

I know I've said this before, but this time I want you to really listen. You're 18-years old. You're a man. You can go on your own. You don't need your parents. I've always hated the way they put you down.

JERRY

(tries to squirm away)

But . . .

DERRICK

No buts. Listen. You are the brightest kid in school. We all know it. You really know it but won't accept it. It is you who always knew the answers to the homework. All of us came to you. It didn't matter if it was math, science, history or whatever, you always knew the answers. But, and here is the "but," the last few weeks of every

semester, you choked.  
Something in you prevents you  
from finishing your classes  
at the top. So you got B's  
instead of straight A's.

Jerry looks away.

DERRICK

I had to struggle to get good  
grades. I studied all the  
time while you seemed just to  
know. You have a gift that  
none of have. I wish I could  
make you see that.

JERRY

But I always fuck up.

DERRICK

It's your dysfunctional home.  
If you were to go away to  
college, I'm sure you would  
find yourself.

They stand up and begin to walk back to the picnic area.

JERRY

I don't know.

Derrick stops Jerry and looks him in the eye.

DERRICK

I want you to make me a  
promise. . . I want you to  
promise that you will go to  
college in the Fall. Not the  
junior college, but away to  
college so you don't have to  
live at home. . . Do you  
promise?

(pause)

Do you promise?

JERRY

(said softly)

Yes. . . But you must come  
back to visit.

DERRICK  
Every holiday and summers.

EXT. REFUGIO BEACH AREA —EVENING — CONTINUED

They walk a short distance to their blanket. Chad and Margaret are nowhere to be seen.

Jerry looks out toward the ocean. The water sparkles when the waves crash onto the shore.

JERRY  
(pointing to the ocean)  
Derrick. Look. The Red Tide  
makes the water sparkle.  
I've only read about this.  
Cool.

Derrick looks out.

DERRICK  
Is that Chad and Margaret?

Chad and Margaret, in dark silhouettes, run along the edge of the water, kicking sand and water towards each other. Each time, a firework of sparkles occurs.

DERRICK  
Cool. Let's go down.

EXT. REFUGIO WATER'S EDGE —EVENING — CONTINUED

Derrick and Jerry run to the water's edge. Just as they get there, Margaret trips and falls into Chad's arms. They both fall, laughing all the way. Margaret takes a handful of water and sand and throws it toward Derrick. It sparkles.

MARGARET  
Isn't it cool?

They all LAUGH.

CAMERA pulls back to show them in the cove and the pinnacle jutting out into the dark sea. Each time a wave crashes, sparkling light is emitted.

FADE OUT.

**Scene 9 – On the way to Pismo Beach**

EXT. ON ROAD UP CANYON FROM REFUGIO – EARLY MORNING

The van is parked along a narrow road surrounded by CITRUS ORCHARD. The ocean and Refugio can be seen just a ½ mile away down the CANYON. Margaret, wearing a heavy coat, sits in the sun on the ground with her back against the front tire of the van. She is reading a book.

One-by-one, the boys come out of the van, go around the backside of the van in the orchard to pee, and return. Derrick sits on the ground and nestles in with Margaret. Jerry pulls out the food box and rummages through looking for something to eat. Chad looks at his cell phone to check for messages.

JERRY

Guys, we're out of food.

No response.

Derrick has his eyes closed, head thrown back against the van taking in the sunrays. Margaret is immersed in her book whereas Chad is still studying his cell phone.

CHAD

Boy, are we out in the boonies. There's no reception here.

JERRY

I think its time to go.

MARGARET

(lifting her head out of the book)  
This is California, the way I want to remember it. Quiet, orchards, and the sea.

JERRY

Guys!

Derrick rises and pulls Margaret up.



DERRICK

Come on Ms Nature. The savages need to go hunting for food.

CHAD

(chanting)

Egg Mac Muffin! Egg Mac Muffin! Egg Mac Muffin!

They climb back into the van and take off up ramp from Refugio onto PCH.

INT. VAN ON RAMP OUT OF REFUGIO — EARLY MORNING — CONTINUED

DERRICK

(driving and looking through windshield toward Refugio Beach)

I say we come back next year when there's no Red Tide and camp for a week.

EXT. BACK ON PCH — MORNING — CONTINUED

Show driving through the GOLETA pass, the SPLIT PEA ANDERSEN billboard, and MACDONALDS restaurant.

Show the van going through the MacDonald's drive-through window process. Show bags of food handed to Derrick and onto everyone else in the van. The van returns to the highway.

INT. VAN ON PCH APPROACHING AT SOLVANG OFF RAMP — MORNING — CONTINUED

DERRICK

Should we stop and really see Solvang.

JERRY

Yes.

CHAD

No.

MARGARET

No.

DERRICK  
How about on the way back?  
(no response)  
I'm itching to surf. I say  
onto PISMO BEACH.

They drive past the Solvang off ramp. Derrick is driving and Jerry is in the front passenger seat. Margaret and Chad are in the back seat talking and laughing while munching on their Egg Mac Muffins.

JERRY  
I wonder what's come over  
Chad and Margaret?

DERRICK  
Count our blessings. At  
least we'll get some peace.

EXT. BACK ON PCH – MORNING – CONTINUED

Show driving through the rolling hills of SANTA YNEZ VALLEY, past SANTA MARIA, and dropping down to PISMO BEACH.

### **Scene 10 – Pismo Beach**

EXT. PISMO BEACH – MORNING – CONTINUED

It is a bright beautiful morning. The beach is empty except for surfers wearing shirts in the water. The waves are large and long. There is a pier at one end of the parking lot. Most of the surfers are near the pier.

INT. VAN APPROACHING PARKING LOT AT PISMO BEACH – MORNING – CONTINUED

CHAD, JERRY, AND DERRICK  
(spoken over each other)  
Whoo wee. Look at those  
waves. Can't wait to get in.

EXT. PISMO BEACH PARING LOT – MORNING – CONTINUED

The van parks. Everyone piles out. Boards are unhooked from the roof of the van. The guys put on their swimsuits and shirts, and head for the ocean.

Show surfing footage. Derrick rides expertly. Chad sometimes goes near and into the pier taking great chances. Jerry falls off, but is discernibly better than before— with greater confidence.

Margaret is sitting at the beach, occasionally looking toward the guys surfing.

After a few hours, the guys come in from the ocean all energized.

CHAD

Man, that was tubular.

Derrick falls to his knees next to Margaret and gives her a hug.

JERRY

This was much better than back home. I'm famished.

MARGARET

I'm ahead of you guys.  
(she pulls out a box of food)  
I went shopping while you were out there.

The guys dig into the food like sharks at a feeding frenzy.

MARGARET

It's really a quaint little town. I could imagine living here. . . raising a family.

Margaret gives Derrick a little squeeze.

The four eat in silence. Shots of the ocean. Shots of the sandpipers. Shots of the sky.

The four are lying face down on the blanket fast asleep. Derrick's arm is over Margaret. Time passes.

Jerry is on his back asleep. He wakes slowly. Rolls to one side and see Margaret and Derrick asleep. He rolls to his other side and sees Chad sitting at a PARK TABLE a few feet away. Chad's back is to him and obscures a view of the table. In his groggy state, he sees Chad pull out

plastic bag from his pants and put them on the table in front of him.

Show Jerry's face, eyes blinking to wake up.

Chad bends forward in a way that it looks like he is sniffing the content of the bags. Chad then pulls out his cell phone and speaks rapidly. Jerry falls back to sleep.

Jerry's eyes are closed; Margaret is pushing him to wake up.

MARGARET

Come on. We're going.

Derrick loads up the van. Chad is nowhere to be seen. Strong wind tosses up sand.

MARGARET

It's time to go.

Jerry gets up, squints his eyes against the blowing sand. He sees the nearby BATHROOM.

JERRY

I'll be right back.

Jerry walks to the bathroom. Margaret and Derrick enter van and closes its door.

INT. VAN PISMO BEACH PARING — LATE AFTERNOON — CONTINUED

Jerry comes back, opens the van door, takes a back seat and closes the door.

JERRY

Wow, strong wind.

DERRICK

Have you seen Chad?

JERRY

Uh, no.

MARGARET

That's just like him. He's always going off someplace. He can be so irritating.

Chad is seen through the van windshield walking toward the van. He opens a door and climbs in the back seat.

MARGARET

Where've you been?

CHAD

Natasha again?

(speaking to Derrick in Mr. Chekhov  
voice from Star Trek)

Where to Captin'

DERRICK

Margaret wants to stay in a  
real hotel tonight . . . you  
know; take a bath, real beds.  
There's a Motel 6 up in San  
Luis Obispo. It's only a  
half hour away.

CHAD

Aye, aye, Captin'

### Scene 11 – Madonna Inn

EXT. DRIVING FROM PISMO BEACH – LATE AFTERNOON – CONTINUED

Show aerial view of van driving up PCH, and making the  
curve inland.

INT. VAN DRIVING UP PCH – SUN SETTING – CONTINUED

Song on the radio. Everyone is singing along in high  
spirits.

Through the windshield is seen SIGN for "Madonna Inn."

MARGARET

Let's stop?

JERRY

Yeah, let's stop here. My  
family always stopped here.

DERRICK

It looks . . . um

JERRY  
(speaking very fast)  
Oh yeah. It's over the top  
and tacky. I love it. You  
got to see the men's  
bathroom. You get to pee  
into a waterfall. Turn here.  
Everyone knows about the  
Madonna Inn.

Jerry reaches for the steering wheel. Derrick pushes him  
off.

EXT. VAN PULLING INTO PARKING LOT, MADONNA INN – SUN  
SETTING – CONTINUED

The van turns off and into the parking lot. They all pile  
out.

INT. MADONNA INN ENTRY – NIGHT – CONTINUED

The four of them walk up to the MAITRE D', and are put on  
the list. The restaurant is over-the-top in gaudy lights  
and more.

MAITRE D'  
It will be a few moments.

JERRY  
Guys, you've got to see the  
bathroom.

Margaret looks resistant. He beckons the group to follow.

JERRY  
Margaret, stay here. We'll  
see if the coast is clear.

Jerry goes into the MEN'S BATHROOM, returns and gives the  
sign to enter.

INT. MADONNA INN MEN'S BATHROOM – NIGHT – CONTINUED

Jerry points to the urinal that is a long waterfall.

JERRY  
Isn't that cool or what?

MARGARET

You brought us in for that?

CHAD

It reminds me of the locker  
room showers.

Margaret turns and quickly walks out. Derrick shrugs with  
Chad following.

JERRY

Hey, I was a little kid the  
first time I saw this.

Jerry follows everyone out.

INT. MADONNA INN ENTRY — NIGHT — CONTINUED

The Maitre D' summons them over.

INT. MADONNA INN MAIN DINING — NIGHT — CONTINUED

A WAITRESS leads the way to a table in the middle of the  
room. The room is about 1/3 full.

WAITRESS

My name is Shelly. I'm your  
waitress for this evening.  
What can I get you to drink?

CHAD, DERRICK

Water.

JERRY, MARGARET

Coke.

The waitress hands them the MENUE and walks away. There is  
a moment pause while they read the menu.

JERRY

The prices are a bit high?

MARGARET

Everyone, its my treat.  
Actually, it's my Dads treat.  
He gave me extra money to

spend a special night with  
you all.

CHAD,  
Ok then.

JERRY  
Gee, that's great.

Camera shows TWO ELEGANT LADIES being directed to a nearby  
table by their waitress. They wear formal eveningwear.  
Chad's head follow them walk by.

The waitress comes back. Derrick, Margaret, Chad and Jerry  
sit up straight and begin to take on an adult air.

WAITRESS  
Have you decided?

MARGARET  
I'll have the roast beef with  
horseradish on the side.

WAITRESS  
Soup or salad?

MARGARET  
Salad with Ranch dressing.

DERRICK  
I'll have the same.

Margaret looks lovingly into Derrick's eyes.

JERRY  
(to Chad)  
What are you having?

CHAD  
I feel like Italian Sausage  
with Angel Hair pasta.

Margaret giggles.

CHAD  
(to the Waitress)  
Does the sauce have sun-dried  
tomatoes?



WAITRESS  
Of course and with freshly  
roasted pine nuts and grated  
Parmesan cheese.

MARGARET  
(mutters)  
SO Californian.

Chad laughs under his breath.

JERRY  
I'll just have the chicken  
dinner.

WAITRESS  
How do you want your  
potatoes?

JERRY  
Ah, French fries.

The waitress leaves.

TWO GOOD LOOKING MEN in suits walk by to the table with the  
Two Elegant Ladies. Chad turns his head to watch. The Two  
Good Looking Men are seen leaning over the table, say a few  
words to the women, then leave.

DERRICK  
(acting formal)  
I want to thank you all for  
coming on this trip.

Everyone smiles.

DERRICK (CONT.)  
Really. We've all been  
friends for so long, I cannot  
imagine a better graduation  
gift than being with the  
three of you.

Jerry clicks the side of his water glass with a knife, but  
reacts a bit embarrassed since a few people in the  
restaurant turn around.

Chad holds up his glass.

CHAD

A toast.

Derrick, Margaret, and Jerry host their glasses.

CHAD

To friendship!

DERRICK, MARGARET, JERRY

To friendship.

They smile and giggle at acting this way.

The Waitress brings their food. They begin eating with nosily comments and laughter.

TWO MORE GOOD LOOKING MEN dressed expensively, walk by the table toward the Elegant Ladies. They lean into the table without sitting down and exchange a few words.

CHAD

(under his breath)

Hey guys, check out that table . . . the one with the two foxy babes.

(yanking his head)

Over there . . . that's the second set of guys who have gone up to them.

The Two More Good Looking Men walk away from the table leaving the two Elegant Ladies to continue their dinner. Chad's head follow the men away and then back to the group.

CHAD

What's up?

DERRICK

Look like friends to me.

The four of them turn their heads to look again.

MARGARET

Just leave them alone.

The four of them continue eating.

Jerry, who is situated directly from the Elegant Ladies and who has the clearest view, looks up and sees the Elegant Ladies give a little peck on the cheek. Jerry almost chokes on his food.

JERRY  
(in hushed voice)  
Guys, I think they're  
lesbians.

CHAD  
No.

Chad and Derrick turn their heads.

MARGARET  
Guys, don't look. They have  
a right to a quiet dinner.

CHAD  
But they're such foxy  
bitches.

MARGARET  
Chad, YOU should be the last  
person to say that!

The table goes silent. Chad recoils giving Margaret a look of "don't reveal my secret."

MARGARET  
Sometimes I feel like . . .  
like I am surrounded by teen-  
age sex-crazed Neanderthals.  
Stop referring to women as  
"bitches." You need to start  
treating everyone like  
people, not objects.

The two Elegant Ladies finish their dinners, stand up, and walk by the table holding hands.

DERRICK  
Alright!

JERRY  
I told you.

CHAD

But they are so beautiful!

MARGARET

Chad! You know better.  
Lesbians can be beautiful.  
The stereotype— fat,  
motorcycle ridin' butch dyke—  
applies only to a few women.  
Most are average and a few  
are "lipstick lesbians."  
Women come in all shapes and  
sizes. Women are beautiful.

CHAD

What makes you a "feme-nazi?"

MARGARET

Honesty.

CHAD

And I'm not honest?

The moment Chad says this; he cringes at the door he has opened. Margaret surveys his face.

MARGARET

Each of us needs to find the  
truth that is buried in our  
souls and find the strength  
to be honest with ourselves  
and others.

Silence.

DERRICK

(to Margaret)

I'm sure Chad didn't mean any  
harm.

MARGARET

(speaking softly)

Honesty comes from the heart.  
. . and I feel I must tell  
you

(turning to Derrick)  
I'm not sure I want to go to Michigan. I'm not sure if I want to be your girlfriend.

Silence.

Derrick reaches for Margaret's hand. She pulls away.

MARGARET

(to Derrick)

I like you. I think I love you. But, I am not certain that what I feel for you is not just my need for . . . stability, for someone I can absolutely count on . . . hear me out. As you know, my parents adopted me just a few years ago. I was born in Shanghai. What you don't know is my father is my real father. He was in the military and stationed near Shanghai. He met my mother in Shanghai and got her pregnant . . . She was a prostitute . . . When I was born, I was placed in an orphanage in the outskirts of town. Do you have any idea how it is to be Chinese with blue eyes? All the kids picked on me. They told me my father was an American "dick" who abandoned me and my mother . . . I still don't know how my father found me— perhaps my mother contacted him— but he came and got me with I was 11 and brought back here . . . I always wanted a father. I knew he was American, but he looked so different from my people. And when I came here, I stood out. The kids here picked on me too.

Didn't matter where I lived,  
I didn't fit in . . . I hate  
when people make derogatory  
remarks about other people  
because they look or act  
differently. I just hate it  
. . . which brings me to us.  
I know that I am opinionated.  
I know that I can be clingy  
and I often chastise myself  
about that. I fear you will  
go away or I will push you  
away. I fear that I am with  
you for the wrong reason.

Derrick places his hand on her shoulder.

DERRICK

I don't feel you cling.

MARGARET

(nuzzling up to the hand)

I . . . I . . . appreciate the  
thought. But I know better.  
I've tried to change.

(she begins to rub her left pinkie  
finger that is shortened by the length  
of a fingernail)

American kids were so mean to  
me. I just didn't fit in. I  
began drinking when I was 13  
and fell into a bad group of  
kids. I was really lost.  
Craig helped me. He was an  
Amerasian kid down the block.  
He helped by regain my  
Buddhist roots. He helped me  
find the harmony preached in  
Buddhism. He taught me about  
the sacrificial ritual of  
*Yubi-tsume*.

(she rubs her finger faster)

Everyone in the group leans in to give undivided attention.

MARGARET

(cont.)

It really is a ritual of sacrifice and forgiveness. I have an addictive personality and needed to get rid of it. I needed to forgive myself for all the pain. I must be willing to sacrifice something of value, something of myself.

She holds out her left hand exposing her cut off pinkie finger.

MARGARET

None of you have ever asked me about my finger . . . A friend and I got everything together. I knew First Aid. We got the large carving knife from home. While it was a new moon, we went to the field out back of the house. We chanted prayers of *Yubi-tsume* – prayers of forgiveness. I tied a string around my left finger to cut off circulation. My friend helped me pray. I had to do the cutting. It had to be me making the sacrifice. I placed my hand on a piece of wood covered by a prayer cloth we blessed earlier. I took the knife, stared at my finger and as I came down . . . I must have closed my eyes, because I came down in the ground next to the board. I was really nervous but I had to do it. I wiped off the blade with alcohol, lifted it above my head and came down strongly . . . I didn't feel any pain, really. I saw the tip of my finger on the ground. Craig picked it

up and we placed in it a small box. We prayed again and buried the box. Craig placed a compact over my finger and loosened the string. I felt the blood rush and the sudden spike of pain. It really hurt, but I felt free. I felt free of the addiction and hate. I forgave myself.

Silence.

CHAD  
You're shitting us!

MARGARET  
(to Chad)  
And I forgive you.

Margaret stands up and faces Derrick.

MARGARET  
I'm tired. I want to get a room here tonight . . . alone.

Margaret walks away.

DERRICK  
Ah, OK.

Derrick rises.

DERRICK  
(to Chad and Jerry)  
I'll go with Margaret and get us signed in.

Derrick catches up to Margaret headed for the Reservation Desk.

JERRY  
I don't know what to say. I never knew.

Waitress walks over and places the bill on the table.



WAITRESS

Can I get you anything else  
boys?

JERRY

No thank you.

Waitress walks off while Derrick returns.

DERRICK

Margaret is all set. We have  
the "Caveman Room," whatever  
that is.

FADE OUT.

INT. MADONNA INN "CAVEMAN ROOM"— MORNING

The Caveman room has a large king-size bed surrounded by  
rocks on the floor, walls and ceiling. The bathroom is all  
rock with a waterfall shower.

Derrick, and Jerry are still in bed. There is a depression  
in the bed indicating Chad slept on one side.

The SOUND of the shower is running in the bathroom.

Jerry wakes up slowly and looks toward the bathroom. He  
hears Chad on his cell phone talking to someone.

CHAD

Yeah, take that in deep,  
yeah, you like it, yeah, I'm  
cumming, I'm going cum, augh.

A few moments later, Chad walks out of the bathroom wearing  
only white briefs that show he still had a hard-on. He  
carries his cell phone and puts it on the dresser. Jerry  
feigns being asleep.

KNOCK, KNOCK.

MARGARET

(voice through door)  
Guys, guys. It's me. Open  
up.

Chad walks to the door and opens it. Margaret walks in, looks at Chad and walks over to Derrick. She rocks him.

MARGARET  
Come on. Wake up honey. We need to go.

Derrick stirs. Jerry gets up.

MARGARET  
It's almost 11 AM.

CHAD  
Whoa, it's that late?

Derrick climbs out of bed.

MARGARET  
Yes, and checkout is in an hour. We don't want to be charged these rates for another night.

The guys use the bathroom and collect their belongings.

MARGARET  
(looking at the room)  
Cool. This room is far-out. All my men in one cave. What more could a girl want.

Derrick stumbles over and gives Margaret a hug and kiss.

MARGARET  
Yeah, I've calmed down. It's a new day. Let's have an adventure.

The guys finish packing and walk out the door.

## **Scene 12 – Laguna Seca**

EXT. DRIVING HIGHWAY 101 – NOON – CONTINUED

Show aerial view of van driving up Highway 101 and making the turn onto HIGHWAY 68 toward MONTEREY.

INT. VAN DRIVING HIGHWAY 68 – NOON – CONTINUED

Scenes of the four kids playing music and grooving.

Jerry is driving. Derrick is in the front passenger seat looking at a map.

DERRICK

Hey guys, Laguna Seca is coming up next.

CHAD AND MARGARET

What?

DERRICK

Laguna Seca. The racetrack. I've always wanted to see that. I vote that we go and check it out.

MARGARET

We need to be to Aunt Helen's by evening.

DERRICK

No problem. It's on the way.

SIGN is seen through windshield for Laguna Seca. Jerry makes the turn.

JERRY

Here we go.

EXT. DRIVING INTO LAGUNA SECA — NOON — CONTINUED

Show aerial view of van driving into Laguna Seca, around service road and into the pits.

There are many teams set up. A few cars are on the track. No one stops them from entering.

EXT. LAGUNA SECA PARKING LOT — NOON — CONTINUED

The van parks. Everyone piles out.

DERRICK

What's today?

JERRY

Thursday.

DERRICK

Cool. We're in luck. This must be a local race event scheduled for this weekend. Everyone is setting up today and taking practice runs. That means everything is open and no costs. Cowabunga.

CHAD AND JERRY

Cool.

The foursome walk around the pits seeing cars in various stages of preparation.

EXT. LAGUNA SECA BLEACHERS – NOON – CONTINUED

They walk toward the fence and sit in one of the empty bleachers to watch cars take practice runs.

JERRY

Anyone hungry?

DERRICK AND MARGARET

Yeah.

JERRY

Why don't the two of you stay here and we'll find something to bring back.

MARGARET

Thank you Jerry.

Jerry gets up to go. Chad is still sitting. Jerry takes Chad's arm to pull him up.

JERRY

Come on Chad. I need you to help me.

Chad looks puzzled, but gets up and walks with Jerry.

EXT. LAGUNA SECA FOOD COURT– NOON – CONTINUED

CHAD  
Why did you do that?

JERRY  
I think Margaret and Derrick  
need some time together . . .  
alone.

CHAD  
Oh, yeah.

Jerry and Chad order food at one of the food stands.

EXT. LAGUNA SECA BLEACHERS – NOON – CONTINUED

Chad and Jerry walk back up into the bleachers. Margaret  
and Derrick are deep in conversation. Jerry hands the food  
to them.

JERRY  
(to Derrick and Margaret)  
Chad and I are going to walk  
around a while. We'll be  
back.

Jerry and Chad turn around and head for the pits.

EXT. LAGUNA SECA PITS – NOON – CONTINUED

They slowly walk from station to station looking at  
everything.

Chad pulls out his cell phone and checks his message  
status.

JERRY  
Anything interesting?

CHAD  
Just the usual.

JERRY  
How much does one of those  
things cost?

CHAD  
I keep it under \$50.

JERRY  
Really? Even with all the  
porn calls you make!

CHAD  
What?

JERRY  
I heard you this morning.

CHAD  
Man, that's whacked.

JERRY  
Nobody could miss it. The  
moaning. The dirty talk. I  
bet you're the screamer. How  
much did you pay for her?

Jerry pokes Chad in the side.

CHAD  
Shut up Jerry.

JERRY  
Don't you know you pay for  
some old fat lady on the  
other end?

CHAD  
I don't pay.

JERRY  
What? How?

CHAD  
I just don't.

JERRY  
How do you do it?

CHAD  
Man, I don't need this.

Chad walks away. Jerry is left alone.

Jerry walks back to the bleachers.

EXT. LAGUNA SECA BASE OF BLEACHERS — LATE AFTERNOON —  
CONTINUED

As Jerry approaches, there is a commotion going on at the base of the bleachers. Margaret and Derrick hang over the edge to see what is happening.

A VET in a wheel chair is yelling. He is surrounded by a few REDNECKS who are yelling back. On the Vet's wheelchair are the BUMPER STICKERS, "Iraq Vets Against The War" and "Bush Lied."

VET  
Leave me alone.

REDNECKS  
You disgust me. Go back to  
Canada. You should have died  
like a man. Queer.

The Rednecks push the wheelchair around.

Margaret and Derrick run down the bleachers to the Vet. Jerry sees them and runs to them.

Margaret takes hold of the wheelchair handles and yells to the Rednecks.

MARGARET  
Leave the man alone.

REDNECKS  
Another liberal pinko. Get  
out of there bitch.

Derrick backs up Margaret. Margaret moves to the ear of the Vet.

MARGARET  
We're going to get you out of  
here.

Jerry gets in front of the Vet and pushes some of the Rednecks out of the way. Margaret and Derrick push the wheelchair. Jerry, Margaret, Derrick and Vet move quickly from the area to the parking lot and next to their van. The Rednecks do not follow.

EXT. LAGUNA SECA PARKING LOT — AFTERNOON — CONTINUED

JERRY

Man, that was close.

MARGARET

(to Vet)

Are you all right? Are you hurt?

VET

(begins to cry)

I didn't think it would be this bad.

(shakes his fist toward the racetrack)

Damn Bush and all the rest of the neo-cons. They put me in this wheelchair . . . just to get rich off oil.

Chad and Derrick stand back. Margaret bends down to the Vet, who is in his early twenties, to brush his hair away from his face. The Vet calms down and looks directly at Margaret.

VET

I'm so sorry.

The Vet tries to roll away but has little strength. Margaret stops him.

MARGARET

(to Vet)

My name is Margaret. There are my friends Jerry and Derrick.

Derrick and Jerry move forward to shake the Vet's hand.

VET

I'm Michael.

(he pauses and shakes their hands)

I'm glad you came by. I'm not sure how far the rednecks would have roughed me up. I'm really grateful for your help.



DERRICK

Margaret can't resist helping people in need . . . or stray animals.

MARGARET

Do you have friends here? Can we help you go somewhere?

VET

Oh, I'm sorry. I came by tram from my home in Monterey. It'll be back by evening.

Chad is seen running toward the van.

DERRICK

I don't think it's safe for you to stay . . . not with those signs.

(pointing at the bumper stickers)

VET

Like them? Just put them on today. Ha, I'll show them. But they showed me. Sometimes, I feel that I'm just too young for this all.

CHAD

(breathing heavy)

Is everything alright? I came as soon as I heard the fight.

(looking at the Vet)

Who's this?

MARGARET

Chad, this is Michael.

Vet extends his hand. Chad walks up and shakes it.

CHAD

So everything's alright?

JERRY

Oh yeah. Michael here  
decided to become Mr.  
Activist today. It almost  
killed him.

MICHAEL

Hey, I thought you guys were  
on my side.

JERRY

We're not on anybody's side.  
We just saved your neck.

MARGARET

(to the group)

Let's leave. We can take  
Michael back home on our way  
to Aunt Helen.

Everyone looks around at each other.

MARGARET

We've been here for hours. I  
think we've seen everything  
plus the track racing is  
almost over for today.

DERRICK

They do stop at sundown.

MICHAEL

I'd be much obliged.

DERRICK

Sure, why not. We're done  
here. Come on guys.

Derrick opens the van door, Chad and Jerry jump right in  
and they all hoist the wheel chair into the van. They all  
climb in. Chad is driving with Jerry in the front  
passenger seat. Michael is in the back with Derrick and  
Margaret.

EXT. VAN DRIVING OUT OF LAGUNA SECA — LATE AFTERNOON —  
CONTINUED

The van drives out to highway 68 toward Monterey. It winds through the hills.

INT. VAN ON HIGHWAY 68 — LATE AFTERNOON — CONTINUED

MARGARET

Michael, you were in Iraq?

MICHAEL

Yeah, at the beginning of the  
overthrown of Saddam Hassen.  
. . . was there for 2 tours  
of duty until the elections .  
. . that's when I was injured  
. . . the damn roadside  
mines.

MARGARET

What was it like?

Michael squirms.

DERRICK

Margaret, perhaps he does not  
want to talk about it.

MICHAEL

Oh, that's OK. I've been in  
a lot of therapy since I got  
back. At first I didn't want  
to talk about it, but now I  
feel people need to hear.

MARGARET

Hear what?

MICHAEL

That the whole thing in  
fucked up. I mean, we were  
told the Iraqi people would  
greet us a liberating army.  
Some did, but most spat at  
us, or worse, shot at us.  
Within a few short months, we  
mostly held out at the Green  
Zone and rarely ventured out.  
Those embedded journalist,  
they only saw what we wanted

them to see. They didn't see the daily fear or disgust we experienced . . . I was wounded when my Humvee was blown over by a mine . . . It wouldn't have happened if we were fully armored, but this was one of the early Humvees still in operation . . . when I got back to the states, I was really angry and wanted to blame somebody . . . I'll never walk again and wanted someone to pay . . . I really went through a head trip . . . I parroted anti-war slogans but felt that I was being manipulated, same as I was in the war. Everyone was using me. So I began reading, trying to find answers . . . I came to the conclusion that we have been lied to. No one will tell you where the oil money is going. It's impossible to find out . . .

(he looks around the van at everyone)

Really, go on-line, try to find anything written about the oil money. Many respected journalist are trying to find out, but no one is telling. That made me mad that I fought over oil for someone else's pocket and was told lies. But what I found most surprising was that I could not talk to anyone who was in the system . . . not my parents, not my military buddies or any of the Republicans or conservatives. They do not want facts. They believe without facts. That frightens me more than anything and has made me want

to tell the world- wake up,  
find out facts and fight for  
truth. Be honest. That's  
why I put the bumper stickers  
on my wheelchair today . . .  
and you see what happened.

Michael glances out the window and sees his street. He  
speaks to Chad.

MICHAEL (CONT.)

This is my street. Just make  
a right and I'm down two  
buildings . . . yeah, right  
here.

The van makes the corner and comes to a stop.

MICHAEL (CONT.)

I can't tell you how much I  
appreciate the help.

DERRICK

Maybe you will want to take  
those bumper stickers off and  
only put them on when you  
know it is safe.

Michael reaches into his BACKPACK and gives Derrick a  
BUTTON that says, "It is Patriotic to Ask."

MICHAEL

Keep asking.

Margaret extends her hand.

MARGARET

I'm glad we met you.

### **Scene 13 – Monterey and Pebble Beach**

EXT. VAN UNLOADING ON STREET OF MONTEREY – LATE AFTERNOON –  
CONTINUED

Chad, Jerry and Derrick help lift the wheelchair and  
Michael out of the van. They each give Michael a  
handshake.

Michael waves goodbye as he wheels up his walkway.  
Everyone climbs back in the van.

INT. VAN BACK ON HIGHWAY 68 — LATE AFTERNOON — CONTINUED

Chad is driving.

JERRY

Do you think he'll take off  
those bumper stickers?

DERRICK

No. He's a man of  
conviction. I'm sure his  
road will be tough.

EXT. VAN MONTEREY — LATE AFTERNOON — CONTINUED

The van winds through the city of MONTEREY into the city of  
CARMEL.

INT. VAN CARMEL — LATE AFTERNOON — CONTINUED

MARGARET

(pointing through the windshield)

Let's keep going to Pebble  
Beach for the sunset. It'll  
be beautiful. Then we can go  
to my aunt's.

EXT. VAN PEBBLE BEACH — NEAR SUNSET — CONTINUED

The van drives down to PEBBLE BEACH. The sun is low in the  
sky. It is a clear day and the surf is wild and a very  
strong wind has come up.

The van parks at one of the turnouts. Everyone climbs out.

CHAD

Whoa. That's strong.

Derrick cuddles Margaret from behind while their jackets  
blow in the wind.

JERRY

I hope it isn't like this all  
the time.

MARGARET

Oh no. The surfing side is  
over in Monterey. This is  
just beautiful.

A very strong GUST OF WIND comes up and catches Chad's  
JACKET. It blows open and is almost ripped off him. His  
shirt also pulls up and comes over his head. In doing so,  
his CELL PHONE goes flying, SMALL PLASTIC BAGS are pulled  
from inside his pants, and a BOOK OF MATCHES comes out.

Everyone scurries to catch the flying items. Derrick picks  
up the cell phone and hands it back to Chad. Margaret  
holds the plastic bags. Jerry has the Book of Matches.

MARGARET

Just what are these?

Chad reaches for them embarrassed and mad.

CHAD

Nothing.

MARGARET

(to Jerry and Derrick)

I told you. I thought he was  
using.

Margaret opens one of the bags but notices that it is sand.  
She holds some in her hand.

MARGARET

Sand?

CHAD

Yes. Sand.

(he plucks the bags from Margaret's  
hand)

Do you mind?

JERRY

Sand? Man, that's weird.

MARGARET

Yeah, that's weird. What's  
it really for?

CHAD

None of your business.

Chad walks over to the van, gets in, slams the door shut, pulls out his cell phone and can be seen talking.

Jerry absent-mindedly places the Book of Matches in his pocket.

JERRY

What's up with Chad? He's been on edge this entire trip.

MARGARET

He's dealing with some personal issues . . . I think it's time for us to go.

She looks at her watch and toward the van and sees that Chad is off the phone.

MARGARET

He's done, so let's go. We're still a bit early to arrive at my Aunt's since she works 'til 7. I know a great little restaurant to have dinner. Let's go there.

Derrick, Margaret and Jerry walk to the van and get in silently. The van drives off the short distance to ALEJO ITALIAN restaurant.

FADE OUT.

#### **Scene 14 – Alejo Italian Restaurant**

INT. ALEJO ITALIAN – SUNSET

The four are seated at a table EATING. They are very quiet.

Derrick tries to lighten up the dinner.

DERRICK

I would like to say that I've really enjoyed the trip so



far. I mean, we've saw great surfing at Pismo Beach. I know the Red Tide ruined surfing at Ventura, but it was fun to play in at night at Refugio; the way it sparkles.

JERRY

And who can forget the Caveman Room at the Madonna Inn.

DERRICK

And Laguna Seca was awesome . . . and free.

Chad does not perk up. Awkward silence.

MARGARET

I want to add that I've really enjoyed the quiet times while you boys were surfing. I got to walk and see the hills, the citrus orchards— quintessential California. And got time to think. Think about who I am, my future, my relationship with Derrick and all of you. I want to thank you for being my friends.

Jerry reaches for his WATER GLASS and knocks it over. Some of the water puts out the CANDLE VOTIVE on the table.

JERRY

Oops.

Derrick reaches in to help. A VERY CUTE WAITER comes by with new napkins and candle.

Jerry reaches into his pocket and pulls out the BOOK OF MATCHES he picked up at the beach that were Chad's. Jerry lights a match and uses it to light the Candle.

Jerry looks at the cover of the matches. It says "BOOM BOOM ROOM LAGUNA BEACH."

JERRY  
(looking at the matches)  
Boom Boom Room. Hey isn't  
that in Laguna? Chad, these  
blew out of your pocket.

Jerry tosses the matches to Chad. Chad freezes and looks  
at Margaret.

JERRY  
Hey, isn't that the gay bar?

Jerry turns his head toward Chad. Awkward silence.  
Jerry's face shows recognition.

JERRY  
(to Chad)  
You're gay, aren't you?  
That's what you've been  
hiding.

Awkward silence.

MARGARET  
Chad, just come clean, you'll  
feel better.

JERRY  
(to Margaret)  
You know?

DERRICK  
(to Chad)  
Man, you know we are your  
friends.

JERRY  
(to Derrick)  
You knew also?

CHAD  
(to Margaret)  
You told Derrick?

DERRICK  
Man, I've known since 3<sup>rd</sup>  
grade. I just wondered when

you would finely come out to  
your friends.

CHAD  
(to Derrick)  
And you didn't mind?

DERRICK  
No Chad, you're my good  
friend. Friends support each  
other. Besides, being gay is  
no big deal these days.

JERRY  
You all knew, and nobody told  
me.

MARGARET  
Jerry, you're a good boy.  
Considering your family, I  
don't think you would have  
had a clue about gay people.  
Yes, we've all know for a  
long time.

JERRY  
(to Chad)  
Is it true?

CHAD  
Yes.

JERRY  
I always thought that Chad  
was a stud, you know, the  
man. All he ever talks about  
is getting laid. I mean . .  
. he's the man.

MARGARET  
(to Jerry)  
It was a cover. Don't take  
it so hard.

Jerry is visibly disturbed and agitated by the news.

CHAD

Jerry, I mean, take it easy.  
I'm the one coming out. I'm  
the one who gets the drama,  
not you.

A few moments of silence go by. Jerry is subdued,  
thinking.

CHAD

(to Derrick)

You really knew, way back  
then.

DERRICK

It was always obvious to me.  
And when you and Margaret  
warmed up at Refugio, I  
figured she must have told  
her. She has that way with  
injured people. I just have  
one question. . . .

(pregnant pause)

What's with the sand?

Margaret, Derrick and Margaret laugh.

CHAD

It's for my boyfriend. He  
wanted me to pick up samples  
from each beach we visited.

DERRICK

You mean, the blonde guy we  
saw back home.

CHAD

Yep. Alex.

JERRY

You mean that old guy is your  
boyfriend?

CHAD

Alex's only 38.

JERRY

That's, that's 20 years older than you . . . Did he seduce you?

CHAD

Fuck no. I pursued him. He's just my type. Many of the guys we surf with are gay, but he's a catch. I talked to him, and went over to his place and bugged the hell out of him until he consented to go on a date. He said we had to wait until I turned 18. So, on my birthday, he ploughed me like the screaming bitch that I can be. It's great.

Derrick and Margaret laugh.

JERRY

But, he's so . . . old.

CHAD

He sometimes says that we shouldn't be together because he is so much older. But, I won't hear of it. He's what I want.

DERRICK AND MARGARET

This is great. This is great.

The Very Cute Waiter brings over the check.

MARGARET

(to Chad)

Isn't he cute?

Chad looks at the Very Cute Waiter.

CHAD

Yeah, cute, twink, not my type. I like real men.

Everyone laughs. Even Jerry has a smirk on his face.

FADE OUT.

**Scene 15 – Aunt’s House**

EXT. CARMEL HOUSE – NIGHT

The four of them are on the landing of a house RINGING the BELL. The door opens by AUNT HELEN who greets them and sheppard them in.

INT. CARMEL HOUSE – NIGHT – CONTINUED

Aunt Helen gives hugs to Margaret and handshakes to the boys.

AUNT HELEN

Are any of you hungry?

MARGARET

Thanks Aunt Helen. We just ate at Alejo’s. We’re beat and want to get up early in the morning to go surfing.

AUNT HELEN

Over here. I’ll show you your rooms.

Aunt Helen escorts them to their rooms. One room is for Margaret and Derrick. They enter and put their things on the bed.

INT. CARMEL HOUSE BACK ROOM – NIGHT – CONTINUED

Aunt Helen takes Chad and Jerry to the back room addition.

CHAD AND JERRY

Thanks ma’am.

Chad pulls out his cell phone. It does not work.

CHAD

Damn. It’s broken. Must be when it flew out of my pocket  
. . .

(sees Aunt Helen)  
May I use your phone? It's  
to call home.

AUNT HELEN  
There's one in each bedroom.

INT. CARMEL HOUSE BEDROOM – NIGHT – CONTINUED

Chad and Jerry walk to one of the bedrooms. Chad picks up  
the phone and dials. He looks at Jerry.

CHAD  
Jerry. It's a personal call.  
Would you mind?

JERRY  
Oh, no. No problem.

Jerry leaves the room and goes to the bedroom where Derrick  
and Margaret are situated.

INT. CARMEL HOUSE 2<sup>ND</sup> BEDROOM – NIGHT – CONTINUED

JERRY  
(to Derrick and Margaret)  
Nice room.

DERRICK  
Where's Chad?

JERRY  
Oh, he's making a phone call.  
Didn't want me in the room  
while he talked.

MARGARET  
Do you think Chad is coming  
out to his parents?  
(she looks at both boys)

Margaret reaches for the phone.

DERRICK  
No, Margaret.

MARGARET

He won't know. Besides,  
we're his friends. He needs  
us.

Margaret picks up the phone holding down the button then letting it up slowly so as not to be heard. Derrick and Jerry are making hand motions telling her not to pick up the phone. Margaret listens in.

CHAD (VO)

. . . but I want to be with  
you.

ALEX (VO)

I think it's best this way.  
I'm way too old for you.

Margaret caps the end of the phone and whispers to Derrick and Jerry.

MARGARET

(whispers)

It's Chad's boyfriend Alex.

CHAD (VO)

I don't care about age. You  
are the one I want. I want to  
be with you, no one else.  
(muffled cry)

ALEX (VO)

Chad. I'm doing it for your  
own good. I'll still see you  
down at the surf. You can  
still visit, but we can't be  
boyfriends.

CHAD (VO)

Please . . . but please.

Margaret hangs up the phone.

MARGARET

(to Derrick and Jerry)

Alex just broke up with Chad.



JERRY

What a bummer.

Just then a LOUD DOOR SLAM is heard throughout the house. Derrick, Margaret, and Jerry walk out into the hallway.

INT. CARMEL HOUSE HALLWAY— NIGHT — CONTINUED

They see the Aunt at the end of the hall facing the front door.

AUNT

He went storming out. Is something wrong?

MARGARET

Nothing to worry about Aunt Helen. I'm sure he'll be back in a couple of hours. He just needed to walk some steam off.

Margaret turns to Jerry and Derrick.

MARGARET

Might as well go to bed. He'll be back when he's ready. Don't say anything. We'll let him bring it up tomorrow.

FADE OUT.

### **Scene 16 — Monterey Bay Surfing**

EXT. MONTEREY BAY — EARLY MORNING.

Derrick, Chad and Jerry are surfing and having fun. They are near the pier where the other surfers are located. Everyone is wearing wet suits.

Derrick, Chad and Jerry exit the water and come up to Margaret who is sitting at a beach/table on the sand. Margaret gives each one a hot drink. They all put on heavy jackets over their swimsuits and wrap towels around their legs.

DERRICK

The surf was good.

JERRY AND CHAD

Yeah.

DERRICK

Shame we are leaving tomorrow  
to go back home.

Long silence.

DERRICK

I want to let you guys know  
that Margaret and I have  
decided that our relationship  
is . . . has changed. I  
still want her and she still  
wants me, we could see other  
people if we want . . . not  
that I want, I like the  
comfort knowing that she is  
there . . .

MARGARET

But I will not be so needy,  
or assuming . . .

DERRICK

That we are companions, maybe  
for life . . .

MARGARET

That we can depend on each  
other without me putting him  
the sole center of my life.

CHAD

Asshole.

Margaret is taken back.

CHAD

He dumped me. Said he's too  
old for me. Really, the  
problem is I'm too young for  
him. Jerk. Age didn't mater  
to me, but it did him. You

would think an older person  
with more experience would  
not care about age, but, no,  
"he's too old for me."  
Asshole. Men are slime.

MARGARET AND JERRY

Sorry to hear about that.

CHAD

Well, I'm looking forward to  
going to UC San Diego, away  
from Laguna men; they are so  
superficial. Fuckheads.

DERRICK

I know you all believe that  
everything goes smoothly in  
my life, but meeting Michael  
yesterday got me thinking.  
He's right, we are being  
used. If I go to ROTC, I'm  
using them to finance college  
so that they can use me for .  
. . whatever. I don't think  
I want to use or be used.  
When I get back, I'll decide  
about going to Michigan or  
not. Right now I just don't  
know. . . . Speaking of  
college, Jerry, what about  
you? Have you finally  
decided to go to college?

JERRY

Not that again, I've really  
enjoyed this trip; I think I  
could be a beach bum. But,  
man, when you mentioned going  
back home, I just see my  
looser father and I just  
don't see the point. What  
did college ever do for him?  
But get a lousy job and a  
religious nutcase of a wife.  
It's going to be awful when I  
get back.

MARGARET

Let's not think about that  
just yet. Why don't you guys  
surf again before we leave?

DERRICK

Come on guys. One more time  
before we start back down.

The guys take off their jackets, pick up their boards and head for the water. Most of the other surfers have left leaving wide-open water for their use. As usual, Derrick is confident, Chad is a daredevil, and Jerry is cautious.

They guys are sitting on their boards within speaking distance.

CHAD

(to Derrick)

Come on. I'll race you.

A big swell comes up. Chad begins to paddle. Derrick joins in. The two surf near the pier. Unexpectedly, Derrick veers into the pier. Chad surfs all the way to the shore and looks back to find Derrick. He puts down his board and runs under the pier looking for Derrick.

Jerry also comes to shore puts down his board and runs under the pier.

Near the far side of the pier, Derrick is seen lying face down in the sand. Chad reaches him and turns him over. There is a large gash near his hip. Derrick is not breathing and there is no pulse. Jerry runs up.

CHAD

(to Jerry)

Do you know CPR?

JERRY

(to Chad)

Move over. Apply pressure to  
his hip to stop the bleeding.  
I'll do the CPR.

Jerry begins CPR, alternating between chest press and mouth-to-mouth.

JERRY

Come on. Come on.

Margaret runs up.

CHAD

(to Margaret)

Go get help.

Margaret stops, looks, and runs back up the beach. Jerry continues CPR.

JERRY

Come on man. You're not  
going to die on me. You're  
not going to die.

Derrick coughs and sputters but does not open his eyes. PARAMEDICS arrived and take over. Jerry, Chad, and Margaret huddle in a group off to the side as the Paramedics take the stretcher up the beach.

FADE OUT.

**ENDING A — DERRICK DIES**

**Scene 17A — Derrick' House**

EXT. DERRICK'S HOUSE FRONT DOOR — MORNING.

Chad and Jerry stand at the front door of Derrick's house. They RING the doorbell. It is very hot July day. They are wearing tank tops and shorts. DERRICK'S MOTHER opens the door.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Hello boys. I'm so glad you  
could come. Come right in.

The boys enter. She gives each a long hug.

INT. DERRICK'S HOUSE ENTRY — MORNING — CONTINUED

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
His room is this way.

INT. DERRICK'S HOUSE DERRICK'S BEDROOM — MORNING —  
CONTINUED

Derrick's Mother leads the way to Derrick's room. She opens the door. There is a pile of empty boxes to the side of the bed.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
I'm so very grateful that you  
are doing this for me.  
Please, please, take anything  
you wish. I'm sure that is  
what he would have wanted.  
Everything else, pack up and  
take it to the garage.  
(Derrick's Mother holds back from  
crying)  
I just couldn't do it . . .  
but it is best for us all if  
his belongings were no longer  
in the house. The memories  
are too strong.

Derrick's Mother leaves.

CHAD

Do you see anything you want?

JERRY

No, not in particular.

(while he fingers a few items on the shelves)

They begin to pack up boxes and carrying them to the garage. They move his bed and surfboard.

INT. DERRICK'S GARAGE – MORNING – CONTINUED

Inside the garage, they pile the boxes, bed and furniture.

Derrick's Mother enters carrying a SUITCASE.

DERRICK'S MOTHER

Jerry, please take his surfboard.

JERRY

Oh, no, I can't. I already have one.

DERRICK'S MOTHER

Please. He actually mentioned to me once that he wanted his best friend to have his surfboard in case . . . Please take it.

Jerry walks to the BOARD, touches it gently, and then picks it up. He exits the side door to place it on his car.

DERRICK'S MOTHER

(to Chad)

Please take some things. Derrick would have wanted it.

Chad picks up a baseball. Jerry returns to the garage.

DERRICK'S MOTHER

Jerry, please put this up on the top shelf.

Jerry grabs the suitcase, hoists it over his head and the CONTENTS fall out. Derrick's clothes fall out over Jerry and onto the floor. Out falls a small PACKAGE wrapped in CHRISTMAS PAPER.

Derrick's Mother reaches for the package. She looks at the LABEL.

Derrick's Mother hands the package to Jerry.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Here, it's addressed to you.

JERRY  
What?

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
That was his suitcase he had  
on the trip.

Jerry rips the paper and opens the package. Inside is the dolphin FIGURINE with a Santa Claus riding on it with the name Carpenteria printed on the side.

JERRY  
But, but . . . I showed this  
to him at Santa's Candy  
Kitchen . . . he must have  
bought it for me to give  
later . . . I, I . . .

Jerry begins to cry. Derrick's mother walks over and holds him. She also cries. Chad is also overwhelmed, and turns his head away to cry.

JERRY  
Oh God, this has been so  
terrible. What will I do  
without my best friend?

Long pause.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
We go on. We'll never forget  
him. We must honor him and  
go onto a wonderful life. . .  
Thank you for being his  
friend . . .



(she looks over to Chad)  
for being his friends.

Chad and Jerry regain their composure and leave.

FADE OUT.

**Scene 18A – Jerry’s House and Beach**

INT. JERRY’S HOUSE – MORNING.

RING, RING.

Jerry answers the door and Chad is standing there in swimsuit and towel.

CHAD  
Come on. Let’s go to the beach?

JERRY  
Aww, I don’t feel like it.

CHAD  
You’ve said that all summer. In two weeks, school begins and I won’t be here. So, come on.

JERRY  
I’ve given up surfing. I gave my board away.

CHAD  
You still have Derrick’s board, don’t you?

JERRY  
Yeah.

CHAD  
Well?

JERRY  
I just couldn’t.

CHAD  
Fuck it man. We're going.  
Where's the board?

JERRY  
Alongside the house . . .  
but I'm not going.

EXT. JERRY'S HOUSE SIDE — MORNING — CONTINUED

Chad walks to the side of the house, gets the BOARD, puts it on top of his car along with his board and returns to the door. The front door is left open and Chad walks in.

INT. JERRY'S HOUSE BEDROOM — MORNING — CONTINUED

Chad opens Jerry's bedroom door, grabs the SWIMSUIT that is hanging on the doorknob and throws it into Jerry's face.

CHAD  
Come on. We're going.

JERRY  
I, I . . .

Jerry stands up and walks out with Chad.

EXT. CHAD'S CAR — MORNING — CONTINUED

Chad's car is seen driving to the beach.

EXT. LAGUNA BEACH — MORNING, VERY FOGGY — CONTINUED

The boys exit from the car, pick up their boards, and scan the horizon. There are very few surfers out since the water is unusually calm. The fog is dense. They carry their boards to the water's edge and paddle out.

Chad and Jerry sit on their boards within speaking distance.

JERRY  
You're really leaving next  
week for UC San Diego?

CHAD  
Can't wait.

JERRY

I, I, was also accepted.

CHAD

What?

JERRY

I never told anyone, but I was accepted to UC San Diego.

CHAD

That's great. Are you going to go?

JERRY

So much has changed this summer.

Chad begins to paddle.

CHAD

It's mine.

Chad rides the wave in.

Jerry is left alone. A group of dolphins come around. The group of dolphins swell in numbers and swim under Jerry's feet. One dolphin, with a WHITE SPLOTCH on its face, pokes its head out of the water and stares at Jerry. After a very long time, the dolphin dips back down into the water, rolls on its back exposing its belly to Jerry. Jerry reaches out and strokes the dolphin. Jerry enjoys that he can do this.

CHAD (VO)

(yelling from a distance on his board)  
Hey, Flipper.

Jerry looks up half expecting to see Derrick.

CHAD (VO)

(yelling)  
Hey Flipper.

Jerry looks toward Chad. Chad points at Jerry.

CHAD

You. Flipper.

Jerry looks down at the dolphin and gets an overwhelming flood of emotions. Tears start flowing down Jerry's face.

JERRY

Why, why you? God, I miss  
you. You had everything  
going your way. And then . .  
. Awggh. Shit, shit, shit.  
(he beats the surfboard)

Memories flood Jerry's mind. He remembers Derrick laughing, showing him the Figurine at Santa's Candy Kitchen, and the talk they had at Refugio. Jerry remembers Margaret's finger-cutting ritual *Yubi-tsume* and her words "sacrifice." Jerry remembers the Iraq Vet Michael's words "Be honest." Derrick's words, "I want you to promise that you will go to college . . . Do you promise?" come back to haunt Jerry.

The dolphin with the white splotch comes back up and places its beak under Jerry's hand. Jerry stares into the dolphin's face.

JERRY

Derrick? Derrick?

The dolphin does not move. Jerry strokes the dolphin's beak. Then in a moment, all the dolphins swim away. Chad paddles over.

CHAD

Are you OK?

Jerry looks refreshed.

JERRY

Never better.

Long pause.

JERRY

Hey, do you want a roommate?

Chad takes a moment to take in the implication of the statement.

CHAD  
Alright. Cool. We'll be  
college buds.

Jerry stokes his surfboard.

JERRY  
Thanks Flipper.

FADE OUT.

**THE END (Ending A)**

**ENDING B – DERRICK PARALYZED**

**Scene 17B – Hospital**

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM– DAY.

Margaret, Chad and Jerry are seen sitting in the HOSPITAL waiting room. The rest of the room is empty. Margaret's Aunt Helen enters.

Margaret runs to Aunt Helen and throws her arms around her.

MARGARET  
(crying)  
Oh, Aunt Helen. It's  
terrible. It's terrible.

Aunt Helen looks toward the boys.

CHAD  
He hit one of the pylons at  
the pier. It was an  
accident.

Jerry does not move. He is really out of it.

A DOCTOR walks in carrying a clipboard.

DOCTOR  
(to Aunt Helen and Margaret)  
We've reached his parents.  
They will be flying up later  
today. Derrick is stable and  
resting. He has a broken  
pelvis and shattered left hip  
socket. There seems to be no  
other injuries. You will be  
able to see him in a short  
while.

MARGARET  
Broken?

DOCTOR  
I want to add that who ever  
gave him CPR and mouth-to-  
mouth saved his life.

Chad and Margaret look toward Jerry. Jerry does not react.

AUNT HELEN

How will Derrick come out of this?

DOCTOR

He will be in the hospital for a couple of months, then in therapy for almost a year. Typically, with these kinds of injuries, the patient will recover, but paralyzed from the waist down. If he is extremely lucky, he may be able to walk with braces.

AUNT HELEN

Oh, dear. But he was so athletic.

DOCTOR

He's a strong boy. That's what saved him. The injuries could have been much worse and he could have died.

MARGARET

He won't be able to walk?

(pause)

No!

(she cries more)

FADE OUT.

### **Scene 18B – Derrick' House**

EXT. DERRICK'S HOUSE FRONT DOOR – MORNING.

Jerry stand at the front door of Derrick's house. It is October, a house across the street has HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS. Jerry is wearing jeans and a jacket and his hair is noticeably longer. He RING'S the doorbell. DERRICK'S MOTHER opens the door.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Oh, hello Jerry. I'm so glad  
you could come. Come right  
in. How are you?

JERRY  
(in low voice)  
OK.

Jerry enters and she gives him a long hug.

INT. DERRICK'S HOUSE ENTRY - MORNING - CONTINUED

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
His room is this way.

INT. DERRICK'S HOUSE DERRICK'S BEDROOM - MORNING -  
CONTINUED

Derrick's Mother leads the way to Derrick's room. She  
opens the door. There is a pile of empty boxes to the side  
of the bed.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Derrick will be coming home  
soon. We need to rearrange  
the room and move stuff out  
so he can get his . . .  
wheelchair in.  
(Derrick's Mother holds back from  
crying)  
Here, and here . . .  
(pointing at some furniture)  
takes those to the garage.

Derrick's Mother leaves.

INT. DERRICK'S GARAGE - MORNING - CONTINUED

Inside the garage, Jerry piles the boxes and furniture.

Derrick's Mother enters carrying a SUITCASE. She puts it  
down on the ground next to her.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Jerry, may I talk with you.

Jerry does not respond back.



DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Derrick has really missed you  
these past months.

JERRY  
I, I, I've moved out from my  
parents and have a new job.  
It's hard to get away.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Oh, I didn't know that.

JERRY  
It's nothing really. A shit  
job at In-and-Out. I just  
had to get out. I live a  
block from the beach.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Well, I didn't know. Derrick  
would love to see you. He's  
quite alone now with Chad and  
Margaret both off to college.

Silent pause between them. Jerry is embarrassment from  
neglecting his best friend.

Derrick's Mother pushes the suitcase toward Jerry.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Jerry, please put this up on  
the top shelf.

Jerry grabs the suitcase, hoists it over his head and the  
CONTENTS fall out. Derrick's clothes fall out over Jerry  
and onto the floor. Out falls a small PACKAGE wrapped in  
CHRISTMAS PAPER.

Derrick's Mother reaches for the package. She looks at the  
LABEL.

Derrick's Mother hands the package to Jerry.

DERRICK'S MOTHER  
Here, it's addressed to you.

JERRY

What?

DERRICK'S MOTHER

That was his suitcase he had  
on the trip.

Jerry rips the paper and opens the package. Inside is the  
Dolphin FIGURINE with a Santa Claus riding on it with the  
name Carpentaria printed on the side.

JERRY

But, but . . . I showed this  
to him at Santa's Candy  
Kitchen . . . he must have  
bought it for me to give  
later . . . I, I . . .

Jerry begins to cry. Derrick's mother walks over and holds  
him. She also cries.

JERRY

Oh God, this has been so  
terrible. What will I do?

Long pause.

DERRICK'S MOTHER

Please come visit. He really  
needs you.

FADE OUT.

### **Scene 19B – Derrick' Rehabilitation**

EXT. DERRICK'S HOUSE BACKYARD – DAY.

Show a number of quick scenes of Jerry, and occasionally  
Derrick's Mother, in the back yard helping Derrick to stand  
up and use leg braces. There is a parallel bar contraption  
that Derrick uses to hold himself up while taking steps.

Show a progression from 1<sup>st</sup> failure, to a step, another  
failure, to two steps, and another failure.

Show Derrick dejection, increased hope, anger, and more.

By the end of the sequence show Derrick making it to the end of the parallel bars, but still not able to do it on his own.

The sequence should show the passage of time by the changes in daylight hours, changes in clothes and changes in weather.

Two months should pass ending with Christmas.

### **Scene 20B – Jerry’s Apartment at Christmas**

INT. JERRY’S APARTMENT – EVENING.

The interior of Jerry’s apartment has stairs leading to the second floor. There is a CHRISTMAS WREATH on the inside of the front door. It is a small single apartment located 1 block from the ocean. Inside is a very small Christmas tree. There is the heavy scent of cooking.

RING, RING.

Jerry comes bounding down the stairs. He opens the door to greet Margaret, Chad, and Derrick in wheelchair.

JERRY

Howdy!!

MARGARET, CHAD, AND DERRICK

Merry Christmas

JERRY

Come on. Come on in.

Chad and Jerry pick up Derrick and carry him upstairs. Margaret holds the wheelchair and carries it up behind the boys. Upstairs, the boys place Derrick in the wheelchair.

Jerry hugs Margaret.

JERRY

So good to see you.

Jerry gives Chad a handshake.

JERRY

Chad, you’re looking good.

JERRY  
(to all)  
Come, sit. I've made  
munchies. What do you all  
want to drink.

Jerry moves to the kitchen area.

CHAD  
Beer.

DERRICK  
Coke.

MARGARET  
Diet Coke.

Chad sits down while Margaret mills around looking at everything. She finds the Figurine.

MARGARET  
Hey, here's that Santa riding  
the dolphin. I remember  
Derrick said to keep it a  
secret.

She holds the Figurine up for everyone to see.

JERRY  
Tacky, I know.

CHAD  
Nothing like the Madonna Inn!

DERRICK  
That was something.

Jerry brings over the drinks. Margaret sits down in a chair next to Derrick and places the Figurine on the coffee table. He reaches out and holds her hand.

JERRY  
Here, take your drink.

Jerry hoists his drink into the air.

JERRY

A toast. Merry Christmas and  
to a new and better year.

ALL

Yeah. To Christmas. A new  
year.

CHAD

(to Jerry)

I really like your pad, man.  
Living, on your own. Must be  
bitch'n. You can have over  
girls anytime you want.

JERRY

(half-heartedly)

Yeah, bitch'n. What about  
you? You're away at college.  
You must be able to have  
girls . . . ah . . . guys  
over.

CHAD

With Chesteer, the dweeb of a  
straight guy I share a dorm  
room with? Real bummer. I  
tried going to the gay  
student group, but it's a  
bunch of losers . . . and  
twinks. No surfers. I want  
a real man. That's why I'm  
hoping we can stop by the  
Boom Boom Room on our way  
home tonight?

Chad looks toward Derrick and Margaret for approval. They  
ignore him.

JERRY

So your parents are cool  
about it?

CHAD

Still haven't told them.

MARGARET

Not yet. How could they miss it? Why my dog knew you were gay the first time he met you.

CHAD

So that explains why he humps my leg every time I come over.

(everyone laughs)

They probably know, but just don't want to acknowledge it. Besides, they are paying for college and I don't want to mess that up.

MARGARET

(she pulls her hand away from Derrick using her hands in animated speech)

Oh, oh. I want to announce that this semester at the University of Michigan, I not only participated in, but also organized an anti-war rally on campus.

DERRICK, JERRY, CHAD

No, really.

MARGARET

Remember meeting Michael this summer at Laguna Seca? . . . you know, the Iraq Vet we met?

DERRICK, JERRY, CHAD

Yeah.

MARGARET

That got me thinking and when I got to campus, I just had to find out more. My political science teacher use to march in the Vietnam protests and made it a class assignment to volunteer with one of the political groups

on campus. Well, FAW,  
Feminist Against the War,  
really kicked butt and I had  
to belong. Oh, oh, what's  
more, I've been selected to  
represent the organization in  
Washington DC as part of the  
campus outreach. I'm going  
to be transferring to  
American University next year  
. . . and its all paid for by  
FAW.

Derrick is in shock.

CHAD

You go girl!

JERRY

That's great.

Pause

JERRY

I want you to all see how  
much progress Derrick has  
made.

Jerry looks toward Derrick. Derrick cringes.

JERRY

Come on Derrick. Here, I'll  
help.

Jerry gets in front of Derrick to help him out of his  
wheelchair.

DERRICK

No. No.

Derrick pushes Jerry's arms away.

JERRY

Ok. Ok.

(as he sits back down)

We've gotten him to stand  
with the use of leg braces  
and take a few steps. We

expect that he will be able  
to stand soon without braces.  
Hopefully, he will walk  
without braces this coming  
year.

Jerry beams toward Derrick. Derrick's eyes begin to  
moisten.

DERRICK

It's been so hard.

Jerry takes both of Derrick's hands into his hands.

JERRY

Man, that's what friends are  
for.

DERRICK

Thank you.

JERRY

No, thank you. After your  
accident, I was lost. I  
fought with my parents all  
the time and finally moved  
out. I just couldn't . . .  
couldn't come see you. It  
was too depressing. But this  
life, in this apartment,  
sucks. All I do is work my  
shit job just to pay rent.

(turning to Chad)

Girls? Girls? What girls?  
Who has the time or energy or  
money to date? I mean, I  
never get ahead.

(turning back to Derrick)

But the day I helped move  
your stuff into the garage,  
that day I knew you were much  
more important than this  
life. I'm there for you bud.  
You help give my life  
meaning.



MARGARET  
(to Chad)  
Do you have your cell phone?

Chad nods.

MARGARET  
May I borrow it? I need to  
call home.

CHAD  
Sure.

Chad hands his cell phone to Margaret who stands up and  
walks to the kitchen area for a semi-private conversation.

CHAD  
I say that next summer, when  
I'm home from school the  
three of us go on another  
road trip. What'll you say?

Derrick smiles.

JERRY  
We'll see.

Margaret walks back.

MARGARET  
I need to go. Both Chad and  
I just got into town. My  
family expects me for home  
for Christmas Eve.

Derrick reaches for Margaret's hand. She pulls it away and  
puts it on his shoulder.

CHAD  
Ah, well, OK. I'll go get  
the van.

Chad gets up to go. Jerry stands and walks him to the  
door. Jerry then walks to the kitchen area to put some  
things away.

Margaret and Derrick have a semi-private conversation.

DERRICK  
(to Margaret)  
I'm so glad you came home.  
I've missed you.

Margaret drops her head and brings it back up slowly.

MARGARET  
Derrick. I'll get to the  
point. I'm going to  
American University. I want  
a career in politics. I, I  
. . . We . . . It's time for  
us to go our separate ways.  
I loved you but . . . I must  
be honest. I can't be with a  
cripple. I'm sorry. It's  
just who I am.

Margaret pulls away and stands up. Derrick is shocked and  
says nothing. Chad returns. Margaret rushes down the  
stairs and out of the apartment.

CHAD  
What?

Derrick takes his soda can and throws it toward the door  
after Margaret.

DERRICK  
Fuck. Get out of here.

Jerry sits next to Derrick.

JERRY  
Man, you can stay here  
tonight.

DERRICK  
Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.

Jerry stands and walks to Chad.

JERRY  
(to Chad)  
Take Margaret home. Derrick  
will stay here with me

tonight. Call his parents  
and let them know, will you?

CHAD

OK.

(turning to Derrick)

See you later?

(turning to Jerry)

Thanks man. You're a real  
friend. I'll see you before  
I leave.

Chad leaves and the door shuts.

DERRICK

Fuck. I loose my legs, I  
loose my girls. Why? Why  
me?

Jerry takes him in his arms. Derrick begins to sob.

DERRICK (CONT)

What did I do wrong?

Jerry holds Derrick while he sobs and rocks gently while  
staring out the window at the Christmas lights outside.

FADE OUT.

### **Scene 21B – Laguna Beach Christmas Morning**

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT – CHRISTMAS MORNING.

Jerry rocks Derrick awake.

JERRY

Come on man. Time to get up.  
It's Christmas morning.

Derrick MOANS.

JERRY

Come on. I have something to  
show you.

Derrick opens is eyes. Jerry throws wet suits on the bed.

JERRY

We're going surfing.

DERRICK

What the hell.

JERRY

I mean it. We, you and I,  
are going down to the beach  
to surf.

DERRICK

That's a sick joke.

JERRY

No, no. This is going to be  
your Christmas present to me.  
Now, put on your wet suit.

Jerry comes over and helps.

JERRY

We'll just lay you on the  
board. You can paddle out.  
We'll ride back. I'll be  
right with you, man.

FADE OUT.

EXT. LAGUNA BEACH — MORNING — CONTINUED

Jerry is in wet suit standing next to Derrick who is in wet suit and sitting in wheelchair at the TABLE located at the end of the parking lot and the edge of the sand. A surfboard is on the ground. It is a clear morning with only 3 other surfers out. The waves are small and the water is unusually still.

Jerry walks the surfboard down to the water, comes back and rolls Derrick's wheelchair along the harder packed sand to the water's edge. Sand pipers dash along the water's edge. Jerry picks up Derrick and carries him out to the surf at waist height and lets him go. Derrick treads water.

DERRICK

Woo, this is cold.

Jerry walks back for the surfboard. He brings it to Derrick and helps him roll on. He helps guide the board out into the water while Derrick paddles.

DERRICK

Man, this feels good.

A small wave comes in, Derrick paddles, catches it and rides it in on his stomach. Jerry swims behind to catch up. In the white water, Derrick flounders, but then Jerry helps him back on the board to paddle out.

DERRICK

Woo, that's going to take some getting used to.

Derrick paddles back out with Jerry in tow.

There is a lull in the waves.

JERRY

Derrick, I've been thinking. I want to go to college next fall . . . and I would like you to come along.

DERRICK

College?

JERRY

Yeah, together. I mean, we can both make a future with an education. If we go to UC San Diego, there'll be Chad and we can surf.

DERRICK

Man, I don't know. I'd hold you back.

JERRY

You're getting stronger every day. I'd feel better if you were there.

Derrick looks around.

JERRY

I'll body surf in and wait  
for you.

Jerry leaves, catches a wave and rides in. He stands in the white water waiting for Derrick.

A group of dolphins congregate around Derrick. The dolphin with the WHITE SPLOTCH on its face surfaces and stares at Derrick. It is a long stare and Derrick reaches out. He strokes the beak of the dolphin.

JERRY (VO)

Hey Flipper. Hey Flipper.

Derrick looks up and sees Jerry waving. He looks back at the dolphin who seems to give a nod. Derrick breaks into cries of joy and cries of anguish. The dolphin slowly lowers back into the water. Derrick catches the next wave and rides back on his stomach. Jerry catches him in the white water.

DERRICK

That's enough for today.

Derrick is all smiles. Jerry picks him up and puts him in the wheelchair. They stand looking at the water. Jerry has his hand on Derrick's shoulder.

DERRICK

OK. College in the fall.  
We'll be roommates. But Chad  
has got to have his own  
space.

They both laugh.

**THE END (Ending B)**

# HEY FLIPPER

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## Characters

### **Derrick, aka "Flipper"**

(Think- young Colin Farrell)

Tall, thin, good-looking athletic 18-year old high school senior. Captain of the basketball team, class president, good student. Has strong sense of what he wants to do in life and does "everything right." Not judgmental. Somewhat emotionally restrictive. Everything is going his way. He is joining ROTC to pay for college and has girlfriend Margaret.

### **Margaret**

(Think- comedian Margaret Cho.)

Girlfriend to Derrick. Also 18 years old. Half Caucasian and half Asian. Father was military man in Okinawa and got local prostitute pregnant. She has mostly Asian features but with blue eyes. Very loud. Could be mistaken for stereotypical fag hag. The tip of her left hand pinkie finger is missing.

### **Jerry**

(Think- Jerry O'Connell in *Calendar Girl*.)

Average guy with lack of ambition. Good looking 18-year old. Closest friend to Derrick. Did well in high school, but uncertain if he wants to go on to college. Somewhat naïve about life.

### **Chad**

(Think- Jason Priestley in *Calendar Girl*.)

Stunningly good looking 18-year old friend of Derrick, Margaret and Jerry. Has classic California surfer dude looks. Very out-going who takes great chances. Although he constantly makes overt heterosexual sexual comments, is closeted and has not come out gay.

### **Michael**

Iraq vet in wheelchair. In early 20s with average length hair.

### Small Rolls

**Jerry's Father**— Boring, bookish. Think of father in American Pie.

**Jerry's Mother**— Very religious. Stern woman.

**Margaret's Father**— Tall. older white man with blue eyes.

**Margaret's Mother**— Shorter, typical white American woman.

**Derrick's Mother** —



**Blonde Surfer (Alex)**— Man in late 30s with chiseled body and blonde hair. Is stereotypical older California surfer. Does phone voice over.

**Non-speaking rolls**

**Couple on beach Scene 1**— Stunningly good-looking heterosexual couple in small swimsuits.

**Boys at School**— Come by to slap hands High-five.

**Jerry's Brother**— Irritating younger brother.

**Two Elegant Ladies**—

**Two Very Good Looking Men**—

**Two More Very Good Looking Men**—

**Very Cute Waiter**— Teenage boy.

**Paramedics**—

## **Synopsis**

Jerry, an 18-year-old high school senior, is unsure about what to do with his life after graduation. He and his surfing friends decide to take one more road trip to many California surfing spots before they all split to go their own way. The trip has many memorable adventures. By the end of the trip, Jerry learns self-worth and overcomes his insecurities, and decides to attend college for a better future.

## Treatment

Four high-school friends decide to take a road trip after graduation to visit many California surf sites before they split to go their own way. Derrick is the high school basketball captain and class president who has decided to attend ROTC at the University of Michigan. His girlfriend, Margaret, plans to go with him. Derrick's best friend is Jerry who is very smart but indecisive about his future. Chad is the third friend of their surfing group who plans to go to UC San Diego.

Derrick's nickname is "Flipper" because often when he surfs, dolphins encircle him. One dolphin, in particular, allows him to pet it— something that is unheard of in the wild.

The first day of the trip begins with excellent surfing at Seal Beach early in the morning. When they go to leave, Chad is found to be talking mysteriously with an older blonde male surfer who gives him some plastic bags containing an unknown white substance.

They drive up the coast and lunch at Santa's Candy Kitchen on Santa Claus Lane in Carpinteria. There, Jerry sees a porcelain figurine of a Santa Claus riding a dolphin. He wants to buy it, but decides against it. It reminds him of Derrick. Chad is seen talking mysteriously on his cell phone and sniffing the white powder in the plastic bags. Margaret confronts Chad about drug use. He reveals that the bag contains only "Lifesavers." This sets up an animosity between Chad and Margaret.

They continue up to Ventura beach where they cannot enter the water due to Red Tide. They decide to go on farther to Refugio State Beach located above Santa Barbara. Unfortunately, Red Tide there also makes surfing impossible. Being nightfall, they discover that Red Tide makes the water sparkle when the waves crash or when wet sand is walked on. It makes it a magical night and hurt feelings between Chad and Margaret are soothed over. Derrick comforts Jerry after he has an angry phone call to his parents. Derrick gets Jerry to promise to move away from home and go to college.

The second day begins with the foursome waking up along Refugio Canyon Road next to citrus orchards. They load up

the van and head for Pismo Beach. The surfing is great at Pismo Beach. They leave, hoping to reach San Luis Obispo by nightfall, but instead stop earlier at the Madonna Inn for dinner and rooms.

Two Lipstick Lesbians eat dinner next to the group and that causes Chad to make rude comments. Margaret does not tolerate the negative behaviors and proceed to tell the guys about her experiences as an Amerasian born in Shanghai and the subsequent discrimination she experienced. She further explains that she has tried to rid herself of her addictive personality through the ritual of Yubi-tsume. She tells in great detail the story of cutting off the end of her pinky finger as an act of sacrifice. Chad insults Margaret and she retires for the night. The boys get their own room, the "Caveman" room.

Day three finds Chad in the bathroom masturbating while on his cell phone. He is overheard by Jerry who says nothing at first. The group leaves the Inn and continues on the road. As they approach Laguna Seca, they decide to drop in just to see the facilities. Unbeknownst to them, racing teams are setting up for the weekend races. As such, they can walk around and see the pits plus view practice runs on the racetrack without any restriction or payment.

At Laguna Seca, they help a Veteran of the Iraq wars, who is in a wheelchair, escape from some Rednecks. They take him to their van and decide to take him back home in Monterey. The Vet tells his story giving the moral to be honest to yourself and to question authority.

After dropping the Vet off in Monterey, they continue to Pebble Beach at sundown. A strong wind whips Chad's jacket off strewn his cell phone, plastic bags, and a matchbook. Jerry picks up the matchbook and places it in his pocket. The group goes to dinner. At dinner, the matchbook comes out to light a candle and that is when it is discovered to be from a gay bar. Chad is confronted about being gay and he confesses. Margaret and Derrick already knew or suspected since he was a child. For Jerry this is new news and has some difficulty adjusting. Chad also reveals that the plastic bags only contained sand from each beach. His boyfriend in Seal Beach asked for him to gather a sample at each place they visited. The group finds this amusing.

After dinner, the group goes to spend the night at Margaret's Aunt Helen's house in Carmel. Setting in for

the night, Margaret overhears a phone call by Chad. She hears Chad's boyfriend dump Chad. Chad is devastated and rushes out of the house angry.

On the forth day, the group drives a few miles from the Aunt's house and surf at Monterey Bay. It is good surfing. When the boys go back to the water for one more time, Derrick accidentally hits a pylon at the pier and is injured. Jerry performs CPR and mouth-to-mouth while Chad applied pressure and Margaret gets help. Paramedics arrive and take Derrick away.

(there have been two different endings written for the screenplay)

#### ENDING A (Derrick dies)

A month after Derrick dies, Jerry and Chad are asked by Derrick's mother to help clean out his room. It is emotionally difficult, particularly after the dolphin Figurine from Santa's Kitchen is discovered. Evidently, Derrick had bought it for Jerry to be given at Christmas.

Near the end of the summer, Chad forces Jerry to go surfing. While surfing, the dolphins surround Jerry. The special dolphin allows Jerry to touch it. That encourages Chad to call out to Jerry that he is the new "Flipper." Emotions overtake Jerry and he decides to honor his commitment to Derrick by going to college.

#### ENDING B (Derrick paralyzed)

At the hospital, the doctor discloses that Derrick broke his pelvis and left hip socket. That he will live, but probably never walk, or surf, again.

In late October, Derrick's mother asks Jerry to come over to help prepare Derrick's room for his return in a wheelchair. Jerry had moved out of his house, taken an apartment at the beach and had not been seeing his friend. In putting the suitcase away in the garage, the dolphin Figurine from Santa's Kitchen falls out. Both Jerry and the mother break down in tears and Jerry promises to be a better friend to Derrick.

Over a two-month period, we see Jerry helping Derrick with his physical therapy. Derrick has improved to the point where he can stand with leg braces and take a few steps.

At Christmas time, Chad and Margaret return home from college and immediately pick up Derrick with his wheelchair and visit Jerry at his apartment. Everyone catches up on what has been going on in his or her lives. Margaret tells Derrick that she is breaking up with him. He is devastated and spends the night at Jerry's apartment.

On Christmas morning, Jerry forces Derrick to go surfing. Of course, Derrick can only ride the board on his stomach. Jerry helps him. Jerry also tells his plans to go to college and asks Derrick to go with him. Derrick does not know how to respond.

While Derrick is floating out in the ocean, a group of dolphins surround him. The one special one comes up to him and has him pet it. Jerry calls out "Hey Flipper" to Derrick. Derrick is overcome by the joy of it all. When he gets back to shore, he tells Jerry that he will go to college with him.