

Sweet Deceptions

Written by

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INTRODUCE DETROIT WITH A CAPTIVATING AERIAL SHOT OF THE SKYLINE AT SUNRISE AND CUTS OF VARIOUS DOWNTOWN DETROIT ICONIC LOCATIONS.

INT. TOM AND LISA'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

- TOM (mid30s, mild mannered architect) sits at the kitchen table, meticulously sketching blueprints for a new building. His brow furrows in concentration as he brings his vision to life.

- LISA (late 20s, imaginative artist) enters, her colorful attire a stark contrast to Tom's muted surroundings. She holds a canvas covered in vibrant swirls of paint, her eyes sparkling with excitement.

LISA

Hey, architect extraordinaire, mind taking a break from those lines and joining me in a world of color?

Tom looks up, a soft smile tugging at his lips.

TOM

I'm just wrapping up this design, but how about we combine our creative forces later?

Lisa pouts playfully before twirling away, leaving a trail of laughter.

INT. MIKE AND JANET'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

- MIKE (mid30s, tech savvy engineer) hunches over a cluttered workbench, dismantling gadgets with precision. A whiteboard behind him is covered in complex equations.

- JANET (mid30s, analytical data analyst) enters, holding a tablet and wearing a bemused expression. She leans against the doorway, raising an eyebrow at Mike's intricate setup.

JANET

Let me guess, another masterpiece of technological wizardry in the making?

Mike grins, looking up from his work.

MIKE

You know me too well. Just a few more adjustments, and this baby will revolutionize the way we control smart devices.

JANET

Impressive. How about we revolutionize our breakfast first?

They exchange a smile as they head to the kitchen.

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - FOOD TRUCK - MORNING

- DAVE (mid to late 30s, adventurous food truck owner) stands at the window of his food truck, getting ready to open for the day.

- CARMEN (mid30s, free spirited yoga instructor) sets up a yoga mat nearby, gracefully flowing through poses. Her laughter mingles with the sound of SIZZLING food as Dave playfully starts his morning routine.

DAVE

I hope D-town is ready for a taste of this magic. People really need to prepare for this flavor bomb that's gonna take their taste buds on a wild ride!

CARMEN

And after they indulge in your delicious creations, you need to join me for a journey of the mind and body. Let's find our inner zen together today honey.

Dave gave a look of oh no out of Carmen's view.

Their contrasting yet harmonious energies create a scene that captures the essence of their partnership.

EXT. DETROIT RIVERFRONT - EVENING

Tom, Mike, and Dave stand side by side, fishing while gazing out at the serene expanse of the Detroit River. Their silhouettes are framed by the golden hues of the setting sun, a testament to the passage of time and the unwavering strength of their friendship.

TOM
(looking out)
You know, this city has seen us
through so much. From college days to
the ups and downs of adulting, and now
it's going to make us starve if we
don't catch some fish.

MIKE
(chuckles)
You know, we could always buy some.

TOM
I got 5 on it!

DAVE
(worried laugh)
And when the girls find out, they'll
never let it go. Especially Carmen.

MIKE
(chuckles again)
Remember that time we tried building a
makeshift raft and ended up stranded
on Belle Isle for hours?

DAVE
(laughing)
And Carmen had to rescue us with her
"yogi tele-transportation", remember
that tiny car!

They laugh.

DAVE (OC)
(excited)

I GOT ONE

INT. MIKE AND JANET'S LIVING ROOM - SUNSET

Janet, Lisa and Carmen sit cross legged on the floor, huddled
over a stack of board games. The room is alive with the
echoes of their laughter and playful banter.

CARMEN
(grinning)
I call dibs on Park Place! Time to
unleash my inner real estate tycoon.

JANET
(raising an eyebrow)
Oh, you're in for a surprise, my friend. Prepare to face the might of my strategic prowess.

LISA
(confused)
You guys are so competitive, I just like trying to collect all the different colors.

Janet and Carmen look at each other and start laughing.

JANET
(still laughing and holding a bottle of wine)
Who needs a refill?

Everyone raises their cups.

CARMEN (OS)
Where are the guys?

LISA (OS)
(giggling)
Who cares?

FADE OUT

The girls all laugh together. (OC)

EXT. MIKE AND JANET'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

The three couples sit around an outdoor fireplace, men nursing beer from cans and ladies sipping wine from glasses, snuggled and or holding hands with their mate, staring into the fire, satisfied with bellies full of food and content with the day's activities together.

CARMEN
(snapping out of her transe)
OH MY GOD, I honestly thought we were going to starve to death waiting for you guys!

Everyone snaps out and starts laughing.

DAVE
(grinning ear to ear)
We would have been back sooner if we
had your yogi tele- transportation!

The guys start laughing even harder.

MIKE
(raising a can)
To the friends who make it feel like
home!

DAVE
(raising a can)
To more adventures and memories!

TOM
(raising a can)
No matter where life takes us!

LISA
(raising a glass)
To never waiting for the guys' to
catch dinner again!

Everyone starts laughing.

EXT. DETROIT - LOCAL MARKET - DAY

Tom, Mike, and Dave stroll through the market, their eyes drawn to colorful stalls with various goods. An air of excitement in the atmosphere as they navigate the aisles.

DAVE
(playfully nudging Mike)
Hey, check it out, gourmet pickles!

Tom makes a face.

MIKE
(raising an eyebrow)
Gourmet pickles? Do they come with a
side of virtual reality headset?

They share a laugh.

INT. RARE FINDS STALL - DAY

Tom spots an inconspicuous booth nestled amidst the vibrant chaos. A sign reads "Rare Finds: Unearth Hidden Treasures." He gestures for his friends to join him.

TOM
(intrigued)
Guys, look at this. What do you think
"hidden treasures" means?

DAVE
(grinning)
If there's a secret treasure map, I'm
in.

MIKE
(skeptical)
It could be a collection of old dirty
bottle caps.

They chuckle, but their curiosity is piqued as they examine
the assortment of items on display.

CLOSEUP

HIGH END GUMMY BEARS

Underneath glass, an array of high end gummy bears sparkle
like precious gems. Each gummy is a masterpiece of color and
detail, a tantalizing treat for the eyes.

TOM
(whispering)
Now these are not your ordinary gummy
bears.

MIKE
(raising an eyebrow)
Are we about to enter the world of
gummy bear connoisseurs?

DAVE
(grinning)
I always knew there was more to life
than the regular red and green ones.

They exchange intrigued glances, the thought of the rare
gummy bears capturing their imagination.

VENDOR
(appearing mysteriously)
Ah, I see you've found my treasures.

The vendor, an enigmatic figure, approaches.

TOM

(curious)

Tell us about these gummy bears. What makes them so special?

VENDOR

(each word dripping with intrigue)

These, my friends, are not just gummies. They are a taste of the extraordinary, a journey through flavors unexplored. One taste, and you'll understand why they're called "gems of indulgence."

As the vendor speaks, Tom, Mike, and Dave exchange glances, with eyes big, their curiosity growing into shared excitement.

EXT. DETROIT - LOCAL MARKET - DAY

Tom, Mike, and Dave huddle near a vibrant mural, their eyes still fixed on the display of high end gummy bears. The vendor's words linger in the air, igniting a spark of intrigue.

MIKE

(whisper giggling)

Gems of indulgence? Wonder if they're worth their weight in gold.

DAVE

(smirking)

Maybe they're laced with supersecret tech that grants us super powers.

They share a conspiratorial grin, the prospect of hidden treasures fueling their imaginations.

TOM

(pensively)

You know, guys, we're always talking about ways to make some extra cash. Maybe this is our chance.

MIKE

(raising an eyebrow)

You think selling high end gummy bears is our ticket to the big leagues?

DAVE

(enthusiastic)

Why not? People pay big bucks for artisanal coffee and fancy avocado toast. Why not gourmet gummies?

Their banter transforms into a genuine discussion, the prospect of a new venture setting their minds in motion.

TOM

(contemplative)

We've got the skills: architecture, tech, culinary expertise.

MIKE

(nods)

And an adventurous spirit to dive headfirst into this sweet mystery.

DAVE

(grinning)

Imagine it: the three of us, gummy bear moguls of the Motor City!

They laugh.

TOM

(resolute)

What if we actually give this a shot? Start small, see where it goes?

MIKE

(In contemplation)

Yea, that sounds good. Like we can post online to see if there is a market for these things. Buy in bulk from this guy.

DAVE

(grinning with excitement)

Naw... I can figure out how to make them and make our own custom gourmet flavors. I don't even want to taste these because I will constantly try to compare mine to them.

TOM

(play sad staring at Dave)

Ok... that's weird... I wanted to taste these ones...

Tom addressing both friends

TOM

(grinning)

Well, we break them down into little baggies and then we meet our online customers in a public place like a street corner to do the exchange. Money for a goodie bag.

DAVE

(serious)

Can't use plastic bags, it will make them stick together, we'll need to use paper sandwich bags.

MIKE

(serious)

Really? Sounds like

(excited)

MONEY TO ME!!!

All 3 get excited, do a little jig and try to high five.

DAVE

(rubbing his hand)

Yea, let's never do THAT again.

MIKE

(smirking)

We'll be the talk of the town, the pioneers of posh gummies.

DAVE

(exuberant)

And who knows, maybe we'll hit the jackpot and make Detroit the gummy bear capital of the world!

TOM

(realization)

What about the girls? We need to bring them in on it.

DAVE

(Shocked look)

No freaking way, Carmen won't let me buy anything after our solid gold honey venture beekeeping incident.

Flashback - Dave, Mike, and Tom running around a beehive flailing their arms screaming. We hear loud buzzing.

MIKE

(agreeing rubbing the back of his head)

Yea, I think I still have bee stings on the back of my head. But inflation and this economy has hit my household. Janet won't let me spend a dime. We can't let any of them know what we're doing until it's successful.

DAVE

(devious)

And then it's too late. Money spent and hopefully the money we make will stop Carmen from trying to kill me.

TOM

(thinking)

So, surprise them when the time is right.

DAVE AND MIKE

(in unison)

RIIIGGGHT.

INT. DAVE'S FOOD TRUCK - NIGHT

Dave, Tom, and Mike are gathered at the kitchen station in the truck. Countertops are filled with a variety of ingredients, from exotic fruit extracts to high-quality gelatin. They work together, expertly crafting a large batch of gummy bears in various mouthwatering flavors.

MIKE

(to Dave)

We need to make sure this batch is perfect. Our first customer's response is a big deal.

DAVE

(nodding)

You're right. Let's focus.

The air is thick with the sweet aroma of cooking gummy bear mix. They pour the mixture into bear-shaped molds with precision.

EXT. FOOD TRUCK/MIKE'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - NIGHT

Mike's phone buzzes with a new message. It's their first customer, MR. WILSON.

MR. WILSON (TEXT)

Can we meet tonight? I need those gourmet gummy bears ASAP.

MIKE

(excited)

It's Mr. Wilson. He wants to meet tonight!

TOM

(grinning)

This is it, guys. Our first sale!

INT. DAVE'S FOOD TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

They finish molding the gummy bears and move to package them in unlabeled paper bags.

DAVE

(to Mike)

We should make a strong impression on our first customer.

MIKE

(nods)

Absolutely.

EXT. DETROIT ALLEY ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The three friends wait at the rendezvous point. Mr. Wilson appears from the shadows of the alley, a shadowy man in his 50s, but dressed like a creepy professor. He stands erect with his arms crossed and a look on his face like he smelled something bad, all while looking around suspiciously.

MR. WILSON

(cautious)

You the guys from the ad?

DAVE

(smiling)

That's us. Welcome to the world of gourmet gummy bears.

They hand him a sample bag of their creations, and he eagerly examines them.

MR. WILSON
(unimpressed)
These look decent. Are they any good?

MIKE
(grateful)
We put a lot of passion into our work.
We hope you enjoy them.

Mr. Wilson tries a gummy bear and his eyes widen with delight.

MR. WILSON
(astonished)
Incredible!

Mr. Wilson hands Mike the money and slips back into the shadows and disappears, his voice slowly sounding more and more distant

MR. WILSON
Many connoisseurs in my cabal will be
hearing about you. HAHAAHA

Another shadowy figure, long black trench coat and black knit cap, across the way keeping his distance intensely observes the transaction without trying to draw any attention. monologging quietly to himself.

DETECTIVE STAN
In a dark alleyway on the mean streets
of Detroit. The man finally finds what
he's been looking for.

INT. DAVE'S FOOD TRUCK - LATER

The three friends return, brimming with excitement and success. They sit down to celebrate, the taste of victory lingering on their lips.

TOM
(exhilarated)
That went better than I ever imagined.

DAVE
(profound)
We've officially started our own
business. I hope not all of our
customers will be creepy like that.

MIKE
(feeling proud)
Mr. Wilson is just the beginning.
Especially if he alerts his evil gummy
bear cabal.

They look at each other scared then bust out laughing.

MIKE
(determined)
This is just the start. Our gummy bear
business is going to take off.

TOM
(agrees)
This is going to be a sweet journey to
success!

The boys laugh again.

INT. DAVE AND CARMEN'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Dave and Carmen sit at their cozy breakfast table drinking coffee, enjoying a quiet morning together. The sunlight streams through the window, casting a warm glow.

Suddenly, a jingling sound echoes through the open living room windows, like wind chimes in a hurricane. Both Dave and Carmen exchange puzzled looks.

DAVE
(confused)
What's that noise?

Carmen tilts her head, listening intently.

CARMEN
(uncertain)
I... I'm not sure.

The jingling gets closer, mixed with a faint chanting. The couple's eyes widen as they exchange a worried glance.

DAVE
(squinting)
Is that... chanting?

The living room door dramatically opens, as GLORIA, Dave's mother, strides into the room with her arms outstretched, her flowing bohemian dress adorned with crystals and dreamcatchers that sway and tinkle with every step. Gloria's presence is a shock to Dave and Carmen.

GLORIA

(in a theatrical tone)

Greetings, children of the heavens
brought to mother earth to bring light
into my world!

Carmen nearly drops her coffee, and Dave's jaw practically touches the floor. Gloria approaches them with a theatrical flourish, her hands covered in colorful bangles.

CARMEN

(stuttering)

G-Gloria? Is that... you?

DAVE

(irritated and disgusted)

What are you wearing, Mom?

Gloria twirls in her bohemian attire, her dress flowing like a river.

GLORIA

(enthusiastic)

This, dear, is the spirit of the
world! I just got back from the most
magical journey through the Andes.

CARMEN

(exchanging glances)

The Andes?

DAVE

(trying to comprehend)

You were just in South America?

GLORIA

(nodding)

Oh, yes! I visited some wonderful
shamans, explored the chakras of the
earth, and met a guru who taught me
the art of cosmic energy flow.

Dave and Carmen exchange a glance, utterly unprepared for this bohemian breeze blowing into their lives.

CARMEN

(whispering to Dave)

Were we expecting her for dinner? She looks like she's been smoking at a music festival at Pine Knob.

DAVE

(angrily whispering back)

She has bags... I do NOT want this woman here, staying with us.

CARMEN

(calmly whispering while keeping a fake smile)

I know, you guys don't get along, but she is your only mother.

DAVE

(angrily whispering back)

Oh my god, and the crystals... there goes using the spare room for fishing equipment... (Carmen gives a dirty look) um, I mean our home office.

CARMEN

(frustrated)

This is going to be interesting.

DAVE

(fake happy)

Mom! Let me help you with your bags and get you settled in the spare room, follow me.

Gloria, excited to be there, follows Dave like a happy puppy. Carmen answers her cell phone.

CARMEN

(exhausted)

Jaaneet, heeey... Dave's mom just showed up, I don't.... What? Seriously?

Carmen opens the front curtains and walks away still on the phone. Zoom in through the window. The dark shadowy figure sits in a nondescript car across the street staring intently at the house, and speaking into an old school tape recorder.

DETECTIVE STAN

(unknown yet to the viewers)

The Mule arrives with a cross border resupply.

INT. MIKE AND JANET'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

Mike and Janet are in a flurry of activity, putting the final touches on their dinner table. The dining room is tastefully decorated, the long wooden table adorned with elegant place settings, and soft ambient lighting.

MIKE

(excited)

Janet, I can't believe Dave's mom is back in town. I have never met her, and Dave doesn't talk much about her. Just that she travels around the world. I can't wait to hear her stories. I just hope Gloria's visit won't be too... unconventional.

JANET

(smiling)

I asked Carmen about her, she didn't have much to say either. I don't know about having your Dad here tonight.

MIKE

(almost laughing)

It'll be ok, he's fine. I'm not sure if it's going to be an adventure. But I know it's gonna be fun!

RICK

(confused)

What's going to be an adventure? Mike... I'll go home, I'm not doing this again.

MIKE

(smiling)

Dad, come on, don't be like that. It's nothing, Dave's Mom Gloria is in town and they don't get along that's all.

RICK

(serious)

It's not healthy to find pleasure in your friend's pain. I didn't raise you that way.

Dave, Carmen, Tom, and Lisa arrive one by one, greeting Mike and Janet with hugs and smiles. The atmosphere is charged with a mix of anticipation and curiosity. Everyone takes their seats at the table.

CARMEN

(grinning)

Thanks for having us over for dinner... again, Mike, Janet.

TOM

(raising an eyebrow)

Yeah, this should be interesting. I've heard very little, and I've never met her.

LISA

(excited)

I'm really looking forward to hearing about Gloria's adventures. She sounds so fascinating.

The group shares a moment of laughter and agreement as they glance toward the kitchen where Gloria and Dave are having a lively discussion.

Gloria and Dave finally make their entrance. Gloria has changed into a slightly more conventional outfit, but her aura of adventure and free spirit remains intact.

GLORIA

(enthusiastic)

My dear friends, thank you for having me in your lovely home.

DAVE

(smiling)

Mom, this is Mike, Janet, Tom, Lisa, and Rick, Mike's Dad. My friends... (sarcastically) My close friends... that I've had for many, many years.

GLORIA

(nods)

Of course, I remember all of you! Well, except you Mr. Rick, I would remember a handsome man like yourself. (Gloria winks)(Rick looks at her weirdly)

GLORIA CONT.

You know, I've recently been to the Amazon, where I met a tribe that taught me the secrets of the rainforest. Fascinating people.

The group exchanges curious glances.

TOM

(raising an eyebrow)
That sounds... incredible.

JANET

(eager)
Tell us more, Gloria. What were the secrets they shared with you?

The group is in the middle of dinner eating and listening to Gloria's stories.

LISA

(enthusiastic)
Wow, Gloria, that sounds like a dream!

CARMEN

(smiling)
It's amazing that you're so open to new experiences, Gloria.

MIKE

(humorous)
I'm guessing Dave gets his adventurous spirit from his mother.

Gloria gives Dave an affectionate smile. Dave puts his head down and shakes it.

DAVE

(embarrassed/sarcast c)
She's one of a kind.

The group is now into dessert listening to Gloria's stories as they become increasingly whimsical and border on the fantastical.

TOM

(exchanging glances)
Is she... serious?

JANET

(whispering to Mike)

I thought she meant she went to the Amazon for a vacation.

MIKE

(whispering back)

Apparently, she ventured into a fantasy novel.

GLORIA

(passionately)

And then, the mystical hummingbirds led me to a hidden waterfall. I felt the energy of the universe, channeled through the sacred waters.

LISA

(fascinated)

That's... beyond anything I could've imagined.

CARMEN

(trying to be polite)

It's a very unique perspective, Gloria.

DAVE

(fake smiling, whispering to Carmen)

Mom's always been a bit theatrical, but this is... next level.

EXT. MIKE AND JANET'S BACKYARD FIRE - NIGHT

The group, moving the party outside drinking cocktails listening to the fire crackle and now trying their best to stifle their laughter while exchanging covert glances because Gloria's storytelling takes a fantastical turn as she describes her encounter with a talking tree.

TOM

(holding back a chuckle)

A talking tree? Really?

JANET

(whispering to Mike)

I've heard of tree huggers, but this is a whole other world stuff.

MIKE

(chuckling)

Gloria, that's one incredible story.

Lisa is enthralled in the story and starts clapping.

GLORIA

(taking it in stride)

Well, life is an adventure, dear. It's all about the journey, isn't it?

Carmen and Dave sitting on a bench in the corner. Carmen rubbing his back trying to console him as he sits with elbows on his knees, hands covering his face, embarrassed. Gloria spots Rick sitting quietly. With a bit of mischief, she makes her way toward him, sipping from a cocktail glass. She leans in

GLORIA

(sly smile)

Rick, my dear, you seem like a man who appreciates the unconventional. Care to join me in a dance of tales beyond the ordinary?

Rick, caught off guard, glances at her, unsure how to respond.

RICK

(reserved)

I'm just here for my son's dinner.

Gloria, undeterred, playfully twirls a strand of her flowing hair.

GLORIA

(smirking)

Stories can be told in many ways, my dear Rick.

She winks, leaving Rick visibly uncomfortable. Gloria continues her flirtatious banter, seemingly oblivious to Rick's discomfort.

GLORIA

(getting closer)

You know, Rick, I've traveled the world, seen its wonders. But meeting someone like you, mysterious, intriguing... is a story waiting to be explored.

Rick shifts uncomfortably, attempting to steer the conversation away.

RICK
(awkwardly)
I'm just a guy here for dinner. Your adventures were more than enough. No need for my stories.

Gloria, not easily dissuaded, inches even closer, creating an almost conspiratorial atmosphere.

GLORIA
(fun and flirty)
Ah, but the best stories often unfold when you least expect them. Don't you agree?

Rick, feeling cornered, manages a polite smile but doesn't respond.

TOM
(clearly having a good time)
Come on back over here Gloria, You've gotta have one last story for the night!

Gloria heads back to the group but looks back at Rick and winks while sipping on her cocktail.

GLORIA
(big smile)
Well there was this one time when it didn't stop raining even when there weren't any clouds in the small village of Chacarta.

OC crackling fire and people laughing in the distance.

INT. LISA'S ART STUDIO - DAY

Lisa's art studio is a vibrant, creative haven filled with canvases, paints, and sculptures. Lisa is passionately engrossed in a colorful painting when Gloria strolls in, still carrying a hint of her bohemian aura.

GLORIA
(smiling)
My dear, Lisa, your studio is an artist's paradise!

Lisa turns around, surprised but delighted by Gloria's presence.

LISA

(exhilarated)

Gloria, I'm so glad you came! I've been working on this piece for a while. What do you think?

GLORIA

(appreciative)

It's breathtaking, my artistic kindred spirit. I've always felt a deep connection with art. It's like a form of meditation for the soul.

Gloria's eyes scan the room, taking in the vibrant colors, sculptures, and the explosion of creativity.

LISA

(enthusiastic)

Absolutely, I couldn't agree more. Art has this way of taking you to another world, doesn't it?

GLORIA

(nodding)

Indeed. I remember when I was in Bali, I met a local artist who taught me the magic of vibrant hues and bold strokes. The experience was transformational.

LISA

(eager)

That sounds amazing, Gloria. You have to tell me more about your travels.

GLORIA

(wistful)

I would love to, dear. But first, how about we have a little artistic adventure of our own? Why don't we create something beautiful together?

LISA

(enthusiastic)

That's a fantastic idea! What do you have in mind?

Gloria sparkles with creativity as she begins to gather paintbrushes, canvases, and paints.

GLORIA

(excited)

Let's paint a picture of our shared artistic souls. A fusion of colors and emotions. An abstract masterpiece.

LISA

(enthusiastic)

I'm in! But let's open a bottle Lisa winks

GLORIA

(smiling)

Magnificent idea, one shouldn't take a trip without proper beverages Lisa disappears and reappears with a bottle of red wine and two glasses

GLORIA

(hands in the air)

PERFECTO!!!

LISA

(excited)

Let's dive into the world of art, Gloria.

The two artists start mixing paints, their brushes moving in harmony, creating a symphony of colors on canvas while sipping on goblets of red wine. Their laughter fills the room.

GLORIA

(happy)

Lisa, do you believe that art can change the world?

LISA

(earnest)

Absolutely. Art can touch hearts, inspire minds, and bring people together. It's a universal language.

INT. DAVE AND CARMEN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gloria, stands in the center of Dave and Carmen's living room. She holds a sparkling crystal pendant and studies the room with intense focus. Dave and Carmen exchange bemused glances, unsure of what to expect.

GLORIA
 (enigmatic)
 The energy in this room is...
 misaligned, my dears. We must realign
 it to bring peace and harmony.

DAVE
 (raising an eyebrow)
 Realign it?

CARMEN
 (intrigued)
 What do you mean, Gloria?

GLORIA
 (retrospectively)
 Well, I know I wasn't always there,
 and... I may not have been the
 greatest mom on the planet, but I did
 my best to provide after Dad left.

Dave looks unimpressed and uninterested.

GLORIA CONT.
 (SHAKING OFF LIKE SHE

JUST WOKE UP AND
 BACK TO FULL ENERGY)

BUT, that was then and I am here now. Moving forward to
 change the energy in here.

CARMEN
 (confused)
 What?

Gloria raises her arms dramatically, indicating the room's
 layout.

GLORIA
 (profound)
 We shall rearrange the furniture, my
 lovelies, and embrace the ancient art
 of Feng Shui. It will transform our
 lives!

Dave and Carmen exchange another set of confused looks.

CARMEN
 (to Dave, quietly)
 I thought she was just visiting.

DAVE
(confused and irritated)
Me too. This is, mother... unexpected.

Gloria starts moving a chair to a new position, with great flourish.

GLORIA
(cheerful)
This chair shall go here, facing east,
to welcome the rising sun's energy
each morning.

Dave and Carmen try to adapt to the unconventional changes, shifting furniture as Gloria directs them.

DAVE
(muttering)
I never knew furniture had to face a
particular direction.

CARMEN
(grinning)
It's... different. But maybe it'll
bring some positive energy.

Gloria adds dreamcatchers and wind chimes to the room, hanging them haphazardly from the ceiling.

GLORIA
(enthusiastic)
And these mystical wind chimes and
dreamcatchers will protect you from
negative energies. Can you feel the
transformation, my angels?

DAVE
(exchanging glances with Carmen)
I can feel something, all right.

As the home makeover continues, the room transforms into a whimsical blend of Feng Shui principles and mystical decorations. Gloria remains enthusiastic about the changes, while Dave and Carmen try to adapt to the clash of their cozy tastes with Gloria's free-spirited approach.

CARMEN
(to Dave, quietly)
I hope she's not planning to rearrange
our whole house like this.

DAVE
(grinning)
We might need to intervene if that's
the case.

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Janet sits at her laptop, engrossed in work. Mike enters, distracted, his usually organized workspace now cluttered with half opened gadgets.

JANET
(raising an eyebrow)
Mike, what's with the tech explosion?

MIKE
(absently)
Oh, ah, just some new projects at the
lab. Got a million tabs open in my
brain.

Mike looks at his watch

MIKE
(whispers)
Oh crap,
(normal)
I gotta go. turns to leave and take a
step but turns back around MIKE Cont.
(hurried) and I love you and I will be
home a little later.

Janet eyes him suspiciously, her analytical instincts kicking in.

INT. LISA'S ART STUDIO DAY

Lisa meticulously paints vibrant strokes on a canvas. Tom peeks in, appearing distracted.

LISA
(noticing)
Hey, you've got that far off look
again. Dreaming up the blueprint of a
new masterpiece?

TOM
(smiling)
Actually, I was thinking about...
well, it's,

Tom looks at his watch.

TOM CONT.
 (Hurried)
 nevermind. ... Love you, gotta run,
 see you later.

Lisa arches an eyebrow, sensing a hint of secrecy.

EXT. YOGA OUTSIDE CLASS DAY

Carmen guides a yoga class through a series of poses. Dave, usually a regular attendee, seems unusually jittery in the back row.

CARMEN
 (whispering)
 You okay back there, Dave?

DAVE
 (nervous -looks at his watch)
 Yeah, I think I tweaked my back... I
 gotta go, umm stretch this out and
 walk it off.

Dave leaves the group, smiling and waving.

DAVE
 (big grin)
 I LOVE YOU, See you later Babe.

Carmen narrows her eyes, her intuition sensing something amiss.

A few yards away the dark shadowy figure, Detective Stan, now wearing a 70's style fedora, tries to hide himself with a large tree.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (confused)
 They seem like such normal, good
 people.
 (angry/disgusted)
 Wolves hiding amongst sheep.
 (concern)
 Is there no one to protect the city?

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - NIGHT

Dave, Tom, and Mike stand under the soft glow of streetlights, their bags of GOURMET GUMMY BEARS ready for their growing list of customers.

TOM
(excited)
This is our third sale tonight.
Business is booming!

DAVE
(smiling)
People can't resist these gummy bears.

A YOUNG COUPLE approaches, peering into the sample bag with curiosity.

YOUNG WOMAN
(enchanted)
What flavors do you have?

MIKE
(charismatic)
We've got mango-pineapple, raspberry-lemon, and even a chocolate-strawberry blend.

YOUNG MAN
(tempted)
Let's try all three! (he glances across the street)

Across the street, the dark shadowy figure, Detective Stan, in his black trench coat and black fedora, gives a menacing glare at the young man, then points at him and makes a throat cutting gesture.

YOUNG MAN
(scared)
Umm... Nevermind, its kinda late, we gotta get going.

He grabs the young woman by the arm and pulls her away.

YOUNG WOMAN
(SURPRISED)
Hey! Wait, I wanted to.....

Dave, Tom, and Mike look at each other confused.

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - LATER

The crowd of customers grows. Dave, Tom, and Mike work in harmony, dishing out gummy bears and handling transactions with ease.

CUSTOMER #1
 (enthusiastic)
 These are amazing. I'll take two more bags!

DAVE
 (enthusiastic)
 Thank you! Here you go.

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - CONTINUOUS

Couples, families, and friends flock to the gummy bear stand, savoring the array of flavors.

CUSTOMER #2
 (pleased)
 This is the best surprise for our movie night. We'll take a bag of each flavor!

TOM
 (salesman)
 Excellent choice. Enjoy the movie!

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - NIGHT - LATER

The night sky is filled with stars, and the energy at the street corner is electric. Dave, Tom, and Mike can hardly keep up with the growing demand for their gummy bears.

CUSTOMER #3
 (enthusiastic)
 I heard about you guys from a friend. I'll take three bags!

MIKE
 (enthusiastic)
 Word of mouth is the best advertising. Enjoy!

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - CONTINUOUS

The three friends are in their element, sharing laughs and gummy bears with their satisfied customers.

CUSTOMER #4
(enthusiastic)
I can't resist trying the chocolate-strawberry. Give me two bags!

TOM
(cheerful)
Great choice! It's our specialty.

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - NIGHT - EVEN LATER

Dave, Tom, and Mike's initial excitement has turned into sheer joy. They work together, united by their newfound success.

CUSTOMER #5
(happy)
These gummy bears are gonna be a hit at our poker night. We need four bags!

DAVE
(laughs)
You're going to be the star of the night!

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - CONTINUOUS

The street corner is now bustling with a diverse crowd.

CUSTOMER #6
(enthusiastic)
My kids are going to love these. I'll take six bags, two of each flavor!

MIKE
(enthusiastic)
Your kids have good taste. Enjoy the gummies!

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - NIGHT - STILL LATER

The night is waning, but the enthusiasm for the gummy bears remains strong.

CUSTOMER #7
(excited)
My office is going to flip when they taste these. Give me six bags!

TOM
(energetic)
They'll thank you for it. Enjoy
spreading the sweetness!

As the clock approaches midnight, Dave, Tom, and Mike stand amidst a dwindling crowd, their bags of gummy bears almost depleted. Exhausted but exhilarated, they exchange triumphant glances.

DAVE
(satisfied)
We did it, guys. We sold out!

TOM
(grinning)
And we gained a loyal following.

MIKE
(pondering)
I could do this forever. Seriously, I
would quit my job tonight to do this
full time, if we can make enough money
to pay the bills.

TOM
(excited by the possibility)
Do you really think we can? I hate my
job. I would quit in a heart if this
could be sustainable.

DAVE
(pondering, looking up at the
stars)
With the right exotic and mysterious
and mystical ingredients, I don't see
why not.

TOM
(Laughing)
What??? Is your mom rubbing off on
you?

Mike and Tom start laughing.

FADE OUT

DAVE
(OC)
HA HA funny

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - NIGHT - LATER

The three friends pack up their stand. They feel accomplishment. Their gummy bear venture has taken its first successful steps.

MIKE

(resolute)

This is just the beginning. We're going to make our gummy bears world famous.

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - NIGHT

The shadowy figure revealed to be Detective Stan Simpson stands on a dimly lit street corner, dressed in his retro trench coat and a fedora. His extravagant mustache, meticulously styled to perfection, glistens under the streetlamp. Stan clutches his radio, a permanent fixture on his belt.

Radio alert goes off loudly.

RADIO

(indistinct voice)

Detective Stan, what's your 20? Over.

Startled, Detective Stan fumbles with the radio and turns the volume all the way down. Looking around to see if anyone notices.

DETECTIVE STAN

(to himself, admiring his mustache)

Ahh, Stan, you're a masterpiece.

Stan scans the area with the intensity of a seasoned cop, his encyclopedic knowledge of '70s cop movies always at the ready.

DETECTIVE STAN

(muttering)

Streets of Detroit, more action-packed than a Dirty Harry marathon.

In the distance, Dave, Tom, and Mike have just finished packing up their operation. Stan, spotting the brown paper bags.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (excited, to himself)
 I've got 'em, just like Serpico nabbed
 those drug lords in the Bronx!

Stan quickens his pace, making his way toward the trio.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (yelling)
 Hold it right there, you street corner
 pushers!

Startled, Dave, Tom, and Mike freeze in their tracks, looking back at the approaching Detective Stan, who resembles something out of a vintage crime film. But to them looks like a crazy homeless person.

TOM
 (to Dave and Mike, confused)
 Did that homeless guy just call us...
 pushers?

DAVE
 (to Tom)
 Keep it cool. Let me handle this.
 Crazy people stop at my truck all the
 time.

Detective Stan reaches the trio with an intense, dramatic flair, sizing them up like a true '70s cop icon.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (pointing)
 I've got my eyes on you gentlemen.
 What's in the bag?

DAVE
 (innocent)
 Bag? Oh, it's just some... snacks.

Dave's reply only confounds Stan more.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (suspicious)
 Snacks? At this hour? What's the
 matter, gentlemen? Running low on...
 twinkies?

MIKE
 (hiding a smile)
 Yeah, something like that.

Dave, Tom, and Mike decide it's best to finish packing up and leave, rather than engage in a futile conversation with a crazy homeless guy.

DAVE
 (frustrated)
 Come on, guys. We don't have time for this.

As they hastily depart, Stan takes out his radio, turns it back up, and speaks into it.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (radio)
 Unit 45 to dispatch. Suspects are on the move. Requesting backup for a sting operation. Over and out.

EXT. CITY PARK - SUNNY AFTERNOON

The city park is alive with activity, and in one corner, a vibrant DRUM CIRCLE is in full swing. Drummers, dancers, and passersby are caught up in the rhythmic. Dave, Carmen, Tom, Lisa, Mike, Janet, and Gloria stand at the edge of the circle, taking in the scene with a mix of curiosity and uncertainty. While Rick watches from a distance at a bench/picnic table

GLORIA
 (excited)
 Welcome to the heart of rhythm, my friends! This is where we connect with the primal energy of the universe.

DAVE
 (raising an eyebrow)
 You didn't mention a drum circle when you invited us, Mom.

CARMEN
 (intrigued)
 I've never seen anything like this.

TOM
 (exchanging glances with the others)
 Well, it's certainly... different.

Gloria starts moving to the rhythm, clapping her hands and swaying to the .

GLORIA
(enthralled)
Feel the energy, my dears! Let the
drums guide your souls.

Gloria, filled with the spirit of the drum circle, reaches out her hand to Carmen.

GLORIA
(enthusiastic)
Come, Carmen. Join the dance of the
universe.

Carmen hesitates but decides to give it a try, taking Gloria's hand and stepping into the circle. She starts swaying to the rhythm.

TOM
(raising an eyebrow)
Well, I guess we're dancing now.

LISA
(enthusiastic)
It's kind of fun once you get into it.

As the group starts to join in, they begin to feel the energy of the drum circle. Each of them embraces the rhythm in their own way. Gloria, in her element, dances with wild abandon. Suddenly, Gloria spots Rick observing the spectacle from a distance sitting at a picnic table/park bench. Looking at him like he's a snack, she saunters over.

GLORIA
(teasingly)
Rick, my tall drink of mystery, care
to join this rhythmic escapade?

Rick, initially reserved, glances around at the pulsating drummers and dancers. A hesitant smile tugs at the corners of his lips.

RICK
(skeptical)
I'm not much of a dancer.

GLORIA
(smiling)
Dancing isn't about technique, my
dear. It's about feeling the heart of
the universe.

She extends a hand, and Rick, after a moment, takes it. Gloria leads him into the middle of the drum circle.

GLORIA
(fun and flirty)
Let the rhythm guide your steps, Rick.

As they start swaying to the , Gloria subtly presses closer.

RICK
(awkwardly)
This is... different.

GLORIA
(whispering)
Different can be exciting, Rick.
Embrace the unexpected.

Rick begins to relax. A smile appears on his face as they move to the rhythm. (not sure if you'd call it dancing)

GLORIA
(flirting)
You see, Rick, life is a dance, and we're all just figuring out the steps.

RICK
(smiling)
Well, this is certainly a change from my usual routine.

GLORIA
(teasing)
Routine can be overrated, my mysterious friend. Sometimes, you need to let loose.

DAVE
(raising an eyebrow)
I never thought I'd see the day when we'd be dancing in a drum circle.

MIKE
(grinning)
You know, it's not as bad as I thought.

GLORIA

(enthusiastic)

You see, my friends, the universe's energy is all around us. We only need to open our hearts to feel it.

EXT. CITY PARK - SUNNY AFTERNOON

Dave and Mike stand in the midst of the DRUM CIRCLE, surrounded by experienced drummers who are in perfect sync with the rhythm. Dave clutches his drum, and Mike looks at his with a puzzled expression.

DAVE

(to Mike, nervously)

Mike, you ready for this? I've never drummed in my life.

MIKE

(awkwardly)

Yeah, Dave, but how hard can it be? It's just rhythm.

They both glance at Gloria, Rick and Carmen, who are lost in the music, dancing and clapping to the .

DAVE

(confused)

I think we're supposed to... follow their lead?

MIKE

(uncertain)

Yeah, I guess so.

Dave and Mike attempt to play their drums, but their rhythm is anything but synchronized with the group. The drumming that emanates from their direction is a chaotic mix of off- s and missed cues.

DRUMMER 1

(whispering to Drummer 2)

Are they doing some avant-garde drumming or...?

DRUMMER 2

(shrugging)

Who knows? It's unique, that's for sure.

Dave's drumming becomes increasingly erratic, and he tries to mimic the moves of a drummer next to him, which only makes things worse. Mike is similarly struggling, attempting to find a rhythm but continually missing the mark.

DAVE
(embarrassed)
I can't keep up with this!

MIKE
(laughing)
It's like my drum has a mind of its own.

Their attempts continue to garner curious glances from other drummers.

CARMEN
(enthusiastic)
This is amazing, Gloria! I've never felt so in tune with the universe!

GLORIA
(exuberant)
That's the spirit, my dear!

Dave and Mike exchange amused and exasperated glances.

DAVE
(grinning)
Well, at least we're not the only ones who are rhythmically challenged.

MIKE
(laughing)
That's true, Dave. We've got some real drummers here to make us look good.

EXT. CITY PARK - DRUM CIRCLE - SUNNY AFTERNOON

As Dave, Mike, and the others try to find their rhythm within the DRUM CIRCLE, the atmosphere is filled with laughter, enthusiasm, and a hint of chaos. Amidst the commotion, Janet stands with a drum in her hand, an expression of concentration on her face.

JANET
(to Lisa, unsure)
I'm not sure I can do this. It all seems so... unstructured.

LISA
(grinning)
Come on, Janet, it's all about feeling
the rhythm. Just let go!

Janet hesitates but then starts drumming tentatively, trying to keep up with the others. Her initial attempts are out of sync, and she frowns in concentration.

DAVE
(raising an eyebrow)
Janet, you're kind of missing the
there.

JANET
(determined)
I know, I know. Just give me a moment.

Janet continues to drum, her expression shifting from uncertainty to focus. Unexpectedly, her rhythm starts to align with the drum circle, and she begins to shine. Rick, tired from dancing, quietly sneaks out of the circle to find a close place to rest.

MIKE
(amazed)
Janet, you're actually pretty good at
this!

LISA
(enthusiastic)
Janet, you're a natural!

Janet's drumming becomes more confident and in sync with the others. Janet is making weird concentration faces.

TOM
(laughing)
Janet, I had no idea you had this
hidden talent!

CARMEN
(smiling)
You're bringing a whole new level of
seriousness to the drum circle, Janet!

Janet's drumming becomes more energetic, and she starts to dance to the . Her usually serious demeanor is replaced by a smiling, laughing, and enthusiasm.

JANET

(laughing)

I never thought I'd say this, but I'm actually enjoying this!

GLORIA

(enjoying herself)

That's the spirit, Janet! The rhythm is within us all!

EXT. CITY PARK - DRUM CIRCLE - AFTERNOON

The drum circle continues, but amidst the rhythm and laughter, Dave and Gloria find a quiet spot on a nearby bench, away from the drummers and the crowd.

DAVE

(smiling)

You know, Mom, I never expected our lives to collide in a drum circle of all places.

GLORIA

(chuckling)

Life has a way of surprising us, doesn't it?

There's a moment of comfortable silence between them before Dave speaks again, his tone earnest.

DAVE

(serious)

I've always admired your free-spirited nature, Mom. But sometimes, I find it hard to understand.

GLORIA

(gently)

I know, my dear. My way of living isn't conventional, and it might clash with your idea of life.

DAVE

(nodding)

Exactly. But today, seeing you in your element, I realized there's a beauty in embracing the unconventional, even for a normal guy like me.

Gloria reaches out and places her hand on Dave's, her touch warm and comforting.

GLORIA

(smiling)

You're right, Dave. Our paths might be different, but they can still intersect. Our differences make us who we are, but they don't have to drive us apart.

Dave looks at his mother.

DAVE

(softly)

I guess I've been too caught up in my own way of seeing the world. Today made me realize that there's value in embracing the unknown, in finding common ground even in our differences.

GLORIA

(teary-eyed)

Oh, my dear boy, you've always had a wise soul. It just needed a little nudging.

They share a heartfelt smile.

DAVE

(grateful)

Thanks for nudging me, Mom. I needed this.

GLORIA

(embracing him)

Anytime, my love. Remember, life is a grand adventure. It's okay to wander off the path once in a while.

As they sit there, wrapped in a warm embrace, the drum circle's rhythm continues OC

INT. DAVE AND CARMEN'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Gloria, adorned with her mystical jewelry and bohemian attire, stands at the center of the kitchen, a cauldron of ingredients spread out before her. Dave and Carmen look on with a mix of curiosity and trepidation.

GLORIA

(mysterious)

Prepare yourselves, my dear friends,
for a culinary adventure like no
other. We shall create a dish that
transcends the boundaries of taste and
reality.

DAVE

(raising an eyebrow)

Are you sure about this, Mom?

CARMEN

(concerned)

I mean, exotic recipes can be fun,
but...

Gloria's eyes gleam as she starts combining ingredients like
saffron, dragon fruit, and star anise.

GLORIA

(excited)

We shall call this masterpiece the
"Cosmic Delight." It is said to
connect one's soul with the universe.

Dave watches Gloria with a mix of skepticism and amusement.

DAVE

(whispering to Carmen)

I hope it doesn't connect our stomachs
to the bathroom.

CARMEN

(raising an eyebrow)

What's that ingredient? It looks
like... crystals?

GLORIA

(smiling)

Ah, those are moonstones, my dear.
They'll infuse our dish with the
energy of the moon.

As Gloria continues to add exotic and mystical ingredients,
the dish begins to take on a vibrant and otherworldly
appearance.

CARMEN

(concerned)

Is it supposed to be glowing like that?

DAVE

(grinning)

I guess we're making a UFO landing on our plates.

Gloria places the finished dish in front of them. It's a mesmerizing blend of colors and shapes, and a mysterious glow seems to emanate from the food.

GLORIA

(proud)

Now, let us connect with the cosmos and enjoy the Cosmic Delight.

Cautiously, they take their first bites. Their expressions range from curiosity to disbelief as they taste the otherworldly creation.

CARMEN

(intrigued)

It's... interesting.

DAVE

(nodding)

I can't say I've ever tasted anything like this.

Gloria watches with glee as they continue to eat the Cosmic Delight, unaware that the dish is an exotic catastrophe of flavors.

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - EVENING

Janet opens the freezer looking for something quick to eat, but notices an unfamiliar aluminum foil package, her mind whirring with suspicion.

JANET

(muttering)

What is this? Since when does Mike go out without me?

Janet pulls the package out of the freezer and opens it

JANET
(surprised)
Wholly crap that's a lot of money!!!
(suspicious - talking to herself)

Where did Mike get this?

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Janet stands in front of the open freezer, her brows furrowed as she holds up a BRICK OF CASH wrapped in aluminum foil.

JANET
(angry)
Mike, what is this doing in our
freezer?

Mike, walks into the kitchen playing on his phone, caught off guard, fumbles with his coffee mug and phone, clearly unprepared for the confrontation.

MIKE
(nervous)
Uh, that's... um, it's... a science
experiment?

JANET
(suspicious)
A science experiment, Mike? Seriously?

Janet's tone grows more intense, and Mike realizes that he's not getting out of this situation easily.

MIKE
(awkwardly)
Well, you see, I thought it'd be fun
to freeze money and see what happens.

Janet raises an eyebrow, her expression a mix of disbelief and frustration.

JANET
(skeptical)
Freeze money? Mike, you've never shown
any interest in such science
experiments before. What's really
going on?

Mike's eyes dart around the room, searching for an escape from the interrogation. But the truth remains hidden.

MIKE

(defensive)

I swear, it's just an experiment,
Janet. I didn't think it would bother
you.

JANET

(accusing)

You didn't think it would bother me?
We're not in a financial position to
play around with money like this.

MIKE

(guilt-ridden)

I... I know, Janet. I just didn't
think it through.

As Janet scrutinizes the brick of cash, she can't shake the
feeling that something is off.

JANET

(softening)

Mike, I'm not trying to be
overbearing, but we need to be
responsible with our finances,
especially now.

MIKE

(apologetic)

You're right, Janet. I should've been
more considerate.

Janet takes a deep breath, realizing she might have jumped to
conclusions too quickly.

JANET

(reluctant)

I'm sorry, Mike. I didn't mean to
accuse you like that.

MIKE

(appreciative)

It's alright, Janet. I should've been
more honest with you from the start.

Janet nods, and a moment of understanding passes between
them.

INT. LISA'S ART STUDIO - MORNING

Tom flips through Lisa's sketchbook, his eyes widening at intricate colorful designs of gummy bears.

TOM
(raising an eyebrow)
Lisa, what's the story behind these gummy bear sketches?

LISA
(evading)
Oh, just a burst of inspiration. You know me, always chasing rainbows.

TOM
(loving smile)
Honey, they are beautiful. Almost as beautiful as you. Do we have any plans tonight?

LISA
(excited)
Oh Tom, stop... No, keep going

Lisa smiling

LISA
(inquisitive)
No, I don't have anything going on tonight, what do you have in mind?

TOM
(happy)
Date night, I want to treat you to the most fancy restaurant in Detroit. I want to show off my girl to the world.

LISA
But, fancy equals expensive, I don't think it's a good idea right now.

TOM
(smiling)
Babe, don't worry we are good, everything will be fine.

INT. FANCY DETROIT RESTAURANT - EVENING

Tom and Lisa sit at a candlelit table, surrounded by opulence. The restaurant exudes elegance.

TOM
(smiling)
This place is amazing, isn't it?

LISA
(nervous)
It is, but...Tom, are you sure about
the expense?

Tom glances at the menu, seemingly unfazed by the prices.

TOM
(confident)
Tonight's a special night, and we
deserve the best.

LISA
(worried)
I know, but... our savings... we've
been spending a lot lately.

TOM
(reassuring)
Don't worry about it. Everything's
under control.

Lisa studies Tom's face, searching for any signs of concern.

LISA
(softly)
Tom, you've seemed stressed lately. Is
everything okay?

Tom hesitates for a moment, torn between honesty and
maintaining secrecy.

TOM
(evading)
It's just work, Lisa. Stress comes
with the job.

LISA
(concerned)
I wish you'd talk to me about it.
We're a team, remember?

Tom reaches across the table and gently takes Lisa's hand.

TOM
(softly)
I know, and I promise, when the time

is right, I'll tell you everything.
Just trust me for now.

Lisa, while appreciating the reassurance, can't shake the worry about their financial situation. She offers a faint smile.

LISA
(resigned)
Alright, Tom. I trust you.

They return their focus to the exquisite cuisine and the romantic ambiance, But, Lisa's concerns linger in the background.

EXT. DAVE AND CARMEN'S YARD - MORNING

Dave leads Carmen into their lush backyard, where a yoga mat is set up. He holds a blindfold over her eyes.

DAVE
(excited)
Okay, Carmen, just a few more steps...

Carmen chuckles as she takes cautious steps, guided by Dave. Her curiosity brims with anticipation.

CARMEN
(teasing)
Dave, what are you up to?

DAVE
(grinning)
Just a little surprise for my amazing
yogi wife.

He removes the blindfold, revealing a set of top-of-the-line yoga equipment, including a beautifully designed yoga mat, a set of blocks, and a stylish yoga bag.

CARMEN
(amazed)
Dave, this is incredible!

Carmen's eyes light up as she examines the thoughtful gifts.

DAVE

(sincere)

I noticed that your old mat was starting to wear out, and you mentioned wanting new props for your outdoor classes.

CARMEN

(grateful)

This is more than I could've ever asked for, Dave. Thank you.

She wraps her arms around him, genuinely touched by his gesture. But beneath her happiness, there's a glimmer of suspicion about how he could afford such lavish gifts.

CARMEN

(teary-eyed)

But, Dave, how... How did you manage to get all this?

DAVE

(evading)

I've been saving up for a while, Carmen. You deserve the best.

Carmen doesn't press further. She knows something is off about the sudden abundance of money.

CARMEN

(grinning)

Thank you, Dave. This means the world to me.

Carmen rolls out the new yoga mat, feeling a mixture of happiness and unease. She remains quiet, not wanting to ruin the moment but determined to uncover the source of the unexpected gifts.

DAVE

(enjoying the moment)

Why don't you give it a try, Carmen? Break in the new mat.

CARMEN

(enigmatic)

I will, Dave. But first, {improv- some lame pun/joke} Dave, unaware of the thoughts in Carmen's mind, he watches her begin her yoga routine with a hint of concern.

DAVE

(softly)

I just wanted to make you happy babe.

Carmen's yoga practice begins, but in the back of her mind, she's already formulating a plan to uncover the mystery behind Dave's sudden generosity.

CARMEN

(whispering to herself)

I'll find out where all this extra money is coming from.

EXT. DETROIT STREET - FOOD TRUCK - LUNCHTIME

Carmen approaches Dave, a playful glint in her eye.

CARMEN

(teasing)

HI

(BIG TOOTHY SMILE)

Sweetie you've been acting more fidgety than a squirrel on caffeine lately. playful, hands on hips, squinting eyes, smile Got any secrets hiding in that food truck?

DAVE

(grinning)

Ahh, don't know what you mean, just experimenting with new flavors I got from Mom, Babe. DAVE CONT.

(excited)

I'm thinking sweets, like candies, could be our next big thing!

Carmen smirks, sensing an adventure in the making.

EXT. DAVE AND CARMEN'S BACKYARD - EVENING

The backyard is beautifully lit with string lights and filled with the laughter and chatter of Dave, Carmen, Tom, Lisa, Mike, Janet and Rick as they prepare for the farewell party for Gloria. A long table is set with an assortment of food and drinks, and colorful decorations adorn the space.

DAVE

(excited)

I can't believe Mom's leaving tomorrow. Let's make this farewell memorable!

LISA

(smiling)

She definitely added some unexpected colors to our routine lives.

MIKE

(laughing)

And taught us how to dance to the of our own drums!

Carmen, dressed in a flowing bohemian dress reminiscent of Gloria's style, joins the group, carrying a tray of exotic snacks.

CARMEN

(grinning)

I made some of Gloria's favorite snacks from her travels. Let's add some spice to this party!

They all cheer and dig into the exotic snacks.

JANET

(teasing)

Remember the drum circle? Who knew we had such hidden talents?

TOM

(laughing)

Janet, you were the star of the show that day!

Amidst the laughter and chatter, Dave spots Gloria entering the backyard, she smiles with warmth and affection.

DAVE

(smiling)

Here she is, the woman of the hour!

Gloria embraces each friend while gracefully moving through the yard. Rick stands on the outskirts, observing the festivities.

Gloria spots Rick and gracefully glides over to him, a subtle yet playful smile on her lips.

GLORIA

(teasingly)

Rick, my enigmatic companion, care to join the festivities? The night is young, and the stars are dancing.

Rick, a touch more at ease than before, offers a small smile.

RICK
(slightly amused)
Dancing stars, huh? I'm more of a
grounded kind of guy.

GLORIA
(grinning)
Grounded is good, but sometimes, you
need to let loose. Life's too short
for routines.

She lightly places her hand on his arm. Rick, although appreciative, maintains his reserved demeanor.

RICK
(chuckling)
I've learned to appreciate routine,
Gloria. Keeps things in order.

GLORIA
(teasingly)
Order is the canvas, but chaos is the
paint. Let's add some vibrant splashes
tonight.

RICK
(smiling)
You've certainly brought a whirlwind
of color into our lives, Gloria.

GLORIA
(laughing)
A touch of chaos, a dash of
unpredictability-that's the magic.
Care to dance with me, even if it's
just for a moment?

Rick hesitates before finally nodding. They share a brief dance under the string lights.

GLORIA
(teasingly)
You've got a rhythm in you, Rick. Let
it out once in a while.

She leaves him with a parting smile, blending back into the group.

GLORIA

(teary-eyed)

Thank you all for welcoming me into your lives. I'll cherish these moments forever.

They gather around the table, indulging in Gloria's favorite dishes, and laughing.

INT. DAVE AND CARMEN'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

It's the day of Gloria's departure, and the living room is filled with an assortment of items from her travels. Dave, Carmen, Tom, Lisa, Mike, Janet and Rick stand around a massive, vividly decorated suitcase. Gloria, still adorned in her bohemian attire, enthusiastically packs her belongings.

GLORIA

(excited)

This crystal is from the caves of the Himalayas, and it radiates healing energy. I can't leave it behind!

TOM

(raising an eyebrow)

Gloria, how many crystals do you need for a short trip?

CARMEN

(trying to help)

And this dreamcatcher from Peru, it's so intricate.

LISA

(curious)

Do you even have enough space for everything?

Gloria's suitcase overflows with vibrant scarves, exotic feathers, and various other trinkets.

MIKE

(laughing)

It's like you're packing a traveling circus!

Janet holds up a bundle of dried herbs, her expression puzzled.

JANET
(confused)
What are these, Gloria? They
smell...interesting.

Gloria beams and sniffs the herbs with enthusiasm.

GLORIA
(smiling)
Ah, those are sacred herbs from a
shaman in the Onimawhani tribe deep in
the Amazon rain forest. They cleanse
and purify the energy around you.

Dave, holding a traditional African mask, can't help but
chuckle.

DAVE
(teasing)
Mom, you sure know how to make an
impression.

Gloria adds a quirky wooden figurine from her travels into
the suitcase.

CARMEN
(smiling)
Gloria, you always find the most
unique things.

LISA
(amused)
I didn't know you could fit so many
stories in one suitcase.

Through the laughter and confusion, Gloria looks at her
friends, her eyes filled with warmth.

GLORIA
(grateful)
These items hold memories, and I carry
them with me to share the world's
magic with everyone I meet.

The comical packing of mystical belongings, Gloria sits down
on a couch.

GLORIA

(smiling)

Before I leave, there's one more piece of wisdom I'd like to share, a little quirk of mine.

DAVE

(teasing)

Oh, this should be interesting.

GLORIA

(serious)

If I ever have grandchildren, I want to pass this on to them.

CARMEN

(curious)

What is it, Gloria?

Gloria takes out a small, ornate box from her suitcase and opens it. Inside, there's a collection of colorful stones, each with a unique shape and hue.

GLORIA

(gently)

These are memory stones. Each one holds a piece of the universe's energy. When you touch them, they connect you to the wisdom of the ages.

MIKE

(raising an eyebrow)

Memory stones?

Gloria takes one of the stones and hands it to Carmen.

GLORIA

(encouraging)

Whenever you face a difficult decision or need guidance, hold one of these stones. Close your eyes, feel its energy, and let the universe speak to you.

Carmen holds the stone, her expression a mix of skepticism and curiosity.

CARMEN

(skeptical)

So, they're like little wisdom rocks?

GLORIA

(nods)

Exactly, my dear. They might not solve all your problems, but they'll remind you of the wisdom that's already within you.

Gloria hands each of her friends a memory stone. They look at the stones in their hands.

LISA

(smiling)

It's a quirky but beautiful tradition, Gloria.

GLORIA

(teary-eyed)

And it's my way of passing on a piece of my heart to you all.

EXT. DAVE AND CARMEN'S FRONT YARD - DAY

The sun shines brightly as Dave, Carmen, Tom, Lisa, Mike, Janet, and Rick stand near a parked car, ready to say their goodbyes to Gloria. Gloria, in her vibrant bohemian attire, looks at her friends, her eyes filled with warmth and appreciation. Her suitcase, bursting with belongings, stands beside her.

GLORIA

(smiling)

Thank you all for sharing this chapter of my journey. You've embraced my quirks and added colors to my life.

CARMEN

(teary-eyed)

We'll miss you, Gloria.

Gloria hugs each of her friends, a heartfelt farewell filled with laughter and tears.

LISA

(tearful)

I promise to keep the memory stones close to my heart.

GLORIA

(grateful)

I'll carry the memory of our adventures and laughter wherever I go.

JANET

(softly)

We'll keep the of the drum circle
alive.

GLORIA

(whispering)

And don't forget to dance to the
rhythm of life, my dear friends.

Gloria, surrounded by her friends, prepares to bid farewell. As she turns to Rick, there's a mixture of playfulness and sadness in her eyes.

GLORIA

(teasingly)

Rick, my stoic companion, looks like
our dance is coming to an end.

Rick, now more comfortable with Gloria's banter, responds with a genuine smile.

RICK

(smiling)

It's been quite a dance, Gloria. I'll
miss your stories.

GLORIA

(flirting)

Oh, the stories will keep unfolding,
Rick. Perhaps I'll send you postcards
from mystical places.

RICK

(teasing)

As long as they're not from the
talking tree's neighborhood.

Gloria laughs, and then, with a touch of sincerity, she looks into Rick's eyes.

GLORIA

(softly)

Rick, it's been a pleasure getting to
know you. Your quiet strength has
added its own melody to my symphony.

RICK
(sincerely)
Gloria, you're like a burst of color
in a black-and-white world. I've
enjoyed our time together.

GLORIA
(flirty)
Who knows, Rick? Maybe the universe
will lead our paths to cross again.

Rick nods with a subtle smile.

RICK
(openly)
I'd like that, Gloria.

Gloria takes out a piece of paper and scribbles down her
email address.

GLORIA
(serious)
Let's not let this end here. Email me,
Rick. We can keep our rhythm alive,
even from a distance.

She hands him the paper, their fingers brushing briefly.

RICK
(grateful)
I will, Gloria. Safe travels, and may
your journey be filled with
adventurous stories and colors as
vibrant as you are.

Gloria hugs him tightly.

GLORIA
(tearfully)
Thank you, Rick. Until our paths cross
again.

They all share one last group hug, and then Gloria turns to
Dave.

DAVE
(smiling)
You take care, Mom. Keep spreading
your unique light.

Gloria places a hand on Dave's cheek, her eyes filled with pride and love.

GLORIA
 (teary-eyed)
 You're the anchor of my world, Dave.

Dave, Carmen, and their friends watch as Gloria gets into her car, her suitcase by her side. She starts the engine, and the car begins to pull away.

CARMEN
 (tearfully)
 Safe travels, Gloria.

TOM
 (waving)
 And bring back more quirky stories!

As Gloria's car drives down the street, she raises her hand in a final farewell, and they wave back with smiles and teary eyes.

INT. DAVE AND CARMEN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dave sits on the couch, lost in thought. Carmen joins him, a contemplative look on her face.

DAVE
 (smiling)
 Gloria sure knows how to leave an impact.

CARMEN
 (nodding)
 She does. And you know what, Dave?

DAVE
 (raising an eyebrow)
 What, Carmen?

Carmen takes a deep breath, her eyes shining with newfound determination.

CARMEN
 (softly)
 I think I'm ready.

DAVE
 (confused)
 Ready for what?

Carmen looks directly into Dave's eyes.

CARMEN
(determined)
I'm ready to have children.

Dave blinks, momentarily stunned. It takes a moment for her words to sink in.

DAVE
(emotional)
Carmen...

Carmen reaches for his hand, her grip reassuring.

CARMEN
(smiling)
Your mom's visit made me realize how much love and joy we can bring to a family.

Dave's eyes shimmer with a mix of surprise and happiness.

DAVE
(grateful)
I never thought I'd hear you say that.

CARMEN
(teary-eyed)
Well, your mom's unique wisdom got me thinking, and I can't wait to share this journey with you.

Dave pulls Carmen into a warm embrace, his heart filled with love.

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Janet sits on the couch, a laptop open in front of her. She glances at Lisa and Carmen, who are seated across from her, their expressions equally puzzled.

LISA
(slightly concerned)
Have you guys noticed anything odd about the boys lately?

CARMEN

(nods)

Definitely. Dave's been acting like he's planning a surprise Superbowl party for the Lions, even before his Mom got here.

JANET

(frowning)

And Mike's been drowning in tech projects that he won't even talk about.

Their shared unease lingers in the room as they exchange worried glances.

LISA

(inquisitive)

I was thinking they might be trying a new venture together like umm... Honey Gold?

CARMEN

(Irritated)

God... Solid Gold Honey. HAHAHA... Remember they all got stung so bad we had to take them to the ER. No, Dave isn't... Well I hope Mike and Tom aren't dumb enough to try that again.

JANET

(determined)

I don't know about you, but I can't just sit here and wonder. I say we do a little digging.

CARMEN

(smiling mischievously)

You mean... spy on them?

JANET

(cautiously)

Well, maybe not "spy," but a lil information gathering wouldn't hurt, right?

LISA

(smiling)

What would Gloria do?

They nod in agreement, and start laughing

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S - "WAR ROOM" - NIGHT

Janet, Lisa, and Carmen huddle around a table covered in maps, gadgets, and notepads along with 3 glasses of drank wine and 2 empty bottles, one on its side.

JANET

(intense)

This is where we'll gather all our findings. We'll be like a team of elite investigators.

LISA

(excited)

And we'll communicate through encrypted messages, just like in those spy movies!

CARMEN

(playful)

I call dibs on the code name "Yogi Stealth."

They share a laugh, Janet, Lisa, and Carmen transform the living room into a makeshift easily hideable "war room." Maps, charts, and photographs cover the walls, creating an organized chaos of information.

LISA

(pinning up sketches)

Welcome to Operation Revelation.

CARMEN

(smirking)

Our hub of intrigue, where art, data, and yoga converge.

JANET

(focused)

Let's pool our resources and get to the bottom of this. (intense)

We need to cross-reference Mike's late-night coding with any recent tech developments in the city.

LISA

(enthused)

And I'll work on creating a visual timeline of Tom's mysterious sessions.

CARMEN

(playful)

While I research what Dave has been ordering lately. Maybe it will give us an idea of what they are up to.

They assign tasks, each embracing their role with determination.

They huddle around the table, laptops open and minds racing.

INT. "WAR ROOM" HOURS LATER

A 3rd bottle of wine later, empty next to the other two. Janet's fingers fly across the keyboard as she sifts through tech forums and news articles.

JANET

(excited)

Bingo! (immediately distressed)

Mike's late nights don't coincide with any surge in discussions about a potential tech breakthrough. Whatever he's up to it's not tech related.

LISA

(sad/hurt)

Tom's sketches don't align with any of the recent urban development proposals. He's definitely up to something more than architecture.

CARMEN

(shocked)

Dave's been receiving unusually large orders of exotic ingredients. Looks like BBQ might not be the only thing he's dishing out ladies.

They exchange worried glances.

LISA

(earnest)

Our husbands are up to something big.

CARMEN

(determined)

Time to catch them in the act and put an end to this mystery... gang.

JANET

(resolute)

Don't worry Lisa, we're a team, and we'll face this together, no matter what surprises await.

They clasp hands.

INT. LISA'S ART STUDIO - MORNING

Lisa stands in front of a mirror, adjusting a pair of oversized sunglasses and a hat pulled low. She emerges wearing a comically elaborate disguise.

LISA

(struggling to act casual)

I'll blend right in, won't I?

CARMEN

(laughing)

If you're trying to go unnoticed, you might need to tone down the artsy flair.

JANET

(grinning)

Remember, we're not actually spies. Just concerned wives on a mission.

Lisa sighs, removing some of the over-the-top accessories.

EXT. DETROIT STREET - FOOD TRUCK - LUNCHTIME

Carmen practices subtle yoga stretches nearby, pretending to be absorbed in her practice. Dave serves a customer, seemingly oblivious to the observant "yogi."

CARMEN

(muttering to herself)

Warrior pose... crouching tiger...

Dave glances over, raising an eyebrow at Carmen's peculiar behavior.

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Janet sits at her laptop, typing furiously. Complex algorithms and data charts fill the screen as she navigates through online forums and social media.

JANET
(intently)
If Mike's involved in something
unusual, there must be a digital
trail.

She traces online connections, analyzing data patterns to uncover any potential secrets.

INT. LISA'S ART STUDIO - MORNING

Lisa pores over sketches of gummy bears, her imagination running wild. She fiddles with her phone, sending a text to Tom.

LISA
(texting)
"Hey, darling architect, any chance
you're sketching something sweeter
than blueprints?"

She smirks, hoping to catch a hint of his secret project.

EXT. DETROIT STREET - FOOD TRUCK - LUNCHTIME

Carmen chats animatedly with a street performer, engaging them in laughter and conversation. In the midst of their banter, she subtly steers the conversation towards Dave's recent activities.

CARMEN
(playful)
So, Dave's been spending a lot of time
in that food truck lately. Any idea
what's cooking?

She raises an eyebrow, her eyes dancing with intrigue.

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S APARTMENT - "WAR ROOM" - NIGHT

Janet, Lisa, and Carmen gather around the table, each presenting their findings.

JANET
(showing data)
I've tracked Mike's online
interactions. No evidence of anything
shady, but I did find an unusually
high number of late- night coding
sessions.

LISA
 (smirking)
 I planted the gummy bear seed, and
 Tom's evasive response confirms he's
 up to something sweet.

CARMEN
 (teasing)
 Dave's acting suspiciously jumpy
 around the food truck. Something tells
 me he's not just perfecting his nacho
 cheese recipe.

They exchange glances, piecing together their "evidence" like
 a puzzle.

JANET
 (resolute)
 We may not have concrete proof, but
 there's definitely something brewing.

LISA
 (confident)
 And with each of us playing to our
 strengths, we'll get to the bottom of
 it.

CARMEN
 (smiling)
 Time to unveil our findings and see if
 our husbands crack under the pressure.

They share a determined nod, ready to take their
 investigation to the next level.

EXT. DETROIT STREET - FOOD TRUCK - DAY

Carmen stands in an over-the-top disguise, attempting to
 eavesdrop on Dave's conversation with a customer.

CARMEN
 (whispering to herself)
 Yogi stealth mode: engaged.

She strikes a bizarre yoga pose, accidentally knocking over a
 stack of food containers. Dave looks over, bewildered.

DAVE
 (raising an eyebrow)
 Carmen, what in the world are you
 doing?

EXT. DOWNTOWN DETROIT - MORNING

Lisa dons a pair of oversized sunglasses, attempting to tail Tom through the city on his lunch break. She trips over her own feet and crashes into a street performer's puppet show.

LISA
 (sputtering)
 I'm just... blending in, like a true
 artist-adventurer!

Returning from the coffee shop, Tom walks by, chuckling at her predicament.

TOM
 (hurried, but concerned, helping
 her up)
 Lisa, are you alright? I gotta get
 back to work. Text me later.

LISA
 (pouty look)
 Hmmmmuph.....

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Janet tinkers with surveillance equipment, attempting to discreetly record Mike's late-night activities. She accidentally activates a voice-altering feature, turning her voice into a comical robotic tone.

JANET (ROBOTIC VOICE)
 (speaking into microphone)
 Initiating covert data extraction.
 Beep boop.

Mike enters, bemused by the strange sound.

MIKE
 (raising an eyebrow)
 Janet, are you debugging the
 dishwasher again?

EXT. DETROIT STREET DAY

Carmen, Lisa, and Janet meet at a corner, their disguises now disheveled and their spirits dampened.

CARMEN

(exasperated)

I nearly flattened a mime on a bicycle. Turns out, Dave's just trying a new recipe for BBQ vegan tacos.

LISA

(dejected)

Tom's "secret project" was a surprise mural he painted with Gloria for our anniversary. I almost ruined it with my ninja artist moves.

JANET

(resigned)

And I accidentally applied a voice modulator to my live video chat with Mike. He thinks the internet has turned me into a robot.

They exchange defeated glances.

CARMEN

(optimistic)

Okay, so we might have hit a few snags. But we're a team, and we'll get to the bottom of this, one misadventure at a time.

LISA

(smirking)

Right. No more avantgarde disguises or tech mishaps.

JANET

(determined)

We'll use our skills wisely and find out what our husbands are really up to.

They share a laugh, reinvigorated by their shared determination.

EXT. DETROIT STREET FOOD TRUCK DAY

Carmen stands in her "yogi stealth" pose near Dave's food truck, trying to overhear his conversation with a customer.

CARMEN

(murmuring)

Yogi vibes, guide me to the truth.

Her intense focus doesn't go unnoticed by a group of curious pedestrians.

PASSERBY #1

(whispering)

Is she doing some kind of performance art?

PASSERBY #2

(laughing)

Maybe it's an audition for a reality show.

Carmen's face flushes, realizing that her "stealth" mission is attracting more attention than she intended.

INT. LISA'S ART STUDIO MORNING

Lisa stands by a street corner, disguised in an elaborate costume that includes a fake mustache and oversized sunglasses. She attempts to tail Tom again, but her conspicuous appearance turns heads.

PASSERBY #3

(pointing)

Look at that dude with the fancy mustache.

PASSERBY #4

(laughing)

I think he's lost in a time warp from the '70s.

Lisa's attempts at blending in have the opposite effect, as pedestrians stop to take photos of her.

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Janet sits with a laptop, listening intently through headphones to a recording of Mike's conversation.

MIKE (RECORDED)

(excited)

And then I told them, "The algorithm needs more tweaking for optimal performance."

A moment later, the recorded conversation shifts abruptly.

UNKNOWN VOICE (RECORDED)

(deadpan)

You forgot the milk again, didn't you?

Janet's eyes widen in realization as she discovers she accidentally recorded a mundane household conversation.

EXT. DETROIT STREET DAY

Carmen has joined a group of street performers in an attempt to blend in. She awkwardly attempts to mimic their routines, drawing amused glances from the performers.

STREET PERFORMER #1

(laughing)

Nice try, but I think you've got your warrior poses mixed up.

STREET PERFORMER #2

(jokingly)

Next time, maybe bring your own juggling balls.

Carmen's face turns redder with each playful remark

EXT. OUTSIDE LISA'S ART STUDIO MORNING

Lisa has swapped her elaborate disguise for a more subtle look, attempting to tail Tom once again. As she follows him down the street, she accidentally steps in and gets tangled up in the train of a passerby's dress.

TALL MAN DRESSED AS A WOMAN

(startled & in a deep voice)

Hey, watch where you're going lady!

LISA

(apologetic)

I'm so sorry, it was an artistic,
Umm... mishap.

Embarrassed, Lisa tries to untangle herself from the man's dress, her covert operation now causing a scene.

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S LIVING ROOM NIGHT

Janet sits surrounded by a pile of flash drives and SD cards, frustration evident on her face. She clicks on another file, hoping for a breakthrough.

MIKE (RECORDED)
(passionate)
I've been working on this project day
and night, and I'm confident it will
revolutionize the industry.

A pause, then another unexpected shift in conversation.

UNKNOWN VOICE (RECORDED)
(disgruntled)
Why can't you ever remember to take
out the trash?

Janet buries her face in her hands, realizing that her eavesdropping has led to other accidental recordings of mundane household discussions.

EXT. DETROIT STREET DAY

Carmen attempts a yoga pose with a group of street performers, earning amused applause from onlookers.

STREET PERFORMER #3
(laughing)
Hey, if you ever want to join our act,
just let us know!

STREET PERFORMER #4
(teasing)
I think we've found the next yoga
sensation, folks!

Carmen sarcastically joins in the laughter

INT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - MORNING

Detective Stan briefs his colleagues, unveiling his off plan.

DETECTIVE STAN
(excited)
Gentlemen and ladies, we're going
undercover. Operation "Brown Bag
Candy."

Stan points to a board filled with pictures of Dave, Tom, and Mike.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (contemplative)
 Our targets may look like lost
 innocent civilians, but I smell an
 illegal racket.

Stan's fellow detectives exchange bewildered glances.

DETECTIVE #1
 (incredulous)
 Illegal racket? You sure about that,
 Stan?

DETECTIVE STAN
 (determined)
 Trust me, folks. What they are selling
 on the street glows. Really! This new
 street drug actually glows! I've seen
 enough crime flicks to know when I'm
 onto something big.

EXT. LISA'S ART STUDIO MORNING

Lisa walks down the street, now dressed in casual attire. She spots Tom entering a nearby cafe and attempts to discreetly run-follow him.

TOM
 (to barista)
 I'll have a double shot espresso,
 please.

Nervous and panicky, Lisa's heart races as she approaches the counter, trying to hide from TOM while maintaining her casual demeanor.

LISA
 (to barista)
 I'll have a... um, double shot of
 whatever he's having.

The barista and Tom give Lisa an odd look, and she blushes, realizing her attempt at subtlety has backfired.

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - DAY

Undercover officers, decked out as candy enthusiasts, roam the same street corner. Their task: act like customers and observe Dave, Tom, and Mike.

OFFICER #1
(in a low voice, to the others)
This is ridiculous. I'm dressed like a
kid in a candy store.

DETECTIVE STAN
(smiling)
Stay frosty, folks. This stakeout is
going to be... sweeter than a sugar
high.

Stan and his quirky ways have set the stage for a sting
operation that's bound to be as unconventional as he is.

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - DAY

Detective Stan's "Brown Bag Candy" is in full swing.
Undercover officers blend in with the evening crowd. Among
them, Lucy, a young and eager rookie, tries to keep her
nerves in check. She approaches Dave, Tom, and Mike.

LUCY
(to Dave, acting anxious)
Hey, um... are you guys the ones I
heard about?

DAVE
(cool and collected)
Depends on what you're looking for,
sweetheart.

Lucy leans in, lowering her voice, her heart pounding.

LUCY
(nervous)
You know... the stuff?

Dave, Tom, and Mike share amused glances, thinking she's
looking for their "gummy bears."

MIKE
(mocking innocence)
Oh, you mean the candy?

LUCY
(whispers)
Yeah, the candy.

Lucy hands over a wad of cash, which they take with
exaggerated secrecy.

TOM
(smirking)
Here you go, lady. Enjoy the... candy.

Lucy departs, trying not to let her anxiety show. As she leaves, Stan observes from a distance, signaling his team.

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - DAY

Carmen stands at a distance, her cell phone ready. She watches Dave, Mike, and Tom with a mix of disbelief and concern. She sees Tom exchanging a small bag for cash with Lucy. The atmosphere is tense.

CARMEN
(whispering)
Oh, my God, This can't be happening.

Carmen discreetly snaps a photo of the transaction and quickly retreats, her heart racing.

EXT. DETROIT STREET - A FEW BLOCKS AWAY - DAY

Carmen rushes to meet with Janet and Lisa, who were waiting in Janet's car. She shows them the photo on her phone.

JANET
(horrified)
Carmen, are you sure?

CARMEN
(nervous)
I saw it with my own eyes. They were exchanging small bags with people on the corner.

LISA
(doubtful)
But, Carmen, we can't jump to conclusions.

CARMEN
(frustrated)
Lisa, I know what I saw! I can't believe they would do this.

EXT. DETROIT STREET CORNER - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, the Detroit police have discreetly surrounded Dave, Mike, and Tom, ready to make their move. The tension in the air.

POLICE OFFICER #1
(into a radio)
We're a go. Move in.

The police officers converge on the men, handcuffing them and confiscating the bags.

DAVE
(shocked)
What's going on? We didn't do anything!

OFFICER #2
(cuffing Dave)
You're under arrest for the unlawful distribution of...

Mike and Tom share bewildered glances, as the absurdity of the situation dawns on them.

Detective Stan struts up to the trio, a smirk stretching across his face, reveling in the theatrics of it all.

DETECTIVE STAN
(laughing)
A candy cartel, huh? Looks like you've got a... sticky situation here!

Dave, Tom, and Mike exchange glances, utterly flabbergasted.

DAVE
(incredulous)
Hey, it's the homeless guy? A candy cartel? What on earth are you talking about? Hey, you're that weirdo from a few nights ago.

Stan continues to taunt them, his amusement at its peak.

DETECTIVE STAN
(joking)
Well, you're heading to the big house, where you'll meet hardened criminals with a sweet tooth.

INT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - LATER

Dave, Tom, and Mike sit in a holding cell, still baffled by the situation. Lucy approaches them, her rookie status unmistakable.

LUCY
 (nervous)
 Um, sorry about that. Detective Stan
 can be... eccentric.

Dave chuckles despite the circumstances.

DAVE
 (grinning)
 No worries. We're just as confused as
 you are.

Lucy, not so experienced herself, offers a shy smile.

LUCY
 (shyly)
 Maybe he'll let you out when he
 realizes it's just candy.

INT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Detective Stan, triumphant, struts down the corridor.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (to himself)
 A drug sting? Nah, the Sugary Sting
 was the way to go!

As he struts, his fellow officers share amused looks, bemused
 by his quirky theatrics.

INT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - MORNING

Detective Stan takes a sip from his coffee mug. A tired and
 disheveled Dave, Mike, and Tom sit on the opposite side of
 the table.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (grinning)
 Gentlemen, I hope you've had time to
 reflect on your candy cartel
 operations.

Dave leans forward, a mix of frustration and humor in his
 voice.

DAVE
 (confused)
 Detective Stan, we've been telling you
 from the start that we're just selling
 gourmet gummy bears.

TOM
(sarcastic)
Not to mention, that's what you found
in our bags.

Mike nods in agreement.

MIKE
(rolling eyes)
I can't believe we're being held
over... for candy.

Stan leans in, his mustache twitching with excitement.

DETECTIVE STAN
(enigmatic)
You guys must be clever. Hiding behind
the facade of glowing sweet treats to
dupe us cops.

INT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

As the absurd interrogation continues, the door creaks open,
and Officer Johnson walks in, whispering into Detective
Stan's ear.

OFFICER JOHNSON
(whispering)
Stan, the lab results are back...
everything we took from these guys,
it's all just candy. Even that candy
they sold to the rookie officer.

Stan's eyes widen in disbelief as the reality of the
situation dawns on him. He looks back at Dave, Mike, and Tom,
who are watching him with smirks on their faces.

DETECTIVE STAN
(disbelief)
Candy?

He rises from his chair, almost stumbling backward.

DAVE
(smiling)
We've been trying to tell you,
Detective.

MIKE
 (mocking)
 We're not drug dealers; we're candy
 connoisseurs!

Detective Stan's face flushes with embarrassment as he begins to piece together the whole farcical episode.

DETECTIVE STAN
 (humbled)
 I've made a... sweet mistake,
 gentlemen.

Dave, Mike, and Tom exchange glances, suppressing their laughter.

TOM
 (grinning)
 It's never too late to change your
 mustache motto to "Serve and protect,
 not candy-check."

EXT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - DAY

Carmen, Janet, and Lisa pull up to the police station, their expressions a mix of worry and determination. They enter the station, determined to get to the bottom of the situation.

INT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The wives approach the front desk, where a DESK SERGEANT is stationed.

DESK SERGEANT
 (polite)
 How can I assist you, ladies?

JANET
 (resolute)
 We're here to see our husbands. They
 were brought in earlier.

DESK SERGEANT
 (nods)
 Names, please?

The girls each tell him their husbands names

DESK SERGEANT

(chuckling)

Ohh, these guys, boy you girls sure do
have your hands full huh?

INT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

Dave, Mike, and Tom are finally released from the
interrogation room, their arrest having transformed into an
absurd tale of candy confusion. Detective Stan, meanwhile,
slinks back to his desk, his extravagant mustache sagging in
defeat.

DAVE

(smiling)

Thanks for clearing this up,
Detective.

Stan nods, unable to meet their eyes.

DETECTIVE STAN

(sincere)

You gentlemen are free to go. Sorry
for the mix-up.

As they exit the room, Lucy, the rookie officer, approaches
them.

LUCY

(grinning)

Looks like your candy is as innocent
as you claimed.

Dave, Mike, and Tom share a laugh with Lucy.

MIKE

(appreciative)

You have a good sense of humor,
Officer.

INT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION HALLWAY -
CONTINUOUS

Dave, Mike, and Tom are startled when they see Carmen, Janet,
and Lisa walking into the hallway. Lucy walks away.

CARMEN

(furious)

What the hell is going on here?

DAVE

(scared)

Ohh crap, officer? OFFICER!?! We're ready to go to jail now!!!

CARMEN glares at DAVE - the two groups meet in the middle and each hug their spouse, Carmen punches Dave in the arm first.

MIKE

(relieved)

Thank goodness you're here. We're free men who need a ride home.

TOM

(exasperated)

This was all a big mistake.

JANET

(demanding)

We saw you on the street corner. What were you doing?

DAVE

(desperate)

Calm down, we weren't selling drugs.

LISA

(skeptical)

Then what were you doing?

MIKE

(explaining)

We were selling... gummy bears.

CARMEN

(angry)

Gummy bears?

The wives exchange confused glances. LUCY can be seen laughing in the distance.

DAVE

(pleading)

It's true. We found these rare high-end gummy bears at the local market, and I jazzed some up with Mom's Cosmic Delight. We wanted to surprise you all.

TOM

(adding)

And, we've been making some extra cash for this venture and some other surprises... by selling the gummies to customers on the street corner.

(confused)

Oh, wait...

The boys look at each other like Ohh Shit

DAVE

(smiling)

Candy Cartel, I get it now! That's good. (starts laughing)

MIKE

(earnest)

We never meant to cause all this chaos.

CARMEN

(stunned)

Gummy bears? Are you serious?

JANET

(raising an eyebrow)

You expect us to believe that?

LISA

(confused)

But what about the bags and the exchanges?

TOM

(explaining)

We were just packaging our gummy bears. Those bags were for the customers we were selling to.

DAVE

(apologetic)

Paper bags cut down on moisture that causes the gummy bears to stick together like they do in plastic bags. We didn't realize it would look so suspicious.

MIKE

(looking at Carmen)

Carmen, you saw us in the middle of
our business launch.

CARMEN

(guilt-ridden)

I...

(stunned)

I took a photo. I thought...

JANET

(sighing)

We all thought the worst. We should've
trusted you.

LISA

(softening)

We're sorry for jumping to
conclusions.

CARMEN

(teary-eyed)

And for getting you into this mess.

DAVE

(sincere)

We should've been more upfront with
you from the beginning.

(turns to Carmen)

Honey, for the millionth time, the
government isn't spying on you through
your phone. They have more interesting
people to spy on.

MIKE

(apologetic)

We never meant to deceive you. We just
wanted to create something special
together.

TOM

(resolute)

And we promise, no more secret gummy
bear missions.

MIKE

(serious)

No more secrets period.

The wives share a moment of reconciliation with their husbands, the tension of the past hours gradually giving way to understanding and forgiveness.

LISA
 (squeezing Tom's hand)
 Let's get you guys out of here.

INT. DETROIT POLICE STATION - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The couples exit the police station, their expressions a mixture of exhaustion and relief. As they exit the police station, Dave, Mike, and Tom reflect on the bizarre series of events that unfolded.

DAVE
 (laughing)
 Who would've thought we'd get arrested
 for selling candy?

TOM
 (chuckles)
 Life's full of surprises.

MIKE
 (smiling)
 Well, that was one wild adventure.

CARMEN
 (grateful)
 Thank you for forgiving us.

LISA
 (apologetic)
 We should've trusted you from the
 start.

DAVE
 (hugging Carmen)
 It's alright. We also learned that
 honesty is the best policy.

JANET
 (looking at her friends)
 And that friendship can overcome even
 the sweetest deceptions.

They step out into the bright Detroit morning, ready to resume their candy business. Detective Stan, on the other hand, retreats to his desk, ready to indulge in some '70s cop movie nostalgia but humbled by the day's events.

DETECTIVE STAN

(to himself)

Note to self: Stick to solving crimes,
not inventing them.

INT. JANET AND MIKE'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM NIGHT

The three couples meet back up after the police station.
Laughing and sharing stories of what they been thru the last
few days.

The couples walking in the door laughing

CARMEN

(embarrassed)

Those poor street performers, I am
going to owe them a lifetime supply of
gummy bears.

LISA

(smiling)

My disguises were so awesome, people
actually thought I was a guy.

JANET

(embarrassed)

I hope I never run into those
neighbors. Ohh honey, that reminds me,
we need milk.

MIKE

(confused)

Umm... Ok, that was random.

The girls giggle together

MIKE

(excited)

Those "late night coding sessions"
were actually us researching gummy
bear recipes and designs.

DAVE

(excited)

And those weird ingredient orders were
for creating the most exquisite
gourmet gummies Detroit has ever seen
using a mix of mine and Mom's recipes.

TOM

(excitedly)

And we thought, why not turn this into a business? People pay top dollar for luxury experiences, even in the form of gummy bears.

DAVE

(smiling)

So, we've been testing flavors, designing packaging, and planning to launch our own line of gourmet gummies. Which is a lot less dangerous than honey.

The husbands exchange excited glances.

MIKE

(chuckling)

Man, who knew our little scheme would turn into a full blown spy thriller? With cops and everything!

The room erupts in laughter and relief.

JANET

(smiling)

You really had us going there for a while.

LISA

(laughing)

I can't believe we jumped to such wild conclusions.

CARMEN

(teasing)

Looks like our spy skills need a bit of work.

MIKE

(apologetic)

Again, we're sorry for all the confusion and worry we caused.

TOM

(apologetic)

Yeah, we never meant for things to spiral like this.

DAVE

(apologetic)

But hey, at least we've got the most unexpected gummy bear venture in Detroit history.

The room is filled with a mix of laughter.

JANET

(thoughtful)

Well, we're gonna need a catchy name that captures the luxury and exclusivity of our gummy bears.

LISA

(excited)

How about "The Bear-Father"? It sounds playful. OOhh I can paint little suits and mobster hats on the bears I already painted!!

CARMEN

(smiling)

I love it. "The Bear-Father" it is.

TOM

(surprised)

So, we're still gonna do this?

MIKE

(smiling)

Well we've come this far

DAVE

(determined)

Our gummies will conquer taste buds from Detroit to Dubai.

CARMEN

(cheerful)

From undercover wives to gummy bear moguls.

A lively PHOTO MONTAGE unfolds, capturing the couples collaborating on different aspects of their gummy bear business: Janet and Mike sit side by side, designing the official The Bear-Father website, their faces lit up with shared excitement as they choose elegant color schemes and sleek layouts.

Lisa and Tom stand at an art easel, sketching out creative ad campaigns. They share playful banter, turning serious moments into bursts of laughter.

Carmen and Dave sample various gummy bear flavors in a test kitchen. Their eyes widen in delight and amusement as they experiment with unexpected ingredients, savoring the unique combinations.

The PHOTO MONTAGE culminates in a heartwarming scene of the couples placing the first batch of The Bear-Father gummy bear packages onto a delivery truck. Their faces glow with satisfaction and anticipation, a true testament to their teamwork and dedication.

EXT. THE BEAR-FATHER STORE - DAY

The exterior of The Bear-Father is adorned with vibrant banners, showcasing their elegant logo and inviting passersby to the grand opening event. The street is abuzz with excitement as people gather, curious to experience the culinary wonders that await inside.

The store's doorbell chimes.

INT. THE BEAR-FATHER STORE STORE - DAY

The store is a feast for the senses-walls lined with shelves of beautifully packaged gummy bears in various flavors and colors. The air is filled with a sweet aroma, and gentle music sets a festive mood. Janet, Mike, Lisa, Tom, Carmen, and Dave move about, putting finishing touches on displays and engaging with eager customers.

JANET

(to a customer)

Welcome to THE BEAR-FATHER! Would you like to try our limited edition champagne-infused gummy bears?

MIKE

(excitedly)

Or how about our handcrafted bourbon vanilla bears?

LISA

(to another customer)

We've put a lot of heart into creating these gourmet gummies.

TOM
 (grinning)
 And a lot of taste-testing too.

CARMEN
 (engaging with a group)
 Don't miss our exotic cosmic fruit
 medley-each gummy is a burst of
 flavor!

DAVE
 (laughing)
 We're the only place in town where
 your taste buds can go on a global and
 beyond adventure.

EXT. THE BEAR-FATHER STORE - DAY

The line of customers extends down the block, a testament to the anticipation surrounding Bears of Indulgence's opening. The atmosphere is electric, filled with chatter, laughter, and the crinkling of gummy bear-filled bags.

EXT. THE BEAR-FATHER STORE - DAY

The couples file out of the store to a sea of customers outside and a stage right in front of their building. Gloria appears at the back of the crowd. Rick notices her first.

RICK
 (smiling)
 Gloria, you're back!

GLORIA
 (teasingly)
 Couldn't resist the grand opening of
 this bear-filled haven.

They exchange a warm hug,

CARMEN
 (excited)
 Gloria! You're back! Just in time for
 the grand opening.

GLORIA
 (hugging Carmen)
 I wouldn't miss it for the world.

They share a warm embrace.

CARMEN

(excited)

Gloria, you have to try our special gummy bears. They're the talk of the town.

GLORIA

(grinning)

Lead the way, Carmen. I'm ready for a taste of this adventure.

They head to the outside gummy bear display, and Gloria pops a few gummy bears in her mouth, her eyes widening with delight.

GLORIA

(amused)

Dave, you've outdone yourself. These are like little bites of happiness.

DAVE

(smiling)

Thanks, Mom. It's been quite a journey.

As the crowd enjoys the gummy bears, Gloria steals a moment with Rick, reaching out to hold his hand..

GLORIA

(whispering)

Rick, it seems life has its own way of orchestrating surprises.

RICK

(smiling)

And sometimes, those surprises are the best part.

Gloria's gaze lingers on Rick, as he grasps her hand and gives it a loving squeeze..

GLORIA

(grinning)

Well, it seems I've found a rhythm worth dancing to.

TOM

(excited)

Guys hurry up, the band is about to take the stage.

They rush over closer to the stage to get a better view of the band coming up on stage.

LISA

(Confused)

Woah, she looks familiar, (Shocked)
Hey, she's the one that called me a
guy!

ANNOUNCER

(OC)

Ladies and gentlemen I am proud to
introduce BAND NAME HERE Everything
quiets down and focuses on Carmen.

CARMEN

(staring at Dave, smiling with
excitement)

Dave, I'm Pregnant!

GLORIA

(teary-eyed)

Oh, Carmen, this is wonderful!

RICK

(smiling)

Congratulations, both of you.

CARMEN

(grinning)

Gloria, you're more excited than I am!

GLORIA

(teary-eyed)

Life is a beautiful dance, Carmen, and
this is a breathtaking new movement.

Gloria looks at Rick.

GLORIA

(whispering to Rick)

Looks like life has some surprises for
us, Rick.

RICK

(smiling)

My dance card is open, Gloria.

As the group revels in Carmen's announcement and the band begins to play, Gloria's eyes grow big.

CARMEN

(teasingly)

Gloria, you seem lost in thought.
What's on your mind?

GLORIA

(decisively)

I've decided. I'm staying. In fact, I
think I'll move into that spare
bedroom of yours, Carmen.

DAVE

(laughing)

Mom, you're welcome anytime.

The other two girls start screaming with excitement and the
guys erupt into laughing and clapping. Camera pulls out and
up to get an aerial view of the band playing and spectacle
below.

OR

The other two girls start screaming with excitement and The
band stops playing, congratulates Carmen and Dave and invites
the group up on stage for a song. Camera pulls out and up to
get an aerial view of the band playing and the spectacle
below.

SCREEN FADES TO

BLACK

START CREDITS

BLOOPER REEL

ROLL CREDITS