

RHIANNON

Written by

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An Original Screenplay

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FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

REDWOOD NATIONAL BANK, in downtown Sacramento CA is a sprawling, busy bank. There are lines of people at the teller windows, and hundreds of offices with people conducting business at their computer terminals. ELIAS DAVIDSON sits at his desk staring blankly at his computer screen. At 38, he is a typical businessman, slightly balding, graying hair, a little overweight, pale, a heart attack waiting to happen.

ELIAS (V.O.)

I think that in every man's life, there comes a time, a precise moment, when he decides that his life is shit. He realizes that he can't stand his job, that he's just not happy in his marriage, and that his youth has faded away into the sunset. You suddenly remember all the things that you wanted to accomplish by the time you're "old", and now you're too old, or too stuck in a rut to do any of them.

Seated in Elias' office is DOBIE COOPER, a darkly tanned twenty-something with his hair in dirty-looking dreadlocks.

ELIAS

So, Mr. Cooper,...

DOBIE

Dobie, call me Dobie.

ELIAS

So, ... Dobie, you are wanting to open up a surfing shop, selling surfboards, skateboards, and t-shirts.

Dobie nods.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

And I see that as far as cash assets for a down payment you have, ... you have no down payment.

DOBIE

Like, coin is a little scarce these days, bra.

ELIAS

And looking at your credit report,  
you have some questionable items:  
Account in collection with  
MasterCredit.

DOBIE

Man, they were not cool to me on my  
plastic. Like, I was just a little  
late on my payment, and they were  
like, pay everything now!

ELIAS

You are in default with a cell  
phone company, and a magazine  
subscription business...

DOBIE

Totally a misunderstanding. Like,  
I'm trying to pay those dudes off,  
you know?

ELIAS (V.O.)

I never wanted to work in a bank.  
That was my wife's idea. But I  
thought it might be a good job  
until something better came along.  
Something I really liked. That was  
15 years ago.

Elias glances at a framed photograph of his wife on his desk.

ELIAS

Okay, Mr. ... I mean, Dobie, do you  
have any collateral assets that we  
can use as a guarantee?

Dobe gives Elias a blank look.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Do you have a house, a car,  
something like that?

DOBIE

Dude, like, I live with my  
girlfriend and her mom.

ELIAS

(Typing)  
No collateral, no down payment.

ELIAS (V.O.)

And then there's my wife. Sheila Dumont-Davidson. We dated in college. All my friends and family told me that she'd be the perfect wife. Well educated, wealthy family, and frigid as a dead fish in the Bay. Oh we have sex occasionally if the room is dark, the door is locked, and she's had enough to drink. Providing we don't make a mess, or mess up her hair, then sex is a possibility. Unless of course it's that time of the month.

ELIAS

Do you have a business plan?

DOBIE

Yeah, like I plan on being rich, you know? Successful and rich. That's my plan, man.

ELIAS (V.O.)

I had lots of plans, back then, when I was this kid's age. I wanted to go to Woodstock, but I was only 10 and my mom wouldn't let me. I always dreamed about riding a horse, and being a cowboy. I figured I'd at least have a Corvette someday. I drive a Toyota. I always wanted a dog. We have a cat that hates me and pisses on my clothes.

DOBIE

Dude, when I open my surf shop, all my friends will come to me to buy their new boards! I've got hundreds of friends that live on the beach!

ELIAS (V.O.)

Friends. Friends are good to have. I have some friends. Well, I should say I know some guys that get together occasionally to have a cook-out, or take a boat out to fish. They are all pretty much like me; miserable and pussy-whipped.

ELIAS (V.O.)

Occasionally we sit around, drinking beer, and talking about what we wish we'd done with our lives. My friend Norman likes to talk about when he was twenty, he met a girl who was a keyboard player in a band. She was as wild in her life as she was in bed. She invited him to tour with her in Europe. He couldn't, and didn't.

DOBIE

This shop is my dream. It's what I've wanted to do all my life. You understand what I'm saying, Bra?

ELIAS (V.O.)

Yeah, I get it. My other friend Travis says that "in every man's life, he comes across a woman, a free spirit who tempts him to leave everything and experience life with her. She disappears with the wind as suddenly as she came into his life." Norman has been regretting not going with her ever since. No man gets a second chance with his muse. This is my story. The day I ran away with my Gypsy.

DOBIE

A lot of people have always told me that I couldn't do it, that I couldn't run a business. But I figure sometimes you have just say "what the fuck?" and just go for it.

ELIAS

Dobie, unfortunately you don't meet our bank's requirements for a small business loan.

DOBIE

Oh man....

ELIAS

But every once in a while, you just have to say "What the fuck!" I'm approving you for the \$10,000 you need to get started. Miss Anderson will draw up the paperwork and get you the cashier's check.

DOBIE

Dude! This is great! You are awesome! Man, if you ever need a surfboard or a decent skateboard...

ELIAS

(on intercom)

Miss Anderson, I'm sending you Mr. Dobie Cooper. Finish out his paperwork please. Is Dimitri in his office?

MISS ANDERSON (O.S.)

No, I'm sorry. Mr. Popolos is out of the office for a few hours at a meeting.

Dobie and Elias shake hands, and Dobie runs out of the office with his fist held high in victory. Elias turns to his computer and clicks on an email icon. He types for a few seconds, and then clicks something. As he stands up, we see on his computer screen the contents:

To Dimitri Popolos, Vice President Redwood National Bank

"I QUIT"

ELIAS

(nervous laugh)

What the fuck indeed.

Elias puts a few things in a box, closes up his briefcase, and loosens his tie as if it has been choking him for the past twelve years. He takes one last look around and leaves the office.

EXT. ELIAS' CAR - DAY

Elias speeds his Toyota along Highway 70 leaving the skyline of Sacramento behind him. He has a frightened, yet happy look on his face.

ELIAS

(talking on his cell phone)

That's just it Norman, I don't have another job lined up. I have no friggin clue what I'm going to do. All I know is I don't want to do it in a bank or wearing a suit. Yep, I sent an email that said "I Quit". I wish Dimitri had been there.

(MORE)

ELIAS (CONT'D)

I would have liked to have seen the look on his face. Maybe I'll open up a skateboard shop.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

I don't know what she'll say. She'll probably have a shit fit, but you know what? I don't care what she says. "What the Fuck!" That's my new motto. I'm going to have it printed on a t-shirt.

(beat)

Well it's not like we're going to starve and stand on a street corner with a sign. Sheila makes pretty good money with her real estate business. I'll find something.

Elias rips the silk tie from his neck and throws it out the window of the Toyota. He watches the tie flutter in the wind from the rear view mirror. It looks like a bird that is flying free.

ELIAS (V.O.)

And that was how it started. For the first time in my life, I didn't have a plan. It was the start of something new, and the end of the collective shit I'd settled with for years. I was scared. The moment you get on the trapeze without a net, all you can think about is splattering on the ground below.

(beat)

As I got closer to home, the reality of what I'd just done, began to sink in.

(beat)

Shit! What am I doing? No one is hiring right now! I've got a house payment, car payments, and my God, the Visa payments alone! Maybe I can just tell Dimitri it was a joke. I'll just tell him I needed the afternoon off. Sheila can talk to him. She sold him his house for Christ's sakes. He likes Sheila. She can tell him I am under a lot of stress right now.

## INT. LARGE SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Elias walks through the front door of his house. A spacious and comfortable home in the suburbs. It is tastefully decorated with modern art and white leather furniture. The living room has a large screen TV, a marble fireplace, and an expensive sound system. Everything is clean and in its place.

ELIAS

Sheila? I need to talk to you...

Elias opens the French doors leading to the office, expecting to see his wife sitting at the computer or talking on the phone. All we sees is her briefcase and cell phone on the desk. We see two glasses with ice cubes and a little soda in the bottom of the glass. He turns and walks upstairs.

SHEILA (O.S.)

Yes! Yes,... Mmmm Yes! That's it!

ELIAS (V.O.)

Life was about to get a little more interesting. I had really wanted to see Dimitri this morning. I just never thought I'd be seeing him eating my wife's pussy.

## INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Elias walks in and stops, his hand still on the doorknob. He freezes. Sheila is spread out on her back, legs wide. DIMITRI POPOLOS' bald head lifts up from Sheila's crotch, his eyes wide and round. SHEILA DUMONT-DAVIDSON is an attractive 35 year old with small but firm breasts, and a nicely toned and tanned body. She turns over on the bed, the look of surprise in her eyes replaced by anger.

DIMITRI

Oh shit...

SHEILA

Elias! You're home... a little early

ELIAS

(strangely calm)

Yeah, I quit. Dimitri, I sent you an email, but I really wanted to tell you in person. I think it's time that I moved on. I hope it won't be a problem if I don't give you the customary 2 weeks notice.



DIMITRI

That's all right Elias. You do whatever you think is best for you.

It all becomes a little too weird for Sheila who jumps up and wraps a sheet around her naked body and sits on the edge of the bed.

ELIAS

(To Dimitri)

I've already cleaned out my desk. I finished up the paperwork that you gave me Friday on the deal with Mr. Rashon, and left it on your desk.

DIMITRI

(feeling awkward)

Thank you Ellias... I appreciate it.

SHEILA

What are you going to do?

ELIAS

I don't really know. That's the beauty of it. I don't know what I'm going to do. I guess look for another job.

SHEILA

I mean about us... You and me.

ELIAS

I don't know about that either. I thought you didn't like oral sex...

Elias pauses for a moment. He begins to lose his cool composure. He tries to slowly speak but only chokes a bit. A small tear forms on the edge of his eye. He turns as if to walk away, stops, then turns around back to the doorway.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Sheila, where is my gun? The pistol?

Both Sheila and Dimitri freeze, and look at each other.

SHEILA

Umm... I think it's in the closet at the end of the hall. Top shelf.

ELIAS

Thanks.

Elias turns and walks slowly down the hall.

Sheila and Dimitri look at each other, snatch their clothes and run out of the bedroom naked, struggling to put their clothes on while running.

INT. HALLWAY

Elias slowly walks down the hall dragging his feet. The tears are beginning to flow now. Like a little boy, he wipes the tears with his shirt sleeve. He opens the closet door, and reaches up to retrieve the plastic pistol case. He runs his fingers over the Glock logo. In the distance he hears Dimitri's car skidding away.

At the base of the stairs, the family cat "SNOWBALL" is sleeping on a small pillow. As Elias approaches, the cat sleepily raises his head and softly meows.

ELIAS

At least you still love me, don't  
you Snowball?

As Elias reaches out to pet the cat, Snowball violently bites down on his hand and hisses.

Camera from different angle, from hallway. We hear a loud KA-WHACK followed by a loud cat screech. We see the cat flying through the air.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Stupid fucking cat! I hate you too!

EXT. ELIAS' CAR - LATER

Elias drives very fast through a heavily wooded back road. He takes a swig from a pint whiskey bottle, and places the bottle beside the gun case.

ELIAS (V.O.)

Did you know that white males make up the majority of suicides? Why is that? What do the blacks and the Asians know that we don't? Is it just engrained in our brains that when the world turns to shit, that it's time to take that final curtain? If a black guy loses his job, his wife, his home, he doesn't go blow his brains out.

(MORE)

ELIAS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But take away a car, or a country club membership from an older white guy, and it's time to cash in the chips and meet God.

(beat)

I got a kick out of the fact that I spooked Dimitri and Sheila. I couldn't hurt either one of them. I'm not that kind of a guy. Watching them run naked into the street was strangely satisfying to me.

Elias stops the car. Gets out and throws the empty pint of whiskey to the ground. It's a deserted place. A dense part of the forest. Elias grabs the gun case and walks over to a large tree. He removes the gun, a Glock 9mm semi-automatic. It has a trigger lock on it. He fumbles with the trigger lock.

ELIAS

A stupid trigger lock! Why would a person without children want a gun with a trigger lock!? I'll bet a criminal would know how to get a trigger lock off! "Excuse me, mister burglar, but I can't seem to get the goddamned trigger lock off so that I can shoot you. Could you help me with this!?"

In a fit of frustration, Elias screams and throws the gun to the ground.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Stupid fucking piece of shit gun! My life is so screwed up, I can't even kill myself. I'll just bash my own brains in.

In drunken desperation, he picks up the gun, pauses for a moment, and then slams the gun into his forehead. He falls over cursing and holding his head as a trickle of blood begins to flow down his face.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Ouch... oh, shit, bad idea. That hurts. That hurts a lot. Ouch... that really hurts. I can do this. I have a goddamn bachelor's degree!

Again, he throws the gun far away into the trees. He walks over to the car, and with his keychain, presses the button to open the trunk.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Rope. I'll hang myself. That's the dignified way to do it. No mess, no pain, quick and easy. Get some rope, throw it over the tree, and break my fucking neck.

He begins frantically throwing items out of his trunk. We see a lug wrench fly through the air, followed by some canned air, some rags, a golf putter, and a pair of athletic sneakers.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

NO! Don't tell me that I don't even have a piece of rope to hang myself with.

(screaming)

This is so stupid! I just want to kill myself! I can't even accomplish that!

He looks at the sneakers. He grabs the sneaker and begins pulling the shoelace out of it. After getting the laces, he tosses the shoes aside.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

How do you tie a noose? I've seen them in movies... This is not something we covered in Boy Scout camp.

Elias ties an awkward looking loop with one end of the lace. He climbs excitedly a few feet into a tree and ties it to a limb. The loop dangles about six feet above the ground. In the next tree over, a Golden Eagle lands on a branch and watches Elias.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

(to the eagle)

What are you lookin' at? You lookin' at me? Came to see the show, eh? Tell all your buzzard friends, I'm sure they will be interested... tomorrow.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Oops... I forgot to write a suicide note. Something elegant for them to remember me by.

Elias stumbles down the tree and staggers to the car and gets a pad and pen. He tries his best to write a legible note.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

"To whom it may concern: My life is shit. I have decided that it will be better for me to do this, than to go through another day with the assholes that made my life shit. I'm proud of everything I've done. I have no regrets. I won't have to worry about ever pleasing Sheila or Dimitri ever again. - Elias Davidson"

He throws the pad and pen to the ground, and then climbs the tree. Elias slowly puts the loop around his neck and looks around one last time.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

What the fuck! I should have gotten the t-shirt.

Elias awkwardly falls off the branch that he'd been sitting on. Suddenly things do not go as planned. As the shoelace stretches, Elias' feet slam into the ground, instead of dangling him as he'd planned. Instead of breaking his neck, the thin string merely tightens around his neck. In the instant that he realizes that he isn't dead, Elias panics as his trachea collapses and he cannot breathe.

Although his toes are touching the ground, Elias is unable to get the string around his neck to loosen. His arms are flailing uselessly, and his feet are seemingly doing some sort of grotesque dance as he tries to maintain his balance on the muddy ground. As the blood flow to his brain comes to an abrupt stop, the panic increased, and he is unable to think clearly.

The only thing that his fading, blood-starved brain is sure about is that he'd definitely changed his mind about wanting to die. He was in pain, and he felt the life slowly leaving his body.

With his vision blurring as he fades into unconsciousness, he thought he saw something. An angel coming toward him, on an unearthly white horse.

The horse comes to a halt, and RHIANNON slides off the horse's back. RHIANNON, late thirties, dark skinned, athletic, with long hair down to her waist, moves gracefully like a wild animal.

Elias' face has turned ghostly white. His lips are dark blue and the small blood vessels in his eyes have begun to burst. The last thought he has as he fades is that his angel has a knife at his throat.

INT. RHIANNON'S TENT - MORNING

Elias lies on layers of blankets and deer pelts. He is surrounded by silk pillows of various colors. He is in a large canvas tent. There are several white candles burning on small pedestals around him. An incense burner with 4 burning sticks smokes near his head.

He has terrible red, bloody marks around his neck, surrounded by large areas of blue bruising. He is unconscious, but the color has returned to his face, and although a bit labored, he is breathing. A necklace of purple and clear crystals has been placed around his neck.

Rhiannon is kneeling beside him. She holds a small "paho", a fluffy eagle feather with some beads attached by a leather thong. She fans his face with the paho, and periodically strokes his forehead with the tip of the feather.

ELISHEVA, a wise little woman about 50, with thinning gray hair enters the tent with DAKOTA. Dakota is a 28 year old full-blooded Commanche, with long black hair and a muscular build.

ELISHEVA

How is he doing this morning?

RHIANNON

Much better. The swelling is still making his breathing a little labored, but he seems to be out of danger.

DAKOTA

Here are the herbs that you wanted for the tea.

Dakota lays a small bowl of leaves on a table. Rhiannon gets very quiet as she strokes Elias' head with the feather.

RHIANNON

(Softly to Elisheva)

Is it him? Is he the one you saw in the cards?

Rhiannon looks distant. She glances to a tarot card pinned to the wall of the tent. It is "The Hanged Man"

ELISHEVA

It's him baby. It has begun. Are you sure you want to do this? Knowing... You don't have to go down this path.

(MORE)

ELISHEVA (CONT'D)

You've danced this dance before. We could drop him off at a hospital, and...

Elias' body jerks. His eyes flutter open. Elias is almost blind from the burst blood vessels in his eyes. It looks as if he has blood in his eyes.

He is disoriented and confused. The confusion is replaced by panic when he realizes he doesn't know where he is or who these people are. He tries to speak but only a gasp comes out. Pain.

RHIANNON

Shhhh... It's okay. We're helping you get better. Lay down and relax. You've got to get your strength back.

Dakota's imposing figure squats down and gets close to Elias' face. Elias is terrified.

DAKOTA

You tried to kill yourself. If you want to die, we will let you. Or do you want to live?

Elias nods "yes".

The pain in his throat is intense. He slumps deeper into the pillows, and closes his eyes as the incense smoke envelopes his body.

Elias begins dreaming. We see a montage of images. We see an eagle flying over the tree tops of the forest. Elias feels like he is flying with the eagle, soaring. Images of Dimitri, Sheila, and the gun. We see images of Rhiannon whispering to him, and then kissing him on the cheek. Images of Elias running frightened through the forest, being pursued by a large mountain lion. Image of an eagle swooping, with talons out. Elias is flying. He falls to the earth. As he hits the ground, he wakes up.

INT. RHIANNON'S TENT - TWO DAYS LATER

Elias opens his eyes and looks around. Rhiannon turns when she hears him stir, and brings a cup to him. She still looks like an angel.

RHIANNON

Drink this. It'll help your throat and give you some energy.

She holds the cup to his lips, and he takes a sip.

ELIAS  
(Whispered, pained voice)  
Mmm, that's good. Sweet. What is  
it?

RHIANNON  
It's breast milk.

Elias chokes and sputters as he gasps with a mouthful of the warm liquid. When he looks at Rhiannon, she is bent over exposing spectacular cleavage.

RHIANNON (CONT'D)  
We have a girl in camp who is  
nursing. Drink it all. It'll help  
you heal faster.

Elias takes a long look around. There is a large white cockatoo on a perch. SAM takes a long look at Elias, sizing him up and down.

ELIAS  
Does he talk?

RHIANNON  
Say hello Sam.

SAM  
HOOOOOODY! Sam's a SEXY boy!

Rhiannon tosses Sam a peanut and he catches it gracefully and devours it.

ELIAS  
Who are you, and where am I?

RHIANNON  
I'm Rhiannon. You're safe, in our  
camp.

ELIAS  
It was you. On the horse! You saved  
me! Thank you!

Rhiannon smiles as she lights a few more sticks of incense. The smell of jasmine and Nag Champa fills the tent.

ELIAS (CONT'D)  
Are you camping here on vacation?



RHIANNON  
(giggling)  
We live here.

ELIAS  
You live here? This is a National  
Park! You can't live here!

RHIANNON  
We do.

ELIAS  
But that's just wrong... Is it  
legal to do that? You can't... I  
mean, what happens when the park  
rangers catch you? What about the  
winter? The snow?

RHIANNON  
We move around. We bother no one,  
and no one bothers us. When the  
weather turns cold, we go south  
where it's warm.

ELIAS  
How many people do you mean when  
you say "we"?

RHIANNON  
Right now there are about 30 of us.

ELIAS  
30? And you all live in tents? In  
the Plumas National Forest? What do  
you do for money? Do you have jobs?

RHIANNON  
What do we need money for?

ELIAS  
Dear God, it's a cult. I've been  
rescued by a cult of homeless  
socialists who don't even have  
shopping carts to push around.

RHIANNON  
Homeless? This is our home.  
Tomorrow it might be somewhere  
else. Home is where friends and  
family are. Home is everywhere and  
anywhere we choose. It's freedom.

ELIAS

Sorry if I... I mean, I just don't understand. What kind of person chooses to live out in the forest with no job, and no supermarket for miles?

RHIANNON

We are a clan of people, misfits, who for one reason or another chose to leave the mundane world and create our own society. Here we have found our own harmony where no one criticizes us for the way we dress, the beliefs that we have, or any other peculiarity that society would frown on.

Elias lays back to ponder this concept.

ELIAS

That guy, the Indian... I mean the Native American... is he your husband?

RHIANNON

Dakota? No, he's not my husband. More like a brother.

Outside, the sounds of music fade up. Drumming, more like a heartbeat becomes clearer. The sound of guitars and laughter mix with the sounds.

RHIANNON (CONT'D)

How is your throat feeling? Do you feel well enough to walk around a little?

Elias puts his hand to his throat and touches it gently. The pain is still very much there, but he is overcome by curiosity.

ELIAS

I'd like that.

EXT. GYPSY CAMP - NIGHT

The camp is made up of about 20 tents, arranged in a circle in a clearing in the woods. There is a large campfire in the center of the tents. Next to the campfire is a cooking area. Several tables are set up, and people are serving food. People are sitting around the campfire in folding camp chairs, some are sitting on blankets.

There are a couple of men sitting on the ground near the fire, drumming with their hands on doumbek drums. Dakota is playing a 12 string Spanish guitar.

As Rhiannon and Elias approach the serving area we see AMBER BJORNSON, a large motherly woman about 30, and her two kids, KAYLA and DYLAN BJORNSON, both playful 10 year olds.

RHIANNON

This is Amber, and her kids Dylan and Kayla.

ELIAS

(Aside to Rhiannon)

Kids? You have kids out here? What about school? They should be in school!

RHIANNON

We teach them ourselves. We have several people who are very good at teaching, and the kids in our group get a variety of subjects, as well as practical knowledge that you can't get in a classroom.

ELIAS

But it's illegal! They need to be in a real public school! It's one thing if you people want to live out in the boonies, but it is wrong to force these kids to grow up without an education.

RHIANNON

Kayla, remember the lesson from yesterday? Tell this gentleman what Napoleon's mistake was at Waterloo.

KAYLA

Napoleon led his troops deep into Russia during the winter. Many of them froze to death, and their supplies were...

RHIANNON

En français.

KAYLA

(sighs)

Napoleon a mené ses troupes profondément en la Russie pendant l'hiver. Bon nombre d'entre elles ont gelé à la mort.

RHIANNON

C'est Kayla très bon! Watch your dialect.

KAYLA

Yes ma'am.

ELIAS

Okay, fine. So the kids are being educated. They're supposed to go to school. By law.

RHIANNON

Your law, not mine.

ELIAS

(To Amber)

It's nice to meet you Amber, I'm Elias Davidson.

AMBER

Blessings Elias. That's my husband Bear.

Amber points to BEAR BJORNSON, a mountain of a man with long red hair and a full beard. BEAR is cutting beef from a strung up carcass, and putting meat on roasting sticks over the fire.

ELIAS

Hi Bear. Nice to meet you. That smells good.

BEAR

(grunts)

Yeah.

ELIAS

Beef? Wait a minute. Where did you get this from? You people raise your own cattle?

BEAR

Killed it. Yesterday's hunt.

ELIAS

HUNT? You "HUNTED" a cow? You can't hunt cows! Where did you find this cow?

BEAR

In a field a few miles East. Whole bunch of them.

ELIAS

My God,... you killed some  
rancher's cow! Don't you know  
that's wrong? It's illegal,...  
that's Grand Theft Cow!

Bear stops cutting the beef and rises up. When he fully  
stands up, Elias can see for the first time that at 6' 8",  
this is the kind of man you don't raise your voice to. Bear  
gestures with his butcher knife.

BEAR

Look, whoever owns those cows had  
hundreds of them. He won't miss  
this one. It was sick anyway.  
People have to eat. If you have a  
problem with the food, go get your  
own food.

ELIAS

I don't think I can eat anything..  
my throat is kind of sore, and I've  
had a big jug, uh, glass of breast  
milk. Maybe I'll just have some  
more of that.

WEASEL approaches the serving table carrying two large  
pitchers. WEASEL is young, about 23 with bad skin and geeky  
appearance.

WEASEL

Beer? Mead?

RHIANNON

I'll have some mead. Thank you!

Weasel takes a metal stein from the serving table and pours  
mead from one of the pitchers. He hands the stein to  
Rhiannon. Her approval is very important to him.

WEASEL

It's a new recipe. I added some  
lemon zest to this batch.

RHIANNON

Mmmm. It's delicious!

(To Elias)

Weasel is very talented in many  
areas. He makes beer, wine, mead,  
and teaches chemistry to the  
children. He's also a very talented  
keyboard player.

ELIAS

Mead?

WEASEL

Honey wine. It's pretty smooth. The drink of Vikings and the Gods. Would you like to try some?

ELIAS

I'll try the beer.

WEASEL

This is a nut ale. A very good batch.

Elias takes a small sip, smiles, and then begins drinking.

WEASEL (CONT'D)

Fresh ingredients make the difference. Good grain, fresh hops from the mountains, and some potent weed. Gives it a real kick in the ass, eh?

ELIAS

Excuse me, did you say "weed"? As in pot? You put marijuana in the beer?

WEASEL

Gives a whole new meaning to "This Bud's for you"

RHIANNON

Drink up. It will help with the pain.

Weasel pours a large mug of beer for himself, and an equally large mug for Bear. He slides the beer to Bear, and raises his mug in the air.

WEASEL

(in Yiddish)  
Le' Chaim!

BEAR

To Life! Le' Chaim!

They both chug the entire mug in one swallow. The beer drips off Bear's chin through his long beard.

ELIAS

That's actually not bad at all.  
(burp) Damn good.

RHIANNON

Come with me. I want you to meet  
the Woz.

Rhiannon takes Elias to the largest tent. We see numerous cables on the ground. The top of the tent has several parabolic antennas and satellite receiver dishes. There is a sign above the entrance to the tent, "The Great and Powerful Woz"

INT. WOZ'S TENT - NIGHT

In stark contrast to the other tents in the camp, Woz's tent is well lit with fluorescent lights, and filled with computer equipment. Woz is seated at a table in front of a laptop, and two desktop computers. One hand is typing on the laptop keyboard, while the other is typing on a different keyboard. Loud techno music is playing. Woz is a 30 year old kid with attitude and intellect in equal proportions. When Woz sees Rhiannon, he jumps up and turns down the music. She is the only person he respects.

WOZ

Hi beautiful. I put together some  
music I think you'll like. The  
flash drive is here somewhere...

RHIANNON

That's okay Woz. I'll listen to it  
later. I want you to meet someone.  
This is... Elias? Is that it? Elias,  
this is Woz. The great and powerful  
WOZ. He is our computer guru, and  
master of all things technical.

ELIAS

I don't understand. You have  
electricity? How do you have  
electricity for all this equipment?

WOZ

(smiling)  
Come this way.

EXT. TREE LINE - NIGHT

Outside Woz's tent, he points to a large cable on the ground. Woz points up. There we see an attached cable that goes up to a high voltage power line.

WOZ

We tap into the high-voltage line. Dangerous stuff. 800 thousand volts. It goes north to a big power station. This is part of the main grid that feeds power to a good chunk of Northern California.

ELIAS

But 800 thousand volts? You can't do anything with that much juice!

WOZ

Exactly! Not without some high voltage transformers!

Woz points to a flatbed trailer that is loaded with transformers.

ELIAS

Where did you get all those? Stuff like this is not available to the public!

WOZ

We 'acquired' them from a PG&E warehouse. Got a great deal on them.

ELIAS

I've got an idea on the kind of discount you people get. But how do you keep them from noticing? You can't just "tap" into the electrical lines without catching their attention...

WOZ

It used to catch their attention. Their equipment picks up on the slightest drop in the juice. They used to send a utility truck down the line to see what was wrong. I had to punish them. Now they ignore me.

ELIAS

(laughs)

How would you punish a company like PG&E?

WOZ

Remember the rolling blackouts a few years ago? That was me.

(MORE)



WOZ (CONT'D)

I took the grid down. I warned them. I sent them a dozen emails that if they didn't stop sending trucks to investigate, I'd black out half of California. With 800 thousand volts, you can make a bitchin' short circuit.

ELIAS

Email too? You can send email from out here?

WOZ

Check this out.

Woz walks a short distance, and shows us a freshly dug hole. It exposes a huge black conduit buried 4 feet deep.

WOZ (CONT'D)

Fiber Optic backbone. Gives us a T-1 directly into the net. We also tap into some cellular transmitters. I've got cell and WIFI hotspots all around the camp.

ELIAS

And you've never been caught by the authorities? For any of this?

WOZ

For anyone to 'catch' us, they would have to be smarter than us. Smarter than me. No one is smarter than me.

ELIAS

Must be lonely at the top.

WOZ

Are you mocking me?

RHIANNON

He doesn't understand us.

ELIAS

I don't understand? I understand completely! You're a bunch of thieves! It's wrong!

Woz is irritated and so is Elias. Rhiannon interrupts and puts a hand on each man's shoulder. She has a way of calming people.

RHIANNON

To some, I suppose we are thieves. We don't consider ourselves that way. A thief steals from anyone; friends, family, and from people who can't afford to lose anything. We survive, and we survive by acquiring things from entities that measure their profits in the millions of dollars. How many times have you heard about an electric utility company that shuts off the electricity on the home of a single mother with kids? We've seen some of these large corporations destroy people's lives. We've seen people die at the leisure of companies out to make their profits even bigger. We're not bad people. We do what we must.

RHIANNON (CONT'D)

Elias, I'd like for you to meet more of our family.

Rhiannon takes Elias' hand and leads him out of the tent.

EXT. KAYLEIGH'S TENT

As they walk through the camp, Rhiannon pauses at a tent with a light on inside. From the shadows moving inside, someone is inside. There are several scarves tied to the tikki torches giving the entrance of the tent a feminine feel.

RHIANNON

I want you to meet Kayleigh.  
(calling)  
Kayleigh? Are you home? I want you to meet someone.

From inside Kayleigh's tent, we hear sounds that become apparent that it is someone having sex. The sounds stop as the tent flap opens and Kayleigh appears. She is nude and has a generous amount of sweat covering her body. She is out of breath. Her long brown hair barely covers her nipples. She has an exotic and colorful tattoo of a dragon circling her waist, and henna tattoos on her hands and feet. No one but Elias seems to notice that she is naked.

RHIANNON (CONT'D)

Oops, sorry. Guess I caught you at a bad time. This is Elias.

KAYLEIGH

Oh, it's okay. Hi, I'm Kayleigh.

Elias looks down at the ground, trying not to stare at her nakedness.

ELIAS

Uh... Nice to meet you Kayleigh.

KAYLEIGH

Oh, he's shy! Are you going to stay with us, or are you just visiting?

ELIAS

Uh, just visiting. Just passing through.

Dakota pokes his head out of the tent. He too, is covered in sweat.

RHIANNON

You already met Dakota, although you may not remember. You were in a lot of pain at the time.

ELIAS

Yes, I remember. Well, you have a great night.

Elias nervously grabs Rhiannon and pulls her to leave.

KAYLEIGH

Come see me later on!

ELIAS

(quietly under his breath)  
I don't think so...

Rhiannon and Woz laugh as they walk and catch up to Elias.

EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

Seated at the campfire on folding chairs is FLYNX, ELISHEVA, AESLYN, and MUGGS.

RHIANNON

Everyone, this is Elias. Elias, the grouchy one over there is Captain Flynx.

Rhiannon points out Flynx. Many multi-colored tattoos are visible around his neck and arms.

He has several earrings in each ear, as well as piercings in his nose and eyebrow. When he speaks, we see that he has a stud in his tongue as well.

ELIAS

A Captain? Military man?

FLYNX

Fuck the military! They call me Captain because I'm a fucking PIRATE!

ELIAS

A pirate? I see. How... nice.

RHIANNON

That's Elisheva, but everyone just calls her "Mom". That's Aeslyn over there.

Aeslyn is a very athletic woman of 29 who looks like she could kick anyone's ass and have fun doing it. She has short hair and a Harley tattoo on her right upper arm.

AESLYN

Welcome Elias.

RHIANNON

And this is Muggs.

MUGGS is 32 years old, good looking and fit. He stares off into the distance as if in a trance.

MUGGS

Wow...

ELIAS

Nice to meet you...

MUGGS

That is so cool.

We see a medallion on a chain around MUGGS' neck. The medallion is a circular thunderbolt, with a second thunderbolt diagonally going through the first one.

ELIAS

I notice that some of you have a thunderbolt necklace. What is that?

Rhiannon takes off her Thunder medallion and hands it to Elias.

RHIANNON

It's Rolling Thunder. It's the name of our group, our family. Thunder are the people that live with us, travel with us. Flynn gave us the name. You'll understand more if you ride with us. Anyone may travel with us, or stay in our camp. But to be a part of Rolling Thunder means that we are brothers and sisters. It's a lifetime bond.

ELISHEVA

All of us have different backgrounds, but for many, this is the first 'family' they've ever had. Here, they find acceptance and family love.

Elias hands the medallion back to Rhiannon.

ELIAS

That's beautiful. I never knew that people like you existed.

(beat)

But don't you miss anything about the modern society? Like indoor plumbing?

FLYNN

You know what I really miss?

(beat)

Paying fucking income tax!

Everyone laughs. ELVIS enters the campfire area, and sits down. He picks up the guitar that Dakota was playing earlier. He is in his mid 60's, but still youthful looking. He has long sideburns, and wears dark sunglasses. He strums the guitar with a beautiful and perfect chord.

AESLYN

Play something for us Elvis!

Others join in by encouraging him to play. He begins to play and softly sings "You were always on my mind". The voice is distinctively familiar. Elias eyes get wide.

ELIAS

(To Rhiannon in a whisper)

This may sound like a funny question, but is he... I mean is one of those crazy types that thinks he's... or is he really...

(MORE)

ELIAS (CONT'D)

I mean because he looks... and his voice...

ELVIS

(still playing, but  
singing these lines)

He's wondering if I'm the real  
Elvis. Boy, don't you know that  
Elvis died in 1977? Killed himself  
to get out of the rat race of fame.  
I bet wherever he is, he's enjoying  
himself, singing whenever he feels  
like it.

Elvis pulls down his sunglasses and winks at Rhiannon. She laughs. Everyone laughs. Elvis continues playing and singing.

INT. WOZ'S TENT

We see WOZ on the computer, writing some programming code with one hand, and video chatting with another hand. One of the windows on his screen is showing live feed from TV news channel. An image catches WOZ's attention, and he sits up and watches the newscast. He stops typing and turns up the sound.

NEWS REPORTER

Police in Sacramento are investigating the disappearance of a prominent local banker. Dimitri Popolos, vice president of the Redwood National Bank, has not been seen by his family or bank employees for the last 2 days. Police are officially handling this as a missing person case, but a source within the Sacramento PD has told us on condition of anonymity that they have found some evidence that suggests foul play. A significant amount of blood was found in Popolos' abandoned car. Also reported missing is Sheila Dumont-Davidson. Our source tells us that police are wanting to interview her husband, Elias Davidson in the disappearance. Davidson was last seen having a violent argument with Popolos over an alleged affair between Popolos and Sheila Dumont-Davidson.

(MORE)

## NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

Although no warrants have been issued, police have been advised that Davidson is armed and should be considered dangerous.

WOZ stares at the picture of Elias on the TV window.

\*\*\* To read the rest of the script, contact screenwriter Richard spears at [harley\\_softtail\\_tx@yahoo.com](mailto:harley_softtail_tx@yahoo.com) \*\*\*