

Trust Fund Baby

by

Monica Johnson

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UNDER CREDITS

A beautiful manicured hand picks up a gold chain with a diamond charm that reads TFB. A second pair of female worker-bee hands hooks the necklace around a long, beautiful neck.

EXT. STREETS - BEL AIR - NIGHT

Lush, manicured, rich rich rich.

The estates are sprawling, beautiful and a lot of them are for sale.

The most expensive sports car currently on the market navigates the winding canyon roads at 100 miles an hour, blaring THE RAMONES, "I Want To Be Sedated." Karlin HOUSTON HUGHES is driving and touching up her make-up in the rear-view mirror. The TFB necklace is a sparkling reflection.

EXT. BEL AIR HOTEL

Karlin pulls up to VALET, screeches to a halt. The Valet opens her door and she sweeps past him as if he didn't exist.

CUT TO:

INT. BALL ROOM

A Celebrity Auction for "Orphans of Scotland." SHARON STONE is the celebrity auctioneer.

EVA ANDERSON waves to Karlin. EVA is one of the TFB girls.

EVA
(in gangsta speak)
Hey, mama, what's up?

KARLIN
Hi, Eva, girlfriend.

After the gangsta greeting, they go back to the CHOATE vocabulary.

EVA
Kind of random to show up late to
your own charity.

EVA(CONT'D)

(re Karlin's dress)

Ferratti?

KARLIN

Uh-huh.

EVA

Stunner.

Shot of Sharon Stone auctioning something. Another member of the TFB comes over: SCOOTY HELMSLEY.

SCOOTY

'Crotch shot' sure can get the money out of these dudes. I'm already over this. Anyone got any X?

EVA

Not here. You want to get on Page Six again?

SCOOTY

Where's my vat of vodka? Wow, Olivia Barnett? Look who she's with!

KARLIN

My god, what a climber. She'll claw her way to the top. At least Rank 5. Guaranteed.

SCOOTY

I doubt it. Her forehead is too wide.

KARLIN

Same old crowd, a few new noses.

EVA

Heidi Montague!! Ten surgeries in one day?

SCOOTY

I saw. What an idiot to tell "OK" Magazine. Like everyone on the planet isn't going to read about it. How desperate.

KARLIN

Big surprise. Who's the bozo?

EVA

My date.

KARLIN

Uh, not your usual type.

SCOOTY

Yeah, he's hideous.

EVA

My step-mother made me take him.
He makes my skin crawl, but his
family is epic. Owns Dubai... Or a
lot of it.

KARLIN

This whole group is starting to
look inbred.

EVA

Did you read the RANK list this
week? Oh my god.

KARLIN

Tinsley fell to #2. She must be
devastated. Tee hee!

SCOOTY

She shouldn't have eaten those
extra burritos. Tubby, tubby,
tubby.

EVA

I know. Lard legs.

KARLIN

Maybe we're being too harsh. She
is our friend.

EVA

Oh, please, if we don't judge, who
will?

KARLIN

Right. And we don't judge anyone
who doesn't deserve to be judged.

SCOOTY

We're great.

They toast to that.

The auction stops. MUSIC starts and WAITERS weave through
with champagne.

A WAITER passes by Karlin. She lifts a glass of champagne off his tray and hands the tray to one of the girlfriends.

GREEN DAY group is the band of the event. Karlin dances to the dance floor, pulling the Waiter with her.

WAITER
I can't be doing this.

KARLIN
Sure you can.

They dance for a minute when Karlin's sometime boyfriend, BRIAN, takes her by the arm and pulls her off the floor.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
Stop it. You're wrinkling my sleeve.

He pulls her to the corner of the room, out of view from the party.

BRIAN
Everyone is staring at you.

KARLIN
So what? I like it.

BRIAN
For once, can you not try to be the center of attention?

KARLIN
No.

BRIAN
It's disgusting. You do realize you could be my wife someday? Carry my name?

KARLIN
So?

BRIAN
So behave like it.

KARLIN
Behave?

He takes her hand.

BRIAN
What if I told you I love you.

KARLIN
I'd say thank you.

BRIAN
Get serious. I'm not kidding. You could be a Prigzter one day.

KARLIN
Okay, got it. Behave, get serious, stop dancing. Wow, what girl wouldn't want to marry you?

BRIAN
I don't think you want to blow me off, Karlin. It's not like you're going up on the RANK list.

KARLIN
Brian, I'm not ready to be with one person. I'm not ready to be with three people.

BRIAN
You're starting to get a reputation. A little too P.H.

KARLIN
Don't say I'm Paris Hilton-ish. I'm nothing like her.

BRIAN
Really?

KARLIN
If you want to be with me, pretend I'm someone else or quit judging. Why don't you drink more?

Another guy at the party, ANDREW, sneaks up behind them. He grabs Karlin. She laughs, she's loving it.

BRIAN
We wanted to be alone.

ANDREW
Now you are alone.

She dances off with Andrew.

BRIAN
(calls after her)
P. H.!

KARLIN

F. U.!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY

KARLIN'S MANION - LATER THAT NIGHT

Karlin's hot little sports car pulls in. Her waiter dance partner from the party is driving. Karlin is passed out in the passenger seat. They stop, he gets out and has to almost drag Karlin to the front door. The butler, HUDDY, takes her into his arms, nods at the guy. Karlin opens a sleepy eye when the waiter hands her the car keys.

KARLIN

Just keep it.

WAITER

Really? Wow.

HUDDY takes the keys from him and shoos the bewildered guy down the driveway.

HUDDY

I'll call you a cab. Make yourself comfortable on the curb.

He closes the door.

INT. KARLIN'S MANION

The family home. Everything in the house is museum quality. Exquisite antique furniture. Original Dali, Degas, Picasso, as well as the current hot artists, are displayed throughout.

Huddy carries Karlin UP THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE TO HER ROOM.

INT. KARLIN'S BEDROOM

Beautiful clothes are thrown around the room. A dress is hung on the arm of an expensive life-sized sculpture as if it is a hanger. A wall-sized TV is on. Rerun of "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." Huddy drops Karlin on her bed. He's seen this once too often. She is dead to the world.

GLORIA MILLS is her life-long personal nanny. She takes off one of Karlin's shoes. Karlin opens a sleepy eye.

KARLIN

No, I want to sleep in them.

Gloria has been through it a million times.

GLORIA
No, you don't.

She takes off her other shoe.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
You look like a crumpled sack.

KARLIN
How dare you... Really?

GLORIA
Not a good look.

KARLIN
I'll worry about it tomorrow.
That's what skin doctors are for.
Who are you, anyway, the Supreme
Court?

GLORIA
All this wear and tear on your body
and for what? Mr. Tonight wasn't
even cute.

KARLIN
I can drink them cute.

GLORIA
Charming.

KARLIN
You're making my head hurt. I need
potato chips.

She passes out.

NEXT MORNING.

A MAID is serving Karlin her breakfast in bed. She is
reading a copy of IN TOUCH Magazine.

Thumbing through pictures to see if anyone she knows is in
there this week.

She finds her picture in the background of a star party. She
calls her friend Eva, squealing happily.

KARLIN
Did you see it, E?

Gloria enters. She looks over Karlin's shoulder at the picture in the magazine. Karlin hands it to her.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
See who I'm standing next to?

GLORIA
The bartender?

KARLIN
No, Gloria. On the other side.

Gloria looks closer.

GLORIA
Oh, that is you. It's hard to tell. You look kind of puffy.

Karlin grabs the magazine.

KARLIN
What are you talking about?

Gloria pats her cheeks.

GLORIA
Just a little bloat... A little here, a little there...

KARLIN
Leave me alone.

A BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM COMES FROM DOWNSTAIRS. Karlin drops the phone.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
What the hell?

GLORIA
Your mother's been down there since six in the morning with the lawyers. Her doctor just got here.

KARLIN
What's her latest drama?

More screams. Karlin gets up and throws on her robe.

INT. FORMAL LIVING ROOM

Karlin's mother, KENDALL, is surrounded by a team of LAWYERS. Head lawyer, ALAN MURTY, is patting her shoulder and tries to comfort her. ALAN pulls out a Xanax, hands it to her.

She slaps it out of his hand.

KENDALL

With what I've paid you, you should be hooking me up to a morphine drip!

ALAN

We're terribly sorry, Kendall, but you are not alone. Lots of people, a lot of your friends, are going through hard times.

KENDALL

I'll run into friends at the soup kitchen? Will you be there, Alan?

He looks down. Obviously not.

KENDALL (CONT'D)

I didn't think so.

The lawyers pack up to leave. As they go, Alan picks up a Faberge egg. Karlin stops him.

KARLIN

Alan, what are you doing?

KENDALL

Let him take it, nothing matter anymore.

KARLIN

What is going on? Why are you taking her favorite egg?

KENDALL

It's all right. It's paying his bloated fee.

KARLIN

Your eggs?

Kendall puts her head in her hands. The lawyer picks up another egg.

ALAN

(shrugs)

Overtime.

They exit. Kendall cries. Karlin sits next to her mom and puts her arms around her.

With all the fighting they do, they are there when the chips are down. The chips aren't just down, they're gone.

KARLIN
What's going on?

KENDALL
I can't believe it, I can't believe it.

DOCTOR
Take deep breaths. Breathe.
Breathe. Put this out of your
head. Picture a beautiful forest.

Karlin looks at him, kind of dumbfounded.

KARLIN
Aren't you a dermatologist?

DOCTOR
I'm schooled in alternative
medicine, but you don't get to use
it much in skin peels.

KENDALL
Oh, shut up, Kevin, just give me a
shot.

KARLIN
What is it? What is all this? Did
someone die?

KENDALL
Our money died. Our lives died.
We've lost it. We've lost it all.

KARLIN
Lost what?

KENDALL
The money! The money! The stocks,
the houses, the horses, the
jewelry. Everything! You better
pack for the poor house, my baby
girl.

Karlin shakes her head. She doesn't understand.

KARLIN
What are you talking about?

KENDALL
We are victims of a Ponzi scheme.

She cries more.

KARLIN

What is a Fonzi scheme?

KENDALL

Ponzi, Ponzi, with a 'P' - as in 'poverty.' It's gone. We have nothing.

KARLIN

Nothing? What is nothing?

KENDALL

It's nothing, Karlin. Wallace was a crook. Every stock dividend was a lie. He robbed from Peter to pay Paul.

KARLIN

So?

KENDALL

So, he robbed from me to pay everyone else.

KARLIN

We couldn't have lost everything. There's more money, isn't there? There's always some money.

KENDALL

You're a very lucky girl. You had it all.

KARLIN

Had?

KENDALL

When other kids had ponies at their birthday parties, we had the Clydesdales. Remember them pulling in the cake? Keep the memories. The good times...

She drops her face in her hands.

KENDALL (CONT'D)

The money...the money...the money. What are we going to do without the money?

KARLIN
Mother! Snap out of it!

KENDALL
You won't survive. No. You won't survive. Grab that kid you hate and marry him.

KARLIN
I'm not buying into this. You're overreacting.

KENDALL
You aren't buying into anything. You aren't buying, period.

Gloria enters.

KENDALL (CONT'D)
Gloria. I need a drink.

GLORIA
Yes. Me, too. But we better conserve the vodka.

KARLIN
This isn't happening. Not now. I'm so happy with my life.

GLORIA
Good for you. The rest of America isn't.

KENDALL
Haven't you even glanced at a newspaper?

KARLIN
Of course not. Why would I?

KENDALL
Who did I raise? You really never look at a newspaper? Never want to know what is happening in the world?

KARLIN
Not if it's like this.

KENDALL
Gloria, make sure the staff knows to shut lights off at dusk. Set the sprinklers for every other day.

KENDALL(CONT'D)

Clean out the gift room and see
what we can return for cash.

KARLIN

You're really doing this...

Her mother nods yes, yes, yes....

It has sunk in. Karlin sits, she looks dazed.

KARLIN (CONT'D)

This is not fair, it's not fair.
The poor are already poor, this
won't affect them. But what about
me? What will happen to me? What
should I do?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KARLIN'S BEDROOM - EARLY NEXT MORNING

Her eyes are red. She is staring at the ceiling

Gloria enters.

KARLIN

I guess this is the moment when
people jump out windows.

GLORIA

Money isn't everything, Honey.

KARLIN

It is in the stores I shop.

Gloria looks out the window and sees Kendall getting into a
limo with luggage.

GLORIA

Your mother's no fool. She's
leaving.

KARLIN

She's leaving?
(looks out)
With Eva's date??

GLORIA

I'm not surprised.

KARLIN

Wow, aren't you forgiving. This is
child abandonment. I could have
her arrested.

GLORIA
You're twenty-four.

KARLIN
Yes, but she spoiled, me. And why
are you taking her side?

GLORIA
I'm not. I just think you are a
capable adult.

KARLIN
Well, don't think that, because I'm
not.

GLORIA
She left this downstairs.

Gloria gives Karlin a note.

KENDALL (V.O.)
I need to get away. I need time to
think, regather my strength to get
us out of this situation.

Gloria nods.

KARLIN
Stop agreeing with her, will you?

KENDALL (V.O.)
Don't be afraid. And it's not as
if you have nothing. The tennis
club is paid until January. There
is a cash credit for Neiman's in my
top drawer. And the house --

Karlin breathes a sigh of relief.

KARLIN
(to Gloria)
Thank god we have the house.

KENDALL (V.O.)
Keep reading, Karlin... The house
will be available to you until they
lease it. The rents should give
you some money if they aren't total
thieves, but I'm not sure. The
furniture could be today, tomorrow,
next week. You know how unreliable
those kind of people can be.

KENDALL (CONT'D)

Karlin, from my heart, this seems bleak, but could actually be good for you. You will either get it together, fight your little heart out, or die trying. I think you'll come out on top.

KARLIN

Thanks, Coach.

She drops the letter on the floor and stomps on it like it's a burning cigarette butt. Gloria picks it up to read the rest.

GLORIA

Ah, she left a little money for me to take care of you in the meantime.

KARLIN

Really?

GLORIA

Yes, it's called 'my salary.'

KARLIN

So you won't help me?

GLORIA

Have I ever not helped you?

KARLIN

As much as everyone would like me to panic, I won't. Something will happen. We have a roof. The house is free. What are we worried about?

GLORIA

Electricity isn't free. Gas isn't. Food isn't.

KARLIN

Electricity isn't free? I feel dizzy. I need a drink.

GLORIA

There's milk and water. She took the Grey Goose.

KARLIN

No. Not the Grey Goose?

GLORIA
Sober times call for sober people.

KARLIN
Oh, is AA selling a line of bumper
stickers now?

CUT TO:

INT. KARLIN'S BEDROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER - NIGHT

Karlin is draped across the bed eating potato chips as if she
hasn't a care in the world. Gloria enters with a salad.

Karlin's phone rings.

GLORIA
The phone.

KARLIN
I'm not ready, Glo. I just can't
face telling everyone what is going
on. Do we have any more chips?

GLORIA
I'm sure they already know.

KARLIN
I'm not sure or the phone wouldn't
be ringing. I know how the freeze
out goes.

GLORIA
Maybe you're not giving them enough
credit.

KARLIN
Do you really believe that?

GLORIA
No. I want you to eat something
besides potato chips. Vegetables.

KARLIN
Potatoes are a vegetable.

GLORIA
Not in chip form. Here, eat this
salad.

KARLIN
You don't have to do that.
Technically, you're not really
employed.

GLORIA
After all these years, do you think
I think of this as employment?

KARLIN
That is so nice.

GLORIA
It's more like a prison sentence.

KARLIN
What are we going to do, Gloria?

GLORIA
What do you mean? We're going to
get over this self-pity and get on
with life.

KARLIN
But if I don't pity me, who will?

GLORIA
There are things that can be done.

KARLIN
But what? The staff is gone,
except Huddy. At least we won't
have to open the door by ourselves.

GLORIA
What a relief.

KARLIN
But who will feed us? Do the
dishes?

GLORIA
We will.

KARLIN
Me, too?

GLORIA
Yes, that's usually who 'we'
includes.

KARLIN
I don't know how. We can use paper plates, I guess.

GLORIA
We could, but there are better ways. We need to make a budget and a plan.

KARLIN
(covering her ears)
Oh god!

GLORIA
I think we should make a list of what you do have that we can liquidate. You have quick-sell assets. A lot of things you haven't worn, or used, or even looked at.

KARLIN
What, a garage sale? Lay my things out in the driveway?

Gloria picks out a dress.

GLORIA
Do you even know you have this? The tags are still on.

KARLIN
I know, it's for future wear.

GLORIA
The future is here and it's not Armani time.

KARLIN
I can't stand the idea of people coming here, picking through my things.

GLORIA
No. We use eBay or Craig's List.

KARLIN
I don't know how to do that.

GLORIA
How hard can it be?

KARLIN

I don't know. Poor people can be very crafty.

GLORIA

Karlin, we're poor people.

Gloria picks another dress.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Chanel? I bet we can get two hundred right off the bat.

KARLIN

Two hundred? It cost more than that to have it cleaned. Put it away, it's my little silk friend.

GLORIA

We're not going to get what you paid. No one is cruising garage sales for a ten-thousand-dollar party dress.

Gloria is going through more things. She pulls out a big, furry ski jacket.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Perfect. You won't be skiing for a while.

KARLIN

Don't even say that. I don't want to talk about it any more.

GLORIA

I understand. Pesky reality. Shall we watch "American Idol" instead?

Karlin smiles her first smile in a week.

KARLIN

Yes.

Gloria turns on the huge TV and we HEAR SIMON COWELL and RANDY telling some poor kid they are "pitchy."

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THIRD FLOOR, NEIMAN MARCUS

Karlin is on her way to exchange some of the loot her mother left for cash.

INT. THIRD FLOOR, NEIMAN MARCUS - TEA ROOM

The TFB girls, Scooty and Eva, are having lunch. Lots of laughs, then one of them spots Karlin.

SCOOTY

Eva, isn't that Karlin?

Eva turns to look. It's her.

EVA

Oh my god. Well, I guess she doesn't have a broken leg after all.

SCOOTY

She lied to us. She didn't want to tell us the poverty truth.

EVA

We're her friends.

A beat, and then they both giggle a little.

SCOOTY

Did you see her rank?

EVA

11. After Barbar McGowan

SCOOTY

"Marry-in, wanna-be climber."

Eva leaves the table to get Karlin.

EVA

Karlin, what the hell? Are you avoiding us? You don't have a broken leg.

KARLIN

It healed.

EVA

In five days? Scooty is here, come on... I miss you. I know all of it and I still love you.

KARLIN
That's kind of you.

INT. THIRD FLOOR, NEIMAN MARCUS - TEA ROOM

SCOOTY
God, girl, scare us. We didn't
know if you killed yourself or not.

KARLIN
I'm better. I can still go to the
Karan Art Benefit.

Uncomfortable...

EVA
We didn't think you wanted to go
and told them not to count on you
this year.

KARLIN
What? Why wouldn't I want to go?
Oh, I see. I should hide in shame.

Eva and Scooty stay quiet because, of course, they think that
would be the right thing to do.

EVA
I'm brain-dead. I should have made
a contribution in your name.

KARLIN
You don't have to donate for me.
This whole thing is a
misunderstanding anyway.

SCOOTY
Oh. Well, should I tell them that
you want to go even under the dire
circumstances?

KARLIN
Forget it. If my friends act like
this, I can imagine everyone else.

Scooty spots a Clerk arranging a new batch of spring purses.

SCOOTY
Oh no! They're here! "Ambrosi
Abrianna" crocodile clutch bag.

EVA
I'm getting that right this minute.
Dibs on the yellow.

SCOOTY
Purple.

EVA
Oh, Karlin, let me get you the
blue.

KARLIN
I don't want one. I don't believe
in killing crocodiles.

EVA
Be real.

KARLIN
I don't even want any more 'stuff.'
I'm out of that phase. I'm even
donating a bunch of it to eBay.

CUT TO:

EXT. KARLIN'S MANION - FRONT DOOR

Karlin is pounding and ringing the bell. Very upset.

KARLIN
Can someone please open the door?!
It's me!

Huddy opens the door.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
I see the help doesn't work as hard
when they aren't getting paid. I
get it.

INT. KARLIN'S BEDROOM

She is upset and telling Gloria all about it.

KARLIN
The most self-centered, ego-puffed,
condescending bitches...

GLORIA
Gee...

KARLIN
I'm not like that. I never fit in.
Always the outsider.

GLORIA
You were the leader.

KARLIN
I'll never be like that. And I
won't forget this when I'm leading
them again.

CUT TO:

THE NEXT DAY

The TCB is at Karlin's gate, buzzing for her.

KARLIN
It's them. Probably came to stick
their hands in the pool, see if we
still heat.
(into intercom)
Hey, girlfriends.

EVA
Come on, let's get hammered at the
butt club. A little slumming night
lift your spirits.

KARLIN
I can't. I twisted my ankle.

SCOOTY
There go those legs again.

EVA
Come on, Karlin. I miss you. I
miss laughing with you.

KARLIN
Soon. I have to lay down now, my
ankle hurts.

EVA
Can't you just wave to us?

Karlin opens the door and waves. Scooty snaps a picture with
her phone.

SCOOTY
Gotcha, girl.

EVA
Okay, we love love love you.

KARLIN
Love you, too.

Makes a gaging face.

EXT. KARLIN'S MANION - DRIVEWAY

As the TCB backs out of the driveway, a big liquidators truck pulls up. A DRIVER leans into the intercom.

DRIVER
It's U-Got-Junk. I'm here for the pick up.

Scooty quickly gets a picture of that, too.

INTERIOR

Karlin and Gloria watch as men carry out one item after another.

KARLIN
(to Mover)
I don't suppose it matters that that is Louie XIV?

MOVER
Maybe he'll buy it back for you.

Karlin lays her head on Gloria's shoulder.

MOVER (CONT'D)
Don't cry. You'll be all right.

KARLIN
No, I won't. How would you know...just go.

All that's left is an empty room. Huddy and Gloria comfort her.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
I really love you guys. I'm so grateful for you staying and being loyal.

A HORN HONKS and Huddy grabs a bag and starts down the driveway to the gate.

EXT. KARLIN'S MANION - THE GATE

Scooty is in the car waiting for him.

Karlin and Gloria bolt from the house.

KARLIN
You're leaving me, Huddy?

HUDDY
I'm sorry. I need to eat.

KARLIN
How dare you!

At the Gate.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
You bitch.

SCOOTY
You can't pay him. Do you want the
man to starve?

KARLIN
Yes. That's what a good servant
would do.

SCOOTY
I'm doing you a favor. Do you want
him to escape to some other group?

HUDDY
Excuse me, I still have some
dignity. I have a say in what
group I escape to.

SCOOTY
You know what I mean.

KARLIN
Scooty, I lied. Your boobs *do* look
like big, fake bowling balls.

GLORIA
Get out of our driveway.

She does. Karlin screams after them.

KARLIN
Turncoats! Traitors!

GLORIA
 Inside traders!

KARLIN
 (screams at them)
 Insider traitors.

GLORIA
 Traders. Inside traders.

Scooty is out of earshot.

KARLIN
 What is that, anyway?

GLORIA
 Stock traders, like your mother.
 But they get information before the
 others. That's why Scooty and Eva
 are fine. They got word to sell
 from the inside and got rid of it
 before it caved.

KARLIN
 That's so brilliant. Why didn't my
 mother do that?

GLORIA
 It's illegal.

KARLIN
 So?

CUT TO:

DAYS LATER.

Karlin is sitting on the floor in front of their only
 possession: the big TV. There are dishes piled around and
 paper plates on top of those.

GLORIA
 I can't keep up anymore, Karlin.
 It's time.

CUT TO:

EXT. KARLIN'S MANSION - DRIVEWAY

Karlin and Gloria are carrying out piles of clothes and
 setting them in the driveway to be loaded into their cars.

The last time Karlin comes out, her car is gone.

KARLIN
Gloria? Gloria!

Gloria runs out and sees the repo truck going down the driveway with the car.

GLORIA
Damn. They got it.

KARLIN
Call the police.

GLORIA
It's legal. They are repossessing it. Bastards never paid. They better get life in prison or death.

Karlin has had it. She drops her clothes on the pavement.

CUT TO:

EXT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT

A modest, but cute building.

INT. THE GARAGE

Gloria pulls in.

KARLIN
This really is nice. Very spacious.

GLORIA
It's a garage.

KARLIN
But a nice one.

EXT. APARTMENT STAIRS

KARLIN
Where's the elevator?

GLORIA
The elevator store.

A great-looking guy, GREGORY CRAWFORD, looks down on them from the top of the stairs. He wears an odd mix of clothes: different styles, eras, their only common denominator is he got a deal.

GREG
Hey, Gloria.

KARLIN
Ask him to help us.

GLORIA
He'd charge us, he's so damn cheap.
He's the manager. I bet that whole
outfit cost a dollar. Hi, Greg.

He comes down the stairs.

GREG
I was worried about you.

GLORIA
Me? Or the rent? I hope they pay
you well, 'cause you do a brilliant
strong-arm job.

GREG
Well, you are late...

GLORIA
Not till midnight.

GREG
Yes, but it would be so much easier
if I didn't have to come down there
in the middle of the night.

He sees Karlin.

GREG (CONT'D)
Hello.

GLORIA
This is Karlin. Karlin, Greg.

GREG
Crawford, Greg Crawford.

GLORIA
She will be staying with me for a
little while.

GREG
Oh. Hi. How little of a while?

GLORIA
Don't even think about it, Greg.
I'm allowed to have company, free
of charge. I'm very familiar with
Renters Bill of Rights.

GREG
Why is everyone in this building so
versed in the RBR?

Gloria starts back to the car.

GLORIA
Come help us bring this up.

KARLIN
My weekender things.

INT. GARAGE - CAR

The back seat is filled to the top with clothes as is the
trunk.

GREG
That's a long weekend.

GLORIA
Let's get it over with so she can
get settled.

They load up.

GREG
Are you from Los Angeles?

GLORIA
This is the Hughes daughter, the
people I work for.

GREG
Ah, you are a long way from home.
What are you doing on this side of
the tracks?

KARLIN
I'm studying with Gloria... How to
live in a world of shrunken
opportunity.

GREG
Where do I sign up?

KARLIN
It's like prison school: you get sent.

They enter Gloria's apartment.

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT

Nice. Small, clean, cozy.

Once the clothes are brought in it's so crowded you can't see any of that.

GREG
Where should I put these?

KARLIN
Anywhere.

GREG
But there isn't any anywhere left.

KARLIN
Pile them by the sofa. Okay, Glo?

He does. Then stands there. Waiting.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Glo, do you have any money for a tip?

GLORIA
Greg. You don't have to stand there. I'll bring the rent money down when we're finished.

GREG
(glances at his watch)
I suppose you have time. It was nice meeting you, Karlin. Hope to see you again.

GLORIA
Not if I can help it.

He exits.

KARLIN
This is nice. Where is my room?

GLORIA
You're standing in it.

KARLIN
Oh. Where do you sleep?

GLORIA
In my room. And I'm not giving it
up. That's where I draw the line.

KARLIN
I didn't say anything.

GLORIA
But were you going to?

KARLIN
Of course. Is he married?

GLORIA
The manager? No. He's too cheap
to get married.

KARLIN
I had no idea you had such contempt
for the poor. We're more alike
than I thought.

CUT TO:

INT. GREGORY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Sparse is overstating. It has only a table, a chair, a TV.

Karlin is with Gloria to pay the rent.

KARLIN
Wow, you're a minimalist, aren't
you?

GREG
I have furniture, it just isn't
here yet.

KARLIN
When is it coming?

GREG
She isn't dead yet. I'm not into
possessions.

GLORIA
Not into buying possessions.

Gloria pulls out her wallet and some cash.

GREG
Cash? Great. It's about the only
thing you can trust these days.

He counts it out.

GREG (CONT'D)
Perfect.

GLORIA
No. You owe me five dollars. I
gave you \$980.

GREG
Oh, that's right. I see now, now I
see.

GLORIA
Good. Good that you see.

GREG
You need five dollars back.

GLORIA
Yes.

GREG
Should I just apply it to next
month's rent?

GLORIA
No.

Greg sits and takes off his shoes and socks. Money is taped
to the bottom of each foot. Karlin can't believe what she is
seeing.

GREG
I keep all the money here. Safer
than the bank. And it makes me
look taller.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT - THREE WEEKS LATER

Clothes are laid out, organized, priced and ready to sell.
They have been selling on eBay and doing well.

GLORIA
We sold the Chanel.

KARLIN
How much?

GLORIA
You don't want to know.

KARLIN
This is taking too long. I need
some money. Poverty is best
learned slowly.

GLORIA
Who told you that? Someone rich?

KARLIN
Well, Gloria, I don't know anyone
who isn't rich.

Gloria pulls out the money box. They've been doing really well.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
Did we really sell that much stuff?

GLORIA
We aren't an empire yet, but I'd
have to say we are doing great.

Karlin gets all excited.

KARLIN
There must be ten thousand dollars
in there.

GLORIA
Those are fives. You probably
never saw one.

KARLIN
Oh. Still...

Gloria gives Karlin some of the money.

GLORIA
No pouting.

KARLIN
This is barely tip money.

GLORIA
Who will you be tipping?

KARLIN
I need some fun money. I worked
too hard for this.

Gloria laughs.

GLORIA
Mailing a sweater isn't hard work.

Karlin has counted her money.

KARLIN
This is nothing. What about hair?
What about nails? Magazines?

GLORIA
Yes. You have hair and nails and
you can read magazines in the
grocery store.

KARLIN
I really need a cut. That is no
joke. I've put it off for a month
to keep down expenses.

GLORIA
How much?

KARLIN
With cut and color, maybe \$600. I
won't let him blow me out, that
should save some.

GLORIA
Are you insane? That's your share
for the month. You want to blow it
on a haircut?

KARLIN
Some things I can't live without.
I can't be poor and look horrible,
too.

Gloria shrugs and picks up the garbage. She leaves with it
and when she does, Karlin picks up the phone and calls her
hair salon.

CUT TO:

INT. BEV HILLS SALON - LATER

Ultra swank.

World-famous hairdresser, ORAY, is slowly measuring Karlin's wet hair: pull, measure, snip.

KARLIN
Not too short.

ORAY
I'll be the one to decide.

KARLIN
Of course. But not too short.

Gloria enters.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
What are you doing here? I still have \$50. He gave me the family rate.

GLORIA
Oh, I'm sure. The Royal family?

ORAY
I can't work with these negative vibes.

GLORIA
Good. What do we owe you for what you've done so far?

KARLIN
You're humiliating me!

Oray shakes his head and walks from the scene.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
Oray! I'm sorry. I don't even know this person. Please!

Gloria pulls Karlin out of the chair. And not that easily.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS IN FRONT OF THE BEAUTY SALON

Karlin stands with her shampoo cape and her hair half cut.

KARLIN
How dare you? Do you know how embarrassing that was?

GLORIA
We have a bigger problem.

KARLIN

Let me just finish the cut.

GLORIA

Huddy called me. You're losing the house, permanently. It's not a rent situation. It's gone. So forget getting rent checks and forget owning a house.

KARLIN

You're just saying that to scare me.

GLORIA

You should be scared. The trust didn't pay the mortgage.

KARLIN

How much could it be? Let's pay it?

GLORIA

Okay. Let's do that. I'll bring my mil and you bring yours.

It sinks in.

KARLIN

So she screwed me, didn't she?

GLORIA

They screwed both of you.

Karlin whips off the cape and tosses it in a trash can.

Gloria pulls it right out.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

\$5 on eBay.

CUT TO:

EXT. KARLIN'S MANSION - HER FORMER HOME - LATER

Gloria and Karlin are sitting in Gloria's car across the street watching as the lawyer, Alan, gives the keys over to the new owners. Karlin yells out the window.

KARLIN

Alan, you crook! Hey, people, ask him about the bodies in the crawl space.

This makes her cry.

KARLIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Can't help it. That was my home. All my shoes lived there.

CUT TO:

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT - GARAGE - LATER

Greg is emptying the trash. Gloria and Karlin pull in. His face lights up when he sees her.

GREG

(sincere)

The new hair looks good. I like that kind of lopsided look.

KARLIN

I want to kill you.

GREG

You look good. That's all I meant. You look good. What'd I do?

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Morning to Karlin: it's about noon. Her cell phone RINGS. She has a wet rag across her eyes. She wears a baseball cap. She hasn't taken it off since the half hair cut.

KARLIN

My mother was right. I should have just shut up, married him and moved into my rightful place.

GLORIA

If you did that, your rightful place would be the nut house.

Gloria is dressed up.

KARLIN

Where are you going?

GLORIA

To file for unemployment.

KARLIN

I should get some. I'm unemployed.

GLORIA

They don't just hand you cash for not ever having a job. There is probably some other government program that does. But not this one.

KARLIN

My mother won't answer the e-mails.

GLORIA

I'm guessing she's trying to lay low till this situation works out.

KARLIN

Yes, low. That's where she would be.

GLORIA

There's peanut butter in there if you get hungry before I get back. Open the drapes and let in some sun.

Gloria exits. Karlin drags herself up. She takes off the cap, looks in the mirror, puts it right back on and goes back to the couch. She turns off the lights, making it even darker. KNOCK on door.

KARLIN

Go away. No one is here.

GREG

It's Gregory.

KARLIN

Gloria's not here.

GREG

I brought you a present.

She thinks a beat.

GREG (CONT'D)

I think you're going to like it.

She drags herself up and shuffles to the door. Opens it.

Greg is standing there but you can't see him because he is behind a mountain of toilet paper.

GREG (CONT'D)
I went to Costco and I thought of
you.

She is speechless.

GREG (CONT'D)
Two-ply! I got the best. Half for
you, half for me. Can I come in?
I feel like an idiot.

After a beat, she lets him in. She points for him to drop
the toilet paper on the floor.

GREG (CONT'D)
You look nice this morning.

KARLIN
There is something wrong with you.

GREG
I know you're going through some
hard times. You're going to get
through this.

KARLIN
You don't know me. Everyone says
that, but they don't know me. I
could open fire in a mall, you
don't know.

GREG
Let me open the curtains and get
some light.

He pulls open the curtains and is alarmed. He yells:

GREG (CONT'D)
Get out of the tree, you clowns!

He rushes out. Karlin looks out the window to see:

A MAN in a Harlequin costume is hanging from a tree.

GREG (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(to the acrobats)
Get out of there now! You want me
to get the police again?

HARLEQUIN
Get the police! Arrest you as slum
lord.

KARLIN
I'm in hell.

GREG (O.S.)
I told you, I don't care when you
have your audition, you are not
practicing here! You are upsetting
the tenants -
(with contempt)
Cirque Solei... Pretentious clowns.

HARLEQUIN #2 (O.S.)
(thick accent)
They are already upsets having to
live here.

GREG (O.S.)
So don't live here. People are
lining up to get in.

HARLEQUIN #2 (O.S.)
Lining up to get out!

Greg looks up and sees Karlin. He waves.

GREG
Don't worry, he's fine. Think of
it as free entertainment. Enjoy
the toilet paper.

He starts back to his apartment but not before he is accosted
by two tenants. They are angry. He tries to quickly avoid
them, but fails.

DONNA
Don't you dare avoid me. Look at
this lawn. You advertise as a
garden paradise.

GREG
Paradise is relative.

DONNA
No, it isn't. Water the damn lawn.

GREG
You water it. Instead of
complaining, you should be grateful
that the owners don't raises the
rents to pay for a sprinkler
system. I'll ask them to pave it.

He waves at Karlin.

KARLIN
I miss money. And money misses me.

CUT TO:

INT. CAB - LATER

Karlin is wearing sunglasses. She takes off her TFB necklace.

They pull up to a small building.

EXT. ROCKY'S PAWN SHOP

KARLIN
Just wait for me.

INT. ROCKY'S PAWN SHOP

Everything a person could own, or not own anymore, is in there. Jewelry, musical instruments, bikes, motorcycles, even clothes.

It is filled with all kinds of people from all walks of life. There is a long line so she starts looking in the jewelry case. She asks the leather-faced frowning CLERK to look at the gold bracelet.

KARLIN
Hi, I'd like to see that. It's beautiful.

CLERK
Are you a buyer?

KARLIN
Don't I look like one?

CLERK
Everyone looks the same in here.

The clerk takes it out.

KARLIN
And the one next to it.

CLERK
Sorry, we can only take out one at a time.

She takes it out and it's attached to a chain.

KARLIN

I think I'm going to take this one.
Can you hold it till I get finished
with the payment line?

CLERK

Do you see people clamoring for it?

KARLIN

Can you try my credit card? I
think I'll just put it on the card.

Clerk shrugs and goes to the back. She returns.

CLERK

Denied.

KARLIN

Oh, that can happen. Try again.
They know me.

CLERK

They denied it twice. The second
time I thought I heard laughing.

KARLIN

You're insulting.

She grabs her card and gets in the line.

She explains to the WOMAN in front of her who has five unruly
kids under age eight:

KARLIN

This is the first time I've been
here.

One of the kids deliberately steps on her toe.

KARLIN

Ouch! He did that on purpose.

WOMAN

I'm sorry. This is the first time
he's been here.

KARLIN

Fine. Don't think I don't know
you're being sarcastic.

The woman shrugs.

Finally, Karlin gets to the window.

PAWNBROKER

What do ya got?

She hands him the necklace and smiles with pride.

Pawnbroker puts on his eye-piece, then weighs it on his scale.

PAWNBROKER (CONT'D)

Fifteen chips under an ounce.
Seventy-five dollars. What do you
want for it?

KARLIN

Maybe a thousand... Fifteen
hundred.

Pawnbroker looks up at her and sort of snorts with contempt.

PAWNBROKER

Maybe you could sell it to the
queen.

KARLIN

Don't be ridiculous. What were you
offering?

PAWNBROKER

Maybe three, maybe three-fifty.

KARLIN

That's an original designer.

PAWNBROKER

We weigh and count stones. You
want it or not?

KARLIN

You're wrong. I deserve more.
It's TFB.

PAWNBROKER

Too F'n Bad.

She snatches it away from him.

GUY IN LINE

Can you hurry? My electricity is
being turned off.

PAWNBROKER

Do you want it?

KARLIN
No. And I'll never come here
again. You've lost my business.

She is on her way out the door when the woman's kid kicks her
ankle.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
You brat.
(to mother)
Ever hear of birth control? You
should try it.

She exits.

EXT. GLORIA'S BUILDING

Cab is in front.

Karlin is trying to strike a deal with the cabbie.

KARLIN
I'm telling you, I'll mail you a
check when I get a job.

DRIVER
You gotta be kidding. No.

KARLIN
I'll give you something to hold
till you get my check.

DRIVER
What? The bag?

Top of the stairs, Greg hears Karlin SCREAM loudly. He races
down.

GREG
What is it?

DRIVER
This nut-case won't pay me.

KARLIN
I gave him a gold necklace.

DRIVER
I didn't take the necklace. She's
hiding it in her hand.

GREG
Show me your hand.

Karlin keeps her fist tight.

KARLIN
How dare you. Are you calling me a
liar.

DRIVER
No. *I'm* calling you a liar.

KARLIN
See, that's how he is.

GREG
Okay, okay, I believe you. How
much is it?

DRIVER
\$160.

GREG
What?

DRIVER
She had me wait. In fact, I'm
gonna start running the meter right
now.

GREG
Okay, okay.

He gives Karlin a look.

KARLIN
He overcharged me.

The driver slams down the meter handle to start it.

GREG
Okay, I'm getting it out... Turn
the meter off till I get my wallet.

Greg sits on the curb and takes a very long time to take off
his shoe, his socks and finally his 'wallet.'

KARLIN
Thank you.

GREG
I'll need you to sign a promissory
note.

KARLIN

Okay. I'm getting a job. I'll pay
you with my first check.

She goes to her apartment, leaving him to struggle with the
shoe wallet.

INT. RALPH'S MARKET - DAY

Gloria and Karlin are at the check-out stand. Karlin is
flipping through the magazines.

GLORIA

I want you to get a Ralph's card.

KARLIN

I want you to get a bottle of
vodka.

GLORIA

I'm proud of you. You're doing
great.

KARLIN

Oh, yes. That's what they say
about me, "She's doing great."

GROCERY CHECKER

Hi, Glo. Did you put in your
application?

GLORIA

Friday. Still haven't heard.

GROCERY CHECKER

Patience.

GLORIA

That's what I told the cable
company.

Karlin sees something in the magazine that stops her cold.

KARLIN

Oh god. I don't believe it. I
don't believe it.

GLORIA

What?

Karlin points to the magazine. Gloria picks it up.

INSERT:

Article called, "Rich, the New Poor," with pictures. A picture looks like Karlin's house with the liquidator truck pulling up.

GLORIA (CONT'D)
How sleazy. TFB's sold it?

KARLIN
Of course. My friends... My so-called friends.

GLORIA
Who cares? By Monday, this will be at the dentist's office under a pile of "Parents" magazines.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT - LATER

Gloria is putting the groceries away. Greg is there, putting in some light bulbs he's given them.

GREG
I don't usually give these away. Not in the lease.

GLORIA
That's very sweet of you.

GREG
They are a little used, but I'm sure they have a lot of life. Tenants just forget them when they move.

GLORIA
Those devil-may-care tenants.

Karlin is on the sofa with her computer. She's having some trouble getting online.

KARLIN
I can't wait to 'unfriend' them on Facebook.

GLORIA
That'll show them.

KARLIN
I can't get online.

GLORIA
I had to cut down cable services.

KARLIN
High speed? Not my high speed!

GLORIA
And HBO.

KARLIN
No. Not that.

GLORIA
You can still use your computer.
It's just going to be inconvenient
and slower. And HBO hasn't been
good since the end of the Sopranos.

KARLIN
I don't want it to be inconvenient
and slow. Let's cut costs
somewhere else. I'd rather not
have food.

Gloria shrugs.

Karlin slams down the lid of her computer.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR RENTAL OFFICE

Karlin is wearing about \$5,000 worth of designer clothes and has an application in her hand.

MANAGER
You don't have any previous
experience?

KARLIN
No, but I've owned some very
expensive cars.

Other Employees turn to look at her.

MANAGER
What do you do now?

KARLIN
I'm retired... Okay. I was rich
and recently lost everything. I
don't actually do anything yet or
know all that much yet.

MANAGER

We don't really have any opening
for that skill set. Have you tried
the DMV?

CUT TO:

EXT. VARIOUS OFFICE BUILDING WITH KARLIN LEAVING UNHAPPILY.

She checks her list and circles the one that says "No
experience necessary."

CUT TO:

INT. BLUE PARROT NIGHTCLUB - DAY

A nightclub in the daytime. The most depressing place on
earth.

The manager, MISTY, a big-haired blonde with long blue nails,
stands on the stage among the dance poles. She has a hacking
cough, chain smokes through a Hello Kitty cigarette holder.
She shades her eyes to see Karlin coming in.

MISTY

Come on. No one here bites. We
don't allow biting, pinching or
spitting on the dancers.

KARLIN

Good to know.

MISTY

You ever worked a club?

KARLIN

I've never worked anywhere.

MISTY

Spoiled rich girl. You're not the
first.

KARLIN

Wow, a Hello Kitty cigarette
holder.

MISTY

Yeah. I like pink. We sell the
vibrators, too.

Misty gives Karlin a hand up to the stage. She looks at her
clipboard and checks off Karlin's name, then scratches her
big stack of hair with the pencil.

MISTY (CONT'D)

So you're Karlin? Bad name.

KARLIN

Oh. Okay. Why?

MISTY

Not hot. Dean? Hot?

DEAN, Misty's husband, sits on a director's chair. He once looked like Dean Martin and folded in a face of wrinkles are remnants of that look. He wears a yellow ascot and has his face buried in a copy of Joey Bishop's biography. He's seen it all and doesn't even bother to look up.

DEAN

Nope.

MISTY

We'll think of a name. Drop the clothes.

KARLIN

Mine? This is Betsy Johnson.

Misty looks at her like she's an idiot.

MISTY

Yeah?

KARLIN

You mean, here? Now?

MISTY

No. We'll sneak over to your bedroom later and film it. Yeah now. Leave on underwear and bra.

Karlin does it as slowly as possible.

MISTY (CONT'D)

Little skinny, but okay. What do you think, Dean?

DEAN

(not even looking)

Nice.

MISTY

Good legs.

DEAN

Call her Secretariat.

MISTY
Everyone's a comedian.

KARLIN
I'd like to keep my own name.

MISTY
Okay, but your funeral.

KARLIN
Thank you.

MISTY
So you dance, right?

KARLIN
Yes.

MISTY
We feature classy outfits and then
the strip. We supply gowns, you
supply the shoes and g-string.

KARLIN
Uh-huh.

MISTY
Okay, go in the back and find a
gown. You don't have much on top
so get one with pads.

KARLIN
Getting a gown? Does that mean I'm
hired?

MISTY
No, it's Halloween. Get a gown and
fill out the papers. I'll send you
down to the police department to
get the fingerprints and you can
start tonight.

KARLIN
Sounds good.

Karlin gathers up her clothes.

INT. BACK OF THE STAGE

An old messy dressing room with a rack of cheap looking
gowns.

Karlin is looking, goes to touch one, can't. She quickly gets dressed and sneaks out the back.

CUT TO:

INT. OLD MONEY CLUB - DINING ROOM

Lavish, but understated. Old money. All wood, etched glass, overstuffed leather, overstuffed men having lunch.

Karlin enters.

Brian stands up and waves her over to his table.

Brian gives her a hug.

BRIAN
I'm so glad you called me. I
thought you were mad.

KARLIN
You unfriended me on Facebook.

BRIAN
That was an accident. My computer
crashed. Sit down, let's order.

She does.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Still the prettiest girl in the
room.

KARLIN
There are no other girls in the
room.

BRIAN
I love that dress. I think you
wore it before, right?

KARLIN
Probably. I gave a lot of things
to charity. It would be
insensitive to flaunt a wardrobe
when the economy is like it is...

He lowers his head, not quite buying it.

BRIAN
I've missed you. Haven't you
missed me? All your friends?

KARLIN
 Oh, no. I think of them. Thought
 of them just the other day at the
 grocery store.

BRIAN
 Where are you living? Eva said you
 were living in Tijuana with your
 maid.

He is chuckling.

KARLIN
 I'm not living in Tijuana. I'm
 staying with my nanny. It's a
 social experiment.

BRIAN
 How blue state of you.

Karlin feels bad about lying about Gloria and there is an
 uncomfortable silence.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
 Did I tell you, Michael got into
 Harvard? Cost his dad a ton to get
 that retard in.

KARLIN
 I lied about my nanny. Her name is
 Gloria and she's my best friend.

BRIAN
 You don't have to be politically
 correct here... It's the club.

KARLIN
 I'm not being politically correct.
 I love Gloria and I love living
 where I am.

BRIAN
 (looks at her with pity)
 You know, Karlin, I haven't given
 up on you. You could still be my
 wife. Nothing is beyond repair.

KARLIN
 You mean you forgive me for being
 broke? Wow...what a guy.

BRIAN

If I'm such a bastard, why did you call me?

KARLIN

I'm sorry. Sometimes I do miss my old life.

BRIAN

No kidding. You shouldn't hide though. Everybody has lost money... Maybe not as much as you, but still. People aren't as cold as you think. The group has a great deal of pity for you.

KARLIN

Maybe this was a mistake. I think I'm going to go.

BRIAN

Oh, sit down. Why are you so touchy?

KARLIN

You don't think it's insulting to be told people pity you?

BRIAN

No one envies you; what do you expect me to say?

KARLIN

I don't know... something else?

He leans into her.

BRIAN

You know what could be nice? My dad is in Europe and the Laurel Canyon house is empty. Go there, relax, have some of your favorite refreshment...

KARLIN

I don't drink anymore.

BRIAN

I meant have some of me. Let's go, we don't have to order. Come on. You know you want to. We can play 'prince and the pauper.'

KARLIN
You're an asshole.

BRIAN
Shhh. This is the club.

She gets up.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Wait, don't you want to gather up
scraps? To take to your new
friends?

She is pissed.

KARLIN
Yeah. Good idea.

She grabs a piece of steak from another DINER'S place and
waves it like 'bye-bye.'

KARLIN (CONT'D)
See ya.

She musters up all the dignity she can while holding a bloody
t-bone.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLUB IN AN ALLEY

Karlin is waiting, arms crossed. Greg pulls up. She rushes
to the car.

KARLIN
Where's Gloria?

GREG
She had a job interview.

KARLIN
Let's get out of here fast.

GREG
It's not really a fast car.

KARLIN
Will you please go?

INT. GREG'S CAR

GREG
What happened? You look...scary.

KARLIN
I don't want to talk about it.

GREG
Okay.

KARLIN
Maybe we could drive around a
little. I just want to calm down.

He's hesitant.

GREG
Well, we could.

KARLIN
Are you busy?

He's quiet, but she figures it out.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
Is it the gas money?

GREG
No. Not really. But it is almost
three dollars a gallon again. Oh,
okay, it's the gas money.

She takes out a couple of bucks from her purse and puts it in
his hand. She is genuinely being nice.

GREG (CONT'D)
Oh god, no, I couldn't take that
from you. Not unless you want me
to...

KARLIN
Just take it. I understand.

GREG
You know what? No. You're worth
it.

KARLIN
At least someone thinks I'm worth
three dollars.

GREG
I'm sorry. It's habit.

KARLIN
I know you're broke. It's okay.
Thanks for being so nice.

GREG
Well, that is free.

She leans over and gives him a peck on the cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT

Gloria is in the kitchen cooking when Karlin enters.

KARLIN
I didn't get a job. I went to the club.

GLORIA
You saw Brian, didn't you?

KARLIN
I did... and it made me appreciate all I have, even though it's nothing.

GLORIA
And...

KARLIN
And I took a steak off a man's plate and left.

GLORIA
Where's the steak?

KARLIN
I gave it to a homeless person.

Gloria turns from her pots.

GLORIA
Sometimes you need fresh eyes to see people.

KARLIN
No, I always saw him as the jerk he is, but I thought I could get over it and marry him. You know who I do like?...

GLORIA
No. Not him.

KARLIN
I do.

GLORIA
A man who keeps his money in his
shoe?

KARLIN
He can't help it. It's growing up
poor.

GLORIA
I should have seen this coming.

KARLIN
I like him, Glo. Let's leave it at
that.

GLORIA
Fine. But you better think about
this. I don't see you clipping
coupons.

KARLIN
When you're in love, everything is
fun.

GLORIA
Love?!

KARLIN
Not me. Hypothetical.

GLORIA
I have to bring this downstairs.

KARLIN
Why?

GLORIA
Well, I did get a job.

KARLIN
Really? That's great.

GLORIA
I'm cooking for Mr. Grayborn
downstairs till his wife gets out
of prison. It pays a decent wage
and I don't have to drive.

KARLIN
But isn't it like being a servant?

GLORIA
So what? What do you think I was
when I worked for you?

KARLIN
My nanny. That's family.

Gloria picks up her pot of stew and exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREG'S FRONT DOOR - LATER

Karlin is KNOCKING. He opens the door.

GREG
I was just thinking about you.

KARLIN
Really?

GREG
Well, no one else ever knocks on my
door. Usually it's someone
pounding.

KARLIN
Do you want to go to a movie? My
treat.

GREG
Really? I mean, it's almost
nighttime...

KARLIN
So?

GREG
I usually go in the afternoon.

KARLIN
What's the difference?

GREG
Never mind, let's just go.

EXT. BOX OFFICE

They are at the window. The GIRL in the booth recognizes
Greg.

THEATER GIRL
Mr. Matinee! What are you doing here? You know it's full price now.

GREG
It's okay.

THEATER GIRL
And a date?

GREG
Why don't you just shout out my social security number?

KARLIN
I said my treat. But can you lend me \$30?

GREG
It's my treat.

CUT TO:

EXT. IN FRONT OF THEIR APARTMENT BUILDING

They are sitting in the car, talking about sharing a sandwich from 7-Eleven.

GREG
Now, isn't this better than a stuffy restaurant?

KARLIN
Well, not really.

GREG
For some reason, I don't mind spending money on you. Even full price.

KARLIN
That means a lot to me. We should eat at 7-Eleven again sometime.

He walks her to the door like a date, while an angry TENANT follows on his heels.

GREG
Fun.

KARLIN
Absolutely.

MRS. DALTON

Good. You both had fun, my aunt is sitting in the goddamn dark. Your used light bulbs blew out my fuses.

He squeezes Karlin's hand and heads for the other apartment.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATED MANSION

Greg leans into the buzzer.

GREG

Mom. It's me. I've got the rents.

INT. LENA'S MANSION

This is less like a mansion, more like a DA Factory Outlet Warehouse. A scavenger hunt. All kinds of items and all eras, one thing in common: somehow she also got a deal.

LENA steps forward in her own mismatched bargain cheap outfit, like his. She hugs Greg.

She leads him into the living room. All the furniture was picked up at a motel liquidation. She is reading her favorite paper, "The PennySaver."

She shows Greg something she's circled.

LENA

(excited)

Lots of "u haul it, u own it."
Let's make it a Monday. *Free free,*
Greg!

GREG

It's getting harder for me. I'm not ten anymore. I'm tired of hauling away free cement.

LENA

Just think on it. I want to show you something.

A jacket. A horrible pleather motorcycle jacket.

LENA (CONT'D)

Put it on.

GREG
I'm not wearing that. Are you
kidding?

LENA
What? It looks just like leather
and you can barely smell the smoke.
Just try it on.

He wants this over fast, so he does.

GREG
Happy? I don't want it. It's too
good for me.

LENA
A dollar fifty. It doesn't look
it, does it?...

He spots a photo album and some loose pictures that chart
Greg's growing up. In the picture, he lovingly holds piggy
banks that get bigger as he does.

GREG
No wonder I'm the way I am.

LENA
What way? You're perfect.

GREG
What were you doing? Looking for
pictures to sell?

She smiles and pokes his arm. Of course she wouldn't go that
far. They smile.

LENA
I get sentimental sometimes, Greg.
It's pleasant and it's free.

He is quiet.

LENA (CONT'D)
What's wrong? Do you need
something?

GREG
No.

LENA
That's my boy. Where were you last
night?

GREG
Dinner and a movie with a friend.

LENA
What? Who paid?

GREG
What difference does it make?

Now she knows for sure something is wrong.

LENA
You haven't said much about our new tenant. Remember furnished does not mean light bulbs.

GREG
She isn't a real tenant. She is staying with a tenant.

LENA
What's up, kid? You don't look right.

GREG
Thinking about my life a lot lately.

LENA
Oh, that again. It's a life, why dwell on it? You think too much.

GREG
Thank you. I was wondering what was wrong with me. Thinking. Maybe it's time to bring a woman into my life.

LENA
Oh my god. Don't even go there, Gregory. You'll get nothing but a world of pain and bills and then she'll dump you.

GREG
What are you talking about?

LENA
You don't think I recognize that dopey look on your face?

GREG

Did you let me have friends when I was little? What is wrong with me having a woman in my life?

LENA

You have a woman. Me.

GREG

I want to get married one day. Who am I going to marry? You?

She doesn't protest that quickly.

LENA

You are walking into a storm of grief with this woman.

GREG

What woman? I'm just talking.

LENA

I'm not blind. I know you're spending a lot of time with that tenant.

GREG

Her name is Karlin.

LENA

This is serious.

GREG

Why, because I know her name?

LENA

You have to stay guarded. Alone. Tea for one.

GREG

I want you to meet her.

LENA

No.

GREG

I'm going to go.

LENA

Let me get you a little care package.

She exits to the kitchen and comes back with a bag full of things. She hands it to him and some old used measuring cups fall to the floor.

GREG
Oh, good, I've been wanting these.
So you'll meet her.

LENA
I don't want to, Gregory.

GREG
Come on, you'll like her.

LENA
I won't like her... But I'll meet
her.

CUT TO:

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT - A WEEK LATER

Karlin is sitting uncomfortably close to the wall phone cord online.

KARLIN
(to Gloria)
God, my mother is the most selfish
person I have ever known. She says
she knows I would want her to be
happy?! Why?

Gloria shrugs.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
She "has faith I will build a
strong and better life because of
its challenges." I'm sorry, but I
have to block her. Want her to be
happy? I want her to be miserable.
Like me.

GLORIA
Are you really miserable?

KARLIN
No, but I could have all this
wonderful new poor life and still
have money. Why does everyone give
money a bad name?

Greg enters.

GREG
Hi. Anyone hungry?

Sounds like an invite to dinner.

KARLIN
I am.

GLORIA
Me, too.

GREG
Not me. I just had lunch with my
mother.

He sits on the sofa, unaware that he's created some
expectation. Like take them to dinner?

GLORIA
You asked us if we were hungry.

GREG
I was curious. Why?

GLORIA
You're not serious?

KARLIN
Of course he isn't.

He still sits and then gets that they want dinner.

GREG
Oh. Let's have dinner.

GLORIA
Your treat?

KARLIN
We'll all chip in.

He is caught on the spot.

GREG
Wouldn't that be great?

GLORIA
Your treat or not!

Caught on the spot.

GREG
Of course. What do you think...

CUT TO:

EXT. SANTA MONICA MALL - LATER

The three of them are wandering around, stopping to hear a street musician, or look in store window and passing lots of places to eat. Karlin barely notices. She's into him. But Gloria does.

GLORIA
Why not the WOK?

GREG
I don't know, just don't feel it.

GLORIA
But so far you haven't felt anything. I'm hungry.

GREG
Me, too. We'll find a place. The best place.

It's fun walking about and Greg and Karlin flirt a lot.

They pass a store window and see their reflection. He looks kind of afraid that it looks so 'meant to be.' Gloria points to a French place.

GLORIA
I swear, I'll eat a frog. Let's eat.

GREG
I want it to be perfect.

GLORIA
You want it to be free.

KARLIN
Let's find the perfect place. Why not?

A moment when Greg is out of earshot:

KARLIN (CONT'D)
Gloria, stop embarrassing him. He can't help it if he's poor.

GLORIA
I don't care. Having dinner means
eat it, not cruise by it.

KARLIN
Shhh.

GLORIA
No. He will never find the perfect
place. He will delay as long as he
can, in case the world ends and he
won't have to buy dinner.

He's back. Happy.

GREG
I found the perfect place.

CUT TO:

THE THREE OF THEM SURROUND A HOT DOG CART.

KARLIN
It is perfect.

Gloria opens her purse.

GREG
Gloria, don't think about it. I'm
paying.

GLORIA
I'm not. I was looking for my
Tums.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK ABOVE THE OCEAN - LATER THAT NIGHT

The three of them are looking down at the beach below.

KARLIN
Our beach house was way down there.

GREG
Why would someone want to live on
the beach?

Karlin and Gloria don't know what to say.

KARLIN
Well, we didn't live there. We
went there.

GLORIA
Your family sure could spend.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BEACH - LATER THAT NIGHT

They've walked a long way. It's getting really dark.

GLORIA
I'm cold. You crazy kids have fun.
I'm going to catch the bus back to
my place.

GREG
I don't want you taking the bus.
Take my car.

GLORIA
No. I'll take the bus. Besides,
how will you guys get home?

KARLIN
We'll just catch a cab.

GREG
That's so cute. We'll take the
bus. Take the car.

He hands her his keys. Gloria leaves. Greg and Karlin keep walking. He takes her hand, pulls her closer.

GREG (CONT'D)
I don't want you to get your feet
wet.

Shot of the surf, a long way away from where her feet are.

KARLIN
When you were with the girl from
Bakersfield, why did you break up?

GREG
I don't even like to think about
it.

KARLIN
You don't have to think to talk.

GREG
I don't know. We broke up because
my mother thought she was after my
money.

KARLIN

What money.

Greg looks around at the most photographed romantic spot on earth: the beach.

GREG

Geographically, I think I should kiss you.

KARLIN

I know what you mean. I almost feel obligated.

They kiss. It's nice.

GREG

You know what, Karlin?

She looks into his eyes, kind of dreamily.

KARLIN

No, what?

GREG

We should go back... Much further and we'll have to get a transfer.

KARLIN

Really.

GREG

No, no. It's not because I'm cheap, it's just so much hassle.

They hold hands and start the walk back.

CUT TO:

INT. BUS - LATER

They are hanging from straps.

GREG

Sorry you have to hang. Someone would probably get up if you were on fire.

KARLIN

I love it. I've never been on a bus.

GREG
Really? Never?

KARLIN
I guess I have taken a bus, not a public bus. I was on a little bus when I volunteered for the special school.

GREG
I see.

They watch the surroundings through the dusty windows blur past like it's the most exciting, romantic place on earth.

She picks up a coin. It looks foreign. A find.

KARLIN
Look at this, Gregory.

She is looking at it like it's a Greek artifact.

GREG
It's a bus token.

KARLIN
Oh. It's cute. I'll keep it.

Greg nods to an angry looking guy about to approach.

GREG
Not if he has anything to say about it.

The guy gets in Karlin's face.

KARLIN
I bet this is yours. I'm so sorry.

He calms down.

MAN
You smell good. You don't look like bus meat.

KARLIN
Thank you.

Greg adores her.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS - LATER

Greg and Karlin get off the bus.

They walk quietly, really comfortable.

KARLIN

I had fun.

GREG

Me, too. I love spending time with you. And you know how much I hate that word.

It's quiet.

GREG (CONT'D)

I need to tell you something.

KARLIN

That was the best date I ever had. I mean it. Free isn't so bad.

GREG

Well, it wasn't exactly free.

They kiss. It's meaningful.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF THEIR APARTMENT

Greg and Karlin are making out, when they are hit by bright headlights that almost blind them.

They get closer and see the long, long shape of a limo.

KARLIN

Huddy? Is that you?

KENDALL

And me! What is that you're wearing?

Karlin turns away and marches up to the apartment, leaving Greg there. It's awkward.

GREG

Um... I'm Gregory. A friend of Karlin's.

She looks him up and down.

KENDALL
(with contempt)
Busboy or waiter?

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT

Karlin comes in and slams the door.

KARLIN
Did you know she was coming?

GLORIA
Yes.

KARLIN
Why didn't you tell me? I don't
want to talk to her. You talk to
her. And Huddy, the turncoat.

There is a KNOCK on the door.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
She is the one who caused all this.

GLORIA
Why don't you be the grown-up and
make up? You only have one mother.

KARLIN
Thank god.

GLORIA
People can go crazy when their
lives drop like that. I forgive
her. You should, too.

KARLIN
No.

Kendall and Greg and Huddy enter.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
What is this, an intervention?

KENDALL
Honey. Please. I'm sorry. You
have to understand, my world was
caving in on me. If I didn't get
my head straight, I would have
drowned in it. Now, I've fixed it.

KARLIN
What about me? I did drown.

KENDALL
You look fine. Now let's stop
this. It's over. Get your things.
I'm going to take you to the new
house.

KARLIN
What was the fix?

KENDALL
His name is Adam.

KARLIN
That's the fix? A guy.

KENDALL
If you can't make money, marry it.
How would I know how to make money?
My last job was a lemonade stand.

KARLIN
Money, money, money... See this man
here? See him?

GREG
(embarrassed)
Hi.

KARLIN
This man grew up with nothing. And
look at him. You could learn
something from him.

KENDALL
Not about wardrobe.

KARLIN
I'm not going with you. I'd rather
have this life than a life of
meaningless consumption. Money,
money, money, money... Is that what
you want?

KENDALL
You have to be joking.

GLORIA
Get a grip, Karlin.

KARLIN
Whose side are you on? Greg, tell
them.

GREG
Um, what should I tell them?

KARLIN
About the real meaning of life.

GREG
I'm not sure I know it... I'm just cheap.

KARLIN
A frugality born out of need. But turning it into a virtue.

KENDALL
Huddy, let's go. We'll pick you up in the morning when you change your mind. Your bedroom awaits, with your 50-inch screen, Freete sheets and cashmere robe.

Karlin laughs with scorn.

GREG
Are you sure you don't want to go?

KARLIN
What?

GREG
I'm just thinking it sounds nice.
(off her look)
...but not really.

KENDALL
And, Gloria, will you be ready in the morning?

GLORIA
I can't. I have another job.

KENDALL
So quit. I'll pay any back salary you lost.

GLORIA
I can't. I work for a man in the building. He needs me. I make his meals.

KENDALL

Not a problem. If he needs to eat,
Eloise will make meals and Huddy
will drive them over. Win win.

She sweeps out the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GREG'S CAR - DAY - A WEEK LATER

As they drive.

KARLIN

I'm excited.

GREG

Sometimes she can be... I don't
know, you'll judge for yourself.

KARLIN

I feel so bad that she would take
the bus rather than have me see
where she lives.

GREG

Yeah, she's special.

INT. COSTCO

Buzzing with activity. People loading up on giant-sized
products.

Greg sees his mom. She is at the first of many food sample
sites.

They cross to her.

GREG

Mother. This is Karlin.

KARLIN

Hi.

LENA

You must be the tenant.

GREG

Karlin.

LENA

These pork poppers are delicious.

KARLIN

Oh, no, thank you. I don't want to spoil my lunch.

LENA

This is your lunch.
 (to Clerk at the sample stand)
 How much are these again? I might buy some. I need to taste it one more time.

The CLERK rolls his eyes. He knows Lena very well.

CLERK

You know you're not going to buy them. Just take another.

LENA

Don't be so sure of yourself. Greg?

GREG

No, Mom. I'm going to wait for the pizza crunch.

LENA

Well, if you get thirsty, they have energy drink samples on aisle nine.

KARLIN

What a great idea to have lunch here. All the new products. Variety.

LENA

Have you ever been here?

KARLIN

No. But I read about it.

LENA

Where?

Catches Karlin off-guard.

KARLIN

Uh.

GREG

She read it. Probably the PennySaver.

LENA
You read the PennySaver?

Karlin's never heard of it. A Customer pushes a cart by them, loaded with 100 rolls of paper towels.

KARLIN
This must be where you bought me the toilet paper.

Lena looks at him, disapproving.

LENA
Toilet paper gifts? Already.

GREG
Look, they have the tuna ready.

Lena looks over and the CLERK at the next sample station is spreading tuna on a cracker. They move towards it.

KARLIN
This is a great way to lose weight... Eating standing and walking.

LENA
(to clerk)
This looks very good, Bobby. I'll have two just to be sure, before I buy it.

CLERK
Lena, take as many as you want, but you're not going to buy it.

LENA
You never know. So, Karlin, what do you do?

KARLIN
Right now, I'm looking for a job.

LENA
Where?

KARLIN
Just... Everywhere.

GREG
Not easy these days.

LENA
What did you do?

GREG
(jumps in)
She was a party planner, okay?

Karlin looks at him with new respect.

GREG (CONT'D)
Can we just get some fruit compote,
please?

They move to a new station.

LENA
Life doesn't pay for itself and
neither does my son.

He gives his mother a 'shut up or die' look.

As his mother moves to the next stand, Greg whispers to
Karlin:

GREG
I'm really sorry she's like that.

KARLIN
It's understandable.

GREG
I want to talk to her. Over by
electronics.

KARLIN
Sure. She doesn't like me, does
she? Or you wouldn't have to talk
to her.

GREG
She doesn't like anything unless
it's free.

Greg and his mother are in the electronics row.

GREG (CONT'D)
Why are you acting like that?

LENA
God, how I wish I hadn't smoked pot
when i was pregnant with you.

GREG

Thank you and what the hell does that mean?

LENA

It means you're missing brain cells if you think this is the girl for you.

GREG

I thought I saw you bonding over the pea soup.

LENA

I didn't say she wasn't a lovely person. But not for you. She has that rich girl thing in her blood.

GREG

But aren't we rich, Mother?

She shhs him.

LENA

You heard her say, "What good is money that doesn't spend"?

GREG

Well, what good *is* it?

LENA

Oh god, please.

GREG

I thought the whole purpose of all this financial sacrifice was to one day find something that was worth spending it on. And then spend.

LENA

So?

GREG

She's that something.

His mother takes this in and softens.

LENA

If this is it, well, it's it. I love you, Gregory. I want you to be happy. Not broke and happy.

GREG
I am happy.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Greg squeezes Karlin's hand like everything is great.

INT. GREG'S CAR

As they move through the streets.

In the back seat, his mother quietly feels for change in the seat.

KARLIN
(mouths)
She trusts me now... to see her
place.

Greg's car turns into the long and winding driveway, leading to Lena's estate.

Karlin looks completely bewildered.

KARLIN (CONT'D)
What is this?

GREG
Karlin, I want to tell you
something: this is my house.

LENA
Not yet.

KARLIN
Your house? Is this your house?
You have this house?

Lena can sense the fight coming. Her work is done. She gets out of the car.

LENA
Nice meeting you. Greg, call me
when it's over. I mean, tomorrow.

KARLIN
You've been lying to me? Lying the
whole time?

GREG
It wasn't a lie.

KARLIN

All of it was a lie. Was I a joke to you?

GREG

No. Of course not. You're the one who kept saying I was poor. I just live poor. I'm cheap.

KARLIN

I don't even know who you are. Take me back. I never want to see you again. It must have been really funny. Joke is over.

They drive in silence to the apartment. Karlin gets out without a word. They go to their separate apartments.

CUT TO:

INT. KARLIN'S NEW HOME - WEEKS LATER

More beautiful than the old home.

INT. KITCHEN

Gloria is with the COOK.

GLORIA

No pepper. Mr. Grayborn doesn't like it. And no lemon. I may have this job permanently. His wife got five more years for starting a cell block riot.

Kendall is talking on one phone, texting on another.

KENDALL

We're back. It was dreadful. There is something wonderful about the good old USA, no matter how much they charge to live here.

She enters the dining room.

INT. DINING ROOM

Karlin is there, glancing through "In Touch" magazine, in her cashmere robe. Pale, sad and dead to the world.

KENDALL

You should stop with the long face. It could freeze that way.

KARLIN
My eyes uncrossed, didn't they?
Another lie...

KENDALL
Are you still mad at me?

KARLIN
No. I'm not even thinking about
you.

KENDALL
I've decided to give you a little
welcome home party. What do you
think, Glo?

GLORIA
That could work.

KARLIN
Don't invite my old friends. I
hate them, and they probably
wouldn't come anyway.

KENDALL
They are all dying to come. They
smell the money again.

KARLIN
I don't care. Do what you want.

KENDALL
Yes, that's best.

KARLIN
Go call more money smellers. It
will be fun. They can sniff all
over this place.

INT. KARLIN'S NEW BEDROOM

As wonderful as we remember.

She lingers over each item. Things she didn't notice before.
Her cell phone rings.

KARLIN
(into phone)
Hi. Scooty? You heard that?
Really? Well, it's true. I was in
rehab.

EXT. THE LUSH GROUNDS SURROUNDING KARLIN'S HOUSE - A FEW NIGHTS LATER

Some things never change. The rich and beautiful look rich and beautiful. The party shimmers under the moon. Karlin is off by herself when her old TFB friend joins her.

EVA

Where's your necklace?

KARLIN

I don't wear it anymore.

EVA

You're still a TFB. Where did you get the idea that you weren't?

KARLIN

Rehab.

EVA

Oh, Honey, everyone knows you were broke. Everyone went broke, but we all got it back. Most of us.

KARLIN

Yes, I wondered where Megan was.

EVA

(whispers)

Encino. Sad.

Brian comes over and takes Karlin's hand. He pulls her off to himself.

BRIAN

Can I talk to you? I apologize for that time, being such a jerk.

KARLIN

When? I mean, which time?

BRIAN

I was so shaken after I saw you in that dress again. I knew something had happened. And I was a coward. I couldn't face it.

KARLIN

Face that I wore a dress twice?

BRIAN

In one month?

KARLIN

You don't have to apologize, Brian.
I'm nobody to apologize to. I'm as
big a hypocrite as you are.

BRIAN

Yeah. But you're a hot little
hypocrite. Come here.

He pulls her tight up against him. It's sexy.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREG'S CAR

Greg is in his car, parked up the street from the party.
He's spying on the party. He sees shadows and glimpses of
people, but not enough. He gets out of his car and crosses
to find a place to spy closer.

As he watches, a couple gets close to the hedges where he's
hiding. He flattens himself against the hedges.

They don't pay any attention, walk by. Greg sees Karlin
kissing Brian.

He looks sick to his stomach.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS - LATEST, HOTTEST SPORTS CAR

It is Brian's. Brian is driving fast up the curves in Laurel
Canyon. He touches Karlin's knee.

BRIAN

I'm very proud of you, Karlin.

She smiles.

KARLIN

It wasn't easy.

BRIAN

To not gain a single pound. So
proud of you.

Karlin looks out the window so she doesn't have to look at
him.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIAN'S FATHER'S LAUREL CANYON HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

Brian's car is there.

INT. HOUSE

Cute decorator version of a log cabin.

The fire is lit. Brian takes Karlin in his arms.

KARLIN

I thought we were having dessert.

BRIAN

I think we both know what dessert
is.

He takes off his shirt, gets a bottle of vodka and a can of
whipped cream.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Ta da!

He pulls down the shoulder of her dress and squirts a little
cream to lick off. But the can sputters and nothing is
there.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Damn it. I wanted to do this.
Come here, we don't need it.

He licks the tiny dollop of whipped cream off her shoulder.

KARLIN

Brian. Slow down. Please, let's
just get used to each other again.

CUT TO:

EXT. KARLIN'S NEW HOME - NIGHT - SAME TIME

Greg is in his car, BUZZING the gate.

HUDDY

(through gate speaker)
Yes? Whom did you wish to see?

We HEAR Kendall in the background.

KENDALL

Who is it, Huddy? The party is
over.

GREG
It's Gregory. Gregory.

HUDDY
Karlin isn't here.

GREG
Yes, she is.

HUDDY
No. She isn't.

GREG
Yes, she is. She's there.

HUDDY
I am sorry, but Ms. Hughes is not here.

Greg back up, puts it in drive, revs up and starts ramming the gate.

Huddy runs out. Kendall follows him.

KENDALL
What are you doing? Are you crazy?

GREG
I want to see Karlin. I love her and I need to tell her now.

KENDALL
Little late, isn't it?

GREG
I'm here now, aren't I? Please. I love your daughter. I need to find her. I need to tell her.

Kendall whispers to Huddy. He takes a pen and paper from his jacket. Kendall writes down an address.

KENDALL
You might find her here... But don't tell her I gave it to you.

GREG
Thank you so much.

KENDALL
By the way, Gregory... I'm thrilled that you're secretly wealthy.

She passes a piece of paper through the gate.

He takes it and peels out of the driveway.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIAN'S FATHER'S LAUREL CANYON HOUSE

Brian is taking off his pants.

KARLIN

What are you doing?

BRIAN

We waited. We're used to each other and now I want you to have sex with the new me.

KARLIN

I do, too. I really want that. But I want the whipped cream. It's a fantasy of mine forever. It really turned me on.

BRIAN

Oh yeah?

KARLIN

I've always wanted to do it. You lick it off me, I lick it off you.

BRIAN

We'll be okay. I'm sure there is something here to lick off each other.

She can barely choke back the vomit in her throat.

KARLIN

No. Let's go for the whipped cream. You don't even have to go. You stay here and start without me. I'll dash down to the Canyon Market. Give me your keys.

BRIAN

I don't know.

Karlin pulls her dress top down a little, revealing a tiny bit of boob.

KARLIN

Now, imagine that with whipped cream. I'll come back and we have the whole night. The whole weekend if you want.

BRIAN

You're kidding? You're really into it?

KARLIN

You put on a porn tape or channel and when I get back...

BRIAN

And you'll sneak up on me and take me.

KARLIN

Of course... Should I tie you up?

She runs her finger down his neck to his chest.

BRIAN

Yeah. And maybe a blindfold. I'll only wear my socks.

KARLIN

Yeah... Hot...

She bites his ear.

KARLIN (CONT'D)

Just be naked and wait for Mommy to come back and punish you.

He hands her the keys.

BRIAN

You do remember how to drive a hundred-thousand-dollar car, don't you?

KARLIN

Sit by the fireplace. Get ready for Mommy.

He puts in a porn tape and she exits.

EXT. BRIAN'S FATHER'S LAUREL CANYON HOUSE

Karlin brushes his touch off her shoulder and any other part of her he touched. She can't get away fast enough. She gets into Brian's car and slams the door.

INT. BRIAN'S CAR

She starts it up.

She isn't coming back.

She backs down the steep driveway until she sees a ghost at the bottom. She slams on the brakes and gets out. When she gets closer, she sees it is Greg.

KARLIN

What are you doing? What are you doing here?

GREG

I made a mistake.

KARLIN

It wasn't a mistake. You lied. You played me for a fool. Sure, money isn't everything when you've got piles of it. You must have been laughing your head off.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIAN'S DOORWAY

He's heard the commotion and comes outside to look. He's naked, except for his black socks.

BRIAN

Karlin?

He looks around.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Karlin?

Greg takes her arm and pulls her behind the house to avoid Brian.

It is a steep hill.

GREG

I'm sorry. I was going to tell you at the beach that first night, but I didn't think you would like me as much if you knew the truth.

KARLIN

Are you insane?

GREG

Yes.

KARLIN

You looked me in the eyes. You were so believably poor.

Brian is headed toward the car.

BRIAN

What's going on? I've got "Bad Butch Mommy" queued up...

Greg pulls Karlin even further up away from Brian's voice.

GREG

I haven't thought of anything but you. I couldn't eat or sleep. I saved money on the food...

KARLIN

You're doing it.

GREG

I don't want to spend a minute not seeing your face.

KARLIN

(touched)

You said "spend." In a love sentence.

She is starting to soften up.

GREG

Karlin. You are the first and last love of my life. And really, is it that bad that I'm rich?

She thinks for a beat. It isn't really so bad.

KARLIN

Please, never lie to me again. You can tell me anything, just don't lie.

He holds her.

GREG

I have something for you.

KARLIN

A sandwich?

GREG

Kind of.

Then he takes out a ring box.

KARLIN

Greg. Really?

GREG

I've never been so sure of anything.

She opens it. It's a ring setting without a stone.

GREG (CONT'D)

I planned on getting the stone if you said "yes." Will you marry me?

KARLIN

No.

GREG

Oh, come on.

KARLIN

Of course I'll marry you. And Greg. I don't even need the diamond.

GREG

Diamond?

Karlin tears up. She reaches into her purse for a Kleenex. A five-dollar bill blows out... Over the cliff.

Greg instinctively reaches out for the five and tumbles down and down and down to the bottom.

Karlin SCREAMS at the top of her lungs. Brian comes running around in his nudity and socks. She crumples to the ground.

BRIAN
 (no idea what's going on)
 I'm not that big.

CUT TO:

EXT. HELICOPTER LIFTING GREG FROM THE CREVICE IN THE CANYON

A couple of firemen and Karlin are watching, as is Brian, with a fireman's coat wrapped around him.

FROM THE HELICOPTER:

Greg is waving what looks like a rubber inner tube inflated.

GREG
 I'm fine! My inflatable money belt
 cushioned my fall!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EMERGENCY HOSPITAL - LATER

Karlin and Greg are in a cubicle, while he waits to get his little cuts and bruises treated. Other than that, he is fine.

She kisses his eyelids. The only part not bruised.

GREG
 So, does my mother host the wedding
 or yours?

KARLIN
 Good question.

They fantasize the two weddings.

INT. BALLROOM AT A FIVE-STAR HOTEL

It's Karlin and Greg's wedding reception.

Over the archway, their names are spelled out, softly lit through hand-cut crystals. On either side of the entry are carpets of wild orchids. The dance floor floats and swans swim by. The guests are seated at antique tables with vintage lace. There are ten wedding cakes; each a work of art. One giant cake is in the middle of the room. So enormous, the cake-toppers are life-sized porcelain figures of the bride and groom.

The guests consist of foreign dignitaries, movie stars, friends, politicians. It rivals Princess Di.

Paul McCartney is performing.

He hits the first chord when footmen roll out a Persian carpet for the couple. Karlin takes her first step in her golden slippers.

Before her foot touches the floor, her mother is descending from the ceiling, neon-lit, with a flamingo on either side. Her pink dress lights up to match the flamingos.

With all the splendor in the room, she still takes first prize. The most dramatic entrance anyone has ever made.

All eyes are on her.

And just as Karlin and Greg are about to enter...

Everyone in the room gets up and goes toward Kendall. They are mesmerized.

Paul McCartney is dazzled and begins singing, "Ken Dall, my belle" to the tune of "Michelle." In a flash, the bride and groom are forgotten. The two of them alone. One of the doves flies into Greg's face on its way to be close to Kendall.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE ANAHEIM HOTEL

Another wedding reception for Karlin and Greg.

Same scene of beautiful Karlin and Greg, in all their finery. But they are in the archway of a starkly plain, no-star hotel conference room.

There is a guy at the door stamping hands for a possible toaster in the drawing.

Instead of orchid carpets, there are plastic roses thrown on the floor. Some roses in Coke bottles on the aluminum rental tables, with matching folding chairs.

Someone is at a RADIO, switching from station to station, trying to find some romantic music.

A wedding cake melts in its Caravel box.

Greg's mother, wearing an outfit like the hot dog sellers at Dodger Stadium, walks through with a megaphone. She is hawking Greg and Karlin T-shirts.

All eyes go to her and again Karlin and Greg are left on their own.

BACK TO REALITY IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM CUBICLE.

KARLIN

I don't know.

Neither wants to say anything at first, then...

GREG

Vegas?

She throws her arms around him.

KARLIN

Elvis impersonator?

GREG

Anything.

A nurse comes in with some paperwork. Greg is filling it out when it comes to the place where it says:

"CONTACT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY"

Greg pauses, looks at Karlin.

She nods yes. It's meaningful.

As he writes her name as it would be when they are married:

"Karlin Crawford."

FADE OUT.