

PRAY FOR RAIN

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TITLE

Pray for Rain

AUTHOR

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FILM GENRE

Romantic comedy.

LOG-LINE

In the middle of the worst drought in modern history, a West Texas rancher prays for rain. He gets Rain, a Hollywood starlet.

CHARACTERS

- **RANDY** (27)- Randy is a farmer/rancher. Single, calm and decent. He and his ranch are embattled, yet he remains sensitive to the emotions of everyone else.
- **RAIN** (20) - Starlet is a big box office draw. However she has aspirations above just being an actress.
- **MARIA** (24) - Mexican but came to the U.S. as a child. She is a worker in a chicken processing plant transformed into a social secretary / talent manager.
- **JOE** (38) - Veteran professional baseball player. Down to earth. Old school sensitivity and dignity.
- **ROUGNED** (19) - Venezuelan hotshot, goofy kid turned professional baseball player. Womanizer.
- **EDYTHE** (32) - Gold-digger, any professional athlete will do.
- **MARY** (54) - Mother of Randy. Kitchen guru.

SHORT SUMMARY

This is the story of an improbable romance between an embattled rancher and a Hollywood starlet. When Rain visits Randy's ranch, he learns that he has competition for Rain's affection. With water, grass and financial problems brought on by the drought, Randy must fend off Adonis-like professional baseball players, tattooed rock musicians and the sons of a big time film producer.

SUB-PLOT SUMMARY

Maria and Joe develop an equally improbable romance.

PROBABLE SHOOTING LOCATIONS

- Brackettville, Kinney County, Texas
- San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
- Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas
- Venice Beach, California

FADE IN:

EXT. RURAL CHURCH - PARKING LOT - SUNDAY (CREDIT SEQUENCE)

AERIAL SHOT:

As the opening credits flash, a pickup truck pulls up to a small rural church. Other vehicles, all are dirty from the West Texas dust, pull into the parking lot. The wind is blowing dust like the dust bowl days. It is summer. Southwest Texas is in the worst drought in modern history. A MAN and a WOMAN leave the truck and enter the church.

There are two horses, with Western saddles, outside the church tied to a hitching post.

EXT. DRY RANCH LAND - EDWARDS PLATEAU, TEXAS - DAY

The land is arid. There have been six long years of of abnormally low rainfall. The grass is dead and the very few trees are very sick. The CAMERA PANS from the dead grass, to mesquite trees and finally to prickly pear.

INT. RURAL CHURCH - BRACKETTVILLE TEXAS - MORNING

RANDY (27) is a rancher and MARY (54) is his mother. They walk in and take a seat in a pew. The CAMERA SLOWLY PANS the CONGREGATION. Their faces are as weathered and worn as the vehicles outside. They look worried. They are very still and sombre and not even the children are fidgety. They appear half paralysed by the drought.

PREACHER

The old testament reading for today is 1 Kings 18:42-45. So Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees. Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel.

EXT. RANCH - HOUSE - DAY

The older rock house is made sturdy. The CAMERA PANS to the hay barn and a horse barn, a wind pump and a garden.

INT. RURAL CHURCH - BRACKETTVILLE TEXAS - MORNING

PREACHER

The new testament reading today is from James 5:17 and 18. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - OLD WARRIOR'S REST - DAY

On the top of a mountain. There is a 120 year old grave covered with rocks. There isn't a cross or any marker, only a pile of rocks. In all this time, one would think it would have disappeared but someone is fixing the fallen rocks.

INT. RURAL CHURCH - BRACKETTVILLE TEXAS - MORNING

In the sermon...

PREACHER

Well there are no clouds to hide the sun, and there's no water in the tanks, and there's a fear in the congregation, every Sunday when we meet. The devil's found West Texas and he may never leave, my only advise to you is pay your tithes and pray for rain.

EXT. BRACKETTVILLE - DOWNTOWN - DAY

In Brackettville, business centers around an old stone bank and a feed store. The CAMERA PANS between them. We see a café, a saddle and leather shop, a courthouse, a cotton gin and a small grain elevator. No person is on the streets on Sunday morning.

INT. RURAL CHURCH - BRACKETTVILLE TEXAS - MORNING

Two COWBOYS, who have horses tied out in front. They are CORD and VERNON. They are the ghosts of COWBOYS who could

have been killed by Comanche Indians in the 1870s. They frequent the plains of West Texas and this film.

While they died over 100 years ago, CORD and VERNON don't seem out of place in Texas today. They almost always appear on horseback and at locations logical to their chosen mode of transportation. But this morning they are in church.

The COWBOYS, dressed in 1870's Sunday meeting clothes, are sitting on the back row. They are not particularly dressed for church even back in their time, but they have cleaned up fairly well. They are clean shaven and have combed their hair.

One cowboy, VERNON is paying particular attention to the PREACHER. The other, CORD, is sleeping.

CORD represents cowboy logos. And VERNON represents cowboy ethos.

EXT. BRACKETTVILLE TEXAS - DAY

The CAMERA PANS across the railroad tracks, to roads dusty, livestock trucks, the Mexican adobes and small frame shacks. Everything is dusty. There is a dilapidated car wash with a large "CLOSED" sign.

EXT. CHURCH YARD - MORNING

The service has ended and we hear the recessional hymn. The sun is bright and the wind is strong. The CONGREGATION is still relatively sedate. They shake hands with the PREACHER while leaving and quietly stand around chatting with each other.

However, VERNON is laughing uncontrollably as the CONGREGATION exits the church into the hot sun. Everyone is oblivious to him, except CORD.

VERNON
Two dollars! Ha! ha!

VERNON does a little Irish jig.

VERNON
I just won two dollars myself.

VERNON now has CORD's attention.

VERNON

A while back, I bet that feller over there that it would never rain again. And he just paid up.

VERNON smiles confidently. They mount their horses and ride off into the morning.

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE PENS - DAY

There is a waterpump and the CAMERA PANS DOWN to a trickle of water spilling out into a long concrete trough. PAN again to, gentle whiteface Hereford cows who crowd around and drink cool water.

EXT - ALAMO VILLAGE, NORTHEAST OF BRACKETTVILLE - DAY

RAIN (20) is a starlet.

PRODUCER

You are standing exactly where John Wayne stood in 1960 when THE ALAMO was shot here.

RAIN

I am.

PRODUCER

And you look 100 times better.

RAIN

I should hope so.

PRODUCER

(chucking at his heterosexuality)
Love ya.

RAIN is quintessential Hollywood. She has had a charmed adult life and is already a huge box-office draw.

She has winked and flirted her way to the top and the public loves her. She is the proverbial girl next door.

Like nearly everyone, RAIN is controlled by the Hollywood money machine and she will make almost any movie they bring her, if the price is right.

The DIRECTOR, who is barking orders. He is worried about the wind and the light what this story is going to do to his career.

DIRECTOR

What is the wind speed?

(pause)

Move that light.

(pause)

No the wrong way.

(pause)

What in the hell am I doing in this movie?

A STUDIO EXECUTIVE. He is explaining to ANOTHER EXECUTIVE just how smart he really is.

EXECUTIVE

It is all about the demographics. You will learn that. And we have done our market research and the demographics clearly calls for this movie. Thirty three Los Angeles area focus groups can't be wrong.

They are making a film with a woman hero at the Alamo and of course an upbeat ending. Central to this film is that this Alamo movie is a farce. It is what a "reasonable" person would describe as a "ridiculous" film. No one seems to care; it has funding.

The PRODUCER is selling the movie to some INVESTORS.

PRODUCER

We are making a "guaranteed profitable" film about the Alamo. It is a film where the Texans win the Battle of the Alamo and the lead heroic character is a woman. Its violent, upbeat and its sexy.

In front of the camera, RAIN is in a period costume. She is still flirting and winking at everyone. She acts on film and off. She is 100% charm.

She is getting into character and the makeup people are working on her.

The ASSISTANT PRODUCER has the job of preventing heat strokes and is pushing bottled water on everyone.

ASSISTANT PRODUCER
If you die, I am fired.

Several members of the crew refuse.

ASSISTANT PRODUCER
I don't care; take one.

The film has a LOOKOUT up on top of the famous Alamo wall looking for dust devils. It seems shooting has been interrupted in the recent past and they now have employed a MAN with a walkie-talkie.

LOOKOUT
(into his radio)
I see one.

The film's DIRECTOR stops and looks up. The LOOKOUT points.

The DIRECTOR gestures for a time.

The LOOKOUT shrugs.

LOOKOUT
A few minutes if it doesn't turn.

The filming begins again.

EXT. YANKEE STADIUM - NEW YORK - NIGHT

ROUGNED is a rookie baseball player and is being initiated with the a renowned prank -- the "hot foot." The subtle "hot foot" trick involves a cigarette wrapped in matches and affixed to an unsuspecting rookie's foot by some chewing gum. JOE's department is the chewing gum.

INT. BRACKETTVILLE'S ONLY BANK - DAY

A BANKER is sitting at his desk. He looks up over his spectacles as RANDY walks in.

BANKER
Mornin, Randy.
(pause)
How is your mom?

RANDY
Good.

BANKER
Good to hear that. Tell he I said "hey".

The BANKER says nothing. He is thinking.

RANDY
You look like they'd lowered the
interest rate on you.

BANKER
Been losin' collateral. Half the cattle
west of here are dyin'. What this town
needs is a veterinarian.

RANDY
It don't take a veterinarian to diagnose
an empty-belly.

The BANKER motions for RANDY to sit down.

BANKER
Good to see you. No, I take it back, it
ain't good to see you, but I felt like I
ought to call you in to talk.

BANKERS in a drought always look worried. RANDY looks
uneasy.

BANKER
Been lookin' over your accounts, Randy.
In fact, I been studyin' your books for
the last three years.

RANDY
And you found I made some mistakes?

BANKER

A year like this one, anything you do is a mistake. Just bein' a rancher is a mistake.

RANDY

Might as well be playing poker.

BANKER

Yep. Only real difference I see between ranchin' and poker is, with poker you got some chance.

RANDY stares somberly at a HEREFORD picture behind the BANKER'S desk. The BULL is fat and clean. There are some other photos; one shows a huge HERD watering at a big surface tank. Surface tanks and the grass have disappeared.

RANDY

I spent more money for feed this year than daddy ever did in his life. It is money I ain't got. I got to borrow it from you.

BANKER

Randy, I'll tell you the same as I've told the others. Right now, before the summer sets in, you have a chance to make a decision. Go a little farther and there'll be no backin' out.

RANDY

What's the choice?

BANKER

Sell all your livestock now, pay me off, bank whatever you got left, and wait till the rain comes. Then you can buy back in - maybe. The other choice is cull deep, then hang on.

This idea is not new to RANDY; he has been considering it since late last summer. He appears to think more on the idea.

BANKER

If you feed through the summer on borrowed money, there might not be a way out. You know that.

RANDY

What would you do?

BANKER

I don't know. If I was smart, I'd be rich.

There is a long pause. RANDY wants an answer.

BANKER

Either way, it's a gamble on the weather. If a man thought the drought was fixin' to break pretty soon he'd be smart to hang on. If he thought it was goin' to last he ought to sell out and salvage what he could.

RANDY

What do you think? Reckon it'll rain?

BANKER

I was born here. I never predict the weather.

RANDY'S face is creased. He rubbed his knuckles so hard they popped.

RANDY

When a cowboy sells his saddle, he's through.

The BANKER makes no comment. The BANKER would have rather had the loan repaid with the sale of the cattle. But he is a gentleman and civil with ranchers. The BANKER has had a long professional relationship with RANDY'S FATHER.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - ROAD BACK TO THE RANCH - DAY

Leaving the bank, RANDY gets in and slams the truck door. He has to slam on the break to not hit a woman while backing out of the parking space.

RANDY drives out of the city. RANDY is muttered under his breath. A loud and persistent rattle began somewhere behind the dash, near the glove compartment. RANDY stands it as long as he can, which in his present mood is a couple of minutes. He lifts his foot from the gas pedal and kicks the passenger side dashboard. He leaves a visible boot print on the dusty dash.

The rattle stops.

We can see that RANDY feels foolish afterward. The stress seems to be getting to him. He knows that it is futile to loose your cool against an inanimate object like a pickup.

He takes a rag and wipes off the dust and the footprint.

He drives and wonders why he had done that.

EXT. MOVIE SET - FRONT GATE OF ALAMO - DAY

RAIN has love scenes with half the Texas army. The film crew changes costumes, locations and male actors quickly.

UNKNOWN TEXICAN
William Travis has arrived.

DR SUTHERLAND
Refreshments?

There is a jug of whiskey offered to new arrivals at the gate.

WILLIAM B. TRAVIS
Thank you, Doc.

TRAVIS
Seventy-one hot, windy, rump-bumpin'
miles, since yesterday!

RAIN
Thank you, oh. Thank you!

RAIN wraps her arms around TRAVIS.

RAIN
Welcome to the Alamo, William.

TRAVIS and RAIN have a long passionate kiss.

EXT. YANKEE STADIUM - NEW YORK - NIGHT

Veteran professional baseball player JOE hits a towering homerun. He is slowly running to first base as he watches the ball fly out of the stadium. Half way to first base, he trips and falls. He laughs and gets up and continues to run.

EXT. RANCH ASHEN PASTURE - DAY

CORD and VERNON are moving across a bare and sick pasture. VERNON seems to be remembering how green it used to be. CORD see nothing but brown.

VERNON

I wonder if this is worth the fight.

CORD

Who knows how long it might be until it rains again?

VERNON

Some Indian told me once this region had known droughts of ten and fifteen years' duration.

CORD

Well that's fine; an Indian can strike his tepee and take everything as far as he needs to find water and escape.

VERNON

The problem as I see it is the white man's acquisitive nature. A white man is tied to a piece of land.

INT. ALAMO VILLAGE - JIM BOWIE'S HOSPITAL BED - DAY

BOWIE is sleeping on his belly, a jug near his hand. The door is open. RAIN enters.

RAIN

(as Bowie painfully wakes up)
You all right, Jim?

BOWIE
(he moves and is in pain)
Yeah... Sit down. Ow...

RAIN
Can I get you something?

BOWIE
Oh, no, no. You just sit here... The
Mexican army here yet??

RAIN
Yes.

BOWIE
Here now? And me laid up drunk!

RAIN
Well, your stomach. That ain't good,
what not. But, every man is sick of
something...

BOWIE
I've never been sick a day in my life,
and you know it.

RAIN
More kinds of sickness than a bellyache;
heartache, too.

BOWIE
What's that?

RAIN
Well, because it seems like there's
things, you'll be glad to be gone from.
Things a man's got to face these days.

BOWIE
(Empties the jug on the floor)
You're right.

RAIN
Well, Jim Bowie, what in the world are
you doing?

BOWIE

You say the Mexicans are here? Shut that door over there.

RAIN gets up from the bed and closes the door. She returns to the bed.

EXT. YANKEE STADIUM - NEW YORK - NIGHT

ROUGNED gets to the ballpark very early. Several of the team help him with a prank. At the location where JOE tripped and fell, ROUGNED lays down in an awkward position and the teammates place athletic tape around him. It looks like a police chalk outline around a dead body. Later, the pre-game television audience, JOE and the sports reporters are all entertained.

INT. BRACKETTVILLE CAFÉ - MORNING

RANDY sits alone but he hears the old-timers (60 and 70 years old) at the next table. RANDY listens intently.

RANCHER #1

Where can I go? What can I do? What else do I know except livestock?

(pause)

My sweat and blood were soaked into this land.

RANCHER #2

I always believed a man should make his own decisions, then stand by them without question, without regret.

RANCHER #3

I could of gone another course. Sold the stock, paid the bank and then moved momma into town. Sure, that would be easy.

RANCHER #1

Like an old tree, our roots went too deeply into this ground for us ever to be transplanted. Pull me up from here now and I can only die.

EXT. RANCH DRY PASTURE - MIDDAY

There isn't any grass and the cattle are desperately hungry.

RANDY sees a cow badly outdistancing her calf in eagerness for feed. The calf tottered along far behind, near exhaustion, crying pitifully. RANDY rolls down the window and shouts.

RANDY

Slow down, you old hag! There'll be plenty for all of you.

Instead the cow breaks into a run, following the pickup.

RANDY

Darn cattle!
(pause)
Darn stupid cattle!

The heedless cow was headed for the other cows and for the feed she knows will be there. In the wind and dust and in the confusion around the feeding location she might never find the calf again.

An explosion of rage brings RANDY to the boiling point. He jumps out of the pickup. He reaches down for rocks and hurled them at the cow.

RANDY

Get back there, damn you! Get back there and act like a mother!

The cow ignores the rocks; and abandons the calf. RANDY goes to fetch the calf on foot. RANDY picks up the calf and brings him to his mother who is energetically eating.

EXT. CANTINA PORCH - ALAMO VILLAGE - NIGHT

Inside, 1830's music is playing inside. They are having a party the night before the first battle. CROCKET hears RAIN talking inside.

RAIN

Thank you, Sir, but there's no way in which... you could be of help. And I am in no danger.

SAND

And therefore, we are guaranteed the protection of the generalissimo himself. Ah, but please, don't misunderstand me. I don't want all of your lands. Half will be sufficient for me, I am no glutton.

RAIN

¡Tu eres el más digno descendiente de la liga de puercos! ¡El más bajo de los cobardes! ¿Pero cómo es posible que tengas tan poca dignidad, tan poca vergüenza?

(You are the most unworthy descendant of a line of pigs! The lowest of cowards! But how can you have so little dignity, so little shame?)

SAND

Easy, easy ! I speak your language, but that's too fast for me. Though I dare say I'm better at not understanding.

RAIN

You actually wanted me to agree to this... this atrocity?

SAND

I actually did, and I actually do. You are an educated woman – intelligent. Is there any other way to restore your family properties? Santa Anna's administrators rule this state.

RAIN

You... you expect me to marry you, with my father and my four brothers newly buried in – and my husband?

CROCKET is looking through the window.

SAND

I expect it, because it is the logical course.

RAIN

To married you? That's logical?

SAND

Of course! I am acceptable to Santa Anna. And if he should be defeated, I would manage to become acceptable to his successors.

RAIN

Oh...

SAND

That's the trick - to be acceptable to the powers that be. And let's not pretend you're a broken-hearted widow!

RAIN glares hatefully at him.

SAND

You'll say yes. It's your only possible path. Like all women, you'll postpone the decision, but you will in the end say yes.

SAND walks out of the cantina and down the street. CROCKET throws his cigar away. CROCKET follows him out into the dark.

CROCKET

Hey buddy. Someone ought to teach you a lesson about how to treat a women.

It is pitch dark down the street. We hear sounds of a fight. It is short and clearly CROCKET is the winner.

RAIN walks out on the porch. She hears the last seconds of the fight. CROCKET returns from the dark.

CROCKET

Forgive me, Ma'am. But I was having a smoke out here and I couldn't help but overhear - I wasn't eavesdropping! But it rankles me when somebody tries to force somebody to do something. You haven't seen me before tonight, but I'm offering you my services. If that

fella's making you stay here, I'm ready, willing and able to provide you transport to wherever you wanna go. And on the other hand, if you choose to stay in Bexar, I'm ready, willing and able to see that he won't bother you.

RAIN

It sounds to me like he will not be bothering me any time soon.

CROCKET

No, I reckon not.

RAIN

Would you answer one question with complete honesty, Mr... Tall American?

CROCKET

Ma'am, only modesty restrains me from telling you that I am widely known for my truthfulness.

RAIN

Would you so quickly offer to defend me if I was sixty years old and wrinkled? Or is it because I am young, and a widow, and you are far from home and your loved ones?...

CROCKET

Oh, Señora, this place ain't fit for...

RAIN

I know, but the matter is urgent and... what? Can't I have a few private words with this gentleman?

CROCKET

Well, I'm Crockett and I won't abide by such threats to a woman.

RAIN

Well, Mr. Crockett, I just heard an altercation down that the street. It sounded like... like a drunken brawl.

CROCKET

Well, I was just down that way and I didn't hear a thing.

RAIN

Well, anyway, is he laying out in the street?

CROCKET

And you're against Santa Anna?

RAIN

Bitterly, of course.

CROCKET

And this... Sand, he's for him?

RAIN

Yes, he is.

CROCKET

Good night, Ma'am.

RAIN

Mr. Crocket, would you mind walking me home.

They go arm in arm down the street into the dark.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - CHICKEN PROCESSING PLANT - DAY

MARIA (27) is an attractive Hispanic woman. She came to the United States when she was six years old with her family. She has no money and no land. She was educated here. Her family has returned to Mexico.

MARIA is pulling the guts out of chickens on a processing & handling conveyor. Another WORKER comes to relieve her as her shift is over.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - AIRPORT - DAY

The SAN ANTONIO LOBOS, professional baseball team, arrives back home. They have been playing in New York. There are two BASEBALL PLAYERS on the team who will soon enter our story - ROUGNED and JOE. ROUGNED is a rookie but probably the best

rookie in all of baseball. ROUGNED is befriended by JOE, who is a veteran at the end of his career.

RADIO

The San Antonio Lobos allowed double figure runs for the third time in the last seven games in a 10-7 loss to the New York Yankees on Sunday. The Lobos have lost nine consecutive games for the second time in this young season. They have lost 22 of their last 25 games. It is the worst month of May in the history of expansion teams.

ROUGNED is overjoyed to be playing and being paid for playing a boy's game. He doesn't mind so much losing as he personally has been playing very well. ROUGNED is alert and taking everything in. Perhaps he is looking for women. He speaks to every woman he encounters.

JOE is not happy with losing. After playing 22 years, he has been on good and bad teams. JOE is stable, responsible, and normal, not eccentric. He is there to do a job. JOE is noted for his work ethic in arriving early for games, and for his callisthenic stretching exercises to stay limber even during the game.

The team departs the plane and proceed in various directions. ROUGNED could easily ignore the female fans who want his autograph but he happily (hopefully) stops. JOE makes a beeline for his car.

EDYTHE is driving JOE's car, but EDYTHE is eying and clearly wants ROUGNED.

INT. RANCH - PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

RANDY is trying to hire temporary help over the phone.

RANDY

I need some branding and castration help. You want to send about three guys out here?

(pause)

What do you mean there isn't anyone?
There are always Mexican's standing

around there. Hand the phone to one of them.

(pause)

Too many people have left? The drought?

INT. SAN ANTONIO - CHICKEN PROCESSING PLANT - LOCKER ROOM

MARIA takes a shower. Her EMPLOYER is watching through a spy hole in the wall. She gets dressed after work.

MARIA doesn't look happy, but it is a job for her.

The EMPLOYER is a large over powering Hispanic man. When exiting the locker room the EMPLOYER presses MARIA against the wall and grabs her breast. MARIA is shocked and freezes in fear. The EMPLOYER tries to kiss her but MARIA doesn't respond.

The EMPLOYER's WIFE serves as the plant bookkeeper. The WIFE opens the door to the hallway and she runs at them. She slaps him across the face and screams. The EMPLOYER seems to like it and smiles. The WIFE shakes her finger at her husband, but breaks her rage and she is not ruling out sex with him later that night. They have a warped relationship clearly.

The WIFE turns to MARIA. MARIA is chased out of the dingy and dirty plant into the bright and hot parking lot.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - PROCESSING PLANT PARKING LOT - DAY

The sun is bright and the parking lot is a white/gray gravel. Everyone's eyes take a moment to adjust.

WIFE

(in Spanish)

Bitch!

MARIA makes it to her bicycle and takes off. MARIA stops once she has put some distance between them.

MARIA

I need my money. I'm owed a week's wages.

WIFE

Pay your whore.

The EMPLOYER reaches into his wallet and pulls out a \$100 bill. MARIA turns the bike toward. The EMPLOYER holds it out to her. MARIA rides rapidly past the man and grabs the money on the run.

The WIFE tries to kick MARIA as she rides past but misses.

WIFE

If you touch my husband again, I will
kill you.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - STREET - DAY

MARIA rides her bike through the streets. She is stoic for having been run out of her job.

MARIA has a choice to ride on the city streets or she can take the stairs down to the river. It might be easier to ride home on the street, but she walks the bike down the stairs to be near the river.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - RIVER WALK - DAY

MARIA rides down by the river walk. There are CHILDREN playing. It is much cooler below the street level. There are trees. Street VENDERS. There are COUPLES, mostly TOURISTS. There are restaurants with outside patios, playing upbeat Hispanic music. MARIA stops to listen to her favourite song. She isn't obviously depressed by the events at her work. She has probably seen that scene twice before.

MARIA smiles at people. She will not let anything ruin any day.

MARIA reaches the end of her journey down the river walk. MARIA picks up her bike and walks it up the stairs back to the street level.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - STREET - DAY

It is hot and bright again. She rides until she reaches her apartment.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - APARTMENT - DAY

MARIA hears something rattling the kitchen table. Forks and knives are clanging on the floor. She walks halfway into the kitchen. Her BOYFRIEND is humping a WOMAN on the table.

MARIA is frozen again and in shock.

MARIA walks quietly to the bedroom and gets her few clothes. She rolls them up in a belt and goes back to her bicycle.

EXT. WEST SAN ANTONIO - HIGHWAY 90 - DAY

MARIA has tears in her eyes as she peddles down the shoulder of the highway. All of the TRUCKERS honk their horns at her, and some of the MEN do the same. MARIA is an attractive woman.

EXT. ALAMO VILLAGE - DAY

RAIN has just finished a scene. A young INTERN brings RAIN a phone.

RAIN
Who is it?

The INTERN doesn't answer but nods to the West, meaning someone from Hollywood. It is RAIN's possessive loser boyfriend JAKE, who is a over-tattooed rock musician. The INTERN isn't supportive of their romance and the INTERN refuses to answer RAIN's question.

Evidently, JAKE has a SPY on the set and the SPY has alerted him the filming is almost done.

RAIN
Hi.

JAKE
When are you coming home?

RAIN
What?

JAKE
When are you coming home?

RAIN
That is what you have to say?

JAKE
Sure, why?

RAIN
Not "I miss you" or "How are you?"

JAKE
Sure, those things too.

RAIN looks around and notices a few CREW MEMBERS are on the set have rental cars.

RAIN
Listen. I'm not flying back, I'm driving.

JAKE
You are kidding me.

RAIN
No, I'm serious. Its beautiful here and I'm going to just relax and drive home.

JAKE
Oh, come on baby. That will take days.

RAIN
Sorry, but I just need some space.

JAKE
You've had some space.

RAIN
I will see you in a week.

JAKE
You are killing me.

RAIN
Honey? Can I ask you a question?
(pause)
You didn't mess up my house again did you?

JAKE

I told you I wouldn't have the band over
and I haven't.

RAIN

Okay. I trust you. Bye.

We see JAKE's SPY. He is eye-balling RAIN and is about to
text message JAKE the minute she hangs up. JAKE is obviously
insanely jealous and overly possessive.

JAKE texts a message to his SPY "Is she with someone there?"

The SPY texts back, "No."

EXT. LOS ANGELES - RAIN'S BEACH HOUSE - DAY

JAKE puts down the phone. The house is a total mess. He
hasn't washed his long rock-n-roll hair in at least a week.
He is on the couch in his underwear. He's stoned. He is
playing Nintendo. There is a knock at the door. JAKE sees a
WOMAN through a window. A beautiful WOMAN and she's dressed
nicely but the TV's on and JAKE's connected to a video game.
JAKE loses the game just as the WOMAN is about to leave. He
runs, in his underwear, out into the drive to catch her.

JAKE

Hey, Hey. Hang on.

WOMAN

I thought you weren't at home.

JAKE

No, I was sleeping.

WOMAN

I thought we were going out?

JAKE

We are. Sure, I just gotta get dressed.

JAKE motions for her to come inside.

JAKE

It won't take a minute.

WOMAN

Okay, sure.

JAKE

Thanks for coming over. I hate those damn cops. They took my license and you know they would go nuts if they caught me driving.

WOMAN

I don't mind driving.

JAKE and the WOMAN enter the house. JAKE motions for her to have a seat. The WOMAN looks around. She doesn't know where to sit. Obviously the house belongs to RAIN; nice furniture and decorations. But JAKE has trashed it, with beer cans and pizza boxes and drug paraphernalia.

JAKE goes to the bedroom and tries to find some clean clothes. He can't. JAKE thinks he has found some clean jeans and tries them on... he is an idiot... they belong to RAIN and JAKE doesn't notice until they are around his knees.

Embarrassed, JAKE is running to the laundry room. He looks and smells several pair of unwashed jeans and t-shirts. JAKE picks some and puts them on.

JAKE's laundry hasn't been done in two or three weeks. He only did laundry one rare week his entire life, a week between girl friends. JAKE is a rock-n-roll loser.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - WEST ON HIGHWAY 90 - DAY

MARIA is about to ride past a HOMELESS MAN. She is frightened and can't avoid hitting him. She rides into the ditch and runs into a highway sign. Her clothes fly everywhere. The HOMELESS MAN runs over to her, ready to help.

HOMELESS MAN

I'm sorry! I didn't mean to frighten you.

There is a hot hard wind and some of her underwear blows away and into the highway traffic. A pair of panties flies into the grill of a truck. The \$100 bill disappears under a

passing truck. It is too dangerous to try to retrieve any of the clothes. She can't see her money.

MARIA

Oh, no! My things!

(pause)

My things!

HOMELESS MAN

Let me help you with that.

(half joking)

They'll put me back in prison for this.

MARIA looks him in the eye trying to judge him.

HOMELESS MAN

Oh! Oh, it was nothing serious. Well, when I say serious, I...

MARIA

No. I don't want to know.

MARIA rides off on her bike leaving half of her clothes in the busy highway.

HOMELESS MAN

Wait! Your...

(pause)

Your stuff!

(pause)

Sorry!

EXT. WEST SAN ANTONIO - MOTEL ON HIGHWAY 90 - DAY

Across the street from the motel, is the San Antonio Race Track. They are running the horses and MARIA can see a crowded parking lot. She can hear the crowd cheer.

MARIA has traveled a great distance. MARIA is at the edge of San Antonio. She stops at a fast food place next to a motel. She has no money.

She sees a woman throw a pizza box away at the hotel. It appears there is half a pizza in the box. MARIA takes it from the dumpster.

A HOTEL MAID is cleaning a room. The room door is open. MARIA takes some paper towels from her cart and makes something resembling a plate. She warms the pizza in the room's microwave.

MARIA outside on the steps of the hotel eating.

MARIA sees an apparently tipsy COUPLE leaving a hotel room and still making out (important later).

The WOMAN is EDYTHE and she sees MARIA. EDYTHE is cheating on her fiancé JOE with his friend ROUGNED. ROUGNED is a perfect picture of male beauty.

EDYTHE

Come on; let's go somewhere else.

MARIA spends some time resting on the hotel steps, where she looks at sports headlines about the new San Antonio major league baseball club.

MARIA sees another WOMAN drive up. She also has a new boyfriend/lover and they are anxious to get inside. However the WOMAN's cell phone rings.

When the WOMAN answers, we hear half a phone conversation. The WOMAN is telling someone that she will be there for a job - a driver for RAIN, our movie star.

WOMAN

Rain?

(pause)

What do I do?

(pause)

Drive her where?

(pause)

Los Angeles?

(pause)

How do I get back?

(pause)

And the ticket is there? 'Cause I don't want get out there and get stuck.

(pause)

You are sure?

(pause)

I know, I agreed.

(pause)

Where?

(pause)

Alamo Village, Brackettville.

(pause)

Yes, I will be there.

(pause)

Yes, right now.

(pause)

I'm leaving now.

The WOMAN doesn't leave for Brackettville, but instead walks into the hotel room. She puts a do not disturb sign on the door.

MARIA gets on her bike and peddles all night. She sees a billboard for tourists that reads "Alamo Village Brackettville". She heads in that direction.

EXT. NORTH OF BRACKETTVILLE - DIRT ROAD - DAY

MARIA has made a serious mistake. Without water, she left the highway thinking she would save a few miles by taking a county road. But the county road pavement ends and becomes dirt road. It is burning hot; MARIA has no water. Soon, she is in serious danger of heat exhaustion.

It might be a mirage. MARIA sees two COWBOYS riding horses towards her. It is VERNON and CORD.

VERNON

Look what we have up here.

CORD

It's a woman.

VERNON

No kidding.

CORD

She's on some kind a machine.

VERNON

Well she needs to climb off that thing.
It's making her sick.

CORD

We can't let nobody die out here.
Especially no woman. You better help
her.

MARIA stops the bike as she nears the COWBOYS. In the hot sun, VERNON takes off his hat to address MARIA.

VERNON

Senorita. Good day to ya. Sure is hot
out here and I can see you are in a
little distress.

CORD

Ma'am. You need some water?

MARIA is unable to respond.

CORD

Ma'am. There is some water over there
about a half a mile. Cross over that
contraption and keep goin'.

The contraption CORD doesn't have a name for is
what today we call a "cattle guard".

VERNON

Senorita, you see that Texas flag and
windpump? That's what that is. Water.

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE PENS - DAY

RANDY looks seriously stressed. He is a rancher/farmer in
the middle of a drought.

RANDY is what a hardworking cowboy used to be. RANDY gets
out of his truck with the pride and easy grace of a person
born here. RANDY wears his straw hat low over his eyes and
cocked a little to one side with in a little attitude, the
brim flared and the crown carefully dented fore and aft.

RANDY's straw hat was bought in March, but now in May it is
already spotted with sweat stains. The top of the hat looks
brand new, but around the band and brim it looks 2 years old
already. The brim curled higher on the right side than on
the left because the right hand was the one he used to grip
it.

Incredibly well worn boots. Instead of an old blue work shirt, he is wearing a Hawaiian shirt. He has sunglasses and a cell phone.

RANDY arrives to fill his water tank and take it over to the other pasture. He has a RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK male dog, named GWAY. GWAY mostly sleeps but as RANDY gets out of the truck the dog alerts him.

RANDY sees the rattlesnake sitting on the edge of the water trough. The snake has been sunning himself after a swim or probably had been drinking some water. RANDY takes his pistol from the truck, fires it at the snake and knocks a chunk out of the concrete. RANDY misses the snake.

RANDY's truck radio says it is 109° F.

Hot, tired and frustrated RANDY looks around. He sees no one. There probably isn't anyone within 5 or 10 miles, but still he looks before undressing. RANDY lays the gun and clothes by the water trough and gets in the trough to cool off.

RANDY is sitting there in his bath when MARIA rides up on her bike. MARIA is in bad condition. She needs water badly. RANDY hears her bike brakes and gravel slide as she stops. RANDY stands up naked and then sees a snake only a foot behind where MARIA is standing. It is rattling vigorously but MARIA is too exhausted to realize. She has gone out of her head in the heat.

RANDY grabs the pistol and points it between Maria's legs. There is a long pause; RANDY aims. MARIA figures she is dead and closes her eyes. RANDY fires and doesn't miss this particular rattlesnake.

MARIA faints. RANDY picks MARIA up takes her to the water trough and gently places her in the water. MARIA begins to cool off and wake up.

RANDY

You okay? You awake? Don't slide off
down in there.

MARIA nods that she is okay and will not drown. RANDY gets a cup from his truck washes it out and gets her some fresh

water trickling from the well. MARIA looks around and finally sees the dead snake.

MARIA
I thought you were gonna kill me.

RANDY feels really bad.

RANDY
No ma'am. Rattler.

MARIA starts to get out of the water. RANDY realizes he is naked and runs for his clothes.

RANDY
I'm sorry ma'am. I didn't realize.

MARIA chuckles. But she is mostly concerned with drinking water. RANDY puts his pants on quickly.

RANDY
You speak English! What in the world are you doing out here on a bike? No body ever comes out here. You are illegal? Where are you tryin' to get?

MARIA
Alamo Village?

RANDY
Yea. What about it?

MARIA
I have a job there.

RANDY
You trying to get there?
(pause)
You can get there this way but most people don't want to tear up their truck on that road. They use the pavement.

MARIA is still drinking water. RANDY looks at her bicycle.

RANDY
You trying to get there right now?
Today?

MARIA

You carry a gun everywhere you go including the bath?

RANDY

Snakes are real bad right here. It's a good place to hunt for them I imagine. The water and all...

MARIA looks at the gun.

RANDY

Generally, I leave it in the truck. Good thing for you huh?

MARIA is soaking wet. She looks at the few clothes that she has remaining dry. RANDY notices too and turns his back.

RANDY

Change clothes and I will drive you over there.

RANDY sits in his truck looking at the radio while she changes.

MARIA picks up a long stick. She raises the snake with the stick. The tail twitches, still rattling a little. MARIA cuts the rattles off, then drapes the snake over fence, its white belly up.

MARIA

There. Leave him that way; it brings rain.

RANDY

Superstitious?

MARIA

That's no superstition. It really works.

RANDY

Never heard of that one before.

MARIA
You will really take me?

RANDY
Sure, why not? It's only about 20 miles.

MARIA
You know where Alamo Village is?

RANDY
Sure do. They filmed "The Alamo" there
back in the 60s. My grandpa, leased them
some horses back then for that movie.

MARIA
That is where I need to go. Do you mind?

RANDY
No I don't mind.

RANDY gets out of the truck to help, but MARIA has already
thrown her bike into the bed of the truck. The bike is
wedged in the back with a water tank and the RIDGEBACK.

EXT. COUNTY ROAD - ALAMO VILLAGE - DAY

MARIA notices RANDY is not wearing a wedding ring.

MARIA
So you aren't married?

RANDY
Nope.

MARIA
Why not?

RANDY
Cattle ain't sex and working' is hard.

MARIA
That's no excuse.

RANDY
Been busy I guess. Did the rodeo thing
for a while, when my dad was alive. He
put up with me being gone.

MARIA
Girl like rodeos.

RANDY
Well I was sort of broke.

MARIA
Women don't like that.

RANDY
No, I mean broken. Literally.

Maria doesn't understand.

RANDY
Dislocated shoulder, broken fingers,
nine bones in my foot, toes, ankle, both
legs. Knee popped out. A bull stepped on
me right here...
(gesturing to his chest)
Broke my sternum in half. Broke
vertebrae in my neck. Collar bone.

MARIA
How long did all that take?

RANDY
In total?

RANDY thinks quietly to himself.

RANDY
All total, about 20 seconds. About two
seconds per incidence.

MARIA
No I mean how long did you do that?

RANDY
Gee I don't know I didn't keep up with
that. I guess about two years.

INT. YANKEE STADIUM - VISITOR LOCKER ROOM - DAY

A few of the team members are watching tapes from the
previous game. ROUGNED has already landed marketing deals

with Taco Bell, where he portrays himself as an immigrant tasked with making a chalupa disappear. The team employee, in charge of video, slips in the commercial. Everyone laughs at the rookie.

EXT. ALAMO VILLAGE REMOTE PARKING - DAY

RANDY's truck arrives at Alamo Village. Someone stops them and will not allow them closer.

SECURITY

They are shooting. Hang on.

There is a short pause while they wait.

MARIA

So what do you do now?

RANDY

Just a West Texas cowboy.

MARIA

Farm and ranch management.

RANDY

Ain't heard that expression in a while.
But, ya. I have cattle.

The radio responds.

SECURITY

Okay you can go up.

RANDY drops MARIA off. MARIA can see everyone lining up to eat.

RANDY

Where do you want me to put your bike?

MARIA

I'm supposed to drive a woman to California.

RANDY

You want me to hold on to it for you?

(pause)

Well, you know where I live?

MARIA

Yes. Thank you. I hope to repay you some day.

RANDY

No problem. Happy to do it.

EXT - ALAMO VILLAGE TENT - MIDDAY

RAIN sits down at a long table to eat. It is the last spread of the film. The next day, they are all going home. This meal is festive.

The rancher and OWNER of the Alamo Village, where they have filmed the movie, is treating EVERYONE.

RAIN seeks the OWNER out and thanks him for the food.

RAIN

Thanks for the meal.

OWNER

No problem.

RAIN

I don't know how you survive out here. It is so dry.

OWNER

The time old Noah built his Ark, we don't get but a quarter-inch around here.

RAIN chuckles.

RAIN

Well thanks for the food.

OWNER

No thank you for making the movie.

The CATERER is there with barbeque and beer. The CREW have something of a party.

RAIN

So where are you guys going next?

CREW MEMBER #1
South Central. Basically, Gangstaland.
It's a movie like Boyz n the Hood and
the Gangsta Rap scene. You know.

CREW MEMBER #2
You taken your kids with you?

CREW MEMBER #1
Yea, right!

RAIN
Where are you going?

CREW MEMBER #2
It's called the Platinum Triangle.
Something about a terrorist attack in
Holmby Hills.

CREW MEMBER #3
Aliens or terrorists?

CREW MEMBER #2
Terrorists, I think but I'm not sure.

RAIN
What about you?

CREW MEMBER #3
Hot Pursuits II, San Francisco.

CREW MEMBER #1
Really?

CREW MEMBER #3
There is supposed to be a scene were the
car flies over a hippy and into a fern
bar.

RAIN
Cool.

CREW MEMBER #4
I'm going to Orange County.

RAIN

How can a place that is the home to Disneyland, be perceived as lacking culture?

CREW MEMBER #4

It's only cool the first time you go there.

CREW MEMBER #2

It's not even cool then.

RAIN

No, it's cool every time you go to Disneyland.

The CREW all look at RAIN strangely. RAIN is far too optimistic and bubbly. She is at the top of the movie food chain and they are seriously near the bottom. But the CREW are "in" the industry and not selling movie posters or renting out DVDs. They aren't unhappy; they know a Hollywood existence can be worse.

RAIN feels like she needs to defend herself.

RAIN

South Central isn't black anymore. It's Hispanic.

(pause)

And any film called "The Platinum Triangle" now that it boring. What happens Al Qaeda is stealing the really big wide screens?

(pause)

Like that's never been done in San Francisco. Car's and sparks flying. Really that is what it's about?

The CREW MEMBERS look at RAIN trying to figure out what is going on. Is she mad at someone? Them? Or is she just tired?

RAIN

Another Orange County movie? I heard about that project. O.C. is the only county in America to have both a television show and a major film named

after it. How does that happen? It isn't Disneyland that did that.

The CREW still can't understand. They look at her with blank expressions. They expect her to say more.

RAIN

Look, California is the most populous state in the nation and we make movies about Watts, Holmby Hills, a really steep hill in San Francisco. And Orange County. And that is it?

(pause)

Why are we making the same movies over and over again?

The CREW is relieved. They all smile and go back to eating their food. RAIN is a harmless reformer. For the CREW, the industry is just a paycheck, but every once in a while they encounter a reformer preaching something different for film.

RAIN

Okay look; just now, you were all looking at me like I was crazy.

(pause)

California has places like Mt. Shasta, Monterey Bay, Yosemite National Park, the rural Central Valley and this massive farmland. No one hardly ever makes a movie outside of their L.A. San Fran comfort zone.

The CREW says nothing but they stop eating and look at her.

RAIN

You'd think Hollywood would for once portray its home state as it is, right? ...right?

CREW MEMBER #1

Wrong. On TV and in pop culture, California has exactly four cities, each one downgraded to a few stock locations.

CREW MEMBER #2

You didn't say what you are doing.

CREW MEMBER #3

Yeah.

RAIN

I'm gonna take a while to think.

CREW MEMBER #4

A writer. She is going to write. It was in a magazine. I read it.

RAIN

I'm driving back to L.A. I'm not flying.

CREW MEMBER #4

A road movie. She's going to write a highway movie.

CREW MEMBER #1

That's been done.

RAIN

I'm not writing a highway movie.

They look puzzled.

CREW MEMBER #1

Why would you drive across this desert if you aren't making a movie about it?

RAIN

It's a romance.

The CREW laugh and all get up from the table. They don't take her seriously. RAIN obviously wants to be taken seriously.

RAIN

I'm driving home by myself.

The CREW stops, turns, and look at her. They laugh again and continue walking because they think she is putting them on. No movie star in history has EVER driven across the desert by herself.

RAIN

No seriously. I'm not joking.

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE PENS - AFTERNOON

The southwest wind is burning against RANDY's face. RANDY is climbing the narrow ladder up the steel tower of the windmill to look beyond the empty livestock pens and across the big dry mesquite pasture.

At the top of the windmill is a flag pole. Far above the rotors is a Texas flag. It can be seen for several miles.

Once at the top RANDY can see cattle half a mile away in a drift of gray dust. He looks a little worried. He cocked his head to listen, but he can't hear them over the racket on the radio in the truck.

RADIO

They say the 1950s drought was bad.
Texas is so dry now... the kids, they are
actually encouraged to pee in the pool!

(pause)

Hey did you know they are filming a hot
new reality show just west of here,
"WaterPump Rules".

(pause)

We're so dry... couples are showering
together to save water. Seriously;
really? Who wrote this stuff?

(laughing)

Boy howdy we could use some rain.

RANDY chuckles as country music begins over the radio.

RANDY looks down. Beneath him, the cows pay him no attention. A steer calf touches his nose curiously into the water. There is a plastic Dr. Pepper bottle which RANDY has wired on as a no-cost float to save a few dollars.

It seems to hurt RANDY's leg or hip a little to climb down this ladder, but we can see that the view pleasures him enough to be worth the pain.

RANDY's spur jingles while climbing down, and the calf jerks his head up, startled. Water is dripping from its hairy chin; it falls on the ground and in a few seconds it is totally absorbed. If it ever did rain, the dry ground would absorb it all before it could run into any pond or lake.

Once on the ground, RANDY walks to the truck's mirror and he checks his hat. At his age and single he has less interest in the hat's function. Since the 5th grade his schoolmates competed at everything including hats. That is about the time he realized that girls largely judged the boys based on the hat and of course how well they played football.

EXT. FLASH BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL GAME - NIGHT

RANDY is just a junior high school kid but he is leaning against the fence where the people are entering the stadium. RANDY has one boot heel wedged in one of the chain links. His hat seems perfect; perhaps it is a bit large for his young body. He is standing with his FRIENDS, they all look basically the same. The young girls walk by and a few shyly glance at RANDY. RANDY notices.

YOUNG GIRL

Nice hat, Randy.

Young RANDY tips his hat to the girl. An OLDER BOY knocks RANDY's hat off and they are about to fight. The school PRINCIPAL is standing there watching.

PRINCIPAL

Nope, not here.

So RANDY and the OLDER BOY only stare at each other.

PRINCIPAL

And, you junior high boys, all of ya, quite hangin' around the gate. These girls don't want nothing to do with the likes of you. Get on inside.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE PENS - DAY

RANDY's jeans sit high and tight on skinny hips. We can barely see a huge silver rodeo buckle. Hard work and hot summer has taken any softness from Randy.

In the bed of RANDY's truck there is a 550 gal. polyethylene water storage. It is bolted to the bed. There is a gasoline water pump. He begins pumping water out of the trough into

the tank. The cattle who ought to look worried as the water is only trickling in to refill the trough.

EXT. CALICHE ROAD - DAY

RANDY'S truck passes two COWBOYS on horseback. He only glances at them and drives past ROADRUNNERS, prickly pear, mesquites and the very few live oaks. There is also a JACKRABBIT and RANDY almost runs over a HORNED TOAD as he pulls up to a lush garden near the house.

EXT. RANCH - GARDEN - LATE AFTERNOON

The garden is clearly MARY's red flag of defiance against the dry nature and plainness of the range country. MARY comes out of the house with a bucket to harvest vegetables.

MARY, wearing a floppy old straw hat with a brim wide as a Mexican sombrero, looks a bit worried. RANDY turns on a water hose that runs from the waterwell and cistern into the garden. MARY reaches over and opens the gate to the yard.

EXT. FLASHBACK TO HOUSE WHEN RANDY WAS A KID - DAY

MARY remembers when RANDY had first learned to walk, his FATHER had found him one day at the barn, toddling dangerously around the horses' feet. That was when his father built the white picket fence, with the gate latch high and on the outside.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. RANCH - GARDEN - LATE AFTERNOON

RANDY and his FATHER never even raised an eyebrow about the water it took, even now when he is down to two water wells. MARY raised and canned her vegetables - corn and cucumbers, tomatoes and okra, watermelon and cantaloupe. There are only a few flowers.

MARY

You didn't tell me you were haulin' water.

RANDY

Yep. Takin' it over to the steers and then over to the heifer's pasture too.

MARY
Those wells are totally dry?

RANDY
Yep.

MARY
Since when?

RANDY
A month.

MARY
The livestock okay?

RANDY
Yep, but I'm burning gas like crazy running around. Water weighs something like 7 lbs a gallon. I take about 300 gallons over there twice a day.

MARY
Well I don't want you waterin' to this garden any more.

RANDY
It isn't a problem.

MARY
Well it might be.

RANDY
I'll let you know. But I think it is okay. This amount of water isn't nothing compared to what those cows drink.

MARY
We sure don't want this well running dry.

RANDY
Oh, mom. It's fine.

MARY
Are we gonna have to cut back the herd?

RANDY

I can't get a good price for them.
Everyone else is selling; market is
flooded.

MARY

That is true.

RANDY

Well stop waterin' those flowers.

RANDY waters her flowers anyway.

GWAY signals there is someone out in the mesquite thicket.

RANDY

Mom.

RANDY nods to MARY about the dog. MARY stops picking
vegetable and quickly returns to the house.

RANDY walks to his truck and looks inside through the open
window. There is a pistol on the seat. RANDY stands by the
truck as some MEXICANS come into view.

Surprised, the MEXICANS stop dead in their tracks. Evidently
they didn't know there was a house there. They were just
traveling north and happened into RANDY's front yard.

RANDY motions for them to come over to the garden.

The MEXICANS are probably in bad condition. Not only food
but they will also need water. But the MEXICANS hesitate.

MARY looks them over from a distance and goes to the HOUSE.
MARY expects they will feed them. MARY goes to the kitchen.

RANDY speaks Spanish but as a general principal doesn't.

RANDY

You'll get up here. I don't want nobody
to leave this place hungry, Mexican or
white.

Finally, the three MEXICANS make their way up to the truck.
RANDY watches, frowning, finally sitting on the tailgate to
wait for them.

As they approach and can be easily seen, RANDY looks a bit uncomfortable. The MEXICANS are (in fact) in very bad condition.

RANDY jumps up and offers them the water hose.

They are carrying the MEXICAN's typical cloth satchels with colored stripes, and RANDY can see that the satchels are empty. If they had any food when they came across the river, it was long gone.

The MEXICAN's clothing and shoes show them to be experiencing very bad times.

There is a little MAN and two young BOYS. The older MAN is more than merely hungry. By his eyes, he is clearly sick.

RANDY
A father and two sons?

Pity stirs RANDY. As the MEXICANS say nothing..

RANDY
Thank God, I was born north of that
river.

The MEXICANS drink without a word. They fill their plastic containers. There is a long silence. The MEXICAN's may have been near collapse. Gradually, they look better. After a minute contemplating near death..

FATHER
(spoken in border Spanish)
Mi patrón, we are much indebted.

RANDY extends a pack of chewing gum to the old man.

FATHER
(mumbling)
Gracias.

The FATHER takes a stick of gum and tries to return the rest to RANDY. RANDY gestures to keep it. The sons take some gum. The youngest comes last, as is considered proper.

FATHER
Gracias.

RANDY
You are welcome.

The FATHER closes his eyes, losing himself in the luxury of the moment. A stick of gum has almost brought him out of shock.

RANDY
Let's eat.

They all head up to the big rock house but do not go directly in.

INT. RANCH - MILK HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

RANDY leads them around the side to a small rock house in back, where a narrow trough was full of cold running water. It flowed through this on its way from windpump to a stock trough and then down to a tiny stock tank.

RANDY
My grand-father built this for cooling milk before the ranch got electricity. Yawl wash up.

RANDY notices the youngest MEXICAN has a very old and worn cowboy hat and it is on backwards. Perhaps he found it out on his ranch or another ranch. RANDY asked to see it, thinking maybe it had belonged to his father or grandfather. RANDY looks inside the hat, there isn't a name or anything else.

RANDY
Welcome to Texas but first things first; you never, ever want to be caught wearing your cowboy hat backwards.

The MEXICANS are still a bit shocky. It is clear they don't speak even the basic English. But RANDY continues anyway.

RANDY
I've seen it a couple of times and it's not pretty, on top of that it's bad luck.

The MEXICANS understand nothing. Randy shows them the inside of the hat.

RANDY

On the inside of the hat, look, see that small ribbon, a bow; that is the back of the hat. Okay?

RANDY can't explain except to show them. He takes his hat off and puts on the found hat. The MEXICANS smile and understand.

RANDY

And don't let no one touch your hat. Okay?

The MEXICAN'S don't understand.

FATHER

(in Spanish)

We ask for a chance to work. We are hard workers, my sons and I.

RANDY rubs the palms of his hands on his dirty jeans.

RANDY

I don't have any work.

The MEXICAN'S don't understand.

RANDY can't think of a better way to explain, so he takes out his wallet. The MEXICAN'S eyes grow large. But the wallet is empty. The MEXICANS understand that he is just as broke as they are. The MEXICANS, shaking their heads, think, "when American white ranchers are broke, these are really apocalyptic times."

RANDY

I am sorry, amigo. You know the drought is the reason.

The MEXICANS listen.

RANDY

You swam the river looking for some sort of break, but you better just keep moving north.

The FATHER's face falls.

FATHER

(in Spanish)

We do not beg. We ask only to work.

RANDY

I have no work for you. But you will not leave here hungry. Follow me.

They walk up to the patio.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE PATIO - DUSK

There is a large table and it is set with five places. MARY has put out flowers and placemats.

RANDY

Sit down and have some food. La madama. She will give you food to carry along. Then you had better be on your way.

FATHER

(in Spanish)

These are hard times that we must come to you this way. If ever the fates turn around, we shall do the same someday for you.

RANDY

I hope to God not.

The three MEXICANS begin to wolf down the food as fast as Mary can bring it out.

Then peach cobbler and ice cream. Their eyes grow very large - from near death to peach cobbler and ice cream in only a span of 30 mins.

RANDY waits until MARY is in the house before he allows his voice to soften.

RANDY

When you are through, I would advise
that you go on north. Perhaps you will
find work farther away from the border.

FATHER

(in Spanish)

Buena suerte, patrón. May the dry time
never fall upon you.

The Mexican's walk off to the North.

MARY looks at RANDY.

MARY

You're the worst kid I ever saw about
pickin' up doggies all the time!

EXT. ALAMO VILLAGE - DAWN

In the last scene of the film, RAIN has a very personal and hateful bloody fight with the last surviving Mexican soldier. RAIN has a very large Texas flag in one hand and a Bowie knife in the other.

The dawn is still but they have a gigantic wind machine that is (by design) nearly blowing the flag out her grasp, but RAIN manages to hold it as she heroically stands atop the Alamo wall. Evidently, RAIN has single-handedly killed the entire Mexican army.

CORD and VERNON are there on horseback behind the camera observing the process. VERNON is turned-on by RAIN's fighting and low cut 1830s style dress. CORD seems to "have security" for the two, because he is watching everyone else (gun ready), especially the Mexicans. CORD is suspicious and VERNON is being entertained.

CORD and VERNON shake their head in disapproval of the movie. The COWBOYS turn their horses and leave.

After the last Mexican is killed, RAIN runs to the Alamo cannon and fires it.

Behind the camera, CORD and VERNON's horses jump. CORD draws his pistol in a flash.

DIRECTOR

Cut! Wrap. Let's get out of this god-forsaken place!

All the dead Mexican EXTRAS jump up and begin chatting in Spanish. CORD not off the property yet, becomes nervous again. CORD reluctantly puts his pistol back in the holster.

VERNON

Pretty girl. I would sure like to know that Cali-forn-ann personally. She is quite a filly.

CORD

Dumb moving picture. Didn't happen that way, you know.

VERNON

Now, how do you know? Was you there?

CORD

Well, since there weren't no survivors. No.

VERNON

You have got to relax; this is Hollywood. It's art! And there ain't nothing you can do about it, anyhow.

RAIN issues a big smile; she raises her hands in the air in a sign of victory. She spins happily around looking at all the crew.

RAIN

Thank you everybody!

Everyone on the set thinks they have done a good job. The CREW pat each other on the back, telling themselves it is going to be a great movie.

EVERYONE claps for about ten seconds and then everyone moves to break camp. People run for cars and trailers; they box equipment.

RAIN walks around congratulating everyone.

RAIN
(to the writer)
What a great script!

SCREENWRITER
Thanks.

RAIN
No, Thank You! America is going to love
this story!
(pause)
I'm thinking about writing a script.

SCREENWRITER
(deadpan)
That's great.

No one, who RAIN works with, seems to take her too seriously. She's type-cast, one might say, and only valuable to them as an actress. Many are jealous of the money she makes.

RAIN is however a diamond in the rough. Five 100 million dollar films and she has already outgrown the job of actress.

The DIRECTOR is talking to the CINEMATOGRAPHER. RAIN approaches them.

RAIN
(to cinematographer)
You just have to do something with the
color of this state. Everything is
brown.

DIRECTOR
That is just what we were talking about.

CINEMATOGRAPHER
I've done some work on it already.
Green, I think if we pushed the green,
it might not look so much like a desert.

RAIN
Good. Brown is depressing.

CINEMATOGRAPHER
(to Rain)
You will like how you look.

DIRECTOR
Your hair looks good in the wind.

RAIN
I've gone through 2 bottles of
conditioner and 3 bottles of skin
moisturiser.

DIRECTOR
Really wonderful work.

RAIN doesn't really have a script, but she wants to test the
DIRECTOR's reaction.

INT. RAIN'S TRAILER ON THE SET - DAY

RAIN has a flashback about her writing. RAIN is sitting in
the trailer at a laptop computer. Out the window we can see
the Alamo. We see the screen of the computer. "Untitled" and
"By Rain Delacamp". RAIN has writers block or she has no
idea how to start. The implication is she doesn't have a
story.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. ALAMO VILLAGE - DAWN

RAIN ends her flashback.

RAIN
Thanks. Listen, I want to bring you a
script I've been working on.

The DIRECTOR looks at her like he does all the other amateur
writers. He looks at her like he doesn't read unsolicited
scripts. The DIRECTOR considers ignoring her. There is fully
a one second pause and then the DIRECTOR realizes that he
still needs RAIN's cooperation making and selling this film.
The DIRECTOR is a bad actor and seems too sincere. The
DIRECTOR doesn't respect RAIN and she knows it.

DIRECTOR

Sure bring it to me once we are back in California. I will be happy to have a look at it. Show it to some money people I know.

RAIN

(smiling)

I'm trying to be a serious person.

DIRECTOR

Oh, I know.

The ASSISTANT DIRECTOR seems to think his job is to keep people away from the DIRECTOR. He injects himself into and monopolizes the conversation. He is sexist and condescending.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Acting is a serious undertaking.

RAIN

(to the director)

I promised my grandmother I would try.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Oh, great. It is about your grandmother?

RAIN

(to the director)

No. I just promised her I would try.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Okay. Well, save possible dubbing or pick-ups, you are done.

RAIN

(to the director)

See you back at home.

The DIRECTOR nods.

MARIA and the camera follow RAIN from a distance. RAIN stops to talk to EVERYONE remaining at the location. It is inaudible; but it seems RAIN is a positive force. EVERYONE is polite but they are packing up their equipment or occupied otherwise.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

RANDY is talking to his mother, MARY. The television in the other room is on the Weather Channel. But the forecast is ominous.

MARY

What is the weather gonna do?

RANDY

Nothing.

MARY

No chance of rain?

RANDY shakes his head, no.

RANDY

Mom, I know how to run a ranch. I mean, you sent me to college. I grew up here. I know daddy did. But I can't do anything without some rain.

MARY

I know, honey.

RANDY

When I was five years old lookin' through the window pane, there was debt growin' on the hoof, every year it was the same, there was burnt up everything, livin' in a dusty haze, and daddy'd say "good night son, I love you, and pray for rain."

MARY

Well, it was about mid July two years ago when your daddy's pride sank, he told me, he was goin' to the bank, he put on his Sunday's best, but it didn't hide his pain, and you want to know what the banker told him?

(pause)

You better, pray for rain.

(pause)

We came this close losing this place
then.

RANDY
Now daddy's land is mine and it still
hasn't rained.

MARY
Are you okay?

RANDY
For now. Yes.

EXT. RAIN'S TRAILER - ALAMO VILLAGE - DAY

The rental agency has sent Hispanic WORKERS to collect
RAIN's trailer. She hasn't packed any clothes or items.

The WORKERS are hitched up and ready to pull out. MARIA is
following RAIN to the trailer. When RAIN arrives MARIA
introduces herself.

MARIA
Hi. I have come from the agency.

RAIN
What time is it?

MARIA
It's five minutes past 10:00.

RAIN
10:00? Five minutes past?

MARIA
I believe so.

RAIN looks at the truck and the men angrily waiting.

RAIN
Oh, God!

RAIN opens the trailer door and looks inside.

RAIN
Oh, my God, look at this trailer.

There is a ton of junk... clothes, makeup, newspapers and magazines. A lap top computer. Various stuff.

MARIA

I was told you were expecting me.

MARIA

The employment agency?

RAIN is frozen for a moment.

RAIN

Darn right, honey. And not a moment too soon.

MARIA

Allow me.

MARIA walks over to the truck and speak Spanish to the WORKERS. They smile and agree. They pick up prop (a Mexican flag) off the ground. They walk over to the Alamo chapel and take each other's photos posing with the flag. The WORKERS laugh and seem to no longer be put off.

RAIN

Neat!

MARIA

Can I be of any further assistance?

RAIN

Not unless you can get all this stuff into the rental car in the next two minutes.

MARIA

I've packed in two minutes my fair share of times before. Last time was just yesterday.

RAIN

You too, huh?

(pause)

Drive the rental car over here, please.

RAIN motions to the direction of the rental car. It is a red convertible. MARIA drives over in front of the trailer door.

The women enter the trailer. MARIA does a quick survey of the things. She is a machine and quickly calculates how much room and how to pack it all in the car.

RAIN

How about if I'm inside and you are outside?

MARIA

I will open the trunk.

RAIN enters the tiny trailer and we see things flying out the door. MARIA catches everything and packs it neatly in the car. MARIA is very efficient. She has a time and spatial intelligence. The cell phone flies from the trailer. MARIA places it in the cup holder of the car. It rings.

RAIN

Answer that, will you? If it's Jake, tell him... Tell him I'm dead.

MARIA

Good morning, this is Miss James here, of employment agency.

VOICE

I've just rung to say that one of our best women is on her way over to you now.

MARIA

Hello?

(in a thick southern accent)

No! You ain't gotta do that.

(pause)

I'm afraid that..

(pause)

She is dead.

(long pause)

Goodbye.

RAIN assumes it was her boyfriend JAKE and she chuckles.

RAIN

I like you already.

MARIA

Thanks.

The women finish packing the stuff in the car. Rain comes from the trailer and looks into the trunk before it is closes.

RAIN

And you got all that stuff into this
small space!

(pause)

Amazing.

MARIA smiles.

RAIN brings out the case with her laptop computer and places it in the back seat of the car.

EXT. CONVERTIBLE CAR DRIVING WEST - DAY

MARIA pulls onto the highway going West.

Half way to Del Rio, RAIN stops her. The car stops and turns around.

RAIN

Wait, why are we going West?

MARIA

Not West to California?

RAIN

East to San Antonio. I forgot to tell
you.

EXT. CONVERTIBLE CAR DRIVING EAST - DAY

RAIN explains to MARIA on the way to San Antonio that she's actually juggling the attention of three men - JAKE in LA, PHIL (a film producer's son) in NY, and someone named ROUGNED who plays professional baseball in SA (San Antonio).

RAIN

Here is my phone. I don't want to talk
to anyone, especially men, for at least
one week. Can you help me? Please;
pretty please?

MARIA says nothing.

RAIN

Here is my phone. You are in charge of ...
me. Okay?

MARIA

What do I tell them?

Tell Phil that I will be in New York
soon. And that I want the part. Great
role. Big check. No don't say anything
about money. Yet. But I WANT that part.
(pause)

Tell Jake, he better not mess my house
up. Last time it was a mess. I'm going
to have to let him go, but don't tell
him that. Yet.

(pause)

Generally I'm not attracted to a guy
like that, I mean the tattoos and the
music and drugs. But he is so rough
looking it makes me look soft and
innocent.

MARIA

Does it?

RAIN

They say.

MARIA

He lives in your house?

RAIN

Last time I was there, yes.

(pause)

He is in a band and doesn't have one of
his own. Well it is on the beach.

MARIA

What about Rougned?

RAIN

What is why we are headed East. We want
tickets in the wives section. Okay?

MARIA doesn't understand.

RAIN

Here is what I want. I need to see
Rougned play three games in the next
week.

(pause)

I'm a three game girl.

MARIA

What is that?

RAIN

Three games is all it will take.

(pause)

He will call his momma in Puerto Rico or
Venezuela or wherever he is from!

RAIN

He has the body of Adonis.

MARIA

Really?

RAIN

The team is in New York now. But they
will be back in San Antonio in three or
four days.

(pause)

I know Joe, if Rougned doesn't call, we
will get tickets from Joe. But
regardless... three games.

MARIA looks at RAIN in questioning disapproval. RAIN
announces that she has only slept with JAKE in LA.

RAIN

I'm not a promiscuous person. But he is
living in my house. Sleeping in my bed.

MARIA

Okay, I understand.

RAIN

I've only slept with Jake.

MARIA

How was it?

Rain thinks back in time. She can't say that the experiences were all that positive.

RAIN

He has a lot of tattoos.

They drive.

RAIN

This is where hillbillies come from?

MARIA

No. No hills.

RAIN

There is a hill over there.

RAIN points to Old Indian Rest in the distance. MARIA knows this mountain is near where she met RANDY.

PHIL from NY calls and wants to know if RAIN will be coming to NY. RAIN appears to be resting so MARIA delivers the prearranged announcement.

MARIA

She loves the role and wants the part.
And she will be in touch very soon.

RAIN explains that she wants to write and needs to learn about the real Texas. And that she has all sorts of men chasing her but never meet a real cowboy.

RAIN

(screams)

Oh, I want to write.

(pause)

Show me a different part of Texas.

In the very far distance, MARIA sees RANDY's Texas flag flying above the windpump at the cattle pens. MARIA exits the highway. They take a dirt road toward RANDY's ranch.

MARIA

I just need directions.

RAIN

You need directions, forget that. Find me a cowboy. A real cowboy.

(pause)

Hat, belt buckle, horse, all that Western stuff. A cow.

(pause)

I never met a real cowboy.

(pause)

There still are some, right?

MARIA doesn't mention to RAIN that she knows RANDY.

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE PEN - DAY

RANDY arrives at the cattle pen and the trough is empty. His heart stops for a moment. There is a pause, but he jumps out of the truck and runs over to have a look. He looks at the windpump, he checks the mechanism from the wind, the rotor blades, the shaft and the pump and then he looks down the well. He drops a coin down the well. He doesn't hear what he needs to hear - a splash. The sound is coin striking rock. He has a very defeated look on his face.

There is a cow and calf looking at him like he is too blame for their thirst. Randy looks defeated. A few more cattle gather around.

RANDY

(to the cattle)

I will have to bring you water from that last well.

(pause)

The one up by the house. Unless it's run dry too.

RANDY has an increasingly fearful look.

CORD and VERNON ride up.

VERNON

There ain't no water here.

CORD and VERNON, while ghosts, also look worried.

VERNON

What are we gonna do?

CORD

As I recall, there is stone house over
yonder a way. They got a well.

The COWBOYS turn their horses and head in the direction of
RANDY's house where the last water well is located.

RANDY gets down on his knees. More cattle gather around the
empty trough.

RANDY

Dear God, you send rains in season. It
is a season of need in here in Texas.
Send rain to this parched land and more
again across all of Texas and the other
southern states. Find a small and
willing cloud sitting bored over some
vacant part of the Caribbean or Gulf of
California, and give it a push toward
us. In fact, make a hurricane, perhaps,
not strong enough to destroy nothing,
but fill it with warmed moisture and
send it North. We ask you for rain. You
made the world to need water. You are
the source of rain. We ask you. Let it
rain. In Jesus name. Amen.

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE GUARD AT RANCH ROAD 674 - DAY

RAIN and MARIA turn into RANDY's property over a cattle
guard. The vibration gives RAIN a tingly feeling and she
sits up straight.

RAIN

What is that we just ran over?

MARIA

A cattle guard.

RAIN

Huh?

MARIA

It's so you don't have to have a gate
and cattle can't get out.

MARIA and RAIN drive up to the cattle pen in the red convertible. MARIA sees that her bicycle is still in the back of RANDY's truck. RANDY stands up on his feet. MARIA has sunglasses on and isn't easily recognized. It appears to RANDY that they are lost.

RAIN

We are lost and lookin' for a
convenience store and the interstate.
Needin' directions. Can you give her
directions?

RANDY

I'm the man for the job.

RANDY walks up to the car. Still more cattle arrive.

RANDY

A store? That's miles and miles.

(pause)

Okay. Way up yonder past the caution
light. There's a rock house with about
the nicest garden you'll find. You gotta
stop in there and ask Mary for some
sweet tea. Then a left will take you to
the interstate. But don't turn right
that will bring you right back here to
me.

Rain undresses RANDY with her eyes.

RAIN

God, we don't want that. What a tragedy
that would be.

The cattle are starting to crowd them looking for water. One cow thinks the convertible is a water trough and sticks her nose into the back seat and licks RAIN's laptop case.

RAIN

What's going on here?

RANDY
Eighty days, no rain.

RAIN
The cows, what?
(pause)
They got this look on their face. Like
they want to eat me!

RANDY chuckles.

RANDY
This well just ran dry. They are looking
for water.

RAIN
That's too bad. What are you gonna do?

RANDY
I gotta climb up there. Tie the rotors
to a stop.
(pause)
Essentially turn it off. Then I gotta
drive up to the house; there is a well
up there at the house and bring these
cattle some water.

RAIN
Sure is hot and dry out here.

RANDY
It has been way worse the last six years
than ever before. It's gonna ruin a lot
of people out here. Already had.

RAIN
Not you.

RANDY
How come not me?

RAIN
Looks to me like you ain't ruined.

RANDY
Oh, yah?

RAIN
You look plenty healthy to me.

RANDY
Well in this business you do eat well
and Lord knows there is enough exercise.

RAIN
And, you are way to cute to ruin.

RANDY and RAIN make true eye contact for the first time as they both take off their sunglasses. And in the distance there is the sound of thunder. There are dark clouds in the far distance. RANDY looks up curiously and then wishfully looks out in that direction.

RAIN
That coming here?

RANDY doesn't look back at RAIN but continues to fixate on the thunderstorm.

RANDY
Might.

RAIN
Well we are gonna go see Mary about that
iced tea.

RANDY
Nice to meet you two ladies.

RAIN
Nice meeting you too.

RAIN looks away.

RANDY
Where you'll from?

MARIA punches the gas; the car accelerates away.

RAIN
(shouting)
Los Angeles.

RAIN turns her head and will not look away from RANDY. RAIN waves. RANDY smiles and takes off his hat a few inches.

Clearly they like each other. RANDY has no idea RAIN is a movie star. RANDY watches her all the way down the road.

RANDY gets his binoculars and some wire out of his truck and he climbs the windpump. RANDY is turning off the windpump and would normally be sad. But he is thinking that he wants to see if RAIN actually stopped at the house.

RANDY reaches the top. He looks out with the binoculars and the dust cloud seems to reach the house. RANDY smiles.

RANDY
Hot diggety.

He takes some wire and stops the windpump from spinning.

CORD and VERNON arrive on horseback. It is as if they have herded all the cattle up near the water.

CORD
We seen her.

VERNON
She sure has a pretty face.

CORD
Way out of your league.

VERNON
Na. That ain't true.

CORD
The well is dry.

VERNON
What has that got to do with it?

CORD
A lot.

VERNON
(to RANDY)
Kickin' yourself for not catchin' her name?

CORD
(sarcastic)
You fool, that could've been love.

VERNON
(to RANDY)
Don't think you are alone. That is the
story of my life. I watch everybody
disappear in a cloud of dust.

RANDY seems to be listening but doesn't respond. He climbs
down the ladder gets in the truck and leaves.

EXT. RANCH - BACK OF THE HOUSE - DAY

RANDY drives to the house, but doesn't go in. He sees the
red convertible parked in front. And RANDY can hear the
women chatting and giggling. They are having a good time in
the kitchen.

RANDY pulls the truck up to the water well out back of the
house and drops a hose into the cistern. He turns on the
pump and begins filling the tank in his truck bed. He sits
watching the back of the house. Occasionally, he glances
over to see if the rain has come any closer.

RAIN walks to the sink as an excuse to look out the window.

MARY
Hey, let me get you some more tea.

RAIN
No thanks, I'm just gonna drink some
water.

She is looking for RANDY. She sees him and watches him until
it is obvious that her water glass is full. She fills and
dumps it out three times before leaving the sink.

The rain storm is getting nearer.

EXT. RANCH - THE CATTLE PENS - DAY

RANDY returns with the water in his truck. The cattle crowd
around and drink. RANDY sees a cloud of dust coming down the
road.

CORD
This heat is playin' tricks on me.

VERNON
(to Randy)
The woman of your dreams is comin' back
to me.

RANDY doesn't respond. RAIN is driving the convertible now. She stops. The dust and the sweat, something responds inside RAIN when she sees a working man. RAIN is a sight to RANDY too.

RAIN
Your mother says its time for dinner.

RANDY
How come she didn't call my phone?

RAIN
She tried but you didn't answer.

RANDY
Ya'll staying for dinner?

RAIN
Ya.

RANDY
Good deal.

RAIN
Gonna rain too.

RANDY
Hope.

CORD and VERNON are on horse and watching the cattle and also the clouds.

A single rain drop falls. It hits RAIN on the cheek.

RAIN
(giggling)
Aye!
(pause)

It's raining.

RAIN is excited as a few more rain drops hit her and the windshield. She pushes a button and the convertible top goes up. RANDY is stone faced watching her. He doesn't seek shelter from the short rain.

By the time the top is up, the rain is over. The sun has reappeared. RANDY is accustomed to this sort of false alarm.

VERNON

(to RANDY)

Out of nowhere, full of fury but devoid of rain.

The scanty moisture evaporates from the hot ground before the clouds are gone.

CORD

Another dry disappointment.

VERNON

She made her show and drifting away like a teasing girl.

The top of the convertible comes down again.

RAIN

Oh, I had my hopes up for you.

RANDY

It does that a lot. Should have warned ya.

In a cloud of dust, RAIN and RANDY drive off their vehicles. CORD and VERNON turn the horses toward the house.

INT. MILK HOUSE - DAY

RANDY and RAIN have driven back to the house. RANDY opens the milk house door for RAIN and it appears she is not accustomed to that happening. They wash their hands for dinner.

RAIN

You been here forever?

RANDY
Yep, born and breed.
Born on the Edwards Plateau. But
connived in Austin.

RAIN
You mean conceived in Austin?

RANDY
No, pretty much sure I was connived.

We can only guess at this point but RAIN is most attracted to the strong and witty type.

Another thunder cloud rolls up outside.

RAIN
Yeh, I heard that happens in Austin a lot.

RANDY
You know what does that? It's the sacred waters of Barton Springs.

RAIN
What's that?

RANDY
You might call it a swimming hole.
(pause)
I'll take you there sometime if you want.

RAIN
(silly)
I can't get pregnant in Austin.

RANDY
(chuckling)
Girl, I'm not gonna get you pregnant.
(joking)
Not in Austin anyway.

The closer RANDY and RAIN become the more likely it is to rain. Their relationship magically brings rain.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - BACK YARD - EARLY EVENING

RANDY gets quiet. He and RAIN move outside.

RANDY
Can't afford to get too excited.
(pause)
But somehow this looks like the one.

RANDY smells the air. RAIN smells the air.

RANDY's roan horse HOT DIGITY runs and pitches.
RANDY nodes in that direction.

RANDY
You might fool the Weather Bureau, but
you didn't fool horses much.

They listened to the roll of thunder.

RANDY
Hear that? We're fixin' to get it this
time.

RANDY moves out into the back yard. They stand watching,
waiting.

RAIN
It looks like I could reach up and poke
a hole in them clouds and they'd spill
out pure water.

MARY and MARIA come out onto the porch.

MARY
Maybe it is finally gonna pour.

Thunder rolled. Lightning flashed to the north, small
flashes at first and far away. Gradually the lightening
moves closer.

The thunder crashes very near them. RAIN jumps two inches
and grabs a hold of RANDY. MARIA chuckles.

RANDY
You smell that?

RAIN
What is that?

RANDY
Lighting. You can smell it burning
something.

Down at the corral HOT DIGITY is nickering, trotting around with head high, anticipating the rain.

The first drop of water hits their face. RAIN feels a tingle on her cheek.

RANDY is looking up at the near-black skies.

RANDY
Come on now. Rain! Rain!"

MARY
You better come back. You'll get soaked.

RANDY
I want to get soaked!

MARY
Get up here you are gonna get lightening
struck.

RAIN lets go of RANDY and runs under the porch.

RANDY feels a few more drops and heard others strike around him. He stands expectantly, waiting for the drenching downpour.

Then we see a break in the clouds to the west, a sliver of sun at first, gradually widening so he could make out the entire red sun. The wind has shifted.

MARY
It's over, Randy. Come eat.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - DINNER TABLE - EVENING

RANDY and RAIN enters the dinning room. MARY is putting dinner on the table. MARIA is on the cell phone in the living room. MARIA looks very assertive, not the passive Hispanic woman she has been.

Someone on the phone wants something from RAIN and MARIA will only give them little.

MARIA

I'm sorry, but I will let her know. That is the best I can do. I'm sure she will consider it. She has your number and she will call you.

With all the sunglasses off, RANDY just now realizes that he already knows MARIA. He thinks and he looks at RAIN. He seems to have figured it all out.

MARIA and RANDY make eye contact. MARIA shakes her head asking him not to reveal how she first came to the ranch.

RAIN

I found him. Man those cows were thirsty.

MARY

(winking)

I tried to call...

I'm thinking MARY never called, but sent RAIN to fetch her son back for dinner.

RANDY

Yea, I left it in the truck and was out pumping water. That well up at the cattle pens went dry.

RAIN

It almost rained! That was incredible.

RANDY looks too depressed to talk about it.

MARY digests the news. But she smiles anyway.

MARY gestures for everyone to sit down at the big table.

MARY

Randy you gonna say grace?

RANDY

Sure.

(pause)

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let these gifts to us be blessed. And God, in Whom we live and move, and have our being. Your servants here are down to one well, the one just out back of here. Everything else is dry. In your infinite mercy, grant us rain. And we need it in abundance. If we got that we might, well everybody around here, would be more confident seeking after eternal gifts. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MARY and RANDY grab a plate. RAIN and MARIA are afraid to move until they are handed a plate and they help themselves. CORD and VERNON arrive at the table late.

MARY

Did you know Rain is an actress? She has been over at the Alamo filming a movie.

RANDY

I figured that out. It took me a while but I understand now.

RAIN

And you're okay with that?

RANDY

Sure why not?

CORD and VERNON arrive late to the table.

RAIN

Well I mean "Hollywood" and all. Some people think it's a dirty word.

RANDY

As far as I know, it's just the movies that give the place a bad name. But it isn't the people.

MARY

Sure.

RANDY

Texas has gotten a bad reputation too, because of what happened in Dallas and Waco. Our corporations well they are corrupt and the politicians are swindlers and loco. But look the people, we are alright. California is probably the same.

MARY

We like you, Rain.

RANDY

You are here in Texas now. So, you had the sense to stay a while. That says something.

MARIA

She's gonna be here a while. She wants to write a film.

RANDY

Here? Oh you mean in Texas?

RAIN

I need to see stuff, you know? Not just the Alamo set.

MARY

Like the "real" Alamo?

MARIA

That's easy enough.

MARY

You gotta teach her the Cotton-eyed Joe. Saturday night, ya'll take her to Del Rio!

RANDY

The big timber round Nacadoches. Driving El Camino Real into San Antone.

MARIA

The Riverwalk.

MARY

Randy's dad and I stayed one night in
the Menger Hotel.

CORD and VERNON are sitting at the table too. They are
eating like cowboys that have been out on the trail a very
long time.

MARIA

The Mi Tierra.

RANDY

(to RAIN)

You wanna go body surfing the Freo?

MARY

Is that even flowing with the drought
and all?

There is a long pause as everyone considers the drought.

RAIN

Sure, It sounds wonderful. Let's go. I'm
game.

CORD and VERNON only look up and speak when they appear to
be full.

VERNON

Did they say her name was Rain?

CORD

Odd if you ask me.

VERNON

Well ain't no body asking you.

Not arguing, CORD grabs some more food.

VERNON

Hey I stayed at the Menger Hotel one
time.

CORD

You did not.

VERNON

Sure enough did. The Governor put me up there a night. I think you was down in Linnville.

CORD

You was in Linnville with me.

VERNON

Was I?

(pause)

You sure?

CORD

Yea.

VERNON

Well I sure remember a fine bed in San Antonio one time. I was at the Menger one time! I'm certain of it.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - TV ROOM - NIGHT

RANDY reads the bills and writes the checks. RAIN watches him from a distance. MARY watches the Food Network on TV.

Mary has many many framed photos on the wall. RAIN slowly, silently looking at all the photos of RANDY and his framed college diploma.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

MARIA and RAIN are talking in the dark.

RAIN

He's got cowboy boots, jeans and a Hawaiian shirt, sunglasses, and a mobile phone. That is absolutely all that I need. I promise!

MARIA

He's got a ranch.

MARIA

You are right; he is a real cowboy or as close as you are gonna come now days.

EXT. RANCH - BACK OF HOUSE - VERY EARLY MORNING

RANDY is out pumping water out of his remaining water well. It is going into the truck and RANDY is sitting in the truck listening to the weather on the radio.

RAIN

What are you doing up so early?

RANDY

I can't sleep with a pretty girl like you running around in my head.

RAIN

Cute.

RANDY

You need to take them spurs off when I'm trying to sleep. Huh?

RAIN

Ha. Ha.

The sun is coming up. But the weather is overcast. It is cooler than usual.

RAIN

Clouds. It might rain!

RANDY

Nope. If it does it won't be enough.

RAIN

So. Is your ranch gonna blow away?

RANDY

Mornin'.

RAIN

Oh, yea. I'm sorry. Good morning.

There is a long pause.

RAIN

I'm sorry I was just worried about your cows. I forgot my manners.

RANDY
You really gonna write a movie?

RAIN
I'm gonna try.

RANDY
About a ranch?

RAIN
Might be.

RANDY
Okay, something has been bothering me.
Lets get this straight. They aren't all
cows. They all are cattle. The cows,
calves and a mean ass bull are over
there.

Randy points to the cattle pens where the well went dry
yesterday.

RAIN
Okay.

RANDY
What do you call a young male?

RAIN
I don't know.

RANDY
A Steer. We castrate them so they put on
weight.

RAIN makes a face.

RANDY
(pointing)
The steers are over there.

RANDY
What do you call a young female?

RAIN
I don't know that one either.

RANDY
A heifer.

RAIN
Oh, that is what the means. Some actress
called me that once. We are really mean
to each other.

RANDY
You ain't gotta be an actress to be a
mean, you just gotta be female.

RANDY
(pointing)
The heifers are over there.

RAIN
Your mom said we can stay here a while.

RANDY
Mom likes you.

RAIN looks for more information.

RANDY
I sure like you. Gway likes you too.

RAIN wants to kiss but RANDY tentative about kissing a movie
star.

VERNON
Kiss 'er boy; it don't get any inviting
that that.

CORD
She ain't gonna kiss him.
(to Randy)
Son, avoid embarrassment and don't even
try.

Unresolved Sexual Tension. RANDY and RAIN almost kiss. A few
sprinkles fall from the sky. RANDY is distracted by the
chance of rain. The sun emerges and the chance of rain
evaporates.

RAIN
I better go help your mom. I'm learning
how to make biscuits and gravy.

RANDY
Oh doggies. You gonna fit right in.

RAIN walks through some chickens.

RAIN
What is a boy chicken called?

RANDY
We don't have any roosters out here.

RAIN
Oh, how sad for the girl chickens.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - KITCHEN TABLE - MORNING

RAIN
You sure have a lot of guns.

RANDY
It's Texas.

RAIN
Which one is the oldest?

RANDY
My first rifle was that .243.
(pointing)
Papa gave it to Daddy and Daddy gave to
me.

RAIN
I've shot a gun. They taught me, this
last movie. They called it a muzzle
loader.

RANDY
In that Alamo movie?

RAIN
Yea. You're embarrassed?

RANDY

Not yet, anyway. I didn't see it yet.

RAIN

I wasn't in charge of it and the check cleared.

RANDY

Money?

RAIN

Money.

RANDY

Just out of curiosity. How much money?

RAIN

Millions. I guess I'm what you call in demand for right now. They think I'm good.

RANDY

Got 'um snookered?

RAIN

It is sort of like tricking people into buying a theatre ticket.

RANDY

How many movies have you made?

RAIN

Five.

RANDY

That is a lot.

RAIN

You should watch one.

RANDY

I will. I mean to sometime.

RAIN

I'm lucky. Very lucky.

RANDY
When you figure this job will play out?

RAIN
I don't know, I like to shop.
(pause)
The more movies I make, the more and
longer I can shop.
(pause)
I mean I REALLY like to shop.

Both smile...

RANDY's eyes narrow grimly as through the window he watches
a feed truck drive up to replenish the diminishing stacks in
the barn.

RAIN
Gee that is a lot of cattle food.

RANDY
Cattle feed.

RAIN
Oh, sorry.

RANDY
I'm sorry. I'm just wired up. You know.

RAIN
How long will that feed last?

EXT. RANCH - BACK OF HOUSE - LATE MORNING

RANDY returns from the barn. RAIN is leaving the house to
find RANDY. He is making his way to his truck.

RANDY
Come to work with me today?

RAIN
(cute)
What do I get?

RANDY
Forty and found.

RAIN is accustomed to more entertainment than this.

RAIN
What's that?

RANDY
Forty dollars a month, shelter and food.

RAIN
That isn't much. I'm in the cowgirl union, you know.

RANDY
Look, I really like you and I just want to get be close to you. Who are you really? And I'm afraid you will leave and I won't know nothing about you.

RAIN
That is better. We should get to know one another. Okay, lets get to work.

RANDY
Don't get me wrong. I'm not all work and no play; I would take you to town but I have this little emergency with the cattle.

RAIN
Your mom said they might die.

RANDY
Oh, we'll have to sell them before that happens.

RAIN
I'm not very country.

RANDY
You just pretended to win the Battle of the Alamo. You can pretend you're on a ranch for a day. Pretend it's a role.

RAIN
I just don't know how to do it.

RANDY opens the truck door for RAIN.

RANDY
You've never thrown it in four wheel
drive? Climb up on here girl. Let me
show you how a ranch works.

RAIN
Don't you have any horses?

RANDY
Sure. But they aren't very good at
hauling water.

RAIN
Oh, silly me.

RANDY
Okay, we take care of the water and some
other chores and then we will get the
horses out.

RANDY and RAIN haul water to the cattle.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - MIDDAY

MARIA is on the cell phone several times throughout the day.
She has a note pad and seems to be organizing all the
messages for RAIN. She is becoming more than just a social
secretary.

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE PENS - EARLY AFTERNOON

RANDY and RAIN are still hauling water and then hay in the
truck. They pull up at the cattle pens and are about to
unload some hay. The radio plays a Willie Nelson song.
Instead of getting out of the truck, RANDY sits and listens.

RAIN
You like that song. Who is it?

RANDY
You wanna ride in this truck, girl
you're gonna have to learn this stuff.
That is Willie Nelson.

RAIN
You like him? Is he good?

RANDY
Listen and you hear that sound?

The radio station plays a song by Merl Haggard.

RANDY
That is Merl Haggard.

The radio station plays a song by Brad Paisley.

RAIN
Who sings that song?

RANDY shrugs his shoulders. He doesn't know.

RANDY and RAIN unload some hay. RANDY gets her some gloves. RANDY unloads some square bales and cuts the wires. RAIN takes some sections over to some young calves just starting to eat hay.

RAIN
I gotta pee.

RANDY
Okay.

RAIN
Where is the bathroom?

RANDY
(pointing)
About 5 miles, that way.

RAIN
Forget that.

RAIN takes some tissue paper from the truck out into the mesquite thicket.

CORD and VERNON are on horseback.

VERNON spots a butterfly landing on a cactus.

VERNON

Will you look at this. Hotter than hell out here and even drier and here is a butterfly.

After a few seconds RAIN is screaming and running back to the truck. There is a huge bull chasing her.

CORD pulls his pistol in a flash of a second; he takes careful aim and is about to shot the bull. However, the dog is quicker.

GWAY has jumped out of the truck bed and has flown into the path of the bull. The dog barks twice and shows his teeth. The RIDGEBACK dodges the bull like the most skilled matador. The bull doesn't stop quickly. The bull turns to try to gore the dog. The dog circles behind the bull which turns... By the time VERNON looks up from the butterfly, it is over. GWAY is eyeballing the bull's testicles; maneuvering to get behind the bull. GWAY halts the charging bull and is turning the bull in ballet circles.

RAIN feels safe only when she reaches RANDY's arms.

RANDY calls GWAY back into the truck. GWAY doesn't return until the third time he is called.

This scene is an "adrenaline makeover" for RAIN. In terms of character development, before this event RAIN has clearly only been a movie star. RAIN's heart rate is now elevated. However, this scene unpredictably makes her just "in love" with the county. She begins her transition.

She runs to RANDY's open arms.

RANDY

We better get you home before you get hurt.

RAIN

(almost crying)

I just want to play a part in the ranch.

RANDY

Haha. Play a part.

RAIN
Very funny. I'm not hurt.

RANDY
You can do stuff on a ranch and be perfectly safe. But maybe around the house would be beter?

RAIN
(half-crying half-laughing)
I thought I was safe.

RANDY
You are, but Maria and my mom are canning vegetables. Worst thing over there you might cut your finger with a knife.

RAIN
Can we go get the horses now?

RANDY
I'm not done yet.

RAIN
Okay me neither then.

EXT. RANCH - DAY

Together RAIN and RANDY gather eggs, water the garden, weed the garden, milk goats. They de-worm a number of calves and RAIN does her fair share. RANDY speaks gently to the animals.

EXT. RANCH - PASTURE - DAY

RAIN is choked by the dust.

RANDY
There was a time when an inch of rain would have brought fresh life, a greening to the land. But there had been grass then.

RAIN
That is hard to believe.

RANDY

Now the bare ground has nothing to catch
and drink up the water. If it did rain a
lot, all this would be mud.

RAIN

You need grass.

RANDY

Rain and grass and a million dollars.

EXT. RANCH - HEIFER PASTURE - DAY

A load of feed weighs down the pickup's springs.

RANDY

You sure you don't want me to unload?
I'll get back there and you can drive.

RAIN

No, I want to do it.

RANDY

Here take this knife to cut the sack
open.

RANDY drives long enough to look at all the cattle. He is
assessing their condition.

RANDY stops, idling the engine while RAIN climbs into the
bed of the pickup and she cuts the string on a sack. Then,
as RANDY slowly drove in a broad circle, RAIN balances the
sack over the tailgate and dribbles cubes out onto the
ground.

RANDY

Let's feed this bunch a little more;
appears they're goin' downhill a bit.

RAIN happily pours some more out.

EXT. RANCH - COW PASTURE - DAY

A half the load of feed is gone and the pickup is riding
higher.

RANDY

Generally I don't feed in the summer,
only the winter.

RAIN

How come now?

RANDY

They have to eat. Grass is dead.

RANDY

I didn't feed so much last year and was
disappointed in the calves' weaning
weights last fall, and the prices hadn't
been as good as they needed to be for
the cost we put into the cattle.

RAIN

You got to be positive.

RANDY

I don't know why. Seems that in a good
year the calves always came up too heavy
to suit the buyers and were penalized
for being overweight. In a dry year the
buyers perversely look for heavy calves
and dock the light ones. It was a hard
game to win.

RAIN

(pointing)

I see some cattle over there.

RANDY

At any rate I had put the cattle on feed
ahead of schedule to be sure the cows
gave milk enough not to stunt their
calves from the start.

A few cattle come trotting up, their hoofs are raising dust
in bare spots where the grass used to be.

RANDY

See there they know they are about to
eat. I try to feed each pasture at as
nearly the same hour every day as I can;
Nature gave animals a strong sense of

time. After a while the livestock knows when to be waiting, and where. We are a little early today.

RAIN gets into the bed of the truck. She cuts and pours the cubes on the ground.

RANDY
Taper off a shade; these are doin' fine.

RAIN
(smiles)
You know somethin', Randy? It makes me feel good to see your cows eat.

RANDY
(smiles)
Me too, if I'm not havin' to pay for it. Every time we haul out a pickup load of feed, that's a hundred dollars.

RAIN gets back in the cab. RANDY gives her a short kiss. RANDY drives away from the cattle. RAIN rides thinking, contemplating. She seems happy to be outside and living the life. But he looks a bit troubled.

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE PENS - AFTERNOON

They haul some more water to cattle. RAIN gets her hands dirty. Perhaps, inside RAIN has been country all along. Opposite of "she cleans up nicely", these few scenes show how RAIN gets her hands dirty and likes it.

INT. RANCH - HORSE BARN NEAR HOUSE - AFTERNOON

RANDY and RAIN saddle some horses.

RANDY and RAIN kiss. And there is a very small rain cloud that passes. There is a short rain. They run to the door to watch anyway.

When the clouds have passed and the sun bursts out again, RANDY walks out and looks down at the dirt, hoping that it had retained enough rain to do some good.

EXT. RANCH - PASTURE NEAR HORSE BARN - AFTERNOON

RANDY and RAIN walk a bit. He stops to stick a knife blade into the ground and take out a plug of soil. A half-inch of mud would stick to the blade. Below that, the dirt was dry. RANDY looks up to the open sky, hoping for a sign that the clouds might come back. But there was no sign. The skies were clear and the sun is hot again.

RANDY

I figure this looks pretty ugly to you.

RAIN

No not at all. I love it.

RANDY

Looks like the devil's taken a first lien.

RAIN

Dry weather, is all. It'd look a lot different if things were green. Give this country three inches of good slow rain and it'd come alive like a flower garden.

RANDY

It's got a long way to go.

RAIN

It's growing on me.

RANDY

Yah?

RAIN

I never though about liking a certain place, you know what I mean?

We learn that CORD and VERNON have been watching the couple.

VERNON

This sounds like its getting' serious.

CORD

She is a motion picture star. Don't worry about that for a while. She's got a different way of lookin' at things than most women.

VERNON

I doubt that. Every woman - I don't care how else she may talk - has got a nestin' instinct. Minute she gets a man she wants to start buildin' her a nest. Country woman, city woman, white, black, or brown-they all got that instinct about them. That woman is gonna build her a nest right here on this ranch.

CORD

Nope, ain't gonna happen. No water and no grass. She ain't dumb. She will be movin' on anytime now.

VERNON

Gee, I hope not.

CORD

The combination of it all... It'll probably kill that young man.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

MARY and MARIA are working in the kitchen. They seem to have canned enough vegetables to last a year or two.

The phone rings and MARIA answers it. MARIA has become an excellent secretary/manager.

There are several phone calls per hour. MARIA tells many people "no" but politely asks that they keep RAIN in mind "next time". She fends off tabloid reporters with wild stories and she turns all their negatives into positives.

It is clear that MARIA is very loyal to RAIN and she is skilled at her new job.

EXT. RANCH - OLD WARRIOR'S REST - LATE AFTERNOON

RANDY and RAIN ride horses. Their destination is what they call Old Warrior's Rest. Not technically a mountain but still it is the highest point in five counties. To reach here, they travel down along a dry creek bed where a wet-weather spring seeped during the good years.

RANDY

When I was a kid there was water in here.

There is a small dam built up ahead.

RAIN

And this caught the water for the cattle.

RANDY

Yep.

They ride past a ledge of limestone.

RANDY

Look under there. You can still see the smokestains of Comanche campfires. It wasn't that long ago.

RAIN

How long ago?

RANDY

Last time someone camped under there was at least 150 years ago or a about that.

(pause)

Do you see the man?

On the wall of the cliff there are Comanche petroglyphs.

RAIN

Wow.

RANDY

Over there is a lizard.

RAIN

This is incredible.

RANDY

Get off and walk around there a minute. A person with sharp eyes and ten minutes can still find arrowheads.

RAIN dismounts.

RAIN
What is this?

RAIN holds up a fossil.

RANDY
This used to be a primeval sea.

RAIN is elated and holds up an arrow head.

RANDY
See there; you found one. Good job.

They reach the top of the mountain.

RANDY
This is Old Warrior's Rest.

RAIN
Oh, my gosh. It's beautiful.

RANDY
Sure is.

RANDY
Hope I can keep it.

RAIN
How much land is there?

RANDY
Nine sections.

RAIN
Is that a lot?

There is a storm on the horizon.

RANDY
Over to those mountains. Over to the
highway and then over to those trees.
Over there were it might rain. That is
probably the edge of the land. That is
over were you shot the movie. It might
be raining over there.

RAIN strains to see the storm on the horizon.

RAIN

Okay, I see. That is a lot.

RANDY

Not really. In a good year, it takes fully twenty acres in this country to feed a cow. Now days, you need way more.

RAIN

How much to feed a bull or a steer?

RAIN has been paying attention to RANDY's farm and ranch lessons.

RANDY

(chuckling)

That is a good question. Glad you asked. I don't know. About the same. But that is with rain. As you can see the rain is passing us by again.

RAIN

What could cause you to lose it? I don't understand. Your mom said your dad finished paying for it.

RANDY

Well, it is but the water is running out. The grass is gone. And with taxes, I gotta produce something to live on and pay the property taxes.

(pause)

Without the water and grass we can't have cattle. They belong to the bank anyway. We can sell them and payoff the bank but then what is a ranch without livestock?

RAIN

It must be a lot of stress.

RANDY

Do I look stressed?

RAIN

No. But you might be inside.

RANDY

This has been happening since the beginning of time. I'm okay.

RAIN hugs RANDY.

RAIN

You could sell a little of it until it rains again. Just enough to pay the taxes.

RANDY

You know I don't know. But, I don't think in terms of dollars... Most of the time I think in gallons, feed sacks and hay bails. I guess it all converts to dollars in the end.

(pause)

This land isn't worth what you think it's worth. We are in the middle of nowhere. No one would buy it; especially without any water or grass.

RAIN

(on the verge of tears)

Oh.

(pause)

I grew up poor. I'm frightened to death of it. My dad was a security guard at a couple of studios. Mom spent more than he made.

(crying)

Oh, this is terrible.

(pause)

What are you going to do?

RANDY

Fight, what are you going to do?

RAIN

I'll fight. But I want to write too.

RANDY

Well girl, pull your hat down around your ears and jump on.

RAIN

Huh?

RANDY

So do it.

RAIN cries even harder. She is more emotional today than other days. RAIN is suddenly more fragile than she has appeared. Perhaps she is simply communicating to RANDY that she isn't happy being just an actress.

RANDY

Why are you crying?

RAIN

I like the checks.

RANDY

From what I hear, you have had checks enough for 10 lifetimes.

RAIN

Yes, that is true.

(pause)

Can I just get one more check?

RANDY

Of course. Get as many as you want.

RAIN

Thanks.

They hug each other a bit. Again they almost kiss. This time it is RAIN that balks.

RAIN

Why do they call this Old Indian's Rest?

RANDY

When I was a kid there was an old adobe house, down over there.

RANDY points down into a canyon where there used to be water and a house.

RANDY

A Mexican mustanger lived there some of the time. It's gone now. Well, an aging Comanche – alone, so far as anyone knew – had made his way back from the reservation in Indian Territory (Oklahoma) way to the north, perhaps for one final hunt on ancestral grounds, perhaps simply to die where his grandfathers had died.

RAIN

What happened?

RANDY

The mustanger and two Rangers chased him down. His horse stopped on this spot probably right around here where we are standing. My grandpa was told the Comanche jumped down from his half dead horse, raised his arms toward the sky and sang a chant. Then he turned with lance in hand and charged the guns, shouting defiance into the face of certain death.

(pause)

His grave is right over there. See them rocks. The horse's bones were still scattered out here when my grandpa bought the land. I don't remember seeing any but he remembered them being up here.

RAIN

Wow. That would make a great movie.

RANDY

It's gonna be a real short movie, 'cause that is all I know about it.

RAIN

Tell me more.

RANDY

In the 1960s, my grandpa was down in that depression below where the house is now. He rode up unexpectedly upon a shaggy buffalo bull, the last remnant of the vanished herds.

RAIN is a little disappointed. She needs stories if she wants to make a movie. However, at the same time RAIN looks at RANDY amorously. RANDY seems a little nervous.

It must be the setting sun.

RANDY

We are standing up here. We been talkin' 'bout everything under the moon. You are wearing perfume, 30 miles from the nearest town for Christ's sake.

RAIN

Are you gonna kiss me or not? Are we gonna do this or what? I think you know I like you a lot. But you're 'bout to miss your shot.

RANDY and RAIN kiss and the storm suddenly comes up. It blows RANDY's hat off. Finally, after his point is made kissing, then he looks for his hat.

Wind, rain and lightening are very near.

RANDY finds the hat half way down the side of a cliff. In the near dark and an approaching rainstorm, RANDY climbs down for it. It is a dangerous situation. Clearly RAIN is emotionally attached to RANDY as she is almost panicked by the chances he is taking. RANDY retrieves the hat without falling off the cliff.

The wind is blowing. The storm is about to arrive. There is a lot to worry about. Randy is worried about storm and being struck by lightening. He is worried about getting down from the mountain in the dark without hurting a horse.

RANDY

(to horse)

I trust you girl.

It is pitch dark and raining on a rocky mountain top. RAIN and RANDY must hold onto the horse's tail and follow her down the trail. The horses manage the decent in the dark.

EXT. RANCH - UNDER THE COMANCHE OVERHANG - NIGHT

Half way down the mountain there is the ledge. RAIN and RANDY have built a fire under the overhang. They make love and the rain becomes a downpour.

EXT. RANCH - OLD WARRIOR'S REST - NIGHT

VERNON and CORD are on horseback at the crest of the mountain. Rain. There is lightening everywhere and often. We can see the two COWBOYS' silhouette.

VERNON

Listen, you here them Comanche's down under us making love?

CORD

Nope.

VERNON

We aught to sneak down there and give 'em a scare.

CORD doesn't move; he just is looking out into the night.

EXT. RANCH - WATER WELL BY CATTLE PENS - VERY EARLY MORNING

Still on the horses, RAIN and RANDY ride over to the cattle pens to see how much water is in the well. It has only a tiny amount of water. It is a disappointment.

RANDY

Well it did rain.

RAIN

That is good. That is very good.

RANDY

I just need more.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - VERY EARLY MORNING

MARY wakes and checks on everyone. She opens the door of everyone's bedroom. MARY only finds MARIA sleeping. RANDY and RAIN's beds appear unused.

RAIN and RANDY return to the house before MARIA is up. They walk into the kitchen like they slept on a pile of rocks, and they did.

RANDY

It rained.

MARY

I heard it did last night.

RANDY

About a ten more like that one and they will declare this drought over.

RANDY is correct. The rain was badly needed, but one rain is not a solution to the drought.

MARY is smiling more about the fact RAIN and RANDY were out all night. She doesn't appear to have been worried.

RANDY

There is probably about a six inches in that well down there by the pens.

RAIN goes to bed. MARIA is waking up.

Before too long MARIA is on the cell phone again.

RANDY leaves to go work.

INT. RANCH - NOON

RANDY returns to the house. He can't find RAIN, no one knows where she is. MARIA, MARY and RANDY are nervous looking for her. Everywhere they look. They are worried about all sorts of accidents on a farm. They worry drug or gunrunners crossed the ranch. Speculation runs wild. Did she walk out into the brush? Was she bit by a rattler?

INT. RANCH - HORSE BARN - NOON

However, they find RAIN grooming the horses and singing

"Wildfire" by Michael Martin Murphey - "She ran calling Wiiiiiiiiild-fire..."

The three are relieved that she is okay. She is a bit embarrassed. But clearly she is happy.

EXT. DEL RIO - MAIN STREET - AFTERNOON

MARIA, RANDY and RAIN are in Del Rio for the day. It's a trip to town to get castration bands and for RAIN to see a city again.

RANDY notices RAIN is watching a truck with two teenagers in it. The girl is sitting in middle close to her boyfriend.

RANDY

That truck must be really hard to drive,
it takes two people to drive it.

RAIN

(chuckles)

I never saw that before.

(pause)

But I do like it.

EXT. DEL RIO - RAIL YARD - AFTERNOON

There are RANCHERS surrounding the boxcar. There is a MAN at the edge of the crowd, waiting. The MAN, RANDY's friend, waves at RANDY to stop his pickup.

MAN

You come to take a look at the
government hay?

RANDY shakes his head, no.

RANDY

None of it is mine. Saw all the crowd
gathered and thought maybe somebody got
run over by a train.

INT. DEL RIO - LARGE FEED STORE - AFTERNOON

The feed store sells both feed and western wear. It is owned by a horse show exhibitor and most of the clothes are for

the women who exhibit horses. If you need a location, Mitchell's in Union Valley TX would be ideal.

RAIN sees all the clothes on the other side of the room -- boots and even jewelry too.

RAIN
(to Maria)
Sneak over there and see what they have?
I'm gonna be over here a minute.

RAIN spends an inordinate time a few feet from RANDY. Looking at all the cattle medicines, feeds and castration bands. She asks questions and is communicating a profound interest in RANDY and RANDY's cattle business.

RAIN is particularly interested in the cost of feed and hay. RANDY isn't sure what is going on. He never had a woman follow him around a feed store before. And he never heard a woman inquire about the price of hay and cubes.

Finally, with the point made, RAIN joins MARIA with the women's clothes.

RAIN has always found pleasure in loafing around shops, but now she stops by the saddles. RAIN savors the pleasant smell of neat's-foot oil and new leather. RAIN runs her hands over the new saddles; she enjoys the feel of the artistic stamping. It is almost sensual for her. RANDY is watching her from across the room. When RAIN notices RANDY noticing her, she leaves to join MARIA.

And RAIN buys... a belt and buckle, some shorts and a halter top. Various cloths, girl stuff.

She buys a very colorful shirt with pearl snaps.

EXT. DEL RIO - FEED STORE - AFTERNOON

MARIA is talking to some Mexican men in front of the store. It looks like they are new in the country and MARIA is giving them directions or advice.

RANDY is waiting in the truck.

Soon, MARIA is on the cell phone, again.

RAIN emerges with several sacks of clothes. RAIN is wearing her new western clothes.

RANDY
Wow, you're making Veterans Blvd look like Rodeo Drive.

RAIN
I got all this stuff for less than \$600!

RANDY
Is that good?

RAIN
YES! You wouldn't believe how cheap stuff is here.

RANDY
Or how expensive it is in L.A.

RAIN shows him what she bought; most of it is for MARIA.

RAIN
Maria, Maria, Maria, Me.

RAIN sorts the clothes into different sacks. She puts MARIA's stuff in the back of the cab. MARIA has been sitting in the back of the cab.

RAIN
You.

She hands RANDY the shirt she has bought for him.

RAIN
I know you like pretty colors.

RANDY
This is nice, really nice.
(pause)
You shouldn't have.

RAIN has been sitting by the door, but now RAIN puts her stuff by the door and she sits next too RANDY.

RANDY
Oh, wow.

RAIN
Yea, wow.

EXT. DEL RIO - BIG TEXAN HOTEL - A VERY HOT AFTERNOON

RAIN notices the hotel's Texas shaped swimming pool. She insists that RANDY stop. RAIN glances over to the hotel office; the clerk appears busy. She strips to her bra and panties. The pavement is hot and RAIN hots quickly from the truck to the pool. She dives in. RAIN jumps in at Beaumont and swims to El Paso and halfway back.

RAIN
Where are we?

RANDY
(motioning)
A little bit that way.
(pause)
Keep going.

RAIN walks through the water until she reaches the spot in the pool where Del Rio would be. RAIN turns and waves with both hands, jumping up a bit. She jumps out of the pool and quickly runs back to the truck.

The hotel clerk glances at her as she is running, then waves at RANDY. RANDY waves back.

The clerk seems to know RANDY or perhaps something like this happens at the pool a few times a day. Or the clerk figures RANDY is embarrassed and needs some approval.

Perhaps the clerk might think she is a Yankee letting loose on her Texas vacation. Either way the CLERK chuckles at the idea of a dripping wet woman in bra and panties running across his parking lot and returns to work.

RANDY chuckles too and likes RAIN's adventurism.

MARIA has a towel ready. She is nervously looking around for police or paparazzi.

EXT. DEL RIO - GAS STATION - LATE AFTERNOON

MARIA, RANDY and RAIN stop to change clothes in the gas station bathroom.

RANDY
Get your chilli ready.

RAIN doesn't know what that means.

RANDY
Let your hair down, wear something pretty. We are going to a dancehall.

RAIN is excited about that idea. MARIA and RAIN gather all their clothes and bags of hair and makeup and they come out of the restroom about an hour later.

RANDY changes into his nice clean clothes in about five minutes. He is wearing a bright patterned western shirt with pearl snaps. RANDY waits in the truck until the girls are done.

RANDY
Look at you two.

RAIN
You like it?

RANDY
Sure enough.

RAIN
You better call your momma and tell her it's going to be late.

RANDY
She don't care.

RAIN
Yeah, we might not make it back at all.

Maria answers the cell phone again.

INT. DEL RIO - BIG TEXAN STEAK RANCH - DUSK

In front of the Big Texan Steak Ranch, is a sign "Home of the Free 72 oz Steak." And at the steak house, it's free.. if you can eat it in an hour.

RAIN

I want one of those free steaks.

RAIN turns and is talking to people, playing movie star while the waitress is explaining.

RANDY

How did this deal start anyway?

WAITRESS

A cowboy that worked out at the feed yard, a really big guy, ate 4 and a half pounds of steak, a baked potato, shrimp cocktail, salad and a bread roll. The owner stood up on a chair in the middle of the dinning room and proclaimed, "from this day forward, anyone who could eat the entire 72 oz dinner-in one hour-gets it for FREE. If not it's \$72.

RAIN turns back around.

RANDY

How much money do you say you have?

RAIN

Don't worry. It's free.

MARIA whispers in RAIN's ear. Rain surveys the room. About twenty people are watching RAIN. One customer makes a phone call.

Next to their table is a 69-year-old GRANDMOTHER who has almost completed her steak. Her grandkids are cheering her on. RAIN notices.

RAIN flashes RANDY her bankcard!

RANDY

She says she wants the big 72 oz. steak.
Whatever the little lady wants.

RAIN turns to talk to even more people (fans).

WAITRESS

It's only free, if you can eat it in an hour. You can't get up and you can't get sick.

RAIN

Sure, bring it on. Let's eat.

MARIA and RANDY chuckle. The waitress.

RANDY

(to waitress)

Is this even possible?

WAITRESS

Women have a better percent rate.

(pause)

I've seen it done.

RANDY

A 10 ounce prime rib with a baked potato and orka.

MARIA

I will have that only a salad rather than the banked potato.

Half way through the steak, RAIN doesn't look like a movie star. But she looks at the GRANDMOTHER who is done. Her family is celebrating. GRANDMOTHER looks fine. And we learn GRANDMOTHER has done this before, and several times.

The tradition is that everyone stands around watching the person eat. With RAIN's star power, twitter and facebook, she quickly gathers a crowd. There isn't even standing room in the restaurant.

A local PHOTOGRAPHER (want-to-be-paparazzi) shows up. RAIN puts on her best happy face. She looks hungry and having fun. When the PHOTOGRAPHER leaves her original pained expression returns.

The photo will be sold to a tabloid the next day.

RAIN pushes back the plate and hands RANDY her bankcard.

EXT. DEL RIO - BIG TEXAN STEAK RANCH PARKING LOT - DUSK

RANDY gives what remains of the steak and all of the baked potatoe to GWAY who is waiting in the bed of the truck.

INT. DEL RIO DANCE HALL - LOBBY - NIGHT

Inside it is Hawaiian night. The lobby of the bar is decorated with tropical ornaments and paper palm trees. There are grass skirts free for the taking. But when RAIN enters they are distracted and stop forcing everyone to wear leis.

On the walls are 8x10 photos of famous people who have visited and played the dance hall. They are mostly country music performers, most are photos taken beside the bar's logo on the wall. All are autographed.

RAIN is trying to get a glimpse of inside.

RAIN
What is inside?

RANDY
Longnecks and western swing.

MANGER
Isn't that...

RANDY
Yep.

MANGER
Can we get a photo over here with the logo?

RAIN
Why sure!

After the photo, RAIN and MARIA walk into the nightclub.

MANAGER
God, what a body.

RANDY
Any man who judges a woman by a tape measure is fifty-seven varieties of a fool. You ever heard that sayin'?

MANAGER
And you are with her?

RANDY
Yep.

MANAGER
How did you manage that?

RANDY
Just, lucky I guess.

MANAGER
Can I do anything for you?

RANDY
Tell 'em to play some old songs.

MANAGER
What does she drink?

RAIN is already inside and making friends. Slapping high fives and hugging people she doesn't know.

RANDY
Ask her. She ain't shy.

INT. DEL RIO - NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

RAIN and RANDY walk out on the dance floor.

RAIN
What do I do?

RANDY
You tell me that you want me and I tell you that I want you too. Simple.

RAIN
No. The dancing, silly.

RANDY
Take my hand, close your eyes, the rest will come to you.

They dance and RAIN is especially a quick learner.

RAIN

Forget about tomorrow, I don't care if
it comes at all.

RANDY

If we get a little crazy, you can blame
it on the alcohol.

RANDY and RAIN have some whiskey, some social chainsmoking,
a smile from a hard-faced girl. For the first amount of
time, everyone that walks past their table stares and smiles
at RAIN. Then for the second amount of time, every girl that
passes smiles at RANDY.

RAIN

You sure are popular.

RANDY

It's you.

RAIN

You are a stud. Face it.

RAIN kisses RANDY.

RANDY

They only smile at me 'cause you are
here.

RAIN

Huh?

RANDY

You make us both look good.

RAIN

Oh, you are telling me all these women
wouldn't be smiling if you were here
alone?

RANDY

That is what I'm saying.

RAIN

How does that work?

RANDY

Some sort of psychological phenomenon.
That never happened to you?

RAIN

Never heard of it.

RANDY

Look they don't even know me.

(pause)

They are jealous of you.

RAIN

Prove it.

RANDY

Well, when you leave... I'm not saying
that I will, but I can parley this into
something.

RAIN

Who's leavin'?

They play an old Willie Nelson song.

RAIN

(to the waitress)

Oh, my gosh. That is Willie Nelson.

RAIN grabs RANDY and they dance again.

There is a salty-mouthed blonde for a WAITRESS and her
MOTHER is running the bar. The WAITRESS curses any low life
that tries to talk to RAIN. The WAITRESS lets some of
RANDY's friends approach the table.

An old Indian in new blue Wranglers and a belt buckle the
size of a 45-rpm record rips up the dance floor with all
twenty of the women present, with the exception of the
bartending-mother, who chooses to dance solo with an
oversize bartender's lime knife raised above her head, as if
baiting criticism or suitors or both.

MARIA and RAIN visit the lady's room.

VERNON

Hey watch this.

CORD

No, don't start no fight. That kid ain't no more than 140 and that Mexican is about 220.

VERNON throws some peanuts at a short local White kid - clad in a grass skirt with an impromptu bikini top made from coconut shells and twine over his shirt. VERNON throws one peanut after the other.

There are some EL SALVADORIAN sheepshearers in the bar. It looks like the peanuts are coming from a big, stout, vinegary EL SALVADORIAN. This goes on until the White kid is about to be fed up.

CORD

I swear you don't have a lick of sense.

When MARIA and RAIN return, there is about to be a fistfight. The skinny kid with the coconuts is finally tired of being pelted with bar peanuts; he says words to that effect to the sheepshearer..

RAIN

What is about to happen?

RANDY

It's about to get western.

After a typical cuss-and-shove windup, the local kid throws a lanky-armed punch that sends the EL SALVADORIAN buckling to the floor.

There is some subsequent tussling - a crowd swiftly circled them, blocking RAIN's view - but the decisive blow has been struck. The fight officially ended when the salty blonde's MOTHER charges from behind the bar with a pistol. VERNON laughs and laughs until the gun comes out; then he stands quietly behind a pole.

MARIA

(to Rain)

We have to get out of here.

RAIN looks at RANDY.

RANDY
Why? It's over.

They play a Merl Haggard song.

RAIN
It's that song by Merl Haggard. Come on
we are dancing.

The EL SALVADORIANS hustled their bloody and uncoordinated countryman outside. MARIA follows them outside to answer the cell phone.

INT. TRUCK - HIGHWAY TO RANCH - VERY LATE NIGHT

RANDY and RAIN are in the front seat. MARIA is sound asleep in the back. RAIN has her head on RANDY's shoulder.

They pass a highway sign "REST STOP 1 MILE".

RAIN
The moon is bright. Never seen it that
bright before.

But clouds roll in and begin to obscure the moon. RANDY turns the cab light on and the radio up and then down. He turns and looks back at MARIA. She doesn't move.

RAIN
What are you doing?

RANDY
She sleeps pretty good.

RAIN pauses, thinks, understands.

RAIN
She sure does.

RANDY
Trust me; there's no one else out here
but us.

RAIN
Pull over.

RANDY exits into the rest stop area and stops. They walk out to a picnic table under a cover. It starts to rain lightly. They kiss.

RANDY
Oh my, you're really something.

RAIN
Like nothing you've ever seen.

RANDY
If I'm asleep girl, let me dream.

RAIN
This moment, the rain, says it's so right.

Soon it is raining heavily. MARIA doesn't stir from her sleep; even the heavy rain, thunder and lightening doesn't wake her.

INT. RANCH - KITCHEN TABLE - VERY EARLY MORNING

Sitting at the table RANDY run his hand through his hair. He looks up at MARY.

RAIN is awake too but doesn't enter the kitchen. However she hears the conversation from the next room.

RANDY
Mom, we been partners now for two years, pretty near. I think it's time you taken a look at some figures.

MARY
I never been very apt with figures.

RANDY
I think you ought to know where we stand.

MARY
We don't stand very good; that's enough for me to know.

RANDY

It's not enough. You ought to know what we've took in and what we've put out and where it's gone. That's just sound business.

MARY shrugs and takes the papers. She muses over them and brings her finger to rest on a figure near the bottom of the last sheet.

MARY

Is this what we owe?"

RANDY nodded, yes.

MARY

Gosh!

MARY tugs at her lower lip.

MARY

How much deeper can we go?

RANDY

That's up to the bank, I reckon.

MARY

What did they say?

RANDY

Maybe it'd be better if we was to sell out and quit right now before we get in so deep that we never can get out.

MARY

Well?

RANDY

We could move to town and lease this place or ...

(pause)

Sell it.

MARY

No.

RANDY

We're already in too far to quit.

MARY

You mean we owe more than we could sell out for?

RANDY

We still got the land free and clear. Other than that, our debt is bigger than the market value of all the livestock we own.

(pause)

We would have the land and no cattle.

MARY

Well that isn't a ranch. No cattle.

MARY begins to look a little sick.

RANDY

Nope.

MARY

Well we will just have to cut back.

RANDY begins to look a little sick.

RANDY

But, Dad and you was plumb clear of debt; I remember you sayin' you didn't owe a dime to nobody.

MARY

That was when it used to rain and there was grass.

MARY hands the papers back to her son, her face gone sour.

RANDY

Don't look like I'm doing a very good job.

MARY

Don't be talkin' yourself down. This old country'll take care of us if we just hang in there with it and fight.

RANDY

But dad.

MARY

We come within an ace of losin' it ... two or three times. We just hung in and times turned around; they always do.

RANDY

Well I have some ideas unless it rains; and me and you, we both know it ain't goin' to.

MARY

We don't know that; it rained the last two nights.

RANDY

That is true.

There is a long pause. RAIN walks into the kitchen wearing RANDY's shirt. RAIN is pretending to yawn, as if she just got out of bed.

RANDY

(to MARY)

Love you mom. It's just that I sure hate to part with the cattle. Me and dad we built that blood-line special.

There is a pause... and odd moment.

RANDY

(to RAIN)

And, a rancher without any cows is like a man walkin' down the street without any pants on. He's just not respectable.

RAIN chuckles. RANDY turns to face RAIN.

RANDY

Rain, did you hear about that cow thief who got disgusted and gave himself up to the law the other day in Del Rio? He stole two heifers and lost eighty dollars on the deal.

There is an uneasy laugh all around.

EXT. RANCH - LATE MORNING

MARY looks out the window. RANDY in his truck is backed up at the water well, filling up the water tank. He is about to take water to the cattle. RAIN is standing beside him until he drives away.

INT. RANCH - KITCHEN - LATE MORNING

RAIN

What ya doing?

MARY

Canning vegetables...

RAIN

Oh, teach me.

MARY

Sure, later or now?

RAIN

Now is good.

MARIA walks in like a zombie and goes right to bed.

MARY

(watching Maria)

You guys get a hotel in town?

RAIN

No. Why?

Out the window, MARY watches RANDY leaving. MARY turns to RAIN. RAIN is enthusiastically ready to learn how to can pickles.

MARY

You two just spent Saturday night in Del Rio?

RAIN

Yea.

MARY

And you spent Friday night out all night?

RAIN

Yea.

MARY

(curious)

And you feel okay?

RAIN

Yea.

MARY

(motioning to Maria)

What happened to her?

RAIN

I don't know. She's tired, I guess.

EXT. RANCH - PRICKLY PEAR PASTURE - DAY

Just as a historical note... since the time when Texas was still a part of Mexico, Mexican cart men fed prickly pear to their oxen on the long trails. They would break off the thorny pads and hold them over a wood fire on a stick or a pitchfork to burn off the sharp spines.

Now RANDY is out in pasture with a butane device resembling a military flamethrower. The device spews a long, white-hot tongue of flame which in seconds burned the thorns and left only spots of white ash. The half-starved cattle have learned to follow RANDY, eating the hot green pear. Once used to it, they liked it.

RAIN rides a horse up.

RAIN

What are you doing?

RANDY
Burning pear.

RAIN
How come?

RANDY looks out at the grass pasture where the pear hasn't spread to yet.

RANDY
You know, Rain, there's not enough grass out yonder to take your makeup off. Nine whole sections of it is just a big feedlot and little else. They got all the room in the world but nothin' to eat.

RAIN
They will eat those?

RANDY
Hardly anyone will believe you that a cow would actually eat cactus and get any good out of it. But it is green. You just gotta burn the thorns off. You are a witness; they will.

RAIN looks at the cattle a few yards away and sure enough they are eating it.

RANDY
Hand me that shovel.

RANDY turns the flame thrower off and RAIN hands him the shovel that was leaning against the truck.

RANDY and RAIN walk back to where the cattle have been eating. They have been following his flame thrower.

RANDY
You see them cows; what's missing?

RAIN
No. What?

The burned their whiskers off. They are so hungry they are movin' in and startin' to eat the pear while it is still hot from the flame.

RAIN chuckles.

RAIN

Oh, they are hungry. Poor things.

RANDY

I need to grub the stumps to retard regrowth and to clear the land of pear as best I can.

(pause)

If I get 300 per day I figure I will get them all out of here about the time I turn 70.

RANDY digs up the roots of a plant that the cattle have eaten.

RAIN

So if the cattle are eating it, why don't you let it grow?

RANDY

Three generations have fought prickly pear as an enemy to our grass. That is just what we do here.

RANDY

Give me that.

RANDY takes the shovel and attacks a pear. RAIN watches for a moment, but she returns toward the flamethrower. RANDY doesn't notice her walk away.

RANDY

Pear might be a life-saver in drought, but it would be a moisture-robbing, pest like the mesquite trees when the does rain come.

(pause)

I remember my dad saying we would have six inches of snow on the Fourth of July

before he would subject his animals to eating cactus.

RANDY digs some cactus. He suddenly realizes that RAIN is going to burn some of the pear. She is about to get hurt.

RANDY runs over to RAIN quickly.

Before he can get there, RAIN lights the burner. The sudden flash and the angry roar made her drop the thing and jump back.

RAIN has a tear in her eye. She has been frightened.

RANDY

Hey. Hey, don't cry. All the droughted-out land in West Texas ain't worth one tear in your eye.

RAIN

Something was in my eye.

RANDY

Right. Okay. You aren't scared?

RAIN

Dangerous, isn't it.

RANDY

Sure, this thing can burn somebody alive if they get careless with it. You better get up on your horse. Take a ride. Just enjoy the wide open space... you don't have to work.

RAIN

No, I feel like burning something.

RAIN takes the burner with a grim will to conquer it. In a few minutes she finds herself pretty talented, and she begins having fun. RANDY returns to grubbing pear.

EXT. RANCH - PRICKLY PEAR PASTURE - LATE DAY

RAIN's fire machine runs out of butane. RANDY stops digging cactus.

RAIN approaches with a defeated exhausted look on her face, but manages a smile for RANDY.

RAIN

You sure have a lot of that stuff. We will never be done.

RANDY

I'm doin' the best I know how. That's all I can do.

RAIN

I know how much money you're spendin' every day to buy feed with? It's a lot.

RANDY

You can't starve a profit out of a steer.

RAIN

I heard you can buy cheaper feed if you get into the government program.

RANDY

The feed wouldn't be cheaper. It'll just mean somebody else was helpin' pay for it, is all.

RAIN

I don't see nothin' wrong with that.

RANDY

All that does is make everything more expensive, including taxes.

RAIN

How is that?

RANDY

Take the drought program, for an instance. It's like haulin' a bucket up out of the well and findin' the water all leaked out on the way. They said they would help the rancher by givin' him a hundred dollars per ton to help pay for the hay he bought. Overnight the price of hay jumps a hundred and fifty

dollars. The rancher was fifty dollars worse off than before, and the government was out ten. Congress agreed to refund twenty cents a gallon on tractor diesel to help the farmers. The oil companies jumped the price of tank gas thirty cents a gallon delivered to the farm. Every time they set out to 'help' us, the price goes up enough to offset the aid.

RANDY

What's more, he's given up somethin' he can never get back. He's given up a little of his self-respect, a little of the pride he used to have in takin' care of himself by himself.

RAIN

Randy, doesn't it give you some satisfaction to know that the government at least had good intentions?

RANDY

The road to hell is paved and bridged with good intentions. I'd be a lot more satisfied with the government if they didn't hire so many a left handed sushi eaters to run everybody's business.

RAIN

You are stubborn, aren't you?

RANDY

That bother you?

RAIN

No, not at all.

INT. RANCH - MARY'S GARDEN - EARLY EVENING

MARY, MARIA and RAIN are picking vegetables and making small talk. ROUGNED calls on the phone. MARIA answers.

MARIA

This isn't Rain.
(in Spanish)

Hang on one minute.

MARIA looks at RAIN. RAIN doesn't want to talk to him. She signals that she just wants the tickets.

RAIN
(quietly)
Get the tickets

MARIA
(to ROUGNED)
You speak Spanish right?

MARIA takes the phone a distance away.

RAIN
Tomorrow, we are probably going to a
baseball game in San Antonio.

MARY
Oh, that is nice.

MARIA returns.

MARIA
Day game. 2:00 pm.

RAIN
Gee I don't know now. Randy...

MARIA
You can watch it here on TV.

RAIN
Let's all go.

Silence.

RAIN
It will be fun.

MARIA
No, it's not a good idea.

RAIN
I'll phone up your boss right now and
I'll double your salary.

MARIA
Oh, no, no, no! Thank you.
That won't be necessary.
That isn't what I'm saying.

RAIN
(to Mary)
I know Joe; he played for the Dodgers
before San Antonio.
(pause)
Rougned and him are friends. They are
leaving us tickets at the window.

MARY looks of to the well. RANDY is again filling the water tank. MARIA looks at RAIN disapprovingly.

RAIN
(to Maria)
But it's not always like this.
(pause)
Occasionally it's not like this.
(pause)
All right, it's always like this. Is
that so very awful?

RAIN looks at MARY for approval.

MARY
No dear. You two go and have a fun time.

MARIA's cell phone rings. She doesn't answer.

MARIA
I know who it is. And you know what he
wants.

MARIA rolls her eyes at RAIN and points West. MARIA's job has become tedious. RAIN chuckles.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - MENGER HOTEL - LATE MORNING

As RAIN and MARIA get dressed for the baseball game. The television news covers MADONNA and then a news story a poker tournament.

MARIA

I worked at a chicken processing plant
and then was let go.

RAIN HEARS

I worked for Madonna and then lost my
shirt in a poker tournament.

RAIN

Oh, that is too bad but you shouldn't
gamble especially when you just lost
your job.

RAIN somehow gets it in her head that MARIA lost all her
money gambling since working for MADONNA. MARIA doesn't
correct her misunderstanding.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY GAME

Both MARIA and RAIN are famished. On the way to the their
seats, they buy hotdogs. Mustard splashes on Maria's blouse.
Mustard stains will just not work. MARIA is fine with it;
things like this happen. However, it throws RAIN into a
tizzy, like the mustard will ruin her best laid plans.

At the souvenir shop, RAIN buys a uniform for MARIA to wear.
The uniform has a number on it. That is the number of the
veteran JOE.

At the baseball game, the girls sit in the wives and
girlfriends guests section. RAIN almost runs there.

RAIN

Maria. Come on. Don't be shy.

MARIA's jaw drops at the eye candy. They walk to front row
seats. The BASEBALL PLAYERS are warming up only feet away.

MARIA

Look at those men.

EDYTHE

Well, hardly. Does an expansion team
qualify as men?

MARIA

That doesn't bother me one bit.

EDYTHE and RAIN know each other from L.A.

RAIN
(to Maria)
Maria this is Edythe. She is engaged to
Joe, the first baseman.

RAIN
(to Edythe)
Edythe, this is my new best friend
Maria.

EDYTHE
Do I know you? You seem...

RAIN distracts EDYTHE from what she was thinking.

RAIN
Oh, there is Rougned.
(yelling)
Hello Rougned!

MARIA comes to realize EDYTHE was the woman she saw coming out of the hotel room. EDYTHE is cheating on JOE with ROUGNED.

ROUGNED smiles but he isn't allowed to wave.

MARIA remembers that it was ROUGNED coming from the hotel room with EDYTHE. MARIA looks at EDYTHE to determine if she recalls her. EDYTHE doesn't.

EDYTHE says a few nasty things about JOE's play, from which RAIN deduces that they've had another bust-up.

EDYTHE
I think half these men would rather be
somewhere else. This is the worst Joe
has ever played.

RAIN
Oh, that is too bad.

EDYTHE

What a pity? This season is just one very long miracle rally. It generally starts in the first inning.

RAIN

Relax, it is the team's first year.

EDYTHE

The only good news is we almost always have 9 innings to catch up.

RAIN

Well, you must admit they are in good condition. Look at those V-shaped torsos.

MARIA can't take her eyes off the young virile men.

MARIA

I didn't notice.

EDYTHE

When it was important that our mates protect us from woolly mammoths on the plains, we looked for a gene pool that could provide us with protection.

MARIA

Its not bad if you are looking for a rough sex either.

EDYTHE soon sits a distance away socializing with the other wives and girl friends.

MARIA

I recognize her.

RAIN

Edythe? She owns a dress shop in L.A.

MARIA

So, who is the first baseman?

RAIN

That's just Joe.

RAIN

He is 39. The reliable type. He is the best player out there but he doesn't know that. So don't tell him.

MARIA knows EDYTHER is cheating on him.

RAIN

And really a decent guy.

RAIN

He's dating Edythe. They were engaged but I think that is off now. Listen.

RAIN gestures back two rows to EDYTHER.

EDYTHER

(two rows back)

He needs to lose weight.

(pause)

With what he gets paid, you would wonder why we aren't hitting more home runs.

JOE notices MARIA who is turned around trying to hear what EDYTHER is saying.

RAIN

"Stormy" is the word that the tabloids use.

(pause)

I mean, of course she's a nice, but a little difficult.

EDYTHER

(to the other women)

And god, I wish he would trim his toe nails more often. I hate that.

MARIA

(to RAIN)

I guess they have busted-up.

RAIN leaves to go two rows up to hear the gossip. EDYTHER is telling a GIRLFRIEND about tickets. RAIN is listening intently. MARIA is watching the players. EDYTHER talks like her and JOE are married. They are not, yet.

EDYTHE

Contrary to popular opinion, players do not have free tickets to hand out for every game. Instead, we are allotted 4 family tickets and 2 friends tickets to purchase at around 50 percent of their face value.

(pause)

At the end of that first year, it was brought to our attention by our financial advisor that we had spent \$14,000 on tickets. Fourteen. Thousand. Dollars.

(pause)

Before the start of the season, you need to unapologetically explain the situation.

(pause)

I strongly advise that you lay down the law quickly. It is one thing to leave tickets for parents and close family but it is quite another to pay \$90 a ticket for someone you haven't seen in 6 years to bring Jolly Jilly Loud Mouth on a first date to root against the team in the family section.

(pause)

I won't get into that one but you can use your imagination to figure out how annoying that experience was.

JOE stops warming up and comes to the rail to sign a kid's baseball. JOE and MARIA make eye contact. Soon there are several kids there at the rail.

JOE

(to kid)

Hard work, son.

KID #1

Gee, thanks.

JOE

(to kid)

That's my advice to you. Hard work.

RAIN runs down to the rail. JOE is surprised.

JOE

Rain, good to see you. You followed me
all the way to Texas!

RAIN

Oh, I did this movie and just wanted to
stop by and see you.

JOE

Roughed, you and I are supposed to go
eat after the game. Right?

RAIN

Sure. Joe I want you to meet my new best
friend.

(pause)

This is Maria.

JOE

Wow. Nice to know you.

RAIN runs back up to the wives. MARIA remains on the first
row. She watched Joe's every move. JOE signs a second and
third baseball.

KID #2

Where are you from?

JOE

(smiling)

Mission, Texas.

(pause)

What about you?

KID #2

Huh?

JOE

Where town are you from?

KID #2

Floresville

JOE

Similar towns.

KID #2 is smiling ear to ear.

 OLDER KID #3
How much was your signing bonus?

 JOE
\$60,000.

 OLDER KID #3
What did you buy?

 JOE
A corvette. A red corvette.

 OLDER KID #3
Wow.

JOE doesn't want to give the kid bad advise. JOE needs to add something before the kid walks away.

 JOE
Kid. After that, I saved every penny I could.

 (pause)
When you get up to the majors, buy one thing you really want. And after that, save as much as you can.

 OLDER KID #3
I will remember that.

 JOE
Good man.

As JOE signs a fourth baseball, JOE turns to MARIA.

 JOE
That jersey, if I may say, looks perfect on you.

 MARIA
Well, thank you. It was a present.
 (pause)
You know, I think it's the most comfortable thing I've ever worn.

JOE
Could you sleep in something like that?

MARIA
(smiles)
Sure.

JOE
I'm Sorry. It's mine. The number on the
back.

MARIA
My goodness. This is you?

JOE
You really didn't know?
(pause)
Well, it can still be comfortable.
Right?

The team exits the field. JOE turns to leave.

JOE
You come to eat with us. Okay?

MARIA
Nice to meet you.

JOE walks to the dug out.

RAIN
(to Edythe)
Not to worry.

EDYTHE
Well, I went to the race track.

EDYTHE
And, I couldn't answer the telephone.

RAIN
Why not?

EDYTHE
I was at the race track.

RAIN

Horses?

EDYTHE

Yes, and I just didn't answer the telephone.

RAIN

And now Joe says the engagement's off?

EDYTHE

Just because of one little misunderstanding.

RAIN

Maria.

MARIA turn in the stands to face the ladies.

RAIN

Maria and I are going to drive to California.

WOMAN

Really?

EDYTHE

How intriguing.

RAIN

I know. Maria lost her shirt playing high stakes poker or something.

(pause)

But we are gonna drive all over Texas.

(pause)

Just freed up from Madonna.

(pause)

Isn't that right, Maria?

MARIA

I'm here now.

EDYTHE

Haven't we met before?

MARIA

I don't think so.

EDYTHE
Recently? I never forget a face.

The game is about to begin.

RAIN
(to EDYTHE)
Come sit with us. You can tell me all
about Joe. And I can tell you about my
amazing last three days on a ranch.

The three women sit on the front row. MARIA is trying to decide what to do. Does she need to tell RAIN that ROUGNED and EDYTHE are having an affair? RAIN might find out that she really isn't her employee.

ROUGNED is introduced by the announcer. JOE is then introduced to the crowd.

The game begins.

MARIA's cell phone rings.

INT. LOS ANGELES - RAIN'S BEACH HOUSE - EVENING

MARIA answers. It is a Skype video call. For two seconds, MARIA can see a half naked woman in the background.

JAKE
Rain.

MARIA
No. It's Maria. You can't see me?

JAKE
Can I talk to Rain please?

MARIA
No.

JAKE
No?

MARIA
I mean you can't.
(pause)

She is watching a baseball game.

JAKE

She doesn't know anything about
baseball. No?

MARIA

But she did tell me to tell you
something special.

JAKE

Yea?

MARIA

When she does get back, that house had
better be spotless.

JAKE

Are you joking?

MARIA

No!

INT. SAN ANTONIO - BUFFET - EVENING

After the game JOE and ROUGNED, MARIA, RAIN and EDYTHE are all to meet at a buffet. The MEN are there first and load up on the food and sit down. The WOMEN wait and wait out front for the men. The women eventually go through the line but don't see the guys. They think they were stood up.

Meanwhile, EDYTHE is telling RAIN that JOE suspects her of being with another man, but she claims she's really innocent.

RAIN

And you're sure that's all it was,
Edythe, my dear?

(pause)

Just a day at the races? No other man
involved?

EDYTHE

You're as bad as Joe.

(pause)
I'm done with other men. Finished.
Absolutely finished. I will never cheat
on Joe again.

Evidently EDYTHE has cheated on JOE before. RAIN
is looking for more information. MARIA is very
quiet and still.

EDYTHE
So I bumped into an old friend at the
races. What of it?

(pause)
We watched ten races and that was
absolutely that.

EDYTHE
I was home by 11:30. The whole thing is
ridiculous. One day at the races and the
whole marriage is off.

RAIN
Men are so untrusting.

EDYTHE
I don't know why!

MARIA goes to get some more food at the buffet table. She
meets JOE and drops her food.

JOE stoops to pick it up and MARIA, a nervous wreck, escapes
embracement. MARIA runs off. MARIA tells the
WOMEN where the MEN are sitting and the GIRLS move to JOE
and ROUGNED's table.

MARIA goes to the bathroom and looks at her appearance in a
mirror and evaluates herself asking herself, "Would I really
have a chance with Joe?".

ROUGNED
(thick Spanish accent)
Thank you for coming to the game.

RAIN
Oh, it was great. Thank you for the
tickets.

ROUGNED

I think I'm luck with you. You must come to the next two times. Please.

RAIN

Well sure.

MARIA returns to the group. EDYTHE leaves the table to get more food.

MARIA

(to JOE)

So, when did a Corvette cost \$60,000?

JOE

22 years ago.

MARIA

They were saying on the radio you are going to retire.

JOE

It's been a wonderful ride.

MARIA

What will you do then?

JOE

Hunt and fish, I hope.

MARIA

Edythe okay with that?

JOE

We aren't married. We aren't even engaged.

(quietly and leaning forward)

I don't know why she is here.

MARIA

Oh, that's interesting.

Joe wants to be liked and after the "hunting and fishing" comment, he is afraid MARIA will think he is lazy.

JOE

I was just kidding about the hunting and fishing... I will probably coach.

From this point on there are two possible romances. RAIN and RANDY, certainly have a chance, but now also MARIA and JOE.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - RIVERCENTER MALL - NIGHT

RAIN invites EDYTHE shopping with them.

MARIA gets he hair done while the other women pick out clothes for her. With new clothes and a new hairdo, she looks like a different woman.

EDYTHE

You came here from your Alamo movie?

RAIN

Not exactly, Maria and I sort of explored part of Texas.

EDYTHE

How long have you been here?

RAIN

Since the team was in New York. Three days.

EDYTHE

And she is driving you to L.A. when this series is over?

RAIN

Well... maybe... I meet a man.

EDYTHE

Who?

RAIN

A cowboy.

EDYTHE

Oh!

RAIN

Maria likes him.

EDYTHE

Good heavens! He has a big ranch?

RAIN

I don't think so far as Texas goes.

EDYTHE

How did you meet him?

RAIN

My dear, when it comes to men, Maria can do anything. Anything.

(pause)

She can put you and Joe together again.

EDYTHE suddenly remembers where she saw MARIA. And, she knows that MARIA is certain of EDYTHE's unfaithfulness. While RAIN is asked to sign some autographs for a few minutes, EDYTHE implies to MARIA that she's recognized her.

MARIA stands in a dress shop. EDYTHE sounds very threatening.

EDYTHE

Well, what a transformation.

MARIA

I suppose I've never felt I really deserved it.

EDYTHE

A companion to movie stars such as yourself?

MARIA feels uncomfortable.

EDYTHE

As you're such a wow with the men,

(pause)

I was wondering whether you could have a word with Joe for me.

(pause)

Smooth this little misunderstanding over.

(pause)

We're getting married, you know. Were.
We were getting married.

(pause)

It would mean such a lot to me.

MARIA

I'm afraid I couldn't do that.

EDYTHE

Really?

MARIA is very still.

EDYTHE

You and I, Maria, we don't have what the
Rains of this world have. We have to
work at it, improvise a bit, "act" a
little to get what we want.

(pause)

I'm sure Rain wouldn't mind. In fact if
she finds out that you were digging..

RAIN returns.

RAIN

(to Maria)

My, you do look ravishing.

EDYTHE

Wonderful news!

(pause)

Maria has very kindly offered
to sort things out with Joe for me.

RAIN

But that's a marvellous idea. If anybody
can make Joe get on the bandwagon, Maria
can.

In return for her not telling RAIN that MARIA was really a
penniless vagrant, eating out of a dumpster, Edythe wants
Maria to keep her mouth shut about seeing her and ROUGNED
and also help her smooth things over with JOE.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - MENGER HOTEL POOL - NIGHT

When RAIN and MARIA get back to the hotel, there is a man and a group of mariachi musicians. It is ROUGNED and he has hired a band to play out by the pool. ROUGNED has hired a band to serenade RAIN. He is shocked when he learns RAIN and MARIA are standing behind them holding shopping bags.

RAIN is first turned off by the grand romantic gesture. RAIN just now realizes what a mess she has created. In the past, she hasn't minded juggling men. However now she is embarrassed.

MARIA steps up and is about to tell them all to go home. However, when a reporter/paparazzi starts taking photos RAIN turns on the charm and acts like she is enjoying it.

Flirting, ROUGNED picks her up and pretends he is about to throw her in the pool. She screams. He laughs and RAIN pretends to laugh. MARIA does not laugh. Others watching don't laugh.

ROUGNED is a big goofy kid trying to play romancer.

ROUGNED takes RAIN out onto diving board and jumps up and down and bit. Both are in street clothes. ROUGNED jumps a bit higher and RAIN squeals.

RAIN

No. No. No. Put me down.

ROUGNED doesn't speak English very well.

MARIA

(in Spanish at ROUGNED)

Put her down.

He is going way too fast with RAIN.

He jumps higher on the board. When they land the board breaks and they fall into the pool.

All this is captured on video by a BOGGLER and still pics by a PAPARAZZI.

ROUGNED has made a fool of himself in RAIN's eyes.

RAIN is fuming mad, but hides it from the cameras.

Having failed ROUGNED is more than just agitated.

RAIN runs into the hotel and MARIA blocks the door. MARIA stops them from following her.

MARIA
(to the paparazzi)
No. That is quite enough.

The MEN with the cameras only pretend to leave. They back off and sit at the pool tables. They continue filming.

But ROUGNED manages to get a foot in the door.

MARIA stands firm in the door. No one is allowed to follow RAIN. ROUGNED tries to push past her. MARIA braces the door with her shoulder. She is immovable. ROUGNED gives up.

MARIA
Security! Security!

RAIN leaves the hallway and runs up to her room.

ROUGNED has dreamed of being a MLB player and perhaps that was easy enough. And he also dreamed of marrying a Hollywood movie star, this however, isn't easy and as automatic. He seems a very desperate.

ROUGNED
But she is a famous cheerleader.

MARIA
No. No. No.
(in Spanish)
This is important. If you want to speak in Spanish I will tell her but you are NOT coming through this door.

ROUGNED
(in Spanish)
No more musicians, no more cowboys. Edythe told me you were seeing some cowboy. It's me, or that's it.

MARIA
No. No. No.
(in Spanish)

You are done here. Don't call and don't come around anymore.

ROUGNED
(in Spanish)
Oh, no. You don't tell me what to do.

MARIA
(in Spanish)
Forget you!

ROUGNED
(in Spanish)
You've made a fool out of me.

MARIA
(in Spanish)
You are an idiot!

ROUGNED
(in Spanish)
Tell her. I'm crazy about her. She knows that. But you can't tell me I can't talk to her.
(pause)
I will be back. I tell you I will be back.

SECURITY arrives. ROUGNED storms off.

MARIA walks out into the pool area to try to reason with the PAPARAZZI.

MARIA
You can't publish that.

The two PAPARAZZI laugh.

PAPARAZZI #1
This is what we do for a living.

MARIA
Me too. Rain. That baseball player.

PAPARAZZI #2
Baseball player?

PAPARAZZI #1

Who is that?

MARIA

Look she doesn't really know him. She didn't know that was going to happen. They have never been on date. He just picked her up and they fell in the pool. That isn't a story.

PAPARAZZI #1

Okay. Thanks.

The paparazzi runs after ROUGNED.

PAPARAZZI #1

(yelling)

Hey, wait. Who are you?

PAPARAZZI #2

(to MARIA)

So really what is going on here.

MARIA

She doesn't know him. Tomorrow, we are driving back to California. And she has a commitment to write a screenplay.

PAPARAZZI #2

Really, well that is just great. What is it going to be about. Texas Rangers and an aging Comanche Indian. It is a Western.

MARIA

I tell you what. Let's make a deal. You give me the card in that camera. And we will give you exclusive photo-ops. Interviews. I will personally call you every time she goes into public for the next year. Where she is going and who she is with.

(pause)

Deal?

PAPARAZZI #2

I can't do that.

MARIA

Polla!

INT. SAN ANTONIO - RAIN'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

While taking a Jacuzzi, RAIN is nude. She frets. MARIA returns to the room. She is very somber.

RAIN

Tell me the honest truth. It's a darned fix, isn't it?

MARIA

All bets are off. Those pictures will be on TMZ tomorrow. The tabloids will publish them. Rougner just made those guys 100s of thousands of dollars.

RAIN

Maria, please help me.

MARIA

I tried. They won't.

RAIN

No, I know that.

(pause)

What will the Randy say?

MARIA

Well I don't know but I know what the others will say.

RAIN

Others?

MARIA

Phil will tell you aren't in his daddy's movie.

(pause)

Jake, will not care. Because when he isn't passed out, I'm pretty sure he is cheating on you.

(pause)

And Rougner, he thinks you are a "famous cheerleader".

RAIN
He thinks that movie was real?

MARIA
Evidently. That is what he said.

RAIN
Oh, none of that matters. Not really.

MARIA
And with Randy?

RAIN
With Randy?

MARIA
Randy?

RAIN
Well,
(pause)
He is rather passionate.

MARIA raises her eyebrows with emphasis.

RAIN
I know what you're thinking.
(pause)
Randy's the one.

MARIA
Probably.
(pause)
Phil, Jake, Rougner and Randy, and
possibly some I don't know about have
been chasing you. Now it's time for you
to choose Randy as her one and only.

RAIN
But what about everything else?

MARIA looks at her as if to say, "what everything else?"

RAIN
And who says I'm looking for a darned
husband this very minute, anyway?

MARIA

Not everything comes along just when we want it. There are times when choices just have to be made, or you certainly will miss out.

RAIN

No. No, I won't accept that. I won't. It's too much.

MARIA

Who is in love with you, Rain?

RAIN

They all say they are.

MARIA

Did they?

RAIN

Well, actually none have said it. You know...

(pause)

Maria, haven't you ever been torn between more than one person at the same time?

MARIA

No, I can't say I've had that particular problem.

RAIN stands up out of the bath tub.

MARIA

You are beautiful.

RAIN

Well, it's not a bad figure, if I do say so myself.

MARIA hands her a towel.

RAIN

Have you ever been in love at all, Maria?

MARIA

Once.

RAIN

And was it this "if you love something set it free" stuff?

MARIA

Oh, yes.

RAIN

From him or from you?

MARIA

Both.

RAIN

Wait if both people say that then don't the ships pass in the night.

MARIA

Yes.

RAIN

Really? Tell me.

MARIA

No.

RAIN

A long time ago?

INT. SAN ANTONIO - HOTEL ROOM - EARLY MORNING

RAIN's publicists calls very early.

RAIN and MARIA go to the laptop and TMZ is carrying her and ROUGNED's photos. They are good photos and make her look like she is in love or at least having the time of her life. Until the diving board breaks.

RAIN

You know I thought that would be a disaster but it's not.

MARIA

Disaster for Randy.

RAIN
Oh, you think he will be angry?

MARIA
I would be.

INT. BRACKETTVILLE - LIBRARY - MORNING

RANDY has driven to the town library. RANDY is in a hurry to return to his work. He googles news about "Rain Delacamp" and sees the photos from the previous night. He looks at the photos critically. The LIBRARIAN is sympathetic.

LIBRARIAN
Oh, my.

She fetches all sorts of information. We see RANDY in the library, researching and photocopying. The librarian brings him more useful information. RANDY finishes with a rather large manila folder full of information, photos, letters and other first hand accounts. RANDY checks out three books.

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE PENS - DAY

RANDY is in the coral, worming cattle. RANDY is upset. He isn't talking to the cattle or the dog. He is grumpy and kicking the dirt. He is jealous; RAIN went to see a professional baseball player. The situation is hopeless.

Things are so bad with RANDY, the world's most loyal dog leaves and returns to the house. RANDY is working alone... this is not an easy task. RANDY operates the head gate. The bull is the last one..

Finally, RANDY gets the bull up in the gate... the bull moves the gate a foot or two... the power. When he lets the bull lose, RANDY must climb on top of the gate to escape him.

The bull paws the dirt, waiting for him to come down.

RAIN calls RANDY on the phone.

RANDY
Hello.

RAIN

How are you?

RANDY

I didn't expect for you to call.

RAIN

I'm sorry to bother you. Can you take Maria and I to the baseball game tonight?

RANDY

Why what happened?

(pause)

No hang on. Yes.

RAIN

Okay.

(pause)

Listen, I wasn't going to stay, I don't want to be here, but I want Maria to stay. Understand?

MARIA

(off screen)

No, that is okay we can leave.

RANDY

Whatever you want.

RAIN

Yes, come. Please.

(pause)

What are you doing now?

RANDY

I'm sort of in a bind.

(pause)

You know that cattle gate we were using the other day to worm those calves?

(pause)

I'm sitting up on top of it.

RAIN

How come?

RANDY

Well, I wormed that bull. He half tore the gate out of the ground. But that was the easy part... turning him loose that was the hard part.

RAIN

What happened?

RANDY

Well he chased me up here.

RAIN

Where is Gway?

RANDY

He walked off the job and went home.

RAIN

How long you been up there?

RANDY

About thirty minutes.

RAIN

Call your mom.

RANDY

I can't call my mom.

(pause)

I'm about to make a run for the truck...

(pause)

But don't worry I will be there.

RANDY makes a mad dash for his truck and avoids the bull.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - TEAM MEETING - DAY

The rule is - if you are a rookie - you only speak if spoken to. ROUGNED interrupts the coach in a team meeting with a stupid question. He is booed and pencils, papers and towels are thrown at him.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - BASEBALL STADIUM SEATING - NIGHT GAME

During batting practice, JOE and MARIA find themselves gazing into each other's eyes.

RANDY arrives at the game in a rush. However, he has a backpack with three books and a thick manila folder.

RANDY almost runs down to the seat. He see's RAIN and MARIA, but he is fixated on the grass. It is thick and lush and VERY green.

JOE walks to the rail to sign some autographs. It is an excuse to be neared MARIA.

RANDY
(to himself)
Will you look at that grass. Man!

JOE
There isn't any drought down here. That is for sure.

RANDY snaps out of his trance.

RANDY
No. Not here. This is nice.

JOE
So you are Randy? Maria told me you were coming.

RANDY
Yes, thanks for the ticket. I appreciate it.

JOE
Well, I know things are tough for the rancher. When I was a kid, I ran off to be a cowboy. My father caught me at the bus station, gave me the worst whipping I ever had and took me home. Luckiest day of my life.

The game is about to begin.

RANDY
Well, good luck.

RANDY hands the folder of information to RAIN.

RAIN
What is this?

RANDY
I was at the library. You know that story about the Comanche that was killed up on the hill?

RAIN
Sure.

RANDY
(gesturing to the folder)
There's your story.

RAIN
(very happy)
Really?

RANDY
All they have on it.

RAIN spends the rest of the game reading the information. RANDY watches RAIN, not the game so much; he is ready to answer any question she might have. MARIA watches JOE.

RAIN
There aren't any women in this story.

RANDY
Yeh, isn't that great.

RAIN doesn't get it.

RANDY
You can't very well be confined to "acting" in it if there aren't any female roles.

RAIN
Good thinking. Just want I need.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - BASEBALL STADIUM - NIGHT GAME

ROUGNED plays super. However, in baseball it probably can't get much better than the feeling of hitting a walk-off home run in extra innings. Generally your teammates flock to home

plate awaiting your arrival. It is the ultimate affirmation of what you've done for your team.

As a joke related to interrupting the coach earlier, when ROUGNED reaches home plate after hitting a walk-off home run in the Lobo's 10th inning win, he finds no one there. No one in the dugout. No teammate is in sight. They have all run to the locker room.

EXT. HIGHWAY 90 - NIGHT

RANDY, by himself, drives back to the ranch to water the cattle.

RADIO COMMENTATOR

You know, they always claim Texans are the biggest liars in the world. I believe they're right. A Texan has even got to lie to himself to find a reason for stayin' here. Are we lyin' to ourselves? Call in and tell me what you are thinking about this drought. Aren't we all tellin' outselves we can see somethin' green, when nothin' is? Does everyone of us need glasses? Call and I will put you on the air.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - HOTEL SWIMMING POOL - DAY

RAIN and MARIA are at the hotel swimming pool most of the day. RAIN is working on her screenplay - reading and writing in a notebook.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - BASEBALL STADIUM - NIGHT GAME

RANDY returns for the third game. This is A LOT of driving, but RANDY has animals to care for.

Again, ROUGNED plays super. JOE's career is almost over.

RAIN goes out on the field to throw the opening pitch. Perhaps just now, judging from the crowd's reaction, RANDY realizes just now how famous RAIN really is. The CROWD goes wild. RANDY is exhausted, working and driving hours to the game. It all hits him like a ton of bricks.

RANDY
(to Maria)
I'm not rich enough for her?

MARIA
She doesn't care about that.

RANDY
That guy hit a homerun in each of the last six games. Four stolen bases. He makes 10 million dollars a year and he is just a kid. Look at all these people buying tickets.

MARIA
And who pays you for your cattle?

RANDY
That's the question I'm asking.

MARIA
Why don't you just tell her how you feel?

RANDY
You know I don't know how. I tried to tell her. If she wants me, she will be around. I'm here.

MARIA whispers something in RANDY's ear. RANDY stands up and gives a big cowboy, "Yahoo!" about five seconds too early. Odd moment. RAIN balks. She chuckles however. The crowd chuckles. RAIN recomposes herself and throws the pitch. RANDY yelling... the crazy pitch... it makes RAIN laugh. RAIN makes uninterrupted eye contact with RANDY as she leaves the field.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - DICK'S LAST RESORT - NIGHT

PHIL calls from New York. MARIA takes the phone into the bathroom. PHIL tells MARIA his father is giving the role another actress.

MARIA
I'm not telling her that. You are gonna have to tell her that. It will break her heart you two aren't together anymore.

PHIL

Wait, I didn't say that. I just said the part is going to someone else.

MARIA

Oh, I'm sorry I didn't understand. I thought you were breaking up with her.

PHIL

Look she is with that baseball player. Sure you can just tell her.

MARIA

She doesn't know him. That just tabloid stuff. It is totally not true. And she is mad as hell about it.

JAKE also says that he doesn't think RAIN really loves him.

MARIA

May I ask why she didn't get the part?

PHIL

Well, I don't think gives a rats butt about me.

MARIA

That is wrong; she said to me only today how much love she has for you.

To win the role back for RAIN, MARIA tells him that RAIN does love him.

PHIL

She hasn't returned any phone calls and she's been done with the film for a week.

MARIA

Can I ask you a personal question?

PHIL

Sure.

MARIA

Have you slept with one another yet?

PHIL

No. Why?

MARIA

But she tells me she is in love with you. But you aren't aggressive enough.

PHIL

Yes, I know; that is confusing.

MARIA

Perhaps not. I understand.

(pause)

She is looking for a place in Texas to write about. You need to let her find herself. No, she is definitely in love with you. Pity about the two of you.

PHIL's elated and says that he needs to call his father.

PHIL

Okay that is great. I trust you. I trust her. Let me call my father and have him change his mind. Okay.

MARIA

Great. Just get her the part and she will stop all this writing non-sense.

PHIL

Thanks.

MARIA

Glad to have helped.

PHIL

Helped? You just made me the world's happiest man.

JOE and EDYTHE are also at the party. JOE stands well apart from EDYTHE.

EDYTHE

My dear, you look as if you've never been to a party in your life.

MARIA

Why, thank you, but I don't drink.

RAIN

Oh, it's not a drink, really. It's a cocktail.

EDYTHE

(to Maria)

Good luck, darling.

EDYTHE keeps trying to make MARIA live up to her end of the bargain. It is subtle, but MARIA is being blackmailed to repair JOE and EDYTHE'S relationship.

EDYTHE

Joe's standing over there.

(pause)

Work your magic.

EDYTHE walks away.

MARIA

I hate her.

JOE isn't interested in getting back with EDYTHE. However, MARIA is pressured to help.

JOE

You seem to have made quite an impression on Rain.

MARIA

Oh. No. I don't. Do I?

(pause)

I have met your fiancée, I believe.

JOE

Edythe? Um...

(pause)

No longer my fiancée.

MARIA

Really? I'm so sorry. Not a permanent rift, I hope?

JOE

It would be ungentlemanly of me to go into the details.

MARIA

Of course.

(pause)

You know, these things are amazing, aren't they?

JOE

May I?

MARIA

Why not?

JOE leaves to fetch a drink for MARIA

EDYTHE

Progress?

MARIA

I'm afraid not.

(pause)

Nor is there likely to be.

EDYTHE

It would take me 30 seconds to put you back on that bicycle again.

(pause)

I told you, I never forget a face.

MARIA

The hotel sex.

(pause)

I have not forgotten.

EDYTHE

Oh, you have forgotten that.

(pause)

If you want to continue working for Rain, you have.

EDYTHE

Now we, all of us, need things in our life. I need Joe for his...

MARIA

Well, he's a man of dignity. And you need...

EDYTHE

You need to stay off of the streets, I imagine.

EDYTHE walks off. JOE returns with a drink.

JOE

I see Edythe has told you all.

MARIA

If it weren't to commit another indiscretion, I might disclose Edythe. is...

(pause)

As Rain would say, crazy about you.

JOE

To be indiscreet back, she's rather more crazy about my money than she is about me.

MARIA

A woman scorned is a dangerous thing.

(pause)

And a bruised heart will often speak harshly.

(pause)

If hurt she could lash-out, makeup lies, make a scandal.

JOE

Oh, I sometimes wonder where Edythe's heart has got to.

MARIA

A woman with an absent heart would shed too many tears, I think.

JOE

Edythe? Shed tears?

MARIA

If I ever won your heart I would NEVER
throw it way gambling on horses..

(pause)

sort of to say... if you see what I mean.

MARIA leaves for the bathroom and she encounters
RAIN.

RAIN

You've worked your magic again.

MARIA

I can't do it.

RAIN

You've already done it.

(pause)

Joe just came up and asked me if he was
being a cold breaking off the
engagement.

(pause)

I've no idea what you said, but I
believe we've got him.

(pause)

It must be astonishing being you.

RAIN

Astonishing? No. Very, very Astonished.

PHIL calls to tell RAIN she can have the part.

MARIA

(to Maria)

Phil. This might be good news. He will
offer you the part, role, job, whatever.

RANDY walks up but says nothing. RAIN doesn't see him.

RAIN takes the phone.

RAIN

Yes, I will take the part. It will be my
pleasure.

PHIL

So you are coming to New York?

RAIN
Yes, but first mail my agent the
contract. I will sign it.
(pause)
I have to spend some time writing.
(pause)
See you soon. Love you, darling.

RAIN closes the phone. RANDY looks deeply hurt.

RAIN
(to Maria)
Well, I suppose that was necessary.

MARIA
You wanted the part. He'd already chosen
someone else.
(pause)
No, Rain, you mustn't do this.

RAIN
Oh, come on it will be fun. Let's make a
movie!!!
(pause)
Randy will understand it is just
business and a big check.

MARIA understands that PHIL isn't good for RAIN.

MARIA looks even worse.

RANDY's eyes meet MARIA's for a moment and then RANDY
leaves. RAIN is oblivious to it all. She never sees RANDY.

JOE is watching MARIA. MARIA attempts to stop RANDY from
leaving by grabbing his arm. The effort doesn't work. MARIA
sits alone and JOE moves to sit with her.

JOE
The cowboy? He loves Rain.

MARIA
Yes.

There is a long pause.

EDYTHE

Rain's name in lights again. What do you think of that?

JOE

Well, it's certainly what Rain's wants.

EDYTHE

Joe, my dear, I don't think I could ever forgive myself if last night's misunderstanding got in the way of something so, so important to us both.

(pause)

I was wondering, could you take me home and let me explain?

EDYTHE

Of course, my dear. Of course.

JOE

(to Maria)

Nice to have talked to you.

After all of this, Maria is puzzled at JOE taking EDYTHE home.

RAIN

Don't worry. He said he is going to finally break it off. Finally. Totally.

Maria texts someone.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

We see from a distance Edythe is not being taken home. Joe is laying down the law. It appears from their body language that he will NOT marry her and that he will NOT want to see her in the future. He appears to suggest that she return to L.A. Of course she cries and plays the jilted lover. Finally, it is clear to any observer she give up. She storms back into the nightclub.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - RIVER WALK BOAT RIDE - NIGHT

RAIN is on board a boat about to depart. MARIA explains who called.

MARIA
That was Randy.

RAIN
He doesn't call.

MARIA
Apparently he does.

RAIN
Oh.

Although MARIA has hinted that she was once in love, RAIN tells her she doesn't really know anything about it.

MARIA
Well, what do you now?

RAIN
We are going back to L.A. to continue with the acting thing. Well, aren't you going to congratulate me?

MARIA
I have done you a huge disservice.

RAIN
You have only done what I asked. That's your job. And you are good at it.

MARIA
It may well be my job, but what I have done is untrue to you and untrue to me.
(pause)
You have lost a man who loves you for who you are, not for who you pretend to be.

RAIN
And you, who are you to tell me what's best for my life?

MARIA
I'm nobody. But you did say I was an expert on love.

RAIN

No?

MARIA

You said that. I didn't claim to be anything but a driver.

(pause)

Here is all I know. Love really smarts; it's messy and with you a mathematical nightmare. Only a few can come out happy, never mind unscathed.

(pause)

I didn't work for Madonna. I don't gamble and I am an expert on the lack of love.

(pause)

And that is a fate from which I wish to save you.

RAIN

Maria. I'm sorry.

MARIA

No pity, please. I'm numb to all of that. I feel absolutely nothing.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - CAR ON THE WAY TO NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

MARIA and RAIN drive to the nightclub.

RAIN

Do you know what my favourite class was in school?

MARIA

I was under the impression it was Theatre Arts.

RAIN

Literature.

(pause)

I hate this acting! No one listens. I'm the one that is expected to listen.

(pause)

And this work is stupid. I'm an object. Big tits and long legs. And I've never been in a movie worth a damn. No?

(pause)
And you know the only person I've told
this to is Randy. He doesn't judge me.

MARIA
No. He wouldn't.

RAIN
But you do.

MARIA
Me? I certainly do not.

RAIN
Oh, you think you don't, but you do.

RAIN
I hate those movie people. Collaborative
art my ass. They don't listen.

(pause)
So what! I'm an actress. Every idea I
have is loony? For all the fancy houses
and cars, friends, do you know what I
really want?

(pause)
Every day I wake up and I think, "If I
find the right story, I can make a
film." My film, my story.

(pause)
Do you know what that's like?

MARIA
No but Randy does. He is a rancher and
he made a folder for you. He wants you
to do what you want to do.

RAIN
He does. True.
(pause)
At least, one person listens.
(pause)
And now my mascara's gonna run.

MARIA
Oh, that will work.

INT. SAN ANTONIO - NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

JOE greets RAIN and MARIA.

JOE
(to Rain)
Now, I've heard the news, darling.
Congratulations. It's a really big
movie, huh?

RAIN
Thanks.

There is an odd moment.

RAIN
Let's dance!

JOE
If you don't mind, Rain, I have a...

A new YOUNG MAN asks RAIN to dance. JOE and MARIA
who are left at a table. They look at each other.
They watch the others dancing.

JOE
Well, as we have no conversation,
(pause)
I have no option but to ask you for the
next dance.

MARIA
Sadly, I can dance nothing but the
Salsa.

Just then a salsa is played. JOE whispers in MARIA's ear.

JOE
I'm so glad you aren't like these
people.

MARIA
Am I terribly old-fashioned?

JOE
Indeed you are.
(pause)
And all the better for it.

(pause)
Are we having fun yet?

MARIA
This is the most fun I've ever had.

The song ends. MARIA and JOE are about to kiss.

There is a small explosion and fire in the kitchen. The lights go out. The emergency lights come on. MARIA and JOE are kissing.

Slowly, everyone files out of the nightclub.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

Across the street is the "real" Alamo.

MARIA
I'm here.

RAIN
Maria, I'm scared.

MARIA
It's just a fire.
I'm sure everyone is okay.

RAIN
Gosh what a shock?

ROUGNED is holding EDYTHE on the sidewalk and they kiss. MARIA is hugging RAIN. RAIN sees ROUGNED kissing EDYTHE, but she doesn't care any more. JOE doesn't care anymore either.

JOE sees RANDY sitting on the curb of the "real" Alamo. JOE walks over and joins him. They sit and watch all of this unfold. Everyone is a little in shock.

Emergency sirens are heard in the distance.

RAIN has her love epiphany the moment she sees RANDY. She is fidgety walks over. However fast she walks, it seems like an eternity before she crosses the street.

MARIA and RAIN approach JOE and RANDY.

RAIN and RANDY are immediately kissing.

JOE

(to Maria)

Listen have you ever had a one night
taco stand?

MARIA

I'm not sure what you mean.

The four start walking down the street.

JOE

Forgive me if this seems out of line. We
just met and you don't really know me
yet but you're beautiful and I just
wanted to ask.

(pause)

I know a really good taco stand two
blocks up here. Two and three dollar
cold beer on ice. Picnic tables and
Christmas lights. They serve 'til 3 am
anything Mexican. Would you be my
senorita, over one or two burritos?

After walking only a short distance, we hear the AM sound of
an old tejano band playing over an old outdoor speaker.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - TACO STAND - NIGHT

JOE and MARIA with RANDY and RAIN, now holding hands, arrive
at the taco stand. There are only two old COWBOYS eating.
Strangely they have horses tied up to the hitching posts.
VERNON nudges CORD and nods at the two COUPLES as they walk
up. CORD goes back to eating. VERNON enjoys the lights,
stars, the ambiance and PEOPLE.

JOSE

Jueto Grande.

JOE

Senor Jose.

(pause)

I would like you to meet a girl that I
like.

JOSE
Hermoso.
(pause)
Tormenta en el Oeste.

There is lightening and a storm brewing in the West.

JOE
Si. Todo el mundo haorado por la
lluvia.

The most important thing to VERNON is love and he feels warm at the picture. RANDY and RAIN look very comfortable together. JOE and MARIA are laughing and pointing at the menu. The expression on VERNON's face will tell the audience that the end of the story is a happy one.

END CREDITS / SPLIT SCREEN:

CREDITS on the LEFT and the following on the RIGHT.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - AIRPORT - MORNING

We see clearly that it rained the previous night as the pavement is still wet.

MARIA takes JOE to the airport. They see ROUGNED and EDYTHE. MARIA looks worried that ROUGNED will make problems for JOE. JOE shows no emotion; business as usual.

EXT. SAN ANTONIO - MENGER HOTEL - MORNING

MARIA returns to the hotel as RAIN and RANDY are leaving for the ranch.

MARIA gets her bike out of the bed of the truck.

RAIN and MARIA have an emotional goodbye and swear they'll never forget the week they spent together.

RANDY puts MARIA's bike in the back of his truck without being told. This is a sign that RANDY won't let MARIA just leave.

The THREE get in the pickup and leave for the ranch.

EXT. RANCH - CATTLE PENS - DAY

The waterpump is working well, evidently the rains have returned. The drought may be over. The grass seems greener and cattle look fatter.

GWAY, RANDY and RAIN are trying to load the bull into a trailer. They intend to sell the bull and buy one more tame. Once the bull is in the trailer, we hear him thrashing about and putting dents in the metal.

RANDY and RAIN leave the ranch for the sale barn. RAIN is sitting very near RANDY in the cab.

EXT. RANCH - MARY'S GARDEN - DAY

After a week or so, the baseball team returns to Texas. MARIA is back at the ranch, she has become fast friends with MARY. JOE drives up and finds MARIA out in the garden.

JOE says he's been looking for her all his life and wants to marry her. She's too stunned to speak, so he asks her just to nod, and she happily does.

As she takes his arm and they start to leave, she asks if he's had anything to eat, and he says he hasn't eaten anything. Mary motions for them to come inside to eat. MARIA takes his arm and puts her head on his shoulder as they go inside.

FADE OUT.