

THE LAW

"Pilot"

by

Bob Fisher

&

Cedric the Entertainer

February 9, 2008

ACT ONE

INT./EXT. PATROL CAR - DAY

MUSIC CUE: The Friends of Distinction's version of "Grazing in the Grass."

CEDRIC BATTISTE, 40s, in his Los Angeles County Sheriffs uniform, drives a patrol car down the street. Cedric is a Reserve Deputy Sheriff. This is how he spends his weekends. Next to him is his current partner, DEPUTY CARL TUCKER, a likable lug of a guy in his early 50s.

Windows rolled down, hand on the wheel, Cedric surveys the street. It's the weekend, he's "the law," and he's loving it.

A car with a couple of ATTRACTIVE WOMEN pulls up next to them at a light. One of the women gives Cedric a flirtatious wink. Cedric allows himself to enjoy this a beat, then playfully turns on the "twerp siren." The women jump, startled, then giggle and drive off. Cedric turns to Tucker.

CEDRIC
Protect and serve, baby. (THEN)
Sure you're ready to give this up
for a desk job?

DEPUTY TUCKER
Command Sergeant's a big pay jump.
I'm not in your situation. (BEAT)
They'll get you a new partner.
Don't worry. It'll be good.

CEDRIC
It's not gonna be the same. We
have our thing all worked out. We
talk some trash, bust some bad
guys, enjoy a fine meal...(THEN,
WITH DISGUST) I'll probably get
stuck with a vegetarian.

A call comes in on the radio.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
235 Robert. You copy?

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The patrol car rolls down the road.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
Got some neighbor complaints about
a loud party at 620 Catalina
Drive. Need you to stop by and
quiet it down.

CEDRIC (O.S.)
We're on it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
Also need you to get your football
pool picks in by 5.

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Cedric and Tucker park outside a house in a working class neighborhood. The funk classic "Knee Deep" is blaring from the house. As they approach the door, Cedric gets caught up in the music and starts moving to the beat.

CEDRIC
(OFF TUCKER'S LOOK) I know it's a
bit loud but, come on, that's P-
Funk. George Clinton. You gotta
give it up. At least a little.
Come on now. Give it up.

Tucker does-- very tentatively.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)
(ENCOURAGING) That's it. Free your
ass and your mind will follow.

Tucker tries, but his ass does not quite follow as they make their way to the house. They knock on the door. A young GUY, early 20s, answers it. He's holding a bong.

GUY
(BUSTED) Oh.

CEDRIC
Come on. For real? You answer the
door with a bong?

The young Guy sheepishly moves the bong behind his back. Inside the house, people scurry to turn down the music and hide moderately illegal herbal substances.

GUY
Sorry. We're just sending our boy
off. He's getting on the plane
tonight for Afghanistan.

Cedric and Tucker look over at the couch. A fresh-faced young MARINE with an even fresher crew cut sits on the couch. The kid waves. Cedric and Tucker look at each other. There's no way they're gonna bust anybody here.

INT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Cedric is next to the sound system. P-Funk's "One of These Summers" is now being played at a civilized level.

CEDRIC
Alright. Nothing past this mark.

Cedric makes a line with a magic marker next to the volume control. A PARTY GUEST approaches Cedric.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PARTY GUEST
Don't you own the Garden Center?
(OFF CEDRIC'S NOD) I bought some
fertilizer from you.

CEDRIC
You didn't use it to grow the...?
Cedric indicates the "weed" in the garbage.

PARTY GUEST
No. Tomatoes.

CEDRIC
Oh yeah? How they turning out?

PARTY GUEST
Pretty good.

CEDRIC
They getting enough sun? Tomatoes
like sun.

The Guy who had the bong jumps in.

GUY
Wait. I don't get it. You own a
Garden Center and you're a cop?

CEDRIC
I'm a cop on the weekend.

DEPUTY TUCKER
The Los Angeles Sheriffs
Department has a Reserve Officer
Program.

CEDRIC
It's for people who already have
careers but would like to
contribute to the community by
serving as part-time police
officers.

GUY
And you get to carry a gun?

CEDRIC
Gun, badge, the works. Also, we
don't get speeding tickets. We're
just like regular cops, only we
work part-time and we don't get
paid.

GUY
I'd love to carry a gun and kick
some ass. You think I could join?

CEDRIC
There's a drug test.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GUY
Great, because I know all about
drugs.

CEDRIC
There's also an I.Q. test.

Cedric goes to the Marine and shakes his hand.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)
Alright, you take care of yourself
over there, man.

MARINE
Thanks.

Cedric turns for the door. The song on the sound system
changes. "If Anybody gets Funked Up." Cedric turns back.

CEDRIC
Oh, this is a damn good song.

Cedric licks his finger and erases the old line and draws
a more generous one. Cedric points to the young guy as if
to say "we all understand the rules here, right?"

TITLE CARD: "THE LAW"

INT. PRECINCT BULLPEN - LATER

A whirl of activity: reports are taken, suspects get
booked, DEPUTIES talk trash at their desks. Into this
semi-organized chaos enter THREE NEW RESERVES, in the
street clothes:

DAN BRADFORD, 40, a successful Orthodontist. Broad-
shouldered and good looking, he carries himself with a
swagger that masks an insecurity exacerbated by his
recent divorce.

LIZ DUNLEVIE, late 30s. Married to an incredibly
successful Venture Capitalist, Liz stopped working as a
Financial Analyst when her twins were born. Wicked smart
and hyper-organized, Liz was an All-American field hockey
player at Princeton.

MICHAEL BARRET, mid-20s, an eager Graphic Artist with an
encyclopedic knowledge of cop shows and movies.

MICHAEL
(LOOKING AROUND, THRILLED) This is
so Hill Street Blues.

DAN
Come on, man, play it cool. We'll
never earn their respect if you
keep geeking out like that.

Liz approaches a preoccupied DESK SERGEANT.

LIZ
We're the new reserves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESK SERGEANT
(IGNORING HER) Uh-huh.

LIZ
According to the Training Manual,
section five, we're supposed to be
issued...

Liz pulls out a checklist.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Two regulation uniforms, one
department standard handgun, four
cases of--

DESK SERGEANT
Wow. You've got a checklist.
(SARCASTIC) Your Training Officer
is gonna love you.

INT. PRECINCT CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Cedric stands with CAPTAIN KEN OKAMORA, 40s. The Captain
tries to carry himself with a calm and methodical manner
in order to fight some serious anger management issues.

CEDRIC
Come on, Captain. Why me?

CAPTAIN OKAMORA
You're a pain in my ass but you're
a good cop, one of the success
stories of our Reserve program,
and I think you'll make a fine
Training Officer. Plus, with
Tucker's promotion, you're
currently without a partner.

CEDRIC
I was thinking I could partner up
with Stegman. He's alright.

CAPTAIN OKAMORA
(EXPLODING) You are like a
hemorrhoid hand puppet!

CEDRIC
What? What does that even mean?

CAPTAIN OKAMORA
I say one thing to you, Battiste,
and it's like (MIMING HAND PUPPET)
gah, gah, gah, right on my butt
cheek!

Cedric looks at him, puzzled. The Captain gathers himself
and hands Cedric the files on the new Reserves.

CAPTAIN OKAMORA (CONT'D)
Now you of all people should know
how important the Reserve program
is to the department.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAPTAIN OKAMORA (CONT'D)
Each Reserve brings unique and
valuable life experiences...

Cedric sighs and looks out through the glass window to the bullpen where Liz, Dan, and Michael are being issued their uniforms, badges, guns, etc. Michael pins his badge on his t-shirt and tries on his hat. Liz carefully inventories her gear off her checklist. Dan can't keep his eyes off a very attractive Latina Deputy.

CEDRIC
Come on, look at them. The kid's got his badge on his t-shirt, the lady's taking notes like she's the recording secretary at a Junior League meeting, and the tall one's practically getting his drool all over Ramirez.

INT. PRECINCT BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

DEPUTY THERESA RAMIREZ, late 20s, approaches.

DAN
(REACHING OUT HAND) Hi. Reserve
Deputy Dan Bradford.

THERESA
(SMILES, CORRECTING) Reserve
Deputy Trainee Dan Bradford.

DAN
You have a great smile. Not necessarily a pick-up line; just a professional observation. Smiles are my business.

THERESA
Guess that means you're the orthodontist. (TO MICHAEL) Which would make you the Graphic Artist--

MICHAEL
That's uncanny.

LIZ
She read our files.

THERESA
(TO LIZ) And you, the stay-at-home mom. Rich stay-at-home mom, from the look of that purse.

LIZ
(A BIT EMBARRASSED) It was a gift.

THERESA
What, were things getting a little too quiet for you over in Brentwood? Decided you needed some excitement?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Liz smiles, refusing to let Theresa rattle her.

LIZ
(SHRUGS) It was either get a gun
or jump the pool boy. I guess the
gun just turned me on more.

After a beat, Theresa smiles back-- she might end up
liking this lady. Theresa leaves as Cedric approaches.

CEDRIC
I'm Deputy Battiste. I'm gonna be
your Training Officer--

MICHAEL
Sir, I just wanna tell you how
excited I am to be here. I'll do
whatever it takes to be a great
cop. If we need to go Training
Day, I'll do it. Whatever. If I
gotta "get wet," I'll get wet.
I'll smoke it right now. I got no
lines.

Cedric stares at him, bewildered, for a long beat, then:

CEDRIC
This isn't gonna work.

Cedric turns and walks quickly back into the Captain's
office. HOLD on the new Reserves. A beat, then the loud
sound of a fist slamming a desk.

CAPTAIN OKAMORA (O.S.)
You are like hot candle wax on my
testicles!

Dan and Liz wince. Michael smiles broadly.

MICHAEL
A hot-headed Captain! So
quintessential! Yes!

Cedric reemerges from the Captain's office.

CEDRIC
(TO RESERVES) Alright, I'll see
you ducks in the morning.

LIZ
We've got these forms that--

CEDRIC
(EXITING, TO LIZ) In the morning,
Brentwood.

MICHAEL
You got a nickname already. I'm so
jealous!

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT TWO

INT. PRECINCT/BRIEFING ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

The meeting that starts every shift. COPS fill chairs facing a podium. The new Reserves are there as well, now in uniform. Liz has a notebook open. Dan can't keep his eyes off Theresa. Michael looks around, wide-eyed. Cedric enters and gets everyone's attention.

CEDRIC

You knew him as Deputy Tucker, my old partner, but now... Ladies and Gentleman, a big 2nd Precinct welcome for Sergeant Tucker.

The assembled Deputy Sheriffs stand and salute as SERGEANT Tucker (formerly Deputy Tucker) strides in with a briefing book, three new Sergeant stripes on his uniform. Cedric starts a round of applause.

SERGEANT TUCKER

Alright, let's not make too big a deal about this. Just an extra stripe. (PRETENDING HE DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW THIS) Oh, wait. Look at that. Two extra stripes.

The Deputies hoot as Tucker opens the briefing book. Liz takes notes throughout the meeting.

SERGEANT TUCKER (CONT'D)

Okay, be on the lookout for a couple white guys jacking old ladies at ATMs around Fairfax and Santa Monica.

MICHAEL

(SOTTO TO LIZ) That's Russian mob territory. Did you see "Eastern Promises?" They're vicious.

Michael makes the two-fingered "V" to the throat gesture from the film. DEPUTY KYLE BUTLER, late 20s, a testosterone driven meathead, elbows Cedric.

KYLE

(SARCASTIC, RE. MICHAEL) Reserves. You guys are the best.

Cedric doesn't dignify this with a response.

SERGEANT TUCKER

You folks remember reading about that guy who was knocking off restaurants in New York?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CEDRIC

Not just any restaurants. Top notch places. Man has exquisite taste.

SERGEANT TUCKER

Turns out the guy's come to LA...

LIZ

How do we know it's the same guy?

SERGEANT TUCKER

Same M.O. Always sits down for lunch between one and two-thirty, never eats dinner before nine.

CEDRIC

Makes sense. Needs time to neutralize his palate.

SERGEANT TUCKER

Always in a highly regarded restaurant, usually ethnic or regional joints. The man only robs places that serve great food.

KYLE

So not Ramirez's house.

THERESA

(MOCK SAD) Oh, no, I can't cook. How will I ever find a man? Maybe I will have to rely on my insanely hot ass.

The Deputies hoot and holler. After things settle down:

CEDRIC

Where'd the guy hit first?

SERGEANT TUCKER

A Mexican place near downtown.

CEDRIC

Chichen Itza? (OFF TUCKER'S NOD) It's a Yucatan joint. Been meaning to go there. What'd he have?

SERGEANT TUCKER

(LOOKS AT BOOK) Doesn't say.

CEDRIC

People, from now on when you take a report on this guy, it's vital that you record his menu choices.

SERGEANT TUCKER

(TO CEDRIC) Few days later he hit that sushi place we used to go to.

CEDRIC

Fujimora's? (OFF TUCKER'S NOD) I am in this man's head.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CEDRIC (CONT'D)
Sergeant, permission to be put on
a special detail searching for
this guy.

SERGEANT TUCKER
Permission denied. The Captain
would barbecue me. You're training
the rookies.

Cedric reacts, frustrated.

SERGEANT TUCKER (CONT'D)
Alright, this is top priority.
Mayor wants LA to catch this guy
so he can rub it in Bloomberg's
face. Officer who gets him's
definitely looking at a medal.
Kyle and Theresa, the Captain
wants you to keep a special eye
out for this guy.

CEDRIC
(INCREDULOUS) Kyle?

KYLE
This is top priority stuff.
Nothing they'd put a Reserve on.

CEDRIC
Kyle doesn't appreciate quality
food. He eats pizza dogs from the
Corner Mart. There is no way he
can understand the mind of the
Restaurant Thief.

MICHAEL
Is that what they call him? He
really needs a better nickname. No
way he's going down in history
books with a name like that.
Zodiac Killer, Son of Sam... those
are the names that get you in the
papers.

Sergeant Tucker ignores him. Kyle turns to Cedric.

KYLE
If you want to come down and watch
when we're shaking the mayor's
hand and getting our medals, I'm
sure we can arrange an invite.

SERGEANT TUCKER
Alright, we're done here unless
anyone has anything else.

Michael raises his hand. Tucker nods "go ahead."

MICHAEL
(A LA HILL STREET BLUES) Hey,
everybody: let's be careful out
there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Michael pats the table, pushes back his chair, and gets up ready for action. Cedric mouths: "sit down." He does.

INT. PRECINCT BULLPEN - A LITTLE LATER

Cedric is gathering his gear. Dan approaches him.

DAN
Is it true what they say about
Deputy Ramirez?

CEDRIC
What do they say?

DAN
She always picks one guy in each
class of recruits to sleep with.

CEDRIC
That's the legend.

Cedric walks away. Sergeant Tucker approaches Cedric and puts a file in his bag.

SERGEANT TUCKER
(RE. FILE) All we have on the
Restaurant Thief. Obviously, you
didn't get it from me. (THEN, OFF
CEDRIC'S NOD) Now, play the
location prank, get the rookies
out of the car, and go get this
guy. I'd love to see you rub it in
Kyle's face.

INT. PATROL CAR/EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - A BIT LATER

Cedric drives. Liz in the front, Dan and Michael in back.

MICHAEL
So what are we gonna do today?
Maybe head down south and see if
we can gather some "intel" on the
18th Street Gang? Stake out a
roof, see if we can get a wire?

Cedric stops the car in a rough neighborhood.

CEDRIC
First exam. Eyes on me.
Pretend I've been shot. (TO
MICHAEL) What's our location?

MICHAEL
Really? You're doing this?

CEDRIC
How you gonna call in help if you
don't know where we are?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MICHAEL

I know. I get it. It's just such a cliché. Not only did they do this season three on "The Wire," they did it twice on "NYPD Blue."

CEDRIC

Do you know our location?

MICHAEL

(NO IDEA) Crescent Heights and--

CEDRIC

You're not even in the right zip code. Out of the car. You just got me killed.

Michael gets out. Dan laughs. Cedric turns to Dan.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

Okay, what's our location?

DAN

Somewhere near National?

CEDRIC

Out of the car, Head Gear.

Dan gets out of the car.

MICHAEL

(TO DAN) Great. Now I'm the only one without a nickname.

Inside the car, Cedric turns to Liz.

CEDRIC

(ENJOYING HIMSELF) Well?

Liz doesn't say anything. Cedric reaches for her door.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

Here. Let me help you.

He opens her door. Liz doesn't move.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

Don't feel bad. I fell for this trick my first day too.

LIZ

(QUICKLY AND LIKE A TOTAL PRO)
Code 10-33. Officer down. 600 block of Parker Avenue. Need a medical unit and four cars. Suspect fleeing down Alvarez. 2006 Land Rover. License plate SHV342. Send Air Unit if available.

Liz shuts her door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LIZ (CONT'D)
I know you think I'm just some
bored, rich housewife, but I was
first in my class at the Academy
and this is too important to me.
You're not getting me out of this
car.

Cedric leans back and reappraises Liz.

CEDRIC
Alright, Brentwood. Not bad.

Cedric puts the car in drive and starts moving.

DAN
(RUNNING AFTER CAR) What about us?

CEDRIC
See you back at the precinct.

Cedric peels off leaving Dan and Michael on the street.

DAN
(CALLING OUT) I'm a very
successful orthodontist!

A couple of TOUGH LOOKING GUYS walk by them.

TOUGH GUY
S'up?

Michael waves weakly. A passing car backfires. Michael
and Dan hit the deck. The look up at the car. A very old
lady drives an ancient Cadillac. Dan shakes his head.

DAN
I could be playing golf right now.

INT. PATROL CAR - CONTINUOUS

Cedric drives. Liz turns to him.

LIZ
So what are we gonna do now?

CEDRIC
We're gonna do nothing. You're
gonna sit there and stay out of my
way while I see if I can catch
this Restaurant Thief person.
(THINKS A BEAT) That kid's right.
He does need a better name.

LIZ
Whatever you say... (BEAT)
Partner.

Cedric shoots her a look: "you're a long way off."

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT THREE

INT. PATROL CAR/EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Cedric drives. Liz rides shotgun.

LIZ
Got any theories about this
Restaurant Guy?

CEDRIC
None that are of any concern to
you.

LIZ
He's got to have some kind of
pattern. If we put our heads
together, I'm sure we can figure
it out.

Cedric doesn't say anything.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Come on, use me a resource. I'm
very good at figuring things out.

Cedric stops at a light. A car with several HOT WOMEN
pulls up next to him. They look flirtatiously at Cedric.

CEDRIC
(ENJOYING HIMSELF) You girls put
your seat belts on.

One of the Women, wearing a skimpy shirt that reads "got
cuffs," blows him a kiss. Suddenly her expression changes
when she sees Liz, peeking around Cedric, giving her the
evil eye. Cedric turns to see Liz. The Women drive off.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)
What? That was nothing.

LIZ
I know.

CEDRIC
Just a little fun. Everybody knew
exactly what was going on.

LIZ
I know.

CEDRIC
I had the hand with the wedding
ring right out the window.

LIZ
I know!

Cedric doesn't say anything for a beat, then:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CEDRIC
You need to lighten up. Tucker
never gave me a hard time.

LIZ
Would you drop it?! I'm not giving
you a hard time. You're projecting
your guilty conscience onto me.

CEDRIC
Okay, no, see? This is exactly
what I was afraid of. It's like
I'm out on patrol with my wife. I
can't help it if girls want to
flirt with me. I'm cute.

LIZ
Nothing wrong with a little
flirting. In fact, there's a
couple of hot guys in that Audi
convertible up there. Pull up next
to 'em and let me have a little
fun.

Cedric shoots her a look: "very funny." But when they get
next to the Audi, Liz sticks her head out the window,
proud of her boldness.

LIZ (CONT'D)
(ENJOYING HERSELF) You boys
enjoying a little of that fine
California sunshine?

GUY IN CAR
Sorry, Girl, wrong team. But you
go with that sexy uniform, Miss
Thing.

Liz shrinks back into the car, embarrassed-- the hot guys
are gay. Cedric laughs and hits the "twerp" siren. The
GUYS laugh and drive off. After a beat, even Liz laughs.

Cedric smiles at Liz, then tosses her the "Restaurant
Thief" file Tucker gave him.

CEDRIC
See if you can find a pattern,
Miss Thing.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - SIMULTANEOUS

Dan and Michael walk down the street.

MICHAEL
We'll laugh about this one day. I
promise. For instance, on "The
Wire"--

DAN
You keep mentioning that show, but
I've got to be honest, I've never
seen it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MICHAEL

Flag on the play. Completely unacceptable. How can we be partners if you don't get my references? (THEN) Please tell me you've at least seen "The Shield."

DAN

Nope.

MICHAEL

Oh God, I can't believe I'm starting from zero here. I'm bringing you the DVDs tomorrow. (THEN) You tell your ex-wife you got your badge?

DAN

We're not talking right now.

MICHAEL

You're not? I thought you were gonna try to--

DAN

(EMPHATIC) We're not talking right now.

Michael's cell phone rings. It's Cedric.

CEDRIC (O.S.)

What's your location?

MICHAEL

(NO CLUE) Ummm...

CEDRIC (O.S.)

Oh, come on.

Click. Cedric has hung up.

INT. 7-11 CONVENIENCE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Cedric puts his phone away, then pours two coffees and hands one to Liz, who's looking over the file.

LIZ

At first I thought he was going around the world clockwise...

CEDRIC

But after knocking off a Brazilian place and a Cambodian joint, he went back across the dateline to that Salvadoran papuseria.

LIZ

Blew my theory right out of the water.

Cedric goes to pay. The CLERK waves him off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CEDRIC
(TO CLERK) Thanks, my man.

Cedric's cell phone rings.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)
This is Cedric. (BEAT) Aw, hell.
(BEAT) Hang tight. I'm on it.

EXT. PATROL CAR/EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Lights and sirens blaring, Cedric barrels down the road, weaving in and out of traffic. It's some impressive driving until he makes a sharp turn into the parking lot of the Battiste Garden and Nursery Center.

INT. BATTISTE GARDEN CENTER AND NURSERY - MOMENTS LATER

Cedric stands with a MAN in his 60s. As they speak, WORKERS unload a truck full of plants. Liz stands off to the side, looking around.

CEDRIC
You don't order a truckload of
Carolina Jasmine in the summer.
(TO WORKERS) Load 'em back up.

MAN
I got a deal.

CEDRIC
I don't care if the Governor of
Carolina gave it to you for free.

MAN
Watch your tone. I'm your Daddy,
boy.

The man is, in fact, Cedric's Dad, CHARLES BATTISTE. Technically retired, Charles always hangs out at the Garden Center and fills in when Cedric is working his cop shifts on the weekend. He's cantankerous, opinionated, and thinks he's better than Cedric at everything.

CEDRIC
(SOFTER TONE) Look, Dad, I'm just
saying Jasmine doesn't bloom until
the Spring. No one buys anything
until it blooms and we don't have
the space. We talked about this
when you tried to buy all that
Flowering Plum.

CHARLES
Fine. If you want to run your
business into the toilet, fine by
me. Here's some tissue paper and a
magazine. Enjoy yourself.

Charles turns to Liz and turns on the charm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLES (CONT'D)
I don't believe we've met. Captain Battiste. LA Sheriffs, retired.

LIZ
You were a cop? Oh, that makes a lot of sense.

CEDRIC
(DEFENSIVE) Don't "oh, that makes a lot of sense." It doesn't make any sense. It's got nothing to do with nothing.

Liz shrugs "okay."

CHARLES
Maybe you read about me in the papers. About ten years ago, I took down Pablo Escobar's right hand man.

Cedric reacts-- this is Charles' "go-to" story.

LIZ
(TO CHARLES) Liz Dunlevie.
Pleasure to meet you, Captain.

CHARLES
Young lady, would you tell my son he's missing a golden opportunity here.

Cedric sighs: "here's where the lady sells me out."

LIZ
Actually, sir, I used to be a Management Consultant and, with all due respect, it is a rather dangerous move for a business this size to carry perishable goods it won't be able to move for many months. Assuming a standard twenty percent spoilage rate, even factoring in the discount, I'm afraid the numbers don't add up.

Charles can't respond. Cedric is surprised and pleased.

CEDRIC
See? And this woman used to be a Management Consultant.

EXT. PARKING LOT - A LITTLE LATER

Cedric and Liz are about to get in the patrol car.

CEDRIC
I liked what you did in there. My dad can be a little difficult.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIZ
May I make an observation?

Cedric shrugs: "Alright, I guess you earned it."

LIZ (CONT'D)
You were right about the business decision, but you might be missing the bigger picture.

Liz comes around to the front of the car and puts her notebook on the hood. Cedric comes near. Liz diagrams the following:

LIZ (CONT'D)
Okay, we've got your father. (WRITES FATHER). And we've got you. (WRITES CEDRIC). And your father used to be up here. (DRAWS ARROW) And you used to be down here. (DRAWS ARROW) He was a Captain and you were his son. But now... (MORE ARROWS) you're up here and he's down here.

CEDRIC
I think I can follow you without the chart.

LIZ
I like charts. How long has he been working for you?

CEDRIC
About six months. My mom passed about a year ago. He needed something to do. Moved in with us too.

LIZ
Sorry about your mom. (THEN) You should give him a small department to run. Like bird feeders or something. He's probably feeling in your shadow and he's just trying to find some space for himself...

Cedric considers Liz's advice, then:

CEDRIC
Okay, let's get something straight.

He takes her pad and diagrams the following:

CEDRIC (CONT'D)
(DIAGRAMING) I'm your Training Officer. Underline Training Officer. I'm up here. And you're my Trainee. Big arrow all the way down to the bottom of the page.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LIZ
(SMILES) Alright, I get it. Do we
get lunch on this job or what?

CEDRIC
We get lunch when I say we get
lunch. (BEAT) Let's go get lunch.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - SIMULTANEOUS

Dan and Michael walk down the street.

DAN
Do you think that legend about
that Theresa chick is true?

MICHAEL
I don't know. It's a beat I
haven't seen in any cop show or
movie. Although I guess it's sort
of like that thing in "Bull
Durham" with Susan Sarandon.

DAN
Oh, yeah. I liked that movie.
(BEAT) I may take a run at her.

MICHAEL
I thought you were trying to get
back with your ex-wife.

DAN
(FRONTING) I decided it's time for
me to move on. I deserve better.
Like Theresa, you know, unless
you're gonna make a play.

MICHAEL
All yours, my man. Waaaaay too
much woman for me. Kinda scares me
actually. Lot of pain in there.
Oh, she hides it all right. But
behind those soft brown eyes is a
torture chamber of anguish and
regret that she can only take out
in a violent frenzy of sexual
conquest.

DAN
God, I hope so.

They walk for a beat, then Michael looks over and sees
Kyle and Theresa's patrol car approach.

MICHAEL
(TO DAN, RE. THERESA) Dude, it's
like you conjured her.

Kyle and Theresa slow down next to them.

KYLE
You rookies need a ride?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN

Yes! (RELIEVED) Thank God.

Michael and Dan approach the patrol car but Kyle laughs and pulls away. Dan reacts, frustrated. Kyle stops again.

KYLE

Sorry, guys, I was just messing with you. Get in.

Michael and Dan approach again, but Kyle laughs and, this time, speeds off. Dan can't take it anymore. He starts kicking the crap out of a garbage can.

DAN

(KICKS) This... (KICKS) is not...
(KICKS) the way... (KICKS) this
was supposed... (KICKS) to be!

He's kicked the thing ten feet before Michael grabs him.

MICHAEL

Take it easy, partner. (THEN)
What's going on?

DAN

I'm sorry, man. I was lying earlier. I didn't decide to move on, she did. Two nights ago she told me was getting serious with this new guy.

MICHAEL

Oh, man. I'm sorry. Who is he?

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Michael and Dan stand in front of a bus stop ad for "Thunder Down Under," the popular Las Vegas, Aussie themed male strip show.

DAN

(SADLY) He's the lead dancer. How am I gonna compete with that? She's thinking about moving to Vegas.

MICHAEL

Don't worry about it. You're a successful orthodontist and a cop. He's a male stripper. He's cheesy.

DAN

That's what I thought at first. But look at him. He's got eighteen distinct abdominal muscles.

MICHAEL

(BEAT) You counted them?

CUE MUSIC: MEN AT WORK'S "MAN DOWN UNDER."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The movement of a passing bus causes the poster to flutter, making the dancing man appear to gyrate.

INT. KOREAN BBQ RESTAURANT - LATER

Cedric and Liz are at a table with a mini charcoal grill built into it. Cedric tends the grill, moving meat around with chopsticks. MR. JUNG, the owner of the place stands at their table. Cedric hands him his card.

CEDRIC

Alright, Mr. Jung, if anybody suspicious comes in here, give me a call.

MR. JUNG

We're in Los Angeles. Everybody's suspicious.

A quick scan of the oddballs in the restaurant confirms this. Mr. Jung walks away. Cedric turns to Liz.

CEDRIC

This is one of only two Korean BBQ places in the city that still uses real charcoal. It completely changes the character of the food.

Cedric picks up some of the grilled meat with the chopsticks and puts it in a lettuce cup for Liz. She hesitates.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

Trust me. Put a little of that bean paste on there and you'll understand why God made meat and fire.

Liz takes a tentative bite. She lights up.

LIZ

Oh my God. That's amazing.

CEDRIC

What do you want next? We've got beef, pork, and tongue.

LIZ

Maybe I'll save the tongue for another visit.

CEDRIC

(LAUGHS) Too late. That's the first thing I gave you. I knew if I told you it was tongue you wouldn't eat it. Let that be a lesson to you.

Cedric's walkie-talkie lights up.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

(INTO WALKIE) This is Cedric.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KYLE (O.S.)
Hah hah. We got the restaurant
thief.

Cedric is visibly disappointed. So is Liz.

INT. PRECINCT - CONTINUOUS

Kyle and Theresa have a SUSPECT cuffed.

KYLE
(INTO WALKIE) You want to come
down and congratulate me now or do
you just want to be there when I'm
shaking the Mayor's hand?

INT. KOREAN BBQ RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Cedric continues to talk to Kyle on the walkie.

CEDRIC
Where'd you get him?

KYLE (O.S.)
La Parilla.

CEDRIC
On Sunset?

Cedric laughs hard as hell.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)
You got the wrong man. No way our
guy eats substandard Mexican. Our
guy has taste.

INT. PRECINCT - CONTINUOUS

Kyle looks to Theresa. She knows Cedric's right.

SUSPECT
Who cares what the food tastes
like?! They had two thousand bucks
in that register.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Cedric and Liz walk toward the patrol car.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)
(ON RADIO) 235 Robert. Need you to
help Stegman and Ponjetti serve a
warrant on some guys dealing big
screen TVs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CEDRIC
(INTO RADIO) We're on it. (TOSSES
LIZ THE KEYS) Alright, let's see
if you can drive.

SMASH CUT:

INT. PATROL CAR/EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Liz can drive. Cedric is in the passenger seat, scared
shitless, as Liz expertly weaves in and out of traffic.

CEDRIC
Where'd you learn to drive like
this?

LIZ
(AS SHE WEAVES THROUGH TRAFFIC)
I've got two kids. (WEAVE) They
take piano. (WEAVE) They play
soccer. (WEAVE) They play
basketball. (WEAVE) They take
riding lessons. (WEAVE) And that's
just Monday. You want to get
somewhere fast, ask a busy mom.

Cedric considers this: good point.

EXT. HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Dressed in "assault gear," Cedric and Liz follow two
other cops, STEGMAN and PONJETTI, up to the house.

PONJETTI
Saw your trainees hoofing down
National on the way over here.

Cedric chuckles, then notices a wilted Hydrangea.

CEDRIC
(SOTTO, UPSET) Come on, you don't
put a nice Hydrangea like this in
full-sun. It's criminal. (THEN, TO
LIZ) Alright, hang back and follow
my lead.

Stegman and Ponjetti knock on the door. Cedric and Liz
hang back as cover. The SUSPECT at the door gives up
easily. Stegman cuffs him. Cedric, Liz, and Ponjetti rush
into the house, guns drawn.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

They see ANOTHER SUSPECT, both arms up, one hand holding
a remote.

CEDRIC
Drop the remote, Sir.

The suspect does.

INT. HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

The two suspects are cuffed near a huge supply of big screen TVs. Several are out of their boxes.

LIZ
(TO SUSPECT, RE. TVs) This all you got or are you hiding more?

SUSPECT
This is it.

LIZ
(LIKE A MOM TO A MISBEHAVING CHILD) You better be telling the truth, young man, because if I find out you're lying...

Cedric pulls her back from the Suspect as Stegman and Ponjetti inventories the evidence.

CEDRIC
Alright, take it down a notch, "Mom." I got this.

Cedric turns to the Suspect.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)
So, I'm guessing you know a lot about big screen TVs...

SUSPECT
I know everything about them.

CEDRIC
(TO SUSPECT) Alright, now I like the look of the Panasonic but I'm not sure about the picture.

SUSPECT
The Samsungs will give you the same clean look but the picture is far superior.

CEDRIC
Yeah, but I need to be able to mount it.

SUSPECT
Oh, no problem. The 2010's are gonna come with a mounting unit, standard. I got one over there.

The Suspect points to a mounted TV against a wall. Cedric turns to look at it. CLOSE ON: Cedric. He looks like he's just seen the most beautiful woman in the world.

MUSIC CUE: Wilson Picket's "I'm in Love."

Cedric is pulled from his reverie when he hears the loud slam of a side door. Through the window, we see a ANOTHER SUSPECT run across the front lawn. Instantly, Liz bolts out after him. Cedric follows.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Liz is wicked fast and is already on the guys's tail. Finally she uses her baton like a field hockey stick to trip the guy up. She's got the guy pinned to the ground. Cedric gets there and cuffs the guy. Liz gets up. Full of adrenaline, she pumps her fist like she just scored a goal.

CEDRIC
(TO LIZ) You got some wheels.

LIZ
Field Hockey. I was an All-American in college.

CEDRIC
Yeah, I don't doubt it. Those were some highlight reel moves there.

Liz pumps her fist again.

LIZ
Oh my God, that was so exhilarating! See, I told you I would be a good cop.

Suddenly, out of her peripheral vision, Liz sees another man running down the sidewalk. She reacts quickly and trips the man with her baton. He goes flying face first onto the driveway. She cuffs him before she realizes what we've already seen. He's a JOGGER who was out for a run.

CEDRIC
Nice work. There's a high school down the street, maybe we can get you to take down a whole track team.

LIZ
(HEAD IN HANDS) Oh God.

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT FOUR

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Stegman talks down the irate Jogger as Ponjetti loads the suspects into a patrol car. Cedric stands with a distraught Liz.

CEDRIC
This isn't a game, alright?!
You're not out scoring goals. You
have to think before you act.
People's lives are on the line.
Including mine.

Stegman approaches.

STEGMAN
The guy's talking about a
complaint.

LIZ
Oh God.

STEGMAN
You still got those Laker season
tickets?

CEDRIC
(SIGHS) Fine. Offer him tickets.

Stegman goes back to the Jogger.

LIZ
I'm a terrible cop.

CEDRIC
Don't be dramatic. Just learn from
your mistake and don't let it
happen again. It can get really
hairy on this job and you have to
know that your partner has your
back. You hear what I'm saying?

LIZ
Yes.

Stegman calls out to Cedric.

STEGMAN
They floor seats?

Cedric nods, sadly. The Jogger gives him a thumbs up.

LIZ
(TO CEDRIC) Thanks.

INT. PATROL CAR - A LITTLE LATER

Cedric drives. Liz rides shotgun in silence, then:

LIZ
I'm really sorry. I know I got caught up in the excitement of my first bust and I made a bonehead move... It's just I wanted to show myself that I'm still capable of doing something-- something different. I wanted my kids to see that. I wanted them to see me as more than just the person who takes them to school and to soccer and the pediatrician...

Liz gets a thought.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Wait a second...

CEDRIC
What?

LIZ
I think I figured out his pattern. Where's the nearest newsstand?

EXT. NEWSSTAND - MOMENTS LATER

Cedric and Liz approach the newsstand.

LIZ
I can't believe I didn't think of it earlier. Last week, I was waiting for my son at the pediatrician's. Now ordinarily I bring a book because that guy makes you wait forever. But I forgot so I had to thumb through the magazines and I came across this...

Liz shows Cedric an issue of LOS ANGELES MAGAZINE. The cover reads: "LA's 25 Best Ethnic Restaurants." Cedric quickly thumbs through it.

CEDRIC
He's hit five of these places!

LIZ
That's what I thought.

CEDRIC
Alright, well, now we've narrowed it down to twenty, but that's not gonna do us much good unless... Wait, when did he hit Fujimura's?

LIZ
(CHECKS FILE) Wednesday.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CEDRIC

Of course he did. Because that's when Chef Kenji gets the Karuma shrimp in from Futtsu. And I bet he ate at Chichen Itza on Friday.

LIZ

(CHECKS FILE) He did.

CEDRIC

Because that's when they roast the whole fish in the pibil. Now all we have to do is find the restaurant on that list that serves a special on Sunday.

He flips through the pages, then stops on one.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

Gueleguetza. Sunday is the only day they makes the mole mancha manteles.

LIZ

It's almost two-thirty. Can we make it?

CEDRIC

(HEADING FOR THE CAR) Let's go.
(THEN) Good job. And for the record, you were probably right about my dad.

EXT. HOT DOG STAND - MOMENTS LATER

Dan and Michael eat chili dogs. Dan eats his with a knife and fork, without the bun. Michael stares at Dan.

DAN

I'm sorry. I don't eat carbs.

MICHAEL

You ever hear Dennis Franz say he doesn't eat carbs?

DAN

You ever look at Dennis Franz?!

Michael's cell phone rings. He answers it. It's Cedric. Dan can hear Cedric's voice. So can we.

CEDRIC (O.S.)

Last chance. What's your location?

MIKE

(BEAT, THEN QUICKLY) 600 block of National, sir.

INT. PATROL CAR - CONTINUOUS

Cedric smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CEDRIC (O.S.)
 Need you to get to 9620 Sepulveda
 right away. It's a quarter mile.
 Don't do anything until I get
 there. Alright, Hill Street?

EXT. HOT DOG STAND - CONTINUOUS

Dan hi-fives Michael.

MICHAEL
 Yes! I got my nickname!

INT. GUELAGUETZA OAXACAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

A MAN with a baseball cap approaches the register and
 pulls out a gun on the OWNER, a small Mexican woman.

EXT. STREET - SIMULTANEOUS

Dan and Mike run toward the restaurant. Dan stops short.

DAN
 Oww. I think I pulled a hammy.

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS - SIMULTANEOUS

Cedric and Liz's patrol car speeds down the road, lights
 and sirens blaring.

LIZ (O.S.)
 Now's not a good time, Sweetie.

INT. PATROL CAR - CONTINUOUS

Liz is on her cell phone as Cedric drives.

LIZ
 (INTO PHONE) Have your father help
 you with your essay. (TO CEDRIC)
 Watch the truck.

Cedric swerves around a truck pulling out of a parking
 lot.

LIZ (CONT'D)
 (INTO PHONE) Not you, Sweetie.
 (BEAT) Well, you shouldn't have
 left it for the last minute. What
 do I always tell you? (BEAT) No! I
 can't talk to her right now! (BEAT)
 Hi, Kari. (BEAT) No, absolutely
 not. It's a school night.

CEDRIC
 Hey, I could use a partner here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIZ
(TO CEDRIC) Ambulance.

Cedric swerves around an Ambulance barreling through an intersection. It was close.

INT. GUELAGUETZA OAXACAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

The Owner hands over cash to the Man in the baseball cap. A COOK rushes out of the kitchen with a knife. The Man grabs the owner and puts his gun to her head. She screams.

EXT. GUELAGUETZA OAXACAN RESTAURANT - SIMULTANEOUS

Michael and Dan reach the restaurant and hear the scream.

MICHAEL
We have to go in.

DAN
Cedric said to wait.

MICHAEL
We're sheriffs. It's our duty. We are the thin tan line between justice and chaos.

DAN
We haven't been properly trained.

MICHAEL
You want to know why I watch so many cop shows and movies? Because everyday I sit in my cubicle and I turn out designs for products I don't care about. I'm good at it. I get paid well. I have a 401K. It's a good job but I never, ever have the opportunity to be a hero, to see what I'm made of...

Another scream.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
... To save someone. This is our hero moment, man. This is when we face our fears and do what has to be done. This is "High Noon." This is "Rush Hour 2." This is when you get in the papers and rub it right in that Aussie dude's face.

DAN
Alright, let's do this.

CUE MUSIC: "MAN DOWN UNDER." Dan and Michael pull out their guns and, in SLOW MOTION, run toward the door.

INT. GUELAGUETZA OAXACAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Dan and Michael enter guns drawn. The Man still has the Owner by the throat. The Cook yells in Spanish.

MAN

I'll shoot.

The Cook with the knife continues to threaten. Dan stands up tall and with a big voice:

DAN

(TO COOK) Sir, you're not helping!
Back away with the knife.

The Cook doesn't respond. Cedric and Liz enter, guns drawn.

DAN (CONT'D)

(FIRMLY, IN SPANISH) *Senor, pone el cuchillo en el piso. En el piso!*

The Cook puts down the knife.

MICHAEL

(TO DAN) Nice.

DAN

It was, wasn't it?

CEDRIC

(TO DAN) Alright, you did good. I got this now. (SOTTO) Take the kid and cover the back.

Dan and Michael head out to cover the back as Cedric slowly steps forward.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

(WITH AUTHORITY, TO THE MAN WITH THE GUN) Stand down, Sir, and let the woman go. (EVEN MORE EMPHATIC) Stand down, Sir.

The Man doesn't. Cedric moves a little closer.

MAN

Stop right there.

A chicken walks out of the kitchen. Cedric does a quick double take. Then, as if seeing the gun stand off, the chicken turns and goes back to the kitchen where it won't necessarily be safer.

CEDRIC

Listen, Sir. I respect you. Both as a thief and as a man of great culinary taste. But you're caught. Don't make me shoot you.

MAN

I'll waste this broad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CEDRIC

Sir, that's not who you are. You are not the kind of man who would kill.

The Man loosens his grip a little. Cedric uses this opportunity to move a little closer.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

Especially not a woman who can make mole like they serve here. Did you have the Mancha Mantele?

MAN

Yes. It was the best I've ever eaten.

OWNER

(WEAKLY) Thank you.

CEDRIC

Did you try the memelas?

MAN

No.

CEDRIC

Oh, you have to. (TO THE COOK) Grab me an order of the memelas. Maybe with some of that salsa verde.

The Cook quickly hands Cedric an order. Cedric, gun in one hand, wafts the plate as near as he can get to the Man with the gun. The Man takes a whiff.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

What you're smelling is the herb she simmers the beans in. What's that herb, Ma'am?

OWNER

Herba Santa.

CEDRIC

Yeah, that's it. (TO THE MAN) Just take one bite.

The Man leans forward. Cedric gives him a quick and powerful jab to the solar plexis. The Man falls to the ground. Almost instantly, Cedric has the Man's gun and Liz has him cuffed. Cedric takes a bite of the memela.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

Fantastic. (TO THE THIEF) You'll have to try one. Assuming you have no priors, that should be in about ten years. (THEN) Aw, hell, take a bite now.

Cedric gives the Man a bite.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CEDRIC (CONT'D)
Was I right?

MAN
(MOUTH FULL) Fantastic.

EXT. GUELAGUETZA OAXACAN RESTAURANT - LATER

They're wrapping up the crime scene now. The cuffed suspect is in the car and ready to be taken to the station for booking. Other SHERIFFS mill about, including Sergeant Tucker who shakes Cedric's hand. Kyle and Theresa are there too. Cedric looks over to Kyle. Cedric nods-- he's not gonna gloat-- just a little nod that says: "We both know I beat you." Cedric approaches Liz, Dan, and Michael.

CEDRIC
You all did real good in there.
I'm proud of you guys.

Liz, Dan, and Michael bask in this.

MICHAEL
Take it all in, my fellow
warriors. We'll never be this
innocent again.

Cedric turns to Liz.

CEDRIC
That was some real good police
work you did with that magazine.

LIZ
What about you? The daily special
thing... the way you took him down
in there with that solar plexis
move... (IMITATING MOVE) Wham!

CEDRIC
We were good partners today.
That's what it's all about.

Liz takes this in as Captain Okamura approaches.

CAPTAIN OKAMORA
Battiste, we need two of you to
flank the Mayor in the photo-op.
Pick whichever one of these folks
you want to have join you.

MICHAEL
You should choose Dan. His ex-wife
started dating this Aussie asshole
and it'd be awesome if she woke up
to see Dan's picture on the front
page.

CEDRIC
Okay, Dan, you and Liz, join the
mayor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIZ
Me? It should be you.

CEDRIC
I think it'd be good for your kids
to see their mom in the paper.

Liz is touched. Captain Okamura pulls Liz and Dan off to be photographed.

Michael feels a slap on his butt. He turns around. It's Theresa. He staggers back.

THERESA
Good work out there.

MICHAEL
Me? You should have seen Dan. When
it was getting hairy in there, he
just stepped up, whipped out the
Spanish, and handled the
situation.

THERESA
You're cute.

She winks at him and walks off. Michael looks terrified.

Off-screen, a CAMERA FLASHES. Cedric watches Liz and Dan with pride.

INT. BATTISTE GARDEN CENTER & NURSERY - MORNING

It's Monday morning. Cedric enters to find Charles already sitting near the register, drinking coffee and reading the paper. Without saying anything, Charles pours Cedric a cup and hands him the Sports section.

CEDRIC
Listen, Dad, I want to take you to
lunch later. I've got some things
I want do around here and I
thought I should run them by you
first.

CHARLES
Makes sense to me.

A beat, then Charles opens the front section to page three and shows Cedric. The headline reads: "Reserves Nab 'Bon Appetit Bandit'." Below is a picture of Dan and Liz with the Mayor.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
When are you gonna get in the
paper?

END OF ACT FOUR

END OF SHOW