

WHO'S YOUR DADDY

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. ABOVE THE CLOUDS - DAY

blue
We fly high above heavenly clouds. Beneath a brilliant
sky. A TEENAGED BOY'S VOICE greets us...

TED NELSON (V.O.)

On any given day, your life can
change in the blink of an eye.
It's a cliché, I know...

moment in
above a
Ohio.
Descending through the clouds, we are caught for a
a dreamy gauze. We emerge to find ourselves gliding
small town. Descending lower. And lower. To Xenia,

TED (V.O.)

...But a lot of clichés get to be
clichés because they're true. Your
life CAN change in the blink of an
eye. What I mean is, one day
you're a regular chump, a wannabe
something. You're not even totally
sure WHAT you wannabe...

middle
Son
You
We pass over the town square. A fine spring day in
America. Red brick buildings with names like "Miller &
Drugs," "Two Sisters Gifts," "Nelson Family Market."
can almost smell the rosy cheeks and moral fiber.

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

...The next day the doorbell rings
and some stranger's holding your
ticket to being SOMEBODY.

on a Still flying over the town, we focus on a TEENAGED BOY
Schwinn. We follow as he pedals his way to...

TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL

Meticulously A three story building. Older, brick, sturdy.
maintained.

TED (V.O.)

It happens every day. Dreams come true. And not just for those dim witted chain-smoking hillbillies you see on TV. You know, the ones who win the Super Lotto and spend their fortune on a truck full of Goobers and a new set of front teeth. It could happen to any guy, any time...even ME.

EXT. TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

as the A JANITOR raises the American flag. It flaps proudly
teenager chains his bike to a bike rack.
uber-hip He glances up at the flag, which is reflected in his
to sunglasses. When he smiles, in SLOW MO, his teeth seem
sparkle.

TED (V.O.)

Uh, that's not me. I'm over here.

Meet our We SWISH PAN to another teenager, locking his bike.
looking much less glamorous hero: TED NELSON, 17. A decent
be kid. Not hip enough to be cool. Not square enough to
school. tormented. He joins the other KIDS heading into the

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

You're disappointed, I know. I admit, I was hopeless back then. The 'do, the shades, ugh. But I always had good taste in women.

INT. TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

all the
MO.
Wow,

CHRISTY MALONE, 17, fills her cheerleader uniform in
right places. We watch her at her locker. Also in SLOW
Which makes even her most mundane task seem graceful.
just look at her stack those books.

TED (V.O.)

That's Christy Malone. Head
cheerleader, love of my life, lust
of my loins.

Another
called

Christy glances off screen and SQUEALS excitedly.
cheerleader enters the frame, holding a newspaper
"EXPOSED!" Christy reads the headline.

CHRISTY

"Health Teacher Flunks Her Own
Lesson!" No WAY! It's Miss Pratt,
smoking a doobie!

Christy calls to Ted....

CHRISTY (CONT'D)

Look at this, Ted! Imagine if we
did THIS in the school paper!

this
by...

She shows him "Exposed!" Ted gawks. Happy just to be
close to Christy. But they are quickly interrupted

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (O.S.)

Hand them over! Immediately!

hallway,
can see
she

PRINCIPAL RICHARD MERKIN, mid-50's, marches down the
seizing copies of "EXPOSED!" from students' hands. We
that it is a "homemade" looking newspaper. And there's
obviously much ado about it. Christy winks at Ted as
hides the newspaper in her locker.

FREEZE FRAME ON Christy, WINKING.

TED (V.O.)

Look at that smile. That wink.
That's no platonic wink. That's a

wink that says, "I don't just want you, Ted. I NEED you." So of course I had to ask her to the prom. I mean, she was practically begging for it.

INT. TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - NEWSROOM - DAY

She Ted ambles toward Christy. Struggling for nonchalance.
She limbers up by stretching her leg high against the wall.
Christy whispers to another CHEERLEADER. They giggle. Then
Christy turns to Ted. Flashing that perfect smile of hers.

CHRISTY

Just the guy I've been looking for.

Ted wipes his sweaty palms on his jeans...

TED

I've been looking for you, too.

her Christy continues stretching. Driving Ted crazy with
contortionist moves.

CHRISTY

Wouldn't it be awesome if we were about to say the exact same thing?

TED

(sotto)
From your lips, to God's ears.

CHRISTY

You go first.

TED

Ladies first. I insist.

CHRISTY

Well. The prom's coming up.

TED

Yeah?

CHRISTY

And I was wondering.

TED

Yeah?

CHRISTY

If you don't have...I mean...

blurts... She looks up at him with gorgeous blue eyes. Then

CHRISTY (CONT'D)

Teddy? Would you please please please take me to the prom?

TED

SHUT UP! Are you serious? Of course I will...of course.

legs Christy joyously jumps into Ted's arms. Wrapping her around him in a passionate embrace. The entire room **APPLAUDS.**

CHRISTY

You are the most wonderful guy in the whole wide world, and I love you madly, Teddy Nelson!

lips... And just as she's about to plant one right on his

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TED'S OFFICE - NEWSROOM - DAY

out of EDITOR-IN window of The shrill ringing of a TORNADO DRILL ALARM snaps Ted his reverie. A large glass window separates Ted's CHIEF office from the rest of the school newsroom. We realize now that Ted has only been gazing through the at Christy, watching her stretch those gorgeous limbs hers.

TED (V.O.)

Sorry about that. A cheap trick, I know. But it's my story and my fantasy. So cut me some slack.

He follows the other students to...

INT. CORRIDOR - TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

the
drill.
his

Ted joins his schoolmates, lining up on both sides of hallway. Far from any windows. They all know the Christy's just across the hall from Ted. He can't take eyes off of her.

around
balance

CHARLIE DUKE, 17, approaches Ted. He's got a camera his neck and so much confidence, it's a wonder he can his head on his shoulders.

CHARLIE

Come on, bro. Spare yourself the humiliation, the degradation...

TED

You and your pep talks.

CHARLIE

Don't get me wrong. We can salivate over all the Christy Malones of our lives. Wishing we could devour them like melt-in-your-mouth filet mignon. But we're strictly hamburger guys. Ground chuck, sixty eight percent lean, is about the best we can hope for.

FREEZE FRAME ON CHARLIE.

TED (V.O.)

That's Charlie. My best friend. He's into beef analogies, partly because he's a butcher's son, and partly because, well, he's just into beef analogies. What can I say? He's also a photographer...

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

with

Charlie kneels by the sidelines. Shooting cheerleaders his Nikon and an obscenely long lens.

TED (V.O.)

...a very gifted photographer.

THROUGH CHARLIE'S LENS:

a
little red
until...

A cheerleader's ripe buttocks, peeking out from beneath short pleated skirt. As she kicks and jumps, her panties wedge themselves firmly between her cheeks. The camera skillfully tracks her movements, waiting

finger
it

The cheerleader's hand comes down. In SLOW MO, her slips under her panties and tugs on the fabric, pulling over her cheeks. Charlie's motor drive whirls.

RAPID STILL SHOTS OF THE CHEERLEADER'S BOTTOM

TED (V.O.)

The senior class voted him, "Most Likely To Have A Restraining Order Filed Against Him." But that's another story.

BACK TO CORRIDOR

Ted and Charlie lean against the wall.

TED

I genuinely think she wants me. I feel a vibe.

CHARLIE

That vibe is from your wrist, pal. You've been over-tenderizing your meat, again.

Christy catches Ted's eye and smiles a perfect smile.

TED

See? Did you see that?

CHARLIE

She smiles at everyone, Ted. She's like a newborn with gas.

A
Points to

Charlie secretly shows Ted a nudie magazine. "HEAVEN."
GORGEOUS WOMAN with perfect breasts graces the cover. A golden halo over her head. Charlie flips it open.
a picture.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

The only chick more untouchable than Christy Malone is Miss April.

(feminine voice)

"Hi, my name's Ginger. I love tofu burgers, rainy nights, and riding bareback. My biggest turn-off is cell phones during sex." Here's a tip: set it on VIBRATE, honey, and don't be stingy with the lube.

(winking at Ted)

Don't knock it till you tried it.

TED

Were you always this sick?

CHARLIE

One thing for sure, Christy Malone ain't lookin THAT good naked.

Ted takes a peek at Ginger. Then at Christy.

TED

Someday, I'll find out.

CHARLIE

You have a better chance of being hit by a Mack truck with a refrigerated cargo bed full of sirloin tip.

Ted grabs the magazine and flips through more pages. Beautiful, naked women. Palm trees. Blue skies.

Bubbling
made of.

Jacuzzis. Red Ferraris. The stuff that fantasies are

Ted looks determined...

TED

I defy your hamburger theory of life, and all of the unfulfilled hopes and dreams it represents.

CHARLIE

That's crazy talk.

TED

I defy any and all limits.

Charlie can see the look in Ted's eyes. He's about to

do

something bold and daring. Something he'll regret.

CHARLIE

Don't do it, Ted. Don't do it.

TED

(walking away; defiantly)
Any time, any day, a man can
completely reinvent himself.

Charlie... Ted starts to walk across the corridor, ignoring

CHARLIE

I'm warning you. This is an
official warning. Danger, Will
Robinson, danger.

watches A quietly attractive teenaged girl, JULIE CONROY,
Ted. She seems concerned, too.

TED (V.O.)

There's one more person you should
meet. Someone integral to my story.

FREEZE FRAME ON JULIE.

TED (V.O.)

That's Julie Conroy. Unlike the
rest of these losers, she didn't
grow up in Xenia, Ohio. I just met
her that day. But already, she had
made a difference in my life.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE - TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Teachers mill around. Chatting. Snacking on donuts,
coffee.

"EXPOSED!" PRINCIPAL MERKIN bursts in, spilling a stack of
onto a table. Everyone freezes.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Oh, Miss Pratt, Miss Pratt! What
were you thinking? How could you
be so careless?

(reading)

"Exposing Hypocrisy in the Morons
who Teach Us." That's the little
bastard's motto!

the
The teachers turn to MISS PRATT. We recognize her from
cover of "EXPOSED!"

MISS PRATT

(summoning courage)
Principal Merkin, I realize we have
to teach the children that
recreational drugs are the devil's
work, but that doesn't mean we
don't dance with the Prince of
Darkness ourselves, every now and
again.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Ah, well, bravo! That's just what
we'll tell the school board.

turns to
Suddenly, an AIR VENT pops open and CRASHES on top of a
coffee machine. THE WHOLE ROOM, IN SHOCKED SILENCE,
look at...

digital
JULIE, her head framed by the air duct. She holds a
camera in her hand. Her expression says: "Oh, shit."
Principal Merkin narrows his eyes at the "little
bastard" who
has been making his life hell.

INT. TED'S OFFICE - NEWSROOM - DAY

Ted
Julie sits in a chair in front of Ted's desk. She and
size up one another.

TED (V.O.)

Merk's punishment was cruel.
Expulsion without appeal. Or
working for me on the school paper.
The school paper would be torture
for a gonzo reporter like Julie and
we both knew it. But what choice
did she have?

files,
Julie leans back on the chair, rests her feet on Ted's
and blows a huge bubble.

JULIE

So, William Randolph. Your last big

scoop contrasted the popularity of Rice Crispie Treats and chocolate Snickerdoodles at the annual bake sale.

TED

That's just one example. My reporting has made a difference.

JULIE

Let me guess: retail sales of little chocolate sprinkles have gone through the roof!

TED

The school dumpsters used to overflow to the point where the stench was unbearable. My award winning exposé changed all that. The city added an extra weekday trash pick-up.

Julie deadpans...

JULIE

Is it true? Is ignorance bliss?

TED

Look, I loved "Exposed!" and I hate it that you got busted. I know the school paper sucks in comparison, but it's really not THAT BAD.

Ted's eyes wander to Christy, who prances around the newsroom. Julie notices.

JULIE

Don't even tell me you're hot for Miss Titty Pom Poms over there.

TED

Christy's a very talented journalist. I see a Pulitzer in her future.

JULIE

I didn't know they gave them for Best Lip Gloss Retention During a Blow Job.

TED

Me-ow.

JULIE

Go ahead. Ask her to the prom. Get it over with.

TED

I have absolutely no intention--

JULIE

--Do it. I triple-dog-dare you.

BACK TO CORRIDOR

elbow Ted nears Christy. Students stare as he passes. They one another. Whispering.

TED (V.O.)

So you see, this is really about a triple-dog-dare. I don't even know what it means. I just know, unless it's a felony, a triple-dog-dare pretty much has to be met with immediate action.

cacophony Ted seems unaware that all eyes are upon him. The of the corridor settles. He gets down on one knee in front of Christy.

freezes Christy looks down on Ted. Smiles that smile. Which at them as her eyes dart. Realizing that everyone is staring with great anticipation.

TED (CONT'D)

Uh, Christy, I was wondering...

ALL STUDENTS

WOULD YOU GO TO THE PROM WITH ME?!!!

The corridor explodes with LAUGHTER. Ted flushes with embarrassment. Christy looks mortified.

CHRISTY

(through gritted teeth)
Ted, have you lost your mind?

TED

You like me. I like you. I guess it's pretty obvious to everyone.

CHRISTY

I don't LIKE you. We're JUST **FRIENDS.**

TED

But that smile.

CHRISTY

Oh, Ted, DUH. I smile at everyone since I got my braces off.

TED

So you'll think about it?

Christy laughs derisively.

CHRISTY

You really don't get it, do you? I am genetically programmed to desire a big, buff, manly man who can defend and provide for me and my yet to be conceived offspring! It's, like, a caveman thing!

TED

So that's a maybe?

CHRISTY

The answer is NEVER, Ted, NEVER. Except maybe in your dreams.

Unless you
LAUGHING

Christy flees. Leaving Ted kneeling there. Alone.

count the hoards of STUDENTS who are watching and

HYSTERICALLY.

TED

In my dreams. Of course.

(repeating; chanting)

This is a dream. This is only a dream.

Julie approaches. Gives him a hand. Helps him up.

JULIE

No, Ted. This is an actual emergency.

INT. TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - MEN'S ROOM - DAY

Ted pukes in the sink.

JULIE

I tried to warn you, William Randolph. She's got stiletto heels hidden in those Keds.

TED

But you triple-dog-dared me.

JULIE

It was for your own good, in a twisted sort of publicly humiliating way.

CHARLIE

One word, my friend. One word.
MEATLOAF.

Ted lifts his head. Looks in the mirror. Distraught.

TED

There's gotta be more to life than meatloaf.

INT. THE NELSON KITCHEN - EVENING

nonetheless.

JIMMY. A

Not a hair above middle class. Home sweet home
Dinner in progress. MOM, DAD, Ted, younger brother,
mutt named CORKY curled under the table. A storm brews.
Lightning in the distance. Thunder RUMBLES.

She
plate

Ted's Mom observes her son with unmistakable Mom-radar.
slides a slab of - rotten timing! - MEAT LOAF onto his
with an unpleasant thud. Ted shudders...

TED

If I never eat another bite of meat loaf again, it'll be too soon.

Ted's Mom frowns. Jimmy explains matter-of-factly.

JIMMY

Mom, Dad. Meatloaf has come to represent all that Ted hates about his mediocre life and the world we

live in. He's what you'd call clinically bummed.

TED

Why can't we have pot roast or stroganoff or even a little London broil? I mean, for god's sake, we own a grocery store!

His Dad

Ted's parents look at one another, shake their heads. gently explains...

DAD

We heard about Christy, son.

Jimmy tries to stifle a grin.

TED

What is this? Does everybody know everything I'm about to say or do every freakin' minute of the day?

MOM

No cursing in this house, young man. Use the strong vocabulary God gave you.

TED

I don't have a shred of privacy in this whole stupid town!

DAD

We understand your disappointment, Teddy. Christy is a pretty, sexy, provocative, voluptuous...

(catches himself)

We...uh...we understand your disappointment.

TED

It's my private business! Mine!

MOM

Can the tantrum, sweet pea. We're the good guys, remember?

JIMMY

Mom, Dad. Don't allow this disturbing behavior to furrow your collective brow. Ted's just experiencing some post-adolescent

turmoil, coming to terms with the whole "small town dynamic."

TED

I hate Xenia! I hate my life!

Ted charges for the front door...

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

And until that moment, this was the worst day of my seventeen and a half years. And then it happened. Three, two, one...

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - EVENING

ZUKERMAN, a Ted bursts outside and plows straight into MARTY short, rotund man in his mid-50s.

TED

Whoa! Sorry, mister.

Zukerman's briefcase and papers are knocked to the ground.

Ted helps to retrieve them.

ZUKERMAN

In a hurry, are we?

TED

I was in the middle of a melodramatic exit. It wouldn't really make a statement if I tiptoed out the door...What are you selling?

ZUKERMAN

Bad news.

TED

People pay good money for that?

ZUKERMAN

I'm just a messenger.

news Ted starts to back away. Instinctively knowing the bad news must be for him.

TED

Oh no. No way. I've had all the bad

news I can take for one day.

ZUKERMAN

It's about your parents.

Ted stops. Puzzled.

TED

My parents? What do you mean?

ZUKERMAN

I'm terrible at this. I blurt. I'm
a blurter. Your parents...They
...well...they exist no further.

(off Ted's confusion)

Skinny-dipping. The Amazon.
Piranhas. It wasn't pretty.

TED

You've got the wrong guy. The
closest my parents have been to the
Amazon is the Brazilian pavilion at
Epcot.

ZUKERMAN

Well kid, I'm speaking of...your
biological parents.

INT. NELSON LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

pours
family
Ted sits on the couch, bewildered. Dad beside him. Mom
coffee in her best china. Zukerman regards a wall of
photos as he takes a sip.

ZUKERMAN

The will reading is next Tuesday.
Naturally all of Ted's expenses
will be taken care of.

Ted's parents look worried. Mom reminds Dad...

MOM

We have a truckload of strawberries
arriving on Tuesday morning.

DAD

(explaining to Zukerman)
We own a small family grocery
store.

ZUKERMAN

How quaint.

TED

(quietly; moping)
It's spring break. I don't want to
go to a will reading.

MOM

That's part of growing up, honey.

TED

What? Having spring break ruined by
will readings?

DAD

You know what your mother means.

ZUKERMAN

All right, I can give you two
tickets, prepaid, but you must be
there. There's no other way.

JIMMY

Mom, Dad. Allow me to accompany
Ted. I can assure you, I'll be the
level-headed sidekick to your angst
ridden teen.

DAD

I think Ted should take someone
older, more responsible.

MOM

What about Charlie? You boys could
make it a little adventure.

TED

Charlie, at a will reading? What
did I do to deserve this?

Lightning strikes again. Thunder rumbles a second
later.

The lights flicker. And it's PITCH BLACK.

INT. TED'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Candles light the dark room. Rain pours hard outside.
Journalism mementos all over Ted's walls. News
clippings.

Magazine covers. There's even a faux Pulitzer, a
Christmas

gift from his parents.

Ted's Dad sits on the edge of his bed.

DAD

I remember spring break of my senior year. Seems like a lifetime ago.

TED

Dad, please.

DAD

Grandpa was so strong back then. Working from the crack of dawn. So proud of his peaches.

TED

Remember how you struggled through that whole facts of life talk and then found out I knew more than you?

DAD

You're way ahead of me again?

TED

(proving it...)

It was the year of the rhizopus rot. Grandpa almost lost the farm. You sacrificed your dream to go to the prize hog festival. And in the end you saved the peaches and you didn't have to slaughter your sow.

DAD

The lesson being?

TED

Sometimes you have to do stuff you don't want to do. It's all part of growing up. And it usually works out peachy in the end.

DAD

I'm getting so good at this.

Dad chuckles, but Ted's still moping.

TED

You guys are my parents.

DAD

Of course we are.

TED

They didn't want me when I was born. Why should I care...

...if they're dead.

DAD

Son.

TED

Well, why should I?

DAD

They had a rough life. Your father was a bouncer. Your mother was, well, a two-bit stripper. There was no place for a baby.

TED

I guess.

DAD

They did do one great thing. They gave us our boy.

TED

Yeah.

DAD

Be a sport. How bad could spring break in Los Angeles be?

TED

I guess we could go to Disneyland or something.

DAD

Think of it as a rite of passage to manhood.

TED

Like one of those "National Geographic" specials with the topless chicks?

DAD

Whatever helps you cope.

TED

I guess it's better than having tribal patterns carved in my face.

DAD

There ya go. Always remember, focus on the peach...

TED

...not the pit.

Ted's Dad hugs him briefly, laughing...

DAD

Always one step ahead of your dear old dad.

EXT. LAX - DAY

A 747 lands screaming on the runway.

INT. LAX - DAY

through
Ted and Charlie exit the plane. They walk tentatively
the sleeve towards the entry gate.

CHARLIE

I wonder if this is what it feels like to be born?

Ted gives him a look.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Think about it...Long tunnel, bright lights, it's full of vaginal symbolism.

TED

Poor Freud, turning in his grave.

CHARLIE

Seriously, it's like we're being reborn. We really could reinvent ourselves here, just like you said. Nobody knows about your massive humiliation.

TED

Nobody knows about your mental retardation.

CHARLIE

Nobody knows you barfed during
junior high school graduation.

TED

Nobody knows about your constant
masturbation.

CHARLIE

And nobody knows you're a virgin!
(after a beat)
Aw, who are we kidding...

Charlie's words echo loudly through the sleeve...

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

...EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU'RE A VIRGIN!

People stare at Ted as they pass.

TED

I think I'll reinvent a new best
friend.

INT. LAX - TERMINAL - DAY

wait
names. One
A
And

Ted and Charlie enter the terminal. Friends and family
for loved ones. A few chauffeurs hold signs with
stands out. Tall. Blonde. Gorgeous. In a short skirt.
matching low cut jacket. And a cap. She's stunning.
she's holding a sign that reads: TED NELSON.

CHARLIE

What are the odds of there being
ANOTHER Ted Nelson on our flight?

TED

Astronomical.

They grin at one another. Then approach the Chauffeur.

TED (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Ted Nelson.

cheek,
With a sad look, the Chauffeur hugs him, kissing one
then the other.

CHAUFFEUR

I'm so terribly sorry for your loss. Your father was a great man.

Ted's stunned. Charlie leans in and whispers.

CHARLIE

Who the hell was your father?

TED

Well, Dad said...

INT. STRETCH LIMO - DAY

interior.
gadgets.
Ted and Charlie sit on opposites ends of the plush
Charlie eyes the control console with its slew of
They practically have to shout to hear one another.

CHARLIE

...A bouncer? Are you serious?

TED

Maybe he got promoted.

Charlie continues playing with the console switches.

TED (CONT'D)

Don't. Touch. Anything.

Too late. Rock music pulsates through the limo.

CHARLIE

(shouting)

This is the life, baby. We get ourselves some tail and we're talking SPRING BREAK!

TED

Cut it out, before you break something!

CHARLIE

For a guy about to try his first Dom Perignon, you are extremely uptight.

bottle
He flips another switch. The bar opens. Revealing a
of Dom Perignon on ice. Charlie grins broadly.

TED

We can't afford that!

Charlie grabs the bottle and starts to open it.

CHARLIE

Don't you know anything about limo etiquette? Everything in here is included for our pleasure.

TED

Wait a second, I thought we were hamburger guys.

CHARLIE

And like every hamburger guy knows, when you get your one big chance at the good life, you abuse every second of it until they figure out you don't belong there and kick your sorry ass out.

POP! The cork flies through the air. Bounces off the ceiling. And hits another switch. The sun roof glides open.
Charlie's Champagne overflows from the bottle. All over crotch.

TED

Nice. Is that in the limo etiquette handbook, too?

Charlie grabs a bar towel as Ted looks toward the sun roof.
With an Beautifully blue Southern California sky greets him.
occasional palm tree swooshing by. Ted rises.

EXT. LIMO - DAY - MOVING

Unsure. He Ted's head peeks out of the sun roof. Tentatively.
Boulevard. takes in the sights as the limo cruises Sunset
waves. He People stare at him. A beautiful BLONDE smiles and waves back, very timidly.
Wind in Charlie sticks his head out, too. Sun on their faces.
their hair.

CHARLIE

This is how the other half lives,
bro. Enjoy it while you can.

EXT. ENTRY GATE - DAY

only be
door
Clad
bikinis. Sad

The limo passes through the ornate gate of what could
a sprawling mansion. It comes to a sudden halt. The
swings open to reveal a group of BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMEN.
in very short black dresses and even some black
expressions on their faces.

EXT. LIMO - DAY

The MOURNERS embrace Ted.

BEAUTIFUL MOURNER #1

Welcome, Mr. Nelson. You are so
very very welcome here.

BEAUTIFUL MOURNER #2

We feel your pain, so deeply.

CHARLIE

(to Ted)

Something tells me we're not in
Xenia anymore, Toto.

EXT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - DAY

mansion.
him

The beautiful young women guide Ted towards the
Charlie follows. A particularly VOLUPTUOUS BEAUTY eyes
curiously.

CHARLIE

I'm Charles. The handsome, devoted
best friend. We're so close, we
feel each other's pain.

He

The voluptuous beauty notices Charlie's soaked crotch.
winks...

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

See what you do to me, baby.

Just then, the spry HELEN McDOLE, 60s, emerges from the mansion. She approaches Ted and hugs him.

HELEN

Oh my, he would have been so proud.
You're the spitting image of him.

CHARLIE

He never spits, ma'am. Ever. He
can't even get a good hocker going.
I've tried to teach him. It comes
from the diaphragm.

TED

(sharply; to Charlie)
You're on the next plane home.

HELEN

(emotional embrace)
I'm Helen McDole. Your father's
executive secretary.

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Helen
head
rises.

Ted takes a seat at the spacious conference table.
sits on his right. Charlie sits on his left.
Zukerman and two other IMPATIENT ATTORNEYS wait at the
of the table. Finally Zukerman checks his watch and

ZUKERMAN

We're running out of time. The
kid's here. We don't need HIM.

HELEN

Perhaps we could be patient for
just a moment or two longer?

slowly.

They all watch a WALL CLOCK. Seconds pass, slowly,
Then suddenly Zukerman rises.

ZUKERMAN

What did the doctor say to the
nurse as they watched something
black and white and red in a
blender?

(a wry smile)
No more patients.

Very dramatically, Zukerman slides a copy of "Heaven" magazine down the conference table. Right to Ted.

ZUKERMAN (CONT'D)

Are you familiar with "Heaven?"

TED

I'm seventeen. I know it like the back of my hand.

ZUKERMAN

Your fathered owned the entire "Heaven" empire. You own it now. Any questions?

Ted's stunned, speechless. Charlie gawks.

CHARLIE

Everything? The publishing division, the real estate holdings, the retail outlets, the theme parks?

ZUKERMAN

As far as the eye can see.

open
the
very
Zukerman presses a remote control. A wall panel slides to reveal a large monitor which springs to life. On screen is a striking couple. Ted'S BIOLOGICAL PARENTS. HEATHER and TOM DEEDS. Heather, stunningly sexy and overflowing from her gold sequined halter top. Tom, handsome in a Vegas showman sort of way.

HEATHER

Oh, sweetheart! We wish we could be right there to hug the living daylights out of you!

TOM

But if you're watching this, then it means we bit the dust.

HEATHER

But don't worry...we'll be in heaven. The REAL heaven, I mean. Not that heaven is an actual place,

but more like a state of being. Or not being. Who knows. Maybe we know now.

TOM

If you're anything like yours truly, then you probably figure we didn't want you when you were born, so who cares if we're dead? Am I right?

Ted looks guilty. This is too weird.

HEATHER

But we did want you. It's just that you don't always get to keep what you want. We knew you needed a real mom and dad.

TOM

We had no idea the nudie magazine we started in the garage would turn into all this.

the
exactly

Heather holds up the first issue of "Heaven." She's on cover, wearing nothing but a halo. She looks almost the same today, with a few extra nips and tucks.

HEATHER

Can you believe that was me?

TOM

Before we knew it, we created the most popular men's magazine in the entire nation. The rest is history.

HEATHER

So here we are. Dead. But we never want you to want for anything. That is, we want you to have everything.

TOM

Everything.

Her

Heather leans forward and blows a kiss into the camera. strongest assets spilling forward.

HEATHER

We love you, Ted. We always did. We

always will.

Charlie's practically slobbering. He elbows Ted.

CHARLIE

I can't believe that's your mother.
We're talking babe-a-licious chub
fest, right here in the 501's.

TED

Perv.

(UNCLE
unconventional
BILLY) sails into the room. Handsome in an
way, he exudes passion and eccentricity.

UNCLE BILLY

I'm so terribly sorry. Am I too
late?

ZUKERMAN

Ah, Mr. Deeds. You're just in time
to congratulate your nephew. He
inherited the empire.

UNCLE BILLY

(a broad smile)
Every morsel of it?

ZUKERMAN

It would appear so.

Uncle Billy hugs Ted with great enthusiasm.

UNCLE BILLY

Smashing! Welcome to the family,
Ted. You are going to breathe some
new life into this place. You are
going to set the world on fire! You
are going to...call me Uncle Billy?
Please?

TED

(awkwardly)
Uh, sure. Uncle Billy.

UNCLE BILLY

I have only one concern...

Ted waits. Swept up by Uncle Billy's spirit.

UNCLE BILLY (CONT'D)

You do like girls, don't you?

TED

Of course I like girls.

UNCLE BILLY

A lot? I mean, a whole lot?

TED

As much as possible.

UNCLE BILLY

You're sure?

CHARLIE

(to the rescue)

He likes them with the unbridled enthusiasm of a seventeen-year-old virgin who's been making mental beef jerky since he saw the bevy of tender young skirt steaks at his new hacienda.

Uncle Billy grins broadly.

UNCLE BILLY

That's my boy!

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Uncle Billy leads Ted and Charlie through the cavernous room. Sexy, semi-clad oil paintings of Ted's biological mother adorn the walls.

UNCLE BILLY

The parties are held in here when the weather dips below seventy. Which is seldom.

TED

Seldom? No kidding?

CHARLIE

You said parties but you meant ORGIES, right?

(to Ted; quietly)

Stick with me. I know their codes.

Uncle Billy winks at Ted.

UNCLE BILLY

The orgies, exactly. Take a deep breath. You can smell it. Pure sexuality, oozing from the walls.

a
Charlie takes a deep breath. Uncle Billy and Ted share
conspiratorial smirk.

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - GAME ROOM - DAY

from
shakes
The epitome of every boy's dream arcade. Everything
classic pinball machines to the most high tech virtual
reality game that has yet to hit the market. Charlie
his head in amazement.

CHARLIE

Naked girls, wild sex, video games.
No wonder it's called "Heaven."

UNCLE BILLY

This is a fun place...but we don't
usually come here until after the
orgies.

TED

(playing along)
Ah, in other words, this is the
apres-orgy salon?

UNCLE BILLY

Indeed it is. During the day,
visitors prefer to be outside, au
naturel. As it were.

Charlie continues to gawk. Ted's equally impressed but
holding it together.

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - SWIMMING ROOM - DAY

which is
through a
Uncle Billy leads Ted and Charlie by the indoor pool
decorated like a tropical pond, complete with exotic
vegetation, lava rocks, and a waterfall. They pass
cave-like entrance and find themselves...

EXT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - SWIMMING POOL - DAY

BEAUTIFUL

might

lotion

...coming out by another spectacular waterfall. Which separates the indoor and outdoor pools. Numerous

WOMEN swim, chat, play water polo. Some topless, some as well be. The boys watch in awe as one woman rubs on another woman's back.

UNCLE BILLY

Hello, girls! Have you met Ted?

leans

The women wave, ad-libbing warm greetings. Charlie towards Ted, confiding...

CHARLIE

This is like my every wet dream come true. I don't even care that you're here, too, bro.

TED

Be cool. Fake it if you have to.

UNCLE BILLY

Good advice, Ted. You have your father's instincts.

met

"His father." The words sound so strange. He never even the guy.

UNCLE BILLY (CONT'D)

Just remember, you're not the man you were a day ago. And these girls, let's just say they'd be eager to please you.

Ted gulps. It's hard to believe this is real.

CHARLIE

I wonder how many of them will be at the orgy tonight?

TED

This isn't some 80's porno film, you dip shit. There are no wild sex orgies.

CHARLIE

Oh. Well. Maybe not yet.

TED

Not ever. Never.

UNCLE BILLY

Never say never.

CHARLIE

Oh, god. Look. Look.

lotion

Ted looks. A beautiful woman sensuously rubs tanning
over her OWN breasts. The boys stare, riveted.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I really love your peaches, wanna
shake your tree.

Uncle Billy grins.

UNCLE BILLY

Maybe she needs help, Ted. You
should be a gentleman.

TED

(voice cracking)

I...uh...I think she's doing fine
on her own.

CHARLIE

(having a moment)

Oh baby, yes, yes, yes. Fuck me
like you mean it.

Ted elbows Charlie out of his fantasy.

TED

You kiss your mother with that
mouth?

CHARLIE

I'd kiss your mother with this
mouth. I mean, if she wasn't, you
know...

He means dead.

TED

So far away? In Xenia?

CHARLIE

Yeah, whatever.

INT. THE NELSON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mom waits nervously for the phone to ring.

MOM

Teddy? Is that you?

Dad hurries out of the bathroom, hiking up his pajamas.

Mom

speaks loudly, as if Ted's in Siberia.

MOM (CONT'D)

How are you, baby? Are you all right?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TED'S BEDROOM - "HEAVEN" MANSION - NIGHT

over a

A palatial suite. Very Louis XIV. Ted throws a sheet
nude sculpture of his biological mother. While holding

a

cordless phone in the crook of his neck.

TED

I'm all right, Mom. I'm not in Siberia, you know.

MOM

Did you have a nice flight? Are they taking good care of you?

TED

Yeah, I'm doing fine. I have so much to tell you. I don't even know where to begin.

MOM

Save it, honey. We want to hear every detail when you get back, but we don't want you to run up Mr. Zukerman's phone bill.

TED

It's okay, Mom. Trust me.

Mom hands Dad the phone.

DAD

Ted, it's your dad. I have a

question for you. I don't know how to put it tactfully. You know I'm lousy with words.

TED

Just say it, Dad.

DAD

I know they were simple people, but did this trip help your college fund at all?

TED

Dad, let's just say I can buy anything I want in the whole bookstore. Including the bookstore.

DAD

(not getting it)

Well, good. Every little bit helps.

Suddenly, Charlie bursts into the room with a pair of binoculars.

CHARLIE

Check this out. Hurry!

TED

I better go, Dad.

DAD

We'll see you soon. Have fun in...
(trying to be hip)
...the land of fruits and nuts.

INT. TED'S BEDROOM - "HEAVEN" MANSION - NIGHT

Charlie flips off the light switch and whispers...

CHARLIE

Hurry.

TED

(to Charlie)

What is it now?

CHARLIE

Check it out!

toward
Charlie shoves the binoculars at Ted and guides him
the window which overlooks the outdoor pool.

TED

Don't tell me. Another vision of
incomparable beauty?

CHARLIE

Beauty? No. We're talking GODDESS.

TED'S POV THROUGH BINOCULARS

emerges
Rivulets of
and pats
we've seen

A devastatingly PERFECT WOMAN, GINGER, "Miss April,"
from the pool, wearing nothing but a g-string. Her skin
shimmers from the reflection of the pool lights.
water stream down her body. She reaches for a towel
her body dry. An incredible aura seems to surround her.
Separating her from the other spectacular beauties
already.
Ted lowers the binoculars. Entranced.

TED

I get it now. You and me. We're
dead.

CHARLIE

Dead?

TED

Our plane crashed. In the Grand
Canyon. A big fiery explosion. We
never made it to L.A. They needed
dental records to identify us. And
this place. This. Actually. Is.
Heaven.

CHARLIE

Then there must be a whole room,
made completely of chocolate.

TED

And some really fast cars.

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Ted and Charlie move like thieves in the night.

CHARLIE

Don't be such a pansy. All of this

is YOURS.

TED

It's a lot to digest. Imagine how you'd feel.

CHARLIE

I'd feel like staying up all night! Forever! Or at least till I got the LAY of the land, SO TO SPEAK.

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

his
risqué
Ted and Charlie enter. Flip the light switch. It was parents' very opulent bedroom. Complete with more paintings of Ted's biological mother.

TED

I feel like I'm entering a forbidden tomb...

CHARLIE

...where they get all the really good porno channels on cable.

Charlie pulls open a dresser drawer filled with Ted's mother's lingerie.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Cha-ching. Jackpot.

their
Charlie caresses a pair of red silk panties and inhales powdery fragrance.

TED

Oh, how inappropriate is that!

CHARLIE

Take a whiff of heaven.

TED

How would you like it if I did that to your mother's panties?

CHARLIE

I'd call you a sick, twisted fuck. But this is different. She wasn't your mother mother--

TED

Give me those!

ripping

Ted grabs the panties just as Charlie pulls away, them in half. Just then the door opens to reveal a very proper ENGLISH BUTLER.

BUTLER

I do apologize, sir. I heard a noise.

their

Ted and Charlie awkwardly hide the panty halves behind backs.

TED

We were just--

BUTLER

--I completely understand, sir. I'll leave you to your business. Good night.

The Butler leaves. Ted glares at Charlie. Who shrugs.

CHARLIE

A couple of boys fighting over a pair of red silk panties is nothing compared to what he's seen.

TED

(sarcastic)
Yeah, he's probably been serving cocktails, SO TO SPEAK, at the orgies.

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - GARAGE - THE NEXT MORNING

Ted

Maranello.

seat.

The garage is crowded with two dozen sporty classics. Ted runs his hands over the hood of a red Ferrari 575M. He pulls the door open and slides into the leather

GINGER (O.S.)

Wanna take me for a ride?

pool,

Ted turns around and spots Ginger, the goddess from the making her way towards him. He gulps.

TED

I-I don't have the keys.

GINGER

They're in the ignition, silly.

him. Ted glances down. There they are. She hops in next to
He doesn't know what to do.

GINGER (CONT'D)

You do know how to drive?

TED

I don't have much experience with
a...uh...stick.

GINGER

Want a lesson?

Ted blushes. He needs a lot of lessons.

GINGER (CONT'D)

Press your left foot on the clutch.
And turn the key.

The Ferrari growls to life. Ginger places her hand over
Ted's.

GINGER (CONT'D)

Now release the brake. And slide
the stick into first gear.

TED

Got it.

him Ginger moves her slender fingers on his knees. Showing
how it's done.

GINGER

Now very carefully apply some
pressure to the gas pedal with your
right foot as you release the
clutch with your left.

She squeezes his thigh and winks.

EXT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - GARAGE - DAY

The Ferrari jerks out of the garage and promptly stalls.

Ginger giggles. Could Ted be MORE embarrassed?

GINGER

The first time can be awkward. You just have to get on and try again.

TED

I don't even know if I should be doing this. It's a very expensive car.

GINGER

It's your car. These are all your cars.

TED

Some of them have to be automatics.

GINGER

Your father liked shifting. He said it brought him closer to the engine. "Like a woman, purring with ecstasy."

Ted feels his temperature rising. He changes the subject.

TED

I'm Ted, by the way. I think I forgot to say that.

GINGER

I know. I'm Ginger. Miss April.

TED

The one with the horses.

GINGER

That's me.

TED

I almost didn't recognize you without...you know...that stallion between...your...uh...legs.

Ginger blushes.

TED (CONT'D)

That sounded so much better in my head.

cool
Ginger GIGGLES. Ted tries to hide behind his less than shades. Ginger notices.

GINGER

Hey, Ted. Wanna go shopping?

TED

Shopping, really? I should tell my friend.

GINGER

Don't worry. He found the chocolate room.

TED

(big grin)
Hi ho, Silver.

off.
ecstasy.
He puts the car in gear. The tires scream as they take
Gears grind as he shifts. Not exactly purring with
Yet.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

seems
The Ferrari negotiates its way along Rodeo Drive. Ted
to have gotten the hang of it.

Tourists stare. One snaps a photo.

almost
Ted pulls up to...and then over...the curb. Well, he
has the hang of it.

INT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

lose
strokes his
Ted emerges from a dressing room. Slowly starting to
his boy-from-Xenia taint. He glances at the price tag,
dangling from his sleeve. His eyes widen. Ginger
arm. Whispers seductively in his ear.

GINGER

Your father always said, "Money matters only to the man who doesn't have it."

Ted listens. Trying to learn.

INT. A CHIC EYEWEAR BOUTIQUE - DAY

Ted tries on some snazzy sunglasses. Ginger approves.
Ted still checks the price tag.

TED

Sorry, habit.

Ginger looks into his eyes. As if she can see his soul.

GINGER

Who exactly ARE you?

TED

(uncomfortable)

What do you mean? I'm Ted Nelson.

GINGER

And who IS Ted Nelson?

Ted's not sure how to respond. He smiles awkwardly.

GINGER (CONT'D)

Is he a small town boy, destined to live an ordinary life with an ordinary wife and a tiny house with a boring old white picket fence?

The hamburger life. Now he can defy it.

GINGER (CONT'D)

Or do you have a taste for the good life, Ted? It's in your blood.

TED

I always knew there was more. I felt it.

GINGER

Then remember, you are the heir to a billion dollar empire. You have a staff of literally thousands. Multiply everything you ever imagined by a million and you still can't even wrap your head around everything that is yours. ALL **YOURS.**

grins at

Ted slides on the shades. Slowly, purposefully. He
the SALES CLERK...

TED

I'll take the whole case.

INT. "HEAVEN" HEADQUARTERS - DAY

"Heaven"
up to

Ted, Charlie, Helen, and Uncle Billy walk past GRAPHIC
DESIGNERS in cubicles as Helen leads a tour of the
magazine offices. As they pass each cubicle, HEADS pop
check them out.

"HEAVEN" WAR ROOM

wall

POLAROIDS OF NAKED WOMEN cover every square inch of
space. Ted and Charlie gawk. Who can blame them?

UNCLE BILLY

Every one of these women thinks she
should be the next Angel of the
Month. It's your job, Ted, to
decide which of them is right.

CHARLIE

Let me get this straight...

UNCLE BILLY

If it isn't straight by now, son,
you probably should see a doctor.

CHARLIE

These are real, live women?

UNCLE BILLY

(winking at Ted)

We don't generally feature blow-up
dolls in our magazine. But hey, if
you think there's a market for it.

CHARLIE

God, I love being dead.

push

Ted focuses on one particular picture. He removes the
pin that holds it to the wall.

TED

I like her.

this kid

We can see the concerned look on Helen's face. Does
have any taste at all?

HELEN

(relieved)

Nice choice. There's only one
problem.

She shows Uncle Billy.

UNCLE BILLY

You think she upgraded?

HELEN

They went in through the belly
button.

Uncle Billy nods. He explains gently...

UNCLE BILLY

We don't allow TIPN, Ted.

TED

Tipping?

HELEN

TIPN. Tattoos, implants, piercings,
nose jobs. Our angels must be pure,
unadulterated, completely natural.

for
Billy

Ted looks at the walls again. Carefully. He has a knack
this. He hands a picture to Helen. She turns to Uncle
and smiles.

HELEN (CONT'D)

(emotional)

You have your father's eye.

this guy?

His father. He just can't get used to that. Who was

INT. MASTER BEDROOM CLOSET - "HEAVEN" MANSION - NIGHT

his
jacket

Ted looks at the impressive collection of suits. Runs
hands along the fabrics. Picks a particularly stylish

and
mirror.

and tries it on. It fits poorly. Too big in the chest
shoulders. Ted looks at himself in the full-length
He's not half the man his father was.

off
Billy

Suddenly there's a KNOCK on the door. Ted quickly takes
his father's jacket and puts on his own. He lets Uncle
in. LOUD PARTY SOUNDS momentarily pour into the room.

UNCLE BILLY

There you are, Ted-baby. Everything
all right?

TED

Yeah. Everything's cool.

him.

Ted's struggling with a silk tie. Uncle Billy helps

UNCLE BILLY

You ready for your big coming out
party? Everybody's dying to meet
you.

TED

Just a couple of finishing touches.
My parents always said you never
get a second chance to make a good
first impression.

UNCLE BILLY

(puzzled)
They said that? Really?
(realizing)
Oh, your parents. The Nelson's.
Right, right. How midwest. I like
that.

Ted wipes his palms on his slacks. Confiding...

TED

Truth is, I'm a little nervous.

UNCLE BILLY

YOU? Nervous? Why on earth should
you be nervous?

TED

All those people out there. It's a

lot of pressure.

UNCLE BILLY

Huh! You laugh in the face of pressure!

TED

I do?

UNCLE BILLY

You are a multi-media magnate. The Tycoon of Tits. The Baron of Bottoms.

Ted chuckles. Uncle Billy's calming him...

UNCLE BILLY CONT'D)

You are the Emperor of every little girl who dreamed of growing up to see her naughty bits spread eagle, airbrushed to glossy perfection, with staples through her ass.

for a
Uncle Billy rubs his shoulders. As if pep-talking him
big fight.

UNCLE BILLY

You're the Sultan of Semen. The Monarch of Masturbation. The Merchant Prince of Lust. You. Ted. Are the King of Coitus.

TED

Me? The King of Coitus?

UNCLE BILLY

The Supreme Sovereign of Sexuality.

TED

Whoa. But...that's the thing...
(he whispers)
I've never even actually...

UNCLE BILLY

(interrupting)
Why, look who's here.

KELLY.
Uncle Billy swings the door open to reveal. KIKI and
warmly at
Tall, beautiful, leggy IDENTICAL TWINS. They smile

Like the Ted, each offering an arm. Ted holds his head high.
Sovereign of Sexuality.

LONG DRAMATIC STAIRCASE

the With the twins on either side of him, Ted struts down
him. stairs and into a sea of people. All so eager to meet
Ted acts as if he's been doing this all his life.

TED

(sotto)

The Potentate of Poon has arrived.

hands. And instantly, he's surrounded. People shake his
Women kiss his cheeks. Athletes, movie stars, models.
Charlie watches, beaming proudly.

DANCE FLOOR - LATER

Twirling a Charlie thinks he's Travolta. Dressed for disco.
steal Super Model. Ted dances among a dozen BEAUTIES. They
Cinderellas, all kisses and hugs, here and there. A thousand
his after one Prince Charming. Ted's having the time of
life. Charlie dances up to him. Shouting in his ear...

CHARLIE

Ain't life amazing? A week ago, you
couldn't get to second base! Now
you OWN second base!

and They high-five one another. An EXOTIC BEAUTY grabs Ted
Ted's starts dirty dancing. Rubbing herself against him.
thrusts clueless. So he improvises. People cheer him on. He
but it his pelvis. Feigns various sex acts. Hilarious, goofy,
works.

EXT. JACUZZI - NIGHT

The party's over. Ted relaxes in the Jacuzzi, sipping
champagne. Thrilled, elated, blasted. Uncle Billy sits

shoulders.
greater
there.
Billy.

across from him. Two MASSEUSES tenderize their
But as the scene continues the women take an even
interest in each other. Stealing a kiss here. A touch
Ted attention is distracted as he chats with Uncle

UNCLE BILLY

I told you you could do it.

TED

I was like a different person
tonight.

UNCLE BILLY

You were the new and improved you.

TED

I would have been laughed right out
of Xenia.

UNCLE BILLY

No one will be laughing at you now,
Ted. You can take that to the bank.

TED

It's really going to be strange
going home in a couple of days.

UNCLE BILLY

You ARE home. But go ahead, finish
school, do what you feel you need
to do. In the meantime, I'll be
your point person here on the
magazine.

TED

Really? You'd do that for me?

UNCLE BILLY

I've been very lazy for a long,
long time.

TED

You seem like you're anything but
lazy, Uncle Billy.

UNCLE BILLY

(confiding)
I never finished school myself.

Never had to. My brother built this empire from nothing but his wife's perky tits and a whole lot of gumption. He gave me a cushy job on a silver platter. I never struggled for a second.

TED

My parents always say hard work builds character.

UNCLE BILLY

It's not like I didn't have ideas, I had plenty of ideas. But I never even shared them with your father. Never had the guts.

TED

What kind of ideas?

UNCLE BILLY

Well...for one thing...I think it's despicable that we exclude so many women that only fit our western notion of "classic beauty."

TED

You think we should be more open minded?

UNCLE BILLY

The world is a big, beautiful place. We can open new markets in Africa and Asia. Imagine the Dali Lhama reading our magazine.

TED

In other words, our scope is too narrow.

UNCLE BILLY

At our press conference tomorrow, I think we should announce our plans to explore the world. Not just a few leggy 36D's, with blond hair upstairs and down.

TED

That's perfect.

The Masseuses help Uncle Billy out of the Jacuzzi. They

say

them, their goodnights and Ted closes his eyes. When he opens
Ginger stands at the edge of the tub.

GINGER

Want some company?

and lets Ted can barely nod. She unzips the back of her dress
is it fall to her feet. The silhouette of her nude body
she startlingly gorgeous in the moonlight. Ted watches as
she descends, step by step, into the frothy water.

deeper. Ted's paralyzed with desire and fear. Ginger descends
Until A wash of foam caresses her breasts. She continues.
she's completely submerged.

his Ted looks startled. The "Jaws" theme echoes through
feels ears. He starts to rise. Concerned. When suddenly, he
he's something. Whoa! His swimming trunks land next to him.
the He starts to rise out of the Jacuzzi, when suddenly
under. Only sucked under. He thrashes. His hand grabs the edge of
lips. Jacuzzi. But his fingers give out. And he slides
to rise out of the water with Ginger. Attached to his
Kissing him passionately.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - TED'S BEDROOM - MORNING

what a Ted and Ginger in bed. Morning rays, satin sheets,
remembering night. Ted awakens. He stares at Ginger in awe,
what happened. Smiles big.

mirror. Ted slides out of bed. Catches his reflection in the
Takes a good look at himself.

TED

(posing; cool)
Who's your daddy?

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - DAY

Uncle

Press Conference. Lights, cameras, reporters, bedlam.
Billy, Helen, and Ted sit at a makeshift dais.

UNCLE BILLY

...My brilliant, extraordinary nephew, Ted Nelson, has brought enough fresh blood to this company to make all of Transylvania happy for the next fifty or sixty years. I'll give him the mike now and you'll see what I mean. This apple didn't fall far from the tree.

spotlights,
reassuring

Ted prepares to speak. A little nervous from the
but hell, he's a man now. Uncle Billy gives him a
look.

UNCLE BILLY (CONT'D)

(whispering)
Don't forget to tell them all your qualifications.

TED

I'm Ted Nelson. I guess you already know that part.
(proud of himself)
For two years I've been the editor of the high school paper in Xenia, Ohio. I've won some awards, made a difference.
I've always had journalism in my soul. Now I know why.

He glances at Uncle Billy, who urges him to tell more.

TED (CONT'D)

They tell me I've got my father's taste in women and cars.
(winking)
The faster, the better.

"thumb's up"

CHUCKLES from the crowd. Uncle Billy gives him a
sign.

TED (CONT'D)

And I'm really looking forward to the challenge of bringing "Heaven" magazine into the 21st century.

INT. CHRISTY MALONE'S BATHROOM - SAME

up and
In the middle of waxing her bikini line, Christy jumps down excitedly.

CHRISTY

He asked me to the prom! ME! We're practically engaged!

INT. JULIE CONROY'S BEDROOM - SAME

Julie watches TV. Stunned.

JULIE

He reinvented himself into a dick.

INT. PRINCIPAL MERKIN'S DEN - SAME

Principal Merkin watches TV. Simmering.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

You don't even have your high school diploma yet, Mr. Nelson. I'm still the boss of you.

INT. NELSON FAMILY ROOM - SAME

their
of
Ted's parents and little Jimmy stare in amazement at old-fashioned console RCA. A geeky high school picture of Ted appears on screen, as a REPORTER babbles...

BABBLING REPORTER (ON TV)

The big question now remains: Will success spoil Ted Nelson, the straight-A journalism student from Xenia, Ohio, whose life was transformed overnight when he found out he was rich, powerful, and certainly the most eligible bachelor in the entire nation?

MOM

(shocked)

Our Teddy inherited "Heaven?"

DAD

He said he was set for book money.

Jimmy turns to his parents.

JIMMY

Mom, Dad. Forget about roller blades for my birthday. I'd prefer a DNA test. Can you prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that I am not, for example, a Guccione?

The door bell CHIMES. Mom and Dad look at each other.

This

can't be good.

ENTRY WAY

Dad opens the front door to reveal a delivery man, holding a flashy new bike.

DELIVERYMAN

Delivery for Jimmy Nelson.

EXT. NELSON HOUSE - DAY

appears

Jimmy squeezes past Dad and jumps on the bike as Mom in the doorway.

MOM

My goodness, who sent this?

DELIVERY MAN

It's from "Heaven," ma'am.

DAD

Ted. Of course.

JIMMY

(riding around)
I love you, Ted!

MOM

We can't accept it. It's much too expensive. Right, dear?

DAD

Of course, dumpling. Its very nice of Ted but...

unload a
Mom.

At that moment, ANOTHER DELIVERY MAN and his HELPER
large crate from another truck. They approach Dad and

DELIVERY MAN #2

Delivery for Robert Nelson.

DAD

For me? What is it?

DELIVERY MAN #2

Appears to be tools, sir.

MOM

Oh, no. Ted's gone completely
overboard.

to
opens one
instruments.
Dad approaches the crate as the Delivery Man opens it
reveal a large scarlet and gray case of tools. Dad
of the drawers. Runs his fingers over the shiny
Tears in his eyes.

MOM (CONT'D)

Sweetheart, what is it?

DAD

I always wanted Craftsman tools. He
even got me the limited edition
Buckeye colors.

MOM

Oh, honey. We can't accept this
extravagance.

vans.
Mom
Another delivery truck arrives. Then the local news
Neighbors rush out of their houses. The phone RINGS.
dashes inside.

INT. THE NELSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Mom grabs the phone.

MOM

Teddy? Is that you?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - TED'S ROOM - DAY

with
full
Ted wears a cordless headset phone, as if he was born
it. As he talks, he flexes his muscles in front of a
length mirror.

TED

Well? Surprised?

MOM

What is all this? When are you
coming home?

TED

Just a few tokens of my affection.
I'll be back soon, don't worry.

MOM

Everything is lovely, Ted, but much
too expensive.

TED

Mom. Believe me. I could buy all
that AND the factories they came
from.

machine
Mom looks up as ANOTHER DELIVERY MAN wheels a washing
and dryer into the house.

DELIVERY MAN #3

Where do you want them, lady?

Mom's eyes light up.

MOM

Oh, good lord. Are those Neptunes?

TED

Only the best for my mother.

MOM

(softening)
You promise you'll finish school?

TED

I'll make you very proud.

EXT. TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

their
A beautiful spring morning. Cars pull into the school parking lot. Students mingle in small groups. Making way into the building. A group of GUYS look up.

circling the
Suddenly, a helicopter swooshes through the air, school as if to get everyone's attention, then landing on a grassy knoll. The helicopter is painted heavenly blue with a pattern of white billowy clouds.

Looking
The door slides open and out hops Ted. In SLOW-MO. seriously cool from the tips of his silver toed boots to his stylish Persol shades. Until he takes a second step and stumbles slightly, catching himself from falling face first into the grass.

vaguely
beautiful
see.
Charlie is right behind him. Looking great, too, but Mafioso in his efforts to be hip. He turns to the blonde PILOT and plants a big wet kiss for everyone to see.

Merkin
Ted and Charlie strut towards the school as Principal bursts through the front doors, shouting...

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

You cannot land a helicopter in my school yard! Get that blasted thing out of here!

Principal
surround
new
Ted raises his hand. The chopper rises as if on cue. Without a word, Ted and Charlie pass the ruffled Merkin and strut toward the entrance. Classmates Ted. Congratulating him. Everyone wanting to be Ted's best friend. Julie walks up to Charlie.

JULIE

What gives, Don Corleone?

CHARLIE

(smug)

We reinvented ourselves.

JULIE

New Hushpuppies don't make a new man.

CHARLIE

You've obviously never had your dogs nestled in thousand dollar Italian loafers.

JULIE

That explains the emptiness that haunts me.

CHARLIE

Jealousy is so unattractive.

Juan.

Ted makes eye contact with Julie. Winking like he's Don

She just stares at him, blankly.

JULIE

Second only to unfettered arrogance and the inability to see the irony therein.

Charlie's baffled by that one.

CHARLIE

Wanna see my hickey from Miss December?

Julie groans.

INT. PRINCIPAL MERKIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Principal Merkin paces dramatically...

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

I like you, Ted. You know that. I liked you before you were filthy rich.

TED

Thanks, Principal Merkin.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

I'll be blunt. I know you can take

it.

TED

Yes, sir. I'll brace myself.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Ted, you are the best editor this school paper ever had. You don't need to be pandering flesh. It's nonsense. It's beneath you.

TED

You think I ought to just tell them thanks but no thanks? I don't want your silly billion dollar empire?

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

That's a good start, yes. A very good start.

TED

Are you kidding? This magazine is my dream. It's every red-blooded, heterosexual male's dream.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

I never figured you for a pimp.

TED

Have you ever even looked at "Heaven?"

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

What kind of sick question is that? I'll be watching you, young man. Your money and power mean nothing here. Nothing.

TED

I guess you won't be wanting that Rolex I sent you, then?

Caresses
Principal Merkin opens his desk drawer sheepishly.
the watch. It kills him to return it.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

No. No, I won't. Thank you. For reminding me.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

Malone

desire.

Flurry of activity. Ted on his cell phone. Julie types furiously. Taking her job very seriously. Christy

props one leg against the wall. Demonstrating those contortionist warm-up moves that drove Ted mad with

CHRISTY

Great jacket, Teddy Bear.

TED

(hanging up phone)
Yeah? You like?

CHRISTY

Makes your shoulders look so big and broad.

JULIE

A few billion bucks and suddenly he's Cro-Magnon Man of the Year.

TED

It's so nice to have FRIENDS like you, Christy.

Julie
private

Christy pouts. Wishing she never said the "F" word. snickers. Ted takes Julie's arm and guides her to a spot in the corner.

JULIE

What is it, William Randolph? Your balls need scratching?

TED

Your article sucked.

JULIE

In what sense?

TED

In the sense that there is no "hidden agenda" behind a bake sale that raised five hundred dollars for seeing eye dogs.

JULIE

Ah ha! It was so well hidden, you didn't even know it was there.

TED

Come on, Julie. Don't screw up. You have some real talent.

JULIE

Just because someone died and made you king of the publishing world doesn't mean you're even one ounce smarter than you were a week ago.

TED

I'm trying to help.

JULIE

I'm still better than you. Nothing changed except the decimal point in your savings account.

TED

That's not ENTIRELY true.

Julie snaps her fingers, as if trying to remember...

JULIE

Oh, right. You're probably not a virgin anymore. But as far as being a hack, that much is status quo.

Ted fumes. She really knows how to push his buttons.

TED

What do you want from me? I'm trying to be fair. But I can't keep you on staff if you turn every PTA meeting into an Agent Orange cover up.

JULIE

Then I'll write about YOU.

TED

Me?

JULIE

"Local boy inherits more money than god." Call me crazy, but I smell human interest.

TED

(loving this)

Really? You wanna write about me?

INT. NELSON DINING ROOM - DAY

a
sit at
everything.

A world class CHEF and his SOUS CHEF serve the Nelson's
filet mignon dinner. Mom, Dad, Jimmy, Ted, and Julie,
the table. Set with the finest china. The most elegant
linens. A fresh floral arrangement. The best of

Everyone waits for Mom as she takes her first bite.

MOM

Goodness...it's delicious. I've
never tasted anything so tender.

The rest of them dig in.

DAD

Beats the heck out of meatloaf.
(off Mom's look)
Although your meatloaf is second to
none, love muffin.

Jimmy's eyes widen as he chews.

JIMMY

Mom, Dad. My trembling taste buds
have just been assailed by the
bittersweet knowledge of all
they've been missing these past
nine years.

The chef turns to Julie...

JULIE

No offense, Wolfgang Puck, but dead
flesh is dead flesh. This just
happens to be better than most dead
flesh on the planet.

And finally, the Chef waits for Ted...

TED

Absolutely...heavenly.

at

The Chef wipes a bead of sweat from his brow. Approval,
last, from the only opinion that mattered.

CHEF

Why, thank you, sir. Thank you.

JIMMY

Ted has bettered our lives to the point where I can no longer see myself as "the old Jimmy" I was but a day or two past. You may all call me James. From this moment forward.

TED

Finally, some gratitude.

DAD

We're grateful, Ted. It's not that. Those Craftsman tools...they're a dream come true.

MOM

Your Dad and I were raised with a certain work ethic, that's all.

Julie listens closely, admiring Ted's parents.

DAD

We can't start living like we're the Rockefellers or something.

JIMMY

Mom, Dad. The Rockefellers are paupers compared to my favorite brother, Ted.

TED

You don't have to work another day in your lives.

MOM

But how would we pay our bills?

DAD

We just barely have enough for your college tuition, son.

Ted's frustration mounts.

TED

Don't you get it? In one day I earn more interest than the store's entire annual revenue.

MOM

Oh. Goodness.

TED

You're free. You can do anything
you ever wanted to do!

MOM

(after a beat)
Like what?

TED

Like take that trip to Buckingham
Palace. Go deep sea fishing in the
Gulf of Mexico. Now's your chance.

DAD

But those are our dreams, son. We
have to make them come true.

TED

Consider me your fairy godfather,
except without the fairy part. No
more mealy apples and bruised
bananas, ever, for the rest of your
lives.

MOM

But who would run the store?

TED

Forget the store. Think big.

Dad looks at Mom. Forget the store. That stings.

DAD

Ted, we put a lot of love in our
business.

MOM

We wanted you and Jimmy to have it
someday. Something real and honest.

DAD

We love our lives just the way they
are.

Disappointed, disgusted, Ted looks to Julie for
support.
and

Tears fill her eyes. Mom and Dad moved her. Ted shrugs
digs into his food.

EXT. ABOVE THE CLOUDS - DAY

through
A heavenly blue jet with billowy white clouds soars
the sky.

INT. THE "HEAVEN" JET - DAY

sweet-talks
Beyond first class; the ultimate in posh. Charlie
a sexy FLIGHT ATTENDANT.

CHARLIE

Call me Charlie. I'm a photographer
for "Heaven" magazine. And a very
cunning linguist.

quickly.
The Flight Attendant pulls him toward the washroom,

Julie interviews Ted, complete with tape recorder.

TED

I have to admit, I always felt...
different.

JULIE

Different how? Different like a
dwarf at a basketball game? Or
different like a lesbian in pumps?

TED

I don't get the distinction.

JULIE

Could everybody else tell you were
different, or were you the only one
who knew?

TED

I felt limited. I felt confined. I
felt like I was suffocating.

JULIE

I see. So more like a tight rope
walker who secretly wants to be a
trapeze artist.

TED

I guess.

JULIE

Interesting.

Another FLIGHT ATTENDANT approaches...

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Warm peanuts?

TED

No thanks. I prefer my penis at room temperature.

JULIE

She said peanuts, you cretin.

TED

You never know around here.

Julie raises her eyebrows. Taking notes.

TED (CONT'D)

Don't write that part.

JULIE

Is this an gritty exposé or a candy ass press release?

TED

Write what you want. Just try not to make it so obvious that you're crazy about me.

JULIE

(amused)

Life must be peachy on Planet Ted.

TED

Funny you should say "peachy."

JULIE

I did my homework. Your grandfather was a peach farmer.

TED

My adoptive grandfather. Who knows what my biological grandfather did.

JULIE

Undoubtedly an aristocratic bartender of some sort.

Ted loves her spunk. And the chemistry between them.

TED

Considering this is your first time

on a private jet, on which you are interviewing the world's most eligible bachelor, you are extremely cavalier.

JULIE

I bet there are lots and lots of mirrors on Planet Ted.

TED

See? You're impertinent, rude, sarcastic.

JULIE

And this is not my first time on a private jet, so quit acting like I'm Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.

TED

A little respect would be nice, that's all.

Julie snickers.

JULIE

Money can't buy respect, Ted. Saying what you mean. Meaning what you say. Being an honorable person. That's how you earn respect.

INT. GREEN ROOM - DAY

Ginger
jacket.

Ted waits for his appearance on "The Tonight Show."
smooths out the imaginary creases in Ted's Armani

GINGER

Great jacket, Teddy. It makes your shoulders look so big and broad.

and

Julie rolls her eyes. Here we go again. Uncle Billy
Helen look on approvingly.

UNCLE BILLY

You do look smashing.

HELEN

Positively dashing.

CHARLIE

Sharp as a mashed potato sandwich.

relish Ted fake-guffaws. Charlie is quickly distracted by the tray.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Oh wow, look...they've even got baby gherkins!

GINGER

I have an idea! I'll be right back!

who And she dashes out the door. Ted leans towards Julie, quietly observes everything.

TED

Well? What do you think of her?

JULIE

You're so twitterpated you don't even see the miner's hat and the pickax.

TED

You're implying she's, what, a gold digger?

Julie shrugs. Isn't it obvious?

TED (CONT'D)

Charlie's right. Jealousy is so unattractive.

JULIE

Second only to unbridled, narcissistic conceit.

TED

(whining)

Why can't you be nice to me?

JULIE

You've got enough people kissing your ass.

Ginger returns with a rose.

GINGER

Here you go, cutie patootie. Rich guys always wear flowers.

Julie gives Ted a look. See what I mean.

INT. THE TONIGHT SHOW SET - DAY

every Jay Leno seems charmed. Ted behaves as if he does this day. The rose from Ginger is pinned to his lapel.

JAY

How are the hometown folks treating you, back in Xenia?

TED

Well, Jay. They've been exceptionally supportive.

JAY

Are they hitting you up for donations? Asking you to sponsor the local quilting bee?

Audience LAUGHS.

TED

I'm no stranger to the notion of philanthropy. Andrew Carnegie has long been one of my idols.

JAY

What about the future? You planning to rock the boat at all? Stir things up in "Heaven?"

Ted's so smooth. We know it's still HIM under all that Armani, but it sure does make him LOOK different.

TED

Matter of fact, Jay, my uncle and I are planning to rethink the magazine. To expand the traditional western notions of "beauty."

JAY

I see, so you'd be open to little ladies from Pasadena, who want to show you their knickers?

TED

Matter of fact, Jay, I'm planning a pictorial focusing on the women of my hometown, "The Girls of Xenia."

Just to show my appreciation.

OFF IN THE WINGS

Julie looks thoroughly disgusted.

JULIE

The Girls of Xenia? Jesus.

BACK TO STAGE

JAY

Now you're talking. What did Andrew Carnegie ever do? Open a couple of libraries? BOR-ING.

INT. PRINCIPAL MERKIN'S KITCHEN - MORNING

table,
A Cocker Spaniel, POOCHIE, sits under a breakfast
holding a newspaper in his snout.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (O.S.)

Poochie? Where's my poochie? Where
is she?

prepares
MRS. MERKIN, dressed in a bathrobe and curlers,
breakfast. Their beautiful college-aged daughter,
JUDY, eats
cereal at the table, while flipping through a glamour
magazine. Principal Merkin enters. Ready for work. Wife
and
daughter don't even look up.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (CONT'D)

Is my Poochie in here?

Principal Merkin pretends to look for the dog in the
cupboard. This is obviously a daily ritual.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (CONT'D)

Is she in here? No. Where on
earth could she be?

He looks under the table.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (CONT'D)

There's my Poochie! There's my
girl!

the
The dog leaps into his arms. Principal Merkin grabs
paper as Poochie starts to lick his face.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (CONT'D)

Poochie loves Daddy, doesn't she?

MRS. MERKIN

Breakfast is getting cold.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Thank you, dear.

MRS. MERKIN

No dogs at the table.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

I know, dear.

Principal Merkin places the dog on the ground, takes a
seat,
and bites into a breakfast sausage. He opens the paper
and is confronted by a full page ad.

CLOSE ON NEWSPAPER AD

follow.
"GIRLS OF XENIA, GO STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN!" Details
How, when, where to apply.

BACK TO PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Signaling to
grossed out.
ineptly.
piece
catches
Who chokes on his sausage. Clutches his throat.
his wife and daughter. "Help me!" Judy looks up,
Mrs. Merkin attempts the Heimlich Maneuver. Rather
Principal Merkin turns red, blue, purple. Finally the
of sausage flies out of his mouth, past Judy. Poochie
it in mid-flight.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

(weakly)
Thatta girl.

INT. PRINCIPAL MERKIN'S HONDA CIVIC - MOVING - DAY

Principal Merkin drives to work, humming along to Liza

end and
Minelli's "New York, New York." The song comes to an
a radio spot begins...

RADIO SPOT (V.O.)

How many times have people told
you, "Jeepers, you look swell
naked!" Well now's your chance to
go straight to "Heaven!"

ad
Principal Merkin tries to change the station. But the
seems to be on every station...

RADIO SPOT (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Come on down for "The Girls of
Xenia" pictorial. Let's show the
nation our cows aren't the only
ones with great udders.

INT. TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

pushes
Students hover at the bulletin board, reading a poster
advertising the "Heaven" auditions. Principal Merkin
through the crowd and tears the poster off the board.
Completely incensed.

INT. CITY COUNCIL HALL - EVENING

meeting.
the
passion...
Hundreds of Xenia CITIZENS have gathered for this
Principal Merkin stands in front of the five members of
city council who sit at a U-shaped table. He holds up
"Heaven" magazine. Preaching with an evangelical

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

This, my friends, this is not
"Heaven." This flesh rag is a one
way ticket to hell! We must voice
our outrage! To remain passive in
the eye of the devil is like
inviting him to a pot luck in your
own backyard and asking him to
bring the three-bean salad!

His supporters murmur agreement.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (CONT'D)

For the sake of this community, and

its impressionable young minds, I
propose this publication be banned
from our city!

Ted
bangs the
His POSSE of supporters APPLAUD. His opponents GROAN.
slouches nearby. A lawyer next to him. The MAYOR
gavel and the commotion settles.

MAYOR

Thank you for that long-winded but
impassioned speech, Mr. Merkin. I
hope you can cut to the chase, Ted.

big
Principal Merkin takes his seat. Ted rises. Playing the
shot lawyer. Julie sits in the crowd, taking notes.

TED

With all due respect to Merk, he
doesn't have to read my magazine.
But he has no right to stop others.
(to Principal Merkin)
Ever hear of the First Amendment?

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

(rising; an outburst)
We cannot afford free speech if it
excises the moral fiber of this
community!

TED

If that were true, this would be
one seriously constipated town.
Most guys in Xenia have been
looking at naked girls in "Heaven"
since they were old enough to
figure out their dads hide it under
the mattress.

HUSBANDS
A bit of an UPROAR from the crowd. WOMEN eye their
suspiciously. Julie makes a point...

JULIE

Isn't it true, Principal Merkin,
that you only care now because
"Heaven" is suddenly too close to
home?

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Indeed it is, Miss Conroy! I make
no bones about it! "Heaven" has
gone too far!

Merkin's
MR. NEEDLEMAN, another angry man from Principal
posse, jumps on the bandwagon.

MR. NEEDLEMAN

Principal Merkin is right! We can't
let "Heaven" violate our own
daughters, wives, sisters, mothers,
girlfriends, aunts...

report
Helen motions to Ted. He quickly locates a page in the
she prepared for him. He handles this like a pro...

TED

I wouldn't want to name names, Mr.
Needleman, or cause any undue
embarrassment. But many members of
this community have been loyal
"Heaven" readers for the better
part of the last two decades. Not
to mention certain charter
subscribers who have developed a
voracious appetite for our video
library as well. I don't suppose,
"Courtney Leaves The Convent" rings
a bell to anyone?

the
Mr. Needleman dissolves into his seat. Half the men in
audience seem to evaporate.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Mr. Nelson, you are Beelzebub's
henchman! You are single-handedly
destroying the integrity of our
community, and I will not have it!
I'll gather signatures. I'll
petition the courts.

MAYOR

(sheepishly)

You do what you have to do, Dick.
But if there's a man among us who
doesn't like to steal a look at
some pretty titty once in a while,
let him cast the first stone.

Mayor

The room is suddenly SILENT. Principal Merkin gives the
a hard look. Merkin's face contorts in SLOW MO as he
proclaims...

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

I. AM. THAT. MAN.

INT. CITY BUILDING CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

Merkin's

Holding a stack of flyers, Charlie chats with Judy,
college-aged daughter.

CHARLIE

You're like a centerfold waiting to
happen. And let me assure you, I
have some serious pull with the
publisher.

flyer in

Judy smiles fetchingly. Stashing Charlie's "Heaven"
her backpack. Her father suddenly appears.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

What the hell are you doing?

JUDY

I'm an adult. I can do whatever I
want.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

My roof, my rules, young lady.

of

Judy

He grabs her arm while knocking the stack of flyers out
Charlie's hands. As Principal Merkin drags her away,
smiles back at Charlie. He winks.

CHARLIE

Send us a picture, sugar. We'll
get back to you.

the

enters

flyers.

The stack of flyers FLOATS over the railing and onto
ground floor, just as a group of LOVELY YOUNG WOMEN
the building lobby. They excitedly reach for the

EXT. DOWNTOWN BUILDING - XENIA - DAY

snakes
dressed
his
heads

A line of BEAUTIFUL WOMEN - all shapes and sizes -
around the block and into a doorway. The women are
to impress, in very skimpy clothing. Ted pulls up in
convertible Ferrari. The women shout greetings as Ted
for the door.

INT. BUILDING CORRIDOR - DAY

line of

We follow Ted as he dashes up the stairs, along the
women, towards an office.

TED

(greeting the women)
Hello there...Looking great...Very
nice.

Charlie looks frazzled.

CHARLIE

You're late, bro!

TED

Sorry. Ginger got a little, you
know, enthusiastic.

CHARLIE

You'll never believe who's in
there.

TED

It better not be my Aunt Trudy.

They enter...

INT. TED'S OFFICE - DAY

A YOUNG WOMAN sits with her back to the door.

TED

Sorry to keep you waiting...

Christy

The woman turns towards Ted, revealing herself to be
Malone. Ted is momentarily stunned.

CHRISTY

Hi, Teddy Bear.

TED

Christy? You want to be in
"Heaven?"

CHRISTY

I turned eighteen over spring
break. I'm eligible.

Ted doesn't know what to say. Charlie's equally
stunned.

Hell, it seems, has frozen over.

TED

I feel like I've just been hit by a
Mack truck.

CHARLIE

With a refrigerated cargo bed full
of sirloin tip.

INT. TED'S BEDROOM - DAY

Highly modified since the last time we saw it. A large
flat screen hangs on the wall. A high tech computer system
for video conferences dominates the room. Ted speaks with
Uncle Billy and Helen.

UNCLE BILLY

So far, so good. Some of them have
real Angel potential.

TED

Really? So I'm doing OK?

HELEN

We're impressed but not surprised,
Ted. You have your father's
impeccable judgment.

Dad passes the partially open door. Overhearing. He
stops.

TED

My father must've been amazing.

UNCLE BILLY

He was in a league of his own.

Suddenly Ted feels his dad's presence, behind him.

DAD

Sorry I--

TED

It's okay. You need me?

DAD

(holding a list)

Your mom said you've been ignoring
your chores.

his Ted takes the list. Gives it a cursory glance. Nods to
dad, as if dismissing him.

TED

No problem, consider it done.

(to Uncle Billy)

I had this idea of shooting on
location. Outdoors, you know? Maybe
at some famous Xenia landmarks.
You think that would be a problem?

HELEN

We'll send you the release forms,
Ted. Our staffers will help in any
way they can.

UNCLE BILLY

You're the Titan of Tushies, the
General of Jism. Don't you forget
it, Ted-baby.

of the Ted laughs. Completely ignoring his dad. Who backs out
room. Unnoticed. Neglected. Hurt.

EXT. THE NELSON HOUSE - DAY

Mom drives up to the house. She stares, aghast.

the There are tall, beautiful, ANGELS everywhere. One cuts
cleaning grass. Another pulls weeds. Two others on the roof,
water gutters.
Still others wash the car...with Jimmy handling the

and

hose. Drenching the women, more than the car. Shrieks
giggles all around. Neighbors gawk.

to his

Ted's dad guiltily enjoys the view, but quickly rushes
wife. She gets out of her car and steadies herself on
arm.

his

INT. NELSON LIVING ROOM - DAY

prom

Ted stands on an ottoman as a TAILOR fits him for a
tuxedo. He towers over his parents who try to talk to
feel for them. They've lost control of their kid.

him. We

MOM

You have to understand. This was a
big shock, for all of us. One
minute you're our little boy, of
whom we could not be more proud.
The next minute you're the owner of
this whole pornographic empire.

DAD

But that doesn't make you the boss
of everything, son.

MOM

Don't you see how your self
involvement and lack of humility
are affecting the whole family?

Ted looks down at them, literally.

TED

I paid off the mortgage! I ordered
that Winnebago you always wanted!
Now you're ashamed of me?

DAD

You ordered a Winnebago?

swayed by

Mom gives Dad a look. Stick to the script. Don't be
presents.

MOM

We're not ashamed of you, Teddy. We
don't approve of the magazine or

the models or the so-called "flesh parties" you attend. But we can get past all that.

DAD

We miss you. We miss our son.

MOM

We miss our family.

TED

I promised I'd finish high school and that's what I'm doing. What more do you want from me?

Dad glances at Mom, hesitant. She nods, giving him the courage to continue.

DAD

We think you should give up the magazine. Sell it. Let someone else run it. Whatever it takes.

MOM

We want you to go to college, find a career you love, marry a nice girl from a nice family, and live happily ever after.

Ted laughs.

TED

THAT is your dream, not mine. My dream is so far beyond anything YOU PEOPLE could even imagine.

DAD

Watch your tone, mister.

TED

Why don't you just admit what this is really all about? I'm not your real kid and you can't control me anymore.

Mom and Dad look stricken. Ted doesn't know when to stop...

TED (CONT'D)

No wonder I was so bored. No wonder I hated this one-horse cow town. I come from talented people who took

chances and dared to imagine a life
without limits! I was never meant
to be raised by...GROCERS.

TREASURED Ted storms away, unintentionally CRASHING into a
FAMILY PHOTO on the end table. The frame shatters into
smithereens. Breaking Mom and Dad's hearts. STUNNED
SILENCE hangs heavy in the room.

INT. SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

clone, Prom night. Couples slow dance to a Marilyn Manson
singing a rock version of "Precious and Few."
Surprisingly Principal Merkin watches on the sidelines.
calm. Suspiciously happy.
His Ted caresses Ginger's bare back as they dance together.
world. head nestled against her breasts. Not a care in the
one of He spots Charlie on the dance floor. Making out with
other two his dates, the IDENTICAL TAYLOR TRIPLETS, while the
patiently wait their turn.

GINGER

Teddy? I was thinking.

TED

Hmmm?

GINGER

After graduation...maybe we could
go away together?

TED

Whatever you want.

CAPTAIN WE notice Christy Malone dancing with her FOOTBALL
DATE. The perfect male specimen. Christy gives Ted a
disappointed, longing gaze. But he's oblivious.

GINGER

I bet St. Tropez in July would be
paradise. For a honeymoon.

her
Suddenly a FLASH blinds them. It's Julie Conroy, doing
job. Following her subject.

GINGER (CONT'D)

(snapping)
You could have warned us.

JULIE

Oops, sorry. Warning: You've got
lipstick on your teeth.

panicked
Julie flashes the camera again. Capturing Ginger's
deep
expression. We notice that Julie looks alluring in a
far
purple strapless gown. Not so glamorous as Ginger, but
more appealing and natural.

TED

Wow...you clean up nice.

JULIE

Put your eyeballs back in your
head, William Randolph. I'm on
assignment. A girl has to fit in.

emerging.
Ginger seems testy and jealous. Her true colors

GINGER

Teddy, I thought we were having a
moment here.

TED

Of course we were.

where
Suddenly the music dies. Everyone turns to the stage
Principal Merkin stands proudly. Holding a power cord.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

I apologize for interrupting the
festivities, but I have some good
news. I've been reviewing the rules
and regulations set forth by the
superintendent of schools. And it
seems quite clear...

(reading from manual)

"Minors may not be accompanied to

school functions by adults unless they are their parents or legal guardians."

dates. A spotlight suddenly finds Ted and Charlie's beautiful

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (CONT'D)

So long, ladies. Prom's over.

The crowd boos, hisses.

TED

Honestly, Merk. It's like you were never seventeen and the head of a media empire.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Rules are rules.

TED

Come on, it's our only senior prom.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Deaf ears, Mr. Nelson. I answer to a higher power.

Charlie steps in like a hostage negotiator.

CHARLIE

Here's the deal, Merk. Forget the "rules and regulations" malarkey and we'll give you seven minutes in heaven with the Taylor Triplets.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Out! Now!

steps Ted realizes his high school reputation is at stake. He up on stage. Approaches Principal Merkin. Takes out his wallet.

TED

What's your price, Merk? How much will it cost to make you go bye bye?

The crowd CHEERS.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

You're crossing the line, Mr.

Nelson.

TED

A statue in front of city hall,
dedicated to Principal Dick Merkin?

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

I'm warning you.

TED

A new pediatric wing at the
hospital? A presidential campaign?
Name it. Anything.

Principal Merkin trembles from the sheer temptation of
it.
Yet he could never succumb in front of so many
witnesses. He
has to maintain his dignity...

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

That's it! You're out of here!

From nowhere, a flock of beefy SECURITY GUARDS emerge
to
remove Ted & Co.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (CONT'D)

Good-bye, Mr. Nelson. Have a
pleasant evening.

The Marilyn Manson clone is rapidly whisked away, and
replaced by six GEEZERS in powder blue tuxedos.

As Security Guards carry them away...

GINGER

Ted! Do something!

TED

(restrained)
What do you want me to do?

GINGER

This is humiliating. We're being
ejected from a prom!

TED

Hang in there, I'll think of
something.

As they reach the doors...

GINGER

Well?

TED

I guess...I don't know...I guess we should leave if we're not wanted.

CHARLIE

I hear you, bro. We're Angus men in a ground round town.

GINGER

This is what I get for playing den mother in "Romper Room." Take me to the airport, Charlie!

CHARLIE

Why don't you just hitch a ride on the horse you rode in on?

Ginger storms away in an angry huff.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(calling after her)

Don't forget your broom!

Ted experiences a moment of loss.

TED

I thought I loved her.

CHARLIE

Chicks are like buses. If you miss one, don't sweat it. There's another coming 'round the corner.

One of the Taylor Triplets bats her lashes at Ted.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(whispering to Ted)

Take your pick. They're IDENTICAL.

Ted grins broadly. He turns and SHOUTS to his classmates...

TED

Everybody, listen up! This prom sucks! Let's party at my place!

Responses are mixed. Some cheer, some are undecided.

Until

the
following

the new band starts playing, "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round
Old Oak Tree." And EVERYONE RUSHES for the exit,
Ted.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Oak
numbers
reveal...

A muzak version of "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old
Tree," continues. A PIZZA DELIVERY GUY watches the
rise to the penthouse. Suddenly the doors open to

INT. HOTEL PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

It's
control.

All four penthouse suites have been rented by Ted.
party central. Very wild. Quickly growing out of
Kids dance, play drinking games, Spin the Bottle, and
generally trash the place.

of
goers
them

The pizza delivery guy wheels a dolly with a huge stack
pizzas into the party, only to be attacked by the prom-
like starving beasts. Grabbing the pizzas. Devouring
hungrily.

TED'S LUXURIOUS HOTEL SUITE

lounge
Ted's
screen.
shouts

Ted, Charlie, the Taylor Triplets and several buddies
around, drunkenly watching THE HOME SHOPPING CHANNEL on
big screen TV. A tacky CERAMIC GNOME rotates on the
Ted swigs Dom Perignon straight from the bottle. He
orders into his cell phone...

TED

Hell yes, all hundred and seventeen
of 'em!

CHARLIE

No, leave one. Somebody's
grandmother might want one.

TED

And while you're at it, I'll take ten dozen of those puppies with the springy heads.

CHARLIE

I love those springy head puppies!

CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Merkin

Ted looks up as the elevator doors open. Principal has arrived. Ted confronts him...

TED

You kicked us off your turf, Merk. Don't rain on our parade.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Mr. Nelson, you disappoint me. First you break our school board rules. Then you break the law.

TED

What law, Merk? Having fun? Letting down our hair on prom night?

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Our state has a zero tolerance policy for underage drinking.

TED

You called the cops on us?

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Alcohol does horrible things to a developing young mind.

riot

Ted

mass

Suddenly the whole XENIA POLICE FORCE appears, in full gear. The party's over. Everyone runs for the stairs. Ted gives Principal Merkin a spiteful look and joins the exodus.

EXT. HOLIDAY INN - NIGHT

for

cut

Drunken teenagers pour out of the building. Dashing their cars and limos. Ted's among them. Suddenly he's

a
off by a Harley that stops right in front of him. It's
Julie. Still in her purple strapless prom dress. With
black motorcycle jacket over it.

JULIE

Need a lift?

takes
Ted jumps on, wrapping his arms around her waist. Julie
off.

EXT. STREETS OF XENIA - CONTINUOUS

off
Julie maneuvers the nighttime streets of Xenia, taking
down a country road.

TED (V.O.)

Where are we going?

JULIE (V.O.)

To the best hiding place in the
world.

EXT. JULIE'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

bucks. The
the
Now we understand. Julie's family comes from major
yard is massive. And resting in a sprawling oak tree is
best hiding place in the world.

INT. JULIE'S TREE HOUSE - NIGHT

tree
A cozy oasis. Books everywhere. A whole series of
flashlights hang upside down like lanterns. Giving the
house a warm glow.

TED

I can't believe your dad built this
for you.

JULIE

He didn't. He had it built.

TED

Whatever.

JULIE

Not "whatever." It's two different things.

TED

He cared enough to want you to have it.

JULIE

He phoned it in.

TED

I see.

JULIE

I doubt it.

TED

Now it makes sense, the whole neo Bohemian, down with hypocrisy, fight the power crap. You're a poor little rich girl.

JULIE

The ozone must be fully depleted on Planet Ted.

TED

You think my dad would have been like that if I knew him? You think he would have bought me a stadium, instead of teaching me how to play ball?

JULIE

Your dad taught you everything.

TED

I mean my father.

JULIE

A father is nothing but sperm, Ted. It takes a real man to be a dad.

TED

It's all so complicated.

JULIE

It's incredibly simple.

TED

I feel like I'm being drawn and quartered. Like every part of me is

being pushed and pulled and tugged
in a different direction.

JULIE

Eventually you'll let go.

TED

And then what?

JULIE

Then you'll see who's really
holding on to you.

TED

You're amazing.

JULIE

I know.

TED

Even when you infuriate me, I still
want to kiss you.

JULIE

But you never do.

TED

If we were a team, we could do
anything. I mean, anything.

Julie's eyes narrow. She should have known.

JULIE

Cut to the chase, William Randolph.
Your audience is way ahead of you.

TED

In a word: MERK. EXPOSED.

JULIE

That's two words. And I'm out of
the "exposed" business, remember? I
need to graduate. Besides, Merk's a
boy scout.

TED

There's gotta be something. We have
to dig deeper.

JULIE

You forget, I dislike YOU at least
as much as him.

TED

He shut down your paper! You're stuck writing articles about swap meets and raffles and PTA brunches!

He's right, but...

JULIE

A good journalist can take lemons and make lemonade. I'm honing my craft.

TED

Then you won't mind covering that watermelon seed spitting contest next week...

Julie groans.

INT. OLD FOLK'S HOME - NIGHT

with a
a
Dressed in a old fashioned barber costume, complete handle bar mustache, Principal Merkin sings as part of BARBER SHOP QUARTET. The senior citizens clap enthusiastically.

Ted and Julie peek through a crack in the doorway. Disappointment on their faces.

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - ANOTHER NIGHT

so"
Principal Merkin pours soup into the bowl of a shabbily dressed HOMELESS MAN. Julie shoots Ted an "I told you look.

EXT. HIGHWAY - SATURDAY AFTERNOON

CHILDREN,
from...
Principal Merkin supervises a crew of kindergarten cleaning up the roadside litter. Julie and Ted watch

A BRIDGE ABOVE THE HIGHWAY

JULIE

See what I mean. He's squeaky clean. He makes Gandhi look like a war monger.

Ted steels himself. Somehow, they'll get him.

EXT. XENIA - WATER TOWER - DAY

water
Exposing in
In the golden light of sunset, MOLLY, a stunning "Xenia Girl," stands on the stairs that curve up around a huge tower that overlooks the city. Her loose spring dress billows in the wind. Held on by only one button. quick glimpses that she isn't wearing a bra.

An ASSISTANT holds a portable strobe, attached to a reflector. Charlie shoots with his Nikon. Motor drive whirling.

TED

I have a great idea. Let's lose the last button.

from
Molly grins. Then unbuttons. We hear a round of "oohs" below. Ted glances down, where...

poised on
gawking,
absent.
Hundreds of binoculars, cameras, and camcorders are the scene. Men of all ages are milling around, focusing their long lenses. Women are conspicuously

Except for the gaggle of hardcore FEMINISTS with their placards, denouncing "Heaven."

One Feminist approaches the Mayor.

FEMINIST

The city tower belongs to the city, not to some pornographer.

MAYOR

The library also belongs to the city. And guess what? It's going to have a new Ted Nelson wing with three thousand children's books.

to the
And
The Feminist tries to respond, but a helicopter swoops overhead, drowning out her words. The helicopter rises level of the photo shoot where the door slides open.

core

just when we think it must have been hired by some hard fans who wanted a closer look, we find Principal Merkin frowning as he barks through a bullhorn.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

You should be ashamed, young lady!
Your body is a sacred temple!

Missing

Molly flashes him. Principal Merkin averts his eyes. the sight of Molly's dress being blown off her body by the chopper's prop wash. The spectators below APPLAUD. They watch in amazement as her dress floats down to them.

the

They

PRINCIPAL MERKIN (CONT'D)

Young lady, I will pray for god's mercy upon your soul.

MOLLY

Don't bother, Merk! I'm already going to "Heaven!"

TED

(to Charlie)
Get them together.

CHARLIE

(eyes lighting up)
Brilliant! Molly, give me all you've got. For Merk.

Molly gets the idea. She poses provocatively towards Principal Merkin, who suddenly realizes he's in a compromising position.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Stop that, stop that this instant!

But Molly pulls off her panties and flings them at him.

INT. TED'S LUXURIOUS HOTEL SUITE - DESK AREA - THAT

NIGHT

in his

Uncle Billy chortles, his image glowing on a large flat screen monitor that hangs on the wall. Ted leans back chair.

TED

I never saw anybody turn so many shades of red.

UNCLE BILLY

I can't wait to see the pictures.

TED

It was incredible. The light, the crowd, everything.

Uncle Billy grins proudly at Ted.

UNCLE BILLY

Such enthusiasm. Have I told you lately how proud I am of you?

TED

Seriously? I'm doing all right?

UNCLE BILLY

You're taking this bull of an empire by the horns, but you're still keeping your small town values. You're not letting all this "stuff" spoil you.

Ted knows it's not true. He looks guilty.

TED

I owe it all to you. Without your help I'd be lost.

UNCLE BILLY

I wish I knew you years ago, when my brother was alive. I wish he never gave you up.

TED

Yeah, well, like my Grandpa used to say...you can't change your Christmas past, but you sure can exchange your Christmas presents.

Uncle Billy forces a laugh.

UNCLE BILLY

Why don't you come to town this weekend? We could play some golf, chase some skirts.

Ted smiles at the appealing offer.

TED

I'd love to, but I really need to crack the books. Final exams are coming up and I've been slacking.

UNCLE BILLY

You're right. I should work, too. Our first issue together is almost ready to print.

TED

Thanks, Uncle Billy. Thanks for everything.

UNCLE BILLY

You're a great kid. Don't you forget it.

And Ted
With that, he's gone. The room is completely silent.
is completely alone.

UNTIL the doorbell CHIMES.

TED'S LUXURIOUS HOTEL SUITE - ENTRY WAY - NIGHT

bike.
Ted opens the door. It's Jimmy, with his shiny new

TED

James, what are you doing here?

JIMMY

You can call me Jimmy again. Sheryl Petersen said James sounds too pretentious.

TED

Sheryl Petersen is, what, nine years old, what does she know?

JIMMY

She knew exactly where you were staying, which you neglected to tell me, your own brother.

TED

It's really late...do your parents know where you are?

JAMES

Mom and Dad think I'm tucked safely

in bed and that's all they need to know. Will this discussion be continuing in the hallway, or somewhere slightly more inviting?

TED'S LUXURIOUS HOTEL SUITE - LIVING ROOM

bike

Jimmy seems impressed by the opulence. He takes off his helmet, looks around.

JIMMY

Impressive. This is bigger than our whole house.

TED

Most places are, Jimmy.

JIMMY

They say money can't buy happiness but this is a reasonably good facsimile.

TED

So, what brings you here at his hour?

JIMMY

My new bike.

TED

Very funny.

JIMMY

I came to ask permission to take custody of your room.

TED

My room?

JIMMY

Better view, more spacious, new carpet. It's a no-brainer.

TED

It's not up to me.

JIMMY

Mom and Dad said it's yours. They seem to think you're coming home.

TED

You can have it, then. I'm not going back there.

Jimmy whips out a piece of paper from his pocket.

JIMMY

If you could just sign right there.

TED

You want it in writing?

JIMMY

Just a formality.

Starts

Ted signs. Jimmy squirrels away the paper, excitedly, to zip up his wind breaker.

TED

That's it? I mean, you don't want to order room service or anything? We could play games and watch movies and stuff.

JIMMY

Are you kidding? Mom and Dad discover I'm gone and I'll be doing hard time.

TED

Are they okay?

JIMMY

Aside from the fact that Mom's eyes are nearly swollen shut from crying and Dad spends all his time under the car trying to fix stuff that isn't broken, things couldn't be better.

TED

I miss them, too.

JIMMY

You can't come back. That is, you can, but your things will be in the room you currently think of as mine.

TED

You're a peach.

JIMMY

Funny you should say that. My Grandfather was a peach farmer.

Ouch. For the first time, that really smarts.

TED

He was my Grandfather, too.

JIMMY

I meant biologically.

TED

That's a crappy thing to say.

JIMMY

Look Ted. I'm cool with everything. You've long been dissatisfied with our mediocre little town. You've always had an itch for the good life. I'm happy for you. This couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

Ted listens.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

But just for the record, my Mom is a kick-ass schoolteacher and my Dad is the best damn auto mechanic this side of the Himalayas. You seem to have forgotten they opened Nelson's FAMILY Market so they could build something permanent, a legacy, for us. Their kids.

TED

I didn't forget.

JIMMY

You ever look down on them again and call them "grocers" like it's a dirty word, and you'll be sucking your filet mignon through a straw for six to eight weeks. Got it?

Ted's stunned. Talk about tough love.

TED

Loud and clear.

Suddenly the phone rings. Ted sheepishly explains...

TED (CONT'D)

That's probably my office.

INT. JULIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

JULIE

Well? Where the hell are you?

INTERCUT BETWEEN TED AND JULIE

TED

He's on the move?

JULIE

I got an anonymous tip and an address in Cincinnati.

TED

Let's do it.

TED'S LUXURIOUS HOTEL SUITE - LIVING ROOM - THAT MOMENT

Ted hangs up the phone. Looks around. Jimmy's gone.

But his

SHINY NEW BIKE is left behind.

INT. CINCINNATI NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Not much of a place. A middle-aged TORCH SINGER croons

"MY

ROMANCE." Ted and Julie find their way to corner

table.

Keeping an eye out for Principal Merkin.

TED

I don't know. This place seems pretty tame.

JULIE

You expected whips, chains, Merk being cattle-prodded by some dominatrix in a leather hood?

TED

At least it's not another 4-H meeting or a Big Brother barbecue.

JULIE

Amen to that.

Their heads are very close together. A conspiratorial

tête-à

tête.

TED

Look at us. It's one o'clock in the morning, on a school night. We're in a smoky nightclub, hoping to catch our principal with some big city tart.

JULIE

I'm trembling with excitement.

TED

That has more to do with your proximity to me.

JULIE

(playing along)
My desire betrays me, like goosebumps on my flesh.

TED

I have a bit of a goosebump fetish. Not many people know that.

JULIE

I figured you for more of a hairy armpit guy.

TED

Shoes, if you want to know the truth. Shoes are my thing.

JULIE

Wearing them? Or humping them?

TED

My fantasy is a totally naked woman, wearing nothing but a Timex and suede clogs.

JULIE

That's refreshingly deviant.

TED

What about you?

JULIE

I'm very aural.

TED

Tell me more.

JULIE

Sounds, voices, music, humming. All of it can turn me on, or off, like a switch.

TED

(feigning a deep voice)
I see.

JULIE

I had a Portuguese boyfriend who could read the phone book and melt me.

TED

(jealous)
A Portuguese boyfriend. Sounds very "Cosmo."

JULIE

You live and learn. I realized the most important thing to me, above all, is trust.

TED

Turned out to be a scoundrel, eh?
I saw that one coming.

JULIE

You lose trust in someone and it's over, done, gone, forever.

At that moment, the TORCH SINGER begins crooning
"PEOPLE."

TED

Do you trust me, Julie?

JULIE

Not a chance.

TED

Come on.

JULIE

Trust is something you earn, over time. You don't just inherit it overnight like a gazillion dollar empire.

Ted leans even closer. Looking into her eyes. Using his

voice. Being as aurally seductive as he can.

TED

I want you to trust me.

JULIE

Maybe someday.

TED

Julie, I'll tell you something that is the god's honest truth. I've seen a lot of really beautiful girls. I mean a lot. But none of them make me feel like you do.

JULIE

That's hard to believe.

TED

But absolutely true.

seems Ted moves closer. Julie doesn't move away. The SINGER to be performing just for them.

SINGER (O.S.)

..."A feeling deep in your soul/Says you were half, now you're whole..."

widen. Just as Ted and Julie are about to kiss, Julie's eyes She grabs Ted's hand. Simultaneously, they turn towards THE SINGER...

JULIE & TED

OH. MY. GOD.

torch It's the Mother Lode! That's not just any middle-aged singer. That's Principal Merkin. Dressed in drag as Barbra Streisand. And doing a mighty fine job of it. stage Ted pulls out his camera and fires away. Blinded by the lights, Principal Merkin sings and vogues glamorously. He has no idea his secret is out.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB/CINCINNATI STREET - NIGHT

giggling,
Their
no time
kissing

Ted and Julie rush down the street in the rain,
totally euphoric. They stop to catch their breath.
clothes are drenched, but they couldn't care less. In
they've got their arms wrapped around one another,
and laughing.

TED

We just found the ULTIMATE
centerfold for "The Girls of
Xenia!"

Suddenly Julie sobers, pulls away.

JULIE

I have to be honest with you, Ted.
I really despise "The Girls of
Xenia."

TED

I know, their small town mentality
can be maddening.

JULIE

I mean your pictorial. It bothers
me, profoundly.

TED

Aw Julie, it's my job. It's like
being a doctor.

Julie eyes him skeptically.

JULIE

You're telling me you don't get
aroused by a roomful of naked
breasts.

TED

You've seen one naked breast,
you've seen them all.

JULIE

Which explains the continued
success of "Heaven" for how many
decades?

TED

You're quick. I like that.

JULIE

You think you're working with chimps here?

TED

The thing is, I made a commitment. I said I'd do it and I have to keep my word.

JULIE

Keeping your word is something I can actually respect, Ted.

CUT TO:

A

TREMBLING HANDS, STRUGGLING TO LOAD A ROLL OF FILM INTO NIKON.

INT. TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

And

Ted closes the back of his camera. Takes a deep breath. forces a confident smile. He then peers into the...

SHOWER

against

Where Christy Malone limbers up. Stretching her leg the wall. Wearing her sexy cheerleader uniform.

CHRISTY

I thought I'd be nervous, but you sure know how to make a girl feel relaxed, Teddy Bear.

TED

I do? I mean, yeah, I do.

CHRISTY

I have to admit, I am so totally turned on. We should do it. Now.

TED

Do it?

CHRISTY

You know...take the pictures?

Christy does her warm-up contortionist poses for Ted.

the
Clothes still on. As reflectors bounce strobes into
shower area.

and
Years of being a merciless tease, paying off right here
now. Christy knows how to make love to the camera.

TED

I remember the first time you
walked into Mrs. Temple's class in
2nd grade. Blue gingham dress.
Blond ponytail.

CHRISTY

Which you pulled, hard!

TED

That was code for "I like you."

Christy giggles.

CHRISTY

Wanna unzip me?

her
bare
She's a
Ted slowly unzips Christy's top, catching a glimpse of
long, sensuous back. She resumes posing. Flashing a
shoulder. A coy look. She doesn't need direction.
natural.

CHRISTY (CONT'D)

Remember dress up day? You and
Charlie lifting skirts during
recess.

TED

I miss those days, when schoolyard
sexual harassment was without
consequence.

CHRISTY

Things change. Now I'm taking off
my clothes...all by myself.

skirt.
a
Christy slips off her cheerleader top. Lowers her
Flings it aside. She's wearing only panties the size of
Band-aid. Ted is mute. Staring at her perfect body.

CHRISTY (CONT'D)

Well?

TED

You have changed since second grade.

CHRISTY

I mean, what do you think?

TED

You expect me to think at a time like this? There isn't a drop of blood in my brain.

CHRISTY

Oh, Teddy Bear, you're funny.

he Ted steps out of the shower. Out of Christy's sight, squirms in his jeans. Trying to hide his enthusiasm.

Nails. MUSIC suddenly seems to come from nowhere. Nine Inch

"I Want to Fuck You Like An Animal."

TED

(sotto)

God help me.

cube on Ted steps back into the shower. Christy rubs an ice her left nipple.

CHRISTY

I heard they do this on photo shoots. Wanna to do the other one?

the She tosses him the ice cube. He fumbles. It lands on floor.

TED

You're doing just fine, Christy. Believe me.

CHRITY

Then I'm ready when you are.

Music Ted looks through the lens. We can see him trembling.

both

blasts as Ted's camera burns through film. They're getting into it. Water pulsating over her body. Steam rising. Christy begins lathering her breasts.

CHRISTY

I was always too shy to admit how much I liked you.

TED

Come on, I was hamburger. You were porterhouse.

CHRISTY

Maybe on the outside. But inside, deep down, I've always been dripping with special sauces.

(she smiles, sexily)

Are you hungry?

ten

Is he hungry. He's been working up this appetite for years. He can barely contain himself.

TED

God, you are so hot.

CHRISTY

Then you better get in the water, before you get burned.

right

Ted calls her bluff. He sets aside his camera. Walks into the water. Through the steam. Toward Christy. She wraps a leg around him, sucking face, wanting more.

wraps

CHRISTY (CONT'D)

You and me, finally. This will be so fantastic, Teddy Bear. Trust me.

trust.

Suddenly Ted stops. Remembering what Julie said about

TED

I'm sorry, Christy. I've been crazy about you forever, and this is definitely a page right out of my palm pilot, but I just can't go through with it.

against his
his
He turns away, but Christy presses her bare body
back. Wrapping her hands around his waist. Caressing
chest, his stomach...

CHRISTY

Sure you can. You're only human.
It's not like you're made of steel.
(she lowers her hand)
Or ARE you?

SMASH CUT TO:

the
the
Ted and Christy locked in a steamy embrace. Rolling on
floor. Hands, arms, lips, tongues, all in motion. As
shower drenches them.
Suddenly, they roll into a pair of legs. Both look up.
The
not
steam clears to reveal Julie. Arms crossed. Hurt, but
surprised.

JULIE

What's up, doc?

herself.
She doesn't wait for an explanation. Christy covers
Ted chases after Julie.

TED

Wait, Julie, wait!

INT. TECUMSEH HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Julie dashes out of the girls' locker room, passing a
JANITOR. Ted follows, dripping water.

JANITOR

I'm sorry, Mr. Ted. She pushed
right past me.

TED

(calling after Julie)
At least let me explain!

door.
Julie darts into the girls' restroom. Ted stops at the

inside. Then realizes there is no one else around. He heads

INT. GIRLS' RESTROOM - CONTINUOUS

tell Julie's too proud to let him see her cry. But we can she's upset.

JULIE

Go away, Ted. Just go.

Ted corners her near a row of sinks.

TED

Please believe me. It was just a kiss for old time's sake. I've had a stupid crush on her since I was seven, but I never got closer to her than four feet and then there she was right in front of me, completely naked.

her Julie looks at him, pensively. She unzips the back of summery dress. And lets it fall to the floor. She's completely naked and absolutely gorgeous.

now, but Ted gasps. He's been around dozens of naked women by cares this one he can't just gawk at. This one he really about.

JULIE

Being naked is no big deal. It has nothing to do with emotion, nothing to do with love. You can be around all the naked girls you want and you won't be even one step closer to anything meaningful in your life.

happened. She puts on her dress, gracefully. As if nothing

JULIE (CONT'D)

See that? You don't know me even one ounce better than you did before. You and your stupid magazine. I liked you better when you were sweet and kind and human,

like the rest of us.

away,
At that moment, Ted's cell phone rings. Julie walks
leaving Ted completely alone. He answers, lifelessly...

TED

Yes?

UNCLE BILLY (O.S.)

We've got a huge problem with the
magazine, Ted-baby. Our readers
hate it. HATE IT. We need to talk.

INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

the new
Ted walks down the hallway. Three JOCKS look through
issue of "Heaven." Laughing. They taunt Ted.

JOCK #1

You got a great sense of humor. I
love the three hundred pound Eskimo
chick.

JOCK #2

You like Eskimo pie, Teddy?

JOCK #3

I like the African chick with the
big lip. You could stash a lot of
weed in there. Maybe even a six
pack.

with
Ted's mortified, depressed. Charlie appears next to him
"Heaven" in hand.

CHARLIE

Holy stinkers, what were you
thinking?

TED

We wanted to challenge the notions
of classic beauty. We wanted to
showcase women throughout the
world.

CHARLIE

Next time, make sure you put a barf
bag in the centerfold.

his

Principal Merkin approaches. Also holding "Heaven" in hand.

PRINCIPAL MERKIN

Ted, I realize I owe you an apology. You're destroying "Heaven" much faster from the inside than I ever could from the outside. Good job, son.

Ted could not feel worse.

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Ted, Uncle Billy, and Helen. Meeting with the HEADS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

HEAD OF MARKETING

Our advertisers are wiggling out. Half of them are threatening to pull their ads for next month. The other half already did.

UNCLE BILLY

It was nothing more than beginner's folly. Tell everyone to lighten up.

HELEN

It's a little more serious than that, Bill. The stockholders have requested a meeting. They want our guarantee that this will never happen again.

(the words pain her)

Some of them are even calling for Ted's resignation.

TED

Look, the girls of Xenia are gorgeous, you'll see. Next month we'll be back to normal.

HEAD OF FINANCE

Another disaster like this could sink us. We've got thousands of subscribers requesting refunds.

UNCLE BILLY

The kid came up with something that sounded good on paper. Who knew our readers wouldn't dig it?

Ted bristles. THE KID? The kid came up with something?

HEAD OF MARKETING

We tried to warn you.

UNCLE BILLY

Sometimes young people need to make their own mistakes. That's how they learn.

Ted can see that Uncle Billy's playing this out differently than he imagined. Giving Ted all the "credit."

TED

(firmly; to Uncle Billy)
It won't happen again. It will never happen again.

INT. "HEAVEN" MANSION - TED'S OFFICE - DAY

Ted sits at his father's desk. Going through paperwork. Figures. Charts. Reports. CEO work. In the b.g., he hears the PLAYFUL SOUNDS of women. Which distract him.

Ted approaches the window and watches a group of girls splashing and playing in the pool. He looks sad. Helen enters behind him. He turns to her.

TED

I always thought I wanted fame and fortune and beautiful women. But sometimes your dreams come true, and they cause you nothing but grief. I just want to chuck everything and sell the stupid magazine. It's not worth the pain.

Helen takes Ted's hand, comfotingly.

HELEN

Come, let me show you something.

INT. MANSION ATTIC - DAY

Helen and Ted sit on old trunk. Helen holds a scrapbook in her arms. Explaining to Ted...

HELEN

Your parents never wanted to interfere with your life, Ted. They knew your Mom and Dad loved you very much. They knew they did the right thing. But that doesn't mean they didn't watch you and miss you, from afar.

TED

You mean they knew who I was?

HELEN

They kept this scrapbook of your life. It meant the world to them.

CLOSE ON SCRAPBOOK

a We see baby pictures of Ted, taken through the glass of nursery. A newspaper photo of Ted playing a donkey in a nativity play. And clippings from Ted's high school newspaper.

TED

I wondered about them, for so many years. I wondered if I looked like them, acted like them. I wondered why they gave me up.

HELEN

Giving you up was the most unselfish thing they ever did. When they founded "Heaven," they wished they could take you back but it was too late.

All they could do was build the empire, knowing that someday it would all be yours.

TED

My legacy.

HELEN

Your parents would be crushed to think you weren't happy with it.

TED

They're not my parents, Helen. My parents are back in Xenia and I hurt them very much.

HELEN

I understand.

TED

And the girl I love, she hates
"Heaven." If I keep it, she'll
never respect me.

HELEN

But how can you respect yourself if
you don't?

INT. NELSON LIVING ROOM - DAY

They're
broke in
so
rises.

Ted's parents and Jimmy walk through the front door.
stunned to find a huge 24x36 enlarged family portrait,
hanging over the mantle. It's the same picture Ted
his childish tantrum. Mom and Dad are moved. Even more
when they see Ted. Waiting for them on the couch. Ted
Misty eyed.

TED

Everything I am is because of you.
Can you ever forgive me?

MOM

(hugging him)
Oh, Teddy. We missed you so much.

DAD

You were always our number one son.

JIMMY

(rolling his eyes)
Mom, Dad. This display of
unconditional love is appalling.

MOM

We are a FAMILY.

JIMMY

A family, need I remind you, that
HE ridiculed and left for dead.

TED

Shut your pie hole, Jimmy.

DAD

I will not have my boys arguing.

JIMMY

So, when I'm seventeen, can I turn everyone's life upside-down, behave like a total piece of canine excrement, and then wipe the slate clean with a half-baked apology and a Kodak moment?

MOM & DAD

No!

JIMMY

Which is precisely why I got the rights to my new room IN WRITING.

TED

(to his parents)

I need your help. I'm really in deep shit.

MOM

Don't say "shit," honey. Use the strong vocabulary God gave you.

DAD

Besides, there's no problem too deep or too shitty for us to solve.

INT. NELSON GROCERY STORE - DAY

Dad reaches for a can of peaches from the shelf.

DAD

Son, it's a simple fix. The only difference between my store and that magazine of yours is a bunch of zeros. Now, have I ever told you the story about the can of peaches?

INT. CONFERENCE HALL - DAY

A "Heaven" stockholders' meeting in progress. Uncle Billy stands at the podium.

UNCLE BILLY

Ladies, gentlemen. "Heaven" has gone to hell.

he is

Behind him are charts, wall graphs. We quickly realize
a complete and utter turn-coat.

UNCLE BILLY (CONT'D)

I loved my brother. I stood by his wishes to let his son run the company. A son he never knew. A son that he and his wife gave away at birth. A son who was raised in a world quite different from our own. Nevertheless, I was there for the lad. I guided him as best I could. But he's only seventeen, with a mind of his own and judgment that is, well, frankly, not a chip off the old block. There is only one clear solution...

(gesturing to himself)

And I think we all know what that is--

TED (O.S.)

--PEACHES! CANNED PEACHES!

can of
Curious,

Ted bursts into the meeting with his Dad. Holding up a
peaches. Suddenly hundreds of eyes are upon him.
bewildered.

fire

Ted dashes to the podium, with passion in his soul and
in his belly.

UNCLE BILLY

What are you doing?

TED

My job. Back off, Benedict.

the
finds

Uncle Billy steps into the shadows as Ted looks out at
crowd. He's petrified. But he takes a deep breath and
the courage to explain...

TED (CONT'D)

The only man I called "Dad" owns a little grocery store in Xenia, Ohio. He learned a lot of cool stuff from my Grandpa, who was a

peach farmer in his day. Grandpa knew the right thing to say in every situation, and it usually involved peaches. My dad's a lot like him. And he taught me, you have to focus on the peachy side of life, not the pits.

Dad's eyes are filled with tears. He's never been so proud.

TED (CONT'D)

There was a time when canned peaches were the hottest, greatest thing ever invented. It was like a little taste of summer, anytime you wanted. Grocery stores couldn't keep them in stock, they were so popular. And even though other canned fruits like pears, plums, and pineapples have come along, people still need to know they can get their canned peaches, on the same shelf, whenever they want them. It's comforting, you know? It fulfills their expectations.

The stockholders are listening. Uncle Billy grins nervously.

Unable to believe Ted is pulling this off.

TED (CONT'D)

You're probably wondering if there's a point to all this and I guess it's just that I goofed last month. I not only moved the canned peaches, I restocked the shelves with kiwi, guava, and mandarin oranges in heavy syrup. I challenged people's expectations. And you can't do that to your customers. So, I ask you for one more chance to fix things and give our readers back their canned peaches.

The stockholders APPLAUD enthusiastically, giving Ted a standing ovation. Ted turns to Uncle Billy.

TED (CONT'D)

Thanks for teaching me an important

lesson. What makes a family is
love, not blood.

UNCLE BILLY

All is fair in "Heaven," Ted-baby.

TED

That's right. And guess who's the
new King of the Unemployment Line.

UNCLE BILLY

Aw, come on, kid. Throw me a bone.
I'm your uncle for gosh sakes.

INT. "HEAVEN" HEADQUARTERS - DAY

MONTAGE

his
his
hear
the

Ted looks at pictures. Layouts. Reads copy. Listens to
staff. He seems confident. In control. Mature beyond
years. The magazine goes to press. In VOICE OVER, we
Julie, reading the article about Ted that she wrote for
school paper.

JULIE (V.O.)

"It's easy to fall prey to petty
jealousy when considering the young
life of Ted Nelson. But how would
any of us behave if one day all our
dreams came true? Would we handle
it half as well? Would we find
ourselves making the same mistakes
for which we criticize him?"

the

Someone hands Ted a copy of Julie's article. He reads
last portion of it aloud...

TED

"One can only hope that Ted Nelson
will find bigger and better dreams
upon which to set his sights as the
years pass. And that he will
remember, always, where he came
from."

EXT. JULIE'S HOUSE - DAY

a

Julie opens her front door. Charlie grins. He hands her
copy of "Heaven."

CHARLIE

Page three.

Intrigued, she turns to the page.

CLOSE ON MAGAZINE

Crime,
pictorial,
only to find--

We see a special dedication, "To Julie, My Partner in
With All the Love in the World." Julie's eyes fill with
tears. She flips ahead to "The Girls of Xenia"

Barbra
Molly in

Principal Merkin. Singing his heart out, in drag as
Streisand. It's a series of shots from the Cincinnati
nightclub. Other shots suggestively include him with
the foreground, as if they posed together.

JULIE

Not bad for a hack. He has a future
in yellow journalism.

CHARLIE

He kicked major ass and you know
it.

INT. MERKIN'S HONDA CIVIC - MOVING - DAY

one

Principal Merkin drives. The RADIO plays in the b.g. As
song ends, we hear the DJ say...

DJ

This one's for you Dick Merkin of
Tecumseh High. From all your
students. With hugs and kisses.

The voice of Barbra Streisand fills the car.

BARBRA STREISAND (ON THE RADIO)

"People/People who need People/Are
the luckiest people in the world."

Principal Merkin pales. He turns off the radio. But

the
waves

somehow, he can still hear the song. As he pulls into school parking lot, students wave enthusiastically. He back tentatively. Anxiety rising.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

by
parking
Students
Principal

Principal Merkin swings open his car door to be greeted the sound of Barbra singing her heart out through the lot. Every student's car stereo blasts the song. CHEER. Chanting: "BAR-BRA, BAR-BRA, BAR-BRA!" Merkin turns crimson.

EXT. SCHOOL STADIUM - DAY

laughing,

Graduation caps fall all around. People hugging, overjoyed. Ted searches for Julie, but she's nowhere in sight.

INT./EXT. NELSON'S HOUSE - EVENING

blew
minds.

A big graduation party in progress. But Ted sits in the corner, looking sad, dejected. Julie didn't show up. He it. Jimmy and Charlie approach, with cheering on their

JIMMY

Why so melancholy?

CHARLIE

You were born naked, wet, and hungry. Now you're hip, handsome, and rich. You are the coxswain on the ship of life.

JIMMY

Eat, Drink, and Screw Mary!

CHARLIE

(proudly)
I taught him that.

TED

Great.

JIMMY

From my wise, albeit youthful,
vantage point, the world is your
oyster. You scored big.

CHARLIE

You got everything you ever wanted.

TED

Except the girl. The only one that
really mattered.

JULIE (O.S.)

And who might that be? Miss July?
Miss August?

Ted turns to find Julie. His faces brightens with hope.

TED

Julie, wow. I was afraid you left.
I was afraid I'd never see you
again.

JULIE

I'm not going anywhere, Ted. You're
the one with the champagne wishes
and caviar dreams.

TED

I decided to let Helen run the
magazine. I need to go to college,
learn a few things, you know.

Julie seems pleased.

TED (CONT'D)

And I thought maybe I'd take up
boating. I've always wanted to be a
"coxswain."

JULIE

Very ambitious. I like that.

TED

The thing is, I'll need a first
mate.

JULIE

I know where you can find any
number of naked girls who'd love to
hop on board.

All kidding aside, he speaks from the heart...

TED

Julie, you were right. All the
naked girls in the world mean
nothing.
It's the one you want to cover up
with your coat that you really
love.

Julie smiles...

JULIE

Planet Ted. Five years from now.
What's happening?

TED

I graduated from college. Did
great, summa cum laude and all. And
I'm about to launch a brand new
magazine called "EXPOSED!" An
homage to Miss Julie Conroy of
Xenia, Ohio.

Julie grins.

JULIE

I know where you can find an
excellent editor-in-chief.

TED

Yellow pages?

JULIE

Let your fingers do the walking.

Suddenly the music changes. "People." Ted grins.

TED

They're playing our song.
(extending his hand)
Dare I ask for this dance?

JULIE

(taking his hand)
You better.

Ted and Julie begin dancing and kissing in the b.g.

Charlie and Jimmy feign tears.

CHARLIE

I'm a sucker for a happy ending.
(hugging Jimmy)
Hold me.

into the
And we start to RISE AGAIN, above the NELSON HOUSE,
clouds above Xenia...

TED (V.O.)

So, as you can guess, everybody
pretty much lived happily ever
after. My parents didn't give up
the grocery store...

We descend through clouds and quickly find we're...

EXT. LONDON - BUCKINGHAM PALACE - DAY

palace.
Mom and Dad take pictures and smooch in front of the

TED (V.O.)

...but they did manage to sneak
away for a second honeymoon.

ON A NEARBY NEWSSTAND

open in
We ZOOM CLOSE on "Heaven Magazine," where pages flip
the wind, revealing...

PRINCIPAL MERKIN "EXPOSED" IN THE PAGES OF "HEAVEN."

TED (V.O.)

Merk's appearance in "Heaven"
turned out to be a good thing. He
was spotted by a talent scout...

INT. LONDON DRAG CLUB - NIGHT

on My
Principal Merkin dressed as Barbra, singing "Don't Rain
Parade."

TED (V.O.)

...and went on a European summer
tour, fulfilling his lifelong
dream. Naturally he brought
Poochie, the only girl he ever
really loved.

IN THE WINGS

Poochie, the Cocker Spaniel, watches. Wagging her tail.

TED (V.O.)

After graduation, Charlie moved to Utah...

STILL PHOTOGRAPHS OF...

EXT. UTAH FARM - DAY

TAYLOR

Charlie wrestling in a haystack with the IDENTICAL
TRIPLETS.

TED (V.O.)

...where he married all three of the identical Taylor Triplets. Let's just say, they've been very busy...

CHARLIE

Peeking out of the haystack, we spot at least a dozen
JR's.

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

And even Uncle Billy landed on his feet.

INT. TELEMARKETING CUBICLE - DAY

swimming in

Uncle Billy wears a phone headset. He seems to be
a sea of "Time-Life" style operators.

BILLY

...with a two year subscription to "Heaven," you get a free underwater calculator.

TED (V.O.)

And now if you'll excuse me, I think I'll get back to being the coxswain on the ship of life.

EXT. SAILBOAT - PACIFIC COAST - DAY

SUNSET.

Ted and Julie sail off into, what else but a GLORIOUS

FADE OUT