

**ALIEN NATION**  
"SOUL TRAIN"

Written by

Diane Frolov  
and Andrew Schneider

Draft No. - Unknown  
Draft Date - Unknown

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

**EXT. CITY - NIGHT**

Sikes' car barrels down the street, passing a billboard for NU-SHEEN -- Newcomer spot enhancer.

INSIDE THE CAR

Sikes drives. Cathy sits next to him, looking anxiously out the window. Suddenly, Sikes brakes.

HIS POV - A NEWCOMER MAN

Dressed in a suit, walks aimlessly in the middle of the street, directly in Sikes' path.

Sikes hits the horn.

SIKES

Hey! Move it!

The Newcomer man stops, staring blankly at the car.

SIKES

Turns the wheel to go around him.

SIKES' CAR circumventing the man, continuing down the street.

**EXT. TAYLOR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT**

A sign reads: A DUAL HUMAN/NEWCOMER HEALTH CARE FACILITY.

Sikes' car SCREECHES to a stop. Sikes and Cathy leap out.

CATHY (pointing)

The Newcomer wing is over here.

Following Cathy, Sikes rushes toward the building.

**INT. NEWCOMER WARD CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

Staff is both human and Newcomer. A few ambulatory Newcomer patients walk the corridor. Cathy and Sikes appear from around corner.

CATHY (pointing)  
They're in the secure area.

She and Sikes continue toward a set of swinging doors marked AUTHORISED PERSONNEL ONLY. Cathy and Sikes flash their I.D. to a security guard. He waves them through.

**INT. SECURITY WING CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

George is at the far end of the hall with Buck who holds Vessna to his chest. They peer through a glass window into a room. Sikes and Cathy approach.

SIKES  
George...  
(as George turns)  
How are they?

Shaking his head, George points to the glass window.

GEORGE  
The doctor's in with them.

**THEIR POV - THE HOSPITAL ROOM**

Where Susan and Emily lie bathed in eerie U.V. light and therapeutic mist. A Newcomer doctor, Quinn, evaluates their signs which flash across monitors above their beds. Newcomer lab technician draws a pink blood sample from Susan's shoulder while another doctor, a human woman, examines Emily with a laryngoscope. Quinn exits, followed by the other doctor.

**RESUME SCENE**

George distraught, turns to Sikes.

GEORGE  
Flowers came to the house... I should've been more careful... I shouldn't have let Susan and Emily near them...

QUINN (approaching)  
Mr Francisco... We've got them on life support. For now, it seems the intensive ultra violet and nitrogen are keeping your wife and daughter stable.

(MORE)

QUINN (approaching) (CONT'D)  
But their condition is still critical.

BUCK  
Can we go inside?

QUINN  
I wouldn't recommend taking the baby -- she might be more vulnerable.

CATHY (to Buck)  
Go.  
(reaching out)  
I'll take her.

Vessna CRIES, clinging to Buck.

GEORGE  
She senses something is wrong... she'll only let Buck or me hold her.

BUCK  
You go in, Dad. I'll be in the waiting room.

He exits as George starts for Susan and Emily's room. Sikes, feeling terrible for his friend and guilty over their earlier fight, stops him.

SIKES  
George... if there's anything I can do...

GEORGE  
(conscious of the unresolved friction)  
Thank you, Matthew.

George enters the room.

INSIDE

The Newcomer lab technician, who has moved to Emily, finishes taking a blood sample from her shoulder. The syringe fills with Emily's pink blood. George approaches through the purple mist, pausing to watch his daughter's laboured breathing as she sleeps. He turns toward Susan who, sensing her husband's presence, opens her eyes.

SUSAN (weak)

Stangya...

Putting his finger to his lips, George signals Susan not to  
tax herself. He tenderly touches her temple with his fist.  
In the back ground the lab technician exits with his  
samples.

OUTSIDE THE ROOM

Cathy observes through the window. Sikes stands next to  
her.

CATHY

I'm putting together a team to find an  
antitoxin. Your scientific investigation  
division knows as much about the bacterium  
as anyone so we're setting up in their  
laboratory.

Sikes' attention is caught by the Newcomer lab technician.  
Holding the blood samples, the technician stands dazed,  
immobile, in the middle of the hall.

SIKES

Is he all right?

Concerned, Cathy approaches the Technician.

CATHY

{Excuse me...}

The technician turns to her, still dazed.

TECHNICIAN

{The suns were eclipsed... darkness... only  
darkness...}

(to Sikes)

The night would last a thousand years.

CATHY (gently touching his  
arm)

Take these samples to the lab.

The technician nods numbly and moves off. Cathy turns to a  
puzzled Sikes.

CATHY

It's a Tenctonese legend... before we were taken into slavery, there was an eclipse of the suns. The Tenctonese sensed the end of their world.

(seeing Sikes doesn't understand)

This bacterium, Matt... it could destroy our entire species.

She walks off. Sikes watches her a moment, then turns back to the window.

HIS POV - INSIDE THE ROOM

George stands vigil over his wife and daughter.

**INT. POLICE STATION SQUAD ROOM - DAY**

Busy. A glassy-eyed Newcomer woman is being led to the holding cell by a human uniformed cop. They pass Zepeda who's taking a file to her desk.

COP

Hey, Zep, get this...

(re: Newcomer)

We caught her on her way up Trumo tower west.

ZEPEDA

So?

COP

Outside. She was climbing it.

NEWCOMER WOMEN

A thousand years... a thousand years...

COP

Something's going on with these Nukes.

ZEPEDA

Yeah. We've been bringing 'em in all night.

The cop leads the woman off. Zepeda heads for her desk where the phone is RINGING. She answers it.

ZEPEDA

Detective Zepeda.

(listens)

Sir, I sympathise -- I've been against it myself since the early 90's. But L.A.P.D. has nothing to do with the renewed Malathion spraying.

(listens)

I'm sorry your dog's asthmatic, but I really can't help you. Try the Mayor's office.

She hangs up as Sikes approaches.

ZEPEDA

How're Susan and Emily?

SIKES

They don't know. What's going on here?

ZEPEDA

Crazy. Newcomers are losing it all over town and Rampart pulls half the first watch for that Malathion protest in --

SIKES (cutting her off)

Whoa -- whoa. What do you mean Newcomers are losing it?

ZEPEDA

They're not sleeping. The milk taverns were packed all night. We got Nukes chanting in the streets -- others are completely zoning out -- one guy left his rig in the middle of the San Bernardino Freeway -- just walked away.

(handling him her file)

Here's the S.I.D. report on the flowers that were sent to George's house. The handwriting on the note was the same as on those sent to Judge Kaiser and Peter Boggs. We also found similar traces of sea salt.

SIKES

So, Parris must've sent them to George before he was killed.

ZEPEDA

But who killed Parris? And why?

SIKES

I know a guy we can talk to about that.

**INT. S.I.D. LAB - DAY**

CAMERA PANS the large, partitioned lab to bomb squad technician Max Jullian. Late twenties, T-shirt and jeans, Max tosses a couple exploding caps -- metal balls, coated with gun powder that SNAP when they hit each other.

SIKES (O.S.)

Hey, Max.

Max doesn't hear him. CAMERA WIDENS to show Sikes and Zepeda entering the lab. Sikes taps his ear, indicating that Max is hard of hearing.

SIKES (louder)

Yo, Max!

Max looks up, smiling when he sees Sikes.

MAX

Hey, Sikes.

SIKES

Zep, meet mad Max -- numero uno bomb tech. Max -- Zepeda. She made D-one last month.

MAX (shaking her hand)

Geppetto? Like Pinocchio's dad?

SIKES

Zepeda.

(tapping his ear)

Plug it in.

MAX (to Zepeda)

Got to close to a pipe bomb.

(turning up his hearing aid)

(MORE)

MAX (to Zepeda) (CONT'D)  
I usually keep this off -- that way I can't  
hear people complain.

SIKES  
What'd you get on the Parris homicide?

MAX (grabbing a file)  
The explosive was Kentex. It's manufactured  
with a chemical tracer, so I've been able  
to determine the batch number.  
Unfortunately, it's a big batch.

(pointing to a page in the  
file)  
Here's fifty-two companies that received  
shipments from the lot.

(hands Sikes the file)  
Find out who can't account for twenty grams  
worth -- you'll know where our boomer  
scored it.

CATHY (O.S.)  
Over here with that.

Sikes turns to see Cathy entering with a mover who's  
dollying in boxes of her equipment. She directs him to a  
corner of the lab. Zepeda notices Sikes looking at Cathy.  
She pulls the file from his hands.

ZEPEDA  
Petrosian and I can start on this.  
She walks off.

MAX  
If you're through with me...

Max turns off his hearing aid as Sikes moves to Cathy who's  
already unpacking feverishly.

SIKES  
Hi...

Absorbed in her work, Cathy nods.

SIKES

Cathy... back in the hospital -- you mentioned a legend --

(beat)

What I mean -- a lot of Newcomers are acting weird.

She turns, holding an empty beaker, her hand shaking.

CATHY

I feel it, too. I can't eat -- can't sleep.

(beat)

It's the "PAPAYELA."

SIKES

The What?

CATHY

PAPAYELA. Doom -- A collective sense of doom.

She squeezes the beaker so hard it shatters in her hand.

SIKES (alarmed)

Cathy.

He reaches to examine her hand, but she yanks it away.

SIKES (trying to calm her)

Cathy, only two Newcomers have died. Susan and Emily are sick, but that doesn't mean all of you are in danger. The man who made the bacteria is dead. For all we know, the formula died with him.

CATHY

That's what you want to believe! But we know -- we know something terrible is going to happen.

Sikes considers her words.

**INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY**

A small human in prison fatigues, Elliot Riley, sits shackled to a desk. He scowls as Sikes enters.

SIKES

Elliot, you lost weight. Don't you like the food at Chino?

ELLIOT

Where's my lawyer? What'd you bring me here for?

SIKES

So, has our penal system reformed you? Or are you still the Purist thug you always were?

The door opens and a massive Newcomer, Moe Goodluck, is escorted in by a guard.

GUARD

Sikes, I'm waiting transport on this yo-yo. Can I park him with you?

SIKES

Sure. More the merrier.

Elliot looks nervously as the guard shackles Moe to another desk.

SIKES

Tell me Elliot, what do you hear on the purist grapevine?

Moe looks over. Elliot shrinks. The guard exits.

ELLIOT (RE: MOE)

Does he have to be here?

SIKES

Hey, you're not ashamed of being a Purist...

MOE (with edge)

Purist?

SIKES

You bet. Elliot here burned a Newcomer family out of Glendale.

ELLIOT

Sikes...

SIKES

He'd do it again if he had the chance.

MOE (to Elliot)

{You father hummer}

SIKES

Watch it.

(re: Elliot)

He'll kick your ass.

MOE (pulling his shackle)

{Kick my ass? Him?}

SIKES (leaning into Elliot)

What've you heard about a bacterium that only affects Newcomers?

MOE (straining his shackle)

{I'll kill that scum!}

ELLIOT (to Sikes)

I don't know a thing.

SIKES (TO MOE; RE: ELLIOT)

After he kicks your ass -- he's going after your family.

Exploding, Moe tugs furiously at his shackle.

ELLIOT

Sikes!

Moe breaks free. Sikes hits an ALARM button. Two guards rush in as Moe lunges forward. They grab Moe, yanking him away from Elliot.

MOE (struggling)

{you father humming Purist scum!}

GUARD

Back off! Back off!

SIKES (CALMLY; TO ELLIOT)  
About this bacterium...

Elliot doesn't answer.

GUARD  
Sorry, Sikes.  
(re: Moe)  
We can pack him off to Chino now.

SIKES  
Elliot's going back. Put 'em together in  
the paddy wagon.

ELLIOT  
You can't do that!

SIKES (uncuffing him)  
Have a nice trip.

Sikes starts pushing Elliot toward the door.

ELLIOT  
All right! All right!

Sikes signals the guards to take Moe out. Passing Sikes,  
Moe gives him a conspiratorial wink. When Sikes and Elliot  
are alone:

ELLIOT  
Word is some Purist organisation has this  
bacteria.

SIKES  
Who? Where are they?

ELLIOT  
I don't know.  
(beat)  
But they're going to make enough to soak  
L.A.

**INT. NEWCOMER WARD - DAY**

Sikes clutching a bouquet of cut flowers, flashes his badge  
at the guard and enters the SECURITY WING CORRIDOR - Sikes  
walks to Susan and Emily's room but finds the window blinds  
closed. He stops Dr. Quinn who's exiting the room.

SIKES

Excuse me, I'd like to see Susan Francisco.

QUINN

They're intubating her droonal flanges --  
have a seat -- it'll be a few minuets.

Sikes takes a seat on a bench in the hallway.

CLOSE - SIKES

Uncomfortable in the hospital, worried about the fate of  
the Francisco family -- worried about the fate of all the  
Newcomers. A CHICKEN'S SQUAWK makes him turn.

HIS POV

Albert enters, burdened with a chicken, a mutt on a leash  
and a potted plant. Sikes gets up to head him off.

SIKES

Albert, what are you doing?

ALBERT

These are for Susan and Emily.

The chicken CLUCKS.

SIKES

You can't bring a chicken into a hospital.

ALBERT

Why not?

SIKES

Because it's an animal -- same with the  
dog. You can't bring animals into a  
hospital.

ALBERT

But... we're animals...

SIKES

Al, we're animals but we're human -- I  
mean, I'm human -- you're a Newcomer.  
(pointing to the chicken and  
dog)

(MORE)

SIKES (CONT'D)

These are animal animals.

ALBERT

Susan and Emily need them. They need the  
life force of many /Nahooma -- many souls.  
(looking tenderly at his  
plant)  
Souls will give them strength.

SIKES

This fern has a soul? Look, I know you  
Newcomers are going through a collective...  
PAPAYELA thing, but you gotta get these  
animals out of here...

He starts to escort Albert back through the security doors.

GEORGE (O.C.)

Albert...

Sikes and Albert turn as George approaches.

GEORGE (PLEASED, RE: GIFTS)

Look, what you've brought.

SIKES

I told them they won't allow these in here.

GEORGE

Of course they will. They're very  
therapeutic. And you brought...

Seeing it is cut flowers, George's face drops.

SIKES

What? You don't like carnations?

ALBERT (trying not to  
offend)

They're cut off from the plant -- they're  
dead. Their souls are gone.

George tries to smooth the moment.

GEORGE

Some Tenctonese believe dead flowers aren't good for the sick.

(beat)

But I know Emily and Susan would like to see you.

(indicating room)

Please...

Sikes looks from his flowers to Albert, then hands the flowers to a passing nurse.

SIKES

Here... congratulations.

The nurse does a take as Sikes follows Albert and George to Susan's room.

SIKES

George, we need to talk -- I got some info from a Purist doing time at Chino...

GEORGE (ANXIOUS; WORRIED)

Matthew... later.

They enter Susan and Emily's room.

As before, the room is bathed in a purple mist. Now however, potted plants are against the exterior window. A kitten sleeps at the foot of Emily's bed. A nurse opens the interior window blinds as George, Albert and Sikes enter. Albert sits down as Sikes and George approach Emily's bed.

THEIR POV - EMILY

Still sleeps fitfully, her breathing laboured.

ON SIKES AND GEORGE

GEORGE

She hasn't regained consciousness.

They move to Susan's bed. She opens her eyes. Seeing Sikes and George together, Susan smiles.

SUSAN (with difficulty)

You're... friends... again.

Sikes and George glance at one another. George tenderly

touches Susan's temple.

SIKES

I'm sorry I didn't bring anything -- I had some flowers, but --

GEORGE

It's all right, Matt.

(to Susan)

Is there anything you want?

Susan's eyes flutter as she starts to doze.

SUSAN

Visahooli...

SIKES

I'll get it. What's a visahooli?

GEORGE

A song. She wants us to sing a song.

SIKES

Sing? I don't know any Tenctonese songs.

GEORGE

No. Her favourite is "San Jose." She loves Dionne Warwick.

SIKES

George... I can't carry a tune. How 'bout Albert?

ALBERT (looking over)

I'm sorry, I don't know that one.

SIKES

George, I can't sing. Really. You sing it. Okay?

GEORGE

All right.

George turns to Susan and begins singing quietly, tenderly.

GEORGE

"Do you know the way to San Jose? I've been away so long -- I may go wrong and lose my way. Do you know the way to San Jose? I'm going back to find my piece of mind in San Jose."

Sikes uncomfortable at the intimacy of the moment, turns to the window, looking out into the hallway.

HIS POV - THE NURSES' STATION

The staff, mostly Newcomers, busy at their jobs.

GEORGE (O.S.)

"L.A. is a great big freeway, put a hundred down and buy a car -- In a week, maybe two they'll make you a star."

CLOSE

Sikes begins to imagine what his world would be like without Newcomers.

HIS POV - THE NURSE'S STATION (FANTASY)

The Newcomers fade away. Just a few humans remain.

GEORGE (O.S.)

"Weeks turn into years how quick they pass -- And all the stars that never were are parking cars and pumping gas."

Sikes turns, looking back into the room.

HIS POV - THE HOSPITAL ROOM (FANTASY)

The purple mist is gone -- the beds are made -- the room is empty.

GEORGE (O.S.)

(doing the instrumental)

Doot doot doot doot...

(back to lyrics)

"You can really breathe in San Jose.  
They've got a lot space -- There'll be a  
(MORE)

GEORGE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
place where I can stay."

CLOSE

Sikes realising how much he'd miss these strange, wonderful creatures.

HIS POV - THE HOSPITAL ROOM

As it is. George sings at Susan's side. Listening, Albert pets the dog.

GEORGE  
"I was born and raised in San Jose -- I'm goin' back to find some piece of mind in San Jose..."

Sikes moves near George.

GEORGE  
"Fame and fortune is a magnet. It can pull you far away from home."

Sikes joins in the singing.

GEORGE AND SIKES (O.C.)  
"I've got a lot of friends in San Jose.  
Doot doot doot doot doot doot doot doot."

CLOSE

Susan smiles, her eyes closed.

GEORGE AND SIKES (O.S.)  
"Do you know the way to San Jose?"

Sikes and George move close together as they finish the song.

GEORGE AND SIKES  
"Doot doot doot doot doot doot doot doot.  
Can't wait to get back to San Jose..."

**INT. WAREHOUSE CORRIDOR - DAY**

Purist leader Darlene Bryant is led into the warehouse by her field commander, Mark her bodyguard follows.

BRYANT

What was so important? Is there a problem with the bacteria?

GUERIN (urgent)

You have to see this.

He pushes through a set of swing doors into:

THE WAREHOUSE LAB

A group of white-coated technicians cluster, their backs to Guerin and Bryant.

BRYANT (concerned)

What?

Turning, the group parts, revealing a technician holding a cake with a half dozen birthday candles.

ALL

Happy birthday, Miss Bryant.

Bryant smiles and laughs in relief.

BRYANT (to Guerin)

You had me scared.

(admiring the cake)

This is very sweet. Thank you. All of you.

She blows out the candles. Everyone APPLAUDS. The technician sets the cake down on a table as Bryant picks up a spatula.

BRYANT

Here goes my diet.

She begins slicing the cake.

GUERIN

Miss Bryant, we have the best birthday gift you can imagine.

(re: Technician)

They found a way to replicate the bacteria twice as quickly. We'll be ready to spray in two days.

BRYANT

That's wonderful.

(handing him a piece of  
cake)

Tell me about the Franciscos -- I hear  
they're still alive.

GUERIN

Only because they're on life support.

(taking a bite)

You can't put two hundred and fifty  
thousand slags on life support.

BRYANT

What about the investigation into Parris's  
murder?

GUERIN

(looking over her shoulder)

Here's the man to ask.

She turns to see the police bomb squad tech, Max Julian.

MAX

Happy birthday, Miss Bryant.

(beat)

I'm part of the investigation -- we don't  
have a thing to worry about.

(re: cake)

Can I have the flower?

FADE OUT

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

**INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY**

School is over - just a few students linger in the hallway. A janitor sweeps the floor with a broom. Carrying Vessna in her snuggly, Buck enters and heads toward a classroom. He is spotted by principal Fisher, who intercepts him.

FISHER  
Mr Francisco...

Without pausing, Buck acknowledges the Principal, his enemy, with a nod.

FISHER (louder)  
Mr Francisco.

Sighing, Buck pauses. The Principal motions Buck over.

FISHER  
I was sorry to hear about your family. How are they?

BUCK  
Nobody knows.

Fisher leans in to peer at Vessna.

FISHER  
Is this your little sister?

Vessna responds with an irritable howl.

FISHER (backing away)  
She's very pretty.

BUCK  
I gotta go.

FISHER  
If you're picking up your assignments, I have them in my office.

BUCK

I'll get them from...  
(being discreet)  
...Ms. Houston.

FISHER

Ms. Houston isn't here. She elected to transfer schools.

BUCK

She wouldn't go - She wouldn't go without telling me.

FISHER

I think she's somewhere in the bay area.

BUCK

I don't believe you.

FISHER (indicating)

You're welcome to see for yourself.

BUCK

(beat)

You did this. You made her go.

FISHER

I thought it was in everyone's best interest yes.

BUCK

You blackmailed her. Marilyn told me.

FISHER

MS. HOUSTON'S relationship with you was at best, inappropriate.

BUCK

Inappropriate - yeah! That's right! Any relationship with you terts is inappropriate.

FISHER

Mr Francisco. I won't have that kind of language.

BUCK

Terts? You don't like the word terts? My mother and sister are dying because of you terts!

FISHER

Mr Francisco, you are still under probation.

BUCK

We could all be dead soon - what do I care about your probation!?

He starts to walk off, comforting Vessna with CLICKS.

FISHER

Mr Francisco - come back here and get your assignments!

Ignoring him, Buck continues off.

FISHER

Mr Francisco!

Buck is gone.

**INT. POLICE STATION ROOM - DAY**

Entering Sikes moves to Zepeda at her desk. She throws up her hands.

ZEPEDA

Nothing but dead ends. Nobody's missing any Kentex - I've gone through Max's entire list of local companies.

At that moment, Max approaches.

ZEPEDA

Speak of the devil...

MAX

What?

SIKES (turns on Max's  
hearing aid)  
When are you going to learn?

MAX (handing Zepeda a paper)  
Here are some out of state companies you  
can try.

ZEPEDA (sighs)  
It's gonna take some time.

MAX (concerned)  
How's George holding up?

SIKES  
'Bout like you'd expect.

MAX  
Give him my best.

Sikes nods as Max exits. Weary, Sikes sits on the edge of Zepeda's desk. Looking around, he realises there are no Newcomers in the room. Zepeda notices him staring.

ZEPEDA  
I know - no Newcomers. It's wired.  
(off Sikes look)  
None of 'em came into work today. It's even  
in the papers.

She hands Sikes a newspaper. One of the headlines reads: NEWCOMERS EXPERIENCE MASS DEPRESSION. Next to it, another reads: MALATHION SPRAYING TO RESUME. (PRODUCTION NOTE: Do not feature this second headline.)

Sikes puts the newspaper down.

SIKES  
You know, I never thought I'd get used to them. Remember when they made George my partner? I wanted to move to Alaska.  
(pauses: thinking)  
I'm still not used to them. I mean, let's face it - they're weird. But to think of life without them...  
(looking at her)  
(MORE)

SIKES (CONT'D)

I can't Zep.

After a beat, something catches Zepeda's attention. She indicates over Sikes' shoulder.

ZEPEDA

Sikes

He turns

HIS POV

George is entering the squad room, heading for his desk. The humans regard him curiously.

Sikes turns, moving to greet him.

GEORGE

There's nothing I can do at the hospital. Maybe here I can make a difference.

SIKES

Sure. As long as you feel up to it.

GEORGE

If you mean the "PAPAYELA", I will try to control myself.

SIKES

Okay. We traced all the calls that went in and out of Parris' boat phone - nothing. There's one guy - Floyd Norall - Knew Parris - has a boat slip next to him. The harbour master confirmed Norell and his wife were out sailing the day Parris was killed - I thought I'd go talk to him.

They look at one another, remembering their argument over George's going to the Marina.

SIKES

You, uh, want to come?

**EXT. MARINA - DAY**

George and Sikes walk down the dock together.

SIKES

Floyd Norell and his wife are weekend sailors. Parris looked after their boat when they weren't there.

George pauses. Sikes notices he is troubled.

SIKES

What?

GEORGE

When we were here last, you mentioned putting in for a new partner.

SIKES

Yeah... I guess I did...

GEORGE

So... have you?

SIKES

No.

GEORGE

Oh.

SIKES

(beat)

George, I was being really stupid.

GEORGE

No. It was me - I was acting like some big head pancho.

SIKES

Honcho - you mean, honcho.

GEORGE

Matt, I don't want you to change partners.

SIKES

Me neither, George.

George offers a conciliatory handshake. Grinning, Sikes pulls George into a hug, then claps him on the back.

SIKES

Okay, Pancho, let's get back to work.

They continue on to a thirty-five foot sailboat. Floyd Norell, mid-forties, weathered, stands on the dock, scrubbing the deck of his boat. Sikes flashes his shield.

SIKES

Mr Norell. I'm Detective Sikes - this is my partner, Detective Francisco.

NORELL

This is about Rick Parris, isn't it? I can't believe what I've been reading.

GEORGE

Did Mr Parris have many visitors?

NORELL

None that I saw. He was kind of a loner, I guess.

SIKES

Did he ever speak to you about any friends... associates..... political ties?

NORELL

No. We mostly talked about sailing - sailing and wine.

(smiles)

He loved good wine.

(shakes head)

This is a real shock - I thought I know the man. We were very friendly - he used to keep an eye on the boat - I trusted him.

George cocks his head, listening to something.

GEORGE

Did Mr Parris spend time on your boat?

NORELL

He could have - he had the run of it during the week.

GEORGE (to Sikes)  
Parris' phone records showed no  
incriminating calls. Perhaps he used Mr  
Norell's phone.

SIKES  
How do you know he's got a phone?

GEORGE  
Mr Norell's wife is on it right now.

Sikes looks toward the boat, but there is no sign of Mrs  
Norell. George taps his ear then points back at the boat.

THEIR POV - MRS NORELL

Comes topside, a portable phone to her ear.

MRS NORELL (into phone)  
No, Bob, let's buy five hundred shares.  
Look what happened with Omco - we were  
kicking ourselves we didn't buy more when  
it was still eighteen and a half.

RESUME SIKES, GEORGE AND NORELL

SIKES  
Mr Norell, do you leave that cellular phone  
here when you're not on the boat?

NORELL  
Yes. Yes, we do.

GEORGE  
We'll need to get your phone records.

George's walkie-talkie SQUAWKS.

DISPATCH  
One William one fifty-two, this is  
dispatch.

GEORGE (INTO WALKIE-TALKIE)  
Fifty-two, over.

DISPATCH

Detective Francisco, you had an emergency call from Dr Quinn. Please contact him immediately.

George is stunned, worried Sikes takes the walkie-talkie.

SIKES

Ten-four, dispatch.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

Susan sleeps. George stands at the foot of Emily's bed with Dr Quinn. Sikes stands a few feet behind them. They watch as a nurse wraps her in a blue frosted plastic cover. Dr Quinn glances up at:

CLOSE - EMILY'S MONITOR

The digital display shows her temperature rising from 106.6 to 106.7.

RESUME SCENE

QUINN

Her temperature still rising. I've given her injections of HO/LODKA. It hasn't helped. We're now putting an ice wrap on her.

Emily MOANS, burning with fever.

QUINN

Unless we can stabilise her temperature in the next twelve hours...

(looking at George)

We have a Celinist priestess here at the hospital. There are other chaplains as well...

GEORGE

No, thank you.

Quinn nods, exits. Sikes takes Dr Quinn's place at the foot of the bed. He stares at Emily a moment, then turns to George.

SIKES

George, I don't know how to say this, but the doctor has a point.

(off George's look)

I mean, a priest... for Emily. I know you have your own beliefs, but if she were my daughter, I'd want her baptised.

GEORGE

So she can go to "heaven"?

SIKES

Well, yeah.

GEORGE

Thank you for thinking of her, Matt. But I don't believe in an after-life.

Sikes is about to respond when George notices someone at the hall window.

GEORGE

Matt...

Sikes turns.

HIS POV - LORRAINE

Holding cut flowers, stands in the hallway and looks through the glass. She gestures, "Can I come in?" Sikes gestures, "We'll come to you." George follows him just outside the door.

GEORGE

Hello, Lorraine.

LORRAINE

George... Matt...

SIKES

Uh, look, I made the same mistake. I mean, they're pretty - but they're, uh, dead...

(beat)

It's a Newcomer thing.

Lorraine looks puzzled at her flowers.

GEORGE

Lorraine, I appreciate your coming, but this isn't a good time for visitors. Matt, you haven't eaten all day. Why don't you take Lorraine downstairs to the cafeteria.

SIKES

You haven't eaten either. Come with us.

GEORGE

I'm not hungry. You go.

(beat)

Sikes nods.

**INT. CAFETERIA - DAY**

Lorraine's flowers lie limply next to her on the table. She looks serious over her plate of hamburger and fries at Sikes who is picking at a green salad.

LORRAINE

You sure you don't want some of my fries?

SIKES

No thanks.

LORRAINE

You're not turning into a health nut on me?

SIKES

Nobody lives forever.

LORRAINE (puzzled)

What does that mean?

SIKES

Sorry, I guess I lost my appetite.

LORRAINE (looking over his  
shoulder)

You're not the only one.

**HIS POV - TWO NEWCOMER DOCTORS**

They sit morosely, glassy-eyed over untouched plates of food. One pours sugar on the table, watching the grains fall into a mound.

Sikes turns back.

LORRAINE

I read they're not sleeping - they all think something terrible is going to happen.

SIKES

For George it already has.

(beat)

I tried to get him to bring in a priest.

LORRAINE (sets down her  
hamburger)

A priest?

SIKES

You're a Catholic... you know...

(with difficulty)

Emily might die tonight. She's never been baptised.

LORRAINE (confused)

Matt, you can't baptise them.

SIKES

Why not?

LORRAINE

Well, I've never really thought about it, but it just doesn't seem right. I mean, we don't even know if they have souls.

SIKES

Why wouldn't they?

LORRAINE

Maybe they do. I feel for them, Matt, but Christ came to us as a human. Not a Newcomer. He died for human beings.

(beat)

I'm sure god has a plan for the Newcomers.

(beat)

But it isn't the same as ours.

Sikes looks at her a moment, then gets to his feet.

SIKES

I better get to George.

He exits.

**INT. SUSAN AND EMILY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

CAMERA PANS the room. Susan is asleep. Sikes is also asleep in a chair. George keeps vigil by Emily's bed. He is awake, but dazed. Emily is still wrapped in her ice pack.

CLOSE - EMILY'S MONITOR

Her temperature hovers: 106.7, 106.6, 106.7, 106.6

ON EMILY

Sleeping fitfully. Suddenly, she stiffens, her jaw clenching.

CLOSE - EMILY'S MONITOR

Her temperature skyrockets: 106.7, 106.8, 106.9, 107. Picking up speed, her temperature continues to increase until it reaches 108, setting off an ALARM.

GEORGE starts, looking up at the monitor.

Sikes waking, rushes to Emily's bedside as a nurse and Dr Quinn charge into the room.

GEORGE

What is it?! What's happening?!

QUINN (to the nurse)

Get me 10 cc's of HO/LODKA!

The nurse prepares the atomiser syringe as Quinn turns to George, shaking his head.

QUINN

Her temperature.

ON SUSAN

Her eyes struggle open.

SUSAN

Emily...

QUINN (to the nurse)

Hurry!

The ALARM stops. All look toward:

EMILY'S MONITOR

As quickly as her temperature rose. It now starts dropping.

RESUME SCENE

GEORGE (THINKING THE WORSE)

No...

Susan tries to turn her head to look, but it is too difficult. She falls back into unconsciousness.

SUSAN

Emily...

EMILY'S MONITOR

Her temperature continues to fall, finally bottoming out at 99.2. George turns to Quinn who's reading Emily's vital signs.

GEORGE

What is it? What happened?

QUINN

Temperature... respiration... hearts... all normal.

Emily stirs, her eyes opening. The others are amazed. ON EMILY, swallowing.

EMILY (weakly)

I'm thirsty...

ON GEORGE

awed... speechless.

**END OF ACT TWO.**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

**INT. SUSAN AND EMILY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

Cathy draws blood from Emily. Dr Quinn and other colleagues look on. George stands at Emily's head, stroking her temple. She is weak but improving.

CATHY (to Emily)  
I hope I'm not hurting you.

EMILY  
No.  
(to her father)  
Is mum going to be all right?

GEORGE  
Of course she is.  
(quickly)  
You must be hungry

Emily nods.

GEORGE  
What would you like - you can have anything  
you want.

EMILY  
Anything?

GEORGE  
Snout... earwigs... a frosty marrow  
shake...

EMILY (pensive)  
No...

GEORGE  
You love earwigs.

EMILY  
I used to...  
(discovering a new feeling)  
...I don't want to eat animals anymore.

George looks curiously at his daughter. Finishing, Cathy

straightens.

CATHY (RE: BLOOD SAMPLE)  
I need to get this to my lab.

GEORGE (touching Emily's  
temple)  
I'll be right back.

CATHY  
Bye, Emily.

George follows Cathy out. Donning a double diaphragm Newcomer stethoscope, Dr Quinn bends down to listen to Emily's hearts.

SECURITY WING CORRIDOR

Sikes raises from bench as George and Cathy exit room.

GEORGE (urgent)  
If Emily's getting better, why isn't Susan?

CATHY  
I don't know.  
(re: blood)  
Maybe this will tell me why.

She exits.

SIKES  
Hey, if Emily beat it - there's gotta be hope for Susan. For all the Newcomers.

GEORGE (fatalistic)  
If there's time.

**INT. POLICE SQUAD ROOM - DAY**

George enters with Max Julian.

MAX  
That's wonderful. They have any idea how she got better?

GEORGE

Not yet.

MAX

You tell Emily - this fourth of July - I'm putting on a fireworks show just for her!

(pulling out a cardboard package)

And give these to her. Kids love sparklers.

(softly)

They're against the law in L.A. County. You gotta go up to Orange to use them.

GEORGE (smiles)

Thank you Max.

He and Max continue on to Zepeda's desk. She is on the phone.

ZEPEDA

Please, check your inventory - this is very important.

(listens)

Thanks.

She hangs up.

ZEPEDA (to George and Max)

Nothing. I've made a hundred calls.

Nobody's missing any Kentex.

SIKES (O.S.)

I got something.

All turn as Sikes strides over with a computer print-out.

SIKES

The records on Floyd Norell's phone.

Several calls were placed to the same number the day before Parris was killed.

Norell and his wife weren't on the boat, so it must've been Parris who used the phone.

(re: print-out)

I traced the number to an address on Lacy Street.

(MORE)

SIKES (CONT'D)

It's a light industrial area - probably a warehouse.

MAX

All right! You nail those bastards!

SIKES (to Zepeda)

Let's get a warrant.

GEORGE (picking up his  
phone)

I want back-up.

**EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY**

Two unmarked police cars and a black and white pull silently up. Sikes and George get out of the first car, followed by Zepeda and her partner. Two uniformed cops get out of the black and white. All draw their guns. Sikes signals Zepeda and her partner to take the back while he and George go in the front. The uniformed cops remain outside.

Sikes and George flank the front door. George gives Sikes a nod. Testing the door, Sikes finds it open. He and George exchange a look, then cautiously enter.

**INT. WAREHOUSE CORRIDOR - DAY**

The same corridor through which Guerin led Darlene Bryant. Sikes and George move stealthily toward the lab door. Sikes turns to George, taping his ear. George shakes his head - no, he doesn't hear anything. Sikes tries the door - it, too, is open. He and George burst into:

LAB

Empty, save for the larger lab equipment. Sikes and George scan the room, which has clearly been evacuated in a hurry. Sikes indicates a COFFEE MAKER steam rising from the pot.

RESUME SIKES AND GEORGE

SIKES

Coffee's still hot.

George indicates AN ASH TRAY a cigarette with a two inch

ash still burns.

RESUME SIKES AND GEORGE

GEORGE

They left in a hurry.

A NOISE attracts their attention. They turn, guns drawn, but it is only Zepeda and her partner.

SIKES

You see anybody?

ZEPEDA (shakes her head)

Fresh oil on the gravel outside the loading dock. Somebody was here - not too long ago.

Something on the floor catches Sikes' attention. He motions George away.

GEORGE (coming closer)

What?

SIKES

Get back!

George freezes. Sikes points to A BEAKER broken on the floor in a pool of viscous liquid. Sikes approaches the pool to take a sample.

SIKES

Bet you a carton of vintage milk - this is a bacteria.

ZEPEDA (O.S.)

Sikes... George...

They turn to see Zepeda standing over a desk, holding an aeronautical chart.

ZEPEDA

What do you think they'd be doing with an aviation map of L.A.?

**EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY**

To ESTABLISH. A Newcomer gardener, suffering from the PAPANOLA, slowly waves his electric clippers over a hedge,

never touching it.

**INT. HOSPITAL - SECURITY WING CORRIDOR - DAY**

Sikes carrying a file, walks with a sense of urgency toward Susan's room. Ahead he sees Albert who's coming out of the room with Emily and a human nurse. Wearing a hospital gown and robe, Emily walks Albert's dog on a leash.

SIKES

Emily, are you supposed to be outta bed?

EMILY

Dr Quinn said it's okay. 'Sides...  
(re: dog)  
...Matthew has to go pee.

ALBERT (off Sikes' look)

I named him. I felt you and he were... I think you call it "kindred spirits".

SIKES (touching Emily's temple)

I'm glad you're feeling better.

EMILY

Thanks. I wish my mum was.  
(moving away with the nurse;  
to the dog)  
C'mon, Matt.

SIKES (to Albert)

I need to talk to George.

Albert motions toward Susan's room.

**THEIR POV THROUGH THE WINDOW - THE ROOM**

Dr Quinn and Cathy consult with George at Susan's bedsides. Susan appears comatose. A rabbit snuggles at her feet.

**RESUME SCENE**

ALBERT

She's getting worse. All the plants - all the animals - nothing helps.

SIKES

But... Emily got worse before she got better.

ALBERT (shakes his head)

It's not the same. The doctors are worried.

Turning his back toward Susan's room, Sikes leans in to Albert.

SIKES

Albert, I brought up the idea of a priest to George when Emily seemed... y'know, when she was...

ALBERT

Dying?

SIKES

Right. You talk to him okay?

ALBERT

About what?

SIKES

About bringing in a priest. That's what you're supposed to do. It's like an insurance policy - like you'd get for your car.

ALBERT

You get a priest for your car?

SIKES (increasingly  
frustrated)

No, no. Look, when you die, you want your soul to go to heaven... not the other place.

ALBERT

Everything goes to the same place - back to where we came from - to Andarko and Celine. The trees... the animals...

SIKES

Albert, please, forget the trees and the animals. They're not in on this.

Behind him, George exits Susan's room and approaches.

ALBERT

But Sergeant Sikes, if plants and animals aren't going to heaven, I know Susan wouldn't want to, either.

(noticing George)

Excuse me.

He moves off.

GEORGE

Matt, if this concerns a priest, please, I told you, I don't believe in any after life.

SIKES

How can you say that? How can you be such a pessimist?

GEORGE

My wife is dying - my race is on the verge of extinction. I don't find comfort in your "heavenly reward".

SIKES

It's not just that - It's how you look at life - that, somehow, everything's gonna turn out okay.

GEORGE

"Hope" you mean? When you're born a slave, you learn to do without it.

SIKES

What about your Celine and Andarko stuff? All the ceremonies I've been to.

GEORGE

I practice religion to give my children a sense of tradition.

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

And who are you to talk? You don't even go to church.

SIKES

That doesn't mean I don't know what's important!

GEORGE

You're a hypocrite! Matt, people who live on glass horses shouldn't cast the first stone.

Sikes blinks.

GEORGE (changing the subject)

Has S.I.D. analysed the substance we found in the lab?

Sikes realises it's pointless to argue.

SIKES

Yeah.

(re: report)

It's the bacteria. And that aviation map we found probably means they intend an aerial spraying of L.A. We're having all private aircraft grounded.

(beat)

George, we do have a lead - they knew we were coming.

GEORGE

Someone informed them.

(beat: worried)

You don't think Beatrice...?

SIKES

Zep? No way. 'Sides she was with us all the time.

GEORGE

Who else could have? Dispatch? One of the uniformed officers?

(beat)

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Max? He was there when you brought in the phone records.

SIKES (pained)

Oh, man, I've known Max for years.

GEORGE

All those Kentex leads going nowhere...

(beat)

Did anyone double-check Max's test results?

SIKES

No. I guess we better.

(beat)

Look, George, if Susan's not doing too well, maybe you oughtta stay here.

GEORGE

The bacteria's out there. She'd want me to go.

He and Sikes start off.

**EXT. OCEANSIDE TRAILER PARK - DAY**

Sikes and George's car pulls up outside an old funky trailer.

INSIDE THE TRAILER

Max Julian looking out the kitchen window, sees George and Sikes get out of their car. Moving from the window, he opens a cabinet.

INSIDE THE CABINET

A timer wired to plastique, Max sets the digital display for three minutes. Max grabs an onion and hurriedly chopping it.

OUTSIDE

Sikes and George approach the trailer.

INSIDE

Max pours olive oil into a heating skillet. There's a KNOCK

at the door.

SIKES (O.S.)

Max?

MAX

Hold on!

Hurriedly throwing the onions into the skillet, he gives them a turn with a spatula.

MAX

I'm coming.

The onions SIZZLE as Max goes to open the door.

MAX (cheery)

Hey, guys, I'm off duty. Hope this is a social call.

Sikes and George step into the trailer.

SIKES

It's not.

George recoils from the smell of onions.

MAX (noticing)

Sorry, I'm making spaghetti sauce.

(to Sikes)

Chow's on in twenty minutes. You hungry?

SIKES

Max, somebody tipped off our warehouse suspects.

MAX (as if not hearing)

What?

(touching his hearing aid)

Battery's shot.

(turning for the door)

Just a sec - I need to grab some basil from the garden.

SIKES (grabbing his arm)  
You heard me. And you're not going  
anywhere.

Max checks his watch, considering what to do next.

GEORGE  
The Kentex that killed Parris came from a  
different batch than the one you indicated.

MAX (aghast)  
What? Hey, look, don't tell anybody until I  
recheck my data - I gotta reputation,  
y'know.

GEORGE  
WE rechecked your data.

SIKES (pulling a paper)  
This is a warrant, Max. Quit screwin'  
around.

George sniffs the air, puzzled. Noticing, Max moves to the  
stove and stirs the onions.

SIKES  
You gonna talk to us, Max?

MAX  
(beat)  
I'm not a bad person... I don't hate  
anybody. But we live in a finite world -  
water, air, food, jobs - all finite.  
(re: George)  
What they take - what they use - there's  
that much less for us.  
(checks his watch)  
It's simple - you don't let rabbits in the  
cabbage patch.

GEORGE  
Rabbits?

MAX (to Sikes)  
Whatever they are - they're not us.

SIKES

Yeah...

(quoting Lorraine)

"We don't even know if they have souls."

MAX

Matt, you still have time to do the right thing.

SIKES

I intend to.

(beat)

Who has the bacteria, Max? Where are they?

(after no reply)

This is genocide - you'll go to the chair.

Again George sniffs the air.

GEORGE (to himself)

Shoe polish?

MAX

Maybe I should add some garlic.

He reaches for some as George sniffs again.

GEORGE (realising)

He's cooking to cover the odour - nitro benzene - there's plastique in here.

George grabs the skillet and hurls it out the window. Sniffing the air, he rushes to the cabinet and yanks it open.

HIS POV

The timer is down to nine seconds.

RESUME SCENE

GEORGE

Matt!

Sikes and George grab Max. Struggling, they heave him through the door, then jump out after him.

OUTSIDE

Sikes and George drag Max away from the trailer.

The trailer EXPLODES behind them. Sikes and George hit the ground with Max as debris flies over them. The TRAILER is an inferno. Sikes and George safe, shield themselves and Max from the heat.

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

**INT. POLICE SQUAD ROOM - NIGHT**

Max Julian sits handcuffed at Sikes' desk. Sikes and George stand over him. A uniformed cop waits to take Max to lock-up. Like a resistance fighter singing the Marseilles, Max sings the "Star spangled banner."

MAX

And the ROCKETS red glare, the BOMBS  
bursting in air gave proof through the  
night that our flag was still there. Oh,  
say does--  
Clapping his hand over Max's mouth, Sikes  
shuts him up.

SIKES

With your help -- without it -- we're gonna  
stop 'em.

(to the cop)

Get him out of my sight.

The cop pulls Max to his feet.

MAX (to Sikes)

You're not going to stop us. It's too late.

The cop leads Max out. Dazed, George rubs his temples with his palms.

GEORGE

It IS too late. {The suns were eclipsed...  
darkness... only darkness}

SIKES

No! None of that PAPAYELA business!

GEORGE

I regret something -- I never learned to  
dance.

SIKES

(grabbing george by the  
shoulders)

(MORE)

SIKES (CONT'D)

George, stop it! It's not over. I have enough hope for both of us. Look, they need a plane to spray this stuff -- we've grounded all private aircraft -- how else could they do it?

GEORGE (slipping away)

Moths... butterflies... trained sparrows with little canisters on their backs.

Noticing something, Sikes moves past George. He picks up a newspaper from Zepeda's desk.

SIKES

George... I think I got it...

Holding up the paper he points to: CLOSE - A HEADLINE which reads: MALATHION SPRAYING TO RESUME.

**EXT. AIRFIELD - NIGHT**

Just outside the gated airfield, Darlene Bryant stands by her limousine with Marc Guerin who wears a flight jacket. Her bodyguard/driver stands a few feet away.

BRYANT

Someday, Marc, when the world comes to its senses, humankind will honour what you're about to do.

Marc humbly bows his head.

BRYANT

God be with you.

She kisses him on each cheek, then nods to her driver. He opens the door for her. She gets in, and they dive off.

TRACKING - GUERIN as he enters the airfield and crosses to his helicopter. Two technicians from the warehouse laboratory are hurriedly replacing Malathion canisters with those holding bacteria. Guerin begins his pre-flight check.

MAN'S VOICE

Marc! Hey, Marc!

Guerin turns to see his supervisor jogging toward the

helicopter.

SUPERVISOR (RE: TECHNICIANS)  
What are they doing?

GUERIN  
Just checking the fittings. What is it?

SUPERVISOR  
They've scrubbed the flight. You're not going up tonight.

GUERIN  
Why? Those protests?

SUPERVISOR (shakes his head)  
Something else -- this came from LAPD.

GUERIN (grins)  
Okay by me -- 'Long as I get paid.

SUPERVISOR  
We're all going out for a beer. Meet us at Casey's.

Turning he jogs away. The technicians look at Guerin.

GUERIN  
Go.

The technicians back off and away as Guerin climbs into the cockpit.

INSIDE THE CHOPPER

Guerin checks his oil pressure and sets his altimeter. He turns the ignition switch. THE CHOPPER SPUTTERS to life, its blades starting to rotate. Behind it, Sikes and George's car ROARS onto the airfield.

INSIDE THE CHOPPER

Guerin sees the car heading toward him. It circles in front of the chopper, SCREECHING to a stop. Sikes and George leap from the car as the chopper's blades reach lift-off speed. Sikes and George raise their guns.

SIKES  
Police! Halt!

ON GUERIN

Sikes' command is inaudible above the chopper's DIN, but the intent is clear. Pulling a gun, Guerin FIRES at the officers. Then he pushes on the stick. Sikes and George dive for the tarmac, returning FIRE as the chopper begins to rise.

Guerin wounded, drops his gun. Grimacing, he continues to push forward on the stick. The chopper turning, continues to rise. Jumping up, George grabs hold of the strut, lifting himself.

SIKES  
George!

Guerin feeling the drag, looks behind and sees George. He hits a lever and THE CANISTERS spew the deadly bacteria. George catches the spray full in the face.

CLOSE - Sikes reacts with horror.

WIDE - George drops twenty feet to the tarmac. Sikes empties his gun as the chopper gains altitude.

The CHOPPER, it's fuel line hit, EXPLODES.

Sikes rushes to shield George with his body. Flaming debris falls around them.

GEORGE (weak)  
We did it... we did it.

SIKES (panicked)  
The bacteria, George...  
(lifting him)  
It's gonna be okay... It's gonna be okay.  
We'll get you to the hospital.

They struggle back toward the car.

**EXT. BEVERLEY HILLS RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

Darlene Bryant, in high spirits, exits with a few well-healed friends.

BRYANT

Don't talk to me about computers! I had a new home system put in -- "Majordomo" -- supposed to do everything. Well, the first night it crashes -- next morning I couldn't get out of the house -- the doors and windows wouldn't open!

Her friends LAUGH with her. Darlene Bryant pauses -- her smile fades.

HER POV

Zepeda and her partner approach.

ZEPEDA (flashing her shield)  
Ms. Bryant... you're under arrest for conspiracy to commit murder.

**INT HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

George has been given Emily's bed next to Susan. Sikes watches Dr Quinn examine George while Cathy draws a blood sample.

GEORGE (opening his eyes)  
Matt...

Sikes moves to his side.

GEORGE  
Please... my children.

SIKES  
They're on their way.

George looks over at his wife.

HIS POV - Susan lies comatose.

George starts to close his eyes.

SIKES  
George. George!  
(desperate; starts to sing)  
"Do you know the way to San Jose?" Doot  
Doot Doot Doot Doot Doot Doot.  
(MORE)

SIKES (CONT'D)

"Can't wait to get back to San Jose..."

George opens his eyes and looks at Sikes.

GEORGE

My friend... my dear friend...

He drops into unconsciousness. Cathy finishes taking George's blood sample. She and Dr Quinn move to the corner to confer. Sikes follows them.

QUINN

He's failing much faster than Susan.

SIKES

Why...? What's different?

CATHY (thinking)

Matt, the two victims who died of the bacteria -- they were both men, weren't they?

SIKES

Yeah.

CATHY

Maybe there's something there...

QUINN

Something difference between the male and female immune system?

SIKES

The how come Emily recovered but Susan hasn't?

CATHY (inspired)

Of course!

(to Quinn)

I need ten units of female Newcomer blood...

(starting out of the room)

A centrifuge, a Rolfer Holland isolator and two technicians.

Quinn and Sikes follow her into the CORRIDOR.

SIKES

What? What is it?!

CATHY

I've got to extract female hormone. It must be the antitoxin. It must be what cured Emily!

SIKES

But Susan's a woman.

CATHY

Susan's at the end of her cycles. She doesn't have enough. Emily's producing a tremendous amount -- She's twelve -- she's going through "NEESTAS"! Puberty! She's going through puberty.

Cathy, followed by Quinn, rushes off, leaving Sikes still trying to figure it out.

**INT SECURITY WING CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

Emily sits next to Buck who holds Vessna. They wait anxiously. Sikes paces in front of them.

EMILY

They're gonna be Okay. I'm not gonna cry, Buck. I'm not gonna cry.

Buck puts a free arm around her.

BUCK (gently)

{I'm worried too, Em.}

Sikes looks at his watch.

SIKES

This waiting's driving me nuts.

He walks into the hospital room.

INSIDE

Sikes joins Albert who's loosening the soil around one of the plants.

SIKES

Hey, Al, can I give you a hand?

ALBERT

Yes.

(picking up a pot)

This one could use a good soaking.

SIKES (taking the plant)

Sure.

He exits.

SECURITY WING CORRIDOR

Sikes carrying the plant, meets Lorraine.

LORRAINE

Matt...

SIKES

Hi.

(re: plant)

It needs water.

LORRAINE

I heard about George...

SIKES (setting the plant  
down)

Cathy's working on a serum... maybe there's  
a chance.

LORRAINE

(beat)

I've been worried about you...

Glancing at her. Sikes reads Lorraine's subtext: "I've been worried about US." He looks down at the plant, discovering a dead leaf.

SIKES

You're supposed to pull the dead leaves of  
plants.

(plucking the leaf)

I wonder if they feel it.

(beat)

(MORE)

SIKES (CONT'D)

I read a book when I was a kid. It said plants had feelings -- just like us. It said tomatoes screamed when you cut them.

(looks at her)

Pretty crazy, huh?

LORRAINE

We all believe different things.

SIKES

Yeah... we do.

LORRAINE

(beat)

I have a feeling we're not going to be seeing much of each other.

SIKES (gently)

I don't think it could work out.

Lorraine gazes at him, nods, then walks away. Sikes picks up the plant and continues down the hall.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

Cathy injects George with her serum. Dr Quinn, Sikes, Albert and Emily stand by. Holding Vessna close. Buck watches from the hallway. Cathy prepares another syringe and injects Susan.

QUINN (RE: MONITOR)

He's responding.

GEORGE'S MONITOR

Showing a rapid rise in the temperature: 106.7, 106.8, 106.9, 107.

RESUME SCENE

George's temperature reaches 108, triggering an ALARM.

SIKES (worried)

Oh man...

Susan's temperature rise also triggers an ALARM. George's alarm stops as his temperature begins to fall. Susan's does

the same. All eyes are on the monitors.

GEORGE'S MONITOR

The temperature continues to plummet.

RESUME SCENE

SIKES (UNDER HIS BREATH)

Come on... come on...

O.S. Vessna cries.

ON BUCK AND VESSNA

He tries to soothe her, but she will not be stilled. George stirs, hearing his baby's CRY. He opens his eyes.

SIKES

George...

EMILY

Dad!

George is able to smile at them. He turns his head to look at Susan, whose eyes are also opening.

WIDE

Buck enters with Vessna to join the family.

GEORGE

Susan...

Touched, relieved, Sikes is near tears.

SIKES (awkward)

Everything's okay. You're both gonna be okay... 'cept you got a teenage daughter. I mean, you thought this was rough...

Cathy puts her hand on his arm. Then turning, she exits.

SIKES

Well... I'll let you guys be alone...

He starts to leave.

GEORGE

Wait...

(as Sikes pauses)

I was in this place... I met your  
grandfather... he still hates dried fruit.

Sikes stares, incredulous.

GEORGE

Maybe a little hope isn't so bad.

Not knowing what to think, Sikes turns and leaves.

CORRIDOR

Sikes comes out of the hospital room. He finds Cathy  
exhausted, sitting on a bench. He sits next to her.

HIS POV - NURSES' STATION

The Newcomer personnel have all fallen asleep at their  
stations.

ON SIKES AND CATHY

She leans next to him.

CATHY

We can sleep now.

Her eyes droop shut.

SIKES

You were wrong about me... about me not  
being able to love the differences in you.

But Cathy doesn't hear him. She is asleep.

SIKES (smiles)

I do... I do...

IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM

All asleep. Buck, Vessna and Emily share a chair.

IN THE SECURITY WING

Albert seated on the floor, sleep leaning against the wall.

Matt the dog sleeps with his head on Albert's lap.

IN THE CAFETERIA

Dr Quinn is asleep, his head on the table.

**EXT. HOSPITAL**

The Newcomer gardener sleeps next to the shrubs, cradling his clippers.

INSIDE THE SECURITY WING

Sikes tenderly puts his arm around Cathy's shoulder, pressing her close to him.

**THE END**