

**LARRY CROWNE**

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From a story by

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**FADE IN**

**SUNRISE**

Big and orange and full of hope, as sure as fate. A dawn as promising as, well, this new day...  
Sun is rising over...

A flat roof that stretches to the horizon. A vast expanse. A plain of gravel-embedded tar, studded with... HVAC units and power lines, the kind that service a huge commercial building. In fact this kind of building... A UNIMART store. A flagship of savings; a mother lode of low, low prices. 100,000-and-then-some square feet of the Consumer Economy...

**PARKING LOT**

Empty thus far. A few EMPLOYEE autos arriving in their assigned slots far from the entrance. One of those cars is a old, not so vintage nor classic convertible...  
KARMANN GHIA -- Belonging to...

LARRY CROWNE - A man as reliable (and predictable) as that rising sun.

Actually, he's a Team Leader of this Unimart, dressed in his un-sexy, un-fashionable, un-flattering khaki pants and Company Polo.

Larry has had the ragtop down. He wrestles it up, locks the cover into place.

Discount. He doesn't just walk to work, but s t r i d e s across the asphalt field like a Sultan of Sales; a Viscount of

He cheers co-workers at the start of the day, shouting encouragement, flashing thumbs up, knocking on car doors and squeezing shoulders...

**DOROTHY GENKOS (PRE-LAP)**

A seven-speed Mix-o-Meter Food Processor! \$21.69!

**AVERY (PRE-LAP)**

Sweatpants! Two pair! \$6.69!

2.

**INT. UNIMART - DAY**

The morning Circle of Sales! Employees and their wares. Larry stands, yet to speak, ready for his moment of pronounced enthusiasm...

**TEAM LEADER #1**

Fifteen foot jumper cables - 69 cents a foot!

**TEAM LEADER #2**

Chocolate turtles! 69 cents a pound bag!  
Go, Larry! Wave that merchandise!

**LARRY CROWNE**

Three-pack of men's elastic waist mid-thigh boxer shorts! \$2.69!

**FREEZE!**

Words fill the screen.

**THIS IS LARRY CROWNE**

Hold. Hold. Hold. AND...CONTINUE.

**ALVAREZ (TEAM LEADER)**

Four Toby Jug beer steins - \$2.69!

**TEAM LEADER #3**

MP3 Player the size of a bottle cap! Something and 69 cents!

**TEAM LEADER #4**

Duck Blind print sheets for a queen size bed. \$7.69.

**ALL**

Shop UniMart! Where United, you save!

Larry Crowne leads the High Fives.

**MENSWEAR DEPT - LATER**

Larry controlling the aisles like an Admiral at a Battle Map... stacking a mountain of tube socks... stocking those briefs ... hanging "Metallica" Speedos on little hangers... helping CUBBY - a very skinny and disinterested Janitor - clean up some baby up-chuck as the baby up-chucks again.

**3.**

**MOMMY**

Too much mac & cheese for this little pickle bug!

**LARRY CROWNE**

They do love the comfort food.  
Don't you, Li'l Pickle Bug...  
Imagine any duty and see how Larry gets it done...

**EXT. UNIMART PARKING LOT - LATER**

Larry is collecting loose shopping carts, steering them into pairs, triplets, sextuplets, then riding them into the cart pen like a Trail Boss...

**LATER**

up- That same up-chucking baby was riding on the coin-pony and  
chucked again. Larry is cleaning it all up.  
A beat-up CAR with a BIG STORK PIZZA sign stuck on its roof  
pulls right up to the front of the store, parking in the  
Handicapped Space.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Buddy. Park there and you'll get a  
ticket.

**PIZZA KID**

Call a cop, doof. I'm gone in  
sixty seconds.  
(a dozen pizza boxes)  
You guys having a party?

**INT. MEETING ROOM 2 - UNIMART - LATER**

The BIG STORK PIZZA BOXES have been raided for slices.

A RETIREMENT PARTY is going on. A SIGN reads "Good Luck Dorothy Genkos!" The name has been printed over the last person to retire. People are cutting loose as best they can at a NO-ALCOHOL Corporate Fete.

None more than Larry. Who is organizing a MOSH PIT for DOROTHY GENKOS, an old lady. This is a fun group. Over in the corner, though, is the Front Office Staff: COX, STRANG, ANDREWS and HURLEY (Female).

**4.**

**STRANG**

Finally. Dotty G. and her forty-two-K a year are history. Who else would do us that favor?

**ANDREWS**

Wish they'd all sail off like her. Save us some grief.

**STRANG**

The "R" Bomb is going to do some collateral damage to this place. Hurley is shocked!

**HURLEY**

"R-Bomb"? Oh my god! Restructuring?

**COX**

Separating the chaff from the wheat. Chaff is the bad stuff, right?

**HURLEY**

Chaff is the waste matter, correct.

When are we restructuring?

**COX**

Before E.O.Q. Them's our orders.  
Hurley looks sick. She hates this.

**STRANG**

What say we drop a brick in the  
pond to warn the herd?

**ANDREWS**

How?

**STRANG**

Firing someone.

**COX**

Someone they'd never expect to be  
let go. To look fair. I like it.

**STRANG**

Like a Team Leader.

**HURLEY**

Team Leader?

**STRANG**

5.

**COX**

Suggestions on who it should be?

**STRANG**

I say Crowne.

**HURLEY**

Larry Crowne?  
Strang rolls his eyes.

**STRANG**

Who else? Avery won't retire. We  
fire him, it's a law suit.  
AVERY - Old. Black. Happy.

**STRANG (CONT'D)**

Alvarez is about to drop a kid.  
She'll go part time in a week.  
ALVAREZ - Heavy with child.

**STRANG (CONT'D)**

Crowne's pink slip will save 'da

"U" big green backwash.

**COX**

What Salary Tier is Crowne at?

**ANDREWS**

Top of the pyramid with a C.O.L.  
bump at the first of the year.

**COX**

Sweet. We'll need Actionable  
Cause, of course.  
They all agree: "Yeah. Sure. Of course..."

**COX (CONT'D)**

How's his review record?

**HURLEY**

He's a candidate for Employee of  
the Month. His 22nd time.

**COX**

Okay. So. Sluggers, gimme a  
reason...  
Larry has organized a Limbo Contest.

**HURLEY**

We could use the Limited Horizons strategy.

**(EXPLAINING)**

Larry will always be passed over for Management. He never went to college.

**COX**

You're that familiar with his record?

**STRANG**

She was his squeeze for a few weeks, weren't you, Vick?

**HURLEY**

That was before the New Employee Covenants. That you even remember...

**STRANG**

The memory haunts me.

**ANDREWS**

He'll sock us for severance.

**STRANG**

Big brick in the pond, though.

**COX**

Let's call it. Today, end of shift, UniMart bids Crowne adieu. LARRY is dancing up a storm.

**EXT. UNIMART - PARKING LOT - LATE AFTERNOON**

Less cars. Fewer shoppers. Heading into the night shift.

**INT. UNIMART - ELECTRONICS - LATER**

Larry is the only Team Leader still on duty and sober. He is fastidious in his work.

The P.A. System blares. It's incomprehensible. He pays no attention. VASQUEZ -- a HUGE Security Guard -- comes by.

**VASQUEZ**

LC Why still here?

7.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Team Leaders zone departments before punching out. It's policy.

**VASQUEZ**

I mean here here. You just got paged to Meeting Room 2. The P.A. blares again. Now they can hear it -- sort of.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Probably to clean up after the party.

**VASQUEZ**

Isn't it Employee of the Month Day? Larry brightens. That is what it must be.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Speck-tack-alar. Flushed at the prospect, Larry gives Terrorist Fist Bumps.

**VASQUEZ**

You're the only one around here who deserves it. How many will this be?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Ah, who's counting?  
He flashes his fingers: twenty two!

**INT. MEETING ROOM #2 - SAME**

Larry Crowne soars into the room. Cubby is cleaning up the substantial mess. The Front Office Team has taken seats.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Remember how we saw "The UniMart Way" video, Vick? You and me, alone in this room, and look at us now.  
Hurley has a frozen face. Larry looks at Andrews' smile.

**STRANG**

Cubby. Make tracks.  
The Janitor literally drops everything and leaves

8.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I think I know what this is about.

**STRANG**

I don't think you do.

**COX**

Crowne. At UniMart, we care. So

we take care. Which makes moments like these tough for all of us.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Sounds like you're firing me. Larry is joking.

**STRANG**

I take it back.

**COX**

Corporate has mandated a restructuring in all UniMart stores. That's the word they use. I call it a pain in the touchas.

**(THEN)**

It is touchas, right? Where you get kicked?

**HURLEY**

Yeah. A yiddish word.

**ANDREWS**

Like the buttocks.

**HURLEY**

Touchas and buttocks. Synonymous.

**COX**

Hurts to get kicked back there, no matter what language you speak. Larry now gets it.

**LARRY CROWNE**

UniMart is firing me...

**STRANG**

Crowne-ie, you did a heck of a job.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Why me?

9.

**ANDREWS**

Who do you suggest? Alvarez?  
Avery? I don't think so.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Why not Strang?  
Strang snorts.

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)**

I've been here longer than you,  
Jack. I started 21 years ago as an  
Inventory Associate at the store on  
Euclid.  
Hurley takes over, as blank as a tax-form.

**HURLEY**

Seniority would preclude this  
reality, Larry, but UniMart's  
policy is to never limit your  
horizons.  
Larry Crowne has no idea what that means.

**COX**

Here's the prob: your lack of a  
graduate degree will forever retard  
any move up the management ladder.

**STRANG**

Becasue you never went to college

you're forever retarded.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I won't make the Front Office?

**STRANG**

Never.

(shows his college ring)

S. M. U. Class of '86! Go 'Stangs!  
It's true.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I went in the Navy. Right outta  
high school. Five years, and by  
then...

**COX**

Thank you for your service to our  
country, Larry. And, in total  
seriousness to UniMart too

10.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I thought I was Employee of the  
Month.

**STRANG**

In a way, you are.  
Larry can't believe this. Nor can he move.

**LARRY CROWNE**

No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No.  
No. No. No. No. I'm going to lose  
my house...

**COX**

The timing on this is always a  
bitch.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Guys. Guys. Guys. Guys. Guys.  
Guys. Guys. Guys. We can fix this.  
Can't we fix this?

**COX**

Really wish we could.

**(THEN)**

Vick? The generous severance  
package?  
She has a folder with posted "Sign Here's."

**HURLEY**

Sign here. Here. Here. Initial  
that. Sign here. One more. Done.  
Strang finds one last piece of party pizza.

**EXT. UNIMART PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON**

Vasquez helps Larry put down the ragged top of his car.

**VASQUEZ**

12 jerks I'd fire before you.  
May walk away from UniMart myself.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Stick it out. You go to college?

**VASQUEZ**

Couple years. Then I blew out my

**KNEE**

11.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Thanks for seeing me off.

**VASQUEZ**

I need your apron, man.

**(AGAIN)**

Your apron. Says UniMart on it, so  
it ain't yours.

Larry unharnesses himself from that which is not his. Hands  
it over. Branded. Scorned as the one let go...

**VASQUEZ (CONT'D)**

Thanks.

**(WALKING AWAY)**

Goofy car, man.

**EXT. INTERSECTION - LATER**

Larry pulls up at a red light. From his hands-free speaker  
jerry-rigged on his dash, we hear ON-HOLD Music.

**RECORDED VOICE**

Then, we hear the engines of SCOOTERS -- at least a dozen of  
them. They surround his car -- both lanes -- and the chatter  
of the riders as they scream over their engines as they AD-  
"Remember, you always have a friend  
at RiverBank..."

LIB where they are going next...

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD (OVER PHONE)**

Laurie Gammelgaard thank you for  
holding how may I help you?

Larry has to shout over the SCOOTER SQUAD ruckus.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I was holding for Barry Raphael in Home and Real Estate?

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

Mr. Raphael is no longer with the bank. How can I help you?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Barry is gone? I need to talk to someone in Home and Real Estate.

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

12.

The SCOOTER SQUAD has made their decision and peel out --

**VROOM, YEOOW...**

**LARRY CROWNE**

(reading his ATM card)

I wish! I'm Customer number 566  
7878 2031 339 and I can be there in  
three minutes!

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD (OVER PHONE)**

As long as you are here before six,  
okey dokey.

ZZZZZMMMM, BLAARREE... The scooters are gone, but Larry is  
still yelling...

**LARRY CROWNE**

Three minutes!

**INT. RIVERBANK BRANCH - LATE AFTERNOON**

Larry sits at Gammelgaard's desk looking at his own records,  
sipping complimentary coffee that is ghastly.

**LARRY CROWNE**

What happened to Barry Raphael?

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD (PRE-LAP)**

Barry Raphael was harassing the younger tellers but we are not supposed to admit that.

**(THE PAPERS)**

This is some kick in the head.  
Not sure what to tell you, Mr.  
Crowne.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I m hoping not to lose my house.

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

You're carrying what on the house?

**LARRY CROWNE**

**\$291,987.**

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

Two Ninety-two K. That's trouble.  
Three years ago I'd have loaned you  
\$700,000, but I think you read the  
papers.

**LARRY CROWNE**

**13.**

LAURIE GAMMELGAARD No.  
She gets a brochure: "The RiverBank Survival Plan!"

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD (CONT'D)**

But RiverBank does have a plan for  
you.

**(THE BROCHURE)**

In a few weeks your financial base  
will tell us what we can do. Find  
new employment. Liquidate  
everything low on the Value Index.  
Stick to a budget. Clip coupons,  
buy in bulk, you know the drill.  
Then come back and we'll work with  
you.

**LARRY CROWNE**

That's RiverBank's plan for me?

**Laurie Gammelgaard**

It is Friday, Mr. Crowne...

**EXT. DERBY COURT - EVENING**

This is Larry Crowne's street.

This is Larry Crowne's house.

His car parks in the driveway and he steps out, taking a  
minute to survey what he may lose.  
KIDS play down the street under a streetlight... An ELDERLY  
NEIGHBOR is watering his lawn with a hose... A GUY is

playing

with his DOG... One house always has Christmas lights.  
Another has a handicapped ramp up to the front door....

**EXT. LAMARR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - SAME**

out

Lamarr lives across the street from Larry, and is looking  
the window as he prepares to light a scholarly looking pipe

**LAMARR**

Larry's home a little late tonight.

His wife, PATIENCE, is sitting at the table, pouring over catalogs..

**PATIENCE**

Maybe he was out on a date.

**14.**

**LAMARR**

We'd see that on the news.  
He is about to light up with a match...

**PATIENCE**

Don't even think about lighting  
that up in my house.

**INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - EVENING**

**HIS UNIMART POLO SHIRT**

He is holding it in his hands.

**THE LAUNDRY ROOM**

Larry is about to throw the thing away, but then puts it and some fabric softener in his washer.

**LIVING ROOM - LATER**

Mood music plays from the Crowne Vinyl Library, a complete wall of LP's. Alphabetized... We can see into the...

**KITCHEN**

Larry sits in his breakfast nook with an old laptop computer

and a pot of coffee.

An on-line job application... Mega-Save. Larry is entering his data. He comes across that part of any application that will forever be daunting to him.

### **EDUCATION/ COLLEGE**

What can he do, but enter the truth?

**NONE.**

More On-line Applications flash by....

Plug-It-In Center...Education/ College -- Didn't Go

White Front House and Home ... Education/ College -- High School! Go, Navy!

Furniture Planet ... Education/ College -- Is it necessary?

Patterson's Appliances ... Education/ College -- Masters Degree: School of HARD KNOCKS!!!

**15.**

Larry stops. This may be futile. He looks about to give up. But then, he thinks. He stands. Thinks some more...

### **IRONING BOARD**

Unfolds like a piece of high tech assault equipment. The iron breathes hot fumes... spray starch plumes like jet exhaust.

Larry Crowne is ironing his nicest shirt and his best khakis to perfection.  
He is focused. Intense. And good at ironing...

**EXT. MEGA-SAVE - MORNING**

Larry is with the first customers of the day, dressed to impress in those well-ironed clothes. He strides right in to the giant store.

**LATER**

He strides right out.

**EXT. PLUG-IT-IN CENTER, PARKING LOT - MORNING**

Larry is getting out of his car, putting on a good face, and heading inside.

**LATER**

He gets right back into his car.

**EXT.. WHITE FRONT HOUSE AND HOME - PARKING LOT - LATER**

Larry is driving past the front windows of the store.  
Resurrection Letters scream "LOST OUR LEASE! EVERYTHING MUST

**GO!!!"**

**INT. FURNITURE PLANET - LATER**

Way back in the rear of the store, behind a false panelling

furniture store should be ashamed of, Larry has filled out another application and is waiting for someone to give it to.

A PLANET STAFFER finally shows her head.

**16.**

**LARRY CROWNE**

How do I offer this up to Personnel?

**PLANET STAFFER**

There should be a box to put it in.  
Larry finds a box.

**LARRY CROWNE**

This?

**PLANET STAFFER**

No. There should be another box.

**LARRY CROWNE**

There isn't.

**PLANET STAFFER**

That's the one, then.  
Larry is alone again - ignored as he applies for this job.

**LATER**

**EXT. PATTERSON'S FAMILY APPLIANCES - GARDEN AND PATIO -**

MR. PATTERSON is a busy man while talking with Larry.

**MR. PATTERSON**

If you emailed an application,  
we've got it and we'll keep you in  
mind.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Just following up with an in-person  
visit.

**MR. PATTERSON**

Mission accomplished.

**LARRY CROWNE**

You have a great location here.

**MR. PATTERSON**

Not with UniMart half a mile away.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I used to work for UniMart! I  
could spill you some 411.

**MR. PATTERSON**

What's that mean?

17.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I know their trade secrets.

**MR. PATTERSON**

What secrets? Traffic boosters,  
loss leaders and bait and switch!

**LARRY CROWNE**

And I'm ready to learn new  
strategies. I'll stop by again so  
you can keep me in mind.

**MR. PATTERSON**

If you won't work Sundays, don't  
bother.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'll work every day.

**MR. PATTERSON**

That's what I already do...  
Mr. Patterson goes back to work as Larry slinks away.

**EXT. A RESTAURANT ON RESTAURANT ROW - DAY**

Establish that this is where many restaurants are located.

**EXT. RESTAURANT ON RESTAURANT ROW - SAME**

Larry sits in his car. The last thing he wants to do is work  
in a restaurant -- we'll find out why later on. But times  
are tough, no?  
Out he climbs, resigned to fate...

**EXT. BACK OF RESTAURANT #1 - DAY**

if By the dumpster, Larry is asking a CHEF on his smoke break  
they hav op nings.

**INT. RESTAURANT #2 - WALK-IN REFRIGERATOR - DAY**

Now he's asking some HEAD COOK pulling cutlets.

**INT. HUGE KITCHEN OF HOTEL RESTAURANT - DAY**

Larry is talking to CHEF AMOS, who runs the place.

**CHEF AMOS**

Oh, I remember you. Larry Crowne.  
I never forget anyone who quits on  
me.

**LARRY CROWNE**

As I recall, I gave my notice and  
worked all my shifts and that was  
12 years ago.

**CHEF AMOS**

As I recall, I had to hire and  
train a line cook to take your  
place. Walking out doesn't happen  
in a vacuum, you know.

**(THEN)**

Doesn't mean I wouldn't give you a  
job again. But you've been out of  
the business a long time, and look  
around. I don't need you.  
The place is fully staffed and rocking. Larry will not be  
working here.

**EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - DAY**

Larry's scooter is parked near the entrance.

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME**

Larry is seated at the counter. PERRY pours him coffee as  
RAUL -- the head cook -- is talking from the service window.  
CARLOS and NICK are in the back.

**RAUL**

You come in two weeks ago I would  
have kissed you on the mouth, but  
Carlos and Nick, they walked in.

Best I can do? Put you at the top  
of the list.  
Raul goes back to work.

**PERRY**

Dang the timing, Kimosabe. Wish I  
could help you but Raul runs the  
back.

**19.**

**LARRY CROWNE**

Not sure I could work here anyway.  
The atmosphere is too pleasant and  
the clientèle too A Number 1.

**PERRY**

Breakfast on the house. Chorizo  
Scramble, right?

**LARRY CROWNE**

No charity today. I got things to  
do.

**PERRY**

Like what?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Nothing. I was just saying that.

**EXT. DERBY COURT - MORNING**

items  
The door open, the garage very tidy, as Larry moves old  
out to the lawn.

**EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - SAME**

Some things are already set up from the living room.

**LARRY**

is raising money with a Yard Sale.

**EXT. LAMARR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW - SAME**

Lamarr is about to pour himself some coffee when he sees a DISASTER looming across the street. He's out like a shot!

**EXT. LAMARR'S GARAGE - SAME**

Lamarr comes charging out the rising door and across the street.

**LAMARR**

There's been a yard sale at 1402  
Derby Court since Monica Lewinsky!  
That gives me a monopoly on the  
location! You go yard on me, Larry  
Crowne and I will destroy you.  
He is now standing on Larry's lawn. Larry looks at him.  
Got fired yesterday.

**20.**

Lamarr sits on a for-sale chair.

**LAMARR**

Bloody Friday. Security sees you  
off, by the time Monday comes  
around the fired man is the  
forgotten man. Diabolical.

**LARRY CROWNE**

They said it's because I didn't go  
to college.

**LAMARR**

Smoke screen. The Man just wanted  
you gone.

(his yard sale)  
You liquidating assets to raise  
cash?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Buying out Denise's half of the  
house was the worst advice, ever.

**LAMARR**

I told you to avoid divorce

lawyers. Get married. Stay  
married. Come with me.  
They cross the street to Lamarr's house/yard sale.

**LAMARR (CONT'D)**

I'll tell you straight up - I'm not  
lending you money.

**EXT. LAMARR'S GARAGE - SAME**

This is a semi-professional operation. Boats, lamps, tools,  
chairs, computers -- some of it almost junk -- is for barter  
or sale.

Inside his garage? Clothes and books - racks and shelves.

Patience is organizing boxes of vinyl LP's.

**PATIENCE**

Whole box of Cha-Cha records from

the Fifties. You don't have any of these, I promise.

**LAMARR**

He can't afford 'em Lost his job

**21.**

**PATIENCE**

No! UniMart just lost my business forever!

**LARRY CROWNE**

I love you too.

**PATIENCE**

Sorry, Lie-bare-eye-bee. Get a better job somewhere so you can crush them.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Hard to do.

**LAMARR**

He's going to get something better than a job.

**(SEARCHING BOOKS)**

An education.  
He finds a East City Community College Catalog 2006. Tosses it to Larry.

**LAMARR (CONT'D)**

Get some knowledge and you'll be fire proof.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Aren't there unemployed engineers

and geophysicists?

**PATIENCE**

Listen to my husband. Hasn't called a man boss in years. Paid off the house.

**LARRY CROWNE**

You won the Lottery.

**PATIENCE**

Picked 8 little numbers when I kept saying he was a fool. A quarter million dollars later I've shut up.

**LAMARR**

Lost half to taxes.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'll see if there's a class in here for PowerBall 250.

**22.**

**LAMARR**

That's half a buck for the book.

**LARRY CROWNE**

They give these away free.

**LAMARR**

They do. I don't.

**INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - NIGHT**

He is alone. He is going to lose his house. He has nothing to do. He has no future. He sits on the couch. ESPN's SportsCenter is showing highlights...

**INT. LARRY'S HOUSE - MORNING**

He's asleep on the couch. He awakens to the very same

edition of ESPN's SportsCenter showing the very same highlights.

Larry wants to shoot himself in the head. Instead, he picks up the catalog of East City College....

**EXT. EAST CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE - MORNING**

The sign reads "Enroll Now! \$15 per unit!"

Larry parks in one of the hundreds of empty spaces.

**INT. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE - SAME**

Larry is trying to make sense out of the application. An Enrollment Counsellor - DAVE BUSIK - sidles up to him.

**BUSIK**

Back to college, huh?

**LARRY CROWNE**

First time. I was in the Navy.

**BUSIK**

**(HIMSELF)**

Coast Guard. Adventure of a Lifetime.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Galley Mate.

**23.**

**BUSIK**

We teach a whole track in Hotel and  
Restaurant Food Preparation.

**LARRY CROWNE**

No. No, no. I need an all-new  
career and a place to go everyday.

**BUSIK**

Those two things are my specialty.  
HALLWAY -- walking towards Busik's cubicle.

**BUSIK (CONT'D)**

First thing. Bravo for choosing  
East City College. Never too late  
for an education. Second, you need  
a jolt to the confidence machinery.  
He grabs a folder...

**BUSIK (CONT'D)**

I am going to change your life.  
(a page in the catalog)

Speech 217: The Art of Informal

Remarks, cause it's not enough to  
just be smart anymore, you have to  
project ease even when it ain't  
easy.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Is this Public Speaking?

**BUSIK**

It's training. Job interviews will  
be a breeze with the confidence  
you'll get from Speech Two One  
Seven.

(even better...)  
And you'll spend three hours a week  
with the most attractive package in  
all of Academia. The Golden Girl  
of East City.

**(MAGICAL WORDS)**

Mercedes Tainot.

**EXT. E.C.C.C. TEACHERS' PARKING LOT - MORNING**

PROF. MERCEDES TAINOT is a fierce defender of literacy and intelligence -- and definitely one attractive package. headache/grogginess combo of Biblical proportions.

**24.**

**GPS VOICE**

Please Enter your destination.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I'm here. Shut up. Turn off!  
Stepping from her sub-compact, she struggles into a pair of heels, as in this state she drives barefoot. If only her huge Thermo-cup held a hair of the dog she might not walk such a crooked mile from the parking lot to the campus. Larry -- in his car -- screeches around a corner. He is frantically looking for a place to park, but as this is the first day of term, the lot is jammed!  
He nearly hits Mercedes Tainot.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Jerk!

**LARRY CROWNE**

Sorry! Parking's impossible today!

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Are you new to the Faculty?

**LARRY CROWNE**

New to the Student Body.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

This is the Faculty Lot. We've earned degrees for these spaces. Students park on Mars.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'm going to be late for my first day of school.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I bet it won't be the first time.

**EXT. E.C.C.C. - PORTABLE CLASSROOMS**

STUDENTS search for their new classrooms. Mercedes does too, among these 'portable' classrooms that have not moved in 7 years.

**INT. PORTABLE CLASSROOM - SPEECH 217 - LATER**

Mercedes stops at the doorway.

25.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

This is it?

**P.O.V.**

NINE STUDENTS sit self-consciously, including PINEDO, DIBIASI, MACK, and CALIMERIS. Mercedes quickly does a head count.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

...7, 8, 9.

She laughs.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

My day has just been made and it's  
only 8:02 in the morning!

**(THEN)**

This class...is CANCELLED!!  
Mercedes explains.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

The city charter requires a minimum

of ten students per class,  
otherwise it costs more to have us  
here than not. Did you really want  
a class at 8 AM? I didn't. Throw  
out those alarm clocks!

Larry Crowne bursts through the door - panting for breath.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Please tell me this is Speech 217.  
Mercedes drops her bag on her desk. She is crushed and hates  
Larry Crowne.  
She takes up some chalk, turns to the board, then writes in  
large, shaky-yet-feminine script:

**CARE.**

She underlines it four times.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

While earning a Masters in  
Shakespearean Political Discourse  
from Vassar, I learned to care.  
Caring is a prerequisite for this  
class I have to teach in this

**(THEN)**

**(MORE)**

**26.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Participate. Show up on time.  
(Larry gets a eye on that)  
Care. And stay awake the 55  
minutes three dawns a week I have  
to be here, or I will fail you and  
not care.  
(a name on the board)  
My name is Ms. Tainot. Not 'tie-  
knot'. Tay-no. You will each  
address the class on Wednesday. A  
procedure. How. To do. Something.  
Pinedo has panic in her eyes. Public speaking terr fies her.  
Dibiasi raises his hand.

**DIBIASI**

Ms. Tie-knot?  
Ms. Tainot glares at Dibiasi. Glares and glares at him.

**DIBIASI (CONT'D)**

Uh, Tay-knot...Tai-bo...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Who are you?

**DIBIASI**

Steve Dibiasi. Friends call me  
Nomad. Only two days before I  
gotta get up and give my address?  
You may be dreaming.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Why are you here, Steve?

**DIBIASI**

Counsellor Busik said this class  
would change my life.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Busik. Of course...  
Dibiasi's cell phone rings.

**DIBIASI**

I gotta take this...  
Mercedes Tainot may kill this kid.

**EXT. E.C.C.C. CAMPUS - SAME**

**27.**

**INT. ECON. 1 - LATER**

An actual classroom, but in sad shape. In one section sits  
LALA PINEDO - from the Speech Class.  
Larry sees her and sits next to her, oblivious to the fact  
that she is cripplingly shy.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Look at us, in two classes in a  
row.

**PINEDO**

Yes. Hi.

**LARRY CROWNE**

That Ms. Tainot is something else  
isn't she? I'm new to this coll ge

life and, I confess, she scares me  
This whole place scares me.

**PINEDO**

Yes.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I woke up this morning so nervous  
about the first day of school. I  
changed my clothes three times.  
We may have noticed TALIA FRANCESCO - a very stylish young  
student - come in and sit nearby. No notebook or anything...

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)**

I'm sorry. Larry Crowne, and I'm  
babbling.

**PINEDO**

I am Lala.

**DR. MATSUTANI (O.C.)**

I order you to turn off all cell  
phones, smart phones, and any phone-  
like devices!  
The teacher comes in - DR. MATSUTANI.

**DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)**

You have entered The Knowledge  
Zone!! Econ Prime! One textbook!  
(holding it up)  
Written by? Ed Matsutani, PhD.  
That's me! Read this book Follow  
into the Promised Land!

**(MORE)**

**28.**

**DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)**

(he laughs mock

**MANIACALLY)**

That usually scares people. Yet none of you have fled. A good economic indicator.  
Larry leans over to Lala.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I like this guy...

**PINEDO**

Yes...

**INT. E.C.C.C. - PORTABLE CLASSROOM - LATER**

Much like the other. Four students sit, waiting for class to begin.

Mercedes has already written up on the board in Happy

Letters

"English 40: Shakespeare As Politician. CARE! PLEASE! I

**DO!!!"**

But no one else is showing up.

The clock shows 3:09. MERCEDES TAINOT

What happened to the 16 sign-ups?

**(NOTHING)**

Shakespeare as I know him... is cancelled.

**EXT GAS STATION - AFTERNOON**

Larry is filling up his car, watching his money go down his

gas pipe.

A body builder on a SCOOTER -- a guy we will come to know as DELL GORDO -- pulls in to the opposite pump. He flips up the seat, pops the pump into his scooter tank, and in seconds,

is

done.

That scooter only sips gasoline. Off Dell goes, while Larry's tank fills and fills and fills...

**EXT. DERBY COURT - LATER**

Larry is walking from his house over to Lamarr's.

**29.**

**EXT. LAMARR'S HOUSE - GARAGE - SAME**

Lamarr, pipe in mouth, is forever arranging his goods.

**LAMARR**

What's cookin' Joe College?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Money woes. Paying for gas, getting to school.

**(THEN)**

You ever come across a moped or a scooter for sale or trade?  
Lamarr stops in his tracks.

**LAMARR**

Come with me.

**INT. LAMARR'S RUMPUS ROOM - SAME**

Patience is at her home office - card table. Coupons. Computer on eBay.

**PATIENCE**

Your next wife might stand smoking  
that pipe in the house but your  
first one says 'uh-uh!'  
On the old TV on "Wheel of Fortune" (A person).

**LAMARR**

space  
Passing through, woman...  
Lamarr goes through the patio doors to the back yard, a  
filled with even more yard sale items.

**PATIENCE**

Larry Crowne, been thinking about  
you. Sit down here...  
Larry watches Vanna White turn letters - he solves the  
puzzle.

**LARRY CROWNE**

"College Graduate."

**PATIENCE**

That's going to be you someday.  
She's pulled up some LP's on eBay on the computer.

30.

**PATIENCE (CONT'D)**

not  
You have money in all those  
records. If you can part with  
them, they'd go for something on  
the eBay. I'll show you how...  
From the back patio, Lamarr comes in pushing a scooter in  
too bad of shape, though its windscreen is faded.

**LAMARR**

This what you're talking about?

**LARRY CROWNE**

That's a hunk of junk.

**LAMARR**

This is classic.

**LARRY CROWNE**

It doesn't work.

**LAMARR**

It will for eight hundred dollars.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Two hundred.

**LAMARR**

Seven hundred.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Two hundred.

**LAMARR**

Six fifty.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Two hundred.

**LAMARR**

Six thirty.

**PATIENCE**

Gonna be a long night with you two.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Forget it.

**LAMARR**

Larry! The secret of any negotiation is for both of us to win Talk to me How much do you

**EXT. DERBY COURT - LATER**

Larry is carrying his Flat Screen TV, wires, box and all,  
from his house to Lamarr's garage.  
"Wing Ding Ding!" goes the scooter Lamarr has been working  
on  
with his tools. He lets it idle as he takes the TV.

**LAMARR**

Beautiful. I'll throw in a helmet.

**(SHOWING HIM)**

Gas. Brake. Light's busted.  
Tires are low. You'll need a  
special license.

Larry straps on the old, beat up crash helmet (DOT  
approved).

**LARRY CROWNE**

All I need is the open road.  
Larry revs it, crashes into a hedge.

**LAMARR**

You break it, you bought it.

**LARRY CROWNE**

It still works.

**LAMARR**

Talking about the hedge.

**COMPUTER SCREEN**

Images of an EROTIC SUPER-HEROINE -- busty and hot -- and others, are being studied, and saved one after another.

**EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOME - DEN - EVENING**

DEAN TAINOT is a self-published author and blogger -- with a taste for this kind of stuff. Multiple copies of his own books line the shelves.

When he hears the FRONT DOOR open -- he panics.

**DEAN TAINOT**

Well, hey! Who's home early!  
He keeps clicking away with the mouse until he's safe.  
Mercedes calls from the other room.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

32.

He covers his digital tracks and hops out of his desk.

**KITCHEN**

Mercedes is prepping the Margaritas for cocktail hour.

**DEAN TAINOT**

First day of term calls for a  
celebration!

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

You'd think so.

**DEAN TAINOT**

What's your burden this go round?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Tap Dancing. Ping Pong. Water  
Torture. And Speech at Sunrise

**DEAN TAINOT**

I built a Flamethrower of a posting  
for WarriorWeb which, if I do say,  
will feed nicely as an outline for

As the blender BLARES, husband and wife eye each other.  
She's looking at him. He's smiling like a guilty idiot.

"Carrier: Second Angel." And, I  
was a guest blogger on CyberShare.

Blender off. She starts pouring.

**DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)**  
Y u don't believe me.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**  
Why wouldn't I believe you?

**DEAN TAINOT**  
I was composing, Mercy. That's  
what I do all day.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**  
You were looking at porn.  
She takes a nice pull on that icy drink.  
Oh fine. Thought Police. I saw  
some erotica. I'm a man, I admit  
it.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**  
Took you a while.

33.

**DEAN TAINOT**

It's barely porn. I'm not hiding it.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Yes you are.  
She bangs her head.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Brain freeze.

**DEAN TAINOT**

Don't chug. Sip.

**(THEN)**

Everyone hides something.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I have no secrets from you. I share the whole miserable slate.

**DEAN TAINOT**

You walked in the door pissed off because -- I'm sorry -- I've

established a beach head in New

Media while you still have to teach at Vassar of the Valley. You hide that.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

**(SERIOUS EYES)**

You look at Bra-Busters Triple-X expecting me to pretend I don't know or I don't care. I do both and don't like it.

**DEAN TAINOT**

It may look like I don't work hard

around here, Mercy. But I do. I'm just a guy who's a guy being a guy when you're not around...  
She walks away.

**DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)**

And walking away is great for a relationship...

**EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOME - PATIO - SAME**

It's a tiny slab, but there is a tree and a fence and a

**34.**

her  
Mercy closes the sliding door behind her and settles into chair and into her drink. This is where she goes when she thinks/drinks.  
Rap-rap-rap on the glass door. It's Dean, making one last point.

**DEAN TAINOT**

**(THROUGH GLASS)**

I'm a guy. Who's a guy. Being a guy...  
Mercy turns her face to the sky...

**EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING**

The streets are not yet crowded with traffic.

A MOTORCYCLE RIDER pilots a STATE OF THE ART STREET MACHINE: machine helmet, leather pants and jacket, radio in the helmet, saddlebags, windscreen. Probably a gynecologist.

**INT. INTERSECTION - SAME**

The cyclist pulls up right next to:

Larry Crowne, riding a scooter for the first time. Gives the

passing Rider - who couldn't care less -- a 'thumbs up!'

**RIDER**

How you doing...

**LARRY CROWNE**

Speck-tack-alar.

**(THEN)**

Nice machine. Where you headed?

**RIDER**

Work.

**LARRY CROWNE**

School. College. I'm a student.  
What do you do?

**RIDER**

I'm a gynecologist.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Yeah? I'd say 'have a great day'  
but that would be stating the

**35.**

The light changes.

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)**

You take care.

As the Rider takes off, Larry tries to do the same, but he

stalls the engine. Cars honk horns at him.

**EXT. E.C.C.C. SCOOTER PARKING LOT - MORNING**

Larry is trying to work the kick stand of his scooter. He is not yet practiced at the thing. Another scooter rrives.

**TALIA**

Where'd you get the Hot Wheels?  
Talia is shaking her hair free from her helmet. Larry fails to recognize her from Econ prime.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

That machine's a classic.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Got me here for a nickel's worth of  
gas.

**TALIA**

You're in Matsutani's Econ with me.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I am?

**TALIA**

That class is straining my coconut.

**LARRY CROWNE**

It's only been one day

**TALIA**

Didn't know you scooted.

**LARRY CROWNE**

New to the sport.

**TALIA**

(pulls out mobile phone)  
Give me your number. I'll  
introduce you to like-minded  
enthusiasts.

**(THEN)**

Name please?

**36.**

**LARRY CROWNE**

Larry Crowne. With an 'e'.

**TALIA**

'Larry'? I don't think so. I used  
to be Kathleen but one day I looked  
in the mirror and saw a girl named  
Talia.

(then in her phone)  
Putting you in as 'Lance'. Check  
your texts and we'll do us some  
scooting.

**(THEN)**

Gotta tell you, Lance. Tucking a  
polo shirt into khakis makes you  
look like a cop.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Not much fashion sense.

**TALIA**

I know! Gotta change that...  
Larry sees Mercedes Tainot walking from the Faculty lot, and  
doesn't want to be late again.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Gotta go!

**TALIA**

Then get going!!  
Talia watches him go. Likes him thus far...

**INT. SPEECH 217 - LATER**

Mercedes is at a desk in the back. Bored and, yes, a bit hungover again. You can tell by the way she takes long pulls from her Thermo-cup.  
Busik is sitting in on the class, not far from Mercedes.

In front of the board that says "PHONES OFF!!" Calimeris is demonstrating an exercise for her speech.

**CALIMERIS**

With the push-up added, the 4-count Burpie becomes the 6-count Burpie and works out the pecs and biceps. It's an all-in-one exercise perfect for Cheerleader conditioning. The

**6-COUNT BURPIE**

**37.**

The class is too shy to applaud though Busik claps like a fan.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

We now all know how to Burpie.  
Thank you.

**(THEN)**

Who's next?  
No one volunteers. Though Pinedo is about to...

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Make me the bad guy.

**(HER ROSTER)**

Ms. Crowne?

**LARRY CROWNE**

You mean me?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Mr. Crowne. My bad.  
Larry goes to the podium - armed with a huge stack of 3x5's.

Busik shoots him a 'thumbs up.'

He looks at Mercedes for the starting cue.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Go.

**LARRY CROWNE**

My presentation will be on the  
subject of a very particular  
procedure. "How to make French  
Toast", but I'll speak English...  
Larry has used up one card. Mercedes rolls her eyes and  
talks  
to herself in a MOVIE DEVICE way...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

M classes were once filled with  
the finest young men ready to learn  
all I had to teach them. Cute boys  
fresh out of High School who all  
had crushes on me from day one. Now  
look at my cadre. Dibiasi. Bound  
for jail. Mack. Treating college  
like another tour of combat.  
Crowne. If this was Hamlet, he'd  
be Osrice in Act 5. The part that is  
always cut.

**38.**

Larry checks on Ms. Tainot in the back. She is not talking,  
only listening (the MOVIE DEVICE mentioned above)...

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Busik, I am going to kill you. You  
can't suggest these saps take

Shorthand or Oral Hygiene? Bring me  
in at this ungodly hour for 2  
minutes on French toast?  
Busik looks at Mercedes, signals a 'not bad, eh?' about  
Larry.  
She is a stone face.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Most people think syrup comes out of  
a plastic bottle.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

(still talking to herself)  
Great. The history of the sugar  
maple tree now. Thank you  
Wikipedia.  
Larry still has a dozen cards to go.

But the speech is over. MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)

Ah-ooo-gah! Time's up.

**LARRY CROWNE**

That went fast...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Breakfast may never be ready.  
Larry gathers his cards. Busik gives him a 'bravo!'

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Next.  
Pinedo tries to volunteer to go next...

**DIBIASI**

I'll go. But you aren't going to  
like it.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Are you clairvoyant?

**DIBIASI**

(holding a pack of Toaster

**WAFFLES)**

**(MORE)**

39.

**DIBIASI (CONT'D)**

**(READING)**

Brown Waffles in toaster at  
lightest or lowest heat setting. An  
adult should supervise heating by  
children. Applause please.  
Mercedes rolls her head. Busik laughs out loud.

**BUSIK**

Simple. Direct. Informative.

**INT. ECON. 1 CLASSROOM - LATER**

An incomprehensible POWERPOINT GRAPHIC is projected with Dr.  
M. explaining what it means. Gibberish!!  
Larry is taking notes, beside Lala, when his phone vibrates.  
He flinches to turn it off before getting into trouble.  
On his phone a message: TALIA: "Scoot?"

It takes a moment for him to understand what is going on.

His phone buzzes again.

to your right"

Larry looks as instructed. He sees Talia, phone in hand,  
miming riding a scooter -- you and me -- wind in our hair...

Another text: TALIA: "Lance! Look  
Larry gets it. Nods okay. Turning back, he finds Dr.  
Matsutani, standing over him. Palm out.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

Your mobile, please.  
Larry hands it over.

**DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)**

I will return it after class if I  
don't crush it first.

**EXT. EAST CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE - SCOOTER PARKING LOT -**

**LATER**

Some of the Scooter Gang have assembled as Larry and Talia  
walk up. DELL GORDO and STAN are talking about today's  
route.

**TALIA**

Hey Monkey!  
Dell Gordo plants a kiss right on Talia's lips. She kisses  
him back. Larry sinks a little.

**40.**

It only figures Talia would have a boyfriend like Dell  
Gordo.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

This is Lance Corona. Classmate and  
good guy, so far.

**DELL GORDO**

Dell Gordo. You want to ride with  
us?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Why not.  
There is a beat of a stare down between Dell Gordo and  
Larry,  
but then Dell starts to snap his fingers --  
SNAP...SNAP...SNAP... -- the other join in until they are  
all  
snapping fingers like the Jets vs. Sharks. Talia too.

**TALIA**

Snap along, Lance or you can't join  
the gang.  
Larry, clumsily, starts snapping too. After a few bars...

**DELL GORDO**

Okay. You're in for a trial run.  
And just like that, everyone goes back to their wheels.

**STAN**

Not many of these '66 Wasps left  
around. They had low torque.  
How's the torque?  
He means Larry's scooter.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I just bought it and ride around.  
Someone yells "Saddle up!"

**TALIA**

Stan knows engines and junk.

**DELL GORDO**

Let's go, Sweets!

**TALIA**

We ride, Monkey!  
Larry's heart breaks a tiny bit, suffering as he does from  
Talia-on-the-heart.

**41.**

The squad pulls out through the cars of the parking lot with  
Larry trying to speed his machine along with the crowd...

**SCOOT MONTAGE**

They roll through town - a multi-wheeled dance troupe.  
Swaying... turning... slow-motion sometimes... elegant  
always.  
They make riding look fun... being in a group a gas...  
rolling with the wind in your hair something you'd like to  
do...

**UNIMART**

As Larry and the Squad pass it by, Larry can't help but eye  
the place he once worked. He sees staffers collecting carts  
in the parking lot.  
He misses that place...

**LATER**

After many shots, riders begin to peel off -- scooting done.  
Talia waves at Larry who guns his throttle and pulls even

with her. TALIA (CONT'D)

You good, Lance?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Other than school, I have nothing to  
do.

**DELL GORDO**

Let's troll Buena Vista for junk  
stores.

**STAN**

We hit those last week.

**TALIA**

If it was Saturday we'd look for  
yard sales.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I know where a yard sale is, like

everyday.

**TALIA**

Lead the way.

**(YELLING)**

Monkey! Lance knows a yard sale!

**42.**

**DELL GORDO**

Take point!

**LARRY CROWNE**

Follow me, boys and girl!

**EXT. DERBY COURT - LATER**

The Scooters pull around the corner. Lamarr shouts.

**LAMARR**

We're being invaded!

One by one, the Scooters park and survey the scene. The stuff that Larry was selling is now part of Lamarr's operation, being sold 'On Consignment'. .

**LAMARR (CONT'D)**

Larry, what kind of thugs you get in with?

**LARRY CROWNE**

College buddies.

**LAMARR**

If they're college buddies why aren't they in college?

**TALIA**

You have any old clothes?

**LAMARR**

Speak to my bride inside.  
Dell Gordo, Stan and the others are going through hardware,  
tools, appliances.

**DELL GORDO**

Oh man! These TV trays are too  
much!

**LAMARR**

Bargains at \$100 apiece.

**DELL GORDO**

For these? Are you nuts?

**LAMARR**

I'm joking, kid. Let's get to  
haggling.

**43.**

**DELL GORDO I**

get it.

**(THEN)**

A buck apiece.

**LAMARR**

**YOU**

Ninety-nine dollars apiece.  
see how this is working?

**DELL GORDO**

Two bucks apiece!

**LAMARR**

Ninety-eight and, kid, I do this  
every day.

**INT. GARAGE -- SAME**

Talia and Patience are putting outfits together from off the hangers.

**TALIA**

Layer this... with this.

**PATIENCE**

Add this belt?

**TALIA**

I LOVE THIS! Where did you GET IT?

**PATIENCE**

Reeled it in like tuna from the Atlantic.

**TALIA**

Diamonds in a diamond mine.

**(ANOTHER OUTFIT)**

Take this... under this...unbutton that.

**PATIENCE**

You and I are going to spend some time together!

**EXT. LAMARR HOUSE - SAME**

Larry stands alone, nothing to do as the Scooters poke about the sale. He drifts towards his house, a forgotten man.

**INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - LATER**

He is entering some of his choice, rare LP's up for auction on eBay.

**DOORBELL RINGS**

**INT. LARRY'S HOUSE - SAME**

It's Talia.

**TALIA**

I gotta see Chez Lance.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Entrez vous, sea food plate.  
Talia enters and looks around. The decor screams out: "A man lives here."

**TALIA**

No sign of a woman around here for years. Drape a scarf over that

lamp and you'll soften the light.

No TV, b t vinyl disks of music?  
You trying to seduce me?  
She examines the record collection.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

Alphabetical order. No artistic chaos for you.  
She closes her eyes and picks out an LP at random.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

Spin this platter, Mr. DJ?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Good choice.  
As he puts it on, Talia drifts into the...

**KITCHEN**

Nothing matches, but it is well-equipped with a cozy breakfast nook.

**TALIA**

Breakfast nookie!

**(THEN)**

45.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

Did Denise make you breakfast in here with a little apron and lipstick perfectly applied?

**LARRY CROWNE**

I did most of the cooking, actually.

**(THEN)**

You know about Denise?

**TALIA**

Patience thought she was stuck up and seriously fleeced you.  
Larry can't believe his neighbors are so loose-tongued.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

So what happened there, my Lance?

**LARRY CROWNE**

The usual stuff between three people.

**TALIA**

She must have been pretty.

**(THEN)**

Fair haired or dark?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Dark.

**TALIA**

Like me.

**(THEN)**

So? How about a demonstration?  
he means 'of the kitchen'. Larry's game...

**LARRY CROWNE**

Stay outta my way.

**VEGETABLES ARE CHOPPED**

**BURNERS TURNED ON**

**MISMATCHED UTENSILS COME OUT OF DRAWERS**

**A CHICKEN BREAST IS POUNDED**

**OLIVE OIL GOES INTO A PAN**

**BEER OPENED**

Pizza bread. Chopped veggie salad. Lightly fried potatoes. A  
pounded chicken breast. Beer in a bottle.  
Talía eats as Larry gets corn bread he steamed fresh and  
moist onto a plate.

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)**

Cooking for friends is sort of fun.  
Three hundred times a day is not.

**DELL GORDO (O.C.)**

That corn bread I smell?

**TALIA**

Kitchen, Monkey!  
Dell Gordo has walked into Larry's house.

**DELL GORDO**

Corn pone!  
Dell Gordo dives in after helping himself to a bottle of  
beer  
from the refrigerator.

**TALIA**

Lance made all this. You should  
have seen him. He was like...  
Talía does a mime of Larry cooking - like a spastic drummer.

**DELL GORDO**

You're like Uncle Ben or something.  
Stan's working on your bike.

**LARRY CROWNE**

He is?  
Larry goes to the window.

**DELL GORDO**

Said the thing was a time bomb.  
He's saving your life.

**P.O.V.**

Stan has broken down much of Larry's bike using Lamarr's tools. Lamarr is standing over him, pointing out what he thinks needs to be done. Stan is ignoring him.

**DELL GORDO (CONT'D)**

Let's go lift iron, Monkey. It's a  
shoulders and arms day

**(MORE)**

**47.**

**DELL GORDO (CONT'D)**

Lance, raise your right hand and  
say something patriotic.  
Larry does, just for fun.

**LARRY CROWNE**

'We'll be right back after these  
messages.'

**DELL GORDO**

You're in the Street Patrol. A  
full-time mission for beauty and  
justice.  
Talía throws her arms around him and kisses him on the lips  
--  
no romance at all, but still...

**TALIA**

That Denise. What a fool. You are  
way cooler than you appear.  
She leaves. Dell Gordo lingers.

**DELL GORDO**

Lance. All men fall in love with

Talia. You will too, if you haven't already. But I love her the most. Know that right now.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Capice.

**DELL GORDO**

Seriously. Don't make me keep my eyes on you. What's your real name?

**LARRY CROWNE**

L rry.

**DELL GORDO**

Mine's Don. Shake hands.

**(EXPLAINING HOW)**

Look each other in the eyes. Firm grips. No contest, but firm. Hold. Stack it.

**(THEN)**

One word, Lance. Peace.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Peace indeed.

**48.**

**EXT. LARRY'S HOUSE - MORNING**

NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS are in school uniforms, heading to the bus stop. Dressed for school as well, Larry kick starts his scooter, now a humming bit of mechanical perfection.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Speck-tack-alar.  
He peels out, on his way to school.

**EXT. LAMARR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN WINDOW**

Lamarr, and his percolator, give Larry a wave.

**EXT. E.C.C.C. CAMPUS - DAY**

Larry walks to Speech 217 like any other student.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (OVERLAPPING)**

Even business can break down into a  
Shakespearean Five-Act Structure!

**INT. SPEECH 217- LATER**

FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH is a former student of Mercedes with

braces on her teeth. Her name is printed in perfect block  
letters behind her on the board. She is giving a polished,  
well-prepared "off the cuff" presentation: DYNAMIC SEMINARS

**PRESENTS: SHAKESPEAREAN ECONOMICS.**

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Act I: Inventory. What do you  
sell? Act Two? To Market. Reach  
your buyers. Act Three? Three legs of  
accounting. Receivable.  
Payable. Due. Act Four? Forward  
planning. Plan to grow. Act Five?  
Final Profitability. What do you  
clear on bottom-line?

**(THEN)**

In other words: "To be or not to  
be... in Business."  
It's all nonsense, but it looks nice in PowerPoint form.

Larry is taking notes.

Calimeris has drawn her Pyramid of ideas.  
Mack sleeps with his head straight up.

**49.**

Pinedo is listening intently, counting the ideas out on her  
hands.  
Dibiasi is doodling drawings of football players.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (CONT'D)**

For business, social, and self-  
improvement workshops, email me:  
Francestaylor-briegh@dynasem.com.  
Mercedes Tainot is in the back -- her mind far from her  
classroom. She is preoccupied.  
The applause for the speaker jolts her.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Did you notice? No script. No  
notes. So it can be done.  
The class breaks up. Pinedo makes it a point to pick up some  
DynaSem brochures. Larry remains, scribbling notes.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

White, Siler and Koss, you are up

next time.

**(THEN)**

You did good, Fran. Thanks.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Anything for the woman who brought  
out the public speaker in Frances  
Taylor-Briegh.

**(THEN)**

I used you as a Focal Reference but  
you weren't there for me. What's  
wrong, Mercy?

Mercedes signals Frances: "Not yet", then points to Larry,  
still finishing up his notes.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (CONT'D)**

**(WHISPERING)**

I broke up with the Orthodontist.  
Now I have to get a new boyfriend  
and a new orthodontist. You ever  
do that? Get crushes on people you  
see every day after ignoring them  
and then find out they're creeps  
after all?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Mr Crowne? Can you move along

50.

**LARRY CROWNE**

That was a great presentation. I  
learned a lot from it.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Super.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Smart stuff. Super smart.  
The women watch him go. As soon as he's out the door:

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Ethel's here, Lucy. What's going  
on?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

When was the last time you looked  
at your life and saw nothing but  
fraud and desperation?

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Mercy. You're an idol to me.  
Hearing you talk like that is

crushing my dreams.

Mercy wants to take it back.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Well I'm joking of course!!!  
She pretends to laugh. A little too much.

**INT. ECON. 1 - LATER**

Dr. Matsutani is diagramming on the board.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

If the balance on Axis A is the  
same metric as Axis B you're in  
deficits because of overhead,  
taxes, and re-investment.

**(THEN)**

Translation? Ms. Francesco?

**TALIA**

Something complicated.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

Ms. Pinedo?

**DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)**

Mr. Crowne?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Breaking even is not making profit,  
it's a theoretical assumption.  
Economics abhors an assumption.  
Talía is amused while sizing him up, from shoe to collar.  
Bad shirt... pleated pants, too short... running shoes.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

Someone's been reading my book.

**(THEN)**

The Break Even Paradox creates a  
new metric...  
Talía makes a decision and palms her phone, punching in a  
text. In a second, Larry's phone vibrates. He struggles to  
get it before he gets caught with his mobile on.  
TALIA: "Scoot? You/me?"

Larry nods at Talía.

Turning back, Dr. Matsutani is there again.  
Larry hands him his mobile phone again.

Palm out again. DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)

I am growing tired of this game,  
Mr. Crowne. Aren't you?

**EXT. STREET - LATER**

Larry and Talía. Scooting along like Elvis and Ann-Margret  
in Viva Las Vegas.

**EXT. SQUARE HOLE SELF-STORAGE - LATER**

They swing into the complex.

**EXT. SQUARE HOLE NO. 114 - SAME**

Talia is unlocking the grate.

**LARRY CROWNE**

So what happens here?

**TALIA**

You ready?  
Re-invention Big Boy

**52.**

**LARRY CROWNE**

I have no idea what that means, but  
you betcha.

**INT. SQUARE HOLE NO. 114 - SAME**

Pitch black as the grate rolls up and open, revealing Talia,  
Larry and their parked scooters.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Holy smokes!  
The place is crammed with vintage clothes. Racks and boxes  
and stacks of every fashion.

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT D)**

You got inventory.  
She disappears in the back, rummaging around.

**TALIA**

I started in the smallest unit.

**LARRY CROWNE**

This is just sitting here? Talia!  
This is unproductive capital! Sell  
it on eBay.

**TALIA**

No one should ever buy clothes off  
the internet. You have to feel the  
fabric and test the drape...

**LARRY CROWNE**

What is all this worth?  
Out she ome with an assortment of men's clothes.

**TALIA**

A lot to me. Try these on.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Where?

**TALIA**

Anywhere. Fashion is no place for  
modesty. Strip.  
He does.

**LARRY CROWNE**

53.

**TALIA**

This is a service to humankind,

Lance. It hurts me to see a Top Cat dressed like an ex-hockey player. You gotta look gorgeous from shoe to collar. Starting now. Larry is taking off his pants just as Dell Gordo has pulled up on his scooter.

**DELL GORDO**

Monkey! Thought you might be here.

**TALIA**

Lance! My boyfriend's here! Put your pants on!  
Larry, in fact, has his pants off.

Dell Gordo has a look in his eyes of, well, "What the fuck?"

**INT./EXT. - MERCEDES' CAR -- AFTERNOON**

She is driving home.

**GPS VOICE**

Please enter your destination.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Go to hell...

**INT TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - LATER**

Dean is opening take-out containers to put the food on plates. The table is set a little too ornately. Wine.

**HE'S**

Candles. Flowers.  
In other words, he's making up.

Mercedes comes in through the door. Sees what's up. being good and cute. He pours Margaritas.

**DEAN TAINOT**

No argument here, Mercy. Fact: I'm a dope. Fact: My wife is beautiful and brilliant. And I will be a good boy from now on. Why? Because you're right and I've learned my lesson. Just don't be mad at me forever. I have a pliable soul and I pray you do too

**54.**

He dangles her a fresh Margarita. She'll take it...

**BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Mercedes and Dean have had make up sex. It was okay.

**DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Ah. That was nice.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

It was. Yes.

**DEAN TAINOT**

Been thinking. If you ever want to take a whack at writing something -- say a blog a couple of times a week -- I could help you out.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

How?

**DEAN TAINOT**

I'd read your stuff. Make comments to make it web-savvy. Pieces need

to pop, you know. Takes a little

**PRACTICE**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Okay.

**DEAN TAINOT**

See? You can't stay mad at me. No  
reason to be mad at me...  
He smooches her. Mercedes smooches back.

**DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)**

I'm just a guy who's a guy being a  
guy...  
Mercedes' eyes: She didn't like hearing that...

**INT. LARRY'S HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING**

Larry -- in new, vintage clothes with his morning coffee --  
is at his computer entering his financial record into a  
program - Ed Matsutani's SmartPlanning MoneyWorks.  
He is also on his Mobile Phone -- pressing his party's  
extension...

55.

**DENISE**

This is Denise. How can I help  
you.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Denise. Larry.

**DENISE**

My god. Larry Crowne. I remember  
you.

**LARRY CROWNE**

This a good time?

**DENISE**

Other than me being at work?

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'll call you later.

**DENISE**

I'm surprised is all. What do you want?

With checkbooks, statements, etc. Larry is looking for the bottom line.

Out it comes: In RED!

**(\$887.00)**

**LARRY CROWNE**

Well. Okay. Uh. Here's the deal.

**DENISE**

Spit it, Lar.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'm going to miss a few months on the checks for the house.

**DENISE**

Okay.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I hoped not to, but I there it is.

**DENISE**

Okay. Yeah.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'm sorry.

**56.**

**DENISE**

How many months?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Let's start with six.  
Silence on the other end.

**DENISE**

That can't happen, Larry.  
I'm extended. I've put a deposit  
down on the first vacation I've had  
in 5 1/2 years. My expenses are as  
valid as yours, so I need the  
checks like always. A deal's a  
deal.  
He goes back to the computer, to eBay to see how his LP  
auction is going.  
One record is going for... \$0.75. Another: \$1.25. Another:

**NO BIDS.**

**LARRY CROWNE**

I don't have it.

**DENISE**

That's not my problem. Take out a  
loan on the house or something.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I tried. I'm too much of a risk.

**DENISE**

Oh, I'm not touching that. I don't  
want to open up the whole lawyer  
thing, but I will if pushed. Sucks,  
doesn't it? I appreciate the  
rigorous Crowne honesty, but this  
can't happen.

**(THEN)**

These calls are monitored to guarantee customer satisfaction, so I'm hanging up before my supervisor comes on...

**EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - MORNING**

Establish. It's early. Few customers

57.

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME**

Raul is sitting at the counter doing his paperwork. Perry comes up to him.

**PERRY**

Can I smell trouble or what?

**RAUL**

Can you speak English?

**PERRY**

Those two over in booth 6...  
P.O.V.: Two GUYS IN SUITS.

**PERRY (CONT'D)**

Homeland Security. I piped their badges and everything.

**RAUL**

What is Homeland Security doing here...  
Raul looks back in the kitchen. Carlos and Nick are prepping their stations.  
Raul bolts for the kitchen. In seconds we can see him

through

the Service Window.  
He whispers and gestures to Carlos and Nick, who suddenly  
show PANIC in their eyes.  
They now bolt the kitchen, out the back way.

**BOOTH 6**

**R**

Perry is pouring coffee for the Agents, making small talk  
as...  
Outside the window, Carlos and Nick are fleeing for their  
Illegal Alien lives...

**INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - MORNING**

Larry is still trying to make sense of his money woes when  
his phone rings...  
Caller ID: "Perry's Coffee Shop Breakfast All Day!"

**LARRY CROWNE**

**HEY**

**58.**

**INTERCUT/PERRY'S**

Perry is serving hotcakes to the Agents while Raul is on the  
phone.

**RAUL**

This is Larry Crowne?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Raul? Yes.

**RAUL**

Get your ass down here. You got a job.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I do?

**EXT. STREET - LATER**

Larry is scooting to Perry's.

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - LATER**

The place has filled with customers. Perry is jammed and behind the window, Raul is slapping orders up in a frenzy.

**PERRY**

We're swamped, Kimosabe. Get back there!

**RAUL**

You're late on your first day!

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - KITCHEN - SAME**

Larry comes through the swinging doors. He stops and takes a breath. His life has come to this. He is back in a kitchen. What can he do, but dive in...

**LATER**

Larry is at the window, putting up orders and ripping slips off the wheel.  
Not so much as cracking a smile, though...

**RAUL**

Where you learn to turn eggs like

59.

**LARRY CROWNE**

The USS Coral Sea.

**(THEN)**

Boss, I don't want to quit school.

**RAUL**

So don't.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I gotta get to class before I miss the whole day. And I can't work mornings Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays.

**RAUL**

Soon as the rush is finished, go. I'll get my idiot brother-in-law three days a week. You take evenings. Deal?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Deal. When will we talk salary?

**RAUL**

Never. This is take it or leave

it. Don't worry. I may be tough

but I'll be fair.

**INT. SPEECH 217- DAY**

Mack is at the podium giving a presentation with his Star Wars Action figures.

**MACK**

These are not toys. Nobody 'plays' with these. These are kept behind glass, so no way am I passing them around today.  
Mercedes TALKS to us and HERSELF.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Wait a ding dong minute.  
(counts the heads)  
1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9. Someone is missing! Who cut my class?  
She lets slip OUT LOUD:

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Where's Larry Crowne?!  
Everyone looks at her.

60.

**MACK**

Guess Larry's out today.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Anyone know why?

**MACK**

He didn't call me.  
Ad-libs: no one knows why Larry is out.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I don't believe this! Ditching me?  
He ditched me? Not okay. Larry

Crowne, you are on my Shit List.  
Everyone shares looks like they've witnessed a Lover's Spat.  
Speaking quietly in their seats...

**DIBIASI**

Sounds like Teacher has a thing for a  
Teach-ee.

**CALIMERIS**

When you were out last week, she  
said nothing. I think she has a  
crush on Larry Crowne.

**PINEDO**

I do too.  
(off their looks)  
He's a nice man.  
Mack speaks up.

**MACK**

Should I continue?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Yes. Tell us more about your man  
dolls.  
Mack is humiliated now.

**MACK**

I'm sure everyone recognizes Boba  
Fett...

**EXT. E.C.C.C. - LATER**

61.

**INT. ECON 1 - LATER**

Dr. Matsutani is in mid-lecture when Larry comes in, late.

**LARRY CROWNE**

**(QUIETLY)**

I'm sorry I'm late, Dr. Matsutani.  
May I still sit in the class?

**DR. MATSUTANI**

This is college, Mr. Crowne. The  
only thing you can't do is smoke in  
the building. Hand over your  
phone.

**(LARRY DOES)**

I'm going to ask a question in a  
moment. I want someone other than  
you to answer it - I don't care if  
the silence is positively Arctic.  
Larry moves to take a seat.

Talia can't believe his choice of dress. She mimes to him  
"What's with the outfit?" His mime answer is unintelligible.

**DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)**

This brings us to a dreaded task to  
every corporate entity. What is  
the purpose of semi-annual re-  
purposing? Anyone?

**(THEN)**

Anyone?  
He waits. And waits. And waits. Matsutani stares fear into  
the hearts of all but Larry.

**LARRY CROWNE**

**(WHISPERING)**

Lala... To upload market  
differences without...

**PINEDO**

Without mooting the quarterlies. I  
know.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Then say it.

**(SHE WON'T)**

Just give the answer. You know it.  
Say it.

**PINEDO**

Can I?

**62.**

**LARRY CROWNE I**

insist.

Lala Pinedo clears her voice. But still whispers...

**PINEDO**

To up... met... es without ...ing  
...terly predicts....?  
No one understood that...

**DR. MATSUTANI**

I know what you mean, but please  
share it with your classmates?

**PINEDO**

**(LOUD ENOUGH)**

To upload market differences  
without mooting quarterly

predictions.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

Does this affect the Value Index?

**PINEDO**

No. Only the profit markdown.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

Someone is doing the reading!  
Lala Pinedo beams! Larry applauds. Talia whoops!

**EXT. E.C.C.C. - LATER**

Mercedes Tainot is crossing campus when she sees Larry.  
Talia is moving around his hair, showing it to a SCOOTER  
QUAD HAIR STYLIST. Lala is weighing in with her opinion on  
Larry's hair .

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Is that Larry Crowne!?

**(HE STOPS)**

You have a lot of nerve showing  
your face on campus after ditching  
my class!

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'm sorry, Ms. Tainot. I will not  
miss another class, this I vow.

**63.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Vows come cheap, Larry Crowne.  
You'll lead off next assignment

with three minutes on a personal first. A story, with details, not a laundry list or slide show. And, as I told Dibiasi, no one wants to hear about the first time you got laid.

She eyes Talia with venom in her eyes.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Or the most recent.  
Talia laughs out loud!

**TALIA**

That woman is one clenched fist of fury.

**INT. BIG BALLOON CHILDREN'S HAIR SALON - LATER**

Noisy kids squirm and cry and play games as they get haircuts from other stylists.

Larry is in a chair meant for toddlers. The Scooter Squad Hair Stylist is cutting his hair. Talia is taking Larry's

shitty Velcro wallet and putting his stuff into a cool used leather one with a chain.

**TALIA**

She must not be having any amok lovin'.

**SCOOTER HAIR STYLIST**

That makes me cranky, too.

**TALIA**

Without a workout in the Inner Sanctum a few times a week I can't

concentrate.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Inappropriate subject in mixed company.

**SCOOTER HAIR STYLIST**

For girl-talk this is nothing.

**LARRY CROWNE**

**64.**

**TALIA**

You you want to fix it with your teacher? Bang her.  
Talia slides a photo of herself making a face into Larry's wallet, then adds a condom in its foil.

**LARRY CROWNE**

She's married.

**TALIA**

You'd kill two birds in one bush. Nothing wrong with a campus romance. Otherwise life is what? Breakfast work, coffee, school, lunch, scoot, class, shop, talk, Mexican food, a movie, glass of wine or two then bed? That's not living.

**SCOOTER HAIR STYLIST**

Not without some smooching time.

**TALIA**

Bet she'd give you an A plus.

**(THEN)**

If you're any good...

She and the Stylist crack up!

**EXT. RIVERBANK BRANCH - LATER**

Larry pulls in.

**INT. RIVERBANK BRANCH - LATER**

Larry has filled out a bunch of papers and is sitting down with Laurie Gammelgaard, who offers him coffee.

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

More complimentary coffee?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Complimentary coffee is usually lousy.

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

I drink it all day.

**(THEN)**

So? You're back!

**65.**

**LARRY CROWNE**

I got a job.

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

Atta Baby!

**LARRY CROWNE**

Perry's Coffee shop. Breakfast all day. And I'm going to school.

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

At East City. I see.  
(from the papers)  
Larry, this doesn't change anything.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I was afraid of that.

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

The interest alone will eat up your service industry salary.

**LARRY CROWNE**

You said come back in a few weeks.

It's been a few weeks.

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

Okay.

**(THEN)**

I will personally take this to my supervisor and fight to get you the loan you need. But you know how complimentary coffee is always lousy? Your chances are, too.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I can't make the payments on the house. I'm going to lose it, aren't I?

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

Stop with the gloomy puss. You're doing everything right. Hang in there. You still have a friend at RiverBank.

**LARRY CROWNE**

You guys are forced to say that, aren't you?

**LAURIE GAMMELGAARD**

66.

**THUNDER ROLLS IN THE DISTANCE**

**EXT. SQUARE HOLE NO. 114 - MORNING**

**RAIN!**

Coming down in buckets. Talia has the grate up, wrapping a new outfit for Larry culled from her supply. Dell Gordo is in a rain slicker.

**DELL GORDO**

I think it's letting up.

**TALIA**

It's going to storm till next year.

**DELL GORDO**

We can't stay here all day. Find a raincoat and let's get a little wet.

**TALIA**

I do not scoot in the rain.

**DELL GORDO**

How you going to get to school then, College Co-Ed Belle? Larry pulls up in his Karmann Ghia -- top up.

**TALIA**

My savior! Look at your new schmatas.

**(HOLDING BOOTS)**

And footwear!  
(hopping in, to Dell)  
Stay dry, sweetie!  
Dell Gordo is not happy to see this.

**EXT. DONUT SHOP - MORNING - RAIN**

It is raining. Mercedes' car is out front.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (PRE-LAP)**

I got engaged to a teacher/writer  
with two books in print...

67.

**INT. MERCEDES' CAR - MORNING - RAIN**

The windows are fogging up. Frances and Mercedes sip take-out coffee and eat glazed rings of death.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

I never read them.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Who did? I'm married to an ex-  
teacher turned blogger with two  
books in print. And oh, yes, he has  
the libido and internet access of a  
13-year-old.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

I had a boyfriend who owned every  
movie Sophia Loren ever made. I d  
hear a DVD go into the playe an  
knew what I was going to be doing in  
a half-hour.

Right next to them, Larry Crowne pulls up in his Karmann

Ghia

with the top up and Talia in the passenger seat.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Once more to Divorce Court to  
cashier a spouse, line my cloak  
with alimony and do myself homage.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Othello. Act 1. Scene 1. Iago to  
Roderigo.  
Talia jumps out and runs into the donut shop.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Why can't all my students be like  
y u?

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Because, as I learned in your  
class, I am one of a kind.  
Larry rolls down his window and yells something funny to  
her.  
He never sees Mercedes or Frances.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (CONT'D)**

Hey, that guy's in your class.  
Mercedes wipes fog off the window.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

68.

**P.O.V.**

Talia is talking to the Donut Shop Lady, selecting crullers  
and old-fashionedes.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

And that Toy Poodle he keeps on a  
leash!  
Mercedes eyes Larry in his car.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

That's why he's in college! To get  
laid!

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

It happens.  
Talia comes running out, with two coffees and a bag of  
donuts, hops into Larry's car and they pull out as Talia  
puts a  
ring of sweet into his mouth.  
Mercedes rolls down her window and yells.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

You are everything that's wrong  
with America, Larry Crowne!  
They did not hear her.

**INT SPEE H 217 - MORNING**

Larry is at the podium, prepping his "Personal First"  
presentation as the class comes in. He is dressed as Talia  
styled him.

**DIBIASI**

Woah! Larry Crowne, I didn't know  
you were gay. You've gone all  
Project Runway on us.  
Mercedes enters, eyeing Larry with residual venom. He is  
oblivious. She takes her listening post in the back of the  
room as the class goes quiet.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Should I begin?

Mercedes signals 'Yeah, go ahead, asshole.'

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)**

first crossing of the Equator...

69.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

(talking to herself in the MOVIE

**DEVICE WAY)**

Oh shut up you sleaze. Jerk.

**(THEN)**

Look at the new pants. They actually fit. And that jacket is 'smart'. Did Busik put Larry Crowne into Fashion for Creeps? An old goat dressed like lamb.

**(THEN)**

Of course! It's that doe-eyed young thing he's been wearing on his sleeve. Dressing like he's half his age. Give me a shotgun! I'll pepper Larry Crowne right now!

**(THEN)**

Am I being unfair? I mean, if I were single and some young buck took to me, wouldn't I be inclined to diddly-dally?  
She looks at Dibiasi, who has snuck iPod earbuds onto his head, is mouthing the words and playing air guitar.

The class erupts in laughter. Mercedes wasn't paying

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Youth wouldn't be the only  
requirement, of course.

attention to hear Larry's bon mot.

**DIBIASI**

(jerking out buds)  
What? What he say?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Unless you're looking at a chart,  
you don't even know the Equator  
when you cross it...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

A repackaged Larry Crowne won't  
fool me. Shame on you. Going  
after jail bait, you criminal.  
Insert Viagra joke here...

**(THEN)**

herself at you... No. Don't let  
up. No, Mercy. NO MERCY!  
Polite applause. Mercedes pretends she heard every word.

70.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Anyone recall anything from that?

**PINEDO**

That Larry believed there were  
signs on posts marking the Equator.

**CALIMERIS**

And that, when it's a first time,  
they make the rookies dress in drag  
and sing Abba songs?

Mercedes missed a lot of that. Everything, in fact.

**MACK**

Larry worked on an Aircraft  
Carrier! Night Carrier Landings  
are the trickiest flying in world.  
Mercedes is learning this for the first time as well.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

That was a memorable nugget.

**PINEDO**

Larry was stationed in Panama! My  
father is from Panama!

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Mr. Koss to the lectern, please.  
More anecdotes come from the class about Larry's speech.  
Mercedes heard none of them...

**EXT. STREET - DAY**

Talia is riding alone. She slows at a TATTOO PARLOR...

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON**

Larry bangs out orders.

Raul sits at the butchers block, sipping coffee, observing  
his new kitchen staffer.

**EXT. PERFECT SPACE - DAY**

An empty store right next to the Tattoo Parlor. Talia is looking through the window

71.

A hand-drawn sign with an arrow says "FOR LEASE ENQUIRE NEXT

**DOOR ASK FOR MAURICE."**

Talia smiles. Her mobile rings its unique ringtone.

STAN: "Scoot! Webster and Palm!"

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON**

his Larry is slapping orders together at the same time he h s

studies out -- trying to do two jobs at the same tim  
His mobile phone vibrates.

TALIA: "Scoot?"

He punches in

"Can't. Job."

He goes back to his studies just as another order comes up.  
Then his phone vibrates again.

TALIA: "Job? Sob! Coming!"

**LARRY CROWNE**

Oh crap.

**EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - LATER**

Talia and the scooter gang pull in.

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME**

In they pour, sizing up the place for a hangout. Talia, Stan  
- minus Dell Gordo -- and others sit at the counter where  
they can see Larry.

**TALIA**

Chef Corona! Steam us some corn  
bread?  
The others pretend to be grumpy diners: Feed us! What's a  
Reuben Sandwich? Where's my Sanka!

**LATER**

Up comes order after order. Burgers. Hot beef sandwiches.  
Turkey clubs. Greek Salads.

72.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

Woman on deck!  
Raul looks up from his Spanish Language Newspaper.

**RAUL**

You can't come in here.

**TALIA**

I'm a friend of Lance's.

**RAUL**

No Lance works for me.  
Talia hops up to sit on a butcher block.

**RAUL (CONT'D)**

This is my kitchen and I am the  
boss.

**TALIA**

Is he, Lance?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Raul's my boss, yeah.

**TALIA**

Rah-ool. Rhymes with ya-cool. Are  
ya' cool, Raul?

**RAUL**

Sure I'm cool. Tough but fair,  
too.

**TALIA**

As boss, do you make up the menu?

**L**

**RAUL**

**A**

N . But I do the purchasing.

**R**

**TALIA**

Is that a tough but fair job?

**R**

**RAUL**

**Y**

It makes me crazy, you kidding? But it's gotta be done every day or guess what? No food. I'll show you how much I gotta do...

**P**

**U**

And just like that, Talia has seduced another man. telling her the secrets of purchasing orders s fries into the deep fryer.

**RAUL IS**

73.

**LATER**

Talia is with Perry at the register. She's seduced him now, as he goes over the menu and what sells more than ever.

**PERRY**

Breakfast all day, see. From Corn Flakes to popovers. We make the best Chicken Fried Steak outside of a truck stop.

**TALIA**

Can Lance take a break?

**PERRY**

Who?

**TALIA**

The artist formerly known as Larry. I need his expertise.

**PERRY**

**(CALLING)**

Lance.  
Perry signals to Larry then to Talia and makes a talking gesture.

**BOOTH - LATER**

Larry and Talia sit. She has her notebook out -- sketches and ideas and forms...

**LARRY CROWNE**

Square footage at this price is a bargain.

**TALIA**

Maurice says I'm saving his life by renting the space.

**LARRY CROWNE**

**(WRITING)**

This is your Matsutani Delta Number. You net this every month, you cover overhead, and the rest is profit.

**TALIA**

You sure?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Chapter four.

**74.**

**TALIA**

You make it sound so simple!!  
Talia is so excited she grabs Larry and showers his forehead with kisses.  
Appearing out of nowhere: Dell Gordo.

**LARRY CROWNE**

**(BOLTING)**

Well, back to work!

**EXT. CHEESECAKE FACTORY - PARKING LOT - EARLY EVENING**

Dean is opening the car door for Mercedes, putting on the class act for a night out.  
He laughs at a feeble joke we can't hear. The guy is trying.

**LATER - NIGHT**

They come right out the same door. They've argued and drank all through the meal. Dean carries extra cheesecake home in a dessert box. And, oh, they've been drinking.

**DEAN TAINOT**

Work my ass off all night trying to  
get f i in' smile out of you!

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I'm smiling...

**DEAN TAINOT**

Like The Joker after three Apple  
Martinis.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

If they help, they help.

**DEAN TAINOT**

We can't even have a Date Night  
now? You can't even chillax for  
one meal?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

"Chillax?" Did you use the word  
"chillax?" That come from your  
Bloggers Thesaurus?

**INT. CAR SHOT - MERCEDES' SEVEN-YEAR OLD CAR - NIGHT**

75.

**GPS VOICE**

Please Enter your destination.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

You lie to me, Dean. Every day.  
You. Lie. To. Me.

**DEAN TAINOT**

You looking for a whole new man,  
Mercy? I'm the jerk who has to  
transform into Ultraman to make you  
happy? No. I like myself, Mercy. I  
put up with you and complain about  
nothing.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I'm not complaining. I'm stating  
the truth. I teach while you  
pretend to work.

**DEAN TAINOT**

I had three postings today alone.  
FogCaster, SkyScan, and  
ParsecTwelve.com

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Those weren't postings. They were comments.

**DEAN TAINOT**

Hey, Booze-illa, who are you to judge me?

**(THEN)**

I know what's really pissing you off. I like big titties. And you don't have any.

Yeow. A line has been crossed. A big, ugly line has just been crossed. Even Dean knows it.

**DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Maybe I should take that back.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

**LET ME OUT OF THIS FUCKING CAR!!!**

**EXT. INTERSECTION - CONTINUOUS**

A young couple -- call them JANET and TONY - have been on their first date. It's gone well.

76.

**JANET**

As soon as I saw you, I said, "I want to go out with that man."

**TONY**

What did you say when I asked you out?

**JANET**

I said "Yes." You were there, remember?

**TONY**

I saw you and I thought "I would be a lucky guy if she'd go out with me."

**JANET**

Yes you are.

**TONY**

Honestly, this is about as good a first date goes, isn't it?

**JANET**

Disaster looms on most first dates, but I'm talking to you like you're a friend I want to make out with.

**TONY**

Hold that thought.  
Dean and Mercy pull up beside them in their car.

Mercedes is out of the car before it even stops.

**DEAN TAINOT**

I take it back. I take it back.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Drive, asshole! Drive away!

**DEAN TAINOT**

I've been drinking, too.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Drive straight til you hit a cliff on the coastline!

**DEAN TAINOT**

You win! I'm letting you win!  
Everything you say is right and

**WIN!**

77.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

LOSER! I MARRIED A LOSER!!! With  
a tiny dick! Tiny dick LOSER!

**DEAN TAINOT**

Screw you, you washboard!

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Oh, chillax!!!

**GPS VOICE**

Please enter your destination.  
Dean screeches off into the night. Mercedes picks up a rock  
and hurls it at him.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I'm throwing rocks at my own car !!  
Janet and Tony are aghast - silent - in shock.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

The jerk who just deserted me? My  
husband of 4 friggin' years!  
She stomps off into the night. Janet and Tony don't know  
what to do with each other now.

**EXT. BUSINESS STREET - LATER**

Mercedes is walking home. It's a bit longer than she would  
like. She comes to a bus stop and studies the route. She  
sits and removes her shoes.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I loved these shoes once. Stupid shoes.  
She sits at he stop, about to cry. Then she sort of does cry, for so any reasons.  
In the distance, we hear...

The ROAR of SCOOTERS. Then here they come. A night-time 'Scoot'.  
All the REGULARS go by. Somewhere in the mix are Larry and Talia.  
Talia is just able to turn her head and see Ms. Tainot at  
the bus stop. She slows.

**78.**

**TALIA**

Lance! Chick alert!  
Larry is beside her. They stop.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

You are not going to believe how Fate meets cute!  
She u-turns and Larry follows her, confused.

**BUS BENCH**

Mercedes wonders who these Mock Wild Ones are that pull up  
to her.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Ms. Tainot?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

No.  
He takes off his helmet.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Larry Crowne.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Jesus Christ.

**TALIA**

And I've been calling you 'Lance'.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Do you need a ride? Hop on.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

And bust up your romp in the glen  
with Bambi?

**TALIA**

Hey. Bambi was a boy.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I was heading home.

**(TO TALIA)**

Right? We're done scooting?

**TALIA**

Not me. I love riding in the  
night. Magic happens.

**(TO LANCE)**

**79.**

Away Talia scoots to catch up with the gang.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

What do men see in irritating free  
spirits?  
Mercedes starts walking.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Seriously. I offer you a ride.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Seriously. I don't want one.  
Larry shuts off his scooter, pushing it along with his feet

**LARRY CROWNE**

I've yet to give anyone a lift on  
this but I think I can get you home  
with a scraped elbow, worst case.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I am walking, Crowne, as thoughts  
black boil up from my soul. Major

consequences sure to follow.

You'll read about them on  
[Parsectwelve.com](http://Parsectwelve.com).

**LARRY CROWNE**

An attractive woman like you  
walking alone is a dumb idea.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I need a man flirting with me right  
now like I need a dog crapping on my  
lawn. I'm hoofing it.

**LARRY CROWNE**

In those shoes?  
Mercedes ponders her shoes. He's got her. She stops.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

A man who notices shoes.

**(GIVING UP)**

All right. I'll be your Cycle  
Slut.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Put this on.

**(HIS HELMET)**

Strap your legs round my engine and

**80.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

It won't be a terrible thing if you  
kill us both.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Ain't you a ball of fun?  
Larry kick starts the scooter and off they go -- slowly.

**IN MOTION**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Are you really going to go this  
slow?

**LARRY CROWNE**

I do want to survive this night.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Fine. I have time to window shop.  
Oh look, a sale on tires at  
AutoUSA. And here comes a mailbox.  
I've never noticed their perfect  
design and color scheme. This is

so slow a cat could knock us over.

**EXT. INTERSECTION - MINUTES LATER.**

Here they come at the speed of a lazy cow. Mercedes is singing "Sixteen Miles on the Erie Canal".

**EXT. STREET - RIDING SHOT - LATER - ON THE SCOOTER**

Larry shouts over his shoulder.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Where am I taking you?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Down to Portola and left to  
Havenhurst. Havenhurst to Palermo.  
Right on Palermo till I yell stop.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I may use this as a presentation in  
class.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Try it and you'll flunk.  
I am joking.

**81.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I like your class. You're making  
us all do things we never thought  
we could.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Put the shovel away and just get me  
home, 'kay?  
Up ahead, flashing lights.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Hail our City's Finest.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Someone's getting pinched...  
A COP CAR with its cherry top flashing, has pulled over a  
Drunk Driver.  
It's Dean. They're making him touch his nose, breathe into a  
test kit.  
Mercedes starts laughing.

As they pass the crime scene, Dean is being put into the  
back

of the Prowler, cuffed...

Mercedes' laugh fills the night as they putt-putt along.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Measure his dick, officer! He's  
too diminutive to drive!

**(THEN)**

Tiny dick loser!  
Larry doesn't know what to make of that.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Bad night for that guy.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Best night I've had in years!  
Drive on, McDuff!

**EXT. CEDAR HILLS TOWNHOMES - NIGHT**

In through the gates come our night crawlers. Mercedes is

**EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - SAME**

Larry shuts off the motor. Mercedes is half asleep. She doesn't remember to take off Larry's helmet.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Unit 114.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Thanks for the ox-cart ride.  
Like a sleepwalker. Stands at the Alarm Pad.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

I can see the Alarm Pad. I know  
the code. But my hands aren't  
working.

**(THEN)**

Help me.

**LARRY CROWNE**

You don't want to give me your pass  
code.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Just hold my hand up to the  
numbers. I'll manage from there.  
Larry takes her hand and guides it to the pad.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Look away now.

**(HE DOES)**

Two two two two. Pound.  
Larry heard every word.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Where's my purse? Oh yeah. My car.  
The key please? It's buried in  
that plant.  
Larry digs out an Altoids tin. Rattles it.

**LARRY CROWNE**

This it?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Why I think it is!

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'll get the door for you  
Larry opens the door, reaches in, turns on the light.

**83.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Take one step inside and I call  
security.  
Larry steps away from the door.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

And forget this ever happened.

**LARRY CROWNE**

What?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

This whole sorry chapter tonight.

**LARRY CROWNE**

What?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

You passing up Gidget for a flat  
old coot like me.

**LARRY CROWNE**

What are you talking about?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

What, you have no short-term  
memory?  
Larry has been trying to be polite.

**LARRY CROWNE**

When I say 'what', it means I get  
it and have already purposefully  
forgotten everything. Call it  
irony.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Sarcasm. Irony is when Gallant  
lands in the drunk tank while  
Goofus scoots me home.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Goodnight, Ms. Tainot.  
She doesn't move, but flashes her ring finger.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Mrs. I'm Mrs. Tainot. Can you not  
see that?

**LARRY CROWNE**

I assumed you preferred Ms

**84.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

When we presume we make a pretty  
pair of asses of me and you or  
something like that.

**(THEN)**

Why aren't you married?

**LARRY CROWNE**

That's a long story and it's late.

**(THEN)**

My helmet?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Help yourself.

She sticks her neck out. If this were a movie, they might kiss right now.

Larry pauses. Mercedes looks at him. He's not a bad looking guy. He starts to undo the helmet strap.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

I noticed something on the ride.

**LARRY CROWNE**

**WHAT**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

**IT MAY**

You smell good.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Thanks.

He gently removes the strap and helmet from her head. be a bit sexy. Her hair tumbles out.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Do you have a crush on me? Single student. Unattainable teacher. It's common.

Larry has no idea what to say.

**LARRY CROWNE**

We all have crushes on you. Even the gals.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

You want to make out with me, you can. I know I'm not a third rate Audrey Hepburn wanna-be but I still

**GOT MOVES**

Come on, Gramps. Take this ride.

**(MORE)**

85.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

My spouse won't be home for 3 to 5 years.

Larry ponders this moment for as long as he can. He shouldn't, of course. But, damn. She is Mercedes Tainot. Bang.

It's a pretty good whammy kiss. Makes her splay her arms and everything.

Larry pulls back. After a bit, though. She could have kept at it, too.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Wow...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Pretty dang good. I still got it, no?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Yes, you do..

**(THEN)**

In you go.

(Mercedes goes in)

Close the door.

**(SHE DOES)**

Lock it!  
Larry hears the sound of the bolt. He walks away.

**INT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - SAME**

Mercedes leans against the door. What did she just do????

**LARRY CROWNE (O.S.)**

Goodnight, whoever you are!

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Whoever I am...

**EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - SAME**

Larry wistfully starts his bike, looking back at the door.  
He will not forget that kiss or this night. He drives off.

**EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - MORNING**

A TAXI is pulling up. Out of the back, Dean, looking like he

**86.**

He pays the cabbie, pissed off about everything. Then his  
world gets much more complicated.

**P.O.V.**

All his possessions, stacked up in front of the door. On the  
top of the heap, his computer. Turned on and showing porn

**DEAN TAINOT**

Oh, Jesus Hell and tomorrow...

**(THEN)**

Mercy!!!

**EXT. E.C.C.C. TEACHERS' PARKING LOT - MORNING**

Mercy feels terrible, stepping from her car, brutally hungover.

As she straightens up, her eye catches...

**LARRY CROWNE**

On his scooter. Heading towards the Scooter parking.

She smiles -- a rare thing on a morning like this but the memory of last night warrants it. She heads in that

direction.

**EXT. E.C.C.C. CAMPUS - SAME**

Mercy is trying to 'accidentally' run into Larry, but is caught by surprise when..

He is walking right towards her. Oops. That would be uncomfortable. She DUCKS behind a pillar.

Still wanting to 'bump' into the man who kissed her last night, she circumvents his path, stalking Larry like a birdwatcher tracks a blue-tailed swallow.

Hopping behind a tree, Mercy's SHOE gets caught in some mud.

Bending down, a branch catches her sweater and RIPS a seam.

Stepping onto the pavement, the tree branch SMACKS her in

the

head.

Still, she keeps an eye on Larry. And pursues...

**BENCH AREA**

87.

Staying out of his eye line, Mercy navigates her way around to the other side of the Bench Area and preps her appearance before making a 180 degree reverse, guaranteeing a 'Meet' with Larry.  
Then she sees her.

**TALIA**

Sitting with others, greeting Larry with laughter and hugs and hoots. Talia is announcing to all how she left Larry with a drunken teacher last night, with her arm around his waist and affection in her eyes.

**MERCY**

Is crushed. For the obvious reasons she still can't understand. She was hoping to have Larry to herself for a minute or two.

**TALIA AND LARRY**

Amid the others...

**TALIA**

Oh, come on! I left you all set up! What went down?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Epilog. School today.

**TALIA**

Lance! A Betty on your Scooter after midnight? Holding on, her arms around you, pressed against your back, is a license to at least

cop a feel.

**LARRY CROWNE**

If we had ended up making out, you  
still wouldn't hear it.  
Talia slugs him. All in play...

**MERCY**

Convinced Larry is gossiping about last night, Mercy backs  
away from the scene, and slinks away toward her class.

**88.**

**INT. SPEECH 217 - DAY**

Mercedes is in the back, wearing the darkest glasses allowed  
a teacher in a classroom, hiding the fact that Mercy is  
looking at Larry.  
Larry is listening to Lala with delight.

**PINEDO**

Seeing them -- the Northern Lights,  
the Aurora Borealis -- should have  
been beyond me, but I was a little  
girl in Coach class still awake, a  
window seat, a moonless night  
somewhere over Greenland with a  
shimmering curtain of emerald,  
gossamer light dancing just for me.

**(THEN)**

That is something I will remember  
forever.  
The SPEECH is over. The class erupts in applause for Lala,  
who has hit a home-run. Foremost of the fans, Larry, who  
rises in applause for the once quiet classmate.  
Then the applause is over.

The teacher says nothing. DIBIASI

That was a knockout speech, Lala.  
Made the news. Caused riots  
downtown. School's out til 2019.  
The students look at each other, shrug their shoulders, and  
head ou .

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Mr. Crowne? A moment please?

**CALIMERIS**

Why doesn't she just throw herself  
at him?

**PINEDO**

This is bordering on harassment  
now.

**DIBIASI**

Quiet down. I'm watching the TV  
show...

**MACK**

Why doesn't this ever happen to me?

**89.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I need a few moments alone with Mr.  
Crowne thank you.

**DIBIASI**

Move along folks. Privacy's a  
right in this great nation of ours.

**MACK**

You want I should close this door,  
lock it, and barricade it so you  
won't be disturbed??  
We hear them cackling like geese in the hall.

**LARRY CROWNE**

How are the Triplets? Groggy,

Puffy, and Grumpy.  
He means the hangover.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Last night was a confluence of too  
many things happening in too short

a time span.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Last night? Let's see, what was I  
doing? Studying some. Working  
some. Can't recall. I've forgotten  
everything that happened last night  
as best a gentleman can.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I had no right to judge you or your  
relationships. Date who you want.  
Larry has no idea what that means.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

But what happened last night --  
between adults -- was  
inappropriate. If gossip were to  
circulate, the problem could be  
more than just embarrassing. My  
status as a professor could be  
tarnished.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I wouldn't want that.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

happened before.

**(MORE)**

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

With parking attendants. Strangers at parties when I've had a bit too much of the demon rum. This was the first time with a student.

**(THEN)**

I hope the entire thing will be forgotten.  
Larry has just had his feelings hurt by his teacher.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Sure. Nothing happened. At all.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

So there will be no bravado among you and your pals?

**LARRY CROWNE**

None.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Thank you, Mr. Crowne.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'd better scurry along to Dr.

Matsutani's class. I hope I don't have this same conversation with him.

Larry leaves - a good mood ruined...  
Mercy watches him go. What is going on behind those dark glasses?

**EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - AFTERNOON**

Larry and Lamarr are sitting on the curb, watching kids play down the street. They run back and forth in front of them with a soccer ball.  
They both have pipes, with Lamarr showing him how to light up.

**LAMARR**

Puff. Don't suck. Then... relax.

**(THEN)**

See? Works.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I have to sell my car.  
Put a new top on it.

**91.**

**LARRY CROWNE**

If I could afford a new top I could afford to keep it.

**LAMARR**

What's the job paying you?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Half my UniMart salary.

**LAMARR**

You're down, Larry Crowne. Down as dirt.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'm looking back on the year Denise left as the good old days.

**LAMARR**

Hang in there, neighbor.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Everyone keeps saying that.

**LAMARR**

I was in the same spot. Look what happened.

**LARRY CROWNE**

The odds of two people on the same street winning the lottery are worse than one person on the street winning the lottery.

**LAMARR**

I read how the universe is expanding, Larry, taking us along with it. That is a wild concept to grasp, but what it means is, we all have to hold on tight sometimes to get to where we're going to be.

**LARRY CROWNE**

**(THE PIPE)**

This thing must be making me dizzy. What?

**LAMARR**

Keep your grip. You'll be okay.  
It's like the wife always says...  
Shoppers pull up to Lamarr's Yard Sale. The WIFE has a

92.

**LAMARR (CONT'D)**

A woman with a measuring tape?  
That's money in my pocket.  
A ball flies in and hits Larry smack in the head, sending  
his pipe flying.

**EXT. UNIMART - PARKING LOT - DAY**

Hardly any cars. Shopping carts are herded into their corral by... former Team Leader Larry Crowne.

**INT. UNIMART MAIN ENTRANCE - SAME**

Larry stands where he was once king.

**P.O.V.**

The place looks different. Shabby. Unkempt. Understaffed.

He recognizes no one.

**AISLE**

No one is there to help Larry pick out two 'For Sale by Owner' signs. And, he can't help it: he straightens out

some messed up racks and shelves.

**REGISTER**

Vasquez - Security - is gone, replaced by Cubby -- the former Janitor who is now the skinniest SECURITY GUARD in history. Larry slides the signs for purchase. Manning the thing? Vicky Hurley. Not looking good

**HURLEY**

'ind bargains today?'

**LARRY CROWNE**

Vick? How you doing? Larry

Crowne.  
Hurley looks at him. She looks tired. And stupid in her  
Cashier's Apron.

**HURLEY**

Larry. Hi.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Why are you on the Register?

**93.**

**HURLEY**

Management Execs are now required  
to put in 8-hour shifts on the  
floor. Every day. No overtime.  
No bonus. Just more hours. Cash or  
UniMart Bargain Card? Like you  
have one of them.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Cash. No receipt.  
Hurley is robotic.

**HURLEY**

You got out of here just in time...  
'Thank you for choosing UniMart,  
where united we blah blah.'

**EXT. A PARK - DAY**

Trees. A picnic table. And Mercedes Tainot writing  
individual words on pages of a steno book.  
After each word, she folds each page many times and puts it  
in a basket.  
Up walks Dean Tainot, who looks neither happy nor cheerful.

**DEAN TAINOT**

Hi.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Thanks for coming.

**DEAN TAINOT**

No notice. No preamble. Just an email and a google map.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I knew you'd be on the computer.

**(THEN)**

Working...

**DEAN TAINOT**

Point made.

**(THEN)**

So. What up.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Are we making a mistake here?

**DEAN TAINOT**

94.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Point made. We could change things. We could start right now.

**DEAN TAINOT**

We could. Why should we?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Because we have history, Dean. But first, my thoughts... I've got to address drinking. I should be able to comprehend and respond to both sides of our conversations. And the morning shower should be

refreshing, not a hangover cure.

**DEAN TAINOT**

I'd like that too.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Really?

**DEAN TAINOT**

You're not a pleasant woman after a

few glasses. Mornings with you are

to be survived.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Okay. Now, you.  
Dean is caught short.

**DEAN TAINOT**

I see. I'm what this is all about.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

There are plenty of items on the  
relationship agenda but let's start  
here.

**DEAN TAINOT**

You're talking about you but you  
really mean me.

**(THEN)**

I am not yelling or begging or  
saying you have to stop doing  
anything. So you don't get to  
either.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I'm not saying that.

**DEAN TAINOT**

We've both been here before. Why prolong the process? White flag! I give up. This ain't working.

**(THEN)**

I'll sign papers and checks, see if there's enough for a cool sports car as a reward for the last few years and eventually I will be fine and you will too. But I am never once going to look at myself as another poor divorced guy who could still be married if only he had done the mea culpa bit for all his faults.

**(THEN)**

I just now came up with that, and it is going to be my next posting. He pulls out his Blackberry and makes a note to himself.

**DEAN TAINOT (CONT'D)**

I don't think there is anything else to talk about. Do you?

Mercedes looks at him. She has been a fool...

**EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOME - PATIO**

Mercy -- Margarita pitcher handy -- is still writing words on paper, and drinking. Alone. Not good.

**EXT. E.C.C.C. PARKING LOT - MORNING**

The sign reads "FINALS WEEK: ENROLL FOR SPRING QUARTER."

**INT. SPEECH 217 - MORNING**

She is in the front of the class with a small box. Hungover?  
A bit, yes...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Here I have surprise topics.  
Friday, in a Lightning Round, you  
must wax on that topic for 2  
minutes without pause, repetition,  
or lack of charm. No notes. One  
visual aid.

**(THEN)**

Ms Pinedo Draw

**96.**

Ms. Pinedo pulls a paper from the box.

**MS. PINEDO**

'Potatoes?'

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Spuds. Can't wait.  
Dibiasi draws a paper.

**DIBIASI**

'Disraeli'? What is that?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Who is that?

**DIBIASI**

It's a guy from Disrael. I'm done.  
Now it's Larry's turn. He shyly draws a paper -- a bit

uncomfortable in class since the recent events.

**LARRY CROWNE**

'Consumerism'.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

That's supposed to say 'Communism.'

**LARRY CROWNE**

The handwriting is loopy. Looks like 'Consumerism'.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Fine. 2 minutes on Consumerism. Calimeris picks. Hers is loopy, too.

**CALIMERIS**

'Malpity Hoople.'

**(THEN)**

What's this say?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

No idea. Just pick another.

**INT. ECON 1 -- LATER**

Dr. Matsutani is going on. Larry is looking for Talia, who is not in class.

97.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

**(HIS BOOK)**

At the end of each chapter is a study guide. Master those and you will have mastered my book. Master my book and you will take over the world.

He laughs demonically.

**DR. MATSUTANI (CONT'D)**

By now you should be laughing with me.

Larry can't believe Talia is not there...

**EXT. TALIA'S NEW STORE - LATER**

Larry scoots up. She is inside arranging a "Coming Soon!" window display. Dell Gordo, Stan, and the Squad are all inside building shelves and racks. She comes out of the store.

**TALIA**

You digging what you see?

**LARRY CROWNE**

You missed Matsutani's class. Review for the final.

**TALIA**

I'm done w th college.

**LARRY CROWNE**

What? Why?

**TALIA**

Because I'm going into business.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Talia. Don't be a fool. Stay in school. Don't throw away your education.

**TALIA**

And don't drink and drive or do drugs and quit smoking and eat vegetables. I don't. I stopped. I did. I do.

**LARRY CROWNE**

98.

**TALIA**

Pretty much. Oh, look. Maurice gave us free tattoos. I wanted something in Japanese so check this out.

She shows it to him, just above her butt-crack. It's two Japanese characters.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

That one says 'courage'. That one says 'spirit'. Courageous Spirit. Dell Gordo knocks on the window as Larry has his hands on his gal's butt... "What's this, Lance??"

**LARRY CROWNE**

Japanese characters go the other way and that says Soy Sauce.

**TALIA**

Oh shut up.

**LARRY CROWNE**

It does. Soy sauce. Soy. Sauce.

Quitting school is for dopes.  
It does, actually say Soy Sauce. He is starting his scooter.

**TALIA**

Be here for our Grand Opening!

**LARRY CROWNE**

Might not make it. I have finals!

**OPEN SKY**

Larry comes into frame, with a hammer and stake.

**EXT. LARRY'S HOUSE - DAY**

He is pounding the FOR SALE sign into his front lawn.

Laurie Gammelgaard pulls up her new VW Bug with a COUPLE in the back seat. They get out and Larry nods as he waves them to the door.

He remains on the lawn, looking at his neighborhood -- the kids, the dogs -- Lamarr across the street.  
It's all over...

**99.**

**EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT**

Frances and Mercedes have pulled up in her car.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

This place anonymous enough?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

As long as alcohol's out of my grasp.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

They have a good pie, they say.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Great. Sugar can replace tequila  
in my bloodstream, my thighs, and  
the folds in my neck.

They pass a car prominently parked - Larry's Convertible  
Karmann Ghia with a sign on its windshield: "FOR SALE BY  
**OWNER.**"

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH (PRE-LAP)**

So. You're a mess.

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME**

They sit in a back booth where she would never see Larry.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Yep.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

You'd think leggy blondes like us  
would be impervious, right?  
At that moment, Larry Crowne happens to come out of the  
kitchen to help himself to a cup of coffee.  
Mercedes sees him just as Perry comes up with menus.

**PERRY**

Ladies. Bring an appetite?

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

The mark of a restaurant is their  
Key Lime pie.  
Mercedes is surprised to see Larry in a chef's hat.

**PERRY**

100.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

No Key Lime?

**PERRY**

Cream pies I got.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Boston Cream?

**PERRY**

Boston Cream? Key Lime? Lady,  
you're killing me here.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Phooey. Peach. Peach pie.

**PERRY**

Ma'am?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I'll have the French Toast.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

French Toast?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

(on the menu)  
Breakfast all day.  
Perry leaves to put in the order.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

You won't believe how far I fell on  
the Hooch-o-meter.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

I have seen it happen a time or two.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I kissed a boy.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

When, third grade?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

One of my students.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

You Hoor.

**(THEN)**

Gimme the friggin' details! He's not a minor is he?

**101.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Older than me.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Hugh Hefner in your class? What went down?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

He sort of... rescued me. And... he smelled nice.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

He a fireman who bakes bread?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I wanted to be kissed so asked if he wanted to and he did.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Bold. Who is he?

**KITCHEN**

Perry slides over a plate of French Toast -- with one bite

out of it. Larry looks up from his Econ. 1 Textbook.

**PERRY**

You're slipping, Larry.

**(THE TOAST)**

Lady says it's not French Toast as she knows it.

**LARRY CROWNE**

She's insane.

**PERRY**

Take it up with her.  
Larry heads out of the kitchen.

**PERRY (CONT'D)**

No shouting, okay? This is a family friendly establishment.

**BOOTH**

Here comes Larry, not yet seeing Mercedes.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Frances Taylor-Briegh. You have a problem with your order?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

102.

Knock Larry over with a feather.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Mrs. Tainot.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

**(TO MERCEDES)**

The student of yours!?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

This is Larry Crowne.

**LARRY CROWNE**

There's no way in creation I screw  
up French Toast.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

It was fine, actually.

**(THEN)**

I wanted to see if it was really  
you cooking back there. And say,  
howdy. Howdy doody.  
During the following, Frances is trying to get a whiff of  
Larry -- to find out how he smells.

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Ready for the final?

**LARRY CROWNE**

You'll be the judge of that.  
The is a beat of silence.

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)**

So, your meal is satisfactory?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Absolutely.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Would you let my boss know so I

don't lose this job?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Yes indeed.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Shall I prepare you another batch?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

No. Thanks.

**103.**

**LARRY CROWNE**

Then I will return to my station..  
Mercedes watches him go.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

You kissed the cook...

**(THEN)**

I got a whiff. He smelled like  
bell pepper.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Look at the men in my life.

**FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

Blame it on the booze... and  
collect yourself.

**(THEN)**

You hoor...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

That's my problem. I'm a drunken  
hoor.

**KITCHEN FRANCES TAYLOR-BRIEGH**

That ends... right now.

**(THEN)**

Check please?

Larry comes back through the door, humiliation wracking his face. He tosses the French Toast down the disposal.

**INT. TAINOT TOWNHOME - LATER**

Mercedes and Frances are ATTACKING the house with vacuums, cleaners, and fortitude. BOOKS on Shakespeare and Shaw go on shelves where Dean's tomes used to rest. Computer wires are not even untangled, just chucked.

**KITCHEN**

The cupboard is open. Where there was once booze go coffees and teas. MUSIC is playing as these girlfriends reconstruct Mercy's life...

**104.**

**EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S CUL-DE-SAC - NIGHT**

The street is empty. Larry is on his scooter, riding around and around and around the block that he will soon leave. He can see his NEIGHBORS through the open windows -- KIDS bouncing on a couch...A QUARTET OF OLD FOLKS playing cards and laughing... a MOVIE playing on a big TV. This was Larry's street...

**CUT TO:**

**SUNRISE**

**EXT. TAINOT TOWNHOUSE - MORNING**

Mercedes exits the door, crisp, clean -- like we've never seen her in the mornings. See the way she holds, not clutches, her Thermo-Cup?

**EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - MORNING**

He's wearing a zipped up jacket. Kids and dog-walkers pass as his scooter starts pronto, he is off...

The FOR SALE sign on his lawn has an addition: IN ESCROW

**INT. SPEECH 217 - LATER**

On the projected computer screen: A portrait of DISRAELI.

Dibiasi is giving his speech, but we are hearing Mercedes...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

What a difference from day one. I must be a better teacher than I thought.

**(THEN)**

Dibiasi is nailing it. Calimeris stopped up-talking. Lala you can't shut up. Mack spoke about Australia for three minutes and mentioned kangaroos only twice. And Larry Crowne...

Larry is listening to Dibiasi, wearing what was once his UniMart polo, with his nametag and everything. Compared to the man he is now, that polo looks out of place..

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

I was tough on him. But he learned fast. How he connected the Circle of Sales to the expanding universe is impressive as hell. I'll never forget about the Value Index now. He gave a perfect speech.

**(THEN)**

And... He's polite. Instead of fighting me off that night, what does he do but kisses me one and then all but tucks me in. What kind of guy does that to a loopy tramp like me? He could have ravaged me. I misread this guy and if I had a brain I'd find a way to steal him away from that cutie pie and keep him for myself. I wonder if he'd like that, if he would... What did I just say?

**(THEN)**

What did I just say about Larry Crowne?

The class has stopped. It seems that Mercedes just said that last bit out loud and everyone heard it. The women eye each other. The men stifle laughs.

**DIBIASI**

Nothing. And I was just wrapping up here.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I'm so sorry. Please go on.

**DIBIASI**

Larry? It okay if I get to my climax and denouement?  
Larry nods.

**DIBIASI (CONT'D)**

Thank you... If it was the romance novelist in him that made Victoria the Queen become such a pal, chalk it up as another brick in the legacy of Ben Disraeli -- Earl of Beaconsfield - Educator - and Prime Minister of Great Britain. Not bad for a Jewish guy, huh?  
Dibiassi is done. Applause.

**106.**

**PINEDO**

Not so much as a bump, Nomad!  
Why'd you go last?

**DIBIASI**

Fourth quarter dramatics.

**(THEN)**

Not that it mattered to my Speech professor...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Congratulations all of you.

**MACK**

Who's the MVP, Mrs. Tainot? Can we vote?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Not me, I have to stay objective.

**MACK**

I say... Lala!  
They all say Lala! It's unanimous! They start chanting her name. "La la! La la! La la!" -- embarrassing her.  
Larry sits her down in her chair and gets the other guys to

pick her up like she's the bride at a wedding.

It's a spontaneous party that Mercedes has to back out of.

Crowne

As she leaves, she looks back long enough to see Larry leading a parade around the room.

**INT. ECON. 1 - LATER**

Everyone is taking the final.

Dr. Matsutani. Looking around the class. Using his hands like a pair of binoculars.  
Lala is using a thesaurus and dictionary to polish answers.

Larry is finished. He walks up to Dr. M. and hands in his Blue Book.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

The first to finish. No surprise.  
Dr. Matsutani hands Larry his confiscated phone. Larry leaves.

**107.**

**INT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - KITCHEN**

The final utensils are going into a box. Larry is doing this part himself.  
He sits for a moment -- in the breakfast nook -- surveying his kitchen, what was once his.  
Mack comes in with a box of his LP's.

**MACK**

This is the last of them. Damn,  
you have a lot of records.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Priceless at a buck apiece.

**EXT. LARRY CROWNE'S HOME - LATER**

His furnishings are out on the lawn. Lamarr and Patience are looking them over. Mack and Dibiasi are putting the last of his things into Mack's huge SUV and Larry's car.

**PATIENCE**

A two-bedroom apartment and you  
don't have room for your furniture?

**LAMARR**

Selling this futon-sofabed? All  
those years across the street and  
you've learned nothing.

**(THEN)**

What's the minimum you'll take for  
this stuff?

**LARRY CROWNE**

You'll get me top price.

**LAMARR**

You did learn.

**DIBIASI**

Pizza at last!

**LARRY CROWNE**

Here's lunch as promised!  
The BIG STORK PIZZA GUY pulls up in a different car but the same sign.

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)**

108.

**STRANG**

Son of a cock. Larry Crowne.  
The Pizza guy is none other than Jack Strang.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Jack Strang. Wow. This is irony.

**STRANG**

Two extra large. One Salad Bucket.  
Box of Frosty Cinnamon Eggs. Sixteen-  
fifty.  
Larry hands him the coupon and a Twenty.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Jack. I need two bucks back.  
Times are tough.

**STRANG**

Tell me about it.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Ah. Forget it. Keep the change.

Strang leaves. Larry watches him go.  
him. It almost was.

**STRANG**

I appreciate it.  
That could have been

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - LATER**

Raul and Perry are talking when they see Mercedes Tainot enter.

**RAUL**

My next wife just walked in.  
Perry looks.

**PERRY**

I love this business sometimes.

**(GREETING MERCEDES)**

Something told me you'd be back.  
Is Larry Crowne working today?

**KITCHEN**

Larry is arranging his station.

**109.**

**PERRY**

Larry, your Speech 217 teacher has a  
question about the menu.  
Larry can see her. She looks gorgeous.

**RAUL**

Go ahead. I'll take the window  
even though I'm the boss of the

whole kitchen.

**BOOTH - LARRY'S HQ - LATER**

Mercedes is having coffee.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

There's Larry Crowne. Are you allowed to sit?

**(HE DOES)**

Where does Perry get his coffee?

**LARRY CROWNE**

I add chicory and a bit of vanilla. Trick I picked up in the Navy.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

You're probably wondering why I stopped by. Well, it's to tell you your grade for Speech 217. You killed on the final and have an A. Way to go!

She offers him a Terrorist Fist Bump. With the hand that no longer has a wedding ring on it...

**MERCEDES TAINOT (CONT'D)**

Actually, everybody got an A, but you got the special A where I tell you in person.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Didn't expect that. Thanks, Mrs. Tainot.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Class is out. Call me Mercedes. Or Mercy, for short.

**(THEN)**

So. Just wanted to congratulate

you. Your girlfriend will be thrilled.

**LARRY CROWNE**

**110.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

No. I meant the... never mind.

**(THEN)**

Which classes are you going to ace next term?

**LARRY CROWNE**

This has turned into a full time gig. Out of necessity.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I hope you continue your education. Back at East City. You've made such a good start.

**LARRY CROWNE**

I'll have to see.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I got Speech 217 moved to 10 AM, thank God. Who knows what I'll hear with the extra sleep.

**LARRY CROWNE**

My first class in college ever.

And I get an A. Gotta be the teacher.  
They look at each other.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Should get going.

**(THEN)**

You don't know anything about car devices, do you?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Cars not much. Devices some. They rise.

**EXT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - PARKING LOT - SAME**

Mercy is opening her door, starting her car.

**GPS VOICE**

Please enter your destination.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Oh be quiet.  
That's a MapGenie.

**111.**

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

It is Hellspawn.

**LARRY CROWNE**

In my old job, I'd have steered you to a Vortex unit. The MapGenie interface is clumsy and the menu needs too many inputs.  
He is reaching into the car, across her to tap the unit.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

It was working fine. Then I think I pressed too many buttons.

**LARRY CROWNE**

Ah. The Auto On Feature is  
engaged. Menu. Select. Features.  
Auto Voice. Select. Change? Yes.  
On. Off. Done? Yes. Save. Back.  
Back. Back. Exit.

could While he was doing that, Mercedes was smelling what she  
of Larry. She liked it. She looked at his neck, his ears.  
And smelled him.

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)**

How long was this broken?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Seemed like years and years.

**LARRY CROWNE**

All better now. Should be able to  
find your way.  
Nothing to do now but say goodbye.

They hear a pounding.

is Raul is at the window inside the cafe, signaling the break  
over.

**LARRY CROWNE (CONT'D)**

My Boss. Back to work.

**(THEN)**

Thanks for the good news...

**INT. PERRY'S COFFEE SHOP - SAME**

Perry greets him at the door.

**112.**

**PERRY**

Kimosabe, holding off til after school to woo the teacher is the move of a class act.  
Larry turns to watch Mercedes drive away.

**EXT. E.C.C.C. PARKING LOT - MORNING**

The sign says "New Term Beginning! \$20 a unit! Ask about Financial Aid!"  
Did you notice? The cost of an education just went up...

**INT. PORTABLE CLASSROOM - DAY**

Mercedes has just written "Care" next to "Welcome to Shakespeare!!" up on the board. She turns. And does a quick head count.  
Only 6 students are enrolled. She's going to lose this one, again.  
Clumps up the wooden steps are heard...

Calimeris, Mack, Pinedo, and Dibiasi come tramping in.

Twelve

students now.

**DIBIASI**

(on his phone)  
I gotta get off, Baby, or I'm in hot water with Professor Tai-bo...  
Mercy does a Shakespearean dance of joy.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Is Larry with you?

**CALIMERIS**

Um, no. Should we track him down  
and drag him in here?  
Mercedes does her best to hide her disappointment.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I... Seeing you all... I just  
thought...

**(THEN)**

Choose a seat and lets get started!  
The four smile at each other...

**113.**

**PINEDO**

Carrying a torch for Larry til it  
burns her hands...

**EXT. E.C.C.C. CAMPUS - LATER**

Mercedes is walking to another building, another class.

She may not realize it, but she is looking for Larry Crowne.  
Busik is busy chatting her up. Seriously chatting her up.

**BUSIK**

All the excitement of first day of  
term, I don't want to go back to my  
empty apartment. Do you? I need a  
drink and some talk and some wind-  
down time. Don't you?

**DR. MATSUTANI (O.C.)**

Ms. Tainot?  
She turns.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Dr. M.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

Larry Crowne is taking six units from me, devouring the material like a starving man.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Larry's enrolled?

**DR. MATSUTANI**

He's continuing his education and tells me it is because of you. That your class changed his life. Mercedes finds herself smiling -- beaming...

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Larry said that about me?

**BUSIK**

Oh yeah! I put that guy in your class. So technically, I changed his life.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

He is a good student

**114.**

**DR. MATSUTANI**

And handy on a scooter.

**(THEN)**

Is there any chance you would consider having drinks with an

older faculty peer who holds a PhD  
in Economics?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Well, no. No offense Dr. M.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

The rumor is you are newly single  
and I was just taking a shot.  
Mercy looks right at Busik.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

News travels fast.  
Busik pretends he knows nothing...

**BUSIK**

If you're going out, I'm not doing

anything.

**DR. MATSUTANI**

Have you ever been to Hooters?

**BUSIK**

For the spicy wings, yes!

**EXT. E.C.C.C. TEACHERS' PARKING LOT - LATER**

There is a note on Mercy's car. She takes it.

"To test your MapGenie: 4225 Harbor Blvd. 2nd floor. An 'A'  
student."

Her breath catches in her heart...

**EXT. MERCEDES' CAR - LATER**

Mercedes is driving.

**GPS VOICE**

Right Turn.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Got it Turning right

**115.**

**GPS VOICE**

Your destination is ahead on the right.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

It is? That was a breeze. Thank you.

**EXT. TALIA'S NEW STORE - SAME**

Open for business with bunting and everything. Talia is eating take out sushi and reading the soy sauce packet. She is trying to check out her ass-crack tattoo to see if it really does say 'Soy Sauce'. Mercedes has arrived. Talia sees her and comes out.

Lamarr is around. Patience, too.

We might notice that Dell Gordo and Larry now dress exactly alike, as we've seen the same jacket once on Lance Corona.

**TALIA**

I love that blouse with that skirt

but I'd show more leg if I were  
you.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

I'm Mercy Tainot

**TALIA**

Bambi Romp in the Glen. Looking  
for Lance?

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

4225 Harbor?

**TALIA**

This is 4227.

**(POINTING)**

4225. You'll see the stairs.  
The tattoo parlor. Larry's scooter is right in front. As she  
goes.

**TALIA (CONT'D)**

Little higher heels'll get you wolf  
whistles.

**116.**

**EXT. TATTOO PARLOR - STAIRS TO UPPER FLOOR**

on Music is playing. A nice view is revealed as Mercy arrives  
a nice little porch. On a little table sits a potted plant.  
In the potted plant is an Altoids tin.  
Mercy gives it a rattle. In the tin, a brand new key.

Mercy takes the key. Slides it into the lock and slowly  
opens the door.  
The music gets louder. She can't see much into the tiny

flat, but she can make out...  
Larry, arranging the last of his stuff.  
Mercy stands at the door until he sees her.

When he does, he says nothing. But steps to her and smells  
her - her neck, her hair.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

Did you tell Ed Matsutani taking my  
class changed your life?

**LARRY CROWNE**

Yes.

**MERCEDES TAINOT**

How?

**LARRY CROWNE**

I met you.  
That's it.

They kiss. Damn fine whammy kiss.

**INT. LARRY CROWNE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN**

No larger than the nook of his old house. Breakfast is being  
served.

The most beautiful woman ever to wear a bathrobe has made  
French Toast and is settling into the Breakfast Nook.  
Larry Crowne has his hair all on one side of his head --

post-

Afternoon-Of-Amok-Loving. His arm shows a Navy tattoo that  
may be old or new...

Mercy Tainot glows in and out. She slides next to him, close  
to him The meal is perfect

117.

**EXT. HARBOR BLVD. - LATER**

Mercy is still in her robe, riding on Larry's scooter, back and forth in front of the Parlor and Talia's store. Larry is having coffee, sitting on the steps, watching her ride back and forth. She is getting good.

Talia and the gang spill out of the store to watch her.

Hoots and laughter.

Larry uses his robe as a matador's cape, Mercy as the bull. As she passes under his flaring cape...

**THE END**