WILD PALMS

Sixth Hour

"Hello, I Must Be Going"

Written by

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## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ELECTION HEADQUARTERS - DAY

1

Giant posters of the Senator and Josie: KREUTZER 2008! A Range Rover is parked out front. A battered Sixties car ENTERS FRAME. A GIRL gets out, holding a brick.

# GIRL This is for Grace Wyckoff!

She hurls the brick through GLASS, SHATTERING it. SCREAMS from inside as people duck for cover. A guy from the car throws something under the Range Rover; the CAR ROARS OFF. Ater a beat, the Ranger Rover EXPLODES in flames.

2 INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

2

A war meeting's in progress. A long, oval table. ELI, WOIWODE, HARRY and other FRIENDS and radicals are seated. Harry looks awkward, uncomfortable. The gathered Friends intone a communal prayer (Harry does not join them):

FRIENDS

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful
trip is done, the ship has
weather'd every rack, the prize we
sought is won...

ELI

Before we begin, I very much want to acknowledge the efforts of one among us: Harry Wyckoff.

The Friends applaud -- then rise -- to honor him. Harry smiles weakly.

3 INT. ANOTHER PART OF THE LIBRARY - LATER THAT DAY

3

The meeting has ended. Harry sits on tatami mat. Eli enters.

ELI

How does it feel to be a leader, Harry?

HARRY

Viva Zapata. Wanna know how I really feel? <u>Sick!</u> Violated... like I killed Grace a second time -- on television.

.

3

3

ELI

It got results.

HARRY

(sardonic)

Know what, Eli? They should have moved you right from the Perceptory to Channel Three -- you would've made a helluva programmer.

ELI

It was a terrible thing, Harry, but it opened people's eyes -- Grace would have demanded that.

HARRY

(caustic)

Don't tell me what she would have 'demanded' -- you don't know anything about her!

ELI

What do you want from me?

HARRY

<u>Deirdre</u>. Kreutzer said he would give her to me -- if we gave him the GO Chip.

ELI

Can't do it, Harry --

HARRY

(grabbing him roughly)

Why?

ELI

Because with the GO Chip, he will become immortal, a holographic vampire -- unstoppable! From an unspeakable, unreachable place, he will orchestrate the death of the world --

HARRY

(exiting)

You're crazy as he is!

ELI

Harry, listen --

3.

3

3 CONTINUED: (2)

HARRY

(exits)

I'll have my family back -- one way or another. Do you understand, Eli? Those are my politics.

(beat)

And you can go to hell.

Harry storms out; Eli slumps down sadly, hand to his face.

4 INT. WILD PALMS - MASTER BEDROOM - CLOSE ON TV - DAY 4

Groucho Marx, in <u>Animal Crackers</u>. He sings, "Hello, I Must Be Going." We PAN TO the SENATOR, in bed. A PHYSICIAN takes his blood pressure.

SENATOR

Well, what is it, Doc? A heart attack -- or indigestion?

**PHYSICIAN** 

Stress of the last few days -- you're acutely hypertense. I'd like to put you in Cedars...

**SENATOR** 

No hospitals.!

**PHYSICIAN** 

I can't force you. I'm going to medicate you; I want you in bed - no alcohol or Mimezine...

SENATOR

You're no fun.

(calls out)

Grindrod!

(to Physician)

What about the Go Chip?

**PHYSICIAN** 

If I can get your pressure under
control, you've got a week or so.
-- after that, I can't say what
your body will tolerate...

SENATOR

A week, huh...

(calls out)

Grindrod!

Lt. Grindrod enters, with Coty behind him, as the Physician exits.

4 CONTINUED: (A1)

SENATOR

Why haven't you bailed Josie?

LT. GRINDROD

We're trying --

**SENATOR** 

My sister, in jail? What's the matter with you? Get her out -- if you have to break her out!

Grindrod exits.

COTY

We'll never contain this, Papa -- it's a fiasco.

SENATOR

Where's the murder tape?

ż

4

4

5

COTY

Being treated at the lab. Even the diehard New Realists think Josie's guilty -- they're running scared --

SENATOR
Then straighten 'em out!

The Senator exits from bed, testily.

5 EXT. WILD PALMS - TERRACE/ZEN GARDEN - DAY

PAIGE sits on chaise, smoking a cigarette; she looks nervous. The Senator enters from house, comes close to her.

SENATOR
You knew Harry was going to bust into Channel Three, didn't you?

PAIGE

No! --

SENATOR

-- knew he was going to use that tape! Why, Paige?
(caressing her hair)
Am I a handsome man? Am I a virile man?
(pulls on hair)
Answer me!

PAIGE

Tony, please!

SENATOR Am I a <u>decrepit cuckold</u>?

He grabs her arm, twisting it.

PAIGE

Stop it!

SENATOR

You were supposed to come back with the GO Chip, but instead you brought a plague to my house...

PAIGE You're hurting me --

.

5

5

SENATOR (singing weirdly into her ear)

Hello, I must be going! I cannot stay, I came to say, I must be going --

PAIGE
I'll go back! I'll get Harry to hand it over...

He throws her down; picks up GLASS table and hurls it to ground, SHATTERING it. Paige cowers as he strides into Zen garden. He lifts one of the heavy stones as he speaks, hurling it into pool. Then he strides through the garden, causing general damage.

SENATOR
I assure you: I have not come all this way to die like a trapped wolf, like a circus dog! I am a soldier! I am mustering my troops... and we are storming heaven!

6 EXT. WYCKOFF HOUSE - DAY

Harry drives along in filthy Corvette -- by now, it looks like something you'd find in a Wilderzone used car lot. Frustrated and disconsolate, Harry finds himself back at the old house. He exits car, stands in walkway. The place is boarded up; a sad vestige of what it once was. There is graffiti scrawled (some in Japanese): PRAY FOR THE STOLEN CHILDREN, REVOLUTION NO. 9, LOS VOLADORES and WE LOVE YOU. GRACE. Harry walks toward house, feeling the full weight of his journey. He tries door, out of habit -- to his surprise, it opens.

7 INT. WYCKOFF HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

Harry enters the ghostly house. More graffiti and litter inside. Some furniture remains; much has been looted.

HARRY

(softly)
Honey? I'm home!

He hears something -- from upstairs. Harry grabs a heavy candleholder, ascends stairs.

8 UPSTAIRS HALL/COTY'S ROOM/DEIRDRE'S ROOM

8

7

More noise; DRAWERS OPENING and CLOSING. Moves cautiously down hall. The noise emanates from Coty's room.

## 8 CONTINUED:

8

Harry peers in, ready to strike -- PETER'S there, looking through bureau.

PETER

Coty's room -- I always wanted to see his room. It would have been mine...

HARRY

Peter, help me out: why did the Fathers take you from Grace and me? What do you know?

PETER

They steal children... dreams... memories -- a regular fire sale. When they say 'everything must go,' they aren't kidding.

HARRY

Why me, Peter? Why my family --

PETER

You really don't know, do you?
(beat)
Let's talk to the source...

HARRY

Wild Palms?

PETER

(nods, ironic)

Should we take the car or the pool?

They smile; Peter takes his hand, leading him out.

## 9 OMITTED

9

10 EXT. METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER - DAY

10

The PRESS (REPORTERS) await. JOSIE exits building and descends steps, flanked by ATTORNEY and men in suits.

REPORTER #1 Why'd you kill her, Josie?

REPORTER #2
How'd you make bail?

JOSIE

I didn't kill anyone.

ATTORNEY

That was a doctored tape -- a fabrication -- in a few days, we'll prove it!

REPORTER #2

Is your brother going to choose a new running mate?

REPORTER #3
Will he drop out of the campaign?

JOSIE

Absolutely not! Why should he?

REPORTER #3

What's your defense going to be?

ATTORNEY

Not guilty!

REPORTER #1

But the whole country saw you murder your daughter.

REPORTER #3

Seeing is believing --

JOSIE

(to Reporter #3;

withering)

You must be kidding.

She enters limo -- Range Rover follows.

11 INT. LIMO - DAY

11

Lt. Grindrod and TOBIAS SCHENKL face Josie on opposite fold-out chairs.

JOSIE

When will the tape be ready?

LT. GRINDROD

Tonight.

JOSIE

And the GO Chip?

LT. GRINDROD

I'm assuming Harry Wyckoff is in possession.

JOSIE

Get word out in the Wilderzone: if he doesn't turn it over within 48 hours, we'll kill the little girl.

9.

11

### 11 CONTINUED:

LT. GRINDROD

She's your granddaughter...

JOSIE

Don't get sentimental on me. (to Tobias)

In one week, my brother will be elected President of these United States. On the night of his victory, the GO Chip will transform him into a veritable God. We will serve him and his images! There will be a great purge of those who are opposed to us -- we will make genocide look like hit and run.

12 EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN/MAIN HOUSE - NIGHT

12

Harry and Peter emerge from bushes, and make their way through darkness of Zen garden, to house. THROUGH the picture window: seated at dinner table are the Senator, Josie, Paige, Schenkl and TABBA.

HARRY

They got Josie out! But how...

13 EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT

13

\*

The same group as seen through window: Paige looks particularly depressed -- the Senator is grim. Josie enters, takes a seat beside the Senator.

TABBA

I don't know how you could stand jail for a minute. I cringe...

JOSIE

Wasn't so bad. Plenty of books -mostly Synthiotics, I'll have you
know. Highly ironic.

SENATOR

When are we releasing the tape?

**TOBIAS** 

Tomorrow morning: CNN -- all the networks. Channel Three will run it round the clock.

JOSIE

Eat something. You look haggard.

## 13 CONTINUED:

TABBA

(to Paige)

Do you think I should do a feature during hiatus?

**SENATOR** 

What about 'co-conspirators'?

TOBIAS

A Channel Three engineer and two high-level Mimecom employees have surrendered themselves to state's attorney -- New realist loyalists. They'll admit to eyewitnessing the murder and doctoring the tape per Harry Wyckoff's orders.

SENATOR

Make sure their families are taken care of.

Coty and DEIRDRE enter -- Deirdre goes to Tabba, Coty throws his arms around the Senator's neck.

COTY

Daddy, can we see it? Can we?

14 EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN - NIGHT

14

Harry's startled to see his baby girl.

HARRY

Deirdre! --

Harry makes a move toward her; Peter holds him back.

**PETER** 

Stay back!

15 EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT

15 \*

Tabba and Deirdre exit as Coty squeals with excitement. The Senator dims the lights; the tape begins.

15A EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT

15A

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON Harry -- he reacts in stunned horror.

HARRY

My God...

16 EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT

16

The Grace/Josie murder tape begins, with the action starting at Grace kneeling. CAMERA PANS UP, revealing Harry in Josie's place. Though their words are different, their actions -- including the strangulation -- are virtually the same.

GRACE (V.O.)

Please don't hit me, Harry!

HARRY (V.O.)

You're just like your mother. Now, get up!

17 EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT

17

Peter pulls at his father, who's riveted by the display.

PETER

Don't look. Don't look!

18 EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT

18

The tape continues...

GRACE (V.O.)

What are you going to do?

HARRY (V.O.)

The Fathers have got to be stopped -- I know you're one of them!

GRACE (V.O.)

No -- I'm just a woman! But the Fathers are good, Harry! They want to bring freedom of images to the People --

HARRY (V.O.)

As leader of the Friends, I must set the example -- you must die!

GRACE (V.O.)

Please, Harry! Don't hurt me!

HARRY (V.O.)

Long live the Friends! Death to New Realism! Long live the revolution!

revolution:

Harry strangles Grace until she dies.

FADE OUT.

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

A19 EXT. WILDERZONE - BAZAAR - DAY

A19

Woiwode passes through area. The Purveyor emerges from damp black tent set up between stalls.

FRAIL CUSTOMER

The images are no good!

**PURVEYOR** 

Get outta here.

FRAIL CUSTOMER The images don't hold! You're diluting the images!

She pushes aside Customer; spots Tully, apporoaches with bagful of colorful cassettes.

PURVEYOR

Help you out today?

WOIWODE

No thanks...

**PURVEYOR** 

(rummaging in bag)

Got some Kung fu... Johnny Carson... bloopers from 'Church Windows ... '

(as Woiwode moves on)

How about holotropics: Fugu, just

flown in. Got Mimezine... Imagithol --

WOIWODE

Not today.

PURVEYOR

You're the painter, right? Sorry to hear about your friend. Awful what happened; we're seeing more and more of that -- they call it 'image sickness.'

WOIWODE

I don't approve of drug dealers --I don't even like the way you smell. Save the condolences...

**PURVEYOR** 

You know, I've been looking for you --

WOIWODE

Get outta my face!

A19 CONTINUED:

A19

#### **PURVEYOR**

You have friends in high places. They heard about your loss; they made something for you -- to get you through the night.

She pulls a cassette out, hands it to him. There's a photo of Tommy taped across it.

**PURVEYOR** 

Come inside -- I'll play it for you.

He hesitates a beat. She holds tent flap open; Woiwode enters. The Purveyor smiles to herself, follows him into...

DISSOLVE TO:

19 INT. WILD PALMS - BEDROOM - NIGHT

19

Darkness. A holo ANCHORMAN stands at the foot of the bed.

#### **ANCHORMAN**

... continuing violence in the wake of today's allegations of doctored holotapes and conspiracy. A Channel Three engineer has been arrested in the bizarre case and Harry Wyckoff, the disgruntled head-of-business-affairs-turned-revolutionary, is now being sought in the murder of his wife. Only one week ago, the nation was shocked when 'Church Windows' was interrupted by --

## CLOSE ON HAND

Its finger presses button on remote control.

#### BACK TO SCENE

The Anchorman vanishes, replaced by the Harry/Grace murder holo -- it plays eerily MOS. We slowly PAN TO bed. Josie and Tobias Schenkl are under the covers, intertwined; Josie smokes, muses.

#### TOBIAS

JOSIE

<u>Infinitely dense</u>. You know, I'm worried about my brother.

**TOBIAS** 

Emotionally?

JOSIE

Physically -- I talked to the doctors. What if his body rejects the chip, Tobias? What if it kills him?

TOBIAS

And it was all the 'emperor's New Mind?'

(shakes his head)

Not gonna happen. You know your brother, Josie -- he hasn't come all this way just to let a little thing like the <u>body</u> get in his way.

(beat)

What will the Senator be like -- after the transference?

JOSIE

Ghostly: When he speaks, it will be like the sound the palms make when the leaves clash against themselves in the wind.

TOBIAS He'll look like himself?

JOSIE

Like a hologram. He'll be able to reach into our dreams -- by then, half the world will be on Mimezine. He'll be like Christ.

TOBIAS

And we, His disciples. One day, we'll follow him -- we'll go to that ghostly place.

JOSIE

Yes, St. Tobias...

(kisses him)

there will be time for that. But first, I want us to feel what it's like to rule a country and its people absolutely.

TOBIAS

It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it.

They begin to kiss. A KNOCK at the bedroom door; Tobias gets up to answer. Josie's angry at the interruption.

JOSIE

This better be good!

Tobias confers sotto voce with a servant.

**TOBIAS** 

It's Mr. Wyckoff -- in the library.

Josie bustles out of bed.

20 LIBRARY

20

Harry's sitting down, facing Josie as she enters in robe; After a beat, Tobias enters wearing one of the Senator's sulkas. He stands in doorframe throughout scene.

JOSIE

Well, well -- if it isn't 'America's Most Wanted.'

HARRY

Hope I didn't catch you at a bad time. I wanted to tell you that you did a helluva job with that tape of me and Grace.

JOSIE

I knew you'd appreciate it.

HARRY

The TV programmer in me screams, this could be a hit! Kill a 'mystery' guest off eveery week. Start historically: one week Caesar, the next, Hoffa --

Josie sits on the sofa, fingers the strange telephone on the table beside her: it says Mimetel -- Harry is a holo!

HARRY

'Death to New Realism! Long lived the Friends!' Who wrote that dialogue? Did you really think anyone would believe it?

JOSIE

Does it matter? We're already climbing up in the polls again. Don't you get it? No one gives a damn.

HARRY

Why bother with an election? Why not just seize control?

JOSIE

My brother has infinite respect for the middle class.

HARRY

I want my daughter back, Josie. Does the Senator still want to make a deal?

JOSIE

You have it?

HARRY

I will. Just tell me where to bring it.

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

Tobias steps over to Josie, sits down beside her.

TOBIAS

Japantown. Sunday, four o'clock -- the Festival of Ghosts.

Harry reacts when he sees Tobias.

21. INT. WILDERZONE - HUNGRY GHOST - NIGHT

21

Harry sits in booth -- across from him are Josie's and Tobias's holos; it's evident that throughout preceding scene, Tobias remained hidden from Harry's view.

CHOKO tends bar. It's uncrowded; Eli Levitt watches the weird scene from his stool.

HARRY

Schenkl! You sick animal!

**TOBIAS** 

Don't 'project' on me, Harry...

HARRY

All those years... you used what I told you. How many died? If I ever get my hands on you --

**TOBIAS** 

Oh, please, Harry -- stop the adolescent posturing.

JOSIE

Sunday, four o'clock. Ciao!

Josie and Tobias' holos vanish. Harry hangs head in frustrated rage. Eli Levitt walks over, sits. He removes his wedding band and places it on the table.

HARRY

What's this?

ELI

The GO Chip -- when they took it from your hand, we embedded it in the coating: the wedding band Josie gave me. I like the irony.

HARRY

Why now, Eli?

EILI

Word on the street is someone's going to hit the Senator -- soon.

1

HARRY

(takes it)

Talk to your people. I don't want anything to happen to him -- not before I get to Deirdre --

ELI

I can't control that.

HARRY

You've got to try --

Harry clutches his head, wincing with pain.

ELI

What is it?

Harry tilts his head back; a deep blue fluid drips from his nose.

HARRY

What --

ELI

It's the Mimezine -- Schenkl must have overdosed you at the Perceptory. Come on! I still have some of the antigen...

He lifts Harry from the booth; Choko comes over to help.

22 INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - WOIWODE'S ROOM - CLOSE ON DISCARDED MIMEZINE AMPULES - DAY

22

CAMERA PANS TO Woiwode, in bed. Sitting on the bed's edge is TOMMY, shirtless.

WOIWODE

I sing the body electric... How strange -- who is that sitting on my bed? It feels like you -- smells like you. Is it a horror? To be gotten through the night by something made at Mimecom? Is it a horror...

TOMMY

(stands; boyish)
Hey, Tully, come on! Stop painting,
will you? We're gonna be late!
It's the Fourth of July -- they're
making bonfires on the beach...

## 22 CONTINUED:

WOIWODE

(crying)

If there's a God, forgive me! For I am lonely, and I am blind!

TOMMY

Hold me...

Woiwode stands, approaches -- but as he does, Tommy's holo begins to break up, fading and reappearing.

WOIWODE

(confused)

Tommy?

TOMMY

Hey, Tully, come on! Stop painting, will you? We're gonna be late!

WOIWODE

(afraid)

Tommy, don't leave me!

TOMMY

They're making bonfires on the beach --

WOIWODE

Tommy!

Tommy vanishes -- Tully screams.

23 OMITTED 23 & 24 24 25 INT. OFFICE - DAY 25

Tobias Schenkl enters from hall. A few beats after he's in, Harry takes him from behind, holding him in a headlock while raising the "rhino knife" for Schenkl to see.

TOBIAS

Don't do it, Harry!

HARRY

Give me a reason, Tobias!

TOBIAS

There are still things you need to know -- don't do it --

HARRY

Everything I need to know is right in my hand...

25 CONTINUED:

25

TOBIAS
If you kill me, you'll never see
Deirdre again!

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Reluctantly, Harry eases his grip. Tobias shakily walks to his desk, sits.

TOBIAS

It isn't safe for you to be out and about. If they pick you up...

HARRY

Nothing's going to happen to me as long as I have the GO Chip...

TOBIAS

Why don't you lay down on the couch -- like old times.

HARRY

Tell me what you know about the Chip. What will happen when I give it to the Senator?

TOBIAS

He will become immortal...

HARRY

It's impossible --

**TOBIAS** 

Do you know what Paradise is, Harry? No longer encumbered by the body, whatever you imagine is made real before you. That's the GO Chip -- what your father Dex dreamed only about...

HARRY

You're insane -- all of you! --

TOBIAS

Too many of us now, Harry -Synthiotics is worldwide. We
have our enemies, too -- they've
outgrown the Perceptories. When
the election is over, those who
aren't with us, we will enslave -in a thousand Manzanars.

Harry gets woozy: his hand goes to his nose -- blue fluid. Then he claps his hands to his ears in pain; we hear CHURCH BELLS accompanying his agonies.

TOBIAS

What's the matter, Harry? Cat got your mind?

Schenkl starts to laugh; Harry runs from the room. We STAY ON Schenkl.

•	WILD PALMS - "Hello, I Must" - Rev. 8/11/92 20.	
26	EXT. STREETS - DAY	26
	TIGHT TRACKING SHOT WITH Harry as he runs wildly, BELLS clamoring. He stops, holds handkerchief to his nose regreat blue stains. WIDEN as he stumbles into his car, pulls away.	

OMITTED

FADE OUT.

27

# END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

28 EXT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

28

ESTABLISHING SHOT.

29 INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

29

CLOSE ON steel tray. Someone drops acupuncture needles in. We LOOSEN to reveal Harry, laying on futon, a human porcupine; Sako deftly removes them. Paige ENTERS FRAME.

PAIGE

You okay?

HARRY

What happened?

PAIGE

They found you in the 'Vette, on the street. What happened to you?

Harry puts his fingers to his nose, then looks at them to see any traces of blue.

HARRY

(ironic)

Just a heavy session with the shrink.

PAIGE

Choko's been working on you.

HARRY

(ironic)

Comforting.

(hand to head;

troubled)

I heard the bells...

CHOKO

(JAPANESE)

HARRY

What'd she say?

PAIGE

She says, you've got the sickness, but you're not gonna die.

CHOKO

(JAPANESE)

. \*

PAIGE

You're stronger than Tommy was. She calls you the 'original rhino dreamer.'

HARRY

Terrific. Does the Senator know you're down here?

PAIGE

(nods, then)

I couldn't stay with him anymore.

HARRY

You didn't happen to bring any of that snake-in-the-bottle stuff --

CHOKO

No alcohol!

Choko has removed the last needles; exits with supplies. Harry caresses Paige's cheek.

HARRY

It's good to see you.

PAIGE

(notices hand; mixed
emotions)

You've got your ring on...

HARRY

Long story.

(stands)

Let's go.

PAIGE

Where?

HARRY

I just wanna see blue sky.

He takes her hand; they exit.

30 EXT. HOLLYWOOD HILLS - DAY

30

They've parked in the Corvette on Mulholland, looking out over the smoggy cityscape.

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30 CONTINUED:

30

HARRY

I open my eyes in the morning, and I think: Is what I'm seeing real? First thought of the day. What's real, Paige? Can you tell me?

PAIGE

Deirdre's real. Peter's real. (hand to her mouth)
We are.

He walks to ridge and stares out. She follows.

HARRY

Feel like travelling, Paige?

PAIGE

Yes.

HARRY

We could fly away somewhere -- or live in a big old house in the mountains. That's what Grace always wanted to do.

Paige lowers eyes, deferring to Grace's memory.

HARRY

I want to find some Norman Rockwell-town, with maple trees and park benches and a shiny red fire engine. A decent place -where people still respect reality.

She smiles, puts her arms around him.

31 EXT. WILDERZONE - BAZAAR - DAY

31

As he lopes through the stalls, Tully Woiwode looks worn and haggard -- like so many Holoheads who hang around this section of the Wilderzone.

**PURVEYOR** 

Hey, Twenty-Twenty! Back so soon?

WOIWODE

I need more tapes.

**PURVEYOR** 

You gonna start paying for these things, Twenty-Twenty?

WOIWODE

I'm strapped today. The next time --

24.

31 CONTINUED:

31

**PURVEYOR** 

I'm out of 'Tommy' tapes.

WOIWODE

(desperate)

Don't cut me off! You'll get your money today!

**PURVEYOR** 

I said I'm out. Look, a friend of yours came by. She might be able to help you...

WOIWODE

Who?

**PURVEYOR** 

A lady. Said she'd be over at the Mimeplex. I think she has some tapes --

Tommy hurriedly exits; the Purveyor slyly watches him go

**PURVEYOR** 

(to self)

She'll fix you up, Twenty-Twenty. Fix you up real good...

32 EXT. MIMEPLEX-ODEON - DAY

32

The marquee reads: Mike Rauch in "WILDERZONE COP" - Rated R.

33 INT. MIMEPLEX-ODEON - DAY

33

An uncrowded matinee. Instead of a screen, there's a stage. Onstage is a grungy apartment with adjacent hall. A cop works his way down the hall, holding his gun. He kicks in apartment door and enters. The Cop hugs the wall while looking for suspects.

#### ANGLE ON WOIWODE

In his seat, perspiring -- looks around nervously. Suddenly, Josie leans forward from darkness of aisle behind him. He's startled. The "movie" onstage continues through scene: the Cop thinks he's found his suspect hiding under a bed -- But it's a pretty young girl. (Their scene plays out inaudibly in b.g.)

JOSIE

Hello, Tully. Don't panic -- I'm not going to hurt you.

#### 33 CONTINUED:

WOIWODE

You --!

JOSIE

(touching his special

glasses)

You really see with those things.

WOIWODE

Yes. And with the Mimezine...

JOSIE

Phenomenal! I'm so glad. I brought some 'Tommy' tapes for you: very high quality. I thought it was better I gave them to you myself -- that disgusting girl in the Wilderzone's been diluting the images. That's why you can only watch them once.

WOIWODE

Why are you doing this?

JOSIE

I'm making amends.

She hands him a bag of holocassettes, he looks in, but resists.

JOSIE

There <u>is</u> something you could do for <u>me</u>. I've been looking for Eli Levitt --

WOIWODE

No!

JOSIE

I understand he's preparing to assassinate my brother...

WOIWODE

Please don't make me!

JOSIE

I love my brother very much -- as much as you love Tommy...

WOIWODE

At the press conference; that's where he's going to kill him --

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

JOSIE

I'm going to give you all the tapes that you need...

WOIWODE

(sotto voce)

Might I but live to see thee in my touch/I'd say I had eyes again...

JOSIE

Come on, Tully -- Tommy's waiting for you...

She hands him a holotape.

34 INT. WILD PALMS - SENATOR'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

34

Winds blow the curtains in. Coty sits on the Senator's hospital bed, pleading.

COTY

Don't give Deirdre back!

SENATOR

I've never seen you like this --

COTY

Josie and Tobias -- they're going to kill her! Josie hates me!

SENATOR

It'll be all right, son...

**ር**ስጥህ

It won't! It won't!

Coty lays his head on the Senator's lap, and cries; Kreutzer strokes his head.

Ł

SENATOR

All my sons... I thought if I put you under the same roof, we'd have a dynasty. I made a mess of it, didn't I?

COTY

Are you really going to the place where holograms go? (as the Senator nods)

But you're not going to die?

SENATOR I'll be stronger than ever.

COTY The GO chip's taking you?

SENATOR

They'll put it...

(touches the back of his own head)

See: the way you and I -and Josie -- look at the world... is the right way. The only way. I carved this house, Wild Palms, out of the sand. The people need someone to lead them out of the desert to the oasis. We're building a larger house, is all -an ark. A place of many mansions; and we will have many to serve us.

COTY

Will I be able to see you?

**SENATOR** 

Of course...

COTY

Touch you?

SENATOR

(sweetly sad)

No.

COTY

Will you forget me?

SENATOR

Never.

28.

34 CONTINUED: (2)

COTY

Don't forget to remember, Daddy. Don't forget to remember me...

The Senator strokes his son's head.

35 EXT. WILDERZONE - BAZAAR - DAY

35

34

Choko and Eli browse through sidewalk bins. A merchant watches them. Eli hands a strange tangled root to Choko.

ELI

Ask him if this can also be used for image sickness.

As Eli continues to browse and Choko speaks to merchant in strange tongue, a battered 60's car pulls up -- men in suits jump out and grab him, punching him in the gut. He doubles over. Choko turns and is shot down; the merchant ducks. Eli is dragged to car with hood over head.

36 EXT. MUNICIPAL POOL - ENTRANCE - DAY

36

The battered car pulls up. Eli is dragged to pool area.

37 SWIMMING POOL AREA

37

The pool's filling up -- water gushes in from its sides. They sit Eli down and take off his hood.

JOSIE

I've been searching for you.

ELI

Shotgun wedding, Josie?

JOSIE

More a 'baptism.' Know who told me where to find you? Your old artist-in-arms -- Tully Woiwode.

ELI

I don't believe that.

JOSIE

Scout's honor. Called me up, all by himself. Even told me about the GO Chip -- hidden in the engagement ring I gave you. Is nothing sacred, Eli?

FI.T

You won't win, Josie.

37 CONTINUED:

37

JOSIE

Hungry, Eli? You'll love the food here -- soup's a little watery...

She indicates the pool: floating in the deep end are a table and chairs -- just like when they met before.

ELI

You're sick...

JOSIE

You don't think I'd let you kill my brother, did you?

(to men)
Show Mr. Levitt to his table.

Two men in swimsuits drag Eli over to the edge and throw him in, then jump after. Eli clings to side of pool, with the men in swimsuits holding him on either side. Josie kneels down close to her old lover.

JOSIE

The revolution's over, Eli. We went in the tunnels today and rounded 'em up. They're all dead -- Harry... Deirdre... that slut Paige Katz -- everyone. All your close, personal Friends --

Eli reacts painfully to her lies. She nods to the men in swimsuits; they dunk Eli, then pull his gasping head from the water.

ELI I'll see you in hell. Josie --

JOSIE

I was going to suggest some wine, but I don't think it's a good idea -- one should never drink and drown. And you are the designated drowner --

She shoves his head under the water and holds it there.

JOSIE

Goodbye, Eli. It could have been so good with us.

(closing her eyes,
almost rapturously)
So good... So good --

38 INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - COMMUNAL AREA - DAY 38

Harry removes the rhino knife from its box and slips it into a sheath at her waist. Paige enters, holding a poster in her hand -- of Harry's face, with "INNOCENT" slashed over it. She shows it to him.

PAIGE

They went up overnight -- thousands of them.

HARRY

Start the revolution without me.

PAIGE

What time is the rendezvous?

HARRY

Four.

PAIGE

I want to come, Harry.

HARRY

No --

PAIGE

I'm <u>still</u> the Senator's wife -the Fathers are less likely to pull anything if I'm there...

HARRY

Have you seen Eli?

(as she shakes her head)
He's the one who's going to kill
Kreutzer. If he dies before I
get to Deirdre...

39 OMITTED

39

40

40 EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY

Harry and Paige arrive at colorful "o-bon" festival -- dancers, revelers in kimonos, etc.

In a different section of the festival, a Range Rover pulls up, followed by MimeCom van.

41 EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN/POOL/PATIO - DAY

41

Josie and the Senator, in the middle of press conference. Around 15 REPORTERS; several video crews. (Dialogue will overlap the Festival of Ghosts.)

## 41 CONTINUED:

41

REPORTER #4
There's been strange talk you're preparing medically for some sort of 'cosmological expedition' --

SENATOR
Heard that one myself -- read it
in the tabloids. My favorite
golf partner and I had a giggle
about it.

\*

REPORTER #5 Who's the golf partner, Senator?

SENATOR

Elvis, who else?

The press roar with laughter.

42 EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY

42

Harry sees Deirdre exit Range Rover in distance. As he and Paige move toward her, a procession passes. Paige and Harry get separated by dancers; a Lady Dancer breaks off, following Harry...

43 EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN/POOL/PATIO - DAY

43

The press conference continues.

REPORTER #3
Can you address the growing problem of Mimezine addiction and image sickness?

SENATOR

There will always be abusers -that's human nature. Synthiotics
is deeply involved in prevention
and detox; our hearts and our
hands reach out to these people.

44 EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY

44

The Lady Dancer yanks Harry around a corner, pummelling and wrestling him to the ground. Harry tears off the Dancer's wig, smearing the white-face -- it's Tobias Schenkl. Harry pounds the living crap out of him, but Schenkl manages to hang on, getting some licks in.

45 EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN/POOL/PATIO - DAY

45

Back to press conference.

REPORTER #4

Polls seem to indicate that the longer Harry Wyckoff remains a fugitive, the greater support for him grows. He's becoming a martyr for the underground, and his appeal is crossing over --

JOSIE

I am not a vindictive person. He murdered my daughter; I simply want justice done.

46 EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY

46

Paige frantically tries to find Harry.

Deirdre stands beside Range Rover, holding onto hand of one of the men in suits. A Technician in MimeCom van looks at his watch.

47 EXT. WILD PALMS ZEN GARDEN/POOL/PATIO - DAY

47

More.

REPORTER #1

The Friends have said the Fathers are poised to stage a coup d'etat if you fail to win the election. Can you comment?

**SENATOR** 

The coup began with 'Church Windows' and will end with my election to the White House. My army? The American people...

Reporters AD LIB a few more questions.

48 EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY

48

Harry is getting the best of Tobias Schenkl, when men in suits appear to rescue the psychiatrist. They knock Harry down and spirit Schenkl off. We TRACK WITH Schenkl as they reach the Rover.

MIMECOM TECHNICIAN

What's happening?

TORTAS

I have it -- let's go!

MAN IN SUIT

Do we leave the girl?

TOBIAS

No! Change of plans --

Deirdre's bundled back inside -- Harry charges from b.g.

TOBIAS

Move! Move! Move!

The Rovers -- and Deirdre -- pull away. Harry pounds on the window, where he and Deirdre lock eyes; he's thrown off as the car accelerates. Paige runs up.

PAIGE

Are you okay?

HARRY

Yeah... I'm okay.

Harry gets himself together. Paige takes his hands in hers, examining the bloodied knuckles.

PAIGE

You're bleeding --

HARRY

(notices hand)

The ring --

PAIGE

What is it?

HARRY

He took the ring!

And Harry Wyckoff's bargaining "chip" with it.

FADE OUT.

## END OF ACT THREE

FADE IN:

49

0

EXT. STREETS - DAY

49

52

Chaos in the streets. Men in suits clash with Friends as the incident is filmed by rogue cameramen.

PROTESTERS (V.O.)

The whole world is watching! The whole world is watching! The whole world is watching!

"Dreaming" is slowly substituted for "watching" as the violence continues...

INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

50

Harry is readying a gun; Paige enters, stands in door. We can hear the PROTESTERS' VOICES in b.g.

PAIGE

Eli's dead. They've called a War Meeting at MacArthur Park; they're going to attack Channel Three and the lab at MimeCom...

HARRY

Where's the Senator?

PAIGE

There's a surgical suite at Wild Palms -- that's where they did the procedure...

HARRY

I'm going -- to get Deirdre. I'll come back for you and Peter.

PAIGE

I've come all this way for you. Don't leave me behind -- not now.

HARRY

Where's Tully?

PAIGE

No one's seen him -- we're worried he was picked up.

EXT. WILDERZONE - BAZAAR - DAY

51

:r

53

We START ON "INNOCENT" POSTERS of Harry Wyckoff glued to wall. Tully Woiwode ENTERS FRAME, walks along -- jittery and paranoid, he looks like he's detoxing.

## 54 INT. JOSIE'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Schenkl is on the phone. Josie sits on the couch, in darkness, drink in hand. She watches a holo ANCHORWOMAN.

ANCHORWOMAN

... On this day before the election, signs the campaign of Senator Tony Kreutzer is crumbling as support grows for the fugitive Harry Wyckoff. Wyckoff released copies of his late wife's diaries to the media earlier today -- diaries which support growing allegations of murder, torture and New Realist mind control in corridors of MimeCom. Sporadic violence continues...

TOBIAS

Yes, we'll come. Right away.

He hangs up.

JOSIE

What is it?

**TOBIAS** 

Your brother underwent the procedure.

JOSIE

He was supposed to wait for me -- I wanted to be there --!

TOBIAS

Something went wrong. It seems Harry got the chip to the boy -- Peter. He tampered with it; Chickie taught him some tricks.

The DOORBELL RINGS; Schenkl goes to answer.

JOSIE

(stands, stricken)
I have to go to him! --

It's Lt. Grindrod at the door. Before Schenkl can greet him, Grindrod is shoved inside by a couple of Floating World boat-hand/acolytes. They grab Josie and Schenkl. Lt. Grindrod breaks free, makes a move; they blow him away. Tully Woiwode enters front door. When Josie sees him, she's terrified.

54 CONTINUED:

54

TOBIAS

You blind fool -- what do you think you're doing?

The acolytes pummel Schenkl in the stomach. He falls to the ground; they kick him as Josie watches helplessly.

JOSIE

Tully, please --

WOIWODE

What a strange world. So dramatic -- so... predatory.

JOSIE

Don't kill me! Not now --

WOIWODE

(ironic)

Just when everything was going so well?

JOSIE

(groping)

Tully -- we're like two old generals!

WOIWODE

Yin and yang -- Jewel and the Lotus!

JOSIE

I <u>respect</u> you! Please, Tully! Tell me what you want!

40.

55 CONTINUED:

55

HARRY

It's all right -- Kreutzer's dead. I made sure of that.

They exit toward house.

56 INT. WILD PALMS - DAY

56

Harry and Paige enter, cautiously. An eerie stillness.

SENATOR (O.S.)

Harry? Is that you?

Harry sees the Senator, sitting at his desk, shrouded in darkness. Harry is clearly taken aback.

HARRY

Yes, Senator. It's me...

**SENATOR** 

I knew you were coming -- that's why I sent them all away. This is not Olympus now: mortals will not be tolerated. I've made an exception -- for you.

PAIGE

(behind Harry, whispering)
Something's wrong with him.

**SENATOR** 

Some hours ago, I received the GO Chip implant...

HARRY

How do you feel?

SENATOR

HARRY

I want to talk.

**SENATOR** 

We never talked enough. That was my fault. Now we have all the time in the world...

#### HARRY

You had more that just an affair with my mother -- didn't you?

# SENATOR

We enjoyed each other's company, Berenice and I -- Dex wasn't too thrilled. We had a child together, did you know? Dex thought it was his. Named the boy 'Harry.' He found out, Dex did, tried to kill me. I had to defend myself...

#### HARRY

Why didn't you tell me? Instead of this insane charade -- why?

## SENATOR

The garden is filled with lies, Harry -- little lies -- thousands over a lifetime, like lilies of the field. My lies are Mimecom's -- state-of-the-art, for the masses...

#### HARRY

You took Peter -- my son away from me. You took everything from me I loved. Tell me why!

#### SENATOR

Do you know what the unicorn does when it's surrounded by hunters, Harry?

### HARRY

Tell me why, you psychotic sonofabitch!

#### SENATOR

It somersaults into the nearest abyss, breaking the fall with its horn...

Harry's come up close to the Senator now.

# HARRY

You destroyed Coty --

#### SENATOR

Your <u>brother</u> Coty -- it's rather like an Arabian tale, isn't it, Harry?

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

HARRY

You made him into a monster --

The Senator's image begins to waffle -- we realize he is a holo.

PAIGE

Oh my God...

SENATOR

(weirdly calm)

What's happening?

HARRY

We altered the chip -- Peter and I. My son... some of your own people helped us.

The Senator laughs ruefully.

SENATOR

You know, if there was time, I'd tell you all about your mother and me. I'd tell you things only the wild palms know... Can't feel my legs -- ain't that the craziest thing?

(softly sings)

Hello. I must be going. I cannot stay. I came to say. I must be going --

HARRY

Don't leave - not yet! Face me, Father!

SENATOR

I'm glad I came but just the same I must be going --

HARRY

You <u>ruined</u> everything you touched. What was the matter? Wasn't this world enough?

**SENATOR** 

I'll stay a week or two --

HARRY

You didn't have to run to Paradise -- Paradise was here! Here, damn you! Paradise was here!

56 CONTINUED: (3)

56

The Senator reaches out for Harry, tenderly. He is waffling and breaking up now -- not much time left.

SENATOR

-- but I am telling you, I must be going!

HARRY

Coward!

**SENATOR** 

(stops singing)

This is the way the world ends. Not with a bang, but a whimp --

He vanishes. Paige sees something outside.

PAIGE

On the terrace!

ANGLE ON DIERDRE

THROUGH the window, standing on the terrace. Harry and Paige exit.

57 EXT. WILD PALMS - TERRACE - DAY

57

Harry rushes to Deirdre -- before he can get to her, Coty and several (MARITIME) acolytes emerge from the shadows, with guns. They pull Deirdre back. Coty looks drained.

COTY

Did you speak to Father?

HARRY

In the living room.

COTY

Living room? Funny -- his body's in the guest house. You know, I talked to him awhile; then he floated over the roof like a Chagall...

**HARRY** 

It's over now.

COTY

(laughs weirdly)

Easy for <u>you</u> to say. Hello, Mother.

PAIGE

Let us go ...

COTY

You're <u>very</u> James Bond today, Mother.

(to Harry)

She was always in awe of Pussy Galore...

Harry advances on him. Coty pulls a derringer from his coat.

COTY

Stay away!

HARRY

All this time, and I find out we're brothers...

COTY

(sardonic)

Harry Wycoff, this is your life!

HARRY

Our father is dead; I'm taking Deirdre. Why don't you come with us? Leave all this behind --

COTY

That's what Daddy wanted -- to leave everything behind. And look what happened...

HARRY

Put down the gun.

COTY

Am I going to die old, Harry? Or will I have a second childhood?

PAIGE

Coty, put it down!

COTY

(shaking head)

Too late...

HARRY

It was too late for the Senator -- not for you. You're just a boy...

Peter enters.

COTY

The plot thickens.

HARRY

Peter, stay back.

PETER

I wanted to be here... I belong with you and Deirdre.

COTY

What a poignant moment...

HARRY

What are you gonna do, Coty?

Kill us all?

(walks closer; as Coty gets nervous)

Deirdre's watching -- what do you think she sees? Do you think she wants to stay with someone like you?

COTY

She loves me!

HARRY

How could she love a monster?

COTY

Don't you talk to me that way!

HARRY

Deirdre baby, come on. Come to Daddy . . .

COTY

Leave her alone!

PAIGE

Forgive me, Coty! I closed my eyes to what they were doing to you!

COTY

(to Paige)

You shut up!

HARRY

If you love Deirdre so much, let her decide for herself.

COTY

She wants to stay with me! loves me! I know she does!

HARRY

Come on, baby. Daddy's here.

COTY

(aimed at Harry)

I'll shoot!

HARRY

In front of your baby sister? You're a lousy role model, know that?

PAIGE

I'm sorry, baby, for letting them destroy you. I'm so sorry!

COTY

(spacing out)

I'm the only one now... the only Father --

HARRY

(to Deirdre)

Come to Daddy, baby...

PAIGE

(moving toward Coty)

My poor baby!

COTY

(snapping out of

reverie)

I'll kill you dead, Mama!

PAIGE

You wouldn't hurt me -- give me the gun...

She's almost upon him; Coty hesitates.

COTY

Mother? Who am I?

PETER

Father, look out!

One of the Acolytes is about to shoot; Harry wheels on him, FIRING. The Acolyte gets a SHOT OFF, wounding Paige -- as others reach for guns, Harry finishes them off. Paige has charged Coty, taking gun; he flees. Suddenly, a piercing scream:

**DEIRDRE** 

Daddy!

WILD PALMS - "Hello, I Must" - Rev. 8/11/92 47.	
CONTINUED: (4)	57
Deirdre runs to Harry; Peter joins them. All hug, then Harry goes to Paige, who has a flesh wound. He gathers them up and they exit.	hen ers
EXT MIMPCOM _ NICHT	

58 EXT. MIMECOM - NIGHT

57

58

The laboratory sign is illuminated by flames.

59 EXT. ELECTION HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

59

CLOSE ON burning campaign poster -- a photo of the Senator and Josie, curling up as it burns, THROUGH shattered window.

60 EXT. CHURCH OF SYNTHIOTICS - CLOSE ON SIGN - NIGHT 60
Burning.

61 INT. CHURCH OF SYNTHIOTICS - NIGHT

61

Candlelight. Inside, we TRACK PAST a few tattered, frightened Acolytes, standing before Coty. He is in sooty, tattered robes.

COTY

Poor men have grown to be rich men... and rich men grown to be poor again.

ALL

And I am running to Paradise.

COTY

The wind is old and still at play. While I must hurry upon my way...

ALL

# For I am running --

A burning beam falls and the Acolytes scatter. We PUSH IN ON Coty, left standing there alone, pathetic. He lifts his head to the sky with a horrific, rage-filled scream.

62 EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN - NIGHT

62

GUNFIRE in b.g. as house is under siege. Someone pours kerosene onto garden and sets it ablaze. SIRENS KEEN and WAIL in b.g. as we PAN UP TO palm tree, its fronds on fire.

## 63 EXT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAWN

CLOSE ON giant poster of Harry. WE PAN DOWN TO Harry, exiting building with Peter, Paige and Deidre; the Corvette awaits them. Paige's arm is bandaged, spotted with blood. Debris in the streets; triumphant MARCHERS walk-arm-in-arm, holding candles.

**MARCHERS** 

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done. The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won...

They pull away.

PAIGE

Where will we go?

HARRY

I'm taking you to the tunnels at the beach -- where Chickie lived. It'll be safe there; I want you to be with the children.

PAIGE

What will you do?

HARRY

I have to come back -- they need me. Remember what you told me, Paige, about a thousand years ago? That you wanted a world where you could keep your dreams open at night?

Suddenly, a CLANGING of CHURCH BELLS. Harry instinctively touches his nose, checking for "blue" blood -- nothing. Then, Harry slows, looks up, over his shoulder -- they're passing a church.

ANGLE ON BELLS in tower, RINGING furiously.

A FRIEND stands at the base of the church, looking up toward the bells.

FRIEND

The Fathers have fallen! The Fathers have fallen!

Relieved, Harry smiles ironically.

HARRY

(to self, aloud)
O Captain! my Captain! rise up
and hear the bells...

63 CONTINUED:

63

He then rockets off. We PAN TO Tobias Schenkl -- a ruined man. He watches them go.

TOBIAS

You will be my last patient of the day... I will tear your mind apart with my hands --

64 EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN HIGHWAY - DAY

64

Harry, Paige, Deirdre and Peter drive along the deserted highway. Peter's in backseat, asleep; Deirdre sleeps in Paige's arms. Harry reaches over and caresses Peter; then strokes Deirdre's head. She stirs.

HARRY

(to Paige)

She talked back there, did you hear her?

(to Deirdre)

You're safe now...

She opens her eyes, a little disoriented.

DEIRDRE

Daddy?

HARRY

What is it, baby?

DEIRDRE

There's so much I want to tell you.

Harry smiles -- as does Paige.

HARRY

There'll be time, baby. There'll be lots of time.

The new day dawns as the fugitives make their way to the tunnels. The water burns with sunlight.

FADE OUT.