

TWISTED ACT

Original Feature Screenplay

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SANTA MONICA - DAY

The beautiful Santa Monica beach. The ocean's breaking waves that touch the shore rhythmically. Blue sky overhead. Slim white clouds. Below them, a few tall buildings and several single family homes.

This could be the beginning of a "Come to Santa Monica, California" commercial for the Santa Monica Travel Organization.

What these commercials fail to tell you is that the majestic breaking waves of the ocean are a lot like the broken dreams of many nearby actors who do not manage to book roles in commercial films or on TV.

These hopeful souls travel from all parts of the world to contribute to the ocean of wannabe film and TV stars. And they travel daily to the many areas of Los Angeles to audition at casting director's offices, in the hope of finally making it in this business.

Some actors eventually quit trying and go back home. For others, home is too far, maybe in a different continent. Their families would be humiliated if they returned without fulfilling their acting dreams. So, they try and try and try again to book acting jobs.

A tall glass building hosts many offices. If you pay attention, you can see the interior of many apartments and offices. Some are large and some are very small. It's the site of a casting director's small office.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CASTING DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

A messy little office. Piles of scripts and folders on the desk.

A sweet and insecure woman hesitantly enters the audition room. She's one of the waves in the ocean of the entertainment business. Her name is LINDA. She's mid 40's, Italian-mixed, with a strong foreign accent.

Linda's wearing a short black dress with metallic touches. It's not very appropriate for her age. She has large fake eyelashes.

To the trained eye, her appearance gives away her desperation.

The CASTING DIRECTOR is a patient and attentive woman, late 40's, mixed race.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)  
Hi Linda, how are you doing today?

LINDA  
Great! I'm excited to be here.  
(rubbing her hands together)  
I really need to book a job so, hu, yes. I mean, I'm..., I'm ready to book it...

CASTING DIRECTOR  
OK, I see. So, you're ready to start?

LINDA  
Yes!

CASTING DIRECTOR  
OK. Action! Would you like another drink?

LINDA  
Look, I'll tell you what, don't get involved, I'm an FBI agent, you need to stay put.  
(looking frustrated)  
Look buddy, I've got five armed agents at this party.  
(looking around to locate them)  
We're shutting it down, so please don't move.

CASTING DIRECTOR  
What's going on in here, are you kidding me?

LINDA  
I'm not! I have five of my men and two women here, we're gonna shut the party down, we're investigating what happened to Mr. Smith.  
(shouting)  
And nobody move here.  
(to an imaginary party guest)  
What are you doing over there?  
(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)  
 (to her FBI team)  
 Go get that guy!  
 (beat)  
 Come on, party's over, FBI, OK?  
 (turning her head to the  
 side at the end of the  
 scene)

Linda puts both hands on her hips.

Head lifted, chest out, standing tall, she walks towards the door.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)  
 Great, thank you for coming, we'll  
 let you know.

LINDA  
 (leaving the room)  
 Thank you, thank you, have a good  
 day.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - EARLY AFTERNOON

The beautiful hillsides of a large Los Angeles park. A small stream that bubbles in the sun. It's the perfect spot for catching up and venting financial problems with a good friend.

SUE stands on the top of a small hill. She's early 40's, Caucasian, warm and caring. She puts her hand out to help Linda reach the top of the hill. She's well-dressed, well-spoken, very attractive, classy and funny.

Linda finally reaches the top, barely keeping her balance in her uncomfortable high heel shoes. She's wearing the same dress that she was wearing at the audition.

SUE  
 Hi! You look nice!

LINDA  
 (hugging Sue)  
 You too!

SUE  
 Nice eyelashes, are they natural,  
 or?

LINDA  
 (pushing the eyelashes away from  
 her eyes)  
 (MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

No, I wish, they are extensions. I need to get used to them, they keep on getting into my eyes. I got them done for the audition, so...

SUE

Yes, how did the audition go?

LINDA

Well, I don't know, they wanted a foreign accent, I have a foreign accent...

SUE

What type of project is this, is it a TV show or?

LINDA

No, they said it's an untitled feature film. They were very secretive about the plot.

SUE

(smiling, half-teasing)

Are they asking you to play the robot again? Then you should go for it, as a B movie actress, with the economy these days.

LINDA

Thanks, that's not funny. No, I would play a strong FBI agent, or something like that.

(beat)

Have you been struggling for jobs too?

SUE

Oh, I haven't even been going out for roles...

(beat)

Well, this sounds like a great part for you, you can be uptight!

LINDA

Yeah, I guess. It would be great to book a serious role. I'd love to finally make it on the big screen.

SUE

Didn't you say that a producer wants to bring the robot TV show with you and "Wolrath the weirdo" back?

LINDA

Well, yeah, that's what Eddy was telling me on the phone. I'm not sure, the problem is that Wolrath is so unpredictable.

SUE

Would he want to be back on it? Isn't he too good for it?

LINDA

Well, he's the only one on the show who's not been typecast. He didn't play the robot after all. Yes, maybe he's too good for it.

(pause)

Anyway, Eddy's trying to figure out a way to get together with Wolrath without upsetting him, so that we can discuss getting back together for another season of the TV show. This would really help me and Eddy with our financial problems.

SUE

(shaking her head)

But Wolrath doesn't need money. He just got done with his latest blockbuster movie. It should be coming out soon, cannot wait to see it.

LINDA

I think that he's booking jobs because he played the human on our show, while the rest of us just played stupid robots.

(beat)

I hope that I'll book this feature film role. I did well at the audition today.

SUE

Look, be realistic. There aren't many movie roles these days for people like you. Maybe you shouldn't get your hopes up for feature film jobs.

She touches Linda's shoulder gently.

SUE (CONT'D)

You should find a way to get back on that TV show. Never mind being stereotyped as a robot.

LINDA  
Yeah, that ship has sailed...

CUT TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

CARD: TWO YEARS AND THREE MONTHS EARLIER

INT. TV STUDIO

The couch of the area outside the TV studio. Sitting on the couch, Linda is thinking about the content of the episode to shoot. She bites her upper lip.

WOLRATH sits next to her. He's mid 40's, Caucasian, handsome, and very eccentric.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
Look, Wolrath, I don't know about singing plop plop plop, the bowel movement song. This is so embarrassing. I know it's a kids show, but this is just too much.

WOLRATH  
I tried to tell the producers, but they didn't listen to me. And if the episode does well, they said they also want a new episode with the wee wee song.

LINDA  
Great! Now I'm going to be 100% typecast as the stupid Italian robot with bowel and bladder problems.

WOLRATH  
Look, the money is good, let's do it.

LINDA  
Yeah, easy for you to say, you're the human teacher, you aren't typecast. You're booking jobs beside this show. Eddy and I aren't. But, it does pay well....

INT. TV STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS

A TV set full of metallic furniture and props. The set's color scheme matches the shiny silver costumes worn by the three robots:

Linda, whom we already know, and who back then had a promising acting career;

EDDY, who's late 30's, Caucasian, hippie type, very easy going, awkward, and a bit out of shape. He has slimy hair that does not look clean no matter how many times he washed it. He knows that his oily hair shines on camera and is very self-conscious about it;

ROBERT, a teenager, Caucasian and usually nervous, who feels totally out of place in the show and in society in general. He's mature for his age when it comes to being responsible at memorizing long scripts and at being punctual, but this does not apply to his emotional development.

Robert the young robot is emotionally immature and slightly withdrawn from everything that goes on around him. Maybe this is his defense mechanism that has served him well whenever people approach him in the streets or at school asking him to move like the robot that he portrays on TV.

The three robot actors and Wolrath are ready to shoot the latest episode. They are lined up against the wall.

The robots are wearing 1960's style, shiny and weird-looking silver robot costumes.

Wolrath wears vintage clothes that could appropriate for a 1980's teacher.

Robert stands on the left. His robot head piece is on. Wolrath is next, then Linda and Eddy who do not wear the head piece.

There is something special about watching robots embarrass themselves. They move their arms up and down stiffly, with pointed elbows.

As the three robots engage in goofy dance moves, Wolrath is certainly more dignified than they are.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Action!

WOLRATH

All right. Now it's the time for our favorite song of the program, kids.

(MORE)



WOLRATH (CONT'D)

Hey kids, you're a lot like these robots. You know that these robots are from a different planet, so I need to teach them how to live well on our planet. You know, to live a good happy and healthy life, every day, you need to go:  
Plop plop plop, plop.  
Plop plop plop, plop. Once in a while. Preferably at least once a day.

Linda holds two fingers up. She disagrees with Wolrath, once is not enough.

WOLRATH (CONT'D)

(at Linda)

Uh, ah, twice.

Linda pastes a fake smile on her face. She's happy with her robot husband. She likes to learn new information from teacher Wolrath.

All the actors move sideways, like they're part of a wave of slow-moving water. They hold their bellies, move their hands side to side and smile awkwardly.

WOLRATH (CONT'D)

Kids, to go plop plop plop, plop, you need to eat healthy foods, drink a lot of water. And eat plenty of fiber.

(beat)

Kids, give yourself a happy "gappy," plop plop plop, plop.

Eddy and Linda nod their head in agreement.

It's the moment children of all ages are waiting for. The actors are going to sing a weird song. Today it sounds like it will be really weird. That's what keeps people watching this show anyway.

Robert cannot stand this situation. He doesn't want to be seen singing a bowel movement song.

He takes off his head piece and holds it in one hand. His other hand is raised. The other three actors look at him in shock.

ROBERT

No way, this is way too embarrassing, I can't do it. I, I am not, I'm not doing this scene.

WOLRATH

What?

Linda looks at Eddy and then at Robert.

LINDA

Robert, are you feeling OK?

ROBERT

(to the producer off-set)

I'm off!

(to Wolrath)

You already have robots doing the song and dance. You don't need me.

(beat)

I can't go to school after this plop plop plop, plop, everybody would make fun of me.

EDDY

Yes, he wouldn't be able to go to school tomorrow for sure. Kids already tease him a lot.

(beat)

I wouldn't want to go to school the next day after this show.

WOLRATH

(to Robert)

You know Robert. You are our star child robot. If you don't want to do this --

LINDA

Come on Wolrath.

(to the producer)

Let him go. He can't do it. We can do this scene without him.

Wolrath looks at the PRODUCER. Wolrath is the most powerful actor in the group, so when he makes a request, producers listen.

WOLRATH

Can Robert please be excused from this scene?

LINDA

Please!

The producer must have nodded yes, because Wolrath gets Robert off the hook.

WOLRATH

Come on, Robert, uh, Robert, the robot, go. You're excused.

Robert rushes off the set shaking his head and biting his tongue.

LINDA

OK, can we get this scene done before I chicken out too and, and, and...

(whispering)

I lose the job.

They all look in the direction of the DIRECTOR.

WOLRATH

All right, and, here we go.

Wolrath's facial expression is serious yet hilarious.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Action!

Wolrath sings alone the plop plop plop song. It has a very catchy tune.

While singing, the three of them move left and right, holding their bellies and waiving their hands.

Eddy holds his arms up and down his head with robotic gestures. His facial expressions are very awkward. No wonder kids love him.

WOLRATH

(singing in tune)

Plop plop plop, plop. Plop plop plot, plop. When you're feeling down. You should sit down. Go plop plop plop, plop. Plop plop plot, plop. Once you have a seat. You'll be in for a treat when you go, plop plop plot, plop. Plop plop plot, plop.

The song ends.

WOLRATH (CONT'D)

And remember kids, don't be like these robots and do things wrong.

Linda grabs Eddy and holds him in her arms. They both look embarrassed.

Eddy scratches his head with a confused look on his face.

WOLRATH (CONT'D)

So kids and robots, you want to be happy and healthy every day. Today you've learned the important plop plop plop, plop lesson.

(beat)

Make sure to do what I've been teaching you.

(beat)

And, we'll be right back.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Cut! That's great. So awkward!

WOLRATH

Wow, got through that one.

LINDA

(to Eddy)

Are you OK with this?

EDDY

(sarcastic)

Yeah I'm OK with it. If America has to see me singing and dancing about bowel movement. My career is at its peak.

LINDA

Come on, Eddy, it's true, kids love this stuff!

EDDY

I guess.

END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. TV STUDIO - STAGE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The sun shines, but the memories of the once-successful TV show are fading fast in the minds of those who loved watching it years ago.

CUT TO:

INT. UNIDENTIFIED LIVING ROOM - THREE YEARS AGO

Loud country music.

The TV is on.

Two MEN, wearing jeans and dirty sweaters, sit on a couch. Their feet are propped on the small table in front of the couch.

They snack on potato chips while looking attentively to the TV.

They point at the TV and giggle, just like two kids. The song "plop plop plop, plop" is playing on TV.

END OF CUT AWAY

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

SUE

After all, that crazy show had a strong following, for some mysterious reasons.

(beat)

And, a job is a job! Plus, you're still in love with crazy Wolrath, right?

LINDA

Stop calling him crazy.

(looking paranoid)

I'll kill you if you tell anyone - you and Eddy are the only people who know about it.

SUE

You've been stuck on him for years now!

(beat)

Sorry, I don't mean to be rude, but I wish you would get over him. He's just too weird. He got totally out of hand in that big fight when he left the show. And his crazy jealous accusations about you cheating.

LINDA

Thanks, it means a lot to me that you still put up with him once in a while to keep an eye on him. You're a great friend to me. By the way, have you seen him lately?

SUE

Yeah, I've been stopping by his house once in a while to go jogging with him. But he never says anything about you.

(MORE)

SUE (CONT'D)

He does very little talking in general. We just run quietly and then we split.

LINDA

Do you think that there's a chance for me and him?

SUE

I think that he's still angry with you, or he does not trust me to open up about you, I cannot tell. Remember, he knows that you and I are good friends. He might have figured out that I go by his house to check on him to keep you posted, not because I like him as a person. Who does, really? Just you, I guess.

LINDA

I hope I'm not the only person who can stand him...

SUE

On a good note, I've never seen him with a woman since you two split up.

LINDA

Well, we're still not on speaking terms. But he did make me feel special when we were together.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - EXT. PARK - OVER TWO YEARS AGO

Beautiful trees, bushes and flowers. Great weather. Who wouldn't want to be in LA, where the sun is always shining and opportunities to make it big on the big screen abound?

Romantic music.

Wolrath and Linda walks slowly in the park. They are happy together. They smile and stare into each others' eyes. Linda wears colorful clothes.

The love between the two of them is strong like the breeze in the park. It seems as though nothing could come between them to disrupt their bliss.

END OF FLASHBACK

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

SUE

Who knows, maybe if it's meant to be it's meant to be.

LINDA

We did have a good time on that show after all. In case Eddy gets to schedule a meeting with Wolrath to talk about re-starting the show, I'll let you know the exact day.

Linda looks at Sue with hope in her eyes.

LINDA (CONT'D)

You can stop by Wolrath's house unannounced and check on what's going on. I'd love to have you there to support me. I'm kind of afraid of Wolrath in a way.

Sue notices a flash, like some weird light sparkling behind a bush.

An UNIDENTIFIED MAN is barely visible for only a split second.

Sue is unsure of what she just saw. She thinks that perhaps it was someone taking a picture of the two of them.

Linda has started to walk very slowly down hill. Her shoes are very uncomfortable and she's afraid of falling.

SUE

What was that? Do you have paparazzi following you? I just saw some kind of light, like a flash...

LINDA (O.S.)

No way, dream on, let's get out of here.

(beat)

Yeah, I wish I had a paparazzo after me. Come on, get real.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

CARD: TWO DAYS LATER

A different part of the same Los Angeles park seen before. A large tree trunk is propped up just above the two shores of a very shallow river. Green jelly-like substance grows all over it.

A trail adorned by nice trees and bushes but also next to several large trash cans.

Linda walks up to Eddy on the park trail. She starts smiling as soon as she sees him and gives him a warm hug.

LINDA

Eddy, so good to see you, how are you doing?

EDDY

I'm doing well, I guess.

LINDA

How is your wife?

EDDY

She's fine, thanks. Sorry, I can't stay long, I was running around all day, had two auditions.

LINDA

Wow, that's an improvement!

EDDY

Yeah, it's better.. And now I'm...

Linda gets distracted. A lot of insects are strangely attracted to Eddy. She starts hitting them to discourage them from buzzing by.

LINDA

(hitting insects with her hand very close to his face)

You attract a lot of insects!

EDDY

(ignoring her remarks)

And now I'm planning to get home as soon as I can. My wife is preparing dinner.

LINDA

You're so lucky to have such a nice family! Don't ever take them for granted.



Insects keep on buzzing by Eddy, who acts as he cannot see them.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Tell me about this rich fan of the show. He wants to produce it, you were saying on the phone?

EDDY

Yes, all I know is what my agent told me. He got a call from a production company that has lots of money and is very interested in producing it.

LINDA

I hope they will.  
(beat)  
How's your son?

EDDY

Robert is great. I'm proud of him, he's becoming a strong young man.  
(beat)  
Actually, he's the one you need to thank for getting through to your ex!

LINDA

Really? Is that why Wolrath agreed to talk about redoing the TV show, because of Robert?

EDDY

Yeah, and guess what, he wants you at the meeting also!

LINDA

(happy and shocked)  
Really?

EDDY

Yeah, at least he's showing some interest in doing the show. I called him last week, but he didn't sound interested. Robert then called him and gave him a sob story about our family being broke and me needing this TV job.

LINDA

Yes, me too!

EDDY

Me too! So, now Wolrath wants to meet us both at his house.

The insects continue buzzing around Eddy. This time he finally notices them.

EDDY (CONT'D)

There sure are a lot of bugs today, maybe because of the trash cans.

LINDA

Trash cans are good, they're weird, I like weird. And Wolrath, he's weird. I hope that he'll agree to doing the show again.

(pause)

Well, Wolrath has lots of flaws, but he does have a soft spot for kids. He's got bad luck, he cannot have kids. I think that is part of the reason why Kay divorced him, because she wanted kids.

EDDY

Wolrath isn't paranoid around kids, but he sure was paranoid about you and me. He went nuts when he got so jealous. We could all be doing great now if he hadn't flipped out.

An awkward silence.

EDDY (CONT'D)

Anyways, Robert told him that there's a producer interested in doing the TV show again, and that we're thinking about auctioning off some of our props from the old show.

LINDA

It would be great if he agreed.

EDDY

Yeah, and, between you and me, the auction could help us pay for some of our bills, before the money from the new episodes comes our way. But, to keep our dignity, instead Robert told Wolrath that the auction is needed to raise public interest in continuing the show.

LINDA

Genius! Hey, maybe Wolrath figured out that his paranoia was insane about you and me sneaking around behind his back.

Her eyes fill up with excitement.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Maybe he'll even show interest in getting back together with me.

EDDY

So, it's true, you still want him back.

LINDA

You know it's true.

(beat)

Look, Eddy, you and Sue are the only two people who know about it. But, in his defense, he did have a traumatic experience with his first girlfriend. She ended up being the girlfriend of the entire football team.

EDDY

But he was married to Kay after that, and that relationship also didn't work out. I think he's too messed up to be with someone long-term.

LINDA

I don't know, but he's got a good heart somewhere in there.

EDDY

I don't trust him, after what he did to us. We'll see how he treats us at the meeting. He wants us both at his house this Saturday.

LINDA

I'm already nervous about it.

(beat)

Look Eddy, aside from my feelings for Wolrath, I really need a job. I need to pay my bills and I'm having trouble making ends meet lately. I have a lot of debt.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

I've been considering moving back to Italy to be with my family and look for a job there.

Linda looks away.

CUT TO:

INT. LINDA'S BEDROOM - THREE WEEKS AGO

A dark room, with only a double bed, one side table, a small table lamp, and a plug-in alarm clock.

Linda is waking up.

She picks up the alarm clock and notices that the alarm did not go off.

Confused, she reaches for the lamp and turns the switch.

The lamp does not seem to work.

Linda tries to turn it on several times.

No luck.

END OF CUT AWAY

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON - A FEW MINUTES LATER

LINDA

They cut off my power for a while... But, if I quit, I'll be a loser, I'll make my family look bad. They'll say "What's wrong with you? You moved to LA to act on TV and in films."

EDDY

Don't consider anything drastic. Wait to see what happens with the TV show. I need money too, and being on the show was a lot of fun. Embarrassing, but fun.

LINDA

You're right, we really need the auction. We can make money with the auction to pay our bills, until they start paying us on the show.

EDDY

There you go, it should work, stay positive.

LINDA

There's no way I could have called Wolrath. I appreciate what Robert did, I owe him big time.

Eddy nods his head.

EDDY

I'll let him know. The show is fine. We need the money. Let's just get it going again.

The two of them walk together downhill, on their way out of the park.

Several large trash cans are lined up on the side of the trail. Eddy walks towards them. Linda follows him with a questioning look on her face.

EDDY (CONT'D)

Props to auction off.  
(pointing to trash cans)  
We should look through here for the auction. We could find good things to auction off. I'll do anything to raise money.

Linda plays along.

LINDA

Yes, we could say that they were used on the set.

EDDY

Who knows what was on the set anyway? Anything can be a prop.

LINDA

All right.

Eddy quickly jumps into one of them. He talks from inside the trash can, and Linda leans on it.

He goes through the content of the trash can and soon pulls a small paper tray out of it.

EDDY

See, for example, we could use this prop.

(MORE)

EDDY (CONT'D)

We could say "Remember the day when Teacher Wolrath ate his historic chicken pot pie out of this?"

LINDA

(smiling)

It's true. He ate it. But I couldn't eat it, I can't do chicken. I love chicken but it doesn't love me.

EDDY

"Bids start at five-hundred dollars for this."

Linda picks the tray up from Eddy's hand, then throws it back in the trash can.

LINDA

Five-hundred dollars, uh? Hate to tell you, that may be a little bit of a stretch, but..

EDDY

Uh huh...

LINDA

But let's look, see what else we can find.

EDDY

Yeah, we may as well.

LINDA

Yeah, I guess, anything could work. It could be a bone, it could be a little tin hat, we could say that a robot one day put it on.

Eddy gets out of the trash can and continues walking with Linda by all the trash cans lined up on the large trail.

The two of them point to the different trash cans as they were pointing at famous paintings at a prestigious museum, appreciating the potential treasures that these cans could contain for their auction.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

Aerial views of Los Angeles in the sun. Cars are moving slowly in the highway traffic. A car moves on a quiet street with large and tall trees. It's Wolrath's neighborhood.

On the street of Wolrath's house, the car pulls over and stops. It's an old green car, made in Japan. Linda bought it borrowing money from her family back in Italy. She hasn't been able to pay back that debt yet.

Eddy is in the car with Linda. He's dressed casually, while she dressed up to impress Wolrath. She's wearing a strapless tight black dress.

She climbs out from behind the wheel, checks that her dress is on right. Eddy struggles to get out of the passenger side. They walk on the sideway towards Wolrath's home.

They stand in front of Wolrath's house. They eventually manage to use their acting skills to get a warm and hopeful smile on their faces just as they walk up to Wolrath's front door.

The front door stands shut. Beautiful, decorative wrought iron bars cover its little glass window. It's a touch of old world elegance that Wolrath loves about his home. Visible through it from inside the entryway, perfectly framed by the wrought iron are Linda and Eddy's faces.

Their facial expressions betray their hope and curiosity for their upcoming adventure. They could be easily mistaken for a happy couple shopping for their first house.

Eddy sticks his tongue out a bit. He seems to taste what he ate an hour earlier.

Linda looks at the house and shakes her head.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I cannot get over out how Wolrath managed to make himself so much more marketable than us. After all, he was the one saying all the weird lines in the show, even more than us.

EDDY

Yeah, especially the ones on stuff like bowel movements being healthy for kids. We were just mainly singing along. For sure those were not the most intellectual lines.

LINDA

I still remember the tune for that episode, he was singing it wrong, but the director loved it and didn't correct him. Remember it? He took out "happy gappy" from the song.

EDDY

How could I ever forget it? I still sing it with Robert at home when we are in need of a pick-me-up and want to laugh.

LINDA AND EDDY

Plop plop plop, plop. Plop plop plop, plop.

They're too anxious to ring the bell.

Their faces and their anxieties are comically visible through the ironwork from inside the entryway. They continue procrastinating going in.

This could go on forever.

But they need to get in there.

LINDA

Well, I do like the health-conscious message of the show in general. But Wolrath was not that dignified when he was singing that song.

EDDY

I don't think we kept our dignity either, playing robots who are dancing the bowel movement song.

EDDY (CONT'D)

And still, he managed to further his career after that show. This is a mystery to me. Good luck to us trying to talk him into coming back.

LINDA

Maybe he still has feelings for me and we'll be able to convince him.

ED

Well, come on, there's only one way to find out, let's go talk to him.



Eddy rings the door bell twice.

LINDA

OK. And, Eddy, remember that it's going to be hot in there, Wolrath thinks that air conditioning is bad for your health.

EDDY

My goodness, he's paranoid about a lot of things.

No answer.

After they wait for a few seconds, Linda twists the doorknob. Unlocked. She pushes the door, so it opens a little. Eddy opens the door a bit more and sticks his head inside. He steps back and looks at Linda.

The two of them look at each other, unsure what to do next.

Finally Eddy pushes the door completely open and they both walk into Wolrath's small entryway.

INT. WOLRATH'S ENTRYWAY - CONTINUOUS

They call out his name several time, but nobody answers.

Eddy slams the door behind him.

EDDY

Helloooo. Wolrath.

LINDA

Wolrath!

Beautiful and elegant door casing and trim design. One wall of the entryway is open to the living room area.

No answer. They shyly walk in just a little more, still remaining in the entryway.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Maybe he's asleep?

Silence. They stand still.

LINDA (CONT'D)

That's so him.

(beat)

Hey Wolrath, it's me, Linda! And Eddy!

EDDY

Hi!

LINDA

You're OK? Where are you.

Unexpectedly, KAY jumps in front of them and scares them silly. She's late 30's, gorgeous, Asian-Hispanic, aggressive.

She's wearing black leggings and a matching workout bra.

Pierced belly button.

All bad attitude.

Kay's in great shape. She holds a black nunchaku (martial art weapon) and performs dangerous-looking moves using it while she talks.

EDDY

Oh, hello!

LINDA

Oh, hi Kay.

A long silence.

Eddy and Linda look at each other back and forth incredulous.

They're in shock and cannot believe their eyes. They reposition their bodies so that Kay will not hit them with the nunchaku.

KAY

(with an arrogant tone)  
So, what do you two want? And especially you, Linda?

LINDA

Sorry, we, we... We weren't expecting to see you here.

KAY

Why, do you have a problem with me and Wolrath being back together?

LINDA

(in shock)  
No, no problem, it's great.  
(beat)  
I'm, I, I'm happy for you two.

KAY

Oh, yeah? That's good to know.

Kay's presence was certainly not in the plans.

LINDA  
Kay, this is Eddy, he was on the TV  
show.

KAY  
(sarcastic)  
Great.

Kay lowers her eyebrows and squints her eyes; her sadistic look suggests that she derives pleasure from making them feel uncomfortable.

LINDA  
So sorry to disturb you. Wolrath  
said it was OK to come here to  
discuss business.

Eddy and Linda stand awkwardly in the area between the hallway and the living room.

KAY  
I guess you can come in.

EDDY  
Thanks, we won't be long.

Eddy and Linda walk into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The two of them sit on the sofa.

Kay walks in last and sits on the large easy chair near the couch.

The curtains are closed.

Strange, unflattering lights are lighting the whole room like in a bad vampire movie.

The room is full of martial art supplies and weapons.

A workout bench is displayed prominently in a corner of the room, near martial art gloves and headgear.

Linda tries to make conversation.

LINDA  
Nice gear.  
(pointing to the nunchaku)  
What are those?

KAY

My nunchaku. I must practice the nunchaku techniques until my timing is just right. Why, does it bother you?

LINDA

No, sure, go ahead.

Kay engages on and off in elaborate martial art routines and weapon training techniques as she talks with them.

KAY

(sarcastic)

Why the nice dress? Were you hoping to make a move on my Wolrath?

Linda bites her lower lip and swallows. She looks at Eddy for help.

LINDA

No, no, I .... I ....

EDDY

It would have been fun for her to wear an Italian nun costume instead. To make a contrast with your interesting outfit.

KAY

Watch your mouth. I can kick you both out.

EDDY

Just kidding. My goodness, no sense of humor, uh?

EDDY (CONT'D)

We're going to an event after this meeting, that's why she's dressed up.

KAY

(abrasive)

Whatever, I don't care. She doesn't have a chance against me anyway.

(to Eddy)

So, what do you want from Wolrath?

EDDY

As I told him on the phone, we have the chance to resurrect the TV show. It's a very good financial opportunity.

KAY

For all you robot actors, sure. But what is Wolrath getting out of this?

KAY (CONT'D)

I never watched the show. I don't care for it, it's not my style.

LINDA

Really? It was a bit stupid, but it was fun.

KAY

(to Linda)

So, what's really going on between you and Eddy?

LINDA

What do you mean, he's happily married!

KAY

Come on, you know what I mean. Don't play stupid with me.

LINDA

No, really. I don't know what you mean. I've never dated Eddy. I played his robot wife on the show, that's all. Wolrath got all worked up and jealous for nothing.

KAY

That's not what Wolrath told me. Not that I care, but I wish you stopped being so fake and came out and told me the truth.

(pause)

No need to hide it now, it doesn't matter anyway. I'm with him and you certainly are no competition to me.

LINDA

(trying to look indifferent)

I... I... I respect you two guys being back together.

(failing at looking indifferent)

It's great.

KAY

You sure? You don't seem too happy about it.

LINDA

No, no, it's just that...

(hesitant)

You two were over before I met him. I'm surprised that you got back together.

(beat)

Why did you get divorced in the first place?

KAY

None of your business!

LINDA

Sure, sorry.

(changing the subject)

So... Does he still have Coochi-Coo?

KAY

She died.

LINDA

Oh..

An awkward silence.

KAY

(addressing Linda)

I hear that you're single, right?

LINDA

Yes, I am.

KAY

(with a superiority attitude)

What's going on with you, nobody wants you?

LINDA

Well, I've been too busy to date.

KAY

Doing what? I understand that you and Eddy haven't booked any good roles in years. That must hurt.

LINDA

Well, I've booked a few commercials.

KAY

Wolrath told me that you moved here from Italy to be in films and TV shows. Not to do commercials.

LINDA

That's why Eddy and I are here today. We'd like to shoot more seasons of the TV show. Hopefully Wolrath will be on board.

(beat)

It would be nice if you could put in a good word for us.

KAY

That would depend on what transpires here today. You see, Wolrath doesn't need the show. He's doing great with his block-buster movie coming out soon.

LINDA

You're his woman. He'd listen to you if you told him to do the show.

KAY

Why should I talk him into it? What if you go after him?

LINDA

No way, I'll never do that. I respect relationships.

KAY

Yeah, you do look pretty uptight. But the nerdy ones are the ones who can surprise you the most.

Kay and Linda have a strange but strong chemistry together.

LINDA

You could come to all the shoots and you'll see that nothing is going on. And Wolrath has never been a flirt.

KAY

That's what I've always liked about him. He only flirts with me.

Linda swallows what must be a lot of saliva.

LINDA  
It's so hot in here, my eyelashes  
are going flat.  
(awkwardly pushing them up  
with her fingers)

KAY  
Tell you what, let me go see what  
he's up to.

EDDY  
Yes, please make him come down and  
talk with us. It's so hot here.

Kay leaves the room confidently while twirling the nunchaku.

Eddy and Linda feel safer once she's out of the room.

Linda relaxes her back against the couch, but soon starts  
sniffing around.

LINDA  
Oh my, something smells funny. What  
do you think it is?

EDDY  
With no a/c, let's see, what could  
it be?

LINDA  
I think that it's coming from this  
pillow.  
(holds up one of the couch  
pillows, smells it, and  
looks disgusted)  
Oh, this is awful.

Linda was already on edge. Now she has a disgusting smell to  
deal with. She loses it and shoves the pillow into Eddy's  
face.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
Here, smell this!

Eddy reacts, jumps back.

EDDY  
Yuck, come on, what are you doing?  
Keep it together!



He throws the pillow on the floor. Linda picks it up and holds it up with two fingers.

EDDY (CONT'D)

I think it's really gross. Don't touch it. You aren't thinking straight, throwing it on me like that.

(beat)

Finding out that Wolrath is back with Kay hit you like a ton of bricks, uh?

LINDA

I don't know how I feel anymore.

(beat)

But I told you that Wolrath is nice in his own way.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I think that he didn't have the heart to discipline Choochi-Coo to pee outside.

EDDY

The dog is dead and the pillows still smell like that? What type of pig is Wolrath? And Kay too, she doesn't have any sense of smell?

LINDA

Well, maybe he wants to remember Coochi-Coo's smell so he doesn't want to clean up the couch. Otherwise, the smell would go away.

(beat)

Too bad he's back with Kay. But I'm not going to get between them.

EDDY

I don't think you could anyway. She's very attractive. She kicks your butt in many areas, no offense.

LINDA

Well, sure. She's a martial artist, in addition to all her other talents. She's a great catch. Strange personality but a lot of positives. And she's very confident. Wish I were a little bit more like her.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Hey, are you sure you don't have a crush on Kay? Are all the men in my life in love with her?

EDDY

Yeah, like I'd stand a chance with her. Plus, I'm married and don't want any more trouble.

(beat)

I'm just saying she's stunning. But she could really mess us up if she got mad.

CUT TO:

INT. WOLRATH'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

A restroom illuminated by a couple of lamps.

Wolrath is shirtless on his large bed. He's wearing only his bathing suit. He's putting together some TV show memorabilia to auction off.

Romantic music plays. He looks at the memorabilia from the show one by one.

A large picture of Wolrath with Linda. He stares at it and looks sad. He kisses the picture, then becomes frustrated.

He drops the picture on the bed, jumps up and locks himself into the bathroom.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED

A nice workout bench, very modern. It's a strong contrast with the classic style of Wolrath's living room furniture that is on the wall behind the bench.

Linda and Eddy got bored waiting and moved to the workout area of the room. It's good to move away from the pee-smelling couch.

Eddy lays down on the workout bench. He's playing with a small red and blue ball that belonged to Coochi-Coo.

In a repetitive motion that is calming him down, Eddy throws the ball in the air and catches it.

Linda sits on a small workout stool.

Kay is not back in the room yet.

EDDY

I want to get done here. When is Wolrath coming out of hiding?

LINDA

I really hope that Kay will let us open the windows, at least for a little bit.

At that exact moment, Kay enters the room. She jumps on the couch and faces them. She props herself up on the couch's back. She has a big smile on her face but her arms are crossed in front of her chest.

LINDA (CONT'D)

(to Kay)

Sorry, do you mind if we open the windows? There's a smell of pee in here.

EDDY

Yeah, what's up with the closed drapes. Is he a vampire afraid of sunlight? We need to air the room --

KAY

No way. Doesn't matter how smelly it is in here. Don't touch the curtains. Keep the windows closed.

EDDY

He hates the sun too?

KAY

No. If he sees paparazzi he gets all worked up.

LINDA

Ed, I told you about Wolrath and the paparazzi. They've always been at war.

EDDY

I feel sorry for them. They have to deal with Wolrath's smooth and diplomatic personality to get a picture of him.

KAY

One time, I kicked a paparazzo and sent him screaming to mama. Wolrath was getting stressed out. This guy was trying to take a picture of us.

LINDA

Yeah, I remember how Wolrath gets when strangers get too close to him.

Kay points in the direction of a large reflector in a corner of the room. Some kind of protective screen made of a silky material.

KAY

You see that? It's Wolrath's latest shield of protection against the paparazzi.

She points to the windows, all covered very carefully by thick curtains.

KAY (CONT'D)

When they're outside, to avoid being seen through the curtains' cracks, he holds it over his face.

Eddy shakes his head in disbelief.

He walks by the screen and holds it up.

EDDY

You mean he walks around in his house like this?

He parades around the room holding the screen by his face, imitating Wolrath's uptight gait.

EDDY (CONT'D)

Oh, what a great way to be comfortable in one's living room.

KAY

Better than having your picture on the cover of a magazine looking less than perfect.

Eddy shakes his head. He puts the screen back in the corner and gets back on the couch.

KAY (CONT'D)

Anyway, enough about the paparazzi talk. I have news guys.

LINDA

Is Wolrath finally coming to join us?

KAY

(with an enigmatic look on her face)

Not yet.

EDDY

What's taking him so long? This is a bit too ridiculous. Even for a star of Wolrath's statute.

KAY

Well, he was looking at the items for the auction stuff. All the memorabilia that you wanted him to go through. He got all worked up. So, uh, he's locked himself into the bathroom.

(pause)

Stupid idea an auction, anyway.

EDDY

No, in my opinion, doing the auction would attract the media. We could do an interview with the press. The public becomes aware, they throw their support behind the producers.

LINDA

Yeah, yes, that would be really good. But what do we do now?

(to Kay)

What do you think?

KAY

Well, maybe this is for the best. It's an opportunity for me to get to know you better. After all, if the TV show will be revamped, you two will be working with my man, won't you?

EDDY

Um, yeah, great, that's something to look forward to.

LINDA

Uh, well, uh... Just. What do you want to know about? Some topics you like?

KAY

Sure I do.

(to Eddy)

Eddy, tell me, how long have you been married? How many kids you got?

EDDY

Hum, not too long, not too many?

KAY

(puzzled)

So, are there any kids other than Robert? You and your wife try to make babies a lot?

LINDA

(teasing Eddy)

Ah, good question.

EDDY

No, I think we can skip that one, thank you.

LINDA

(laughing nervously)

Ha ha ha. Ha ha ha!

KAY

I guess he doesn't really want me to get to know him.

(beat)

What's your wife's name?

EDDY

Ivy.

KAY

(to Eddy)

But Linda, you know. Linda is a very attractive woman... I mean, she's Italian with that sexy accent and thing. So, why wouldn't you be attracted.

LINDA

Oh, thank you.

Eddy does not answer, so Linda hits his shoulder gently with her elbow as he lays down on the workout bench.

EDDY

(to Kay)

You're right, her accent is very cute.

LINDA

Thank you.

EDDY

At least, I suppose it wouldn't raise any eyebrows in Italy.

LINDA

Nooo... They wouldn't even notice me. I'm a dime a dozen over there.

Kay and Eddy both smile at Linda's modest remarks.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Well, I guess, uh, how about you Kay. Do you want to tell us about you?

Linda hesitates to ask about Wolrath and Kay again, but she's dying to find out.

Can I ask you again, why did you get divorced with Wolrath?

KAY

Excuse me, who's in charge here? I ask the questions, OK.

LINDA

(trying to calm Kay down)

Sorry, I'm just curious. Never mind. How about, how about your work? What have you been up to lately. Looks like you're working out, you got all sorts of interesting gear and stuff.

Linda reaches down on the floor and picks up a large martial art training glove.

KAY

I have a great stunt job for the next two months, on a feature film.

LINDA

Very nice.

KAY

Yeah, it's exciting. I haven't really started training seriously for it.

(beat)

I hurt my back on a film set a while back. I'm still sore, so I haven't been able to rehearse much lately. I really should. So, maybe you can help with that today. While we're waiting for Wolrath, of course.

LINDA

Sure.

Eddy raises his hand.

EDDY

I'm in.

LINDA

You wanna help her?

EDDY

Yes.

LINDA

That would be excellent.

KAY

(to Eddy)

Thank you. Maybe you could use some self-defense training.

EDDY

Well. You have, uh, a long way to go with me, but you're welcome to come along.

LINDA

(to Eddy)

You, you're a little bit, a little bit athletic. I guess, no?

EDDY

A little bit.

LINDA

Maybe you can, maybe you can handle her.

Linda moves out of the way. Kay approaches Eddy on the bench.



KAY  
(with a sexy tone)  
It looks like it's you and me.

Kay leans forward and touches the ball Eddy has been playing with to kill time.

Why don't you get that ball out of your hands.

EDDY  
OK.

Kay gets the ball and throws it far away on the floor.

Eddy stands up from the bench.

Kay is standing tall, he is not. His posture is much less than perfect.

EDDY (CONT'D)  
All right, what am I in for.

A mischievous smile on Kay's face. She bends over and grabs her nunchaku.

KAY  
Well, let's starting off actually with... So I start in the scene with a guy.

She twirls the nunchaku around and notices that Eddy is afraid of being hit in the face.

EDDY  
(hesitantly)  
OK.

KAY  
And just, watch your face, trust me a little, OK? So, we start off, we have a little nunchaku thing à la, à la "Enter the Dragon," and then I go AHHH.

After twirling the nunchaku around her shoulders several times while talking, she hits Eddy on his hands, which are protecting his belly.

KAY (CONT'D)  
I took it easy on you.

EDDY  
Thank you.

KAY

All right.

(pause)

And then a big knee jump. And a  
knee choke.

She puts both arms around his neck and positions her right knee just about on his pancreas. She jumps up on his body and starts straddling him. Her right arm is positioned firmly around his neck. Her left elbow is by her right hand.

KAY (CONT'D)

And then a rear naked choke.

As Kay chokes Eddy from behind, she easily tilts his body to one side.

Eddy looks like an inflatable toy doll that is quickly falling down. His arms move like tree branches shedding their leaves.

His face betrays his unpreparedness for Kay's display of athleticism all over his not-so-toned body.

She slowly pushes him towards the floor.

Eddy tries to hold himself steady by putting his left arm on the bench, but is unable to.

On the floor, she pins him down. His mouth is open.

KAY (CONT'D)

He's down for the rest of the  
fight.

EDDY

Yeah, I think so.

Eddy rests on the floor, hoping that the martial art training part of the day is over for him.

KAY

Now I need someone else to  
participate.

She points to Linda, who has been quietly watching the training session. Linda steps back looking scared. She is concerned about getting bruised.

Eddy glances at Linda with a worried look.

KAY (CONT'D)

(to Eddy)

Now get out of here. We don't have much room. Linda!

Linda walks around the bench and stands in front of Kay, who is warmed up now. Kay picks up from the floor behind the bench a white and red protective body suit for Linda to wear.

KAY (CONT'D)

I'm, I'm going to gear you up.

Linda stands up straight, but she's worried to be injured by Kay.

LINDA

That's fine, that's fine. I can handle it.

Kay turns the body suit in order to tie it around Linda's body, revealing a large blue stripe on the back side of it.

Eddy watches helpless, praying that Linda will survive this crazy experience. He doesn't trust Kay.

Kay starts tying the body suit strings around Linda's neck. They are yellow like the borders of the suit, which is too large for Linda. She swims in it like a little beer bottle inside a very large foam sleeve.

KAY

We gotta keep you protected, right? That acting face.

Linda nods her head. Her lips are twitching.

LINDA

Thank you.

KAY

All right.

Kay stands behind Linda to finish tying all the strings.

Unbeknownst to Kay, Linda makes alarmed faces to Eddy.

KAY (CONT'D)

Here you go. Well, it's not quite your size, is it.

LINDA

No.

(hitting her belly)

I look a little bit pregnant.

Kay moves Linda's body around and attacks her from different angles. Linda doesn't defend herself. She silently prays for this to be over soon.

She spins Linda around, provokes her several times with punches and other moves. Linda is passive and after a while is not able to stand up steadily. She doesn't engage in what could be considered a cat fight.

Kay kicks Linda around, not too hard but hard enough to make her lose her balance.

Again, Linda does not defend herself. Eventually she screams and falls on the nearby tall bookshelves.

Shocked, in the back of one of the shelves, Linda notices a framed picture of Wolrath and her. She quickly grabs it.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
 (holding the picture)  
 Oh, look, an old picture of me and  
 Wolrath. I guess he's not very  
 observant, he didn't take it down.

KAY  
 Whatever, you can have it.

Linda takes the picture frame, all the gear and walks to the couch. She falls on it, with all the items covering her. She is exhausted.

The door bell rings.

Kay is startled. She looks suspicious.

KAY (CONT'D)  
 Who's that?

LINDA  
 I don't know. Are you expecting  
 anybody?

Kay holds her arms up.

KAY  
 I'm not expecting anyone.

She walks out of the living room towards the front door.

INT. WOLRATH'S ENTRYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Beautiful entryway wall with a tall archway.

The ceiling's moldings of the visible living room area match nicely the old wood of the multiple doors in the small entryway.

An expensive-looking classical painting adorns that living room wall.

Quickly, Linda approaches the door expecting Sue to come by like she had promised that she would do. She's afraid that Kay will snap at Sue.

KAY  
(to herself)  
Who the heck is it?

Linda remains quiet.

Kay stands tall at the door. She opens it.

Sue is surprised to see another woman there. She remains outside in front of the door.

SUE  
Hi!

Sue's wearing a nice workout outfit.

KAY  
(irritated)  
Yeah.

Behind Kay's back, Linda moves her hands near her head in circular motion to gestures to Sue that the woman in front of her is crazy.

KAY (CONT'D)  
(to Sue)  
Who are you, and what do you want?

Kay stands inside, in front of the door, between Sue and Linda. She opens the door just enough for Sue to get one step inside the entryway.

SUE  
I'm here for Wolrath-

KAY  
You're what?

SUE  
I'm here to go jogging with Wolrath.

Kay leans on the entryway wall. She puckers up her beautiful lips.

KAY  
And, who are you?

SUE  
I'm Sue. Nice to meet you.

Linda continues signaling to Sue that Kay is crazy.

KAY  
Hu, yeah, not so much. Ah...

Kay turns around to check on what Linda is doing. She noticed that she was moving around.

Linda stops moving.

KAY (CONT'D)  
(suspicious)  
Is something going on here?

LINDA  
(with a high-pitched tone)  
No, no, that's fine. I'm just saying -

SUE  
I don't know what's going on around here. I'm here -

LINDA  
I know her, I mean, that's all -

KAY  
Wolrath is my man. And, I don't know who you are, or what this is. But -

SUE  
We, we go jogging. I'm, I'm, I'm a neighbor.

Kay is increasingly suspicious.

KAY  
(whispering)  
Neighbor. Hum. Yeah -

SUE  
I, I don't want to get, involved, in anything here.

Linda signals Sue to get out of there.

KAY  
Yeah, you're right. You probably  
shouldn't -

Sue is confused.

Linda tries to signal to Sue behind Kay's back to go away.

Kay looks at Linda, who stops moving her hands frantically.

LINDA  
She's a nice lady. She's a nice  
lady. They just run -

KAY  
Who? Do you know her?

LINDA  
Yeah, yeah. She's -

SUE  
I don't, I don't want your man -

LINDA  
She's a good woman -

Kay props up her body to stand even taller over Sue.

KAY  
Well, I mean. Come on.

Kay has a superiority smile on her face. She looks back at Linda.

KAY (CONT'D)  
What the heck?

Kay holds the door open and signals Sue to get out.

KAY (CONT'D)  
Yeah yeah, enough of this. Goodbye!

Sue moves out of her way quickly and is out the door.

KAY (CONT'D)  
(to Sue)  
Go!  
(whispering)  
Don't let the door hit you on the  
way out.

LINDA  
Talk to you. CIAO!

Kay walks towards the living room with her arms up.

She briefly stands under the archway leading from the entryway into the living room.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
She, she's a good lady. She just wants to, to run -

KAY  
I, I got enough of good ladies today.

LINDA  
I know, that's true.

They both step down to the living room area.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

KAY  
(to Linda)  
I don't care about the show, but out of curiosity, how did it end?

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. TV STUDIO - TWO YEARS AGO

The actors have just finished shooting another scene. Wolrath has stepped off to take a quick break.

Eddy and Linda remain on the stage, joking around.

He's fluent in several languages and understands when Linda speaks in Latin or Italian.

EDDY  
Well, that was lots of fun!  
(pause)  
Hic haec hoc!

LINDA  
Huius huius huius.

EDDY  
Mens sana in corpore sano!

Wolrath returns to the stage looking sad.



He's wearing a double-breasted blue suit and a red tie.

LINDA  
 (in Italian)  
 Bambini, dovete fare bene! Dovete  
 andare a scuola, dovete avere una  
 buona salute, va bene?  
 (English subtitles) )  
 Kids, you need to do well. You must  
 go to school, must keep your health  
 good, OK?

Wolrath raises his voice.

WOLRATH  
 Yeah, and I'm stupid, right. I can  
 only speak English.

Linda tries to calm Wolrath down.

LINDA  
 Sweetie, why, we are just joking  
 around.

WOLRATH  
 (upset)  
 I don't know what you guys are  
 saying. Are you making fun of me?

EDDY  
 We're just saying that it's good to  
 stay healthy, in different  
 languages.

WOLRATH  
 Yeah, good for you that you know  
 all those languages, ah.

Wolrath storms out.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. WOLRATH'S ENTRYWAY - AFTERNOON

Kay shakes her head.

KAY  
 Well, you how Wolrath is. Anyway,  
 with me he's fine, he trusts me.

EDDY  
 Good for you. Now back to Wolrath,  
 please make him come talk with us.

KAY

I'm not his baby sitter! He'll come here when he wants to.

(beat)

If you don't want to wait, why don't you leave?

EDDY

You know what, good idea. I need some air anyway. Linda, I'm going for a walk in the neighborhood. Let me know when you're done or if you need me.

LINDA

Don't leave me here please.

EDDY

I think it's best that you speak with Wolrath alone. He may listen to you. He never liked me anyway.

KAY

Yeah, don't think he does.

(beat)

He likes your son, though. Loves kids, maybe because they don't judge him. But you, no way. He can't stand you.

Eddy keeps quiet. Too much is at stake for him, his family and Linda.

EDDY

You two ladies have a great time.

LINDA

OK. I'll let you know when I'm done. Wish me good luck!

EDDY

Good luck with Wolrath, you need it.

Eddy leaves the house and slams the door. At the same time, Wolrath calls loudly for Linda to join him.

Linda is startled. She automatically gets up. The wait has taken all the strength that she had. She feels numb.

Kay and Linda start walking towards the bathroom together. Linda is as pale as a sheet.

INT. WOLRATH'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

KAY

(feeling sorry for Linda)  
Come on, this is your moment. See  
if you can get Wolrath to see your  
point of view on this remake of the  
show.

LINDA

Thanks Kay. You're not too bad  
after all, you know?  
(smiling)  
At first I thought that you were a  
bit mean. But you're OK.

Linda tries to touch Kay on her shoulder, but Kay retracts.

KAY

Don't get weird now. You're still  
the ex of my man after all.

LINDA

Don't worry. I'm not going to do  
anything to come between you two.

KAY

You know what, I'm starting to  
believe you on this.

Wolrath yells from inside the bathroom.

WOLRATH

Linda, do you want to talk to me?  
Come here!

KAY

(yelling)  
She's coming!  
(to Linda)  
I guess he's more comfortable  
talking with you in his bathroom.

LINDA

Typical of Wolrath. This is so  
awkward. Why in the bathroom, can't  
he come here?

KAY

I don't know. He gets moody, do  
what he says.

LINDA  
OK, thanks again for everything.  
Wish me good luck, by the way.

KAY  
Good luck.

LINDA  
Thank you.

INT. WOLRATH'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A dark hallway, with several doors, all closed.

Linda knocks on the door and slowly turns the door knob.

INT. WOLRATH'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

A vintage bathtub, half full of water.

Nice brocade shower curtain.

The tub faucet has seen better days, but Wolrath has not noticed that it needs replacing.

Linda enters the bathroom.

Pink old-style wall tiles. A small, partial wall separates the toilet from the bathtub and door area.

LINDA  
Wolrath?

Wolrath is wearing only a bathing suit and is sitting on the toilet. As soon as they see each other, they get flustered.

WOLRATH  
(with a progressively  
larger smile)  
Hey.

LINDA  
What are you doing on the toilet?

As she gets ready to close the bathroom door behind her, she smells an offensive odor.

Crinkling her nose, Linda starts fanning the door open and closed several times.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Oh my goodness. No way! This is horrible! I need some air.

(fanning the door)

Did you have to do this now that I'm stuck in here? Come on.

WOLRATH

Sorry. I had to go.

LINDA

I can't believe you did this. It's disgusting. This is even worse than your regular smell.

(beat)

What are you eating? Is this a special new diet Kay has you on? Or is it a new healthy kick of yours? It smells worse than ever.

WOLRATH

(with a straight face)

Yes, it's called the garbanzo bean curd diet.

LINDA

But you're intolerant to beans, and it shows. It's horrible. Hold on...

Linda tries to stay calm.

LINDA (CONT'D)

OK, hold on. You got, you got matches?

She looks at the bathroom sink area and sees a box of matches.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Yes, you do.

She lights a match as fast as she can and starts swaying it around the bathroom to reduce the smell.

WOLRATH

(smiling)

Look, I'm just kidding. I'm, I'm not eating beans. It's, it's just, uh -

LINDA

It sure smells very bad.

WOLRATH

I'm very, I'm nervous, you know. I have a little, uh -

LINDA

I see. I don't buy this. I think you're just smelly.

(beat)

You're eating the wrong food.

Wolrath gets up from the toilet.

WOLRATH

(pointing to the inside of the toilet)

Hey, don't forget down in there.

(teasing)

Watch out.

LINDA

Oh, great. I don't even want to look. Ahhh.

She moves the match around the toilet, then quickly throws it in the toilet keeping her eyes closed.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Oh. Ah. Uh.

Once she's done deodorizing the room, Linda fans her face with her hand.

She puts back the box of matches on the bathroom vanity.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Well, it's a bit better. But now it's smoky.

She stands by the wall near the tub and he goes back to sitting on the toilet.

They both smile. Finally they feel a bit more at ease.

WOLRATH

Man, it's stinky. I think you stunk it up in here.

Linda fidgets with the top of her strapless dress.

LINDA

I didn't do anything. Don't put it on me.

Both remain silent for a while. They look at each other with strong chemistry but very awkwardly.

WOLRATH

You're looking good.

LINDA

Thank you. You're looking good too.

WOLRATH

Yeah, thanks. So, how are things going?

LINDA

Not too well. Not much work. Hope to do the TV show, you know.

(beat)

It's like, Eddy and I, we can't catch a break in Hollywood since our show ended.

Wolrath immediately looks down.

Silence, uncomfortable silence. Finally he breaks it.

WOLRATH

Oh, uh.

(quickly changing topic)

Well, my new movie, "Disaster Chronicles", comes out in a couple of weeks. It's supposed to do very well. It's going to be a bit hit.

LINDA

Great, good for you. That's great. I mean...

(beat)

I don't know. I mean.. I really need to book some work. So I would, I would really love to have this, uh, remake of our show.

WOLRATH

Ah, well -

LINDA

You know what? The thing is this. If I don't book a good job, soon, I'm going to, I have to go back to Italy. I'm going to tell you that right now.

He looks down.

Linda looks at the bathtub.

She tries to make small talk to lighten the mood.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
Were you going to take a bath?

She touches the water. It's cold.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
Good idea, to take a cold bath.

WOLRATH  
Yeah, in a minute.

Again, silence.

They keep looking at each other.

WOLRATH (CONT'D)  
I know why you're here Linda. You want to do the show again, you want to do the auction. That's all you're interested in.

LINDA  
I'm not going to lie about it. I really need the money.

WOLRATH  
I... I think it'd be a step back in my career to do the show again.

Silence.

Linda holds her breath and looks down.

WOLRATH (CONT'D)  
Tell you what. I'll take a bath then I'll give you a box with stuff for the auction.

LINDA  
OK.  
(pause)  
So, is this a yes for the show then?

WOLRATH  
Uh...  
(avoiding the question)  
You're looking good.



LINDA  
Yeah, you like my dress?

She turns around left and right to show him how well her dress fits.

They exchange charged looks.

WOLRATH  
Yeah, it's a very nice dress. It looks very nice on you.

LINDA  
Thank you.

WOLRATH  
You remember the song, Linda? Plop plop plop, plop.

LINDA  
Sure, how can I forget it? It was fun.

WOLRATH  
Yes, so many memories, that show.

LINDA  
Yeah, the bowel movement song...

They keep looking at each other awkwardly.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - EXT. PARK - MORNING - OVER TWO YEARS AGO

In a park, Wolrath and Linda walk on trails and smile at each other.

An helicopter flies above them.

Romantic music plays.

Together, they look at the helicopter, smiling.

Nature around them is in bloom. Their love is blooming, but not for long.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. WOLRATH'S BATHROOM - CONTINUED

Linda bites her lower lip.

LINDA  
So sorry to hear about Coochi-Coo.  
She was such a sweet dog.

WOLRATH  
Yeah, she was.

LINDA  
I bet you miss her.

WOLRATH  
Yes I do.

Linda holds her hands together, fidgeting.

She stares at him and clasps her hands very tightly.

LINDA  
I... I mean, I mean, I don't know  
what to tell you. I just wish it  
hadn't come to this. We were happy  
together. Why did you get so mad at  
me.

(pause)  
That was a crazy, crazy reaction.  
Just because we were speaking  
different languages with Eddy -

WOLRATH  
Well, look, you know the night  
before I called off the show.

Linda holds herself up on the wall by the toilet. She can barely stand.

LINDA  
Hu?

WOLRATH  
I walked by Eddy's trailer. I saw  
that the two of you were in his  
trailer. And I, I thought you were  
cheating.

LINDA  
(very shocked)  
What do you mean? I was rehearsing  
some of the stupid robot lines that  
I had, with that poor Eddy.

WOLRATH  
Yeah.

Linda's very upset.

She makes a big effort to appear calm.

LINDA  
I mean, you keep on booking jobs  
but we don't.

Once again, Wolrath looks down.

WOLRATH  
I hear you. Well, you know me, I,  
I, my first girlfriend. She cheated  
on me.

LINDA  
With all the football team, or what  
was going on with her?

WOLRATH  
Football team, soccer team.

LINDA  
OK -

WOLRATH  
She, she made her rounds, yes -

LINDA  
Yeah, but I'm a good woman and now,  
you're with beautiful Kay again.  
She seems to be a nice lady. You  
can't be so fixated on people's  
cheating -

WOLRATH  
Uh huh. Know what, what did you  
think about Kay?

LINDA  
Well, she's great.

WOLRATH  
Really? What do you like about her?

LINDA  
Well, she's interesting. She's very  
pretty.

WOLRATH  
Yes, what else?

LINDA  
Um, athletic. A great martial  
artist for sure.

WOLRATH

Oh, yes, she's very athletic.  
Anything else?

LINDA

She's strong. She can take care of  
you. You're like a big baby most of  
the time.

(pause)

Look, I'm happy that you got  
another chance at love with her.

WOLRATH

Really? You are?

LINDA

Yes, she's a knock-out, eccentric,  
interesting. Let's face it: I could  
never compete with her, even if I  
wanted to.

(getting sad)

I... I....

(pause)

She's better for you than me.

WOLRATH

Well, but don't put yourself down.  
Sure, you may not have her physical  
stamina. And you're not as  
athletic.

LINDA

I know that, thanks --

WOLRATH

But you are .... great. Don't ever  
doubt it.

LINDA

Yeah. Look where being great got  
me. Soon, on a both back to Italy.

Linda moves her hair away from her face, not sure how long  
she can go without crying.

WOLRATH

Am I making you sad?

Linda touches her fake eyelashes.

LINDA

No, it's just. I got, these new  
eyelash extensions.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

(pause)

They're really a pain.

Wolrath gets up from the toilet and takes one small step towards her.

They stand up a couple of inches from each other, looking extremely awkward.

It's not clear whether she's crying or her eyelashes are malfunctioning.

WOLRATH

Wow, it's not me that's making you upset.

LINDA

(holding her eyelashes)

No no, it's.. Just..

Suddenly, with great timing, Kay barges into the bathroom unannounced.

KAY

(sarcastic)

Do you two need anything, beverages, something to eat?

WOLRATH

Yes, maybe.

LINDA

No, thanks.

KAY

Just kidding, I'm not your maid. Well, time's up.

(to Linda)

This is my man. Leave him alone, you've had your chance.

(looking stern)

Wolrath will stay in touch with Eddy to let you guys know about the TV show deal, the auction, whatever you guys are discussing.

Nobody moves.

KAY (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Time to go!

LINDA

OK, sure.

Linda makes a big effort to leave and start shuffling her feet.

She passes by the bathroom's large wall mirror and looks at herself in the mirror.

KAY

Were you crying?

LINDA

(embarrassed)

No, no, I was not. I just have these weird eyelash extensions.

KAY

Whatever. It's time to go. You can talk with him another time about this business deal.

LINDA

Sure. In case I don't hear from you Wolrath, know that.... I care for you and... I, uh, I wish you the best in your career and with Kay. She's a good woman.

WOLRATH

You don't have to go. You can --

KAY

Yes! She needs to go! Enough of this craziness already. Sleep on it Wolrath. Linda, I'll walk you to the door.

LINDA

No need, thanks.

Linda walks out of the bathroom.

LINDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Great seeing you again, Wolrath. Kay's obviously taking good care of you, that's great. Bye Kay.

WOLRATH

Wait, Linda, I....

Kay looks at him and signals to stop talking.

LINDA (O.S.)  
(yelling)  
Bye. Eddy must be waiting for me.  
He needs to get back to his family.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING - MINUTES LATER

Wolrath is wearing a shirt and the swimming suit.

He talks with Kay by the kitchen counter.

KAY  
I'm afraid that we might have  
pushed Linda over the edge.

WOLRATH  
You think? I was trying to tell you  
in the bathroom to go away. It was  
going well.

KAY  
And what next? You were going to  
make out in the bathroom and blow  
our cover? You told me to time it,  
to come in and get her out.

WOLRATH  
Yes, but --

KAY  
But what? You got what you wanted.  
She passed the test. She's still  
willing to put up with your crazy  
ways. And, I think maybe she has  
feelings for you.

WOLRATH  
(happy)  
Are you sure? Did you ask her about  
me? What did you find out?

KAY  
(surprised)  
Wow, you're like a kid. You never  
loved me this much.

(beat)  
Well, anyway, who cares. I have a  
great man now.

(beat)  
(MORE)

KAY (CONT'D)

By the way, she asked me why we split. I couldn't tell her that we became like brother and sister and that I couldn't stand you anymore.

WOLRATH

Well, thanks for doing this charade. You are a good friend.

KAY

What can I say, I have a soft spot for you.

(beat)

I'm not 100% sure about Linda, I can't read her well. All that Italian uptight, goody-two-shoes stuff. It's not me at all.

WOLRATH

Well, that's why you and I aren't together anymore. I love her style.

KAY

To each his own, I guess. For every pot there is a lid, they say.

(beat)

I wasn't even able to get her in a good cat fight with the excuse of training her. I tried.

(beat)

To tell you the truth, I was starting to like her. I had to remind myself to be mean to her a couple of times. She must think I'm absolutely insane.

WOLRATH

She's not like that. She's not one to judge. I'm sure she likes you. Or, she will like you as soon as she finds out the truth. For now, she thinks that you and I are back together.

KAY

Look, this was the whole point, to get her jealous and see if she still wants you back. Right?

WOLRATH

Yeah, I don't think the plan went too well... What do I do next?



KAY

You haven't agreed to anything with her and Eddy, right? So, let them come to you again, but invite her here alone this time.

WOLRATH

I need to come clean and let her know how I feel about her.

KAY

No! You've done all this, don't quit now. You'll look like a fool if you blow your cover too fast. I think she's cooked to perfection. She's falling for you again, if she ever got over your crazy ways in the first place.

WOLRATH

You sure did.

KAY

You have way more chemistry with her. Go for it, have faith.

WOLRATH

If you think so, I hope that your woman's instincts are correct.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. LOS ANGELES - THREE DAYS LATER - DAY

An AERIAL VIEW of a smoggy day in Los Angeles, looking straight down at a large concrete knot adorned by palm trees of different sizes.

Serpents made of cars. The downtown highways are hard to navigate when you have an important appointment.

EXT. FILM PRODUCTION STUDIO - MINUTES LATER

Linda and Eddy are in front of the door of a film studio.

Linda wears a nice silky dress.

Eddy's shirt is clean but baggy. His hair is greasier than ever today. He washed it earlier, but nobody would believe it.

His nervousness about this meeting is not helping. His bangs up against his forehead had no chance to remain clean.

Linda knocks on the door.

Their faces are all smiles.

INT. FILM PRODUCTION STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

A boring-looking room, the usual furniture of any boring office: chairs, desk and table.

Nothing stands out, nothing has a personality.

AARON opens the door with a smile to greet them. He's in his late 30's, Caucasian, balding, with a warm demeanor. He wears glasses.

AARON

Hello. So nice to finally meet you in person Linda. I'm Aaron.

LINDA

Nice to meet you. I've heard so much about you. All good things. I feel like I already know you.

EDDY

Hello Aaron.

AARON

I'm so happy that you both came. Come here.

He walks them to the large desk. Three chairs are ready for them. A laptop is on the desk.

Linda sits between Eddy and Aaron. She places her large black backpack on the desk near Eddy.

AARON (CONT'D)

(to Linda)

As you know, I'm doing my best to restart the show. I have the money and the right connections to bring the show back. But, all four actors must agree to it. The other producers want everybody or there's no show.

LINDA

Aaron, you wouldn't believe what happened.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

The visit with Wolrath didn't go very well. First of all, nobody told me that he's back with Kay, his ex-wife.

LINDA (CONT'D)

(turning to Eddy)

And she was acting in a very strange way.

Eddy gives Aaron a frustrated look.

EDDY

She, she's... kinky.

LINDA

Yeah, she was kicking me around and stuff. And plus, the house, is like a vampire house.

EDDY

He's a vampire. He lives in a tomb.

Linda is very animated as she moves her hands around to re-create the creepy ambiance of Wolrath's living room.

LINDA

Yes. And he's got strange lights. The lights are coming only from the floor or something. Everybody is looking like a vampire.

(beat)

I don't know. Maybe he's doing this to spook the paparazzi outside his house --

Aaron chuckles.

LINDA (CONT'D)

So that, when they shoot pictures from outside, everybody looks ugly enough that they can't use those pictures in the tabloids --

EDDY

There's just an air of terror -

AARON

It's an interesting strategy.

LINDA

Oh man. And then, it's just like, the curtains are always drawn.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

And then they have some type of white, ghostly screen, that, for him to turn off the paparazzi. I hear from Kay that, he, he walks around the room holding this screen.

LINDA (CONT'D)

And he tries to, like, provoke the paparazzi... I don't know what she was saying about that. But --

(touching Aaron's  
shoulder)

He's gotten even more eccentric --

EDDY

But. We need him.

LINDA

We need him.

Aaron nods his head.

LINDA (CONT'D)

I understand it's all of nothing. He has to be on the show.

EDDY

(sarcastic)

Breakout character. Everyone loves the teacher.

LINDA

Yes, I guess so. We're the stupid robots.

EDDY

Yeah, not stupid robots so much.

LINDA

But, I mean, they didn't treat us very well.

Eddy holds his face with both hands.

LINDA (CONT'D)

That's an understatement.

AARON

Yeah, you know, these moody actors. I mean, they can be massaged back into order. Don't worry about that.

EDDY  
(to Linda)  
Your job.

LINDA  
Aaron seems to be better than me at  
massaging the ego Wolrath has --

AARON  
Ah, you know. It, it's a talent you  
pick up over the years. But, I  
think we can handle him.

LINDA  
Thank you very much. It means a lot  
to us. And, we're working on the  
auction. We're working on, uh,  
getting a lot of items. Memorabilia  
from the show to auction off  
online.

AARON  
That's a brilliant idea --

LINDA  
So, we're trying to generate a lot  
of interest.

AARON  
Sure. Great.  
(beat)  
Don't worry. I've always been a big  
fan. Believe me, we're, we're going  
to make this work.

LINDA  
(to Aaron)  
Maybe Wolrath and Kay were having a  
bad day. Maybe they have mellowed  
out by now.

AARON  
Look, I'll do my best. I'll get you  
another meeting with Wolrath. I  
have lots of studio connections.  
I'll make sure that he'll be more  
hospitable this time around.

LINDA  
We've been so typecast, we can't  
land any jobs...  
(beat)  
But you know, going back to Kay,  
she was so strange --

EDDY  
They're screwballs, they're all  
screwballs.

AARON  
I understand, but we have to work  
with them.

LINDA  
One of the things that happened is,  
Kay was trying to do her workout  
with me. Like, doing stunts, and  
kicking me. And she threw me onto  
these bookshelves during her  
martial art self-defense training.  
(pause)  
They had a lot of memorabilia on  
the shelves. And accidentally, she  
threw me, she threw me on this, on  
my own picture frame.

She reaches for her backpack and pulls out the picture frame.

A silver picture frame with an old picture of Linda and  
Wolrath together. She looked younger.

AARON  
(looking at the picture)  
Nice picture.

LINDA  
This was still up, in Wolrath's  
house. I guess they're not very  
observant. It was taken a while  
ago. I remember I had to dye my  
hair blonde for a film.

AARON  
What a lovely photo.

Eddy rolls his eyes.

LINDA  
Thank you. And when I found this,  
Kay said "Take it, whatever, get  
out of here." She was just like  
pushing me around.

EDDY  
Yeah.

LINDA  
I had to put up with her.  
(beat)  
(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)  
So, I grabbed this, I immediately  
put it away. I was afraid she was  
going to attack me with it --

AARON  
(shaking his head)  
Gee wiz.

LINDA  
I'm glad she didn't.

Protectively, Linda puts back the picture frame into her  
backpack.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
(to Aaron)  
I mean, we really need your  
support. And, you're sure the  
studio is behind it? I mean, have  
you gotten all the producers on  
board?

Linda turns to Eddy.

He nods his head.

Eddy has a rare serious look on his face.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
I mean, we just want to be sure.  
Because, it's hard to convince  
Wolrath about anything, but we may  
have a chance --

AARON  
Uh huh.

LINDA  
He kicked me out, actually, Kay  
kicked me out of the house. But, he  
was kind of starting to warm up to  
me.

AARON  
Uh huh.

LINDA  
He was.

AARON  
Like I said, there are ways around  
those personalities. You can  
massage a person's ego back into  
what you want them to do.

LINDA  
OK. But you think we, we will do  
this show again? Honestly?

AARON  
Oh, sure. Absolutely, absolutely.

EDDY  
(to Aaron)  
You get the massaging job.

AARON  
Yeah, I'm a big fan. Believe me.

LINDA  
Please. We really need it.  
Financially, and, and everything. I  
mean --

AARON  
No, I, I think, it's there. The fan  
base is there. They're demanding  
the entire cast to be on it.

LINDA  
He has to agree to it. He has to  
agree to it.

AARON  
Uh huh.

Linda puts her hands together in prayer.

LINDA  
(to Aaron)  
Please, all of you producers,  
please put a good word in.

Eddy imitates Linda and bows down a little to Aaron, with his  
hands in a prayer position.

AARON  
Oh. Understood.

LINDA  
I'm at the end of my rope here.

AARON  
I think we all agree.

LINDA  
Thank you.



AARON  
My pleasure, my pleasure.

Suddenly, somebody opens the door abruptly. It's Aaron's UNCLE, a powerful producer. He's mid 50's, middle eastern, very agitated and ready to explode.

UNCLE  
Aaron, what's going on here? What are you doing in here?

Aaron rushes to the door to calm him down. They both stand by the door.

AARON  
Uncle, wait, I can explain.

UNCLE  
What do you want to explain? There is nothing to explain.

AARON  
I'm in a meeting to redo the robot TV show.

UNCLE  
Look, how many times do I have to tell you. You don't have any power! We give you fake power here to keep you busy. You don't make any decision.

AARON  
But, uncle --

UNCLE  
Listen to me. I'm sick and tired of dealing with you. I have no interest in remaking the TV show.

The uncle looks inside the room and addresses Linda and Eddy.

UNCLE (CONT'D)  
What are these stupid robots doing here?  
(pointing at them)  
I don't want you here! Out, get out!

AARON  
Come on, uncle. Let's talk.

Eddy and Linda prepare to leave. They rush towards the door.

LINDA

What is going on, Aaron...?

An agitated and exaggerated pep talk.

The uncle shows off his dramatic chops. He seem to talk primarily to himself. He must have spent time preparing it, given how smoothly he delivers it.

UNCLE

Aaron!? WHAT are you doing in my office, why do you occupy my sanctum? What nerve, what gall, I aver! What - that production? That production? Again, what nerve! The presumption, the usurpation!

He looks at Aaron, who shakes his head and looks away.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

When I permitted to engage in that atrocity, I merely flattered, I merely humoured, I merely fitted strings to you, you puppet of a nephew!

Linda, Eddy and Aaron stare at him.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

There will be no production, my honour is slain, and it is transpierced through the breast-there-what, what, what, what? Robots!? What are these damnable declarations of despicable detritus doing in my office?

He points to Eddy and Linda, who look scared and horrified.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

Go, out, depart, quit my office forthwith! No, there is to be NO robot show! That nephew of mine has been mendacious again, telling you I should be interested at all in this preposterous programme!

The uncle points to the door in a crescendo of aggravation.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

Exit, I say, scatter I say, raus, raus, raus! Yes, consider me Vesuvius, erupting in wrath, and it is fatal to you! Out!

He turns to Aaron.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

And you, Aaron, you - no, I shan't extend ear to you, no I shan't listen, you had no capacity to act. The authority resides solely in me, its exclusive province excluding you! No, you did not, you had no ability, no power whatsoever, save only one, and that is - to vacate my office at once!

Linda and Eddy look at each other uncomfortably.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

Out with you, move those limbs quickly, speed out! Ah, a robot programme, what the indignity, what the affront, what - oh. I say it is ironic but it is this exclamation of mine you should be catching-indignities abounding, oh, my, my, and a personal possessive, a personal possessive, a personal possessive.

He suddenly becomes calm and signals to Eddy and Linda to leave one more time.

He's almost polite in his final request.

UNCLE (CONT'D)

You two need to leave.

AARON

Sorry, Linda. I'll call you guys. Don't worry, I'll work this out.

LINDA

Yes, well. Let us know. Good-bye.

Eddy and Linda rush out the door.

The uncle closes the door behind them.

Aaron remains in the room with him.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTSIDE EDDY'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - A FEW DAYS LATER -  
AFTERNOON

Linda runs towards the door of Eddy's apartment. He opens his front door to greet her. He's wearing an Italian apron.

LINDA  
Eddy, Eddy! Come on, catch me up, I need good news!

EDDY  
Well, Wolrath called, he wants to meet with you alone at his house to discuss business.

LINDA  
Really? I hope it's good news. So far, we've been kicked out of his house by Kay and out of the TV studio. I really don't need any more stress.

EDDY  
The situation sounds promising now.

LINDA  
OK, I'll go see Wolrath, what do I have to lose? Wish me good luck.

EDDY  
Yes, good luck, you need it.

Eddy and Linda embrace. She leaves in a hurry.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. WOLRATH'S ENTRYWAY - EVENING

A few hours later. The door bell rings. Kay opens it. She smiles to Linda.

KAY  
Linda, great seeing you, come on in.

LINDA  
Good to see you too. Are you leaving?

KAY  
Yeah, I have a late day audition.

LINDA

I bet you'll book it, good luck!

KAY

Good luck to you. Go to the living room, Wolrath is waiting for you.

Kay leaves the house. Linda has a confused look on her face.

INT. WOLRATH'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Linda walks into the living room. Wolrath is sitting on the couch. He signals her smiling to sit next to him.

She sits down hesitantly.

LINDA

Wolrath, what am I doing here, did you finally decide to do the show again?

WOLRATH

Well, you know, uh, I need to explain a few things.

(pause)

First, you know, I wanted to test you to see if we could work together again after our past romance and --

LINDA

And what? Still thinking that I cheated on you? I did not!

WOLRATH

I believe you now, but back then I wanted you and Eddy to suffer. I was sure you were cheating on me.

(pause)

The two of you grew very close to each other on the show.

LINDA

But that was my role, to be his robot wife.

WOLRATH

Well, guess what, I hired a private investigator to make sure that you were not dating anybody.

LINDA

So, wait a minute, you had me followed. You know that I'm not seeing Eddy or anyone. So, what's going on?

WOLRATH

Well, a few days ago you had a nice audition for a feature film, right?

LINDA

Yeah, I did.

WOLRATH

Do you know that Eddy also auditioned for that movie?

LINDA

I know he had a couple of auditions for films lately. But no, I didn't know it was the same one. How do you know, are you friends with Eddy now?

WOLRATH

No, but I'm OK with him.

(beat)

Look, I'm sorry I put you through a lot. You lost your job. But I can't stand cheating.

LINDA

But I didn't cheat.

WOLRATH

Look, I'm the one who got you and Eddy the audition for the sequel to my block-buster movie.

LINDA

What? Your movie sequel, really?

WOLRATH

Yes, you two both auditioned for the same movie. And, you both got the part. We're all going to be in the film together. The fan and the uncle you met are my producers.

LINDA

What a character that uncle guy, he gave us a long monologue. But, what about the TV show, no chance to do it again?

WOLRATH

Are you kidding? I was sick and tired of teaching stuff like bowel movements. Come on, this feature is much more dignified.

LINDA

But, why make up the story of redoing the TV show?

WOLRATH

I tested if you wanted to work with me again. To do the show seemed like a good excuse.

LINDA

So, now we're going to be working buddies, right?

WOLRATH

I was hoping more than that.

LINDA

So, you're not with Kay, for sure?

WOLRATH

No way! She's in a committed relationship. She was just helping me out.

LINDA

You know what, I want you to do something for me. I want you to help me get me strong roles in movie. I haven't booked good roles since we broke up.

WOLRATH

I know.

LINDA

What's going on Wolrath?

WOLRATH

Well...

LINDA

Look, be honest. No more games. If I find out that you're doing anything else behind my back...

WOLRATH

Not now, I am not. I promise on my parents. But, but...

LINDA

You need to come clean.

WOLRATH

Well, I did tell my manager, all my agents, some directors and producers that you and Eddy are very difficult to work with.

LINDA

You did what? You blacklisted us? You are the difficult one!

WOLRATH

Sorry, I went crazy. I'm OK now, I'm sorry.

LINDA

You played with our financial lives. You're crazy.

WOLRATH

Look, see it from my point of view. You two were cheating and this was too much for me. I had to stop the show.

LINDA

We need to do something about your paranoia.

WOLRATH

Please take me back. I promise to be better.

LINDA

You must also promise that my part in your movie will be a great one, a strong one!

WOLRATH

Sure, whatever I can do. You can come to the meetings with the two producers. They like you a lot.

LINDA

They do? I'm glad, at the meeting, the uncle guy was really over-the-top. He must be fun to work with.

(beat)

And, I want lots of animals and kids in the movie, OK?

They look at each other and high-five each other, giggling.



Finally Wolrath makes his move. He leans forward towards her and gives her a gentle kiss.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CASTING DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

CARD: MORE AUDITIONS FOR WOLRATH'S MOVIE

Before the end credits, in the same casting room we saw earlier, Wolrath, Kay and Eddy perform the audition that Linda had at the beginning of the movie.

They each offer their own interpretation of the FBI scene to the same casting director.

Wolrath goes first.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Action! Would you like another drink?

WOLRATH

Well, sure, lovely lady. But don't get involved. I'm an FBI agent, you need to stay put. OK? You're nice and all, but this is my job, I have a tough job.

(looking obviously out of place)

I've got five armed agents at this party. Plus me, I am armed and strong! See..

(showing off his gun)

We're shutting this party down, don't move or somebody's going to get hurt.

CASTING DIRECTOR

What's going on in here, are you kidding me?

WOLRATH

I'm not! Let me do my job. We're investigating what happened to Mr. Smith. I don't know the guy, but he has a belly full of lead and sure can't breathe anymore.

(to a party guest)

What are you doing over there?

(to one of his FBI agents)

Go get that guy!

(MORE)

WOLRATH (CONT'D)

Stop flirting with that lovely lady  
you picked up.

(to another party guest)

Freeze or I'm going to use my gun,  
and this is a difficult gun to  
clean. So hopefully you will stop  
moving.

(beat)

Come on, party's over, FBI, OK?

(turning his head to the  
side at the end of the  
scene)

Wolrath stiffens his posture and bends forward in an awkward  
way. He leaves the room as Eddy comes in and stands on his  
mark.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)

(to Eddy)

Action! Would you like another  
drink?

EDDY

Well, sure, why not, I'm already  
tipsy. I mean, I'm on the job.

(beat)

But, I'll tell you what, don't get  
involved. I'm an FBI agent. I'll  
have to restrain you if you move.  
Then my wife will be upset if I  
come home smelling like perfume.  
Again.

(beat)

Look lady, I've got many, many  
armed agents at this party, too  
many to count. I'm not sure how  
many, but I think it's at least  
three. Don't move or somebody's  
going to get hurt.

CASTING DIRECTOR

What's going on in here, are you  
kidding me?

EDDY

I'm not! Let me do my job. I hear  
that Mr. Smith is no longer in the  
land of the living.

(shouting)

And nobody move here. How many  
times do I have to repeat myself?  
Show some respect.

(to a party guest)

What are you doing over there?

(MORE)

EDDY (CONT'D)

Are you the killer of Mr. Smith?  
 (to one of his FBI agents)  
 Go get that guy! No flirting. I'm a  
 real professional. You don't see  
 women hitting on me.

(beat)

Come on, party's over, FBI, OK?  
 (turning his head to the  
 side at the end of the  
 scene)

Eddy looks confused and drunk. He smiles and leaves the room.  
 Kay comes in and stands on her mark. She is the last person  
 to audition.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)

(to Kay)

Action! Would you like another  
 drink?

KAY

Well, sure, nice waiter. But, I'll  
 tell you what, don't get involved.  
 I'm an FBI agent, you need to stay  
 put.

(pause)

I know, I look like a martial  
 artist, but this is just my cover.  
 A sexy martial artist red-carpet  
 dress. Smart disguise, huh? How  
 else do you think I could have  
 gotten a ninja sword through this  
 party's security? I have a tough  
 job.

(beat)

Look handsome, I've got lots of  
 armed agents at this party. Plus  
 I'm one bad mama.

Kay engages in a quick acrobatic martial art routine.

KAY (CONT'D)

We're shutting this party down.  
 Don't move or I'll kick everybody's  
 butt.

CASTING DIRECTOR

What's going on in here, are you  
 kidding me?

KAY

I'm not! Let me do my job. We want  
 to figure out what happened to Mr.  
 Smith.

(MORE)

KAY (CONT'D)

He had secrets to give our  
government, but now he's gone.  
Confess or you'll be gone too.

(to one of her FBI agents)  
We need to shut this party down  
before the killer leaves with the  
dead guy's secrets.

(beat)

Come on, party's over, FBI, OK?  
(turning her head to the  
side at the end of the  
scene)

Kay tilts back her head and achieves a very tough look.

FADE OUT.

THE END