

SURVEILLANCE MAN

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY OF TUPELO MISSISSIPPI – NIGHT

QUICK CUTS OF

A police cruiser driving by a highway sign WELCOME TO TUPELO – BIRTH PLACE OF ELVIS PRESSLEY.

A sanitation truck exiting onto a city street from a dark alley.

A semi truck rolling onto the highway.

A Waffle House full of customers.

A black Toyota Camry in the rear parking lot of LOSTUM INVESTIGATIVE OFFICE.

Two people, dressed in all black, exiting the vehicle with a small bag.

Two people, prying open a back window and climbing in.

INT. LOSTUM OFFICES – NIGHT

The offices are pitch black. The two intruders hold very small flashlights in their mouths so they can work hands free. One opens file cabinets and hands the files to the other, who is busy making copies on the office copy machine. NOISE from passing traffic can be heard in between the SOUNDS of the copy machine doing its job. One intruder takes the flashlight out of his mouth to speak.

INTRUDER # 1

(male voice whispering)

Make sure we get the whole client list.

Intruder number two does not say a word. A police cruiser hits it SIREN and stops a motorist in front of the building. The intruders continue to make copies of documents on the copy machine.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

A U. S. Postal Jeep with CITY OF TUPELO painted on it's sides, stops at a rusty old mailbox and places mail inside. The driver continues down the rural, pot holed and dusty road. A dozen cows with their heads sticking out between strands of barb wire, follow the driver as he drives by.

EXT. JOEY'S SHACK - DAY

Just off the rural road stands a two bedroom rundown shack. Sitting in rocking chairs on the front porch are WILMA RAMSY and her only child, JOEY RAMSY, age twenty. ROCKY, a large mix breed dog sits by Joey's feet. Wilma knits a dog collar while Joey reads the classified ads of the Tupelo Tribune.

WILMA

One of us needs a job. Bills are higher than the dog.

JOEY

I quit work to help you take care of Pa.

WILMA

Pa's been dead two months.

JOEY

Been that long?

WILMA

Your last job paid our bills.

JOEY

(whining)

That was hard work Ma. Up at four, ride my old bike twenty miles to wash dishes at Harry's Diner.

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WILMA

Miss those leftovers.

JOEY

My butt don't miss the old bike seat.

Joey scans the classifieds.

JOEY

(continuing)

Here's one Ma. Investigative company now hiring. Apply in person. I ride twenty miles for that!

Joey puts the newspaper down and walks outside.

EXT. OLD SHED – DAY

Joey removes his old bike and pumps up the flat tires.

EXT. LOSTUM INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE- DAY

View of the two story building. Company signs are displayed on all sides. Applicants stand in a long line outside the building, on the sidewalk.

EXT. VERY BUMPY DIRT ROAD – DAY

Joey rides his old bike. He has a difficult time with potholes, wild dogs nipping at his heels and large commercial trucks zooming by, kicking dust and small pebbles his way. The Postal Jeep drives by in the opposite direction and Joey waves.

EXT. LOSTUM INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE- DAY

Joey waits in a long line. Joey steadies his old bike with one hand. Joey looks like hell from the long ride. Joey pats his shirt and dust flies everywhere. An old lady in her eighties hands out appointment slips to each applicant. The old lady is BETTY JO LOSTUM, the mother of the owner. Betty Jo stops in front of Joey and hands him his slip.

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BETTY JO

Young man, your appointment time is tomorrow at three.

JOEY

(wide-eyed)

Three tomorrow? I just rode twenty miles on this old bike to apply today.

BETTY JO

My late father once told me, you are lucky it wasn't forty miles!

EXT. BUMPY DIRT ROAD - DAY

Joey rides the same route back to his shack with the wild dogs nipping at his heels.

EXT. JOEY'S SHACK - DAY

Joey rides up to his Ma, who is knitting while sitting in her rocking chair. Their dog Rocky is by her feet.

WILMA

Rocky chased away the postman.

JOEY

My interview is at three tomorrow.

Joey quickly enters and exits his shack with a large chew bone in his hand. Joey bends over his loyal guard dog.

JOEY

(continuing)

Good job, Rocky, good job. We don't want any more bills.

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Joey sits in his own rocking chair and hands Wilma her favorite Hershey candy bar.

JOEY  
(continuing)  
For you Ma.

Rocky continues to wag his tail and chew on his bone.

EXT. LOSTUM INVESTIGATION BUILDING – NIGHT

Ground floor lights are on.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – NIGHT

JOHN LOSTUM, is in his mid-forties. He sits at a fancy mahogany desk. His mother Betty Jo, sits near him, using a magnifying glass. They both are looking at applications and putting some in the trash can. Suddenly, Betty Jo bends down and retrieves an application from the trash and hands the form to her son.

JOHN  
Mother, we are looking for the best, remember?

BETTY JO  
(looking at the photo attached)  
This man has large, strong hands.

John has a blank look on his face as he accepts the rejected application from his mother.

EXT. RURAL DIRT ROAD – DAY

Joey rides his old bike. He is now sitting on a large, fluffy pillow which is attached to his bike seat. Wild dogs run along side, nipping at his heels.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – DAY

John slowly looks over his three P.M. applicant standing in front of him, all dirty, dusty and sweaty.

JOHN

Take a seat young man.

Joey sits on the leather sofa and puffs of dust rise in the air. Joey waves his hand to dissipate the cloud.

JOEY

(serious)

Sorry for how I look, but I just rode twenty miles on my old bike, for this interview.

JOHN

(smiling)

Dedication- I like that.

JOEY

(sitting up)

I live with my Ma, we have no car, I have a tenth grade education and my Pa died of cancer two months ago. I need a job. Our bills are piling up.

JOHN

Most applicants I interview have a high school diploma, college, military, or police background, and more than one car.

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JOEY

(looking earnestly)

If you teach me and help me  
buy a car, I will be your best  
investigator.

JOHN

(chuckling)

You should be a salesman.

Joey pulls out his old wallet, removes a photograph and shows it to his  
future boss.

JOEY

(talking fast)

This was Pa. His name was Jake. He  
drove a truck rig all his life. He was gone  
all the time. I don't want to leave my Ma.  
I'm street smart. It's easy to get  
people to talk and get information from  
them.

Joey points to Betty Jo in the adjoining office, not knowing that Betty Jo  
is John's mother.

JOEY

(continuing)

That old lady out there? She took this job to  
get away from her husband, who drives her nuts.

JOHN

Well that woman out there  
happens to be my mother, Betty Jo.

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JOEY  
(gulping while smiling)  
A nice lady, your Ma.

JOHN  
I like you, but.....

JOEY  
(interrupting)  
I'll work hard, very hard.

JOHN  
(sighing)  
Tell you what young man. Come in tomorrow at nine sharp and attend my intense three day course on the art of surveillance. If you pass the test, I will hire you.

JOEY  
(now standing)  
Thanks. I won't disappoint you.

Joey walks to the door. Joey looks back and gives a thumbs up to John. Joey gives a surprised Betty Jo a hug on his way by her desk and hurries out of the building.

EXT. RURAL BUMPY DIRT ROAD – DAY

Joey rides his old bike down the pot hold and dusty road, this time with a huge smile on his dirty face. Joey rides fast to avoid the wild dogs chasing him.

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INT. LOSTUM INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE – NIGHT

Betty Jo places training manuals around the training room tables.

INT. LOSTUM TRAINING ROOM – DAY

Ten new recruits stand around talking among themselves. John Lostum enters and motions for them to take their seats.

JOHN

Morning.

CLASS

(in unison)

Morning Sir.

The students watch John set up a movie projector and pull down a large white screen from the ceiling. John opens a desk draw and removes a remote control unit. John turns to face his class.

JOHN

Out of the hundreds of applicants,  
you ten are the ones I feel have the best  
chance of completing my tough course on  
the art of surveillance.

I am the owner of a very large Nashville,  
Tennessee private investigative agency.  
Tupelo will be my first out of state  
branch. I plan to hire five of you at  
the most. Please stand up one at a time  
and tell us your first name and  
current occupation. We'll start over here.

John points to the man on his left.

QUICK CUTS TO ALL TEN.

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PETE

I'm Pete. I am a cook.

JOE

Joe here. I am a firefighter with the city.

BEVERLY

Hello, my name is Beverly and I am a waitress.

JOAN

Hi everyone. I am Joan and I style hair.

SANDY

Hello. My name is Sandy and I am a store clerk.

JOEY

My friends call me Joey and I am an unemployed dishwasher.

BIANCA

Hi. I am Bianca. I am a dog groomer.

MARTIN

I work construction and my name is Martin.

HARRY

I drive a cab for a living and you can call Me Harry.

HELEN

Helen is my name and I am a maid by trade.

When the last student sits down, John stands up.

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JOHN

As you can see, private investigators come from all walks of life. Our company performs mostly locates and surveillance. We defend the insurance companies.

John points to the manuals on the table.

JOHN

(continuing)

In front of each of you is my training manual. Take about ten minutes, look through it and I'll be back after I make a call to Nashville.

John leaves the room and instantly the room comes to life with chatter. Joey quickly turns to Bianca sitting on his left. Joey is instantly attracted to Bianca's natural beauty. Joey gives her a warm smile.

JOEY

I'm Joey, this company's future best PI.

BIANCA

Well Mr. Positive, I'm Bianca. So you are unemployed?

JOEY

Yep, but I have soft dishpan hands.

Joey holds out his hands in front of Bianca.

JOEY

(continuing)

Feel them.

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BIANCA  
(looking disgusted)  
No.

JOEY  
(grinning)  
That's not being very positive.

BIANCA  
Just being safe. I catch colds easily.

JOEY  
So you groom dogs.

BIANCA  
No, I lied. It sounded better than saying  
College dropout.

Martin leans over to Bianca

MARTIN  
I think you two should conclude your date.  
Don't look now, but I noticed cameras in  
the corners of the windows when I came in.  
I bet Mr. Lostum is checking his monitors to  
see who's following his instructions.

Joey and Bianca instantly open their training manuals and start flipping pages. Both continue to talk without moving their heads from the book, looking intensely interested in reading the material.

JOEY  
Too bad you're not a real dog groomer.  
My dog Rocky needs a trimming.

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Bianca  
(smirking)  
Are you into boxing? Who names their  
dog Rocky?

JOEY  
Ma and me named him after our driveway.

Bianca gives Joey a brief, incredulous look.

JOEY  
(continuing)  
Do you have any pets?

BIANCA  
A small snapping turtle named Joey.

JOEY  
(smiling)  
Wow, you named him after me!

BIANCA  
That was his given name at the pet store.  
Now get to the big question.

JOEY  
Okay. Can I pet your turtle Joey?

Bianca  
Ask me if I have a boyfriend.

JOEY  
You tell the guys you do, but you don't.

BIANCA  
How did you know?

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JOEY  
(male/female voices)  
Simple. Are you in college? Yes I am.

BIANCA  
College was boring.

JOEY  
This job won't be.

Both love birds forget about the possible cameras in the room and Bianca turns to Joey.

BIANCA  
(glaring)  
Females make the best investigators.

JOEY  
(looks surprised)  
Really? Why?

John Lostum walks back into the classroom. John looks at his wrist watch and addresses the group.

JOHN  
We have three minutes before we start lesson one. Anyone have any questions? If you do, please stand and say your name.

Joey stands up and looks at the rest of the group.

JOEY  
I'm Joey, and my question is, who makes the best investigators, Men or women and why?

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JOHN

Good question Joey. Females do. Because they can disguise themselves with wigs, makeup, clothes and no one is suspicious of a woman sitting in a car on a residential street. But a male PI on the other hand.. the neighbors think rapist, pervert, burglar. Any other's?

Bianca stands up after Joey sits down.

BIANCA

My name is Bianca. Is this job dangerous?

JOHN

Another good question. It depends on what type of case you are on. We do insurance related claims mostly, which is very low key danger-wise. Investigators involved in the husband/wife-type surveillances have been beaten up or killed in the past.

Murmurs from the group. Bianca sits down and Martin stands up.

MARTIN.

Hi. Martin here. Can we carry a firearm on the job?

JOHN

No. Your tools will be the element of surprise, binoculars, a video camera and other investigators. Now, let us get started with lesson one.

Martin sits back down.

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JOHN

(continuing)

Say your subject is married with two small children. The family owns two vehicles, a white Toyota pick-up and a Ford Mustang. Which car will the husband depart in?

John points to Bianca.

BIANCA

I'm Bianca and he will leave in the pick-up truck.

JOHN

Why the pick-up?

BIANCA

Most men drive trucks.

Bianca sits back down and John points to Joey, who stands.

JOEY

I'm Joey. The husband leaves in the mustang with the two small children. The wife sleeps in.

Joey sits back down and John points to Martin, who stands.

MARTIN

My name is Martin. No one leaves. The whole family is sick in bed.

Martin sits back down.

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JOHN

There is no right answer to my question.  
Your guess is just as good as mine.  
Surveillance is like that-never assume.

John looks at Joey.

JOHN

(continuing)

The man could even leave on an old bike.  
Now read pages six to ten and I will return  
shortly.

John leaves the room.

EXT. THE RESIDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI – DAY

The two story colonial style mansion is well lit and surrounded by a wrought iron fence and a security detail that patrols the grounds.

INT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE- DAY

Newly elected Governor WILLIAM SCHWAB, his security director FRED MAXWELL and the governor's daughter REBECCA, age seventeen, are in a meeting.

REBECCA

Daddy, I am tired of the bodyguards. I  
have no privacy.

GOVERNOR SCHWAB

Honey, I have received death threats since  
being elected and just yesterday, some crazy  
guy tried to climb over the fence.

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FRED

Sir, I have a suggestion. If Rebecca will wear a wig and sunglasses, and you allow the security detail to wear jeans and shirts, we can protect your daughter on her shopping trip. The reporters won't know it's your daughter, we will give her plenty of distance as well, allowing her some privacy.

REBECCA

(giving her dad a hug)

Oh, please daddy, it's my only birthday wish.

The governor gives his daughter an exasperated look.

GOVERNOR SCHWAB

On one condition. You listen to Fred and his men on this trip.

REBECCA

(jumping up and down)

Deal, daddy, you have a deal.

Rebecca runs out of the office.

GOVERNOR SCHWAB

Fred, watch her like a hawk. I know her Mother is not going to be happy with my decision. I don't want this to come back and bite me in the ass.

FRED

I will take extra men with me sir.

INT. REBECCA'S BEDROOM – DAY

Rebecca's suitcase is open on her large bed, with clothes scattered around. Rebecca is talking on her cell phone.

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REBECCA

(excited)

Simon, it's all set. We leave for Tupelo and Barn's Crossing Mall in an hour.

SIMON SCHULSTER, age nineteen, is Rebecca's boyfriend.

SIMON (OS)

Go to Tony's Swimwear Store in the mall by Sears. My sister, Julie is the manager and is waiting to help you escape.

REBECCA

I can't believe it- together with my boyfriend in a cabin at Elvis Lake Campground, without bodyguards!

SIMON (OS)

I stocked the cabin already with food, snacks, DVDs and my X-Box. We won't have to go out for anything. I'll be in my PT Cruiser at the rear door of Tony's Swimwear.

There is a knock at Rebecca's bedroom door.

REBECCA

(whispering)

Simon, I have to go.

Rebecca hangs up her cell phone and hides it under her pillow. She barely gets it hidden when her strict-mannered mother, HILLARY walks in. She is not happy.

HILARY

(upset)

Rebecca, I am not happy you went behind my back to get your father to go along with your scheme.

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REBECCA

Scheme? There is no scheme. I really want a break from you, dad, this prison, all this security. I want to go somewhere by myself and shop. The only birthday present I want is privacy.

HILARY

What about Simon Schulster?

REBECCA

(looking sad)

Simon found someone else. He was tired of all the bodyguards and lack of privacy. He said he wanted a normal life. So do I.

Hilary places her hands on her hips.

HILARY

It comes with the position.

REBECCA

(crying)

You and Daddy wanted to be Governor, I didn't.

Bianca turns her back on her mom and continues to cry into her pillow. Hilary turns and leaves Rebecca's room.

EXT. LOSTUM BUILDING, REAR PARKING LOT – DAY

The students are on a break. Some students smoke. Joey, not a smoker, leans against the wall watching the other nine applicants. Joey likes Bianca and watches her talk to Beverly. Betty Jo appears at the back door entrance and waves for everyone to return.

INT. TRAINING ROOM – DAY

The class watches a video of a successful surveillance shot by John Lostum himself. John points to the large white movie screen. A woman is bowling with her left arm.

JOHN

This lady sued a doctor, for medical mal practice. She claimed the doctor made her left wrist useless after an operation. The lady demanded \$ 300,000.

The class watches with interest as the woman continues to bowl with her left arm.

JOHN

(continuing)

As you can see, the subject has no problem using her left hand and wrist. The subject was arrested for insurance fraud. Besides the video evidence, what else can you do as an investigator to help the insurance lawyer defend this claim?

The class stays silent except for Joey, who stands, looks around the room, then faces his future employer.

JOEY

I'm Joey. You find out how heavy the bowling ball is that she uses, how often she bowls, and even take the scorecard, if she leaves it behind.

John can't believe his ears. Various classmates say "good job," "nice thinking," "wow," etc. John mutters under his breath.

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JOHN  
(to himself)  
A tenth grade dropout is my star student.

John looks over at Joey.

JOHN  
(continuing)  
Very good answer, Joey, very good.

John looks at his watch.

EXT. LOSTUM REAR PARKING LOT – DAY

Students are on a ten minute break. Bianca approaches Joey, leaning against a tree in the shade.

BIANCA  
(smiling)  
Joey, how did you know to think about the weight of the bowling ball?

Joey smiles back at her.

JOEY  
(smugly)  
I paid off someone who knows the whole Lostum three day training routine. When we go back in, Mr. Lostum will show another video about....

Bianca steps closer to Joey.

BIANCA  
( a sexy whisper)  
What do I have to do to get those answers?  
I want this job real bad.

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Joey looks at the hottest chick he has ever seen in his whole life.

JOEY

Just drive me to and from class each day,  
and once I get a car, We go on a date.

Bianca smiles and nods her head.

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY, 1<sup>st</sup> BLACK SUV MOVING – DAY

Rebecca rides in the back of a black Cadillac SUV. A female bodyguard rides up front. A second, matching SUV follows fifty yards back.

INT. 2<sup>nd</sup> BLACK SUV MOVING – DAY

Five security men ride in the second vehicle. The leader on this mission is Fred Maxwell, riding in the front passenger seat. Fred turns part way around in his seat and addresses his men.

FRED

The Governor and First Lady warned me to  
watch their daughter like a hawk. They think  
Rebecca has something else planned. This is  
not just a birthday shopping spree.

All the men nod their head in acknowledgement.

INT. TRAINING ROOM – DAY

The class watches another surveillance video. This time a man is working up on a roof of a house. The video image is far away and bouncy. John turns toward his alert students.

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JOHN

Now what is wrong, if anything, with this surveillance video?

Bianca quickly stands up.

BIANCA

My name is Bianca. The video was shot too far away, making the subject's identification in doubt. There was bounce and shake in the video because the investigator had his car engine running and didn't use a tripod.

John stands there just looking at Bianca.

JOHN

Well, well, I am very impressed. Do you have any surveillance experience?

BIANCA

No. Every minute of my free time I am reading your training manual, and you talk about shooting video like you would see at a movie house.

Bianca sits back down and looks at Joey as she does.

EXT. BARNES CROSSING MALL, TUPELO MISSISSIPPI – DAY

The two black SUV's are parked in a far corner of the mall parking lot. Every person on the security detail are wearing blue jeans and polo shirts with jackets to hide their weapons. Rebecca is wearing a blue top, white shorts, tennis shoes and a big smile on her face. Rebecca, a natural blonde, now wears a black wig and sunglasses handed to her by JOYCE, her female bodyguard. Joyce snaps a few digital photographs of Rebecca in her new look.

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FRED

Your parents set some firm rules. We are to give you plenty of space but You have to let us know in advance which shop you plan to visit so we can check it out beforehand. Joyce will keep her distance as well.

REBECCA

(sighing)

I know the drill Fred. I am visiting Tony's Swimwear first, The Gap second and Starbucks third.

FRED

Thank you for your cooperation. Happy Birthday. Now go have fun young lady.

Rebecca walks briskly towards the crowded mall. Joyce stays about twenty feet back and the other bodyguards are another ten yards behind their female partner.

INT. TONY'S SWIMWEAR STORE – DAY

Joyce checks the interior of the store including the changing room and gives Fred a thumbs up. Fred lets Rebecca walk into the crowded store. Joyce and the others stand around the exterior of the store.

Rebecca walks up to JULIE, the store manager and Simon's sister.

REBECCA

You are Julie right?

JULIE

Yes, can I help you?

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REBECCA

(whispering)

It's me Rebecca, wearing a wig and sunglasses.  
I have a security detail watching me, so pretend  
you are showing me outfits.

Julie walks Rebecca over to a rack of swimsuits.

JULIE

My brother told me to look out for a cute blonde.

REBECCA

My dad thinks there is an assassin around every  
corner. He thinks I will be kidnapped by someone.  
He even added extra bodyguards for this trip.  
Some birthday present.

JULIE

(whispering)

My brother has already been in so I know he  
is waiting out back for you in his silver PT Cruiser.  
The last changing room on the right I taped a  
back door key under the bench. Leave the key in  
the lock. I will give you a five minute head start.  
Have fun birthday girl.

Julie hands Rebecca two outfits and a number two card. Rebecca enters  
the changing room. Joyce views Rebecca enter.

INT. CHANGING ROOM – DAY

Rebecca waste no time in finding the hidden key. Rebecca leaves the  
swimwear outfits on the bench and a white envelope with Fred's name on  
it before unlocking the back door and dashing to freedom.

EXT. REAR PARKING LOT BEHIND TONY'S SWIMWEAR – DAY

Rebecca runs to her boyfriend, SIMON, who is standing there with the passenger door open. They quickly kiss, Rebecca enters the passenger seat, Simon closes her door, runs around to his door, enters and departs the area quickly.

INT. PT CRUISER – DAY

Rebecca sits close to her boyfriend, holding his free hand as he drives.

SIMON

What' is with the wig and glasses girl?

Rebecca removes the items and tosses them in the backseat. She uses her hands to comb her blonde hair.

REBECCA

My daddy's is afraid someone wants to do harm to me. My parents are security freaks.

Simon stops at a red light and takes the moment to give his girl a long warm kiss.

SIMON

Happy Birthday Baby.

Simon continues to drive toward Elvis Lake.

INT. TONY'S SWIMWEAR – DAY

Julie exits the changing room with the two swimsuits and an envelope in her hand. Julie approaches another employee.

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JULIE

(loudly)

A girl went out the back door and left this envelope. She didn't steal the swimwear.

Julie waves the envelope in the air. Fred runs up to Julie.

FRED

My daughter was in there changing. Dark black hair and glasses.

JULIE

(innocently)

Is your name Fred Maxwell? She left this envelope with that name on it in the changing booth.

Fred takes the envelope from Julie and opens it.

REBECCA (OS)

Fred, I am ok. I am with Simon. We will keep our cell phones off so you can't trace us. I will be back home in a few days. I want a real relationship with my boyfriend on my birthday, I want privacy. Tell my parents I am sorry but not to worry. Love, Rebecca.

Fred gathers his security team in the mall corridor. He points to the TWO MEN to his left.

FRED

You two, stop at the security office, check their video tapes. Look for the vehicle Rebecca left in. Don't mention who we work for or who we are looking for. Now go.

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The two men walk away quickly. Fred points to TWO OTHER MEN.

FRED

You two, call the office, have them run data on Simon, get his parents on the phone, instruct them to keep quite, We don't want the media knowing. Ask them what their son drives? Now go.

The two men depart the area. Joyce can be seen inside the swimwear store interviewing the staff. Fred turns to the last agent. His name is ALEX.

FRED

(continuing)

Alex, you come with me.

Alex follows his boss outside the mall. Fred dials a number on his cell phone.

EXT. TUPELO MALL - DAY

FRED

Governor, Rebecca just ran off with Simon.

GOVERNOR (OS)

(angry)

Fred, how could you let this happen? You even had extra personnel to assist you. I told you to watch her like a hawk. What ever you do, keep this out of the media.

Joyce runs over with a note pad and shows it to her boss.

FRED

(reading the note)

Governor, Simon's sister is the manager of the store and gave Rebecca the back door key.

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GOVERNOR (OS)

(calmer now)

I don't blame you for this Fred. Rebecca planned this escape. Wait till I tell her mother.

FRED

I just instructed Joyce to tell Simon's sister not to say a word to anyone. And sir. I am sorry.

GOVERNOR

Fred, just go find my baby will you please.

FRED

Yes Governor.

Fred hangs up his cell phone and turns to Alex.

FRED

Alex, have everyone meet me at the Waffle House.

Alex picks up his walkie talkie.

EXT. LOSTUM OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Class is out after a very long first day. Joey walks his old bike on his left and Bianca walks on his right. They walk to Bianca's Ford pick-up.

EXT. RURAL BUMPY DIRT ROAD – DAY

Bianca gives Joey a ride home, his old bike is in the back of the truck.

BIANCA

This road sure is ROCKY.

Bianca drives slowly down the bumpy dirt and dusty road.

INT. WAFFLE HOUSE – DAY

Fred and his whole security detail enjoy a meal together. Fred picks up his cell phone and dials a number.

FRED

Governor, Simon and Rebecca are in a silver PT Cruiser. We are checking all the lodging facilities now.

GOVERNOR

Do what ever it takes Fred, but find my baby.

FRED

I understand sir.

Fred hangs up and takes a sip of cold coffee.

INT. JOEY'S Shack – NIGHT

Joey reads his training manual and pets his loyal dog at the same time. Wilma walks in with her knitting needles.

WILMA

How much longer?

Joey looks up from the manual.

JOEY

Two more training days Ma.

Joey goes back to reading his manual.

EXT. TUPELO CITY STREETS – NIGHT

Two black SUV's patrol the streets looking for the PT Cruiser.

INT. BLACK SUV – NIGHT

The driver yawns as Joyce pours herself a cup of coffee.

JOYCE

Rebecca's got to be sleeping somewhere.

A wild dog runs down the road as they keep searching.

INT. BLACK SUV – DAY

The sun is out in force. The driver from last night snores, as Joyce drives the streets, still searching for her target.

EXT. 2<sup>nd</sup> BLACK SUV – DAY

Fred drives while his men sleep. Fred searches the baseball fields and Veteran's Park for the PT Cruiser. Fred passes a police cruiser issuing someone a ticket.

EXT. RURAL BUMPY ROAD – DAY

Bianca and Joey travel down the road. Bianca drives slower than yesterday.

BIANCA

This road sure is bumpy. It hurts my back.

JOEY

My Pa put a work order in with the county over a year ago, The county don't care about us poor folk.

Bianca avoids the pot holes as she passes the cows in the field.

JOEY

(continuing)

Betty Jo is the one giving me all the answers.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

BIANCA  
Why is she doing that for?

JOEY  
I have to give her long foot messages every day.

Bianca looks over at Joey.

BIANCA  
That woman is at least ninety. Gross.

Joey just laughs as he holds his training manual in his lap.

INT. TRAINING ROOM – DAY TWO

A toy phone is on the table in front of each student. John walks in the room holding his own toy phone.

JOHN  
Let us see what you all have learned from my three-hour lecture on pre-texting. Look in the phone book for a name. I will call on you to pretext me. I will play the person on the other end of the phone. Your objective is to find out where I am employed.

John points to Bianca. The attractive young woman picks up the toy phone receiver and pretends to make a call. Her classmates make RINGING sounds as she does.

CLASS  
Ring, ring, ring.

JOHN  
Hello.

BIANCA  
Good morning. Is this Mr. Robert Lewis of 126 Buttonwood Loop?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

(cautiously)

Yes. It is. Who wants to know?

BIANCA

Morning Mr. Lewis. This is Bianca Wolf of the jury duty selection committee. I am calling to see why you failed to show up for jury duty last week. Is it because your employer refused to let you leave work?

JOHN

I am disabled. What is this, a joke? Who is this again?

Bianca

(sounding more official)

Mr. Lewis, this is no joke. We show that a Mrs. Lewis signed the jury duty notice delivered by the Sheriff for you to appear. Why didn't you appear, sir?

JOHN

My wife didn't give me the notice.

BIANCA

And why not sir?

JOHN

(raising his voice)

Cause my wife died two years ago. Now who is this?

The class burst into LAUGHTER. John puts down his toy phone receiver and looks at Bianca.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

(continuing)

Bianca, you sounded too friendly and less official in the beginning. You became more official later in the call. Never say your wife, son, etc., unless you know for sure they are alive, well and living at home with the caller. You did find out that he is disabled, so the call turned out to be successful anyway.

Bianca looks at Joey , who gives her the thumbs up, as she sits back down.

EXT. BARNES CROSSING MALL PARKING LOT – DAY

Fred sits in his black SUV waiting for Simon’s sister to leave work.

FRED

(on a walkie talkie)

Be alert, any minute now, she should depart in the Blue Camry. She might lead us to her brother.

Joyce, in the other SUV, raises a pair of binoculars to eye level.

EXT. RURAL BUMPY DIRT ROAD – DAY

Joey drives Bianca’s truck and Bianca sits close to her man. Joey drives slowly.

BIANCA

There is so much to learn in this job. I see why now, the boss wants us to really read and study his training manual.

JOEY

True.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

BIANCA

Most of it seems common sense. Like, if a man exits his neighborhood it will be toward the highway, schools or shops, so find out where those places are before starting the surveillance.

JOEY

I can tell you really want this job.

BIANCA

It sounds exciting. Never a dull moment, and the boss says he pays well.. What are you going to do Joey, for transportation?

JOEY

(laughing)

Steal your truck.

BIANCA

(elbowing Joey)

No, Really?

JOEY

The boss said he would buy me a small pick-up truck and take money from my paycheck every week.

BIANCA

Did you pay Betty Jo to convince her son to do that for you?

JOEY

No, I think John Lostum is a nice man, and he knows talent when he sees it.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

BIANCA

I get to meet your Mom and your dog right?

JOEY

My Ma wants you to stay for dinner.

BIANCA

Did I ever tell you I took a few cooking classes in college before I dropped out?

JOEY

No.

Joey pulls up to his front porch. Rocky is waiting for his master and BARKS as he arrives.

INT. JOEY'S SHACK – NIGHT

Bianca makes the meatloaf, Wilma cuts the loaf of bread and Joey sets the table. Rocky waits nearby for leftovers.

WILMA

That meatloaf smells great.

BIANCA

It is my dad's favorite dish.

JOEY

My Pa passed a way a few months ago.

BIANCA

All those pictures on the wall were him?

WILMA

I put them up after he died. It makes me feel closer to him. We were married over forty years.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

BIANCA

I hope my future marriage last that long.

Bianca turns the gas stove off and carries the meatloaf to the table.

INT. ELVIS LAKE CABIN 16 – NIGHT

The cabin is dimly lit. Rebecca and Simon are playing an action game on an X Box consol. A large bowl of popcorn sits on the table next to them.

REBECCA

I feel so relaxed. Let us run off again in a few months.

SIMON

You want to come back here to the cabin?

REBECCA

Yes, but instead of breaking in, let us pay or get permission.

SIMON

My sister's boyfriend and his friends do it all the time. There is nothing to steal. You wanted privacy, right? Well baby, you got it.

Simon reaches for a handful of popcorn as they continue to play.

EXT. SUPER EIGHT MOTEL IN TUPELO MISSISSIPPI – NIGHT

The two black SUV'S are parked side by side.

INT. ROOM 23 – NIGHT

Fred sits on the bed with a map of Tupelo. He is planning the next search area. Fred picks up his cell phone and dials.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

FRED

Evening Governor. No luck so far.

GOVERNOR (OS)

If no luck by tomorrow night Fred, then hire a private investigative agency to help search, but make sure, they don't know the real reason or identity of the person.

FRED

Very good sir.

Fred hangs up his cell phone and tosses it onto the other bed.

INT. TRAINING ROOM – DAY 3

As the entire class enjoys a catered meal, John Lostum stands in front of the class, showing off surveillance equipment that is displayed on a long table in front of him.

QUICK CUTS OF JOHN LOSTUM WITH EQUIPMENT

JOHN

(pointing)

This jean jacket button right here is your camera.

JOHN

(pointing)

This is the hidden camera in the briefcase.

JOHN

(holding a donut)

This is just a sugar donut.

John takes a large bite of the donut. John continues to talk with his mouth full.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

(continuing)

I have decided to hire all ten of you. Please come up when I call your name for your diploma. Betty Jo will take our picture together as well.

The class cheers with excitement. John wipes his hands of the sugar from the donut onto his pants and reaches for the first diploma from the stack in front of him.

JOHN

(continuing)

Martin, please come up.

Martin walks up proudly and John hands him his diploma while Betty Jo takes shaky photos. Joey turns to Bianca.

JOEY

(laughing)

Not one of these photos will turn out – talk about shaky.

Bianca walks over to congratulate Martin.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – LATER

Joey sits in a chair across the desk from John and listens to his new boss speak.

JOHN

Joey, I think you are a natural. In no time, you will be very good at this job. Just continue to practice filming and following people. In a few days I will be returning to my Nashville office. You will work for my two best Nashville agents. They will be here tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

Sir, I know this is my lucky break, so I will not let you down. I will help your agents any way I can.

John opens his top right desk drawer and tosses Joey a set of truck keys.

JOHN

The white Toyota truck is parked at the front of the building. I had the truck washed and filled with gas. Be here at seven a.m. tomorrow ready to work. Select another graduate to be your backup.

John stands up and shakes Joey's hand. Joey exits the office and stops briefly at Betty Jo's desk.

JOEY

(whispering)

Betty Jo, tell your feet I will be back. Thanks also, for helping me out.

Joey exits the building.

EXT. FRONT OF LOSTUM OFFICE -DAY

Joey sits in his first vehicle he has ever owned. He rubs the seat and turns on the radio. An Elvis Presley song called "Hound Dog" plays. Joey slowly pulls away from the curb.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Martin and Beverly sit at a table across from each other.

MARTIN

I have good news and bad news.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

BEVERLY  
(sipping on a straw)  
What's the good news?

MARTIN  
We are working tomorrow together, as a two  
man team.

BEVERLY  
And the bad news?

MARTIN  
Betty Jo does the scheduling. I had to give her a  
long foot massage.

BEVERLY  
(laughing)  
She's about ninety years old.

Martin just shrugs his shoulders.

EXT. TUPELO CITY STREETS – NIGHT

The black SUV's with tinted windows cruise the streets slowly.

INT. JOEY'S WHITE PICK-UP TRUCK – NIGHT

Joey drives. His Ma is his passenger. Wilma holds some flowers in her  
lap. They ride without talking. Rocky rides in back.

EXT. TUPELO CEMETERY – NIGHT

The truck headlights shine on a gravestone. Rocky waits in the bed of the  
truck. Joey and Wilma stand quietly. Wilma places flowers on the grave.  
Joey and Wilma just stand there holding hands.

INT. JOEY'S WHITE PICK-UP TRUCK –NIGHT

Joey and Wilma drive slowly down the rural bumpy road. Rocky lays in the bed of the truck. (

WILMA

Pa would be sixty-one today.

Joey reaches out and holds his Ma's hand for support.

INT. BIANCA'S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Bianca is at the breakfast table writing on a note pad. Joey walks in her front door with a key. Joey walks over and sees Bianca writing in oversize letters.

JOEY

Big enough letters baby.

Bianca keeps writing without looking up at Joey.

BIANCA

I have two younger sisters, Vickie is ten and Valerie is twelve. Vickie has very bad eye sight. My large print helps.

Joey gives Bianca a kiss on her head and walks to the fridge.

JOEY

(opening fridge door)

I wish I had a brother or sister to write a letter home to.

Joey removes a carton of milk.

INT. ELVIS LAKE CABIN 16 – NIGHT

Rebecca and Simon play a game of Monopoly.

INT. JOEY'S TRUCK – DAY

Joey looks through binoculars as a black Corvette backs out of the garage of a nice two story residence. Joey picks up a walkie-talkie.

JOEY  
(on walkie)  
Subject coming your way in a black Corvette.

BIANCA (OS)  
Ready ten speed.

The black corvette drives right by Joey, who ducks low in his seat.

EXT. TUPELO CITY STREET – DAY

Joey videos the white male named TOMMY MORAN, thirty-something, removing golf clubs from the passenger seat of the Corvette and walk over to a black Mercedes with an open trunk.

Tommy places the clubs in the trunk while the attractive blonde named HEATHER MCVIE, late twenties, gives her man a kiss and closes her trunk. They depart the golf course in the Mercedes with her driving.

JOEY  
(on walkie)  
His alleged injuries are neck and back.

BIANCA (OS)  
Copy.

Joey and Bianca both follow their subject at a safe distance.

INT. RESTAURANT – DAY

Tommy and Heather are enjoying a meal and talking while seated at a booth. Joey and Bianca are at the next booth, eavesdropping, with a hidden purse camera.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

My wife told me this morning , that I golf too much.

HEATHER

(worried)

Does your wife suspect us?

Tommy leans forward and looks conspiratorial.

TOMMY

No Heather. I dirty my clubs and shoes and I fill out my score card each time I see you, so, we are safe.

Joey takes a bite of his hamburger.

EXT. LOCAL HOTEL – DAY

BIANCA'S POV

Bianca videos Tommy and Heather enter room 108.

JOEY (OS)

(on a walkie)

He scores a hole in one.

Bianca writes notes on a pad.

INT. JOEY'S TRUCK – DAY

Joey videos the couple exit room 108.

JOEY

(on walkie)

That was a quickie.

Joey watches the Mercedes depart the hotel parking lot.

EXT. LOSTUM OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Tommy and Heather park out front and go inside, Joey's place of employment.

JOEY  
(on walkie)  
Did they really go inside our building?

BIANCA (OS)  
There are no other offices in there as far as I know.

JOEY'S POV

Joey's cell phone rings. Joey finds it under his seat.

JOEY  
(on cell)  
Yes sir, right away.

Joey hangs up his cell and gets back on his walkie.

JOEY  
(continuing on walkie)  
Bianca, you won't believe this, but the boss wants us in his office right now.

Joey exits his truck and tucks in his shirt.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – DAY

Joey and Bianca enter to find their boss John, sitting next to their subject Tommy and his lover, Heather.

JOHN  
(to Joey)  
Have a seat. Meet my two best investigators from my Nashville office. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

(continuing)

This is Tommy and Heather. They will be your new boss in a few days. They said you two did pretty good, following them places.

Tommy and Heather lean over and shake Bianca and Joey's hand.

JOHN

(continuing)

Listen to what they had to say about your surveillance.

Tommy reads from a note pad.

TOMMY

Joey, you sat far down the road which was good, but, you left your headlights on. You followed at to close a range in some spots and you didn't use a blocking car between us when you could have.

Joey looks down and MUMBLES under his breath.

HEATHER

You both exposed yourselves at the restaurant. It is best, if only one of you goes in, allowing the other one to go in the next location – say a bar.

Bianca nods.

TOMMY

The hotel desk clerk called our room and tipped us off that a man was asking question. Best to wait and make the call, later in the day, after your case is complete.

JOEY

I wanted to make sure I had the right subject.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Heather looks back at John.

HEATHER

John, for being new, they did a good job.  
We were looking for them, but most won't be.

Tommy looks at both Joey and Bianca.

TOMMY

When we do surveillance, we have surprise on  
our side, so never draw attention to yourself,  
and don't worry about obtaining video.

HEATHER

Just video them coming out of each location,  
instead of rushing the shot of them going in.  
This allows you more time to set up the shot.

John looks at his best students.

JOHN

Sounds like you did a great job. Go see my mom  
about case assignments. The rest of the cases,  
won't be a test, so be careful and have fun.

Joey and Bianca shake everyone's hand and exit John's office.

INT. BETTY JO'S DESK – DAY

Betty Jo is at her desk, with a stack of new assignments near by.

BETTY JO

(whispering)

Sorry Joey, I could not warn you about the  
final test case. You wouldn't have acted  
natural if I did.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

Betty Jo, it was better this way. Besides, we had fun out there.

BETTY JO

(handing Joey a file)

Here is your first assignment. The subject is a Cindy Cook. Do two days on this young female, with a neck injury from an auto accident.

Joey takes the file.

EXT. JOEY'S SHACK – DAY

Wilma sits in her rocking chair searching the classifieds while Rocky sits in Joey's rocking chair waiting for the postman.

Wilma

Rocky, we both need a soul mate.

INT. LOSTUM OFFICE – DAY

Joe, one of the ten new hires walks into John's office and stands in front of him.

JOE

Sir, I have to quit. I tried sitting in my car all morning and it drove me nuts. I am the type of man that needs to be on the move and around other people, I am going back to being a fireman.

John looks at the young man in front of him.

John

Joe, I understand, I really do. My three brothers all quit me too. Good luck at the firehouse.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

John stands and shakes hands with Joe. They walk out together. John stops to talk to his mother while Joe exits the building.

JOHN  
Mother, Joe just quit. He says he misses  
sliding down the pole.

INT. HARRY'S TRAILER – DAY

A young photo of Harry driving a stock car hangs on a wall in his living room. On shelves in plain view, are trophies from his stock car days. SANDY, one of the other ten students, picks up a trophy.

CLOSE UP OF THE PLAGUE

SANDY  
Most improved driver.

Harry walks over and takes the trophy from Sandy's hand, polishes it, and places it back on the shelf.

HARRY  
Wrecked only twice that year too.

Harry picks up his camera bag off the floor, grabs his car keys next to the photo of him driving a yellow cab and waves for Sandy to come on.

SANDY  
Can I drive now?

EXT. SHELL GAS STATION – DAY

PETE, the cook and BEVERLY, the waitress from the training class review their new assignment.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

PETE

I quit being a cook to become a PI and what is my first assignment? Be an undercover cook at Trailer Jacks.

BEVERLY

Well, I was a waitress before becoming a PI and now they have me playing a waitress. At least the boss said I can keep my tips.

PETE

(looking at the file)

Remember, we don't know each other. The owner of Trainer Jacks hired our firm to see which employees are honest and hard working when he is not on site. I will get out here and walk the remaining three blocks.

Pete exits Beverly's car and starts to walk down the street. Beverly drives off.

EXT. SUNSHINE APARTMENTS – DAY

Martin knocks on the manager's door. SALLY WILSON, in her 30's with a badly burnt face opens the door. Only her eyes are undamaged. Martin keeps his cool.

MARTIN

Hello, my name is Martin. I am a private investigator with Lostum Investigations. Are you Sally Wilson?

SALLY

Yes, please come in.

Martin follows the woman into her residence.

INT. MANAGER'S APARTMENT – DAY

The woman motions for Martin to have a seat at her dining room table. Sally retrieves a file from a metal file cabinet and sits across from Martin, who pulls a note pad out from his back pocket.

SALLY

(opening file)

A John Macintosh rented apartment number four on a month to month lease. Two weeks ago, he skipped out on me in the middle of the night. I need to find him and get him to pay his rent, or my boss will make me pay the rent.

MARTIN

My office said the tenant was paying \$ 950 a month for a two bedroom?

SALLY

Unit four, is the only one, with a full kitchen.

MARTIN

(pointing)

Can I review his file please?

Sally slides the file over. Martin doesn't dare look up. Martin begins to study the file.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – DAY

John sits with Tommy and Heather.

JOHN

When can you take over the branch?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

TOMMY

John, we are having second thoughts.

HEATHER

We might get married and start a family.

John looks at them both in disbelief.

JOHN

I was really counting on you both to take over the branch. You know my mother wants to get back to Nashville as soon as she can.

John just shakes his head.

EXT. LADYLAKE NEIGHBORHOOD – DAY

Joey hides in a tree using Binoculars to look over the high concrete wall that surround this upscale subdivision. Joey views a ranch house with a three car garage. Below Joey in her own car is Bianca.

BIANCA

(sticking her head out of the window)

Hey Tarzan, Jane is hungry.

JOEY

Funny, funny, no activity yet baby.

Just as Joey says those words he climbs down from the tree and runs to his car. Joey backs out and picks up his walkie.

JOEY

(on walkie)

The subject is driving a bright blue Chevy Blazer. She is driving fast too.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

BIANCA (OS)  
(on walkie )  
Copy Tarzan

Joey drives fast to close the distance between him and his subject.

EXT. JIFFY LUBE – Day

Cindy Cook, exits her Blazer and enters the service office. Joey puts down his video camera and picks up his walkie-talkie.

JOEY  
(on walkie)  
Hidden camera time.

BIANCA (OS)  
Going in now.

Bianca puts her hair up and walks inside with her purse Camera.

INT. WAITING ROOM – DAY

Customers wait for their cars to be serviced. They watch TV, read magazines or talk on their cell phones. Cindy is speaking loudly on her cell. Bianca sits across from her obtaining video of her alleged neck injury.

CINDY  
(on cell)  
After here, I am going to the Y to work out,  
then to J. C. Penney and then home.

EXT. JIFFY LUBE – DAY

Cindy exits with her credit card in her hand. She quickly enters her Blazer and departs the parking lot still talking on her cell. Joey gets behind her in traffic.

INT. YMCA GYM – DAY

Cindy works out on a treadmill, watching TV as she does. Joey is on a treadmill right behind his subject. His gym bag with built-in hidden camera is dangling from a strap on the handle bar.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF THE YMCA – DAY

Bianca works a cross word puzzle while listening to a county station on the radio. The DJ comes on.

DJ (OS)  
(laughing)  
This next song is for Jane. Your man, Tarzan is thinking of you.

EXT. TUPELO MALL PARKING LOT – DAY

While waiting for Cindy to exit her car Bianca picks up her walkie.

BIANCA  
(on walkie)  
Now I know why you wanted me to listen to that country station.

JOEY (OS)  
(on walkie)  
Did they play our song?

BIANCA  
How is Hound Dog our song?

JOEY (OS)  
We live in Tupelo and Elvis was born here and that is my favorite Elvis song and so...

BIANCA  
(interrupting)  
Ok, ok, that is our song. Now whoever guesses which store in the mall our girl walks into first gets a free lunch.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY (OS)

I say the food court.

BIANCA

I think J. C. Penney's.

Cindy exits her car and walks into the mall.

INT. TUPELO MALL - DAY

Joey and Bianca follow the subject with Bianca's purse camera. Joey watches as Cindy walks past the food court and into J.C. Penney's.

JOEY

Lady luck.

Bianca just LAUGHS. Joey looks at his watch and writes a note into a small yellow pad.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE - DAY

Fred Maxwell poses as Rebecca's father. Fred sits on the couch with John and Betty Jo. Fred hands John some photos and a piece of paper.

FRED

( handing papers over)

Here is a photo of daughter Rebecca Maxwell.  
I have no photo of her boyfriend, Simon Schuler.  
He is driving a silver PT Cruiser with a license  
Plate with. 245 in it, I don't know the other  
three letters on the plate.

JOHN

Your daughter is not missing, as in missing. She  
just ran off with her boyfriend?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

FRED

Correct. My wife and I don't like him. We want to bring her home before the relationship gets too serious. On the back of each photo is my cell number. Call me if located and keep this matter out of the media..

JOHN

We will find your daughter. I will call in my investigators and give them their new assignment.

Fred stands up to leave. Both men shake hands one more time.

John

Have a safe drive back and thanks for using Lostum Investigations.

Betty Jo escorts Fred out of the office.

EXT. CITY STREETS – DAY

Joey and Bianca continue to follow Cindy Cook. They continue their walkie-talkie conversation.

JOEY

(on walkie)

Least she uses her turn signals.

BIANCA (OS)

(on walkie)

Don't change the subject. You owe me lunch.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Cindy arrives at a private residence and enters. Joey writes the time and location down on his yellow note pad.

JOEY  
(on walkie)  
Lunch is on me.

Joey puts his walkie between his legs and drives away from the area.

INT. APPLEBEE'S RESTAURANT – DAY

Joey and Bianca sit together. Joey eats a hamburger while Bianca eats a large bowl of salad.

BIANCA  
Dessert comes with the free lunch, right?

JOEY  
(smiling)  
Yes, cause I am the dessert.

Joey's cell phone rings and Joey looks at the number. Joey answers.

JOEY  
(on cell)  
Right away Sir.

Joey looks at Bianca as he hangs up his cell phone.

JOEY  
(continuing)  
A rush missing person case just came in. He wants us in his office now.

Bianca flags down their waitress as Joey rubs two fingers together. The waitress rushes over.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – DAY

John Lostum has his nine remaining recruits in his office. Betty Jo hands each investigator a packet.

JOHN

Inside your packet is all the information we have on a young lady named Rebecca Maxwell. She is from a wealthy family and ran off with her boyfriend named Simon Shuler. We have no photo of him. They are driving a silver PT Cruiser with partial Mississippi license plate 245. The parents don't like her boyfriend and want to end their relationship. Mr. Maxwell has offered a two thousand dollar reward for anyone that locates the pair. If you do locate Rebecca, call me, so I can call the client. Good luck.

Everyone leaves the office quickly with their packets.

BETTY JO

( to her son)

Joey will find her first.

John

Maybe Martin. He was a taxi driver and knows the city.

Betty Jo looks out the window as Joey helps Bianca into his truck. John turns to his mother.

JOHN

Tommy and Heather said they do not want to leave Nashville and run the Tupelo branch. They plan to get married. We have to search for a new branch manager.

Betty Jo just shakes her head.

INT. JOEY'S TRUCK – DAY

Joey drives with Bianca sitting close to him. Both scan the roads looking for the PT Cruiser.

BIANCA

We can cover more territory in two separate cars.

JOEY

Rather have you next to me, than be driving around alone.

BIANCA

(giving Joey a kiss)

I feel the same way.

JOEY

Ma could really use the bonus to pay our bills with.

BIANCA

You look left and I will look right. A PT Cruiser is easy to spot.

Joey drives into the Wal Mart parking lot.

EXT. TUPELO CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Joey turns into a large apartment complex South of Tupelo as Bianca turns the truck radio on. An Elvis song “Kentucky Rain” is finishing. Joey stops his truck and looks at Bianca.

JOEY

You know, how about Elvis Lake?

BIANCA

They don't rent cabins this time of the year.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

Let's go there anyway.

Joey backs the truck up and exits the apartment complex.

EXT. ELVIS LAKE CAMPGROUND – NIGHT

Joey slows his truck down as he drives by the many cabins that dot the lake. Faint lights are coming from cabin 16.

INT. JOEY'S TRUCK – NIGHT

JOEY

(smiling)

Lights are on but, no PT Cruiser.

BIANCA

Someone is staying there. Let me knock and see who opens the door.

Joey stops in front of the cabin and Bianca opens her truck door.

EXT. CABIN 16 – NIGHT

Bianca KNOCKS and Simon opens the door. A blonde sits by the unlit fireplace. It is Rebecca but Bianca doesn't know it.

BIANCA

Hello, we are on our honeymoon. That is my husband Joey sitting in the truck and my name is Bianca. Our travel agent booked this cabin for us.

SIMON

I don't understand how. The park is closed to visitors. We are friends of the ranger and he is letting us stay here.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

BIANCA  
(rubbing her arms)  
It is windy out here. Can we come in?

Simon opens the door wider and lets the investigators in.

INT. CABIN 16 – NIGHT

Bianca walks up to Rebecca and holds out her hand, not knowing it is Rebecca.

BIANCA  
(continuing)  
Hi, I am Bianca. This is my husband Joey.  
We are on our honeymoon.

They both shake hands.

REBECCA  
I am Rebecca and this is my boyfriend Simon.

JOEY  
(to Simon)  
Can I have a glass of water please?

SIMON  
How about a beer instead?

JOEY  
(smiling)  
Even better.

Both men walk into the small kitchen. Bianca spots a monopoly game.

BIANCA  
(pointing to the game)  
Monopoly, Oh, I just love that game.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Rebecca removes the board game from the shelf and sits it on the breakfast table.

INT. CABIN 16 – LATER

The girls pick up the board game while the guys pick up all the beer cans. Bianca looks at her watch.

BIANCA  
(looking at Rebecca)  
Can we spend the night and leave in the morning? My husband had too much to drink.

REBECCA  
(pointing)  
There are sleeping bags in the front closet.

Bianca and Joey walk in that direction. Simon pulls Rebecca aside.

SIMON  
(looking at Rebecca and whispering)  
Thought you wanted privacy with me?

REBECCA  
I do, but it is late and he has been drinking. They will be gone in the morning.

Joey and Bianca walk over with the sleeping bags.

JOEY  
We will leave early in the morning.

REBECCA  
Leave after breakfast.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Simon and Rebecca retire to the upstairs bedroom. Joey and Bianca open the two sleeping bags, place them in front of the unlit fireplace and crawl in.

BIANCA

(whispering)

She is the one. Her name is not Rebecca Maxwell, it is Rebecca Schwab. She ran off from her strict mom who hates her boyfriend. They broke into the cabin , there is no ranger that they know of and they hid the PT Cruiser in the woods a few hundred yards away. They will be here a few more days.

JOEY

(impressed)

You are good. How did you find all this out?

BIANCA

Easy, she told me. She didn't want us to call our travel agent and make trouble.

JOEY

Who is this Mr. Maxwell and why did he lie to our boss?

BIANCA

Don't know yet. We will call John in the morning.

JOEY

Those two are in love. I am in love too.

Joey crawls out of his sleeping bag and into Bianca's.

JOEY

(continuing)

Dessert time.

INT. LOSTUM OFFICE'S – NIGHT

The offices are almost completely dark except for the flashlight Tommy holds in his mouth. Tommy and Heather are using a copy machine. Heather hands her lover a file.

HEATHER

This is the last of the training manual.

Tommy takes the file and starts to place papers into the copy tray.

EXT. ELVIS LAKE CAMPGROUND – DAY

A beautiful view of the lake surrounded by Pine Trees.

INT. CABIN 16 – DAY

Joey, Bianca, Rebecca and Simon are having breakfast. Joey slides the photo of Rebecca in a wig over to her.

REBECCA

(worried)

Who are you two?

BIANCA

Don't be alarmed. We are private investigators hired by a Mr. Fred Maxwell to find you. He told my boss he is your father, but he isn't is he?

REBECCA

My father is the Governor. Mr. Maxwell is head of security. I was tired of having no privacy. I tricked my father into letting me go on a shopping spree on my birthday. Security made me wear the dark wig and sunglasses. They did that so the public or the media wouldn't recognize me. Simon's sister works at a swimwear shop and I went out the backdoor.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

Are you going to turn us in now?

JOEY

Nope. We talked about it last night. I am in love too and I wouldn't want anyone standing in the way either. Pack up and stay at Bianca's apartment. It will be safer.

REBECCA

Why are you being so nice to us?

BIANCA

It is our birthday present to you.

SIMON

This is a trick to turn us in.

JOEY

Can't people be nice anymore? You two are not wanted, you didn't break any laws. You could just run off again if you want.

BIANCA

Mr. Maxwell offered a two thousand dollar reward to anyone that located you.

JOEY

We have a better plan that benefits us all. So pack some clothes and your X Box and take a ride with us.

Rebecca and Simon look at each other and hold hands.

BIANCA

Trust us. If we wanted the reward money, we would of called this in last night while you were sleeping.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

Now let us get out of here, before someone else,  
finds us.

They all start to pack.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – DAY

John, Betty Jo, Bianca and Joey are having a meeting.

BIANCA

That is the whole story and our plan.

JOHN

So Maxwell is the head of security for the  
Governor. Okay, I can play along, but  
tomorrow night you get them back in cabin  
16 so I can find them.

JOEY

They have agreed to that deal.

JOHN

Because you have been honest with me, I will  
be honest with you. The real bonus is five  
thousand – three thousand for you and  
two thousand for me.

Joey grabs Bianca and they jump up and down like two little kids.  
Betty Jo comes over and starts to jump with them.

EXT. TRADEFAIR BANK – DAY

Martin and Sandy watch their subject RICKY DAHL enter the bank  
wearing a motorcycle helmet..

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

(on walkie)

There is no license plate on his motorcycle.

SANDY (OS)

(on walkie)

Why park at the apartment complex when there are parking spots at the bank?

Suddenly Ricky runs out of the bank with a plastic bag, he runs to the apartment complex next door, hops on his motorcycle and roars off. Martin and Sandy are blocked in by a water cooler truck making a delivery.

Martin

(on walkie)

This is called PI Luck. Sandy, you thirsty?

The water cooler truck driver exits the cab.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM OFFICE – DAY

Martin, Sandy, Betty Jo and John watch the video that Sandy shot of Ricky at his apartment putting on the motorcycle helmet and later walking into the bank.

SANDY

He ran out so quickly I had no time to video.

JOHN

The bank was robbed of fifty-five hundred.

MARTIN

What is our next move?

INT. FBI OFFICE – DAY

Martin, Sandy, and John watch their video on a TV Monitor in the office of agent ROBERT SINCLAIR.

AGENT SINCLAIR

(looking at John)

We can have him arrested based on this video, the bank surveillance video, the matching clothing and the sworn statements of your field investigators.

JOHN

Can I call the media on this one?

Robert Sinclair turns off the TV and turns to the group.

AGENT SINCLAIR

I use Betty Hundervat at Channel 44.

John and his crew shake hands with the Agent.

EXT. SHADY OAKS TRAILER PARK – DAY

The trailer park is run down. Some trailers are vacant.

INT. CAMPER TRUCK - DAY

Martin and Sandy are in a camper truck with a video camera.

SANDY

This is my father's camper.

MARTIN

We can't follow anyone in this.

SANDY

I think Agent Sinclair likes me.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

Why do you say that?

SANDY

He told me to show up here and wait.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY

A dozen or so police and undercover vehicles with lights flashing make their way into the trailer park.

INT. CAMPER - DAY

SANDY

(holding up her video camera)

See, Martin, I told you, he likes me.

Sandy videos the police as they surround the trailer and get on the BULLHORN.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY

AGENT SINCLAIR

(on bullhorn)

Ricky Dahl, this is Agent Robert Sinclair of the FBI. We know you are in there. Come out now with your hands up. Come out now.

A few seconds later Ricky emerges with a small young boy. Ricky puts his hands up. The little boy does the same. The agents move in and handcuff the bank robber.

INT. CAMPER - DAY

MARTIN

Keep it steady. We don't want bounce.

Sandy continues to video the action as it unfolds in front of her.

INT. LOSTUM OFFICE – DAY

A man in his sixties named CRAIG FLETCHER walks into John's office. John, Joey and Bianca look up.

JOHN

(surprised)

Craig, what a surprise. My office said you might drive down from Nashville to say hello.

CRAIG

(putting his glasses on)

Had to see my old boss just one more time. Where is Betty Jo?

JOHN

Mother is at the dentist getting new dentures.

Craig looks at Joey and Bianca.

JOHN

(continuing)

Craig, meet Joey, the young man I was telling you about over the telephone yesterday. He reminds me of you, thirty years ago. Full of energy.

Joey and Craig shake hands.

JOHN

(continuing)

This is Bianca, my best and smartest female agent. Better than my mother was at her age.

Bianca and Craig hug.

JOEY

The boss told us in class about some of your adventures together.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

CRAIG

That was a long time ago. I am retired as of yesterday. It was fun while it lasted.

JOHN

I asked Craig to teach at my next class when I open my next branch.

CRAIG

They would all quit if I told them the truth about all the negatives that go with this job.

JOEY

Like what Sir?

CRAIG

You sit in a hot car all day, you eat crap food, causing you to gain weight, you sleep in cheap hotels, with bad mattresses that hurt your back, tire flats, speeding tickets, and .....

JOHN

(interrupting)

Craig, it's not that bad.

JOEY

You stayed in the surveillance field thirty years right? Why stay so long if the job was so bad?

CRAIG

Thirty four years, five months and five days. I stayed because of the pay. I loved the pay. Made one mistake. I never saved for retirement. Don't you two, make the same mistake.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

No Sir, I won't. I know what being poor is and I don't like it.

JOHN

Joey, you and Bianca hold down the fort till Betty Jo returns. I want to take my retired number one agent out for a drink.

Joey reaches out to shake Craig's hand.

JOEY

It was great to meet a legend. If you ever get bored sitting at home, I would love for you to ride along with me on some cases, teach me some tricks.

CRAIG

Sorry, but I am done, so done.

John and Craig leave for lunch. Joey watches his boss and the legend walk out of the office. Joey sits in his boss's leather chair and looks around the well decorated office.

JOEY

Some day Bianca, some day, this will be all mine.

Bianca

You mean all ours.

Bianca comes over and sits in his lap. They start to kiss and do not observe Betty Jo walking in.

BETTY JO

My husband and I use to do that same thing years ago while waiting for the phone to ring.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Bianca and Joey stop kissing.

BIANCA

I didn't know you were once an agent.

BETTY JO

Still am and always will be. My husband and I started the business and passed it on to our son a while back.

Betty Jo removes her shoes, places her bare feet on the desk in front of Joey. Joey starts to rub her feet.

BETTY JO

(as Joey rubs her feet)

Years ago, I walked the streets of every city in the state of Tennessee, stopping at every law office and insurance company, to let them know about our PI business. That is why my feet ache so much. That feels good Joey.

The telephone rings and Bianca answers.

BIANCA

(holding phone)

Lostum Investigations, Bianca speaking.

Martin, in an excited voice.

MARTIN

(excited)

Turn on your TV to channel 44.

Bianca hangs up the telephone and uses the remote to turn on the TV to channel 44.

BIANCA

That was Martin. He said to watch him on TV.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Joey, Betty Jo and Bianca listen to reporter BETTY HUNDERVAT while the TV plays a scene of Ricky Dahl being arrested. Next to the reporter are Martin and Sandy.

BETTY HUNDERVAT

This video exclusive was shot by these two private investigators with the John Lostum Agency. According to unnamed sources, alleged bank robber Ricky Dahl, seen here being arrested by FBI agent Robert Sinclair has a crack cocaine addiction and has confessed to four other bank robberies. This is Betty Hundervat, Channel 44 reporting.

John returns alone and hands Joey and Bianca each a big wad of cash.

JOHN

(handing out the cash)

Your bonus for finding the governor's daughter.

Joey is so happy he hugs Betty Jo.

INT. WAFFEL HOUSE – DAY

Joey and Bianca have a meal.

BIANCA

What are you going to do with your bonus?

JOEY

Take my Ma out to a nice restaurant, buy fresh flowers for my Pa's grave, buy a large chew bone for Rocky and pay bills with the rest. How about you?

BIANCA

I always wanted to learn how to play a guitar and I think I will start saving for my retirement.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

(handing over a file)

You have to play a temp-secretary over at APEX Furniture Company and uncover claims of sexual harassment on the owner, an old man named DEVIN RODGERS.

BIANCA

I can not type or take shorthand.

JOEY

With your looks the old man won't care.

BIANCA

What assignment did Betty Jo give you?

JOEY

(looking at his file)

A black guy named KEVIN SUTTON, out on workers comp. I did a map search and Rock Wood Subdivision, is in a very high crime black area.

BIANCA

Mr. Lostum has not hired a black PI yet.

JOEY

I will find a black man to ride along, so I can blend in the neighborhood, to obtain video.

INT. JOEY'S SHACK – NIGHT

Wilma is making dinner. Joey hands her some cash.

JOEY

(handing over some cash)

It feels good to have money again Ma.

INT. BIANCA'S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Bianca cuts a loaf of bread, Rebecca sets the table and Simon pours the drinks.

SIMON

It feels good not to have security men standing around the table.

BIANCA

After dinner, I will have to drive you back to the cabin and let my boss find you.

REBECCA

When I run off again, can we stay with you?

BIANCA

You sure can.

All three sit down to eat their last supper together.

EXT. ELVIS LAKE CABIN 16 – NIGHT

The PT Cruiser is parked out front and the cabin is well lit. Fred Maxwell and his security detail pull up in their black SUV'S with John Lostum in his Ford Ranger. Fred hands John an envelope.

FRED

(handing over an envelope)

Five thousand as agreed. Thanks. We will take it from here.

John departs the area. Fred KNOCKS on cabin 16 door. Simon opens the door.

FRED

(smiling)

Hello young man. Where is Rebecca?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

SIMON  
(acting surprised)  
Hello Sir. Rebecca is taking a shower.

Fred and his staff enter the cabin.

EXT. HIGHWAY – NIGHT

Fred rides as passenger in the front set of the SUV with Joyce driving.  
Rebecca rides alone in the back seat.

REBECCA  
(sounding depressed)  
How did you find us?

FRED  
Luck, pure luck.

Joyce continues to drive the speed limit with the second SUV and PT  
Cruiser following close behind.

INT. JOEY'S SHACK – NIGHT

Wilma and Joey eat dinner. Rocky sits under their table. Joey hands his  
Ma a driver's manual.

WILMA  
I will take the test tomorrow.

JOEY  
You know you don't read too well Ma..

Wilma throws meat scraps on the floor and Rocky eats it.

INT. JOEY'S SHACK – NIGHT

Joey reads his training manual. Wilma sits on the floor, reading her  
driver's manual, while petting their dog.

INT. SANDY'S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Sandy and Martin sit on the couch reading their training manuals.

SANDY

It says you have to confirm the subject is the subject. Be careful of twins or slightly older brothers or sisters.

MARTIN

So much to know.

Sandy flips to the next page in her manual..

INT. WAL MART STORE – NIGHT

Pete follows his subject BOB GREEN around the store. Pete uses a hat camera to document Bob's alleged injuries of back and legs. The man uses a wheelchair cart to do his shopping. Pete uses his cell phone.

PETE

(on cell)

Mr. Lostum, Pete here. Sorry to bother you at this late hour but my subject may be really hurt. What do I do?

JOHN

Pete, call at any hour. I just want the job done right.. Some subject's are legit, they are hurt and in pain. Stay on him till the budget is up, then write a detailed report. The insurance company can decide what to do next.. Good night.

Pete hangs up his cell phone and continues to follow his subject who is now in the fruit section.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – NIGHT

John massages his mother's feet.

BETTY JO

My sister is getting worse. Chemo is not working. I want to go back home son.

JOHN

(giving a hug)

I will take you very soon mother.

John goes back to massaging his mother's feet.

EXT. COOPER TIRE PLANT – DAY

Joey is parked in a visitor only parking spot. Joey reads the sports page and looks at his watch.

INT. COOPER TIRE HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE – DAY

Wilma sits in front of HELGA THOMPSON, who reviews Wilma's application.

HELGA

(holding application)

Miss Ramsey, how would you get to work on time if you don't drive?

WILMA

I have an old bike.

HELGA

Map Quest shows your residence is 14 miles one way!

Wilma puts her head down.

WILMA

I will just leave earlier.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

HELGA

I am sorry, but you will need to show me a driver license and a reliable car.

Wilma stands up and slowly walks toward the door.

WILMA

I will be back.

INT. DRIVER'S LICENSE BUREAU – DAY

Wilma sits at a computer screen, taking her driver's license test. Joey waits in the lobby.

INT. JOEY'S TRUCK – DAY

Joey drives as Wilma looks out the window. They pass the Cooper Tire Plant.

WILMA

I can retake the test in forty-eight hours.

JOEY

Ma a few weeks ago, I had no job, no car.  
Be positive. You will find a job.

Wilma looks at her son and smiles.

EXT. HARRY'S HOUSE – DAY

Harry pulls up in his car and checks his mailbox. He retrieves a small cardboard box. Harry opens the box and pulls out a SPY PEN CAMERA. Harry opens the pen box and pulls out a silver in color camera.

INT. RED LOBSTER – DAY

Rebecca and Simon are having lunch. Two security agents stand nearby wearing suits and carrying walkie talkies. They sit at a far corner table. Other patrons keep looking their way.

REBECCA

I wish my dad lost the election.

Fred and Joyce sit at another table enjoying their meal.

INT. APEX FURNITURE STORE – DAY

Bianca, wearing a tight, yellow blouse and tight black skirt, sharpens a box of pencils at her desk. Mr. DEVIN RODGERS, seventy-something, exits his office and walks up behind his new secretary.

DEVIN

What did the employment agency say about me?

BIANCA

(trying to sharpen pencils)

That you were hard to work for.

DEVIN

(getting closer)

Well, I am hard, very hard.

BIANCA

(ignoring him)

These pencils won't go in the hole.

Devin takes Bianca's hand that is holding the pencil and places the pencil in the hole of the sharpener.

DEVIN

Needs to be guided in.

Devin starts to rub his body against Bianca's back.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – DAY

Bianca, Betty Jo and John have a meeting. They all watch a video.

BIANCA

(narrating)

He is a dirty old man Just look at what my hidden purse camera captured. He stands behind me rubbing his tool into my back saying he is hard and later places both of his hands over my breast.

The video shows Bianca slapping the man.

BIANCA

(continuing)

When he put his hands on my breast, I stand up and slap him. This is me running for the elevator.

JOHN

You could have waited, to see what he would do next.

BIANCA

Let the jury use their imagination.

BETTY JO

I liked your outfit. Sexy and tight.

Bianca turns the TV off with the remote control.

EXT. RAINBOW PUTT –PUTT GOLF CENTER – DAY

Martin and Sandy sit together in Martin's truck. Sandy videos the customers as they play the first hole. Marin writes the times down.

MARTIN

Mr. Mackey, the owner, believes his worker is pocketing some of the golf fees.

Sandy continues to video each new arrival.

EXT. AMACO GAS STATION – DAY

Martin and Sandy meet with MR. MACKEY in his sixties.

SANDY

(showing video)

We documented in the two hours we were there a total of forty one paying customers. Eleven adults and thirty kids.

MACKEY

(handing them both tickets)

Here are free golf passes, good this month only.

INT. RAINBOW PUTT-PUTT GOLF CENTER – LATER

Sandy and Martin play a round.

INT. PRIVATE RESIDENCE – DAY

GAVIN JONES, twenty- something, argues with his pregnant young wife JACKIE.

GAVIN

There is no other woman.

JACKIE

Why are these condom packets under your floor mat?

GAVIN

My boss borrows my car some days. They must be his.

JACKIE

You are full of excuses Gavin. I called your office. The receptionist said you left after lunch yesterday.

GAVIN

I went to Sears to buy you an “I love you” gift.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Gavin leaves the room and returns with a small wrapped box. He gives it to Jackie. His wife opens the box and finds a ladies watch.

JACKIE  
(holding the watch)  
This is really for me?

Gavin walks over and gives his wife a kiss.

GAVIN  
You and our soon to be son are my life. I have  
to get back to the video store.

Gavin gives his wife a big kiss, picks up his keys and leaves. Jackie watches his white minivan disappear down the street. Jackie picks up the house phone.

JACKIE  
Can I speak with Mr. Lostum again please?

EXT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO STORE – DAY

Pete and Sally sit in his truck, watching the white minivan.

PETE  
The client says he can leave at anytime.

Sally  
She knows something is up as her husband  
never buys her anything.

EXT. ALPINE APARTMENTS – DAY

Sally videos Gavin Jones knocking on apartment # 215. A young woman opens the door and Gavin enters. Sally puts down her video camera and picks up her walkie.

SALLY  
(on walkie)  
Pete, call Blockbuster. See what they say.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN (OS)

In a sales meeting and can not be disturbed.

EXT. CITY STREET – DAY

Pete follows the minivan.

EXT. ALPINE APARTMENTS # 215 – DAY

Sally KNOCKS on apartment # 215. A very attractive woman in her twenties named MARY LOU NEAL opens.

SALLY

Hello. I moved in two floors up. I am starting a women's jogging club. My name is Sally.

MARY LOU

Hi. I am Mary Lou. I don't jog. Form a dance club and I will join.

SALLY

(holding clipboard)

You are the third woman to say that. Does your spouse like to dance?

MARY LOU

I am single. My boyfriend Gavin likes to dance. We go to Club Six every other Friday night.

Sally fills in her survey form.

INT. SALLY'S CAR – DAY

Sally shows Jackie the video of her husband Gavin entering and exiting apartment # 215.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

SALLY

Her name is Mary Lou Neal. She is a nurse at  
Tupelo Medical Center. Your husband and her dance  
at Club Six every other Friday night.

Jackie removes the ladies watch from her wrist.

JACKIE

I knew it. He never buys me anything. This  
watch is for her.

EXT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO STORE – DAY

A small crowd watches as Jackie Jones removes her husband's clothes  
from her trunk and dumps them in the middle of the parking lot. Gavin  
exits the store.

GAVIN

Jackie! What the hell are you doing?

JACKIE

(tossing the watch)  
Give this to Mary Lou Neal and don't come home.

Jackie slams her trunk and speeds away. Gavin stands there holding the  
watch. Sally videos all of it.

EXT. ROCKWOOD SUBDIVISION- DAY

Joey's white pick-up is parked at the curb. Junk cars, trash, tires and  
boarded up houses dot the neighborhood. Hookers walk the street. A  
black male named LEROY sits behind the wheel as Joey, hiding in a  
large box with small viewing holes, sits in the passenger seat.

LEROY

I get paid ten an hour to sit here?

We see Joey's eyes peeking through the large box.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

Yes. You help me blend in this neighborhood.

Two female HOOKERS walk up and both lean on the hood of Joey's truck looking at Leroy.

HOOKER # 1

Fifteen dollars for a little ride my man.

HOOKER # 2

What is in the box, a stolen stereo?

Leroy does not answer and goes back to reading his newspaper.

JOEY

Run the air again.

Leroy starts the truck and the hookers walk away.

EXT. JOEY'S TRUCK – LATER

KEVIN SUTTON washes his car. Joey videos his subject from inside his box.

LEROY

Need me tomorrow man?

JOEY

Six A.M. at the Waffle House.

Joey continues to video.

EXT. TUPELO PARK – DAY

Beverly videos with a book camera a man wearing a neck brace as he sits on a bench across from her. Beverly uses her cell phone.

BEVERLY

Joey, this is Beverly, can you talk?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY (OS)

Yes. I am not videoing anybody.

BEVERLY

(whispering)

I have a man in his forties wearing a neck brace day and night. I think this guy is hurt. He was involved in an auto accident four months ago. Do I stay on him?

JOEY (OS)

The boss said in class to document their activity and their alleged injuries and let the courts decide.

The man with the neck brace gets up from the park bench.

INT. CITY WORKS DEPARTMENT – DAY

Joey writes on a note pad as DIRECTOR GRAHAM speaks.

DIRECTOR GRAHAM

How much will this surveillance cost?

JOEY

My pa put a work order in over a year ago. If you fix my driveway I can get my boss to give you a discount.

Director Graham reaches for his check book.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM OFFICE – DAY

Joey hands his boss the check.

JOEY

(handing over the check)

My time is free. I get my driveway paved.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Joey the barterer is your new name.

INT. SEAR'S STORE – DAY

Joey follows FREDA GRAHAM, in her fifties, around the store as she shops.

INT. FOOD COURT – DAY

Freda has lunch with an older man. They kiss several times. Joey records the action with a cell phone camera.

EXT. TUPELO MALL – DAY

Joey is on his cell phone as he watches Freda and the unknown man kiss in the man's green Ford Escort.

BETTY JO (OS)

Car belongs to JOSEPH MASTERS, Masters  
Auto Center, 145 Main Street in Tupelo.

Joey writes the information down on a notepad.

INT. TUNICA GOLDSRIKE CASINO – DAY

Freda and JOSEPH MASTERS play slots. Joey sits next to them eavesdropping on their conversation.

EXT. GRAHAM RESIDENCE – DAY

Joey videos Freda arriving home with packages that his client comes out to help carry in.

INT. WAFFLE HOUSE – DAY

Joey sits with Robert Graham and together they watch Joey's video on a portable DVD. Graham watches his wife kissing Masters in the casino.

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(CONTINUED)

JOEY

His name is Joseph Masters. His auto center is for sale for four hundred thousand. Your wife and him plan to move to Florida once his business is sold.

ROBERT

(crying)

After thirty –five years, she is not happy?

Joey hands his client a restaurant napkin.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION – NIGHT

Having dinner are the Governor, Hilary his wife, Rebecca and Simon.

SIMON

Sorry to have caused you both so much trouble. I love your daughter and...

HILARY

Simon, you are nineteen. What you did was wrong.

REBECCA

We wanted privacy. We still want privacy.

The governor takes a sip of wine.

EXT. TUPELO YMCA – NIGHT

Joey enters Tommy's black Toyota Camry in the parking lot. Tommy hands Joey a file.

TOMMY

I just quit Lostum. This is my last case. Her name is ANGELA GRIFFIN, she has an alleged jaw injury. She drives the white civic in front of me. Do eight more hours.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

(shocked)

Quit, why? You were going to be my boss.

TOMMY

Long story. Got to go. Long drive back to Nashville.

Tommy and Joey shake hands and Joey exits Tommy's car. Tommy departs and Joey enters his own car just as the subject enters her white Civic and backs out of her parking spot.

INT. MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT – NIGHT

Angela eats a hamburger and chews with ease. Joey uses his cell phone camera to record her activity.

INT. ROBERT AND FREDA GRAHAM RESIDENCE – NIGHT

Freda packs her suitcase.

FREDA

I stopped loving you a few years ago.

Richard pulls a gun from under his pillow and points it at his wife.

ROBERT

I gave you thirty five years, thirty five good years.

Robert pulls the trigger several times and Freda falls to the carpet. Robert turns the gun inward and pulls the trigger.

INT. BIANCA'S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Bianca opens an envelope. A photo of Simon and Bianca falls out.

REBECCA (VO)

Things are a lot better at home, Simon is allowed over more but I still have no privacy. I will be seeing you soon. Your friends Rebecca and Simon.

EXT. RURAL ROAD – NIGHT

Joey turns off the bumpy rural dirt road onto a blacktop surface and stops at the barricade. Joey walks around the barricade up to his shack and enters. Wilma hands her son a letter from the City of Tupelo Public Works Department.

JOEY

(reading the letter out loud)

Dear Homeowner. Please stay off your driveway till morning. This will allow the asphalt to completely dry.

Joey puts the letter on the dinner table.

JOEY

(continuing)

Only took a year Ma.

WILMA

We have to give Rocky a new name.

JOEY

(looking at his dog)

Blacktop, come here, Blacktop, come.

WILMA

(laughing)

I like the name Blacktop.

Both bend down to pet their loyal guard dog. Joey's cell phone rings.

MARTIN (OS)

I need your help. Can you come?

Joey writes an address down.

JOEY

Be there soon.

Joey turns to his ma.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

(continuing)

No meal Ma. Have to help someone out.

Joey picks up his truck keys, gives his ma a kiss, pets his dog Blacktop and exits his shack.

EXT. BANKCORP BUILDING 20<sup>th</sup> FLOOR ROOFTOP – NIGHT

Joey opens the rooftop door and Martin motions for him to stay low. Joey bends low and works his way to Martin, who has a video camera on a tripod, pointed at an apartment across the way.

MARTIN

My guy is the one in the ball cap playing pool.  
He has a right wrist injury from a slip and fall.  
His name is RICKY JAMES

JOEY

Good location. Did you get access permission  
or pick the lock?

MARTIN

I paid the manager a hundred dollars.

Ricky puts his pool cue down and walks out of view.

MARTIN

(continuing)

He comes in and out of view often. Thanks for  
coming. I do not like being up here alone.

JOEY

We have to always be a team. Did you know that  
Tommy quit? He was to be our branch manager.  
He told me....

Suddenly the rooftop door opens. Ricky and five men with bats walk up.

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(CONTINUED)

JOEY

This doesn't look good.

RICKY

Who the hell are you guys, Feds?

JOEY

(calmly)

Star gazers.

MARTIN

How did you know we were here? We are wearing black, blending in.

RICKY

One of you, asses paid my cousin, the manager, one hundred, for the rooftop key, said you were working a fraud case.

MARTIN

That was me.

All six big men step closer with their bats.

RICKY

Which one wants to be first to go over the roof?

JOEY

I would like to take the elevator

RICKY

(raising his voice)

Now, who are you?

The men back Joey and Martin up to the roof edge.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

(putting hands up to his chest)

We are private investigators. You filed a slip and fall claim with Roman Insurance Company.

RICKY

Shit, that's why you guys are up here. Give me the tape and don't come back or you get tossed.

Martin removes the tape from his video camera and hands it to Ricky.

MARTIN

Can I get my hundred dollars back?

Ricky and his men just LAUGH.

INT. DUNKIN DONUTS SHOP – NIGHT

Joey and Martin have a snack and talk.

JOEY

Your mistake, was trying to buy access to the roof without thinking who knows who.

MARTIN

This job is not easy.

JOEY

You have to stay alert. Remember the what if's.

MARTIN

(puzzled)

The what if's?

JOEY

What if, like, what if he spots me? You have no escape on a rooftop twenty floors up.

Martin takes a bite of his donut as he listens.

INT. BIANCA'S APARTMENT – DAY

Bianca and Joey have breakfast.

BIANCA

Why does the boss want to see you at noon?

Joey puts down the letter from Rebecca.

JOEY

Don't know why. I think Rebecca will run off again soon.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM'S OFFICE – DAY

Betty Jo is on the telephone.

BETTY JO

(on the phone)

Sorry, we have video of the wrong subject. The person eating the hamburger is her sister. Yes, I made a note of it. Yes, we will go out on her again tonight. Yes, we will use a different investigator. You welcome. Bye.

Betty Jo turns to her son.

BETTY JO

That was BILLY MARTIN with Travelers. He said we have video of the wrong woman.

JOHN

Who was the investigator? Pete? Martin?

BETTY JO

Joey.

JOHN

(surprised)

Joey, Really.

EXT. LOSTUM OFFICE BUILDING – DAY

Joey and Bianca pull up and park in front.

INT. JOHN LOSTUM OFFICE – DAY

Betty Jo motions for Joey and Bianca to come over to her desk.

BETTY JO

(holding up the newspaper)

Robert Graham killed his wife and then  
himself last night. Their daughter found them.

Joey grabs the newspaper to read the story. Bianca starts to cry.  
John opens his door.

JOHN

Come in here Joey.

Joey gives the newspaper to Bianca and walks into John's office.

JOHN

(continuing)

You filmed the wrong subject. You videoed  
Angela Griffin's younger sister. The client  
liked our quality of film, that is why we get a  
second chance.

JOEY

I met Tommy at the YMCA. He told me he quit and  
he gave me the case to finish. Tommy told me what  
the subject drove and...

The door opens and Betty Jo sticks her head in.

BETTY JO

(interrupting)

Got a call from occupational licenses just now.  
Tommy just applied for an agency license as  
FOUNDEM INVESTIGATIONS.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

Tommy was trying to get me fired. He set me up. He wants us to look bad. I thought he was my friend.

Betty Jo sticks her head in again.

BETTY JO

Tommy has our client list too. TONY LACKY, of Lucky Adjusting Agency in Nashville just called me. He received a postcard from Foundem Investigations. Tommy claims to be in Tennessee and Mississippi.

Betty Jo closes the door.

JOHN

(to Joey)

There is no Lucky Adjusting Agency. It is the fake name and address for my parent's house. We put that name in, among our actual client list, so if we receive mail, we know our client list has been copied.

JOEY

I have a lot to learn.

JOHN

They will try to steal our investigators as well.

JOEY

What happens now sir?

JOHN

My mother needs to go back to Nashville. Her sister is very ill.. I will promote you Joey to branch manager as of today.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

JOEY

(big smile)

Only in America. From sitting on a porch with an old bike, to branch manager in three weeks.

JOHN

Along with the title comes a pay raise, a twenty percent share in the branch profits, plus you get to hire your own office staff.

JOEY

You think I am the right person?

JOHN

You rode twenty miles on an old bike to come see me, you talked me into hiring you, you get video on all your cases, except one wrong one, and you learn quickly. Heck, I am only a phone call away if you need advice.

JOEY

First thing I am doing, is meeting with the rest of the investigators, so they don't leave Lostum for Foundum.

JOHN

Let me tell mother we are going home.

EXT. HIGHWAY – DAY

John and Wilma Lostum drive past a green highway sign towing a small u-haul trailer. The highway sign says WELCOME TO TENNESSEE.

INT. LOSTUM'S VEHICLE – DAY

BETTY JO

I am going to miss Joey's foot massages.

Betty Jo rubs her own feet.

INT. JOEY RAMSEY'S NEW OFFICE – DAY

Wilma sits in a chair with Blacktop by her feet. Bianca sits in Joey's lap.

JOEY

Ma, starting today you are the new receptionist.

WILMA

Do I get Medical coverage?

JOEY

After ninety days.

The telephone rings. Joey motions for his ma to answer.

WILMA

Lostum Investigations. Wilma here.

WOMAN (OS)

I need my husband followed.

Wilma passes the phone over to her son.

WILMA

She wants her husband followed.

JOEY

(to the woman)

Sorry, but as of today, our agency is out of the matrimonial business.

WOMAN (OS)

Can you recommend a company that does?

JOEY

Yes. Call 411, and ask the operator for Foundem Investigations. They will do it.

WOMAN (OS)

Foundem Investigations. OK, I will.

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

Joey hangs up the phone as his ma brings him an order form. Bianca looks puzzled.

BIANCA

(puzzled)

Why are we sending people to Foundum?

JOEY

(smiling)

Matrimonial cases can be dangerous right?  
You can get hurt or even killed. Let Foundem  
take the risk.

Wilma sits down in a chair across from her son. Wilma removes her shoes and places her stocking feet on the corner of Joey's desk.

WILMA

My feet ache.

Bianca and Joey look at each other and start LAUGHING.

THE END.

