

TERRORDISE

a comedy

by

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GENRE:

Comedy, slightly surreal political satire.

LOGLINE:

A New York family loves their new home in Paradise, a high-security gated community in Dallas, willingly sacrificing privacy for safety against any kind of terror threat--until they are accused of terrorism themselves and have to escape under the wall helped by their Mexican housekeeper.

EXT. NEW YORK GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY - DAY

Multiple closed circuit cameras line the road. A green road sign reads "to airport."

TITLE OVER:

Year 2028

Traffic is heavy. Most of the cars on the road are old clunkers, circa 2008-2012. A few are brand new armored SUVs and taxis. Buildings and roads are in bad shape.

INT. ARMORED HUMVEE YELLOW TAXI - DAY

The DRIVER of the taxi is a haggard man in his 50s.

The backseat interior of the luxury vehicle is very roomy. MOHAMED Johnson, a pudgy black man sits with his wife, ESTHER Schwartz, an outgoing, pretty, petite white woman with black curly hair. They are excited/anxious, happily unaware of the depressed economic conditions of the New York neighborhood.

Between them are their children, son, ABLE, age ten, who is looking at a cell phone, and his non-identical twin, ELBA. Both children wear private school uniforms. Able wears a jacket and loose tie. Elba wears knee socks, a pleated skirt and a blouse. Able has spiky hair. Elba's hair has green tint. They are edgy preteens, Goth-like pale and bored.

ESTHER

I can't wait to get to our new home!

DRIVER

Where's that?

MOHAMED

(in mock Nigerian
accent)

Paradise, an exclusive gated
community in Dallas, Texas.

Driver grimaces at the thought.

ESTHER

One of the best high-security utopias
on the globe!

DRIVER

Have you ever *been* to Dallas?

ELBA

No.

ESTHER

We've never actually *been* there in person, but we did a multidimensional tour online. We sat in the virtual living room, had dinner in the virtual kitchen.

MOHAMED

(in mock Nigerian
accent)

The Paradise Development Corporation has impeccable reputation.

DRIVER

I've heard of Paradise communities. They got them in Costa Rica, Switzerland, nice places. Say, why are you going to the one in Dallas?

The taxi meter reads \$250.03. It is moving fast, although the car is not.

ESTHER

(somewhat
embarrassed)

More affordable.

(brightening)

Our new house is three times the size of what we could buy here.

ABLE

(deadpan)

It's a castle.

MOHAMED

(in natural American
accent)

With porcelain thrones.

ELBA

(eyeroll)

Dad.

MOHAMED

(in Texan accent)

We're heading for open spaces.

(singing)

I believe I can fly.

(spreading his arms)

I believe I can touch the sky.

EXT. NEW YOR AIRPORT - DAY

At the airport entrance, military personnel in olive uniforms stand guard with automatic rifles. The taxi pulls up and the family unloads. An ad on the top of the taxi reads: "Let's keep winning the War on Terror! Re-elect Clinton-Bush."

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Mohamed and Esther automatically take off their shoes as they approach the security point. Mohamed unthreads his belt and Esther removes her jewelry. They put their belonging in his on the conveyor belt.

The children hang behind them waiting patiently. They do not take off their shoes.

FIRST TSA AGENT

(points at Esther's breast)

Ma,am. Underwire?

Keeping her t-shirt on, Esther wriggles out of her underwire bra, pulls it through her sleeve and tosses it into the bins that are going through the x-ray machine. The bins are filled with coins, shoes, electronics, keys and other bras.

Able pockets his cell phone.

Another TSA agent checks the bins as they go through, putting handfuls of loose coins into his own pockets.

Other TSA agents watch naked images of people as they pose in the body scanner.

Esther enters the body scanner.

SECOND TSA AGENT

(like a fashion
photographer to a
model)

That's nice sweetheart. Now hold your
arms over your head for me.

Esther complies.

SECOND TSA AGENT (CONT'D)
Yeah, baby. Now bend forward.

Esther follows the agent's directions.

SECOND TSA AGENT (CONT'D)
Yeah, that's it. Bend forward a
little more, more. Now give us a look
over the shoulder.

Esther complies. A blast of wind blows her hair.

SECOND TSA AGENT
(giggling)
That's the money shot. You're done.

As Mohamed starts to go through the body scanner, an alarm
buzzes.

MOHAMED
(in mock Jewish
grandmother accent)
It's so strange. Why me? Why does it
always have to be me that sets these
things off?

FIRST TSA AGENT
Right this way, Mr. *Mohamed*.

Mohamed is guided toward a "private screening" area. Esther
stands nearby waiting for her husband. A gap under the screen
shows Mohamed's feet. His pants drop around his ankles.

INT. SCREENING AREA - DAY

CLOSEUP - MOHAMED'S BEWILDERED FACE AS HE BENDS OVER.

The TSA agent seated behind him is barely visible.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

ESTHER
I'm so excited.

MOHAMED (O.S.)
I forgot to tip -oooh!- the driver.

ESTHER

I took care of it, Mo!

MOHAMED (O.S.)

Dallas is, what, an hour behind?

ESTHER

What about your behind?

Sound of SLAP.

FIRST TSA AGENT (O.S.)

You're good to go.

Mohamed reappears from behind the screen. Esther and Mohamed walk past a sign, in the background, which reads: "If you see something, say something. I.C.U."

Behind the distracted parents, Able and Elba have refused to go through the body scanner, and a kneeling TSA agent is trying to pat down Elba. She knees him in between the legs; he falls over and the two children walk past him to their parents who have gone through the security point to collect their belongings.

Another sign in the background reads, "Every citizen is suspect. -I.C.U., Inc."

EXT. DALLAS SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

In an armored black Humvee, the Schwartz-Johnsons drive through drought affected suburbs. The lawns are brown, the shrubs are dead, sidewalks are lined with tree stumps.

They pass numerous derelict strip malls and one brightly lit and busy Amazon-Walmart warehouse. Shartz-Johnsons do not notice the bad condition of the neighborhood.

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

ESTHER

I'm so excited.

MOHAMED

I think we get an on-call masseuse.

ESTHER

The tennis court is air conditioned!

MOHAMED

I think the golf course might be too.

ABLE

Does the house have full wireless integration?

ESTHER

I'm sure it does, son. It has everything.

ELBA

(sarcastically)

I bet it's a "smart" grid.

EXT. DALLAS SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

The Humvee passes other cars on the road, which are beat up, twenty-plus-year-old Honda Elements, Subaru Outbacks, Smart cars, Scion cubes, and Chrysler PT Cruisers. The other drivers and people on the street are middle-aged millennials. Their blue Banana Republic shirts have buttons missing. Their khaki pants knees are worn through. Their iPhones are cracked. Their rectangular glasses are taped.

Traffic is bad. The driver turns on the radio. Music.

On the side of the road, standing beside a Subaru Outback, with a faded Obama 2012 bumper sticker and a flat tire, is HUNTER, an attractive man in his late-thirties and his pretty wife, JANET. The couple wear the rumpled business wear of struggling low-level salespeople. Beside them are their two young children, SEBASTIAN wearing old Gap t-shirt and GWENDOLYN wearing a worn Old Navy t-shirt and distressed skinny jeans from early 2000s. Hunter is looking at his cell phone.

CUT TO:

HUNTER'S CELL PHONE SCREEN INSTAGRAM FEED - DAY

Hunter scrolls through a social media feed. He swipes past a Bob Ross meme, a fat fail, and pauses on a Mohamed Johnson meme. On screen Mohamed is standing on the Brooklyn Bridge looking at Manhattan.

MOHAMED

(waving his arm at the skyline)
And you ask me why?

The meme cuts to an image of the bridge blowing up. Hunter smiles and swipes.

CUT TO:

EXT. DALLAS SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Hunter looks up from his cell phone and watches the Schwartz-Johnson's Humvee longingly as it passes.

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

The driver changes the station.

NEWSCASTER 1 (V.O.)

Glorilee Cheney, the largest
waterlord in Dallas, with over ten
thousand square miles of water
rights, will be hosting the opening
of the new Theater in Dallas's
fashionable...

Driver changes the station. MUSIC.

ESTHER

It's going to be different, huh? I
hope we can make friends.

MOHAMED

Who doesn't love New Yawkers?

ESTHER

That's true.

Driver changes station.

COMMERCIAL VOICE (V.O.)

You too can be...

Driver changes station.

NEWSCASTER 2 (V.O.)

U.N. Peace-keeping forces continue to
bomb...

Driver changes station. MUSIC.

ESTHER
(to her husband)
Do you suppose everyone has heard of
you?

ABLE
Who hasn't?

MOHAMED
Dallas is not New York, son.

ABLE
Dad, you do realize the Internet is
not a regional thing?

MOHAMED
Internet intershmet. I hate that
term. I'm just a poet.

Ebla and Able glare at each other and shake their heads.

EXT. DALLAS SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

The Humvee drives over the sidewalk around a long line of cars
and goes through the red light. A PT Cruiser swerves to avoid
the Humvee and hits another PT Cruiser.

EXT. OUTSIDE PARADISE COMMUNITY - DAY

The family's car arrives at Paradise entrance. The fifteen-foot
castellated stone wall wall surround by a moat.

The four look up at the imposing stone wall.

ELBA
Mom, look. It's not a *gated*
community. There's a drawbridge!

EXT. OUTSIDE PARADISE COMMUNITY - DAY

Guards in medieval uniforms question their driver and examine
his papers. The family waits and watches as the drawbridge
slowly descends. Mohamed applauds.

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

MOHAMED

(in Indian accent)
Look at that! Amazing.

ABLE
Oh! Neat.

ELBA
Cool!

EXT. PARADISE COMMUNITY - DAY

Finally, the family drives into their new neighborhood, abundant with tress, flowers and fountains. Mexican lawn management people, dressed like medieval peasants, are hard at work. They watch the new residents drive by.

They drive through their neighborhood of faux medieval style homes made of stone and heavy timber. The streets are cobblestone. Some houses have keeps. All the houses are on small lots.

An armored security guard walks a robodog on a leash.

INT. HUMVEE - DAY

ABLE
Look, Elba! They have one of the K9
patrol robots.

ELBA
Cool.

ABLE
(whispers)
I heard their circuitry is easy to
hack.

ELBA
(whispers)
Cool.

ESTHER
(to herself)
Why is it on a leash?

EXT. TUDOR HOUSE - DAY

The car pulls into the semi-circular drive of a four-story Tudor house on a very, very small lot. The family hops out and runs into the house.

Next door, a man in a full suit of armor rides a mower back and forth across the lawn. The man stops, lifts his visor to reveal the face of AGENT LOWE.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE - DAY

The children run up a circular stone staircase to their rooms.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE ELBA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Elba's castle-style windows are narrow and very high. She jumps, trying, unsuccessfully, to see out. Both children exclaim in delight.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE ABLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Able has a walk-in fireplace in his room. Both children exclaim in delight.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

The parents are in the cavernous kitchen, with an enormous cauldron and fire pit as a decorative centerpiece.

Sound of GONG.

A 40-ish, petite attractive Mexican woman, ESMERALDA, appears, as if instantly. She is wearing a conservative French maid uniform, a plain black dress with frilly apron and frilly cap.

ESMERALDA

The Mr. and Mrs. Cheneys.

Esther glances at her husband. Esmeralda is gone, as if instantly. A young couple, GLORILEE and ARTHUR, walk in, looking at their phones. Glorilee is tall, stunningly beautiful, wearing an ugly designer suit and a big gold bracelet. Arthur is attractive, a little shorter than his high-heeled wife.

GLORILEE

(putting her phone away)

Hello! I'm your neighbor, Glorilee.

This is my husband, Arthur.

Arthur looks up briefly at the mention of his name, appears confused. Goes back to looking at his phone.

MOHAMED/ESTHER

(smiling)

Nice to meet you.

CUT TO:

ARTHUR'S CELL PHONE SCREEN INSTAGRAM - DAY

Arthur swipes past a Cowboy meme, then a Mohamed Johnson meme, showing Mohamed standing near a polluted river with his arm raised. The text read "You ask me why." Arthur swipes again and pauses on a Cowboy meme.

CUT TO:

INT. TUDOR HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

GLORILEE

I'm going to be your buddy.

ESTHER

(still smiling)

Excuse me?

GLORILEE

Your *buddy*. We have a buddy system here in paradise. We all look out for our neighbors. If your grass is too long

Faint sound of rapid GUNFIRE in the far distance.

GLORILEE (CONT'D)

or you put colored drapes in the windows instead of white or you don't decorate for Christmas-

An old lady SCREAMS in the distance. Distant GUNFIRE.

GLORILEE (CONT'D)

-I'll let you know. And you'll let me know too, of course. Buddy system.

MOHAMED

How very nice of you, Gaudilee.

ESTHER

(smiling)

Glorilee.

(pause)

I'm Esther and this is Mohamed and our twins-

GLORILEE

Oh, I know all about you, your kids
Able and Elba. I was on the community
approval committee. Don't feel
indebted, but I did have some
influence. Some members were not so
sure, probably because Mohamed is
 (wordlessly mouthing)
black.
 (speaking normally
 again)
But I said we need more die-vers-ity!

 MOHAMED
(mock enthusiasm)
Right on!

Sound of heavy THUD above their heads.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE ABLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The children show a deliveryman where to place electronic
equipment.

 ELBA
 (looking at a laptop)
Who's this?

Able looks at Glorilee and Arthur on Elba's screen. He takes out
his phone.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

Arthur's phone rings.

 ARTHUR
Hello?

 ABLE (O. S.)
Your father was a hamster and your
mother smelt of elderberries.

Esther and Mohamed look at each other knowingly.

Arthur is nonplussed. He goes back to scrolling through his
phone.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE ABLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

The children laugh as they watch the couple on screen.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

ARTHUR
(pointing to his
phone)
Cowboys. Are you a fan, Mohamed?

MOHAMED
Of?

ARTHUR
(confused)
Of?

ESTHER
(whispering to
Mohamed)
Baseball.

MOHAMED
Oh, right. Sports. We have the Mets
back in New York. Sounds like a lot
of fun.
(weakly)
Go Cowboys!

ARTHUR
(not listening)
Great. We'll grab a beer sometime.

GLORILEE
When you get back from church on
Sunday, you should stop by the
clubhouse, Mohamed. All the men like
to crack open a few and watch the
game.

MOHAMED
Right after church. Gotcha.

GLORILEE
Well, now that we've welcomed you to
our community, we'll git going--leave
you two to the unpacking!

MOHAMED/ESTHER
Nice meeting you.

GLORILEE

If there is anything else that I can help you with, do not hesitate to ask. I'm right across the street.

ESTHER

The house across the street? It's beautiful. So big.

GLORILEE

We like to call it Camelot. C'mon Arthur.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE DINING ROOM - DAY

Sound of powerful AIR CONDITIONER running.

Esther and Mohamed are wearing oversized sweaters. Esther is unpacking a five-foot menorah. Mohamed is unpacking old books. Through the window they see two Mexican workers, carrying big pipes, dripping with sweat.

ESTHER

I think they need lemonade!

EXT. TUDOR HOUSE BACKYARD - DAY

Esther holds a tray with a pitcher of cold lemonade and two glasses. She looks around, sees only an empty yard. Everything is preternaturally still.

She hears the sound of LOCUST BUZZING.

She places the tray on the outdoor table, turns around and bumps into ESMERALDA.

ESTHER

Oh! You frightened me.
(laughs)

ESMERALDA

(laughs, then
abruptly stops)
Si.

ESTHER

You must be the housekeeper.

ESMERALDA

Si.

ESTHER

Mi nombre es Esther.

ESMERALDA
I am Esmeralda.

ESTHER
Oh, Esmeralda, I'm so happy to meet you. This is just lovely here. We're going to be so happy. My kids are so excited. Did you meet the children yet? Elba and Able.

ESMERALDA
(raises an eyebrow,
nods slowly)
Si, they are wonderful children.
(She pauses)
Very smart, no?

ESTHER
Yes, very smart. Too smart!

ESMERALDA
Able was I ere I saw Elba.

ESTHER
Oh, you're a French history buff!

Esmeralda gestures at her French maid's outfit and shrugs.
Esther nods gravely.

Esmeralda hands Esther a card.

ESTHER
(reading)
You are cordially invited to attend
the grand opening of the Dallas
Theater tonight at 8PM. Signed
Glorilee Cheney.
(looking up)
Tonight! Oh, how nice. I wonder what
I should wear.

Esmeralda points to the card.

ESTHER
(reading)
Black tie.

Esther looks up. Esmeralda is gone.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

Mohamed!

INT. TUDOR HOUSE MASTER BEDROOM WALK-IN CLOSET - EVENING

Mohamed is putting on a sparkling silver bow-tie. Esther is wearing a conservative long blue dress.

MOHAMED

Should I wear the black one?

ESTHER

Which one do you want to wear?

MOHAMED

This one.

ESTHER

Then you wear that one!

MOHAMED

(to himself in a
British accent)

Bow-ties are cool.

(to Esther)

How do you think we're going to fit
in? Everyone here seems so--

ESTHER

So?

INTERCUT TO:

INT. ICU MONITOR ROOM - EVENING

Two intelligence agents, AGENT RICO and AGENT LOWE, sit in front of several video monitors in a darkened room. Agents wear blue uniforms with an eye emblem logo and the words, "I.C.U. Intelligence Inc."

Esther and Mohamed are on one video monitor. Another monitor shows an obese woman trying out a hoverboard. Another monitor, very dim, shows a fifty-something husband and wife lying stiffly in bed.

ESTHER

(on screen)

So, what Mo?

MOHAMED

(on screen)

I was going to say, 'Texan.'

ESTHER

(on screen)

I know it's a little different from
backhome, but we'll get on fine.

On monitor screen two. The fifty-something husband on monitor turns off his lamp, lies back for a moment, then rolls over to start kissing his wife rather mechanically.

On monitor screen one. Esther gestures to Adbul to help her zip up her dress.

On monitor screen three. The fat lady on the hoverboard falls. The agents laugh.

MOHAMED

(on screen)

Backhome?

(he zips Esther's
dress)

You're starting to sound like a Texan
already.

ESTHER

(on screen, with a
Texan accent)

That's right. You and me, we'll just
blend right in.

INT. THEATER - NIGHT

The lobby is full of grey-haired men in their sixties with blonde wives, all apparently about thirty, very, very similar in appearance. Esther and Mohamed enter and dive into the crowd.

MOHAMED

(in Texan accent)

Hi. My name is Mohamed and this here
is my wife, Esther. We just moved to
your great state from New York.

LONGHORN

Mohamed, that's an interesting name.
(considers)

Were you named after the boxer?

MOHAMED
(looking sidewise)
Yessir!

LONGHORN
Well, I'm pleased to meet you Mr.
Mohamed. Call me Longhorn.

MOHAMED
(in Texan accent)
Just plain 'Mo' is fine, Mr.
Longhorn.

LONGHORN
Oh, no. Longhorn is not my last name.
It's just a nick-name.
(winks at Esther)

Esther smiles back automatically, then shows discomfort.

PRECIOUS
Who are you flirting with, you little
rascal. Hello. I'm Longhorn's wife,
Precious. You are?

ESTHER
Esther.

PRECIOUS
Of course, Esther. Glorilee told me
about our new neighbors from New
York. I understand your husband is a
famous writer?

MOHAMED
(in natural American
accent, gloomily)
Internet sensation.

ESTHER
(interrupting)
Mo is a poet, a really talented poet.

LONGHORN
On the bestseller list for over a
year, right?

MOHAMED

Millions of uncracked copies adorn
America's nightstands and will soon
move on to thrift stores.

LONGHORN

What was the title, Ole America?

MOHAMED

Ode to America.

PRECIOUS

Oh well, at least everyone bought it.

MOHAMED

(in a Jewish
grandmother accent)

Some kind of social media virus.

Longhorn and his wife look confused.

ESTHER

My husband likes to do funny accents.
It's sort of a hobby.

Mohamed, looking on, nods in agreement.

ESTHER (CONT'D)

Living with Mo is a bit like living
in Disneyland.

MOHAMED

(singing in Eastern
European accent)

It's a small world after all.

.

LONGHORN

(laughs politely)

Oh, but seriously, do you have a
financial adviser?

MOHAMED

Not yet. Focusing my energies on my
new collection, *Life Juice*. It's
about climate change.

Precious grimaces.

MOHAMED (CONT'D)

It's a working title.

PRECIOUS
(taking Esther's arm)
Let me introduce to some of my
friends.

FADE OUT

INT. DALLAS THEATER - LATER SAME NIGHT

Mohamed and Esther are leaving. Women hug Esther good-bye. Men wave to Mohamed.

LONGHORN
We'll talk about those investments,
Mohamed.

MOHAMED
(in gay accent)
I'd like that. I'd like very much.
Thank you.

LONGHORN
(laughing)
Oh stop that, Mohamed. Tuesday, okay.

MOHAMED
(in gay accent)
We can't wait.

INT. TUDOR HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Esmeralda and the children greet the returning parents.

Esmeralda is no longer wearing her French maid cap. She has exchanged her frilly apron for a men's barbeque apron that reads, "Boss of the sauce."

ESMERALDA
I told them they could wait up to say
goodnight.
(to the children)
Ir a la cama, como prometiste

The children kiss their parents and run upstairs.

ESTHER
(delighted)
You're teaching them Spanish?

ESMERALDA

They are very bright children.
Goodnight, Mr and Mrs Schwartz-
Johnson.

Esmeralda starts to leave.

ESTHER

Oh, I don't know why, but I thought
you lived here.

ESMERALDA

I stay in the compound when I'm
working on call.

(She points out the
window)

Monday through Thursday. My little
boy, Luiz, and I live across town.

ESTHER

We have so much room here. Couldn't
you bring your son with you? The
kids could all play together. Right
Mohamed?

MOHAMED

Sure.

ESMERALDA

Thank you Mrs. Schwartz-Johnson. But
that is not done, and we have a nice
little casita.

ESTHER

What do you mean, it's not done? And
please call me Esther. I'm sure your
home is lovely. I'd like to visit
some time. But we have plenty of room
and your son is welcome to come for
sleepovers when you're on call-or
whenever. A "compound" doesn't sound
very nice. Take those two sweet
little rooms on the top floor. You
can use them or not whenever you
want. That's the end of it.

ESMERALDA

Gracias, Esther.
(curtsies)

Mohamed curtsies back and Esther laughs.

ESTHER

You don't have to do that, unless you want to.

ESMERALA

(curtsies)

It's automatic.

MOHAMED

(curtsies)

Well, it will take us some practice to get it right. Good night.

EXT. PARADISE PLAYGROUND - DAY

Able and Elba enter the Medieval-themed playground wearing same school uniforms. The playground is eerily free of other children. It's windy. They hear a mysterious CREAKING sound. There is a tower and a slide that looks like a giant serpent-dragon. There are life-size wooden horses that WHINNY, occasionally, with real horsehair tails and manes. The children try to mount them, but the horses are too tall. They see an iron torture cage hanging from a post on the tower.

INT. PLAYGROUND TOWER - DAY

They enter the tower, go down some wooden stairs and find a dungeon with a rack and scattered bones on the floor. The children examine these things with silent interest.

EXT. PARADISE PLAYGROUND - DAY

The children go back out to the playground and walk by the dragon and are startled when a jet of real fire issues from its mouth.

They hear groaning and see LILY locked in a pillory. Her glasses slide off her nose and hit the ground.

ABLE

Do you think she is playing?

ELBA

Doesn't *look like* much fun.

(running up to the girl)

Little girl, are you all right? Has someone locked you up?

LILY

I'm not having much fun, actually.

Able picks up Lily's glasses and puts them back on her face very gently.

ABLE

How'd you get like this?

LILY

The constable locked me up, for misbehaving.

ABLE

The constable? I didn't know we had a constable. He locks children up?

LILY

Not a real constable. It's Keith Duffy. He's pretending to be the constable.

ELBA

I see. It's just a game. But those are real locks. How do you get out?

LUIZ (O. S.)

You need the key.

Albe and Elba turn to see LUIZ, a boy about their age, swinging a key on a chain. Luiz is a good-looking boy with long hair. He is wearing a white cotton smock, jeans and sandals.

LUIZ (CONT'D)

I saw what Keith did. I chased him down.

LILY

He's going to get your mother fired, Luiz.

LUIZ

We'll see.

Luiz frees Lily. She straightens up groaning. Lily is chubby. Her unicorn t-shirt is too small and her belly is partly exposed. She wears a mini skirt over a pair of slacks. She stands looking dazed, blinking. She breathes through her mouth and pushes her crooked glasses up.

LILY

Thanks a lot for that. I'm Lily. I live in Camelot.

ABLE

I'm Able. We met your parents.

LILY

My mom likes unicorns too.

ABLE

Actually, we sort of met your parents. We were upstairs when they came over.

(looking at Luiz)

I'm sorry. We're completely ignoring you. That's not polite at all. Got all distracted rescuing this lady in distress.

ELBA

I'm Ebla. We just moved into the little Tudor house.

LUIZ

My mother is Esmeralda.

ABLE

(in Spanish)

She's a very nice lady.

LUIZ

(bowing)

Gracias, Senior.

Your mother is a gracious lady, whose virtue shines like a beacon across paradise.

LILY

(in love)

Wow.

K9, the robot dog, enters the playground.

LILY

(pushing up her glasses)

I don't like that dog.

LUIZ

(picking up a wood
lance)
I'll take care of it.

ABLE
Has it ever hurt you?

LILY
No, but I don't like the way it
sniffs my leg. Robots aren't supposed
to be able to smell.

K9 approaches Lily sniffing. She wears plastic shoes without
socks. She backs away and loses a shoe. Her feet are sweaty and
red.

LILY
See. I don't like it. Don't like it
at all.

ABLE
K9s aren't very sophisticated,
really. I had a friend who got one to
do all sorts of tricks. Here.

Able kneels down and looks at the robot, while Luiz stands by
with the lance. Able holds his hand out to the robot. It
approaches and sniffs his hand. Able moves his hand to scratch
his ears and finds a switch there. He quickly switches the robot
off. Elba helps him turn the robot over. Able takes a
screwdriver out of his pocket and opens a control panel.

ELBA
Oh, it's simple. Look, there's a
reward panel. So easy to reprogram.

LILY
(breathily heavily
through her mouth)
That could be fun. Potentially.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE DINING ROOM - EVENING

Esther and Mohamed are having dinner with Longhorn and Precious.

LONGHORN
(delivering a
punchline)
And then the price dropped to half of
what it was when I went in!

The two couples explode with laughter.

PRECIOUS

He lost a lot of money, but the look
on Glorilee's face was worth every
penny of it.

MOHAMED

Priceless.

ESTHER

You say she's a waterlady?

LONGHORN

Don't ever let her hear you say that!
She a waterlord, like landlord only
with water rights.

ESTHER

I didn't know people owned water.

LONGHORN

In Dallas they do.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

Four children are back in the background, which is now lit with
gas torches around the perimeter. Luiz, Elba and Albe all wear
black jeans and black long-sleeve t-shirts. Lily wears a black
unitard. Luiz demonstrates parkour moves on the dragon and on
the palisade walls. He is highly skilled. The children get in a
neat orderly line and take their turns, trying to imitate Luiz
mounting the wooden horses. Lilly slips off her horse.

LUIZ

That was almost it, Lily. You're
getting it.

Luiz offers Lily his hand. She takes it in a lady-like fashion.

LILY

Thank you, kind Sir.

The children hear sound of CREAKING.

ABLE

What's that?

ELBA

What's that smell?

LILY
Burnt human hair.

Luiz is hit with a stone. They look in the direction of the trajectory. They see a blonde boy hiding behind the dragon's fire breathing head.

LUIZ
We can see you, Keith. Why don't you
come out?

Keith throws another stone. It hits Lily in the shoulder.

LILY
Ow.

Keith runs away. Luiz and K9 chase after him.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE DINING ROOM NIGHT

PRECIOUS
Are the kids happy in their new home?

ESTHER
They are in the park with friends. I
think they're adjusting to the new
setting really well.

MOHAMED
All the extra security here makes us
feel pretty good.

ESTHER
Of course, in New York we were never
able to let them just go outside and
play.

MOHAMED
It takes a little getting used to,
all the cameras, and sometimes you
feel like your privacy has been
compromised.

PRECIOUS
But it's worth it for the feeling of
safety?

LONGHORN

And if you're not doing anything
wrong, who cares if they're spying on
you?

Longhorn and Precious smile uncomfortably. Mohamed and Esther
smile uncomfortably back.

EXT. TUDOR HOUSE DINING ROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Elba, Able and Luiz spy on the adults through the window. The
adults cannot see them.

EXT. PARADISE PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

Keith is in the pillory.

Sound of LOCUST BUZZING.

A key is on the ground in front of Keith, too far to reach with
his foot. On the ground nearer to Keith is a stick, a hook, and a
roll of tape. Keith wiggles his feet out of his shoes and takes
off a sock with his other foot. He picks up the stick with his
toes.

EXT. CAMELOT - NIGHT

Sound of LOCUST BUZZING.

Lily looks out her window dreamily.

EXT. TUDOR HOUSE DINING ROOM WINDOW - NIGHT

Elba attaches a device on the windowpane which amplifies the
conversation inside, where Esther, Mohamed, Longhorn and
Precious still sit at the dinner table.

LONGHORN
(through listening device)
But not if you were Glorilee.

PRECIOUS
(through listening device)
Longhorn!

All laugh, then quickly turn to the window.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

ESTHER

What was that?

(remembers)

Where are the kids? It's getting late.

Elba knocks on the window. The adults see the children outside the window. Elba, Able, and Luiz put flashlights under their faces.

The adults, squinting, wave and smile at the children.

EXT. PARADISE COMMUNITY - NIGHT

Esther and Luiz walk together.

LUIZ

Thank you for walking me back. It is not necessary though. Paradise is very safe at night. I'm make sure of that.

ESTHER

Are you sure you and your mother don't want to spend the night tonight?

LUIZ

Thank you Mrs. Esther, but we must take the bus home tonight to our casita.

ESTHER

Bus? What do you mean? You don't have a car?

LUIZ

No, Mrs. Esther. Mass transportation is better to promote a just and sustainable environment.

ESTHER

(schooled)

Oh, well I suppose you're right about that.

LUIZ

It's an electric bus.

ESTHER

Even so. It's a little late. I was thinking of going to the store anyway to get more lemons. Couldn't I give you and your mother a ride home?

LUIZ
(considering)
In the armored vehicle?

ESTHER
Mohamed and the twins can come along too. We'll make it a late-night outing. We'd love to see your casita.

Esther and Luiz arrive outside the compound. They hear voices talking seriously inside. The voices suddenly stop.

LUIZ
That is very kind of you to offer Mrs. Esther. We will ask my mother.

INT. COMPOUND - NIGHT

Esther and Luiz enter the compound building. PEDRO and a dozen Mexican men and women sit around a conference table scattered with papers and maps. Off to the side are closed doors. Everyone is quiet.

ESMERALDA
Esther!

They begin sweeping the papers on the table into folders.

ESTHER
(doubtfully)
Hi. So this is the compound?
(puts hand
protectively on
Luiz's shoulder)

A woman gathers the folders and leaves the room.

ESTHER (CONT'D)
The kids were having so much fun they lost all track of time.

ESMERALDA
Si.

ESTHER

I see you're busy Esmeralda. I just wanted you to let you know that we can drive you and Luiz back home tonight if you like. I was going to the store anyway to get some lem-

ESMERALDA

Thank you. Let's Go.

Esmeralda ushers Esther and Luiz out.

ESTHER

(over her shoulder,
on her way out)

Bye, everyone. Nice meeting you.

Esther, Esmeralda and Luiz leave the compound.

PEDRO

(in Spanish)

The Jewish lady looks after Luiz?

A woman brings the folders back into the room. They resume their meeting. Pedro switches on a projector. A large drop-down screen shows a map of Dallas and a network of pipes and tunnels.

Up in the corners of the room are closed circuit cameras aimed at video monitors showing Mexicans smoking and playing cards around the conference table.

INT. ARMORED VEHICLE - NIGHT

Ezmeralda, Luiz and the Schwartz-Johnsons drive through a derelict suburban area. Luiz gives directions to Mohamed, who is driving.

EXT. SUBURBS - NIGHT

They drive though a warehouse district.

Then they enter a pleasant Mexican-style village with vegetable gardens all around. A light rain has recently fallen.

INT. ARMORED VEHICLE - NIGHT

ESTHER

Don't take this the wrong way, but I expected your neighborhood to be a little different. I mean most of Dallas is so dry, and water is so expensive.

ESMERALDA
(shrugging)
God smiles on us.

EXT. MEXICAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

They get out of the car. A casita door is open. The family looks in, with quizzical expressions, from the doorway. Inside is picture-postcard style-Mexican home, a warmly lit single room, with living area, kitchen with a table and two chairs. The wall is painted terra cotta color and there are two pine doors on the back wall. Two plates of steaming Mexican food on the table.

ESMERALDA
Oh, and let me show you the garden.

Esmeralda shows Mohamed and Esther the small but lush garden that surrounds the little house.

The children hang back.

ELBA
And you're off the grid here?

LUIZ
Completely secure.

ABLE
(nodding in approval)
You've got dumb cells?

LUIZ
(nodding)
You too? The vehicle?

ABLE
All good.

ELBA
It took us a while to clean the whole house. We almost missed the closet monitors. But it's all clear now.

The boys fist bump. Luiz bows to Elba.

EXT. ESMERALDA'S GARDEN -NIGHT

Esmeralda picks two lemons and hands them to Esther.

ESTHER

How did you know? Oh, I'm always
making lemonade for the guys.
Well, we'll be going now. Thank you
for showing us your lovely home.

They embrace goodbye. The Schwartz-Johnsons get into their car
and drive away, as silhouettes of Esmeralda and Luiz stand in
the doorway of their home waving.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Mohamed and the children are each holding a bag of lemons. The
grocery store is made to look like a European outdoor
marketplace with carts and stands. There is sawdust on the
floor.

Clerks in aprons stand behind stacks of fruit, mountains of
cheese, waiting to assist. The cheesemonger's name tag reads,
"HUNTER." His rectangular glasses are taped.

ESTHER

Don't you think it's a bit odd that
they have all those gardens? How can
they afford it? You don't think
they--

MOHAMED

(in Eastern European
accent)

They what?

Esther is quiet. Mohamed samples cheese that Hunter offers him.

MOHAMED (CONT'D)

I did notice they had rain barrels on
all the porches.

ESTHER

That's it. You're right. I don't
know why everybody doesn't do that
around here.

The parents follow the children who have gotten a cart and put the bags of lemons in it. Mohamed places various items in the cart as they leave the cheese aisle and enter the bread section.

INT. GROCERY STORE BREAD SECTION - NIGHT

Esther and Mohamed look at bread. A female clerk in a striped shirt and beret stands by a baguette stand. ICU AGENT ROSS in uniform is talking to her holding a baguette and stroking it suggestively.

INT. GROCERY STORE CHEESE AISLE - NIGHT

Glorilee and Arthur enter the cheese aisle.

Hunter offers Arthur some cheese.

GLORILEE
(flirtatiously)
Do you have anything that is
delicious without any calories?

Arthur wanders away sampling various cheeses.

HUNTER
Everything that's worthwhile comes at
a price.

GLORILEE
Ooh, I like that.

HUNTER
Excuse me, aren't you Glorilee
Cheney? I applied at your firm last
week. My name is Hunter Wainsworth.
(he starts to offer
his hand but realizes
he's wearing latex
gloves and withdraws)
I'm an MBA from SMU.

Arthur has uncorked a bottle of wine near the cheese display and is pouring himself a sample into a paper cup.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
(apologetic)
I'm just working here for extra cash
while I look for the perfect job.
Your firm would be perfect for my
skill set-

GLORILEE

Look, we start MBAs out as interns. I'm afraid you're not going to have much luck finding a paying position with just an MBA.

HUNTER

Yes, I realize that. I'll consider your offer. It's just that my wife and I have tuition debt and our kids are young.

(thinking)

But I really admire your business sense Ms. Cheney. Why should a new employees get paid for training?

GLORILEE

Internships are two years. No guarantee you'll get a paying position after.

HUNTER

Oh, well I'm sure it looks good on a resume.

GLORILEE

Here's my card. Come by tomorrow at lunchtime for an interview.

HUNTER

Thank you. Thank you. I won't let you down.

GLORILEE

It's just an interview, Sweetheart.

INT. GROCERY STORE MEAT AISLE - NIGHT

Esther, Mohamed and the twins are now in the meat section. It is made to look like a butcher's shop and meat packing area. Huge sides of meat hang here and there and customers have to dodge them in the aisle. Every once and a while someone knocks into a slab of meat and it swings on its meathook.

A BUTCHER in a bloodied smock holding a butcher knife greets Esther.

BUTCHER

Can I get you anything?
(with a crazy look in his eye)

Special on rump today.

ESTHER

No, thank you.

(whispering to
Mohamed)

Did I mention to you that I went into
the compound tonight?

MOHAMED

Where the workers live?

BUTCHER

Tender, loin?

ESTHER

No, thank you.

(to Mohamed)

Yeah, it was not what you would
expect.

MOHAMED

Really nice?

ESTHER

No not that. It was just different. I
mean, what they were all doing.

MOHAMED

What were they doing?

BUTCHER

Tongue?

ESTHER

No, thank you.

Esther and Mohamed hurry out of the meat section into the fresh fish section. There is a huge tank of trout in the center of the aisle. Able and Elba have fishing rods. While they fish, the FISHMONGER looks on smiling.

FISHMONGER

They're having so much fun. Do you
want to try your luck? Twenty dollar
rental fee per pole.

MOHAMED

Is this a grocery store or an
amusement park?

Able and Elba both catch fish at the same time. The fishmonger helps Elba reel hers in.

FISHMONGER

Good job.

ELBA

Can we keep them?!

ABLE

We can put them in the moat!

Esther and Mohamed hesitate awkwardly.

The fishmonger takes the fish off the lines, puts them on a table, hits the fish on their heads with a mallet, guts them and wraps them in plastic. The children watch horrified.

Mohamed sighs. The fishmonger hands the children their prizes, and they take them very reluctantly.

ESTHER

(to her children)

They had a good life.

The family drives their cart toward the check-out line.

ESTHER

(to Mohamed)

Any way, about the compound. They weren't doing anything. I mean they weren't watching TV or playing ping pong or doing what you might think they would be doing on their down time. They were having some kind of meeting. I heard them talking before we went in. They got all quiet.

MOHAMED

Okay, they were having a meeting. Why do you find that strange? People have meetings.

INT. ICU MONITOR ROOM - NIGHT

In a darkened room Agent Rico and Agent Lowe watch Esther and Mohamed on a video monitor.

ESTHER

(on screen)

You know, you're right. Of course they do. I don't know what I was thinking.

AGENT RICO
Why did they come up?

AGENT LOWE
Hm. Nothing too interesting in the data. Might have been "rain barrel" or "meeting." Maybe it was just a random check.
(checks a computer screen, reads through data)
They're new at Paradise.
(reads through data)
You know our monitors aren't picking up anything in their location lately. I'll send a technician over. We should look at the word scan on their data histories.

Agent Lowe enters data.

INT. ICU CEO OFFICE HALLWAY - NIGHT

SOUND OF DISCO MUSIC

Agent Rico leaves the office and walks into a lighted hallway, where we see he is an extremely attractive man with a firm jaw and athletic build, but he has a cheesy playboy style and walks with an exaggerated swagger. He is wearing white earbuds, has a soul patch and carefully cut and styled hair. He stops and stands thinking for a moment, bites his lip, then continues on.

Agent Rico walks by ICU CEO's corner office. The door is open. Rico takes out his earbuds.

SOUND OF DISCO MUSIC STOPS.

Rico walks back and timidly peers in and sees ICU CEO looking at his cell phone. ICU CEO dials a number but does not send. Agent Rico taps lightly on the open door.

INT. ICU CEO OFFICE - NIGHT

ICU CEO
Not now, Rico.

INT. ICU CEO OFFICE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Agent Rico goes away dejectedly.

INT. GROCERY STORE CHECK-OUT - NIGHT

Glorilee and Arthur meet Ester, Mohamed and the twins at the check-out line.

ESTHER

Hello! Fancy meeting you here. Thanks for inviting us to the party.

MOHAMED

We would have said hello, but you two were mobbed all evening.

GLORILEE

Oh, that's how those fundraising things go, you know. I'm so glad you enjoyed yourselves.

Arthur is holding several packs of cheese, looking around like a bored small child whose mother has been gabbing with friends. Glorilee ignores him. He drops a cheese package.

Glorilee's phone rings. She looks at her phone.

GLORILEE (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

(she answers)

Hello honey!

(holding her hand
over the phone,
mouthing to Esther
and Mohamed)

It's Lily.

(into the phone)

I miss you too!

CUT TO:

INT. ICU CEO OFFICE - NIGHT

ICU CEO

So don't be a stranger. How about lunch tomorrow by the poo-ool.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE CHECK-OUT LINE

GLORILEE
Ooh, sounds like fun. Can't wait.

CUT TO:

INT. ICU CEO OFFICE - NIGHT

Intercom buzzes.

ICU CEO (CONT'D)
Can you hold on just a minute?

ICU CEO hits a button.

ICU CEO (CONT'D)
Yes?

SECRETARY (O.S.)
Representative Drake is on the other
line.

ICU CEO
Right.
(presses button)
I'll call you back.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE CHECK-OUT LINE

Esther and Mohamed are bagging their groceries.

GLORILEE
Okay baby. Bye-ee.
(hangs up, then to
Esther and Mohamed)
Sorry about that. Lily misses her
mom.

ESTHER
Very nice little girl. She and the
twins get on well.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

The neighbors leave the grocery store and part ways at the entrance. There are clowns on unicycles and jugglers in front of the store. The big neon sign reads: "Disney Foodtown."

INT. ICU CEO OFFICE - NIGHT

ICU CEO is on the office phone.

ICU CEO

Marshal, how are you my man? Listen I heard you were making alternative plans. Let me tell you something. Your daughter is going to post an unfortunate picture on Facebook tomorrow night. Yes, that's right.

(waits)

So, we have a deal then? I thought so. Nice talking to you.

(hangs up)

Idiot.

(picks up cell phone,
calls, waits)

Guess who I just heard from? Yes, you were right. They get dumber and dumber every election season. Pretty good joke putting that one on the House Intelligence Committee.

(laughs)

No worries. Whatever regulations you want, you got. Just have your people write it up. Yeah. Kiss, kiss baby.

(hangs up cell phone,
thinking)

EXT. PARADISE MEDIEVAL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Able and Elba find Lily in the iron cage hanging from a post about five feet off the ground.

ALBE

Hello Lily. What are you doing?

LILY

Waiting for Luiz.

ELBA

Did Keith do that?

LILY
Not actually.

ABLE
Well Luiz is home today. Can we help
you down?

LILY
Yes.

They lower the cage with a pulley and help Lily out.

ELBA
Do you want to play with the dog?
(whistles)

K9 comes running.

LILY
Hey K9. Hey boy. How's K9?

ABLE
Sit!

K9 sits. Able presses a reward button.

ELBA
Roll over.

K9 rolls over. Able presses a reward button.

LILY
Do a cart wheel.

K9 cocks his head.

ABLE
He hasn't learned that yet.

LILY
(disappointed)
Oh.

ABLE
Do you want to go spy on someone?

ELBA
We could ring people's gongs and run
away?

LILY

I'm supposed to stay on the
playground and get exercise while my
mom's at work.

Able puts his finger to his lips indicating shh. He points to
her pocket and mimes taking out her cell phone.

ABLE

Oh, that's too bad. I guess we'll see
you later.

Lily winks, takes out her cell phone and sets it on the swing
seat.

LILY

Okay, see you later.

The three children run off laughing. K9 follows.

EXT. DALLAS SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

ICU Agent Rico drives a mint condition 2007 PT Cruiser. The air
conditioner is blasting and the windows are rolled down. The
radio blares a COUNTRY AND WESTERN SONG.

Agent Rico pulls into a Starbucks parking lot. The Starbucks
sign is in pink and orange (not green).

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

The coffee shop interior looks like a Dunkin' Donuts, brightly
lit with fluorescent lights, the chairs and tables are pink and
orange. There is a TV monitor playing CNN.

Agent Rico walks by the TV monitor on the way to the counter.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Today in the news, U.N. peace-keeping
forces continue to bomb...

Agent Rico walks up to the counter. The cashier is Hunter.

HUNTER

Can I help you?

AGENT RICO
Cap-o-chino.
(makes a peace sign)
Make that two.

HUNTER
Would you like a breakfast burrito
croissant with that?

AGENT RICO
No.

Hunter hands the agent two ready-made drinks.

HUNTER
Twenty-two fifty please.

AGENT RICO
Discount for gold?

HUNTER
Seventy-five percent off, Sir. Five
sixty three.

AGENT RICO
(frowns, looking at a
handful of gold
coins)
I don't have anything that small.

HUNTER
We accept bullets too, Sir.

AGENT RICO
(pleased)
Oh.
(reaches into his
shirt pocket, hands
the cashier a bullet)
Here. Keep the change.

HUNTER
Thank you, Sir.

Agent Rico goes to the sidebar to put sugar in one of the
coffees from a glass sugar dispenser. He pours in about a half
cup of sugar while Hunter watches.

Agent Rico leaves the shop.

HUNTER
(calling after Rico)
Thank you, Sir. Have a wonderful day.

EXT. STARBUCKS - DAY

AGENT RICO
(to himself as he
walks to his car)
I always do.

INT. GLORILEE'S OFFICE LOBBY - DAY

Agent Rico sallies into office lobby carrying two coffee cups and a file tucked under one arm. He enters an empty elevator.

INT. THIRTIETH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

The elevator door opens. The car is now crowded. A lady jumps and looks behind her as if she's been groped on the butt. The crowd parts revealing Agent Rico standing in the back of the car. He swaggers forth.

INT. GLORILEE'S OFFICE - DAY

Glorilee is looking out the window. Her door is slightly ajar.

Agent Rico pushes the door open with his foot.

AGENT RICO
Coffee delivery for the loveliest
waterlord in town.

Agent Rico shuts the door behind him with his foot as he enters the room.

GLORILEE
(annoyed)
Thank you.

AGENT RICO
(moving eyebrows up
and down)
Just dropping off the monthly file
for you.

GLORILEE

Let me see.

(briefly looks at
files)

You're supposed to provide me with intelligence. Last month you gave me a list of cheerleader car washes. You call that intelligence? I want to know who's talking about me. I want to know everything that was said about me anywhere. Do you understand?

AGENT RICO

I understand that your husband might be interested in what you said last Tuesday at the salon about his mother.

GLORILEE

(nonplussed)

Give me the file.

AGENT RICO

Aren't you going to pay me for the coffee?

GLORILEE

(sighing, opens her
top drawer and hands
him a small gold bar)

Next time remember I want an almond latte.

AGENT RICO

Whatever the lady wants, the lady gets.

Agent Rico hands over the file.

EXT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Hunter is off work. His wife, JANET, arrives in old Subaru Outback with two young children, SEBASTIAN and GWENDOLYN in the backseat. Hunter gets in the car.

INT. SUBARU OUTBACK CAR - DAY

HUNTER

(getting into the car)

What took you so long? I'm going to
be late again. We can't afford that.

Janet pulls into traffic, which is very, very bad. Hunter takes
off his Starbucks apron. A missing white button on his blue
button-down shirt has been replaced by a brown one.

JANET
How'd the interview go?

HUNTER
Glorilee wasn't there. She must have
forgotten.

JANET
I'm so sorry sweetheart.

HUNTER
It's not like it was a real job
anyway.
(turning to his
daughter in backseat)
Could you just hand me my other work
shirt?

Gwendolyn hands him his grocery store cheesemonger smock.

HUNTER
Not that one. The red one, Honey.

Gwendolyn hands him red shirt. Hunter takes off his button-down
shirt and pulls the red shirt over his head. The red shirt bears
a Target name tag, "HUNTER."

In the medium of the road there is a McDonald's order box. They
drive by it.

MCDONALD'S ORDER TAKER (O.S.)
Can I have your order?

JANET
(barks)
No.
(beat)
Why do they put those all over the
road?

Ahead of the Outback there is a McDonald's right on the medium f
the road, serving customers in the traffic jam on either side.
The car in front of them is getting an order of fries.

Agent Rico passes slowly in the opposite direction. Rico checks out Janet.

INT. AGENT RICO'S CAR - DAY

Agent Rico drives to ICU headquarters and parks. He is wearing a holster with a gun. He puts on his suit jacket with ICA emblem.

EXT. ICU HEADQUARTERS

The ICU headquarters is a very expensive building made of granite with impressive steps leading to the main entrance like a national monument. Four Saudi princes, wearing beautiful flowing robes and huge gold necklaces, leave the building.

Agent Rico, carrying a McDonald's bag, passes the princes on his way into the building. He salutes, but they do not notice him.

Agent Rico swaggers into the lobby, greeting everyone very familiarly. Two attractive women pass.

AGNET RICO
(in cheesy voice)
Ladies.

The ladies ignore him. He passes Agent Ross, who is leaving the building.

AGNET RICO (CONT'D)
Ross. Hey dude. Keep it up.

AGENT ROSS
I always do.

Agent Rico enters the elevator.

INT. ICU HEADQUARTERS HALLWAY - DAY

Agent Rico exits the elevator and walks down a wide hallway. In front of him is a woman in a very tight skirt and high heels simpering down the hall. He follows her.

They pass a number of doors. When the woman reaches a door that is plated in gold, she knocks on it lightly and goes in.

Agent Rico peeks inside as he passes the open door. The office is gaudily decorated like a palace. A Saudi prince, wearing robe and headgear, sits behind his desk with his feet, in cowboy boots, on the desk, smoking a cigar. The prince smiles at the woman and she closes the door behind her.

Agent Rico continues down the hall with his McDonald's bag.

INT. ICU MONITOR ROOM - DAY

Agent Rico sits at desk beside Agent Lowe in front of multiple monitors. He finishes his last fry and leans back in his chair, putting his feet up. He is wearing cowboy boots.

AGENT RICO

Wake me if it gets interesting.

EXT. PARADISE COMMUNITY - LATE EVENING

Esther and Mohamed rapid-walk in sports clothes.

MOHAMED

(in Cockney accent)

Everyone 'ere is in such good shape.
'ave you noticed?

ESTHER

You look great to me, Mo.

A house in the background has a full suit of armor on the porch.

MOHAMED

(in Cockney accent)

'ow do they exercise in this 'eat?
This is April. What's it like in
July, I wonder.

ESTHER

Pretty hot, I imagine. We can go to
the clubhouse.

The suit of armor adjusts his codpiece.

MOHAMED

(in Cockney accent)

Before I go in there I've got to get
in better shape. I can't even fit
into those little machines, Esther.

EXT. PARADISE PLAYGROUND - DAY

Esther and Mohamed enter the playground.

ESTHER

Have you seen the kids doing that
parkour stuff? It looks fun, and it
might really get your heart rate up.

MOHAMED

Like this?
(jumps over the
dragon)

ESTHER

Go Mo.
(jumps over the
dragon)
Whew!

As the couple exercises, they are unaware of a SWAT team in the far distance that has surrounded a stone house near the moat. A SWAT team member leads Longhorn away from the house while his wife waves with a hanky.

Longhorn jumps into the moat.

Esther and Mohamed do not notice. They continue to exercise.

They hop through swings and onto horses, to a SUCCESS MUSIC soundtrack. When Mohamed fails, falling hard astride a rail, the "success" music stops abruptly.

Mohamed gets up with difficulty. Esther helps him.

MOHAMED

I'm fine. Hey, you're pretty good.

ESTHER

Watch this.

Esther climbs up a gate, jumps to the fence rail, then to the top of a small shed, then to a nearby rooftop. Mohamed follows. The shed roof caves in and he drops out of view into the shed.

ESTHER

Oh, honey!

Esther climbs down. She opens the shed door. Mohamed exits, dusting off his shoulders and groaning.

They look around and find themselves in a service area behind the clubhouse. They are fenced in.

It's getting dark.

ESTHER

Maybe if we cut through there we can get back to the path.

They jog through an area under construction and stumble upon a Mexican worker laying drainage pipes. Startled, he drops the pipes and runs.

MOHAMED

What's up with him?

ESTHER

I don't know. It's like we caught him doing something wrong.

MOHAMED

What could be wrong with plumbing?

They look at each other as if they both have an insight. They examine the pipe.

MOHAMED

Look, this pipe leads from the rain gutter into the ground. There's another one here.

ESTHER

Some kind of automatic watering system?

MOHAMED

Doesn't look like one.

They see the man hiding in the bushes.

ESTHER

Why don't we ask him?

Esther and Mo walk toward the man, but he runs off.

ESTHER

I'm just going to ask Esmeralda.

Esther turns around and bumps into Esmeralda.

ESTHER

Oh!

ESMERALDA

I keep scaring you.

ESTHER

No, it's just that-

ESMERALDA

You suspect something, don't you?

ESTHER

I don't suspect. I was curious.

MOHAMED

Curious.

ESMERALDA

I'll tell you then.

(She looks around.)

Come with me.

Esmerelda turns and walks toward compound. Esther and Mohamed follow.

EXT. MCDONALD'S PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Hunter parks his Subaru.

INT. HUNTER'S CAR - NIGHT

Hunter sits thinking. He takes a gun out of the glove compartment and looks at it with dread. He puts it in his jacket pocket and looks in the rearview mirror.

HUNTER

(as if practicing)

Put all the money in the drawer in a paper bag. No one will get hurt.

(pause)

No one will get hurt if you just put all the money in a paper bag.

(pause)

Just put the money in a bag. Do it!

Resolved, Hunter gets out of his car and walks quickly into the restaurant.

INT. MCDONALD'S

Hunter walks straight up to SARA, a cashier.

HUNTER

Put all the—

SARA

Welcome to McDonald's. Can I take your order?

HUNTER

Just put the—

SARA

Hunter? Is that you? It's me, Sara, from accounting class! How are you?

HUNTER

Good, good. I'm doing good, uh well.

SARA

Oh, this is just for some extra cash. You know me. Can't sit still. I have an interview next week.

HUNTER

Oh, that's good. It'll go well, I bet.

SARA

So what can I get you?

HUNTER

Oh, nothing.

Hunter turns and runs out of the restaurant. Sara frowns.

INT. ICU MONITOR ROOM - NIGHT

Agent Lowe wakes Agent Rico.

AGENT LOWE

My shift's over.

Agent Rico, still very sleepy, looks at the bank of twenty monitors in front of him. He sees video of Mohamed falling through the shed.

AGENT RICO

Dude, you got some stuff for your fat fail compilations! You're gonna get so many followers.

AGENT LOWE
Awesome. Yeah. Gotta go.

Agent Lowe leaves the room.

Agent Rico looks at the video monitors. He makes a bored face, picks up a remote control and changes. Eventually, on one of the screens, he finds an attractive young woman playing with a cat.

On the bottom left monitor, Glorilee and Arthur are asleep in their bed.

INT. CAMELOT MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Glorilee and Arthur toss and turn in their bed.

DREAM SEQUENCE EXT. OCEAN - DAY

A high-dimensional video-game-style, idealized version of Glorilee rides a magical water steed, which forms a wave with other waterhorses in an advancing line. Glorilee holds Poseidon's trident and commands the horse wave onward.

The wave is a rising tidal wave approaching a small island. Glorilee and her horses are of gigantic, Olympian proportions and sweep over the huts and trees destroying them utterly.

Now Glorilee is the Lady of the Lake, rising slowly out of the water carrying a huge sword. She walks toward a beach where Arthur waits kneeling, head down. She stands right in front of him. He does not look up. She takes the sword and touches one shoulder, then the other. Arthur looks up, worried.

Glorilee raises the sword high over her head. She glances to a sand dune behind Arthur where stands a knight in full shining armor. She smiles and brings the sword down fast toward Arthur's head.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM CAMELOT - NIGHT

Arthur wakes with a start, sitting bolt upright in bed, realizes he's been dreaming, lies back down. He glances at his wife sleeping next to him. He scoots to the edge of the bed, away from his wife, and, frightened, clutches the sheet to his chest.

He looks around the bedroom. He looks out the bedroom doorway into the hall where a suit of armor stands.

He tosses and turns. He picks up a glass on his bed side table. It's empty. He gets up, with glass in hand, and goes into the hall past toward the suit of armor.

INT. HALLWAY CAMELOT - NIGHT

After going a few steps, he comes back and looks at the suit of armor.

Very carefully, he opens the visor and peers in. Nothing there. Arthur continues down the hall toward the kitchen.

INT. COMPOUND - NIGHT

Pedro and several men with beeping electronic devices go around the room checking for something. Esther, Mohamed and Esmeralda wait.

PEDRO

All clean.

Esmeralda lowers a video screen by remote control and turns on computer projector. An image appears on the screen showing various plumbing diagrams and maps of the Paradise community.

ESMERALDA

It's called Project Life Juice.

Mohamed reacts.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D)

We have a system of tunnels and pipes under this entire facility that gives us access to the plumbing. We separated all of the toilet waste pipes from the other pipes, the greywater, and we take the greywater here,

(points with laser to
a diagram on the
screen)

where we filter and clean it, and we pump it into a main artery here, which leads to the barrio.

ESTHER

The barrio. That's why you have all those lovely gardens.

MOHAMED
So you're stealing water?

ESMERALDA
(proudly)
We're recycling. We're taking the water people throw away, and we use it for good.

MOHAMED
But you're doing it in secret?

ESMERALDA
(defiantly)
Yes.

MOHAMED
Fine with me. Is that okay with you, Esther?

ESTHER
Okay by me. Great. Do you take our greywater too?

Esmeralda stiffens.

ESTHER (CONT'D)
because I probably shouldn't be using Tide in the laundry, right?

ESMERALDA
As a mater of fact-

MOHAMED
(interrupting)
I don't know why you're so secretive about the whole thing. It's a great idea. Life Juice! You know that's the name for my new collection of poems. This is amazing. The whole city should be doing this. Everything is so dead and brown.
(turning to Esther)
Have you noticed?

Esther nods.

MOHAMED (CONT'D)

It could really change a lot of lives. Life Juice. That's what water is. You should be helping the whole world, Esmeralda.

ESMERALDA

There are things you don't know.

ESTHER

What is the city water system like? I mean, could you do the same kind of thing to every home?

PEDRO

Sure.

Pedro switches the computer screen to set of city maps.

PEDRO (CONT'D)

The whole city system could be converted. Take time. But everyone has a green garden at the end of five years.

MOHAMED

Can I get that map?

PEDRO

I got it off the Internet. Just search Dallas metroplex water system.

INT. TUDOR HOME MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

Mohamed sits on the bed using his laptop computer. Esther is putting folded clothes away.

MOHAMED

Look Esther. Imagine this whole area green.

They view the map on the screen which shows a network of pipes overlaid on a street grid.

MOHAMED (CONT'D)

And look. Everything connects to a main line.

ESTHER

You could really filter and recycle the greywater with a system like this.

MOHAMED

You know I was sort of wondering what I was going to do with my life. I know I'm just a Internet joke.

ESTHER

Honey, no. You're not a joke. Don't say that.

MOHAMED

It's okay. I know no one who's bought my book has read it. I know I'm just famous for being a *meme*.

ESTHER

Sweeite.

MOHAMED

No really. It doesn't hurt my feelings. I'm grateful to you and the twins for pretending, you know, that I'm some sort of author celebrity. But I know the money is coming from YouTube hits not book sales.

ESTHER

We think you are the best poet.

MOHAMED

I do too! I'm damn good. But it's okay if other people don't think so. What I'm trying to say is, I think I have the opportunity to do something good with the money I've made off this Internet fluke thing. Life Juice, Esther. Can you believe that?

ESTHER

This is speaking to you, isn't it Mo? You're such a good man. I'm behind you all the way.

MOHAMED

It's like that cab driver in New York said. Why Dallas? You know, I think we came here for a reason. It can't be a coincidence that name, Life Juice?

ESTHER

I think you were meant for this.

MOHAMED

(in fake Spanglish)

I talk with Esmeralda and friends
tomorrow. She do mucho with nada.
Just imagine if she had mucho dinero.

ESTHER

I bet Longhorn would even put in a
few dollars.

MOHAMED

(in Texan accent)

Shoot. I bet he would.

ESTHER

I'm so proud of you Mohamed. You're
always doing the right thing.

INT. RUN-DOWN SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Janet is on the phone.

JANET

Hello this is Justine with Paradise
Properties. I'm calling to tell you
about-

(hangs up phone,
looks at computer
screen, dials number)

Hello this is Justine with Paradise
Properties. I'm calling to tell you
about a limited offer to take a free
multidimensional tour of our-

(hangs up phone,
looks at computer
screen)

Frack!

Her two children, Sebastian and Gwendolyn, sit on the sofa doing
school work reading. Gwendolyn is reading Darwin's *On the
Origin of Species* and Sebastian is writing out algebraic
expressions.

GWENDOLYN

Mom you shouldn't swear.

JANET

Sorry. It's not technically a swear word, though.

(looks at them
lovingly)

You guys are so awesome. Just half an hour more and I'll be able to spend some time with you. Mommy's got to make two more deals.

Knock at the door.

JANET (CONT'D)

(exasperated)

Oh, god. Listen, guys, it's probably Child Protective Services again. Get on the computer, Gwendolyn, quick.

Janet hands Sebastian her phone. He starts playing a violent game. Gwendolyn turns on the computer to a ridiculously simple math counting game, in which cartoon frogs try to eat flies.

Janet opens wide the door. Agent Rico stands there in his ICU uniform, smiling.

JANET

(closing the door so
that she speaks
through a crack)

Who are you? What do you want?

COMPUTER PROGRAM

(faintly in the
background)

What is five flies minus two flies?

Agent Rico pushes his way into the house. He takes off his jacket, folds it neatly and places it on the sofa arm. He wears a gun in a holster. The children run out of the room. Rico loosens his tie and adjusts his belt.

AGENT RICO

Hello Janet, or should I call you Justine? Or is it Melody today? You know my favorite is Mistress Straightlace.

(pause)

You do a lot of interesting phone work.

JANET

Pays the bills.

AGENT RICO

Well, I think I can help you there. That husband of yours, I bet he doesn't know about Mistress Straightlace, does he? You see I kinda like her. I think we can be friends.

Behind Agent Rico, Hunter quietly approaches and stand in the doorway. He is wearing his cheesemonger uniform. He carefully raises a gun and points it out Agent Rico's back.

Sound of GUN BEING COCKED.

AGENT RICO

(cool, does not turn around)

That must be your husband, Mistress Straightlace. Speak of the devil. To be perfectly honest with you I didn't do all my homework. I just ran right over here after I heard you "working." Got a little excited.

Hunter steps forward, steadies his aim.

AGENT RICO (CONT'D)

But let me guess. Hubby is a wimp working stiff. Has two or three jobs, leaving you and the kids all alone most of the time. Hubby thinks he can bluff me, but I know you folks don't have enough to buy knee patches

As agent Rico spins around going for his gun,

AGENT RICO (CONT'D)

much less bullets!

Agent Rico raises his gun just at Hunter. Hunter fires. Agent Rico falls to the ground and drops his gun. Janet picks up Rico's gun.

AGENT RICO

Oo! Oo my hand. You—you-shot me—in
the hand. D—dude! What did you do
that for? Not cool, just not cool
bro.

Hunter bends down on one knee and punches Agent Rico in the jaw. Rico falls and is out cold.

HUNTER

Mistress Straightlace?

JANET

(shrugging)

You'd never believe how much money
can be made saying "no."

HUNTER

I wondered where you got the money
for real books. So what do we do with
him?
(kneeling down, examining Rico)
It doesn't look too bad. I just
grazed him.

The children appear with a roll of duct tape and rope.

CUT TO:

INT. RUN-DOWN SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Agent Rico is duct-taped, sitting in a kitchen chair. One hand is free and it has been bandaged. His mouth is taped but he manages to push part of it off with his tongue. He works the tape into his mouth with his teeth, then spits the tape on the floor. He swings his taped feet and scoots himself toward the front door.

EXT. RUN-DOWN SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

Hunter, Janet and the children throw suitcases into their car and drive away.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE ABLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Elba and Able are working on computers. The screen shows only computer code. Lily lightly taps on the door and walks in.

LILY

Can you help me?

ABLE

Of course, Lily. What is it?

LILY

I can pay you.

(she takes a wad of
bills out of her
pocket)

I need some information. I know you
are both computer spies.

Able and Elba shrug.

LILY

It's okay. I respect your work.

(breathing heavily
through her mouth)

I think Luiz might be in trouble.

ABLE

(feigning ignorance)

What kind of trouble?

LILY

Only trouble with the most powerful
waterlord in the metroplex area. It's
quite romantic really, star-crossed
lovers. If my mother finds out,
there'll be heck to pay.

ABLE

You want us to monitor the situation?
See how much she knows?

LILY

If I can just warn him in time, give
him a head start.

ELBA

We can take care of it. Have you got
your phone on you?

Lily takes out her phone. She has wrapped it in several layers of bubble wrap sealed with duct tape.

ELBA (CONT'D)
You on a family plan?

Lily nods.

ELBA (CONT'D)
Okay, that's pretty simple.

After Lily peels away the layers, she hands over her phone to Elba.

Elba works on the phone for a moment shows the screen to Able. He goes onto the computer for a moment.

ELBA (CONT'D)
Can you leave this with us for a few days. Just say you lost it on the playground again.

LILY
We're going to Mexico when we're sixteen to be married.
(breathing heavily
through her mouth)
Luiz knows where there's a real paradise.

INT. GLORILEE'S OFFICE - DAY

Glorilee sits behind her desk. Agent Rico sits in a chair facing her. His hand has a huge bandage. Two McDonald's coffee cups sit on Glorilee's desk. Her phone sits beside the coffee. The screen lights up briefly.

GLORILEE
I don't drink McDonald's coffee.

AGENT RICO
Suit yourself. More for me.

Agent Rico reaches for his coffee with bandaged hand, remembers and then reaches with left hand.

GLORILEE

I won't ask, but not because I'm not terribly concerned.

AGENT RICO
(very irritable)
Basically this is what you've got.
Some do-gooders who want to start a
city-wide greywater recycling
program.

He throws a file at her desk. It misses the desk. He bends to pick up the paper and finds it difficult with his bandaged hand. Glorilee does not offer to help. Finally, he gathers the papers and hands the file to her. She looks through it briefly.

GLORILEE
Those two! Traitors.
(beat)
How much money could I lose?

AGENT RICO
Not my job to work that out for you.

GLORILLE
(thinking)
As much as fifty percent if they
reuse the greywater to flush toilets.
Next thing they'll start rainwater
collection too.

AGENT RICO
We actually have recordings of them
discussing that as well.

GLORILEE
I knew it. I knew I didn't like the
looks of those two. Well, there's
only one thing we can do.

AGENT RICO
(cheered up a little)
Frame them? Ruin the husband's
career?

GLORILEE
Can't. He's already a joke.
(thinking)
We'll call the Feds.

AGENT RICO

What? Those two are just amateurs.
They're not real activists or
anything.

GLORILEE

You don't think so?

(considers a moment)

I say they're terrorists, plotting to
poison the water supply to kill every
man, woman and child in the entire
metroplex area. Terrorists, that's
what they are.

AGENT RICO

But all they did is look at a map.

(he pauses)

Of course no *real* evidence is
necessary for arresting terrorist
suspects.

(chuckling)

Convenient. But it will cost you
extra.

GLORILEE

Not a problem.

AGENT RICO

Well, Esther and Mohamed baby, nice
knowing you. You're going down.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE ABLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Able and Elba take off their headphones and stare at each other
mouths agape. Their computer screens show profiles of Glorilee
and Agent Rico.

ELBA

(yelling)

Mom, Dad I think you'd better come up
here.

ABLE

How'd they do it? We're getting
sloppy Elba. They must have been able
to track Dad's Internet use.

ELBA

Sounds like they picked up audio too.

ABLE

I should have done another check.
Stupido!

Mohamed and Esther enter Able's room.

ESTHER
What is it, honey?

ELBA
You recorded it, right?

ABLE
Yes.

Elba and Able hand their headphones to their parents. The parents put the headphones on. They smile at first. Then their expressions go from confused to concerned. The parents take off the earphones.

MOHAMED
Does this mean you've been spying on people again?

ABLE
(whining)
But they spied on us first!

ESTHER
Two wrongs don't make a right.

ELBA
Okay, Mom. We're sorry we spied. It was wrong. Now, listen. This is serious. Like, terror suspects have no rights under the NDAA.

ESTHER
The what?

ABLE
(rolling his eyes)
Parents! Don't you ever go on alternative media?

MOHAMED
(very calmly)
Don't speak disrespectfully to your mother, Able.

ABLE
I'm sorry, Mom.

ELBA

We'll explain it to you later. Right now, we've got to get out of here. Agents are on their way to arrest you.

Esther and Mohamed look at each other.

MOHAMED

(to Esther)

We know our kids aren't stupid.

Mohamed and Esther start to look very concerned.

ABLE

(to Elba)

What's the best means of escape?
Should we risk the car?

ELBA

At this point I'd say it's our best option, if we can still get through the drawbridge. No, we'll use the service exit.

(to Esther)

Mom, there are four bug-out backpacks in the hall closet. Dad gets the biggest one; the other three are ours. We have everything we'll need for five days. Are we ready?

ESTHER

Where are we going?

ABLE

Outta here.

Mohamed grabs an old book off Able's shelf and leaves the room, followed by Elba and Able. Esther sits in shock for a moment then follows.

INT. TUDOR HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

The family puts on backpacks.

MOHAMED

On what charge?

ABLE

Suspicion.

ESTHER

Of what?

ELBA

Uh! Let me make this simple. Glorilee doesn't like your greywater idea. She would lose money. So, she says you are terrorists planning to poison the water system.

MOHAMED

But that's silly. She would never be able to show proof that we are planning to do something like that! You can't just accuse people of some crime without evidence.

Sound of POUNDING on the front door. SWAT teams swarm outside the windows. The family runs back upstairs and slips out a bedroom window onto a side porch roof.

EXT. TUDOR HOUSE - DAY

SWAT team is pounding on the door and yelling. One of the SWAT members steps back to kick down the door. As he goes to kick the door, we see that his heel has a stamp on it that says "Have a nice day" with a smiley face on it. Door is kicked down and we briefly see the dirty imprint of the boot on the wood.

EXT. TUDOR HOUSE ROOFTOP - DAY

With Able leading, they hop onto a neighbor's roof and look over the side. The robo-dog appears on the ground below.

ESTHER

Oh my god. The Robo dog! It's going to attack us!

ABLE

Mom, you read *Farehenit 451* to us, remember? We totally reprogramed it.

ELBA

(to K9)

Get the men in black.

K9 runs off growling.

ABLE

This way.

Able and Elba run up pitched roofs and hop over dormers. The parents have trouble following at first, but imitate the children surprisingly well. They jump five feet to a nearby rooftop. They find many convenient Medieval architectural features to use to jump from rooftop to rooftop.

ELBA

Mom, that was great! I didn't
imagine you could be so limber.

ESTHER

Where there's a will there's way!

Esmeralda, Pedro and two friends suddenly appear with a grappling hook and climbing equipment.

ESMERALDA

They've raised the drawbridge and
released the crocodiles into the
moat, and the service gate is
surrounded. You must go over the
wall.

Esmeralda and the other three men help the family step into harnesses. Each harness is connected with a ten foot length of rope.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D)

Mohamed goes first. He's the weight.
Esther you're next.

Esmeralda and the two men disappear.

PEDRO

Follow me.

Pedro jumps a seven foot gap. Mohamed follows, then Esther and then Able. Elba misjudges and falls. She is caught by her bungee cord, and they haul her up. They are close to the wall.

On the ground they see black uniformed agents circling.

PEDRO

I'm going to distract them. You'll
have to get over the wall without me.

Pedro runs off. He shows himself to the men on the ground. They turn their attention to him. There is a ten foot gap between the rooftop and the wall.

The family is still tied together in ten-foot lengths of rope. They look over the ten foot gap. It's a three-story drop.

ESTHER
I don't think we can make it.

ABLE
It'll be tough for Dad. May if we
jump first and tie-

MOHAMED
(interrupting)
I got this. I love you guys.
(tearfully)
I love you.

Mohamed runs and makes a heroic leap of faith from the rooftop

SINGER (V.O.)
I believe I can fly.

Mohamed sails over the ten foot gap and right over the gated community wall, defying physics with his huge bulk.

SINGER (V.O. CONT'D)
I believe I can touch the sky...

Mohamed summersaults in the air and lands roughly on his back atop of a parked semi-truck trailer.

MUSIC suddenly cuts off. SOUND OF RECORD SCRATCHING.

EXT. INSIDE THE COMMUNITY WALL

The bungee cords attaching Mohadmed to his family reaches its limit. The twins and Esther are yanked over the wall after Mohamed.

K9 below looks on and whimpers.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY WALL

Esther, Able and Elba land on Mohamed's belly as if on a trampoline, and roll onto the top of the trailer.

ESTHER
Honey, are you all right?

MOHAMED
(groaning, then in
Jewish grandmother
accent)
Ah, don't worry about me. I'll be
fine!

Mohamed struggles to his feet.

MOHAMED (CONT'D)
(chuckling)
Built-in cushioning.

They climb down from the truck and get out of their harnesses.

An old black Honda Element with darkened windows screeches to a stop in front of them. The family huddle together and scream. Masked men dressed like ninjas jump out, grab them and haul them into the car.

INT. HONDA ELEMENT - DAY

The men take off their masks: it's Esmeralda, Pedro and friends.

ESTHER
You always seem to appear just when
we need you!

ESMERALDA
It's my job.

MOHAMED
What?

ESMERALDA
I no just a housekeeper!

The car rides roughly over the pot-hole marked roads with dust trailing. The car stops abruptly at a storm drain. A MAN in black is waiting on the curb.

MAN
Quickly, quickly.

Esmeralda and the Schwartz-Johnson family follow the man into a storm drain tunnel. Mohamed pauses for a moment to size himself up. He decides he'll fit and is the last to squeeze through.

FADE OUT

INT. GLORILEE'S OFFICE - DAY

Glorilee is on her cell.

GLORILEE

Got away? How?

(listens)

Well, just make sure they don't come back. I want to see their pictures all over the news.

CUT TO:

INT. ICU CEO OFFICE - DAY

ICU CEO

Turn on the news then. And by the way, are you free for dinner? I was thinking room service at the Four Seasons. We can watch the reports together.

Behind ICU CEO is a television screen. Mohamed and Esther's photos are featured on the news. The screen then shows a video of Mohamed and Esther jumping over the dragon in the playground and jumping over fences.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

The deadly would-be terrorist couple have apparently been in training since they arrived in Dallas just three weeks ago.

Agent Rico taps lightly on the open door.

NEWSCASTER (V.O. CONT'D)

Now in other news, U.N. Peace-keeping forces continue to bomb...

ICU CEO

Not now Rico.

Agent Rico goes away dejectedly.

FADE OUT

INT. TUNNEL

Sound of DRIPPING WATER.

ESTHER

(sniffing)

For a sewer, this doesn't smell bad.

ESMERALDA

We don't want to have to walk through
sheet! This is all greywater.

MOHAMED

(in Eastern European
accent)But this is a main sewer line. Uh,
what you do with all of the uh, poop?

ESMERALDA

It never entered the sewer.

Esther and Mohamed glance at each other.

ESMERALDA

We rerouted all the waste into a
composter.

MOHAMED

A composter?

ESMERALDA

It all breaks down into fertilizer.
How do you think we get the
landscaping in Paradise to grow in
that Texas black gumbo?

MOHAMED

But the methane gas? If you stored
all that poop how would you hide the
gas smell.

ESMERALDA

You grilled your hot dogs with it.

Esther makes a face of disgust.

MOHAMED

Oh, so you rerouted the methane into the patio grill gas lines? Brilliant.

ESTHER
We cooked with poop gas?

ESMERALDA
Si.

MOHAMED
But the whole Dallas area- Surely you didn't-

ESMERALDA
We are every where. No one ever questions it when they see a Mexican digging.

ESTHER
You have a system of greywater collection all over Dallas?

ESMERALDA
Not yet. Most of it goes into the river. So far, we have only been able to reroute the sheet, to keep the tunnels clean.

MOHAMED
You and your friends are doing more than recycling water, Esmeralda, aren't you?

ESMERALDA
Si. Much more. These are tunnels to freedom.

The group exits the tunnel near the Trinity River. The skyline of Dallas is far away in the background. A van waits for them. They climb in the back.

EXT. PARADISE PLAYGROUND - DAY

Sound of ROMANTIC MUSIC.

Romantic warm light of evening bathes the playground. Lily and Luiz have several two-foot pieces of closet pole that they have whittled down to a point at one end. They have a bottle of glue. Luiz is wearing a unicorn t-shirt similar to the one Lily had worn earlier. Lily gets up on Luiz's shoulders. They are trying to glue unicorn horns to the wooden horses' faces.

Arthur enters the playground in tennis clothes. He sees Lily and smiles. He walks up to the children and picks up his daughter. He shakes hands with Luiz and appears to ask them if they need help.

Just then a Mexican worker walks by with a tool bag. Arthur calls out. They speak for a moment the the worker finds a drill and dowel connectors. The worker drills a hole in the end of each horn.

Arthur offers the worker a tip. The worker waves it away. Arthur insists. The worker takes the money with a big smile. The worker pats Luiz on the head and walks away smiling. Arthur and the children work together to attach the horns to the horses.

INT. UNDERGROUND BUNKER

Esmeralda, friends and the Schwartz-Johnson family are in a huge underground facility with concrete walls. There are rows of neat army cots at one end. At the other end are shelves stacked with cans of food, paper towels, and other necessities.

They are all dressed in desert camouflage, as are the dozens of men and women scurrying around with loads of supplies.

ESTHER

I can't believe that all this goes on!

ELBA

Right under our feet.

ABLE

Wow, cool.

PEDRO

We can house fifty people at a time. Some families have had to stay here for a month or more. We have to be ready to take care of them.

MOHAMED

How do you power the ventilation system? How do you power the lights?

PEDRO

Methane generators.

ESTHER

Ah, poop gas again.

PEDRO

Si.

ESTHER

You guys are so smart. I'm really proud of you.

MOHAMED

(speaking to Pedro)

So, Esmeralda isn't really a housekeeper? She's (searches for the right word) commandress of the underground forces?

PEDRO

Si.

ESTHER

How romantic! What's her story?

PEDRO

She is of the dreamer generation. They gave her a passport, deported her parents, and she never saw them again. She worked hard at school, became the Republican leader of the State legislature and then, and then she discovered the truth.

Esther and Mohamed clearly have no idea, but nod anyway.

PEDRO (CONT'D)

One day, she will set free all our politicians and world leaders from the evil intelligence companies like I.C.U. In the meantime, we make the underground railroad. We get innocents across the border into safety.

ESTHER

She helps Americans escape *into* Mexico?

PEDRO

Si.

ESTHER

We had no idea. Did you have any idea, Mo.

MOHAMED

No, I didn't have any idea.

ESTHER

We thought that the wall was to keep
Mexicans from coming into the US.

PEDRO

That's ridiculous. Who would do all
your work?

ESTHER

I know. You all work so hard. I don't
know what we would do without you.

PEDRO

The new \$100 billion dollar double
wall along the border, she is being
used to keep American citizens *in*.

ESTHER

But you can get us through it, right?

MOHAMED

(in Mexican accent)

But what will we do in Mexico? Where
will we go?

PEDRO

There is a place
(dreamily)
like paradise—

ESTHER

Oh, no!

PEDRO

No, really it's okay. Paradise like
the weather's nice and you drink
coconut milk.

ESTHER

Oh, okay.

MOHAMED

I like coconut milk.

Hunter and Janet enter, also dressed in camouflage.

PEDRO

I'd like you to meet a nice family
that will be traveling with you.
Mohamed, Esther, this is Hunter and
Janet. Their two children are right
over there. They've already made
friends.

Pedro points to the four children dressed in fatigues playing
together.

ESTHER

Ah, doesn't that look sweet? They are
going to have so much fun together. I
can tell. Hi Janet. I'm Esther. Nice
to meet you.
(in small talk sing-song)
So, what are you running from?

JANET

Hunter shot an ICU agent.

Esther is shocked.

JANET (CONT'D)

Just in the hand.

Esther is relieved.

JANET (CONT'D)

It wasn't bad. And you?

MOHAMED

Accused of conspiracy to poison
everyone in Dallas.

HUNTER

Ooh. That's bad. And you weren't,
right?

ESTHER

No, of course not, silly.

HUNTER

Yeah, I hate conspiracy theories. You
can never trust them. They're always
so crazy.

ESTHER

I'm just so grateful to Esmeralda and Pedro and all their friends for helping us get away. I had no idea. Did you Janet?

JANET

No.

Hunter shakes his head.

INT. GLORILEE AND ARTHUR'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Glorilee is getting dressed for a date with the ICU CEO. She looks out the bedroom window. She sees Arthur, Lily and Luiz riding unicorns and laughing.

She puts on her high heels.

EXT. PARADISE COMMUNITY - EVENING

Glorilee is being driven in an armored Humvee. The car pulls up to the entrance of the playground. Glorilee puts down her window.

GLORILEE

Lily?

Lily dismounts her unicorn expertly and runs to the car. Luiz and Arthur follow.

GLORILEE (CONT'D)

Quite a lot of excitement today, huh?

The children shrug, as if uninterested.

GLORILEE (CONT'D)

I mean about Able and Ebla's parents. It's a shame. They seemed like nice children. Well, I'm off to an important meeting. Of course all the media outlets need to get a statement from me, as waterlord.

Arthur shrugs, as if uninterested.

GLORILEE (CONT'D)

Well, off I go. Work, work, work. Busy, busy, busy.

LILY

Bye, mom.

Lily leans in and kisses her mother.

ARTHUR
Yeah, see you later.

GLORILEE
Bye, dear.

LUIZ
Goodbye, Mrs. Glorilee.

Glorilee doesn't acknowledge Luiz. She puts up her window as the car drives away.

Arthur pats Luiz on the back.

The three run back to the playground and mount their unicorns.

EXT. FIELD SOUTH TEXAS FIELD - DAY

The border wall is in the far distance. Esmeralda, Mohamed, Esther, Ebla, Able, Pedro, Hunter, Janet, Sebastian and Gwendolyn stand in a field marked with a sign "mine field: do not enter."

MOHAMED
What now?

ESMERALDA
This is new.
(to Pedro in Spanish)
Can we disarm them?

PEDRO
Si. But it will take a few days. I don't have the right people here.

ESMERALDA
Can we set them off with trajectories?

PEDRO
Si. But it will attract attention. We need to abandon mission for a few days. Back into the tunnels.

JANET
We're so close.

MOHAMED

There's no other way through?

PEDRO

We have another tunnel a hundred miles West. But they may have mined the field around that one too.

HUNTER

I think we should wait for a good time to disarm the mines.

ESTHER

I agree. Let's go back to the tunnel bunker.

ABLE

Live in the tunnels for how long?

MOHAMED

It sounds bad son, but we can't risk it.

HUNTER

Is there any risk in waiting?

PEDRO

Yes, Mohamed and Esther's case is serious. Sometime vigilantes start hunting down people accused of terrorism.

The families look very worried.

PEDRO (CONT'D)

But we have good defenses. During a lock-down no one can get in.

JANET

Honey, I'm scared.

Dog BARKS.

ELBA

Wait. What was that?

K9 comes barreling at them, tail wagging.

ELBA

K9 how did you find us?

ABLE

They do have the best tracking devices. It's what they're made for.

ESTHER

Esmeralda could K9...?

ABLE

No, Mom, no.

MOHAMED

It might be best if we get across as soon as possible, son.

ELBE

(turning to K9)

K9 detect mines? Can you detect mines, boy?

ABLE

He's wagging his tail. He's trying to tell us that he can.

(sadly)

Go on boy, track the mines.

K9 begins running across the field. Esmeralda watches with binoculars.

ESMERALDA

He's doing it. He's made it a quarter of the way and he's leaving a trail to follow. Wait he's stopped. Okay no, he's fine.

EXT. NEAR THE WALL - DAY

Through the binoculars, we can see K9 running with his tongue out and his tail wagging fast. There is a dog smile on his face.

EXT. SOUTH TEXAS FIELD - DAY

ESMERALDA (CONT'D)

(looking through binoculars)

He's going forward. He's almost there. Another five feet.

Sound of EXPLOSION.

ELBA

(screaming)

K9?

EXT. NEAR THE WALL - DAY

Just in time, K9 jumps away from the fiery explosion, with his tongue hanging out and a big smile.

Suddenly K9's head explodes and limbs fly in every direction. Fire shoots out of his neck and leg sockets.

EXT. SOUTH TEXAS FIELD - DAY

Everyone covers their heads as robot parts rain down around them. Elba and Able are devastated.

ESMERALDA

(looking into her binoculars)
He sacrificed himself to clear that last stretch of minefield. He had no other choice, but it's clear to go. C'mon. We'll just follow the path K9 left for us.

Able and Elba are crying. Esther comforts them.

The families follow Pedro and Esmeralda very carefully.

They come to the wall. Pedro moves a fake bush revealing a tunnel.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D)

This is it. You go on from here through the tunnel. Take the opening on the right. Do not take the opening on the left. Got it?

Able nods.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D)

Got it?

All nod.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D)

Okay, when you get to the other side, there will be a group to meet you. The password is 'Life Juice.' When you say 'Life,' if they say 'Juice.' You can trust them.

MOHAMED

Got it.

HUNTER

Thank you for everything.

JANET

Thank you, Esmeralda.

MOHAMED

One more thing.

(he reaches into his
backpack and pulls
out a old book)

I've been saving this for something special. It's a signed first edition Dickens. It's worth a lot, Esmeralda. It's the perfect portable wealth. Few will suspect its real value. Take it and sell it. Finance your operation. Get the greywater system working throughout Dallas.

ESMERALDA

Thank you.

(she takes the book
and puts it into her
backpack)

This is it my friends. Be good—

Sound of TRUCKS coming. They see a dust cloud.

ESMERALDA (CONT'D)

It's the drug cartel border patrol!
You go on. I'll take care of it.

ESTHER

Wait, is that the US Border Patrol or
a drug cartel?

ESMERALDA

Same thing.

Esmeralda makes a dash back across the field.

PEDRO

Quick, hide.

They put the fake bush back over the tunnel entrance and hide behind it.

The trucks turn their attention to Esmeralda. Very quickly, armed patrol agents overtake her and throw her to the ground. She is handcuffed as she lies facedown. She is pulled to her feet and walked toward the truck.

ESMERALDA

(shouting)

I regret I have but one life to give
for my country.

The other patrol agents run in a direction away from the wall.

MOHAMED

That's our chance. Come on. Let's go!

ESTHER

But Esmeralda. Poor Luiz!

PEDRO

Don't worry about Luiz. Esmeralda
will be released as soon as they find
out she's an American citizen. She's
done this before. And she's a lawyer.
Goodbye, my friends.

Pedro removes the bush and the families enter a tunnel.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

It is dark for the first fifty feet or so. They come to the fork in the tunnel and see a rat scurrying left. It fades into the darkness.

The rat makes a loud squeak that abruptly stops.

The families proceed to the right.

MOHAMED

(in Southern
Preacher's voice)

I see a light up ahead.

They proceed cautiously. We see their silhouettes between the camera and the light as they walk through the tunnel.

FADE OUT

EXT. PARKING LOT IN DALLAS SUBURB - DAY

Agent Rico is talking to a salesman at the "USED MILITARY EQUIPMENT DEPOT." There are tanks parked on the lot, various missile launchers.

Rico is looking at a used Humvee.

The salesman hands Agent Rico the keys. Rico smiles.

EXT. GARDEN COMMUNITY COMPOUND, MEXICO - SUNRISE

Esther, Mohamed, Able and Ebla, Hunter, Janet, Gwendolyn and Sebastian get out of a truck in front of a rustic fence. CHRIS HEDGES opens the gate.

Inside they see a large happily-assimilated ex-pat organic farming community, with people of all ages. The community is populated by activists, dissidents, some politicians and a lot of regular do-gooders.

CHRIS HEDGES

Greetings newcomers. Let me give you
a tour of the compound. You'll be
among friends here. We have a
completely self-sustaining village,
with food, electricity,
(smiling at the children)
and Internet. Say hi, Jill!

JILL STEIN, who is busy setting up a solar panel, waves. RICHARD GAGE, wearing a hard hat, is directing the construction of a new hut. He waves.

Able takes out his phone. EDWARD SNOWDEN appears.

ABLE

Connection is working.

EDWARD SNOWDEN

Did you disable the tracking?

ABLE

Oh yeah.

CHRIS HEDGES

Hey Mos. Meet some fans of yours.

Enter MOS DEF. The kids are excited to meet him.

Sound of someone RANTING AND RAVING in the background.

ALEX JONES (O.S.)
They're coming, I tell you. We've got
to hide!

Hedges turns to AMY GOODMAN.

CHRIS HEDGES
(showing compassion)
Amy, could you check on Alex? I think
he's having nightmares again.

Amy heads toward the sound of Alex's voice.

Other activist look-a-likes in the background include CHELSEA
MANNING in a beret, chatting with JULIAN ASSANGE, who is wearing
black shirt and red tie. Now ancient RALPH NADER and RON PAUL
and other old-timers sit together in rocking chairs on a porch.

RON PAUL
We've got to return to the gold
standard, I'm telling you.

The other old-timers wearily shake their heads.

RALPH NADER
Ron, that's because you own
goldmines.

DENNIS KUCINICH walks up to the newcomers.

DENNIS KUCINICH
Oh hey hi. Nice to meet you all.
Welcome. Say, has anyone seen my
wife?

MOHAMED	HUNTER
Oh yeah.	Yeah!

MOHAMED
She was a real looker.

HUNTER
I bet she still looks good.

DENNIS KUCINICH
No, I mean has anyone seen her.

CHRIS HEDGES
I think she's feeding the chicken,
Dennis.

DENNIS KUCINICH

Thanks.

Dennis strolls away.

Hedges points to people working in the garden, some Americans and some Mexican nationals.

CHRIS HEDGES

Also over there, you may know Cynthia McKinney, picking peppers, Judge Napolitano, the one who's not wearing a hat.

(shouts)

Always wear your hat, Judge.

(in normal voice)

At that's Cornel West, Rocky Anderson and Naomi Wolf.

Longhorn and his wife emerge from one of the huts.

LONGHORN

Mohamed, Esther, children. Welcome!

MOHAMED

Hey, hey, hey Longhorn. Let me guess--

LONGHORN

Tax evasion.

MOHAMED

Ah, man.

LONGHORN

It takes a lot of money to finance an operation like this.

MOHAMED

Right on!

CHRIS HEDGES

I have a surprise for the kids too.
(whistles)

K9 runs out of a hut, wagging his broken tail.

ABLE

K9!

ELBA

K9!

CHRIS HEDGES

Pedro was able to put him back
together.

Elba, Able and the other two children play with K9.

The camera zooms out. The sun is rising higher in the sky. The new families stroll through the gardens. The surrounding landscape is tranquil. A large U.S. flag flies high above the center of the compound.

"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER" music plays while the credits roll.

Camera zooms out further southward, to show explosions and fighter planes on the distant horizon, war in the U.S.

FADE OUT.

THE END