

THE WRONG PLACE

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All Song Lyrics by  
the Screenwriters

Ex-cons try to pull off a perfect crime with the help of an  
unsuspecting small-town airplane pilot.

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FADE IN:

EXT. AIRPORT ROAD - DAY

A late-model car turns from a North Florida highway onto a road where a billboard reads,

PERRYVILLE AIRPORT  
LEARN TO FLY  
OR JUST DROP BY!  
AL FINDLAY, MGR.

INT. FINDLAY HOUSE TRAILER - BEDROOM - DAY

Well-built good ol' boy HENRY WATTS, 34, removes his shirt striptease-style as he sings a cappella to attractive MARY FINDLEY, 27, who strips off her blouse.

(All songs lyrics are by the screenwriters.)

HENRY  
"Dear, it's such a shame to have to  
play this game/ The cheatin' kind  
where lovers slip around/..."

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

The car stops in front of the small, rundown, single-story terminal building where two pickup trucks (Henry's and Al's) are parked.

Two single-engine planes sit by the weedy runway. The house trailer sits a few yards from the terminal building.

INT. TRAILER - BEDROOM - DAY

Mary looks out the window facing the road as Henry is about to undo his pants.

HENRY  
Who is it?

MARY  
I don't know. I better go see.

She quickly puts on her blouse.

HENRY  
But Mary, we don't have much time.  
Al's gonna be back in --

MARY  
I know. We'll just have to wait,  
Henry.

Henry gestures frustration as Mary hurries out.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

African-American HARVEY CRABB, 40, wearing a business suit,  
waits as Mary comes in the front entrance.

With a nervous smile she goes behind the counter, where a  
desk serves as the airport office.

MARY  
I'm sorry to keep you waiting.  
Mister Findlay's not here at the  
moment. I'm Mrs. Findlay. May I  
help you?

He hands her a business card,

CRABB  
My name's Harvey Crabb. Some folks  
call me Buster. "Buster Crabb"?  
From the Jacksonville Merchants  
Bank.

She forces a chuckle,

MARY  
Buster Crabb. From the bank?

CRABB  
Your husband is two months behind  
in his airplane payments.

MARY  
Two months? Time sure does fly.

CRABB  
It'll be flying more than he does  
if we don't get paid.

EXT. "THE WRONG PLACE" TAVERN - NIGHT

A neon sign identifies "The Wrong Place." Live country music  
PLAYS inside.

A roadside sign in front reads "Henry Watts and the Volts."

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Onstage, Henry with guitar, backed by the Volts -- your typical down-home country band -- sings for the patrons,

HENRY

"If only I could take your lovin'  
home/ If only my home, dear, could  
be your own..."

AL FINDLAY, 30, casually dressed, sits at a table with a mug of beer. He gazes off as if depressed. He pays no attention to Henry and the band.

He also pays no attention to Mary sitting beside him.

Mary and Henry gaze at each other as if Henry is singing their song,

HENRY

"Darlin', we'd be through with  
secret rendezvous/ If only I could  
take your lovin' home."

The waitress PHYLLIS, 35, sets down a mug of beer for Al. The one he has is almost empty.

PHYLLIS

What's the matter, Al?

AL

I got airplane troubles.

Phyllis looks at Mary, amorously looking at Henry.

PHYLLIS

That's all, huh?

Al quizzically watches Phyllis move off.

Mary and others applaud as the band has finished the song.

Henry and the Volts now perform "The Sickest Love Around."

HENRY

"I don't know how I wound up in  
this place/ But barkeep get your  
mop, folks give me space/..."

CHUCKIE TENBRINK, 21, sits at a table with a cocktail. Of average build, he looks like the rich kid that he is in his expensive sport coat and slacks.

Beside him sits country girl SADIE, 34, drinking beer in her plain blouse and jeans.

Chuckie and Sadie look like an odd match who may not have come here together.

Their chat OVERLAPS the rest of the song's first verse,

SADIE

Henry's good. He sings like they  
used to in Nashville.

CHUCKIE

That's why he'll never make it.  
(then)  
They used to sing songs like that?

Henry sings the song's chorus,

HENRY

"Ever since our love went belly up/  
I can't keep nothing in my belly  
down/ Love can make you drink until  
you're sick/ That makes mine the  
sickest love around."

Chuckie and Sadie talk as the INSTRUMENTAL BREAK starts,

SADIE

Chuckie, why are you home anyway?  
Aren't you going to college?

CHUCKIE

I flunked out.

SADIE

How'd you do that? Too much  
partying?

CHUCKIE

That was part of it.

SADIE

What was the rest?

CHUCKIE

They have a thing there about going  
to class.

SADIE

What are you going to do now?

CHUCKIE  
Probably get disinherited. Ain't  
that some shit?

SADIE  
You're kidding.

CHUCKIE  
My sister in Chicago could get  
every damn cent.

Henry starts the song's second verse.

Good ol' boy CARL, 37, with a beer in hand, sits down with Al  
and Mary.

CARL  
Al, I'm ready for my flying lesson  
tomorrow... What's wrong?

Mary butts in while watching Henry onstage,

MARY  
Al is about to be grounded.

CARL  
What?

MARY  
The bank gave him one month today  
to come up with some cash or they  
take his airplane.

CARL  
Shit fire and save your matches!  
Al, why don't you go work at the  
pulp and paper mill, like everybody  
else, 'stead of trying to run that  
airport?

Al frowns with resentment.

AL  
I'm a flyer, that's why. I don't  
make toilet paper. And nobody's  
gonna clip my wings.

MARY  
Sure, Al. Keep dreaming. You  
think that money's going to fall  
out of the sky? You'll see toilet  
paper falling first.

CARL

Let's hope it ain't used.

As Henry and the band continue the song, good ol' boy REUBEN, 38, walks in. He looks kind of mean.

Sadie doesn't notice Reuben as she looks with concern at Chuckie.

SADIE

I thought you were going to take over the paper mill for your dad.

CHUCKIE

Without a degree? Who wants it anyway. I hate that damn stinking pulp mill.

SADIE

It does stink, don't it? Perryville is like the armpit of the world.

CHUCKIE

No armpit smells that bad. Let me smell yours.

Sadie laughs and shoves him away as he tries to smell it.

Reuben walks up to the table.

REUBEN

What are you doing trying to smell my girl's armpit?

SADIE

He didn't mean nothing, Reuben.  
(to Chuckie)  
This is Reuben.

CHUCKIE

I'll smell any armpit I want to.

Chuckie finishes his drink.

REUBEN

How would you like to have your ass stomped, buddy?

Chuckie calmly rises. He takes out some money to pay for his drinks.

CHUCKIE

Do you know who I am?

REUBEN

I don't give a damn who you are.

CHUCKIE

I'm Chuckie Tenbrink.

REUBEN

Well that's different. Why didn't you say so? I just don't like nobody seeing what Sadie here smells like.

SADIE

You make me sound like a landfill or something.

Chuckie leaves the money on the table. He looks at Reuben.

CHUCKIE

Another mill worker on the old man's payroll.

Chuckie puts a hand on Reuben's shoulder.

CHUCKIE

I feel your pain. How would you like a raise?

REUBEN

That would be cool.

Chuckie sucker-punches him in the jaw, knocking him out.

CHUCKIE

(to Sadie)

Keep 'em shaved, honey.

Chuckie walks toward the door, everyone watching him. The band has stopped playing.

Sadie kneels down to Reuben. The TAVERN OWNER, 55, looks down at him, then,

TAVERN OWNER

It's all right, folks. He'll live.

(to Henry)

Music, maestro!

Henry and the Volts perform the song's bridge,

HENRY

"That woman's one that I can't live without/ She's everything that I throw up about."

EXT. TAVERN PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Chuckie starts to open the door of a Lexus, parked by an older model SUV.

The SUV side door opens, and from the inside CURLY, 32, a dumb-looking brute, aims a pistol at Chuckie.

CURLY

Get in here.

Chuckie looks at Curly like he's crazy.

CHUCKIE

Do you know who I am?

CURLY

You better be Chuckie Tenbrink if you know what's good for you. Now get your ass in here.

EXT. AIRPORT ROAD - DAY

The same SUV that Curley was in turns from the highway onto the road with its airport sign.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

The SUV stops in front of the terminal building.

INT. SUV - DAY

BRYNA, 28, a rather cheap-looking woman in jeans, cuts the engine. She pulls her shirttail out and opens the door.

EXT. SUV - DAY

Getting out of the SUV and facing the building, Bryna pulls her shirttail down over a pistol worn in a belt holster in the small of her back.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Al sits hung over at a desk behind the counter. He reads the obituaries in a newspaper. Mary pours two cups of coffee.

Through the front window Mary sees Bryna walk toward the entrance.

MARY  
Someone's coming in, Al.

AL  
Good. Maybe they want a flying lesson. I feel lucky today.

MARY  
Yeah, you look it.

Al manages a friendly smile as Bryna comes in. She looks around.

AL  
Hi. What can we do you for?

Mary watches this woman with a sense of suspicion without knowing what to suspect.

BRYNA  
How much do you charge for a plane ride?

AL  
How much have you got? Just kidding. No destination?

BRYNA  
Nah, just around. I was passing by, saw your sign. I've never flown before.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

A run-down dwelling in the woods.

INT. CABIN - DAY

MAC, 40, handsome and suave compared to the brutish Curly, sits down on a couch beside Chuckie, who is blindfolded.

Mac takes a pen and folded piece of paper from his shirt pocket.

MAC  
Okay, Chuckie, we need your father's telephone number.

CHUCKIE  
You kidding? You've planned all this, and you don't even have the number?

MAC  
 Your home has an unlisted number.  
 We thought for sure you would know  
 what it is.

Curly sits in a chair across from them.

CURLY  
 You do want Mommy and Daddy to know  
 you're alive, don't you?

As Chuckie nods toward Curly,

CHUCKIE  
 (to Mac)  
 Where did you find that guy?

MAC  
 Cross City Correctional Institution.  
 We both graduated on the same day.

CHUCKIE  
 How much are you clowns going to  
 ask him for?

Mac and Curly exchange looks.

MAC  
 We aren't going to ask him for  
 anything.

CHUCKIE  
 Sorry, wrong choice of words. How  
 much are you going to demand?

MAC  
 One million dollars.

CHUCKIE  
 One million? You don't know what  
 the hell you're doing. What kind  
 of crooks are you?

CURLY  
 What do you mean?

CHUCKIE  
 Let me tell you what you should do.

MAC  
 Okay, go ahead.

CHUCKIE  
 Ask him for two instead of one.

Mac chuckles.

MAC  
"Two instead of one."

CHUCKIE  
That's right.

MAC  
You think you're worth twice what  
we want.

CHUCKIE  
What I'm worth isn't the point.  
Let me tell you the situation I'm  
in.

EXT. AL'S PLANE - DAY

Flying at about 2,000 feet.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al gives Bryna her plane ride.

AL  
I was a pilot in the Navy. I  
should have stayed in. Anyway I  
bummed around, then I heard about  
the old hometown looking for an  
airport manager. What a joke. I  
sell some gas, give two or three  
flying lessons a week. I can't  
even pay for this airplane.

He looks at Bryna, who seems to be paying no attention.

AL  
I see you're not crying yet, ma'am.  
That's good. A positive outlook  
on life.

He tips the left wing, and points down to the large paper  
mill below.

AL  
That mill down there, that's  
Tenbrink Pulp and Paper.

Bryna, leaning forward with feigned interest, has sneaked  
from her pocket a small, folded piece of paper with some  
two-sided tape attached.

While Al looks down at the mill, Bryna tapes the paper to the underside of the instrument panel.

AL

That mill is the lifeblood of Perryville. Everybody and his brother works there.

Bryna nods understandingly, looking down at the mill.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Mac calmly paces as he and Curly listen to blindfolded Chuckie.

CHUCKIE

Cut me in -- two million in equal shares. Then you don't have to worry about having to get rid of me, and getting caught anyway, or me identifying you later, and all that shit. I go home free and pretend that you got it all. This job is simple if you have my help.

Mac paces, saying nothing. Curly frowns skeptically.

CHUCKIE

I can't pass up this chance. I'm facing a potential lifetime of poverty. You guys are like godsend. Now are you going to cut me in? If not, then go ahead and shoot my ass now.

INT. TENBRINK MANSION - DAY

Sheriff LANNY, 50, and African-American Deputy JUNIOR, 35, are with CHARLES TENBRINK, 63, and MRS. TENBRINK, 55.

Dignified Tenbrink appears to be fairly calm.

Pleasant-looking Mrs. Tenbrink seems very worried. She's a woman who seems a bit flaky under any circumstances.

LANNY

What I think we should do, Mister Tenbrink, is call in the F.B.I.

TENBRINK

Not yet. He could be off on a binge somewhere.

(MORE)

TENBRINK (CONT'D)

It would not be the first time. If he's been abducted, we should hear from the culprits soon.

A landline PHONE RINGS.

Mrs. Tenbrink anxiously goes to answer.

LANNY

You may have said the magic words.

MRS. TENBRINK

(into phone)

Hello... Chuckie! Have you been on a binge?... You've been kidnapped? How could you do such a thing?

Tenbrink takes the phone from her as she seems to be in shock.

TENBRINK

(into phone)

Chuckie, have you been kidnapped?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CABIN - DAY

Chuckie, still blindfolded, speaks on a cell phone.

Mac and Curly hover close by him.

CHUCKIE

Yeah, I'm afraid so, Dad. I'm okay now, but we need to take these guys seriously.

Tenbrink sighs resignedly.

TENBRINK

Okay, let's hear their demands.

Chuckie hands the cell phone to Mac.

MAC

Mister Tenbrink? The price for your son's safe return is... two million dollars.

Chuckie looks relieved.

MAC

Now listen carefully. No F.B.I., no public knowledge, or your son will be dead. Have two million dollars in cash, in a duffel bag, by ten a.m. day after tomorrow.

TENBRINK

Now wait a minute. That won't be easy.

MAC

You've got all day tomorrow to arrange it. A man with your millions, Mister Tenbrink, can do it. We'll be in touch.

Mac ends the call with a smile.

INT. "THE WRONG PLACE" TAVERN - NIGHT

Henry, backed by the Volts, sings for the patrons.

He looks right at Mary, who looks at him lustfully.

Al sits by Mary and glumly looks off, drinking his beer.

HENRY

"We could run away, an easy thing to say/ We both have to think of others too/..."

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Dimly lit in the wilderness. The SUV is parked nearby.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Chuckie, blindfold off, hands free, is huddled with Mac over an aeronautical chart, Mac explaining the plan.

Across the room Bryna and Curly play cards.

CURLY

Look at 'em. Like long-lost brothers. I'm telling you, Bryna, this is a big mistake.

BRYNA

Why do you say that?

CURLY

Before we each had a third of a million. Now we only get a fourth of two.

BRYNA

A fourth of two is more than a third of one.

CURLY

How can a fourth be more than a third?

Mac and Chuckie finish with the chart.

CHUCKIE

It's a good plan. I like it. You must be a pilot.

MAC

Used to be. I got grounded by a judge. You fly?

CHUCKIE

Yeah. I fly my dad's plane. We have our own strip.

MAC

This Al Findlay out at the airport. You know him?

CHUCKIE

Not personally. I've seen him around.

MAC

Think there'll be any problem day after tomorrow?

CHUCKIE

Well, there's always Murphy's Law. You know what that is?

MAC

Yeah. Whatever can go wrong will.

CHUCKIE

But with me involved, this plan looks really good. We'll kick Mister Murphy's ass.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Sheriff Lanny nervously paces. Deputy Junior waits at a desk.

SUPERIMPOSE: "TWO DAYS LATER."

The countrified dispatcher GLENDA, 23, sits checking her Lotto ticket with the numbers on her computer screen.

GLENDA

Damn, I haven't gotten one Lotto number out of six in a month.

The PHONE RINGS. Junior answers,

JUNIOR

(into phone)  
 Sheriff's Office.  
 (listens)  
 Yes, Mister Tenbrink, he's right here.

Junior hands the phone to anxious Lanny.

LANNY

(into phone)  
 Yessir, Mister Tenbrink.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TENBRINK MANSION - DAY

Tenbrink, set to leave, is on the phone.

Mrs. Tenbrink worriedly stands by.

TENBRINK

They just called. I'm to go with the money to Perryville.  
 (glances at watch)  
 I need to start now. I'm to check in alone, by ten thirty, at the Periwinkle Motel.

Lanny looks appalled.

LANNY

That rathole?

TENBRINK

I'm to request Room Two. There I'm to await further instructions.

LANNY

Okay, Mr. Tenbrink. We'll have the place under surveillance.

TENBRINK

Don't do anything to screw up this deal, or you won't be county sheriff after the next election.

LANNY

(nervously)

Well, uh, I just want to perform my duty, Mister Tenbrink, as an ossifer of the law.

TENBRINK

Just remember that my son's life is at stake. That may not sound like much, and it isn't.

Mrs. Tenbrink looks offended.

TENBRINK

But, well, I have to perform my duty as a father.

LANNY

Yes, sir, Mister Tenbrink.

Tenbrink hangs up. Lanny does likewise.

LANNY

That guy's a straight shooter.

Deputy JIMMY PAUL, 32, walks into the office.

LANNY

Jimmy Paul, put on some civvies. You're going undercover.

JIMMY PAUL

Hot dog, some cloak and dagger stuff.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Mac talks matter-of-factly on his cell phone while Chuckie, Curly, and Bryna sit listening with smiles.

MAC

(into phone)

I'm Charles Tenbrink's executive secretary.

(MORE)

MAC (CONT'D)

Now something's come up, an important deal that the boss is working on personally, and on the Q.T. He'll be in Perryville shortly, and he'll need an airplane. His own plane is undergoing maintenance.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Al, in a bathrobe, looks hung over as he talks on the phone at the desk. Mary pours him some coffee.

AL

Where's he need to go?

MAC

On the Q.T., Mister Findlay. He'll fill you in once you're airborne. He doesn't want you to discuss this beforehand with anyone -- not even with him, understand? -- till after you've taken off.

AL

I won't mention it to him. We'll talk about the weather, or the stink from his pulp mill. Is he going to come here, or...

(takes notes)

"Periwinkle Motel. Room Two. At eleven fifteen." Are you sure he said The Periwinkle?

(listens)

Okay. Now my fee will be... Let's see, depending on where we're going, which I don't even know....

MAC

Your fee will be one thousand dollars.

Al brightens.

AL

That's just what I had in mind.

MAC

Have a good trip. And Mister Findlay: Not a word, till you're airborne.

AL  
I won't even tell my wife I'm  
taking Mister Tenbrink somewhere.

MAC  
Goodbye.

They end the call.

MARY  
What was that all about?

AL  
I'm taking Mister Tenbrink somewhere.

MARY  
Where?

AL  
They wouldn't say where. It's a  
hush-hush deal. He'll tell me when  
we're airborne.

MARY  
What's he paying you?

AL  
One thousand bucks.

MARY  
(sarcastically)  
We're going to be rich.

AL  
Is that all you've got to say?

MARY  
No. Why don't you take it, Al, and  
buy us two tickets, on anything, to  
get us out of here?

AL  
'Cause everything's tied up here.  
I'm in too deep. We can't get out  
from under.

MARY  
Maybe you can't, buster, but one of  
these days I'm --

AL  
Yeah, why don't you go back to your  
mama in Pensacola?

MARY  
Because you can't get there from  
here!

Mary heads for the trailer.

AL  
I've got to get ready. You go fill  
up the plane.

As Mary goes out the door,

MARY  
Fill it up yourself!

Al sighs with disgust.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Lanny is on the phone.

LANNY  
(into phone)  
Remember this now, Sam. When  
Mister Tenbrink checks in, whoever  
contacts him, whoever calls, or  
comes in person, or anything else,  
you just play along like  
everything's normal.

EXT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

The limo moves along the highway to Perryville.

INT. LIMO - MOVING - DAY

A CHAUFFEUR, 47, drives while Tenbrink sits in back with a  
packed duffel bag.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Lanny grabs his hat, Junior rising from a chair.

LANNY  
Let's go.

On their way out they pass dispatcher Glenda, who chews gum  
and reads a paperback.

LANNY

Me and Junior's gonna patrol like  
everything's normal.

INT. FINDLAY TRAILER - DAY

Al adjusts his tie at a mirror. He and Mary argue.

AL

I'm telling you for the last time.  
Get off my back or I'll fire you.

MARY

Fire me? I'm your wife!

AL

That doesn't mean I've got to keep  
you on the payroll.

Al heads for the front door, Mary right behind him.

MARY

Payroll? When's the last time I  
got paid anything?

AL

When's the last time you did a  
day's work?

MARY

When's the last time there was a  
day's work to do around here?

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

Al comes out of the trailer and heads for his pickup truck.

Mary yells after him from the trailer doorway,

MARY

You talk about working your ass  
off! Doing what?

AL

Trying to keep you off of it!

Al gets in his truck and buckles up.

AL

And I'll tell you something else!

MARY

Yeah?

AL

(starts engine)

That plane better be ready when I  
get back!

Al heads for the highway.

EXT. PERIWINKLE MOTEL - DAY

A seedy dump. A tired old sign identifies "Periwinkle Motel." No sign of a guest.

The limo pulls in from the street.

INT. UNMARKED CAR - DAY

Parked on a neighboring street.

Deputy Jimmy Paul, in street clothes, a cap brim low over his eyes, sits behind the wheel. He watches the limo stop near the motel office.

He picks up his radio mike.

INT. LANNY'S PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Lanny drives, Junior beside him. They're patrolling like everything's normal. On the radio they hear,

JIMMY PAUL (V.O.)

Tenbrink ten-ninety-seven.

Lanny and Junior exchange tense looks, keep patrolling.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

The motel manager, a little old man named SAM, gives the Chauffeur a room key at the office door.

Sam and his little old WIFE, both looking scared, watch as Tenbrink and the Chauffeur, the duffel bag in hand, head toward Room Two.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Al's truck comes into the small town.

INT. AL'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Al looks disgusted with things as he drives.

INT. LIMO - DAY

The Chauffeur gets into the limo.

He glances toward Room Two, then produces a flask. He takes a couple of satisfying sips.

INT. UNMARKED CAR - DAY

Jimmy Paul has his radio mike in hand as he watches.

JIMMY PAUL

(into mike)

I think the Tenbrink chauffeur is driving while drinking. Should I pull him over? Over.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. LANNY'S PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Lanny has his radio mike as he drives, Junior beside him.

LANNY

(into mike)

Hell no, don't pull him over! Keep your eyes on that motel!

INT. MOTEL - ROOM TWO - DAY

Dismal. As he looks around, Tenbrink takes a pill from a prescription bottle.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Entering, Tenbrink looks at the rather grimy sink, and sees no glass or cup.

He pops the pill in his mouth and manages to swallow it dry.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Al's truck pulls in. The limo is gone.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Sam and his Wife look puzzled by Al's arrival.

INT. UNMARKED CAR - DAY

Jimmy Paul watches.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Sam and his Wife watch Al approach the office door.

SAM  
Remember, everything's normal.

Al enters. He nods hello with a smile.

AL  
How are y'all doin', Sam?

SAM  
Fine, Al. What brings you here?

AL  
Mister Tenbrink checked in?

Sam and Wife look surprised. Al seems proud of his mission.

SAM  
Yeah.

AL  
Room Two?

Sam and Wife look more surprised.

SAM  
Yeah.

Al starts to go, then,

AL  
Did he tell you where we're going?

Sam shakes his head "no."

AL  
That's good, Sam, that's good. All  
our lips are sealed.

Sam and Wife watch Al leave and head for Room Two.

SAM

Al Findlay's involved.

WIFE

It's enough to make you lose your  
faith in humanity.

INT. UNMARKED CAR - DAY

Jimmy Paul looks incredulous at what he sees.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Tenbrink opens the door. There stands Al. Tenbrink looks  
him over.

AL

Mister Tenbrink. I'm here to, uh,  
take you to, uh, your destination.

TENBRINK

Very well.

Tenbrink gestures toward the duffel bag.

TENBRINK

Am I to carry this, or are you?

Al looks in to see what it is.

AL

Oh, no, sir, you let me take care  
of that.

Al comes in for the bag.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Al puts the duffel bag in the bed of his truck. He opens the  
passenger door for Tenbrink.

TENBRINK

Could I ask you where my son is?

AL

You could ask me, Mister Tenbrink,  
but I'm afraid I couldn't tell you.

Tenbrink seems to accept that and gets in the truck.

Al, with a wondering look, closes the door and heads for the driver's side.

INT. LANNY'S PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Lanny and Junior patrol as Lanny picks up his radio mike.

LANNY  
 (into mike)  
 Jimmy Paul, did I hear you correct?  
 Did you say "Al Findlay"?

JIMMY PAUL (V.O.)  
 (over radio)  
 That's A-ffirmative, Sheriff.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Al's truck leaves.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jimmy Paul's unmarked car follows Al's truck.

INT. PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Lanny and Junior patrol.

LANNY  
 Damn. If they use an airplane,  
 what are we going to do? How are  
 we going to put a tail on an  
 airplane?

JUNIOR  
 An airplane already has one.

Lanny glares at Junior.

JUNIOR  
 Sorry, Sheriff. I couldn't resist.

INT. AL'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Tenbrink studies him as Al drives.

TENBRINK  
 I've seen you before.

AL  
 Could be. Al Findlay. I run the airport.

TENBRINK  
 "Al Findlay."

AL  
 Right.

TENBRINK  
 You "run the airport."

AL  
 Yep.

TENBRINK  
 Well, Al -- mind if I call you Al?

AL  
 Please do.

TENBRINK  
 Aren't you being rather brazen?

Al shrugs. He seems philosophical,

AL  
 I wouldn't call it brazen. Foolish maybe. Yeah, I guess I was a fool for thinking it would ever work.

TENBRINK  
 Then why go through with it?

AL  
 It's like I told my wife: I'm already in so deep, there's no way out. If she wants out, she can high-tail it to Pensacola.

TENBRINK  
 You're right. There's no way out. Just remember you asked for it.

Al looks incredulous and offended.

AL  
 Okay, I asked for it. Do I look worried? If they want me, they know where to find me.

TENBRINK  
 I'm sure they will.

AL  
 (defiantly)  
 Fine. Just let 'em try clipping my wings. They'll have to drag me out of that plane. They might as well shoot me.

TENBRINK  
 You're a bigger fool than I thought. The sooner they get you the better.

AL  
 Thanks for the encouraging words.

TENBRINK  
 Don't mention it. The last thing I want to hear from you is a sob story.

AL  
 You're so full of shit it's unbelievable.

TENBRINK  
 Look what's talking. Now about this deal --

AL  
 You can stick it up your ass. And that duffel bag with it.

Al starts braking the truck.

TENBRINK  
 What are you --

AL  
 The deal's off.

TENBRINK  
 But --

AL  
 It's not worth putting up with your crap. I don't work at your goddamn mill, see.

Al turns the truck hard left.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Al's truck makes a U-turn, heading back for town.

INT. AL'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Tenbrink looks incredulously at Al.

TENBRINK

What do you think you're doing?

AL

I'm taking you back to your classy motel. Unless you'd rather walk.

INT. UNMARKED CAR - MOVING - DAY

Driving, Jimmy Paul quizzically watches Al's truck approach from the opposite direction.

Jimmy Paul pulls down his cap brim, pulls in his chin.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The truck and unmarked car pass each other.

The unmarked car pulls over and starts making a U-turn.

INT. AL'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Al and Tenbrink as before.

TENBRINK

But you can't do this.

AL

You watch me.

INT. PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Lanny and Junior patrol. Lanny looks pleased.

LANNY

(into mike)

Ten four. Stay with 'em, ya hear?

JUNIOR

They're turning away from the airport?

LANNY

That's more like it, I tell you. Anything but that airport.

INT. UNMARKED CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jimmy Paul, driving, looks ahead with disbelief.

Al's truck is making another U-turn.

Jimmy Paul pulls down his cap brim, pulls in his chin.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The truck and unmarked car pass each other.

INT. UNMARKED CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jimmy Paul doggedly pulls over and makes another U-turn.

INT. AL'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Al looks amazed by what Tenbrink has told him.

TENBRINK

And that's who I thought you were.

AL

Wow. I can't believe it, Mister Tenbrink. Why do they get me involved?

TENBRINK

Just do what they told you.

AL

But we don't even know where we're going.

TENBRINK

I assume they will let us know.

Al looks incredulous.

AL

But they can't once we're up, without people hearing 'em on the radio.

TENBRINK

(impatiently)

They told you to give me a plane ride. That's what you're going to do.

INT. PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Lanny hangs up his mike with aggravation.

LANNY

They're going to that airport. How are we gonna tail 'em?

JUNIOR

In the movies, I've seen 'em use helicopters.

LANNY

To chase airplanes?

JUNIOR

Well, no, I think they were just chasing people.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Lanny, hustling in, Junior right behind him, goes straight to Glenda, still reading.

LANNY

Who owns those airplanes out at Findlay's?

GLENDA

Let's see, there's Al's, and -- Henry Watts owns one, and --

LANNY

That's right, by God, Henry Watts. Get Henry on the phone right now.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Mary, lazing as she talks on the phone, notes Al's truck arrive.

MARY

(into phone)

Here's Al now, with Mister Big. They should be gone in, say, ten minutes, Henry. See ya later?

Mary smiles and hangs up.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Glenda chats intimately with someone on the phone.

A TOILET FLUSHES.

Lanny comes out of the john.

GLEENDA  
Sheriff, I've finally got Henry.

Lanny hustles over and takes the receiver.

LANNY  
(into phone)  
Henry? This is the sheriff. Get  
your ass out to the airport. I'm  
deputizing you. I want you to tail  
Al Findlay's plane.

HENRY (V.O.)  
(filtered, on phone)  
Tail Al's plane?

LANNY  
Henry, this is a matter of life and  
death. Get your ass on the move.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Al's plane takes off.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Mary primps.

She looks out the front window. She sees Henry's truck (the same truck driven by Al in the opening scene) come barreling down the road, SCREECHING to a halt in front of the building.

Henry jumps out of the truck and runs for the entrance. Mary watches, looking enthralled by her lover's apparent zeal.

Henry runs in to the counter, Mary waiting behind it.

MARY  
How long has it been, Henry?

Henry breathes heavily from his run.

HENRY  
Where did Al say he was going?

MARY  
Al doesn't know where he's going.

HENRY  
Then to hell with it.

MARY  
What are you talking about?

HENRY  
I wish I knew.

LATER

While Henry hovers over her shoulder, Mary makes a "Gone Fishing" sign with a marker.

HENRY  
I've wrote a new song, Mary.  
You're gonna like it.

Henry sings seductively, a cappella, his hands roaming Mary's shoulders and arms, while Mary makes her sign.

HENRY  
"You're bewitching, babe, in almost  
every which-a-way -- "

The PHONE RINGS. Mary starts to pick up the receiver.

HENRY  
If that's the sheriff, I'm not  
here.

MARY  
Why? What have you done?

HENRY  
It's what I ain't done. He'll  
pitch a fit.

MARY  
(into phone)  
Hello.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Mac is on the cell phone.

MAC  
(into phone)  
I have a message for Al Findlay.  
(MORE)

MAC (CONT'D)  
 It's urgent. Would you be kind  
 enough to deliver it, please?

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al and Tenbrink sit biding their time. They suddenly hear on  
 the radio,

MARY (V.O.)  
 Cherokee Eight-Four-Five-Three-  
 Three, Perryville, over.

Al grabs up the mike.

AL  
 (into mike)  
 Cherokee Five-Three-Three. Go  
 ahead, Perryville.

MARY (V.O.)  
 (over radio)  
 Urgent telephone message, caller  
 unknown. Message is:  
 Look under instrument panel.  
 Repeat: Look under instrument  
 panel. Over and out.

Al and Tenbrink feel along the underside of the panel.

Tenbrink comes up with the taped piece of paper. He unfolds  
 it, and looks intently at the written message.

AL  
 What does it say?

Tenbrink hands it to Al.

TENBRINK  
 I don't have my glasses. What does  
 it say?

AL  
 (reads)  
 "Track one nine five V.O.R. radial  
 to Jasper. Drop on nine zero  
 radial of Lake City."

TENBRINK  
 Do you know what it means?

Al picks up an aeronautical chart and a plotter.

TENBRINK  
Can you do it?

AL  
I thought you were a pilot.

TENBRINK  
My chauffeur is. And Chuckie.

Al plots something on the chart.

AL  
V.O.R. is an air navigation system,  
using radio signals.

TENBRINK  
That much I know.

Al draws two intersecting lines on the chart.

AL  
What they're saying is, we fly  
toward the Jaspar V.O.R. station.  
When we come to this line -- the  
signal from the Lake City station --  
we drop the bag.

Al tunes his two V.O.R. radios.

AL  
Don't worry, it's easy. It's right  
where the signals intersect.

EXT. AL'S PLANE - DAY

The plane turns.

INT. FINDLAY TRAILER - BEDROOM - DAY

Henry and Mary undress -- striptease-style again, to Henry's  
a cappella singing.

HENRY  
"She's waiting and she is heaven  
to me/ She's married to another  
man/..."

EXT. AIRPORT ROAD - DAY

Lanny's patrol car turns from the highway.

INT. PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Lanny drives with a determined look, Junior beside him.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Henry and Mary have just hit the bed.

They hear the ARRIVING CAR, Mary looks out the window.

MARY  
It's the sheriff.

Henry bounds out of bed. As he and Mary grab clothes,

HENRY  
Shit a brick. He's gonna be  
pissed. I ain't done what he  
wanted, but it ain't my fault.

EXT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Lanny, hustling toward the entrance, stops, Junior right behind him, as he sees the "Gone Fishing" sign on the door.

LANNY  
Gone fishing my ass.

Lanny turns, bumping into Junior, and heads for the house trailer.

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

The front door opens and Mary appears, just managing to look dressed, as Lanny and Junior hustle over.

LANNY  
Where's Henry? His plane's over  
there. His truck's over here.

JUNIOR  
And his sorry ass is in there.

Henry, stuffing in his shirttail, appears behind Mary in the doorway.

LANNY  
Henry, what the hell are you doing  
in there?

HENRY

Just having a cup of coffee,  
Sheriff.

LANNY

I don't give a damn what you're  
doing in there, why aren't you  
tailing Al's plane?

HENRY

I got here too late, Sheriff.  
Weren't no use in trying.

LANNY

Mary, where was Al going?

MARY

Al didn't know. Tenbrink wouldn't  
say.

JUNIOR

Tenbrink didn't know.

MARY

Al didn't either.

LANNY

Well somebody knew.

JUNIOR

I wonder who it was.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al explains the radios to Tenbrink,

AL

Okay, these are the V.O.R. radios.  
You got two of 'em.

TENBRINK

Right.

Al points to radio #1. The needle is pointing straight down.

AL

This means we're right on the beam,  
heading straight for the Jaspar  
station.

Al points to radio #2. The needle is at five o'clock.

AL  
 This means we're approaching the  
 other signal. When this needle's  
 down, we're there.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

In quiet woods Chuckie and the kidnappers wait.

Spread out within sight of each other, they listen for a  
 plane.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al, gazing ahead as if in thought, doesn't notice as Tenbrink  
 suddenly grimaces, clutching his chest, in pain.

The pain seems to pass, Tenbrink takes a deep breath.

Al daydreams as he flies,

AL (V.O.)  
 Mister Tenbrink, I've made a  
 terrible mistake...

BEGIN FANTASY SEQUENCE

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Tenbrink looks quizzically at Al.

AL  
 We dropped the money in the wrong  
 place. I screwed up on the  
 coordinates. What'll we do?

TENBRINK  
 (aggravated)  
 We'll just have to go back and get  
 some more money.

Al smiles to himself as Tenbrink looks off in frustration.

AL  
 Yeah, I guess so.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Al finds the duffel bag in some bushes. He sits down and  
 opens it. He happily plays with the money.

The Hawaiian song "Aloha Oe" PLAYS.

EXT. HAWAIIAN BEACH - DAY

Al lounges on a beach chair as "Aloha Oe" keeps PLAYING.

Wearing shades, a lei, and expensive sports clothes, he sips a drink through a straw from a coconut.

He watches an Hawaiian girl in a grass skirt dance before him to the music.

END FANTASY SEQUENCE

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al daydreams, then snaps out of it to look at his V.O.R. radios.

The needle on radio #2 is at almost six o'clock.

AL  
We're almost there.

Al turns to reach for the duffel bag.

AL  
Help me get this --

Al sees with horror that Tenbrink is having a heart attack.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnapers hear the distant SOUND of the approaching plane.

They can't see much sky for the trees, but they all look confident, expectant.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al desperately tries to make contact on his radio, Tenbrink unconscious beside him.

AL  
(into phone)  
Perryville, Cherokee Eight-Four-Five-Three-Three! Mayday, over!

Turning the plane, Al puts down the radio mike.

AL  
She won't answer the damn radio.

He takes out a cell phone. He pays no attention to radio #2.  
The needle is pointing straight down.

AL  
I'll call 9-1-1 myself, Mister  
Tenbrink. There'll be an ambulance  
waiting.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

As Chuckie and the kidnappers watch, Al's plane, banking and  
turning, flies by overhead, low over the treetops.

It disappears over the trees, the SOUND starts dying away.

They look anxiously around.

BRYNA  
Did you hear something hit?

CURLY  
No!

BRYNA  
Where the hell's he going?!

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al is almost through turning the plane, Tenbrink unconscious.

AL  
Hang on, Mister Tenbrink.  
(then, remembering)  
Oh shit -- the money.

He starts turning the plane the other way, to double back.

AL  
Don't worry, I'll make that drop.  
Won't take half a minute. Hang on.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnappers stand around in despair.

INT. FINDLAY TRAILER - BEDROOM - DAY

Mary smiles, her blouse half-unbuttoned, as Henry, singing to her a capella, crawls toward her on the bed.

HENRY

"When we're out with our best  
friends we can't let them know/ How  
we feel by what we do or say."

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al levels off the plane, resets his V.O.R. radios, then reaches back for the duffel bag.

Radio #2's needle is at almost six o'clock.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnappers now hear the SOUND of the plane again.

CURLY

He's coming back!

EXT. AL'S PLANE - DAY

Low again over the treetops.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al struggles with the duffel bag, trying to get it out of the back seat.

He pays no attention to radio #2. The needle is pointing straight down.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnappers again watch Al's plane fly past overhead.

The SOUND fades, they look anxiously around.

BRYNA

Did you hear something hit?

CURLY

No!

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al gets the duffel bag out of the back seat. He struggles to get it over Tenbrink's limp body, to the plane's only door.

Radio #2's needle is past six o'clock.

Opening the door with effort, Al drops out the bag.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

As Al's plane flies over some oak trees, the duffel bag falls and bounces through high tree branches, slowing its fall.

The bag lands with a THUD in the fork of one of the oaks.

INT. HERMIT'S CABIN - DAY

A grizzled HERMIT, 60, clearly curious about something he heard outside, puts down a magazine and rises.

EXT. HERMIT'S PROPERTY - DAY

The Hermit steps out of his cabin in a clearing in the woods.

Chickens roam about in the clearing. A hog eats slop in a low-railed pen.

Looking around, the Hermit doesn't see it, but the duffel bag, about eight feet above the ground, is in the nearest oak tree, right at the edge of the clearing.

Seeing nothing suspicious, the Hermit goes back inside.

INT. CABIN - DAY

The Hermit sits down and resumes reading his magazine, a decades-old copy of "Look."

He starts skimming down the page instead of reading,

HERMIT  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

INT. FINDLAY TRAILER - BEDROOM - DAY

Henry and Mary, kissing and hugging, are almost out of their clothes when they hear a SIREN approaching. Getting up from the bed, Mary goes to the window.

HENRY

God, it's that damn sheriff again.

MARY

No, it's an ambulance.

HENRY

What? Who called an ambulance?

MARY

Nobody here.

HENRY

I've heard of co-eye-tus interruptus,  
but this is ridiculous.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Dimly lit, the SUV parked nearby.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Bryna looks at a website on a laptop computer.

Mac, Curly, and Chuckie sit brooding.

BRYNA

Oh God. Look at this.

The three men come to look.

BRYNA

This is the local-news website of a  
Jacksonville T.V. station. Are you  
ready?

(reads)

"Charles Tenbrink, owner of Tenbrink  
Pulp and Paper, died today in  
Perryville, after suffering a heart  
attack while aboard a private plane."

Mac, Curly, and Chuckie look stunned.

CURLY

(angrily)

Then Findlay kept the money!

BRYNA

(reads)

"The pulp and paper magnate was on  
a business trip at the time. No  
other details were available."

CURLY

The bastard kept it! He saw  
Tenbrink was kicking off, so he  
kept the dough.

MAC

Or else he got confused...

BRYNA

... dropped it in the wrong place.

CURLY

We don't know that. You're guessing.

BRYNA

So are you. So what do we do?

Chuckie looks sad.

CHUCKIE

I ought to be home with Mom.

As Bryna ignores the remark,

BRYNA

We've got to figure out what  
Findlay did.

CURLY

I've got a better idea. Let's  
go ask him.

Mac looks almost pleased for some reason.

MAC

You guys aren't paying attention.  
Chuckie said he ought to be home.  
Chuckie's right.

Bryna and Curly look quizzical, Chuckie still sad.

MAC

Charles Tenbrink is dead. That  
could make our friend Chuckie a  
very rich man.

Bryna and Curly seem to get the idea.

BRYNA

Yeah. Even richer than Findlay  
is now.

MAC

And one thing a rich man should never do is forget his less fortunate friends.

CURLY

Come on, Mac. You think Chuckie would forget who his friends are?

BRYNA

No way. Right, Chuckie?

Sad Chuckie doesn't look optimistic.

CHUCKIE

If my father rewrote his will within the last few days, you could be in for a big disappointment.

INT. FINDLAY TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

On the TV SCREEN, an African-American REPORTER stands in front of the Tenbrink mansion.

REPORTER

(on TV)

The young Tenbrink was released last night unharmed. His unknown abductors remain at large, now two million dollars richer.

Al and Mary watch the TV.

Al looks proud of himself while Mary seems dissatisfied.

REPORTER

But young Tenbrink is free, thanks to the airplane pilot successfully delivering the ransom despite Charles Tenbrink's demise.

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

Al, on a ladder, has a new gutter almost in place on the trailer, while Mary stands by.

MARY

Al, tell me one thing. Why didn't you drop the money in the wrong place?

Al stops what he's doing and looks down at Mary. He grabs the loose gutter before it can fall.

AL  
(indignantly)  
Drop the money in the wrong place?

MARY  
Yeah. Then you could go back and get it.

AL  
Why, such a thought never entered my mind. What would happen to Chuckie?

MARY  
They'd work something else out. The wrong place would be your mistake, not Tenbrink's. Think what that money could do for us. Can't you do anything right?

The gutter falls and hits Al on the head.

MARY  
That answers my question.

INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

An ATTORNEY reads a will to Mrs. Tenbrink, Chuckie, and Chuckie's 25-year-old sister.

ATTORNEY  
(reads)  
"I, Charles Tenbrink, being of sound mind, declare this to be my final will and testament."

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Much nicer than the Periwinkle. Bryna lets Chuckie in.

Chuckie dejectedly sits down. Mac, Bryna, and Curly wait for the news.

CHUCKIE  
I can't believe it. A trust fund. It'll be five more years before I get any money.

The kidnappers don't hide their exasperation.

CURLY

Wait a minute. How do we know he's telling the truth?

BRYNA

If he's not, he's a dead man.

CURLY

I wanna see this will.

CHUCKIE

You'll see it.

Mac, thinking, looks distracted by the bickering.

MAC

All right, let's cut the shit. Forget the damn will. We're not waiting around five years. We proceed with Plan B.

BRYNA

What's Plan B?

MAC

What else? Location and recovery of... lost treasure.

Curly smiles meanly as if he knows what Mac means.

CURLY

We go after Findlay.

MAC

Tsch. You think Findlay's got it? He doesn't even know what he did.

BRYNA

How do you know?

CURLY

He doesn't. He's guessing. I say Findlay's got it.

MAC

We'll know soon enough if he's got it.

CHUCKIE

What do we do?

MAC

We buy him a drink. At The Wrong Place.

EXT. "THE WRONG PLACE" TAVERN - NIGHT

The sign still reads "Henry Watts and the Volts."

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Henry and the Volts perform onstage.

Al and Mary arrive.

Henry, singing, watches Mary, who eyes him back, as she and Al exchange greetings with friends.

HENRY

"We're in love so much it hurts/ We  
can't let it show."

Al and Mary head toward Chuckie, waiting for them alone at a table with a drink.

Chuckie rises to greet them.

CHUCKIE

Hello, Al.

AL

Mister Tenbrink.

CHUCKIE

Chuckie. Call me Chuckie. Mrs.  
Findlay, would you mind very much  
if I spoke with your husband alone  
for a minute?

MARY

Why, no, uh -- I'll be over there  
with some friends.

CHUCKIE

Just for a minute, that's all.

Mary moves off to join friends as Al and Chuckie sit down at the table.

CHUCKIE

Al, first I wanted to thank you  
again for the part you played in  
getting me safely home.

AL

Well, I --

Chuckie cuts Al off as Phyllis the waitress appears with a draft beer in her hand.

CHUCKIE  
What'll you have, Al?

Phyllis sets down the draft with a smile.

PHYLLIS  
I'll bet he wants this.

AL  
Phyllis can read minds. It's amazing. I keep telling her she's working in the wrong place.

PHYLLIS  
Al, you're so suavy and deboner.

AL  
You're the de-boner, Phyllis. I mean that in the nicest possible way.

Phyllis and Al laugh as she walks away.

CHUCKIE  
Anything going on there, Al?

AL  
Nah, we just kid around.

CHUCKIE  
Well, back to the subject, Al. My mother thanks you too.

AL  
Well, I --

CHUCKIE  
Secondly, Al, there's something that...

Chuckie stops, seemingly amused. He speaks confidentially,

CHUCKIE  
I have to tell you this, Al. You deserve to know. Nobody knows this but me and the kidnapppers. Keep this under your hat, okay? If it ever got out, they might come back at me. It would be a reflection on 'em, you know?

Chuckie acts like he can hardly keep from laughing.

CHUCKIE

You're going to laugh at this, Al.  
You dropped the money in the wrong  
place. They never got it. But  
they were too embarrassed to have  
it known, so they let me go.

(laughs)

Isn't that funny? Everybody thinks  
they pulled a perfect crime. But  
you ruined it.

Chuckie chortles.

AL

I dropped the money in the wrong  
place?

CHUCKIE

Just like the name of this joint.  
You flew right past. No duffel  
bag. God knows where you dropped  
it. You could never go back and  
find it now -- all those miles, all  
those woods.

The wheels can almost be seen turning in Al's head.

AL

That's right. I could never go  
back and find it now. All those  
miles.

CHUCKIE

Maybe some pulpwood cutter found it,  
you know? Living high on the hog  
now.

Chuckie and Al laugh.

CHUCKIE

Or maybe it fell in a creek. Who  
cares? Isn't that a laugh, Al?  
The wrong place.

AL

Boy, that's funny.

EXT. AL'S PLANE - DAY

Flying low over the treetops.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al checks the chart, radios, forest below, trying to figure out where he dropped it.

EXT. AL'S PLANE - DAY

A single-engine plane (Tenbrink's) trails Al's in the distance.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Chuckie is at the controls, Mac beside him, Bryna and Curly in back.

All their eyes are straight ahead on Al's plane.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al studies his chart. He looks at radio #2. The needle is past six o'clock.

He scans the forest below, as if for a landmark.

"Aloha Oe" PLAYS.

INT. TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Al, in hunting clothes, sits checking over a shotgun, while Mary stands over him. "Alohe Oe" keeps PLAYING, then stops.

MARY

What do you mean you're going hunting? You don't give a damn about hunting. What did you pay for that gun? Al, what are you up to?

AL

I told you. I'm going hunting.

MARY

Al, you've never fired a shotgun before and --

Al FIRES the shotgun accidentally, blasting the glass out of the window. After a moment,

MARY

... and wouldn't know how.

EXT. DIRT ROAD IN WOODS - DAY

Al's truck comes bumping along the winding road in woods.  
"Aloha Oe" PLAYS.

INT. AL'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

As the song PLAYS, Al looks at the forest, as if trying to decide where to stop. He's in his hunting clothes.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Tailing Al's truck, keeping just out of sight around the bends, is the kidnappers' SUV.

INT. SUV - MOVING - DAY

Curly drives, Mac beside him, Bryna and Chuckie in back, all looking off ahead.

They have shotguns, and are dressed for hunting. They also have binoculars and hand-held two-way radios.

EXT. AIRPORT ROAD - DAY

Lanny's patrol car turns from the highway.

INT. TRAILER - BEDROOM - DAY

Henry and Mary are on the bed, getting out of their clothes.

They hear the ARRIVING CAR, Mary looks out the window.

MARY

Henry, it's the sheriff again.

HENRY

Goddamnit.

They grab clothes.

MARY

What does he want now? Is there something else you haven't done yet?

HENRY

Screw you!

MARY

What?

HENRY

That's what I still haven't done yet.

EXT. TRAILER - DAY

Mary, hastily dressed, opens the front door.

Outside stand Lanny, eating a moon pie, and Jimmy Paul (in his uniform now).

LANNY

Where's Al?

MARY

He said he was going hunting.

LANNY

Henry in there?

HENRY (O.S.)

Just having a cup of coffee, Sheriff.

Henry, stuffing in his shirttail, appears behind Mary in the doorway.

LANNY

Henry, there's a convict loose from out at the work camp. We've got the dogs going in between the river and Twenty-Nine. We'd like to hire a plane too, try to spot him.

HENRY

Well I can't help you. Right now my plane's tore half apart. I got all kinds of trouble.

LANNY

Who's plane's that over there?

MARY

That's Wes Tilley's.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Al prowls the forest, unaware that Mac is watching through binoculars. Curly pokes around in bushes behind Mac.

EXT. ROADSIDE BY WOODS - DAY

Prison security officers have parked their vehicles. They head into the forest with weapons and bloodhounds.

Jimmy Paul drops by in his patrol car.

JIMMY PAUL

Good luck catching that convict!

OFFICER

Don't worry, we'll cover these woods with a fine-toothed comb.

EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS IN WOODS - DAY

Al, on the hunt, crosses some railroad tracks that run through the forest. "Aloha Oe" PLAYS.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Each person tracking Al on foot seems not to trust everyone else, all watching each other through binoculars:

Bryna watches Al, then turns to watch Mac and Curly, who are watching Al;

Chuckie watches Bryna watching Al;

Bryna turns to look off at Chuckie. Chuckie looks straight back at Bryna.

EXT. WES TILLEY'S PLANE - DAY

A single-engine Cessna banks over the forest.

INT. WES'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Good ol' boy WES TILLEY, 36, is at the controls, Sheriff Lanny beside him.

Something below catches Lanny's eye as Wes banks the plane.

It's the clearing where the Hermit lives in the woods.

LANNY

Who lives down there?

Wes looks down.

WES  
Oh, that old hermit.

LANNY  
Oh yeah.

WES  
What's-his-name.

LANNY  
That convict better not mess with  
him. That old man'll shoot him.  
He's crazy.

EXT. HERMIT'S PROPERTY - DAY

From the woods Al, holding his shotgun safely down, emerges onto the premises.

Walking rather tentatively toward the cabin, he goes right by the oak tree with the duffel bag in it.

Al is startled by a SHOTGUN BLAST, hitting a tree trunk right by the cabin.

Turning, Al sees the grizzled Hermit, apparently just returned from the woods, pointing a double-barreled shotgun at him.

HERMIT  
That was one barrel, son. I still  
got one left. What are you up to?

AL  
Nothing, I -- I'm out here looking  
for some, uh, lost personal  
property. Have you seen any?

HERMIT  
What would it be doing here?

AL  
Well, it fell out here somewhere,  
so --

HERMIT  
You're the second damn person who  
has come onto my property within  
the last six months. Why can't you  
people leave my ass alone?

AL  
Sorry to bother you. I'll, uh --

HERMIT

Get going.

Al heads off on his way.

He casts cautious glances back at the Hermit, whose shotgun is still at ready.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Mac and Curly have been watching Al's encounter with the Hermit through binoculars.

They watch the Hermit go into his cabin.

Mac lowers his binoculars, but Curly suddenly sees something through his.

CURLY

Mac... that oak tree -- over to the left of the cabin...

Mac looks through his binoculars. He sees the bag in the tree.

CURLY

It's the duffel bag.

Mac heads for the tree.

MAC

Call the others.

Curly grabs his two-way radio.

EXT. BUSHES - DAY

The PRISON ESCAPEE, 32, physically imposing, lies in the bushes, tired and sweaty, still in his prison blue.

He's apparently hiding from Mac and Curly, and watches them head toward the cabin.

He gets to his feet and sneaks off in another direction.

INT. HERMIT'S CABIN - DAY

The Hermit casually reloads his shotgun.

He starts to prop it against the wall, then hears SOMEONE RUNNING outside.

Through a window he sees Mac dash by.

Now Bryna comes running from the woods facing the window.

EXT. HERMIT'S PROPERTY - DAY

Mac, Bryna, and Curly quickly lay down their guns by the tree.

Mac and Curly boost Bryna up toward the bag.

HERMIT (O.S.)  
Hold it right there!

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Al stops and looks back, having heard the Hermit's voice.

Mac and Curly set Bryna down. The Hermit is aiming his shotgun at them.

Al now hears,

HERMIT  
What are you up to?

MAC  
Just trying to get my duffel bag.

HERMIT  
What's it doing up there?

MAC  
It fell from an airplane.

HERMIT  
How'd it do that?

MAC  
Well, there's a force of nature known as gravity.

AL  
Hey!

Al comes running back.

Seeing the bag, he hurries toward the tree.

AL  
(to Hermit)  
Hey, I'm glad you caught these  
guys. They've been trying to steal  
my duffel bag.

MAC  
He's lying. It's my duffel bag.

AL  
It's mine. That's the personal  
property I was looking for.

HERMIT  
What's it doing up there?

AL  
It fell from an airplane.

HERMIT  
How'd it do that?

AL  
That's what I'd like to know.

Al lays down his gun and starts trying to climb the tree.

AL  
(to Curly)  
Don't just stand there. Help me  
get up here.

Curly looks with aggravation at the Hermit with the gun, then  
grudgingly boosts Al up toward the bag.

AL  
Now you keep these guys covered  
while I get the bag and go get the  
sheriff.

HERMIT  
The sheriff?

Al drops the bag from the tree.

AL  
Sure. Don't you know who these  
guys are? The Suitcase Simmons  
Gang. They steal all kinds of  
travel bags.

Curly helps Al back down.

HERMIT  
Suitcase Simmons?

Al picks up the duffel bag.

AL  
Sure. His picture's in the post office. All three of 'em. Now don't let 'em go, ya hear? There could be a reward for this.

Al heads for the woods with the bag. He stops to look back at the Hermit.

AL  
You keep 'em covered till the sheriff gets here. Okay?

Al hurries away, the kidnapers helplessly watching.

The Hermit sits down on a stump in the yard. Gun at ready, he keeps Mac, Bryna, and Curly covered at the tree.

The Hermit is unaware of Chuckie, who, clutching his shotgun, sneaks along a side of the cabin to the front corner.

The three kidnapers can see Chuckie behind the Hermit but of course don't let on.

HERMIT  
(to Mac)  
You really Suitcase Simmons?

MAC  
You've heard of me, eh?

HERMIT  
How come you steal travel bags?

MAC  
I'm a bag man.

The Hermit suddenly hears Chuckie approach behind him, and starts to rise.

Laying down his gun, Chuckie wraps up the Hermit, and they tumble to the ground.

The Hermit's gun FIRES at ground level. There's the CACKLE of chickens and a swirl of bloody feathers.

The kidnapers grab their guns by the tree.

Curly takes the shotgun from the Hermit while Chuckie holds him on the ground.

The Hermit manages to punch Chuckie in the nose.

MAC

Let's go!

The kidnappers run off in pursuit of the bag.

Chuckie, holding a handkerchief to his bloody nose, picks up his gun.

The Hermit sits on the ground, painfully holding his back.

HERMIT

Why can't people leave my ass  
alone?

CHUCKIE

(sarcastically)  
Sorry about the chicken, old man.

Looking back as he walks, Chuckie trips over the low rail of the hog pen, and falls forward into the slop.

The hog licks Chuckie's slop-covered face.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Al hurries along with the bag.

Mac, Curly, and Bryna, spotting Al through brush in the distance, FIRE SHOTS at him with their shotguns.

Al dives to the ground.

Still down, out of their view in the brush, he FIRES his shotgun in the air.

The sound of the shot causes his pursuers to duck down.

He gets up and takes off again with the bag.

EXT. FREIGHT TRAIN - DAY

The train moves about 60 mph through the forest.

There are several boxcars and a couple of empty flatcars.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The kidnappers FIRE more shots as they catch glimpses of Al, who tiredly runs through brush with the bag.

EXT. WES'S PLANE - DAY

Wes's plane banks over the forest.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The freight train moves through the woods.

INT. WES'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Lanny gestures toward the train below.

LANNY

Let's follow that train a ways.  
That convict may try to hop it.

Wes changes course and cuts back on the power.

EXT. WES'S PLANE - DAY

Slowing down to about 60 mph, the plane begins flying fairly low over the train.

EXT. TRACKS - DAY

Al lugs the duffel bag across the railroad tracks as the train approaches.

The kidnappers come running but can't beat the train. They have to stand and wait, panting Chuckie finally catching up with them, while the train moves past.

INT. WES'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Lanny looks at something in the forest through binoculars.

WES

You see that convict?

Lanny sees Al hurrying through the woods with the bag.

LANNY)

No, I see Al Findlay. With a  
duffel bag.

Wes sees something off ahead.

WES  
Who are those guys?

Lanny looks through his binoculars. He sees Chuckie and the kidnapppers wait impatiently by the train.

LANNY  
I think that's Charles Tenbrink Junior.

The plane engine suddenly SPUTTERS and quits.

WES  
Aw, shit.

LANNY  
What's wrong?

WES  
Probably iced up the carburetor.  
We were going too slow, I forgot  
to turn on the heat.

LANNY  
Where are we gonna land?

WES  
The only place I see.

EXT. PLANE AND TRAIN - DAY

The plane glides down toward an empty flatcar, with forest on either side.

EXT. BY THE TRACKS - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnapppers are amazed to see Wes's plane gliding down over the train.

INT. WES'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Wes concentrates on the flatcar, Lanny grimacing with fear.

EXT. PLANE AND TRAIN - DAY

Wes's plane sets down perfectly on the moving flatcar.

INT. WES'S PLANE (ON MOVING TRAIN) - DAY

Lanny sighs with relief, Wes looks pleased with the landing -- then both look ahead with shock.

A railroad bridge with steel superstructure looms ahead.

Wes closes his eyes, Lanny bug-eyed and frozen.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

As the flatcar comes through, the bridge's vertical beams RIP the wings off the plane, the plane jolted backward.

INT. PLANE (ON MOVING TRAIN) - DAY

Wes and Lanny are shaken but unhurt, as the flatcar emerges from the bridge.

Wes looks around in dismay at his wingless plane. Lanny glares at him.

LANNY

See if I ever fly with you again.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Al hurries with the bag through the woods while "Aloha Oe" PLAYS.

Over this way, the prison officers track with their dogs. Over that way, Chuckie and the kidnappers pursue Al.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The train speeds along as before. Wes and Lanny still sit inside the plane on the flatcar.

INT. TRAIN ENGINE - MOVING - DAY

The TRAIN ENGINEER goes about his business, clearly unaware there's a plane on his train.

INT. WES'S PLANE (ON MOVING TRAIN) - DAY

Lanny uses his two-way radio. Wes sits in idle dejection.

JUNIOR (V.O.)  
 (over radio)  
 Which train is it, over?

LANNY  
 (into radio)  
 I don't know which train it is,  
 damn it, I just know I'm on it!

WES  
 It's northbound, Sheriff.

LANNY  
 (into radio)  
 It's a northbound train. It's the  
 only one, damn it, with an airplane  
 on it. Now get out and stop it!

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The prison officers are on the hunt with their dogs.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Al, huffing and puffing with the bag, is tripped by someone  
 in the bushes. He falls flat on his face.

He sits up, and finds himself confronted by the mean-looking  
 Escapee. Al sees the prison uniform, and sees the man eye  
 the bag.

ESCAPEE  
 Whatcha got in that bag?

AL  
 Nothing you need, fella. You're on  
 the run, right? You can't lug this  
 around.

The Escapee smirks.

ESCAPEE  
 I might can lug whatever's in it.

In the distance now is the faint sound of the BARKING dogs.

The Escapee looks concerned. Thinking fast, Al starts  
 quickly undressing.

AL  
 You need clothes, right? Here,  
 take mine. I'll keep the bag.

The Escapee starts undressing as quickly as Al.

ESCAPEE

Where are you heading?

AL

We gotta split up. Look, I'll take your clothes and drop 'em along the way. Maybe the dogs'll follow me instead of you.

ESCAPEE

Man, you are a Good Seminarian.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The train speeds through the woods.

INT. WES'S PLANE (ON MOVING TRAIN) - DAY

Lanny's thinking, Wes looks bored, as the train speeds along.

LANNY

Wes, I've been putting two and two together.

WES

What have you got? Three and a half?

LANNY

Al Findlay's got that ransom money. That's why Charles Tenbrink Junior and those other guys are chasing him. Charles Junior is in with those kidnapers.

Wes looks intrigued. He chuckles.

WES

Well if that's true, Al's heading straight for his airplane, you can bet on that.

LANNY

Then Chuckie'll head straight for his mama's plane, to go after Al. Whose plane am I gonna head for?

WES

Hell, Chuckie can't let his mama know. He'll go borrow some other plane.

LANNY

Whose?

WES

That other rich guy. Kennington. He's got an air strip too.

LANNY

I'll bet you're right. Then I'll go borrow the Tenbrink plane.

WES

I'll fly it for you, Sheriff.

LANNY

Like hell you will. Their chauffeur's a pilot too.

Lanny looks around in frustration.

LANNY

But first I've gotta get off this train.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnapppers hurry through the forest. There is the distant BARKING of the dogs.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Al, clad only in underwear, gets to his truck, opens the door, shoves in the bag, and hops in beside it.

Al buckles up, grabs the ignition key from over the sun visor, starts the engine, and takes off down the road.

EXT. TRAIN AND JUNIOR'S PATROL CAR - DAY

Junior's patrol car, SIREN BLARING, lights flashing, speeds along the highway, catching up with the train engine.

The Train Engineer looks out with amazement at the patrol car as it moves up even with him.

Junior motions for the Engineer to pull over.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnapers reach their SUV and jump in.  
They take off down the road, Curly behind the wheel.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Al's truck turns recklessly onto the highway from the dirt road.

INT. AL'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Al drives with desperate determination.

INT. SUV - MOVING - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnapers speed along the dirt road. Chuckie cleans slop from his clothes.

CHUCKIE

We'll never catch him. He'll head straight for his plane.

MAC

Let's go get yours.

CHUCKIE

What would I say to Mom?

MAC

What do you mean? We used it before.

CHUCKIE

She'll be home this time.

(then)

I know where to get one. Take a left up here.

EXT. TENBRINK MANSION - DAY

Junior's patrol car pulls up in front of the mansion. Lanny and Junior get out.

EXT. KENNINGTON MANSION - DAY

The SUV SCREECHES to a halt in front of a luxurious home in the country.

Chuckie, Mac, and Bryna pile out and hurry toward the house. Chuckie suddenly stops them.

CHUCKIE

Act normal.

They proceed at a casual pace. Curly waits behind the wheel in the SUV.

INT. TENBRINK MANSION - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink looks incredulously at Lanny and Junior.

MRS. TENBRINK

The kidnappers have my son again?

LANNY

That's one way to look at it, ma'am. I --

MRS. TENBRINK

What are we standing around for? You say they've gone somewhere for a plane?

LANNY

That's my hunch. If you'll just let your chauffeur take me up, ma'am, we can spot 'em and --

MRS. TENBRINK

There is no chauffeur.

LANNY

What?

MRS. TENBRINK

I fired him for drinking on the job. I'll take you up myself.

Mrs. Tenbrink starts out of the room.

LANNY

Now wait a minute, ma'am. You can't fly that plane.

She stops and turns.

MRS. TENBRINK

What do you mean I can't fly it?

Mrs. Tenbrink heads out the door.

LANNY  
Well, I mean, uh...

Lanny and Junior follow her.

LANNY  
You can fly it?

INT. KENNINGTON MANSION - DAY

Chuckie talks urgently to fellow rich kid KENNY KENNINGTON, 22, while Mac and Bryna politely wait.

CHUCKIE  
This is really important to me.  
I've got to show these people that  
land today or they may not buy.

Kenny looks distracted by the dried blood under Chuckie's nose and the slop stains on his clothes.

CHUCKIE  
If my plane was just ready --

KENNY  
I don't know what Dad might say.

CHUCKIE  
I'll take full responsibility for  
your dad's plane, Kenny. Don't  
worry. In fact, I might buy it, if  
he still wants to sell it.

KENNY  
How come you're bleeding?

CHUCKIE  
I got punched in the nose.

KENNY  
What's that all over you?

CHUCKIE  
I fell in some slop.

EXT. KENNINGTON MANSION - DAY

The Escapee, having emerged from the woods, peeks out from some bushes. He wears Al's clothes, too small.

He sees Curly sitting with the door open for air in the SUV.

The Escapee sneaks hurriedly to the back of the SUV.

He sneaks up on Curly and sticks his index finger like a gun to Curly's head, right behind the ear.

ESCAPEE

Don't move. Now get out or I'll  
blow your brains out.

Curly gets out, the Escapee staying behind him.

The smiling Escapee then taps Curly on the shoulder. Curly turns, and the Escapee knocks him out.

LATER

The SUV speeds away from the mansion, Curly lying unconscious on the ground.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Al's truck SCREECHES to a halt at the house trailer. Al in his underwear gets out with the bag.

Mary, looking mystified, steps out of the terminal building.

MARY

Al?...

Al opens the trailer door.

AL

Mary, gas up the plane!

MARY

Al, what's going on?

Al points at the bag he's lugging.

AL

I dropped the money in the wrong  
place!

MARY

Sweetheart!

AL

They'll be coming after us, Mary!  
Gas up the plane!

Mary runs to do what he says. Al hurries into the trailer.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink and Lanny fasten their seat belts, the single engine not yet running.

LANNY

I didn't mean nothing, ma'am. I just didn't know, with your own chauffeur-pilot and all, that you bothered to learn how to fly.

MRS. TENBRINK

It pays to know what to do, Sheriff, in case of emergency. You never know what may happen in the air.

LANNY

You can say that again. Ever iced up a carburetor?

INT. TRAILER - DAY

Al, now in mechanic's coveralls, hurriedly selects a few belongings and mementos, throwing them into a flight bag.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink starts the engine of her plane, Lanny beside her.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - DAY

Chuckie starts the engine, Mac beside him, Bryna and Curly in back. Curly rubs his sore jaw.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Al in his coveralls comes out of the trailer with duffel bag and flight bag.

He sees his plane, apparently ready to go, by the gas pump.

Through the terminal-building window Al can see Mary, talking to someone on the phone. She's not looking Al's way.

Al hurries toward his plane.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Mary speaks impatiently on the phone,

MARY  
(into phone)  
Yes!  
(listens)  
Well how soon do you think you --

She stops, surprised as she looks out at Al's plane.

Al climbs onto the wing with the duffel bag and flight bag.

MARY  
(into phone)  
Wait! Hang on!

She lays down the receiver and runs for the exit.

EXT. AL'S PLANE - DAY

Mary comes running from the building with a frown.

Al has opened the plane door and throws in the flight bag.

Mary stops as if wanting to tell him something,

MARY  
Al, wait --

AL  
You can't go, Mary. I'm going  
alone.

MARY  
What do you mean?

Getting into the plane, Al pulls the duffel bag in with him.

AL  
Let's face it, Mary. We both know  
it's over.

MARY  
Not anymore!

AL  
I want you to file for divorce.

MARY  
On what grounds?

AL  
Desertion.

Al slams the door shut.

EXT. TENBRINK MANSION - AIRSTRIP - DAY

The Tenbrink plane heads down the private runway for takeoff.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - MOVING - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink is at the controls, Lanny beside her.

EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

The Tenbrink plane takes off.

EXT. BEHIND KENNINGTON MANSION - DAY

Kenny worriedly watches the Kennington plane take off.

EXT. AIRPORT RUNWAY - DAY

Al's plane taxis for takeoff.

EXT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Henry drives up leisurely in his truck.

INT. AL'S PLANE - MOVING - DAY

Al starts his takeoff. He sees Mary on the apron.

She screams at him, shakes her fist, and gives him the finger.

EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

Al's plane takes off.

EXT. AIRPORT APRON - DAY

Mary stands stewing as she watches Al's plane.

Henry sings as he casually comes out to join her,

HENRY

"She knows the love she gets is  
love she's stealing/..."

Mary gives him a look as Henry steps up and moves his face  
close to hers.

HENRY

"That's the price she pays for  
loving me."

Mary resumes watching Al's plane.

MARY

Knock off the crap.

HENRY

(feigns offense)  
You're talking about my signature  
song.

(then)  
Where's Al going?

MARY

Not very far. He didn't give me  
a chance to tell him. We're out of  
gas here. He'll be lucky to go  
five miles.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al opens the duffel bag beside him. He looks at the cash.  
He takes out a handful and kisses it.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnapers fly toward the airport, already in  
sight.

Chuckie spots Al's plane in the distance.

CHUCKIE

There he is. We're just in time.

Chuckie turns the plane to head after Al's.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink and Lanny look around as they fly.

LANNY

Are you sure we're flying toward  
the airport?

MRS. TENBRINK

No, I'm not.

Lanny looks afraid to ask,

LANNY

Mrs. Tenbrink, how long have you  
been flying?

MRS. TENBRINK

I had my first two lessons this  
week, from the chauffeur. Well,  
one really. He was too drunk to  
give me the second.

LANNY

You mean you've got me up here  
and --

MRS. TENBRINK

We're going to save my son, Sheriff.

She flies them into a cloud. Visibility is now zero.

LANNY

Mrs. Tenbrink...

MRS. TENBRINK

Yes?

LANNY

Did that chauffeur leave any booze  
on board?

EXT. TENBRINK PLANE - DAY

As the plane comes out of the cloud, it almost collides with  
the Kennington plane, flying by with evasive action.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

All look shaken as Chuckie rights the plane, getting them  
back on course.

BRYNA

What the hell was that?

CHUCKIE  
Some idiot!

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink turns the plane.

LANNY  
Where are we going?

MRS. TENBRINK  
After that plane. That may have  
been them.

LANNY  
Mrs. Tenbrink, you've got to get me  
down from here.

MRS. TENBRINK  
In due course, Sheriff.

She notes Lanny's look of anxiety.

MRS. TENBRINK  
Don't worry, Sheriff, I've watched  
the chauffeur land this plane a  
hundred times.

LANNY  
Any way to get him up here now?

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnappers look off at Al's plane as they're  
moving toward it.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Al ripples a big handful of thousand-dollar bills while  
"Aloha Oe" PLAYS.

He stuffs the bills into a front pocket of his coveralls.

He suddenly notices the Kennington plane, closing in.

"Aloha Oe" abruptly stops as Al grabs hold of the yoke, his  
mind back to flying.

EXT. THE TWO PLANES - DAY

The Kennington plane starts tracking Al's.

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

The engine SPUTTERS.

Al looks with shock at the gas gauge, and tries the second tank. The gauge shows empty.

AL  
Goddamn you, Mary!

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnappers watch Al's plane. They see his propeller start windmilling.

CHUCKIE  
I think his engine's quit.

CURLY  
What's he trying to pull?

INT. AL'S PLANE - FLYING - DAY

The engine has quit. Al banks the plane toward a pasture.

EXT. AL'S PLANE AND THE PASTURE - DAY

The plane glides down parallel to a highway, separated from the pasture by a stand of trees.

A few cows graze in the pasture.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - BANKING - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnappers watch Al's plane below.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

Al's plane touches down in the pasture.

INT. AL'S PLANE - MOVING - DAY

Al looks ahead with alarm as the plane moves across the ground.

A cow walks obliviously into the plane's path.

AL

No...

Al desperately watches, hoping the cow will stop or turn, but it doesn't.

AL

Dumb stupid cow.

Al turns the plane to avoid collision.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

Al's turning plane tips, a wing snags the ground. The plane cartwheels, landing upside down.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

The plane banking, Chuckie and the kidnapers look down at the crash.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

The cow stands looking at the wrecked plane. She MOOS.

Al, shaken but unhurt, crawls out of the plane, pulling the duffel bag with him.

He gets to his feet, gives the cow a look, then looks toward the Kennington plane, banking to come back toward him.

Al looks toward the highway, atop an embankment beyond the stand of trees. He hurries toward it with the duffel bag.

The Kennington plane descends. It makes a low pass over his head as Al runs for the trees.

The plane banks, turning again.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnapers look frustrated as Chuckie turns the plane.

CHUCKIE

What do we do?

MAC

Try landing.

CHUCKIE

You kidding? Give me an airstrip  
or give me death. We've got no  
cowcatcher either.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Al lugs the duffel bag up to the edge of the highway. He's almost exhausted.

He waves sarcastically at the Kennington plane as it passes by overhead, parallel to the highway. The plane banks.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink sees something below, Lanny about out of his mind, as she comes out of a turn over the highway.

MRS. TENBRINK

Sheriff, look!

Ahead and below is Al's plane in the pasture.

MRS. TENBRINK

There's a plane down in that field.

LANNY

Good for that plane.

She now sees Al by the highway.

She steers down toward him.

MRS. TENBRINK

Sheriff, see if you can I.D. this  
guy.

LANNY

What? Pull us up!

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Al, trying to hitch a ride from passing cars, sees the Tenbrink plane swooping straight down toward him.

Al starts to run, leaving the duffel bag.

He dives to the ground, and the plane zooms by, just a few feet off the ground, before climbing.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - FLYING - DAY

As they climb, Mrs. Tenbrink banking the plane around, Lanny looks vacant-eyed, at peace.

MRS. TENBRINK  
Did you get a good look at him?

LANNY  
Lord, I'm coming home.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Al, back by the bag, tries desperately to thumb a ride.

EXT. STOLEN SUV - DAY

The SUV comes along the highway.

INT. SUV - MOVING - DAY

The Escapee, driving, looks pleasantly surprised to see Al and the bag on the roadside ahead.

The Escapee quickly picks up a pair of dark shades from the dashboard and puts them on. He slows the SUV.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The SUV stops beside Al, the Escapee smiling. Al obviously doesn't recognize him with the shades.

ESCAPEE  
Throw it in, pal!

AL  
Thanks!

Al opens the back door and heaves in the bag.

He slams the door shut, starts to reach for the front one -- but the SUV takes off, leaving him.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

The plane banking, Chuckie and the kidnapers have their eyes on the highway below.

CHUCKIE  
Did you see that?

MAC  
Stay with that vehicle!

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Al has a fit, frantically trying to flag down a ride.

INT. SUV - MOVING - DAY

The Escapee laughs, looking back in the side mirror.

Now he looks off ahead -- and whatever he sees wipes the smile off his face.

It's Junior's patrol car, cruising along from the opposite direction.

The Escapee adjusts his shades and tries to look casual.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The SUV and patrol car pass each other.

INT. PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Junior, casually driving, sees something off ahead with surprise.

It's Al, on the far side of the road, frantically flagging him down.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Junior's patrol stops. Al hurries across the road to him as Junior lowers his window.

Al points back down the road,

AL  
The guy in that S.U.V.! He stole  
my duffel bag!

Junior looks in his rear-view mirror as Al starts to open the back door.

Junior takes off, making a U-turn, and heads after the SUV, leaving Al standing in the road.

AL  
Wait for me!!

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Junior's patrol car, SIREN BLARING, chases the speeding SUV. The SUV has a good, though dwindling, lead.

The Kennington plane, not far overhead, tracks the SUV.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink looks ahead at the SUV-patrol car-plane chase in progress as she flies in a descent toward the highway.

MRS. TENBRINK  
They're all chasing somebody down there, Sheriff.

Lanny, bent over beside her, pukes into a bag.

MRS. TENBRINK  
I don't know what's going on, Sheriff, but we're gonna fly right along with 'em.

LANNY  
God, I hope so.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Junior's patrol car chases the SUV.

The Tenbrink plane now joins the Kennington plane in tracking the chase.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Looking down at the SUV, Mac suddenly seems to realize something.

MAC  
Wait a minute...

Chuckie, looking off at the Tenbrink plane, realizes something too.

CHUCKIE  
What's going on...

MAC  
That's our vehicle.

CHUCKIE  
That's my plane.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Al, standing in the middle of the road, tries to make an oncoming car stop. The car goes off the road to go around him without slowing down.

He now sees a truck coming. It looks like Henry's.

INT. HENRY'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Henry looks relieved to see Al flag him down on the roadside.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Henry stops his truck by Al, who opens the passenger door and jumps in.

INT. HENRY'S TRUCK - DAY

Al urgently points off, Henry looking baffled,

AL  
A deputy is chasing an S.U.V.! It  
stole my duffel bag! Let's go!

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Henry's truck gets going.

INT. HENRY'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Henry accelerates the truck, Al looking anxious.

HENRY  
Mary told me you'd run out of gas.  
I came looking --

AL  
Yeah, Mary's all heart. Step on  
it, will ya?

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Junior's patrol car chases the SUV. The patrol car is closing the gap. The two planes track overhead.

EXT. SIDE ROAD - DAY

Jimmy Paul's patrol car, SIREN BLARING, speeds along a road toward the highway.

INT. JIMMY PAUL'S PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Jimmy Paul drives with a determined look.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Junior's patrol car chases the SUV as before, the two planes tracking.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Jimmy Paul's patrol car comes straight off the side road onto the highway and stops, constituting a roadblock.

Jimmy Paul gets out. He moves to the front of the car, near the edge of the embankment, where he smugly waits.

He's a little too close to a blind curve in the road. From around it comes the sound of Junior's distant but approaching SIREN.

INT. SUV - MOVING - DAY

The Escapee desperately drives, Junior's pursuing patrol car in the distance behind him.

Speeding around a curve, the Escapee suddenly sees Jimmy Paul and his patrol car, blocking the highway.

With little time to react, the Escapee looks determined to run the roadblock.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Jimmy Paul sees the SUV coming straight at him.

He jumps off the embankment.

The SUV speeds off the highway and down toward the trees.

EXT. EMBANKMENT - DAY

The SUV careers, and Jimmy Paul rolls, toward the trees at the bottom of the embankment.

The Escapee jumps out of the careering SUV and takes a hard roll.

The SUV CRASHES into a tree.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Junior's patrol car comes speeding around the curve.

Junior slams on the brakes, tires SQUEALING. The swerving car SLAMS into Jimmy Paul's car.

Junior, rattled but unhurt, hurriedly gets out.

JUNIOR  
Jimmy Paul, you stupid ass!

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

The plane banks right, Chuckie and the kidnapppers looking down.

EXT. EMBANKMENT - DAY

Junior talks on his radio as he hustles down the embankment.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - FLYING - DAY

The plane banks left, Mrs. Tenbrink looking down.

Lanny, his head lolling, doesn't care. He's sick as a dog.

EXT. BELOW EMBANKMENT - DAY

Junior, pistol drawn, looks down at the Escapee, lying on the ground, painfully holding his leg.

JUNIOR  
That leg broke?

ESCAPEE  
Yeah.

JUNIOR  
Good.

Jimmy Paul sits up groggily in a thicket, where he tumbled from the highway.

Junior comes over to check on him.

JUNIOR  
You okay? I've got an ambulance on the way, and a couple of damn tow trucks, thanks to you.

Jimmy Paul seems to be in a stupor, says nothing, as Junior heads back toward the Escapee.

JUNIOR  
Hang in there. I gotta keep this guy covered and check that S.U.V.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Chuckie and the kidnapers now look desperate.

MAC  
We've got to land, and quick. It's our only chance for that money.

CHUCKIE  
Land down there?

From the backseat Curly sticks a pistol to Chuckie's head.

CURLY  
Land this plane, you son of a bitch.

Mac takes hold of the right-hand yoke.

MAC  
Hands off. I'm taking over.

INT. HENRY'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Henry drives the speeding truck, Al antsy beside him.

EXT. BELOW EMBANKMENT - DAY

Junior takes a look for victims inside the wrecked SUV.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Mac is at the controls now, turning the plane.

EXT. BELOW EMBANKMENT - DAY

Junior, turning from the SUV, looks up with curiosity at both banking planes.

The sky has darkened, a brisk wind has arisen.

Junior takes a card from his pocket as he goes back to the Escapee, still on the ground.

He doesn't see Jimmy Paul try to get up in the thicket and then keel over, apparently unconscious.

The Escapee curiously watches the Kennington plane descend quietly beyond the trees behind Junior. The wind whistles through the trees.

Junior looks at his card unaware. He glances up at the sky.

JUNIOR

Looks like a storm's coming.

(then)

I'm gonna read you your rights.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

The Kennington plane lands safely behind the stand of trees.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - MOVING - DAY

Mac brings the plane to a stop on the ground.

MAC

I'll keep the plane ready, y'all  
get the bag.

CHUCKIE

I'll stay here too. I can't let  
'em see me.

EXT. BELOW EMBANKMENT - DAY

Junior reads slowly from the card to the Escapee, still on the ground.

JUNIOR  
"You have the right to remain  
silent."

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Henry's truck comes speeding around the curve.

INT. HENRY'S TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Henry and Al react to the two patrol cars, still sitting where they collided, blocking the highway.

Henry hits the brakes.

HENRY  
Shit a brick!

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The truck SCREECHES to a halt, within a hair of hitting the patrol cars.

INT. HENRY'S TRUCK - DAY

Henry heaves a sigh of relief. Al hurriedly gets out.

EXT. BELOW EMBANKMENT - DAY

Junior puts his card away while the Escapee still sits on the ground.

JUNIOR  
There's an ambulance coming to take  
your worthless butt to --

BRYNA (O.S.)  
Don't make a move.

Junior freezes. He turns slowly to see Bryna and Curly, who have sneaked toward the SUV.

Bryna holds a pistol on Junior as she moves toward him.

BRYNA  
 (to Curly)  
 Get the bag.  
 (to Junior)  
 I'll take that gun of yours.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink turns the plane, Lanny groggy beside her.

MRS. TENBRINK  
 I'm going to land, Sheriff.

LANNY  
 No!

MRS. TENBRINK  
 We've got to land sooner or later.

LANNY  
 Let's do it later.

MRS. TENBRINK  
 My hunch is, they've got Chuckie in  
 that plane down there.

LANNY  
 You keep me in this one up here.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A state highway patrol car arrives, lights flashing, its  
 SIREN winding down.

Al and Henry stand looking toward the pasture from the top of  
 the embankment, Al in a quandary. The wind blows their hair.

Curious passersby get out of their cars. One flags down  
 cars on the curve.

EXT. BELOW EMBANKMENT - DAY

Bryna, with Junior's pistol, backs toward the wrecked SUV.

BRYNA  
 (to Curly)  
 You got it?

With much effort Curly pulls the duffel bag from the wreck.

CURLY

I got it.

Curly heads for the wind-swept pasture with the bag, Bryna following, covering the rear.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Al, Henry, a STATE TROOPER, and passersby watch as the Tenbrink plane descends toward the pasture behind the trees.

The Trooper draws his pistol and heads down the embankment.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

From the thicket, Jimmy Paul, groggy but game, aims his pistol at Bryna and Curly, who head with the bag for the Kennington plane, engine running.

JIMMY PAUL

Halt!

Bryna turns and FIRES her pistol, Jimmy Paul FIRES back, Bryna FIRES again.

INT. TENBRINK PLANE - FLYING - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink concentrates on landing, sick Lanny bracing himself.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

Curly, with the bag, stops, looking off, just before reaching the Kennington plane, Bryna exchanging SHOTS with Jimmy Paul.

CURLY

Look out!

Bryna looks, sees the Tenbrink plane bumpily landing, heading straight toward them.

Bryna and Curly run for safety, Curly dropping the bag.

The Tenbrink plane noses down as it's landing, barely missing the Kennington plane.

The Tenbrink plane's propeller cuts through the duffel bag on the ground.

Paper money starts flying in the wind and the prop wash of both planes.

Bryna and Curly look at the money flying around them, Bryna still with gun in hand.

JIMMY PAUL

Drop it! We gotcha covered!

Bryna and Curly, covered by Jimmy Paul and the Trooper, give up with disgust.

EXT. HIGHWAY AND PASTURE - DAY

Al despairs, his shoulders slump, as he, Henry, and passersby watch paper money flying around in the pasture and blowing away in the wind.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

The Kennington plane starts moving as if to get away.

Lanny, sick and dizzy, is out of the Tenbrink plane.

He joins the Trooper, Jimmy Paul, and Junior, who has retrieved his pistol.

As they watch the moving Kennington plane,

LANNY

Where are they going?

JIMMY PAUL

How we gonna stop 'em?

TROOPER

Shoot out the tires!

Groggy Lanny draws his pistol with effort.

LANNY

Start shootin'!

Junior, Jimmy Paul, the Trooper, and Lanny SHOOT out the tires. The Kennington plane comes to a halt.

INT. KENNINGTON PLANE - DAY

Mac resignedly cuts the engine, sits back, and looks at Chuckie.

Outside, Jimmy Paul and Junior warily approach the plane, pistols at ready.

MAC

Ever been in prison, Chuckie?

CHUCKIE

No, but there's always a first time.

MAC

It's the wrong place to be.

(then)

Tell me about that trust fund.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

Mrs. Tenbrink has gotten out of her plane. She worriedly goes to see about Chuckie, in the Kennington plane covered by Junior and Jimmy Paul.

Two ambulance attendants with a stretcher head toward the Escapee still on the ground.

The Trooper, looking around at the scattering money, checks on Lanny, standing guard over Bryna and Curly. Lanny wipes his brow with a handkerchief.

TROOPER

You look a little woozy, Sheriff.

LANNY

Motion sickness.

TROOPER

Get you some ginger. Gingersnaps.  
Ginger ale.

LANNY

Can you believe Charles Junior was  
in with his kidnapers? I swear.  
Now we've still got to gather up  
all this money.

TROOPER

Good luck. The way this wind's  
blowing, you'll never find it all  
now.

(gestures downwind)

But some folks that way are in for  
a windfall.

LANNY

I know it. And there's one other thing I know for sure.

TROOPER

What's that?

LANNY

Man was not meant to fly.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Al, Henry, and passersby still stand looking off at the scene in the pasture below. A second state trooper arrives.

Henry looks quizzically at Al.

HENRY

You said that bag full of money was yours?

AL

Nah. It was Tenbrink's. I was just trying to get it back for his widow.

Al takes a quick, reassuring peek at the big wad of thousand-dollar bills in his coveralls pocket, while Henry's eyes are on the pasture.

Al looks somewhat comforted.

He glances around at the passersby, the second trooper, the waiting ambulance, and Henry's truck by the patrol cars.

AL

Henry, how much do you want for that truck?

Henry looks at him quizzically.

INT. SHERIFF'S INNER OFFICE - DAY

Al in his coveralls sits in front of Lanny's desk. Behind it, Lanny, still looking sick, eats gingersnaps and drinks ginger ale.

AL

When I found out I dropped it in the wrong place, I figured it was my duty to go find that money and bring it back for Mrs. Tenbrink.

Lanny belches after a swig.

AL

No sooner did I find it than people started shooting at me. Chuckie and the kidnapers had tailed me.

LANNY

You're a hero, Al. A lot of people would have just tried to keep all that money.

AL

Yeah, that's people for you.

(then)

Poor Mary. She thought I was trying to get away with the money, but I was just trying to get away from her and the kidnapers too.

LANNY

Get away from her?

AL

I told her to file for divorce. I've been in the wrong place, Sheriff. I'm not going back.

LANNY

Where you going?

Al sighs.

AL

Oh, thought I'd go up to Atlanta. Heard about a couple of jobs -- airplane mechanic, lots of little airports. So I had just enough money to buy Henry's truck.

LANNY

Who's gonna run the airport here?

AL

Well, Henry might want to try it. You might say he and I have made a swap. My wife for his truck.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Henry's truck cruises along the road.

The up-tempo song "You Can't Take It With You" PLAYS,

MALE SINGER (V.O.)  
 "The root of all evil is love of  
 money, friend/ It will buy you  
 nothing in the end/..."

INT. TRUCK - MOVING - DAY

Al driving, still in coveralls, looks tired but contented.

MALE SINGER (V.O.)  
 "But a big expensive funeral, one  
 last limo ride/ You won't need  
 money on that other side."

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

An inexpensive motel by the highway. The truck is among the  
 parked vehicles.

MALE SINGER (V.O.)  
 "You can't take it with you when  
 you go/..."

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Al in his underwear sits on the middle of the bed counting  
 his money. The coveralls lie behind him at the bed's head.

MALE SINGER (V.O.)  
 "On your day of judgment, what will  
 you have to show?/..."

He has put the money in neat little stacks of thousand-dollar  
 bills all over the lower half of the bed.

MALE SINGER (V.O.)  
 "What fate do you deserve? What  
 master did you serve?/..."

Al smiles as he counts.

MALE SINGER (V.O.)  
 "You can't take it with you when  
 you go."

ROLL CREDITS as the song continues.

FADE OUT.

THE END