

BIG TOWN

An Original Screenplay

By

Christopher Odom

264 S. La Cienega Blvd., #1194
Beverly Hills, CA 90211-3302
C 310-430-4934 F 310-388-5375
chris@christopherodom.com

FADE IN:

EXT. GREYHOUND STATION - SUNRISE - PRESENT

A GREYHOUND BUS rolls into the parking lot. The display on the MARQUEE reads: "CHICAGO".

A depressing gathering of DEFEATED SOULS staggers off of the Greyhound.

An assorted lot of DREAMERS piles into the bus.

Among them is BENJAMIN BRADLEY (25)--sanitized, likeable.

His EYES gleam with fantasies of stardom.

A small BACKPACK is perched on his shoulder.

CUT TO:

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - SUNRISE

BEN plops into a seat behind the BUS DRIVER.

Digs into his BACKPACK.

Whips out his portable CD PLAYER.

Slips in some JAZZ.

Peruses through a copy of BACKSTAGE WEST DRAMALOGUE.

BUS DRIVER

(to Ben)

Gonna' be a star?

BEN

Sure am, but I have to get my SAG card first. I have a plan.

Ben whips out a FOLDED PIECE OF PAPER.

BUS DRIVER

(points)

So did they.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREYHOUND STATION - SUNRISE

The Greyhound DOORS close. The

MARQUEE

rolls from CHICAGO to L.A.

The Greyhound's air brakes HISS, as the bus rolls out of the station and into the city streets.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

EXT. DOWNTOWN CHICAGO - SUNRISE

A brown sign reads: "HISTORIC ROUTE 66" .

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A sign reads: "WELCOME TO ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI".

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The Greyhound speeds through the OZARK PLATEAU.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A sign reads: "WELCOME TO JOPLIN, MISSOURI".

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN OKLAHOMA CITY - DAY

The Greyhound cruises by the NATIONAL COWBOY HALL OF FAME.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A sign reads: "WELCOME TO AMARILLO, TEXAS."

CUT TO:

INT. GREYHOUND - SUNSET

Ben peers through the window at several old Cadillacs protruding from the ground at CADILLAC RANCH.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - SUNSET

A sign reads: "WELCOME TO GALLUP, NEW MEXICO".

CUT TO:

INT. GREYHOUND - NIGHT

Ben snores while his head rests against the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - SUNRISE

A sign reads: "WELCOME TO FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA".

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - SUNRISE

The Bus Driver takes a leak on the side of the highway in the middle of the KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A sign reads: "KINGMAN".

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A sign reads: "BARSTOW".

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A sign reads: "SAN BERNARDINO".

CUT TO:

END MONTAGE

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREETS - LOS ANGELES - DAY

The Greyhound is stuck in TRAFFIC.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREYHOUND STATION - DAY

The Greyhound creeps into the tired little CRUSTY station on Vine Street.

CUT TO:

INT. GREYHOUND BUS - DAY

Ben shoves his CD PLAYER and BACKSTAGE WEST DRAMALOGUE into his backpack.

BUSDRIVER

Seems like for every busload of stars that I haul into Hollywood, I take two more back to Chicago.

BEN

I'll remember that when I get my SAG card.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREYHOUND STATION - DAY

Ben skips off of the bus.

MARQUEE

rolls from L.A. to Chicago.

The Greyhound rolls out into the CRUMMY city streets.

CUT TO:

EXT. MCDONALD'S - DAY

Ben walks down the street from the Greyhound station.

A PANHANDLER sees him coming.

PANHANDLER

I'm really down on my luck. Do
you have five dollars so I can get
something to eat?

BEN

Sure.

Ben hands the Panhandler a FIVE-DOLLAR BILL.

PANHANDLER

Thanks.

The Panhandler opens the door of McDonald's for Ben.

CUT TO:

INT. MCDONALD'S - DAY

Ben gets in line and the Panhandler heads for the RESTROOM.

While Ben's back is turned, the Panhandler leaves
McDonald's.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIQUOR STORE - DAY

The Panhandler DARTS across the street from McDonald's and into the Liquor Store.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - KOREA TOWN - DAY

Ben is BUZZED into an older tall French Normandy style building.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

MARTIN (34), the building manager, shows Ben a studio apartment.

Ben lies in the floor.

Stretches out his arms and legs.

BEN

Home.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Martin and Ben walk out of a stairwell and onto the roof.

MARTIN

That's the Hollywood Sign over there. You can see the whole city on a clear day.

INSERT

HOLLYWOOD SIGN

BEN

How much is the apartment?

MARTIN

It's \$525 a month with parking.
\$1,200 to move in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN
I'll take it.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT - SUNSET DRIVE - DAY

Ben walks into a restaurant.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Ben sits at a table with the RESTAURANT MANAGER (45), who looks like she could have been a looker 10 years ago.

RESTAURANT MANAGER
You can start Friday Night. If you have a day shift and you call in sick to go to an audition, don't bother coming back to work.

BEN
Thanks.

The RESTAURANT MANAGER hands Ben a WHITE APRON and a TICKET HOLDER.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT - SUNSET - NIGHT

Valets park a myriad of Mercedes, Range Rovers, BMWs, and Explorers.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

BEN BURSTS INTO THE

KITCHEN

Frantically keys an order into the register.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RESTAURANT MANAGER

Ben, table four wants their salads
now!

BEN

I'm in the weeds.

The Restaurant Manager shoves a TRAY full of salads into
Ben's arms.

RESTAURANT MANAGER

If you can't take the heat--

PUSHES Ben out of the kitchen.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

A HOOPTY car slowly creeps by the building and into the
ALLEY.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben stands in sweats and a T-shirt ironing a white pinpoint
oxford.

SINGLE GUNSHOTS ring out followed by Semiautomatic GUNFIRE.

Ben crawls around the floor as if he were in a World War
II trench.

Kills the lights.

Closes the blinds.

Grabs the telephone.

Dials 911.

911 OPERATOR

Please hold.

BEN

Come on!

911 OPERATOR

What is your emergency?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

They're shooting outside.

911 OPERATOR

We don't handle that. Call your
local

POLICE PRECINCT. THE NUMBER IS 666-

Ben calls the precinct.

POLICE OPERATOR

You have reached the Los Angeles
Police department. Please hold.

BEN

Damn.

POLICE OPERATOR

What's the problem?

BEN

They're shooting.

POLICE OPERATOR

I bet it's in that alley.

BEN

I don't know. Maybe.

POLICE OPERATOR

We'll send somebody right over.

WALL CLOCK

The hands point to 12:00 midnight.

WALL CLOCK - LATER

The hands point to 12:45.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

A POLICE CHOPPER circles the building.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A bright SEARCHLIGHT combs the alley and the side of the building.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben lies on the floor face down with his hands over his head.

He rolls over onto his back.

Stares at the ceiling.

Each time the searchlight passes by his window, the light through the blinds illuminates his face like CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND.

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - HOLLYWOOD - NEXT NIGHT

Ben walks into an old building.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Ben sits huddled in a room with a bunch of actor types. VALERIE, the instructor, an aged hippie hanging on to her memories, takes the floor.

VALERIE

We have a few new members tonight.
Why don't you introduce yourselves
to the class?

(points to Ben)

You first.

BEN

My name is Benjamin Bradley. I
just moved out here from Chicago,
but I've lived in 10 states. What
else do you want to know?

FEMALE VOICE

What's your shoe size?

People chuckle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VALERIE

What do you like to do?

BEN

I like to do things that I didn't know I could do.

Valerie points to DESTINY (21), who looks like she would excel in management at the public Library.

DESTINY

Gee, that's a hard line to follow. My name is Destiny. I'm from University Park, Illinois. I came to Hollywood because I want to make a difference.

MALE VOICE

Run for office.

People snicker.

Valerie points to FATE (25), a hip beach bunny oozing with sexuality.

FATE

I am FATE. I'm from the Bay Area. Everyone always tells me that I'm so beautiful that I ought to be in pictures, so here I am.

VALERIE

Welcome to the workshop, folks. Why don't the three of you do a cold reading of a scene together?

Valerie gives Ben, Fate, and Destiny copies of a scene from GHOST.

They stand before the class and commence the scene.

(TRANSCRIBED & PARAPHRASED)

Destiny stands before an imaginary door opposite Ben and Fate.

FATE

You're in serious danger. I've got Sam here. We have to talk to you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

I'm calling the police.

FATE

Fine, that's what we want you to do, but let us in. Sam was murdered. Carl was laundering money at the bank. He tried to kill me and will kill you too.

DESTINY

I can't handle this.

BEN

Give me a penny, quick! Push a penny under the door, now!

Fate slides a real PENNY underneath the imaginary door.

Ben picks the penny up and pretends to make it levitate in air.

Destiny and Ben gaze into each other's eyes.

Destiny affectionately takes the penny from Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)

Tell her it's for good luck.

FATE

Sam says it's for good luck.

Fate cries.

DESTINY

Sam.

Destiny opens the imaginary door.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Scene.

The class is silent.

Valerie picks up a chair.

Violently throws it.

VALERIE

Do you call that a cold read?

(beat)

I call it perfection.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Valerie leads the class into a standing ovation. Valerie leans over to her assistant, BART.

VALERIE (CONT'D)

(firm whisper)

Be sure to pitch them on the deluxe package. The rent is due.

CUT TO:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - HOLLYWOOD - NIGHT - LATER

The class has ended. Actors converse on the sidewalk.

Fate smokes a cigarette.

Ben approaches her.

BEN

Can I buy you a cup of coffee?

Fate exhales SMOKE into Ben's face.

FATE

No.

She walks away.

RED (28), the gossipy type, pats Ben on the back.

RED

Give it up dude. We all struck out on that one.

BEN

Why, what's her story?

RED

Unless you have a Zoot suit, you're not her type.

BEN

You mean church clothes?

RED

No, she's a swinger.

BEN

They warned me about the big city.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RED

Not that kind of swing, Swing dancing to 30's, 40's, and 50's music.

BEN

She hangs out with old people?

RED

Young ones. She's a regular down at "The Swing Set." It's the hottest joint in town and it's a Swing dance club.

Destiny tries to get Ben's attention. He ignores her.

BEN

That sounds like fun. I used to play horn in a Jazz band. I always fantasized about dancing like--

DESTINY

You love dancing? So do I. I'm going there tonight. I could teach you a few steps.

BEN

I don't know.

RED

It helps to know the steps.

BEN

Sure, why not.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Ben and Destiny wait in a long line.

Fate valet parks her CHEROKEE. She walks to the front of the line. The doorman lets her right in.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

A band plays on a stage in front of a huge dance floor. An enormous circular bar sits behind the dance floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ben and Destiny enter the club.

Fate is with a group of friends.

BEN

What can you show me?

DESTINY

I'm not a teacher, but I've had a few classes. I don't really know the man's part that well, but I'll try and teach it to you.

Ben and Destiny step onto the

DANCE FLOOR

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Watch my feet. You step left, right, rock-step. Left, right, rock-step.

Ben mimics her perfectly.

BEN

You mean like this.

DESTINY

Yeah that's good.

Ben grabs Destiny.

BEN

How do I turn you?

DESTINY

Wow, you're fast. Slow down. You raise your left hand as a cue to the lady that you are going to turn--

BEN

What count is the turn on?

DESTINY

I really don't count, but I think you raise your hand when I step to the right and turn me when I--

Ben turns Destiny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Whoa, don't forget to rock-step.

Ben picks it up instantaneously. He looks around the room at other dancers and is able to mimic their moves by just watching.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Hey, wait a minute. You lied to me. You know how to do this.

BEN

My first time, I swear.

DESTINY

Then you're a natural.

The music stops. Ben and Destiny leave the dance floor.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

You're wearing me out. Let's get some water.

They take a seat at the

BAR

The BARTENDER (31), a handsome endearing actor type, approaches them.

BARTENDER

What'll you have?

DESTINY

Two waters, please.

Ben observes a couple dancing a lot differently than the way he and Destiny were dancing. They are SMOOTH RAY (29) & LISA (27).

Smooth Ray is a tall, dark, and handsome take-charge ladies man. He sports pants with deep pleats and a 40's style letterman sweater with a giant "S" on the chest.

Lisa is a tad beyond petite. She styles a hairdo straight out of an old movie, a long vintage skirt, and a blouse with wide tricolored horizontal stripes.

BEN

What is that couple doing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

That's Ray and Lisa. Even Fate is not popular enough to dance with him. He's doing the Lindyhop. We were doing basic East Coast Swing.

BEN

I want to learn to Lindyhop.

DESTINY

I don't know how to do that. Ray does Hollywood Style Lindyhop.

The Bartender brings two waters. Destiny tips him three dollars.

Ben observes Fate dancing on another part of the dance floor.

BEN

Is that the Lindyhop too, what Fate is doing?

DESTINY

Yeah, but it's Savoy Style.

BEN

What's the difference?

DESTINY

Savoy is the original style of Swing from the 20's.

It originated at the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem. Hollywood Style is based on Dean Collins 20 years later in the 40's.

The music stops.

BEN

Excuse me for a moment.

Ben walks over to Fate on the

DANCE FLOOR

BEN (CONT'D)

Hi, Fate. Ben, from acting class.

FATE

Yeah, I remember.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Let's dance.

FATE

East Coast, West Coast, or Lindy.

BEN

Well, Destiny just showed me how to do East Coast. I'm a fast learner. If you show me the basic step for the Lindyhop, I know I could pick it up.

FATE

I prefer Lindyhop and I don't dance with beginners. Excuse me.

Fate walks away leaving Ben on the dance floor. Red, from acting class, pats Ben on the back.

RED

East Coast Swing is out. You have to learn how to Lindyhop. After you take a few lessons, you'll have to fight the girls off.

BEN

Where can I learn how to Lindyhop?

RED

At A.D.S. Amy's Dance Studio in Hollywood.

BEN

Is it Hollywood Style or Savoy Style?

RED

Strictly Savoy. If you want to learn Hollywood Style, you have to be a part of their clique.

BEN

No, I want to learn the original stuff. Thanks for the info.

BEN WALKS BACK OVER TO THE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAR

DESTINY

Shot down by Miss Swing Diva
herself.

Should have asked me first. I could have saved you some
time and trouble.

BEN

Have you heard of ADS?

DESTINY

Yeah, that's where I took my East
Coast Swing lessons.

BEN

Would you mind coming down there
with me to learn how to Lindyhop?

DESTINY

Mind? I'd love to.

BEN

Deal. Let's dance.

Ben leads Destiny onto the dance floor.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AMY'S DANCE STUDIO - DAY - ONE WEEK LATER

An ODD-LOOKING COUPLE strolls into a slightly rundown
building.

CUT TO:

INT. DANCE STUDIO - DAY

Ben and Destiny are coupled together amidst a rag tag
group of SENIOR CITIZENS, GEEKS, INTROVERTS, AND HIGH-
SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHERS.

The instructors are AMY (41), and SAM (36). They are
decked out in goofy polyester costumes. Amy dons a
headset. Although Sam is her partner, she still teaches
the lead and the follow.

BEN

I thought the people would be a
little more hip than this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

This is who the Swingers used to be before it became hot. When people want to get good, they come here to get ideas for new moves, but they don't tell anybody.

AMY

On count four and a half you should be facing almost a 180 degrees from your original spot.

BEN

Something doesn't feel right. She's too technical.

DESTINY

Don't get cocky. Just follow instructions.

AMY

Men, step all the way out with your left foot on count six. By this point, you should have turned another 180 degrees so that you are facing the direction you were facing in the beginning.

BEN

She's making it more complicated than it really is.

DESTINY

Be quiet. People are trying to listen.

AMY

On counts seven and eight, men triple step and ladies swivel your hips.

BEN

No, that's lame. Try this.

DESTINY

Stop it. If you don't do it exactly like she tells us to, she's going to come over here and embarrass us.

BEN

Trust me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Amy runs over to Ben and Destiny.

AMY
 What are you doing?
 (to class)
 See class. This is a perfect
 example of what not to do.

DESTINY
 Thank you.

Amy walks back to the front of the room. Ben drags Destiny
 to the back of the room.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
 Where are you going?

BEN
 Let's dance in back. She's slowing
 us down.

AMY
 Now, let's all try it with music.

Amy plays dull lounge music.

BEN
 This is like a funeral march.
 (to Amy)
 Hey, speed it up a bit!

People snicker.

DESTINY
 I'm going to leave.

AMY
 What's your name, sir.

BEN
 Ben.

AMY
 Well, Ben. You've been trying to
 do your own thing all class. I
 have a MFA in Dance Anthropology
 and I've been teaching and
 performing swing for 15 years.
 What experience do you have?

BEN
 I've done a little Jazz dance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMY

Is there something you would like to share with the class?

BEN

As a matter of fact there is. I'm no Swing Master, but I do know that it's not what you do, but the way that you do it. You've got to feel the music.

AMY

Apparently my lesson is beneath you. Since you're obviously a Big Town performer, why don't you give us a demonstration?

Destiny pulls away.

AMY (CONT'D)

It's all right, honey. Dance with him.

Amy plays up-tempo Swing music. Ben leads Destiny. She is frightened and rough.

BEN

Don't anticipate. Just follow my lead. We're not going to do anything you've ever done before. There are no mistakes.

Ben and Destiny are unconventional, but very entertaining. A circle forms around them.

The class claps with the music for them.

Ben and Destiny finish the song with a comical grand finale.

There is lots of applause.

OLD MAN

That guy was a plant.

SCIENCE TEACHER

Who is he?

INTROVERT

Ben.

GEEK

Big Town Ben.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Amy and Sam watch Ben with great approval.

SAM

He's got it.

AMY

I knew it the first time he swung out. As an instructor it's my job to bring it out of him.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - SIX MONTHS LATER

Ben steps out of the shower. Shaves. Splashes on aftershave. Lays out a Zoot Suit and black and white Wing Tip shoes.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

Ben slides down the banister of a long stairwell. Checks himself out in a huge mirror.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Ben Dashes out of the front door. There's a PEEING DOG in his way. Puts his hands on railing to leap over dog while clicking his heels.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWING SET - STREET - NIGHT

Ben drives up to the valet in a 1940's convertible Cadillac accompanied by two 21-year-old twin babes, BUFFY and MUFFY.

A long line wraps around the building.

VALET

Good evening, Big Town.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWING SET - FRONT DOOR

Ben and the two girls cut to the front of the line.

DOORMAN

Good evening, Big Town. You and
your guests can go right in.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

As Ben walks through the club, everyone says hello. He cruises by KITTY (26), a pudgy and pushy girl, and WINSTON (31), an elementary school teacher beginning his mid-life crisis.

KITTY

He's so sexy.

WINSTON

Big Town is the man.

Ben hands his coat to Kitty. He leads Buffy and Muffy onto the dance floor.

Kitty hugs the coat and giggles to her friends.

Ben dances with Buffy and Muffy. Buffy and Muffy stand one behind the other with their legs spread wide open. Ben does a baseball slide through both of their legs.

A crowd forms around Ben. They clap for him. Ben breaks away from Buffy and Muffy. Ben freestyles by himself. Reclaims them. Dips both of them as the music ends.

Ben walks over to Kitty with his coat. Extends his arms. Kitty puts his coat on him.

KITTY

Can I buy you a drink, Big Town?

BEN

Just some water.

Ben sits on a barstool. Leans against the bar with his arms outstretched on the counter. Winston approaches Ben.

WINSTON

I really like your style. Do you
teach?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Buffy, would you give him one of my cards?

MUFFY

I'm Muffy.

BIG TOWN

Right.

Muffy hands Winston a card.

WINSTON

Do you teach with them?

BIG TOWN

They're visiting from Sweden. I'm just showing them around as a favor for a friend of mine.

WINSTON

Looks like your friend did you the favor. I'll call you.

As Winston walks away, Kitty returns with two girls who look better than Buffy and Muffy.

KITTY

Big Town, my friends are visiting from Philadelphia. Would you dance with them?

BEN

I'm really hot right now. I was just about to step outside with my water and cool off. Try me later.

KITTY

Is 15 minutes long enough?

BEN

It might be. I don't know.

KITTY

We'll find you.

Ben rises from the barstool.

BEN

Muffy, Buffy--

BUFFY

I'm Muffy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Yeah, whatever. Run along and play. I'm going to take a break.

Ben fans them away with his hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Ben steps outside to cool off in the smoking area. Although it's outside, it's one too many smokers and Ben doesn't smoke. He gags and heads back inside.

SMOKER

Please.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Fate dances with a STUD (27), but he is not very good. Ben stands on the edge of the dance floor. AUSTIN (38), presents JEANETTE (50), but still sexy.

AUSTIN

Hi, Big Town. My name is Austin and this is Jeanette. We're here from Australia on business. Would you mind showing my honey bun a few moves?

Ben keeps his eyes affixed on Fate.

BEN

Actually, I'm--

Jeanette rubs her breasts against Ben's arm. It feels good.

JEANETTE

Please. You're so exciting. I really want to learn how to dance.

BEN

Why not?

Ben leads Jeanette onto the dance floor.

BEN (CONT'D)

Do you know the basic step?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEANETTE

I don't know anything.

Ben turns his back towards Jeanette.

Jeanette puts her hands on Ben's hips.

BEN

Look at my feet. You want to step right, left, rock-step. Right, left, rock-step. Or slow, slow, quick-quick. Slow, slow, quick-quick.

JEANETTE

So, why do they call you Big Ben.

Jeanette sensually licks her lips.

BEN

It's Big Town Ben.

Jeanette can't get the steps.

JEANETTE

This is too much like school.
Let's just dance.

Ben gently places Jeanette in his arms into closed position.

BEN

Just rock back and forth. Follow my lead for the turns. Pretend I'm "Simon" and my hands are "Says."

Austin waves to Ben and Jeanette.

Ben waves back.

Jeanette pulls Ben's body close to hers.

JEANETTE

Come on, Big Town.
(spittle drools from
the corner of her
mouth)
Make it nasty.

BEN

Ah, I don't think you're boyfriend will like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ben attempts to lead Jeanette. She's devoid of rhythm and out of control. Jeanette turns herself. She tries to dip herself, but Ben catches her. The band ends their song. Jeanette squeezes Ben's ass.

BEN (CONT'D)

Whoa!

Ben hurries Jeanette off of the dance floor.

BEN (CONT'D)

Wow, that was fun. Well, I need to take a break. Bye-bye, now.

Austin runs over to Jeanette and Ben.

AUSTIN

Honey, you were great.

BEN

She's all yours, now.

JEANETTE

That was so much fun. Let me buy you a drink.

BEN

No, that's all right

AUSTIN

We insist. What will you have?

BEN

Whatever you're drinking.

Austin turns around. Leans on the bar.

AUSTIN

Three Fosters, please.

Jeanette grabs Ben's ass again. He squirms. Austin turns around.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

My honey bun is really something else, isn't she?

Austin hands everyone a Fosters.

BEN

Oh, yes, indeed. Definitely.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AUSTIN

Say, Big Town, while we're in town, might you be able to show Jeanette around one day while I'm taking care of business.

BEN

What do you do?

Jeanette moves behind Austin. She swallows the neck of the bottle like a long schlong.

AUSTIN

I'm a hit man.

Ben spits out his Fosters all over Austin.

BEN

Excuse me, I'm so sorry. It went down the wrong pipe.

AUSTIN

No harm done.

Ben stumbles to grab napkins from the bar. A business card falls out of his pocket.

Jeanette picks the card up.

Ben pats down Austin's clothes. Jeanette helps pat down Austin. She sensually places her hand over Ben's assisting with each stroke.

Ben snatches his hand back.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

Well, I'm not really a hit man. More like a law enforcer.

BEN

I'm really busy this week.

AUSTIN

That's OK, we're in town for a month. Do you have a card?

BEN

Sorry, I'm all out.

JEANETTE

I have one right here. You dropped it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Lucky me. Oh, but my phone isn't working.

JEANETTE

Your card has your pager number on it.

BEN

I lost it.

JEANETTE

But, you're wearing it right now.

BEN

It's not mine.

Jeanette removes a cell phone from her purse. She calls Ben's pager. It BEEPS.

BEN (CONT'D)

Oh my God, it is mine.

AUSTIN

You're pretty funny, aye.

BEN

Aye.

AUSTIN

We'll be seeing you.

BEN

(mumbles)

In a grave.

Austin leads Jeanette away by the arm. Jeanette turns her head towards Ben. Seductively moistens her lips with her tongue. Jeanette and Austin disappear into the crowd.

Ben walks around to the other side of the

BAR

He takes a seat next to Destiny.

They notice Fate entering with a crowd of friends and followers. Among them is BOBBY & CINDY, a flashy Savoy Style couple in their mid-20's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

That dress is much too tight, the slit is way too high, and the blouse is cut way too low.

BEN

I like the way she dresses. She would probably make a good partner, but I've never had the chance to dance with her.

Cindy addresses Fate's entourage.

CINDY

Tomorrow is Fate's birthday.

BOBBY

Then I'll have to take my birthday licks.

Cindy smacks Bobby.

DESTINY

She's so obsessed with being popular; you practically have to take a number to dance with her.

BEN

What was that?

DESTINY

I said she wants to be seen.

BEN

No, what you said after that.

RED

I said the only way you'll ever get to dance with that trollop is if you take a number.

BEN

Destiny, you're a genius. I could kiss you.

Ben runs over to the stage. Whispers to the BANDLEADER.

BANDLEADER

Fellows, form a circle around Fate. Tomorrow is her birthday. We're going to have a birthday dance. Every guy gets a turn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The music starts. Three guys dance with Fate individually. Ben leaps into the circle next. Ben and Fate Lindyhop.

FATE

Wow, you're very good. I notice you have your own style.

BEN

Watch this.

Ben improvises moves no one has ever seen before. They are wonderful.

FATE

You're fun.

BEN

I think I'm in heaven.

The crowd swoons with maddening excitement. Ben executes basic lifts with Fate. NELSON (28), a fledgling "wannabe", keeps trying to cut in.

NELSON

Hey, he's hogging her. It's my turn.

WINSTON

That's Big Town. You have to give him respect. They look good together.

The song ends. Ben and Fate walk off of the floor arm in arm.

FATE

I've never done lifts before. That was exciting.

BEN

That was just baby stuff. I've got lots of tapes and clips. We could go down to the beach if you want to learn the real stuff.

A straight laced twenty-something couple, LARRY & MINDY, stops Ben and Fate.

MINDY

You all are incredible.

LARRY

Are you professional dancers?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MINDY

Where do you teach?

LARRY

How long have you been partners?

FATE

Not long enough.

Fate looks into Ben's eyes. Smiles. Ben smiles back at her.

BEN

That all depends.

Destiny storms out of the club.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Ben and Fate sit on a blanket in a grassy area with palm trees. Ben swigs from a bottle of water. Hands the bottle to Fate. She takes a swig. Ben peruses through a crumpled pile of notes.

BEN

You're such a natural. You're learning everything so fast.

FATE

I have a great teacher.

BEN

Warmed up?

FATE

Sure.

BEN

Let's try a Candlestick. I place you into a handstand over my head. Usually we'll go into it from a side-to-side straddle, but let's take it from center straddle to practice. Ready.

FATE

Let's go for it.

Ben tries to swing Fate into a Candlestick, but he can't get her high enough.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

You need to kick back harder, or it's a dead-lift bench press for me.

FATE

Let's try again.

Ben swings Fate into a Candlestick. She gets a little higher.

BEN

That was better, but it's still not there. Trust me.

FATE

That's easy for you to say. You're on the bottom.

BEN

Sit down for a moment.

Ben and Fate sit on the blanket. He swigs from the water bottle. Hands it to Fate.

BEN (CONT'D)

Can you keep a secret?

FATE

Depends on what it is?

BEN

It's yes or no?

FATE

Yes.

BEN

I've never told anyone this before in my whole life, but I'm going to trust you never to tell anyone. Promise?

FATE

I promise.

BEN

When I was in high-school I was a real geek. I used to ride the cheese wagon, tote my books around in a Samsonite carry on, and drag my trumpet and keyboard to school

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

5 days a week. I wore a tie everyday because I thought I was being GQ, but everybody else was thinking--

FATE

Gee whiz.

BEN

My senior year I went to a new high- school. I didn't have many friends. I hated finding a table to sit at during lunch. The one time I tried, everyone got up and moved to another table.

FATE

What did you do?

BEN

I would take my lunch to the band room everyday and play on my Casio keyboard. I spent my entire senior year lunch hours in the band room.

FATE

Wow. That's a touching story. I appreciate you for sharing that with me. I'll share a secret with you if you promise not to tell anyone.

BEN

I promise.

FATE

My Dad died when I was 8 years old with no insurance. My mom didn't have much money and was too proud to take handouts.

BEN

I'm so sorry to hear that.

FATE

All the kids wore Nikes and I wanted to replace mine, but my Mom wouldn't buy me a new pair. I rode around on my bike and used the soles of my old Nikes to stop my bike.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FATE (CONT'D)

I did that until I wore holes in my sneakers. When my mom noticed, she took me to the store to get a new pair of sneakers. She didn't have enough money to afford Nikes, so she bought me Pro-Keds instead.

BEN

Pro Keds? Oh, wow. I know you didn't wear those to school.

FATE

You're right, I didn't. I would put on the Keds in the morning, but slip my old pair of Nikes on at the bus stop.

BEN

But didn't they have holes in them?

FATE

They sure did. You could even see my toes. So, the kids started calling me "Fritos."

BEN

"Free Toes." That's funny.

FATE

Maybe it is now, but not to an 8-year-old girl from a single parent home. The name stuck with me all throughout elementary school and high-school. No one would ever take me seriously. Everyone always thought of me as Fritos and wouldn't include me in their circles. I was ignored.

BEN

Looking at you, I would have never known.

FATE

I promised myself that once I left that town, no one would ever ignore me again.

BEN

I promise you, I'll never ignore you. Your secret is safe with me. Trust me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Fate wipes a tear from her eye.

FATE

Let's try this move, again.

Ben and Fate move back onto the grass. Ben swings Fate into a Candlestick. He balances her perfectly.

FATE

Am I straight?

BEN

I think so?

ROLLERBLADERS watch in amazement.

BEN (CONT'D)

Excuse me. Is she straight?

ROLLERBLADERS

Yeah, baby.

FATE

See how long you can hold me. Try to walk around.

Ben walks around and dances in place while keeping Fate in a Candlestick. Ben puts Fate back onto the ground.

BEN / FATE

Yes!

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Ben and Fate fumble through tricks in the grassy area.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Ben tries to let Fate slide down his back from a Candlestick. She falls. He laughs.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Ben lowers Fate into a split. She kicks Ben's leg knocking him down. Fate laughs.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Ben sits on the blanket reviewing his notes. Fate dumps the water bottle over his head. Ben chases Fate into the sand and into the water.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Ben stands in the water. Fate runs towards Ben. Ben lifts her above his head into an angel.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Fate leaps onto Ben's back. Ben gives her a piggyback ride out of the water, through the sand, and back to the grassy area.

END MONTAGE

CUT TO:

EXT. SWING SET - NIGHT

A long line wraps around the building.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Ben dances with Kitty on the dance floor. The music stops. He gives her a kiss on the cheek. Heads for the

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAR

Ben plops down on a stool. Puts a few "ones" on the counter.

The Bartender slides a glass of water down the counter to Ben.

Destiny takes a seat next Ben. A flyer is clasped in her hands.

DESTINY

Ben, have you seen this?

BEN

The Big Deal Studios Swing Dance Contest?

DESTINY

Yeah. First place is a part dancing in their new movie Swing Fever.

BEN

What about it?

DESTINY

What about it? We could get our SAG cards if we win this.

BEN

I thought you already knew. Fate and I are going to enter the contest together.

DESTINY

I can't believe you're telling me this. She's all wrong for you. She can't dance, and she's all about herself. Besides, I heard she was living with someone.

BEN

We've been working on a few moves and I think she's good.

DESTINY

You'll be sorry.

Destiny gets off the stool. Crumples up the flyer. Tosses it in Ben's face and walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Swing music blasts through the windows of the lobby.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Ben and Fate dance in the middle of the lobby.

Fate breaks away from Ben. She takes a seat in a chair.

Ben walks over to a boom box. Stops the music.

BEN

Hep, hep. We need to nail this routine if we're going to win that contest.

FATE

I'm tired. All you ever want to do is practice. Can't we just dance?

BEN

No, we need to rehearse if we're going to be the best.

FATE

It's not fun anymore. I'm going home to take a shower and then I'm going to the Swing Set.

BEN

If you have energy to go hang out in a club, then you have energy to rehearse.

Ben restarts the music. He grabs Fate's hand. She snatches it away from Ben.

FATE

I said no. If you want to dance, I'll be at the Swing Set.

BEN

The Swing Set. That's a horrible place to practice. Too many distractions and people can see our moves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FATE

Who said anything about practicing?
I'm going to have fun.

BEN

I don't know if I can work like
this.

FATE

Take it or leave it. I'm out of
here.

Fate grabs a bag full of her things. She exits the
building.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - BAR - NIGHT

Ben leans against the bar next to Destiny. He stares at
Fate who is dancing with Smooth Ray. He sports his
letterman "S" sweater.

BEN

Look at her. She really thinks
she's all that.

DESTINY

No, you think she's all that.

BEN

She's supposed to be my partner,
but it seems like I'm the only guy
who can't dance with her.

DESTINY

She's really not that good, and
she has no rhythm.

As the music stops, Ben pushes through the

DANCE FLOOR

to Fate and Smooth Ray.

FATE

(innocent)

Hi, Ben. Do you know Ray? He's a
terrific--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN
 (condescends)
 Say Ray, what does the "S" stand
 for?

SMOOTH RAY
 Smooth.

BEN
 Like a snake.
 (To Fate)
 Anyway, I want to dance with you,
 now.

FATE
 I'm dancing with Ray right now.

The band plays a really swinging tune.

BEN
 But, this is a good Lindy song.

FATE
 They'll be plenty of other Lindy
 songs. You'll get your turn.

BEN
 That's what I'm talking about. I
 shouldn't have to wait in line.
 I'm your partner.

FATE
 Ben, you're being rude. We'll
 dance later.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

INT. SWING SET - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Ben approaches Fate on the dance floor.

BEN
 Can we dance, now?

FATE
 Not right now, I'm dancing with
 Bill.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Ben catches Fate leaving the dance floor.

BEN

My turn.

FATE

I have to go to the ladies room
first.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - LADIES ROOM - NIGHT

Fate leaves the ladies room. Ben walks towards her.
Another guy drags Fate onto the dance floor before Ben
can get close to her.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

The band stops playing. Ben pushes through the dance
floor towards Fate.

BEN

Let's dance.

FATE

Wait until the band comes back on.
I don't like the CD music.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - BAR - NIGHT

The band plays. Ben runs towards Fate. Another guy drags
her onto the dance floor, first.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Destiny shakes her head with disgust

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

Fool.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - BAR - NIGHT

Ben approaches Fate at the bar drinking water.

BEN

The band is playing your favorite
song. Let's go for it.

FATE

I'm tired of that song. Wait for
the next one.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

All of the guys that danced with Fate have formed a big
circle around her. They are taking turns dancing with
her every few phrases.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Destiny gawks from afar.

DESTINY

Lindy Whore.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Ben hops into the circle. When it's his turn to dance
with Fate, two guys literally shove Ben out of the way to
let a girl dance with Fate. The music stops.

END MONTAGE

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Fate leaves the dance floor. Ben grabs Fate by the arm.

BEN

We haven't danced all night and I'm really starting to get sick of this game you're playing.

FATE

Let go of my arm, you're hurting me.

Ben releases his hold.

BEN

I'm sorry.

FATE

I'm really tired right now. I need to take a break before I collapse.

BEN

(irate)

Well, you should be. You've been dancing with every guy in the joint, but me. What are you?

FATE

I really don't appreciate your tone of voice. Maybe it's better if we don't talk right now until you become a little more respectful.

SMOOTH RAY approaches Fate.

SMOOTH RAY

Can I buy you a drink, Fate?

FATE

Ray...

There is sexual chemistry between Smooth Ray and Fate. Ben picks up on it.

FATE (CONT'D)

I'd love one.

Fate takes Smooth Ray by the arm. Prances to the bar.

Ben stares at Fate with a blank look on his face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Destiny observes from afar. She is appalled.

DESTINY

Bitch.

BAR

Smooth Ray and Fate take a seat at the bar.

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

FATE

I'll just have a Diet Coke.

SMOOTH RAY

(to Bartender)

Make that two Diet Cokes.

The Bartender grabs a couple of glasses.

SMOOTH RAY (CONT'D)

Listen Fate; I want you to hear me out first before you say anything. I know you're partnering with Ben. I respect that. He's a great dancer and a heck of a person. Lisa and I just split up. I'm not looking for a new partner, but I would just like to show you a few moves in case my agent calls for an audition or something.

FATE

Just a few moves?

SMOOTH RAY

Just a few moves. How's your Hollywood Style?

Smooth Ray and Fate sip from their glasses. They smile devilishly at each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SWING SET - NIGHT - NEXT WEEK

Ben and Fate arrive in his Cadillac. He valets the car. They cut to the front of the line. The doorman allows them to walk right into the club.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Ben and Fate enter the club. They make a circle around the entire club to see who's there and to let everyone know that they have arrived.

BEN

Let's practice our Lindy to up tempo Jump Blues.

FATE

Not now, we just got here. Let's have a drink first.

Ben and Fate take a seat at the

BAR

BARTENDER

What'll you have?

FATE

Long Island.

BEN

A Long Island? That's a terrible drink to have to go dancing.

FATE

But, a perfect one for fun.

EDGE OF DANCE FLOOR

JOSH (30), a tall, dark, and handsome Hollywood Style Lindyhopper, leaves the dance floor with MARIA (22), a voluptuous sex-pot. Smooth Ray intercepts.

SMOOTH RAY

Excuse us, sweetie, I need to talk to my boy for a second.

Maria is irritated.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMOOTH RAY (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry.

(flicks a PENNY at
Maria)

Here's a penny for your trouble.

Smooth Ray leads Josh towards the bar.

JOSH

Smooth, are you crazy? She was
down.

SMOOTH RAY

What would you give to spend a
weekend skiing at Big Bear with
two Laker Girls?

JOSH

My mother.

SMOOTH RAY

I'll pick her up on Tuesday.

JOSH

You got us dates with two Laker
girls?

SMOOTH RAY

They want to learn how to Swing.
Someone owes me a favor on a cabin.
Give me a couple a weeks, but it's
definitely on.

Maria grabs Josh's shoulder. She drags him back onto the
dance floor.

Smooth Ray walks over to the

BAR

He approaches Fate. Kisses her hand.

SMOOTH RAY (CONT'D)

Would you do me the honor of one
dance with you?

BEN

We just got here, Hollywood. We're
going to have some drinks first.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMOOTH RAY

(to Ben)

That's Mr. Hollywood to you,

(to Fate)

but my friends call me Smooth.

FATE

Smooth, I'd love to dance.

BEN

Don't expect me to watch your drink
for you.

Smooth Ray takes Fate by the hand. He leads her onto the dance floor.

BEN (CONT'D)

(mumbles)

So, it's like that now.

Ben runs over to Destiny. Nelson is talking to her.

NELSON

Would you like to dance?

DESTINY

Sure.

Ben steps in front of Nelson.

BEN

She owes me one first, Nelson.
You'll have to wait your turn.

BEN DRAGS DESTINY ONTO THE

DANCE FLOOR

near Fate and Smooth Ray. Ben focuses his attention on them. Fate focuses her attention on Ben and Destiny. Smooth Ray and Destiny notice what's going on.

Each couple tries to outdo the other. Fate pulls Smooth Ray close to her body.

BEN

pulls Destiny close to his body.

Each couples' moves start to become much more suggestive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ben and Fate are enraged, but Smooth Ray and Destiny seem to be having a pretty good time.

BEN

drops to his knees and pretends to kiss Destiny's derriere.

FATE

pushes Smooth Ray down to his knees. He mimics Ben's move, but he's facing her pelvic region.

BEN

breaks away from Destiny. He pushes Smooth Ray away from Fate.

BEN (CONT'D)

I think that's enough.

SMOOTH RAY

What's your problem? We were just dancing.

BEN

You and all that smooth Hollywood crap. You're trying to move in on my partner and I'm not going to let you get away with.

A crowd gathers around Ben and Smooth Ray.

WINSTON

Big Town and Smooth Ray are going at it.

SMOOTH RAY

Now, why did you have to go and insult my style of dance. Lot's of people do Hollywood Style Lindy. Hollywood is in. Savoy Style is out.

BEN

Hollywood style is for people who aren't good enough to do the real stuff --

Savoy Style. The pure and original form of Swing dance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

More people gather around.

SMOOTH RAY

Hollywood Style Lindyhoppers can
out swing any Savoy Style
Lindyhopper any day, any time,
anyplace.

The crowd begins to divide itself behind Smooth Ray or Ben.

BEN

How about right now?

SMOOTH RAY

You're on!

BEN

Let's do this!

Ben and Smooth Ray break away into their camps.

WINSTON

Everyone clear the dance floor!
There's going to be a swingout
between the Hollywood Style
Lindyhoppers and the Savoy Style
Lindyhoppers!

The dance floor clears out into an enormous

JAM CIRCLE

The Hollywood Style Lindyhoppers send their first

HOLLYWOOD LINDY COUPLE

onto the dance floor. They do a brief solo with very
interesting footwork, then return to their camp.

The Savoy Style Lindyhoppers send their first

SAVOY LINDY COUPLE

into the circle. They outdo the Hollywood Style couple
in footwork, then return to their camp.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMOOTH RAY

leads a group of Hollywood Style Lindyhoppers onto the floor to do their version of

THE "SHIM SHAM SHIMMY" SWING LINE DANCE

The crowd screams. They leave the floor.

BEN

leads a group of the Savoy Style Lindyhoppers onto the floor to do their version of the

"BIG APPLE" SWING LINE DANCE

They get a bigger reaction from the crowd. They leave the floor.

The Hollywood Style Lindyhoppers send out a

TAP DANCE GUY

He does an elaborate tap dance solo. Returns to his camp.

The Savoy Style Lindyhoppers send a

TAP DANCE GIRL

She does a high energy tap dance solo intermixed with BREAK DANCING. She garners more applause. Returns to her camp.

SMOOTH RAY

Big Town!!!

FATE

runs into the middle of the dance floor and bows her head.

BEN SENDS

DESTINY

into the middle of the dance floor. She faces Fate. Bows her head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN AND SMOOTH RAY

simultaneously run from out of their camps and vault over their girl's heads landing into half splits.

Ben and Smooth Ray grab their girls and go at it. Each couple goes crazy trying to outdo each other's lifts, dips, flips, and tricks.

The music concludes with each couple performing a dramatic exit.

NELSON

Show's over. Can we dance now?

Swingers pour back onto the floor to dance to the next song.

DESTINY

That was so much fun!

BEN

Excuse me for a moment.

Ben walks over to Fate.

BEN (CONT'D)

It's all over now. I'm hungry.
Let's get something to eat.

FATE

I'm not ready to leave, yet.

BEN

I thought we were cool. Come on,
now. It's late.

FATE

If you want to go eat, you go eat.
I'm staying. I'll get a ride home
from somebody else.

BEN

You mean like Ray.

FATE

Yeah, like Ray. Ray will give me
a ride home.

BEN

You're impossible. Fine, then let
Ray take you home. I'm leaving.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ben storms away from Fate. He passes Destiny.

DESTINY

What is it with you and that girl?
She's a loser and a cupcake. Forget
about her.

BEN

Save it.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWING SET - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The valet brings Ben his Cadillac. Ben hops in and
screeches out of the parking lot.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ben fills a vase with water in the kitchen sink. The
cordless phone is perched between his ear and shoulder.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Fate rides in the passenger seat talking on her cell phone.
The driver of the convertible cannot be seen.

CUT TO:

INTERCUT - BEN IN APARTMENT & FATE IN CONVERTIBLE

FATE

I don't feel like rehearsing
tonight.

BEN

We don't have to. I really wanted
to talk to you though.

FATE

About what?

BEN

About things. It's hard to explain.

Just come by at 8:00 and we can chat then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FATE

Tonight is really not a good night.

BEN

Please, Fate. It's really important. I won't take no for an answer.

FATE

Whatever. Eight o'clock then.

BEN

See you then.

END INTERCUT SEQUENCE

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ben unwraps a DOZEN ROSES. Places them in a vase on the kitchen table.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Fate puts her cell phone in her purse.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

the driver of the convertible is Smooth Ray.

SMOOTH RAY

Why didn't you tell him?

FATE

I didn't feel like arguing with him. I'll leave him a message on his pager.

Smooth Ray parks the car in front of an apartment complex. Fate puts her arms around Smooth Ray. They engage in a passionate kiss.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Destiny walks up to the intercom. Dials a code.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ben prepares food. The telephone RINGS. Ben picks up the cordless telephone.

BEN

Hello.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Destiny talks into the intercom.

DESTINY

Hi Ben, it's Destiny. I was in the area and thought I might stop by to borrow a few of your vintage Swing clips to watch.

The door BUZZES. Destiny enters the building.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ben reads from a recipe book. Grabs some condiments from the pantry. The DOORBELL RINGS. Ben walks through the

LIVING ROOM

and opens his door. Destiny enters. Ben heads back into the kitchen.

DESTINY

Yum. What smells so good?

Destiny walks over to a bookcase. She fondles Ben's video collection.

BEN (O.S.)

I'm making a feast for tonight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

Oh, you shouldn't have.

Destiny thumbs through a photo album. It's filled with PICTURES OF FATE. Destiny pretends to stick her finger down her throat to make herself throw up.

BEN

Ha-ha. Very funny.

DESTINY

You never cook. What's the occasion?

Destiny walks into the

KITCHEN

Ben nervously stares at Destiny. He can't look her square in the eye.

BEN

(stutters)

My grandmother. She's in town this week for a Home-Economics convention. She'll be here later on.

Destiny caresses the roses.

DESTINY

You're so sweet. These roses are gorgeous.

Destiny pinches Ben's cheeks.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Making dinner for your grandma.

Ben mixes chocolate in a bowl.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

What are you doing? I have nothing to do tonight. Let me stay and help.

BEN

(stutters)

No, you don't have to do that. I don't know if that's such a good idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

No, I insist.

Destiny snatches the mixing bowl from Ben.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ben hands condiments from the pantry to Destiny while she grills chicken on the stove.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ben and Destiny knead dough on the table. They form tiny individual pizza crusts.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A SMOKE ALARM RINGS. Smoke pours out of the kitchen. Destiny opens windows. Ben fans the smoke alarm.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Destiny mixes cake mix in a bowl. She hands Ben the spoon to lick.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Ben and Destiny wash dishes. Destiny splashes Ben. Ben splashes her back. It erupts into a full-fledged water war.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - GAZEBO - NIGHT - LATER

Destiny spreads a white tablecloth across a bamboo table. A boom box in the corner plays Swing tunes. Ben looks at his

WATCH

7:45

BEN

You have to go. My grandmother will be here any minute. I don't want her to know I had help. I'm trying to impress her.

Destiny places two candles on the table.

DESTINY

Hold on. Let me add the finishing touches.

Lights them. She sets several covered dishes on the table.

Ben's pager goes off.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

I bet that's her right now. She probably got stuck in traffic.

Ben whips out his cell phone. He calls his pager. Ben holds his cell phone to his ear.

FATE (O.S.)

Hi Ben, this is Fate. I'm not coming tonight, tomorrow night, or any night thereafter. This is just too much and too weird. Ray and I are dating and we've decided to be partners. Good luck.

Ben slowly removes the phone from his ear and stares at it. Lets it fall onto the table. Picks up a bottle of champagne.

DESTINY

What happened? Where is she?

Ben slings the champagne bottle crashing into a wall.

BEN

Damn, damn, damn, damn, damn!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Destiny stops what she is doing because she doesn't know how to respond.

BEN (CONT'D)

She's not coming. Now or ever.
She said we're not partners anymore.
She's dating and dancing with Ray.

DESTINY

(infuriated)
You mean to tell, all this time
you let me believe I was making
dinner for your grandmother when
you were trying to--

Ben holds his hands over his head. Cries.

Destiny puts her arms around him. They sit together on the couch. Ben cries on her shoulder.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROOFTOP - GAZEBO - NIGHT - LATER

Ben and Destiny sit on the couch swigging from a champagne bottle. They dip strawberries into a bowl of whip cream, throwing them in the air, trying to catch them in their mouths.

BEN

Ever had a broken heart?

DESTINY

Anything made can be broken.

BEN

Ever felt like you were dating
somebody and never actually kissed?
Or ever fallen in love with somebody
and never had a date?

DESTINY

I was seeing this guy once for
about three months. I felt like
we were soul mates. We had never
actually kissed, but for all intents
purposes we were dating. When I
finally tried to kiss him, he
stopped me and told me that he was
engaged--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

I thought you were going to say
that he was gay.

DESTINY

To a man.

Ben and Destiny chuckle.

BEN

If you're trying to cheer me up
it's not going to work. How come
we never talked like this before?

DESTINY

If I knew, we would have talked
like this before.

Ben and Destiny gaze into each other's eyes. A steamy
sultry tune plays on the boom box.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Let's dance.

Destiny tugs on Ben's hand pulling him off of the couch.

BEN

No, I don't feel like dancing.

Destiny pulls Ben out of the Gazebo.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Destiny drags Ben into the middle of the rooftop.

BEN

Please stop. That's not what I
want.

DESTINY

Then what do you want?

BEN

I want you just to hold me.

Destiny puts her arms around Ben. Ben holds her close to
his body. They sway with the music.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Destiny gazes into Ben's EYES.

MATCHCUT TO:

MONTAGE SEQUENCE

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

Destiny lies on her back on a blanket in the sand. Ben straddles her. Gazes into her EYES.

CUT TO:

INTERCUT VENICE BEACH & ROOFTOP

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Destiny runs her hands across Ben's SHIRT.

MATCHCUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

Destiny tears open Ben's SHIRT. Ben tears off Destiny's shirt.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Ben runs his LIPS along one of Destiny's arms.

MATCHCUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

Ben holds up one of Destiny's legs. His LIPS kiss her from her ankle down.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Ben spins Destiny. Slides both hands down her body as he slinks to his knees.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

Destiny moans.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Destiny sticks one leg between Ben's legs in the Tango fashion.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

Ben moans.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Ben turns Destiny away from him. Places one arm around her waist. Dances behind her.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

Ben's lips slowly kiss Destiny's ear from behind.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Destiny gasps. She pulls Ben close to her body.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

Destiny's fingernails claw into Ben's back drawing blood.

CUT TO:

END MONTAGE & INTERCUT SEQUENCE

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Ben gasps.

Destiny continues to hold Ben as they sway to the music.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - NIGHT

BEN AND DESTINY stand in front of a CAMPFIRE on the beach while wearing BLACK HOODED ROBES.

DESTINY

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here tonight to say goodbye to the memory of Fate.

Destiny swigs from a CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE.

Passes it to BEN.

BEN

No, thanks. I've had too much to drink.

DESTINY

No, you have to take a drink!

Ben takes a swig.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

If there is anyone with any reason why the memory of Fate should not be joined with the eternal ocean of life, let her speak now or forever hold her peace.

BEN

pantomimes a crucifix across his heart.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

This whole thing is kind of spooky.
I get the point.

DESTINY

Silence, infidel. Thou blasphemest
the ritual! May I have the
memories?

Ben gathers pictures, presents, flowers, and other
memorabilia of Fate. He shoves a picture into his pocket.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

You need to burn everything for
the ritual to work.

BEN

Oh this is nothing. It's just a
picture from my first Jam Circle.
Fate just happened to be there.

DESTINY

With you. The memory please.

Ben begrudgingly hands Destiny the picture.

DESTINY

tosses it with all the other memories into the FIRE.
Destiny turns around to pick up the champagne bottle.
Ben snatches his picture out of the fire.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

You have to pour a sip for all the
Swingers who couldn't be here.

Ben hesitates.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Stop wasting time. After you
cremate the memories you only have
three minutes to prepare the vessel.

BEN

How many times have you done this?

DESTINY

That evil wench dumped you, not
me, and left you for vulture bate
rotting in the antagonizing misery
festering in the annals and dungeons

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY (CONT'D)
of your own pathetic eternal
memories. Do you want your heart
to burn in hell or the retched
memory of Fate?

BEN

pours champagne into the FIRE.

It burns brighter.

DESTINY

tosses a BUCKET OF SEA WATER over the FIRE.

BEN

gathers the ASHES with a STYROFOAM CUP.

DESTINY

HANDS BEN A LARGE

TUPPERWARE BOWL

He spoons the ashes into the bowl and seals it with a
lid.

Destiny stretches her HANDS to the heavens.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
May I have the vessel?

BEN

drapes a towel over

DESTINY'S HANDS

Places the bowl on the towel.

They proceed into the ocean water up to ankle level.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY LOWERS THE

BOWL

to knee level.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

By the power invested in me by the
First Church of Swing, I know
pronounce Ben and Fate forgotten.

BEN

punts the bowl far out to sea.

BEN

Tonight I say goodbye to my Fate
and Hello to my Destiny.

Ben leans forward to kiss Destiny, but collapses from
intoxication.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

The SOUND OF SPLASHING WATER precedes the face of a
LIFEGUARD.

LIFEGUARD

It's dangerous and illegal to be
on the beach at night.

Ben and Destiny awaken wrapped in each other's arms.
They look at their bodies observing that they are half-
naked.

DESTINY

This is not what it looks like.

LIFEGUARD

I know.

Ben tries to move away from Destiny, but cannot because
their hands and feet are bound together by their own
clothes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIFEGUARD (CONT'D)

You were robbed.

Ben and Destiny look at each other. They laugh.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BOULEVARD - DAY

Ben and Fate arrive just in time to see a tow-truck carry away Ben's Cadillac.

BEN

Hey, wait a minute. That's my Caddy.

A FAT BEACH COP hands Ben a parking ticket.

FAT BEACH COP

There's no parking on Tuesday's between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Ben glances at his watch.

BEN

But, it's 8:01 a.m.

FAT BEACH COP

That's why I wrote you a ticket.

BEN

What did you do, wait?

DESTINY

Ben.

The Fat Beach Cop smiles.

BEN

How much do I have to pay to get my Caddy back?

BEACH

Towing and ticket--\$150.

BEN

But, I'm broke. Where am I going to get that kind of money?

The Fat Beach Cop snarls. Destiny places her hand over Ben's mouth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

I know where. Thank you officer.
Have a nice day.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH BOARDWALK - DAY

Destiny leads Ben by the hand.

SWING MUSIC blares from a PIZZA SHOP stereo system.

Destiny snatches a dirty GANGSTER HAT off of a sleeping HOMELESS MAN. Destiny turns the hat upside down. She assumes a Lindyhop stance.

DESTINY

Dance.

Ben leads Destiny into a swingout. A TOURIST places a dollar bill in the hat. A crowd forms. An OLD LADY sticks a five dollar bill in the hat.

LATER

The hat overflows with coins and paper money.

The Fat Beach Cop barges through the crowd.

FAT BEACH COP

(nasty)

Do you two have a permit to perform
in the street?

Destiny grabs the hat.

DESTINY

(to Ben)

Run!

Destiny sprints down the boardwalk. Ben hurries close behind. The Fat Beach Cop tries to follow. He quickly runs out of breath. Stops at an

ICE-CREAM STORE WINDOW

The Fat Beach Cop leans on the counter. The ICE-CREAM CLERK hands the Fat Beach Cop a stack of PAPER TOWELS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ICE-CREAM CLERK
Chasing some punks, huh?

FAT BEACH COP
I'm real thirsty.

ICE-CREAM CLERK
I'll get you some water.

FAT BEACH COP
No, make it a chocolate shake.

The Ice-Cream Clerk rolls his eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Destiny and Ben stumble onto the sand. Destiny dumps the hat full of money over Ben's head. Destiny and Ben roll and around in the sand giggling while throwing money at each other.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWING SET - NIGHT

TWO PATRONS give up on waiting in the long line.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Ben sits at the bar with Destiny. He watches Fate slow dance with Smooth Ray.

DESTINY
Stop watching her. She has no class promenading around here with him like that.

BARTENDER
What'll you have, Big Town.

BEN
Scotch. Straight up. And make it a double.

Ben continues to stare at Fate and Smooth Ray. The Bartender places a tumbler of scotch in front of Ben.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ben pulls out his wallet.

BARTENDER
This one's on me, Big Town.
(looks at Destiny)
You're going to be all right.

BEN
Thanks.

DESTINY
Ben, would you--

Destiny notices that Ben is staring at Fate again.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
(to Bartender)
Could I have--

BARTENDER
Yours is right here.

The Bartender places a tumbler of scotch in front of Destiny.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)
It's on me, too. You're going to
be all right. The both of you.

DESTINY
Thanks.

Destiny stares at Ben. Ben stares at Fate.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT - LATER

Ben is alone at the bar. Several empty glasses lie before him. The night has considerably slowed down, but there are still patrons there. Jeanette takes a seat next to Ben.

JEANETTE
Did you drink all of those, Big
Town?

BEN
Who me? I don't drink.

JEANETTE
Broken heart, huh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

(slurs)

No, it's not broken. It's gone. She cut it out with my scout knife, chopped it up in my smoothie blender, and flushed it down the toilet.

JEANETTE

Dance with me.

Ben stumbles onto the dance floor with Jeanette. They dance to a slow song. Jeanette pulls Ben close to her body. Ben reciprocates. Jeanette nibbles on his ear.

BEN

Destiny, you've never felt so good before.

JEANETTE

Let's get out of here.

BEN

Yes, let's.

Jeanette helps Ben leave the dance floor.

BARTENDER

You'll see that he gets home all right. He's had a few.

JEANETTE

Yes, but of course. I'll take care of him.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Jeanette helps Ben into the passenger seat of his Cadillac. Jeanette gets behind the steering wheel.

BEN

Where are we going?

JEANETTE

I'm taking you home.

BEN

I think I need another drink. Do I have alcohol there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEANETTE

Yes, you do.

The Cadillac drives out into the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Jeanette valet parks the Cadillac. Jeanette helps Ben out of the car. He kisses her neck.

JEANETTE

Wait until we get upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ben and Jeanette enter the room. The light in the hallway from the open door lights the room. They tear each other's clothes off. Tumble onto the bed. As the door slowly closes

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Ben wakes up naked in bed. The bathroom door is ajar. Ben can hear the sound of Jeanette SHOWERING. Ben grabs his head. It hurts. He gets out of bed. Searches for his pants. Slowly puts them on.

Jeanette sticks her head out of the bathroom.

JEANETTE

I would have woken you earlier,
but I figured you needed your rest.
You have to hurry. My husband
will be here soon. I already called
the valet. Your car should be
waiting for you.

Jeanette steps back into the bathroom. Ben slowly puts his shirt on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

Oh, I almost forgot. I left you a little something for your trouble on the dresser.

Ben grabs his head. He drags himself over to the dresser. He places his hand on

TWO ONE-HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS

Ben clinches his stomach in one hand and covers his mouth with the other. Grabs a garbage can. Vomits into it. Leaves the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. CADILLAC - DAY

Ben drives his Cadillac through Hollywood. His stomach convulses. Holds one hand to his mouth. Grabs an empty cup from the back seat. Tries to throw up in cup, but gets vomit all over himself and the floor of the car.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

The sound of vomiting can be heard in the living room. Ben crawls out of the bathroom into the living room. He lies in the middle of the floor. His face and chest is spattered with vomit.

The PHONE RINGS. Ben does not answer it. The answering machine picks up.

DESTINY (O.S.)

Ben, I'm downstairs. Pick up. I know you're there. I've been paging you all morning. I want to know if you're all right. I heard that you had a lot to drink last night after I left.

Ben knocks the cordless phone off of his entertainment center. He speaks into it while lying on the floor.

BEN

I'm real sick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY (O.S.)

Are you hung over?

BEN

Every five minutes my stomach keeps convulsing, but there's nothing left in it to throw up.

DESTINY

It sounds like you have alcohol poisoning. My aunt is a nurse. Let me come up.

BEN

No, I'm too embarrassed.

DESTINY

Ben, you can die from alcohol poisoning. Either you let me in, or I'm breaking in.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Destiny stands in front of the intercom. The door buzzes. Destiny runs into the building.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Destiny opens the door and enters.

DESTINY

Oh, no. Ben.

Destiny helps Ben into the

BATHROOM

She sits him in the tub. Bathes him.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Up.

BEN

I can't move. I'm sick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

You need to drink water. You're dehydrated.

BEN

Please, just let me lay here.

Destiny helps Ben out of the bathroom.

KITCHEN

Destiny pours Ben a glass of spring water. Ben drinks the water but immediately throws it back up.

DESTINY

It's definitely alcohol poisoning.

BEN

I can't drink this.

DESTINY

Either you keep trying to drink that, or I call 911.

Ben takes another sip, but throws it back up.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY - LATER

Ben lies on the futon. Destiny exits the kitchen carrying a tray with water, chicken noodle soup and crackers. She sits Ben up on the futon.

DESTINY

You're going to have to eat something.

BEN

I can't eat.

Destiny tries to spoon some soup into Ben's mouth.

BEN (CONT'D)

I can't swallow.

DESTINY

Then just put a little on your tongue.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We have to do this every 20 minutes until you can keep something down.

Ben grabs a trash can next to the futon. He throws up into it.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY - LATER

Ben sits up on the futon. He nibbles on a cracker and sips on soup. Destiny wipes his forehead with a washcloth.

BEN

Thank you. But, why? Why are you doing this for me?

Destiny sticks a penny in Ben's hand. Kisses Ben on the forehead. A tear rolls down her cheek.

DESTINY

Lay back down. I'll bring you more food and water in twenty minutes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Destiny feeds Ben soup on the futon. Ben lies back down. Closes his eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Destiny sleeps on the floor.

Ben awakens on the futon. He gets up. Walks over to his closet. Pulls out a blanket. Lays the blanket over Destiny. Walks into the bathroom.

Destiny opens her eyes. She sees that Ben is missing from the futon. Overhears the sound of the SHOWER.

Ben steps out of the bathroom.

BEN

Let's start Tuesday at 5:00.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

Start what?

BEN

Rehearsing to kick Fate's ass in that Swing dance contest. Or am I the only one who wants to be in SAG.

DESTINY

Under one condition.

BEN

What's that?

DESTINY

You come with me to see Pops.

BEN

It's done.

Destiny puts her head back down. Closes her eyes. Ben steps back into the bathroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAZZ JOINT - BALDWIN HILLS - NIGHT

A barrage of late model cars floods the parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. JAZZ JOINT - NIGHT

Ben and Destiny sit at a rickety pint-sized table amidst a smoke glazed hole-in-the-wall nightspot.

A jazz combo plays on a makeshift stage. The combo includes a FEMALE TORCH SINGER (45), BASSIST, PIANIST, PERCUSSIONIST, TROMBONIST, TRUMPETER, and the graying bandleader / saxophonist POPS (72).

Pops looks like an underfed poster pin-up for a beggar on Venice Beach.

Pops churns out a hot solo and cues the combo to take a break. Pops puts away his saxophone. He picks up a TUMBLER OF SCOTCH. Makes a dash for Ben and Destiny's table. CD JAZZ MUSIC plays in the background.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

POPS

How's my little Angel? Give Pops some sugar.

Pops and Destiny embrace.

DESTINY

Ben, my play dad, Pops. Pops, my dance partner, Ben.

POPS

D. tells me that you two are entering some slamming jamming Big Wheel...

BEN

Big Deal--

POPS

Contest. Let me see what you got.

Ben leads Destiny onto the dance floor. He really tries to show off. Pops is not moved.

POPS (CONT'D)

Not bad, but all that is choreography. You need to feel the music. You're dancing right through the breaks. Let the music happen to you and not you to it.

BEN

(indignant)
I don't think I follow you. Why don't you show me.

DESTINY

(chastises)
Ben.

Pops smiles. He places his SCOTCH on the table. Takes Destiny's hand. Pops leads her into a series of not so complicated but intricate steps. He catches all of the breaks in the music. A FEW PATRONS applaud.

BEN

I owe you an apology. I prejudged you because--

POPS

I had a drink.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Right.

DESTINY

Pops used to dance at the Savoy Ballroom back in the day.

POPS

Don't get handicapped by choreography. Let the rhythm and the mood of the music speak to your hearts and souls. Your body knows what to do. I've got to play another set, now. You know where to find me if you think you could use a little bit of help from a--

BEN

Drinker.

Pops smiles and returns to the bandstand.

Ben and Destiny sit back down at their table.

The Torch Singer croons a sultry song. Ben and Destiny are swept away by the music. Ben pulls a FLOWER from a SMALL VASE on the table. He slides it into Destiny's hair.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

INT. BEN'S LOBBY - DAY

Ben and Destiny dance.

CUT TO:

INT. JAZZ JOINT - NIGHT

Pops demonstrates a freestyle pattern to Ben and Destiny.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Ben and Destiny do a unison freestyle routine in front of the mirror. Destiny gets off beat. Ben walks over to the boom box. Stops the music.

CUT TO:

INT. JAZZ JOINT - NIGHT

Pops and Destiny dance while Ben watches.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Ben teaches Destiny how to do the Candlestick handstand above his head.

CUT TO:

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Ben and Destiny dance.

CUT TO:

INT. JAZZ JOINT - NIGHT

Ben tries to do a free spin away from Destiny. He trips. Ben laughs it off as Pops and Destiny help him to his feet.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENICE BEACH - DAY

Ben and Destiny practice lifts in the water. She falls. Ben laughs. Destiny splashes water on Ben. Ben chases her. They wrestle in the water.

CUT TO:

INT. STICKER PAL BOOTH - DAY

Ben holds Destiny in a Jackknife dip while the camera

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FLASHES.

A SHEET OF STICKER PALS spits out of the machine.

END MONTAGE

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben stares at a STICKER PAL OF BEN AND DESTINY.

SPLIT SCREEN TO BEN &:

INT. DESTINY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Destiny stares at a STICKER PAL OF BEN AND DESTINY.

SPLIT SCREEN TO BEN, DESTINY &:

INT. RED'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Red holds his CORDLESS PHONE to his ear.

Ben's PHONE RINGS. Ben picks up the phone.

BEN

Hello.

RED

Big Town, it's Red.

BEN

What's happening?

RED

I heard through the swing vine
that you and Destiny are entering
the contest together.

SPLIT SCREEN TO BEN, DESTINY, RED &:

INT. KITTY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kitty holds her PHONE to her ear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DESTINY

(to Kitty)

Yeah, that's true.

KITTY

Are you two dating?

BEN

(to Red)

No, we're just friends.

RED

You two look good together.

DESTINY

(to Kitty)

You think so?

KITTY

Definitely cute.

RED

Much potential.

END SPLIT SCREEN

CUT TO:

EXT. MELROSE RECORD STORE - SUNSET

Ben rolls up in front of the store with the top down on his Cadillac. Seated in the front seat is BUTTERFLY (25), a woman of questionable virtue.

Red leans from the back seat to the front seat whispering in Butterfly's ear.

Ben removes his Zoot Suit coat and Tando hat. Gets out of the Cadillac.

BEN

I'll be right out.

Ben steps into the record store.

CUT TO:

INT. MELROSE VINTAGE CLOTHING STORE - SUNSET

Kitty waits at the cash register while a SALES CLERK rings up a pile of clothes. Destiny stands in the doorway.

DESTINY

I'll be right back. I'm going to run to the record store.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELROSE RECORD STORE - SUNSET

Red climbs into the driver's seat. He puts on Ben's coat and hat.

Destiny sees the Cadillac. She smiles.

Butterfly and Red "make out."

She thinks Red is Ben. She runs back into the Vintage Clothing Store.

CUT TO:

INT. MELROSE VINTAGE CLOTHING STORE - SUNSET

The Sales Clerk bags Kitty's clothes. Destiny runs into the store in tears.

KITTY

Back so soon? Is everything OK?

DESTINY

I'm not feeling well. Let's just go home.

CUT TO:

EXT. MELROSE RECORD STORE - SUNSET

Ben walks out of the record store. Red and Butterfly are lip-locked. Ben removes his hat from Red's head.

BEN

Get a room.

Red and Butterfly climb into the back seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWING SET - NIGHT - 3 DAYS LATER

An alluring figure in a trampy outfit cuts to the front of the line. Her face cannot be seen. The doorman doesn't recognize her at first, but joyfully allows her to enter.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Ben stands on the edge of the dance floor watching Smooth Ray dance with a real hotty.

The trampy figure enters. Her face is still not seen. Several guys flock around her. She takes a seat at the bar.

LOU (27), a buff jerk, snatches a guy off the barstool next to tramp. Sits beside tramp himself. Offers to buy her a drink.

Ben notices the commotion. He walks over to the bar to investigate. He slowly eyes the trampy figure working his way from her stiletto heels to her face. Ben is stimulated. He is shocked to discover that the tramp is Destiny. He runs over to Destiny.

BEN

Destiny, what are you doing?

Ben takes off his coat. He tries to cover Destiny up.

LOU

Hey, what are you doing? You're spoiling the show.

BEN

Back off, bub. This isn't a freak show.

Ben grabs Destiny by the arm.

BEN (CONT'D)

Come on, I'm taking you home to put on some clothes.

DESTINY

Get your hands off of me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Your dress is much too tight, your slit is way too high, and your blouse is cut much too low. You look like a whore.

LOU

Watch it, Big Town. That's not how you talk to a lady.

DESTINY

This is what you want isn't it. This is what everybody wants.

Fate dresses like this all the time and nobody calls her a whore. Destiny is tired of being ignored. This is the new me. Take it or leave it.

LOU

I'll take it.

BEN

Fine. Then I'll leave it.

LOU

Would you like to dance, baby?

DESTINY

I'd love to.

Lou leads Destiny onto the dance floor.

Fate grabs Smooth Ray as he leaves the dance floor.

FATE

Come on, let's dance. We haven't danced together all night.

SMOOTH RAY

Actually I was going to get a drink of water and I promised someone else a dance first. Try me later.

Smooth Ray walks away. Fate is taken aback.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SWING SET - NIGHT - LATER

The long line has dissipated.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Ben watches Destiny dance with Lou. It's becoming very sexual. Lou takes Destiny to a booth. He tries to kiss her.

DESTINY
Stop. That's enough.

LOU
Come on, one little kiss.

DESTINY
I said no.

LOU
What's with you? One kiss.

Lou continues to grope Destiny. She dumps a glass of ice water in his lap.

LOU (CONT'D)
You whore. I've been buying you stuff all night. You owe me. I'm going to kiss you, whether you like it or not.

Ben runs over to the booth. He snatches Lou from the booth. Belts him a good one on the jaw, knocking him down onto a table.

GOON
Hey, that's my frat brother!

Two Goons grab Ben from behind. They hold his arms.

Another Goon punches Ben in the gut. The band plays UP-TEMPO MUSIC.

BEN
That's my song.

Ben kicks the Goon pounding him in the gut. Flips both of the Goons holding his arms onto their backs. Three more Goons attack Ben.

Destiny runs to an exit. She alerts the Security Staff.

Ben runs from the Goons. They chase him to a wall. Ben runs up the wall and flips over their heads behind them.

Throws a table at the Goons. Knocks them all down like bowling pins. The Bouncers arrive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They grab all of the Goons.

BOUNCER
You all right, Big Town?

BEN
I'll live.

Ben walks over to Destiny. She holds her head down.

BEN (CONT'D)
Let's go home.

Ben puts his arm around Destiny. As they leave the club Destiny sees Red making out with Butterfly.

She pauses and realizes that it was Red kissing Butterfly on Melrose and not Ben.

Destiny holds her head down lower.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESTINY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Ben and Destiny pull in front of the building in his Cadillac. Destiny is asleep in the front seat. Her head is on Ben's shoulder. Ben kisses her on the forehead.

BEN
We're home.

Destiny wakes up.

DESTINY
My head is killing me.

BEN
That's what happens when you drink too much.

DESTINY
I should know better.

Destiny gives Ben a peck on the lips.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Thanks for everything.

Destiny gets out of the Cadillac. Digs in her purse for her keys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

See you tomorrow at the Swing Set?

DESTINY

I'm so embarrassed, I don't know if I could ever show my face in there again.

BEN

You've got Swing fever. If you don't come out dancing, you may go into withdrawal.

DESTINY

Only if you'll be there to get high with me.

BEN

Take care.

DESTINY

Good-Night.

Destiny opens the front door of the building. Waves good-bye. Enters the building.

Ben drives away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SWING SET - NEXT NIGHT

People give up on waiting in the eternal line.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Smooth Ray and Josh sit at the bar sipping drinks.

SMOOTH RAY

My friend came through on the cabin at Big Bear for the Laker girls and us.

JOSH

When?

SMOOTH RAY

This weekend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

But, the contest is next week.
What will we tell the girls?

SMOOTH RAY

The truth. We're going skiing.

JOSH

I guess that's why they call you
Smooth.

Josh and Smooth Ray slap each other five.

Ben and Destiny enter the club. Ben stops to greet Smooth
Ray and Josh.

BEN

Gentlemen, where are your ladies?
You should be practicing for the
Swing Fever contest.

SMOOTH RAY

Practice, schmactice.

Fate and Leah appear behind Ben.

FATE

Why, did you come to learn
something?

DESTINY

Ben and I are entering the contest
as a couple, and we have a lot of
great moves.

FATE

Good luck, Ben.
(looks at Destiny)
You'll need it.

SMOOTH RAY

We're not worried at all. As a
matter of fact, Josh and I are
going skiing this weekend.

FATE

Skiing. Before the competition?
I'm not going skiing.

SMOOTH RAY

I know. Just Josh and I. We're
going to have a weekend of male
bonding.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Josh puts his arm around Smooth Ray.

FATE

No, you're not. You'll break your leg.

SMOOTH RAY

I'm Smooth Ray. Do really think I'd break my leg skiing?

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Smooth Ray's leg is completely covered with a CAST. He sits opposite Fate amidst a pile of dirty dishes.

FATE

You idiot. How could you? The contest is in two days. I told you not to go skiing.

SMOOTH RAY

You don't tell me what I can do.

FATE

You're absolutely right. And you don't tell me what I can do either.

Fate stands up. Snatches her purse.

FATE (CONT'D)

That's why I'm going to find somebody else to dance with. Somebody with a leg that works.

Fate storms out of the restaurant.

SMOOTH RAY

That's right. You better get out of my face. I'm Smooth Ray and I can do for myself. You're nothing without me. I don't need you. I don't need anybody.

Smooth Ray's cell phone rings. He drops it into the aisle. He tries to grab it, but his broken leg prevents him from reaching it. A WAITRESS passes by his booth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SMOOTH RAY (CONT'D)
 (to Waitress)
 Excuse me. I need your help.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER - TWO DAYS LATER
 Several swingers enter the Convention Center.

MARQUEE

"BIG DEAL STUDIOS SWING FEVER THE MOVIE SWING DANCE
 CONTEST."

CUT TO:

INT. LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Ben and Destiny practice their routine on the auditorium
 floor. They each have NUMBER 23 pinned to their clothes.

Pops and Kitty are seated in the bleachers amidst a huge
 crowd.

BEN
 No, no. The Candlestick is after
 the Back Charlestons.

DESTINY
 We're trying to do too much. I'm
 going to mess up, I know it.

BEN
 As long as you follow my lead,
 we'll be fine.

Fate approaches Ben.

FATE
 Ben, I need to speak to you for a
 moment in private.

DESTINY
 We're busy.

FATE
 It's important.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

I'll be right back.

DESTINY

(playful)

Still running after that girl.
You better hurry, because I might
not be here when you get back.

Fate and Ben stroll to the other side of the room.

BEN

What's up?

FATE

Ray broke his leg skiing. I don't
have anybody to dance with in the
contest.

BEN

That must suck, because everybody
is already partnered up. Even if
you did find somebody you wouldn't
have anything worked out.

FATE

Unless I danced with you. We
already have polished combinations
and we freestyle great together.

BEN

I'm dancing with Destiny.

FATE

Both you and I know that Destiny
is a real trooper, but she's no
performer. You may not embarrass
yourself, but you certainly won't
win.

BEN

It wouldn't be right.

FATE

You want to win as much as I do.
I'm going to dance in this contest
with or without you. You may not
leave your partner for me, but
there are a lot of other guys who
will.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FATE (CONT'D)

If you really want to win this thing, your best shot is competing with me and not against me. I'm giving you two minutes to make up your mind.

Fate walks away. Ben walks back over to Destiny.

DESTINY

I was just about to leave you. We need to run through this stupid routine of yours again. It's too involved. I know I'm going to screw up. I know it.

Ben stares at Destiny.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

What's wrong? It was something that monster said, isn't it. You're acting like she split up with Ray and wants to dance with you in the contest.

Ben stares at Destiny.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

You can't be serious. You are serious. I didn't really want to be in the contest anyway. I was just doing it because you wanted to.

BEN

It's not like that at all. I told her--

DESTINY

I want you to dance with her. I can't even remember the routine. To be honest I'm glad. I was about to make a fool of you and me out there today, and now Fate has saved us. Good luck.

Fate approaches Ben.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

He's a good dancer, take care of him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Destiny unpins her number from her dress. Hands it to Fate.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

I guess you two are finally getting what you deserve.

Destiny runs away.

BEN

Destiny, wait.

Fate grabs Ben's arm.

FATE

Forget her. We need to run through some lifts real quick. We haven't worked together in awhile.

BLEACHERS

Pops and Kitty fidget in their seats.

POPS

What's going on?

KITTY

I don't know, but I'm going to find out.

CUT TO:

INT. LADIES ROOM - DAY

Kitty walks into the ladies room. She hears crying.

KITTY

Hello. Are you all right?

Kitty kneels and looks at the stall doors. She can see Destiny's feet in one of the stalls. The door is ajar. Kitty pushes the door open.

KITTY (CONT'D)

Destiny, what happened?

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Ben and Fate practice lifts, dips, and tricks. They start to draw a crowd.

WHISPERS IN CROWD

Big Town and Fate are back together again.

JOSH

That sucks. We don't stand a chance.

LEAH

Don't worry. They do what they do and we do what we do.

ANNOUNCER

Would all of the contestants please line up?

Kitty leads Destiny into the auditorium and into the bleachers.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Up to 25 couples will dance in round one, 5 couples at a time. We will then cut it down to 5 finalist couples in round two who will each solo. Would couples 1-5 please take the floor?

Ben and Fate are not among the first group to dance.

FATE

They suck. This is going to be even easier than I thought.

BEN

Let's not get too cocky. We could still make a mistake or something.

The dancers finish.

ANNOUNCER

The second group of dancers may take the floor.

Ben and Fate are among this group. They are incredible. They dance as if they are making love on the dance floor.

The judges are captivated by their performance for the majority of the song.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Several people pat them on their backs after they finish.

BEN

You were wonderful. I forgot how much I loved dancing with you.

FATE

Could you get us some water?

Ben walks over to the other side of the auditorium where water has been set up for all of the contestants. He grabs two bottles.

As Ben returns to Fate, he sees her arm in arm with another guy. Fate kisses yet another guy. She leaves that guy and sits on another guy's lap.

BEN

Here's your water. Excuse us guys, Fate and I need to go over our game plan for round two.

FATE

In a minute. I'm talking to my new friends.

BEN

We need to go over what we want to do. I'm not perfect. I could drop you.

FATE

(sarcastic)

Ben, you're starting to whine like you used to. You're bringing back bad memories.

BEN

You asked me to compete with you, Fate. If I'm going to do this, I'm going to do this right, or not at all.

FATE

(jokes)

If you're having that much of a problem with it, maybe you shouldn't do it at all.

BEN

You're absolutely right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ben storms over to the judge's table. He tears off his number.

FATE

What is this fool doing?

BEN

We withdraw from the contest.

Fate runs over to the judge's table with Josh.

FATE

No we don't. He withdraws. I'm dancing with Josh.

JUDGE

You'll have to dance again in round one.

FATE

Fine.

JOSH

We're going to win.

LEAH

I thought we were partners?

JOSH

Not anymore.

Josh tears off his old number. He pins on Ben's number. Leah kicks Josh in the shin. Storms away.

Ben takes a seat in the bleachers.

Kitty and Destiny enter the auditorium.

KITTY

Ben just sat down. Come with me.

Kitty and Destiny sit down next to Ben.

KITTY (CONT'D)

What happened between you and Fate?

BEN

Destiny, you tried to tell me, but I could never see it until now. Sure it's great dancing with her, but not if it means selling my soul when I'm not on the dance

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN (CONT'D)

floor. I'd rather be a better person than a great dancer if it means subjecting myself to Fate.

DESTINY

Sometimes you're the sweetest guy I know, but whenever you're around Fate you become a monster. She doesn't deserve a nice guy like you.

KITTY

She doesn't deserve to win that contest either. There's still one heat left in round one. You two can do all the apologizing you want later. Get down there and win that contest.

Ben and Fate race out of the bleachers down to the judges' table.

ANNOUNCER

And would our last group of dancers for round one please take the floor?

BEN

I'm back with my real partner. Can we have another number?

JUDGE

Here. Hurry.

Ben and Destiny quickly pin the NUMBER 25 on each other.

JOSH

Look who is back.

FATE

They don't stand a chance.

All of the dancers take the floor. Fate and Josh are flashy, but a little sloppy. Ben and Destiny are clean, but not as flashy. The music stops. The dancers leave the dance floor.

ANNOUNCER

Give the judges a few moments before they announce which couples will advance to our final round.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

If we make it to the finals, let's cut the Floor Sweep from our routine. It's too dangerous. Better to play it safe.

DESTINY

No, I want to do it.

BEN

I only want to do it if you want to.

DESTINY

I want to do it.

Josh practices Lindy with Fate.

JOSH

What do you want to do in the finals?

FATE

Just lead it. I doubt there's anything you could lead that I couldn't follow.

JOSH

That's what I like to hear.

The Announcer grabs a microphone.

ANNOUNCER

We have our five finalists. They are couples 4, 23...

JOSH

That's us!

FATE

Of course.

ANNOUNCER

16, 7, and 25.

Destiny screams.

DESTINY

We made it to the finals. I can't believe it.

BEN

We're going all the way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNOUNCER

Would all of our finalist ladies please draw a number from the hat to choose the order in which you dance?

Destiny grabs a number from the hat.

DESTINY

Fourth.

BEN

That's a real good spot. One of the last couples to dance usually wins.

Fate chooses a number.

FATE

Fifth.

JOSH

Yes, we're going to win!

The other three ladies choose numbers.

ANNOUNCER

Couple number 16, please take the floor.

Couple 16 solos. They are good.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Couple 4.

Couple 4 performs.

DESTINY

Wow, they're even better than the last couple.

BEN

We can beat them.

ANNOUNCER

Couple number 7.

FATE

How did these people even make it to the finals?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

What happens to us after the
contest?

FATE

We can keep working together if
you want. It makes no difference
to me.

Couple 7 leaves the floor.

ANNOUNCER

Couple number 25.

DESTINY

I'm nervous. I can't do this.

Ben hands Destiny a PENNY.

BEN

Trust me.

Destiny grabs Ben and plants a long kiss on his lips.

BLEACHERS

Pops holds TWO THUMBS UP.

DANCE FLOOR

Ben and Destiny take the floor. They perform better than
they have ever danced together.

The crowd is extremely receptive.

ANNOUNCER

Couple number 23.

Fate and Josh take the floor. Their routine is not as
organized, but it's full of death defying tricks. As
their music comes to a climax, Josh drops Fate.

The judges shake their heads. Ben runs onto the dance
floor, but Fate gets back up and keeps dancing.

The crowd CHEERS.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

It will be a few moments while the
judges tabulate their scores.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FATE

You idiot. I can't believe you dropped me. No one ever wins if they fall.

JOSH

I can't believe you wouldn't take five minutes to rehearse.

FATE

If I don't even place going against
(points to Destiny)
a Mickey Mouse dancer like that, I promise you no one will ever partner with you again.

Ben steps right in front of Fate's face.

BEN

There's more to partner dancing than tricks Fate. You have to be able to be a partner, which is something you clearly can't do. Destiny is more of a dancer than you'll ever be.

FATE

Well, it's a small world after all.

ANNOUNCER

The judges have made their decision.

FATE

If we're lucky, maybe we'll place.

BEN

Keep your fingers crossed.

BLEACHERS

Pops and Kitty hold up both their hands with FINGERS
CROSSED.

DANCE FLOOR

Fate paces like a caged tiger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNOUNCER

Out of our five remaining couples,
in third place, winning two Swing
Fever Crew Jackets is couple number
4.

Couple number four claims their prize.

ANNOUNCER

In second place, winning \$1000
cash and a private screening of
Swing Fever when the movie is
completed is couple number

Ben screams.

BEN

We got second. We did it.

FATE

(to Destiny)
Yes, in your face.

BLEACHERS

Kitty screams. She kisses Pops.

DANCE FLOOR

Destiny kisses Ben. Ben picks her up in his arms while
still kissing and carries her out to the middle of the
floor to claim their check.

FATE (CONT'D)

You bastard, you made us lose.

Fate storms for the exit.

JOSH

Go on. Who needs you?

ANNOUNCER

And our grand prize winner and
receiving a part Swing dancing in
Swing Fever the movie is...couple
number...23!

JOSH

We won!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Fate runs towards Josh and leaps into an Angel over his head. He gracefully carries her into the center of the dance floor to pose for victory photos.

CUT TO:

INT. SWING SET - NIGHT

Ben dances with Destiny in SLOW MOTION doing basic Lindy combinations.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

Ben and Destiny dance behind Fate and Josh.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ben sits on his futon couch watching the dancing on a television set. Destiny enters. Sits on the couch next to Ben. Puts her arms around Ben.

DESTINY

You're watching that again. You can't even see us. They only show us for two seconds.

BEN

That's why I'm watching it in slow motion.

Ben rewinds the scene. Watches it again.

DESTINY

Stop the tape. I have a surprise.

Ben stops the tape.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Close your eyes.

Ben closes his eyes. Destiny holds two green cards in front of Ben's face.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Now open them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BEN

Our SAG cards. When did you get them?

DESTINY

They came in the mail just now.

BEN

That's what three days union extra work will get you -- in the guild

DESTINY

And what will a three-day weekend with Big Ben get you.

BEN

If you have to ask?

Ben bangs the back of the futon causing it to unfold. Destiny and Ben fall out of the MOVIE FRAME.

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

My Destiny.

DESTINY (O.S.)

Big Ben, I think your clock is chiming.

FADE OUT.

THE END