

ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

by

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FROM THE DARKNESS WE HEAR:

A REVIVALIST BAND AND CHOIR play "This Little Light of Mine."

TITLE: "SOMEWHERE IN RURAL FLORIDA -- 1975."

FADE IN:

INT. MACK'S REVIVAL TENT -- 1975 -- DAY

A modest congregation sings along. Their preacher, ALISTAIR "MACK" MCKAY (50s), holds a BIBLE, sways to the music, stoic.

The band's guitarist is 7 year-old JONNY MCKAY (the preacher's boy), playing a '58 BLONDE TELECASTER that's way too big for him. As the song ends Jonny adds a tasty rock and roll lick--

The crowd loves it -- Mack doesn't. He blocks Jonny and grabs the guitar, ending his son's show-boating. Jonny pokes his head from behind Mack and hams it up, loving the applause.

JONNY

(V.O.)

That was me, about a thousand years ago. Back then I was pretty sure rock and roll could change the world--

EXT. DOWNTOWN SOUTHERN BEND, FLORIDA -- 1995 -- DAY

A quaint little coastal town. Lots of thriving Mom and Pop shops. A FRESHLY PAINTED GAZEBO in the center square. And a picturesque LIGHTHOUSE stands guard at the ocean's edge.

A SIGN reads, "Welcome to Southern Bend -- Home of The Famous Southern Hickory Chad," with a CARTOON HAPPY SMILING FISH.

TITLE: "SOUTHERN BEND, FLORIDA -- 1995"

A sputtering VESPA careens into view, driven recklessly by JONNY "COOL BREEZE" MCKAY -- now 25, long-hair -- an electric guitar case slung over his shoulder. He's in a major hurry.

MRS. TAYLOR crosses the street carrying a tray of homemade pies. Jonny swerves, but it's too late: the pies hit the ground, Mrs. Taylor lands on her butt. Jonny keeps on going--

JONNY

Sorry, Mrs. T!

MRS. TAYLOR

Don't lend a hand. Little piss-ant.

From his nearby MUSIC STORE, MR. WILSON shakes his head.

MR. WILSON

Bad seed, that McKay boy. Don't give a hoot by anyone but hisself.

MRS. TAYLOR

Just help me up, ya moron.

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND -- OPEN FIELD -- DAY

Jonny drops the Vespa and joins FIVE GUYS (all 20s): RICKY (wearing BASEBALL CAP and JERSEY); SCALLOP (huge, wearing OVERALLS and BEARD); DOC (short, with GLASSES); DARBY (tall, built, long blond hair); and RANDY (in a JANITOR'S UNIFORM).

They're painting the walls of a MODIFIED FLATBED HAY TRUCK to read "Go Gators," above a blue and orange ALLIGATOR. COLLETTE (17, super cute) films them with a VIDEO CAMERA.

DOC

You're late.

JONNY

Traffic was a bitch.

DARBY

Wow, that's hilarious. We coulda used your help for once, Your Majesty.

JONNY

Take a pill, Darby.

DARBY

I'll take it and shove it up your--

DOC

(steps between them)

You guys can cage match later on. Fourteen minutes 'til half-time.

Darby and Jonny stare each other down. This isn't over--

EXT. "THE SWAMP" FOOTBALL STADIUM -- SERVICE ENTRANCE -- DAY

We hear a LARGE CROWD inside. The hay truck rolls to a stop. Randy exits the driver's side, uses BOLT CUTTERS on a locked fence, rolls the fence aside, hops back in. The truck enters--

INT. "THE SWAMP" FOOTBALL STADIUM -- THE FIELD -- DAY

The truck parks at an end zone. 90,000 RABID FOOTBALL FANS don't even notice. Randy hops out, grabs two extension cords (on TWO LARGE SPOOLS), plugs them into a P.A. SOUNDBOARD.

A SCOREBOARD ticks down the final seconds of the first half. FOOTBALL PLAYERS exit the field as a MARCHING BAND enters...

FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER OVER PA SYSTEM

And there's the end of the first half -- Gators 24, Wisconsin 10...

INT. THE BOYS' HAY TRUCK -- DAY

Randy hops back in. Jonny and the others are in the back.

RANDY

Got juice, got sound. Let's do this.

JONNY
 (singing, hushed)
*This little light of mine, I'm gonna
 let it shine...*

As the truck starts to roll, the guys put their fists together and sing along. *This is their band's pre-show ritual.*

INT. "THE SWAMP" FOOTBALL STADIUM -- THE FIELD -- DAY

The truck rolls toward the 50-yard line, knocking confused BAND GEEKS out of the way. The truck stops at center field.

INT. FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH -- DAY

An ELDERLY FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER reads from a cue card:

FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER
 Folks, today we have a special musical
 treat for you, all the way from...
 (noticing the truck)
 What the good Christ is that?

EXT. "THE SWAMP" FOOTBALL STADIUM -- THE FIELD -- DAY

And with that, the truck's four walls fall to the sides, revealing the rock band THE SHINE: Jonny (guitar), Darby (vocals), Ricky (drums), Scallop (bass) and Doc (keys/guitar). A RED BANNER unfurls behind them which reads: "THE SHINE."

DARBY
 (into a MICROPHONE)
 Hello, Gainesville! The Shine has
 come here to rock. *Are you ready?!*

They play a catchy upbeat rock song ("**Get Ready Set Go,**" **Track 1** -- Go to MeetTheShine.com for all 12 songs and lyrics), piped through the PA system. The crowd is confused at first, but then gets into it. Marching band members and CHEERLEADERS surround The Shine and rock out to the music--

INT. FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH -- DAY

The old Announcer looks like he's about to have a stroke.

FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER
 Nobody said anything about a rock
 band. Why wasn't I told about the
 goddam rock band?

INT. "THE SWAMP" FOOTBALL STADIUM -- THE FIELD -- DAY

COPS rush the truck, so Randy starts to drive it away! The Shine play on, off-balance, as the cops give chase. The cops finally surround the truck and force it to stop, catching each of The Shine as they jump off the stage trying to flee--

Last man standing is Jonny, who wails on his '58 TELECASTER as the crowd goes nuts. Cops tackle and HANDCUFF him. Jonny just smiles. The crowd loves it. And Jonny loves the crowd--

INT. MACK'S PICK-UP TRUCK -- LATER THAT NIGHT

Mack (now 60s, straw hat) drives, not pleased. Jonny rides shotgun, Collette and The Shine are in back, stifling smiles.

MACK

What do you got to say for yourselves?

JONNY

Well, I think the sound was pretty good given the time restraints--

DOC

And running with a guitar is way harder than it looks--

JONNY

Damn painful to land on, too--

MACK

Y'all see something funny in this situation? 'Cuz I gotta tell ya, the humor's escapin' me.

JONNY

Sorry, Pa, it's just--

MACK

You go have your fun, now I gotta deal with the repercussions--

JONNY

I told you we'd pay the fine.

MACK

Ain't about no goddam fine, boy. It's about you respecting others. When are you gonna learn that you ain't special? You are just one of many in this community. The rules apply to you just like everyone else.

JONNY

I know that, Pa.

MACK

No you do not. No sir you do not.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- DRIVEWAY -- NIGHT

Mack, Jonny and Collette step out of the truck.

MACK

Back 40 seeded by 5:30. Hens and cows by 8. You're on 30-day lockdown. No band, no guitars, no Miss Collette.
(tips his hat)
Miss Collette.

Mack grabs the '58 TELLY from the truck, enters the house.

JONNY

He stays this mad we may just have
to move in together sooner.

COLLETTE

You mean it?

JONNY

I ever lied to you? Don't answer
that. I ever lied to you today?

COLLETTE

Probably.

JONNY

Kiss me quick so I can't lie no more.

They kiss.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- JONNY'S TRAILER -- THE NEXT MORNING

100 yards from the main house. Collette kisses Jonny goodbye,
sneaks off through a cornfield. Jonny laces up work boots--

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- MORNING

Jonny lies under a TRACTOR using a wrench. A RENTAL CAR
pulls up, parks. Exit CARLO TONELLI (30s, Brooklyn bad-ass).

CARLO T

Jonny McKay, I'm guessing?

JONNY

Son, you're either lost or selling
something. State Road 6 is a mile
south, and I ain't got two thin dimes.

CARLO T

Maybe I can change that. I'm Carlo
T. I make hit records in L.A.

JONNY

You're a long way from home, Carlo.

CARLO T

I seen a tape of your half-time show.
You got chops. And you got balls.
Come out West, we'll do something.

JONNY

Can't see us southern boys fittin'
in with that whole Hollywood deal.

CARLO T

I don't do bands. I do rock stars.

JONNY

Sorry you came so far for nothing.
We're a band and we're gonna stay a
band. State Road 6, mile that way.

Carlo pulls out a BUSINESS CARD, sets it on the tractor hood.

CARLO T

Open offer. We'll see. You be good.

Carlo drives off. Jonny wipes his hands, picks up the card--

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- BACK FORTY -- PREACHER'S ROCK -- DAY

Preacher's Rock is 15 feet tall, 20 feet across. A ROPE LADDER leads to the top, where The Shine now sunbathe and drink Buds from a styrofoam cooler. A BOOM BOX plays Skynyrd.

RICKY

Best gig ever, bro. I mean, how are we ever going to top that one?

JONNY

I don't know, maybe we could play a whole song? And not get arrested?

DARBY

Maybe we could actually get paid.

SCALLOP

Maybe we could do this forever.

DOC

Amen. A toast. Together forever.

They all clink their beers together and drink.

JONNY (V.O.)

We had nothing but time. We thought our dreams'd always stay ripe for the pickin', and we'd keep all our promises. But the world has a funny way of forcing you to make choices.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- JONNY'S TRAILER -- THAT NIGHT

Jonny approaches, carrying an acoustic guitar and a beer. Mack is there, waiting for him. Again, not pleased.

MACK

Congratulations, rock star. You just bought yourself another 30 days.

Calmly, Mack takes the guitar, SMASHES it against the trailer. He sets the broken pieces at Jonny's feet, then walks away.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- MAIN HOUSE -- NIGHT -- 30 DAYS LATER

Mack watches The Farm Report on TV. Jonny enters.

JONNY

Hay's all baled. Feed's ready to go. And I topped off Bessy's oil.

MACK

Uh-huh. There something else?

JONNY

It's been 30 days. You said you'd give me back my Telly--

MACK

I said I'd think about it. And guess what, it ain't gonna happen.

JONNY

But it's my guitar--

MACK

Incorrect. That guitar was a gift to my church. It was not entrusted to you for the playing of devil music--

JONNY

Come on, Pa, it's only rock and roll--

MACK

Save it, boy. I sold that guitar two weeks ago. And guess what, you just earned yourself 30 more days.

JONNY

You can't do this--

MACK

One more word, I make it 60.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- NIGHT

Furious, Jonny digs out Carlo T's business card. He hoists a backpack onto his shoulder, then walks down the driveway.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- JONNY'S TRAILER -- THE NEXT DAY

Collette knocks on the door. No answer. She sits down on the front stoop, concerned. The Shine pull up on DIRT BIKES.

DOC

Where's he at?

COLLETTE

I think he's gone.

RICKY

Gone? Like gone gone?

SCALLOP

Can't be. We got us a show tonight.

DARBY

(looking inside trailer)

That boy is as gone as gone gets.

Collette cries. The Shine look crushed. But Darby is angry.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA -- DAY -- PRESENT DAY

We see the Hollywood sign, the Capitol Records building, The Chinese Theater. And the less famous Guitar Depot on Sunset.

TITLE: "HOLLYWOOD, CA. THIS VERY MORNING."

JONNY (V.O.)

Next thing you know half your life's gone by and you barely remember that kid you used to be. You look in the mirror you can't believe it's the same person, and that this is all there is. But guess what? It is.

INT. GUITAR DEPOT -- LOS ANGELES -- PRESENT DAY

A YOUNG KID plays an electric guitar, sampling WAH WAH PEDALS. Jonny (now 40s, wearing Hollywood rock star drab) approaches.

JONNY

Well, boss, what'd we decide?

YOUNG KID

The 750 is killer. But 149 bucks, that's like food for a whole month.

JONNY

Trust me, that 220 there sucks. You'll be back in a week crying for the 750 once the 220 breaks down.

YOUNG KID

I know, dude. But we got a show tonight and I only got like 50 bucks.

Jonny looks over at FRANK THE MANAGER, who's busy helping another customer. Jonny picks up the two wah wah pedals.

JONNY

Come with me.

At a register, Jonny rings up \$49.99, puts the 750 in a bag.

JONNY (CONT'D)

That'll be \$49.99, sir.

YOUNG KID

Dude, that's the 750...

JONNY

If your band sounds like shit, son, it sure ain't gonna be 'cuz of me.

YOUNG KID

Ah, brah, you're awesome!

JONNY

Hand me the money and walk away.

The Kid hands Jonny money, takes the bag. Lingers.

YOUNG KID

I gotta ask. Are you Jonny Phoenix?
I mean you look just like him. Except
no hat. And way older of course.

JONNY

Walk away, or I take it back. Brah.

INT. JONNY'S HOLLYWOOD APARTMENT -- NIGHT

On a COMPUTER, Jonny checks his store on Ebay. We see he's sold a shitload of guitars and "Jonny Phoenix" paraphernalia.

He opens a closet, revealing 20 guitar racks, 19 empty spaces. And POSTERS of "Johnny Phoenix" -- a rock guitarist in a RED LEATHER OUTFIT WITH ORANGE FLAMES AND A MATCHING COWBOY HAT.

He grabs the last guitar, signs it with a grease pen, blows on it. He signs a poster. Upon closer inspection of the poster we see: Jonny IS JONNY PHOENIX! About 15 years younger--

He pops a Jonny Phoenix CD into a BOOM BOX. We hear "I Was Born To Rock and Roll," **Track 2.** He checks a MIRROR, touches lines in his face. Plucks a gray. Swigs a fifth of JACK.

He picks up the guitar, plays fast, tasty solos. He's still good. Really good. He closes his eyes, lost in his music--

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN -- NIGHT -- DREAM SEQUENCE

Onstage, Jonny plays to a packed house. GIRLS throw BRAS and PANTIES. Everyone from Southern Bend is there. Even Mack. Jonny loves it as the crowd chants "Jonny, Jonny!"

Then, above the crowd he hears a BRITISH MALE VOICE saying "Jonny, Jonny." Coupled with an annoying, insistent KNOCKING--

INT. JONNY'S HOLLYWOOD APARTMENT -- BEDROOM -- THE NEXT DAY

Jonny wakes with a start and sees a MAN OUTSIDE, KNOCKING on his window, saying "Jonny, Jonny." This is his manager, BINKY BARRETT (30s, glasses, British -- think John Oliver from The Daily Show). Jonny buries his head in a pillow.

JONNY

Go away, Binky.

BINKY

You know that's not going to happen
so you may as well let me in.

Jonny gets up, opens the front door, falls back to bed. Binky enters carrying TWO CUPS OF COFFEE.

BINKY (CONT'D)

It's 12:47 pm.

JONNY
Excellent. What's for lunch?

BINKY
Don't tell me you've forgotten.

JONNY
Of course not. Forgotten what?

BINKY
White Raven? Hello?

JONNY
What kind of a band name is that?
Makes no sense. Ravens are black.

BINKY
It's ironic, very hip. They tour in
June, but their guitarist just lost
a leg in a bizarre fencing accident.

JONNY
They're kids, Bink. Waste of time.

BINKY
How many years you're saying "Binky,
find me the big gig? I want to play
stadiums, blah blah blah." This is
a big gig. Playing stadiums. Carlo
T has put in a word for you, so it's
more of a formality than an audition.

JONNY
I meant Aerosmith. Def Leppard.
Foo Fighters.

BINKY
And as soon as someone drops dead in
one of those bands I'm on the phone--

JONNY
I don't care how you do it. Just do
it. You're a manager, Binky. Manage.

Jonny's PHONE RINGS. Binky picks it up.

BINKY
Phoenix residence. Sorry, no one
here by the name of "Cool Breeze"--

Jonny takes the phone from Binky.

JONNY
Hello? Yeah. Oh, hey. Yep. Is he
dead? Okay, fine. Thanks, Ray Ray.

Jonny hangs up, opens one of the coffees and sips it.

BINKY
Cool Breeze?

JONNY
Long story. Former life.

BINKY
Everything ok?

JONNY
Right as rain.

BINKY
Who's dead?

JONNY
Nobody. My old man had a stroke.
What kind of music do these White
Raven punks play anyway?

BINKY
Christ, Jonny, we can postpone the
audition. Your family comes first.

JONNY
Trust me, they don't.

EXT. WHITE RAVEN'S HOLLYWOOD HILLS MANSION -- AFTERNOON

Binky and Jonny ride in Binky's MIATA, sputtering to a halt at a gorgeous house adorned by KOI PONDS and a WOODEN JAPANESE BRIDGE. A LARGE BLACK TRUCK sits in a driveway, the word "Marshall" on its side. **It's a massive amplifier on wheels!**

BINKY
Looks like these punks have a fair
bit of disposable income, yeah?

JONNY
Money ain't everything.

BINKY
Right. But it's most things.

INT. WHITE RAVEN'S MANSION -- WAITING ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Binky and Jonny (carrying a guitar) enter. It's packed with AUDITIONING GUITARISTS, all in their 20s. Jonny eyes Binky.

BINKY
Relax. It's a formality.

A MINION WITH A CLIPBOARD enters from another room.

MINION WITH A CLIPBOARD
Pa-ho-ee-nix, Yonny?

INT. WHITE RAVEN'S AUDITION STUDIO -- DAY

HOT WOMEN fawn over the four members of WHITE RAVEN (20s). Each member wears powder-white face MAKE-UP and SHINY BLACK FULL-BODY JUMPSUITS. Euro-weird. ACE, the singer, greets Jonny and Binky as they enter. ZEUS, bassist, eyeballs them.

ACE

(German accent)

Ah yes, ze notorious Jonny Phoenix.

JONNY

In the flesh and ready to rock.

ACE

I am Ace. And zis is Franz whom you would be replacing until we work out ze prosthetic logistics...

The one-legged FRANZ lies on a couch, drugged. He gives a thumbs-up. Zeus approaches, speaks in a heavy Welsh accent.

ZEUS

Come on, you must be joking, mate.

ACE

Zeus, please--

JONNY

What's the joke?

ZEUS

You are. He must be 80, this one.

BINKY

Now, now, let's play nice--

JONNY

I'm barely 40. 42 tops. Mate.

ZEUS

Like I said, 80. I thought we made it clear -- we're looking for someone in their 20s, not from the 20s.

ACE

I am so sorry, Mr. Jonny Phoenix. Zeus is under much pressure. Plus he's Welsh, a cross we all must bear--

ZEUS

A room full of blokes to slog through and you're wasting my time with some geriatric tosser? Tell me, gramps, at what age does it become pathetic?

Jonny approaches Zeus, stands eye to eye with him.

JONNY

Zeus, son, I wouldn't join your diaper-wearin' fag band for a million bucks and daily blowjobs from your toothless Euro-trash mamas. Even if I could get past the Wendy-the-girl-ghost make-up and the polyester one-sies.

BINKY

Okay then, perhaps we can re-schedule--

Binky pulls Jonny away. Jonny lunges an IMAGINARY SWORD at the one-legged Franz, who winces. Ace holds Zeus back.

ZEUS

It's Bavarian leather, mate. Hand-stitched by blind Dominican monks. Somebody make him take that back!

EXT. WHITE RAVEN'S HOLLYWOOD HILLS MANSION -- DAY

Jonny exits. Binky scurries behind, trying to catch up.

BINKY

Whoops, my bad. So Carlo says Grand Funk Railroad's rhythm guy may have pneumonia, so I'll make a few calls...

But Jonny's not listening. He walks down the street, guitar in hand. Binky hops into his Miata, but it won't start.

INT. THE FROLIC ROOM BAR, HOLLYWOOD -- HOURS LATER

Jonny pounds a whiskey. He signals the BARKEEP for another.

FROLIC BARKEEP

None of my business, friend, but how much is gonna be enough?

JONNY

They ain't made enough. And you're right, ain't your business. Friend.

Binky enters, takes a seat next to Jonny.

BINKY

Virgin pina colada. Just a splash of grenadine if you would.

FROLIC BARKEEP

I'll make it. But then I'd have to shove it straight up your ass.

BINKY

Huh. In that case, I'm good.

JONNY

I'm done. I can't do this anymore.

BINKY

Bollocks. You are, hands down, the finest rock and roll guitarist I've--

JONNY

They wouldn't even let me play.

BINKY

White Raven. What kind of band name is that? Clearly Ravens are black--

JONNY

They shoulda let me play. Even if I'm old...older...I deserve a shot.

Binky's CELL PHONE RINGS.

BINKY

Absolutely. We just need to find you the right situation. Where you fit in. We need to find you a home.

(answers phone)

Derek, my man! Talk to me.

Binky holds up a finger, steps outside to take the call. Jonny picks up his guitar and stumbles toward a rear exit.

EXT. WHITE RAVEN'S HOLLYWOOD HILLS MANSION -- NIGHT

Jonny falls out of a taxi, guitar in hand. There are CARS parked all over now. PARTY GUESTS swarm the house. TIKI TORCHES are burning every few feet along the property's edge.

At the Amplifier Truck, Jonny breaks a window with his elbow. He opens a door, causing a TOOL CHEST and a GAS CAN to fall out. He kicks the can, spilling gas all over. He climbs in--

INT. THE FROLIC ROOM BAR -- NIGHT

Binky enters and sees that Jonny is gone.

BINKY

You let him leave?

FROLIC BARKEEP

Begged him to stay. That'll be 86 bucks. Plus a nice tip.

EXT. WHITE RAVEN'S HOLLYWOOD HILLS MANSION -- NIGHT

Jonny plugs his guitar into the massive amplifier, drunkenly struggling to remain upright. He hits a CHORD that literally shakes the neighborhood. Then he starts to play. Wickedly.

The party guests are mesmerized. White Raven are incredulous. Jonny finishes off a blazing riff, then looks up at the band.

JONNY

That's what I got, bitches. What do y'all got -- besides your mansions and your fancy cars and your record deals and your smoking hot women?

Jonny resumes playing, but then he trips over his open guitar case and face-plants into the bushes. He knocks over a tiki torch, which falls onto the driveway, igniting spilled gas.

The blaze spreads to the truck, koi pond, bridge. Party guests scatter, screaming. Through the FLAMES, Jonny sees Zeus, points two fingers at him, then back at his own eyes.

Binky pulls up, drags Jonny into the Miata, squeals away.

EXT. MULHOLLAND DRIVE -- NIGHT

Binky drives fast, checks his rear view. All clear.

JONNY

I wanna see the look on that prick's face again. Please let's go back--

Binky squeals into an overlook and slams on the brakes.

BINKY

Shut up and listen to me for once. I've just been on the phone with Derek Peters -- he manages a little band called Red Hot Chili Peppers.

JONNY

Oh man, I love the Chili Peppers!

BINKY

They're having, shall we say, "issues" with their current guitar player--

JONNY

Sal Pinto--

BINKY

Who's grown alarmingly fond of various narcotic substances as well as females of questionable legal legitimacy--

JONNY

Getting high, banging Tenth Graders.

BINKY

They may need to replace him in the next few months -- before the band starts their European tour in July.

JONNY

Send him my stuff. You gotta send--

BINKY

Jonny, I've sent him everything. He likes your look, and your playing--

JONNY

But. There's always a "but."

BINKY

It's your attitude.

JONNY

Fuck that shit. What about it?

BINKY

It sucks. You don't get along with anyone. You set things on fire.

JONNY

Oh come on, that almost never happens.

BINKY

The Chili Peppers need someone stable. And you haven't stayed in the same band for more than two months--

JONNY

Incorrect. I was with my first band for like seven years.

BINKY

So the first thing we need to do is find you a stable band situation--
(realizing)
Seven years? Really?

JONNY

Forget it. I haven't been in touch with any of them since '95.

BINKY

A reunion tour! I could sell that--

JONNY

It's not gonna happen. Tell Derek he can suck my huge bad attitude. Who else have you been talking to?

BINKY

This is the point. I've talked to everyone. Every single person in the industry. This is your last shot at a national act. Otherwise, it's session work and tribute bands--

JONNY

Holy shit. It's that bad?

BINKY

You have quite literally burned your last bridge in L.A.

JONNY

Wow I really need, I really need to--

Jonny leans out and retches. Binky holds back Jonny's hair.

BINKY

Ah, my little ray of sunshine.

INT. GUITAR DEPOT -- HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA -- DAY

Hungover, Jonny approaches Frank, who's dusting off guitars.

JONNY

I didn't see my name on the schedule.

FRANK THE MANAGER

That's because you're not on it.

JONNY

Yeah I got that. May I ask why not?

FRANK THE MANAGER

May I ask why you're selling 750s at \$49.99 when they retail at \$149.99?

JONNY

Really? Is this really happening?

FRANK THE MANAGER

Already happened. Goodbye, Jonny.

JONNY

Know what else is happening, Frank?

WHAM! Jonny hits Frank with a right cross to the jaw. Frank goes down hard. Jonny grabs a fistful of guitar picks, exits.

INT. JONNY'S HOLLYWOOD APARTMENT -- DAY

Jonny writes on a note pad, figuring out his expenses. ALEX, his asshole roommate, plays a video game on a BIG SCREEN TV.

ALEX THE ROOMMATE

Total bummer, brah. That's why I refuse to work for the man, man.

JONNY

So I'm gonna need just a couple weeks to come up with this month's rent--

ALEX THE ROOMMATE

No can do, bud. Gonna need you to clear out your shit, like pronto.

JONNY

Alex, I'll get you the money--

But Alex is already dialing a phone.

ALEX THE ROOMMATE

Dude, the room just opened up. I know, it's awesome. See you tomorrow.

INT. JONNY'S HOLLYWOOD APARTMENT -- DAY

Jonny packs up his stuff while talking on a cell phone.

JONNY

Of course I punched him. The guy kept telling me what to do.

INTERCUT WITH BINKY, IN HIS MIATA, ALSO ON A CELL PHONE:

BINKY
He's your boss. That's his job.

JONNY
Yeah, well now he eats through a
straw, so we're even.

BINKY
Ironclad logic as always.

Carrying a guitar and a backpack, Jonny carefully closes his
bedroom door. Alex enters the apartment, carrying GROCERIES.

JONNY
Later, fuckface.

ALEX THE ROOMMATE
Hasta, dude.

Jonny exits. Alex opens the door to Jonny's room. An open
can of PAINT falls on Alex, coating him in BLUE. Alex then
sees that ALL OF JONNY'S FURNITURE IS NAILED TO THE CEILING!

EXT. JONNY'S APARTMENT BUILDING -- DAY

Jonny loads his guitar and backpack into the Miata, gets in.
He and Binky continue talking to each other on cell phones--

BINKY
I see it as a sign.

JONNY
You see everything as a sign. I
ain't going back to Florida.

They both hang up their phones.

BINKY
You lost your job, your place to
stay. You need the comforts of home.
The comradery of old friends. Did
your Dah leave a will by any chance?

JONNY
Stroke, Bink. Not dead.

BINKY
Oh, right.

JONNY
You think I've burned bridges here?
This ain't shit compared to what I
did to my people in Southern Bend.

BINKY
Your people. I like that.

JONNY
Binky, stop--

BINKY

Look, LAPD is after you. Carlo is after you. The only people not after you are those in the music industry. You are officially out of options.

JONNY

Well, figure something out. 'Cuz there is absolutely no way I'm going back home. Never. Not happening.

A BLACK MERCEDES pulls up. Two THUGS exit, BASH OPEN the apartment door, enter. Blue-covered Alex FLIES through a bay window, lands on the lawn. His big TV follows. The Thugs exit. Jonny slumps down until the Mercedes takes off--

EXT. LOS ANGELES GREYHOUND BUS STATION -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Jonny (in SHADES and BALL CAP) sits in a bus marked "Miami." From outside, Binky signals "Call me" as the bus pulls away--

INT. GREYHOUND BUS -- RURAL FLORIDA -- DAY

Jonny looks out at familiar signs of the South: LONG ROWS OF MAILBOXES; SIGNS SELLING "BOILED PEANUTS;" FARMERS ON TRACTORS WAVING HELLO. MUSIC is Motley Crue's "Home Sweet Home."

EXT. DOWNTOWN SOUTHERN BEND, FLORIDA -- DAY

Jonny exits the bus and can't believe his eyes. The town is now a mess. Shops boarded up. Houses with FORECLOSURE SIGNS. The gazebo's paint is faded. The lighthouse is rusted out.

There are DOZENS OF POSTERS attached to phone poles, shop walls, etc. Jonny reads one: it says "SAVE BEND -- Volunteer for The Annual Southern Hickory Chad Festival, June 18th."

Jonny sees Mrs. Taylor (now 18 years older) crossing the street, carrying only a single APPLE PIE.

JONNY

Mrs. T?

MRS. TAYLOR

Cool Breeze McKay, as I speak and breathe. Sorry 'bout your Pa.

JONNY

Thank you, ma'am. What happened?

MRS. TAYLOR

You'll be hearin' about it sooner or later. My best to you and yours.

She exits past THE WELCOME SIGN. Someone has SPRAY-PAINTED "X"s on the fish's eyes. It reads "Home of...Almost Nobody!"

INT. SOUTHERN BEND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL -- ICU -- DAY

Jonny enters. Mack (now 70s) is in a bed, unconscious. IV drip, heart monitor, oxygen mask. A NURSE monitors an EKG.

JONNY

I'm back, Pa.

ICU NURSE

He can't hear ya, doll, but I'm sure he'd appreciate you dropping by.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- DRIVEWAY -- DAY

The farm has also seen hard times. Peeling paint. Broken fences. A rusted-out tractor is surrounded by WEEDS. In the back 40, Preacher's Rock is almost hidden by TALL GRASS.

Jonny walks to his old TRAILER. He touches the DENT made by Mack smashing his guitar. He opens the door, preparing for a face full of 18 year-old air. But it doesn't come. Inside it looks great. Floors swept, fresh sheets. Move-in ready.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Heard you might be droppin' by.

Jonny turns to see Collette -- mid-30s -- even cuter now. She holds TOWELS, SOAP. She can't hide her nervousness.

JONNY

Collette Simpson, Hickory Chad Queen 1993. Not sure my heart's pounding 'cuz you snuck up on me like that or 'cuz you are so incredibly stunning.

COLLETTE

18 years, first thing out of your mouth is just another lie.

JONNY

So, you were just in the neighborhood?

COLLETTE

Mack's been renting me the upstairs in the big house. Times are tough.

JONNY

I hear that. Look, Collette, I...

COLLETTE

Not now, ok? Maybe later, after we get good and drunk, maybe never at all. But definitely not now.

JONNY

No idea what I was gonna say anyhow--

We hear a BOY SCREAMING, then the sound of DIRT BIKES. PJ SIMPSON (about 16) runs past them toward the barn, chased by THREE BOYS ON DIRT BIKES. These are The Russett Brothers.

COLLETTE

That's PJ. My boy. Looks like they finally figured out where he lives.

Collette pulls out a cell phone, dials.

JONNY

Your boy? You have a boy?

COLLETTE

Not for much longer if I don't get Sheriff Alice out here.

(into phone)

Alice, them Russett boys followed PJ home this time. Yes ma'am, as we speak. Thank you.

AT THE BARN: PJ tries to open the barn door, but it's locked. The Russetts (Big, Medium and Small) park their dirt bikes.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)

I better go grab my gun--

JONNY

Don't need no gun. Back in a sec.

The Russetts approach PJ, surrounding him. Jonny approaches.

JONNY (CONT'D)

Help you boys out with something?

BIG RUSSETT

Ain't your fight, Mister.

JONNY

Don't look like much of a fight, it bein' three on one and all. How about I just team up with my pal PJ here and we'll call it even?

BIG RUSSETT

I told you this ain't got nothin' to do with you.

JONNY

And I'm telling you you're wrong.

Big Russett sizes up the situation. He nods to his brothers, and they all get back onto their dirt bikes.

BIG RUSSETT

Monday morning, Simpson. Bring what you owe. You can't hide forever.

JONNY

We'll see you then. Take care now.

The Russetts ride away.

PJ
That was so cool. Who are you?

JONNY
I'm Jonny. Some folks call me Breeze.

PJ
Oh my God. Jonny "Cool Breeze" McKay?
Aka Jonny Phoenix, the one-hit wonder
who released "I Was Born To Rock and
Roll" in 1998? The bad boy rock
star who's been in and out of 29
bands in 18 years? That Jonny McKay?

JONNY
You a music reporter or something?

PJ
Mom mentioned you once or twice.

JONNY
Did she now. Hope you'll give me a
chance to set the record straight.

They start walking back toward Collette and the main house.

JONNY (CONT'D)
You realize the term "one hit wonder"
is not a compliment, don't you?

PJ
Did you really pee on Ozzy's Mercedes?

JONNY
No, God no. It was a Porsche. And
the bastard stole my parking spot--

INT. MACK'S FARM -- MAIN HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Collette stands at the door with SHERIFF ALICE (40s), who is clearly checking out Jonny as he inspects his old home. PJ pokes on a laptop, listening to rock music on HEADPHONES.

SHERIFF ALICE
Ok then, glad y'all got it resolved--
(whispers to Collette)
Oh my God, girl, he is so hot--

COLLETTE
Ok Alice, thanks tons. See you soon.

Collette struggles with Alice to close the door. She sits and stuffs ENVELOPES. Jonny finds a CHANNEL 9 AWARD with a PHOTO of Collette in a HELICOPTER, a MICROPHONE in her hand.

JONNY
So you're famous now. Excuse me.

COLLETTE

They give that to anyone fool enough
to ride a traffic chopper every day.

PJ

The guys in school say she's hot.
Breeze, you think my Mom is hot?

COLLETTE

Young man, I thought you said you
had an English essay due tomorrow?

PJ

(back to his laptop)
Whatever. Just gauging the situation.

JONNY

Seems like a great kid.

COLLETTE

When he ain't spending 20 hours a
day with his nose in that laptop.

JONNY

So he must be pretty smart--

COLLETTE

As a whip. I just wish he'd get out
more, experience life. Meet people.

JONNY

Like the dirt bike triplets out there?

COLLETTE

Thank you again for that.

JONNY

By the way, how old is PJ?

COLLETTE

Relax, stud, he's 16. You left 18
years ago. So unless your little
swimmers camped out for a year or
so, I'd say you're off the hook.

JONNY

Good. Good for everyone concerned.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- NIGHT

Jonny removes a TARP and reveals: an old DRUM SET, AMPLIFIERS,
a RED BANNER that reads, "The Shine." And his old VESPA...

EXT. DOWNTOWN S. BEND -- RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- NIGHT

Jonny rides the Vespa, parks it in a crowded parking lot.

INT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- NIGHT

A huge one-room club. A SOUTHERN ROCK BAND plays onstage to a decent-sized crowd. Jonny enters. Randy (40s) tends bar.

RANDY
Hey, hey -- the prodigal son returns.

JONNY
Randolph Simpson. How are ya, son?

RANDY
Making the most of what I got.

Randy and Jonny share an elaborate handshake.

JONNY
Your place looks awesome--

RANDY
Ain't exactly mine no more. Bank was gonna foreclose, so Darby stepped in and bought it. Gave me a job and a roof over my head, so I'm grateful.

JONNY
Darby? Our Darby? First time I ever heard of Darby Stanton doing anything that wasn't 100% selfish.

RANDY
He made the same deal with lots of folks. He's been doing real good.

JONNY
Where is that little prick anyway?

Randy nods to the band as they finish a song. **Darby is the singer!** Now 40s, long blonde hair, suit, he looks half David Lee Roth, half southern businessman. The crowd APPLAUDS.

JONNY (CONT'D)
Well I'll be dipped in shit--

DARBY
Thanks, y'all. Woo-hoo, is it hot in here or is it me?
(noticing Jonny)
Is that--? Folks, we got us a genuine minor celebrity here at the Roadhouse. How about a big hand for Cool Breeze McKay -- you old-timers might know him better as Jonny Phoenix!

The crowd hoots and hollers. Jonny doffs an invisible hat.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Some of y'all may remember Jonny and I had a band together few years back. Now, I hate to say it, but I think my boy Grover here's a might better picker than Mr. Phoenix ever was.

The crowd reacts to the taunt. GROVER (20s), one of the band's two guitar players, CATCALLS WITH HIS GUITAR.

JONNY

(to Randy)

Yup. Still a prick.

DARBY

In fact, I got me 5 crisp 100-dollar bills right here to back that up.

(pulls out money)

Welcome home, son. You feeling lucky?

The crowd chants, "Jonny, Jonny!"

RANDY

Hey, look, man, you don't need to--

JONNY

Nah, I got this.

Jonny walks onstage to APPLAUSE. He takes a guitar from Darby's second guitarist, straps it on, shakes Darby's hand.

JONNY (CONT'D)

Darby Stanton talking trash. Seems a lot like old times.

DARBY

Good to see you, brother. Still got them brass balls, I see.

(into the microphone)

Ok, folks, we got us a regular six-string shootout. 15 seconds of freestyle, applause picks your winner. Grover, why don't you get us started.

Grover steps up and proceeds to put on a guitar-picking clinic. Like Brad Paisley on speed, only with tastier licks. He finishes his 15 seconds and the crowd ROARS its applause.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Told y'all he's pretty good. Ok, Jonny, let's see what you got left in them decrepit old fingers of yours.

Jonny steps up, ponders, then whispers into Darby's ear.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Now how's that?

Jonny whispers again to Darby, then takes off his belt and pulls out a BANDANNA. He ties the bandanna over his eyes--

DARBY (CONT'D)

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Jonny Phoenix has requested that we double the bet, and that he be blindfolded with one arm tied behind his back!

The crowd cheers. Jonny puts his right arm behind his back and Grover uses the belt to lash it to a microphone stand.

DARBY (CONT'D)

I have never known this man to back down from a challenge and tonight is no exception. You ready, son?

JONNY

Let's rock and roll.

DARBY

Ladies and Gentlemen, 15 seconds with the former Jonny Phoenix!

The crowd cheers. Jonny waits for silence. He steps on an EFFECTS PEDAL. He sweeps his left hand and fingers over the strings and starts to fill the bar with an orchestra of sound--

Arpeggios, pull offs, hammer-ons -- he makes it sound like three guitars playing all at once. It's a little bit country, a little bit rock and roll, a little bit Mozart and a little bit magic. It's more than 15 seconds, but nobody cares.

When he finishes, Jonny whips off the bandanna, takes a bow. The crowd ERUPTS in a STANDING OVATION. Even Grover cheers.

Darby whips out his cash. The crowd counts along as he stacks bills into Jonny's hand -- six, seven, eight, nine, ten!

JONNY

Former Jonny Phoenix, my ass.

DARBY

Nice job, son. Buy you a drink after?

JONNY

Try and stop me.

DARBY

Ladies and gentlemen, give it up one more time for Mr. Jonny Phoenix!

Jonny exits the stage as Darby's band starts up another song. Jonny returns to the bar. Randy hands him a beer.

RANDY

Pretty impressive stuff.

JONNY

Hell I can do anything for 15 seconds.

RANDY
 Guessing you didn't have no thousand
 dollars in that pocket of yours.

Jonny looks Randy in the eye, then takes a swig of his beer.

JONNY
 Well, I do now.

They both laugh and clink their beers together.

JONNY (CONT'D)
 In all the excitement I plum forgot.
 Ray Ray's office in here somewhere?

INT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- RAY RAY'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Jonny sits across a desk from RAY RAY SMITH (60s), country
 lawyer. MUTED BAR MUSIC THUMPS. Jonny reads a DOCUMENT.

JONNY
 And "power of attorney" means what?

RAY RAY
 Means you can buy and sell property,
 enter into contracts -- all on behalf
 of your Daddy and his estate.

JONNY
 And why would I ever want to do that?

RAY RAY
 I'm gonna be honest with you, Breeze--

JONNY
 Can you do that? As a lawyer I mean?

RAY RAY
 The farm's in the shitter, and Mack
 ain't much better. Pretty soon some
 choices are gonna need to get made.

JONNY
 And I'm the one making these choices--

RAY RAY
 Soon as you sign -- yes, sir.

JONNY
 Hate to sound ghoulish, Ray Ray, but
 is there any money in all this?

RAY RAY
 Farm's got equity. But Mack's way
 behind in his payments to the bank.

JONNY
 Let's say I needed money, for a
 personal investment of some kind--

RAY RAY

Trustee can do what he wants, long
as it's in the estate's best interest.

JONNY

So I could sell the farm and finance
me a new band, or maybe plunk it all
down on an albino alpaca colony--

RAY RAY

As your attorney, I'd support any
decision that makes financial sense.

JONNY

That was a joke, Ray Ray.

RAY RAY

And it's a damned serious decision
you're about to make here, Breeze.

Jonny thinks about it, then signs the document.

JONNY

Ok then. Let's rock and roll.

INT. BINKY'S LOS ANGELES OFFICE -- DAY

Binky enters, whistling. He stops whistling when he sees
that his office has been TRASHED. Carlo T (now 50s) sits on
a sofa, as his THUGS (BAROLO and CHIMPY) ransack the place.

CARLO T

Yo, Binky. How ya been?

INT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- DARBY'S OFFICE -- DAY

Jonny looks inside and sees Darby and MAYOR RICHARD STUBEN
(40s) -- they're admiring a MODEL OF A MODERN CITY on a coast.

JONNY

Dickie? Thought that was you.

Jonny enters. Darby casually covers the model with a sheet--

MAYOR STUBEN

Jonny Mack, I heard you was about.

DARBY

Pretty sure the new Mayor of Southern
Bend don't like being called "Dickie."

JONNY

Mayor. My my. Seems like only
yesterday we was lying in wait by
Ellis Creek snagging them poor Hickory
Chad coming home for the summer.

MAYOR STUBEN

Lying in wait. Great training for
politics. Real sorry about your pa.

JONNY

Yeah, well. May I?

Jonny lifts the sheet, whistles at the model: MARINA CONDOS, SHOPPING MALL, RIVER PROMENADE. STARBUCKS. AMUSEMENT PARKS. *

DARBY

My new pet project up north. Dickie's got a few pals up there might help out with some much-needed financing.

JONNY

I am clearly among giants of the community. Just wanted to hit you up for that drink Darb, it can wait--

MAYOR STUBEN

I was on my way out. Anything I can do, Breeze, you just let me know.

They shake hands. Mayor Stuben exits. Darby pours drinks.

DARBY

Got it all clear with Ray Ray?

JONNY

Oh just about, I guess.

DARBY

If you need any help figurin' out the fine print, I'm at your disposal.

JONNY

Sure is nice of you, Darb. But the truth is, I'm pretty confused.

DARBY

About?

JONNY

Why you're laying out the red carpet when you'd sooner spit in my eye.

DARBY

Now why on earth would you think--

JONNY

Cut the shit. What are you after?

Darby sits, motions for Jonny to sit. Jonny stands.

DARBY

Southern Bend is in trouble.

JONNY

I got eyes.

DARBY

We lost water access few years back.
Town's about to die. But I found a
way to save it. Most of it, at least.

JONNY

This is the part where you mention
omelets and cracking a few eggs--

DARBY

Tough times do call for tough choices.

Jonny pulls the sheet off the model, exposing it.

JONNY

And this here model ain't about up
north. It's about right here.

DARBY

The excesses of Hollywood have not
dulled your keen sense of observation.

JONNY

And I fit in how?

DARBY

Best place for a new water pipeline
is the western border of Mack's farm--

JONNY

Ah. So you want me to take my
newfound power of attorney out for a
spin and sell you my Dad's property.

DARBY

Offering top dollar. More than it's
worth. Pretty sure there'd be a
finder's fee for you, say 100 grand?

JONNY

All you had to do was ask.

DARBY

Great. My broker will be in touch.

JONNY

Sounds good. But I ain't selling.

DARBY

May I ask why not?

JONNY

You may. 'Cuz it ain't mine to sell.

DARBY

So once again you're gonna let the
old man dictate your choices in life--

JONNY

Whoa. What the--how's that?

DARBY

You know what your problem is, Breeze?

JONNY

Gosh Darby, there are so many--

DARBY

You lack vision. You're like a bull plowing ahead with sheer brute force.

JONNY

That problem. Yeah, I know that one--

DARBY

If your comatose Daddy don't come up with what he owes for the past three mortgage payments, roughly \$19,650.75--

JONNY

But who's counting--

DARBY

The bank's counting, then it's gonna foreclose. But if you sell now you'd get a nice chunk of change. Together we can save this town. I'd hate to see you make the same mistake again.

JONNY

Again, there being so many--

Darby points to a FRAMED PHOTO on a wall. It's a STILL SHOT of Darby and The Shine at the 1995 Swamp gig on the hay truck--

DARBY

The band, Breeze. We had something great, but no, you had to bullhead your way on your own. And you fucked it up. A lot of folks around here think you failed 'cuz I wasn't singing--

JONNY

Please, not this conversation again--

DARBY

Yeah, I'm sick of talking too. Maybe now's the time to put up or shut up.

JONNY

We about to whip out our dicks, son?

DARBY

Better. Showdown at the Hoedown is next month. Your band versus mine.

JONNY

I ain't got a band.

DARBY

So get one. You got four weeks.

JONNY

For a \$5000 prize and bragging rights
in a town I'm about to put back in
my rear view? I'll pass.

DARBY

Winner also gets to play Bubbapalooza
in June. That's national exposure,
which sadly you ain't had for a while.
I'll throw in 20 grand, enough for
what Mack owes. Hell, you can even
pick the song my band's gotta play.

JONNY

I look like I got 20 grand?

DARBY

I don't want your money. If I win
you sell me Mack's farm at 10% above
market. Plus 100 grand for you.

JONNY

And if I win?

DARBY

You get the cash, the gig, the glory.
And we never have this conversation
again.

INT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- BAR -- DAY

Jonny dials a phone. It rings, no answer. INTERCUT WITH...

INT. BINKY'S LOS ANGELES OFFICE -- DAY

Binky's STEREO plays LOUD MUSIC. Chimp holds Binky down in
a chair while Barolo grabs a finger on Binky's right hand.
Carlo asks Binky a question, but he can't hear over the music.

BINKY

Come again? Sorry? I can't--

Carlo nods to Barolo, who breaks Binky's finger. Binky
screams. PAN TO: Binky's cell phone. It HUMS, then stops.

JONNY

Bink, call me. Maybe I got an idea--

EXT. DOWNTOWN SOUTHERN BEND -- DOC'S MEDICAL CLINIC -- DAY

Jonny passes a SIGN reading, "Dr. Patrick Halladay, OB/GYN."

INT. DOC'S MEDICAL CLINIC -- DOC'S OFFICE -- DAY

Jonny enters. On a phone is DOC (40s, almost bald, GLASSES,
DOCTOR'S COAT over jeans). Doc holds up one finger to Jonny.

DOC

Take her out of the boot box, Mrs. Alby. She's a baby, she needs food, water and sunlight. Yes, just like a house plant. Ok. You too now.

JONNY

You actually went through with it.

DOC

So did you.

They shake hands, then hug like brothers. Doc's phone RINGS.

DOC'S NURSE ON SPEAKER PHONE

Your wife's attorney again, line 1. Confirming your mediation next month?

DOC

Tell him I died, Janine. Sniper bullet. Police are investigating.

DOC'S NURSE ON SPEAKER PHONE

Oh my God, are you okay?

DOC

Janine, just tell him I'm out.

(to Jonny)

I hope to God you still drink beer--

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- BACK FORTY -- PREACHER'S ROCK -- DAY

DOC'S BMW MINIVAN is parked next to the rock. Jonny and Doc sit in lawn chairs atop the rock, sipping Buds from a COOLER.

JONNY

I never got a chance to apologize. For taking off like I did.

DOC

You did what you had to. We were all holding you back anyway--

JONNY

Doc--

DOC

No way I was about to leave Marian, Scallop's family wasn't gonna let him ditch the shrimp farm, and Ricky, he's just Ricky. I'm glad you left.

JONNY

You always say the sweetest things.

DOC

If I had chased that dream I wouldn't have gone to med school, I wouldn't be helping people like I am today. I got three full-time clinics, opening two more over in G-ville next year.

JONNY

That's...I'm really happy for you.

DOC

So how about you?

JONNY

No clinics yet. But I got my eye on some nice space down in Ocala--

DOC

You're doing stuff. I still remember the first time I heard you on the radio. I was like, I know that guy!

JONNY

That was 1998.

DOC

Still. Very cool. Sometimes I wish I had the balls to do what you did.

JONNY

Like they say, it's never too late.

DOC

Ha. Yeah. Never too late for what?

Jonny sits up, looks Doc right in the eye.

JONNY

How would you like to get the band back together? Kick the tires. See what's left in the old gas tank.

DOC

Yeah, that's a good one.

JONNY

I'm serious. Don't you think it'd be fun? Older and wiser and all--

DOC

Breeze, I'm a Dad, I got 45 employees, I see 100 patients a week. I don't have time to take a decent shit let alone play rock star at age 43--

JONNY

And all of it's slowly killing you--

DOC

Killing me? Spare me the melodrama--

JONNY

I can see it, Doc. When's the last time you did something for yourself?

DOC

Come to think of it, I did take a shit on Tuesday that was kinda special--

JONNY

Life is fleeting. One day you wake up, you got no choices left. When's the last time you took a chance?

DOC

You think my clinics are risk-free?

JONNY

Not risk like you might make only 300 grand a year, not 500. I mean really put your skin in the game--

DOC

You're an asshole, you know that?

JONNY

I have heard that, yes.

DOC

You come back after all this time, you judge me and the choices I've made? You're living in Fantasyland, brother. Now if you'll excuse me, I've got a reality to get back to--

Doc scrambles down the ladder, then falls flat on his back.

DOC (CONT'D)

I'm fine. I'm good. Ow.

INT. THE OLD HICKORY CHAD INN -- HOTEL LOUNGE -- NIGHT

Jonny winces as a Lionel Ritchie tune is mangled by a CHEESY BAND. GOLD TUXEDOS, DRUM MACHINE. On bass is Scallop (40s). The set ends to mercy applause. Jonny approaches Scallop.

JONNY

Wow. That sure was something.

SCALLOP

Breeze, there you are. Give me a hand with this stuff, would ya?

EXT. THE OLD HICKORY CHAD INN -- PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Scallop and Jonny load an AMP and BASS GUITAR into MACK'S NOW RUSTED PICK-UP. JERRY (the band leader) exits the hotel.

JERRY THE BAND LEADER

Scallop! We got two more sets--

SCALLOP

Oh yeah, Jerry, I quit. Something came up. Have a good night!

Jonny and Scallop hop into the pick up.

JONNY

So who told you I was coming?

SCALLOP

Nobody told me you was coming.

JONNY

So you just quit your band without even knowing why I'm here?

SCALLOP

I'm guessing it's to get The Shine back together. I mean, I'd look like an idiot if you were just dropping by to say hello.

JONNY

Good old Scallop. So, where's Ricky?

SCALLOP

Oh. You ain't heard?

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND PSYCHIATRIC CARE CENTER -- DAY

A Southern plantation converted into a mental ward. PATIENTS meander around the grounds. Jonny pulls up in the pick-up.

INT. S. BEND PSYCHIATRIC CARE CENTER -- DAY ROOM -- DAY

Jonny enters to find Ricky curled up in a wheelchair, wearing a MARLINS' JERSEY and CAP, watching BASEBALL on TV. An OLD NURSE wipes drool from his mouth. He grins maniacally.

OLD PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

He's doing good today. Went pee-pee all by himself, didn't he? Ok baby, you just buzz if you need anything.

Ricky grins again. The Nurse exits. Jonny sits down, hard.

JONNY

Oh, man. What happened to you?

Ricky just drools and smiles as The Marlins score a run.

JONNY (CONT'D)

Sorry, Rick, but I just can't handle this right now. I'll come back later--

RICKY

Oil can.

JONNY

What's that?

RICKY

Oil can.

JONNY

Oil can? What does that mean?

Ricky jumps up, bear hugs Jonny, no trace of a mental problem--

RICKY

It means what the fuck's up, bro?!
How you been, my niggah?

JONNY

What the-- you're faking all this?

RICKY

Three squares a day, bro. And you
should see this beautiful chick who
wipes my ass on Wednesdays--

JONNY

That's disgusting on so many levels.

RICKY

Wheel me out, bro. Dying for a smoke.

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND PSYCHIATRIC CARE CENTER -- DAY

Jonny wheels Ricky behind a wall. Ricky lights up a smoke.

RICKY

Let me guess: Doc said no way, Scallop
said he'd drop everything, but the
evil wife Eva told you to drop dead.

JONNY

Haven't seen Eva yet. I ain't too
shocked, I pissed off a lot of people.

RICKY

Nah. Darby's the only one who holds
a grudge. Life moves on, ya know?

JONNY

Ricky, please. You call this a life?

RICKY

Listen bro, I play drums and I play
third base. And people ain't banging
down my door asking for neither.
Maybe this life ain't a home run,
but it's a solid single up the middle.

JONNY

Take my share of the prize money.

RICKY

Then what? This place'd fill my bed
before I even dust off my snare drum.

JONNY

There's room for you in Mack's house--

RICKY

Bro, what are you doing? Why all of a sudden you got such a hard-on to get the band back together?

JONNY

Darby's trying to take Mack's farm.

RICKY

Yeah, so?

JONNY

If I do nothing the bank'll foreclose.

RICKY

Yeah, so?

JONNY

I grew up on that farm. Who knows, I might want to move back one day.

Ricky looks into Jonny's eyes, then flicks away his smoke.

RICKY

Gave you a chance, bro, and you lie to my face. Wheel me back inside. Tuesday is fish sticks and it ain't cool following a bunch of drooling retards at the tartar sauce bowl--

INT. BINKY'S LOS ANGELES OFFICE -- DAY

Binky now hangs UPSIDE DOWN, legs tied to the rafters, hands tied behind his back. Barolo spins Binky like a tether ball.

CARLO T

Tell me now, tell me later. But you're gonna tell me where he is.

BINKY

The spinning. Is it really necessary?

CARLO T

Them White Raven fucks canceled my contract. I do nothing but good for this kid, this is how he repays me?

BINKY

Look, Carlo, the fire was an accident.

CARLO T

You ever seen a dozen koi fishes boiled to death in their own juices?

BINKY

I'm sure it was very traumatic--

CARLO T

Any idea what it costs to replace an amplifier the size of a condominium?

Binky's PHONE RINGS. Carlo nods. Barolo picks up the phone, holds it up to Binky's head.

BINKY

Hello? JP, how are ya? Just hanging around. Brilliant idea. Of course I can help. Ring you back two shakes.

Barolo checks the phone: "352 555-3426 -- Randy's Roadhouse."

BAROLO

352. Central Florida.

BINKY

Now how the hell would you know that?

BAROLO

Some kids get bikes for Christmas? I got the phone book. Every year.

CARLO T

What's Phoenix doing in Florida?

CHIMPY

Phoenix is in Nevada, boss.

CARLO T

Shut up Chimp, grown-ups are talking.

BINKY

Funny story really. Hope I can tell it before my head bursts like a grape.

Carlo nods to Barolo, who cuts the rope. Binky falls to the floor, lands on his head, drawing blood. Hands still tied.

BINKY (CONT'D)

Oh, very mature. Very mature indeed--

Suddenly Binky's eyes roll back and his entire body shudders as if he's being electrocuted. He drools and thrashes about--

BAROLO

Holy shit. What's he doing?

CARLO T

Looks like a goddam conniption fit. Binky, stop it. Binky, talk to me.

Carlo T slaps him, but Binky just keeps sizzling like bacon--

CARLO T (CONT'D)

Ok, shoot him, let's get outta here.

Binky's eyes open wide. Barolo and Chimp look at each other.

BAROLO

Ain't never shot a guy having a
conniption, boss.

CARLO T

So now you can put it on your resume.
Just do it, let's go eat something.

Barolo pulls a gun, aims at Binky. Suddenly, Binky sweeps his legs into Barolo, knocking him to the floor. Binky jumps up, runs, dives and CRASHES through a bay window. Carlo and his thugs look through the broken window as Binky runs away.

CHIMPY

He should really see a doctor. What?

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- ELLIS CREEK -- DUSK

Jonny baits a hook, casts a FISHING LINE into a nearly dried up creek. No fish, but it's nice and peaceful. He doesn't notice Collette, hanging laundry, watching him. She smiles.

INT. THE ROADHOUSE SALOON -- MAIN BAR -- NIGHT

Doc, Ricky and Scallop drink beers. Doc checks his watch.

DOC

Five more minutes I'm giving this
mystery man. Then I'm outta here--

Binky enters (head BANDAGED, FINGER CASTS on his right hand). He plops down a BOTTLE OF JACK DANIEL'S on the table.

BINKY

Gentlemen, I'm Binky Barrett, and I
must say it's an honor to be among
such a talented group of musicians.

DOC

If you're gonna try and talk us into
Breeze's crazy idea about getting
the band back together, forget it.

BINKY

Wouldn't dream of it. But at least
we can have a drink and toast to the
value of true friendship, can't we?
I mean, how could that hurt anyone?

INT. MACK'S FARM -- JONNY'S TRAILER -- THE NEXT MORNING

Jonny wakes to the sound of distant DRUMS, BASS, PIANO, all warming up. He gets out of bed, drags on a pair of jeans--

INT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- MORNING

Jonny enters to see Ricky at a DRUM SET, Scallop with a BASS plugged into an amplifier, and DOC at KEYBOARDS. An ELECTRIC GUITAR rests in a guitar stand, plugged into a Marshall stack.

The BANNER hangs on a wall, reading "The Shine." PJ hooks up wires, tests MICROPHONES. Collette films it all with a VIDEO CAMERA. Binky sips coffee with his non-bandaged hand.

DOC

You're late.

JONNY

What's going on here, guys?

RICKY

Four weeks to the Showdown. That guitar ain't gonna play itself, bro.

DOC

Let's take that asshole down once and for all. What do you say?

JONNY

Give me a sec, would y'all?
(pulls Binky aside)
What did you do?

BINKY

Oh hi, Binky, nice to see you. Good flight? I see you had a little problem with your fingers--

JONNY

Binky, what did you do?

BINKY

I might have told them that you have an incurable fatal disease and that your dying wish is to reconnect with your old band and save your Dah's farm by winning the Showdown thingie.

JONNY

Christ, Binky--

BINKY

Like I said, I might have. There was alcohol involved and I'm on pain pills, so I might have said anything--

Jonny grabs Binky by the collar and pushes him into a corner.

JONNY

So now my friends think I'm dying--

BINKY

We're all dying, man. I just fudged with the time line. Look, you said get it done, I'm getting it done.

RICKY

Come on bro let's do it. Daddy Said.

Rick starts a beat. Scallop plays a bass line.

Doc adds bluesy piano chords. It's an old song of theirs called "My Daddy Said to Work With My Hands" (Track 3).

JONNY

Soon as I get the Chili Peppers gig,
you're telling these guys the truth.

BINKY

I serve at your pleasure.

Jonny releases Binky. PJ hands Jonny the guitar.

PJ

Let's see what the hype is all about.

Jonny takes the guitar and joins in. He sings the vocals:

JONNY

*Daddy broke his back in the midday
sun, just to keep us alive--*

The Shine sound pretty good. Just like old times...

INT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- DARBY'S OFFICE -- DAY

Jonny enters, drops a CD onto Darby's desk.

JONNY

Your song for Showdown. Good luck.

Jonny exits. Darby pops the CD into a computer. It's the theme to "Sesame Street," the kid's program. Darby smiles.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- BACK FORTY -- PREACHER'S ROCK -- DAY

Jonny surveys the view. The Swamp football stadium is in the distance. Binky struggles up the ladder and joins him.

JONNY

This is where it all started.

BINKY

Uh huh. If we want to pull this off
we're gonna need a real lead singer.

JONNY

The stadium we high-jacked in '93.

BINKY

Great. Find us a singer.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- PJ'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Wall-to-wall CLASSIC ROCK POSTERS: Zeppelin, Aerosmith, Rush. PJ sits at a computer, listening to music on HEADPHONES. Jonny enters, looks at the computer and sees that PJ is on:

FACEBOOK: ROCK HAMMER's profile. 23,000+ friends! A pic shows ROCK (long hair, bandanna, sunglasses). It's a photo-shopped pic of PJ! ROCK HAMMER is PJ's virtual alter ego!

Jonny clears his throat. PJ quickly changes the screen.

PJ
You shouldn't sneak up on people.

JONNY
I need your help. We need a singer.

PJ
Are you planning to pay this singer?

JONNY
Highly doubtful.

PJ
Craig's List it is.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- DAY

The Shine sits at a long table, a la American Idol. PJ enters with VICK NITRO (LONG HAIR, TATTOOS, LEATHER). Great look.

JONNY
Vick Nitro. Says here you've been singing since you were 14.

VICK THE SINGER
Just always had this gift, you know?

DOC
Great. Show us what you got. Peej--

PJ turns on a BOOMBOX: we hear AC/DC, "Back In Black." Vick sings. He sounds like a dying cat. Jonny kills the music.

JONNY
Ok then. We'll be in touch.
(after Vick exits)
At least it can't get any worse.

MONTAGE: Auditioning "Singers." ALL WORSE THAN VICK:

- An OLD FARMER holds a HOG and sings "Camptown Races."
- an EFFEMINATE ASIAN MAN with a thick accent sings "Oops, I Did It Again," by Britney Spears.
- a 14 YEAR-OLD OLD GOTH GIRL sings Metallica's "Enter Sandman." Her voice is unnaturally low and evil. She exits:

RICKY
Christ, bro. I feel all dirty now.

SCALLOP
I think I need a hug.

- A BLACK GANG BANGER intensely raps in their faces.
- A FAT GUY sings a falsetto "I'll Be There" by Michael Jackson. By the time he's done, he's on his knees, crying--

- A GRANDMA with a WALKER sings "Achey Breaky Heart."
- A CRAZED HICK WEARING ONLY OVERALLS plays a WASHBOARD and sings, "Jimmy Cracked Corn." His creepy children-of-the-corn DAUGHTER sits beside him and just stares at The Shine.

THE SHINE

NEXT!!!

- TAYLOR looks cool. He sings Def Leppard. Great rock voice.

RICKY

Finally, yo!

JONNY

Thanks for coming in, man. So the Showdown's up in Alachua on the 21st--

TAYLOR

Alachua? You said it was local.

DOC

Alachua's just the next county over.

TAYLOR

Then we got us a problem.

Taylor rolls up his jeans, reveals a BEEPING GPS LEG BRACELET.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Ain't gonna steal no more tractors with this on, I guess.

DOC

Or play any shows outside the county.

JONNY

There is no God.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- BACK FORTY -- PREACHER'S ROCK -- EVENING

Jonny, Binky and The Shine drink beers, heads down, defeated.

RICKY

Craig's List sucks, bro.

DOC

Breeze's singing wasn't too bad--

BINKY

They're looking at Jonny as a guitar player, not a singer. I mean, the audience is looking at him. And "not bad" isn't going to cut it.

They hear MUSIC from the barn: "Sweet Cherry Pie," by Warrant. Then they hear someone SINGING. And it's awesome. A cross between Bon Scott and Axel Rose. They scramble off the rock--

INT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- MOMENTS LATER

The Shine enter. The singer is PJ! Eyes closed, deep into it. PJ opens his eyes, sees them, stops singing, embarrassed.

JONNY
Where'd you learn to sing like that?

PJ
I was just messing around. Sorry, I won't touch your stuff again--

PJ exits in a hurry. Jonny and the others are in disbelief.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- MAIN HOUSE -- EVENING

The Shine approach. Jonny knocks. Collette opens the door.

RICKY
Looking lovely this evening, Collette.

DOC
Yes. Is that a new hair-do?

COLLETTE
Ok, I'm officially frightened.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- MAIN HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Collette makes "SAVE BEND" POSTERS and MINI-LIGHTHOUSE KEY CHAINS reading "Save Bend." The Shine pace, drink beers.

COLLETTE
He's 16 years old. Couldn't you wait a few years to ruin his life?

DOC
Have you heard him sing?

COLLETTE
I don't care if he's the next Robert Plant. PJ is not becoming a musician.

RICKY
Girl, you can't stop something like that if it's bound to happen.

COLLETTE
Yes, Ricky, and it worked out so well for you. As long as I'm his mother and he's living under my roof--

DOC
It's one show, Collette. If we win, he could help save the farm.

COLLETTE
Really? Save the farm? Any other tactics y'all are leaving out?

JONNY

You said you wanted him to get more experience, meet more people--

COLLETTE

You should not be talking, rock star.

JONNY

Point taken. This is me being quiet.

COLLETTE

Now if y'all don't mind I got tons to do to get ready for the Festival--

Collette ushers them all toward the door. Binky stops.

BINKY

Fine, I'll say it if no one else will. If you don't let him do this, he will never forgive you.

COLLETTE

Excuse me? Who is this person?

BINKY

Someone not afraid to speak the truth, Collette. Your son has a rare gift, and a chance to use it to help those in a time of need. If you squelch that gift for fear that he may follow his own path and not one you've predetermined, you will deny PJ the opportunity to gain confidence through self-expression, and you will condemn him to a future he hasn't chosen for himself. And for that he will resent you. Forever and for always.

COLLETTE

Holy shit, this guy is good.

JONNY

He definitely has his moments.

COLLETTE

(coming to a decision)

Ok, here's the deal. One show. Win or lose, I get 20 hours from each of you to volunteer with the Festival. And if you win, any prize money goes to the legal fund I set up to fight this stupid redevelopment plan that's about to ruin our town.

BINKY

That's out-and-out extortion.

COLLETTE

I like to think of it more as confident self-expression.

BINKY
15 hours each, half the prize money.

COLLETTE
Done.

BINKY
And done. Gentlemen, we've got
ourselves a new lead singer!

They hoot and holler. But upstairs, a DOOR SLAMS CLOSED.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- PJ'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Jonny enters. Empty. He sees PJ's SNEAKERS protruding from
a closet. He opens the closet door, finds PJ sitting inside.

PJ
I don't want to be your stupid singer.

JONNY
PJ, you eat, sleep and breathe rock
and roll. How could you not want to
sing for a rock and roll band?

PJ
I just don't, that's how.

JONNY
(sits down next to PJ)
Your mama ever tell you how we snuck
into the Swamp in '95, played for
90,000 people against their will?

PJ
Yeah, so?

JONNY
What she didn't say was how scared I
was. So many people. I was shaking
like an old dog shittin' peach pits.

PJ
No way. You?

JONNY
But once I got out there and heard
that crowd, all that fear went away.
Turns out it was the best thing I
ever did. Made me the man I am today.

PJ
But I ain't you. I can't do it.

JONNY
Rehearse with us, hang out with us.
Any time you want out, say the word.

PJ
For real?

JONNY

For real.

PJ

Why do you want this so bad?

JONNY

My Pa needs help. That's what we do in the South. When the little guy needs help we rally. 'Cuz we're all the little guy. It's in our DNA.

PJ

You really think we could win?

JONNY

I think a small dedicated group can do anything it sets its mind to. But doing the right thing ain't always the easy thing.

PJ

Mama said you was good with words.

JONNY

She didn't mean that as no compliment.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- MAIN HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- LATER

PJ and Jonny come downstairs. Anticipation fills the air.

PJ

I'm in.

The Shine all cheer and high-five. Collette eyeballs Jonny.

COLLETTE

Your 15 hours start tomorrow, mister.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- BACK FORTY -- PREACHER'S ROCK -- DAY

Collette looks off into the distance. Jonny checks his watch.

JONNY

Come on, when's the big surprise?

COLLETTE

You LA people, always in such a hurry.

JONNY

Just like knowing what we're waiting for. So, what are we waiting for?

COLLETTE

Our ride.

We hear the WHUP WHUP WHUP of the CHANNEL 9 TRAFFIC CHOPPER as it clears the tree line and lands in the open field. Collette runs toward the chopper, but Jonny doesn't move.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)

Come on.

JONNY

Yeah, no thanks.

COLLETTE

Bo's doing me a big favor, let's go.

JONNY

Well you and Bo have a lovely flight.
I'll be here on the nice safe ground.

COLLETTE

You're kidding me. You're chicken?

JONNY

I ain't chicken. I'm just slightly
conservative when it comes to putting
my body into death-defying situations.

COLLETTE

Got it. You're chicken.

JONNY

Call me names, but ain't no way I'm
getting in that flying death machine.

COLLETTE

Guess it's back to Craig's List then.

INT. CHANNEL NINE NEWS CHOPPER -- DAY

The chopper takes off. Jonny is onboard and not liking it.
BO (60s), the chopper pilot, turns and shakes Jonny's hand.

BO THE CHOPPER PILOT

Hey, Breeze, welcome home.

JONNY

Oh, hey Bo.

BO THE CHOPPER PILOT

Ain't been out this way since Mack's
last revival. Damn I miss them things--

JONNY

Could we keep our eyes on the road?

The chopper flies over abandoned farms. Collette points--

COLLETTE

Baxters, gone. Able Smith and his
boys, they shut down last April.

JONNY

There's Pete Hammond's, the Tyler
twins' place, Bubba Hadley...

COLLETTE
Gone, gone and gone.

JONNY
No way. So who's left?

COLLETTE
About half of us. And whoever's
left is in foreclosure, or damn near--

JONNY
How can that be?

COLLETTE
Few years back a company called
Americorp bought the water rights up
north, raised prices 'til folks down
here couldn't afford it. No water,
no crops. No crops, no money. Now
that same company's buying up anything
it can so it can legally redevelop--

JONNY
There's no other source of water?

COLLETTE
A trickle from Alabama and Louisiana,
some rainfall. But ain't near enough.
It's so dry even the Hickory Chad
can't make its way home to spawn.

JONNY
Ah yes, the "salmon of the South."

COLLETTE
Town was built on that fish, but now
it's dying out. And pretty soon all
this will be condos and tourist traps.

JONNY
Starbucks and roller coasters.

COLLETTE
How did you know that?

JONNY
Oh, a little prick told me.

Jonny looks out over his home town. The ocean, the farms.

JONNY (CONT'D)
Man, I forgot how beautiful it is.

EXT. DOWNTOWN SOUTHERN BEND, FLORIDA -- DAY

Jonny and Collette walk. She hands out LIGHTHOUSE KEY CHAINS.

COLLETTE
Help save Bend. Save Bend, y'all.

JONNY

How can you stop this Americorp?

COLLETTE

The annual Hickory Chad Festival.
We may have to fight the redevelopment
plan in court. And that costs money--

JONNY

You think a few bake sales and a hog
contest will raise that kind of money?

COLLETTE

I think that a small dedicated group
can do anything it sets its mind to.

JONNY

That was a private conversation--

COLLETTE

You should learn to close a door.

JONNY

Hmm. Never saw you as an activist.

COLLETTE

People can change. Especially when
something's important enough.

Their eyes meet. Jonny moves in close. Collette pulls away.

JONNY

Got it. Not sure what I was thinking.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- JONNY'S TRAILER -- NIGHT

Collette and Jonny approach. Jonny opens the trailer door.

JONNY

This is me. Sure I can't walk you--

Collette shuts him up with a long kiss. They pull apart.

COLLETTE

What are we doing?

JONNY

You're being figurative, yes?

COLLETTE

This is such a bad idea--

JONNY

Bad ideas are my bread and butter.

She kisses him again and they fall inside the trailer.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- JONNY'S TRAILER -- EVENING

Jonny lies in bed, shirtless. Collette dresses herself.

COLLETTE

I gotta ask. How'd you ever convince Doc and Ricky to do the Showdown?

JONNY

Binky told them I was dying.

COLLETTE

Shut your mouth.

JONNY

Made 'em promise not to let on they know. Brilliant plan, actually.

COLLETTE

Jon McKay, that's downright horrible.

JONNY

A little white lie. I'll tell them the truth soon enough.

COLLETTE

Why are you doing all this, for real?

JONNY

Not buying the prodigal son coming home to help out dear old Dad routine?

COLLETTE

I'm dumb. But I ain't stupid.

JONNY

I got a national act looking at me. If we win Showdown, then make a splash at Bubbapalooza, who knows?

COLLETTE

Your life is one big scam, isn't it?

JONNY

It's only a scam if you get caught.

Collette hands him something. It's a LIGHTHOUSE KEY CHAIN. She presses a button -- it lights up and reads "Save Bend."

COLLETTE

To help you find your way home.

JONNY

Wow, that is so...cornball.

COLLETTE

Fine. Forget it then--

JONNY

No, no, I'm starting to like cornball.

He kisses her and pulls her back to bed--

INT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- DAY

On a LAPTOP, The Shine watch VIDEO of a rehearsal. Doc wears SCRUBS, Scallop OVERALLS, Ricky a BASEBALL JERSEY, PJ a SCHOOL UNIFORM. Music is "Take You All The Way" (Track 4). PJ seems too shy to add power to the vocals. All but Jonny look stiff.

RICKY

We look like zombies, bro.

BINKY

Zombies dressed as The Village People.

SCALLOP

And that's bad?

BINKY

Not if the Showdown judges are all middle-aged homosexuals. Look, we've still got a week until the show. If we can get to Atlanta by tomorrow--

DOC

Atlanta? What's in Atlanta?

EXT. DOC'S HOUSE -- DAY

Doc loads a guitar and keyboards into the minivan. MARIAN (his soon-to-be ex-wife) is all over him like white on rice.

MARIAN

Rock school? You can't be serious. Who's gonna watch the clinics?

DOC

Not like it's any of your business, Marian, but it's covered.

MARIAN

You can't trust him. You know that.

DOC

At least Breeze is doing what he wants with his life--

MARIAN

Please. You gave up "what you want" when you got married and had babies.

DOC

Really? Did I?

MARIAN

Really. You did. It's just a stupid mid-life crisis, Pat. Buy a damn Corvette and be done with it.

DOC

You're the one who filed for divorce. So you can't tell me what to do.

MARIAN

(mocking)

*You're the one who filed for divorce,
so you can't tell me what to do--*

DOC

I'm gonna miss these chats of ours.

EXT. S. BEND PSYCHIATRIC CARE CENTER -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Ricky carries a SUITCASE, QUENTIN and other PATIENTS in tow.

QUENTIN

They'll give away your bed for sure.

RICKY

So be it, bro.

QUENTIN

No more fish stick Tuesdays.

RICKY

It's gonna be rough, I know.

QUENTIN

Have to start wiping your own butt.

RICKY

For the greater good sacrifices must
be made. Adios, mis hermanos locos.

Ricky hops into Doc's minivan, which then drives away.

EXT. SCALLOP'S HOUSE/SHRIMP FARM/LIGHTHOUSE -- DAY

Scallop exits carrying his BASS. He trips over a few CHICKENS
in his yard. His wife, EVA (30s, smoking hot), follows him.

SCALLOP

He's my friend, Eva. That's why.

EVA

Friends come and go, Scallop.

SCALLOP

Not around here they don't.

GARY THE NEIGHBOR (an angry hick) approaches, pissed off.

GARY THE NEIGHBOR

Hey, man, y'all got my chickens again.

SCALLOP

Oh hey, Gary. They keep squeezing
through that little fence of yours--

GARY THE NEIGHBOR

Gettin' mighty tired of coming over
here and collecting my birds.

SCALLOP

Tell you what. I'm gone for a week,
but I'll fix up that fence good and
tight first thing when I get back.

GARY THE NEIGHBOR

Don't make me come back over here.

SCALLOP

Okay then. Take care now.

Gary exits. Doc's minivan pulls up. Scallop loads his stuff.

EVA

You do everything for everybody.
Except for your wife. Your fine ass
wife. The one who's got zero babies.

SCALLOP

Eva, darlin', I said I'll give you a
family. But first I gotta do this.

EVA

I may not be here when you get back.

SCALLOP

Sugar pie, I respect any decision
you make. But I am needed elsewhere.

INT. DOC'S MINIVAN -- DAY

Ricky stares at Eva through the window as they pull away.

RICKY

I don't get it, bro. Finest lookin'
woman in five counties at least.

SCALLOP

Sweet kid. But the road is my home.

DOC

It's Atlanta, Scallop. Not the road.

SCALLOP

Yeah, just always wanted to say that.

EXT. DOWNTOWN SOUTHERN BEND, FLORIDA -- DAY

Collette staples a "SAVE BEND" FESTIVAL POSTER to a phone
pole, then another. Jonny and Binky follow, carrying POSTERS.

COLLETTE

A week? Unsupervised? You're insane.

JONNY

Six days. And we'll all be there.

COLLETTE

That doesn't inspire confidence.

BINKY

Rock school is six days of intense exercises designed to turn boys into men. It's just what PJ needs.

COLLETTE

Sounds dangerous. PJ is very fragile--

BINKY

Coupled with love, support, nurturing--

COLLETTE

Nice try, Ringo.

Jonny grabs the stapler from Collette, stopping her.

JONNY

Look, PJ is awesome. But he's broken.

COLLETTE

And you think a week of being drilled by some grizzled old rock and roller is gonna fix him?

BINKY

Six days.

JONNY

It might. Sure as shit can't hurt.

Collette thinks about it. Comes to a decision.

COLLETTE

As Mack's Trustee, you're gonna give us six months' free rent at the farm.

JONNY

I can do that? I can do that.

COLLETTE

And if you win Showdown, all of the prize money goes to the legal fund.

JONNY

Fine.

COLLETTE

Finally, soon as you get back y'all are gonna clear out that back 40 and help build us a good-sized stage.

JONNY

No problem. Wait. A stage for what?

COLLETTE

So The Shine can play at the Festival of course. Pretty sure I could sell a few tickets to something like that.

JONNY

Great idea. You got yourself a deal.

COLLETTE

They'll nurture him? You promise?

BINKY

Oh yeah. I don't know anyone who's more nurturing than Zeke Powell--

EXT. ZEKE POWELL'S ROCK 'N ROLL FANTASY CAMP -- DAY

The Shine (and other ROCKER RECRUITS) exit a school bus and approach STAFF in front of a run-down plantation. A crudely written sign reads, "Zeke Powell's Rock 'N Roll Fantasy Camp."

Meet ZEKE POWELL -- 50s, long salt and pepper ponytail, beard, sunglasses, tattoos, earrings, bandanna, chain wallet, biker boots, EYE PATCH. He's old school rock n' roll personified.

ZEKE

Drop your bags, bitches. Two lines.

The Recruits look at each other, clueless.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Ladies, I said drop your goddam purses and give me two goddam lines!!

The Recruits drop bags, form two lines. Zeke inspects them.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Oh my God. Never have I seen a more sorry looking pile of candy ass shoe clerks. Lord, why do you hate me so? What has Zeke done to deserve such a miserable group of vermin?

A Smiling Recruit laughs. Zeke gets nose-to-nose with him.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Something funny, shitwipe? You find Zeke's utter despair to be humorous?

SMILING RECRUIT

Yes. No. I mean, are you serious?

ZEKE

Remove this insolent scum.

STAFF grab the Smiling Recruit, toss him back onto the bus.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Anyone else think Zeke is being funny? You are babies. Piss-drenched, diaper-soiling babies. It is my impossible task to mold you into Rock Gods.

(notices PJ)

My God. How old are you, son?

PJ

I'll be seventeen next week.

ZEKE

Am I gonna have to wipe your nose
and call your Mommy every time you
think old Zeke's being mean to you?

PJ

No, sir.

ZEKE

You damn skippy. And you can wipe
off that "sir" shit. I'm just a
grunt nobody like the rest of you.
Until you see me cranking out platinum
albums and selling out Madison Square
Garden, you will address me as Zeke
or Mr. Powell. Do you understand?

PJ

Yes, sir.

ZEKE

That's more like it. Now get out of
my sight. Big room, 15 minutes.

The Recruits scatter. Jonny and Binky pick up their bags.

JONNY

I don't know about you, but I'm
feeling pretty nurtured already--

MUSIC for this sequence is **"Take You All The Way" (Track 4)**.

INT. ZEKE'S ROCK 'N ROLL FANTASY CAMP -- THE BIG ROOM -- DAY

Groups of four Recruits each carry another Recruit above
their heads. The Shine carries PJ. Zeke walks amongst them.

ZEKE

The front man. Out there suffering
the slings and arrows, the beer and
piss, of a fickle public. Your job?
Support him. Be there with the right
chord changes, and an occasional arm
around his neck showing you're having
a blast -- even if you'd rather be
back at the hotel banging last night's
groupies. Rock and roll is not only
a contact sport. It's a team sport.

One group drops their front man -- all five fall to the floor.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Congratulations. The first five
rows just stripped your man naked
and corn-holed him like a Tiger Beat
pin-up in a Texas prison. Nice job.

INT. ZEKE POWELL'S FANTASY CAMP -- JIMI HENDRIX ROOM -- DAY

Ten recruits (including Jonny) wear guitars on straps. Zeke approaches a RECRUIT whose guitar is slung high on his chest.

ZEKE

What are you, a goddam Beach Boy?
Lower that strap, you goddam pussy.

Jonny's guitar hangs perfectly between his knees and hips.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Nice sling, Tex. I know you?

JONNY

I highly doubt it.

ZEKE

Are you some kind of Bad-Ass?

JONNY

Been called worse, I guess.

ZEKE

Listen up, rodents. Copy Mr. Bad-Ass over here and get your axes right.

The Recruits lower their straps to a "cool" level. Zeke looks again at Jonny, curious, then nods his approval.

EXT. ZEKE POWELL'S FANTASY CAMP -- THE ROOF -- DAY

Under hot sun, STAFF watch as Ricky and other Drummer Recruits (in their underwear) carry CINDER BLOCKS. The Recruits drop blocks on a stack, pick up new blocks, return. Zeke enters.

ZEKE

How we doing, stick lickers?

RICKY

This is total bullshit, bro.

ZEKE

Goddam right. The life of a drummer is bullshit. It's hot, physical, repetitive work with no glory.

RICKY

I get it, bro. But why the underwear?

ZEKE

Because drummers are bad people with huge egos that must be taken down a few pegs. Don't argue, maggot, it's a fact. Now grab a block and follow Uncle Zeke to the mattress of spikes--

RICKY

Mattress of spikes? This is total bullshit, bro.

INT. ZEKE'S ROCK 'N ROLL FANTASY CAMP -- THE BIG ROOM -- DAY

Zeke and the Singer Recruits (including PJ) watch a VIDEO of DAVID LEE ROTH doing his classic "Ninja Rock Kick." Zeke freezes the image and uses a LASER POINTER on the screen.

ZEKE

Note the full leg extension. See the master's total concentration on the point of intended contact--

Zeke demonstrates by kicking a MELON HANGING ON A ROPE. The melon EXPLODES. The Recruits try kicking their own hanging melons. PJ is struggling with this. Zeke approaches him--

ZEKE (CONT'D)

The key to being a Rock God is the eyes. To the ladies they say "You want me." To the guys they say "I'm everything you want to be." And to anyone who messes with you they say "you picked the wrong day to fuck with me, motherfucker." Try it.

PJ

Don't mess me up you fucking fucker.

PJ gives a weak kick. His hanging melon barely moves.

ZEKE

Lord, help me. Everyone take five. Zeke's gotta spend some alone time with our youngest worthless rodent--

EXT. DOWNTOWN SOUTHERN BEND -- THE ROADHOUSE SALOON -- DAY

A BLACK MERCEDES parks. Carlo T and his two thugs get out. Darby exits from the saloon. Barolo frisks him. All clear.

CARLO T

No disrespect, Stanton, but this town's a friggin' dump.

DARBY

Real glad you called, Carlo. 'Cuz together we're gonna change all that.

EXT. ZEKE POWELL'S FANTASY CAMP -- FIRE PIT -- NIGHT

The Shine surround a fire pit, drinking booze, smoking CIGARS.

JONNY

Doc. Wish, regret.

DOC

(slightly drunk)
I ain't playing that stupid game.

JONNY

Fine, I'll start. I regret leaving y'all back in '95. And I wish this experience brings us together again.

RICKY

I regret being hungover for my try-out with the Marlins in '99. I love you bros to death, but I really wish I had one more shot at playing ball.

PJ

I regret being afraid all the time. And I wish for just once I could stand up to them Russett brothers.

SCALLOP

I don't regret nothin'. And rocking out with you guys, this is my wish.

Cheers. Amen, brother. They all look at Doc, waiting--

DOC

Fine. I regret marrying a woman who fell out of love with me as soon as we walked down the aisle. I regret having kids who don't know why their folks keep screaming at each other over custody, and who gets what. I regret being leg-ironed to dozens of employees all looking to me to help feed their goddam families. But most of all I regret never sleeping with anyone other than my unfaithful bitch-on-wheels soon-to-be-ex-wife--

This leaves the group in a bit of a stunned silence.

SCALLOP

You know what? Alcohol is fun.

INT. ZEKE POWELL'S FANTASY CAMP -- JIMI HENDRIX ROOM -- DAY

On a BLACKBOARD is scrawled "SONGWRITING 101." Zeke and all of the Recruits watch PJ awkwardly strum a guitar and sing:

PJ

*You can say it again you won't wear
it out, it's Rock. My name is Rock.*

PJ finishes. Silence. Then a smattering of mercy applause. Mortified, PJ runs out of the room. Jonny follows him--

INT. ZEKE POWELL'S FANTASY CAMP -- REHEARSAL STUDIO -- NIGHT

Jonny enters and sees PJ's SNEAKERS poking out from behind an amplifier. Jonny approaches, sits down next to PJ.

PJ

I suck so bad.

JONNY

I liked it. We could up the tempo,
maybe add a bridge to mix things up--

PJ

I can't do this. It's too hard.

JONNY

First time you play a song you wrote
this morning, what'd you expect?

PJ

Not just the song. I mean everything.

JONNY

Listen, you made a commitment. And
a real man honors his commitments.

PJ

Bullshit. You said I could quit any
time I wanted. So I quit.

JONNY

Do you have any idea why I let them
change my name to Jonny Phoenix?

PJ

Here we go, 'cuz you were so afraid--

JONNY

Make fun if you must. But yes.

PJ

You thought too many groupies might
fall in your lap and you'd be crushed?

JONNY

Music is a tough biz. Strangers
judge you. That's the gig. You
play, either they like you or not.

PJ

Got it. They hated me. So I quit.

JONNY

But when I became Jonny Phoenix,
they weren't judging me anymore.
They were judging this other person.

PJ

Like my Rock Hammer on Facebook?

JONNY

Exactly. My alter ego freed me up
to take some chances. And it taught
me two magical words: Fuck it.

PJ

Fuck it?

JONNY

Don't like my song? Fuck it. Don't like my playing? Fuck it. Don't like my hair, my clothes, the color of my eyes? Fuck it. Let Jonny Phoenix worry about that shit. 'Cuz Jonny McKay is untouchable.

PJ

And it worked?

JONNY

Absolutely. What's your name?

PJ

My name?

JONNY

Fuck it. What's your name?

PJ

My name is Rock.

JONNY

Yeah it is. Let's crush this.

(picks up a guitar)

First thing we do is turn this crappy song of yours into a goddam monster--

INT. ZEKE POWELL'S ROCK 'N ROLL FANTASY CAMP -- DAY

Zeke wheels out a large object covered with a white sheet.

ZEKE

It's your last day, kiddies. You've learned how to play, how to act and how to live like Rock Gods. Now you must dress like Rock Gods. Kojak?

Doc enters wearing a bad-ass LEATHER OUTFIT. His head is SHAVED. Sunglasses. He looks like a bald Bono from U2.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

If I can make this schlep look like a Rock God, what can I do for you?

He removes the sheet to reveal a RACK OF KILLER ROCK CLOTHES.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Special Zeke discount, 25% off all red tagged items. Rock and roll is free, man. But the accessories are gonna cost you. Dig in, girls.

The Recruits descend like vultures. Zeke sits down next to Jonny and lights a CIGARETTE as the Recruits try on clothes--

ZEKE (CONT'D)

So what's your story, Bad-Ass? You certainly didn't need any of this.

JONNY
It's a group thing.

ZEKE
That I get. But are you doing them
a favor, or they doing one for you?

JONNY
Little of both, I guess.

In the bg, Scallop tries on a pair of LEATHER PANTS.

SCALLOP
Do these pants make my ass look fat?

RICKY
No, bro, it's your fat ass that makes
your fat ass look fat.

ZEKE
You know a lot about this business.
But there's still one thing old Zeke
can teach you -- Mr. Jonny Phoenix.

JONNY
My secret identity, revealed. Bravo.

ZEKE
Whatever we think we want, the band
is what we need. Connection, support,
love -- the rest is just window
dressing. However your journey began,
it's now bigger than you. Remember
this as you roll toward your destiny.

JONNY
Zeke, relax. It's just a rock show.

ZEKE
Jonny, it's never just a rock show.

Zeke pulls out a BOX and hands it to Jonny. Jonny opens it,
revealing a RED LEATHER OUTFIT with ORANGE FLAMES and a
MATCHING COWBOY HAT. **It's his old Jonny Phoenix costume!**

ZEKE (CONT'D)
Guy on Ebay said it's from your '98
tour. Betcha a dollar it still fits.

JONNY
You're a mystery, ain't you, Zeke?

ZEKE
Hell yes. Keeps me young and vital.

Zeke HACKS on smoke. And hacks some more. Then can't stop--

EXT. ZEKE POWELL'S ROCK 'N ROLL FANTASY CAMP -- DAY

The Recruits line up to get on the bus.

ZEKE

Ok, my babies. Time to set you loose
on the world of rock and roll.

Zeke taps Doc on the shoulder, takes a step back for privacy.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

So, Bink said you was the man to see
about settling up for the band.

DOC

Not following you--

ZEKE

"Rock and roll is free" is just an
expression. It ain't. I take Visa.

Doc glares at Binky, hands over a card, Zeke swipes it.

BINKY

Can one put a price tag on memories?

ZEKE

Ok, children. Make old Zeke proud.
Rock on, my babies. Rock on.

As the bus exits, Zeke and Jonny flash each other devil horns--

EXT. STATE FAIR GROUNDS -- SHOWDOWN MAIN STAGE -- DAY

A CROWD watches a mediocre GOTH BAND. A SIGN reads "SHOWDOWN
AT THE HOEDOWN." Collette paces, talking on a cell phone.

SHOWDOWN ANNOUNCER OVER PA

Give it up for The Devil's Scrotum.
Thanks boys, and don't worry we'll
clean up that blood for y'all--

COLLETTE

What do you mean he doesn't want to
see me? I'm his mother for Pete's--

INT. STATE FAIRGROUNDS -- BACKSTAGE -- DAY

Jonny talks on a cell phone. The Shine pace, nervous.

JONNY

Pre-show jitters, that's all. Look,
I gotta run. We're up next. Thanks.

Jonny joins The Shine. We hear the CROWD just outside.

JONNY (CONT'D)

Y'all ready for this?

DOC

Hell, yes.

RICKY

Let's do it, bro.

SCALLOP

Pretty sure I just peed a little.

JONNY

Rock?

PJ

Let's crush it!

Jonny holds out his fist and sings "This Little Light of Mine." The Shine put in their fists and sing along--

EXT. STATE FAIRGROUNDS -- BACKSTAGE -- DAY

SLO MO MONEY SHOT: Double doors swing open. Enter THE SHINE. LEATHER, CHAINS, SHADES, BANDANNAS, BIG HAIR (except Doc, who's bald). These are five BAD-ASS ROCKERS, and this is a BAD-ASS ROCK BAND. MUSIC is Aerosmith's "Back In The Saddle."

SHOWDOWN ANNOUNCER OVER PA

Ladies and Gentlemen, from Southern Bend, Florida, a big Showdown welcome for JONNY PHOENIX AND THE SHINE!!!

They take the stage to polite APPLAUSE. Scallop trips on a wire, falls on his face. Ricky's ride cymbal crashes to the ground. The audience laughs. This could be a disaster...

Scallop gets to his feet. Ricky fixes the cymbal. On Jonny's count, they play the intro to **"My Name Is Rock" (Track 5)**, PJ's song from rock school -- now a full-on rocker. There's a silent pause as the intro ends. It's time for PJ to sing--

But PJ appears petrified. Casually, Jonny drapes an arm over PJ's shoulder. The crowd senses that something is amiss.

JONNY

If I was in your shoes I'd be thinking one thing and one thing only.

PJ

Fuck it?

JONNY

Fuck it. What's your name?

PJ

Rock.

JONNY

Fuck it, Rock. Let 'em know!

PJ

(screams into a mike)

WHAT'S MY NAME????!!

(the crowd cheers)

I SAID, WHAT'S MY NAME????!!!

(crowd gets fired up)

My name is ROCK!!!

The Shine jumps in, plays loud and tight. Catchy and upbeat. PJ takes control as front man, transforming before our eyes...

PJ (CONT'D)

*Feel the power boys, I can feel the
whole world spinning, in the palm of
my hand...*

By the end of the song the crowd is on their feet, fists pumping. No doubt, The Shine is now a real live ROCK BAND.

INT. STATE FAIR GROUNDS -- DRESSING ROOM -- DAY

The Shine enter, excited, the crowd still APPLAUDING loud and strong. Collette snaps PHOTOS with a CAMERA--

PJ

Did you see me, Mom? I rocked!

COLLETTE

Yes, you did, honey. It was amazing!

Jonny raises his hand to PJ for a high-five, but instead PJ embraces Jonny -- and won't let go. PJ breaks down in tears.

PJ

I never coulda done it without you.

JONNY

Hey, hey. That was all you, kid--

COLLETTE

(joining their hug)

Why can't I just hate you like a normal person?

HANGING ON A WALL IS A TV MONITOR SHOWING THE SHOWDOWN STAGE:

SHOWDOWN ANNOUNCER ON MONITOR

And now, also from Southern Bend and points West, please welcome Darby Stanton and his Dream Destroyers--

The Shine watch the monitor and can't believe what they see: Darby takes the stage with a band full of FAMOUS ROCK STARS!

DOC

Is that Slash from Guns 'n Roses?

PJ

Oh my God, it's Tommy Lee on drums...

BINKY

He's got Dave Grohl on rhythm! How rich is this Darby character anyway?

EXT. STATE FAIR GROUNDS -- MAIN STAGE -- DAY

The crowd goes nuts. Darby grabs a microphone--

DARBY

When I was a boy living in a shack
in the swamps of the Everglades, we
had us a black and white portable TV--

JONNY

Try middle-class suburban Gainesville
with a big-screen and HBO--

DARBY

--if we held that antenna just right,
we could get one channel. And we'd
stare into that one-eyed devil and
catch our favorite show, Sesame
Street. This one's for an old friend--

They break into a really cool rocked out version of "Sesame Street" (Track 6). The crowd gets into it, singing along.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Sunny day, sweeping the clouds away--

INT. STATE FAIRGROUNDS -- DRESSING ROOM -- LATER

The Shine watches as Darby's band finishes. The crowd ROARS.
Ricky snaps off the monitor. We still hear the crowd outside--

RICKY

Rock stars, yo. Unbelievable.

SCALLOP

They were really good.

DOC

Yes, Scallop, rock stars tend to be
really good at playing rock music.

JONNY

So what? We were damn good, too--

A knock on the door. It's Darby, still breathing hard.

DARBY

Nice job guys! Breeze, a quick word?

INT. STATE FAIRGROUNDS -- BACKSTAGE -- DAY

Jonny and Binky approach Darby and his band, who are high-
fiving. Slash eyeballs Binky. Apparently they have a history--

SLASH

Still haven't forgotten about the
thing you did at the place that time.

BINKY

Keep walking, rock star.

They glare at each other. Slash exits. Jonny looks at Binky.

BINKY (CONT'D)
 Long story. Former life.

JONNY
 (to Darby)
 You really think that was fair?

DARBY
 Let me think. Yeah, I don't remember
 "fair" being part of the bet.

JONNY
 We put a lot into this. And now
 you're gonna beat us by cheating--

DARBY
 You got me all wrong, brother. I
 want y'all to win.

JONNY
 Not quite following.

DARBY
 You're better, ok? You took a bunch
 of nobodies and you blew the roof
 off this dump. You need me to get
 down on my knees and kiss your boots?

JONNY
 I need you to tell me what you want.

DARBY
 Well, there is this one little thing--
 (hands Jonny a DOCUMENT)
 Purchase contract for 5 tiny acres
 of Mack's back 40. Size of a landing
 strip. Sign it, you win Showdown.
 Cash, Bubbapalooza, the whole deal.

JONNY
 We might win anyway. You don't know--

DARBY
 Breeze. You think I'd spend a million
 bucks on this band and not have
 something left over for the judges?

Jonny sees PJ, Collette, The Shine inside the green room.
 Pacing. Excited. Binky takes the contract, reviews it.

JONNY
 The overdue mortgage on the farm?

DARBY
 Paragraph 23. All part of the deal.

JONNY

Doc, Ricky, Scallop -- you keep them out of your redevelopment bullshit. And you don't touch the rest of Mack's farm. PJ and Collette live there.

DARBY

Hands off everyone. My solemn oath.
(off Jonny's look)
And we'll put it in the contract. Right under paragraph 52, which I think y'all might be interested in--

BINKY

He's financing a mini-tour leading up to Bubbapalooza. Plus a video shoot in the Blue Ridge Mountains!

JONNY

Seriously?

DARBY

You're good, you should get out there.

BINKY

So I'm thinking 20 shows, 20 cities--

DARBY

Five shows.

BINKY

Fifteen.

DARBY

Five.

BINKY

Ten.

DARBY

Five.

BINKY

Five's good. Nice solid round number.

EXT. STATE FAIR GROUNDS -- MAIN STAGE -- DAY

A SHOWDOWN JUDGE walks onstage, grabs a microphone.

SHOWDOWN JUDGE

The winner of this year's Showdown at the Hoedown, from Southern Bend, FLA -- Jonny Phoenix and The Shine!

The crowd cheers. The Shine run onstage, high-fiving and hugging. Darby applauds, winks at Jonny. Slash is pissed.

SLASH

Unbelievable. Fucking Sesame Street--

INT. DEREK'S OFFICE -- LOS ANGELES -- DAY

Top floor of Capitol Records. Awesome view of L.A. Derek watches VIDEO of The Shine at the Showdown on a massive TV.

DEREK
Your man's definitely got the chops.
And with that young kid out front,
this thing is blowing up on YouTube--

INTERCUT WITH:

Binky, on Preacher's Rock, on a cell phone. In the bg, The Shine and TOWNSPEOPLE build a stage and grandstands, kiosks...

BINKY
So how's Sal doing these days?

On Derek's couch is SAL PINTO (30s, tattoos, nose ring, BALLERINA COSTUME). He rocks back and forth, fetal position, humming mantras. He swats an imaginary insect. He's a mess.

DEREK
Really good. We're very optimistic.

BINKY
Excellent. Good for him. So obviously we still feel Jonny can step in and take over at any time--

DEREK
Look, Bink, one semi-decent show in Hickville does not a rock star make.

BINKY
We have tour dates, love to have you come check out the goods in person.

DEREK
We're not there yet, I'll be in touch.

Derek hangs up. Sal RETCHES into a planter. Derek rubs his temples, stressed. He pulls something off his lap -- it's a BEAUTIFUL GIRL who's been servicing him under the desk.

DEREK (CONT'D)
Later, darling. A lot on my plate.
Iris! Call the plant guy! Again--

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- BACK FORTY -- PREACHER'S ROCK -- NIGHT

Jonny, Binky and The Shine sit on top of the rock. The cow pasture below is now fully set up for a 500-seat rock show.

DOC
Not following. We have Bubbapalooza,
then the Festival, then we're done--

JONNY

We just got sponsored for a video shoot and a 5-city tour. Two weeks on the road living like rock stars.

RICKY

(excited)

Are you serious?

DOC

(pissed off)

Are you serious? Some of us have responsibilities. We can't just start acting like teenagers again.

SCALLOP

I can.

RICKY

I never stopped, bro.

BINKY

Some responsibilities outweigh the material and financial. No pressure, Doc, but it would mean an awful lot if you'd step up and be a team player.

DOC

By which you mean capitulate entirely.

BINKY

Tomato, To-mah-to.

DOC

Did you guys forget about Mama Bear?

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- MAIN HOUSE -- NIGHT

The Shine approach. Jonny knocks. Collette opens the door.

SCALLOP

Your skin looks lovely tonight.

COLLETTE

I'm gonna need a drink, ain't I?

INT. MACK'S FARM -- MAIN HOUSE -- NIGHT

Collette and The Shine sip moonshine out of jam jars.

COLLETTE

It's the middle of the school year. He's got chores, homework. And oh, by the way, he just turned 17!

PJ

You toured with Breeze at 17.

COLLETTE

That was different. I was, things were, we didn't -- that was different.

BINKY

Hard to refute such cold hard logic.

COLLETTE

The Festival is two weeks from now--

BINKY

Perfect, so now you can focus without having to worry about your boy.

COLLETTE

Go away, you strange little man.

JONNY

We'll do interviews on the road, we won't stop talking about the Festival--

BINKY

Bubbapalooza means tons of exposure, which means asses in Festival seats--

PJ

I'm making a website and everything so we can sell tickets online. I'm calling our show "Bend-Aid," get it?

COLLETTE

Sorry, honey, but enough is enough. I know you're gonna hate me, but it's not gonna happen.

PJ

Sorry, Mom, but it is gonna happen.

From a knapsack, PJ pulls out a DOCUMENT, hands it to her.

COLLETTE

Your birth certificate?

SCALLOP

We all know you was born, PJ. Duh.

PJ

That's a fake.

(shows another DOCUMENT)

My real birth certificate. Says I was actually born one year earlier. I'm 18, so I can do whatever I want.

Jonny looks at the birth certificate, then glares at Collette.

JONNY

The kid's 18. It's legit.

BINKY

Excellent news. We should all be--
 (noticing the tension)
 --leaving and taking serious cover.

Scallop, Doc, Ricky and Binky exit. Silence.

JONNY

You lied to me.

PJ

She lied to me for my whole life.

JONNY

You thought I'd never find out?

PJ

You thought I'd never find out?

COLLETTE

Last thing you needed, Jon.

PJ

Uh, hello? What about what I needed?

JONNY

Ah, so you made that choice for me--

COLLETTE

I made it for him. You said yourself,
 it's "good for everyone concerned."

PJ

Wait, I'm the one who should be mad
 here. What are we talking about?

JONNY

Why don't you ask your mama.

Jonny exits and slams the door behind him.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- NIGHT

Jonny packs up his gear. PJ enters, sits on a bale of hay.

PJ

Weird, huh? But I'm glad. I guess.

JONNY

Yeah, well I'm still kinda sortin'
 out my feelings on the subject.

PJ

I spent all these years thinking my
 Dad was just some horse's ass--

JONNY

And now you finally got proof.

PJ
If my Dad's gotta be a horse's ass,
I'm glad you're the horse's ass.

JONNY
Ain't that the sweetest thing a boy's
ever said to his brand new Daddy--

PJ
I'll make you a deal. I promise not
to make this awkward for you--

JONNY
Yeah? As long as I do what?

PJ
You let me stay in the band.

They shake hands, hug awkwardly, then pull apart.

PJ (CONT'D)
We'll figure that out eventually.

JONNY
The dreaded father-son hug protocol.

INT. PJ'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

On a computer, PJ finishes creating a website announcing the upcoming tour, and **the "Bend-Aid" Festival, predominantly advertising the appearance of "JONNY PHOENIX AND THE SHINE."**

He posts a link on his "Rock Hammer" Facebook page. The "Visitors" counter goes to 1, 2, up to 10, still counting...

MONTAGE:

In a COMPUTER LAB, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS surround a computer, rocking out to a VIDEO of The Shine playing at The Showdown--

TEENAGE GIRLS at a SLUMBER PARTY dance around, pillow-fighting, singing along to "My Name Is Rock"--

FOUR BUBBAS in a PICK-UP TRUCK, loaded up for a hunting trip, drink beers and play air guitar to "My Name Is Rock"--

ON A TOUR BUS, WHITE RAVEN bang their heads to "My Name Is Rock." Except Zeus, who watches cartoons, pretending to ignore the music. But then he starts to bob his head, too--

EXT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

The Shine and TOWNSFOLK watch as a beautiful TOUR BUS enters. It reads "Jonny Phoenix and The Shine -- SAVE BEND TOUR." Everyone climbs aboard. Eva approaches, startling Jonny.

JONNY
Eva, I didn't see you hovering there.

EVA

This is a good thing, Jon. The town needs the help. But know this 'cuz you won't hear it from him. You broke Scallop's heart when you left.

JONNY

Eva--

EVA

And I won't have you do it again.

JONNY

Eva, we're good. You have my word.

Jonny gets on the bus. The townsfolk get off. The Shine wave to the crowd. APPLAUSE as the bus pulls away. PAN TO: Behind the crowd, Darby hands Mayor Stuben a THICK ENVELOPE.

MAYOR STUBEN

This isn't what I think it is.

DARBY

My city council petition, of course.

MAYOR STUBEN

We been over this, Darby. You ain't got standing without Mack's property--

DARBY

Taken care of. Now be a good little Mayor and get that filed. And I'll need a hearing date soon as you can.

MAYOR STUBEN

Two weeks. Best I can do.

DARBY

No, Dicky. I mean like two days.

MAYOR STUBEN

Clem and Tyler are fishing up in Alaska. Can't vote with no quorum.

DARBY

Shit. Just set a date, goddammit.

Mayor Stuben exits. Carlo and his thugs approach.

DARBY (CONT'D)

You'll make sure there's enough interest in these idiots to keep them occupied for a coupla weeks?

CARLO T

I'm a promoter. I'll promote.

EXT. BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS -- SCENIC OVERLOOK -- DAY

The tour bus pulls in. The Shine get out and see that their INSTRUMENTS are set up on a MOUNTAIN TOP. They are met by a full VIDEO PRODUCTION CREW. The DIRECTOR is pissed off.

VIDEO DIRECTOR

People, you're 56 minutes late.
Mia, get them into make-up. We roll
in one hour. This light is fantastic!

We hear the opening chords of "Time To Shine" (Track 7) as The Shine get sucked into this strange new world. MAKE-UP ARTISTS smear BLACK GREASE onto their faces. WARDROBE ARTISTS dress them in MINER'S COSTUMES, complete with LIGHTED HELMETS--

DISSOLVE INTO A FINISHED ROCK VIDEO. We see The Shine:

Descending into a mine shaft on an ELEVATOR. WORKING in a COAL MINE. They uncover GUITARS and DRUMS buried in the mine's walls. They set up their instruments and rock out underground, their HEAD LAMPS SHINING in the darkness...

Suddenly, the mine walls start to shake and crumble. The Shine run for their lives. The walls collapse and ALL GOES DARK. Then one by one, their HELMETS LIGHT UP. SHINING the way to an OPENING. They break through into the SHINING SUN...

HELICOPTER SHOTS OF THE SHINE PLAYING: ON A MOUNTAIN TOP, AT A ROCK QUARRY, ON SAND DUNES, AT THE BEACH, ON A HIGH CLIFF--

INT. MTV PRODUCTION OFFICE -- DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN -- DAY

Carlo sits across a desk from an MTV EXECUTIVE. Barolo and Chimpy guard the door. The Shine's VIDEO plays on a computer.

MTV EXECUTIVE

It's not bad. But I can't air it.
I've never heard of these guys before.

Carlo nods to Barolo, who puts a KNIFE to the Exec's ear.

CARLO T

How you feel about hearing things in
general?

INT. THE SHINE'S TOUR BUS -- DAY

The Shine watch TV: AN MTV VJ next to an IMAGE of The Shine.

MTV VJ

Quick, how do you bring down the
median age of a rock band? Add a
cute 18 year-old front man. Girls,
his name is Rock, the band is The
Shine, and this is their first video--

The Shine's video comes on. The Shine hoot and holler, high five, hug each other. Jonny and Binky look baffled.

EXT. LIVEWIRE MUSIC HALL, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA -- NIGHT

The tour bus pulls up and parks. There is a MASSIVE LINE of FANS OF ALL AGES wrapping around the block.

SCALLOP

Gosh, what's going on here tonight?

RICKY

We are, numbnuts. Let's go say hello.

BINKY

I don't think that's a very good--

Ricky and PJ exit the bus and approach the fans.

RICKY

Hey, how y'all doing tonight?

The fans recognize them, then immediately freak out--

FAN # 1

Oh my God, it's them!

More fans notice, then slowly start to converge--

FAN # 2

I love you, Rock. I want your babies--

FAN # 3

Ricky! Ricky! Aahhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!

BINKY

(still on the bus)

And there it is.

Ricky and PJ haul ass as the fans give chase. They run past Scallop -- he sees the fans and runs, screaming the loudest.

They turn down an alley and see: MORE FANS running toward them. They're cornered. Suddenly, a TAXI pulls up, squeals to a halt. Binky's in the front seat, Jonny and Doc in back.

BINKY (CONT'D)

Oh, hey guys. Need a lift?

They pile into the taxi, which squeals away just as the fans swarm, tearing at their clothing. They barely escape--

INT. TAXI -- NIGHT

Scared silence. Until they realize they're safe. Doc laughs. Then they all laugh. Ricky sees PANTIES in Scallop's hand.

RICKY

What is that, bro? Are those panties?

SCALLOP

They're still warm.

DOC
Probably ok to get rid of those now.

SCALLOP
She's a fan. She gave them to me.

DOC
Along with a million groupie bacteria--

JONNY
There we go. Panties out the window.
More where that came from, big man.

Jonny helps Scallop drop the panties out the window.

SCALLOP
Probably wouldn't have fit anyway.

Binky sees a Black Mercedes heading toward the club, driven by Barolo. His face shows concern. Jonny notices.

JONNY
Hey, man, everything ok?

BINKY
No, I'm good. Just thinking we may need to hire some extra security.

RICKY
Extra security. Fuckin' A, bro!

INT. LIVEWIRE MUSIC HALL -- SAVANNAH, GEORGIA -- NIGHT

The Shine plays "That's How We Roll" (Track 8) to a packed crowd, who love it. Same MUSIC over the following MONTAGE--

INT. THE MUSIC FARM -- CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA -- NIGHT

An even bigger venue, with an even bigger crowd--

INT. PALMETTO STUDIOS NIGHTCLUB, MYRTLE BEACH, SC -- NIGHT

Yet an even bigger show. The FANS wear "JP & The Shine" T-shirts, and sing along with every word.

INT. ZIGGY'S BAR -- WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA -- NIGHT

The biggest crowd yet. The Shine are having the time of their lives. Especially PJ and Jonny. The MUSIC FADES...

INT. THE SHINE'S TOUR BUS -- DOC'S CUBICLE -- NIGHT

Doc reads a book, "Do I Have To Give Up Me to Be Loved By You?" Jonny pulls aside a curtain, pokes his head inside.

JONNY
Knock knock.

DOC
Oh hey, man. What's up?

JONNY

Someone out here wants to show their appreciation for a great gig tonight.

DOC

It's kinda late, Breeze. I was just going down. Send 'em to Facebook--

Jonny pushes aside the curtain and reveals GINGER, a stunningly beautiful 25 year-old wearing mini skirt and pumps.

JONNY

This is Ginger. She really wanted to show her appreciation in person.

GINGER

Going down sounds like fun. You want my heels on or off?

DOC

I, um, well, you see it's like--

GINGER

(climbing into bed)

I like on. Now scootch over, silly.

DOC

You smell...pretty.

JONNY

It's a band-aid, I know. But one hell of a band-aid. Enjoy, amigo.

Ginger giggles. Jonny closes the curtain and smiles.

INT. KCOW RADIO STATION -- DAY

A DJ interviews The Shine -- they all wear HEADPHONES.

KCOW DJ

I wouldn't call it "meteoric" just yet, but it's safe to say Jonny Phoenix and The Shine are getting noticed outside of Central Florida.

JONNY

The fans have been great. In fact, Scallop's got a pretty impressive collection of women's underwear--

SCALLOP

That ain't true. Eva, honey, it was a one time thing and I used hand sanitizer like a thousand times--

KCOW DJ

Hilarious. What's next for the band?

JONNY

Tonight we play The Joint, which is sold out, but you can catch us this Tuesday at Bubbapalooza in Atlanta--

PJ

And June 18th at the Bend-Aid Festival in Southern Bend. We're raising money to fight some jerk developer trying to kill our town. Get your tickets at Meet The Shine dot com--

KCOW DJ

Cool. So you guys have a cause?

JONNY

We come from a great little town. Just trying to keep it that way.

KCOW DJ

You used to say rock and roll could change the world. Still believe it?

JONNY

Come out on the 18th and we'll see--

KCOW DJ

We're talking with Jonny Phoenix and The Shine. Here's an oldie but a goodie, Jonny Phoenix from 1998 with "I Was Born To Rock and Roll."

The DJ spins "**I Was Born To Rock and Roll**" (Track 2).

INT. THE JOINT -- RALEIGH-DURHAM, N.C. -- BACKSTAGE -- NIGHT

The Shine prepares for sound check. A BOUNCER enters.

BOUNCER

That little pain in the ass English dude. He belong to you guys?

INT. THE JOINT -- GREEN ROOM -- NIGHT

Jonny enters and dodges a flying bowl of M&Ms as it smashes into a wall. Binky kicks, smashes everything. He's a madman--

JONNY

Hey, hey. What's going on?

BINKY

Oh nothing. Life is just hunky-dory.

JONNY

Talk to me.

BINKY

I just got off the phone with Derek. Sal is resting in a Manhattan hotel room. Four days, no girls, no drugs.

JONNY

Good for him.

BINKY

Good for him? I'm busting my hump trying to get you his slot and you say good for him?

JONNY

The guy's getting his life together--

BINKY

Not my guy. You're my guy. And my job is to make this happen for you--

Binky raises a CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE overhead. Jonny stops him.

JONNY

Enough. Sit. Listen, Bink--

They sit. Binky stands immediately, pacing.

BINKY

I know what you're gonna say and it's a mistake. You're having fun with your buddies and your boy, I get it, I really do. But we've come too far. It's right there.

JONNY

I'm feeling something, Bink. The crowds feel it, too. You don't think we could make a run with The Shine?

BINKY

Absolutely. We have a bald OB-GYN, a rhythm section comprised of two retarded farm boys and a front man who's still going through puberty. Wembley here we come. We could be the first hair band without the nuisance of having any actual hair--

JONNY

I'm noting some sarcasm.

BINKY

And I'm noting some stupidity. Four Men and a Little Boy might be the YouTube and MTV flavor of the week, but it's bush league compared to--

JONNY

Look, just leave the Chili Peppers thing alone for a little while.

BINKY

Jonny, if I do nothing--

JONNY

Let's finish out the tour, we'll go
back home and play Bend-Aid, then
we'll see where things stand. Ok?

Binky looks at the champagne bottle. Hands it over to Jonny.

BINKY

Fine. I smashed my phone anyhow--

EXT. CRAYFISH BASEBALL STADIUM -- RALEIGH-DURHAM -- NIGHT

The Shine roll out of the tour bus. A MARQUEE reads "The
Raleigh-Durham Crayfish vs. The Charlotte Jaybirds."

DOC

Atlanta is 300 miles away, Breeze--

JONNY

Relax. Ricky loves the baseball.
And we always got time for Ricky.

RICKY

That's so cool, bro.

JONNY

Besides, we're here on business.

INT. CRAYFISH MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM -- NIGHT

The Shine sing The Star-Spangled Banner *a cappella* into MIKES.
PJ screams the final high note. The crowd cheers. They
walk toward the dugout. Jonny stops Ricky--

JONNY

Whoa, where are you going?

RICKY

Uh, back to the seats, bro.

JONNY

You can't snag any ground balls from
up there, I can tell you that much.

Jonny steps aside as the CRAYFISH TEAM MANAGER approaches.
He hands Ricky a BASEBALL UNIFORM and a BASEBALL GLOVE.

CRAYFISH MANAGER

We hear you can play some ball, young
man. Mind doing us a favor and shore
up the hot corner for a few innings?

RICKY

Are you shittin' me, bro?

CRAYFISH MANAGER

My granddaughters just love you guys.

EXT. CRAYFISH MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM -- MOMENTS LATER

The Shine cheer as Ricky and the home team take the field.

CRAYFISH ANNOUNCER

And making his first appearance as a
Crayfish, Mr. Ricky Calhoun!

Gloved and uniformed, Ricky takes 3rd base. He waves to the crowd, excited. He sees the opposing team's THIRD BASE COACH.

RICKY

Holy shit, bro. I can't believe
this is really happening.

OPPOSING THIRD BASE COACH

You'd best start, 'cuz this guy's a
dead pull hitter. Coming your way.

A Batter takes the plate. Pitcher throws. CRACK! Smoking grounder to third. Ricky dives, snags it, jumps to his feet, fires to first. Out! Crowd goes nuts. Ricky tips his cap.

RICKY

Thanks for the heads up, bro.

OPPOSING THIRD BASE COACH

Try not to get yourself killed, son.
Insurance is high enough as is.

LATER IN THE GAME:

Ricky stands at the plate, a bat on his shoulder. A CRAYFISH THIRD BASE COACH gives him a series of intricate signals.

RICKY

What the fuck, bro?

CRAYFISH THIRD BASE COACH

Swing away, man. Swing away.

The Pitcher throws. Ricky swings. CRACK! Line drive, right field. Ricky rounds first, pumping for second. Here comes the throw from right, Ricky slides into second base. SAFE!!

Ricky gets up, dusts himself off. Fans go nuts! He gives a thumbs up to Jonny (in the stands) and Jonny does the same.

EXT. CRAYFISH BASEBALL STADIUM -- PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

At the bus, Jonny and The Shine sign AUTOGRAPHS for FANS.

JONNY

Binky helped set this whole thing
up. Why wouldn't he be here?

EXT. THE PLAZA HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY -- NIGHT

A HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE strolls past a CONCIERGE IN A TUXEDO.

INT. THE PLAZA HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY -- SAL'S SUITE -- NIGHT

Sal Pinto wears pajamas and eye shades, listening to a self-help guru on an iPad. Incense burns. SOOTHING MUSIC plays.

SELF-HELP GURU ON IPAD

Lack of all stimuli gives a recovering addict the space necessary to develop resistance to artificial stimulation--

A KNOCK at the door. Sal answers. It's Binky and THREE YOUNG HOOKERS, each holding SEVERAL BOTTLES OF DOM PERIGNON.

BINKY

Oh no. I don't suppose Slash is about, is he brother?

SAL

Nah, man. You got the wrong room.

BINKY

Christ, we've tried every room on this floor. Rock stars, go figure. And here I am stuck with a case of Dom, three beautiful girls and an ounce of sweet, fluffy Peruvian flake.

Binky pulls out a BAGGY full of WHITE POWDER. Sal salivates.

BINKY (CONT'D)

Be a shame to see it all go to waste. Oh well, you have a good one, mate--

SAL

You guys could come in and use the phone. To find your friend, I mean--

BINKY

My man, I like the way you think.

EXT. MACK'S BACK FORTY -- GRANDSTANDS -- NIGHT

TOWNSPEOPLE arrange HUNDREDS MORE CHAIRS. Now there are about 1000. Collette supervises, and talks on a cell phone--

COLLETTE

We had to add more seats. Can you believe 800 people have paid 50 dollars each to come see you guys?

INTERCUT WITH JONNY -- ON THE SHINE'S TOUR BUS

JONNY

Well yeah, I kinda do believe it.

COLLETTE

Thank you, Breeze. You really got the word out. Thank you so much.

JONNY

Hey, have I ever let you down? Don't answer that. See you in a few days.

PAN TO: A HUMMER. Darby watches the pasture using BINOCULARS. A SHINE SONG comes on the radio. He angrily snaps it off.

INT. THE PLAZA -- HALLWAY OUTSIDE SAL'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Binky exits with Hooker LATISHA. ROCK MUSIC THUMPS from inside the room. And a STROBE LIGHT too. He hands her CASH.

BINKY

And if it turns out he's in no shape for his concert tomorrow night there's an extra grand in it for you.

HOOKER LATISHA

Honey, Latisha could take him out for a month if you need it.

BINKY

Up to you. You are the professional.

Latisha enters, cracks a whip, closes the door. Binky sighs.

BINKY (CONT'D)

I just love rock and roll.

EXT. THE PLAZA HOTEL -- MAIN ENTRANCE -- THE NEXT DAY

POLICE and EMERGENCY VEHICLES everywhere. Smoke pours from an upstairs window. FIREMEN exit, pulling a ZEBRA on a LEASH.

Sal is on a gurney by an AMBULANCE, wearing a STRAIGHT JACKET and an OXYGEN MASK, giggling maniacally. He sees the zebra.

SAL

Oh no, Mr. Stripey, they got you too! Be strong, my friend. Be strong--

Derek leans on his nearby LIMOUSINE, talking on a cell phone.

DEREK

No Iris, I wouldn't call it a problem. I'd call it a fucking disaster. Get me all the numbers on our short list--

INT. ATLANTA HILTON -- PENTHOUSE SUITE -- DAY

Jonny eats ROOM SERVICE. MTV plays on a TELEVISION.

MTV REPORTER

Old is the new young at least in the world of rock. Florida-based rockers The Shine, led by 90s guitar virtuoso Jonny Phoenix and a brand new front man, open the festivities at tonight's Bubbapalooza in Atlanta, Georgia--

The front door opens. Binky enters.

JONNY
Welcome back stranger, where ya been?

BINKY
Oh, you know. Out and about.

The TV image switches to the scene with Sal at The Plaza.

MTV REPORTER
In other news, Red Hot Chili Peppers
were forced to cancel shows this
week at New York's Madison Square
Garden citing exhaustion on the part
of guitar player du jour, Sal Pinto--

JONNY
I told you to leave it alone.

BINKY
No idea what you're talking about.

JONNY
I'm sure you don't. A zebra?

BINKY
Wow. I did not see that coming.

INT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- DARBY'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Darby's on a PHONE. INTERCUT with Carlo T in a PHONE BOOTH.

DARBY
I said keep them out of my hair for
two weeks, not turn them into some
goddam overnight sensation.

CARLO T
And this is my fault how?

DARBY
MTV, Carlo? Really?

CARLO T
A long shot that paid off. Sue me.

DARBY
Just keep him away until Thursday.
Add a show, whatever. I can't have
him popping up at my council meeting--

CARLO T
If he gets the gig with the Peppers,
he'll be gone longer than that.

DARBY
If he gets the what with the who?

CARLO T

This is news? Guys's been standing on his head trying to impress that prick what manages the Chili Peppers--

DARBY

Really. Got a number for this prick?

EXT. THE PLAZA HOTEL -- MAIN ENTRANCE -- DAY

Derek watches as Sal's AMBULANCE pulls away. His phone rings.

DEREK

What? I don't know any goddam Darby Stantons. You got 30 seconds, go.

INT. ATLANTA HILTON -- THE PENTHOUSE SUITE -- DAY

Jonny practices scales. Binky's phone rings, he answers.

BINKY

Derek, my man. Yes, we heard, what a shame. Tonight? I think we can arrange that. Until then. B-bye.

JONNY

I told you to leave it alone.

BINKY

Again, no idea what you're talking about. And you're welcome.

Doc enters from a steamy bathroom. He sees Jonny, pensive.

DOC

Everything ok?

JONNY

Oh yeah, great. Feeling good.

DOC

They say it's a big crowd tonight.

BINKY

Biggest in Bubbapalooza history.

JONNY

Yeah, it's hard to believe.

DOC

Hey man, why don't you grab some shut-eye? You look a little beat.

JONNY

Hey Doc? This has been really fun.

DOC

The best. Get some sleep. Gotta go Nair my dome for the big show--

Doc exits. Jonny glares at Binky.

BINKY
Eyes on the prize, my friend.

INT. THE STAR CLUB -- ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- NIGHT

A packed house. A BANNER reads "Welcome to Bubbapalooza."
Binky leads Derek to a VIP TABLE. The lights go down--

BUBBAPALOOZA ANOUNCER
Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome
Jonny Phoenix and The Shine!!

The crowd goes ballistic as The Shine take the stage. They play "**Guitar Hero**" (Track 9). Jonny wails on his guitar. The Shine have never sounded better. Derek seems impressed.

INT. THE STAR CLUB -- GREEN ROOM -- NIGHT

The Shine crack open CHAMPAGNE in celebration. Binky enters, whispers to Jonny, then exits. Jonny follows. PJ notices.

INT. THE STAR CLUB -- SIDE STAGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Derek, Jonny and Binky find a quiet corner.

BINKY
Have you got good news for us?

DEREK
Guess that depends. How does Jonny feel about European summers?

BINKY
Is that--Are you--he got the job?

DEREK
Jon, we'd like you to become part of the Chili Peppers' family. I've got the agreement here. Basically, we lock you for 3 months at 700k a month--

Derek hands over a CONTRACT. Binky is ecstatic. Jonny isn't.

BINKY
700k, by which you mean seven hundred thousand dollars times three, yes?

DEREK
Three months gets us through 28 cities in Europe. If everything works out, we can talk about Asia in the Fall.

JONNY
What about The Shine--

DEREK
How do you mean?

JONNY

My band has one more show to do.

DEREK

Not with you they don't. Once you sign you're mine, is how I like to put it. Is this really an issue?

BINKY

Not at all. Everything's right as rain. Right, Breeze?

JONNY

It's a rinky dink little gig, Derek. A few hundred people in a cow pasture.

DEREK

It's an insurance thing. But hey, you really need to play the cow pasture we'll move on to the next name on the list, no hard feelings--

JONNY

I need some time to think about it--

DEREK

Sure. Three, two, one, time's up. We got a deal, or we got a problem?

Jonny thinks. Grabs a PEN from Binky. Signs the contract.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Perfect. You'll play our last U.S. date in Tampa next week. We'll be in touch to set up rehearsals. You should be really proud of yourself.

Derek exits. Jonny looks a bit shell-shocked.

BINKY

It's your dream. They'll understand.

Jonny sees PJ's SNEAKERS behind an AMPLIFIER. He approaches, finds PJ hiding -- PJ has heard everything. PJ exits running.

BINKY (CONT'D)

I mean, not right away or anything--

INT. THE STAR CLUB -- GREEN ROOM -- NIGHT

Jonny enters. The Shine are there. It's like a funeral.

DOC

Is it true?

JONNY

Yes. No. Which part, for Chrissake?

RICKY

Are you sick, bro?

JONNY
Physically? No.

DOC
Did you sign with the Chili Peppers?

JONNY
Yes. But it's only for three months--

DOC
So this whole thing has always been
about Jonny Phoenix. From the start.

JONNY
No. Yes. I mean, it started out
that way. But the more time we spent
I realized I wanted it more for y'all--

DOC
But you got over that pretty quick.

SCALLOP
He's still gonna play Bend-Aid with
us though, right? Right, Breeze?

Jonny paces. He looks like he's in pain.

PJ
No, Scallop. The great Jonny Phoenix
has bigger fish to fry.

JONNY
I'll make it up to you guys, I promise--

DOC
You're broken, man. And no amount
of adoring fans is gonna fix you.
We've loved you, no conditions. Not
'cuz you're special, but 'cuz you're
one of us. Until you find value in
that, we got nothing to talk about.

Doc and PJ exit. Scallop lingers like a lost puppy dog,
until Ricky finally drags him away.

INT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- RAY RAY'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Darby enters, plops down a CASE OF SCOTCH on Ray Ray's desk.

DARBY
Breeze signed with the Chili Peppers.
And the contract you wrote keeps him
from playing Bend-Aid. Now nothing
can stop us! I owe you one, partner.

Darby exits. Ray Ray looks at the Scotch. He's troubled--

INT. THE SHINE'S TOUR BUS -- NIGHT

Parked outside the Hilton. Binky enters, sits next to Doc.

BINKY
You've been excellent about all this.

DOC
I didn't do it for you. Nothing's
more important than good friends.

BINKY
Even though you're being sarcastic,
Jonny feels the same way.

Binky hands Doc a MANILA ENVELOPE, gets up to exit the bus--

DOC
Hey. What is it?

BINKY
Freedom. Complete and total freedom.

EXT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Collette and TOWNSFOLK watch as the bus pulls in. The Shine
and several ROADIES get out, but no Jonny. PJ exits, sulking.

COLLETTE
Over here, honey! Honey?

PJ walks past her to the pick-up. Several BULLDOZERS rumble
by on State Road 126 -- "Americorp" stenciled on their sides.

RICKY
What's with all the bulldozers, yo?

COLLETTE
Been coming in steady since yesterday.
If Americorp's plan gets approved at
the City Council meeting tomorrow,
they'll start tearing things down.

DOC
What City Council meeting?

COLLETTE
Doc, what's going on? Where's Breeze?

INT. RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS REHEARSAL STUDIO -- DAY

Derek enters with Jonny and Binky. RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
(ANTHONY KIEDIS, FLEA and CHAD SMITH) tune their instruments.

DEREK
Boys, Jonny Phoenix; Jonny, the boys.

Handshakes and fist bumps all around.

ANTHONY KIEDIS
You're not gonna burn down the studio,
are you, man?

CHAD

Or take a slash in our Roadsters?

JONNY

As long as I've got the gig, we should be fine.

FLEA

Ha! I like this guy!

INT. TIM SHEFFIELD'S LAW OFFICE -- CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Doc enters, dressed as a Rock God. Marian and her lawyer, TIM SHEFFIELD, sit at a table. They seem very chipper today--

DOC

Marian. Tim.

TIM SHEFFIELD, ESQ.

Glad you could take time out of your busy schedule to review our proposal. We both feel it's very generous--

DOC

She gets 65% of my practice and I get to see my kids one weekend day per month. That's generous?

TIM SHEFFIELD, ESQ.

Given the circumstances, yes.

DOC

What circumstances?

TIM SHEFFIELD, ESQ.

I'll let your outfit speak for itself.

DOC

Thing is, Tim, the paper you used for that proposal was real coarse.

TIM SHEFFIELD, ESQ.

Coarse? I don't understand.

DOC

Scratched me up something fierce when I wiped my ass with it. I may have to sue you personally 'cuz my asshole is damn near wrecked--

TIM SHEFFIELD, ESQ.

This is highly inappropriate behavior, Dr. Halladay. This mediation demands a certain level of decorum--

Doc pulls out Binky's MANILA ENVELOPE, drops it on the table.

DOC

Exhibit A. A lack of decorum, and some highly inappropriate behavior.

Tim opens the envelope and dumps onto the table: PHOTOGRAPHS. Showing Marian and Tim engaged in kinky S&M sex positions!

MARIAN

Oh God, Tim--

DOC

That a goat in bed with y'all? Hard to tell from the angle, but there's definitely something weird going on--

TIM SHEFFIELD, ESQ.

Sweet Jesus--

DOC

Here's my proposal. You get none of my practice. Zero alimony. I see my kids any time I damn well please. You get nothing but gone, devil woman.

MARIAN

You're not being fair.

DOC

I think I'm being more than fair. Given the circumstances.

Doc puts on his ROCK STAR SHADES and exits, smiling.

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND HIGH SCHOOL -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

PJ is mobbed by GIRLS. He signs autographs. The Russett Brothers approach. PJ takes off running into the school--

INT. SOUTHERN BEND HIGH SCHOOL -- DAY

The Russetts chase PJ through hallways, the cafeteria, the gym. PJ bursts through double doors and into:

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND HIGH SCHOOL -- OUTDOOR QUAD -- DAY

Packed with HUNDREDS of STUDENTS. No way out. The Russetts enter. Big Russett cracks his knuckles. He corners PJ.

BIG RUSSETT

Eight weeks no protection money. Guess what, Mister Rock Star? Now I'm gonna take it outta your ass.

All eyes are on PJ. He stands firm, summons the courage--

PJ

Listen, man. You picked the wrong day to fuck with me, motherfucker.

BIG RUSSETT

PJ Simpson. What'd you say to me?

PJ

My name is Rock. Now step off.

Big Russett laughs to the crowd, in disbelief. That's when PJ jumps, spins, and CRACKS him in the jaw with a nasty David Lee Roth karate kick. Big Russett goes down, and stays down.

PJ cracks his neck, beckons to the other two Russetts. They look at each other, look back at PJ, then flee. The crowd APPLAUDS, lifts PJ onto their shoulders. He's a hero!

EXT. SCALLOP'S HOUSE -- FRONT PORCH -- DAY

Scallop angrily scans his mail, rips open an ENVELOPE from the City Council. Chickens are in his yard. Gary approaches.

GARY THE NEIGHBOR

You said you was gonna do something
about stealing these fowl of mine--

Scallop grabs Gary by his overalls, hangs him on a FLAG POST.

SCALLOP

These are my chickens now, Gary.
You even look at my chickens I will
hurt you very badly. You understand?

GARY THE NEIGHBOR

No problem. Got some extra feed out
back for ya. If you could just--

Scallop enters the house as Eva exits.

SCALLOP

Get dressed, woman. We're late.

Eva sees Gary struggling on the flag post, then looks toward Scallop. She's confused. But she kinda likes it...

INT. S. BEND PSYCHIATRIC CARE CENTER -- DAY ROOM -- DAY

Staff and Patients sit in a circle as Ricky reads a LETTER.

QUENTIN

Eminent domain? What's it mean?

RICKY

Means we're gonna get bulldozed if
we don't do something. Anyone here
seen One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest?

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND CITY HALL -- DAY

Ricky parks a SCHOOL BUS full of mental patients. They all get out and join hundreds of TOWNSPEOPLE streaming inside--

INT. SOUTHERN BEND CITY HALL -- HEARING ROOM -- DAY

NOISY TOWNSPEOPLE fill the place, including Collette and The Shine. Lots of REPORTERS, too. The MAYOR bangs a gavel.

MAYOR STUBEN

First item on the council's agenda
is the redevelopment plan co-sponsored
by Americorp and South Florida Trust.
Mr. Stanton, you may proceed.

Darby stands. BOOS and HISSES. The Mayor bangs the gavel.

DARBY

Mayor Stuben, councilmembers. As we
all know, our humble town has been
besieged by blight and foreclosure--

RICKY

Which was all caused by YOU, bro!

The crowd BOOS some more. The Mayor bangs his gavel.

DARBY

Now, now -- nobody's pointing fingers.
Fact is, I have the answer to all
our fiscal problems. Allow me to
introduce: "New Southern Bend."

He pulls up a TARP and reveals the MODEL we saw in his office.

DARBY (CONT'D)

New. Modern. Revenue-producing.

RICKY

Where's the Road House, bro?

DOC

And my downtown clinic--

COLLETTE

The gazebo is gone!

SCALLOP

Wait, what about my lighthouse?

DARBY

The lighthouse? You mean the one
that ain't been lit since Bush I?
The plan's tax base won't support
non-income generating items, so some
sacrifices were necessary.

DOC

The plan seems to sacrifice everything
good and decent about Southern Bend.

DARBY

Good and decent ain't paying the
bills, Doc. Tax revenue from the
water park alone will keep the lights
on in City Hall for years to come--

DOC

Oh you're keeping City Hall, are ya?

Ray Ray can't take it anymore. He stands.

RAY RAY

Mr. Mayor, Florida Civil Code requires an Environmental Impact Report to be performed on all projects proposing redevelopment and/or eminent domain--

DARBY

What the fuck are you doing Ray Ray?

RAY RAY

The right thing, finally.

DARBY

Sit down this second or you're out. You'll get nothing, you hear me?

RAY RAY

Long as that's what you get too, that suits me just fine.

DARBY

Mr. Mayor, just yesterday that report was filed. Counsel Smith knows this, as he was the one who filed it--

RAY RAY

The code requires a reasonable review period so the public can address any concerns. 12 hours is not reasonable. The people of Southern Bend therefore request 30 days to study the report--

The Citizens loudly agree. The Mayor bangs his gavel.

DARBY

Dickie, this is horse shit and you know it. I got 75 bulldozers waiting to roll, meters ticking. The only possible recourse for these folks'd be a petition for injunctive relief--

RAY RAY

Which I filed in court this morning.

DARBY

--which requires a bond to be posted. Now where are these folks gonna find a million bucks to post that bond?

The REPORTERS aim their cameras and microphones at the Mayor.

MAYOR STUBEN

So you want the council to disregard Constitutional due process 'cuz the folks who own the land you're after can't afford to fight you in court?

DARBY

Aw Dickie, you make it sound so ugly--

PJ steps up to a MICROPHONE. The Reporters focus on him.

PJ

Mr. Mayor, a great man once told me that a small dedicated group can do anything it sets its mind to. But doing the right thing ain't always the easy thing. My band has a show tomorrow and we're gonna raise the money for that stupid bond. Why? 'Cuz that's what we do in the South. When the little guy needs help we rally 'cuz we're all the little guy. It's in our DNA. Who's with me?

The crowd cheers. PJ assumes his "front man" persona--

PJ (CONT'D)

I can't hear you! Who's with me?

A larger cheer from the crowd. PJ starts singing:

PJ (CONT'D)

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna
let it shine...*

Doc, Ricky and Scallop stand and join in singing. Pretty soon, the whole crowd is on their feet and singing. Mayor Stuben bangs his gavel, but the crowd just keeps on singing--

MAYOR STUBEN

Singing is not permitted at the city council--oh, screw it. Sorry, Darby. We're adjourned until Monday morning. Folks y'all got 72 hours to get your ducks in a row. Just no more singing!

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND TOWN HALL BUILDING -- DAY

Townspeople exit, excited. The Shine pull PJ aside.

DOC

What were you thinking, kid?

PJ

Breeze got us this far. I feel, I don't know, I feel like I can do anything. Don't you feel it? With or without him, the show must go on.

RICKY

I ain't no attorney, bro, but if we show up with no Jonny Phoenix, that's false advertising or some shit, right?

Ray Ray overhears, approaches.

RAY RAY

He's right. Your website promotes Jonny Phoenix and The Shine. With no Jonny, a court could order you to return any money raised from ticket sales. Hell, it might even be fraud.

PJ

Fine. So I'll just get him to play.

RICKY

And how you plan on doing that, bro?

PJ

I have absolutely no idea.

INT. RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS REHEARSAL SPACE -- DAY

Jonny jams "Californication" with The Peppers. They finish.

ANTHONY KIEDIS

So Jonny, after this song you get three minutes to do whatever you want, say hello, solo 'til you're blue in the face, whatever, then we jump back in to do Give It Away Now--

Binky enters urgently, holding a cell phone.

BINKY

Sorry, guys. Jonny, bad news--

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL -- NIGHT

A LIMO pulls up. Jonny gets out and runs into the hospital.

INT. SOUTHERN BEND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL -- MACK'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Mack's body is covered with a SHEET. NURSES unplug wires and machines. Jonny enters, takes off his hat, approaches.

ICU NURSE

Sorry, baby. You just missed him.

Ray Ray enters. He looks as shaken up as Jonny does.

RAY RAY

Gonna need a word before you go.

INT. SOUTHERN BEND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL -- CAFETERIA -- NIGHT

Ray Ray sips coffee. Jonny holds a LARGE KEY in his hand.

JONNY

And you have no idea what it's for?

RAY RAY

He just said give it to you after he was gone. Mack wasn't big on talking.

JONNY
Darby's gonna win, isn't he?

RAY RAY
Even if they raise the money for the bond, Darby's got enough resources to grind 'em down eventually.

JONNY
Funny how we get attached to something and not realize 'til it's gone.

RAY RAY
Talking about your Pa, or this town?

JONNY
Yeah, I guess.

Jonny stands up. Shakes hands with Ray Ray.

RAY RAY
Sure would help though if you stuck around and played that show. Give us a fighting chance at least.

JONNY
I can't, Ray Ray. I just can't.

Jonny walks toward the exit--

RAY RAY
He's coming after your friends and family. You know that, don't you?

JONNY
I got me a signed contract saying he can't do nothing of the sort.

Ray Ray opens a briefcase, pulls out a bottle of Scotch.

RAY RAY
Sit down. We need more, I got it.

INT. RANDY'S ROADHOUSE SALOON -- DARBY'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Jonny enters to find Darby working late at his desk.

JONNY
You son of a bitch. You promised to leave my people alone--

DARBY
Hey, I kept my promise. It's the bank that's taking their property and freezing their accounts--

JONNY
Ray Ray told me you own the bank!

DARBY

Let it be, Breeze. You got what you wanted. This ain't no silly guitar battle. You ain't gonna win this.

JONNY

I'll tear up our contract. You can't do any of this without Mack's land.

DARBY

Go ahead. Then Derek will tear up your contract with the Chili Peppers.

JONNY

Derek's got nothing to do with this--

DARBY

Wake up, man. You got that gig 'cuz I gave Derek a slice of my little deal here. You didn't honestly think you had a chance otherwise, did you?

JONNY

Bullshit--

DARBY

Relax, I'm sure we can dig up some low-cost public housing for Collette and that little bastard son of yours--

Furious, Jonny upends the table, smashing the MODEL to pieces. Jonny steps toward Darby -- who then pulls out a HANDGUN.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Probably best for everyone if you just hold it right there.

JONNY

You've got to be kidding me.

DARBY

No, sir. See them cameras up there with them nice shiny red lights?

Sure enough, CAMERAS hang from above. Red lights and all.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Probably show a solid case of self-defense if this gun were to go off. Wouldn't even be a trial. Just one more Southern Bend boy with a dead Daddy he never got to know.

JONNY

How can you live with yourself?

DARBY

Son, without me this town would be D-O-N-E done. I sleep like a baby on Xanax. Best move on now. You got yourself another continent to get to--

JONNY

This ain't over.

DARBY

Yeah, Breeze. It is.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- MAIN HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Jonny enters, startling Collette. He holds the KEY.

JONNY

Is he upstairs?

COLLETTE

Sleeping. Give him some time.

(sees the key)

Oh man. Is that what I think it is?

INT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- NIGHT

Collette kicks away some hay. She and Jonny move aside a tractor engine. On the floor is a TRAP DOOR. With a KEYHOLE.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- THE BARN -- SECRET CELLAR -- NIGHT

Jonny and Collette descend a ladder. A bare bulb lights the cellar, only it looks more like a museum. Dedicated to Jonny Phoenix. It's Mack's secret homage to his musician son.

GUITARS IN LUCITE BOXES with DESCRIPTIVE PLAQUES. POSTERS of Jonny. WARDROBE PIECES. A GOLD RECORD, framed and hung. And the centerpiece: the infamous Blonde '58 Telecaster.

JONNY

He never sold it, that lying bastard.

COLLETTE

I'm so sorry. He swore me to secrecy.

JONNY

I guess it was hard to believe I had any fans buying this crap on Ebay--

COLLETTE

Wasn't crap to him. He was so proud.

JONNY

Mack, proud? Please--

COLLETTE

He thought if you knew how he really felt, you might stop trying so hard.

Jonny laughs. But as reality sinks in, he's closer to tears. He grabs the Telly, sits. He pounds the floor with his fist.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)

Jonny--

JONNY

Please. Just, please--

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- DRIVEWAY -- NIGHT

It's raining. A LIMO idles. Collette and Jonny stand on the porch, out of the rain. Jonny pulls out an ENVELOPE.

JONNY

Tickets. For the Tampa show tomorrow. Hand 'em out, maybe somebody'll come.

COLLETTE

I'll see what I can do.

JONNY

Collette, I--

COLLETTE

I get it. Always have. Go catch that dream. God knows you paid a high enough price for it. You got a good heart, Jon McKay. Sometimes you just don't know how to use it.

Jonny moves in for a kiss, but Collette turns her face away. He kisses her forehead, gets into the limo, drives off. She opens the envelope. Tickets. And the DEED TO THE FARM.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- PJ'S ROOM -- MORNING

PJ wakes up, finds a GUITAR CASE, opens it. It's the Telly.

PJ

Mom!!? He was here?

EXT. TAMPA BAY TIMES FORUM, TAMPA -- NIGHT

FANS pour in. A MARQUEE reads: "Red Hot Chili Peppers."

INT. TAMPA BAY TIMES FORUM, TAMPA -- BACKSTAGE -- NIGHT

Jonny sits alone in his DRESSING ROOM. Binky enters.

JONNY

Anyone?

BINKY

It's early. Come on, it's your big night. Let's turn that frown upside down. Got a surprise for you.

Enter Zeke, from rock school! They exchange a man hug.

ZEKE

So this is what you been chasin'.

JONNY

Put up a helluva fight I'll tell ya.

ZEKE

Great band. They're not your band,
but still a great band.

JONNY

Well, you can't have everything.

Derek enters.

DEREK

Show time. Where's the hat? You
gotta wear the hat. JP in the house!

Derek exits. Jonny puts on a red leather Jonny Phoenix hat.

JONNY

Thanks for coming, Zeke.

ZEKE

Just one more thing before I go.
You can have everything. It ain't
easy. But it's doable. Trust me.

They fist bump, then flash devil horns. Jonny exits.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- PJ'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

On a computer, PJ and Collette watch a live feed from Tampa. The lights go dark, the crowd screams. Jonny and The Chili Peppers take the stage. They open with "Monarchy of Roses."

INT. TAMPA BAY TIMES FORUM, TAMPA -- ONSTAGE -- NIGHT

Jonny cranks away on his guitar, keeping up with the Chili Peppers. He looks to the side stage and sees only Binky sitting in his reserved section. Binky gives a thumbs up.

INT. TAMPA BAY TIMES FORUM, TAMPA -- ONSTAGE -- LATER

The Chili Peppers finish "Californication." The crowd cheers.

ANTHONY KIEDIS

Tampa! Thanks for coming out. It's
our last show at home before we head
across the pond. And it's the first
show with our new friend, our very
own guitar hero, Mr. Jonny Phoenix!

Jonny rips a nasty guitar solo. The crowd loves it. The Chili Peppers exit and leave Jonny alone on a dark stage, illuminated only by a WHITE SPOTLIGHT. He approaches a mike--

JONNY

Folks, I waited my whole life for this moment. And even though it's great to be here with y'all, there's someone, lots of someones, folks real close to me who couldn't be here tonight. So I'm gonna take my three minutes and dedicate this song to them. Hope y'all can stream it or post it or Youtube it or whatever y'all do. It's a song about hope.

Jonny sits at a piano. He plays and sings "When All Is Said and Done" (Track 10), a ballad about hope and loss. The crowd illuminates the arena with LIGHTERS and CEL PHONES...

AT SIDE STAGE:

ANTHONY KIEDIS

What the fuck's he doing? We hired him as the guitar player. How many guitars you see? Zero. Zero guitars--

FLEA

Shut up, man, this is kinda beautiful--

INT. MACK'S FARM -- PJ'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Listening to the song, Collette cries. PJ holds her hand.

INT. DOC'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Doc sits on a couch with his TWO KIDS, one under each arm, watching Jonny on live stream. He smiles, shakes his head.

INT. S. BEND PSYCHIATRIC CARE CENTER -- DAY ROOM -- NIGHT

Ricky and MENTAL PATIENTS watch the live stream on a computer. Quentin's LIGHTER sets a poster on fire, Ricky puts it out.

EXT. SCALLOP'S FRONT PORCH -- NIGHT

Scallop and Eva sit in rocking chairs overlooking the coast and the lighthouse. They smile, oblivious, each holding CHICKENS on their laps, stroking them like babies.

INT. TAMPA BAY TIMES FORUM, TAMPA -- ONSTAGE -- NIGHT

Full of emotion, Jonny finishes the song to wild applause. The Chili Peppers run on stage and break into "Give It Away Now." Jonny shakes it off, then joins in with the band...

INT. TAMPA BAY TIMES FORUM, TAMPA -- BACKSTAGE -- NIGHT

Jonny packs up. The Chili Peppers stop by his dressing room.

FLEA

Great job tonight, Jonny.

CHAD

Welcome aboard, dude. You rocked it. For the most part.

ANTHONY KIEDIS

See you at the airport tomorrow.

JONNY

Hey, you guys wanna grab a beer or something? I got so much adrenaline I don't know what to do with myself--

ANTHONY KIEDIS

We'll take a pass. Listen man, don't take this the wrong way, but this isn't like a "let's-hang-out-and-be-buddies" kinda thing. It's just business. And if you ever pull another stunt like that with the piano, we're on to the next name on the list and you're right back to being "Jonny Who." Feel me, bro?

JONNY

Loud and clear. Bro.

ANTHONY KIEDIS

You have a good night.

AK exits. Jonny's phone RINGS. It's "PJ." Jonny ponders, then presses "ignore." He pours a drink and drinks alone.

INT. MACK'S FARM -- PJ'S ROOM -- NIGHT

On a phone, PJ hears Jonny's VOICE MAIL. He hangs up. He looks at a FRAMED PHOTO of himself and Jonny embracing (taken by Collette right after the Showdown performance). Then he pulls up The Shine's Twitter account and starts typing--

INSERT: A TELEVISION showing an MTV REPORTER, next to a graphic showing Jonny and the other three Chili Peppers.

MTV REPORTER

Red Hot Chili Peppers have signed 90s axe legend Jonny Phoenix to replace the troubled Sal Pinto on their upcoming European tour. It's unclear how this will affect Jonny's former band The Shine and their highly publicized Bend-Aid charity show scheduled for tomorrow. Stay tuned--

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- BACK FORTY -- COW PASTURE/STAGE -- NIGHT

A light rain falls. BANNERS read "Hickory Chad Festival" and "Bend-Aid." We hear SEVERAL BULLDOZERS in the distance.

A Hummer pulls in, parks. Darby gets out with a FLASHLIGHT, follows a WATER LINE leading to the pasture. He finds a SPIGOT, turns it. WATER starts pouring out onto the field...

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- BACK FORTY -- COW PASTURE -- DAY

NEWS TRUCKS all over. Onstage, WORKMEN use a CRANE to lower a HUGE LIGHTED SIGN that reads, "Jonny Phoenix & The Shine."

Ricky, Scallop and Doc stand where Preacher's Rock used to be. **But in the daylight, we now see that the rock is gone!**

RICKY

It's gone. I don't believe it, bro.

DOC

Took four bulldozers to roll it away.

COLLETTE

This is really happening, isn't it?

SCALLOP

More room for seats, though. What?

RANDY

Guys, you need to see this--

They join Randy at the pasture, which is FLOODED and MUDDY.

COLLETTE

I didn't think it rained this bad.

RANDY

It didn't. Someone ran an irrigation line all night. Can't see it being ready by show time.

DOC

He's not coming anyway, so I don't know what everyone's worried about.

SCALLOP

Just because Breeze broke his promise don't mean we have to.

RICKY

Like PJ said, the show must go on.

DOC

By the way, where the hell is PJ?

INT. TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT -- VIP LOUNGE -- DAY

RAINING outside. The Peppers sit in one corner, Jonny and Binky in the other. A TV plays in the bg. Derek enters.

DEREK

Pilot says the storm should pass in about an hour. Sit tight, kids.

Binky works at a laptop. Jonny glances over, sees something--

JONNY

Hey, what's that?

BINKY

Nothing.

JONNY

That's PJ. Let me see.

Jonny sees a YouTube video of PJ at the Council, giving his speech. The whole town sings "This Little Light of Mine."

BINKY

A million hits so far. Christ--

JONNY

That boy's got himself some balls.

Just then, there's a commotion at the SECURITY ENTRANCE. Someone pushes their way in. It's PJ! He's soaking wet.

BINKY

Yes. Yes, he does.

Jonny waves at the GUARDS, who release PJ and let him enter.

JONNY

What are you doing here?

PJ

Thought I'd see you off, you know, as someone who cares about you. We're a pretty small club these days--

JONNY

If you came to make me feel worse--

PJ

Oh, you feel things? I didn't get that. 'Cuz it seems to me like you're only looking out for yourself--

JONNY

Listen, kid...

PJ

No, you listen. There's a town full of people, your people, busting their asses trying to make Bend-Aid happen--

JONNY

I realize that--

PJ

We sold like 4000 tickets so far. That's like 200 thousand dollars--

JONNY

Wow, that's incredible--

PJ
 We need a million. Here's the fun
 part: if Jonny Phoenix pulls a no-
 show, I get to refund all that money
 and maybe even go to jail for fraud.

Derek notices PJ and approaches.

DEREK
 Hey, Rock. What brings you to Miami?

PJ
 In the market for a used guitarist.

DEREK
 Oh yeah? Good luck with that.

JONNY
 Derek, I need an advance on my salary.
 Like a million, maybe 800 grand?

DEREK
 You want a check or is cash okay?

Derek laughs and laughs. He walks away, still laughing.

PJ
 A lot of people gave up a lot for
 you. And now they're gonna lose
 even more if you don't show up--

JONNY
 One thing I've learned, you can't
 convince anyone to do what they didn't
 already want to do in the first place.

PJ
 What if you came and played with us?
 What's the worst that could happen?

JONNY
 They'll fire me. And some other
 lucky schmuck gets to live my dream.

PJ
 This is your dream? Flying across
 the world with a bunch of strangers
 just to entertain other strangers?

JONNY
 I'll get my first check in two weeks--

PJ
 We need it by Monday or else Darby's
 bulldozers start tearing stuff down.
 He already took Preacher's Rock.

JONNY
 Bullshit.

PJ pulls out a laptop, shows him a PHOTO of the cow pasture.

PJ

Could I make that up? It was on the five acres you sold him. It's gone.

JONNY

I don't know what to tell you. I got here. And I'm gonna stay here.

PJ

I already tweeted the whole planet that you're playing with us tonight.

JONNY

Tweet 'em back, 'cuz I ain't. People leave, PJ. It's what they do.

PJ

Doc, Scallop, Ricky? Not leaving. They're playing, no matter what. Breeze, you're better than this.

JONNY

No, kid, I'm really not.

PJ

Do me a favor. When you start to regret this moment, don't even think about coming back home. We are done.

PJ walks toward the exit.

JONNY

See, you're leaving. What'd I say?

Without looking back, PJ flips him the bird and keeps walking. Jonny hears something on the TV, looks up. Binky joins him.

CLOSE-UP: MIAMI AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE -- TELEVISION SCREEN

A LOCAL NEWS REPORTER is on the scene at Bend-Aid:

LOCAL NEWS REPORTER

...the long anticipated Bend-Aid is literally under water. Officials are searching for alternate venues, but no definite word yet...

BINKY

Rained out anyway. It's a sign.

JONNY

Oh, shut up, Binky.

DEREK

Ok cowboys, let's saddle up--

INT. RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS' PRIVATE PLANE -- DAY

Jonny, Binky, Derek and the Chili Peppers sit in CHAMPAGNE luxury. Jonny stares out a window, distressed.

BINKY

For 2 million bucks, you can buy yourself a whole new set of friends.

CAPTAIN ON LOUDSPEAKER

Folks, we're fourth for take-off. Flight attendants prepare the cabin.

JONNY

Darby's going after Doc, Scallop and Ricky. They could lose everything.

BINKY

A fresh start is good for the soul.

JONNY

PJ might get sued, maybe even arrested--

BINKY

It'll build his character. Wish my Dah had taught me things like that.

JONNY

Do you ever listen to yourself?

BINKY

Not really, no. Why do you ask?

A SECURITY GUARD enters the cabin holding a GUITAR CASE.

SECURITY GUARD

The kid left something for the new guy. Looks expensive.

He opens the case. It's the TELLY. Something falls out of the case and lands on Jonny's lap: a LIGHTHOUSE KEY CHAIN.

BINKY

Please tell me that's not a light house key chain that says "Save Bend."

JONNY

Binky--

BINKY

Don't say it. Please don't say it--

JONNY

Binky, it's a sign.

BINKY

No, it's not. I know signs, and that is definitely not a sign--

JONNY

I gotta go. Derek, tell them to stop the plane, I've got to get off.

DEREK

Sorry, JP, no way this plane is stopping anywhere short of Heathrow.

JONNY

Bink, you found me a gig where I fit in. You found me a home. But it's not with these guys. There are folks who need me more than I need this.

BINKY

You're sure that's what you want?

JONNY

Absolutely.

BINKY

Watch, my son, and learn.

Suddenly, Binky fakes another EPILEPTIC FIT. He hits the floor, twitching. A FLIGHT ATTENDANT rushes to his side--

INT. TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT -- VIP LOUNGE -- LATER

Jonny rolls Binky in a WHEELCHAIR. Binky jumps out of the chair and they both run. Jonny takes off his hat, tosses it into a TRASH CAN. FANS and PAPARAZZI dive in after it--

EXT. TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT -- PARKING STRUCTURE -- DAY

PJ exits driving the pick-up, but stops when he sees: **Jonny! Standing in the rain. Guitar case in hand.** PJ gets out--

PJ

Really? What about the Chili Peppers?

JONNY

Two words, kid. Fuck it.

Jonny and PJ hug, father and son. Nothing awkward about it.

BINKY

I could cry. No, I mean it, this was like a \$300,000 commission, I should be bawling like Jerry Falwell in a cheap motel room.

PJ

Doesn't it feel doing the right thing?

BINKY

My first time. Actually I feel a bit nauseous.

INT. MACK'S PICK-UP TRUCK -- DAY

Jonny's at the wheel. PJ's in the middle. Binky has shotgun. Jonny squeals onto the "75 North," driving like a bat out of hell. PJ pokes on his laptop and sends a TWEET--

PJ

I just re-tweeted that we're on the way. If we avoid major traffic we'll make it just in time for the show--

BINKY

This close. We were this close.

JONNY

For the record, kid, that was some pretty manipulative shit back there.

PJ

One thing I've learned, you can't convince anyone to do what they didn't already want to do in the first place.

JONNY

I really have to stop talking.

EXT. MACK'S BACK FORTY -- STAGE AREA -- DAY

PLYWOOD covers the mud. THOUSANDS OF FANS sit in chairs, on blankets. More FANS arrive. Collette and The Shine watch...

DOC

They just keep coming. I don't think this is gonna work.

COLLETTE

It has to work.

RICKY

We got no singer or lead guitar anyways, bro, so what's the big deal?

Just then, FIVE MEN IN BLACK approach. Actually, with their entourage of HOT BABES and UMBRELLA HOLDERS, it's more like 20 people. It's WHITE RAVEN, from the auditions in L.A.!

ACE

I am Ace. We are large fans. Perhaps we can be of some assistance, yes?

EXT. HIGHWAY 75 NORTHBOUND -- DAY

Carlo's Mercedes follows the pick-up. Carlo's on a cel phone.

CARLO T

Yeah, we got a problem--

INTERCUT WITH DARBY, IN HIS OFFICE:

DARBY

That's impossible. He just got on a plane with the Chili Peppers.

CARLO T

Then he got off the plane. And now he's heading your way with the kid.

DARBY

I don't care how you do it, find them and stop them.

Darby hangs up, dials another number.

DARBY (CONT'D)

Yes, I need to report a kidnapping. Perp's in a rusted out '79 Ford pick-up, headed 75 north, south of Ocala--
 (makes shooting noises)
 He's got a gun! Oh Lord, he's got a--
 (hangs up, dials again)
 Come on, come on--

INT. AMERICORP TRUCKING BAY -- DAY

Outside are rows of 18-wheelers with "Americorp" written on their sides. A PHONE RINGS. BUBBA, the dispatcher, answers.

BUBBA

Americorp dispatch, you got Bubba.

DARBY

Remember that favor I been saving for a rainy day? It's goddam pouring--

EXT. ALACHUA COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT -- DAY

Five POLICE CRUISERS pull out, LIGHTS and SIRENS full bore.

ALACHUA POLICE DISPATCHER

Suspect is in a 1979 Ford pick-up. Orders are to arrest and detain--

INT. MACK'S PICK-UP TRUCK -- DAY

Jonny gasses it, flies through traffic. PJ pokes on a laptop.

PJ

This can't be right. My hit counter's going ballistic. And I'm getting hot-linked all over the place.

JONNY

Where's my Nerd-English dictionary?

PJ
 Means we're gonna have a big crowd.
 (dials his phone)
 Mom, it's me. We're really close.
 Have you seen the ticket sales?
 Yes, relax, I'm perfectly safe--

A GUNSHOT rings out. A bullet SMASHES Jonny's side mirror.

JONNY
 (looking in rear view)
 Shit. Black Mercedes.

BINKY
 Carlo T. Almost forgot about him.

PJ
 A gun? Come on, Mom, that's crazy
 talk. Gotta go. See you soon.

JONNY
 See? Sometimes truth is overrated.
 Seat belts on. This could get bumpy.

Jonny floors it, swerves past cars. The Mercedes keeps up.

EXT. INTERSTATE 75 (NORTHBOUND) -- DAY

An AMERICORP 18-WHEELER parks sideways across all lanes.
 The DRIVER hops out, walks away. CARS HONK as traffic builds--

INT. MACK'S PICK-UP TRUCK -- DAY

Traffic slows, then stops. They can see the Americorp truck.

BINKY
 What's going on up there?

JONNY
 Looks like an accident on purpose.

PJ
 Americorp. That's gotta be Darby.

Jonny swerves onto the right shoulder, but sees COP CARS
 driving towards him. He cranks a U-turn, but then sees Carlo
 and his thugs leaning on their parked Mercedes, guns drawn.

Jonny squeals across the median to the southbound highway
 and sees: a SECOND AMERICORP 18-WHEELER blocking southbound
 traffic! ALACHUA COPS lean on parked COP CARS, guns drawn.

ALACHUA COP ON A MEGAPHONE
 Step out of the vehicle, hands above
 your heads--

BINKY
 Ok Sundance, nothing crazy here.

JONNY

Crazy. You mean like blowing off my dream gig to play in a rained-out cow pasture? Come on, it's over.

They get out, hands up. Alachua Cops approach, 20 feet away--

ALACHUA COP

You're under arrest for kidnapping.

JONNY

This is my boy. I'm taking him home. That's like the opposite of kidnapping--

PJ

Breeze, it's not over.

JONNY

Look around kid. Trust me it's over.

PJ

Trust me, it's not.

That's when we hear the WHUP-WHUP-WHUP of the News 9 Chopper overhead! It lands on the median. Collette hops out.

COLLETTE

Y'all need an invitation or what?

Jonny grabs the Telly and they all run to the chopper. Across the median, Chimpy aims a gun. Carlo T grabs Chimpy's arm.

CARLO T

Cops hate it when you shoot people right in front of them. Moron.

The Chopper takes off. Carlo T dials his cel phone.

CARLO T (CONT'D)

Yeah, still got a problem.

INT. CHANNEL NINE NEWS CHOPPER -- DAY

Bo flies the Chopper north. Over a city, not over farms--

JONNY

You could have gotten yourself killed. This is such a bad idea.

COLLETTE

Bad ideas are my bread and butter.

JONNY

Say, Bo, isn't the farm that way?

COLLETTE

Slight change of plans. A bit more fan interest than we expected.

The chopper banks left toward: "The Swamp" Football Stadium!
The parking lot is full of FANS. And so is the stadium!

JONNY

You've got to be kidding me. How?

COLLETTE

Your L.A. friends offered to set it up. White Raven, is that their name?

JONNY

I just don't believe any of this--

BO THE CHOPPER PILOT

Your Pa woulda loved it. He never had a revival one-tenth this size.

JONNY

It's not a revival, it's a rock show.

BO THE CHOPPER PILOT

Folks are here to make some changes. Call it what you like, this here's a good old-fashioned Southern revival.

INT. "THE SWAMP" FOOTBALL STADIUM -- MID-FIELD -- DAY

The crowd cheers as the chopper hovers over a STAGE and the LIGHTED SIGN reading, "JONNY PHOENIX AND THE SHINE." PJ climbs down a ROPE LADDER. The crowd goes nuts. Jonny hands something to Collette -- it's the LIGHTHOUSE KEY CHAIN.

JONNY

Guess I finally found my way home.

COLLETTE

Wow. That is so cornball.

They kiss. Jonny grabs the Telly, descends to the stage, takes a bow. APPLAUSE. White Raven is in the crowd. Jonny points to his eyes, then Zeus'. Zeus does the same, smiling.

Darby runs onstage, along with SHERIFF ALICE and a FEW COPS.

DARBY

This concert is about to violate county sound ordinance 526A. A permit is required and I don't believe you boys got one. Sheriff, gonna need you to shut this down immediately.

JONNY

Sound ordinance, that's all you got?

Jonny grabs a microphone and addresses the crowd.

JONNY (CONT'D)

Somebody wants to shut us down 'cuz we don't have permission to make noise here. What do you say, Central Florida, can we make some noise?

The crowd goes ape shit.

SHERIFF ALICE

Good enough for me.

DARBY

Good enough-- Sheriff, I demand that you do your job and enforce the law.

JONNY

That is an excellent idea, Darby.

Jonny nods to Ray Ray, who enters and hands a DVD to Alice.

SHERIFF ALICE

This is what you boys told me about?

RAY RAY

Yes, ma'am, real nice picture quality.

DARBY

Whatever you think you got, you ain't.

JONNY

What we got is footage from them office cameras of yours. Shows you handing over, what was it, Ray Ray?

RAY RAY

Stacks of cash.

JONNY

Stacks of cash -- to Dickie and a few other members of the City Council.

SHERIFF ALICE

Mr. Stanton, you're under arrest for bribery, obstruction of justice, and for being an all-around douche bag.

JONNY

(to the crowd)

Big hand for Darby Stanton. Couldn't have done any of this without him.

The crowd cheers. COPS restrain Darby, lead him away. Doc, Ricky and Scallop enter from backstage. The crowd ERUPTS--

DOC

You're late.

JONNY

This time you gotta believe me. Traffic was a bitch. We good?

DOC
We are excellent.

RICKY
You ready to rock, bro?

JONNY
Almost--

Jonny grabs a guitar from a stand, SMASHES it into the band sign's LIGHTS until it reads only "The Shine." Crowd cheers. He grabs the Telly, rejoins his band. They all bump fists.

JONNY (CONT'D)
Now I'm ready. *This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...*

THE SHINE
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

EVERYBODY IN THE STADIUM
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine...

The crowd cheers. Jonny plays the opening riff of "Rock and Roll Is Free, Man!" (Track 11). PJ grabs a microphone.

PJ
Ladies and Gentlemen, we are The Shine! It's an honor to welcome 90,000 of our closest friends to our humble home! And thanks to y'all, it's gonna be our home for a while.

The rest of the band joins in. The crowd rocks along--

FREEZE FRAME ON: THE SHINE -- AS 90,000 FANS CHEER THEM ON.

FADE OUT:

TITLE CARD: "THREE MONTHS LATER"

FADE IN:

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND HIGH SCHOOL -- BASEBALL FIELD -- DAY

Ricky (wearing a BASEBALL UNIFORM) claps as PJ (a BALLPLAYER) gets a hit. Ricky high-fives Quentin, now his assistant coach. In the BLEACHERS, the other mental patients CHEER...

Doc (wearing SCRUBS) pulls up in a NEW BENTLEY. He honks the horn and points to his watch.

RICKY
Take over, Q. See you tomorrow.

QUENTIN
You got it, bro. I mean "coach."

Ricky whistles. PJ high-fives a SUBSTITUTE RUNNER then exits the field. PJ and Ricky grab SPORTS BAGS, run to the car.

EXT. MACK'S FARM -- DAY

The place looks great. Fresh paint, mended fences, corn crop in the back 40. Jonny chops wood. Collette approaches.

COLLETTE

Honey, it's way after 5.

EXT. DOWNTOWN SOUTHERN BEND, FLORIDA -- DAY

The whole town has now been restored to its previous luster and charm. The stores are all open, packed with CUSTOMERS AND TOURISTS. The Gazebo and the Lighthouse have FRESH PAINT. A SIGN reads "WELCOME TO SOUTHERN BEND, HOME OF 'THE SHINE.'"

A MOTORCYCLE careens into view -- driven by Jonny, a guitar case strapped across his back. Collette rides with him, a CAMERA CASE on her back. As usual, Jonny's in a hurry.

This time, he sees Mrs. Taylor wheeling a CART FULL OF HUNDREDS OF PIES. He stops, patiently allows her to cross.

MRS. TAYLOR

Such a good boy.

Jonny waves and takes off down the road, past Mr. Wilson.

MR. WILSON

Always said he was one of the good ones.

MRS. TAYLOR

And I always said you're so full of shit your eyes are brown.

JONNY (V.O.)

Bend-Aid raised enough cash to pay off every defaulted loan on every property in Southern Bend. And with Darby gone, the new city council renegotiated water rights up north, now we got plenty of water. So even if rock and roll didn't change the world, it changed my world. And guess what? We ain't done yet.

EXT. SOUTHERN BEND AIRSTRIP -- DAY

Jonny pulls in. TWO BIKE WRANGLERS (jackets reading "The Shine") take the bike. We see that it's Chimp and Barolo!

Leaning on Doc's Bentley is Carlo T. He wears a cowboy hat, and a jacket that reads "The Shine" on front, "Security" on the back. He doffs his cap. Jonny salutes him in return.

JONNY

Getting used to the new environment?

CARLO T
 For 10% of what you guys are making,
 I'd guard your shit on the moon if
 you asked me nice.

Jonny and Collette climb aboard a LEAR JET -- on its side
 are the words, "The Shine," and the band's FIVE-MAN LOGO--

INT. THE SHINE'S LEAR JET -- DAY

Jonny and Collette enter. EVERYONE is onboard -- PJ, Scallop,
 Ricky, Doc, Eva, Doc's kids, Ginger. Also, several CHICKENS.

ALL
 You're late!

JONNY
 We needed firewood, Chicago can wait.

RICKY
 We play Cleveland tonight, bro.

JONNY
 Even better. Y'all know there's a
 chicken on this plane?

SCALLOP
 There are four chickens on this plane.
 You said we could bring family.

JONNY
 Not even gonna ask. Let's rock and
 roll.

Collette sets a timer on a CAMERA, then joins the others.

FLASH! FREEZE FRAME ON A GROUP PHOTO -- ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY.

EXT. AIRSTRIP -- DUSK

The jet takes off. Music is "Guitar Hero" (Track 9).

PAN DOWN TO: Mack's Back 40. Preacher's Rock is back where
 it belongs. Next to the rock is a FAKE GRAVESTONE that reads,
 "Jonny Phoenix, 1968-2013."

Ellis Creek has deep water, and the HICKORY CHAD are JUMPIN'.

And along the coast in the bg, we see the LIGHTHOUSE finally
 become ILLUMINATED, helping everyone find their way home...

FADE OUT:

THE END

ROLL CREDITS:

After "Guitar Hero," the MUSIC is "Bend" (Track 12).