

# "GHOST"

Screenplay by

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SHOOTING DRAFT

INT. TRIBECA LOFT - DAY

The CAMERA TRACKS slowly through clouds of moving dust. Shafts of muted light pierce the dense atmosphere. An eerie netherworld envelops us. Strange ghostly forms appear and disappear in the distance. They seem like apparitions.

Broken timbers and dangling cables emerge from the smoky light. We see hints of a huge demolished space.

An old white plaster wall FILLS THE SCREEN. Momentary blips of light flash across it. SOUNDS of street traffic are heard dimly in the distance.

With startling impact, the SOUND of a sledgehammer explodes out of nowhere. The wall shudders.

HAMMER BLOWS assault the audience. They are loud and jarring. The wall buckles.

Chunks of plaster CRASH to the floor. The air fills with new swirls of white dust. The SLEDGEHAMMER smashes INTO VIEW. Beams of sunlight cut through the cracks, piercing the atmosphere like searchlights in a fog. A huge section of wall falls toward camera as more plaster billows into the air. We hear voices talking.

MOLLY (O.S.)

What a mess!

SAM (O.S.)

I told you!

Through jagged holes we can make out three dim figures on the other side of the wall, all wielding SLEDGEHAMMERS.

SAM

I can't breathe.

MOLLY

Use your mask, dummy.

One of the figures adjusts something over his face. Isolated rays of sunlight dance around him casting long shadows in the air.

SAM

(singing)  
"Volga boat..., man." Whoomph!

His hammer pounds the wall. Molly laughs.

ANGLE

The CAMERA MOVES IN and for the first time we see them. MOLLY JENSEN, in her late 20's, has a bandanna around her hair and a workman's mask over her nose, but we can tell from her eyes and cheekbones that she is beautiful. SAM WHEAT, in his late 30's, is also hidden behind a mask, but he has a strong forehead and handsome features. Sweat is dripping down his brow, leaving streaks in the dust. CARL BRUNER, early 30's, removes his mask revealing a good looking young man with a fashionable two-day stubble. Both men have their shirts off.

CUT TO:

ANGLE

BLACKNESS AND A LOUD THUD. Suddenly a shaft of light penetrates the darkness. Another thud and more light. We see a hole. The hook of a crowbar enters it, grappling with something around the edges. Then, with a tug and a loud yank, a huge section of tin ceiling crashes to the floor. Huge clouds of dust fly into the air. Molly looks up, astonished.

MOLLY

Sam, look, there's a whole eight feet up there.

SAM

And about eighty years of dust.

MOLLY

We have all this height, Sam. We could add a second floor and put our bedroom upstairs. That would leave all this space.

SAM

(eyeing her curiously)  
For what?

MOLLY

For space. Just space.

SAM

Be great for bumper cars.

Carl laughs as he looks at Sam. Their bodies, covered with white powder, appear as strange, ghostly figures.

CARL

Sam, this may be none of my business,

but I'm concerned you're doing too  
much coke.

Sam glances down at his white body. They all laugh.

MOLLY

Hey, Sam, turn around.

Sam obeys. Molly doodles on his chest, drawing a bow tie and  
the outline of a tuxedo jacket. Her lines are quick,  
accomplished, and subtly erotic.

CARL

(offering his body)

How 'bout me?

Molly nods. She reaches out and superimposes an armless female  
torso over his. His stomach jumps sensually as she touches  
it. Molly pulls back to admire her work. He looks like a  
Greek statue.

CARL

I'll never wash again.

Molly laughs.

ANGLE

Sam, Molly, and Carl are holding their sledgehammers. Molly begins to count.

MOLLY

All together now. One,  
(they strike the wall  
with their hammers.  
The wall shakes)  
two,  
(they pound again.  
The wall begins to  
give)  
three.

In unison, they hit it once more. A massive section of plaster  
and metal topples to the ground. New clouds of dust fill the  
air. Suddenly, Sam spies an old jar lying on the floor.  
Something rattles inside it, a penny.

SAM

Hey, look what I found. There's a  
penny inside.  
(he hands it to Molly)  
For luck in our new loft. It's a  
good omen.

MOLLY

(shaking her head,  
disagreeing)

You're the good omen.

She glances at him lovingly. Carl looks at the two of them and grins.

As the dust settles we see, for the first time, the outlines of the space they are working in. It is a huge loft over four thousand square feet. Banks of windows run east and west. Molly steps back and admires the room.

MOLLY

It's gorgeous.

CARL

You guys lucked out. Hell, I bet you could sell it tomorrow and double your investment.

MOLLY

Sell it? Carl, we just bought it.

CARL

What I wouldn't do for a place like this.

SAM

It's gonna be great.

OMITTED

EXT. MARKET SECURITY BANK & TRUST - HEADQUARTERS - DAY

It is morning rush hour. Sam and Carl, both wearing suits and ties, exit the Wall Street subway station and approach the Headquarters of Market Security Bank & Trust.

CARL

Oh, by the way, Sam, I had to move your 3:00 with Bob Kahan to 4:00 so you could squeeze in Gary Alan. He called yesterday and said he has to see you today about the Danway stuff. Three o'clock was the only time he could make it. Also, the board meeting in L.A. has been confirmed for the 12th. I got you on a 9:00 a.m. flight.

Sam seems preoccupied.

CARL

(continuing)

Hey, Sam, relax. This isn't brain surgery you're going into.

SAM

I hate pitching to these Japanese

guys. They make me nervous. I mean, what am I supposed to say, "Who do you think'll win that big Sumo championship"?

CARL

Sam, you'll be fine. You're great with people.

Sam's jacket flares open. He is wearing yellow suspenders. Carl notices.

CARL

(continuing)

Hey, nice. I like those.

Sam, not completely comfortable wearing them, buttons his jacket.

SAM

...Molly.

Carl smiles and then turns to admire a car going by.

CARL

Jesus, look at that, a Testerosa. That's the car I'm gonna drive when I'm making two hundred grand.

SAM

Better pay off your Mustang first.

INT. BANK HEADQUARTERS, ELEVATOR - DAY

Sam and Carl are standing on a crowded elevator. It is deadly quiet. Suddenly Carl elbows Sam and winks. There is something he wants him to do. Sam hesitates a moment, annoyed, and then relents. He clears his throat.

SAM

So Carl, what did the doctor say?

CARL

He said it was contagious. Very contagious. I shouldn't be going into work today.

(he coughs loudly)

But what could I do?

He sneezes. People on the elevator freeze.

SAM

And what about the rash?

CARL

Not good. It's spreading everywhere.

SAM  
On your genitals again?

CARL  
Everywhere. He said be sure not to touch anyone.

We see people trying to inch away. Carl coughs again. They hold their breath. The elevator stops at the next floor. All the passengers get off.

INT. BANK HEADQUARTERS, EXECUTIVE OFFICES - DAY

Sam and Carl, laughing, walk through a large office area bustling with activity. Employees, in various cubicles, are talking on telephones and punching information into computers.

Sam heads into his executive office. Carl steps into a cubicle across the aisle. ROSE, Sam's secretary, approaches him.

ROSE  
Morning, Mr. Wheat.

SAM  
Morning Rose. Listen, when the Kobiashi people arrive, have Elenore take them right to the...

ROSE  
They're already here.

She points to a windowed conference room. Sam turns around and sees a large group of JAPANESE MEN standing inside.

SAM  
They're early!

ROSE  
I know. And Andy Dillon called. He said they need \$900,000 transferred to Albany by noon.

SAM  
Noon? Damn!

He hurries over to Carl's cubicle. He is on the phone. Carl cups the mouthpiece.

CARL  
Hold on.

SAM  
Listen, Dillon needs \$900,000 in Albany by noon. Can you transfer it to his payroll account?

CARL

Sure. Just let me have your MAC code.

Sam pulls out his wallet and extracts a small address book. He jots the code numbers on a piece of paper and hands it to Carl.

SAM

Discretion, huh?

CARL

You bet. I'll do it right away.

INT. WELL-APPOINTED EXECUTIVE BOARDROOM - DAY

Sam and a group of fifteen somber Japanese businessmen are sitting around a large granite conference table. Sam stands up and speaks a simple greeting to them.

SAM

(in Japanese)

Good morning, Gentlemen. On behalf of Market Security Bank & Trust, I welcome you to our city.

The men smile happily and nod their heads in unison.

MEN

Arigato.

They look to Sam, expecting more. Uncomfortable, he clears his throat.

SAM

I'm afraid that's the only Japanese I know. But I realize it's not our language fluency, or lack of it, that brings you to Market Security. Rather, I'm sure, it is our banking expertise, our ability to represent and anticipate all of your banking needs. As you know, we are not the largest banking establishment in New York.

(his throat goes dry  
and he takes a sip  
of water)

But, with combined assets of over 200 billion dollars, we have a firm commitment to the international marketplace.

A SECRETARY enters the room and hands Sam a piece of paper. It reads "MOLLY ON LINE 2. URGENT." She hands him a phone.

Sam looks surprised. He nods apologetically to his guests.

SAM  
Excuse me.  
(he picks up the  
receiver)  
Hello?

CUT TO:

MOLLY

dressed in a long, clay covered smock. She is in a potters studio. SEVERAL OTHER POTTERS are in the background working at their wheels. A five-foot high ceramic vase stands beside Molly. It is still wet. She toys with it as she speaks into the phone.

MOLLY  
A man and a woman are lying in bed when the woman's husband suddenly comes home. Frightened, she tells the man he has to leave instantly through the window. He has no time to dress.

CUT BACK TO:

SAM

straight-faced, listening and trying to look as if it is important.

SAM  
Uh hmm.

MOLLY (V.O.)  
It's raining outside. The man, running naked along the street, sees some joggers approaching.

The entire contingent of Japanese men is staring at Sam.

MOLLY (V.O.)  
(continuing)  
One of the joggers calls out. "Hey, do you always go jogging naked?" And the man says, "Yes, always."

SAM  
Okay.

MOLLY (V.O.)  
And then the other jogger says, "And do you always wear a condom?" The man looks down, embarrassed, and

replies, "Only when it's raining."

Sam squelches a smile.

SAM

Well, that's just fine.

MOLLY (V.O.)

Now just relax and have fun, okay?  
It's not the end of the world if you  
lose this account. You've always got  
me.

SAM

Thank you. I'll remember that.

MOLLY (V.O.)

See ya.

He hangs up and stares at the Japanese men. A short smile crosses his face.

CUT TO:

A CARVED WOODEN ANGEL

eight feet tall, ascending into an afternoon sky. As the CAMERA PULLS BACK we see that we are inside a building and that the angel is dangling outside an open doorway high above the street.

A group of workmen grab for the angel, but have difficulty bringing it in. Suddenly Molly steps INTO the FRAME.

MOLLY

Where you guys from, the New York  
City Ballet?

With a gutsy maneuver, Molly leans out over the sidewalk and tries to grab hold of the ropes. She can't reach them. Suddenly a pair of hands grabs her around the waist. She screams.

SAM

Saved your life.

Sam laughs as he pulls her back into the loft. She does not think it is funny.

MOLLY

You bastard. Don't do that to me.  
You scared me half to death.

SAM

Better than seeing this gorgeous  
body splattered all over the street.

Here, look out.

Sam jumps up, grabs hold of the door's top molding, and swings out over the sidewalk. Molly gasps. Sam's feet push at the angel and send it swinging away and then back toward the loft. Quickly he jumps back, grabs hold of it, and brings it in. The workmen applaud. Molly eyes him with admiration.

Suddenly we hear a voice call out.

CARL (O.S.)  
Sam? Molly? Anybody home?

Molly looks to Sam.

MOLLY  
Carl? Did you invite him?

SAM  
(under his breath)  
I couldn't keep him away.

Carl enters, shakes Molly's hand, and pats Sam on the back.

CARL  
Hi, Moll. Hi, Sam. So, how's it goin'?

Before they can answer, a WORKMAN turns to Molly.

WORKMAN (V.O.)  
Where do you want this?

MOLLY  
In the bedroom.

INT. LOFT - DAY

As the angel pulls away from camera, we see the newly decorated loft for the first time. It is painted now in lovely pastels. The floor, a huge gymnasium-like expanse, is lacquered with polyurethane. Furniture and boxes are piling up along the walls. Dominating the space, with a kind of surreal presence, are a large number of Molly's sculptures and ceramics. There is also a vintage jukebox. Carl is impressed.

CARL  
Wow! The place looks great. Really great.

MOLLY  
You like it, huh?

CARL  
"Like" is hardly the word. I never imagined it would be this beautiful.

This is incredible.

A mover lugs in a heavy old chair. Molly sees it.

MOLLY

Sam, you kept that chair?

SAM

What do you mean? It's comfortable.  
For T.V. I love that chair.

MOLLY

But it doesn't go with anything.

SAM

It goes with me.

MOLLY

It's okay, I'll paint it.

Sam pinches her ass. Molly smiles.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - LATER

Sam, Molly, and Carl are sprawled out on the floor, eating from Cartons of Chinese food. Frank, a gray cat, eats beside them. Unpacked boxes are scattered everywhere.

SAM

It was the middle of December. I was sitting in my old office, the one Charlie's in. Suddenly, I heard this woman screaming. I thought someone'd been shot or something.

MOLLY

They took away my MasterCard. It was Christmas, for godssake.

SAM

She was four thousand dollars over her limit.

MOLLY

It wasn't four thousand. And I'd already sent in the payment! You're the ones that lost it.

SAM

She's still angry.

MOLLY

No I'm not.

The cat begins nibbling Sam's food.

SAM

Get outta here, Frank!

(the cat scampers  
away)

You should have seen her. All pink and flushed. Her skin was gorgeous, like a rose. And she's screaming, demanding to see the president. So Wilton brought her to me.

CARL

You? You weren't even a VP yet.

SAM

She didn't know that.

Carl smiles.

MOLLY

Can you believe it? And the next thing I know, he's telling me his life story. I couldn't believe it. Everything. About his divorce, how he'd just arrived in New York, how he didn't know any women. And all with this Montana accent.

SAM

What's a Montana accent?

MOLLY

The one you always slip into it when you get nervous. "Yes, Ma'am. Thank you, Ma'am. Can I fondle your breasts, Ma'am?"

SAM

(laughing)

I wasn't nervous.

MOLLY

Admit it. You liked me. You were interested.

SAM

(matter of factly)

I thought you were cute.

MOLLY

Cute?

(looking at Carl)

Do you believe this? I should have been Picasso's mistress. I should have been living in Barcelona or Paris. But no, I'm moving in with a New York banker who thinks I'm cute.

She looks at Sam and grins. Carl is staring at Molly, obviously turned on by her. He is embarrassed when she catches his gaze and quickly looks away.

OMITTED

INT. MOLLY'S STUDIO - NIGHT

Molly, dressed only in a T-shirt, is sitting at her potters wheel throwing a series of pots. Sam enters the studio. He is barefoot, shirtless, wearing jeans.

SAM  
What are you doing?

MOLLY  
I felt inspired.

SAM  
At 2:00 am?

She nods and presses her hands into a pot that is forming in front of her. Sam watches the sensual movement of her fingers, molding and forming the clay. She is forceful, assured, gifted. The clay responds to her slightest effort. Slowly, almost unconsciously, Sam reaches for her shoulders and begins kissing them.

SAM  
(continuing)  
You notice Carl's eyes today? They were all over you.

MOLLY  
What? Are you jealous? Sam, let me tell you something. He's not even looking at me. It's you he idolizes. He doesn't see me at all... Anyway, he's not my type.

Sam reaches over her and gently adds his fingers to the clay. Molly looks up at him.

MOLLY  
(continuing)  
What are you doing?

SAM  
I feel inspired.

His hands dig into the clay. Molly smiles. Their fingers seem to dance together. After a moment, she reaches up to him, her clay-covered fingers streaking his face and curving down to his chest. Sam grins and reaches down to her.

## MATCH CUT TO:

### SAM'S FINGER

as it presses two buttons on his jukebox. We watch as the mechanical arm selects a record and slowly, sensuously, lowers it to the turntable. The arm hovers over the record and then descends. It begins to play. The song is "Unchained Melody" by the Righteous Brothers.

### SAM AND MOLLY

are dancing in the middle of the dark loft. Moonlight pours through the windows and shines off the floor. Wads of packing paper swirl sensuously around their feet.

Molly runs her fingers down Sam's naked back. The moment is sweet and erotic. We watch as Sam slowly draws his fingers down over Molly's face, gently caressing her forehead, her eyes, her lips.

Sam slides his hands under Molly's T-shirt, slowly moving them toward her breasts. Her breathing slows. They dance silently, her hair swaying in the soft light.

We hear the sounds of their bare feet on the highly polished floor.

Sensuously, Molly's shirt lifts above her navel as Sam presses into her. Their stomachs touch and part and touch again. She bites her lip. Sam eyes her moonlit form as she strokes his chest, slowly moving her fingers down his torso, around the curve of his hips, and then digging into the back of his jeans.

Sam leans into Molly and nips at her neck. She stops dancing. Her eyes close. She stands absolutely still. Sam's hands move to her backside. He pulls her closer.

## DISSOLVE:

### LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

SAM AND MOLLY, making love on the livingroom carpet. Paper and packing materials crumble beneath them and scatter across the floor. For all their sensuality, it is their hands and eyes that are most expressive, revealing a tenderness that is deeply moving. Their lovemaking is full of love.

### JUKEBOX

The song ends. The jukebox arm retracts and gently slides the record back into its slot.

## DISSOLVE:

OMITTED

BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam and Molly are lying together silently. Molly gazes at him.

MOLLY  
What's the matter?

SAM  
The matter?

MOLLY  
I can tell.

SAM  
Nothing... really.

MOLLY  
You're worried, aren't you? About moving in together?

SAM  
No. Not really.

MOLLY  
Then what? The promotion?

SAM  
I don't know. A lot of things. I just don't want the bubble to burst... Whenever something good happens to me I'm just afraid I'm going to lose it.

Molly gently strokes his head.

MOLLY  
You know what?

SAM  
What?

MOLLY  
I love you. I really love you.

He smiles and strokes her cheek.

SAM  
Ditto.

Suddenly the T.V. blares into the room. Sam jumps up, grabbing the remote control unit from under his buttocks. Molly laughs as he turns the SOUND DOWN. The news is on and they are showing the remains of an airline disaster. Sam stares at

the tube.

SAM  
Oh Jesus. Another one.

MOLLY  
Don't watch that stuff.

He motions to wait. Dead bodies litter the screen.

CORRESPONDENT  
...It is estimated that 34 people  
died in the crash, the second in  
less than two weeks.

The T.V. goes OFF. Sam, confused, spins around. Molly is holding the remote control. She nods for him to lie down.

SAM  
I should cancel my L.A. trip... These  
things always happen in threes.

MOLLY  
Threes? Sam, get serious. Besides,  
you lead a charmed life.

SAM  
Yeah. So did they.

Sam looks at her and then back at the screen.

SAM  
(continuing)  
Amazing, huh?  
(he snaps his fingers)  
Just like that. Blackout.

EXT. WALL STREET ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

OMITTED

INT. SAM'S OFFICE - DAY

Sam is sitting at his computer. His address book with his access codes is sitting open beside him. He seems perplexed by something happening on the screen. After pushing a series of buttons and getting the same response, he whacks the computer on the side. Carl, walking in the door, sees him. Sam looks up sheepishly.

SAM  
A glitch. What's up?

CARL  
The Mark Greenberg and Larry White  
accounts. I can't get in. Your MAC

code doesn't work.

SAM  
I changed it.

CARL  
Why? What's up?

SAM  
Nothing. I just want to nose around  
a bit... Can you keep your mouth  
shut?

CARL  
Yeah, sure. Tell me, what's going  
on.

SAM  
I think I've stumbled onto something.  
There's too much money in these  
accounts.

CARL  
Too much money. That's ridiculous.  
How could there be too much money?

SAM  
That's what I keep asking myself.

CARL  
It must be the computer.

SAM  
I've been checking.

CARL  
Yeah, Mr. Fixit.  
(he hits the computer  
like Sam did and  
laughs)  
Come on, move over. Let me see what  
I can do.

SAM  
Not yet. I'm gonna dig around a bit.

CARL  
Okay, okay. Just call me when you're  
ready for help.  
(he heads for the  
door)  
So, what are you and Moll doing  
tonight?

SAM  
We're going to the theatre. She wants

to see "Macbeth" at the Spring Street Repertory.

Carl winces. Sam smiles.

INT. SPRING STREET REPERTORY - NIGHT

Sam and Molly are sitting in the fifth row of a crowded auditorium. He is sound asleep.

ANGLE STAGE

A scene from "Macbeth".

Sam begins to snore. Molly grabs his nose. He jerks awake. Molly grins.

EXT. SPRING STREET REPERTORY - NIGHT

Bright marquee lights sparkle overhead as Sam and Molly exit the theatre. It is a beautiful brisk night.

SAM  
I loved it.

MOLLY  
I could tell.

She smiles and squeezes his arm. They walk silently down a dark street, heading toward their loft. The pavement is full of shadows.

MOLLY  
(continuing)  
Did I tell you what Marcia said?

SAM  
Six times.

MOLLY  
Six? No I didn't. Sam, don't be so blasé. I'll have two major pieces in the show. The New York Times reviews her gallery all the time. This could be huge.

SAM  
Molly, the "New York Times" is some frustrated little critic with pimples on his ass who flunked out of art school. Who cares what The New York Times thinks?

MOLLY  
Eight million readers, that's who.

SAM

Your work's beautiful. That's a fact,  
Moll. It doesn't matter what anyone  
thinks.

We can tell from the expression on Molly's face that it does.  
Sam puts his arm around her. She nestles close to him. Then,  
suddenly, she stops and looks up. There is an unexpected  
seriousness in her voice.

MOLLY

(continuing)

I want to marry you, Sam.

SAM

(taken aback)

What?

MOLLY

I've been thinking about it for days.  
More than thinking. I want to do it.  
I want to jump in whole hog...

(she pauses)

What is that look for?

SAM

(staring at her)

It's just been so long since... I  
mean, you never wanted to talk about  
it.

There is a long pause.

MOLLY

Do you love me, Sam?

SAM

What do you think, Moll?

MOLLY

How come you never say it?

SAM

What are you talking about?

MOLLY

You say "ditto". It's not the same.

SAM

People say "I love you" all the time.  
It doesn't mean anything.

MOLLY

Sometimes you need to hear it.

Sam stops and stares at Molly. He pauses quietly. He is about

to speak when A MAN'S FACE emerges from the shadows behind him. Molly gasps. Sam spins around.

#### AN INTENSE LOOKING MAN

is standing in the darkness between two buildings. He stares at the couple for a moment and then steps onto the sidewalk. Sam and Molly stand motionless. The man hesitates and then begins walking the other way. Molly exhales a deep breath.

Sam takes Molly's arm and they continue briskly down the street. Suddenly they hear FOOTSTEPS coming after them.

MOLLY  
What should we do?

SAM  
Let me handle this.

Sam stops abruptly and turns around. A gun is staring him in the face. Molly screams.

WILLIE  
Your wallet!

Sam waits a beat.

MOLLY  
Give it to him!

Sam reaches for his jacket. The Mugger grabs his wrist and then carefully pulls the wallet out himself.

SAM  
Take the money. Just leave the wallet  
and my...

He swipes Sam across the head. Molly screams. The Mugger whacks her across the face. Sam explodes, plowing into the mugger with all his might.

MOLLY  
Sam, No!

There is a wild, all out brawl. Sam fights like a mad man. Suddenly the GUN goes off. The Mugger panics and takes off running. Sam charges after him.

MOLLY  
Sam!!!!!

The two men run down the dark street, but the Mugger is already a full block ahead and disappears into the shadows.

Sam gives up. Slowly he turns and begins walking back toward Molly.

We can see Molly dimly at the end of the block as Sam approaches. She is screaming for help. Frightened, Sam calls out.

SAM  
Molly!

She doesn't answer. Sam tenses and starts running toward her. He is just three feet away when suddenly he stops. An expression of pure terror overwhelms his face.

CUT TO:

CLOSEUP - MOLLY

drenched in blood. Her eyes are glazed, on the verge of shock. Panting, she stoops down to the curb as THE CAMERA TRAVELS WITH HER. She grabs hold of something lying in the shadows and pulls it toward her.

It is Sam's dead body she is holding in her arms.

Sam's ghostly form, still solid to all appearances, stands beside Molly. His eyes are awash in horror and confusion. He seems unable to move. THE CAMERA HOLDS on his face as the full impact of his situation dawns in his eyes.

Suddenly he lets out a blood-curdling scream.

SAM  
No!!!!!!

He jumps down toward his body and reaches out to grab hold of his motionless form. His hands make a strange SOUND as they pass right through it. It is terrifying. Sam jumps up, crazed, frenzied, and begins circling Molly. It is as though he is trying to undo what has been done.

SAM  
(continuing)  
This isn't happening. It's not happening.

He reaches out to Molly for help. His hand cuts through her shoulder. He screams.

FOOTSTEPS. People are running down the street. The sound of SIRENS can be heard in the distance. Two MEN run toward Sam. He yells out at them.

SAM  
(continuing)  
Help me!

They run right through him. He gasps in stunned terror.

Sam watches helplessly as they reach his body. Molly looks up and begins screaming hysterically. One of the Men grabs her as the other goes for Sam's wrist. There is no sign of life.

The first Man holds Molly back as his friend stoops down and begins some form of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. There is no response. Sam bends down, trying desperately to help. It is a futile gesture.

SAM  
Do it! Do it!

The Man bangs on Sam's chest. Blood gushes from the wound. Molly recoils. He bangs again.

CUT ABRUPTLY TO:

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

Sam shoots up in bed, panting. It is dark. He stares around the loft in sudden confusion. With a lurch he flicks on the night light. Molly is lying beside him, her head buried beneath a pillow. Sam seems stunned.

SAM  
Molly? Molly!

Tears stream down his face. Molly stirs.

MOLLY  
Sam? What's the matter? Is something wrong?

SAM  
Molly!

Sam is so relieved to hear her voice that he can hardly breathe.

MOLLY  
What is it, honey?

Molly, groggy, tries to sit up. Sam reaches out for her.

As she turns around, we see A SKELETAL VERSION OF HER HEAD staring at the camera. It speaks.

MOLLY  
(mocking him)  
What is it, honey?

Sam bolts upright, screaming. It is a scream so consumed by terror that one fears it will never stop.

CUT UNEXPECTEDLY TO:

CLOSE-UP OF SAM

asleep in bed. He is thrashing at his pillow and moaning.

Suddenly, a hand reaches out and touches his shoulder. Sam jumps straight up in bed and kicks wildly at the sheets.

CUT TO:

SAM'S P.O.V.

Molly is sitting on the bed looking at him, afraid.

Sam stares down at her. He is breathing heavily, not trusting his own senses. His hands clutch at the wall.

SAM

What's happening to me?!

ANGLE

Suddenly, a brilliant white light shoots into the room as a host of glowing forms, radiating an intense inner light, float before us. A blinding tunnel spirals in an infinite vortex behind them. Sam is awed and confused. We sense that the light is enchanting him. The entire room begins to disappear in the light.

Molly screams.

MOLLY

Don't leave me. I need you, Sam.

ANGLE

Sam turns and sees Molly, only she is not in the bed. She is back on the street. To his amazement, he is on the street, too, still bathed in the soothing light. Frightened, he calls out to her.

SAM

Molly!

She does not hear him. He calls again.

SAM

(continuing)

Molly.

There is no response. Sam, deeply troubled, hesitates for a moment. He is torn between Molly and the light. Then, in a painful, but conscious gesture, he turns from the light and walks toward Molly. At that instant, the light behind him disappears with the sound of a pneumatic door closing. There

is a sense of terrible finality as the tunnel evaporates into the void. Sam is left on the dark pavement. He stands there a moment, as if in shock, and then begins running toward Molly. An AMBULANCE is rounding the corner.

CUT TO:

OMITTED

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - NIGHT

Swirls of light speed toward the ambulance as car headlights and streetlamps merge in a wild dizzying rush. The SIREN wails into the night.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Sam's body is lying in the back of the ambulance as a PARAMEDIC applies electric paddles to his chest in an effort to save him. After a moment, he looks up at Molly. We can tell from the expression in his eyes that it is hopeless. Sam yells.

SAM  
Don't stop! I'm not dead!

Molly, kneeling over Sam's body, grabs him and begins to cry in long terrible sobs.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

A DOCTOR, comforting Molly, accompanies her from one of the emergency operating rooms and leads her through a pair of swinging doors into a separate waiting area. We see TWO POLICEMEN and TWO DETECTIVES stand up and approach her.

Sam doesn't want Molly to go and begins to follow her, but then seems torn, afraid to leave his body. He turns back just as his corpse, covered in a green sheet, is wheeled into the corridor and parked alongside the wall. Sam seems stunned and inconsolable as he sits down beside it.

A wrinkled OLD MAN approaches Sam and joins him on the bench. He begins talking.

MAN  
So, what happened to you?

Sam is startled, amazed that the man can see him.

SAM  
What?

MAN  
You're new, huh? I can tell.

SAM  
Are you talking to me?

MAN  
Relax. It ain't like before, you  
know. It's a whole new ball-a-wax.

SAM  
Who are you?

MAN  
I'm waiting for my wife. She's in  
4C. Cardiac wing. She's fighting it.

The man sticks his head into the green sheet covering Sam's  
body. His head disappears. Sam is terrified.

MAN  
(continuing)  
Shot, huh? That'll do it every time.  
Poor bastard. Well, get used to it.  
You could be here a long time.  
(leaning in close)  
I'll tell you a secret. Doors ain't  
as bad as you think. Zip zap. They  
ain't nothin' at all. You'll see.  
You'll catch on.

Suddenly there is a loud COMMOTION and we see several  
PHYSICIANS operating furiously on an Old Man lying on the  
table beside them. It is a life threatening situation and  
they seem to be failing.

MAN  
(continuing)  
He ain't gonna make it. I've seen it  
a million times. He's a goner. See?  
Here they come. Lucky bastard. Could  
have been the other ones. You never  
know.

ANGLE  
Sam can understand what is happening the entire room  
fills with a strange preternatural light. Suddenly he looks  
up and freezes.

The amorphous forms he saw right after he died are floating  
down through the ceiling and reaching for the body on the  
operating table. They are emitting a powerful light.

DOCTOR  
Hurry, we're losing him.

MAN  
What'd I tell you? Bingo!

The glowing forms take hold of the man's spirit and help extract it from his body. His physical form changes instantly from a solid object into an ethereal substance.

Sam stares in amazement as the strange beings carry the spirit upward. They evaporate through the ceiling.

DOCTOR  
He's gone.

ANGLE

The light in the room grows dull instantly. Nurses cover the dead man with a dark sheet as the doctors step away. Sam turns to the Old Man.

SAM  
Who are you? What's happening...?

The Man isn't there. An Orderly approaches the gurney with Sam's body and begins pushing it toward the elevator. Sam jumps in front of him.

SAM  
(continuing)  
No!

CUT TO:

SAM'S P.O.V.

as the stretcher begins to roll right through him. The penetration of his physical space is horrifying to Sam. He stands, almost paralyzed, as the body of the Orderly intersects with his. It is a stunning moment of extraordinary strangeness as we witness the atoms and molecules of the Orderly's body passing through his. It is like a glimpse of ultimate chaos, the universe within.

Then, in a flash, the Orderly has passed through, but Sam is still shaking. He stares up at the ceiling.

SAM  
Oh God, help me.

CUT TO:

SAM'S P.O.V.

as the ceiling lights and acoustical tiles begin to blur. The hallway grows dark. It is as though Sam is blacking out.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Slowly, images begin to emerge out of the blackness. It takes a moment to realize that they are scenes from Sam's funeral.

The CAMERA TRACKS along rows of mourners as seen from SAM'S P.O.V. He seems to be floating among them. We hear snippets of conversations. It all seems strangely odd and disjointed. Time seems unfixed, malleable.

We see a MINISTER standing beside the grave.

MINISTER

As we say farewell to our friend Sam  
Wheat, we are reminded of his  
kindness, his generosity, his buoyancy  
of spirit...

The CAMERA KEEPS MOVING. Sam's associates from the bank are among the mourners.

MINISTER

(continuing)

All that we treasure, our friends,  
our loved ones, our body, our mind,  
are but on loan to us. We must  
surrender them all. We are all  
travelers on the same road which  
leads to the same end.

Sam notices a WOMAN in a fancy print dress comforting one of the mourners. The woman looks up at him, smiles, and waves. Sam is surprised. He looks behind him, but no one is there.

As he turns back, the woman is walking away. She appears just like any normal person until she approaches a large gravestone and passes right through it. Sam is shocked.

MINISTER

As our loved one enters eternal life,  
let us remember that love, too, is  
eternal, that although we will miss  
him, our love will light the void  
and dispel the darkness.

Suddenly, Molly ENTERS THE FRAME. Sam spots her. The CAMERA STOPS.

SAM

Molly.

She does not respond. RUTH, her sister, leans over to her. Tears form in Molly's eyes. A hand reaches out to give her a tissue. Molly looks up. It is Carl. She gives him her hand. He squeezes it with affection.

MINISTER

...and into Your hands we commend  
his spirit. May he rest in peace. In  
the name of the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The casket is lowered into the ground. Molly approaches the grave. She us a little unsteady. Carl takes her elbow. A shovel is placed in her hands. With great emotional effort she lifts a shovelful of dirt and tosses it onto the casket. It lands with a REVERBERATING finality. Sam shudders.

DISSOLVE:

LONG SHOT - PEOPLE

leaving the cemetery. We hear them talking.

VOICES

What time you going back to work?...  
What's the buzz on Digital? It's  
sad. He was so young... How's your  
new Honda?... Going away this weekend?

CUT BACK TO:

CLOSEUP - SAM

desperately alone. Down the hill, people are getting back into their cars. Sam can see Molly being let into a limousine. He stands there staring at his own casket, grieving. Then, after a moment, he turns away. Separating from his body, from his own grave site, he runs after her.

DISSOLVE:

INT. LOFT - DAY

Molly is sitting on the couch in the middle of the loft surrounded by FRIENDS and WELL WISHERS. A young GIRL, her niece, cuddles in her lap. People are eating and milling around. Slowly THE CAMERA BEGINS TO PAN. It ends on Sam, standing alone in a corner. In the midst of all the activity he is lost and alone.

FADE TO BLACK:

ANGLE

Raw clay on a potter's wheel spins hypnotically, sensuously. Molly's wet hands press in, shaping it, molding it. A bowl begins to appear. The camera pulls back and reveals Sam. He is sitting on the floor behind her, knees pressed to his chest, rocking aimlessly.

Molly looks away from the bowl she is forming. It distorts and bends. Angry, she digs her finger into it. The bowl disintegrates. Tears form in her eyes.

Frank jumps up on the bench beside her. Molly stares sadly

around the room. Quietly, she begins talking to herself, to the air.

MOLLY  
Oh God, Sam...

Sam looks up.

MOLLY  
(continuing)  
I picked up your shirts this morning.  
I don't know why. Mr. Reynolds said  
to tell you hello. I broke into tears.  
It's so hard...

Sam walks over to Molly. Desperate for contact, he reaches out to touch her cheek, but then hesitates and pulls back.

MOLLY  
(continuing)  
I think about you every minute. It's  
like you're still here, like I can  
feel you, Sam.

He stares at her, hoping, wondering.

SAM  
I am here, Moll. I am.

ANGLE

Suddenly, as if hearing Sam's voice, the cat begins to hiss. Molly spins around. The cat scans the room. Unexpectedly, Sam's and the cat's eyes meet... With a wild SCREECH, the cat jumps from the bench and takes off running. Sam recoils. Molly stands up.

MOLLY  
Frank, what's wrong? Frank?

The cat is nowhere to be seen. All of a sudden, Molly freezes. Sam is standing right beside her. It is almost as though she senses his presence.

MOLLY  
(continuing; whispering)  
Sam?

She holds very still for a moment. Sam watches breathlessly, loving her, wanting her. Then quietly, hopefully, he reaches out. It is a useless gesture. In a moment of great poignancy, Molly shakes her head and walks right through him. He remains IN THE FRAME, alone.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Sam, stands in the corner of a large, walk-in closet, watching as Molly goes through his effects. Boxes, scattered underfoot, are filling up with his life's possessions. Molly reaches for a shirt.

SAM

Wait, Moll. Not that one. That's my favorite...

She tosses it into a box and then takes down a sweater. It is obviously handmade, about four sizes too big. Sam recognizes it.

Molly holds the sweater tenderly and presses it to her cheek. After a moment she puts it back. Then, in a surprising outburst, she cries out and begins flailing at the shelves. Everything comes flying off. Sam reaches out to console her.

SAM

(continuing)

Molly, don't.

Unexpectedly, Carl comes rushing into the room. He takes hold of Molly and sits her on the bed.

SAM

(continuing)

Say something. Help her, Carl.

CARL

It's hard. It's very hard.

SAM

(sarcastic)

Oh good. That's really good.

CUT TO:

OMITTED

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Molly and Carl are standing over the kitchen table folding piles of Sam's clothes and placing them into boxes. As Molly lifts one of Sam's jackets, something falls from a side pocket. It is his small black leather address book. Sam stares at it with recognition. Carl sees the book fall and stoops to pick it up but Molly gets it first.

MOLLY

Sam's address book.

She skims through it a moment, but the memories it evokes are too powerful for her. She places it carefully into a box labeled "Sam's Things -- Valuable" and continues packing. She finds the old jar with the penny in it. It's marked "For

Luck". She holds it tenderly for a moment and then places it on the nightstand beside the bed.

Carl discovers some old ticket stubs in another of Sam's jackets. He examines them.

CARL  
Dave Brubeck. Newport '86. Should I  
toss 'em?

MOLLY  
No!

SAM  
Molly, we hated that concert.

She takes the stubs and lovingly puts them in the box. Sam groans.

Carl finds a half used package of Roloids. Molly takes them from his hand and puts them in the box, too.

CARL  
Oh, you want to save those?

SAM  
Roloids? What are you doin' Moll?

Molly just stares for a moment.

MOLLY  
I miss him, Carl.

Carl comes over and takes her hand.

CARL  
We all do.

Molly buries her head on his shoulder. Carl strokes her hair.

CUT TO:

ANGLE

Carl lifting a pile of boxes and carrying them to the door.  
Suddenly Molly yells out.

MOLLY  
Wait. Wait. Not that one.

She hurries over and pulls the "Valuable" box from the stack in his arms. He looks at it with surprise.

CARL  
Oh, shit. I'm sorry. I don't know  
how that got in there.

He turns to the door and then back to Molly.

CARL  
(continuing)  
Hey, Moll. Why don't you come? It's  
like summer outside.

MOLLY  
No.

CARL  
Just for a stroll. It'd be good to  
get out.

Molly shakes her head and turns away.

MOLLY  
I can't do it Carl.

Carl, annoyed, walks over to her.

CARL  
Molly... you're not the one who died!

Molly stops and looks at him. He has struck home. After a  
moment she nods her head.

MOLLY  
Okay. Just a short walk.

He gently squeezes her shoulders.

CARL  
Thata girl.

Before Sam even understands what is happening, they are  
exiting the loft. Sam jumps up and runs after them.

SAM  
Hey, Molly! Wait!

ANGLE

The door slams shut. Sam is locked inside. Frightened and  
desperate, he rushes for the door knob. His hand sinks through  
it. There is a strange sound, like ELECTRICAL STATIC, as it  
penetrates the metal and wood. Frightened, he yanks it back.

Sam circles the space several times and then returns to the  
door. Clenching his teeth, he reaches out again. As his hand  
pushes up against it, we sense that he experiences a subtle  
resistance. The hairs on the back of his hand vibrate as his  
ghostly form presses into it. We sense Sam's fear as his  
entire arm DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW. The grating ELECTRICAL SOUND  
shudders up his spine.

The sight of his amputated limb is unsettling but Sam does not pull back. Slowly he edges in and presses his face into the molecules of the wood.

CUT TO:

SAM'S P.O.V.

as atoms and electrons spin past him at frightening speed. There is a sense of a universe in total chaos. Terrifying SOUNDS charge through his body.

CUT TO:

SAM

pulling back from the door. He is trembling.

INT. LOFT - AN HOUR LATER

THE CAMERA MOVES SLOWLY THROUGH THE LOFT AND GRADUALLY DISCOVERS SAM. He is sitting in a corner singing quietly to himself.

SAM

"Singing bye bye, Miss American Pie.  
Drove my Chevy to the levy, but the  
levy was dry. Them good ol' boys  
were drinkin' whiskey and rye, and  
singing this'll be the day that I..."

He stops, realizing the last word of the song. He sits silently, staring at the wall.

Suddenly, there is a SOUND at the door. Sam's eyes shoot up. The door begins to open.

Sam stands up. His face begins to tighten. We know instantly that something is wrong. His eyes fill with a fury we have not seen before.

The Mugger, the man who killed Sam, is entering the loft. He has a key in his hand and puts it in his pocket. Sam is stunned. The Mugger locks the door.

ANGLE

Sam goes wild. He shoots at the man with all his might, attacking him unceasingly, but with no effect. His hands and feet pass right through him.

SAM

You motherfucking bastard! What the  
hell are you doing here? What are  
you doing?

The Mugger, unaware that anything is going on, glances around nervously as he moves through the vast space.

#### ANGLE

Entering the bedroom, the Mugger goes to the dresser and quickly examines the drawers. He is very neat, careful to leave no sign that he was there. He seems to be looking for something but cannot find it.

#### ANOTHER ANGLE

Suddenly we hear a KEY TURNING in the front door. The Mugger seems startled. He dashes from the bedroom and hides quickly behind one of the large sculptures. We hear the door OPEN. Molly is standing there.

Sam goes crazy.

SAM

Molly, no! Get out!

Molly closes the door and locks it shut. Sam freezes as she heads for the bedroom. She walks right past the Mugger. To Sam's horror she stops and turns to look around. There is a curious expression on her face. Seeing nothing she continues through the loft.

The Mugger pulls out his gun. Sam looks on in absolute terror.

Molly's purple blouse hits the floor as she begins to remove her clothes. She turns on the radio.

Sam doesn't know what to do. The Mugger seems excited by Molly's semi-nudity. He begins skirting the edges of the loft, moving toward the bedroom. Sam is crazed.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, Frank appears at the Mugger's feet. Sam's eyes light up. He drops to his knees, crawls over to him, glares into his eyes, and screams.

#### ANGLE - THE CAT

SCREECHES and jumps straight up. His claws shoot out at the mugger's face, ripping into the flesh near his eye.

Blood appears. The mugger sees it dripping through his fingers. The sight of it upsets him. He grabs the cat angrily by the neck. It SQUEALS. Molly in her bra, peers from the bedroom.

MOLLY

Frank, what's wrong?

The Mugger holds the cat's mouth shut. Seeing and hearing

nothing, Molly steps back into the bedroom.

The Mugger takes the cat and throws it across the floor. Holding his eye, he gets up and rushes for the exit. Sam runs after him, but the door closes before he can get through. He is left inside.

ANGLE - SAM

stares at the closed door in a wild panic. He doesn't know what to do. Then, summoning all of his courage, he takes a blind, running slow motion leap and charges through it.

SAM'S P.O.V.

There is a brief sense of passing through a molecular force field, a miniature universe inside the door.

ANGLE - SAM

as he emerges from the door and lands on the other side. He seems excited to have survived and is very pleased with himself.

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

The Mugger steps out onto the sidewalk and hurries toward the subway. A patch of sleeve soaks up the blood from his eye.

Sam starts after the man but instantly freezes. Hordes of people crowd the sidewalk. The crush of humanity is frightening. Two lovers, holding hands, are coming right at him. Before Sam is able to move, we hear the sound of their arms cutting through his ghostly form.

Sam tries instinctively to dodge the crowds but people approach him from all angles.

We hear a BABY CARRIAGE roll through Sam's feet and he nearly falls over trying to avoid it. His instincts will not let go.

A barrage of images and SOUNDS assaults Sam. It is more than he can handle. Still, he refuses to give up. He stays close to the Mugger.

EXT. NEW YORK SUBWAY STATION - DAY

The Mugger heads down a flight of steps into the IRT.

INT. SUBWAY TRAIN - DAY

The Mugger gets onto a crowded subway car. Sam stands near a corner of the train watching him.

Suddenly, Sam notices that something odd is happening. One of the riders at the other end of the car is walking toward him. As he approaches the Mugger, he does not stop, but passes right through him. It takes Sam a moment to realize what is happening, but then it is too late.

#### ANGLE - THE OTHER GHOST

With unholy fury the New Ghost charges into Sam. The attack is so unexpected and ferocious that Sam has no sense of how to defend himself. With unexpected power, the Ghost grabs hold of him and slams him into the subway door. Sam's head plows right through it.

#### ANGLE

on Sam's head sticking outside of the car as the subway tunnel rushes past him. There is a panicked look on his face. The look intensifies as he turns and sees another train barreling down on him.

#### ANGLE

on Sam's body inside the car still struggling with the Ghost as the other train shoots by the window. With a huge gasp, Sam shoots back into the car, and wrests himself free of the Ghost's hold. The Ghost flies after him, screeching.

Sam surges through the door at the end of the train and finds himself on the bridge between the subway cars. The subway Ghost stares at him through the window with a wild, insane look.

#### GHOST

Stay off! This is mine!

#### ANGLE FAVORING WINDOW

With shocking impact, the Ghost's fist goes flying into the window. To Sam's terror and amazement, the window SHATTERS. The Ghost smiles. Passengers scream and Sam dives for cover. Sam stares at the broken glass with fascination and confusion. Suddenly, the train moves from the darkness of the tunnel into broad daylight.

#### EXT. ELEVATED SUBWAY STATION - DAY

The train stops at an elevated subway platform in Brooklyn.

#### OMITTED

#### SAM'S P.O.V.

Sam sees the Mugger exiting the train and frantically rushes after him.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREETS - DAY

Sam follows the Mugger down a long covered staircase to the street.

EXT. 321 PROSPECT PLACE - DAY

The Mugger heads toward 321 Prospect Place. The streets are lined with old apartment buildings. Many windows are boarded up. TWO MEN, standing on the corner, are slamming a piece of heavy machinery onto the pavement.

Sam hears GOSPEL MUSIC coming from a storefront church and notices a sign, "SISTER ODA MAE BROWN, MEDIUM, SPIRIT READER, ADVISOR." He looks up to a third story window and sees a similar sign with day-glo arrows pointing to the entrance on the street. He seems curious, but then realizes that the Mugger is nearly halfway down the block. He turns and rushes after him.

EXT. 321 PROSPECT PLACE - DAY

Sam and the mugger approach a tenement building at 321 Prospect Place.

INT. TENEMENT HALLWAY - DAY

Sam follows the Mugger into the building and watches as he opens the mail box for APT. 4D. The name scribbled across it is WILLIE LOPEZ. There's no mail.

INT. WILLIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sam enters Willie's apartment. It is a squalid affair. Peeled paint chips litter the floor. The bed is unmade.

Willie pulls open a drawer in a small nightstand and drops in the keys to Molly's loft. Sam sees his wallet. His driver's license, bank ID, and a photo of Molly are there, too. Furious, Sam lunges for Willie but then holds his punch, knowing it will have no effect. He turns instead to a window and, like the Ghost on the subway, smashes it with his fist. Nothing happens.

SAM

Damn!

Willie dials the phone. Someone comes on the line.

WILLIE

She came home. I couldn't get it.  
Give me a couple of days. I'll go  
back.

He hangs up. Sam stares at him in wild confusion.

SAM

Get what? Who the hell are you? What were you doing at Molly's? What the hell's going on?

Willie grabs a bottle of wine from the nightstand and lies down. After a moment he reaches over and takes Molly's photo from the drawer. He studies it slowly.

Sam stands by the door in a state of motionless rage. There is nothing he can do.

SAM

(continuing)

Stay away from her!

EXT. BROOKLYN STREETS - DAY

Sam storms down the street. His movements seem undirected, utterly aimless. He is seething inside.

Suddenly Sam looks up. An old BAG LADY is walking down the street talking loudly to a SHORT WOMAN tagging along beside her. As they approach a street pole, the Bag Lady swerves to the side. The Short Woman, however, walks right through it. Passersby laugh at the Old Lady talking to herself. Sam, unsettled, rushes away.

As Sam rounds a corner, a sudden blast of MUSIC explodes out of nowhere. Sam jumps into the street, gasping. A phonograph needle SCRATCHES across a record and the MUSIC STOPS. A woman's voice booms out:

WOMAN'S VOICE

Sorry 'bout that.

PANNING SHOT

to a pair of loudspeakers in a storefront window. The MUSIC blares out once more and SOUNDS of gospel fill the street.

Sam looks up. He is back in front of the storefront church with the sign for SISTER ODA MAE BROWN, MEDIUM, SPIRIT READER, ADVISOR, hanging overhead. Below it is another sign. "Contact the dearly departed. \$20.00".

Sam stares at the sign with curiosity. The MUSIC is compelling. After a moment's hesitation, he goes in the open door.

INT. STOREFRONT - DAY

A record player is sitting near the storefront window, a makeshift microphone placed in front of it.

Several rows of folding chairs face a raised platform with

nothing on it. A number of people are sitting there, mostly women. One gets the sense that this is a cross between a waiting room and a meeting hall. A black WOMAN steps up on the platform and calls out:

WOMAN  
Rosa Santiago.

MRS. SANTIAGO tucks a Spanish paperback romance into her purse and heads to a door at the rear of the hall. Sam follows after her.

INT. SEANCE ROOM - DAY

Mrs. Santiago enters a dark room with a window and door leading to a side street. A paisley bedspread is tacked over the window.

In the center of the room is a round seance table. Two heavysset sisters, CLARA (39), and LOUISE (36), are standing beside an open closet. It is empty.

WOMAN  
Please be seated.

Mrs. Santiago sits at the table. She seems apprehensive. Clara steps into the closet and taps on each of the walls as though demonstrating that they are solid.

CLARA  
My sister will be with us soon.

She steps back out and closes the door. Louise inserts a tape into a boom box and then steps forward.

LOUISE  
Sister Oda Mae. Grant us the gift of your all-seeing presence. Appear for us now.

ANGLE FAVORING CLOSET

She turns back to the closet and opens the door. Like magic, ODA MAE BROWN, 41, appears standing inside. She is a black woman in a white tunic. The whiteness of her garment makes it look as if she is glowing in the dark. Mrs. Santiago is wide-eyed. Sam smiles as Oda Mae steps into the room.

ODA MAE  
Mrs. Santiago.

MRS. SANTIAGO  
Buenos dias.

She takes a twenty dollar bill from her purse and hands it to Oda Mae. Clara graciously intercepts the money.

ODA MAE

I understand you are hoping to contact  
your husband.

MRS. SANTIAGO

Si. Si.

ODA MAE

Well, I believe he's gonna be with  
us today.

MRS. SANTIAGO

Oh, tsank you, tsank you.

Tears well up in her eyes. She crosses herself several times.

ODA MAE

But there's no telling about the  
other world. You gotta cast out all  
doubt. You gotta believe. Do you  
believe?

MRS. SANTIAGO

(nodding her head  
vigorously)

Si. Si. I believe. I believe.

ODA MAE

ODA MAE

And remember, we don't make no  
promises. I can phone up there till  
I'm blue in the face,  
(she points to the  
ceiling)  
...but it don't necessarily mean  
he's gonna be home. Them folks go  
shopping, they play bingo. It's just  
like here. You can't always get 'em.

Mrs. Santiago, utterly fascinated, nods understandingly.

SAM

Sure lady!

Oda Mae's eyes glance up curiously for a second, as though  
she heard something, and then she continues.

ODA MAE

Okay, let's get ready then.

Sam steps back as the sisters get up and position themselves  
behind Oda Mae. The moment feels rehearsed, theatrical. Oda  
Mae raises her hands into the air and closes her eyes. There  
is a hush in the room. Her body begins to tremble. Mrs.  
Santiago clutches her chair. Suddenly Oda Mae breaks out of

her trance.

ODA MAE

We got a problem here. I don't think he's in. Wait. I feel something. Did he know someone who's passed over, someone named Anna... Mary... Consuela... Maria?

MRS. SANTIAGO

Si, si! His mama. She's Maria.

ODA MAE

Ah! I knew it. He's with his mama.

SAM

(sarcastic)

Oh my God...

Oda Mae's eyes dart uncomfortably around the room.

ODA MAE

I'm afraid this is gonna be too hard. Now I got two souls I gotta contact. I don't know about that. It's difficult, you know. The pain. The effort.

MRS. SANTIAGO

I pay more. How much? How much?

ODA MAE

Twenty dollars.

SAM

Way to go. Milk her for every penny.

Oda Mae jumps up and stares at her sisters. They look back at her curiously. They can't figure out what's wrong. Neither can Oda Mae.

Mrs. Santiago reaches into her purse. A twenty dollar bill changes hands. Sam watches, amazed at it all. Oda Mae sits down and goes back into her trance. Her eyeballs roll up into their sockets.

CLARA/LOUISE

Praise the Lord. Thank you, Jesus.

Oda Mae is beginning to shake again. The two women grab her shoulders to keep her from falling out of the chair. Suddenly her whole body stiffens.

CLARA/LOUISE

(continuing)

Have mercy! Have mercy!

Mrs. Santiago stares on in amazement. After a moment Oda Mae's body collapses in a heap. Then, like a phoenix rising from the ashes, she pulls herself up in her chair and assumes a normal pose.

After several seconds to get her bearings, Oda Mae begins to speak. Only now she has an entirely new voice. It sounds deep and hoarse, like an old man's. For all its put on theatricality, it is strangely convincing.

ODA MAE

Welcome, Rosa Santiago. You are fortunate today. The channel is clear. Many spirits are gathering.

SAM

(scanning the room)  
Yeah? Where?

Oda Mae jerks. Her eyes dart nervously around the room.

MRS. SANTIAGO

My husband?

ODA MAE

(a bit uneasy)  
I can feel his vibration. Yes, yes, he is drawing toward us now. I can see him coming.

MRS. SANTIAGO

Julio! Julio! How is he? How does he look?

ODA MAE

Oh, he is a very handsome man.

MRS. SANTIAGO

(surprised)  
Handsome?

ODA MAE

In our Father's Kingdom we are all handsome.

MRS. SANTIAGO

(understanding)  
Julio!

Sam looks on dismayed.

ODA MAE

He is standing before me. He is wearing a black suit.

MRS. SANTIAGO

A black suit? Oh yes, yes. He was buried in that.

Mrs. Santiago begins to cry. Sam looks around the room with growing disgust. Then he leans over to Oda Mae and yells into her ear.

SAM

What a crock of shit!

Oda Mae nearly falls off her chair. She spins around.

ODA MAE

Who's there?

Sam is stunned. Clara and Louise look at one another in total confusion. This is obviously not part of the act. Mrs. Santiago seems frightened.

ODA MAE

(continuing)

Where are you?

SAM

(looking around)

Who?

Oda Mae screams and jumps up thrashing at the air. Her knee kicks the table and sends it toppling. Mrs. Santiago is terrified.

MRS. SANTIAGO

Julio! Julio!

SAM

What's going on?

ODA MAE

Get out of here! Leave me alone!

Mrs. Santiago doesn't know what to do. She begins to cry.

SAM

Who are you talking to?

Clara runs up to Oda Mae.

ODA MAE

Keep him away!

Louise looks at the empty room.

SAM

Are you talking to me?

ODA MAE  
Do something. Help me.

Clara just stares at her sister. Sam is excited and amazed.

SAM  
I don't believe this. Hey you. My  
name is Sam Wheat. Can you hear me?  
Sam Wheat!

ODA MAE  
Stop it!

SAM  
Say my name! Sam Wheat! Say it!

CLARA  
Talk to me, Oda Mae. Say something.

ODA MAE  
Sam Wheat!

Sam nearly falls on his face. Clara's eyes widen. She is more confused than ever.

SAM  
Jesus!

CLARA  
Samweet?

Oda Mae runs into the closet.

It has a false panel leading to a hidden chamber on the left side and she barricades herself inside it. Clara and Louise stand outside pulling on the handle. They seem frightened.

CLARA/LOUISE  
Oda Mae! Oda Mae!

INT. CLOSET - DAY

Oda Mae is rocking back and forth on the floor praying. Sam's feet enter the frame beside her.

ODA MAE  
Lord, I swear, no more cheatin'. I  
promise, Lord. I don't want to go to  
hell. I'll do anything. Gimme a  
penance. Just make him go away.

SAM  
Go away. Hell no. I'm stayin' right  
here!

Oda Mae screams, jumps back into the closet, and bolts up

against the door. It tears from its hinges and falls into the seance room, nearly crushing Louise. Mrs. Santiago runs out screaming. Oda Mae takes one look around and collapses in a dead faint.

OMITTED

INT. ODA MAE'S LIVINGROOM - DAY

Beads of sweat collect on Oda Mae's brow and cheeks. She seems feverish. Clara and Louise are sitting beside her with damp towels nervously soaking up the perspiration. Oda Mae appears to be talking to herself until we PULL BACK and reveal Sam nearby.

ODA MAE

My mama, her mama, may they rest in peace, they had de gift. Mama always said I had it, but I never did. She tol' me all about it, how it felt an' all. But now that it's happenin' I don't know what to do. You're scarin' me half to death. Please, you gotta go away, you gotta find someone else.

Clara and Louise look at one another with growing concern.

SAM

Someone else? Are you outta your mind?

ODA MAE

I'm gettin' there fast.  
(she pushes Louise's hand)  
Leave me alone.

SAM

Not till you help me.

ODA MAE

Where are you?

LOUISE

Where? I'm right here.

SAM

I'm standing right beside you.

ODA MAE

(mimicking his words)  
"I'm standing right beside you."  
(she pauses and looks up)  
Are you white?

SAM  
What?

ODA MAE  
Oh God, I knew it. He's white. Why  
me?

Louise looks at her sister and shakes her head.

SAM  
Listen, damn it. You can help me.  
There's a woman, Molly Jensen. She's  
in terrible danger. The man who killed  
me broke into our apartment. He's  
going to go back. You've gotta warn  
her.

ODA MAE  
Why would she listen to me?

SAM  
She has to! This man's a killer!  
He's got a key.

ODA MAE  
Forget it, mister. I can't.

SAM  
It's just a phone call. You're all  
I've got. Lookit. I'm not leavin'  
till you help me. I don't sleep  
anymore, so I can sit here day and  
night. I don't care how long it takes.  
I can talk forever.

Oda Mae gulps, a horrified expression on her face.

INT. LOFT - DAY

The telephone rings. Molly, preparing dinner, runs to answer  
it.

MOLLY  
Hello.

ODA MAE (V.O.)  
Molly? Is this Molly speaking?

MOLLY  
Yes.

ODA MAE (V.O.)  
My name is Oda Mae. I'm a spiritual  
reader and adviser.  
(she hesitates)

I'm calling for a friend of yours.  
He asked me to call. This is  
important. You gotta believe me.  
Don't be afraid.

MOLLY  
MOLLY

Who is this?

ODA MAE (V.O.)  
I got a message from Sam.

MOLLY  
(stunned)  
What?

ODA MAE (V.O.)  
Sam Wheat. He asked me to call.

Molly slams down the receiver, panting. For several seconds she doesn't move. Slowly, she walks to the couch and sits down. She is trembling.

INT. ODA MAE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Oda Mae hangs up the phone.

ODA MAE  
What'd I tell you.

SAM  
You gotta go there.

ODA MAE  
Look, I don't care what you do to  
me, I'm not goin' nowhere.

INT. ODA MAE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam is sitting on the edge of Oda Mae's bed, singing. It sounds like he's been singing for hours. He is very hoarse.

SAM  
"I'm Henery the Eighth I am / Henery  
the Eighth I am, I am / I'm gettin'  
married to the widow next door /  
She's been married seven times before  
/ And every one was an Henery /  
Wouldn't take a Willie or a Sam /  
I'm her eighth old man I'm Henery /  
Henery the Eighth I am, I am / Henery  
the Eighth I am / Second verse same  
as the first / I'm Henery the Eighth  
I am..."

Oda Mae bolts upright in her bed, her hands over her ears.

ODA MAE  
Okay! Okay! I'll go. You just shut  
your mouth.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY BUS - ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

INT. BUS - DAY

Sam and Oda Mae are sitting at the rear of a crowded bus.  
She appears to be talking to herself.

ODA MAE  
I can't believe I'm doin' this. I  
gotta be a crazy lady goin' into the  
city with you. I never go there.  
What the hell you doin' in my life,  
huh? Why me?

Several people move away.

OMITTED

EXT. LOFT BUILDING - DAY

Oda Mae approaches the loft building and buzzes Molly's  
apartment. She waits a few moments.

ODA MAE  
There's nobody there.

SAM  
Just wait.

ODA MAE  
No, sir. I did what I promised. I  
said I'd come and I'm here. I didn't  
say anything 'bout waitin'.

SAM  
Just one more time. Please. It's a  
big place.

Oda Mae turns to leave. Sam, desperate, starts to sing.

SAM  
(continuing)  
"Ninety-nine bottles of beer on the  
wall, ninety nine bottles of beer,"

Oda Mae stops. She turns back to the buzzer and rings once  
more. Suddenly Molly answers.

MOLLY (V.O.)  
Hello, who's there?

ODA MAE

(nervous)

Don't go away. It's Oda Mae Brown. I called you last night. Your friend Sam says you gotta talk to me.

There is a CLICK as Molly hangs up.

INT. LOFT - DAY

Molly walks away from the intercom, shaken. Suddenly we hear Oda Mae yelling up from the street.

ODA MAE (O.S.)

Hey you, Molly! You gotta listen to me! this is for real. Sam is here. He needs to talk to you.

Molly walks over to the window and looks down. Oda Mae is standing in the street looking up. She is calling out at the top of her lungs. Molly pulls back. She is afraid.

ODA MAE (O.S.)

(continuing)

He says remember the starfish at Montego Bay? Remember the picture he took a' you in Reno?

(pause)

Remember his green underwear, the pair you wrote your name on? She wrote her name on 'em?

Molly tenses. There is a sign of recognition in her eyes.

EXT. TRIBECA STREET - DAY

Oda Mae is standing by the curb and shouting up to Molly's fifth floor window. Several people stare at her curiously. She turns to them.

ODA MAE

Hey, do you mind? This here's a private conversation.

The people turn away. She turns back to the window. Sam prompts her.

SAM

Ask her about the sweater in the closet, the one she knitted that's too big.

ODA MAE

What about the sweater you knitted that was too big?

SAM  
Four sizes.

ODA MAE  
Four sizes.

SAM  
She couldn't throw it out. I saw. I  
was there.

ODA MAE  
You couldn't throw it out. He saw.  
He was there. This is for real. Hey  
do you hear me up there?

A WORKMAN peers out of a second story window.

WORKMAN  
I hear you.

ODA MAE  
I'm not talkin' to you.

WORKMAN  
Haven't you ever heard of phones?

ODA MAE  
Kiss my behind!  
(yelling again)  
Listen, I'm not gonna stand here all  
day.

WORKMAN  
Thank God.

ODA MAE  
Forget it. I've had enough of this.

Oda Mae is about to walk away when the entrance door opens.  
Molly steps outside. Oda Mae sees her and stops.

ODA MAE  
(continuing)  
Molly?  
(Molly nods)  
I'm Oda Mae Brown.  
(walking over and  
shaking her hand)  
You can call me Oda.

INT. SOHO LUNCHEONETTE - DAY

Molly and Oda Mae are sitting in a booth staring at one  
another.

MOLLY

Why should I believe you? Why should I believe any of this?

ODA MAE

Girl, if you think I'd come down here for the fun of it, you got another think comin'. This Sam of yours... I don't know, lady. I mean, you ever hear a whole night of "Henry the Eighth I am?"

MOLLY

He did that? That's how he got me to go out with him.

ODA MAE

And he cain't carry a tune.

MOLLY

I know. Oh God. This is all so crazy. I can't believe I'm talking to you like this. I don't believe in these things. I don't believe in life after death.

SAM

Tell her she's wrong.

ODA MAE

He says you're wrong.

MOLLY

You're talking to him right now?

ODA MAE

What? You think I'm makin' it up?

MOLLY

Where is he?

ODA MAE

How should I know? It's not like I can see him. I just hear his voice.

SAM

I'm holding her hand.

ODA MAE

He says he's holding your hand.

MOLLY

I'm sorry. I don't believe you. Why are you doing this to me? I don't believe a word you're saying. Sam is dead. He's dead.

SAM  
I'm holding her hand.

ODA MAE  
He says he's holding your hand.

Molly's hand jumps. Oda Mae looks at her. There is a long, poignant moment. Sam chokes up.

SAM  
God, I love her. I love her so much.

ODA MAE  
He says he loves you... so much.

MOLLY  
(shaking her head)  
No. He would never say that.

SAM  
(his eyes brightening)  
Ditto. Tell her "ditto".

ODA MAE  
Ditto? What's that mean, ditto?

Molly starts, an expression of true astonishment shining in her eyes.

MOLLY  
Sam?

INT. LOFT - DAY

Molly is pressed up against the edge of the couch listening nervously as Oda Mae speaks. Sam wanders around the room, anxiously.

ODA MAE  
To tell the truth, I don't know how I'm doin' it. In fack, confidentially, nothin' like this never happened to me before. Now, all a sudden, I can't turn it off.  
(she sees a photo of Sam)  
Is this you? Is this him?

They both say "yes" at the same time.

ODA MAE  
(continuing; to Sam)  
Hazel eyes, huh? You sound like they'd be blue.

MOLLY

I don't understand. Why did he come back? Why is he still here?

ODA MAE

Cause he's stuck, that's why. He's between worlds. It happens sometimes, when their spirits get out too quick. He thinks he still has stuff t'do down here.

SAM

Come on Oda Mae, stop rambling.

ODA MAE

Oh, oh, now he's got an attitude.

Molly stares at Oda Mae.

SAM

I do not have an attitude.

ODA MAE

(to Molly)

We're having a discussion.

(back to Sam)

Whataya mean, you're not angry? If you weren't angry you wouldn't be raisin' your voice like that.

SAM

Goddamn it, Oda Mae!

ODA MAE

Ah ah, baby. That does it. I don't talk to anybody who takes the Lord's name in vain.

She stands up, as if to leave. Molly watches with growing discomfort as Oda Mae seems to be talking to herself.

SAM

Relax, Oda Mae.

ODA MAE

You relax. You're the dead one. You want my help, then you apologize. Nobody talks to me like that, understand?

SAM

Jesus Christ!

ODA MAE

(to Molly)

Excuse me, girl. Time for me to go.

Oda Mae heads for the door. Molly is confused.

MOLLY

I don't believe I'm watching this.

SAM

Damn it. All right. I apologize.

Oda Mae stops, pauses a moment, and walks back to the couch. Sam, relieved, paces back and forth.

Oda Mae's eyes follow his voice as Molly watches her curiously.

SAM

(continuing)

Please, Oda Mae, I need you to tell Molly what I'm saying. You gotta tell her word for word.

ODA MAE

Monsieur has a message for you.

SAM

Molly, you're in danger.

ODA MAE

You can't tell her like that. And would you stop movin' all over the place? You're makin' me sick.

Molly looks concerned. Sam leans into Oda Mae.

SAM

Say it!

ODA MAE

He's sayin' you're in danger.

MOLLY

Danger?... What do you mean?

SAM

I know the man who killed me. Willie Lopez. I know where he lives.

ODA MAE

He says he knows the man who killed him, Willie Lopez. He's Puerto Rican.

Molly grows pale as she listens. Her forehead tightens.

SAM

Write it down.

ODA MAE

Write it down.

SAM  
You do it!

ODA MAE  
Now I'm a secretary.

Oda Mae takes a card from her purse and grabs a pencil.

SAM  
321 Prospect Place. Apartment 4D.

ODA MAE  
321? Hey, that's my neighborhood.

Oda Mae seems perplexed as she writes it down and gives it to Molly.

SAM  
Molly, he's got my wallet and my key. He was in here.

ODA MAE  
He's got his wallet and key. He was in here.

MOLLY  
In here?

SAM  
(directly to Molly)  
You have to go to the police. The Mugger wasn't acting alone. It was a setup, Moll. I was murdered.

ODA MAE  
He says he was set up, that he was murdered. He wants you to go to the police.

Molly stands up, afraid. Oda Mae stands up, too.

ODA MAE  
(continuing)  
I'm sorry. I don't want nothin' to do with this.

Oda Mae heads for the door as Molly watches in a daze.

SAM  
Where you going?

ODA MAE  
Don't follow me! I've done all I'm gonna do.

(opening the door)  
I'm finished. And I ain't comin'  
back. So don't you come botherin' me  
again cause it's over. I mean it.  
This is it. Have a nice life. Have a  
nice death. I'm goin'.

She lets herself out. Sam just stands there as the door slams  
shut.

OMITTED

INT. KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Carl is pacing nervously. He seems very upset. After a moment  
he approaches Molly. Sam is behind her.

CARL

Molly, there's no one on earth who'd  
like it to be true more than me, but  
you've got to be rational about this.  
I understand your desire to hold on  
to him, but this... this is absurd.

MOLLY

It was real, Carl. She was real.

SAM

Listen to her, Carl, goddamn it. She  
needs some support here.

CARL

Molly, you're a grown woman. How can  
you believe some fortune teller from  
Brooklyn...?

MOLLY

She was in touch with him.

CARL

I don't believe it, Molly. Not for a  
minute.

SAM

Come on, Carl. Open your mind.

Carl sits down beside her.

MOLLY

Carl, she knew things.

CARL

What kind of things?

MOLLY

I told you, the picture in Reno, the

starfish,... damn it, Carl.  
(with great difficulty)  
She said Sam knew who killed him.  
That he was set up... murdered.

CARL  
Oh boy. This is getting deranged.  
We're going off the deep end here.

SAM  
Give him the address, Moll.

MOLLY  
She had a name, an address -- Willie  
Lopez, 321 Prospect Place. She said  
he had Sam's wallet.

Sam smiles. Carl stands up. His voice begins to rise.

CARL  
This is sick. This is really sick.  
How can you swallow this crap? Who  
knows if this guy exists? Maybe she's  
just setting someone up.

MOLLY  
That's what I have to find out.

CARL  
Find out? What are you talking about?

MOLLY  
Sam wants me to go to the police.

CARL  
Sam wants you to go to the police?  
Molly! Jesus! Are you outta your  
mind? What are you gonna tell 'em?  
Some storefront psychic's been getting  
messages from the dead? Do you know  
how that sounds? You're talkin' ghosts  
here, for God's sake.

Molly looks suddenly vulnerable.

CARL  
(continuing)  
I'm sorry. This stuff just really  
gets to me.

MOLLY  
You don't believe me. You don't  
believe any of this, do you?

CARL  
(half heartedly)

I'm trying to, but... Look, if it'll make you sleep any better, I'll check it out, okay? Now why don't you go to bed. Try and get some sleep.

Molly looks at Carl, annoyed. She doesn't believe him for a second.

INT. CARL'S CAR - NIGHT

INT. CARL'S CAR - NIGHT

Carl, in his red Ford Mustang, is speeding up town. Sam is beside him in the front seat.

INT. WILLIE'S BUILDING - NIGHT

Carl steps into the lobby of Willie's building. Sam follows, wide-eyed. He seems both intrigued and astounded by what Carl is doing. When Carl stops to read the apartment number on Willie's mail box, Sam is thrilled.

SAM

Way to go, Carl!

Carl climbs the stairs two at a time and approaches Willie's door. He bangs on it, loudly.

ANGLE - THE DOOR

opens a crack as Willie peers out. Carl pushes it hard and it opens the rest of the way. Willie steps back.

WILLIE

Carl, what're you doin' here?

Sam freezes as Willie addresses Carl by name. He can barely move.

CARL

(scared, in over his head)

Who've you been talking to?

WILLIE

Talking to? What the hell do you mean? What's going on?

CARL

Some woman knows all about you. The murder, everything. Where's she getting it from, huh?

WILLIE

What the hell are you talking about? I haven't said a word.

Sam is staggered. His body is shaking.

CARL

She knows your name, goddamn it! She knows where you live!

WILLIE

A lot of women know where I live.

Carl is fuming.

CARL

This isn't a joke, man. You find that bitch, whoever she is, and... get rid of her, you hear me? I've got four million dollars stuck in that fucking computer. If I don't get those codes, if that money's not transferred soon, I'm dead. If I lose Balistrari's money, we're both dead.

WILLIE

Tell him you only wash dirty money on the first of the month.

CARL

What is wrong with you? Is everything a joke? You were supposed to steal his wallet. You weren't supposed to kill him. Was that a joke?

WILLIE

(casually)

I did you a favor. Freebee.

CARL

Jesus!

(sickened)

These are drug dealers, man.

(pause)

Don't blow this for me, Willie. I've risked my job here. I could go to jail. A hundred thousand of that money goes to me. Now give me Sam's key. I'll get that address book myself.

Willie goes to the desk drawer and takes out Sam's key. Sam, unable to control himself, explodes in a fit of rage. Hauling back, he slugs Carl with all his might. His fist has no impact.

SAM

You killed me, Carl. You had me killed. Look what you've done to me!

Look what you've done!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Carl is on the street heading back to his car. Sam is beside him, yelling right into his face.

He is screaming and cursing at the top of his lungs but Carl doesn't hear him.

SAM

You fucker! You mother fucker! I had a life, Goddamn you. I had a life!

From the distance, we see Sam smashing into Carl. It is like hitting the air. For all of his rage and bluster, there is nothing he can do.

EXT. LOFT BUILDING - DAY

Molly, neatly dressed, exits her building and hails a cab. She hops inside. Seconds later she hops out again, yelling.

MOLLY

You white fascist bigot. Who do you think you are? Bed Stuy's part of New York, you know. This is America.

The driver speeds off. Molly gives him the finger.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREETS - ELEVATED TRAIN - DAY

Molly exits a subway station and walks toward 131st Street. She is the only white woman on the block and heads turn as she passes.

WOMAN

Hey, Snow, you lost or sumpin'?

Molly pays no attention. Children run up to her, stare, and run away.

TRACKING SHOT

When Molly turns down 131st Street, the crowds disperse and she is all alone. There is a sense of menace in the air. A group of young men sitting on a stoop watches as she walks by. One of them whistles. Molly keeps walking.

EXT./INT. WILLIE'S BUILDING

Molly sees Willie's building. She walks into the dank lobby. It is dark and full of shadows. Leaning close, she examines the mail boxes. Willie's name is there. She backs away, afraid.

INT. LIVINGROOM - DAY

A dresser drawer opens and a box labeled "Sam's Things -- Valuable" is slowly pulled out. A hand reaches inside it and extracts Sam's address book. As THE CAMERA PULLS BACK, we see that it is Carl standing in Molly and Sam's livingroom. Carl opens the book and quickly jots down a series of code numbers he finds in the back. His eyes sparkle with excitement.

INT. POLICE STATION - DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - DAY

Molly is sitting in a room opposite DETECTIVE SERGEANT THOMAS BEIDERMAN, 48, and SERGEANT DOROTHY WALLACE, 29. Both officers are staring at her as she speaks. She seems very uncomfortable.

MOLLY

Look, you've gotta believe me. I don't even believe this stuff, myself. But this is real. Do you think I'd come here if it wasn't real? You told me to come if I had any new information. Well, here I am.

The officers don't respond.

MOLLY

(continuing)

Don't look at me like that. You guys use psychics all the time.

There is dead silence.

MOLLY

(continuing)

Damn it. I know how this sounds. I hear myself saying it and I want to cringe. But this woman knew things she couldn't have known, intimate details.

WALLACE

How intimate?

MOLLY

Things Sam only said to me.

WALLACE

(smirking)

Okay, let me get this straight. According to this psychic lady, there are ghosts and spirits all over the place, watching us all the time, huh?...

(she stands up)

I'm sorry. I've got important things to do.

She leaves the room. Molly gives her a dirty look and turns to Beiderman.

MOLLY

I'm telling you. The killer's name is Willie Lopez. I've got his address. You've got to check it out.

Sgt. Beiderman gets up and looks over to Molly.

SGT. BEIDERMAN

Okay. You just wait here. Let me see if this guy's got a record.

He heads out of the room. Molly sits back with an air of enormous relief and gratitude. Sergeant Wallace comes into the room again and picks up a folder. Molly waits nervously. After a moment Sergeant Beiderman returns with a police file in his hands. Molly looks up at him, and then smiles at Wallace as she sees it. She feels vindicated. He lays the thick folder on the desk and opens it up. She hurries over to him.

CUT TO:

MUG SHOTS OF ODA MAE

and reams of police paperwork. WIDEN as Molly stares at it all in sudden shock.

MOLLY

What are you doing? Where's your file on Willie Lopez?

SGT. BEIDERMAN

There's no file for a Willie Lopez. He was probably some old boyfriend she was trying to get even with. This psychic woman's record goes back a long way. Fraud, numbers rackets, you name it. She's a real pro.

CUT BACK AND FORTH between the records and Molly's stunned reaction. We see recent photos of Oda Mae and others going back to her youth. They are fascinating and revealing. We even see photos of her mother and grandmother. In addition, there are pages of arrest records and prison files.

SGT. BEIDERMAN

(continuing)

1967. Shreveport, Louisiana. Forgery, selling false ID. Served one year.

1971. Baton Rouge. Arrested for fraud,  
numbers racketeering. Served ten  
months. 1974. Hattiesburg,  
Mississippi. Fraud, seven months.  
1984. Albany, New York. Petty larceny.  
It goes on and on.

Molly is overwhelmed by the evidence.

SGT. BEIDERMAN

(continuing)

This woman's a charlatan. You can't  
believe anything she said.

MOLLY

This isn't possible. There were words,  
private things. How could she have  
known all that?

SGT. BEIDERMAN

They have ways.

MOLLY

Ways? What ways?

SGT. BEIDERMAN

They've got a million cons. A lot of  
times they read the obits. All she  
had to do was see the word "banker".  
Hell, they even go through your  
garbage to find things they can use,  
letters, old papers. They don't need  
much.

Molly turns away.

SGT. BEIDERMAN

(continuing)

I bet you threw stuff out, huh? It  
could have been anything. What about  
that underwear she knew all about?

Molly's eyes widen.

SGT. BEIDERMAN

(continuing)

Green underwear. I'll bet she zeroed  
right in on that.

MOLLY

No! She was real. She said things.  
She knew about a sweater I knitted,  
about songs we sang... She knew about  
this place we went, Montego Bay...

Molly begins to cry.

SGT. BEIDERMAN

I'm sorry. I know this is hard. People want so much to believe. They're grieving, vulnerable. They'd give anything for one last moment... money, insurance policies. Believe me, these people know what they're doing. Look, I know how you must feel. You know, you can press charges.

Molly shakes her head no. Sgt. Beiderman closes the file. Molly sits for a long time. She is in terrible pain.

MOLLY

Oh God, I wanted it to be Sam.

Sgt. Beiderman nods his head compassionately and then turns away.

INT. BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON (THE SAME DAY)

Molly is sitting in her bedroom. The glow of the late afternoon sunlight casts long shadows across the bed. She seems deeply depressed and alone. Gradually her gaze falls on a jar sitting on the nightstand. In it is the penny Sam found when they were first working on the loft. A label on the jar says, "For Luck!" In a moment of sudden rage, she picks it up and throws it against the wall. It SHATTERS on the floor.

INT. CARL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The code from Sam's address book, jotted on a piece of paper, is sitting beside Carl.

CARL

(excitedly)

God, let this be it!

Anxiously, Carl punches the code into a computer and, suddenly, Sam's old accounts appear on the screen. A look of relief wafts across Carl's face.

CARL

(continuing)

Oh God, yes!

Carl is staring at the same accounts Sam was examining the afternoon before he was killed, the accounts with too much money in them.

Carl picks up the phone and punches a number. Someone answers.

CARL

(continuing)

Tony, this is Carl. I'm all set.  
We're fine. Everything's fine. Just  
tell me what you want me to do.

A VOICE on the other end begins to speak.

VOICE

We want you to transfer the money  
from the 12 separate accounts into a  
single account under the name "Rita  
Miller". Tomorrow, at five minutes  
before closing, 3:55 p. m., transfer  
the full account to First Island  
Bank of Nassau, registry number 486-  
9580.

Carl writes it all down.

VOICE

(continuing)

Call us when it's done.

CARL

Tell Mr. Balistrari there won't be  
any problems.

VOICE

I'll do that.

Carl hangs up. He seems deeply relieved.

REVEAL SAM

He is standing in front of Carl, watching. Quickly, Carl  
begins punching commands into the computer. He is setting up  
the dummy account. Rita Miller, #926-31043.

INT. LOFT - THE SAME NIGHT

Molly, in a short terrycloth robe, is sitting in a chair. A  
magazine is on her lap but she is staring vacantly into the  
loft. She seems lost in the vast space. Sam is pacing back  
and forth. There is a melancholy look in his eyes.

SAM

Why can't you hear me, Molly? I need  
you.

Suddenly the BELL rings. Molly jumps.

Molly's finger is on the intercom. She seems unsettled.

MOLLY

Who's there?

CARL

Molly, it's Carl. Can I come up?

Sam freezes. Molly is surprised. She hesitates a moment and then pushes the buzzer to let him in. We hear Carl bounding up the stairs.

SAM

Don't open it. He's a murderer, Moll!

There is a KNOCK. Molly opens the door. Carl seems buoyant, almost celebratory. He has a bag of fruit in his hand. He is still in a suit and tie.

CARL

Hi. Thanks. I know it's late. I'm sorry to disturb you. I felt bad about last night. This supernatural stuff just makes me so uncomfortable. I don't even read horoscopes.

MOLLY

Don't worry. It's okay.

CARL

No it's not. You needed me to hear you and I didn't and that was wrong. I want you to know that I'm your friend, Moll.

SAM

You were never our friend.

CARL

(holding out a paper bag)

Hey, I brought you some Japanese apple pears. I know you like them.

MOLLY

(taking the bag)

Oh, that's so sweet.

CARL

Listen, can I come in for a minute? I won't stay long. I've had one of those days. Maybe a cup of coffee?

SAM

No, Moll. Don't do it. Don't let him in!

MOLLY

(hesitating)

Sure.

OMITTED

INT. LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Carl, in shirt sleeves and Molly in her robe, are sitting on the couch drinking coffee. We notice that Carl is wearing yellow suspenders. Sam is beside himself, watching them.

MOLLY

Are you alright? You look nervous, upset.

CARL

(glancing at her thighs)

What can I tell you. It's been tough. Hell, you know. It still hurts so much.

(he poses sadly)

Then on top of it all... it's the responsibilities. They've given me my own accounts, but I've had no time to adjust. My mind has been reeling.

Molly reaches out and pats his arm. There is an awkward pause.

CARL

(continuing)

Where were you this morning? I thought you were coming to the bank to sign those papers.

MOLLY

I didn't have time.

(beat)

I went to the police, Carl.

Sam looks at her, amazed. Carl, on the other hand, stiffens. He laughs nervously.

CARL

You're kidding. You really did it? I don't believe... What did you tell them? What did they say?

MOLLY

You were right, you know. I felt like such a fool. They brought out a file on this psychic woman ten inches thick. It was awful.

CARL

(relieved)

A ripoff artist, huh?

SAM

(shocked)

Molly, no.

MOLLY

The sad part is that I believed her.  
I believed her, Carl.

(pause)

It was all a sham.

CARL

(relaxing)

Sometimes we need to believe.

MOLLY

Why?... I was a fool. I don't believe  
anything anymore. Why would people  
do such things?

Sam is devastated.

CARL

(milking it)

It's hard to face reality, Moll, the  
hard cold facts of it. What you have  
to remember is the love you felt.  
That's what's real. You have to  
remember how good Sam was. How much  
he loved you.

Molly holds back tears. Carl reaches out tenderly and strokes  
her hair.

CARL

(continuing)

You were everything to him, Molly.  
You were his life.

MOLLY

(finally crying)

I feel so alone.

CARL

You're not alone. You're young. You've  
got so much talent. You're  
fantastically gorgeous.

MOLLY

(appreciating his  
words)

Oh God, I don't know what's real  
anymore. I don't know what to think.

CARL

Just think about Sam. Think about  
what he meant to you, the years you  
had together, how wonderful they  
were.

Carl glides his hand slowly, lovingly across her cheek.

CARL  
(continuing)  
Let your feelings out.

Almost imperceptibly, his hand moves down to the nape of her neck. As she moves, her robe opens slightly. Carl notices, glimpsing her nakedness beneath it. Sam notices, too. He freezes.

CARL  
(continuing)  
Life turns on a dime, Moll. People think they have forever, that they'll always have tomorrow. But it's not true. Sam taught us that. We have to live for now, for today.

Molly can barely contain her tears. Carl moves toward her moist cheeks and kisses them gently. Slowly, he guides his lips to her neck and kisses it, too. It is all hateful and sensual at the same time. Sam turns away.

Molly feels Carl's tenderness, needs it. She does not notice his hand reaching for the cord on her robe and slowly pulling it toward him. With a little tug the cord unravels and the robe falls open. Molly is confused, aroused, not sure what to do. She starts to pull it closed. He holds her hand. For a moment they do nothing. Then his fingers reach for her thigh. Her body quivers. Carl feels her openness and pulls closer, his hand rising gently up her naked body.

Molly's eyes close. She says nothing.

SAM  
No!!!

OMITTED

ANGLE

Sam charges wildly at the couch and begins flailing uncontrollably at the two of them. Unexpectedly his foot kicks out and hits a framed photograph of him and Molly that's sitting on an end table. The picture CRASHES to the floor, the glass SHATTERING.

Molly jumps up, the mood suddenly broken. She sees the photo and recoils. Carl reaches for her. She backs away.

Sam is stunned by what has happened. He jumps up and tries kicking over another picture but nothing moves. His foot goes right through it.

Molly looks at Carl, drying her tears.

MOLLY

I can't. I'm sorry. I can't. It's too soon... You've been great Carl, but... I need you to leave. Please. I need you to.

CARL

Sure. It's okay. I understand. I really do.

She reaches out and takes his hand.

CARL

(continuing)

Look, what if we have dinner tomorrow night? Just talk. Can I interest you in that?

SAM

NO!!!

Molly hesitates a moment and then nods her head "yes". Carl smiles.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

Sam rushes madly down a flight of stairs into a subway station. A train is just leaving. He jumps on board.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY TRAIN - NIGHT

Sam begins quickly casing the aisles, looking for something. It is not there. Another train can be seen speeding past the window. Sam takes a running leap and jumps onto it, passing through the walls.

CUT TO:

OMITTED

ANGLE - SAM

disappointed. Suddenly, an express train passes alongside his local. Sam sticks his face inside it. Suddenly, he smiles and rushes onto it.

ANGLE

Sam does not have to stand there long. Within seconds, the terrifying Ghost he had seen before comes charging at him. We notice him more clearly now. He is wearing a dark blue pea coat. There is a grizzled look about him. He has stained

teeth and seems perpetually unshaven.

GHOST  
Get off my train!

This time Sam does not back away. He holds his ground. The Ghost lets fire every trick in his arsenal. Posters come flying off the walls. A bag of groceries topples from a woman's arms, an old man's cane flies across the aisle, a boy's Mets cap flips off his head. People on the train move quickly to other cars.

Unable to frighten him, the Ghost kicks Sam in the stomach. Sam recoils, feeling it, but gets back up again. He is angry now. He begins raging at the other Ghost. The Ghost is shocked.

SAM  
Teach me how you do that! I want to learn! I'm not leaving til you teach me!

The Ghost, exhausted, looks up at him and smiles with appreciation.

GHOST  
You stubborn asshole.

Sam nods in agreement.

CUT TO:

SAM AND THE GHOST

sitting in the corner of a deserted subway station. Sam is trying desperately to push a bottle cap with his finger.

GHOST  
(continuing)  
What are you doing? What are you doing? You can't push it with your finger. You're dead.

The Ghost demonstrates, kicking a garbage pail onto its side. Sam can't quite tell how he did it.

SAM  
I don't get it.

GHOST  
It's your mind, you idiot. It's all in the mind. The problem is you think you're still real, that you're standin' on the floor, that you're wearin' those clothes. Bullshit! You don't even have a body anymore. It's

all up here. You wanna move things,  
you gotta use your mind. You gotta  
focus! You hear what I'm saying?

SAM

How do you focus?

GHOST

I don't know how you focus! You just  
focus!

With surprising energy, the Ghost flicks a bottle cap and  
sends it shooting across the subway platform.

GHOST

(continuing)

It's all in the anger. You gotta  
direct it. You gotta channel it.

SAM

I'm angry all the time. It doesn't  
do a thing.

GHOST

Cause you're angry all over. You  
gotta be angry here, in the pit of  
your stomach. Bring it down here.  
Let it explode.

(he makes an explosive  
gesture)

It's like a reactor, you know. Pow!

He kicks a Coke can toward Sam. Sam tries to kick it back  
and misses. The Ghost laughs. Sam gets angry. He tries again  
and falls on his head. The Ghost laughs louder. Now Sam is  
really angry. We see him forcing the anger down into his  
stomach. He holds still for a moment and then kicks at the  
can with all his might. To his shock and amazement, it sails  
right through the Ghost's head. The Ghost smiles.

SAM

I did it!

GHOST

Way to go.

CUT TO:

SAM

practicing. He smashes at an abandoned tennis shoe with his  
fist. Nothing happens.

GHOST

From your gut. What do I keep tellin'  
you?

Sam's stomach bulges. He tries again. Nothing.

GHOST

(continuing)

Give it time! What else have you got?

Undaunted, Sam tries once more. This time the tennis shoe moves. The Ghost nods his head approvingly. Sam is thrilled.

SAM

How long have you been here?

GHOST

Since they pushed me.

SAM

Someone pushed you?

GHOST

Yeah, someone pushed me!

SAM

Who?

GHOST

What? You don't believe me? You think I fell? You think I jumped? Well, fuck you!

(an unexpected rage starts to build)

It wasn't my time! I wasn't supposed to go! I'm not supposed to be here!

Venom spews from the Ghost's mouth. Suddenly he rams a cigarette machine full force with his head. The glass SHATTERS and packs of cigarettes scatter everywhere. He throws himself on top of them with terrible longing.

GHOST

(continuing)

I'd give everything for a drag. Just one drag.

He rolls and wallows in terrible frustration, tossing the cigarettes in all directions. Suddenly he looks up and sees Sam. He is unable to control his fury.

GHOST

(continuing)

Who the hell are you? Why are you hounding me like this? Leave me alone.

AN EXPRESS TRAIN

is shooting through the station. The Ghost throws himself into it and in an instant he is gone.

OMITTED

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NIGHT

Sam, all alone, walks through the station. Suddenly, he reaches out and pushes a garbage can lid. It swings back and forth. He is delighted. A beer can is sitting on a bench. He pushes it off, watching it roll across the platform with childlike glee.

Looking up, Sam sees an advertisement for Market Security Bank and Trust. He stares at it with great interest. "Special Banking for Special People. We make it easy for you." Something registers in Sam's eyes. He yells and jumps straight up, hitting a subway sign with his finger. With great excitement, he runs for the stairs and rushes from the station.

OMITTED

INT. SEANCE ROOM - NIGHT

ORTISHA JONES, a black woman with brassy red hair, is sitting at Oda Mae's seance table surrounded by several of her relatives. Clara and Louise stand behind Oda Mae helping with the ritual. Oda Mae goes into her trance.

ANGLE

A GROUP OF GHOSTS is milling behind Oda Mae. Sam comes barging into the room and looks at them in amazement.

SAM  
What the hell?

Oda Mae, startled, jumps up in her chair. Everyone else jumps, too. Clara and Louise look worried.

ODA MAE  
Sam?

SAM  
What is all this? What's goin' on?

ODA MAE  
What'd you do, tell every spook in town about me? I got spooks from out of town here. There's stuff goin' on you wouldn't believe. I can't hardly believe it myself.

Ortisha and her relatives look up, confused.

SAM

Oda Mae. You're doing it. This is for real. How do you like that?

ODA MAE

I don't.

SAM

Come on. Look at this. You're doing great.

One of the GHOSTS standing in the background butts in.

GHOST

Can you hurry this up? My husband's in the waiting room.

SAM

I need your help, Oda Mae. There's something we need to do.

ODA MAE

Forget it. I'm not doin' anything. You're holdin' on to a life that don't want you no more. Give it up.

SAM

Give it up? I'm already dead.

ODA MAE

Dead, yeah, but you ain't finished dyin'. Give up the ghost.

SAM

And how am I supposed to do that?

ODA MAE

You're asking me?

Ortisha looks at Oda Mae. She has no idea what's going on.

ORTISHA

Are you speaking to me?

ODA MAE

Does it look like I'm speakin' to you?

(continuing; to Sam)

So, are you gonna leave or not? I've got work to do.

Ortisha is totally confused. Oda Mae turns back to her.

ODA MAE

(continuing)

What's a matter? You're supposed to

be concentrating. How do you expect me to do this if you're not concentrating? Okay then. You ready? Let's do it.

ANGLE

Oda Mae and everyone in the room gets very quiet. One of the ghosts draws close. Oda Mae's eyes roll up into her head. Then, suddenly, an extraordinary thing occurs. We see the spirit pull back and dive right into Oda Mae. Oda Mae gulps. Her nostrils flare. Her eyes bulge.

ODA MAE

Oh, Lord! Stop! Whatcha doin' to me?

Oda Mae's body goes into bizarre convulsions as the Ghost tries to move inside her. She looks strangely stuffed and enormously uncomfortable.

Sam and the others watch in astonishment as she tries to speak, but nothing comes out.

Then suddenly the GHOST speaks through Oda Mae.

ORLANDO

(screaming)

Ortisha?!

Ortisha and her relatives jump up in amazement.

ORTISHA

(excitedly)

Orlando! Is that you?

ORLANDO

(disoriented)

Ortisha, where are you? I can't see too good.

RELATIVES

Here! She's here!

ORTISHA

In front of you! I'm right here!

Orlando suddenly zeros in on Ortisha. His eyes widen.

ORLANDO

Mother of God, what've you done to your hair!?

Ortisha smiles excitedly.

ORTISHA

Orlando, do you like it? It's Autumn

Sunrise.

Suddenly Oda Mae's body begins to shake wildly and her voice booms out, screaming with all her might.

ODA MAE

Get out of here, you little shit!

With frightening speed, she sends the spirit catapulting out of her body. Clara and Louise jump up. Oda Mae is shaking.

ODA MAE

(continuing)

Lord oh Lord, don't you ever do that to me!

ORTISHA

(confused)

Orlando!?

ANGLE ORLANDO

He is lying on the floor, exhausted.

ORLANDO

What happened to me? I can barely move.

GHOST

You should know better than to try that. It's not worth it. It'll wipe you out for days.

SAM

That was incredible, Oda Mae.

ODA MAE

Never again. Never.

ORTISHA

Where's Orlando?

SAM

He spoke through you. It was amazing.

ODA MAE

No more, uh uh, no more.

ORTISHA

What happened to Orlando? Where'd he leave the insurance policy?

SAM

You're great, Oda Mae! You're a real medium. It's what you were born for.

ODA MAE  
I want everybody out.

ORTISHA  
Orlando?

Ortisha looks around the room, befuddled. Clara and Louise aren't sure what to do.

ODA MAE  
Now!

Ortisha and her relatives scurry out fast. The ghosts, too, begin passing through the wall. Oda Mae lays her head on the table. Suddenly her whole body begins heaving. She is starting to cry. Sam is surprised.

SAM  
Oda Mae, what's wrong?

ODA MAE  
Out! I said out! That means you,  
too!

Sam hesitates a moment and then respectfully follows the others through the wall.

OMITTED

INT. SEANCE ROOM - NIGHT

Clara knocks on the seance room door and peeks in.

CLARA  
Oda Mae, there's a man here who says  
he has to see you right away.

ODA MAE  
I ain't seein' nobody.

Willie pushes his way into the room. Clara isn't sure what to do. Oda Mae looks up. She does not know him.

WILLIE  
Are you the one that can talk to the  
dead?

ODA MAE  
I beg your pardon! I'm not seeing  
customers right now.

WILLIE  
I said I need to know if you're the  
one.

ODA MAE

I'm the one. But not now.

WILLIE

This is important. I have a friend.  
He died recently. Some say he was  
mugged. I think he was murdered.

Oda Mae stares at him curiously.

WILLIE

(continuing)

I'm told you can contact people like  
that. Is that true?

ODA MAE

It's been known to happen. But it's  
not gonna happen now, so come back  
later.

WILLIE

I can't wait til later.

He sits down across from Oda Mae and shows no signs of  
leaving. Oda Mae observes him quietly for a moment.

ODA MAE

What's your friend's name?

WILLIE

Good question. Why don't you tell  
me?

Oda Mae glares at him.

WILLIE

(continuing)

You're the psychic, right?

ODA MAE

This ain't no guessin' game.

WILLIE

Then what is it, lady?

ODA MAE

Lookit, I don't know what your trouble  
is...

(getting nervous)

Who are you?

WILLIE

You're the mindreader. I hear you've  
been tellin' people about me for  
days. What's my name?

ANGLE - ODA MAE

confused and uncomfortable. Sam comes wandering back into the room. His eyes bulge.

SAM  
Willie!

ODA MAE  
Willie!?

Willie sits straight up in his chair, amazed.

WILLIE  
How'd you know that?

ODA MAE  
Because I'm psychic.

With a sudden thrust, Oda Mae sends her foot shooting into Willie's balls. As he recoils she knocks the table into his lap and rushes for the closet. We see her barricade herself in the hidden chamber.

Willie, shaking, scrambles to his feet and, before Sam can stop him, BLASTS his gun at the closet door. It is riddled with bullets. Sam screams out. Willie runs to the side door and escapes to the street. Clara and Louise come rushing in.

Sam charges into the closet and sees that Oda Mae is safe behind the false door. Then he hurries to the street.

OMITTED

EXT. STREET - NIGHT  
EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Sam rushes to the sidewalk and looks in all directions. Willie is nowhere to be seen. He hurries back to Oda Mae.

OMITTED

INT. SEANCE ROOM - NIGHT

The room is a disaster area, full of hysterical women. Oda Mae is being dragged from the closet, unhurt but in a state of shock.

ODA MAE  
He tried to kill me! Why? Why?

No one answers.

ODA MAE  
(continuing)  
Talk to me!

Her sisters start talking but she shoos them away.

SAM

Oda Mae, we're in trouble...

ODA MAE

We're in trouble? Who's we? You're already dead.

SAM

I can stop them. But I can't do it alone. You've gotta help me.

ODA MAE

Help you? It's me they're tryin' to kill.

SAM

You're right. And they'll be back. I'm your only chance.

ODA MAE

Why don't you go find a haunted house and rattle some chains.

SAM

I need you Oda Mae. I need you to get some fake ID's.

ODA MAE

Fake ID's? What for?

SAM

Help me now, they'll never bother you again. I promise.

ODA MAE

(stopping, thinking)

Help you? Whataya talking about exactly? What else do I have to do?

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

Oda Mae, dressed to the hilt, is walking with Sam toward the main branch of Market Security Bank & Trust. She seems nervous and upset.

ODA MAE

This is crazy. This ain't gonna work. I don't know nothin' 'bout bankin'.

SAM

I'll teach you. You'll learn fast.

As they reach the entrance of the bank, they pass a pair of NUNS collecting money to build a shelter for the homeless.

One of them holds out a collection box. Oda Mae passes her by, carefully avoiding eye contact.

#### INT. MARKET SECURITY BANK & TRUST - DAY

Oda Mae enters Sam's bank. She seems completely out of place. Sam, walking beside her, directs her every move.

SAM

See where it says "New Accounts"?  
That's where you're going.

ODA MAE

(paranoid)  
I'm not givin' 'em any money.

SAM

Just do what I say.

Oda Mae approaches the New Accounts desk. She seems very uptight. A woman OFFICER behind the desk looks up at her.

OFFICER

Can I help you?

SAM

Tell her you're here to fill out a  
signature card for a new account.

ODA MAE

I'm here to fill out a signature  
card for a new account.

OFFICER

And do you know your account number?

SAM

Yes. 926-31043.

ODA MAE

Yes. 926-31043.

SAM

Rita Miller.

ODA MAE

Who?

OFFICER

What?

SAM

Tell her Rita Miller.

ODA MAE

Rita Miller.

OFFICER  
(eyeing her oddly)  
Didn't they have you sign a card  
when you opened the account?

SAM  
Tell her Carl Bruner opened it for  
you by phone and asked you to come  
in today.

ODA MAE  
Carl Bruner opened it for me. He  
asked me to come in today.

OFFICER  
Ah.

The Officer checks out the name and account number on her  
computer screen. It all seems to jive. She pulls out a card  
from her desk and hands it to Oda Mae. Oda Mae stares at it.

SAM  
Just sign your name at the bottom on  
the first blank line.

Oda Mae nods and starts to sign "Oda Mae". Sam stops her.

SAM  
(continuing)  
No, no, no. Rita Miller.

ODA MAE  
(to the officer)  
Can I have another one please? I  
signed the wrong name.

Sam hits his forehead with his hand. The Officer gives her  
another card. Oda Mae signs it.

SAM  
Tell her to see that it goes right  
up to the third floor file since you  
have a transaction to make.

ODA MAE  
I need you to put that in the third  
floor file cause I got a transfusion  
to make.

OFFICER  
A what?

ODA MAE  
You know what I mean.  
(innocently)

Umm, can I keep the pen?

OFFICER  
(surprised, not sure  
what to say)  
...uh, sure.

Oda Mae, delighted, walks away smiling and gives the officer a wave. She is loving this.

ODA MAE  
Thanks.

INT. CARL'S OFFICE

The clock on Carl's wall says 3:40. He seems anxious. The phone RINGS. Carl jumps. He pushes down the speaker button.

CARL  
Hello. Carl Bruner speaking.

VOICE  
Carl?

CARL  
Mr. Balsitrari

VOICE  
Balistrari? Carl, it's me, John.  
I've got the info on the Bradley  
portfolio.

CARL  
Oh yeah, yeah. That's great. I'll  
pick it up later.

He hangs up. His hand is shaking.

INT. MARKET SECURITY BANK & TRUST - DAY

Sam and Oda Mae approach a fancy part of the bank housing administrative personnel. They approach a GUARD who is standing there.

SAM  
Tell the guard you're here to see  
Lyle Furgeson.

ODA MAE  
Lyle Furgeson, please.

GUARD  
Do you have an appointment?

ODA MAE  
No. I'm here for the fun of it.

SAM

Don't say that! Tell him Rita Miller's here.

ODA MAE

Tell him Rita Miller's here.

GUARD

Just one moment, please.

SAM

Don't embellish.

ODA MAE

Yes, Sir.

GUARD

(turning around)

Excuse me?

She waves him on.

SAM

(whispering)

Now listen, this guy Furgeson's a real jerk.

ODA MAE

Why are you whispering?

SAM

(he doesn't know)

Just be quiet and listen. I've known him five years and he still thinks my name's Paul.

We see the Guard leaning over Mr. Furgeson's desk. FURGESON looks up and sees Oda Mae. He shrugs his shoulders.

SAM

(continuing)

He's a social moron. You don't have to worry about anything. Tell the guard Furgeson knows you. You spent time with him and his wife Shirley at the Brewster's Christmas party last year.

The Guard comes back.

GUARD

What is this regarding?

ODA MAE

What? He doesn't remember me? We

were together at the Brewster's Christmas party. With his wife Shirley. They had that lovely tree... all those presents. Why, I'll never forget all those beautiful...

Sam pokes her. She yelps, surprised, and glances around. The Guard gives her an odd look.

ODA MAE  
(continuing)  
Oops. Gas.

She forces a smile. He smiles back and then goes over to Mr. Furgeson.

SAM  
This'll be easy. Furgeson was so drunk at that party, he could have had a conversation with Tina Turner and he wouldn't remember.

The Guard whispers in Furgeson's ear. Furgeson appears totally flummoxed. He looks up at Oda Mae, embarrassed, and waves. The Guard motions her to come back. She walks proudly over to his desk. He sticks out his hand.

FURGESON  
Hello, hello. Of course, of course. It's been so long.

ODA MAE  
A long time.

SAM  
Ask how Bobby and Snooky are.

ODA MAE  
How are Bobby and Snooky doin'?

FURGESON  
(perplexed)  
Why, they're just fine, thank you. Nice of you to ask. And how is your... family?

ODA MAE  
Couldn't be better.

FURGESON  
Well, isn't that wonderful.

SAM  
Tell him you've been wondering how they did on the Gibraltar securities.

ODA MAE  
So tell me, Fergie, how did you do  
on the Gibraltar securities?

FURGESON  
(surprised)  
The Gibraltar securities! Well, it  
looks like we topped out, huh?

SAM  
"We sure did!"

ODA MAE  
We sure did.

FURGESON  
(impressed)  
That was a wonderful tip.

SAM  
"Good old Randy".

ODA MAE  
Good old Randy. Got a real head on  
his shoulders.

SAM  
"Her" shoulders.

ODA MAE  
"Her" shoulders.

FURGESON  
Sure does. Well... well. So what  
brings you here today?

SAM  
You're closing an account.

ODA MAE  
I'm closing an account.

FURGESON  
Well... wonderful. Do you have your  
account number?

SAM  
926-31043.

ODA MAE  
926-3143.

SAM  
31-0-43.

She looks up into the air. Furgeson eyes her strangely.

ODA MAE  
Make that 31-0-43... Numbers. I'm  
dyslexic.

He punches Rita Miller's number into the computer. A figure  
appears on the screen. He stares at it for a few seconds and  
then punches it in again.

FURGESON  
(trying to be calm)  
Well, Rita, you'll be withdrawing  
four million dollars from us today,  
is that correct?

ODA MAE  
Four million dollars?!

SAM  
Say "yes"!

ODA MAE  
(gasping)  
Yes! Four million. That's right.  
That's right.

FURGESON  
And how will you want that?

ODA MAE  
Tens and twenties?

FURGESON  
Pardon?

SAM  
A cashier's check! Tell him a  
cashier's check.

ODA MAE  
A cashier's check.

FURGESON  
Fine. Of course, you realize we're  
required to get some identification  
from everyone. It's just procedural.  
You understand.

ODA MAE  
Of course.

Oda Mae reaches into her purse and pulls out a DRIVER'S  
LICENSE and a SOCIAL SECURITY CARD. Furgeson gets up and  
walks away from his desk. He seems unsteady on his feet. An  
OFFICER at the next desk is using a Brillo pad to clean a  
stain on her desk. Oda Mae smiles.

ODA MAE

You know, if you put that Brillo pad  
in the freezer, it'll last twice as  
long.

The Officer nods appreciatively.

INT. CARD FILE ROOM - DAY

Furgeson lays Oda Mae's ID next to her signature card. The  
signatures match up. He nods his head in approval.

INT. CARL'S OFFICE - DAY

Carl looks up at the clock. It is 3:50. He pushes down a  
button on the phone. A SECRETARY answers.

SECRETARY (V.O.)

Yes, Mr. Bruner.

CARL

Get me the First Island Bank of  
Nassau. It's on the rolodex.

INT. MARKET SECURITY BANK & TRUST - DAY

Mr. Furgeson returns with Rita Miller's signature card and a  
cashier's check for \$4,000,000. Oda Mae's hand shakes as she  
examines it.

FURGESON

I'll just need your signature right  
here.

ODA MAE

Sure.

SAM

Sign Rita Miller.

Sam looks up and gulps. Molly has just entered the bank and  
is heading toward them. He jumps up nervously.

SAM

(continuing)

I'll be back in a minute. You're on  
your own. Don't say anything foolish.

Oda Mae signs a form closing the account. Of course the  
signatures match. Mr. Furgeson examines them both and smiles.  
He shakes Oda Mae's hand.

FURGESON

Now you be careful with this. It's  
like carrying cash, you know.

ODA MAE  
(positively glowing)  
I sure do.

Sam rushes over to Molly. He is not sure what to do. He notices a stack of deposit forms on the counter she is about to pass. He hurries to it and flicks the entire stack, a hundred sheets, flying up into the air. Molly, confused, thinks she is responsible and stoops to pick them up. Sam, delighted, flicks another stack.

Oda Mae is talking a blue streak when Sam returns to her.

ODA MAE  
(continuing)  
Then my mother took all the money from the oil wells and put it in gasoline pumps. Every gas station has 'em you know, sometimes six or more. It adds up.

SAM  
Oda Mae, come on. We gotta get out of here. Say goodbye.

ODA MAE  
(abruptly getting up)  
Well, I've got to leave. It's been a pleasure doin' business with you. Say "hi" to Shirley and Snooky for me.

FURGESON  
Thank you, Rita. I'll be glad to.

Oda Mae smiles and leaves. There is a new lilt in her walk. Suddenly Sam looks and sees Molly about to stand up.

SAM  
Hurry up, Oda Mae.

At that second, Oda Mae spots a quarter lying on the ground. She stoops down and picks it up.

ODA MAE  
(excitedly)  
What a day!

Molly sees her, does a double take, and starts to go after her. Unfortunately, Oda Mae steps onto an elevator before Molly can catch up. The doors close. Molly stops for a moment and then looks back across to the executive area. She sees Lionel Furgeson and hurries over to him.

MOLLY

Lionel?

He is surprised to see her and grows instantly solicitous.

FURGESON

Molly. How are you?

MOLLY

Lionel, a woman who just left, a black lady, about my height, did you see her?

FURGESON

Well, yes. I just took care of her.

MOLLY

What did she want? Did it have anything to do with me? Did she ask about Sam?

FURGESON

(not understanding)

Sam? No. Why?

MOLLY

Was her name Oda Mae Brown?

FURGESON

No, Rita Miller. She just closed an account.

Molly stares at Furgeson. She is not sure what to think.

FURGESON

(continuing)

Is there a problem?

MOLLY

(hesitating, not sure what to say)

No. I guess not. Thanks.

She walks away, confused.

INT. CARL'S OFFICE - DAY

Carl, in front of his computer, is going crazy. He keeps punching buttons on the keyboard but the same response appears over and over on the screen. "RITA MILLER, #926-31043. ACCOUNT CLOSED. BALANCE \$00.00."

Panicked, Carl jumps up. He moves quickly, erratically around the office and then back to the computer. He punches the keys over and over. The same answer appears on the screen. The account is closed.

HALL OUTSIDE CARL'S OFFICE

Carl runs through the office. He seems crazed. People look at him.

LEEDEN

Carl, is something wrong?

CARL

Is someone playing with the computers?

LEEDEN

What?

CARL

Is this a joke? One of my accounts is closed.

LEEDEN

Which account? What's wrong?

Carl freezes. He doesn't answer.

LEEDEN

(continuing)

You want me to call someone?

CARL

(changing his demeanor)

No, no. Never mind. It's okay. It's all right. I can do it.

EXT. MARKET SECURITY BANK & TRUST - DAY

Sam and Oda Mae are walking down the street in front of the bank. Oda Mae is talking to herself.

ODA MAE

\$4,000,000. \$4,000,000. Lord Almighty.

SAM

Oda Mae. Take the check out of your purse.

She stops. There is a nervous look on her face.

ODA MAE

Take it out? Why?

SAM

Just do it.

Oda Mae, worried, removes the check but holds onto it tightly.

SAM

(continuing)

Now endorse it. Sign Rita Miller.

ODA MAE  
(in shock)  
Endorse it? Why?

SAM  
Do what I say.

ODA MAE  
No!

SAM  
That's blood money, Oda. I was killed  
for that money. Endorse it now.

ODA MAE  
What are you going to do with it?

SAM  
We're giving it away.

ODA MAE  
Away? What do you mean? To who?

SAM  
Look to your left.

Oda Mae looks at the nuns collecting money for the homeless.  
She recoils.

ODA MAE  
Are you outta your mind?

SAM  
Do what I tell you.

ODA MAE  
No!  
(clutching the check)  
I can't.

SAM  
Yes, you can. If you don't do it,  
they'll track you down. Your only  
protection is to get rid of it, now.

ODA MAE  
Sweet Jesus, you're killing me, Sam.

SAM  
I'm saving you, Oda Mae. You'll go  
to heaven for this.

Oda Mae growls at him.

With great difficulty, she approaches the nuns.

The nuns look at her with curiosity and compassion.

SAM

Write "St. Joseph's Shelter".

With great hesitation, Oda Mae begins to write. We sense that every word is a torment for her. The nuns politely avert their eyes from the check.

NUN

Bless you, child.

Oda Mae gives her a dirty look and hands the check over.

SAM

I'm proud of you.

ODA MAE

Don't you talk to me. I don't want you comin' round no more. I mean it. Understand?

SAM

Come on, we're friends.

ODA MAE

Friends? Friends?

She turns on her high heels and wobbles away. Sam calls after her.

SAM

I think you're wonderful, Oda Mae.

She growls again. In the background we see the nuns secretly peeking at the check. One of them, wide-eyed, faints dead away. The other nun stoops down and fans her face in an attempt to revive her.

INT. CARL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

It is after hours. Almost everyone on the floor has gone. Carl, hunched over his computer, is typing furious commands on the keyboard. He looks haggard and worn.

Sequence after sequence of coded numbers flash past on the monitor screen. Sam, sitting in a desk chair, watches, smiling.

SAM

Search, you bastard! You'll never find it. It's gone.

(he smiles)

They'll kill you for this, Carl. You

and Willie. They'll wipe you off the face of the earth.

In a moment of childish delight, he pushes his feet against the wall and the chair shoots across the room. Carl looks up and sees an empty chair moving. He stares at it in confusion, and then goes back to the screen. He seems desperate. Nothing is working.

Panicked and frightened, Carl flicks off the machine and storms furiously around the room. Sam approaches the computer, hesitates a moment, and then pushes the power switch. The computer CLICKS back on. Carl spins around. He stares at the computer curiously for a moment and then turns it back off. Sam, enjoying this, reaches for the switch and FLICKS it back on again. Carl stares at it.

CARL  
What the...?

Carl watches as the keys seem to depress themselves and letters begin appearing on the screen. He sits down, mesmerized by what is happening. Then his face grows tense. The word "M-U-R-D-E-R-E-R" is emerging before him.

Carl flies out of his chair, frantically running around to see who else is on the floor. He yells out like a madman.

CARL  
(continuing)  
Who's doing that?

There is no one there. He hears the computer beginning to type again and hurries back to look at the screen. One word appears. "S-A-M".

Carl gasps and smashes the computer with his fist. It crashes to the floor. Electrical sparks go flying as Carl gasps for breath.

Sam cannot hold himself back any longer. With a horrifying scream, he charges at Carl, jamming his fist hard into his ribs.

SAM  
You bastard! You goddamn bastard!

Carl grabs his side.

CARL  
Ah!

He hits Carl again. Carl gasps in inexplicable pain.

SAM  
It's dinner time, Carl. Don't you

have a date with Molly, you creepy  
son-of-a bitch?

Sam keeps hitting deeper into Carl's mid-section. Carl doubles  
over as though he's going to throw up.

CARL  
Jesus! Oh God!

Sam is flushed with excitement. Carl kneels beside his desk.  
He cannot understand what is happening to him. His face goes  
stark white as the attack continues.

Then, unexpectedly, the assault stops. Sam, exhausted, stares  
hatefully at his old friend cowering on the floor. Slowly  
and dizzily, Carl gets up. He looks fearfully around the  
office and then, holding his stomach, hurries from the room.

INT. LOFT - THE SAME NIGHT

Molly, all dressed to go out, is sitting in Sam's easy chair,  
asleep. Suddenly Carl arrives knocking at her door. He does  
not look well. Sam is with him.

MOLLY  
Carl? Where were you? I thought we  
were having...?

CARL  
I'm sorry. Things just got so crazy.  
I completely forgot.

SAM  
Old Carl had a little trouble at the  
office.

MOLLY  
Forgot? I was worried. Is everything  
okay? Are you all right?

CARL  
I'm okay. I'm alright. Look, can I  
talk to you for minute? Can I come  
in?

Molly eyes Carl with concern as he enters the loft.

CARL  
(continuing)  
I need to ask you a question.

SAM  
He needs to borrow four million  
dollars.

CARL

Molly, I know what the police said,  
but when you thought Sam was here,  
when you thought he spoke to you,  
what did you feel? What did he say?

MOLLY  
Why? What happened?

CARL  
(very tense)  
Molly, that psychic woman, I want to  
know what she told you. I want to  
know what she said.

MOLLY  
Carl, stop this. It was all a hoax.  
I told you. It wasn't real. She's a  
charlatan.  
(she hesitates and  
stares at Carl)  
Does this have anything to do with  
her being at the bank today?

SAM  
Oh shit!

CARL  
(gulping)  
At the bank?

Sam tenses. He holds up his hand as if wanting her to stop.

MOLLY  
I was sure I saw her. Furgeson says  
she was taking out money. It turns  
out her name isn't even Oda Mae Brown.  
It's Rita Miller or something.

Carl turns white. His eyes bulge. He feels sick.

MOLLY  
(continuing)  
What's wrong?

CARL  
Stomach. My stomach. Do you have  
anything? Pepto Bismol.

MOLLY  
(worried)  
Sure. Just a second. What's going  
on?

Concerned, she hurries from the room. Sam digs his hands  
into Carl's back. Carl jerks forward in intense pain and  
begins flailing at the air.

CARL

What are you doing to me. Get away!  
Get away!

INT. KITCHEN

Sam does not go away. Freaked, Carl runs into the kitchen and rushes to the stove. Quickly he turns on the gas. He looks crazed. Turning to the air, he begins whispering loudly.

CARL

You touch me again and I'll set her  
on fire. I mean it. I'll kill her.  
I'll blow up the whole building if I  
have to. Stay away!

Sam jabs at the knob on the stove and begins to turn it off. Carl sees it move. Shocked and frightened, he grabs it and pulls it off, leaving only the tiny stem in place.

CARL

(continuing)

Go on, try it again. Let me see you  
turn it off now.

Sam, frightened, tries with all his might but he cannot twist it. Carl pulls out a cigarette lighter and gloats.

CARL

(continuing)

Try and hurt me. I'll kill her if  
you hurt me.

Sam rushes at Carl about to jam his full fist into his chest, but then he stops, afraid. He pulls back, shaken. Carl stands there waiting for a blow that doesn't come. He begins to gloat.

CARL

What's a matter? You believe me,  
huh? You better believe me! I want  
my money. I need that money and I  
want it tonight -- at 11:00. If that  
psychic lady doesn't bring it here,  
Molly's dead.

Sam freezes. Molly enters the kitchen. She grabs her nose.

MOLLY

Oh my God. Is that the gas?

Carl acts as if that's the reason he came into the kitchen.

CARL

You must have left the stove on.

He fiddles with the dials and turns it off.

CARL  
(continuing)  
Just glad I smelled it.

MOLLY  
(confused)  
Me, too.

She opens a window.

CARL  
Molly, I'm sorry. I've got to go.  
Look, there's something going on. I  
can't talk now. Some trouble at the  
bank.

MOLLY  
Trouble? What kind of trouble? Is it  
that woman, the psychic?

CARL  
I don't have time to talk now. What  
if I come back? Around 11:00?

MOLLY  
Carl, what's going on? Let me help  
you.

CARL  
I can't. I'm sorry to do this, but  
it's important. I'll be back.

Molly is speechless.

CARL  
(continuing)  
Eleven!

OMITTED

INT. ODA MAE'S LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Oda Mae is watching T.V. with Clara and Louise. Suddenly she  
jumps, aware of Sam's presence in the room.

ODA MAE  
Sam!

Clara and Louise jump, too.

CLARA  
Not again!

ODA MAE  
What're you doin' here?

SAM  
Oda Mae! We're in trouble. They want  
the check. They're comin' to kill  
you. We gotta get outta here.

ODA MAE  
The check? What do you mean, "the  
check". You said they'd never find  
out.

CLARA  
(afraid)  
What's happenin' Oda Mae?

EXT. STREET

A red Mustang SCREECHES to a stop on the street below. Sam  
and Oda Mae run to the window. Carl and Willie are looking  
up.

INT. LIVINGROOM

SAM  
It's them.

ODA MAE  
They're comin' to kill me.  
(to Sam, crazed)  
What have you done?

EXT. ODA MAE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Willie and Carl jump out of the car. They head for Oda Mae's  
building.

INT. ODA MAE'S LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Sam steps back from the window.

SAM  
They're heading for the door.

ODA MAE  
(terrified)  
Jesus have mercy.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Willie forces open a back door. They head into the building.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Oda Mae and the others hurry into the hall. They rush down

the corridor and knock loudly on a neighbor's door. A WOMAN opens it a crack.

ODA MAE  
Emergency! Let us in!

WOMAN  
Who you kiddin'?

The Woman slams the door and locks it shut. Oda Mae looks frightened.

INT. APARTMENT STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Carl and Willie climb the stairs two at a time.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Oda Mae and her sisters bang on another apartment door. No one is home. Across the corridor an ELDERLY WOMAN sticks her head out to see what is going on. Before she can say anything they push their way inside.

ELDERLY WOMAN  
What're you doin'? You can't come in here. The cat don't like visitors. She'll pee all over the couch. You wanna pay for...

Oda Mae grabs the woman's mouth.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - FISHEYE LENS VIEW

just as Willie and Carl emerge from the stairwell. They head down the hall toward Oda Mae's door. Willie pulls out a gun, and fires. The lock shoots open. They rush inside.

CUT BACK TO:

ODA MAE

in the elderly woman's vestibule, peering through the peephole. The old woman is struggling and still trying to talk. Oda Mae's knees are wobbling.

ODA MAE  
They're gonna find us.

SAM  
No they won't. I'm gonna get 'em.

ODA MAE  
Oh yeah? And how you gonna do that?

SAM  
Whataya mean? I'm a ghost, aren't I?

INT. ODA MAE'S LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Willie moves quickly through Oda Mae's apartment, his gun pointed, ready to fire. He seems furious when he realizes no one is there.

WILLIE  
Looks like someone just left.

CARL  
I'll check the building.

ANGLE

He rushes back out and down the stairs. Willie stays in the apartment. Suddenly, the doorbell RINGS. Willie rushes over and opens the door a crack. There is no one there. Confused, he backs away. The doorbell rings again. Completely mystified, he aims his gun and opens the door all the way. The hallway is empty.

As Willie stands there, wondering what is happening, Sam steps inside and pushes the door closed. It slams shut. Willie nearly jumps out of his skin.

WILLIE  
Damn!

He stares at the door in total bewilderment. At that instant, a collection of picture frames flies off the breakfront and crashes into his legs. He backs away, spooked.

Suddenly, the T.V. flicks ON at full volume and then the STEREO and the RADIO. Lights begin flashing on and off. Willie spins around in total dismay.

Summoning all of his force, Sam slams into Willie. Willie recoils in unexplainable pain. He seems very disoriented. His gun falls to the floor. He reaches for it and Sam pushes it away. Willie jumps up, afraid. His eyes dart around the room. Sam laughs.

WILLIE  
(continuing)  
Who's there? Who's doing that?

ANGLE

A pair of candle holders shoot off the mantle piece and nearly hit Willie in the head. He freaks. Grabbing his gun, Willie runs into the bathroom and locks the door. Suddenly the hot water faucet turns on by itself.

Willie is terrified. Steam rises from the sink. Willie tries to get out, but Sam approaches him from behind and appears to dig his hands into his neck. Willie crumples to his knees.

WILLIE  
Oh God!

There is a SQUEAKING SOUND and Willie looks up. Letters are appearing in the fogged mirror. He stares in disbelief as the word "B-O-O!" emerges before him. He cries out.

WILLIE  
(continuing)  
Let me outta here!

Shaking uncontrollably, Willie FIRES his gun at the mirror. Glass and tiles EXPLODE. Willie is cut and bleeding. He grabs hold of the door and yanks it open.

INT. HALLWAY

Willie rushes to the hallway, charges for the back stairs and stumbles down the three flights to the street. Carl, running down the corridor, rushes after him. Willie drops his gun. Carl picks it up.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET -- NIGHT

Willie runs from the building and careens down the sidewalk. People clear a path as he hurls past them like a madman. Carl, confused, runs after him.

Sam, too, races after Willie, unwilling to let him get away.

Suddenly, a man obstructs his way. Willie goes flying over him and lands face down on the cement. Before he can get up, Sam is all over him and does not let up. People stand back to watch as Willie does battle with himself. Panicked, he calls out to a bystander.

WILLIE  
Help me!

People back away. Carl watches in terror. He understands exactly what is happening.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Willie, blinded by his own hysteria, runs wildly into the street. Cars are bearing down on him from all directions. He does not get out of their way.

One driver sees Willie coming and swerves to avoid him. His car skids. Another car brakes to avoid a collision and suddenly both cars crash right into him.

CARL  
Look out!

Willie's body is crushed instantly between the two vehicles as his spirit is catapulted into the air still screaming and writhing. His ghostly form reaches out to people for help as they rush past. No one stops.

Willie spins around and sees a mangled body crumpled on the street. Suddenly, he recognizes that it is his own dead body lying there. He begins to scream.

A bizarre and frightening CLICKING SOUND fills the air. Sam looks up. A group of strange dark figures has emerged from the shadows.

With a loud, terrifying shriek, the dark forms swoop down and grab hold of Willie. Sam freezes. In an instant they are dragging Willie, kicking and screaming, down through the sewer grates into the bowels of the earth.

ANGLE

Sam backs against a wall in absolute horror. Carl, standing in the crowd, turns and runs.

INT. OLD LADY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Oda Mae and her sisters are huddling with the old woman in the entryway to her apartment. They all appear frightened. The door is opened a crack and they can see people gathering in the hall outside.

Sam walks up to Oda Mae. She feels his presence.

ODA MAE  
Sam? What happened?

SAM  
He's dead, Oda Mae.

ODA MAE  
Dead!  
(she utters a sigh of relief)  
Oh, thank God. It's over.

SAM  
No. It's not over, Oda Mae. There's still Carl.

Oda Mae freezes. She turns to Sam.

ODA MAE  
Who's Carl?

INT. TAXI CAB - NIGHT

Sam and Oda Mae are in a taxi speeding downtown.

SAM

Tell him to hurry!

ODA MAE

Can't you hurry up?

DRIVER

Listen, lady, I'm going as fast as I can.

Sam leans forward and pushes at the gas pedal. The cab shoots forward. The driver seems shocked.

ODA MAE

Problems?

He gives her a dirty look.

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

There is a KNOCK at the door. Molly goes to it. Fastening the latch, she opens it a crack.

MOLLY

Carl, is that you?

Oda Mae wedges her foot inside.

ODA MAE

Molly, it's Oda Mae. I know what you think of me, but your life is in danger. You have to listen to me. Sam's here, too. You gotta let us in.

Molly tries to slam the door but hits Oda Mae's foot.

MOLLY

Get the hell out of here. I'm calling the police.

ODA MAE

Go ahead. We want you to call 'em. You're in trouble. Let us in.

MOLLY

No!

ODA MAE

Sam's death was no accident. He was murdered, Molly. Carl was laundering money at the bank. Sam found out.

He's dangerous. He tried to kill me.  
He'll kill you, too.

MOLLY  
(screaming)  
Why are you doing this to me? Get  
away from me! I know all about you.  
You're a fake. You're just a fake.  
Leave me alone!

We see Sam's inside the room with Molly. He gazes at her  
lovingly for a moment and then calls back to Oda Mae.

SAM  
Tell her she's wearing the blouse I  
spilled the Margarita on and the  
earrings I gave her for Christmas.

ODA MAE  
Sam says you're wearin' the blouse  
he spilled the Margarita on and the  
earrings he gave you at Christmas.

CUT BACK TO:

MOLLY

grabbing hold of her beads. Her hand is shaking.

ODA MAE (O.S.)  
(continuing)  
See, I'm no fake.

MOLLY  
Go away!

SAM  
Gimme a penny quick.

ODA MAE  
What?

SAM  
Empty your purse. On the floor. Now.

Oda Mae obeys. A pile of coins falls on the floor.

SAM  
(continuing)  
Push a penny under the door.

Oda Mae obeys and a penny slides into the loft. Molly sees  
it. Sam tips it carefully so it lands upright against the  
bottom of the door. Pushing gently, he moves the penny up  
the door until it's eye level with Molly. She watches it,  
amazed.

Then, to her astonishment, the penny floats away from the door and hovers in the air. There is a look of wonder in Molly's eyes as it floats toward her.

SAM  
(continuing; calling  
to Oda Mae)  
Tell her it's for luck.

ODA MAE (O.S.)  
Sam says it's for luck.

Molly stands there dumbfounded. Her face is completely white. After a moment she reaches for the penny. It falls into her hand. There are tears in her eyes.

CUT TO:

HALLWAY

Oda Mae standing in the hallway as the door to the loft begins to open. Slowly Molly steps out onto the landing and stares at her, nervously, uncomprehendingly. She hesitates for a long moment and then invites Oda Mae in.

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

Molly is on the phone. Oda Mae is beside her.

MOLLY  
Right. Yes, it's right on the corner.  
We're a red brick building with the  
entrance on the left side. Please  
hurry. Thank you Sergeant. We'll be  
waiting right here.  
(she hangs up)  
Police are on their way.

Oda Mae takes her and leads her to the couch.

MOLLY  
What do we do now?

ODA MAE  
Just wait.

There is a period of awkward silence.

MOLLY  
Is Sam here?

SAM  
I'm sitting beside you.

ODA MAE

(pointing)  
Right here.

Molly reaches out tentatively. Sam meets her hand. She flinches for a second but does not pull back.

MOLLY  
(fingering the air)  
Can you feel me, Sam?

SAM  
With all my heart.

ODA MAE  
With all his heart, he says.

SAM  
I'd give anything to be alive again,  
just to feel you once more.

ODA MAE  
He wishes he could touch you, just  
one more time.

MOLLY  
Oh, Sam.

Oda Mae looks away uncomfortably. The CAMERA HOLDS on her face. After a moment she turns around and addresses the air.

ODA MAE  
Okay, damn it, you can use me if you  
want.

Sam looks oddly at Oda Mae.

ODA MAE  
(continuing)  
Come on. Before I change my mind.

Suddenly he understands what she means.

CUT TO:

JUKEBOX

Sam's finger presses down two keys. We see a record slide out of its slot and move toward the turntable. We know what it is going to play.

ANGLE

Oda Mae closes her eyes. "Unchained Melody" begins to play. Sam hesitates for a moment and then cautiously, awkwardly slides his ghostly body into her solid form. We sense Oda Mae's discomfort gradually give way as Sam emerges inside

her. After a second her body turns slowly toward Molly.

Oda Mae's hand reaches out and with slow, deliberate gestures, touches Molly's hand. Molly swallows hard. She closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

ANGLE

Sam. It is as though he alone is there with Molly. His eyes are full of tears. He can barely move. His hand glides slowly down Molly's cheek. He seems to be in a state of ecstasy and pain.

The experience is more than he can bear. He pulls back.

MOLLY

Sam!

Molly reaches out, takes Sam's hand, and guides it to her soft lips. Sam can barely breathe. He seems totally absorbed in the experience, the sensation of human flesh.

His eyes are absolutely still and full of light. He seems to be glowing.

Gently, Molly takes Sam's arm and guides him to his feet. Effortlessly, she draws him to the center of the huge loft. With great tenderness, she puts her arms around him and before he knows what is happening, they are dancing. It is a strange, touching image, reminiscent of their first night in their new home. Sam reaches out and slowly draws his fingers down over her face, caressing her forehead, her cheeks, her lips. She stands motionless. Her face shines. She knows beyond all doubt that it is him.

MOLLY

I love you so much.

CUT TO:

ANGLE

A LOUD JARRING SOUND. It takes a moment to realize that it is someone KNOCKING at the door. The light slams back into its shadowy substance and Sam comes shooting back into his ghostly form. Oda Mae is standing with Molly in the center of the room. Sam is beside them. He appears shaken and dizzy.

There is a another loud POUNDING at the door.

MOLLY

The police!

Molly heads for the door. Sam calls out. He can barely speak.

SAM  
No!

ODA MAE  
(to Molly)  
Wait!

Sam tries to go instead. To his amazement and ours he is extremely weak, barely able to move.

SAM  
What's happening to me?

His ghostly functions are diminishing.

There is another KNOCK and a voice rings out.

CARL (O.S.)  
Molly, open up. It's me.

MOLLY  
It's Carl!

SAM  
Get out of here! The fire escape.

Oda Mae grabs Molly.

ODA MAE  
Come with me.

Oda Mae and Molly run for the fire escape window. We hear Carl yelling in the hallway.

CARL (O.S.)  
Molly. Open up. Are you there?

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Carl is standing on the landing. He is holding a gun. He aims it at the lock and FIRES. The door to the loft flies open.

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

Carl moves rapidly through the huge space.

CARL  
Molly!

It is obvious that no one's home.

ANGLE

Sam, with great effort, rushes at Carl and attacks him with

his fists. To his great shock, he has no impact. Carl walks right through him.

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE - NIGHT

Molly and Oda Mae are climbing the fire escape.

INT. LOFT - NIGHT

Carl runs to the fire escape window. He looks out just in time to see Oda Mae go into the 7th story window.

INT. NEW LOFT - NIGHT

Molly and Oda Mae run through a new loft that is under construction. It is a maze of tangled wires and broken walls. The fire escape window slams shut and nearly scares them half to death. They rush blindly toward the front door. It won't open.

ODA MAE

Back to the fire escape. Head for the roof.

Oda Mae reaches the fire escape window just as Carl appears on the other side. She screams. Carl tries shoving the window open. It won't budge.

Molly sees some scaffolding leading to the skylight. There is an opening at the top.

MOLLY

This way!

Molly quickly climbs the scaffolding and makes it to the roof.

With a huge shove, Carl opens the window and rushes inside. The window slams behind him.

Oda Mae rushes back toward Molly, but her foot catches on a loose cable and she falls to the ground.

ODA MAE

Help us, Sam!

OMITTED

ODA MAE

A hand falls on Oda Mae's shoulder. She spins around. Carl is standing behind her. She screams as he knocks her to the floor.

CARL

I want the check. Just give me the

check.

Molly looks down from the scaffolding and begins to scream.

MOLLY  
(screaming)  
God almighty, Carl! What are you  
doing? What have you done!?

She descends quickly and runs toward Carl.

CARL  
Don't interfere! She's a thief. It's  
not her money.

Carl kicks Oda Mae. Molly rushes at him, attacking him  
violently. Carl aims his gun at her.

CARL  
(continuing)  
Keep out of this, Molly!

He grabs Oda Mae by the hair.

CARL  
(continuing)  
Where is it?

Oda Mae cries out.

ODA MAE  
In my purse.

CARL  
Where?

ODA MAE  
Over there.

She points across the room.

Carl sees the purse and yanks Oda Mae toward it. Yanking it  
off the floor, he tears through it like a wild man. There is  
no check. He grabs Oda Mae.

CARL  
Where is it, goddamn it? Where is  
it?

ODA MAE  
I gave it away.

CARL  
You're lying! Don't lie to me!

He aims his gun at her eye and is about to FIRE when,

suddenly, something shoves him to the floor. Carl screams and jumps back, tripping over Oda Mae. Sam is standing there.

In total panic, Carl scrambles to get up. Horrified, he SHOOTs his gun blindly into the air. Molly and Oda Mae dive for cover. The bullets have no impact. Sam musters all his strength and shoves Carl again. White with fear, Carl grabs Molly and aims his gun at her head.

CARL  
(continuing)  
I'll kill her. You touch me and I'll kill her. I mean it, Sam. Just give me the check.

The gun is cocked at her temple. No one moves. Slowly the camera dollies toward Carl.

CARL  
(continuing)  
Sam, please. I didn't mean for him to kill you. It's not my fault. Come on, Sam, give me the check. Give it to me and I'll leave her alone.

Nothing happens. Carl looks nervous.

ANGLE

CARL  
Sam? Sam?

In a wild explosive fury, Sam charges at Carl and smashes at his gun. The weapon flies out of Carl's hand. Empowered by an anger we have not seen before, Sam smashes into Carl with a violent force. Carl's body careens into walls and floorboards. Wiring snaps. Two-by-fours crack.

Carl, crawling desperately to escape, sees his gun on the floor. With a wild rush, he grabs for it and shoots at the door. The lock explodes and the door flies open.

Carl tries to run for it, but Sam cuts in front of him. With growing power, Sam sends Carl flying back into the apartment, colliding into a tall scaffold. Bags of plaster topple to the ground as mounds of plaster dust hurl into the air. The apartment looks like a scene from another world.

Carl, in a state of total unrelieved panic, breaks away from Sam. The dust obscures his escape. Like a trapped insect, he scrambles furiously to the fire escape window. Sam cannot see him.

Carl shoves at the window. It is stuck. With a supreme effort, he grabs a ripped bag of plaster and swings it at the glass. Half of its plaster spews across the room before smashing

the window. Shards of glass fly in all directions. Sam turns and sees Carl. He surges after him, but knows he cannot get to him in time.

Carl is halfway out the window when Sam's fist slams into an electrical box attached to a dangling BX cable. It goes flying toward the window. To his amazement, it hits the frame. A huge pane of glass dislodges and comes crashing down. Carl looks up just in time to see the pointed edge aiming for his chest. Before he can move, it pierces him between the ribs and slices into his heart. His body quivers.

Carl's eyes bulge from their sockets. His body begins to spasm. He can't get up. A look of abject terror flashes through his eyes. He tries to scream. There is no sound. He tries to breathe. There is no breath.

#### ANGLE

With one last effort, Carl lurches forward. To his amazement, his body stands up and pulls away from the window. He looks down at his chest and is amazed to see that the glass is gone. There is no blood. Excited and confused, he turns around and sees Sam. For a moment, he cannot comprehend what is happening.

CARL  
Sam?

There is a strange, silent moment between them.

Then, seemingly out of nowhere, a terrible CLICKING sound is heard. Frightening black forms are emerging from the darkness. Carl looks behind him and gasps. Past the figures coming toward him, he sees his own dead body. It is pinned to the window sill.

Before Carl can cry out, the dark figures swoop down and envelope him. In a flash, his spirit is caught and surges with the dark forces back into the shadows. Far in some invisible distance, we can barely hear him scream.

And then it is silent. It is over.

#### ANGLE

Molly is crouched in the corner, her back pressed tightly against the wall. She is staring into space. The room is filled with plaster dust. Slowly, emerging from the dust, we see Sam approaching Molly. He gazes at her with terrible longing.

Suddenly, a brilliant light glows from behind the ceiling and the skylight floods the room with a golden haze. Sam turns to look at it. His eyes are full of surprise and wonder. The spirits beyond the ceiling are beckoning to him. As he

looks down, he notices that his hands are growing transparent. His body is beginning to fade. A faint smile forms on his face. He leans down toward Molly, staring at her for a long, silent moment.

SAM  
Goodbye, Moll.

Molly's head lifts up. She looks around.

MOLLY  
Sam? Is that you?

SAM  
(stunned)  
Molly?!

MOLLY  
I hear you, Sam.

She starts to cry.

Gradually, we notice that the dust in the air near Molly is beginning to shimmer with a subtle glow. To her astonishment, Sam's spirit is reflected in the floating particles.

MOLLY  
(continuing)  
Oh God!

Sam's luminous form appears before her. Molly is overwhelmed by the sight of him. The two of them gaze at one another without moving. They know it is for the last time. It is a silent exchange, charged with emotion.

Slowly, the two bodies reach forward. As their lips touch, the plaster dust swirls sensuously through Sam's vaporous image and he begins to disappear. Molly pulls back from him as though from a cloud. His voice rises from the mist.

SAM  
I can't stay anymore.

Tears roll down her cheek.

The brilliant light intensifies. It is beautiful, like a sunrise, saturating the room with a warm, comforting glow. Molly looks up and sees it all. Oda Mae sees it, too.

ODA MAE  
They're waiting for you, Sam.

SAM  
(smiling)  
I know. Goodbye, Oda Mae.  
(with deep felt

gratitude)  
Thank you. Your mama would be proud.

Oda Mae smiles warmly.

Sam turns to Molly. She is gazing at the last remaining moments of him. Her eyes brim over with tears and love.

SAM  
I love you, Molly. I've always loved  
you.

Molly swallows hard and wipes her eyes.

MOLLY  
Ditto.

The light inside Sam intensifies. A sweet smile emerges on his lips.

SAM  
It's so amazing, Moll...

His face fills with joy.

SAM  
(continuing)  
The love inside.

He whispers, almost crying.

SAM  
(continuing)  
You take it with you.

They are his last words. His spirit dissolves within its ghostly moorings and begins to evaporate. Molly looks up silently for a moment, her face filled with love.

MOLLY  
See ya.

We see Sam's spirit rise from the room. It passes effortlessly through the ceiling and, in seconds, he is gone. The room grows dark.

Molly sits quietly on the floor. There is a look of awe and wonder in her eyes. After a moment, Oda Mae reaches down to help her up. Molly looks at her lovingly and then gently takes her hand. Arm in arm, supporting one another, they walk quietly from the room.

THE END