

Quantum Leap

The Evil That Men Do
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TEASER

QUANTUM LEAP IN

EXT. BACK ROAD - QUARRY AREA - DAY

The Quantum blue light congeals and we are....

ON SAM

He's spread-eagled on the hood of a '49 Dodge Coupe, speeding at sixty m.p.h. plus, clinging to the windshield wipers for dear life, dressed in a black T-shirt, black peggers, and old-fashioned black high-top Connies. Oddly enough, the outfit is topped off with a red hood which covers the top half of his face, and a red cape that whips around him in the wind.

SAM

Ohhhhhh.....

HIGH ANGLE - THE DODGE AND A '57 CHEVY CONVERTIBLE

The cars are playing "chicken," fast approaching a spot where the road gives out. He is indeed clinging prone to one of their hoods.

SAM (CONT'D)

Boooyyyyyyy.....

SMASH CUT TO MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. QUARRY - RACING AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The cars continue down their ill-fated course toward a makeshift chalk line near a cliff, Sam still riding the hood. Half a dozen college guys dressed in distinctive fraternity garb react as they watch.

INT. DODGE - ON JERRY DAVIES, THE DRIVER

A baby faced college kid, he stares at Sam's face through the windshield. He's finally computing the reality of Sam's presence. He panics and hits the brakes.

WIDE ON SCENE

Fortunately for Sam, the soft dirt slows the car's deceleration as the car begins to spin out. Sam hangs on as the car fishtails and slows down, finally spilling him off the hood and into the bushes. The Chevy slows to a more controlled stop. The fraternity guys sprint up, trailed by their ladies.

ON THE BUSHES

Sam climbs out, bleary-eyed and bruised, scratched and dirty but otherwise unharmed. He finds himself grabbed and thrown toward the car by the Chevy's driver, the leader of the fraternity brothers, MIKE HAMMOND: cocky, athletic, and handsome.

MIKE

Just what the hell kind of stunt was that?

SAM

I'm...not sure....

FRANK PABST, Hammond's second-in-command jeers....

FRANK

Must've landed on his head. Lucky it's empty.

SAM

You were...chicken-racing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE
(mocking)
Duuhhhhhh....

JERRY
You better leave him alone.

ANGLE TO INCLUDE JERRY

He climbs from the diver's seat.

MIKE
Shut up, pledge.

JERRY
Don't you get it?
(to Sam)
You're the Midnight Marauder,
right?

SAM
I am?
(then)
I am.

JERRY
You better let us go.

MIKE
(to Sam)
You're not going anywhere, Arnold.

Mike reaches off and pulls off Sam's mask before Sam can stop him.

SAM
How do you know my name?

MIKE
Everyone knows your name, weenie.
And you just screwed up a Chi Kappa
initiation.

JERRY
He was trying to save my life.

SAM
That's right. He could have been
killed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MIKE

We've been hazing pledges since before you were born, spazz, and we haven't lost one yet.

SAM

There's a first time for everything.

MIKE

Yeah, well here's a first for you.

Mike rears back to take a big swing at Sam and....

WIDE ANGLE - THE FIGHT

Mike gets in the first punch, then Jerry jumps to Sam's aid and the battle is on. Jerry's glasses get knocked off and trampled. Sam surprises the attackers with a couple of powerful punches but before the fight can get rocking, a siren burps from nearby and....

OFFICER MILLER'S VOICE

(bullhorn)

Enough of that, alla'ya! Let's break it up!

NEW ANGLE - NORTH FALLS, N.Y. POLICE CRUISER - OFCR. MIKE MILLER

A grizzled cop of Irish descent, he climbs from his car slapping a billy club into the palm of one huge hand. The college kids grudgingly break off.

OFFICER MILLER

Shame on all of you. Now who wants to explain what's going on?

The frat guys grumble and say nothing. Sam bravely steps forward. Miller takes in Sam's outfit.

OFFICER MILLER (CONT'D)

And you are you? A refugee from Joe McCarthy?

SAM

It was a fraternity initiation. A hazing. They were having a chicken....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MIKE

(cuts him off)
 ...picnic! A fried chicken box
 social. Right everyone?

Ad-lib agreement from all the bystanders. Miller doesn't buy it.

OFFICER MILLER

Well you can thank God I didn't
 catch you racing these crates or
 you'd all be bunking in jail
 tonight. As it is, I'll need your
 names for your Dean of Discipline.
 (to Sam)
 So let's start with you, Superman.

SAM

Ahhh, my name's Arnold.

OFFICER MILLER

Arnold What?

Sam is at a loss. What is his name?

SAM

Arnold...The Midnight Marauder.
 (off Mike)
 Everyone knows me...I guess.

MIKE

He's Arnold Watkins.
 W-A-T-K-I-N-S.

As the frat boys snicker, we....

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. CAMPUS - EASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY - DAY - STOCK

A pretty New England-style college, with grassy quads. Late sun turns the sugar maples to fire.

SAM'S VOICE OVER

*College is wasted on the young. I
 mean, think of it. A four year
 license to learn and have fun,
 without the pressures of work and
 family.*

(beat)

*So how do most kids manage to mess
 it up?*

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Keys rattle in the lock, then the door opens and Sam tumbles in. The dorm is a typical Freshman mess. He slams the door behind him and leans on it. Peace at last. Not!

OBSERVER'S VOICE

It's you.

ADJUST TO INCLUDE AL

Sam jumps, then gazes at his hologram.

SAM

Of course it's me.

OBSERVER

No, I mean the cape. It's you.

Embarrassed, Sam remembers and pulls off the cape. He puts it on a bunk.

SAM

You sure took your time.

OBSERVER

Hey, it took me a while to calm down your compadre in the Waiting Room. He's really something.

SAM

I bet.

OBSERVER

'The Midnight Marauder.' Defender of the Faith, Protector of the Innocent, El Whacko Complete-O.

SAM

Leave me alone so I can get some sleep.

OBSERVER

You may not have time. In the original history, Arnold and Jerry both died when Arnold tried to stop the chicken race. You saved them both. So hold onto your hat. Er, hood. Er, cape. Whatever.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

But if that was the whole problem,
why didn't I leap as soon as the
race ended?

OBSERVER

Good question.

SAM

Or at least when the cop showed up
to keep everything under control.

OBSERVER

You're just full of good
questions today.

SAM

Al. Please. I'm so beat, even
my hair hurts. Would you have
Ziggy speed things up so I can
either get out of here or get some
sleep?

OBSERVER

Okay, okay, sorry, you're
absolutely right. I'm out of here.

But before he can leave....

THE DOOR OPENS

and in strides JACK SWENSON, Arnold's roommate. He's
handsome and headstrong, and he has a few books under his
well-dressed arm, along with a new issue of "Playboy-type"
magazine.

SAM

Oh. Uh. Hi.

Jack doesn't answer. He drops his books, flips to the
centerfold and opens it out. Al leans over for a peek and
sighs.

JACK

So where've you been?

SAM

Me? Oh. Uh....

Al gestures "no," to Sam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OBSERVER
Shhh! He's pledging the fraternity
you just...annoyed.

SAM
Uh...I was at the library.

He checks out Sam's dusty outfit.

JACK
Library closed an hour ago.

SAM
(nervous chuckle)
Of course. And so, I
went...jogging.

JACK
What's that?

SAM
Jogging. You know, running.
(dusts himself)
I tripped.

JACK
Right.

OBSERVER
Wrong.

Jack crosses to the bunk. He grabs Sam's cape and unfurls it. Sam looks sheepish.

JACK
And what would this be?

OBSERVER
That's his blankie.

JACK
Chi Kappa Delta was out at Road's
End tonight. They were initiating
a couple of new pledges. Word's
all over campus you broke it up,
Mister Midnight.

TIGHTER ANGLE

Jack has moved in on Sam, who's holding his ground.

SAM
Okay. I was there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK

No kidding.

He looks as though he's going to shove Sam up against the wall. Instead, he turns and paces angrily.

JACK (CONT'D)

Mike Hammond called me ten minutes ago. He said they weren't sure they wanted to pledge anyone with such a monumental jerk for a roommate.

SAM

Why would you want to pledge a fraternity full of total idiots?

JACK

(irritated)
Full of what?

Al winces, checks the handlink.

OBSERVER

Ooooooh, wrong thing to say, Sam. His dad was a Chi Kappa Delta idiot.

(they back up
further)
And his granddad....
(further still)
...and his great granddad was a founding idiot.

JACK

Look, Arnold. At first it was funny, you prancing around in this cape and playing Erroll Flynn. You were a joke. We all laughed.

(beat)
But it's not funny anymore. And if you don't stop pulling these loony stunts, you're gonna get yourself hurt. Or worse.

Jack turns and slams out the door. Sam releases a sigh of tension and drops into an old overstuffed armchair.

OBSERVER

Well, you showed him a thing or two.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SAM

I blew it.

OBSERVER

No, you didn't. Jack has been bullying Arnold all semester. Copying his assignments, making him do his laundry...Jack's mother won't even do Jack's laundry.

SAM

Is that why I'm here? To make Jack learn how to fluff and fold?

OBSERVER

We're not sure. But try not to lift your leg on his family tree again.

SAM

Why should I worry about him? I'm the infamous 'Midnight Marauder.'

OBSERVER

Are you kidding? Take a look.

Al points to the back of the door, where a mirror is mounted. Sam rises and moves to it to see....

MIRROR SHOT - SAM SEES ARNOLD WATKINS

Seventeen, pimply, all of a hundred forty-five pounds. Definitely not the super hero type. Arnold's lips move as Sam says....

SAM/ARNOLD

That's the Midnight Marauder?

OBSERVER

Yup. PeeWee Herman in a cape.

SAM

Oh brother....

Sam growls, turns away and we....

RESUME SCENE

Sam moves around the room, checking the place. Arnold's desk is buried in books and papers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

OBSERVER
Scholarship student, taking a
double load of credits....

SAM
...favorite subject Astronomy....

OBSERVER
(stops)
How'd you know?

Sam grins and holds up a spiral notebook scrawled with
formulae.

SAM
Because The Midnight Marauder sees
all.

OBSERVER
Oh, no....

SAM
What?

OBSERVER
Your mind has psycho-synergized
with the Midnight's Avenger's.

SAM
No, it hasn't. I'm fine.
(beat)
Marauder.

OBSERVER
See!

SAM
Al!

OBSERVER
Look, for whatever reason, this kid
likes to put on tights and run
around all night pulling crazy
stunts as Captain Do-Good.

SAM
After today's little stunt, I'm
surprised he hasn't gotten killed.

OBSERVER
That's what's so amazing. Arnold's
like some kind of a walking
miracle. Last week on a rainy night
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
he ran in front of a speeding
car....

SAM
...and saved a fetching young co-ed
from certain death!

OBSERVER
Quit that!
(beat)
The driver swore he hit him. But
when he ran back, there was Arnold,
comforting the girl and giving the
guy hell fo driving so fast.
There wasn't a scratch on him.

Sam takes this in.

SAM
Well I hope his luck holds up.
'Cause now I've got a whole
fraternity with hot rods gunning
for him.

On Al's reaction....

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. CAMPUS - NEXT MORNING - STOCK

The sun filters down on students dressed for fall weather.

JERRY'S VOICE
(calls)
Hey Arnold! Arnold Watkins!

EXT. CLASSROOM BUILDING - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Sam is just rounding the corner of the Astronomy building.
He turns at the sound of Jerry's call. Jerry runs up, his
glasses taped together at the ear piece.

JERRY
I just wanted to thank you again.

SAM
Forget it.

TRACK WITH THEM

as they walk toward the steps, Jerry following Sam eagerly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JERRY

I can't. I did a lot of thinking last night. I don't even know why I wanted to pledge Chi Kappa. I withdrew my application.

SAM

Smart move.

Jerry smiles.

JERRY

I also made sure you got the credit you deserve.

SAM

Look, Jerry, Arn...I don't want credit. That's why I wear the mask.

(beat)

I just did what anybody would have done.

JERRY

Jumping on the hood of a car at the start of a race? You did what nobody had the guts to do. And I'm alive to prove it.

(beat)

I'm really grateful.

It's a nice moment. Hold it, then hear....

MIKE'S VOICE

Hey fruit loop, where's your tights?

Sam and Jerry look off to....

MIKE HAMMOND AND FRANK PABST

Dressed in their frat jackets, they menacingly block the path before Sam and Jerry. Lurking in the b.g. off to the side, are two coeds, apparently their girlfriends. Sam musters his bravado. To Mike....

SAM

Excuse us. We're going to be late for class.

MIKE

Awwwww.....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Sam starts to walk past but Mike slides into his way. Sam steps back. Mike throws a copy of the campus newspaper toward Sam, who catches it and opens it.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Read it and weep, Spazz.

**INTERCUT INSERT - THE "EASTERN STATE SENTINEL" CAMPUS
NEWSPAPER**

The main headline reads: "Midnight Marauder Saves Life of Undergrad!" The subhead legibly reads: "Campus Places Chi Kappa Delta on Probation." Beside the column of text is an artist's sketch of The Midnight Marauder in costume, with a body more reminiscent of Arnold Schwarzenegger than Arnold Watkins.

RESUME SCENE

Jerry nudges Sam, sotto....

JERRY
'Course I don't get a buline since
I'm only first-year....

MIKE
(overrides, to Sam)
Our whole fraternity is on
probation because of you, Arnold.
I am not happy.

SAM
You earned it.

MIKE
Yeah? You earned something too.

He starts to advance on Sam to fight. But this time, Frank holds him back.

FRANK
Save it, Mike.

MIKE
Let me go!

FRANK
Cool it! We can't. Dean Sakmar
finds out you popped this toad and
Chi Kappa Delta will be off campus.

As Mike considers the wisdom of Frank's words, we hear....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAWN'S VOICE
I never met a real super hero
before....

All turn to look at....

DAWN TAYLOR - MIKE'S GIRLFRIEND

She saunters up to join the conversation, a tall, brunette version of Homecoming Queen sexuality in a tight sweater and skirt of the period. She passes Mike and extends her hand to Sam.

ALIA
I'm Dawn Taylor.

SAM'S VOICE OVER
(impressed)
Arnold Watkins....

TWO SHOT

As they shake hands. Does a slight current pass between them?

RESUME MASTER

They break their handshake and Sam looks sheepish. Mike looks pissed. Dawn looks interested.

DAWN
Just how fast was that speeding car
going...?

And, at that moment....

SFX - ALIA'S LEAP

A ripple of red Quantum light passes through Dawn and blots out the frame. When it subsides, we are looking at none other than Alia, the Evil Leaper, Sam's nemesis from "Deliver Us From Evil."

ON SAM

His broad smile indicates to us that he has no perception of what has just happened. Likewise, Mike, Frank, and Jerry pay no attention to the change.

SAM
Oh, uh, actually, the car was still
stopped when I jumped.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SAM (CONT'D)
(off Alia)
Are you all right?

Alia is reacting, covering the fact that these are new surroundings. She focuses on Sam and seems to get her bearings. Mike jumps in.

MIKE
Her only problem is she can smell
your dirty socks, Arnold. Right,
baby?

ALIA
(vamping)
Ahhhh, right.
(to Sam)
What were you saying, Arnold?

RESUME FULL ANGLE

Apparently, Alia doesn't see Sam either. Sam smiles a self-effacing farewell.

SAM
Nothing at all. Uhh, nice to meet
you.

ALIA
Nice to meet you, too.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. CAMPUS QUAD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam and Alia continue to gaze at one another. Mike finally calms down to the point where Frank lets him go.

DAWN

(to Sam)

You're so modest. It's cute.

Mike moves in.

MIKE

Cute? He's a twerp. Look at his clothes.

(to Sam)

You got wheels, Arrrnold?

Again, Jerry comes to the rescue.

JERRY

Sure, he does.

(to Sam)

A Studebaker, right?

Hoots from Mike and Frank.

SAM

Look, I hate to break this off, but Jerry and I have to go the class.

MIKE

So go. No one's stopping you.

Sam starts to go, but Mike steps into his way, cutting him off.

MIKE (CONT'D)

But keep something in your twisted little mind. I'm holding you personally responsible for getting us in trouble with the Dean.

SAM

Yeah? Well twist this. If you want to see who's responsible, look in the mirror.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sam heads off with Jerry. Stay with....

MIKE, FRANK AND DAWN

watching him go.

MIKE

I'm gonna kill him. I swear to
God I'm gonna kill him.

FRANK

Cool it, Mike. If anything happens
to little Arnold, we'll get our
butts kicked out of here faster
than you can say 'expelled.'

MIKE

Are we supposed to let him get away
with all this?

NEW ANGLE - SFX

A rippling waterfall fills the screen and out steps Zoey,
Alia's hologram.

ZOEY

Where are we, darling? I thought
we were dealing with some Woody
Allen type.

(giggles, re Woody)

What a job you did on him....

FRANK

The Dean, remember?

Zoey's sizing up the college men.

ZOEY

Oooh, frat boys. My favorite
college subject.

FRANK

(to Mike)

There's nothing else we can do.

ALIA

Yes there is....

They turn and look at "Dawn."

MIKE

Yeah, like what? Hire a hit man?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALIA
How do you think the Midnight
Marauder would feel if he suddenly
became 'very special friends' with
the Homecoming Queen?

Zoey gets right in Mike's ear.

ZOEY
Personally, I prefer Mister
Varsity here. He can slam dunk me
anytime.

MIKE
(to Alia)
Go on....

ALIA
...and then the Homecoming Queen
tells the Nerd it was all a big
joke.

MIKE
Where?

ALIA
Someplace public. Like a
homecoming rally. Where the whole
college can see....

FRANK
If he doesn't jump out a window,
he'll at least drop out.

ZOEY
I opt for the window.

Mike puts his arm around Alia.

MIKE
I love the way you think....

CUT TO

TIGHT ON A STACK OF BOOKS

as it's slammed onto a desk in....

INT. CAMPUS LIBRARY

Sam sits down behind an intimidating pile of science texts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM'S VOICE OVER

Al hadn't gotten back to me, but it was pretty clear why I hadn't leapt yet. I had a suspicion that a slap on the wrists from the Dean wasn't going to be enough to keep Mike Hammond and his frat brothers from killing themselves or somebody else.

He opens a book, blows dust from the pages.

SAM'S VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

I know there had to be a way to get through to them....

NEW ANGLE - ALIA

She's walking toward him with some books, looking for a place to sit down.

SAM'S VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

...and I think maybe I just found it.

Sam gestures to Alia.

SAM

This seat isn't taken.

ALIA

Really? Thanks.

He stands up and holds her chair. She's impressed. They sit for a moment, awkward, unsure of what to say. Then, sotto....

ALIA (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry Mike was such a jerk today.

SAM

It wasn't your fault.

ALIA

Most of the time he's really sweet. He only gets really macho when it comes to his fraternity.

SAM

'Macho?'

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Alia realizes she's used a "future" word. She covers quickly.

ALIA
I learned it last summer in Spain.
You know...manly, masculine....
(mimes)
'Macho.'

Sam cracks up at her demonstration. She laughs too.

SAM
He seems pretty 'macho' about
playing chicken with his buddies,
too.

ALIA
You're not kidding.

SAM
Haven't you ever tried to talk him
out of it?

ALIA
He doesn't listen to me. I'm
just his 'girl.'

SAM
That's right, it's the fifties.

At that, Alia looks at Sam a little strangely. He covers.

SAM (CONT'D)
What I mean is...I'm sure that some
day, men will be much
more...receptive...to what women
have to say. Some day.

ALIA
That's nice. I'm glad somebody
thinks that.
(beat)
Mike is so mean to you. Why would
you care about him?

Sam looks sad.

SAM
(winks)
The Midnight Marauder cares about
everybody.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALIA

You mean Arnold Watkins really
cares about people.

SAM

Right.
(darkly)
Everyone is worth caring about.

She closes her book.

ALIA

You remind me of someone.

SAM

Clark Kent?

ALIA

(laughs)
Don't sell yourself short.
(beat)
I can't place it. But I think it's
wonderful you help people.

SAM

Thanks.

ALIA

(off books)
I wish someone would rescue me from
my Biology midterm. It's not
exactly a job for the Midnight
Marauder....

SAM

Maybe it is. I'm pretty good at
science.

ALIA

Really?

SAM

Tell you what. You promise me
you'll talk to Mike, and I'll help
you with your Biology. Deal?

ALIA

(smiles)
Seven tonight, my dorm?
(Sam hesitates)
I won't bite.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SAM

It's a date.

Now they both smile.

TIGHTER ANGLE - THEIR HANDS

She reaches out a hand for him to shake. As he reaches out to take it, before they touch, he knocks over his books with a bang on the floor. Students' heads pop up. Guffaws and scattered applause from the tables around them.

SAM (CONT'D)

Sorry, I....

ALIA

Forget it. See ya at seven.

And she leaves. Hold Sam's face and hear....

ARNOLD'S VOICE

Deeds like that must not go unpunished!

CUT TO

INT. WAITING ROOM - LIMBO TIME

Arnold Watkins and Al are talking at "the table." The body suit is a little big on the scrawny college kid, but he speaks with a quiet fire that makes us forget his mild appearance.

OBSERVER

It was no big deal. He just dropped some books.

ARNOLD

Not him! I'm talking about Michael of the Chi Kappas!

OBSERVER

Well, don't worry about it, he's being taken care of.

ARNOLD

I believe you. You have the light of truth in your eyes.

OBSERVER

That's not what my wives said.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Arnold hops off the table and starts to pace, growing more heated.

ARNOLD

It makes me furious! Hammond is only one of a million villains who victimize the weak and the innocent.

OBSERVER

Here we go. The Midnight Marauder.

ARNOLD

(stops, smiles)
So you understand my mission.

Al shakes his head.

OBSERVER

Arnold, you're a college student. Your 'mission' is to get good grades, swallow some goldfish, and learn how much you can drink without barfing.

ARNOLD

Maybe that's true for the others.
(beat)
But not for The Midnight Marauder.

OBSERVER

What makes you so special?

Hold Arnold's intense gaze at Al; then....

MATCH CUT TO

ARNOLD'S INTENSE GAZE - TIGHT CLOSE-UP (MIRROR SHOT)

He concentrates fiercely, trying to perfect the knot on a stubborn bow tie.

JACK'S VOICE

Well, don't you look special.

Jack's reflection appears behind Arnold and reaches over to help. The tie pops off and lands on the floor. Pan around to reveal....

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

"Arnold" is really Sam. Jack retrieves the tie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
It's a clip-on.

SAM
It's the only one I had.

JACK
I'll lend you one of mine.

He goes to his dresser and pulls out a real bow tie. He ties it for Arnold.

JACK (CONT'D)
So where're you going?

SAM
To study.

JACK
You're wearing a tie to study?

SAM
I have a date.

JACK
Oooooohhh....

SAM
A study date.

Jack finishes the tie. Then he too, starts to change, peeling off his shirt and putting on a fresh one as they talk.

JACK
So who's the lucky girl?
(beat)
It is a girl, right?

SAM
Oh, it's a girl all right.

JACK
Lemme guess. That six foot bean pole with the Brillo Pad hair....

SAM
You can guess all night and you'll never get it.

Sam notices Jack getting dressed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM (CONT'D)

Say, where are you....
 (remembers)
 Tonight's your initiation!

JACK

That's what I love about you,
 Arnold. Always on top of things.

SAM

In Chi Kappa Delta! You're not
 going racing?

JACK

Well, they never tell the pledges,
 but....
 (smiles)
 How do I look?

SAM

Like a dead man! Jack, don't do
 it!

JACK

(heads for the door)
 You say that like I have a choice.

SAM

Of course you have a choice.

JACK

Right. I have the choice of
 telling my Dad and Granddad I
 couldn't join Chi Kappa 'cause I
 wimped out of the initiation
 ritual. I think I'd rather go
 chicken racing.

And he's gone, leaving Sam very worried. In the b.g., we
 hear the sound of the Chamber Door, and....

ADJUST TO INCLUDE AL

He sizes up Sam's wardrobe.

OBSERVER

Oooh, don't you look...adorable.

Sam starts ripping off the bow tie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SAM

Don't you start. Al, have Ziggy calculate the odds I'm here to stop the chicken races.

He scurries about the room as Al checks the handlink.

OBSERVER

Mmmm, sixty-four point two percent.

SAM

Oh, come on, it's gotta be higher than that. That's why I'm here!

OBSERVER

Don't be so sure.
(off Sam's look)
It's Arnold, Sam.

SAM

What about him?

OBSERVER

He's had an incredible run of luck. But Ziggy says the odds are overwhelming that that he'll still get killed or crippled if he keeps on playing the Midnight Marauder.

SAM

But Arnold's with you. What can I do about this?

OBSERVER

You can put your bow tie back on and sit on your...cape.

Sam paces around, dissatisfied.

SAM

I can't.

OBSERVER

Can too.

SAM

Okay, let's assume you are right. It sounds like you and Doctor Beeks better profile Arnold and find out what makes him tick. otherwise, when I leap, he'll just start in marauding again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

OBSERVER

We agree.

SAM

Good.

Sam re-dons his Marauder outfit. Al is flabbergasted.

OBSERVER

Now what are you doing?

Sam turns back to him with a grin.

SAM

My mission, remember?

OBSERVER

What about the odds?

SAM

The Midnight Marauder scoffs at odds.

He starts out the window.

OBSERVER

Sam!

Sam turns back.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)

At least use the door.

Sam considers it, smiles, then steps out the window. Off Al's utter frustration....

EXT. DORM - NIGHT - TIGHT

Sam climbs onto a ledge, leaving Al flummoxed.

CUT TO

INT. WOMEN'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT - ALIA AND ZOHEY

Alia is putting on make-up as Zoey paces angrily.

ZOHEY

Where the hell is he?

ALIA

He'll be here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZOEY
Nerds are nothing if not punctual.

INTERCUT - MIRROR SHOT - ALIA AND DAWN

Alia finishes with her make-up with the gorgeous Dawn gazing back at her. She crosses to her bed and plops down with her Biology test.

ALIA
Would you relax? In five minutes,
I guarantee I'll have Arnold's
slide-rule fully extended.

ZOEY
That's my girl.

Just then, Zoey's handlink goes beserk. She reads it and frowns.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
Darling, you won't believe it.
Your dream date is back at Road's
End messing things up again.

Zoey and Alia trade looks, and Alia is in motion instantly as Zoey pops out.

CUT TO

EXT. RACING AREA - NIGHT

Headlights illuminate the quarry road where Sam leapt in. Mike Hammond is surrounded by the Chi Kappa brothers, bearing torches. He plays the crowd and gives Jack Swensen instructions.

MIKE
We're lucky tonight, brothers. Our
pledge is a third generation Chi
Kappa Delta.

Mixed ooohs and guffaws from the crowd. Mike waves them to silence.

MIKE (CONT'D)
He'll be racing against brother
Frank Pabst....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGLE TO INCLUDE A NASTY '51 MERCURY HOT ROD

with Frank at the wheel. He waves and guns the engine. Mike turns back to Jack.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Frank's our champion, so you don't have to beat him, you just have to....

SAM'S VOICE

(interrupts)

You don't even have to race him.

All heads whip around and see....

SAM

Hands on hips, his Midnight Marauder cape ripples out behind him. Al pops in right next to him.

OBSERVER

I hate this. I hate this, I....

RESUME SCENE

Jack looks totally embarrassed. Mike and company look furious.

JACK

Arnold!

SAM

Risking your life for a foolish reason is a crime against nature!

Al holds his head.

OBSERVER

Ziggy, he's out of control.

MIKE

(to Sam, re Jack)

You're calling him foolish?

Al gets right in Sam's face.

OBSERVER

Boy, is he right!

Sam wavers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM

What are you saying?

OBSERVER

You're not supposed to be out here! Jack lives!

MIKE

I'm saying you're insane, Watkins, for even dreaming of coming out here and challenging us.

SAM

(to Al)

Oh boy....

A VINTAGE '55 FAIRLANE

It skids up to the racing site and Alia climbs out. She runs up to the scene, and stands in the crowd, where Zoey already stands, watching.

ZOEY

I love it. I smell blood here.

They quietly move in closer.

ON SAM AND AL AND THE FRAT BOYS

The fraternity boys are forming a circle around Sam. Sam continues to talk to his hologram, sotto voce.

SAM

(to Al)

You mean...Jack's not in any danger?

MIKE

The only one in danger is you, Bozo.

SAM

Why didn't you warn me before?

OBSERVER

I did! But you were too busy dressing up like Peter Pan.

SAM

(sotto)

Al Calavicci, you figure me a way out of this, fast!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ON ALIA AND ZOEY

They both react. Zoey checks her handlink.

ZOEY
Did I hear that right?

MIKE
(to his brothers)
Dig it. He's praying for mercy.

ALIA
It couldn't be.

ZOEY
He said 'Calavicci!' Lothos!

Her handlink responds with a flurry of sounds. Zoey looks like a kid on Christmas.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
It's him.

ALIA
It can't be.

ZOEY
Ohhhh, but it can, darling.
(beat)
Arnold the Dweezil is none other
than Doctor Samuel Beckett.

As they continue to watch....

RESUME SAM AND AL

As the circle of Frat Men tightens.

SAM
What do we do?

OBSERVER
What do you mean 'we?' I'm not
here, kimosabe.

SAM
Al!

OBSERVER
(off handlink)
Hit the bushes if you know what's
good for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

And with that, Sam turns and dives into the brush, just ahead of the charging college men.

SFX

The frat brothers run through Al, one after another in pursuit of Sam, and we go to....

ALIA AND ZOELY

unobserved, still watching in disbelief.

ZOELY
Ohhhhhh, darling. This is so
delicious.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT - STOCK

Moonlight ripples through the leaves.

OBSERVER'S VOICE
Sam? You can come out now.

EXT. CAMPUS COLONNADE - NIGHT

Slowly, from the shadows, Sam emerges.

SAM
Where'd they go?

OBSERVER
They figured you headed back to the
dorm.
(off handlink)
So, you're safe. For the moment.

They begin to walk and talk.

SAM
Only I can't go back to my room.

OBSERVER
I told you to stay there, but
noooo....

SAM
What you told me didn't make any
sense. I couldn't just sit and do
nothing.

OBSERVER
Yes, you could! Arnold says you
have a Bio Midterm in the morning.

Sam stops.

SAM
Oh Jeez...what time is it?

OBSERVER
Twelve oh four...why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM
I had a study date.

OBSERVER
Dawn? She'll still be up. And she'll probably be happy to shelter a homeless Marauder for one night. You lucky dog.

SAM
No, no, no...the girl's dorm is closed to men after midnight.

Sam holds his forehead.

SAM (CONT'D)
How did I know that?

OBSERVER
See! I told you. Psycho-synergy. You've absorbed pieces of Arnold.

Sam snaps out of it.

SAM
Speaking of Arnold, how are you doing with him?

OBSERVER
We had a talk. But the way you're both acting, I better put Doctor Beeks on overtime.

CUT TO

INT. DAWN'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Alia and Zoey move around like a pair of caged animals.

ZOEY
You-know-who is not pleased with your prior performance regarding Doctor Beckett.

ALIA
Then why did He send me here?

NEW ANGLE

Zoey settles where she can read her handlink better. She smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZOEY

Amazing. This is as much of a surprise to Lothos as it is to us.

ALIA

He's supposed to know everything.

ZOEY

He does. But Doctor Beckett's appearance follow random event theory. This is just a fantastic stroke of luck. Or it could be a little test to see if you've improved.

Alia turns away.

ALIA

Just tell me my mission.

Zoey studies her partner.

ZOEY

Don't tell me. After all you've been through, you stil....

Alia spins back, very emotional.

ALIA

Just tell me! I kill him, right? I blow his brains out....

ZOEY

(off handlink)
Afraid not, darling. You didn't do so well with a gun last time. Perhaps a grenade or a flamethrower....

ALIA

Zoey!

ZOEY

Lothos hasn't decided yet. But whatever happens, we don't want him to know we're here. So you may not touch him!

(beat)

Pity.

As Alia weighs this....

CUT TO

INT. WAITING ROOM - LIMBO TIME - ON ARNOLD

He sits on the table waiting, bored.

OBSERVER'S VOICE
I have to talk to you again, kid.

Arnold perks up.

REVERSE ANGLE - INCLUDE THE OBSERVER

Al walks soberly up to Arnold, handlink in his hand. Arnold smiles.

ARNOLD
Am I free to return now?

OBSERVER
Not yet.

Al hesitates, then off handlink....

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
I had Doctor Beeks do a little
computer research on you.

ARNOLD
(off handlink)
That's Doctor Beeks?

OBSERVER
No, no. She's a psychologist.
She works here.

Arnold remains fascinated with the handlink.

ARNOLD
So that's a computer?

OBSERVER
Well...it's a terminal, yeah.

ARNOLD
Amazing. The computer at the
college takes up rooms and
rooms....

OBSERVER
We checked out your past, Arnold.

Arnold is uncomfortable.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARNOLD

(beat)
The Midnight Marauder has no past.

OBSERVER

Not according to Ziggy.
(beat, gently)
She says we need to talk about your
parents.

ON ARNOLD

He darkens. Al gets closer.

ARNOLD

They died when I was seven.

OBSERVER

I know that. I also know how
they died.

Arnold shakes his head, a little too hard.

ARNOLD

I was too young to remember.

OBSERVER

I think you do remember, son.

ARNOLD

No, I don't.

OBSERVER

Or maybe you don't want to
remember?

Arnold paces silently.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)

But it's the reason you've been
doing everything ever since. All
this Midnight Marauder stuff....

ARNOLD

(falls back on
rhetoric)
Someone has to defend the
innocent....

OBSERVER

Your parents were the innocent,
weren't they.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PUSH IN ON AL

as he tells the story.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
 Latrobe, Pennsylvania, nineteen
 forty-four. Rinker's Diner on Main
 Street.

(smiles)
 It was probably one of those
 old-fashioned places where they
 have pies behind the counter with
 mirrors so you can see them
 top-on....

Arnold's eyes stare into a past we cannot see.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
 His name was Leon Kanowski.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY - ESTABLISHING - STOCK

All the little birds go tweet tweet tweet.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Alia emerges from the shelves with some periodicals. She passes Mike Hammond and Frank Pabst, who are goofing around, pretending to study.

MIKE
 Hey, baby.

Alia ignores him and keeps looking for a place to sit. Mike grabs her arm.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 Right here.

ALIA
 Let me go.

She pulls free. Mike looks surprised.

MIKE
 What's wrong with you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALIA
 (at him, sarcastic)
 Nothing.

Before she can move off....

MIKE
 Where'd you disappear to last
 night? I tried to call you.

ALIA
 I had a a study date. Or did you
 forget?

MIKE
 I didn't forget. But that was
 before your 'date' tried to bust
 up our initiation.

ALIA
 I know. I was there.

Alia smiles.

ALIA (CONT'D)
 It was halarious watching you all
 plowing through the bushes looking
 for him....
 (so all can hear)
with Arnold safely curled up in
 my back seat.

WIDER

A quiet falls over the adjacent tables. Alia starts to move
 on to another table. Again, Mike grabs her arm. Again, she
 pulls away.

ALIA (CONT'D)
 Get your hands off me.

MIKE
 This is me, baby. Mike. Your guy.

ALIA
 (loud and clear)
 My ex-guy.

Now she's free of him and finds another seat. Mike is
 dumbfounded. He calls across the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MIKE

Don't tell me you're hot for that wimp.

ALIA

You'd be amazed, Mike. A man's performance on the basket ball court has nothing to do with his performance in bed.

Now the room is hushed. At that very moment....

ANGLE AT THE DOOR - SAM ENTERS

For an instant, he's innocently unaware of the dead silence in the room. Then slowly, he turns and sees....

SAM'S POV - THE LIBRARY

Every student in the room is looking at him, including Mike, Frank, and Alia. Mike is moving up to Sam with calculated grace.

MIKE

Congratulations, stud.

SAM

(uneasily)
What did I do now?

MIKE

I don't know.
(beat)
Just what did you do?

SAM

Nothing!

MIKE

Right.

Alia crosses to Sam and gazes into his eyes.

ALIA

Don't be so modest, Arnie.

MIKE

'Arnie?'

Sam turns to Mike.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SAM

I give you my word of honor, I've never laid a hand on her.

MIKE

It's not your hand I'm worried about.

ALIA

You are so sweet, Arnie. But I'm not ashamed of what we did. I love you.

ON MIKE

He can't believe what he's hearing.

MIKE

That does it!

He grabs Sam by the collar.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I want you, Dweeb-o. Today. At the quarry.

SAM

This is all a misunderstanding.

MIKE

Bring your wheels.

SAM

They're in the shop.

ON SAM

He looks over at Alia, who's watching him expectantly.

SAM (CONT'D)

This is so stupid.

MIKE

No, you're stupid. It's all a scam, Nerd. Tell him, Dawn.

A beat while she doesn't confirm this.

MIKE (CONT'D)

She never slept with you!
(to Dawn)
Did you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

INTERCUT ALIA

enjoying Mike's pain, leaving him hanging.

SAM
Of course she didn't.

ALIA
Don't, Arnold. It's better if he
knows the truth. He's not half the
man you are.

This is all Mike can take. He gets inches from Sam.

MIKE
The quarry. An hour

He spins and exits. Sam watches him go, then whirls on Alia.

SAM
Dawn, what's going on?

He reaches to grab her by the arms. She tries to retreat but she's not fast enough.

SFX - SAM AND ALIA

A huge jolt of quasi-electricity blasts through both Leapers, morphing them into their alter-egos, then back to their normal forms. They stare at one another as though seeing each other for the first time.

SAM (CONT'D)
Oh, my God....

She quickly moves out of his reach.

SAM (CONT'D)
Alia....

ALIA
No!

She darts back into the library. Sam follows.

TIGHT ANGLE - IN THE LIBRARY STACKS

Alia quickly runs out of room. She spins to face combatively. He stops, close to her. They stare at each other.

SAM
I can't believe it's really you....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ALIA

Let me go, Sam.

She tries to leave but he stops her.

SAM

I was sure you died. I saw you die.

ALIA

It wasn't death, Sam. It was worse. Please don't put me through it again.

SAM

All I tried to do was help you.

ALIA

And you see the good it did. So let me go.

SAM

No.

Again, he blocks her path. Again, she struggles to get past him. This time she winds up in his arms. They kiss. Her resistance crumbles. When they break....

ALIA

I can't do this.

SAM

Why are you here?

(beat)

It's Arnold, isn't it.

(beat)

Isn't it?

ALIA

Yes.

(realizes)

You saved him, didn't you? He was supposed to die.

SAM

And you're here to make sure he dies again?

ALIA

Sam, if Lothos finds out I'm talking to you....

(sudden thought)

My God, he could know already....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Her face tells us how bad her punishment was. Sam swallows.

SAM
I'm not letting you go this time.

ALIA
You don't have a choice.

SAM
I do, Alia. And so do you.

ALIA
You said that before....

He silences her with another kiss.

SAM
You're the reason I'm here. I kept wondering why I wouldn't leap, wouldn't leave.

(beat)
Now I know. I'm taking you with me.

ALIA
They'll know.

SAM
They won't know! How are you supposed to destroy me?

ALIA
Up at the chicken races. Zoey won't tell me exactly how. She hasn't trusted me since....

SAM
Never mind that. Just play along with me, until Al...Admiral Calavicci....can wrap up something he's working on. And then when I go...we go together.

ALIA
Sam, I can't. I can't risk the pain....

SAM
Are you in pain now?
(beat)
Are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

She looks into his eyes. And kisses him again. They finally break.

SAM (CONT'D)
Trust me, Alia.

She nods. They head out together. Camera lingers on one of the bookshelves and picks up....

ZOEY'S EYES

looking through, watching them go. Then she strolls into view and punches data into her handlink.

ZOEY
The little slut can't control
herself, Lothos.
(beat)
So now we can kill them both.

Off her look....

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

Sam, sans cape and hood, finishes donning a pair of leather driving gloves and looks in the closet. He comes out with a leather jacket...obviously Jack's, not his. As he puts it on, we hear the Chamber Door and....

ADJUST TO INCLUDE AL

He observes Sam's "new look."

OBSERVER

Whoa, from 'Revenge of the Nerds' to 'Rebel Without a Cause?' What's happening, Sam?

SAM

(covering)
You tell me.

OBSERVER

I wish I knew. I had a session with Arnold, I thought I was really getting through to him. The kid's had a tough row.

SAM

How tough?

OBSERVER

His parents were....

He frowns at Sam's tough outfit.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)

Now come on. Why are you dressing up like James Dean?

SAM

(hot)
Why aren't you in the Waiting Room giving Arnold the help he needs?

OBSERVER

What's got you so touchy?

Sam doesn't want to blow his cover.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM
Nothing. Look, I have to show up
at the chicken races today. But
see? I'm not going as the Midnight
Avenger

OBSERVER
Marauder.

SAM
Right.

OBSERVER
Sam, you're hiding something.

SAM
(laughs)
Like what?

OBSERVER
I've known you too long, Sam.
What's going on?

TIGHTER

Should Sam tell him?

SAM
I've known you a long time too, Al.
Just trust me, okay?

OBSERVER
No, I won't....

SAM
Al, look, I'm just biding time here
till you get Arnold squared away.
And as soon as you do, I can leap.
Right?

He gestures at the handlink. Al asks it, confirms....

OBSERVER
Seventy-nine point five.

SAM
So go, go....

OBSERVER
Sam....

SAM
Go!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Al reluctantly hits the buttons.

SFX

The Chamber Door opens behind him. Al steps in.

OBSERVER
But I don't buy this...and I'll be
back.

Whoosh! The door closes, and we....

CUT TO

EXT. QUARRY RACING AREA - DAY

Chi Kappa's hot rods are strewn in their usual fashion. Mike sits on the hood of his Bel Air.

FRANK
Think he'll show up?

MIKE
If he doesn't, we'll go get him.

FRANK
Aren't you worried about the Dean?

MIKE
Shut up.

They're interrupted by the sound of a gunning engine and a splash of gravel and....

DAWN'S FAIRLANE

slides into frame with Alia at the wheel. She continues to gun the motor in a challenging fashion. Mike walks over. He's still angry.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Get lost.

ALIA
(so all can hear)
Afraid to get beaten by a 'girl?'

This elicits a response from the gathered hot-rodders. Alia revs her engine again and climbs out of the car, midriff bare and hair teased: the ultimate greaser's babe. The frat boys are clearly impressed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGLE ON ZOEY

She stands nearby, taking in the action.

ZOEY
Good shot, darling. Below the
belt.

(eyes Mike)
Not a bad place to hit. But
where's the real target? Where's
Beckett?

ALIA
Trust me. He fell for everything.

Off Zoey's apparent satisfaction...

CUT TO

INT. WAITING ROOM - LIMBO TIME - AL AND ARNOLD

Arnold sits, looking down, shaking his head. Widen to reveal Al pacing behind him, like a prosecutor. Or a loving therapist.

OBSERVER
Leon Kanowski. That was his name,
Arnold.

ARNOLD
It doesn't ring a bell.

OBSERVER
He was a police officer with nine
kids who got fired from his job and
couldn't take the strain.

A little drop of spittle is forming at the corner of Arnold's mouth.

ARNOLD
Why are you doing this to me?

OBSERVER
To save my friend...
(beat)
And so that when you go back,
you'll be safe. So you'll quit
taking crazy chances trying to get
yourself killed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARNOLD
 (repeats
 obsessively)
 I protect the innocent.

OBSERVER
 You couldn't protect your parents
 when Kanowski opened fire.

Arnold winces. He's back there. A tear streaks his cheek.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
 You were nine years old. You'd
 gone back to the car to get your
 jacket when you heard the shots.
 (beat)
 You came back just in time to see
 Kanowki use the last bullet on
 himself.

Now Arnold is crying.

ARNOLD
 I should have died too.

OBSERVER
 No.

ARNOLD
 I should have died too....

OBSERVER
 No.

TIGHTER

Al moves so that he and Arnold can see each other. He almost
 laughs at the irony.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
 Arnold, you've been trying to make
 that death wish come true with
 those dumbell stunts of yours.
 But if your time ahd come, believe
 me son, you'd have been gone long
 ago.

ARNOLD
 But The Marauder lives....

OBSERVER
 Arnold lives.
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
 (off Arnold's
 denial)
 Arnold lives.
 (beat)
 And maybe you're supposed to stick
 around for a while and find out
 why.

Arnold looks up at Al. Al pats him on the shoulder.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
 If you remember anything when you
 go back...remember this.

Hold Arnold. He gets it. And we....

CUT TO

EXT. QUARRY - DAY

Alia continues to prowl for challengers.

ALIA
 Big fat cat fraternity brothers...
 and not one of you has the guts
 to take me on...

Her steps take her past Zoey, who reacts.

ZOEY
 Really! This is the fifties.
 Where's John Wayne? Where's James
 Dean? I'll settle for Sal Mineo!

SAM'S VOICE
 I have the guts....

All turn and see....

SAM

moving into frame, looking as tough as Arnold Watkins can
 look. The frat boys react with a murmur. Alia smiles, daring
 Mike.

ALIA
 Well...at last a challenge with
 some guts.

ZOEY
 And no brains.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alia moves right up to Sam. To his surprise, she plants a kiss on his lips. Mike is infuriated.

MIKE
That's enough! I have the guts!
(beat, to Alia)
And I want you.

ALIA
You got me, pea brain.

Ooohs from teh Fraternity as Sam and Alia head for her car.

FAVOR SAM AND ALIA

Both look concerned. Sotto....

ALIA (CONT'D)
I thought I was supposed to race
you!

SAM
Me too.

He thinks fast, then calls to Mike....

ALIA
We'll both race you together!

Grumbles from the frat community. But Mike silences them.

MIKE
That works for me. I get rid of
two pains at once.

ALIA
(sotto to Sam)
What the hell are you doing?

SAM
(sotto, back)
We have to make it look good....

Now Mike is close to them. He grabs Alia by the chin.

MIKE
I always figured we'd go all the
way, Dawn. I just never figured it
would be like this.

He tosses her loose and slams his way into his Bel Air and cranks the key. He floors his pedal and spits gravel up to the starting line.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ON SAM AND ALIA

Alia looks to Sam.

ALIA
Tell me this how you planned it....

SAM
(lies)
Sure it is. Exactly.
(beat)
Give me your keys.

She does. They start toward Alia's Fairlane. But Alia finds her path blocked by....

ZOEY

Zoey stares at Alia authoritatively. Alia stops. Sam notices her change but keeps his mouth shut.

ZOEY
Enjoy the ride, darling.

Alia bucks past her and climbs into the passenger seat. She looks at Sam, preparing to drive for his life, and wondering where the hell Al is.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
Bon voyage, Doctor Beckett.

As Sam climbs in, we go to a....

NEW ANGLE - ON MIKE'S BEL AIR

Mike is revving his engine and waiting. Frank leans in.

FRANK
You can't let her drive that heap....

MIKE
I'm not 'letting' her anything. Or didn't you notice.

FRANK
She needs a brake job, man! You told me yourself.

MIKE
I told her too. She should have thought of that before she decided to screw around with us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Frank is shaken.

WIDE ANGLE

Sam pulls the Fairlane up beside the Bel Air.

THROUGH THE FAIRLANE

Across Sam and Alia, to Mike. Alia looks terrified.

ALIA
Sam it won't work....

SAM
It has to work....

ALIA
I can't do it.

SAM
You told me yourself...if you back
out, they'll know we're in contact
with each other....

MIKE
(calls over)
Is this a tea party, or a race?

He revs his engine. Zoey bends into frame, leaning in Alia's window.

ZOEY
What's the problem, dear? Make
sure he drives past the chalk line
and over the cliff. Lothos will
leap you out at the last second.

With that....

WIDE ANGLE

Mike floors the Bel Air and peels out in a spray of gravel. A beat later, Sam is right behind, the Fairlane's mill struggling to keep up.

IN THE CHEVY

Mike floors the pedal and....

INSERT - THE SPEEDOMETER

Forty...sixty....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

IN THE FAIRLANE

Sam is trying to keep up.

ALIA
What do we do now?

And just then we hear the Chamber door and....

ADJUST TO INCLUDE AL

sitting calmly in the back seat.

OBSERVER
Sam, I feel so good, Doctor Beeks
helped me get right to the heart of
Arnold's problem and....

Now he notices where he is and panics!

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
Sam, no!

He notices that Sam's passenger is no other than Alia.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
Auuuugh! Sam, that's Alia! The
Evil Leaper!

SAM
We're saving her, Al.

OBSERVER
You're killing you both.

ALIA
It's the Admiral, Right?

Sam nods, continues to al....

SAM
Not this time. She's leaping with
me. And if our power isn't
stronger than hers, then I'm
not....

OBSERVER
Look out!

Sam jerks the wheel as....

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

WIDE ANGLE - THE CARS

They've reached a slight curve in the road and Sam barely makes it.

RESUME MIKE

With a slight lead now, a smile curls his lips.

RESUME INT. FAIRLANE - SAM, AL, AND ALIA

Al is beside himself in the back seat.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
See? See! She's out to kill you!

SAM
No way! We're her only hope.

ALIA
He doesn't trust me....

SAM
Sure he does....

OBSERVER
(off handlink)
Not! Sam, this car has no brakes!
She's set you up!

Sam looks at Alia, who looks as scared as he is.

INSERT - THE BRAKE PEDAL

Sam pushes it down...and right to the floor. No dice.

INTERCUT ZOEY

watching with the frat boys. She sees the brake lights...and no deceleration. She smiles.

ZOEY
Ahhhhh. A month's vacation in Las Vegas.
(beat)
Pre-AIDS.

INT. FAIRLANE - ON SAM

panicking, pumping the pedal. Al and Alia look on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM
We don't have brakes!

ALIA
What do we do?

OBSERVER
Bail out, Sam!

SAM
Not without Alia!

OBSERVER
Bail out!

And with that Sam yanks the wheel to one side and....

EXT. RACEWAY - ON THE FAIRLANE

It fishtails to one side, then rolls over and over and over.

INT. CHEVY - MIKE

His face responds in horror as his opponents' demise. He taps his own brakes and....

WIDE

The Chevy slides to a stop ahead of the wounded Ford.

TIGHT ON THE FAIRLANE - UPSIDE DOWN

Sam climbs out, then reaches back inside to pull Alia from the wreck. Both tumble free, coughing and hurting, but alive. Mike runs up.

MIKE
You're alive....
(beat)
Are you all right?

SAM
(spitting dust)
Like you care....

MIKE
I do care!
(beat)
Dawn?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He reaches out a hand for Alia, but before she can respond....

ZOEY

steps in the way, seething at Alia

ZOEY
Don't you dare, you insolent
traitor!

SAM
(to Alia)
Zoey?

ALIA
(nodding)
Go to hell!

MIKE
Dawn, I just....

SAM
Not you, Mike. You're
fine...you're okay.

Alia turns to Sam

ALIA
I believed in you! I trusted you!

SAM
We'll still get out! Al!

INCLUDE AL

looking dapper. Crashes don't bother holograms.

OBSERVER
I warned you....

SAM
Al!

ZOEY
(to her handlink)
He's calling Calavicci. Leap Alia
out. Now!

Alia grabs Sam.

ALIA
They're taking me! Sam!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM
Al, we've got to go! Is Arnold
okay?

OBSERVER
(checking link)
He's all right. And so is Mike!
You reached him, Sam....

SFX

Alia begins to flicker with red light. Sam clings to her. Soon both are engulfed in the shimmering red we associate with the dark side.

ON AL AND ZOELY

Zoey laughs. Al cries....

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
Sam...fight back!

RESUME SFX

The red still dominates but fingers of blue begin to shake through the red.

RESUME HOLOGRAMS

Now Al looks happy, and Zoey is distressed.

OBSERVER (CONT'D)
Keep it up!

ZOELY
You have no choice, you stupid
wench!

RESUME THE LIGHT SHOW

Is it red? Is it blue? The colors take turns dominating and mixing. Play the effects for every cent we can afford until the blue takes over. Sam's will has prevailed and we....

LEAP OUT
INTO THE NEXT
HALF OF THE
TWO-PARTER!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

END OF ACT FOUR