

SKIN

by

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ACT ONE

MUSIC DRIVES A SERIES OF STYLIZED SHOTS TAKING US FROM THE BEACH, THEN FLYING UP SUNSET BLVD TO DOWNTOWN L.A., AS WE TIME LAPSE FROM DAY INTO NIGHT:

EXT. BEACH - STYLIZED - DAY

Girls in bikinis, cut guys, families, all races and classes. Off a SLOW-MO IMAGE of a LITTLE GIRL playing in the sand, we bleed NEWS REPORTS into the MUSIC: News of a CHILD ABDUCTION, yet another "AMBER ALERT" in L.A.; now --

EXT. SUNSET BLVD - MOVING EAST, MOVING FAST

Past the Palisades, Brentwood, and UCLA -- through Beverly Hills, West Hollywood clubs, the gay scene, Eurotrash, traffic jams, strip bars (too many to count) -- TALK RADIO about the rash of ABDUCTIONS continues as we ZOOM EAST, moving faster and faster -- past street walkers, drug dealers, homeless, more strip joints -- and everywhere, our focus is SKIN -- black, white, Hispanic, Asian --

EXT. THE CAMERA LIFTS HIGH OVER DOWNTOWN

And SWOOPS AROUND to reveal the river of lights we've just traveled, and a PANORAMIC VIEW of L.A.. We are:

EXT. THE ROOF OF THE STANDARD HOTEL - NIGHT

At an open-air, retro-chic nightclub; the coolest party imaginable. Fashionable, wealthy young people, dancing, drinking, smoking. Our POV belongs to ADAM ROMERO, 17, Latino, bronze skin, piercing eyes. Adam feels totally out of place. His best friend LENNY, African-American, is in heaven.

ADAM

Let's blow out of here.

LENNY

Are you crazy? Man, I've had wet dreams that weren't this good.

ADAM

Look at these girls -- they're rich, white, and out of our league.

LENNY

You've got low self-esteem. You need to get laid.

ADAM

What're you, my psychiatrist?

INTERCUT A VERY, VERY INTERESTING BLONDE glancing at Adam, as --

ADAM (CONT'D)
Come on, get real,
Lenny. This isn't our
crowd.

LENNY
You gotta get in the game.
You gotta think like a
player, act like a player,
be a player.

LENNY (CONT'D)
Now go forth and mingle!

JUMP CUT TO ADAM AT THE CROWDED BAR - MOMENTS LATER

ADAM
Can I have a beer?

BARTENDER
Can I see some I.d.?

JEWEL (O.S.)
It's cool. He's with me.

Adam turns to see JEWEL, 16, the blonde who was watching him.
She's beautiful enough to take his breath away. She's got
that retro-hippy thing happening. Their EYES MEET for a moment.

ADAM
Thanks.

Jewel flashes him a smile, and walks away with her champagne.
ADAM'S EYES follow her into --

A PRIVATE CABANA

made of white silk (there are several of these on the roof;
rich kids rent them to hold private parties). There are TWO
OTHER COUPLES in the cabana, drinking and doing e-tabs. Jewel's
boyfriend BRIAN, 20, a UCLA frat type, is feeling no pain.

BRIAN
I've got a treasure map with your
name on it. X marks the spot.

JEWEL
I'm on a natural high. Thanks anyway.

BRIAN
Be a good girl, take your vitamin E.

Jewel's so-called friend MARCY offers:

MARCY
I'll take it.

BRIAN
You already took some. You want to
get dosed or not?

JEWEL
I'm thinking not.

BRIAN
Fine, more for us.

Despite Marcy's out-stretched tongue, Brian downs the E himself.

INTERCUT ADAM WANDERING AROUND THE PARTY

Couples dancing (guys with girls, girls with girls); it's wild,
but not as wild as --

JEWEL'S CABANA

-- where Marcy is now heavily making out. Marcy kisses her
date, then kisses the girl from the other couple. Brian kisses
Jewel's neck, moves his hands down her back toward...

JEWEL
Brian. No.

BRIAN
Loosen up, I won't bite.

JEWEL
Stop. I'm not into
it.

BRIAN
I just feel so close to
you now.

FIND ADAM NEAR THE ROOF TOP POOL

Sipping the last of his beer. Lenny appears behind him.

LENNY
I've struck out more times than the
Yankees. I'm good to go.

ADAM SEES JEWEL leaving the cabana, followed by Brian.

ADAM
I'm gonna hang for awhile.

LENNY
Man, you are bipolar.

WITH JEWEL AND BRIAN in mid-argument:

JEWEL
What part of "no" don't you
understand? I just want to go home.

BRIAN
(fishing his keys out)
When did you become such a prude?
Everyone knows what you're about.

JEWEL

Go screw yourself.

BRIAN

I guess I'll have to. Since you put out for everyone but me.

JEWEL

Just give me the keys. You're too loaded to drive.

BRIAN

You want the keys? Get 'em yourself.

BRIAN THROWS HIS KEYS INTO THE POOL! And suddenly, everything stops (or that's how it feels).

PUSH IN ON JEWEL

She looks at Brian for a beat...then, suddenly, DIVES INTO THE POOL, clothes and all! In a heartbeat, HALF THE PARTY jumps IN THE POOL. Kids are pushing each other. It's crazy. The next thing ADAM knows, he's in the pool, too.

UNDERWATER WITH ADAM AND JEWEL

Bubbles, bodies, torsos. Adam and Jewel find themselves FACE-TO-FACE...SLOW-MO this moment as their EYES MEET in the glowing water. Then they BURST to the surface together, water cascading from their faces...

JUMP CUT TO BRIAN

Trying to stop his soaking wet girlfriend from leaving. He grabs her arm -- Jewel tosses the keys to Adam --

JEWEL

Finders, keepers.

BRIAN

Who the hell is he?

ADAM

Why don't you chill out?

BRIAN

You want to play keep away, asshole?
Let's start with you keeping away from my girlfriend.

Adam dangles the keys like bait, then tosses them back to Jewel. Brian SHOVES him -- Adam shoves him back harder, ready to fight --

ADAM

Come on, you think you can take me?

Brian's loaded enough to start punching, when:

JEWEL

Hey, Brian? You want your keys? Go get them yourself.

JEWEL THROWS THE KEYS OFF THE ROOF

Ten stories down. She and Adam exchange a look. HARD CUT TO:
THE ELEVATOR

It's too crowded to get in, so Adam and Jewel take off for --

INT. HOTEL STAIRWELL - ADAM AND JEWEL

Running down the stairs with loaded Brian and a few of his compadres several flights behind them! They burst onto --

EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT

-- run down the sidewalk, grab the keys, and keep going.

EXT. CONVERTIBLE PORSCHE - DRIVING FAST - NIGHT

The top is down. Jewel's at the wheel, Adam rides shotgun. She HOWLS like coyote, he laughs--

ADAM

I can't believe you just stole your boyfriend's car.

JEWEL

He isn't my boyfriend.

ADAM

Does he know that?

Off a SHOT OF THE PORSCHE blowing down Sunset --

INT. DINER - NIGHT

Jewel looks wind-blown, wild, and beautiful. And wet. Adam, too. They're standing by the register, waiting to be seated.

JEWEL

Are you sure you don't want me to take you home?

JEWEL (CONT'D)

I just don't want you to feel stuck with this soaking wet crazy girl...

ADAM

Yeah. It's okay.
(off her)
I really don't...

ADAM (CONT'D)

No, I think you should always drink champagne and jump in the pool with your clothes on before stealing cars and going out for coffee. The half-wet, half-dry thing kind of works for me.

She smiles for a split second, then:

JEWEL

I just want to get one thing clear, okay? I don't know what you've heard about me, but if you think this night's going to end with us getting busy in a back seat somewhere, then you should probably do yourself a favor and split right now.

ADAM

I don't think that car has a back seat. And I don't know anything about you. I don't even know your name.

IN A BOOTH - A LITTLE LATER

Jewel has a huge breakfast, a short stack, fries, and a large shake with whip cream. Adam has a cup of coffee.

JEWEL

I can't believe I'm telling you this. I'm usually not like this.

ADAM

So you only went out with this guy...?

JEWEL

Because he was older...because he doesn't go to my school...

ADAM

Is that a prerequisite?

JEWEL

No. But it helps ... You know how every time you go out with somebody new, there's always this overwhelming feeling of...hope, I guess.

ADAM

Yeah, it's like buying a cd because you like the cover, and you just really hope that when you listen to it, it'll be...

JEWEL
Perfect.

ADAM
Right, and you'll connect with every
song and you'll love all the lyrics.

JEWEL
But that hardly ever happens.

ADAM
Rarely.

JEWEL
Yeah. Maybe never...

Beat. He's looking at her.

JEWEL (CONT'D)
I'm gonna take a vow of chastity and
live like a nun. A Jewish nun.

TIME LAPSE TO LATER...

The Waitress is clearing Jewel's dishes, pouring fresh coffee.

ADAM
So why do you hate your school?

JEWEL
I don't hate it, I just don't like
the people who go there.

ADAM
All of them?

JEWEL
Most of them.

ADAM
Why?

JEWEL
I don't know ... Maybe because they
don't like me ...

ADAM
I find that hard to believe.

JEWEL
(smiles, embarrassed)
You don't have to say that.

TIME LAPSE THROUGH MORE MUSIC AND TALKING, TO LATER...

Adam's drawing on his place mat. He draws very, very well.

ADAM

If I bring home anything less than straight A's, it's like I committed a crime. Whoa, there's a B -- watch out -- he'll start jacking convenience stores.

JEWEL

Your parents have high expectations.

ADAM

They just want me to go to college... practice law, and become the first Latino President. Just a little something to make the people proud.

JEWEL

What do you want to do?

ADAM

I have no idea.

JEWEL

No, really.

ADAM

I really have no idea. I like to sleep late. I like music...

JEWEL

You like art.

ADAM

I'm not an artist. I just like to draw.

DISSOLVE THROUGH MORE TALKING -- THEY EXCHANGE PHONE NUMBERS --
AT ONE POINT SHE INSTINCTIVELY GRABS HIS HAND, WHICH SENDS
ELECTRICITY THROUGH THEM BOTH. THEY TALK UNTIL --

ADAM (CONT'D)

Oh, man. Oh, god, is that clock right? Please tell me it's not 3:15. My parents are gonna kill me.

JEWEL

Really? I took you more for the prince than Cinderella.

ADAM

I was supposed to be home three hours ago.

JEWEL
You want a ride?

ADAM
No. If they see you,
it'll just make it
worse.

JEWEL
It's no problem. Really.

He leaves, turns back, searches for the perfect thing to say:

ADAM
It was really nice meeting you.

JEWEL
You, too.

She smiles, he goes.

EXT. DINER - NIGHT

Adam walks out, turns the corner, and starts RUNNING.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON ADAM...his face is reflected in the glass.
He looks out, thinking of...

EXT. JEWEL ARRIVING HOME IN BEL AIR - NIGHT

She drives through private SECURITY GATES, up to a MANSION.
Swimming pool, tennis courts, as wealthy as it gets...

EXT. ROMERO'S UPPER-MIDDLE-CLASS HOME ON THE EAST SIDE - NIGHT

Adam runs up. The lights are on. He takes a deep breath.

INT. ROMERO HOUSE - NIGHT

An older mission-style home, decorated with taste, pride, and power. Lots of books. Adam's father JOSEPH ROMERO is charismatic, strong, and intelligent, but mostly he's just plain pissed (and relieved that his son is home safely). He doesn't have to raise his voice to make his wrath known.

ROMERO
You mind telling me what were you
doing that was so important you
couldn't even give us the
consideration of a phone call? I
was just about to start checking
hospitals, Adam.

ADAM
I totally spaced on the time, Dad,
I'm sorry.

ROMERO

Where have you been all night?

ADAM

I went to a party with Lenny.

ROMERO

Lenny got home three-and-a-half hours ago.

ADAM

Then I went out to eat with a friend, I lost track of time.

LAURA (O.S.)

Is he here?

ROMERO

Yes, he's home, Laura, he's fine!

Adam's mother LAURA comes down the stairs.

LAURA

We've been worried half-sick about you.

ROMERO

If you want us to treat you like an adult, then start acting like one. Do you think you can do that? Because every time we trust you --

ROMERO (CONT'D)

-- every time we set boundaries and limits, you take that trust and throw it right back in our faces.

ADAM

I'm sorry, Dad, I don't know what else to say.

LAURA

Okay, Joe, he's home now -- let's all get some rest.

ROMERO (CONT'D)

What are we supposed to do? Ground you? Treat you like a two year old?

LAURA

We can figure this out in the morning.

ROMERO

It is morning.

INT. BEL AIR MANSION - NIGHT

Jewel climbs the huge stair case to find that her parents, LARRY and BARBARA GOLDMAN, are still up in their MASTER BEDROOM, having just gotten home from a party themselves.

Her parents are getting ready for bed. Despite their party habits and seeming dysfunction, this is a loving, if unusual family; and Jewel is the apple of her father's eye.

GOLDMAN

Well look who the cat dragged in.

JEWEL

Are you two still up?

GOLDMAN

Your mother made me go to some goddamn party at Sue Ziti's new house. Wall-to-wall divorcees trashing their ex-husbands.

BARBARA

Your father had waaay too many martinis. He was flirting, telling jokes -- I couldn't pry him --

GOLDMAN

I had two drinks,
Barbara -- two.

BARBARA

-- out of there.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Two drinks, my ass.

Goldman wraps his arms around his wife.

GOLDMAN

Martini's are like breasts, Barbie. One's not enough, two is just right, and three is too many.

BARBARA

Lit like a lamp.

GOLDMAN

How was your party, Princess? Did you have a good time?

JEWEL

I had a really good time.

BARBARA

I should hope so, it's four in the morning.

GOLDMAN

She's a good kid, she's fine.

JEWEL

I'm a great kid.

BARBARA
It's not you I worry
about, it's everyone
else on the road.

GOLDMAN
Raise your hand if you're
taking drugs or
participating in excessive
underage drinking.

JEWEL
G'night, you guys.

GOLDMAN
Sleep tight. Don't
let the bed bugs bite.

BARBARA
Sweet dreams, honey.

Off NEWS OF THE CHILD ABDUCTION on the Goldman's bedroom TV
(HOME MOVIE IMAGES OF THE MISSING GIRL), PUSH IN and DISSOLVE:

EXT. SUBURBS - FULL BLOWN CRIME SCENE - DAY

A modest suburban house is swarming with POLICE, DOGS, curious
onlookers, and of course, the PRESS. PAN OFF A MONITOR, to --

TV REPORTER
-- 8-year-old Elizabeth Daniels was
taken from her own bedroom three
nights ago.

ANOTHER REPORTER
I'm standing outside the suspect's
house --

ANGLE ON JOSEPH ROMERO CLIMBING OUT OF HIS CAR

ANOTHER REPORTER (CONT'D)
-- where Los Angeles County District
Attorney Joseph Romero has just
arrived on the scene.

INTERCUT: INT. SUSPECT'S HOUSE - CRIME SCENE - DAY

Swarming with cops. POLICE CHIEF RON SWAGGART, African-
American, GLANCES OUT THE WINDOW AT ROMERO:

CHIEF SWAGGART
Lights, camera, instant D.A.

EXT. SUSPECT'S HOUSE - FULL BLOWN CRIME SCENE - CONTINUOUS

STEADYCAM WITH ROMERO as the PRESS shout QUESTIONS at him.

ROMERO
All I can tell you is we're holding
Mr. Van Dorne as a material witness
to the abduction. No charges have
been filed. We have no other suspects
at this time.

PRESS

Have you found the girl? Is Elizabeth Daniels alive?

ROMERO

I hope so.

TV REPORTER

Once again, police have arrested a 35-year-old white man named Charles Van Dorne in connection with the kidnapping.

Off PICTURE OF THE SUSPECT on TV, we go:

INT. SUSPECT'S HOUSE - FULL BLOWN CRIME SCENE - DAY

HAND-HELD, PANNING past a slew of DETECTIVES taking fingerprint, photos, ripping the place apart...to FIND JOSEPH ROMERO with CHIEF SWAGGART; there's no love lost between these two.

SWAGGART

The press has been here for at least twenty minutes -- you're running late, Joe.

ROMERO

Don't screw this investigation up, Ronnie. Let's get a conviction this time.

SWAGGART

The guy's guilty as sin. Wait'll you see his computer.

JUMP TO ROMERO AND THE POLICE CHIEF LOOKING AT A COMPUTER

Romero is sickened by what he sees:

SWAGGART (CONT'D)

He's got kids with kids, kids with adults, kids with animals...

ROMERO

We've had seven abductions in the last eighteen months, Chief -- and every one of these perverts has access to the same sick porn. Where the hell do they get this?

SWAGGART

Pedophiles swap pictures on-line as easily as you or I check out our mutual funds.

ROMERO

Why don't you investigate this?

SWAGGART

Because I'm not wasting the police department's time and resources on a wild goose chase, that's why.

ROMERO

Some sick son of a bitch is making a profit from this -- I'd like to know who, and I'd like it to stop.

SWAGGART

Then waste your own resources, Joe, use your own people. Right now my job is to find that girl.

Chief Swaggart walks away. Off Romero's reaction, CUT TO:

INT. UPSCALE OFFICE BUILDING - BOARD ROOM - DAY

PANNING over FILM AWARDS and STATUETTES to LARRY GOLDMAN, 40, trying to close a deal with TWO SUITS from a satellite company. His CFO, SKIP ZITI, a slick, smart, attorney, has the requisite charts and visual aids at hand.

GOLDMAN

If you're serious about growing your subscriber base, you're gonna have to step up to the plate. I'll make it real easy for you. I'm writing down a number: if you agree to this number, the deal's done.

Larry slides his number across the table.

SUIT 1

Two billion dollars?

GOLDMAN

I think it's a fair number. Skip, do you think it's a fair number?

SKIP

It amortizes out to 400 million a year. Considering your cash flow, I think it's quite do-able.

(his ace)

We can always make a deal with DirectTV.

SUITS

Two billion is out of the question. It's never going to happen. Don't threaten us. You're welcome to try, Skip.

(they stand)

This meeting is over.

GOLDMAN
(at the door)
Irene? Hey, Irene??
(to the suits)
I want you to see what you're paying
for.
(to his Secretary Irene)
Get Summer and Autumn in here. Oh,
hell, trot the whole calendar in.

INTERCUT PHONE CALLS - PUBLIC SCHOOL/PRIVATE SCHOOL - DAY

Adam's on a PAY PHONE at lunch time. Minority faces in the
b.g., including his friend Lenny. Jewel's on her CELL PHONE
at West Side Prep. Mostly white, wealthy faces in the b.g.

ADAM (ON PHONE)
Yeah, me, too.

JEWEL (ON PHONE)
You do not. You're just saying that.

ADAM (ON PHONE)
(low)
If I didn't miss you, I wouldn't
call you five times a day.

LENNY
Oh, man, you are gone, gone, gone...

JEWEL (ON PHONE)
You should call ten times at least,
and you should come see me, then
maybe I'll believe you.

ADAM (ON PHONE)
I told you, I'm grounded.

JEWEL (ON PHONE)
Well, sneak out or something. Don't
be such a good boy for once. You
want to meet at the pier after school?

ADAM (ON PHONE)
I can't. I'm grounded.

JEWEL (ON PHONE)
Come on. Pleeeeeease. Make a jail
break; I'll be your getaway driver.

RESUME: INT. GOLDMAN'S BOARD ROOM - SAME

Goldman ushers FOUR BEAUTIFUL, SCANTILY CLAD WOMEN in.

GOLDMAN

Gentlemen, allow me to introduce this season's newest crop of Golden Girls: Summer, Autumn, April, and -- what's your name, sweetheart? I know you're not Winter.

SUNRISE

I'm Sunrise, but you can call me whatever you want.

GOLDMAN

Sunrise, how could I forget? Up on the table, girls, thank you.

ANGLE ON THE GIRLS ON TOP OF THE CONFERENCE TABLE

GOLDMAN (CONT'D)

We're about to do a very, very lucrative piece of business, and I think these gentlemen have a right to full disclosure. So, girls: disclose for us.

CLOTHES START DROPPING on the NowTV lawyers, whose mouths drop open. Without going nuts, we should be well aware that the FOUR GIRLS are getting totally naked.

GOLDMAN (CONT'D)

Last year your company made half-a-billion dollars from our soft-core pay-per-view product. And now you want the good stuff, the gold. Golden Videos produces the highest quality adult entertainment on the planet.

ZITI

32% of our market is female.

GOLDMAN

Why? Because the Golden Girls aren't just porn queens, they're stars. Beautiful, glamorous, sexy stars. We're selling a brand, a lifestyle, a fantasy. If you want our premium product, you'll have to pay for it.

SUIT 1

And if we refuse?

SKIP

Then you'll leave us no choice but to initiate a hostile takeover.

GOLDMAN

I'll buy your damn company, gentlemen.
And after I buy it, I'm gonna fire
the dumb shits who just lost it.

JUMP TO THE SUITS SIGNING PAPERS, and CUT TO --

EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER - LATE AFTERNOON

In a multi-racial CROWD of KIDS and FAMILIES, the CAMERA FINDS
ADAM AND JEWEL, walking-and talking (not holding hands):

JEWEL

Your father sure sounds like a hard
ass.

ADAM

It's like the less my parents are
home, the more rules they make.
They're just over-protective, I guess.
I don't blame them or anything...

JEWEL

Well I do. I don't even know them
and I blame them.

They stand by a rail, looking out at the ocean. After a moment:

ADAM

My sister died when I was really
young, and um...I'm sort of like all
they have now, so I think that's why
they want so much from me. Not just
from me, but for me, you know? It's
the price of being an only kid, I
guess. The weird thing is, I don't
feel like an only kid. I still feel
like I'm somebody's brother, only
she doesn't come home anymore. Does
that make any sense?

JEWEL

(totally drinking him in)
Of course it does.

ADAM

I think that's why my dad is so driven
or whatever...about me accomplishing
things with my life.

They start walking again. She takes his hand.

JEWEL

What's he do?

ADAM
My father?

JEWEL
Yeah.

ADAM
He works for the city.

JEWEL
You mean like...public works or the
street department?

ADAM
Yeah. He works for the public.

JEWEL
I think that's cool. You shouldn't
be embarrassed by that.

ADAM
I'm not.

JEWEL
Somebody has to keep the streets
clean.

ADAM
I'm proud of my dad. I just wish he
was proud of me.

They bump into MARCY and ROXY, two girls from Jewel's school.

GIRLS
Hey, Jewel. Hey. Hi. What are you
guys up to?

JEWEL
Just hanging.

MARCY
Aren't you gonna introduce us?

JEWEL
This is Adam.

Hi.

ADAM
GIRLS
I'm Marcy. Nice to meet
you.

MARCY
So like where do you go to school?

ADAM
Baldwin Hills.

JEWEL

Actually, Adam dropped out of school after he joined a gang and got his girlfriend pregnant. We'll catch you guys later.

Adam flashes Jewel a smile as they walk off. HOLD ON THE GIRLS watching them...

ROXY

Is he her gardener's kid or what?

MARCY

I dunno, but he's cute. They say Latin lovers are good in bed.

ROXY

What a slut.

Marcy looks at her -- does Roxy mean Jewel or her?

INT. D.A.'S OFFICE - MOVING FAST THROUGH THE HALLWAYS

Romero with his Campaign Manager CYNTHIA PETERSON, 30 (attractive, whip smart), and two D.A.'s Investigators: KIMBERLY BANKS, 28, (striking, very black, and very beautiful), and WYATT COUNTS, 50-something (L.A. by way of Indiana).

CYNTHIA

This porn thing could be a key talking-point in your re-election campaign. You're leading channels 5 and 11 tonight. It's playing like wildfire in the press.

ROMERO

It's not a game, Cynthia.

DET. KIM BANKS

Turns out the main kiddie porn site our suspect logged onto is owned by a subsidiary of a company out in Van Nuys, called Golden International, LLP.

DET. COUNTS

Their accountants have buried it three layers deep, but they still collect the money.

DET. KIM BANKS

Golden owns over 800 internet sites.

They turn into --

INT. ROMERO'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

-- where his Chief of Staff, BILLY (wired, political, the yin to Cynthia's yang) is waiting.

DET. COUNTS

Not just that -- they own Golden Videos, the Midas Touch chain of "gentleman's clubs", Midas Magazines --

ROMERO

And who owns Golden International?

DET. COUNTS

Larry Goldman. He lives in Bel Air.

BILLY

He's also one of the Mayor's largest contributors.

ROMERO

I don't care if he pays the Mayor's mortgage. Let's take him down.

BILLY

Joe, you can't arrest Goldman.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Never mind the Constitutional issues --

CYNTHIA

Child porn's not protected by the First Amendment.

BILLY

-- there is no causal link between him and this --

ROMERO

Come on, Billy, that's like saying there's no causal link between bullets and guns. He is feeding the monster.

BILLY

-- poor kidnapped kid.

CYNTHIA

They just tied the kiddie porn to his web sites'

Romero turns to his detectives.

ROMERO

Get a warrant for Goldman and bust his rich ass.

INT. GOLDMAN INTL LLP - FAST MOVING STEADY-CAM

Goldman leaves his office, trailed by his star director JIMMY WONG, early 20's (who's not Asian, he just likes the name).

JIMMY WONG

You gotta talk sense to her, Larry.

GOLDMAN

I don't have time for some spoiled
porn queen who's throwing a hissy
fit. You're the director -- if she
won't do a girl-girl scene, then
fire her, Jimmy. I'm late.

IRENE

Vincent Cordoza's on the line again.

GOLDMAN

Tell him I'm out of the country.

Jimmy follows Goldman out of the building --

EXT. GOLDEN INTL LLP - SUNSET

-- Goldman heads for his chauffeured Mercedes, without stopping.

JIMMY WONG

I hate to fire her, Larry, she's got
two kids.

GOLDMAN

Yeah, well I've got a wife with a
temper, who's hosting a charity event
at our house tonight. If I'm not
home, she's gonna skin me alive.

EXT. OCEAN - NEAR THE PIER - NIGHT

Adam and Jewel walk hand-in-hand with their shoes off on the
edge of the surf. The view is as romantic as it gets...

ADAM

I hate to say this, but I better go.

JEWEL

Look at this. How can you leave the
ocean behind? You are so cavalier.

ADAM

My parents think I'm at the library.
Seriously, I've gotta go home.

JEWEL

Race you to the car.

She starts RUNNING. Adam smiles to himself. How amazing is
this girl?

INT. GOLDMAN'S MANSION - FUND-RAISER - NIGHT

CAMERA FLOATS THROUGH THE ELEGANT PARTY, past CATERERS,
SERVANTS, and UPSCALE CHARITY TYPES (no porn stars) --SKIP

Jim Leonard 1-12-03

22.

ZITI is here with his trophy wife-to-be, COOKIE (25, and clueless) -- before landing on GOLDMAN AND HIS WIFE talking to the HOSPITAL DIRECTOR. Barbara is in her glory.

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

We so appreciate you and Mrs. Goldman opening your home to us this evening.

GOLDMAN

This town has been good to me.

BARBARA

We feel privileged to be able to give back to the community.

Goldman gets his check book out.

GOLDMAN

I'm willing to write you a very substantial check -- but only if you name the new hospital wing after my late father. Larry Goldman, Sr.

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

Ummm, I'd need to discuss that with our board of directors.

GOLDMAN

So my money's good enough, but my name's not.

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

I'm sure it's a very generous offer --

GOLDMAN

You come to my home, drink my champagne, hit me up for a check, but my name isn't good enough for you?

BARBARA

(harsh whisper)
Larry. Don't make a scene.

EXT. GOLDMAN ESTATE - NIGHT

POLICE arriving. The Valets look a little thrown by this...

INT. ELEGANT FUND-RAISER - CONTINUOUS

A crowd gathers around Goldman as he writes a check.

GOLDMAN

What if I add another zero to this?

HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

You're donating ten million dollars?

GOLDMAN

I'm having a good day. Does my name
look a little more palatable now?

EXT. OCEAN - ADAM CHASING JEWEL

On the beach. He tackles her onto the sand -- she screams in
delight -- their pants are wet from running near the waves.

JEWEL

Why do I end up wet every time we're
together?

(then)

I didn't mean that the way it sounded.

He laughs, and looks at her. MUSIC brings us back to:

EXT. GOLDMAN'S MANSION - NIGHT

Det. Counts and Det. Banks show the Butler a WARRANT --

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

Adam looks in Jewel's eyes; they share an electric FIRST KISS.

INTERCUT - GOLDMAN

Signing the check as CHAMPAGNE GLASSES are lifted high.

INTERCUT - ROMERO - ALONE IN HIS OFFICE

Lit by a single lamp. A look of determination on his face.

INTERCUT - ADAM AND JEWEL MAKING OUT

In the sand. Once they start KISSING, they can't stop.

INTERCUT - ELEGANT FUND-RAISER - GOLDMAN

Looks up to see the D.A.'s Investigators coming towards him --

DET. COUNTS

Mr. Goldman, we have a warrant for
your arrest.

As CHAOS breaks out, we --

FADE OUT

ACT TWO

INT. POLICE STATION - ARREST MONTAGE

FLASH! MUG SHOTS! GOLDMAN IS FINGERPRINTED, etc.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - MEDIA CIRCUS - DAY

Romero masterfully works the press.

ROMERO

I want to congratulate my investigative staff and the entire District Attorney's Office for their outstanding work and dedication on behalf of the citizens of Los Angeles. My office has one concern and one concern only -- and that is to keep our children safe.

TV REPORTER

Was Larry Goldman involved in Elizabeth Daniels abduction?

ROMERO

Larry Goldman is a pornographer.

INTERCUT - INT. SKIP ZITI'S LIMO - MOVING - SAME

Ziti, Barbara, and Jewel are on their way to the courthouse. They watch the NEWS on a HIGH-TECH FLIP-DOWN SCREEN.

ANOTHER REPORTER (ON SCREEN)

But is he implicated in the kidnapping?

BARBARA

This is insane.

ROMERO (ON SCREEN)

If you're going to clean up the streets, you have to start somewhere --

RESUME - MEDIA CIRCUS

ROMERO (CONT'D)

-- and from what I can tell, Mr. Goldman's business is nothing but dirt. He's indicted for distributing child pornography.

INTERCUT - LIMO - SAME

Jewel turns to Skip.

JEWEL

Is that true?

SKIP

No, of course not.
You know your dad better
than that.

BARBARA

Your father would never be
involved in anything like
that.

RESUME - MEDIA CIRCUS

ROMERO

Child porn is like a drug to the
perverts who prey on our kids. And
I fully intend to cut off their
supply.

QUESTIONS ARE SHOUTED --

MEDIA

How does this effect the Van Dorne
prosecution? Is there any reason to
believe that Elizabeth is still alive?

ROMERO

You'd have to direct that question
to the Chief of Police, Mindy, but I
certainly haven't given up hope.
Not for Elizabeth Daniels. Not for
11-year-old Yolanda Perez, who was
taken from a playground last August --

INT. D.A.'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

His Campaign Manager is watching the NEWS with several staffers.

ROMERO (ON SCREEN)

Not for Sarah Marie Greenburg, Ariana
Holland --

CYNTHIA

(impressed)

My God...he actually knows their
names.

ROMERO (ON SCREEN)

Timothy Capers, Ann Williams, Shawna
Jackson...

INT. LIMO - PULLING UP TO THE COURTHOUSE - SAME

SKIP

Man, he's good. I guarantee this
won't stand up in court, but he's
good.

Barbara CLICKS off the TV.

BARBARA
It makes me sick our family's associated with this.

SKIP
He's on a witch hunt, and Larry's the scape goat.

JEWEL
Why?

SKIP
Because the D.A. loves headlines, that's why.

BARBARA
(to Jewel)
I don't know how you talked me into coming with us today. You shouldn't be exposed to this, you should be in school.

JEWEL
No. I want the Judge to see me. I want him to know Daddy has kids of his own.

SKIP
Smart girl.

INT. PACKED COURTROOM - GOLDMAN'S ARRAIGNMENT - DAY

SHOOT MUCH OF THIS FROM JEWEL'S POV, as we JUMP THROUGH IMAGES OF GOLDMAN'S ATTORNEY putting on a clinic. SANDRA LOCKHART is tough, smart, and knows her law:

LOCKHART
Charging my client with distributing child pornography is ludicrous.

JUMP TO:

ROMERO
Your honor, we've established an undeniable paper chain of evidence that leads directly to --

JUMP TO:

LOCKHART
A web site is like rental property -- Mr. Goldman's company simply leases
(MORE)

LOCKHART (CONT'D)

the space -- he has no control over how his "tenant's subtenant" chooses to use it! He cannot be expected to personally censor the free exchange --

LOCKHART (CONT'D)

-- of images and ideas on the web!

ROMERO

He can't shirk his responsibility for this content!

ROMERO (CONT'D)

Larry Goldman is blatantly profiting from the victimization of children!

JUDGE TILLER

Mr. Romero, don't conduct your re-election campaign in my courtroom.

Reaction from the PRESS and the GALLEY. Goldman looks at Jewel.

ROMERO

Your honor --

JUDGE TILLER

The court finds no grounds for indictment. In fact, the court finds this entire case groundless, and I strenuously advise the District Attorney not to waste my time on this matter again. Mr. Goldman, I'm dismissing all charges.

He POUNDS HIS GAVEL, and the COURTROOM ERUPTS in reaction as Goldman hugs his family and shakes Lockhart's hand, while Romero gathers his papers and shoots Cynthia Peterson a look.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - MEDIA CIRCUS REDUX - DAY

PRESS AND MEDIA everywhere --

TV REPORTER

In a major, major reversal of fortune today, Los Angeles District Attorney Joseph Romero was essentially thrown out of court by Judge --

INT. LAURA ROMERO'S CHAMBERS - SAME

ANOTHER REPORTER (ON SCREEN)

Hal, the Judge not only chastised the District Attorney, he --

Like everyone else, she, too, has a TV in her office. We see her robe by the door. She's a Judge, too.

Her husband is spinning, embarrassed, and furious.

ROMERO

You know the difference between a good lawyer and a great lawyer? A good lawyer knows the law -- a great lawyer knows the judge.

LAURA

Honey, you drew the wrong venue, that's all.

ROMERO

He didn't even consider the evidence.

LAURA

Judge Tiller is one of the Mayor's closest friends --

ROMERO

-- and Larry Goldman is one of the Mayor's most generous contributors, I know.

LAURA

What did you think was going to happen?

ROMERO

This wasn't about my re-election.

LAURA

Honey, I believe you, but no one else will. Because after today, you look like a self-serving, political opportunist. And if you complain about the courts, you'll look even worse.

ROMERO

I need a win, Laura.

LAURA

If you lose the election, so what? There are worse things than losing elections, Joe. I love you, not your office. Although, the badge is pretty sexy.

She wraps her arms around him.

ROMERO

How did you get to be so smart, Your Honor?

LAURA

If you think Goldman's a bad guy,
then bring him down. But don't do
it to win; do it because you believe
it.

INT. GOLDMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Goldman rips his INTERNET GUY a new one. Verbally, and
physically. Skip Ziti is in the office, too.

GOLDMAN

I trusted you to manage my internet
business --

GOLDMAN (CONT'D)

-- and you managed me
right down the toilet!

INTERNET GUY

Larry, there's 800 web
sites!

INTERNET GUY (CONT'D)

How was I supposed to know there
were kids on --

Larry shoves him into a wall or whatever --

GOLDMAN

It's your business to know! What
the hell am I paying you for? You
not only embarrassed me, you publicly
humiliated my wife and kids. My
daughter was in that courtroom today.

INTERNET GUY

Once people log onto private chat --

GOLDMAN

Shut up. Just shut
up.

INTERNET GUY

-- rooms, I have no control
over --

Goldman SLAPS him!

GOLDMAN

I hate kiddie porn! There's a reason
we call it adult entertainment!
Shut those damn sites down, and pack
up your stuff.

Internet Guy gets out as quickly as he can. Goldman SLAMS his
door shut, throws something at it, and kicks it!

SKIP

Larry, calm down. We won, you won.

GOLDMAN

I don't give a shit if the Judge threw the charges out or not! You explain this to my twelve-year-old son. You explain this to my daughter.

SKIP

Your daughter understands more than you think she does.

An INSTANT E-MAIL MESSAGE TYPES ACROSS THE SCREEN: I miss u

INTERCUT - JEWEL'S BEDROOM/ADAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

They're I.M.ing each other on their computers. Jewel's room is like a fairy tale: canopy bed, stuffed animals, all the latest gadgets and clothes, etc. Adam's room is smaller, messier; his drawings and artwork thumb-tacked to the walls. TEXT MESSAGES APPEAR ON THEIR SCREENS, AND ACROSS OURS as well. Jewel types back: I miss u2 when can I see u?

LOSE ADAM'S ROOM, AS JEWEL SEES HER LITTLE BROTHER JAKE, 12, standing in her doorway. She clicks, and hides her chat screen.

JAKE

Who you chatting with?

JEWEL

No one.

JAKE

A boy?

JEWEL

Didn't anyone teach you to knock?

JAKE

Jewel has a boyfriend, Jewel has a boyfriend.

JEWEL

Oh, grow up.

JAKE

Can I watch TV in here?

JEWEL

No.

JAKE

Mom won't let me watch it downstairs.

JEWEL

That's because she doesn't want you to see the news, dummy.

JAKE

Everybody was talking about it at school today. I know Daddy makes pornos. I think it's cool.

JEWEL

You are so clueless...

INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICES - HALLWAY - NEXT DAY

Joseph Romero with Chief Swaggart and his entourage. We see a MAN waiting outside Romero's office down the hall.

SWAGGART

Nice tap dance for the press the other day. If you want to borrow my coat and tails...

ROMERO

Where do we stand with Van Dorne?

SWAGGART

The circumstantial evidence is solid. Once we get the DNA results back --

ROMERO

I hope to God you're not using your department's lab.

SWAGGART

I've completely revamped the lab since the Simpson debacle.

ROMERO

If you want a conviction, I need that girl's body or her testimony.
(walking away)

And do me a favor, Ron -- don't taint the evidence this time.

MAN

District Attorney Romero? I have a subpoena for you.

As Romero looks at the SEALED ENVELOPE. HARD CUT TO:

INT. ROMERO'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Romero, Billy, and SEVERAL ASSISTANT D.A.'S. His Campaign Manager walks in to find her boss erupting --

ROMERO

Who the hell does he think he is?
(MORE)

ROMERO (CONT'D)

Forty-three thousand dollars in legal fees, and ten million dollars for character defamation!

CYNTHIA

What's going on?

BILLY

Goldman's counter-suing for selective prosecution, harassment, character assassination, you name it.

ROMERO

What character? The man has no character! Isn't my office protected from lawsuits?

BILLY

He can still make your life miserable, Joe.

STAFFER

CGC 825 indemnifies you from liability.

BILLY (CONT'D)

He can subpoena your testimony, embarrass you on the public record, and leave you twisting in the wind with the press.

EXT. PROMENADE - COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

Crowded with SHOPPERS and KIDS hanging out after school. But Adam and Jewel feel like the only two people on earth.

JEWEL

We can't do this anymore.

(off his look)

It's been four entire days since I've seen you, and that is too long, that is wrong --

JEWEL (CONT'D)

-- that is cruel and unusual punishment.

ADAM

Okay, okay --

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'm only grounded for a couple more days, then things'll be easier.

JEWEL

I'll come to the east side, you know. I'll come visit you. I'll climb in your window and camp out in your room.

ADAM

Oh, yeah, my parents would love that.

CAMERA PUSHES IN as he looks at her...

JEWEL

You know what? You're lucky your parents are normal.

ADAM

I don't think anyone's family is normal. Personally, I think normal's kind of scary.

JEWEL

Well mine's off the charts. I mean they're great and everything...but we're more like the Osbournes than Ozzie and Harriet.

ADAM

Then maybe I should camp out with you.

(she smiles)

I don't eat much, I'm low maintenance. Your folks wouldn't even know I was there.

JEWEL

They wouldn't care if you were there, that's what I'm saying...

He wraps his arms around her. The CAMERA CIRCLES THEM holding each other ... She puts her head on his shoulder.

ADAM

You know sometimes at night, when I'm lying in bed...I try to picture every detail of your face...and it's so perfect. And then I see you in person, and you're even more beautiful than I remember.

She looks in his eyes, realizes he really means it. She gets a little uncomfortable for a second, and covers --

JEWEL

I can imagine what you do when you lie in bed, Adam.

INT. GOLDEN INTL LLP - AFTERNOON

Goldman with Jimmy Wong and his temperamental PORN STAR. His secretary IRENE, 55-60, pokes her head in:

GOLDMAN
Love is love, sex is sex -- guys,
girls, what's the difference?

PORN STAR
I'm strictly dicky.

IRENE
Vincent Cordoza's in the lobby again,
and he's refusing to leave. I'm
sorry, I tried to keep him out.

INT. GOLDEN INTL - LOBBY - DAY

VINCENT CORDOZA, 60, an elegant Caribbean-American man, is
waiting with his nephew, **RUDY** (25, wired, and dangerous).

GOLDMAN
I told you never to come here.

VINCENT
You hurt my feelings, Larry. I called
and I call, and you don't return.
We need to talk.

GOLDMAN
This isn't the place or time.

VINCENT
Then when?

GOLDMAN
You don't call me, I call you.

INT. D.A.'S OFFICES - "WAR ROOM"

ROMERO'S TASK FORCE: Kim Banks, Wyatt Counts, Billy, Cynthia,
and Asst. D.A.'s. A dozen-plus people. No question Romero
commands the room:

ROMERO
I don't give a damn if Goldman's
enterprises appear to be legal or
not. You know as well as I do there
is always dirt under the corporate
rug.

DET. COUNTS
It's hard to keep a clean house making
pornos.

BILLY
Oh, man, the press is gonna have a
field day with this.

BILLY (CONT'D)
They'll turn you into
a self-righteous, right-
wing crusader.

ASST. D.A.
Vengeance is sweet, sir,
but, Jesus...

CYNTHIA
Look, every politician needs a target.

BILLY
Well Goldman's the wrong target!

CYNTHIA
Not according to my polls, he's not.

ROMERO
Cynthia, get the hell out of here.

CYNTHIA
I'm just saying, you're up five points
in the last three days, Joe --

ROMERO
And I'm saying you can take your
polling results and get the hell out
of this office.

As Cynthia gathers her stuff and leaves (with attitude) --

ROMERO (CONT'D)
This isn't about political expedience,
people. It's about doing what's
right.

BILLY
It's also political suicide, Joe.

ROMERO
Pornography's a magnet for drugs,
prostitution, tax evasion, and
organized crime.

PUSHING IN ON ROMERO --

ROMERO (CONT'D)
Put Mr. Goldman under 24 hour
surveillance. I want to know where
he goes, what he does, who he sees --
I want everything. Find the dirt,
people.

(beat)
Find a weak link and go after it.

INT. JEWEL'S BEDROOM - SUNSET

Barbara finds Jewel's little brother Jake on JEWEL'S COMPUTER.

BARBARA

Jake, don't play on your sister's computer -- go play in your own room.

JAKE

Guess who Jewel's e-mailing love letters to?

BARBARA

That is none of your business, or mine. Who?

JAKE

Some kid named Adam Romero.

BARBARA

Romero?

Off Barbara's growing alarm, we CUT TO:

EXTREME CLOSE UP OF JEWEL - HER FACE, HER EYES

GOLDMAN (O.S.)

How could you do this to me? To your own family? Don't you realize who this kid's father is?

BARBARA (O.S.)

I know you're upset, but you have to stop seeing this boy.

JEWEL

How do you know it's even the same family?

WIDER NOW, CIRCLING THEM --

GOLDMAN

Believe me, we know.

JEWEL

There's a thousand Romeros in Los Angeles.

GOLDMAN

Your mother gave me his e-mail, Jewel, I had it checked out at the office.

JEWEL

You're wrong.

GOLDMAN

I just told you, I had him checked out!

JEWEL

Well then check again, Daddy. Adam's father works for the street department or something, he's not --

GOLDMAN

His father is the District Attorney! He cleans up the streets, all right...

JEWEL'S EYES brim with tears, as:

BARBARA

Honey, what were you thinking?

JEWEL

I didn't know.

GOLDMAN

Jesus God, how could you date this kid?

BARBARA

Larry, she said she didn't know.

JEWEL

Adam can't help who his father is anymore than I can.

GOLDMAN

The man had me arrested for no reason in my own goddamn house! What is she arguing for?

BARBARA

You don't think you're in love with him, do you?

Jewel is silent.

GOLDMAN

You just told us you've only been dating this kid for two weeks -- that's not love, that's ridiculous! Love is your family. Love is raising you for sixteen years and giving you everything you possibly want.

BARBARA

What was wrong with that boy from the club? Or Skip Ziti's son, Brian --

JEWEL

Brian treats me likes dirt.

BARBARA
Well he certainly calls
enough. He's constantly
asking you out.

JEWEL
Mom, I'm interested in
anyone else. Be just stop.

BARBARA
Are you sleeping with Adam?
Jewel shoots her mother a look.

JEWEL
No, Mom, he's not like that --

JEWEL (CONT'D)
-- and neither am I.

GOLDMAN
If he laid a hand on her,
I swear to God...

BARBARA
Larry, please, this is not helping.

JEWEL
You can't tell me not to see him.

PUSHING IN CLOSE as Goldman takes his daughter's face in his
hands. **JEWEL'S EYES** are full of tears...

GOLDMAN
Honey, I know you think this boy
cares about you, but don't you see
this is a set up? If this kid's so
crazy about you, then why did he
lie?

JEWEL
I don't know.

GOLDMAN
Because his father would do anything
to get to me. This man wants to
destroy my business, and ruin our
family. Don't you understand that?

JEWEL
Sometimes I hate being your daughter.

GOLDMAN
Well I love you more than life itself.
But I'll be damned if I'll allow you
to date the son of the son of a bitch
who just put me on trial.

Off Jewel, we --

SMASH TO BLACK

ACT THREE

EXT. MIDAS TOUCH GENTLEMAN'S CLUB PARKING LOT - DAY

We see a plainwrap VAN in the parking lot.

DET. COUNTS (O.S.)

It is beyond me how you two can have problems.

INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - CONTINUOUS

Detectives Kim Banks and Wyatt Counts are surveilling Goldman.

DET. COUNTS

You're married to a plastic surgeon -- the dream catch. You must have money to burn.

DET. KIM BANKS

Money doesn't solve every problem.

DET. COUNTS

The only people who say that are the people who have money.

DET. KIM BANKS

Speaking of which, our golden boy's on the move.

THROUGH SURVEILLANCE CAMERA - SEE GOLDMAN ENTERING THE CLUB

Kim Banks SNAPS pictures of Goldman as Counts climbs out --

DET. COUNTS

I want you to know I derive no pleasure from this whatsoever. I only look at naked ladies dancing strictly in the line of duty.

INT. JEWEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

She's been crying. Her CELL PHONE is RINGING -- as soon as it stops, her ROOM PHONE starts RINGING. AMELIA, 50, the nanny, starts to pick it up. We notice Adam's place mat SKETCHES near the phone (something Jewel's kept).

JEWEL

Don't answer that. I know it's him.

INT. MIDAS TOUCH GENTLEMAN'S CLUB - DAY

PAN OFF STRIPPERS TO GOLDMAN, VINCENT, AND RUDY AT A RAISED CORNER TABLE, which serves as Goldman's "office".

Since it's daytime, the club is fairly empty, but since Goldman's here, the GIRLS put on the "SHOWER SHOW". And the STRIPPERS are just flat-out gorgeous. Rudy, who's jittery anyway, can't keep his eyes off them.

GOLDMAN

This is the last time I'm having this conversation with you. My business dealings are completely above board, and I intend to keep them that way.

VINCENT

When did you cop such an attitude, Larry? Man, you got more attitude than Mick Jagger's hips and lips combined.

DETECTIVE COUNTS ENTERS THE CLUB AND TAKES A SEAT STAGE-SIDE at an angle that gives him a clear view of Goldman's table, as --

GO TIGHT ON A SMALL "BUG" UNDER GOLDMAN'S TABLE, and --

VINCENT (CONT'D)

I remember when you used to beg me for help. You'd come to my crib, partake of my fine party products --

-- INTERCUT KIM BANKS IN THE SURVEILLANCE VAN RECORDING THEIR BUGGED CONVERSATION (AS NEEDED)

GOLDMAN

That was a long time ago, Vincent.

VINCENT

-- and beg me to invest in your movies. Did I ever deny you?

GOLDMAN

Listen, you moron: I didn't give a shit in those days where my "producers" got their money. But I'm smarter now, Vincent. Things change.

VINCENT

Things may change, Larry, but one hand still washes the other.

INTERCUT COUNTS SURREPTITIOUSLY SNAPPING STILL SHOTS OF GOLDMAN AND VINCENT WITH A CAMERA IN HIS "CELL PHONE" as Vincent tries to give Goldman a black briefcase.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Now you take my laundry and cut me a check.

RUDY

I don't know about doing no laundry, but I'd sure like to do me a shower scene with a few of these chicks. Can I be in your movies?

GOLDMAN

No.

VINCENT

Rudy: focus.

GOLDMAN

I won't do it, Vincent, and you're an idiot to ask. It's too hot right now.

VINCENT

You think it's hot now? I could make it just hell-hot for you.

GOLDMAN

Don't you dare threaten me, you son of a --

RUDY

Hey, you sit your fat ass back down.

VINCENT

Come on, man, it's just two hundred grand.

GOLDMAN

No offense, but that's chicken feed. I make -- you don't even want to know how much I make -- the point is, I don't need your money, I don't want your money, and I don't want you harassing me. It's nothing personal, Vincent, it just isn't smart for either one of us.

(stands up to go)

Do your laundry elsewhere. The history between us is just that: it's history.

Goldman walks out.

EXT. WEST SIDE PREP PRIVATE SCHOOL - DAY

School has just let out. Adam's been waiting for Jewel.

ADAM
 You want to tell me what's going on?
 I've been e-mailing you, calling you

JEWEL
 What do you think is going on?

ADAM
 I don't know! You've been avoiding me all week. If you want to break things off, at least talk to me.

She starts walking away. He follows her.

JEWEL
 I'm not allowed to see you anymore.

ADAM
 Because?

JEWEL
 Because your dad arrested my dad, put him on trial, and embarrassed my family over nothing, that's why.

ADAM
 (reeling)
 Please don't make this about my dad.

JEWEL
 (furious, hurt)
 Why didn't you tell me who he was?

ADAM
 Because I didn't think it mattered!
 Because I'm not him! Because I never dreamt in a million years th--

JEWEL
 You said your dad worked for the street depart--

ADAM
 -- I never said that. You said that. You assumed that because I--

JEWEL
 I didn't assume anything. I trusted you. I trusted you, and you ruined everything.

ADAM
 Would you listen to me?

JEWEL

What else have you been lying about? What about your sister? Did you make her up, too?

ADAM

Go to hell.

JEWEL

You first.

ADAM

You're crazy anyway.

JEWEL

You're right about that. I was crazy about you until you lied to me.

ADAM

Look, I don't know who your father is, and I don't care, Jewel -- but my dad's on the news almost every night. Half the city hates him, and the other half loves him, and I don't know which side I'm on -- but I met this incredible girl at a party, and I wanted her to like me so much... not to like me for him, or hate me because of him, but because of who I am, you know? Can you understand that?

JEWEL

More than you can even imagine...

ADAM

Why does it matter who our parents are? I don't care what they think about us. All that matters to me is what you think, and how you feel.

(off her eyes)

I know how I feel. Because I've never felt this way before. About anyone.

ON JEWEL; she's not walking away anymore. But trust doesn't come easy for her...

JEWEL

You still should have told me the truth.

Jim Leonard 1-12-03

INT. D.A.'S OFFICES - "WAR ROOM"

START TIGHT ON A COMPUTER SCREEN - A SERIES OF STILL SHOTS OF VINCENT, RUDY, AND GOLDMAN TOGETHER, as --

DET. COUNTS

Vincent Cordoza, aka "Vince the Prince", and his heir to the throne -- his junked-out little nephew -- met up with Mr. Goldman at 2PM yesterday afternoon.

Romero, Kim Banks, the Chief of Staff, a few Asst. D.A.'s.

ROMERO

And this man's a known drug dealer?

DET. COUNTS

He's got a rap sheet as long as your arm. Drugs, weapons --

BILLY

Who's the girl in the shower?

ASST. D.A.

Yeah, let's go after her.

DET. KIM BANKS

I want to emphasize that Mr. Goldman did nothing illegal in this meeting.

DET. COUNTS

Vince the Prince wanted to launder some dough and Goldilocks told him to take a hike.

ROMERO

But they do have a criminal history together, we have that on tape. Which means Goldman's laundered money before.

DET. COUNTS

I think that's a reasonable inference. This cat Cordoza has managed to weasel out of multiple arrests, he's not stupid, he'll never turn state's -- but this one is anything but smart.

Counts points to RUDY'S PICTURE on the screen.

DET. COUNTS (CONT'D)

You want your weak link -- he's our boy.

ROMERO

Then let's use him. See if he ties
back to Goldman.

INT. MOVING CAR - NIGHT

Rudy has a cell phone to his ear. Looks at his Uncle.

RUDY

He hung up on me.

VINCENT

It's time to send Mr. Midas Goldman
a message. If he wants to burn my
ass, let's light a fire under his.
You show him what hell-hot can be.

PAN OFF THEIR VEHICLE to --

EXT. ADAM AND JEWEL - ON THE SIDEWALK - NIGHT

They're holding hands again, they're tight again.

JEWEL

My dad would kill me if he saw us
together.

(ironic smile)

If your dad doesn't put him in jail
first.

ADAM

You're tripping.

JEWEL

Yeah, I'm tripping, like you're not?

ADAM

So where do you want to go?

JEWEL

I don't know. Not home, that's for
sure.

ADAM

My house is out of the question.

They've stopped walking. Adam wraps his arms around her.

JEWEL

We've got a beach house in Malibu.

ADAM

Really?

JEWEL
It's just sitting there. Empty.

ADAM
Seems like someone should use it.

EXT. MIDAS TOUCH GENTLEMAN'S CLUB - NIGHT

A WORDLESS SEQUENCE, PLAYED TO MUSIC: RUDY pulls his black Escalade into VIP PARKING, and goes into the club wearing a long coat. Off STYLIZED SURVEILLANCE PHOTOS, go to

EXT. LUXURY BEACH HOUSE - MALIBU - NIGHT

Right on the ocean. The moon would be nice.

INT. MALIBU BEACH HOUSE - MONTAGE - NIGHT

MUSIC CONTINUES OVER IMAGES OF JEWEL AND ADAM IN HEAVEN. Jewel feeds him. He feeds her. They laugh, and make out in her beach house bedroom...

INT. MIDAS TOUCH - MONTAGE - NIGHT

CAMERA FOLLOWS RUDY past STRIPPERS and PATRONS, and into the MEN'S ROOM. Once inside, he jimmies the PAPER TOWEL DISPENSER, and places a PLASTIQUE exploding DEVICE in the dispenser. He opens the ceiling tiles, and places ANOTHER DEVICE in the ceiling. DET. COUNTS enters the men's room as RUDY is leaving; everything looks normal...

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MONTAGE - ADAM AND JEWEL

Far more erotic than kissing; but they don't go all the way ...they end up HALF-UNDRESSED, with Adam's shirt off and Jewel in her underwear.

JEWEL
Are you gonna be mad if we don't...you know...

ADAM
(looks in her eyes)
I'm really upset, can't you tell?

God, she's gone for this guy...WHITE SHEETS BILLOW in SLOW-MO...innocent, poetic, and incredibly sexy. They're at an age, where kissing, touching, and gently exploring each other is so erotic, it's heartbreaking. His lips, breathing, hands and eyes say it all. In a word: it's being young, and falling in love...DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MIDAS TOUCH PARKING LOT - LATE AT NIGHT

SECURITY LOCKS the building and escorts the last few DANCERS to their cars. We HOLD ON THE BUILDING for a moment, and as the MUSIC CARRIES US, it BURSTS INTO FLAMES!

INT. FLAMES INTERMINGLE WITH ADAM AND JEWEL - IN BED

Tangled in the sheets, wrapped in each other's arms. Adam opens his eyes. He looks at Jewel sleeping, touches her hair, and then quietly gets up to go. As he dresses, we see Jewel watching him...

JEWEL
(whispers)
Don't leave.

ADAM
The sun's up. I gotta go.

JEWEL
Ooooo, he's a vampire now. Come on, don't you want to bite my neck...?

ADAM
Jewel. I have to go home.

JEWEL
We are home. We live here, remember?

ADAM
(smiles)
In your dreams.

JEWEL
Ohhhh, I don't want to wake up.
Come back to bed, Adam. Let's stay here forever.

They kiss. It's sweet, tender. They're both on their knees on top of the bed.

ADAM
You may possibly be the most beautiful girl in the world.

JEWEL
You're full of crap.

ADAM
My folks think I'm spending the night at a friend's house.

JEWEL
You are. In a way. Just stay for
an hour. Please.

ADAM
I'm in enough trouble already.

JEWEL
I am so sick of our parents
controlling our lives. I wish we
could run away.

(off his look)
I really do. I'd go anywhere you
wanted. Sometimes I dream about
just starting over. You know?
Someplace where nobody knows my name,
or who my father is...when I was
little, I used to pretend I belonged
to someone else's family.

ADAM
I did that, too. Sometimes I still
do...

JEWEL
Everyone at school thinks because my
dad makes those stupid sex movies,
that I'm like this brainless little
slut, you know. You should hear
what they say. The guys are
just...awful. They're like, oh Jewel,
she's gotta be easy. She has to be
wild. Look what her daddy does.
And the lamest part is...
(looks at him)
...I'm still a virgin.

ADAM
Me, too.

JEWEL
You are not.
(off his silence)
You are? Really?

ADAM
(smiles)
Don't talk anybody, okay?

JEWEL
Your secret's safe with me.

She can't help it -- she starts giggling. They both do. She's
in his arms again, she nibbles on his neck, whispers:

JEWEL (CONT'D)

It's not like I'm a virgin on principle, Adam. I just wanted to wait till I fell in love...

ADAM

You really make it hard to leave, don't you?

JEWEL

I try.

ADAM

(kisses her lightly)
Goodbye.

They part. A RINGING PHONE brings us to --

INT. GOLDMAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

He answers, half-asleep. Barbara has a skin treatment "mask" on, somewhere way over there across their California king-size.

GOLDMAN

Goldman.

SKIP (O.S.)

We've got a problem.

INTERCUT WITH SKIP ZITI CALLING FROM HIS HOME, AS HE DRESSES

SKIP (CONT'D)

Somebody torched the club late last night. One of the girls was still in there. She's dead, Larry.

Off Goldman knowing full well who's behind this, we SMASH TO:

INT. RUDY'S CRUMMY LITTLE BEDROOM - MORNING

Det. Counts YANKS him out of bed! And I mean he yanks him.

DET. COUNTS

Rise and shine, scum bag.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - THROUGH TWO-WAY MIRROR

Romero watches Rudy being questioned by Counts and Kim Banks.

RUDY

I've got a right to a phone call.

DET. COUNTS

What about the girl who died in that fire? What rights did she have?

RUDY
Aw, man, can't we work something out?

ROMERO (ON INTERCOM)
No deals, Rudy. I want the truth.

Rudy looks around the room. Where'd that voice come from?

DET. COUNTS
You heard the man.

DET. KIM BANKS
Tell us about your friend Mr. Goldman. Why did you torch his club?

INT. COURTHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Romero walking quickly, purposefully down the hall and into --

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBERS

-- without knocking. Same Judge who threw him out of court.

ROMERO
I want a warrant to seize Larry Goldman's corporate and personal financial records.

JUDGE TILLER
Based on what?

Romero throws his case folder on the Judge's desk.

ROMERO
If you cross me on this, I'll empanel a grand jury and investigate you.

INT. GOLDEN INTL LLP - STYLIZED CHAOS - NEXT DAY

DET. COUNTS, HALF-A-DOZEN OTHER PLAIN CLOTHES DETECTIVES, A FULL DOZEN UNIFORMS, AND SEVERAL ASST. D.A.'S ARE TURNING THE PLACE UPSIDE DOWN -- going through FILES, seizing COMPUTERS, TAPES, VIDEOS, CD'S, carting off RECORDS, etc. IRENE is beside herself. In the b.g., we SEE SKIP ZITI yelling into the phone near a FAX MACHINE, but Larry Goldman is surprisingly calm as they rip apart his office.

Skip grabs a DOCUMENT FEEDING THROUGH THE FAX, and rushes over.

SKIP
I just got off the phone with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

(MORE)

SKIP (CONT'D)

That's a restraining order canceling your search warrant, and this unconstitutional violation of privacy.

ASST. D.A.

Hold it, guys -- hold it!

The search and seizure squad freezes in their tracks.

GOLDMAN

Tell your boss we're one step ahead of him, asshole. Tell District Attorney Romero I just wiped my butt with his warrant.

INT. ROMERO'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

Romero, Billy, and Cynthia.

ROMERO

There's a spy in my office, there has to be!

CYNTHIA

Joe.

ROMERO

Goldman got an injunction in less time than it took us to serve the damn warrant! How many people are on this man's payroll?

BILLY

Every politician needs a target, huh?

ROMERO

(pacing, thinking)
We know Goldman's dirty, and we know Vincent Cordova is dirty. What if we reverse the equation? What if we use them to bring down each other?

INT. GOLDMAN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

He picks up the phone, feet on the desk, drink in hand, in a spacious, victorious, magnanimous mood --

GOLDMAN

District Attorney Romero. To what do I owe the pleasure?

INTERCUT - WITH ROMERO ON THE PHONE IN HIS OFFICE, ALONE

ROMERO
Let's call a truce meeting.

GOLDMAN
Why call a truce now? I'm winning.

ROMERO
Listen to me: we're fighting a fools battle, Goldman. Death by degrees. I wound you, and you wound me. We can either continue slicing each other to pieces, or else we can talk.

GOLDMAN
It's only fair to tell you my phones are tapped.

ROMERO
Not on the phone. In person. Alone.

GOLDMAN
What's the agenda for this peace counsel, counselor?

ROMERO
I want Vincent Cordaza.

EXT. A HUGE, OPEN FIELD NEAR A POND OR LAKE - SUNSET

MUSIC OVER an image of DOZENS OF COPS AND CITIZENS spread out, methodically SEARCHING for the missing girl. It is a grim task, and yet, somehow, this image, all these people in the field, is beautiful to behold...

ANGLE ON A COP BENDING CLOSE TO THE GROUND - HER GLOVED HAND

Picking up a little girl's hair BARRETTE lying on the ground. The Officer looks at it; then looks at the water nearby...

INT./EXT. EMPTY PARKING STRUCTURE - LATE AT NIGHT

Find Romero and Goldman alone. No assistants, no witnesses.

GOLDMAN
Money buys many things. I have friends who don't appreciate you running for office on my reputation.

ROMERO
With all due respect, Mr Goldman

ROMERO (CONT'D) What reputation?
GOLDMAN: What reputation?

GOLDMAN (CONT'D)

To quote Benjamin Franklin: "Those who would sacrifice our liberty in the name of safety, deserve neither."

ROMERO

John Kennedy said if the law cannot help the helpless, then it cannot help the few who are rich.

GOLDMAN

Yeah, well John Kennedy also screwed Marilyn Monroe. That was Clinton's problem, he went for the homely girls. If he would have done Cindy Crawford, he'd be on Mount Rushmore.

ROMERO

Look, I know you're tainted by this money-laundering scheme with Cordoza

GOLDMAN

That is slanderous, inadmissible hearsay.

ROMERO

-- I didn't seize your records today, and I may not get them tomorrow, but you can rest assured that I'll tap your phones, read your mail, monitor your internet messages, review your IRS statements, and keep you and your employees under surveillance until I find a way to put you on trial and send you to prison. Unless you cooperate now.

GOLDMAN

Don't preach at me, Romero, and don't take that tone, or this conversation is over. If you have a problem with sex, that's your problem. Hate me or love me, my business is legal.

ROMERO

This has escalated way beyond pornography, Goldman. There's a body now. A woman was murdered in that fire.

GOLDMAN

What do you want?

ROMERO

To put Vincent Cordoza behind bars.

GOLDMAN
Why? What the hell do you care?

ROMERO
You know the dancer who died in that fire left a baby behind.

GOLDMAN
A 6-month-old girl, and you still haven't answered my question.

ROMERO
It's an election year. I need a win.

GOLDMAN
(ah, the irony)
And you want me to help you?

ROMERO
I want you to help yourself.

GOLDMAN
Why should I trust you?

ROMERO
Help me, and I'll take the heat off you and put it on Cordoza.

GOLDMAN
Look, I want that bastard locked up just as much as you do. Even more. But what can I do?

ROMERO
Wear a wire. Get him to talk. Get him to implicate himself in the arson.

GOLDMAN
You're out of your mind. Are you recording this?

ROMERO
No, sir, I am not.

GOLDMAN
If you double-cross me --

ROMERO
I won't.

GOLDMAN
I want your word this is off the record or I want my attorney present.

ROMERO

You have my word.

Goldman looks at him. Romero is just old-school enough that his word is his bond; even Goldman gets that.

GOLDMAN

A long time ago, when I was young and dumb and just getting started, I let him invest in a movie. And my friend Vince the Prince has been hounding me ever since. The guy's like a cancer I cannot be shed of. He threatens blackmail, he comes to my office, and now he's even threatened my family.

ROMERO

Then help me put this murdering bastard away, and your problems with me may not go away, but they'll sure start to fade in a hurry.

Goldman exhales. Shakes his head. Decides:

GOLDMAN

I'll cooperate with you on one condition: tell your son to keep his filthy hands off my daughter.

Off Romero, who had no idea about Adam and Jewel, we --

FADE OUT:

ACT FOUR

INT. ROMERO HOUSE - MORNING

Livid doesn't begin to describe it:

ROMERO

Can you imagine what will happen if the press gets a hold of this? The D.A.'s son and pornographer's daughter? They would ruin me. They would ruin you.

ADAM

The only thing you care about, Dad, is your career. You don't give a crap about me. You don't give a crap about Mom. All you care about is how we reflect on you.

Adam is so deeply angry and hurt that he's almost in tears. And he's hit his father where it counts. Romero whispers:

ROMERO

Don't be stupid.
(off Adam's look)
Think with your other head, Adam.

ADAM

You know what? Go screw yourself.

Adam leaves the room. His father follows.

ROMERO

You don't talk that way to me. Not in my house.

ADAM

You're never home, Dad! You're only here now to try and save your own skin.

ROMERO

And you're only attracted to this girl because she puts out, I know that.

ADAM

You don't know her, and you don't know me.

ROMERO

I remember how it felt at your age. All I thought about was sex.

ADAM

Well I'm not you, and I never will be, so you can stop being disappointed in me, Dad, because I'm a hopeless cause, okay?

ROMERO

Adam, don't say that.

ADAM

Nothing I do is ever good enough for you.

ROMERO

That isn't true.

ADAM

Yes, it is, Dad. I'm not as smart as you. I'm not as strong as you. And I'm sure as hell not as ambitious.

ROMERO

I love you more than anything.

ADAM

Right.

ROMERO

I just want you to think for once, Adam. Don't be stupid. And for God's sake -- for your own sake -- please, keep your hands off this girl. She is nothing but trouble.

ADAM

You live your own life, and I'll live mine.

ROMERO

Her father victimizes women; he victimizes children; and I won't let him victimize you.

ADAM

(low, level)

You know how many politicians it takes to change a light bulb, Dad? Just one. He holds onto the fixture while the world revolves beneath him.

INT. GOLDMAN ESTATE - LARRY'S STUDY - MORNING

Goldman and Skip Ziti.

SKIP
Why would you cooperate with Romero?

GOLDMAN
He thinks he's playing me, well I'm playing him.

SKIP
It's insane! Not to mention you're putting your life at risk.

GOLDMAN
Keep your friends close and your enemies closer, Skip -- you taught me that. If I play this right, I can be shed of that cancer Vincent, and get this rabid dog Romero off my back. Two birds, one stone, Skipper. Tell me I'm crazy.

SKIP
Larry, you're crazy.

GOLDMAN
Let's stay two steps ahead of this bastard. I want you to make a very, very sizable contribution to Romero's re-election campaign. Taint the well. Poison our self righteous D.A. with his own weakness.

SKIP
You never stop thinking.

GOLDMAN
Make sure it's traceable.

STAGE - PREPARING THE STAKE-OUT

see JOSEPH ROMERO talking to his people. See GOLDMAN BEING SEEN by DETECTIVE BANKS in a surveillance van. See plain clothes cops and U.C. DETECTIVES in various spots inside and outside a restaurant with huge plate glass windows.

1. RESTAURANT - STAKE-OUT MONTAGE - DAY

GOLDMAN WAITING in a booth. VINCENT SHOWS UP with his BRIEF CASE. We see them talking. See COUNTS and DETECTIVES RECORDING them. See the SURVEILLANCE CAMERA'S taping them.

hear no dialogue, until:

GOLDMAN
You wanted to send me a message?
Well I got your message.

VINCENT

Next time it won't be some skanky nightclub. Next time it'll be that Midas Touch Mansion you live in.

INTERCUT - THE SURVEILLANCE VAN:

Banks shares a look with her partner.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Two hundred g's might not be much to you, Larry, but I still need my dry cleaning done.

Vincent slides the BRIEFCASE across the table to Goldman.

DET. KIM BANKS

(into his mic)

Let's do it.

VARIOUS ANGLES ON U.C. DETECTIVES DESCENDING ON VINCENT AND GOLDMAN - ARRESTING THEM BOTH

MUSIC DRIVEN, as they HANDCUFF GOLDMAN AND VINCENT, and make a big show of taking them both away. Larry goes appropriately nuts. Vincent is stoic, but furious.

TIGHT ON GOLDMAN'S HANDCUFFS BEING UNLOCKED - LATER

Cops shake his hand, pat him on the back. Goldman climbs into his CHAUFFEURED MERCEDES, a free man. MUSIC TAKES us to...

EXT. A LAKE NEAR THE OPEN FIELD - SUNSET

CHIEF SWAGGART and OTHER COPS watch as DIVERS SEARCH THE WATER for the missing girl's body.

INT. ROMERO HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Adam's mother fixes herself a bourbon and ice. Her relationship with Adam is the polar opposite of her husband's.

LAURA

Don't lie to me. Please.

ADAM

I never lie to you.

LAURA

You lied about spending the night at your friend's house last week. I saw Lenny's mother today. She said you weren't there, so where were you?

ADAM
You really want to know where I was?

LAURA
Yes.

ADAM
I think I was falling in love.

ON LAURA'S REACTION: several thoughts sweep across her face -- surprise, relief, envy.

LAURA
With Jewel Goldman.

ADAM
Mom, I've never felt like this, ever. When I'm with her, it's like being high and being absolutely clear-eyed and sober in the same breath, you know? I see everything clearly, and yet I feel so...good, it's unbelievable.

LAURA
I felt like that once upon a time, but this has to stop, Adam, you know that.

(off his reaction)
You can't do this to your father, no matter how much it hurts.

ADAM
How did our parents become the victims, when Jewel and I are the ones paying the price? How did that happen, Mom?

Laura doesn't know what to say. Adam leaves the room. Laura looks at her drink, sets it down, and follows --

FOYER - ADAM IS ON HIS WAY UP THE STAIRS

LAURA
This isn't a plea bargain, Adam. You can't see this girl again. Ever. I mean that.

Adam can't believe what he's hearing. **MUSIC CARRIES us to --**

INT. JAIL CELL OR INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Vincent and Romero. Alone.

ROMERO

(quiet, intense)

You're looking at the death gurney,
my friend. Murder with aggravating
circumstances. Weapons charges.
Drugs. Attempted money laundering.
And we have a reliable witness all
tied up in a bow, and chomping at
the bit to tell a jury about all
your adventures. I fully intend to
see you pay the ultimate price.

He lets this sink, then starts to walk out.

VINCENT

I know you want Goldman. I could
give him to you on a gold platter.

ROMERO

I don't need you. I have him on
tape.

VINCENT

I'm not the only dog to wash his
laundry in dirty movies. I could
give you a half-dozen names who could
bring him down.

Romero considers. Turns around, and looks at Vincent. He's
listening. MUSIC RISES, as we CUT TO --

EXT. JEWEL ON HER BALCONY - NIGHT

Alone, her eyes shining, the wind in her hair, the curtains
billowing behind her...MUSIC OVER --

INT. ADAM'S ROOM - NIGHT

Laura is standing in the doorway, looking at Adam's OPEN WINDOW.
He's gone. MUSIC brings us to --

INT. BUS - ANGLE ON ADAM - NIGHT

Defying his parents, on his way to Jewel. MUSIC takes us to --

INT. JAIL - TIGHT ON VINCENT - NIGHT

In the PRIVATE VISITING AREA with his ATTORNEY.

VINCENT

You make a deal. I'll turn on him
before he turns on me.

ATTORNEY

Goldman's not in jail.

VINCENT
He made bail already?

ATTORNEY
As far as I know, he was never charged.

PUSH IN ON VINCENT realizing what this means.

VINCENT
He set me up. Goldman betrayed me.
(off his attorney's nod)
Take care of him. I don't care what it costs, I don't care what it takes: the rich man is dead.

MUSIC CARRIES US TO --

INT. GOLDMAN'S MANSION - BACK DOOR - NIGHT

ADAM sneaking into his girlfriend's house, let in by AMELIA, her Nanny...MUSIC OVER --

EXT. UNDERWATER - IN THE LAKE - NIGHT

A POLICE DIVER SEES A GLIMMERING WHITE ARM, a hand undulating in the eerie, eerie light.

INT. JEWEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CAMERA CIRCLES ADAM AND JEWEL as they drink each other in. Undressed, and innocent, and more full of longing than they ever dreamed possible.

JEWEL
I want you. Oh, God, I want you.

ADAM
Shhhh...
(whispers)

Take your time...I'm not going anywhere...

JEWEL
I love you, Adam.

ADAM
I love you, too.

They KISS, and the CAMERA PULLS BACK THROUGH HER WINDOW, and CRANES DOWN to --

INT. GOLDMAN'S STUDY - NIGHT

Goldman and his trusted friend Skip. They have drinks. Goldman might have a cigar. He certainly has no idea what his daughter is doing in the room above...

GOLDMAN

Hire a private detective to find dirt on Romero. Anybody who is this obsessed with porn has to have a dark side.

MUSIC CARRIES OVER to --

EXT. LAKE - NIGHT - CHIEF SWAGGART'S POV:

THE GIRL'S BODY slowly RISING TO THE SURFACE through the shimmering dark water. Her hair is ethereal...

INT. ROMERO HOUSE - NIGHT

Romero sits on the edge of his bed, his mind racing, his conscience on the waves... Laura rubs his neck, gently; knows his pain.

ROMERO

What have I done? How did I drive my own son away?

LAURA

(whispers)

He'll come home. He loves you.

MUSIC CRESCENDOS as we go to --

INT. JEWEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Off an IMAGE OF ADAM AND JEWEL lost and found in each other's arms, MUSIC carries us to --

FADE OUT:

THE END