

Cuervo the Pelican

Original Screenplay by

Paul Lankovsky Mono

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BAJA CALIFORNIA. VILLAGE - PRESENT DAY

We're driving on a DIRT ROAD lined with broken cars, chickens, corrugated tin shacks and kids playing soccer, toward a MARKET.

ENRIQUE (V.O.)

Mama and Papa's store was the only
one in town.

EXT. JUAREZ MARKET - DAY

Adobe storefront. Hand-painted GROCERY SIGNS in the windows.

Enrique's father RAFAEL (20s) sweeps off the storefront sidewalk.

A STATION WAGON pulls into the DIRT PARKING LOT and stops.

ENRIQUE (V.O.)

Mama and I went into the big city
every week to buy things.

Enrique's mother ANGELICA (20s) takes GROCERY BOXES from the back of the station wagon and hands them to Rafael.

YOUNG ENRIQUE (5) jumps out of the front seat, starts racing around the station wagon as Angelica and Rafael unload grocery boxes.

ENRIQUE (V.O.) (cont'd)

When I was good, Mama got the best
churros that melted in my mouth.

Angelica holds up a CHURRO for Enrique who stops and grabs it.

Rafael returns to his BROOM. Angelica stands near Raphael, waves at Enrique racing around the station wagon with the churro.

Then Rafael and Angelica start DISSOLVING until they DISAPPEAR.

BLACK SCREEN.

ENRIQUE (V.O.) (cont'd)

They went to the big city without
me one day. They never came back.

FADE IN:

EXT. HARBOR. DOCK - NIGHT

Dark and empty. Creepy TRAWLERS moored along the dock pilings with FISHNETS stretched over wooden CRAB TRAPS like spider webs.

ENRIQUE (V.O.)
 Mama said something good always
 happens when you tell the truth.

ENRIQUE, exhausted after traveling many sleepless days and nights, stumbles on the street toward a familiar FISHING TRAWLER moored along the TOURIST MARKET DOCK PILINGS.

THE SANCHITA

groans and rocks gently against the dock in the water as Enrique boards the trawler and lies down on the rolled-up nets on deck.

ENRIQUE (V.O.) (cont'd)
 But Papa said it doesn't hurt to
 have a little luck too.

LATER -- PRE-DAWN

Tiny fingerlings of SUNLIGHT pierce a crisp VIOLET SKY.

The Sanchita rocks against the dock as TWO SHADOWY MEN board her.

ONE SHADOWY MAN finds Enrique sleeping on the rolled-up nets.

FADE TO BLACK.

CHEERY MARIACHI MUSIC RISES.

SEVEN YEARS LATER

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

Brightly-colored FLAGS and joyously buoyant FISH KITES flutter above a flourishing TOURIST MARKET filled with VENDORS selling straw hats, huaraches, ceramic donkeys, etc. along the dock

SGT. GARCIA (40s, mustache) is on patrol, munching on a CARROT, nodding and smiling at every Vendor he passes by.

FISHERMEN toss the day's catch to FISH VENDORS on the dock street.

LUPITO

a very crabby RED ROOSTER, flapdoodles past Sgt. Garcia full blast.

An even more crabby ROSA (12) is in hot pursuit after Lupito.

ENRIQUE (12)

mends a FISH NET on the dock by the Sanchita.

Rosa grabs Lupito -- but the crafty chicken slips from her grip.

And COCK-A-DOODLE-DOOS right into Enrique's hands.

Rosa stops before Enrique, out of breath, and sees Enrique as he calms Lupito down with gentle strokes -- he's good with birds.

Enrique turns Lupito around, face to beak.

ENRIQUE

Lupito, you're too tough to eat.
There's no reason to run away.

Enrique hands Lupito over to Rosa -- she covers him, protective.

ROSA

You would eat my pet?

Enrique, no longer a hero to Rosa, can also no longer form a coherent sentence. He starts mumbling like a stuttering fool.

ENRIQUE

But-but-but...hammity-hammity...

Rosa storms away with Lupito. Enrique tries calling out to stop Rosa in her wake, but the words stay stuck in his throat.

St. Garcia tosses the last bit of carrot into his mouth, and turns to the dock lined with FISHING TRAWLERS.

JUAN PACHECO (30s, gentle) is repainting SANCHITA on the transom and sees Rosa storm off. He turns to Enrique, a mischievous grin.

JUAN

I'd eat that bird. The fishing was
very bad last night.

Enrique snaps out of his stupor. Rosa is so pretty, so... maddeningly unavailable. He returns to his fishing net, dejected.

ENRIQUE

You tell her then.

Juan just laughs and returns to painting SANCHITA on the transom.

JUAN

A man has many things to learn in
life before he complicates it.

ENRIQUE (V.O.)

My uncle Juan Pacheco made me feel
very lucky. But his brother Hector --

HECTOR PACHECO (20s, bully) appears on the TRANSOM of the Sanchita. He pulls out a long shiny FILLET KNIFE from his BELT SHEATH.

HECTOR
Bring that cluck to me, I'll eat
him feathers and all! You boy,
quit fooling around and get to work!

Enrique quickly yanks the fish net over a CRAB TRAP to dry.

ENRIQUE
Yes, Hector.

HECTOR
Or I'll cut you into bait.

ENRIQUE
Yes, Hector.

HECTOR
Not one single tiny hole.

ENRIQUE
No, Hector.

Juan eyes Hector, annoyed.

JUAN
Why you gotta be such a burro?

HECTOR
Why does he gotta talk to chickens?

JUAN
He fixes the nets, he's learning.

Hector jumps off the Sanchita, and grabs Enrique by the collar. He pulls a MEZCAL JUG from his grimy shirt, spins the top off with his teeth, spits it away, and gulps the mezcal down.

Hector tosses the empty jug into the water, and watches it sink.

HECTOR
Learning, eh? Did that bring us
any good luck?

ENRIQUE
No, Hector.

Hector shoves Enrique down on the net -- Enrique cuts his hand on a NET CORK WIRE and it starts to bleed. He winces in pain.

HECTOR

Now you gonna cry like Lupito?
Maybe you need a little truth.

Hector pulls another MEZCAL JUG from his shirt pocket.

Juan grabs Hector's MEZCAL JUG, tosses it in the water, and grins at Hector as the jug sinks beneath the waves with a GULP...!

JUAN

I'll give you something to cry about.
Both of you, back to your chores.

Hector climbs aboard the Sanchita and stink-eyes Enrique.

Enrique returns to the net -- then hears a muffled SQUAWK!

A BABY PELICAN

pokes his beak out first through the net -- then his FUZZY GREY HEAD pops out between the netting.

Enrique pulls the net away from the pelican, but he doesn't move.

Enrique carefully cradles the pelican down inside the empty CRAB TRAP, then leans in for a closer look.

ENRIQUE

Your wing is broke.

THE PELICAN

looks SO MISERABLE in that harsh, barnacle-encrusted crab trap.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

THE PELICAN

is wrapped all snug and comfy inside Enrique's SHIRT in the barnacled crab trap on the floor beside a KITCHEN SINK.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - NIGHT

A wooden DINING TABLE in the center of the concrete floor room.

A BARE LIGHTBULB shines on DIRTY CLAY DISHES and TEQUILA BOTTLE CANDLESTICKS cluttering up the dining table.

Enrique stacks and lifts the CLAY DISHES off the dining table, puts them in the kitchen sink, and turns the faucet on them.

Juan sits at the table working on a MARLIN FISHING REEL.

He strips off a length of 120 LB. TEST LINE, cuts it with his KNIFE, and uses it like a TOOTHPICK between his teeth.

JUAN

The fish, they're pretty thin. The pangas do not bring in their limits. Old Rubio says the tourists are not tipping well either.

Hector sits across from Juan, loading a HANDMADE WOODEN PISTOL with a RUBBER BAND.

HECTOR

Ahh, what does Rubio know. He's old and the sea frightens him.

JUAN

You will be old one day.

HECTOR

But never that frightened.

A TINY CUCARACHA

skitters across the table under Hector's watchful eye.

JUAN

If we don't have more luck, there'll be other things to frighten us.

Hector shoots the CUCARACHA off the table with his pistol -- FWEEEE!

HECTOR

You said that last year yet here we are with the same problems. The boy is what brings us bad luck.

JUAN

And why is that?

HECTOR

He talks to chickens, birds, animals.

Juan crosses himself.

JUAN

He is our brother Raphael's son. We owe him that favor.

HECTOR

And when will Raphael pay us back?

Enrique washes dishes with one eye on the pelican in the crab trap by his feet -- the poor bird looks even sicker now.

The pelican looks up at Enrique, emits a tiny SQUERK.

Hector hears the SQUERK and sees the crab trap on the floor.

HECTOR (cont'd)
Holy madre of pigeon droppings,
what's in that?

Enrique's busted. He grabs the crab trap, heads for a COT across the room in a corner -- his corner.

But Hector snags Enrique's arm as he passes by. He grabs the crab trap from Enrique, sniffs it and reacts.

ENRIQUE
He must eat or he'll die.

HECTOR
By this, he already has.

Enrique pulls the crab trap away from Hector, heads for his cot.

ENRIQUE
What do you know about pelicans?

Hector rises from his chair and heads for Enrique.

HECTOR
You boy, have a big mouth.

Juan sticks his foot out -- Hector trips over it and falls.

JUAN
And your's could feed thousands.

Hector rises, wipes the dust off his grimy shirt, insulted.

HECTOR
So it goes, you give your heart to
this cucaracha and always make me --
your only brother -- the fool.
There will come a day when I, Hector
Pacheco, will tell you how things
will be.

JUAN
I cannot wait for that day.

Enrique opens the trap, holds a SARDINE over the pelican's beak.

ENRIQUE
C'mon you gotta eat or you'll die.

HECTOR
Hah, big decision.

Juan stares Hector back to his chair at the table -- Hector sits down in a billowing cloud of furious dust.

Enrique holds the SARDINE again over the pelican's beak.

This time the pelican gulps down the sardine, shakes his beak, then snaps up a CUCARACHA crawling inside the crab trap.

Enrique beams.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT MANSION - DAY

Establishing shot. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR ESTATE in an upscale canyon with VIEWS FROM THE OCEAN TO DOWNTOWN LA.

STEAMER TRUNK LUGGAGE

is stacked to the ceiling inside a FOYER.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT MANSION - DAY

Old money feel. Paintings, antique furniture, Persian rugs, a FOUNTAIN in the FOYER.

MRS. ALBERT ASTOR-WOLCOTT (70s, white hair, pantsuit) sits on a FOYER BENCH beside the mountain of STEAMER TRUNK LUGGAGE.

FIFI, a tiny, squirming, yapping dog sits in her lap -- Fifi wears a TINY RED SWEATER throughout.

British valet CHARLES (40s, black suit) enters with a WHEELCHAIR.

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's assistant MARIA (20s, black suit, white blouse) writes in a DAY-PLANNER as she follows Charles.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
Did you pack my jewel case, Charles?

CHARLES
Right here, Mrs. A.

Charles opens the JEWEL BOX sitting on top of a steamer trunk near the fountain.

Maria eyes him, suspicious.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
That's right, you already told me.
I do forget things. Have they
prepared the villa, Maria?

Maria turns away from Charles and refers to her day planner.

MARIA
Yes ma'am, a quick dock in Cabo San
Lucas, then on to Acapulco.

Fifi yaps happily.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
I remember skinny-dipping in the
ocean there when I was young.

MARIA
Mrs. A!

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
I'll tell you all about it on the
way down.

Maria warily watches Charles close the jewel box at the FOUNTAIN.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

THE FOUNTAIN

in the center of the CABO SAN LUCAS PLAZA.

EXT. PLAZA. FOUNTAIN - DAY

Enrique holds the recovered, healthier pelican in his arms.

THE PELICAN

eyes the fresh water -- whoo-yeah, that is inviting...

ENRIQUE
Time to learn how to swim.

The pelican eyes Enrique -- you kidding? And dives in.

Across the street, OFFICER GONZALEZ (30s, large) sees the pelican
dive into the fountain.

OFFICER GONZALEZ
Hey, those belong to the church!

OFFICER GONZALEZ

sees A MAN yanking on a CRANKY DONKEY blocking plaza traffic. CARS honk, DRIVERS shout -- but the stubborn ass won't move.

Officer Gonzalez is torn between the donkey and the pelican snagging SHINY FOUNTAIN COINS in his beak like shiny sardines.

A passing TOURIST tosses a SHINY QUARTER in the fountain.

SPLASH!

the pelican dives for the SHINY QUARTER, then tosses it from his beak to Enrique who catches it.

Enrique considers throwing the SHINY QUARTER back in the fountain.

ENRIQUE

What are you doing? No don't!

Officer Gonzalez helps the MAN pull the donkey out of traffic.

Enrique grabs the pelican by his beak, wags a finger at him.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

Don't take any more!

The pelican yanks away, dives into the fountain again, and tosses Enrique another SHINY QUARTER. Enrique eyes the coin for a BEAT.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

One tiny coin...? The church gives more than that to the needy. Who needs it more than Juan and Hector?

The pelican sees Officer Gonzalez pulling the Man's donkey out of traffic, then nods to Enrique.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

Right, you understand what I said.
(off the pelican)
You did?

Cuervo winks, ruffles his feathers, stifles a yawn with his wing, then dives for more SHINY QUARTERS in the fountain again.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

Crows steal shiny things like you. That's your new name -- Cuervo, the pelican who steals shiny things. Quick as silver Cuervo, up to me.

Officer Gonzalez sees Cuervo toss SHINY QUARTERS to Enrique. He drops the donkey reins and heads for the fountain, furious.

Cuervo hurls more SHINY QUARTERS to Enrique who keeps stuffing them into his bulging pockets as fast as he can.

Enrique sees a DARK SHADOW loom over Cuervo in the fountain.

OFFICER GONZALEZ

swings his NIGHTSTICK at Cuervo and misses -- then loses his balance and falls into the fountain water.

He rises, soaking wet, and slaps his nightstick in the water as he sees Enrique and Cuervo flee down the street.

OFFICER GONZALEZ

I said take that bird to the sea!

ENRIQUE

You're right, he swims just fine!

Enrique races down an ALLEY, pockets bulging with JINGLING COINS.

Cuervo slip-slides around the corner behind him, feathers flying.

Enrique runs along the dock to the Sanchita where Juan and Hector are scrubbing down the trawler's deck.

Juan sees Enrique jingle-jangle and Cuervo skip-fly toward him.

JUAN

Hey now, one who runs so fast must
be guilty. Who is chasing you?

Hector slams the FISHWELL HATCH shut and eyes Enrique, suspicious.

HECTOR

He and that bird are up to no good,
I know it. What do you have there?

Enrique innocently shows them his EMPTY HANDS.

Juan and Hector eye each other -- *¿Que paso...?*

HECTOR (cont'd)

Make yourself useful and fix lunch.

Enrique nods, tucks Cuervo under his arm, and jingle-jangles off.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - DAY

Cuervo's perched on a STICK in the wall above Enrique's cot -- his favorite place now -- preening his feathers.

Enrique finishes counting the coins on the dining table, then turns to look at the EMPTY FOOD SHELVES by the kitchen sink.

ENRIQUE

I'll go to Hell for sure, but what
can a poor boy do?

INT. MARKET - DAY

Enrique strolls between the booths as Cuervo waddles beside him, squawking at TOURISTS and VENDORS.

ROSA

organizes FLOWERS in vases inside her booth. She sees Enrique, and purposely makes a point of ignoring him.

The MARKET MANAGER (50s, cigar) at the CASH REGISTER suspiciously eyes Enrique and Cuervo poking at a ten-kilo SACK OF BEANS.

MARKET MANAGER

Hey, no beggars in my store.

Enrique sees Rosa smirk -- but he holds out TWO HANDFULS OF COINS to the Market Manager with an even bigger smirk.

Rosa is surprised -- and rather impressed.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Enrique struggles with the BEAN and FLOUR SACKS as he walks up the dirt path with Cuervo waddling beside him, snapping at flies.

EXT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - DAY

Juan and Hector huff and puff up the dirt path, exhausted.

HECTOR

I'm starving and shriveling into
tiny little pieces. I need food!

JUAN

Patience brother. If we have beans,
we'll have beans and tortillas --
if we have tortillas.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

JUAN

opens the FRONT DOOR -- and is stunned silent.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - DAY

Enrique is standing at the table wrapping a BURRITO in NEWSPAPER beside a great big pile of NEWSPAPER-WRAPPED BURRITOS.

The OPEN BEAN AND FLOUR SACKS rest on the sink counter, beside the BEAN POT bubbling on the STOVE.

Hector grabs the BURRITO Enrique is wrapping and swallows it in THREE BITES, newspaper included.

JUAN

Where are your manners? Say grace.

HECTOR

In the name of the pepper, the salt
and the chili salsa, *gracias*. Amen!

Hector reaches for another burrito, rips off the newspaper this time, and gulps it down while reaching for another burrito.

Cuervo's on his perch, staring blankly at nothing in particular.

Juan picks up a burrito, turns to Enrique, and nods at Hector.

JUAN

We should not let all of them vanish
down the gullet of this bigmouth.

Cuervo winks at Enrique, then returns to his blank stare.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

CUERVO

same blank stare -- snaps a FLYING LIVE ANCHOVY into his mouth.

EXT. HARBOR. DOCK - MORNING

Enrique tosses another ANCHOVY to Cuervo on his dock piling.

ENRIQUE

There's no more in the Sanchita's
fishwell. You eat more than Hector
and we can't go back to the fountain,
Officer Gonzalez is watching. What
am I going to do?

Cuervo points a wing at TOURISTS shopping in the market booths.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

So what?

Cuervo drops off the piling and SQUERKS at the tourists. He swoops his beak in the air like catching fish, then starts muttering, squawking and swooping his beak around Enrique.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

Fine, but we have nothing to sell.

Cuervo waddles to the dock's edge, and dives into the water.

Enrique shakes his head, unsure.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

I hope I'm doing the right thing,
or Juan will be real angry.

A TOURIST COUPLE (30s) approaches Enrique who puts down the bucket, smooths his tattered shirt, and combs his hair with his fingers.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

My pelican can do a really neat
trick for only a quarter.

The TOURIST COUPLE stops. Tourist man BILL is tired of shopping, but the tourist woman AUDREY is just getting started.

AUDREY

Oh come on Bill, we're on holiday.
What's your pelican's name?

ENRIQUE

Cuervo.

AUDREY

Cuervo? But he's not a crow.

ENRIQUE

He doesn't know that.

BILL

A boy who talks to birds. Now I've
heard everything.

AUDREY

Oh c'mon, it's only a quarter.
What does your pet do for a quarter?

ENRIQUE

He dives for them in the water.

BILL

Hah! And when he doesn't find it?

Enrique's face grows long, dejected -- he turns to Cuervo.

ENRIQUE

I will pay you back.

Bill isn't buying any of this hustler nonsense and walks away.

AUDREY

Here, I want to see it.

Bill turns, sees Audrey pull a QUARTER from her PURSE.

Enrique points to Cuervo, then to the sky.

ENRIQUE

Toss it real high. He will do the rest, I hope.

Bill returns, takes the QUARTER from Audrey.

BILL

I'll use my own, if you don't mind.

Bill holds the quarter out for Cuervo who returns a hungry look -- then flaps his wings, and takes off into the air.

Enrique puts both hands behind his back, and CROSSES HIS FINGERS for good luck. Shuts his eyes, whispers a prayer.

Bill leans back, and tosses the quarter w-a-a-a-y up in the air.

It spins, arcs -- and drops in the water with a tiny PLOOP...!

KER-SPLASH!

Cuervo hits the water, rises and flies off. He circles Enrique, Audrey and Bill, then lands on the dock piling beside them.

ENRIQUE

Well...?

As if on cue, Cuervo nods his beak, and tosses the quarter to Enrique -- Cuervo really did it...!

Bill's jaw nearly drops to the dock.

BILL
Impossible.

Audrey applauds.

AUDREY
Incredible!

Cuervo bows toward the tourist couple, then squawks proudly.
Bill fishes in his pocket, pulls out a quarter, checks the date.

BILL
1999.

AUDREY
How sweet, the year we got married.

Bill leans back, and throws the quarter w-a-a-a-y up in the air.
KER-SPLASH!

Cuervo hits the water and rises. He flies back to the dock piling and tosses Enrique the quarter with his beak.

Bill grabs the quarter first, and checks the mint date, amazed.

BILL
The year we got married.

ENRIQUE
He'll fly real high for a dollar.

BILL
I only got fives and tens.

ENRIQUE
That's okay, he's not picky.

LATER.

The TOURIST MARKET is completely empty -- nobody is shopping.

EXT. MARKET - MORNING

Vendors stand around in their booths, bored, irritated as all the TOURISTS packed along the DOCK PILINGS cheer in unison as...

KER-SPLASH!

Cuervo rises to the surface with a FIVE-DOLLAR BILL in his beak.

THE CHEERING TOURISTS

toss more SHINY COINS and PAPER BILLS off the dock into the water.

CGI -- CUERVO

is swooping EVERYWHERE above, below and alongside the dock, catching every BILL and COIN in his beak and tossing them to a very happy Enrique, who's shoving the BILLS and COINS into his PANTS and SHIRT POCKETS until they billow out like a scarecrow.

ENRIQUE

Sierra Madre, I'm rich!

ROSA

looks up from arranging FLOWERS in her empty tourist market booth, and sees Enrique pocketing all those bills and coins.

The Grocery Manager sees Rosa getting all dreamy about Enrique.

GROCERY MANAGER

Eh, show-off. Those Juarez brothers.

Which is not what Rosa wants to hear. She returns to arranging flowers, but keeps peeking at Enrique through the buds and stems.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

THE DIAMOND BRACELET

on Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's wrist glistens in the sun as she approaches the CAMERA riding in a WHEELCHAIR on the YACHT BREEZEWAY.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - DAY

Charles pushes Mrs. Astor-Wolcott in her WHEELCHAIR along the breezeway, Fifi rides along in her lap. Maria walks behind them.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

When do we dock, Charles?

CHARLES

Tomorrow, madame.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Oh yes, you told me this morning.
My memory is --

CHARLES

Fit as the day you were born.

Charles eyes Maria -- they exchange concerned looks.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. SUN DECK - DAY

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott dozes in a SUNNING CHAIR with Fifi.

THE DIAMOND BRACELET

glitters brilliantly on her wrist in the sun.

Charles and Maria are at the rail eyeing Mrs. Astor-Wolcott.

CHARLES

Her memory keeps fading and we'll
soon be out of work. I don't know
how many more trips she can take.

MARIA

This is our only opportunity. She'll
never miss all that jewelry.

Fifi wakes up on Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's lap and growls at them.

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

The Pacheco brothers chug toward the dock in the Sanchita. Their grim faces tell us last night's fishing was bad.

Hector lifts the FISHWELL HATCH -- two sea bass, a grouper and a three-foot bull shark. He slams the hatch shut, disgusted.

HECTOR

The fish left for South America.
Maybe the South Pole, I dunno.

JUAN

I thought this did not worry you.

HECTOR

The day will come when I, Hector
Pacheco, will have more problems to
worry about than you.

JUAN

Sooner than I wish, I think.

EXT. HARBOR. DOCK - DAY

Cuervo and Enrique are surrounded by a large TOURIST CROWD on the street. Enrique sees the Sanchita chugging into the harbor.

ENRIQUE

I'm sorry, that's all for today.

A tourist boy ZACK (teens, punkish) gets a sour look. He shoves a FIVE-DOLLAR BILL under Enrique's nose.

ZACK

Hey, I wanna see it now.

ENRIQUE

I have to go now.

Zack watches Enrique run to the Sanchita pulling into the dock.

Hector tosses the MOORING LINE to Enrique, who ties the line around a dock piling as Juan shuts down the engines.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

I worked all day too, Juan.

Juan stands on the dock catching the fish Hector tosses from the Sanchita's fishwell, and lays them on the FISH CLEANING TABLE.

JUAN

Staying out of trouble, I hope.

ENRIQUE

Oh no, we've been real good.

Hector tosses Juan the BULL SHARK, then walks down the gangplank to the fish cleaning table.

HECTOR

They can sell it as swordfish, the tourists won't know any different.

JUAN

Cheating gets you nowhere.

HECTOR

And one tiny lie will do what to us?

Enrique shows Juan the stack of WET PAPER BILLS in his hands.

JUAN

Sierra Madre...

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

A BARE LIGHTBULB glares over Enrique sitting at the dining table -- a Spanish Inquisition interrogation.

Hector stands behind Juan, mimicking his eye movements.

PAPER BILLS and SHINY COINS are stacked neatly on the dining table.

Cuervo's perched above the cot, staring blankly ahead.

Juan eyes Cuervo, then Enrique, then the money on the dining table.

JUAN

All that in one day?

ENRIQUE

No, three hours. I had my chores.

JUAN

Three hours? And your chores?

Enrique points to the CLEAN DISHES stacked on the counter beside the dozen BURRITOS wrapped in newspaper.

ENRIQUE

Tourists like throwing money away.

HECTOR

And what are you doing that tourists are throwing money at you?

ENRIQUE

A game -- Cuervo just picks it up.

JUAN

Five-thousand forty-six dollars and seventy-five cents they threw away?

HECTOR

Hah, now that stinking bird has a name. Did he tell you that too?

Juan taps the stack of paper bills and shiny coins with his hand.

JUAN

Hector, look under his cot.

ENRIQUE

Mama said I should never lie. Papa said it brings bad luck.

HECTOR

The boy said he gave you everything.

Juan's glare sends Hector scrambling over to Enrique's cot. He dives under the cot, his BIG FAT ASS sticking up in the air.

HECTOR (cont'd)
Okay-okay, we're looking.

JUAN
No one ever made money like this
since Old Rubio got married. How
many years ago was that, Hector?

HECTOR
Since frogs were new and chupacabras
roamed the canyons.

JUAN
Yet you, you chili con carné, tried
to shorten this poor pelican's life.

HECTOR
Suddenly this becomes my fault?

Hector eyes Cuervo on the perch above -- Cuervo POOPS in his face.

Hector claws at Cuervo's POOP on his face and explodes.

HECTOR (cont'd)
You filthy bird, why I oughta -- !

Cuervo SQUARKS and flies pell-mell over to the KITCHEN COUNTER.

Cuervo's big, clumsy WEBBED FEET knock DISHES and GLASSES into
the sink, breaking them with a giant clattering CRASH!

Enrique reacts, runs to the kitchen counter for Cuervo.

ENRIQUE
Don't hurt my pelican!

Hector rises, turns to Juan, then points at Cuervo.

HECTOR
And you, you pozolé, let this thief
ruin our lives. I see nothing but
Garcia's jail in our future.

Cuervo spits out a FEATHER on the counter, squarks at Hector.

ENRIQUE
We found what the tourists liked.
That's what you said, didn't you
Juan, learn how to do many things?

JUAN
 You haven't learned enough yet to
 complicate, but you have.

Juan rises, crosses to the kitchen counter, gently pets Cuervo.
 He picks up the LOOSE FEATHER on the counter, shows it to Hector.

JUAN (cont'd)
 But this pelican thief learned a
 very complicated trick.

HECTOR
 Hah. I could teach any bird any
 day of the week, twice on Sundays,
 one hand tied behind my back, on my
 knees, blindfolded. Any clown could
 do it, any clown. I, Hector Pacheco,
 can tell you who the real clown is.

Juan holds up Cuervo's FEATHER in his hand.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

CUERVO'S FEATHER

perched in a TINY GREEN HAT on top of Hector's ORANGE WIG.

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

Hector's defiant face is painted up as a silly WHITE-FACED CLOWN
 as he sits on a dock piling with a BUCKET OF ANCHOVIES and a
 PAINTED SIGN around his neck:

SEE CUERVO DIVE

Cuervo SQUAWKS -- Hector tosses an ANCHOVY into the air with a
 WHITE-GLOVED HAND. Cuervo snaps it down with a gulp and a belch.

HECTOR
 Don't you ever tell me, Hector
 Pacheco, how it will be.

A DOZEN TOURIST CHILDREN with their TOURIST PARENTS run toward
 Hector, squealing. Hector stink-eyes Cuervo.

LATER - EVENING

Hector, in his clown suit, pulls wads of WET PAPER BILLS from his
 pants pockets, and starts counting them as he laughs and dances.

HECTOR
 This is how it should be!

A weary Cuervo sits on the dock piling, wings drooping, snoring.

HECTOR (cont'd)

Yes, my filthy friend, sleep well.
Tomorrow we will make even more!

Hector hears a HORN BLAST -- the Sanchita is chugging into the harbor. He shoves the money back inside his pants pockets, rubs DIRT on his clown costume and face, then stomps on the wig and hat before yanking them back on.

CUT TO:

ENRIQUE

is at the Sanchita's helm, proudly steering beside Juan. Enrique turns the wheel and pulls the throttles back.

And the Sanchita slides perfectly up against the dock pilings.

Juan high-fives Enrique as the Sanchita settles against the pier.

Cuervo wakes, flies onto the Sanchita's deck, and pecks at the FISHWELL HATCH. Enrique flips the hatch open, grabs a MACKEREL.

ENRIQUE

Did you see me dock the Sanchita?
Juan said it was perfect.

Enrique tosses the mackerel to Cuervo, he gulps it down -- SQUARK!

The bedraggled Hector hobbles up to the Sanchita.

JUAN

How was your day, brother?

Hector pretends he's exhausted, weakly holds up ONE DOLLAR BILL.

HECTOR

So hot, the children so ruthless,
the pelican lost everything they
threw into the water.

Cuervo does a mackerel spit-take on deck -- SQUAWK-SQUAWK...?

Juan sees Cuervo's reaction -- and thinks something's fishy too.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Juan stacks PAPER BILLS and SHINY COINS on the dining table.

JUAN

I thought you said he lost everything.

A furious Hector sits across from Juan in his underwear, still wearing the orange clown wig, tiny green hat and white face paint.

HECTOR

That's all, I swear!

Cuervo eyes Juan from his perch -- points his beak at Hector's tiny green hat.

Juan follows Cuervo's beak to Hector -- he lifts Hector's tiny green hat to reveal a rolled-up WAD OF TWENTY-DOLLAR BILLS.

Cuervo shoots a smirk back to a boiling Hector.

Juan folds the TWENTY-DOLLAR BILLS into his shirt pocket, rises.

JUAN

And now Enrique, to the Marisco Bar
to feast like bigshot tourists.

Juan crosses to the door with Enrique, then turns back to Hector.

JUAN (cont'd)

Wash your face, Cabo does not need
any more silly entertainment tonight.

INT. MARISCO BAR - NIGHT

Open-air tourist trap. Mariachi band, CHEFS grilling SHRIMPS ON BBQs under the PALM TREES by the pool.

Enrique, Hector and Juan have finished dinner. Enrique is stuffed.

ENRIQUE

I cannot eat another shrimp.

Juan puts money on the MEAL CHECK in the center of the table.

The WAITRESS (20s) arrives. Juan points to their LEFTOVERS.

JUAN

For our weary friend at home. He
worked too hard today.

Hector starts a slow burn -- there's revenge in his eyes.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

A GRUMPY HECTOR

in clown suit and makeup, sits beside Cuervo on his favorite dock piling with the bucket of anchovies.

EXT. HARBOR. DOCK - DAY

Juan fires up the Sanchita's engine at the helm, then turns to see Enrique standing beside him and looking very unhappy.

JUAN

What's wrong, crabs got your tongue?

Enrique is worried about leaving Cuervo with Hector.

ENRIQUE

Nothing. I'll cast off.

Juan nods, adjusts the engine choke, then locks eyes with Hector.

JUAN

Adios brother, may we all have good luck today!

Hector watches the Sanchita leave the harbor for open water.

Then he hurls the ANCHOVY BUCKET into the water, rips off his wig and tiny green hat, and hurls them in too. He turns to Cuervo.

HECTOR

Make a fool of me, huh? Good luck, bah! I, Hector Pacheco, will never be my brother's puppet. I wish he never found you, you stupid pelican or crow or whatever you are.

Hector storms off the dock to the tourist market.

Cuervo shifts uneasily on the dock piling -- then sees the ANCHOVY BUCKET bobbing in the water. Oh boy, free food...!

He flies off, circles above the floating anchovy bucket -- then dives straight down for his target.

CLONK!

CUERVO'S HEAD

hits the bottom of the anchovy bucket.

CUERVO'S WEBBED FEET

are paddling frantically in the air. He finally pulls his head and beak out of the bucket and floats topsy-turvy on the water.

Cuervo shakes his head, woozily flies off, and crash-lands against his favorite dock piling.

FROM CUERVO'S POV:

TOURISTS and VENDORS are a blurry, weaving SLOW-MOTION VISTA in the tourist market talking in strange, haunting voices.

Cuervo wobbles down the street like a three-day drunk sailor and crashes into a VENDOR'S BOOTH -- CERAMIC DONKEYS and MONKEYS fly everywhere and explode in clouds of WHITE DUST on the asphalt.

Cuervo waddles drunkenly away -- straight for Rosa's flower booth.

ROSA
Oh, no you don't.

Rosa whacks Cuervo's backside with a BROOM.

Cuervo squawks and crashes into another booth near Rosa's -- CLAY BOWLS crash and HUARACHES bounce around on the street.

TOURISTS laugh and point at Cuervo -- look at that crazy bird!

But the Vendors aren't amused with this fowl wrecking ball. That nasty pelican destroyed their property -- ruined their business!

Cuervo untangles himself from the vendor's booth and flies off.

Cuervo flies above the market -- and sees a SHINY OBJECT below.

THE SHINY BADGE

belonging to Officer Gonzalez glistens brightly on his JACKET as he walks through the tourist market, twirling his nightstick.

He sees the DAMAGED VENDOR BOOTHS and stops.

Cuervo dives straight down for Officer Gonzalez' SHINY BADGE.

WHUMP!

Cuervo knocks Officer Gonzalez into a VENDOR BOOTH, plucks off his shiny badge, and flies away.

Officer Gonzalez frees himself from broken ceramic donkeys, and sees his badge is missing. He whips out his PISTOL, furious.

OFFICER GONZALEZ
C'mon out, you badge-napper!

TOURISTS and VENDORS see Officer Gonzalez' PISTOL, dive for safety.

A very confused Officer Gonzalez stands alone in the tourist market brandishing his pistol, wondering where everyone went.

CUT TO:

CHURCH BELLS

ring in the ancient ADOBE BELL TOWER of the TOWN CHURCH.

EXT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

A BAPTISMAL FONT in the center of the churchyard is surrounded by Sunday-go-to-meeting FAMILIES attending a BAPTISM.

A PRIEST (50s) lifts a BABY in a WHITE GOWN above the fountain.

A large SHINY SILVER CRUCIFIX adorns the Priest's robe.

The Priest prays in Latin as he lowers the baby into the fountain.

The FAMILIES bow and repeat the Priest's words.

The Priest lifts the baby from the water, raises it in the air.

WHUMP!

The Priest and baby are bowled over backwards to the ground in a flurry of screeching, flapping wings.

Cuervo -- Hell's pelican -- spirals upwards into the blue sky with the Priest's SILVER CRUCIFIX in his beak.

Men shout, women weep, children flee in all directions.

A MOTHER scoops her baby away from the fallen Priest, wails.

MOTHER
He's been touched by El Diablo!

She crosses herself, then faints with the baby in her arms.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - EVENING

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott and Maria are having a sunset dinner attended by TWO MALE SERVANTS (20s, gay).

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
 A lovely sunset. Albert and I saw
 one just like this on our fortieth
 anniversary. Where is Albert?

Maria humors Mrs. Astor-Wolcott about her dead husband Albert.

MARIA
 He's dressing below deck, Mrs. A.

Both Male Servants roll their eyes at Maria's lie.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
 That was the year he gave me this.

Maria sees THE DIAMOND BRACELET on Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's wrist.

MARIA
 It's beautiful.

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott takes the diamond bracelet off her wrist.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
 Here, try it on.

MARIA
 No, I couldn't. Well...

EXT. POTTERY YARD - EVENING

Eerie sunset. TIN WAREHOUSE surrounded by a CHAIN-LINK FENCE.
 CLAY POTS are stacked in rows on the ground. Crickets chirp.

A NIGHT WATCHMAN (40s) enters the yard through a CHAIN-LINK GATE,
 and starts his rounds between the rows of clay pots. He pulls
 out a TEQUILA PINT from his back pocket, takes a swig.

MOTION-SENSOR LIGHTS

click on along the chain-link fence line.

The Night Watchman reacts, then regains his senses -- they're
 only lights. He returns the tequila pint to his back pocket and
 heads for the chain-link gate.

A WHOOSHING sound passes overhead -- the Night Watchman ducks.

NIGHT WATCHMAN
 Disgusting bats.

He whistles nervously as he locks the gate with a KEY attached to
 a LARGE SHINY KEY RING.

WHUMP!

the DARK FLYING MONSTER whooshes down on the unsuspecting Night Watchman and knocks him back flat between a row of pots.

The Night Watchman grabs a LARGE CLAY POT, covers his head with it, and cowers in the dirt for a BEAT.

He raises the clay pot above his head and scans the area -- nothing but chirping crickets and ticking pottery.

He puts a hand on his belt -- hey, my KEY RING is missing...!

The Night Watchman searches the dark, ominous sky, terrified.

A CRICKET

chirps on a pot beside the Night Watchman.

The Night Watchman jumps up and flees for the gate -- then realizes he locked it. He leaps over the gate and runs away, shrieking.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - EVENING

Cuervo is skimming over the water and sees Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's yacht in the distance. Something SHINY flashes on the top deck.

THE DIAMOND BRACELET

sparkles brilliantly in Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's hand.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - EVENING

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott holds the DIAMOND BRACELET up to the sunset.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
See how it shines?

The only thing shining in Maria's eyes is greed.

Cuervo sees the DIAMOND BRACELET shining on the yacht from above.

An OVERHEAD SHADOW darkens Maria and Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's hands.

WHOOSH...!

THE DIAMOND BRACELET

suddenly vanishes from Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's hand.

Fifi barks up at the sky, but Mrs. Astor-Wolcott, Maria and the Male Servants are too busy searching the deck for her bracelet.

Charles approaches everyone on deck.

MARIA
Something took Mrs. A's bracelet!

Maria pulls Charles away from the others for privacy.

MARIA (cont'd)
Honest, it vanished into thin air.

CHARLES
Something vanished indeed.

MARIA
No, you don't understand.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
Charles?

Charles studies Maria for a BEAT, then turns to Mrs. Astor-Wolcott.

CHARLES
Are you quite all right, Madame?
This night air is not good for you.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. PLAZA. FOUNTAIN - DAY

A glum Hector, in regular clothes, wanders by all the coins in the fountain. He stops and looks around with an evil grin.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

HECTOR'S GRIN

is no longer evil. He's been drinking -- and he's totally gassed.

EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

Enrique jumps off the Sanchita with the mooring line.

The drunken Hector leans against the fish cleaning table, humming, grinning. He waves a MEZCAL JUG at Enrique and Juan.

ENRIQUE
I knew something would happen.

Enrique runs off down the street calling for Cuervo.

Juan sniffs at Hector and shakes his head.

JUAN

You my brother, are in deep salsa.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - NIGHT

Enrique enters and sees Cuervo on his perch.

And OFFICER GONZALEZ' BADGE, the PRIEST'S SILVER CRUCIFIX, and the NIGHT WATCHMAN'S KEY RING on his cot below Cuervo.

ENRIQUE

Ai Chihuahua, what have you done?

Juan enters with the drunken Hector and sees Enrique quickly shove the STOLEN LOOT under his COT BLANKET.

Juan crosses the room and flips back Enrique's cot blanket.

All the SHINY STOLEN LOOT sparkles back in Juan's eyes.

JUAN

We are all going to Garcia's jail.

But Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's bracelet isn't amongst Cuervo's loot.

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

Vaulted tomb environment. VOTIVE CANDLES flicker everywhere.

Enrique opens the HUGE OAK FRONT DOOR, peers in, then backs out.

Juan collars Enrique outside the door and pushes him back in.

The Priest is at the altar looking God Almighty scary.

Enrique shuffles up the aisle, Juan shadowing his every step.

Juan knocks Enrique's hat off as he hangs his head before the Priest, and offers up the SILVER CRUCIFIX.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. SUN DECK - DAY

Officer Gonzalez searches the deck as Sgt. Garcia interviews Maria while spitting SUNFLOWER SEEDS over the rail.

Charles stands beside Mrs. Astor-Wolcott sitting in a deck chair with Fifi on her lap.

SGT. GARCIA

What did this thief look like?

MARIA

I don't know, I didn't see a thing.

Charles coughs to hide a laugh -- Maria ignores him.

SGT. GARCIA

Sitting right beside the Señora.
Did you not hear anything?

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Whoosh. Right out of my hand.

Sgt. Garcia starts writing in a LITTLE BLACK NOTEBOOK.

SGT. GARCIA

Whoosh...

MARIA

More like a flying phantom whoosh!

Maria spreads her empty hands to demonstrate how the diamond bracelet disappeared in a whooshing flash.

Sgt. Garcia stops writing -- someone's lying. He turns to Charles.

SGT. GARCIA

Did you see or hear this whoosh?

CHARLES

No, but I'm most certainly amused
with her flying phantom whoosh.

MARIA

Phantoms? Hah, did you see it whoosh?
Are you saying I took the bracelet?

CHARLES

Who else heard this whoosh?

SGT. GARCIA

I'll ask the whoosh questions, please,
if you don't mind.

Fifi goes into a rabid dog chatter bark -- he DOES KNOW how the bracelet whooshed out of Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's hand.

Sgt. Garcia turns to the maniacally yapping Fifi and HONES IN on the tiny Chihuahua's RED SWEATER.

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott sees where Sgt. Garcia is looking and pulls Fifi closer to her.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
Of all the nerve. Fifi's no thief.

SGT. GARCIA
Señora, everyone is suspect here,
including your pet. Please remove
his sweater.

As Sgt. Garcia speaks, his chewed SUNFLOWER HULLS spray on Fifi.

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott withdraws, pulling Fifi closer to her.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
How utterly disgusting.

Fifi snarls and yaps -- he agrees.

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

Sgt. Garcia and Officer Gonzalez motor away from the Astor-Wolcott yacht in their PATROL BOAT, Gonzalez at the helm.

OFFICER GONZALEZ
Maria knows more than she admits.
There is no such thing as a whoosh.

Sgt. Garcia sees that Officer Gonzalez is not wearing his BADGE.

SGT. GARCIA
Where is your badge? Put it on,
immediately!

Officer Gonzalez focuses on the water ahead, nervous.

OFFICER GONZALEZ
It was stolen, sir.

SGT. GARCIA
By whom?

OFFICER GONZALEZ
One minute there -- WHOOSH! -- gone.

Sgt. Garcia eyes Officer Gonzalez like he has rocks in his head.

SGT. GARCIA
Arrest yourself when we reach land.

Sgt. Garcia pulls a BAG OF ALMONDS from his shirt pocket, rips it open with his teeth, then holds out his hand.

Officer Gonzalez hands over his nightstick.

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

Enrique sits against the dock piling below Cuervo with OFFICER GONZALEZ' BADGE and the NIGHT WATCHMAN'S KEY RING in his hands.

He sees Sgt. Garcia and Officer Gonzalez motoring toward the dock in their patrol boat.

ENRIQUE

You've really done it this time.

Cuervo ruffles his feathers, releases a sad SQUERK -- gee whiz, how'd I know it was wrong...? Wah, sniff -- ADD VIOLIN MUSIC.

MATCH SOUND TO:

OFFICER GONZALEZ

enters the only JAIL CELL in the police station to VIOLIN MUSIC.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Officer Gonzalez closes the cell door. He sits down on the cot, and starts filling out the POLICE REPORT against himself.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Enrique stands at the bottom of the steps, debating whether to enter the building or not.

A POLICE UNIT -- SIREN WAILING, GUMBALLS FLASHING -- SCREECHES to a smoking halt beside the curb.

OFFICERS MENDEZ and SANCHEZ (20s) race up the steps past Enrique.

OFFICER MENDEZ

Sergeant Garcia, great news!

Enrique backs away from Officer Mendez and Sanchez as they rush up the stairs, then turns to see JOSE ORMIGA (20s, rough-looking) handcuffed in the back seat of the police unit.

Officers Mendez and Sanchez race down the steps with Sgt. Garcia to the patrol unit's OPEN PASSENGER REAR WINDOW.

Sgt. Garcia cautiously eyes Jose Ormiga through the open window.

SGT. GARCIA

Jose Ormiga, the pantaloon bandit.
How'd you capture him?

OFFICER MENDEZ

With his pants down. And at his home, we found thousands of ladies pantaloons, everywhere.

SGT. GARCIA

Excellent, the Mayor will have good news at the town meeting tonight.

Enrique rounds the police unit to the CLOSED DRIVERS SIDE REAR WINDOW, and peers inside.

Jose Ormiga snarls and snaps at him through the closed window.

SGT. GARCIA (cont'd)

You boy, get away from the prisoner!

Enrique retreats behind the police unit -- then gets an idea.

But Sgt. Garcia isn't easily fooled -- he pulls out Officer Gonzalez' nightstick -- and taps the hood of the police unit.

SGT. GARCIA (cont'd)

Your beggar fisherman eyes tell me you're up to no good. Get on or I'll arrest you for loitering, aiding, abetting and any other crime I forgot!

Sgt. Garcia watches Enrique run away before climbing the stairs leading into the station.

Officers Mendez and Sanchez pull the snarling, snapping Ormiga out of the police unit.

As Mendez and Sanchez haul Ormiga up the stairs...

Enrique turns around, returns to the police unit, sneaks up behind Ormiga, and pins Officer Gonzalez' BADGE to his BACKSIDE.

But Enrique sticks the BADGE PIN into Ormiga way too hard.

JUAN ORMIGA

screams bloody murder as he pulls away from his captors to claw at the BADGE PIN stabbed in his backside.

Enrique quickly hides behind the police unit's PASSENGER SIDE.

FROM ENRIQUE'S POV:

CLONK!

Sgt. Garcia hits Ormiga over the head with Officer Gonzalez' nightstick -- Ormiga collapses to the stairs, unconscious.

Officers Mendez and Sanchez stand over Ormiga -- what now...?

SGT. GARCIA (cont'd)
Pick him up!

Officers Mendez and Sanchez pick Ormiga up from the stairs.

Officer Mendez sees GONZALEZ' BADGE pinned to ORMIGA'S PANTS.

OFFICER MENDEZ
That's Officer Gonzalez' badge.

Sgt. Garcia sees Enrique hiding behind the police unit.

SGT. GARCIA
You boy, I said get lost!

Enrique backs away and runs down the street.

Sgt. Garcia removes GONZALEZ' BADGE from Ormiga's pants.

SGT. GARCIA (cont'd)
Put him in the cell.

OFFICER MENDEZ
But Officer Gonzalez is there.

Sgt. Garcia hands Mendez Officer Gonzalez' badge and nightstick.

SGT. GARCIA
Must I think for everyone? Get
Gonzalez out here to help.

Then Sgt. Garcia sees a FLASH OF RED on Ormiga's backside.

SGT. GARCIA (cont'd)
Wait, I think our guest is bleeding.

Officers Mendez and Sanchez react -- they're not fond of blood.

Sgt. Garcia leans down, fishes inside Ormiga's back pocket -- and pulls out a pair of BRIGHT RED LADIES PANTIES.

Officers Mendez and Sanchez turn red at the sight of the BRIGHT RED PANTIES in the hand of an equally red-faced Sgt. Garcia.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

Charles lifts a pair of BRIGHT RED PANTIES from a DRESSER DRAWER.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. CABIN ROOM - NIGHT

Charles tosses the bright red panties on the floor, then pulls the empty drawer out and looks underneath it.

Maria enters, sees Charles studying the drawer with piles of MULTI-COLORED PANTIES surrounding his feet.

MARIA

What are you doing? How dare you!

Charles slides the empty drawer back inside the dresser.

CHARLES

I'm done guessing, Maria -- where is her diamond bracelet?

Maria starts putting her UNDERWEAR back in the drawer, furious.

MARIA

You are as big a pig as that Sergeant Garcia. Now get out.

CHARLES

Indeed, when I have the bracelet in my hand.

MARIA

How many times do I have to tell you, I don't have it. Now get out before I tell Mrs. A what you did in my room!

Maria points to the door. Charles returns a superior sniff, exits.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Juan sits at the table slicing an APPLE with a knife. He spears an APPLE SLICE and offers it to Enrique sitting across from him.

Hector snores like an AK-47 semiautomatic rifle on his cot.

Cuervo is trying to sleep on his perch through Hector's gunshots.

Enrique takes the apple slice from Juan, and nibbles on it.

JUAN

What did Officer Gonzalez say?

Enrique thinks for a BEAT, afraid to tell the whole truth.

ENRIQUE

He's happy to have it back.

JUAN

That is how it should be. The Priest cannot bless without his cross, the policeman cannot arrest without his badge, we cannot fish without nets. Take away what is ours, and we cease to have purpose. Come, we are expected at the town meeting.

Juan and Enrique walk out the front door.

Cuervo covers his ears with his wings against Hector's snoring.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. CABIN ROOM - NIGHT

Charles wheels Mrs. Astor-Wolcott into the room. Maria is turning down the sheets on her bed.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Albert will be furious.

MARIA

We'll find it, Mrs. A.

Charles shoots a smug look at Maria.

CHARLES

And whoever stole it will be severely punished.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

You're a true friend Charles, knowing how much that bracelet means to me. And you, Maria, I don't know how I'd live without you too.

Maria gives Charles a superior sniff as they exit the room.

INT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Angry protesting VENDORS shout and wave their fists at the MAYOR (60s, portly) behind the PODIUM. There's plenty of chairs, but everyone's so furious they're all standing in a knot DOWN FRONT.

Enrique and Juan enter through the REAR ENTRANCE -- Juan points across the room.

JUAN

Over there.

THE NIGHT WATCHMAN

is standing off to the side of the crowd near the podium.

Enrique's ready to bolt, but Juan grips his shoulder.

JUAN (cont'd)

There are three kinds of people in the world -- little fish, big sharks and fishermen. Time to find out which one you are.

The Vendors shout back defiantly as the Mayor raises his hands.

MAYOR

Everyone please, quiet down!

The Mayor frantically searches the crowd for a friendly face.

RUBIO

(70s, white handlebar mustache, earring) the Mayor's older brother, is fortunately standing in front of the crowd.

MAYOR (cont'd)

My friends, let my brother Rubio speak. He has the respect of everyone here, no?

The Vendors huzzah as Rubio joins the Mayor at the podium.

RUBIO

I fished before I could walk and have seen many strange things at sea, but nothing as strange as what I saw two days ago.

MAYOR

I too fished before I walked and have seen the same things my brother Rubio has. We'll find this thief, and when we do, I'll --

Rubio stink-eyes the Mayor -- want me to save your *culo* or not...?

RUBIO

The thief may be among us now.

VENDOR 1 (30s, burly) stands up on a chair above the crowd.

VENDOR 1

Where? We'll send that thief on a
voyage to the bottom of the sea!

The Vendors huzzah in approval again.

A terrified Enrique glances up at Juan listening to Rubio. He casually turns around and starts slinking out of the town hall.

Juan CLAPS a fist over Enrique's shoulder and drags him back.

JUAN

Little fish, shark or fisherman?

Sgt. Garcia steps up to the podium beside the Mayor with Officers Gonzalez, Mendez and Sanchez.

MAYOR

Sergeant Garcia has everything under
control. Why, even today he captured
Juan Ormiga!

VENDOR 1

Ormiga doesn't steal our tourists!
We want the real thief instead!

VENDOR 2 (30s, skinny, handlebar mustache) climbs up on his chair.

VENDOR 2

The Night Watchman said a ghost
took his keys in the pottery yard!

RUBIO

I think the ghost hides in the Night
Watchman's tequila.

The Vendors laugh, shove the Night Watchman around, friendly.

Juan grips Enrique's shoulder, and speaks up.

JUAN

My nephew found the Watchman's keys.

Vendors turn and hurl angry threats at Juan and Enrique.

MAYOR
 Silence, everyone! Please, we are
 all friends here.

Juan pushes Enrique through the angry crowd to the front.

CUT TO:

CUERVO

peeks around the REAR ENTRANCE DOOR. He listens for a BEAT, then starts pacing -- as if he understands everything being said.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Enrique and Juan are standing beside the Mayor.

JUAN
 We all have different lives here.
 Some of us fish, others sell goods.

RUBIO
 But we do not steal from one another.

JUAN
 The boy returned the cross and badge.

The Priest holds up the SILVER CROSS around his neck, and nods.
 Officer Gonzalez pulls his BADGE forward on his shirt, and nods.

RUBIO
 And the Night Watchman's keys?

Enrique pulls the KEY RING from his pocket, ashamed. He holds the key ring up for all the unruly Vendors to see.

Juan takes the key ring, and throws it to the Night Watchman.

JUAN
 There is no ghost or thief, only a
 few harmless pranks played by my
 nephew's naughty pelican.

VENDOR 1
 Harmless pranks? He tore up my booth!

The Vendors turn to Enrique, revenge in their eyes.

JUAN
 Did the boy sell any of these things
 the pelican took to the tourists?

The Vendors mutter amongst themselves -- Juan makes sense, but...

VENDOR 1

You saw what that bird did -- he
stole all our business away!

Vendor 2 sees Cuervo pacing at the rear entrance door.

VENDOR 2

There's the thief now!

All the Vendors turn and see Cuervo -- and like a giant wave of habañero chili pepper rage, they rush toward the hapless pelican.

Enrique jumps off the podium into the raging crowd.

ENRIQUE

Don't hurt Cuervo, don't hurt him!

The Vendors throw SHOES, CANS, ROCKS, TEQUILA BOTTLES, HUARACHES, FALSE TEETH, etc. at Cuervo who SQUAWKS his way out of the hall.

Cuervo flapdoodles down the TOWN HALL STAIRS and flies off, climbing high into the moonlit sky.

A sobbing Enrique fights his way to the REAR ENTRANCE DOOR.

Juan appears and yanks Enrique out of the angry, vengeful crowd.

A Vendor takes a swing at Juan -- Juan ducks. Another swing --

Juan sends the Vendor to the ground with a sharp left hook.

A huge brawl breaks out -- and Juan's in the eye of FLYING FISTS.

CUT TO:

Hector, somewhere between a drunken stupor and coma, blind-staggers up the street -- and sees Juan fighting outside the town hall.

HECTOR

Juan fights without me? I, Hector
Pacheco, am all over them like beans
on tortillas!

Hector dives into the town hall melee, windmilling fists flying.

Enrique stands in tears at the top of the town hall stairs.

The Mayor, Priest and Rubio approach Enrique from behind.

RUBIO

Look what you've done.

MAYOR

Your pet is no longer welcome here
in Cabo San Lucas.

Enrique sees Rosa standing outside the rim of the town hall fight --
Rosa tosses her nose up at Enrique, turns away and walks off.

That's the last straw for Enrique -- he runs down the stairs past
the brawling crowd, humiliated.

The Priest watches Enrique run through the crowd and disappear
into the darkened street, then turns to the Mayor and Rubio.

PRIEST

What great big men you are.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Enrique runs past the Vendor booths in the tourist market.

He runs past the dock...

Past the Sanchita...

Up the DIRT PATH leading to the Pacheco brothers' home.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - NIGHT

Enrique opens the front door and looks in.

Cuervo's perch above his cot is empty -- the pelican is gone.

Enrique slams the door and runs down the dirt path in tears.

EXT. PLAZA. FOUNTAIN - NIGHT

LIGHTED WATER tinkles cheerfully off each GREEN COPPER BOWL into
the MAIN POOL below filled with SHINY COINS.

A CAT yowls in the b.g. A DOG barks. A rattling EMPTY TEQUILA
BOTTLE rolls somewhere along one of the dark plaza streets.

MATCH SOUND TO:

OFFICER GONZALEZ

taps his NIGHTSTICK against the FOUNTAIN'S OUTER STONE WALL.

Enrique wakes against the fountain's outer stone wall to find Officer Gonzales showing him the BADGE on his jacket.

OFFICER GONZALEZ
Just how did this end up on Ormiga?
Maybe you two should spend some
time together to discuss it.

Enrique rises, backs away, runs down the street.

ENRIQUE
Uh, I think I hear Juan calling me.

OFFICER GONZALEZ

blows his WHISTLE, then starts chasing after Enrique.

EXT. HILLS ABOVE TOWN - NIGHT

A SILHOUETTED COYOTE howls at the FULL MOON.

A JACKRABBIT lifts its ears, prepares for the chase of its life.

MICE scurry for cover under a CHOLLO CACTUS.

A NIGHTHAWK swoops down and catches a LAZY MOUSE in its claws.

A SCORPION crawls over a rock and stings a juicy POTATO BUG poking its big clumsy head above the warm sand.

OVERHEAD SHOT

of a very small Enrique running along the dark street in a very large town, followed by the sound of Officer Gonzalez' whistle echoing off the building walls.

FADE TO BLACK.

CLOSE UP - JUAN

swabs a CUT over Hector's eye with an ALCOHOL-SOAKED RAG.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - NIGHT

The Pacheco brothers nurse their BRAWL WOUNDS at the dining table.

Enrique's cot and Cuervo's perch are empty.

JUAN
Be still tonto, you couldn't just
fight two at a time, could you?

HECTOR
I fought for you, not Enrique.

HECTOR'S CUT

gets a jab from Juan's alcohol-soaked rag.

HECTOR (cont'd)
Ow! Enrique this, Enrique that.

JUAN
Boat paint, new net, beans and flour.

HECTOR
Enrique, Enrique, Enrique...

JUAN
Yes, Enrique. Thank you.

Hector slaps Juan's rag away from his face.

HECTOR
I wish we never found him on the
Sanchita. We are fish bait because
of his filthy pet. I, Hector
Pacheco, am a fisherman, not a maid
to some beggar boy.

Juan tosses the rag into the kitchen sink, crosses the room for
his JACKET on a WALL PEG, and opens the front door.

JUAN
We can't shelter all the homeless
or save every beggar boy. But a
beggar boy who helps us and knows
how things should be, is reason
enough to return the favor.

Juan steps out the door, leaving it open for Hector to follow.

Hector shakes his head as he crosses the room for his jacket on a
wall peg, then dutifully closes the front door behind him.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - NIGHT

Charles and Maria stand at the rail, looking at Cabo's city lights.

MARIA
I haven't had a moment's peace since
we arrived.

CHARLES

None of us have, I'm afraid.

MARIA

Are you still suggesting -- ?

CHARLES

The truth of it is, the yacht has been scoured clean -- and nothing turned up.

MARIA

So you believe me finally.

CHARLES

I suppose I'll have to take it as such because no evidence points to the contrary. So I've come up with another possible, how do you say it in Spanish, scenario?

Charles peers over the rail.

CHARLES (cont'd)

And it's right at our feet.

Maria peers over the rail.

MARIA

Why? What are you thinking?

THE AVON RAFT

is moored alongside the Astor-Wolcott yacht in the water below.

CHARLES

Fancy a tour into town?

MARIA

It's after two in the morning. Everything is closed now.

CHARLES

Oh come now, you've toasted a toddy or two here in happier days. Everything is open all the time, at the right price.

EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

Enrique is searching for Cuervo on the dock near the Sanchita -- when he hears FOOTSTEPS approaching in the darkness.

Enrique hides under the FISH CLEANING TABLE and listens.

Juan and Hector climb aboard the Sanchita, searching for Enrique.

Juan and Hector stand at the ROLLED-UP NETS where they first found Enrique seven years ago. They eye each other -- Angelica and Rafael's only son slept here once. They cross themselves.

Juan and Hector disembark the trawler, pull their jackets closer.

HECTOR

I cannot remember such a cold night.

Juan nods as he and Hector walk down the street, searching.

JUAN

The Mayor, the Priest and Rubio are
at the town hall waiting for us again.

Hector bristles, shakes his arms loose, punches the night air with his BANDAGED FISTS.

HECTOR

I'm all over them like chupa on cabra!

JUAN

No fights this time. There is more
than one way to catch a fish and
fillet a shark, little brother.

Enrique slowly raises his head above the FISH CLEANING TABLE, and watches Juan and Hector disappear in the darkness down the street.

He starts backing away -- and bumps into Charles and Maria.

CUT TO:

INT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Dark and empty. A CEILING LIGHT shines above the bruised Juan, the bandaged Hector, the Mayor, the Priest and Rubio. All are holding GLASSES OF WINE and standing around the podium.

JUAN

There are enough tourists here in
all of Cabo San Lucas for everyone.

RUBIO

You can't have a pelican sideshow
in Cabo San Lucas without a permit.

MAYOR

There's laws for selling to tourists.
And permits, don't forget permits.

HECTOR

Bah.

MAYOR

Do you forget that I am also judge
in town? You have violated ordinances
and laws and created a tort situation.
Do you even know what tort means?

HECTOR

Sure, everybody knows it's a big
tortilla.

Juan raises his wine glass, grins at the Mayor and Rubio.

JUAN

We are only fishermen. Please, tell
us about your torts, laws and permits.

RETURN TO SCENE:

EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

Enrique backs into Charles and Maria at Cuervo's dock piling.

MARIA

Please, watch where you're going.

ENRIQUE

I'm so sorry, Señorita.
(recognizes Maria)
Wait, you took me to the rich lady
on her yacht last year. She bought
all my seashells.

Maria has a vague memory of Enrique -- her eyes narrow.

MARIA

Yes...well...

Charles doesn't have time for Enrique and Maria's exchange.

CHARLES

Yes well, the rich lady wants to
know where she can find scuba gear.

ENRIQUE

Now? The scuba shop is closed but the Borrego brothers open early in the morning. Why does she want to go diving tonight?

MARIA

No no -- tomorrow, below the yacht.

ENRIQUE

All the pretty fish are at Los Arcos. I could take her there, but...

MARIA

...but what?

ENRIQUE

My pelican has misbehaved lately. I must find him before the vendors do something terrible to him.

Maria considers this a BEAT, then senses the pelican and Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's diamond bracelet may have something in common.

MARIA

Really, what did your pet do?

But Enrique grows suspicious of Maria's intentions.

ENRIQUE

The scuba shop is by the anchor on the dock. I think I hear my uncle Juan calling.

Charles watches Enrique back away and run off into the darkness.

CHARLES

That went well.

Maria gives Enrique's wake a quizzical look, then turns to Charles.

MARIA

What did that boy's pet do?

INT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Under the ceiling light the Mayor, Rubio, Juan and Hector are still standing around the podium with their GLASSES OF WINE.

MAYOR

The pelican owes taxes on what he's made. That's the law.

HECTOR
Tourists feed rats and pigeons on
the dock. Do they pay taxes too?

MAYOR
That's complicating the issue.

JUAN
Laws and permits. Loopholes and
complicated punctuation. Come
Hector, we've heard enough legal
fish bait for one night.

Juan and Hector put their wine glasses down, start walking away.

RUBIO
Wait. Fishing has been bad, no?

Hector turns, bristles at Rubio.

HECTOR
What do you know of fishing, viejo?
You have not seen the ocean since
your wedding a thousand years ago.

Hector and Rubio advance on each other -- the Priest steps in.

PRIEST
There's good in the worst and bad
in the best of us.

HECTOR
I, Hector Pacheco, won't be insulted
by anyone good or bad, or frightened.

RUBIO
You nothing little squid cutter.

Hector windmills his arms, ready to take Rubio's head off.

MAYOR
When I was a fisherman at sea --

RUBIO
Oh shut up!

PRIEST
Are we here to settle old feuds or
start new ones?

Juan grabs Hector's arms and shoves him back to the podium.

PRIEST (cont'd)

We must work together, the tourists
of Cabo San Lucas deserve our best.

The Priest stares Rubio down for an answer.

RUBIO

Alright, the bird may work Monday
to Saturday, but not Sunday.

PRIEST

Now we are making progress.

JUAN

The tourists come on weekends only.

MAYOR

True, but --

RUBIO

Quiet, you old fool.

PRIEST

Like fighting cats on a fish cart.
This is what I've decided -- your
pelican may earn as much money all
week as all the fish you catch in
twenty-four hours. But no Sunday,
and you know why.

HECTOR

Twenty-four hours?

RUBIO

Twenty-four hours?

MAYOR

I'm but a mere servant in my official
capacity, I must remain neutral.

PRIEST

Which is why you will watch the
Pacheco brothers catch fish.

The Mayor spit-takes his wine, a grey pallor creeps over his face.
He rubs his neck, a touch of nausea sweeps over him.

MAYOR

On the ocean?

PRIEST

I cannot think of a better place.

The Mayor turns to Rubio for help -- Rubio waves him off.

RUBIO
I do not meddle in religious affairs.

PRIEST
Someone must count their fish. Who better than a neutral party in an official capacity?

The Mayor's ashen face starts turning green.

PRIEST (cont'd)
Decide what's fair for the Pacheco brothers or the vendors will decide your fate next election. What is your official neutral decision?

The Mayor harrumphs, then nervously shakes Juan's hand.

The Priest holds up his wine glass, they clink a toast all around.

PRIEST (cont'd)
Now, to the church's wisdom.

Rubio brings the wine glass to his lips, then stops.

RUBIO
And why is the church so wise?

The Priest drains his wine and studies the empty glass, satisfied.

PRIEST
No one has more loopholes or complicated punctuation.

FADE TO BLACK.

A FULL MOON

rises over the silvery, shimmering water in the Sea of Cortez.

EXT. HILL - NIGHT

Juan and Hector sit on the sand, a JUG OF MEZCAL between them.

HECTOR
What are you thinking?

JUAN
How not to be a little fish. You?

Hector considers his brother's question for a BEAT.

HECTOR
The world has become a very
complicated place.

Juan smiles -- the older, wiser brother realizes his younger brother is growing wise himself. Amen to that, brother...

Hector realizes he's growing wiser too -- and grins back.

The two trade the JUG OF MEZCAL between them in silence while watching the MOONRISE.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

AN EARLY MORNING SUNRISE

beams across a paddling pod of PELICANS preening themselves upon the Sea of Cortez.

EXT. SHORELINE. ROCK OUTCROPPING - MORNING

Enrique scrambles over rocks calling for Cuervo. He sees another group of PELICANS sunning themselves on the rocks.

But no Cuervo.

INT. TOWN HALL - MORNING

The Mayor is at the podium, still speechifying to the VENDORS. Hector, Juan, and the Priest are beside him.

MAYOR
So my good friends, I will join the
Pacheco brothers to see what they
catch in twenty-four hours. I'll
be your eyes and ears out...there.

The Vendors clap and huzzah.

Rubio and Sgt. Garcia are on the edge of the crowd. Sgt. Garcia peels an ORANGE and tosses rinds on the floor to Rubio's disgust.

RUBIO
I'm watching those Pacheco brothers.
Something fishy is going on. Would
you please stop that?

Sgt. Garcia stuffs the rest of the ORANGE RINDS in his jacket. He offers an ORANGE SLICE to Rubio, who slaps it away.

EXT. HARBOR. SANCHITA - DAY

Juan and Hector stand over the FISHWELL HATCH. Juan opens the FISHWELL HATCH, then nods to Hector to look inside.

JUAN
What do you see?

HECTOR
Nothing, as usual.

Juan lifts a SECRET FISHWELL HATCH beneath the FISHWELL FLOOR.

JUAN
Now what do you see?

HECTOR
Another hole as empty as my stomach.

JUAN
No, a secret fishwell.

HECTOR
But you said cheating gets us
nowhere.

JUAN
They made no rules for their game.
Catch fish in twenty-four hours,
that's what they said. But that's
a day away. Did you not say one
lie will not punish us?

Hector catches on, grins, and shakes Juan's hand.

HECTOR
To the biggest sharks in town.

Hector looks skyward and lifts his hands, beseeching.

HECTOR (cont'd)
Please for once, let it rain fish!

EXT. SHORELINE. ROCK OUTCROPPING - DAY

Enrique stumbles around and between the large boulders, exhausted -- then hears a familiar SQUAWK!

Cuervo is preening his feathers on a BIG POINTED ROCK.

EXT. HARBOR. SANCHITA - DAY

The Pacheco brothers carry FISHING GEAR aboard the Sanchita.

Rubio approaches the Sanchita.

RUBIO

Have you been doing anything I
wouldn't do?

JUAN

We'd never do anything you'd do.

Rubio puffs up like a toad for a pompous, superior BEAT. He starts boarding the Sanchita's gangplank, steamed.

RUBIO

I'm here on official business that
common fishermen like you two have
no business asking about.

Juan swings a heavy WINDLASS over to Hector -- dangerously close to Rubio's face -- and Rubio backs off the gangplank.

RUBIO (cont'd)

You -- I'm watching you two.

Hector gives Rubio a BRONX CHEER. They laugh and continue working.

HECTOR

I wish the boy saw that.

Juan reins in the windlass, then scans the vista, concerned.

EXT. SHORELINE. ROCK OUTCROPPING - DAY

Cuervo sees Enrique approaching over the rocks -- SQUERKS happily.

Enrique reaches Cuervo, scoops him up for a great big hug.

ENRIQUE

You're in big trouble, bad bird.
Never leave home again.

Cuervo happily snuggles into Enrique's arms.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN. SANCHITA - DAY

Juan, at the helm, shuts the engines down and turns to Hector.

JUAN

Let us hope your prayer works.

Juan starts hoisting in the seine. Hector grows jubilant.

The seine slowly rises to the surface with DOZENS OF FISH.

Hector opens the SECRET FISHWELL HATCH, and dumps the FISH CATCH into the SECRET FISHWELL.

Juan is at the helm scanning the horizon with BINOCULARS.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

A PAIR OF BINOCULARS

with a familiar WHITE HANDLEBAR MUSTACHE underneath looks back.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

Rubio is sitting in a PANGA watching the Sanchita on the horizon through his BINOCULARS.

RUBIO'S BINOCULAR POV:

sees Hector dump the FISH CATCH into the SECRET FISHWELL.

Rubio lowers his binoculars, mischievous grin.

RUBIO

So that is how they want to play.

EXT. HARBOR. DOCK - EVENING

Juan sidles the Sanchita against the dock, shuts down the engines.

Hector finishes tying off the mooring rope, and sees Rubio boarding the Sanchita's gangplank.

JUAN

Rubio, what a surprise.

Rubio avoids Juan's handshake and heads for the fishwell.

RUBIO

We all love surprises, don't we?

JUAN

I am not certain what you mean.

Rubio lifts the REGULAR FISHWELL HATCH -- nothing.

RUBIO

I don't understand. I saw you --

HECTOR
You saw what?

Rubio looks down inside the fishwell again -- and that mischievous WHITE HANDLEBAR MUSTACHIOED grin of his returns.

A TINY FISH FIN

sticks out of the SECRET FISHWELL HATCH in the fishwell floor.

Rubio kneels down, feels around the fishwell floor -- and finds the SECRET FISHWELL LATCH.

Juan eyes Hector -- holy cornholé, busted and disgusted.

Rubio opens the SECRET FISHWELL HATCH -- it's FILLED WITH FISH.

RUBIO
The Marisco Bar will be very happy
to see these tonight.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Enrique, Hector and Juan eat dinner at the table, sullen moods.

Cuervo is asleep on his perch above Enrique's cot.

HECTOR
It was too good to be true.

ENRIQUE
Mama said something good always
happens when you tell the truth --

HECTOR
Quiet! We need a miracle bigger
than that bird could ever pull off.

Cuervo isn't asleep. An eye pops open -- he heard it all.

EXT. SANCHITA - MORNING

Vendors line the dock as Juan fires up the Sanchita.

Hector and Rubio are standing over the Sanchita's fishwell.

RUBIO
Open it.

Hector opens the TOP FISHWELL HATCH -- it's empty.

RUBIO (cont'd)

And...

Hector opens the SECRET FISHWELL HATCH below -- it's empty too.

Rubio goes to the rail, waves at the Mayor.

The Mayor smiles to the crowd, thumbs up -- then he sees Rubio waving him aboard. His face drains of color, the smile fades.

Rubio glares at the Mayor while vigorously waving him aboard.

The Mayor tests the gangplank with a shoe, then carefully boards it like a tightrope walker balancing five miles in the air.

Rubio bounces down the gangplank -- the Mayor loses his balance and starts falling into the water.

Rubio catches the Mayor, who clings to him like a slippery eel.

RUBIO (cont'd)

Get off me, you fool. Everyone is looking at us.

The Mayor steps aboard -- Rubio pulls the gangplank away.

Juan yanks the THROTTLES back -- the Sanchita lurches forward.

The Mayor slip-slides to the TRANSOM RAIL and catches himself at the last second from falling overboard, right into...

THE CHURNING PROPS

sending mountains of WHITE PROP WASH FOAM into the Mayor's face.

Hector grabs the Mayor by the collar, pulls him back over the transom, and points down at the CHURNING PROPS.

HECTOR

No no no, we don't want to lose you just yet.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN. SANCHITA - DAY

A green-gilled, seasick Mayor grips the rail for support.

Juan approaches the Mayor with a NEWSPAPER-WRAPPED BURRITO. He unwraps the burrito, and takes a big bite.

The Mayor gasps, ready to blow chow again.

MAYOR
What's that smell?

JUAN
Tuna with habañero jack cheese.
Thanks to the boy's bird, we eat
like kings.

Juan offers the burrito to the Mayor.

JUAN (cont'd)
Hmm...?

The Mayor turns away -- right into Hector puffing on a LARGE CUBAN CIGAR and holding a PLASTIC BAG OF RED-HOT CHICHARONES.

Hector's CIGAR SMOKE billows straight into the Mayor's face.

HECTOR
You look worried.

MAYOR
No, fine. Who's steering this thing?

JUAN
The waves, my good Mayor. They go
up and down. Up, down. Up, down...

Juan waggles his burrito at the Mayor, imitating wave action.

Hector grabs a handful of chicharones from the plastic bag and crunches down loudly on them, the cigar still in his mouth.

The Mayor sinks to his knees, deathly-ill, drooling.

Juan swings a bucket of BAIT CHUM under the Mayor's nose.

The Mayor's eyes roll up -- he crumples to the deck, unconscious.

Hector sniffs the BAIT CHUM BUCKET, then eyes Juan.

HECTOR
Maybe it's too fresh?

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - ENRIQUE

hoses down the FISH-CLEANING TABLE beside the dock.

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

Enrique turns to Cuervo sitting on his favorite dock piling preening his feathers.

ENRIQUE

Hector is right, we need a miracle.

Cuervo stops preening, turns to the ocean -- he's thinking.

Enrique has seen that look from Cuervo before...

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

I don't know what you're up to, but
I don't like it already.

Enrique turns off the hose and heads for Cuervo -- but Cuervo's one webbed-step ahead of him and flies off.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

Where you going? Come back!

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - DAY

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott and Fifi sit in a lounge chair watching Charles and Maria help the two Male Servants into their SCUBA GEAR.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

See, Fifi? They'll find the bracelet
before Charles even knows it's gone.

Fifi yaps, then turns to Charles and Maria and growls.

Maria turns to Charles, critical.

MARIA

If we don't find that bracelet soon
they'll suspect we're the thieves.

CHARLES

Include me out, Maria. If anyone's
going down for this, it's you.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN. SANCHITA - DAY

Juan and Hector watch the Mayor hack and snark over the rail -- a pathetically wretched, eye-rolling, barfing mess.

JUAN

We are getting nowhere.

Hector wrings his hands, raises his pleading eyes to the sky.

HECTOR
Just one tiny cloud of minnows?

INTERCUT - CONTINUOUS

CUERVO

skims over the ocean surface, searching -- then he SQUAWKS.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN - DAY

Juan and Hector swing the seine net onto the deck, and open it.

TIN CANS, a TIRE, and STARFISH spill out on the deck.

CUT TO:

THREE PELICANS

have joined in a line behind Cuervo as he skims over the water.

Juan swings the seine net over the rail again -- the Mayor's FOOT gets tangled in the netting.

Juan raises the seine net -- it YANKS the Mayor UP off his feet and upside-down.

Juan hears the Mayor scream, then sees him dangling upside-down by one foot in the seine net as it swings over the rail.

Juan shuts the TRAWL WINCH down -- oops, too late.

The seine net and Mayor plunge screeching into the ocean.

CUT TO:

DOZENS OF PELICANS

have formed a line behind Cuervo as he skims over the water.

Juan and Hector untangle the Mayor from the seine net on deck.

The Mayor opens his feeble, waterlogged eyes.

MAYOR
Please for the love of all that's
good and merciful in Mexico, do not
let me die out here.

CUT TO:

HUNDREDS OF PELICANS

follow Cuervo in a long, long line skimming over the water.

Hector sees a HUGE BLACK CLOUD approaching the Sanchita.

HECTOR

What in the name of sauza tequila?

The SKY TURNS DARK as...

THOUSANDS OF PELICANS

fly past the Sanchita -- a cacophony of squawks and squerks and the whistling thunder of flapping wings.

ONE PELICAN circles around, and lands on the Sanchita's HELM near Juan. Juan studies the bird for a BEAT, then recognizes...

JUAN

Hector, come quick! It's Cuervo!

Cuervo squawks excitedly, and points his beak at the ocean.

Hector joins Juan as Cuervo does a figure-eight dance at the helm, muttering and snapping his beak -- like he's talking.

HECTOR

What's he saying?

Cuervo points his beak starboard, and flies in that direction.

Cuervo flies to A GIANT FLOTILLA OF PELICANS paddling and diving in the distance from the Sanchita's starboard side.

JUAN

Get the seine ready, Hector!

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - DAY

Charles and Maria sift through mounds of CANS, BOTTLES, CRABS and STARFISH on deck.

MARIA

Everything but a diamond bracelet.

The two Male Servants surface again, empty-handed.

SERVANT #1

It's not down there.

MARIA

It must be.

SERVANT #2

Look for yourself, the water's fine.

EXT. HARBOR - DAY

Enrique is repairing a net at the FISH-CLEANING TABLE. He hears a RUSHING SOUND and the PELICAN SQUAWKS. He turns to the ocean.

THOUSANDS OF PELICANS

are flying in formation outside Cabo San Lucas harbor.

Enrique hears a WOMAN SHRIEK aboard the Astor-Wolcott yacht.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - DAY

The two Male Servants surface and toss more OCEAN JUNK into an AVON INFLATABLE RAFT tied to the yacht.

Charles and Maria look over the rail at the Avon raft below.

MARIA

I wish I did take the bracelet. At least we'd know where it is.

The Male Servants board the yacht and start pulling off their scuba gear on deck.

MARIA (cont'd)

Uh-uh, you put that back on!

The Male Servants continue removing their scuba gear and ignore her as they strip down to their RED SPEEDOS.

MARIA (cont'd)

Oh, that's just fine then.

Maria starts walking away when...

THOUSANDS OF PELICANS

roar overhead on their thunderous, flapping wings, and start POOPING all over the Astor-Wolcott yacht.

PELICAN POOP

smacks the deck and cabin walls all around Maria -- she SHRIEKS and flees below deck.

RETURN TO SCENE:

As Maria's SHRIEK fades, Enrique eyes the Astor-Wolcott yacht, then Cuervo's dock piling -- and puts two and two together.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

Charles and Maria are talking to Enrique on the dock.

ENRIQUE

She wants to go diving tonight?

MARIA

No no, tomorrow morning. She wants to dive below the yacht.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Enrique grows angrier with each yanked stitch in the net.

ENRIQUE

That bad bird is in trouble up to his beak.

He now knows Cuervo stole Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's diamond bracelet.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

Wait'll I get my hands on him.

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN. SANCHITA - DAY

Juan raises the BULGING SEINE NET over the rail onto the deck.

Hector pulls the RELEASE PIN.

HUNDREDS OF FISH

pour over the deck. Hector drops to his knees, bows to the fish.

HECTOR

Sierra Madre, it's a miracle!

The Sanchita is surrounded by bobbing and diving pelicans -- then the whole POD OF PELICANS takes off.

Juan and Hector run for cover under the helm roof as THOUSANDS OF PELICANS pass over the Sanchita, open their beaks, and drop every size and type of FISH on the Sanchita's deck.

Hector runs out from under the helm roof, spreads his hands and grins skyward as FALLING FISH bounce all around and off him.

HECTOR (cont'd)
Fish time!

LATER.

both of the Sanchita's fishwells are overflowing with fish.

CLOSE UP - A MACKEREL

flops on deck. Hector picks it up and frowns at Juan beside him.

HECTOR (cont'd)
Too small. What do you think?

JUAN
Why not ask him?

The green-gilled Mayor has FISH flapping all around him.

Hector flicks the MACKEREL at the Mayor -- it bounces off his head and into the ocean. The Mayor leans over the rail again.

HECTOR
He agrees.

EXT. HARBOR - AFTERNOON

Enrique is rolling up the mended net at the fish-cleaning table when he hears a familiar flapping sound.

Cuervo lands on his dock piling and starts preening his feathers.

ENRIQUE
Did you have a nice flight? I hope
so. Would you like an anchovy?

Enrique lifts the ANCHOVY BUCKET and approaches Cuervo with it.

Cuervo stops preening and greedily eyes the ANCHOVY BUCKET.

Enrique flips the ANCHOVY BUCKET up to show Cuervo -- it's empty.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)
Ohh, I'm sorry. You must be on the
wrong dock.

Cuervo reacts -- SQUEE-ERK...? Hey, I'm a hero here...!

ENRIQUE (cont'd)
 You took her bracelet, didn't you?
 Answer me.

Cuervo nips at a BUZZING FLY. Leans over, rubs his head on Enrique's arm -- c'mon, scratch my head like you always do...

ENRIQUE (cont'd)
 Where is it?

Enrique yanks his arm away -- Cuervo falls off the dock piling.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)
 This is how you thank me for saving
 your life by stealing things?

Cuervo flies up onto the piling again, faces the ocean, miffed.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)
 Mama said bad things happen when
 you don't tell the truth. And
 stealing is just as bad as lying.

Enrique drops the ANCHOVY BUCKET and storms away.

Cuervo watches Enrique walk away, a twinge of guilt in his eyes. He SQUAWKS at Enrique but the boy doesn't turn back.

EXT. SHORELINE. ROCK OUTCROPPING - AFTERNOON

The sun sparkles on the water like millions of floating diamonds.

Cuervo lands on the rock outcropping, and nudges a SMALL FLAT ROCK aside with his beak.

THE DIAMOND BRACELET

belonging to Mrs. Astor-Wolcott sparkles warmly in the sun.

Cuervo pushes the rock over the bracelet again and flies off.

FROM CUERVO'S POV:

the ROCK over Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's bracelet grows smaller as he spirals upward. No one would ever be able find it there.

FADE TO BLACK.

CLOSE UP - CHARLES

wearing SURGEON'S GLOVES, body-pins Maria against a wall.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. CABIN ROOM - EVENING

Charles has Maria pinned against the wall as he snaps one of the SURGEONS'S GLOVES tighter around his hand.

CHARLES

Trust me Maria, this hurts me more than it does you. Make it easy on yourself and hand it over!

MARIA

Get your hands off me, you -- !

Servant #1 enters.

SERVANT #1

Charles, is everything alright?

Servant #1 sees Charles and Maria against the wall -- yelps out a QUEEN SCREECH -- and runs down the hall, hysterical.

CHARLES

Now look what you've done.

Maria sees the RED SPEEDOS peeking out from under Charles' jacket.

Charles follows Maria's eyes down to the RED SPEEDOS.

Maria gives Charles a knowing look.

MARIA

That certainly explains a lot.

Charles and Maria hear a HORN BLAST. They look out a PORTHOLE.

CUT TO:

THE SANCHITA'S HORN

BLASTS again on her victorious return home.

Maria knees Charles in the groin and runs out of the room.

EXT. HARBOR. SANCHITA - EVENING

Juan BLASTS the horn for a THIRD TIME at the helm.

Hector proudly rolls up NETS AND CORKS on deck near the FISHWELL.

The nauseous Mayor, buoyed at the sight of the harbor, waves weakly to the VENDOR CROWD gathering on the dock.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Enrique is fixing dinner. Cuervo's perched above Enrique's cot.

He hears those three familiar HORN BLASTS from the Sanchita, then turns off the stove and grabs his jacket.

EXT. HARBOR - EVENING

Hector tosses the mooring line to Enrique, who ties it off.

The Vendors gather, eagerly awaiting news from the Mayor.

The Priest breaks through the crowd, approaches the disoriented Mayor disembarking the Sanchita on landlubber-rubbery legs.

PRIEST

Did they do it?

MAYOR

I...they...I will never forget today.

The Mayor collapses on the dock, unconscious.

Hector tosses another mooring line to Enrique.

ENRIQUE

Did you do it?

Hector looks skyward, grins, and breaks out a JUG OF MEZCAL.

Juan leaps down from the helm as Hector flings open the fishwell.

Enrique climbs aboard, sees fish spilling out of the fishwell.

JUAN

Bring on the fish vendors! Tonight,
all of Cabo San Lucas celebrates!

Joyous FISH VENDORS on the dock catch the fish that Enrique, Hector, Juan and other FISHERMEN toss them from the Sanchita.

Enrique looks up from tossing fish -- sees ROSA in the crowd. He puffs up his chest and double-pitches fish to the vendors.

Rosa bats her eyelashes -- and blushes.

Rubio joins the Priest watching STREAMS OF FISH fly into the FISH VENDORS' arms. He nods at the Mayor lying on the dock.

RUBIO
What in Sierra Madre happened?

PRIEST
A miracle of sorts, I suppose.

RUBIO
No, him!

The Priest puts a finger down his throat, mimes puking.

Rubio eyes the Vendors erupting in derisive laughter and pointing at the unconscious Mayor's embarrassing plight.

The Priest hides a smile as Rubio lifts the Mayor up by his lapels, and slaps him awake.

RUBIO (cont'd)
Get up, you old worm!

Rubio yanks the Mayor away from the derisive crowd.

Juan watches Rubio drag the Mayor away from the crowd, turns to Enrique beside him and smiles.

JUAN
Where is your little pet? Hector
and I must thank him.

ENRIQUE
Why? What did he do?

JUAN
Why, every beautiful fish here is
from him and his feathered friends.

Enrique stops tossing fish, looks around at the HUNDREDS OF FISH on deck and in the fishwell, and suddenly feels really stupid.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - EVENING

The two Male Servants board the Avon raft. Servant #1 is weeping.

Maria looks over the rail above, sees the Male Servants below.

MARIA
Take me into town!

SERVANT #1
Is he...are you and he...?

MARIA
Oh for goodness sake!

CUT TO:

Maria starts the Avon's motor as the two Male Servants comfort each other in each other's arms.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - NIGHT

The table is loaded with fish platters, tortillas and tequila.
Enrique, Hector and Juan sit at the table, bloated, groggy.

HECTOR
I don't know what the rest of the town is doing, but we ate like big sharks tonight.

Hector grabs the bottle of tequila, chugs it down, belches.

JUAN
We are grateful to Cuervo and his friends who found the fish for us.
(looks around)
Where is our dear friend tonight?

Enrique hangs his head above his plate for a BEAT.

ENRIQUE
I sent him away.

Hector spit-takes tequila everywhere, shocked.

HECTOR
You what?

ENRIQUE
He won't show me where the bracelet is, the rich lady I sold the shells to last year. So I sent him away.

Hector and Juan eye each other -- what...?

JUAN
Bracelet?

HECTOR
There's never any peace around here.

JUAN
 Drink your dinner. What bracelet?

ENRIQUE
 Juan, I just had to --

They hear a huge explosion -- KABOOM! -- from the HARBOR below.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - NIGHT

Charles stands at the rail shouting at the two Male Servants as Maria guns the Avon raft toward the dock.

CHARLES
 Come back here, I order you!

The Male Servants stick their tongues out at Charles in reply.

Charles doesn't get mad -- he casually loads a FLARE GUN, carefully sights the BARREL down on the raft, and slowly pulls the TRIGGER.

The FIRST FLARE shoots out over the water...

Shrieks past the Avon...

Ricochets off a dock piling in a shower of RED SPARKS...

Whizzes into a Vendor's booth and...

KABOOM!

A sleeping Vendor on a cot behind the booth is BLOWN SKY HIGH by the explosion above the BILLOWING FLAMES.

EXT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - NIGHT

Enrique sees the Vendor and his cot blow sky-high from the booth down at the tourist market dock. He runs down the dirt path.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - NIGHT

Charles loads a SECOND FLARE in the gun and fires.

The SECOND FLARE whizzes past Maria and the two Male Servants, and EXPLODES against a docked PANGA that slowly starts to sink.

KABOOM!

Servant #1 jumps out of the Avon and starts swimming to shore.

MARIA
 Where you going?

SERVANT #1
Anywhere away from you!

Servant #2 jumps out of the Avon and starts swimming to shore.

SERVANT #2
That makes two of us!

MARIA
Hey, what about me?

EXT. HARBOR. DOCK - NIGHT

FIREFIGHTING UNITS -- SIRENS WAILING and GUMBALLS FLASHING --
careen to a stop at the blazing TOURIST MARKET VENDOR BOOTH.

FIREMEN

leap to the FIRE HYDRANTS with their BILGE PUMP WATER HOSES.

EXT. HARBOR. SANCHITA - NIGHT

Hector and Juan are ready on deck surrounded by FULL WATER BUCKETS.

HECTOR
Cast off, the fire's too close!

Juan grabs the wheel at the helm and yanks the throttles back.

On shore, Enrique tosses the mooring line to Hector and starts to
run up the gangplank -- but Hector pushes him back.

HECTOR (cont'd)
You caused enough trouble!

The Sanchita pulls away, leaving Enrique standing on the dock.

Maria motors up in the Avon next to Enrique.

MARIA
You boy, help me please!

Maria tosses Enrique a mooring line, climbs up onto the dock,
brushes off her jacket -- then sees the FLAMING VENDOR BOOTHS in
the tourist market.

ENRIQUE
Who shot the flares?

MARIA
A madman. Please, take me where
it's safe.

LATER.

The TOURIST MARKET VENDOR BOOTH FIRE has smoldered out, the firemen are all gone, and the Vendors have gone back to sleep.

EXT. HARBOR. DOCK - NIGHT

Enrique and Maria sit on a bench facing the harbor -- a lot of earnest, revealing CONVERSATION has been exchanged.

ENRIQUE

So that's why I don't think the bracelet fell overboard.

MARIA

Where is Cuervo now?

ENRIQUE

I wish I knew, I miss him.

Maria reaches over, and gives Enrique a hug he gratefully accepts.

MARIA

Do Juan and Hector know this?

ENRIQUE

Juan, he has too many things in his head to worry about complicated things. Hector, he'd just laugh.

CUT TO:

ROSA

wakes up from her TOURIST MARKET BOOTH COT -- she hears Enrique and Maria talking alone on the dock.

She rises in her cot -- and her jealous eyes narrow in on Maria holding Enrique in her arms.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Enrique and Maria see Sgt. Garcia approaching them.

Enrique pulls away from Maria and wipes his tears away.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

You're gonna tell him, aren't you.

Maria wants to hold Enrique again -- maybe it's diamond bracelet profit, maybe maternal protective love. She smiles.

MARIA

No, it's our little secret.

ENRIQUE

Please tell the Señora hello for me.

Maria leans over and give Enrique a peck on the cheek -- Enrique turns beet red, then slips away and vanishes down the dark street.

Maria watches him go, smiling -- but quickly hardens her demeanor when a stern Sgt. Garcia stops before her.

SGT. GARCIA

You are the Señora's assistant?

MARIA

Yes, I'm Maria.

Sgt. Garcia looks out at the YACHT LIGHTS in the harbor, then nods to the smoldering TOURIST MARKET BOOTH.

SGT. GARCIA

I would appreciate you accompanying me to the police station.

INT. GARCIA'S PATROL UNIT - DAY - MOVING

Officer Mendez is driving Sgt. Garcia and the Mayor, who's picking SEAWEEED and other FLOTSAM off his jacket.

Sgt. Garcia is eating TINY ENCHILADAS out of a TAKE-OUT BOX.

SGT. GARCIA

How was your voyage on the Sanchita?

MAYOR

Unforgettable. Must you eat around me? Get that out of my sight. Now tell me about the fire.

Sgt. Garcia turns away from the Mayor to hide his TAKE-OUT BOX.

SGT. GARCIA

We have the arson suspects in custody, but it is complicated.

MAYOR

Why? You put criminals in jail. Complicated, hah. Who are they?

SGT. GARCIA

Señora Astor-Wolcott and her crew.

The Mayor stops picking at the seaweed and flotsam and frowns.

MAYOR

Señor Albert Astor-Wolcott was very
generous to Cabo San Lucas.

Both men cross themselves. The Mayor returns to his seaweed.

MAYOR (cont'd)

I hope you've done nothing stupid.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott, Charles and Maria are crammed in the same jail cell with Juan Ormiga, who's acting like a caged monkey in a zoo, leaping from JAIL BAR to JAIL BAR around the cell -- with Fifi yapping, leaping and running after him.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Can anyone stop this madness?

Officer Gonzalez opens the CELL DOOR, pulls out his nightstick and CLONKS Ormiga over the head.

Ormiga collapses to the cot, unconscious. Officer Gonzalez exits and locks the CELL DOOR as if nothing happened.

OFFICER GONZALEZ

The Mayor is coming soon.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

I demand to see an ambassador of
the United States.

OFFICER GONZALEZ

He's marlin fishing this week.

The Mayor and Sgt. Garcia enter the station -- Fifi yaps at them.

The Mayor sees Mrs. Astor-Wolcott behind bars, grows furious.

MAYOR

This is an outrage!

SGT. GARCIA

But the flares came from her yacht.

Sgt. Garcia picks up the FLARE GUN and SPENT FLARES at his desk and shows them to the Mayor.

MAYOR

Irrelevant! Señora, please forgive this bumbling idiot, he's new.

SGT. GARCIA

I've been a sergeant for twenty --

MAYOR

Sergeant Garcia, release them or I'll see that you do twenty!

Sgt. Garcia unlocks the cell door and lets everyone out.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Thank you.

MAYOR

My dear lady, all is forgiven.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Not until I pay for the damages. Albert would expect it. He couldn't be here tonight, Maria said the poor dear has an awful cold.

The Mayor and Sgt. Garcia eye each other, confused.

MAYOR

I certainly hope he improves, Señora.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Yes. Now, he gave me a wonderful bracelet here many years ago, and he wants to do the right thing -- to leave it behind to pay for all that terrible damage.

MAYOR

Señora, you are only too kind, but the marketplace at the dock is of no consequence. We will find your bracelet if we have to turn Cabo San Lucas upside-down.

The Mayor gets queasy. He mops his forehead with a handkerchief.

MAYOR (cont'd)

The sea lately, something I ate.

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott knows the Mayor hates the ocean.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
The bracelet was recently appraised
at five million dollars.

The Mayor miraculously recovers. Sgt. Garcia gulp-reacts.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT (cont'd)
And twenty-percent to that most
grateful person who finds it.

Charles and Maria gulp-react -- a million bucks to find it...?

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Cuervo is perched above Enrique's cot. Enrique, Juan and Hector
are eating at the table.

Juan picks at his food, stares at his WINE GLASS on the table.

ENRIQUE
Is everything okay?

Everyone turns to the KNOCK at the door.

Juan opens the door for the Mayor who enters.

JUAN
Enrique, a glass and the good
tequila.

Enrique grabs a shot glass and reaches for a dusty TEQUILA BOTTLE
on a WALL CABINET.

The Mayor sits down at the table.

Enrique pours tequila for the Mayor. The Mayor downs it, puts
the shot glass down on the table for Enrique to pour another.

JUAN (cont'd)
What brings you to our humble home?
It's not election time.

MAYOR
I came to talk about the boy's pet.

The Mayor smiles at Juan, then sips his tequila.

MAYOR (cont'd)
The pelican may make as much money
as he wishes, without a permit, any
time of the week.

Juan sips his wine, eyes Cuervo, thinks for a BEAT.

JUAN
A generous offer. And in return?

MAYOR
The Señora's diamond bracelet.

JUAN
He knows nothing about any bracelet.
We returned what the bird took.

MAYOR
Let's keep this pleasant, Juan.

JUAN
Ah, I see. If we have the Señora's
bracelet, which we don't, we give
it to you, so you collect the reward.
(off the Mayor)
It's all the talk in Cabo San Lucas.

The Mayor realizes Juan knows more than he suspected. He downs his tequila and rises, angry.

MAYOR
Do not test my patience. Have it
in my office by tomorrow night.

EXT. HARBOR. SANCHITA - DAWN

Hector swabs out the fishwell. Enrique repairs a seine net at the fish cleaning table. Juan is at the helm, painting the trim.

HECTOR
I thought you could speak to him.

CUERVO

is perched on his dock piling, purposely ignoring them.

JUAN
Clean the fishwell, burro.

HECTOR
No Juan, this time you are wrong.
You boy, get that bird to speak!

Hector hurls a CORK BUOY at Enrique who runs to Cuervo, upset.

ENRIQUE
Why won't you tell me?

Cuervo turns away from Enrique, lifts his tail -- and FARTS.

The tourist boy ZACK approaches Enrique, gets a whiff of Cuervo.

ZACK
I still got five bucks, so what's
the deal? Whoa, what's that smell?

ENRIQUE
He has a cold. He can't dive today.

Zack, the rich-boy entrepreneur, pulls out a FIVE-DOLLAR BILL.

ZACK
So if he doesn't dive you owe me
five, right?

ENRIQUE
Right, but he --

Zack starts wailing toward the TOURISTS shopping in the market.

ZACK
Help! Thief!

The TOURISTS see Enrique run to the Sanchita with Zack running right behind him, shouting repeatedly.

ZACK (cont'd)
Stop, he stole my money!

Zack runs into Juan towering over him in the sunlight.

JUAN
How much?

Zack shrinks from a bully back down to a frightened little boy.

ZACK
Five dollars.

Juan fishes in his pocket, pulls a CRUMPLED FIVE-DOLLAR BILL out of his pocket, tosses it to Zack.

JUAN
Stay off the dock, it's dangerous.

Hector watches Zack run away from Juan and Enrique.

HECTOR
Good luck and fortune, eh Juan?

JUAN
Do you ever shut up?

Juan grabs Enrique squarely by the shoulders.

JUAN (cont'd)
This is no longer a game, little
nephew. I don't care how, but you
must find that diamond bracelet.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - EVENING

The Mayor looks out the window at the fading SUNSET. Checks his watch, shakes his head.

He returns to his desk, picks up the phone, starts making a call. Stops -- pensive, starts chewing a thumbnail, hangs up the phone.

EXT. CABO SAN LUCAS - NIGHT

Ocean moonrise. A mariachi band plays somewhere in town.

MATCH SOUND TO:

CRICKETS

chirp in the dark as the CAMERA heads up the dirt path.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - NIGHT

Juan and Hector are at the table, eating in silence. Enrique's chair and place setting is empty.

Enrique's cot and Cuervo's perch are empty too.

Enrique enters, crosses to his cot, and lies down facing the wall.

Juan knows without asking -- the boy didn't find the bracelet.

Hector downs the last of a mezcal jug to disguise his fear.

JUAN
You drink too much.

HECTOR
Yes, and why there's never been anyone
born as perfect as you is one of the
world's great mysteries.

JUAN
You heard the Mayor.

HECTOR

How can you be a shark if you're
afraid of that lying little fish?

Hector raises his eyebrows and empty mezcal jug -- do something.

EXT. HARBOR. SANCHITA - MORNING

Juan's at the helm throwing the throttles forward.

THE SANCHITA

lurches away from the dock.

Enrique is aft, staring at Cuervo's empty dock piling.

EXT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - AFTERNOON

Cuervo lands at the front door. Snicks the DOOR LATCH open with his beak, and waddles inside.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - AFTERNOON

Cuervo looks around, flies to the dining table -- it's bare.

He flies over to the kitchen counter -- nothing in the sink.

He flies to his perch above Enrique's cot and shuts his eyes.

CUERVO'S STOMACH

gurgles. He blinks an eye, gives up an unhappy, hungry SQUERK.

EXT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Maria sneaks through bushes in front with a ROPE and DUFFEL BAG.

She quietly opens the front door latch and pokes her head inside.

CUERVO

is asleep on the perch above the cot, quietly snoring.

EXT. HARBOR - EVENING

Maria boards the Avon raft with a squirming DUFFEL BAG holding the struggling Cuervo inside. She starts the engine.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - EVENING

Charles helps Mrs. Astor-Wolcott into her wheelchair. The two Male Servants start pushing her away.

Maria turns to Charles as Mrs. Astor-Wolcott is wheeled off.

MARIA

I know something you don't know.

Charles studies Maria a BEAT, then heads for the steering room.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. STEERING ROOM - EVENING

Charles and Maria enter. Charles picks up the WALL RADIO PHONE.

MARIA

What are you doing?

CHARLES

Calling Sergeant Garcia. How much longer are you going to lie, Maria?

Maria takes the phone from Charles and hangs it up.

MARIA

Okay, I have it below. But we split fifty-fifty, understand?

CUT TO:

A DUFFEL BAG

sits on the MARBLE FOOD PREP TABLE -- the duffel bag moves.

CUERVO'S HEAD pops out of the duffel bag with a SQUER-AWK!

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. GALLEY - EVENING

HIGH-TECH STAINLESS STEEL STOVE, pots and pans dangling everywhere.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. GALLEY - EVENING

Charles and Maria enter to see Cuervo struggling to escape from the duffel bag. They cross the room and grab the bag, keeping a safe distance from Cuervo's squawking, nipping beak.

CHARLES

Oh my God, he swallowed it?

MARIA

You'll have to find out.

CHARLES

But there's blood in it.

MARIA

Find the bracelet or else, Maria --
that's what you said. You want in?
Open up that bird.

MINUTES LATER.

Charles tests the sharpness of a KNIFE with his thumb, then eyes Cuervo -- he does NOT want to do this.

Maria stands at the STAINLESS STEEL STOVE and covers her eyes.

Charles raises the KNIFE over Cuervo -- the pelican emits the most heart-rending SQUEAK imaginable.

CUERVO'S BALLOON-SIZED EYES

peer up shakily at the knife looming murderously over him.

CHARLES

I'm so sorry we were introduced.

EXT. HARBOR. SANCHITA - EVENING

Juan watches Enrique listlessly swab the deck with a MOP.

JUAN

The deck will not bruise.

Enrique snaps out of his trance, picks up his mopping speed, then slows down again until he stops to lean on the mop handle.

ENRIQUE

I don't know where he is, Juan.
I've looked everywhere. I let you
and Hector down, the biggest sharks
in all of Cabo San Lucas.

Enrique leans the mop against the transom, heads for the gangplank.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

I'll pack my things and go. I don't
want to be a burden on anyone.

Juan gives Enrique that all-knowing *patron* smile of his.

JUAN

Nobody's going away. You're not yet
old enough to complicate life with
burdens. Now get back to that mop.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. GALLEY - EVENING

Charles lowers the knife onto the stainless steel counter, and grips the counter edge for emotional support.

Cuervo -- still alive -- struggles to escape from the duffel bag.

CHARLES

Can't you just -- you know, poop it out or something?

Maria removes her hands from her eyes, sees Cuervo's still alive.

MARIA

Why is that head still attached?

CHARLES

How do you know he swallowed it?
Can't we X-ray him or something?

MARIA

And split a million dollars with the doctor too?

Maria grabs the knife and raises it over Cuervo's head.

Charles covers his eyes near the galley door.

Cuervo emits another helpless, miserable SQUERK and the sorriest, bloodshot gooning eyes as Maria looms over him with the KNIFE.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

A PEELED BANANA

is being slowly eaten by Sgt. Garcia as he sits at his desk.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

Sgt. Garcia nibbles at the peeled banana as the Mayor and the Priest watch him, disgusted.

SGT. GARCIA

What? You said stay here. My wife yelled at me, now I get no dinner tonight. This is the thanks I get?

MAYOR

Imbecile, arrest the Pacheco brothers. They did not bring me the Señora's diamond bracelet.

Sgt. Garcia stuffs the banana into his mouth, creating TWO HUGE PUFFBALLS in his cheeks, making it impossible to talk clearly.

SGT. GARCIA
Arrest them? On what charge?

The Mayor misunderstands Sgt. Garcia's garbled words.

MAYOR
Yes, we'll all be heroes. Bring the boy and that pelican in too.

SGT. GARCIA
No, on what charge?

MAYOR
What?

SGT. GARCIA
We can't charge them with nothing.

MAYOR
What did he say?

PRIEST
He's in charge, you're not thinking.
(shrugs)
I don't speak stuffed banana.

SGT. GARCIA
No, what charge?!

MAYOR
I'm in charge here, you idiot!

Sgt. Garcia finally swallows most of the banana and gasps.

SGT. GARCIA
We must charge them with something!

As Sgt. Garcia shouts, he sprays banana all over the Mayor's suit.

The Priest helps clean up the furious Mayor as he wipes banana off his suit with a handkerchief.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. GALLEY - EVENING

Maria grabs Cuervo by the neck and puts the knife to his throat.

A TINY TEAR forms in Cuervo's EYE and drips off his cheek feathers.

Maria releases Cuervo, tosses the knife in the sink with a clatter.

MARIA

It's no use. I can't.

Charles uncovers his eyes -- Cuervo's still alive.

Charles opens a cupboard, gets a CAN of SARDINES-IN-OIL. Pulls the lid off. Forks out a sardine, holds it up to Cuervo's beak --

Cuervo snaps it down -- he's starving, remember?

Charles hands the SARDINE CAN to Maria.

CHARLES

A five million dollar bracelet can't
stay inside him forever, can it?
Do we have any castor oil?

Cuervo spit-takes the anchovy -- SQUA-SQUAWK? Not a laxative...!

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's GALLEY SERVICE LIGHT pops on and buzzes.

MARIA

Go see what she wants.
(off Charles)
He'll be here when you return.

Charles hesitates a BEAT, suspicious, then exits.

Maria harpoons a sardine with a LONG BARBECUE FORK, holds it over Cuervo's beak -- the pelican snaps it up.

She shrieks, holds up the fork defensively.

MARIA (cont'd)

I have a black belt in karate.

Cuervo doesn't care -- he FINALLY BREAKS FREE of the duffel bag.

He blows up his beak pouch big as A PILATE BALL and exhales a --
GODZILLA-SIZED SQUA-AAR-ROOMPH...!

Maria hangs onto the stove as Godzilla Cuervo BLASTS pots and pans, cucharachas and utensils past her with his monstrous roar.

Cuervo stops roaring -- Maria slumps against the stove, and accidentally turns on a STOVETOP PILOT.

Cuervo lands on the sink counter -- FRYING PANS fly everywhere. He races through rows of HANGING POTS -- CLATTER-BANG -- CRASH!

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. CABIN ROOM - EVENING

The two Male Servants are in the upper and lower bunks, reading. They try to ignore the clattering commotion above in the galley.

SERVANT #1

I hope she tears his eyes out.

The two Male Servants return to their reading.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. GALLEY - EVENING

Maria backs Cuervo into a corner with the BARBECUE FORK -- she swings and misses as the pelican WHOOSHES by her.

As Maria swings, the BARBECUE FORK TIP snags the sardine can and flips it into the open stove top flame.

Maria stands defensively with the barbecue fork again.

MARIA

Hah! So you were the thief all along.

SARDINE OIL spills from the can and drains toward the FLAME.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. CABIN ROOM - EVENING

Charles enters to see Mrs. Astor-Wolcott in bed.

CHARLES

What can I do for you, Madame?

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Can Maria do my hair?

CHARLES

Certainly, she'll be right up.

Charles starts to exit when they both hear a CLONK!

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

What was that?

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. GALLEY - EVENING

Cuervo is now chasing Maria around the room. She slips and falls down by the stainless steel cabinet. Cuervo crashes next to her.

CLONK!

A FLOUR SACK

on the counter above them falls on the two, coating them in FLOUR.

They blink their scary WHITE FACES at each other -- SQUAWK-screech! -- then bullet off in opposite directions.

The SARDINE OIL drains into the open stove top flame -- HISSING SMOKE billows up.

FOOMPH!

a LARGE FLAME erupts on the sardine oil-soaked stove top.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Enrique bursts in the front door, scans the room -- no Cuervo.

Juan and Hector enter after Enrique and see the grief on the boy's face, then hear SCRAPING GUMSHOE LEATHER behind them at the door.

Sgt. Garcia stands there, ready to do the Mayor's dirty work.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

Enrique, Juan and Hector are in the jail cell with Ormiga, who's still swinging around the bars like a crazed zoo monkey.

The Mayor and Sgt. Garcia are pacing outside the jail cell.

MAYOR

If we settle this now, we'll drop
the charges and you can go home.

Hector rattles the jail door, unnerved by Ormiga's histrionics.

HECTOR

What do you want, I will tell you
everything!

MAYOR

You know what we want.

Hector turns to Juan relaxing on the bed, hands behind his head.

HECTOR

Get up, we need another miracle!

JUAN

We're fishermen with all our fingers
and toes. That's miracle enough.

HECTOR

Is that all you got, is jokes?

JUAN

Is this when you, Hector Pacheco,
tell the world how it shall be?

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. RUNWAY - EVENING

Charles walks down the corridor and smells smoke.

MARIA

bursts out of the galley door in a billowing CLOUD OF FLOUR and
slams into Charles, tumbling both of them onto the deck.

Charles sees SMOKE pouring out from the open galley door.

CHARLES

Good heavens woman, you didn't cook
that bird, did you?

A BOMB LOAD of flour-covered BEAK, WEBBED FEET and FEATHERS hurtles
out of the gallery door and barrel-rolls straight into Charles.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. CABIN ROOM - EVENING

The two Male Servants are still reading in their bunks. A WAFT
OF SMOKE drifts into an OPEN PORTHOLE, they react.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

The Mayor stands outside the jail cell beside Juan, who's still
lying on the cot watching Juan Ormiga swing around the bars.

MAYOR

So, this is how it is?

JUAN

If we had it, she would've had it on
her hand again. That's how it is.

Officers Gonzalez, Mendez and Sanchez enter the room, out of breath
and sweating, and salute Sgt. Garcia.

SGT. GARCIA

Ahh Officer Gonzalez, did you search
the Pacheco brothers' home?

OFFICER GONZALEZ
Yes Sergeant, we did.

SGT. GARCIA
Did you search the Sanchita?

OFFICER GONZALEZ
Yes Sergeant, we did.

MAYOR
And?

Officers Gonzalez, Mendez and Sanchez shrug, palms up. Sgt. Garcia dagger-eyes the Mayor -- I told you so, *tonto*.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Enrique, Hector and Juan sit around the dining table, silent.

Juan is working on the MARLIN FISHING REEL, Hector is FWEEING cucarachas off the table with his handmade rubber band pistol, and Enrique is playing with the last few morsels on his plate.

HECTOR
Don't open the door for anyone, Juan.
We need peace and quiet for a change.

Juan sniffs the air. He walks out the front door and sees FLAMES spewing from the ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT in the harbor.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - EVENING

The two Male Servants jump into the Avon raft with their LUGGAGE.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - EVENING

Cuervo struggles again inside the duffel bag resting on a lounge chair, an ORANGE LIFE VEST wrapped around the duffel bag.

Charles and Maria run to the rail to see the Male Servants gun the Avon raft across the bay toward town.

MARIA
Stop them!

CHARLES
With what do you suggest this time?

They both sniff the air, look over the rail, and see SMOKE and FIRE belching out of the galley window.

INT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. STEERING ROOM - EVENING

Charles hangs up the RADIO PHONE, disgusted.

MARIA

What do you mean it doesn't work?

CHARLES

Radio transmitter's in the galley.
The sprinkler system must've ruined
it putting out the fire.

MARIA

I want off this yacht, I don't want
to die here!

CHARLES

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott is our first
priority. Now be a good overpaid
assistant and tend to her.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - EVENING

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott, in an ORANGE LIFE VEST, sits on a lounge chair
with Fifi, in a TINY ORANGE LIFE VEST.

Fifi growls and starts yapping at Cuervo -- HE'S THE THIEF...!

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Shush now, Fifi.

Charles watches Maria scribble a RESCUE NOTE on a YELLOW NOTEPAD.

CHARLES

This will never work.

MARIA

Then come up with a better plan.

CHARLES

The bird can't possibly rescue us.

MARIA

No? Where do you think he'll fly?

Charles considers this for a BEAT, then unties the STRING trapping
Cuervo in the duffel bag.

Maria puts the YELLOW RESCUE NOTE in a PLASTIC BAG, then ties the
plastic bag around Cuervo's neck.

CUT TO:

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Enrique sits on the ground outside the front door, scratching the dirt with a stick while scanning the dusky vista.

RETURN TO SCENE:

Charles opens the duffel bag, releases Cuervo, and turns to Maria.

CHARLES

I hope I know what you're doing.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - EVENING

Enrique hears a familiar SQUAWK in the gathering darkness.

Cuervo lands on the ground before Enrique's feet, and starts trying to remove the irritating YELLOW RESCUE NOTE from his neck.

Enrique reaches down for the yellow rescue note -- Cuervo pulls away. Enrique leaps for Cuervo to keep him from flying off.

ENRIQUE

Not this time you don't.

Cradling the struggling, fussy pelican in his arms, Enrique unfolds and reads the yellow rescue note, then turns to the house, excited.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

Juan!

EXT. SANCHITA - MORNING

Enrique watches a COAST GUARD CUTTER tow the Astor-Wolcott yacht into the harbor -- BLACK SMOKE DAMAGE covers the PORT SIDE.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Charles, Mrs. Astor-Wolcott and Maria are having COFFEE AND DONUTS with the Mayor and Sgt. Garcia. Fifi sits in a HIGH CHAIR beside them, a TINY BIB around his neck, a TINY DONUT in his DOGGIE TRAY.

Enrique, Juan and Hector enter and hold the door open for Cuervo.

Cuervo sees Charles and Maria and throws a squawking hissy-fit.

Fifi sees Cuervo enter and starts yapping like a rabid mongoose.

Ormiga leaps up on the bars and, to the horror of the two Male Servants caged inside with him, starts howling like a wolf.

Sgt. Garcia takes a few swings at Ormiga with his nightstick -- Ormiga leaps off the bars and dives under the cot.

MAYOR

Please, everyone remain calm!

Enrique scoops Cuervo up and scratches his head, soothing him.

ENRIQUE

This is the lady I told you about.
She bought my shells last year.

Enrique turns Cuervo toward Mrs. Astor-Wolcott.

ENRIQUE (cont'd)

He's a good pelican, really. He's
my very best friend.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

And you should be so lucky. Thank
you all for rescuing us.

Maria gives Charles a haughty look -- told you he'd rescue us...

ROSA

enters the station's front door with a huge FLOWER BOUQUET.

MAYOR

Ahh thank you, Rosa. Pay her, Garcia.
I said pay her.

Sgt. Garcia grinds his teeth while pulling out his wallet, as the Mayor hands Rosa's FLOWER BOUQUET to Mrs. Astor-Wolcott.

Enrique turns DOUBLE-RED EMBARRASSED locking eyes with Rosa as she takes MONEY from Sgt. Garcia.

Rosa heads for the door, turns and gives Enrique a dimpled smile.

Juan sees Rosa flirting with Enrique, amused.

Cuervo sees it too -- SQUAWK, what's this nonsense...?

JUAN ORMIGA

crawls out from under the cot and starts chasing the two screaming Male Servants around the jail cell, leaping from bar to bar.

SGT. GARCIA

There's just one more tiny matter.

CHARLES
Most undoubtedly.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT
Oh now, Charles. Sergeant, I'll
post the bail if you tell me what
my misbehaving crew did.

Charles pulls out a thick wad of MONEY from his wallet, sighs.

SGT. GARCIA
Hmm, the cantina they ran a donkey
through, a car they drove off the
dock. We're still counting the
broken beer and tequila bottles in
the fountain --

SERVANT #1
Oh thank you both!

SERVANT #2
Yes Charles, thank you!

CHARLES
Oh, you'll thank us alright.

Enrique sees Rosa walk down the front steps, his heart fluttering.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - MORNING

The yacht has been restored and repainted to its former brilliance.

THE TWO MALE SERVANTS

paint-spattered and grimy from head to toe, watch Charles inspect
their work inch by inch.

CHARLES
Missed a spot here...and here...

Charles pulls out the RED SPEEDOS from inside his jacket, and
drops them in a bucket of WHITE PAINT beside Male Servant #1.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - MORNING

Enrique is asleep on his cot. Cuervo drops off his perch to the
floor beside Enrique, and pokes him with his beak.

Cuervo and Enrique quietly exit the front door. Cuervo squerks.

ENRIQUE

Quiet. Where we going?

EXT. SHORELINE. ROCK OUTCROPPING - MORNING

Cuervo leads Enrique to the FLAT ROCK and SQUAWKS.

Enrique lifts the flat rock -- and sees Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's DIAMOND BRACELET sparkling in the early morning sunlight.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - DAY

Juan and Hector are eating breakfast when Enrique bursts in the front door waving the DIAMOND BRACELET.

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - DAY

Maria fixes Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's hair as she sits in the lounge chair with Fifi, gazing out at the tourist market in town.

Charles approaches with a TRAY OF REFRESHMENTS.

CHARLES

Repairs have all been made, Madame.
She's ready to sail when you are.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Thank you, Charles.

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's face grows long.

MARIA

Mrs. A?

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

I feel like I'm leaving a part of
me behind. I do hope Albert won't
be too angry with me losing it.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Juan stops his rattling, smoky OLD SEDAN at the curb in front.

Enrique and Hector emerge from the back doors of the sedan.

JUAN

Remember what I said.

HECTOR

I hope you got it right.

Juan watches Enrique and Hector climb the stairs to the door.

JUAN

I hope you do too.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

The Mayor watches with disgust as Sgt. Garcia gets ready to cut a WHOLE PINEAPPLE on his desk in half with a MACHETE.

SGT. GARCIA

You told me to stay, my wife refused
to bring me lunch, thank you.

Enrique and Hector enter -- Enrique holds up the DIAMOND BRACELET.

ENRIQUE

Surprise!

The Mayor's jaw drops. Sgt. Garcia splits the pineapple -- CHUNK!

The Mayor greedily reaches for the diamond bracelet -- but Enrique and Hector are already out the door.

MAYOR

Garcia!

Sgt. Garcia has TWO PINEAPPLE HALVES in his hands with nowhere to put them -- so he tosses them to the Mayor and runs out the door.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Sgt. Garcia runs pell-mell-to-hell out the front door chased by TWO FLYING PINEAPPLE HALVES hurled by the Mayor.

Enrique and Hector jump through the front and back CAR WINDOWS.

Sgt. Garcia grabs Enrique by the legs in the FRONT WINDOW.

Cuervo leaps up from the back seat and clamps down on Sgt. Garcia's hand -- Sgt. Garcia howls and releases Enrique.

Juan stomps on the gas -- and his rattling old sedan screeches away in a big old hairy billowing cloud of BLUE SMOKE.

The Mayor races down the stairs to Sgt. Garcia at the curb.

MAYOR

Where's your patrol car?!

SGT. GARCIA

Where else, on patrol.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Officer Mendez eats a HAPPY MEAL behind the wheel. Officer Sanchez snores in the passenger seat as the POLICE RADIO crackles to life.

INT/EXT. JUAN'S SEDAN - DAY - MOVING

Juan's behind the wheel, Enrique's riding shotgun. Cuervo and Hector are in the back seat watching out the rear window.

HECTOR
I think we lost them.

They hear a siren. Cuervo squawks angrily at Hector.

HECTOR (cont'd)
Me? What happened to your eyes?

INT. POLICE UNIT - DAY - MOVING

Sirens wail, gumballs flash. Officer Mendez is at the wheel, Officer Sanchez rides shotgun, the Mayor and Sgt. Garcia are in back as they race after Juan's sedan through the streets.

MAYOR
Don't let them get away!

The police unit hits a SOMBRERO CART -- SOMBREROS fly everywhere.

INT. JUAN'S SEDAN - DAY - MOVING

Juan nearly swerves off the dock street into the harbor water.

Cuervo's reeling beside Hector -- he's looking real carsick.

Enrique hangs onto the bracelet as Juan narrowly misses a FLOCK OF SEAGULLS squabbling over a FAST-FOOD BAG on the street.

JUAN
That's a lot of money in your hands.

ENRIQUE
I know.

JUAN
It could buy us a new fishing boat.

ENRIQUE
I know.

JUAN
Then why do you want to return it?

ENRIQUE

Cuervo promised not to steal anymore.

Cuervo mops his beading forehead with a feathery wing, shivers.

HECTOR

Hey bird, whatsamatter?

INT. POLICE UNIT - DAY - MOVING

The Mayor starts throwing a SOMBRERO out the window, reconsiders.

INT. JUAN'S SEDAN - DAY - MOVING

Enrique polishes the DIAMOND BRACELET against his shirt.

ENRIQUE

And I don't want any more bad luck.

HECTOR

Somebody's luck is gonna change
back here if we don't pull over!

Cuervo's slumped on the back seat in various shades of green.

INT. POLICE UNIT - EVENING - MOVING

Officer Mendez drives without concern for life or limb as the Mayor and Sgt. Garcia are bickering in back.

MAYOR

Garcia, this is all your fault!

SGT. GARCIA

Me? Why you bag of beans, I oughta
arrest you for stealing that!

The Mayor tosses the sombrero out the window.

MAYOR

Faster, Mendez!

INT. JUAN'S SEDAN - EVENING - MOVING

Juan screeches to a stop on the dock alongside the Sanchita.

Cuervo BARFS -- but Hector snaps the pelican's beak shut in time.

HECTOR

Oh no you don't!

Cuervo's pouch blows up to the size of a PILATE BALL.

Hector leaps out the back door holding Cuervo's beak.

The patrol unit pulls up behind Juan's old sedan. Officer Mendez hits the brakes too late -- he rear-ends Juan's sedan.

Hector points Cuervo's beak at the police unit just as the Mayor, Sgt. Garcia, and Officers Mendez and Sanchez open the car doors.

HAAAAAR-RK...!

GREEN PELICAN BARF sprays over the patrol unit, the Mayor, Sgt. Garcia, and Officers Mendez and Sanchez as they bail out of the police unit to flee from the rotten stench.

SGT. GARCIA

I can't breathe!

OFFICER MENDEZ

I can't see!

OFFICER SANCHEZ

You can't drive!

MAYOR

Never mind all that, after them!

But they're too late -- the Sanchita roars away from the dock.

EXT. OCEAN. SANCHITA - EVENING

Enrique, Hector and Juan are at the helm watching the Mayor, Sgt. Garcia and the two Officers board the patrol boat at the dock.

JUAN

They'll have to sprout wings to catch us now!

EXT. ASTOR-WOLCOTT YACHT. TOP DECK - EVENING

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott and Fifi sit in the lounge chair, alone.

MRS. ASTOR-WOLCOTT

Well this was an interesting holiday.
Good thing I still have you.

Fifi gives Mrs. Astor-Wolcott a big sloppy LICK under her chin.

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott sees the Sanchita pull up alongside the yacht.

The PATROL BOAT pulls up behind the Sanchita -- again too late.

Enrique's already climbed up the yacht's BOARDING LADDER with the DIAMOND BRACELET in his hand.

The Mayor casually removes his HAT, starts humming, smiles at Sgt. Garcia -- then WHACKS him over the head with his hat.

DRAMATIC MUSIC RISES.

Mrs. Astor-Wolcott sees Enrique run to her in SLOW-MOTION.

THE DIAMOND BRACELET

glimmers in his hand as he hands it over to Mrs. Astor-Wolcott.

Their hands meet in the middle of FRAME -- THE DIAMOND BRACELET surrounds the SETTING SUN inside the bracelet loop.

EXT. HARBOR - EVENING

The Mayor and Sgt. Garcia step off the patrol boat onto the dock.

Officer Gonzalez is writing a TICKET between the crushed front end of the police unit and the crumpled rear of Juan's sedan.

Sgt. Garcia removes his hat and WHACKS it over the Mayor's head.

EXT. HARBOR. SANCHITA - EVENING

A Cabo San Lucas tourist sunset. Enrique, Juan and Hector stand on the dock watching the Astor-Wolcott yacht motor away.

ENRIQUE

Will she send us the reward?

Juan's face grows long, pensive, yet with a faint glimmer of hope.

JUAN

Should I tell you what you want to hear or do you want the truth?

ENRIQUE

Truth is, I don't care which.

EXT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - DAY

Juan opens the MAILBOX, finds an ENVELOPE addressed to Enrique.

INT. PACHECO BROTHERS' HOME - DAY

Enrique holds Mrs. Astor-Wolcott's CHECK at the table, beaming at Juan, who's carving an apple for them at the table.

INSERT CHECK:

Pay to the order of ENRIQUE PACHECO

ONE MILLION DOLLARS

ENRIQUE

See, Juan? Good things do happen
when you tell the truth.

FADE TO BLACK.

SIX MONTHS LATER

EXT. ENRIQUE'S NEW HOME - AFTERNOON

Small comfortable HOUSE on the sand, bathed in a SUNSET.

Enrique steps out the front door holding a CHURRO. He starts to take a bite -- when something catches his eye.

Cuervo, wearing a TUXEDO TIE, drops off a new WOODEN DOCK PILING in front of the house.

Cuervo waddles down to the shore to a NEW DOCK.

Offshore in the harbor, Hector and Juan BLAST THE HORN at the helm of a BRAND-NEW SANCHITA II.

Cuervo hops up on the dock -- SOMETHING FAR AWAY catches his eye.

Cuervo flies over the ocean catching updrafts in his WING TIPS, his TUXEDO TIE rippling in the wind around his neck.

On and on Cuervo flies...past FISHERMEN in pangas.

EXT. HARBOR - AFTERNOON

LUPITO -- that naughty red rooster -- has escaped again, clucking and flapdoodling down the street.

And ROSA is right behind his crowing wake in furious pursuit.

ROSA

Wait until I get my hands on you!

Tourists and Vendors laugh as Lupito and Rosa race by.

The Mayor and Sgt. Garcia watch Rosa scold Lupito captured in her arms as she walks back to the flower booth.

They smile -- life has returned to normal in Cabo San Lucas.

Tourists and Vendors applaud as Rosa puts Lupito back in his cage. She steps out from behind the flower booth and takes a bow.

But Rosa doesn't see that skulking tuxedo-tied Cuervo circling above the tourist market, eyeing his clueless prey below until...

SQUA-AAR-OOMPH...!

Cuervo dive-bombs straight for Rosa's flower booth.

DUST and FLOWER PETALS slowly drift back to earth -- like a bomb went off in Rosa's flower booth.

Rosa raises her head, her hair covered in LONG-STEM ROSES.

Lupito streaks out of his BROKEN CAGE, and flies down the street.

Cuervo explodes from under a pile of FLOWERS and VASES and rockets out of the booth with a FLOWER BOUQUET in his beak.

Rosa sees where that nasty thief is going with her flowers. She brushes herself off, rolls up her sleeves, puts on the meanest, crankiest face she can muster, and storms away from her booth.

The Mayor sees it all and turns to Sgt. Garcia, unnerved.

MAYOR

Did you see that, Garcia?

But Sgt. Garcia was too busy tossing GRAPES into his mouth.

SGT. GARCIA

See what?

The Mayor has an apoplectic fit -- he tears his hat off, bites down on the brim, and releases a clenched-jaw primal scream.

Sgt. Garcia steps away from the Mayor spinning in a foot-stomping hissy-fit and continues tossing grapes into his mouth.

ROSA

storms down the sand toward a row of BEACH HOUSES.

EXT. ENRIQUE'S NEW BEACH HOUSE - EVENING

Enrique sees Cuervo fly back with the FLOWER BOUQUET in his beak.

ENRIQUE

Ai-yi-yi, what have you done now,
you crazy bird?

Enrique sees Rosa furiously drawing closer to him on the sand.

He musters the courage to speak, then sees those BEAUTIFUL BROWN EYES of hers -- and dissolves into a stuttering fool again.

Rosa points at Cuervo circling above, then turns to Enrique.

ROSA
Your thieving bird --

She blinks -- Enrique's BROWN EYES have suddenly smitten her too.

Circling above, Cuervo drops the FLOWER BOUQUET between them.

Enrique picks up the flower bouquet and hands it to Rosa.

ENRIQUE
I know, my pet has very bad manners.

He breaks his CHURRO in half, offers a piece to her.

As they eat their churros, we can tell they're falling in love.

ENRIQUE (V.O.) (cont'd)
Mama was right, something good always
happens when you tell the truth.

Cuervo sails over the dock, and lands in the water beside a FEMALE PELICAN with LONG EYELASHES -- his tuxedo tie spinning madly.

Enrique and Rosa walk hand in hand along the beach in the sunset.

ENRIQUE (V.O.) (cont'd)
Papa was right too, it also doesn't
hurt to have a little luck.

Cuervo and the FEMALE PELICAN nuzzle beaks for a BEAT, then fly off together over the ocean into the sunset.

SQUER-RAWK...!

CHEERY MARIACHI MUSIC RISES.

FADE TO BLACK.