

**Three Great German Shepherds**

a screenplay by

**Paul Streitz**

Based on

**A Man with Three Great German Shepherds  
and 1,000 troy ounces of gold.**

by

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1 EXT. PARK, SACRAMENTO - MORNING  
(DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin (40's) SITTING ON A PARK BENCH IN CALIFORNIA. A  
GERMAN SHEPHERD BESIDE HIM.

DAN MARTIN

Having turned over a new leaf, I  
came out of church one Sunday morning  
and saw a woman walking a big ol'  
German shepherd.

"That's a handsome dog," I said to  
myself. "And a good dog, too. "

What bearing and poise. He looked  
perfectly trained; so damn smart, so  
damn ready to protect, to obey, to  
prove himself.

I think I'd like one of those. I  
think I'd like to have a dog. It  
seemed like that dog pretty much put  
all other dogs to shame I wouldn't  
exactly say I'm a cheapskate, but as  
I was doing research on getting a  
German Shepherd, I came to discover  
a good one might cost \$2000 - \$5000.

Fortunately (I mean unfortunately  
for them), as I said before, people  
throw away these animals like used  
diapers, and there are a bunch of  
German Shepherd rescue groups around  
the State, not to mention the various  
Pounds, which is where I found my  
sad, bedraggled, one year old Lucy.

She was listed online by the county,  
so I hustled out there to find a  
creature that didn't much resemble  
her purported breed. She was skinny  
with ribs and hip bones jutting out  
like a starved cow you see in India.  
Her head looked too big for her body,  
her coat was filthy and dull.

The attendant assured me she was a  
sweet dog, but I had my doubts.

Nevertheless, I took her out for a  
little walk. She seemed gentle,  
possessed a soft head and ears that  
I thought I'd enjoy petting.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

I'll take her! (But I could always bring her back if I didn't like her much. ) After completing all their rigmarole and fees, I left with a spayed bitch who weighed about forty-five pounds. A fairly cheap acquisition.

Until I took her to the Vet.

Lucy is malnourished. Lucy has worms. Lucy has kennel cough. Lucy needs shots. Lucy needs a license. Ka-ching, ka-ching, ka-ching. Hmm, not so cheap after all.

And the mellow, sleep all day dog I first brought home started acting bright and chipper once she'd gained twenty pounds, stopped hacking her lungs out, and didn't have her food squirting out of her like loose goop. Now she wanted to play, to run, and ignore me as much as possible. What's wrong with this dog? It's like she doesn't like me at all, I told the Vet.

She explained that German Shepherds are slow to bond. It takes six months before the dog decides you're the man. It's part of their breeding, the idea of a strong bond between the dog and the guy who's a lone sheepherder. You want an instant buddy? Get a golden retriever. But he's everybody's instant buddy, too. An Alsatian (another name for a GSD [German Shepherd dog]) is a one man and one family dog.

Lucy filled out to look like an actual black and tan purebred with that perfectly handsome head with large, pointed ears, black diamond spot on her forehead, and black muzzle all in proper proportion; a head like a three-pointed star when she looked right at you, alert and inquisitive.

Lucy was a wild animal, though.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

She didn't listen to a thing I said, and if there was another animal - dog, cat, squirrel in the vicinity, I could barely control her. She dug up the back yard, and helped herself to a couple of shoes and some slippers. What to do?

I consulted an expert, we took lessons, and after a year, she was still barely under control. So much for these dogs being brilliant, eager to please, and obedient. Lucy was unbearably willful. She wanted what she wanted when she wanted it.

Lucy, come!

No, I'm busy digging just now.

Lucy, come!

No, this dog and I are having too good a time. Lucy, come!

Boss, you'd be amazed at how incredible this patch of grass smells.

Lucy, come!

Lucy? Who's Lucy? I don't know anyone by that name. Amazingly, though, exactly after six months a switch went off in her head and she seemed to declare, I love that guy! She acted like she did want to please me when commanded, but then she'd reconsider, No, I still prefer doing what I like.

2 EXT. PARK, SACRAMENTO - AFTERNOON  
(DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin is walking now with two dogs.

DAN MARTIN

I found Zoe out of town near Woodland. The rescue group had listed a black and tan male, and he looked good in the email, but after driving out in the boondocks to a homestead and

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

nearby trailer on a lot amidst cornfields, the dog was too big, too old, and too aggressive (since I'd brought Lucy with me to see if she and a new dog would get along at the start).

After telling the young woman the male wasn't for me, she pointed out that she had a black, purebred German Shepherd, a small female about six months old.

Bring her out.

Now, I don't know how a black German Shepherd is a purebred, but I guess if you take two pure ones, and they end up making an all black one, that qualifies. Since then I've learned that breeders will often get a pure white dog out of a pair of black and tans, too. They call it fatal white since they can't sell the dog for the same amount, and the pedigree is worthless.

The woman, a recent grad from art school (hey, I'm kind of a chatty guy, ya know) was helping out while looking for work in her field of video game drawing, brought Zoe out from a jury-rigged, fenced kennel underneath a large tent.

Zoe turned out to be small, but she was just a pup, and all black. She was passive, somewhat timid, but not particularly frightened or alarmed. She and Lucy seemed to get along so I figured, What the hell.

3 EXT. PARK, SACRAMENTO - EVENING  
(DAN MARTIN)

DAN MARTIN

Since Lucy was pretty well behaved off the leash, and Zoe had learned the basics, and I could walk down the sidewalk with Zoe at my knee and then Lucy beside her.

Way cool.

(MORE)

## DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

It was so cool, in fact, that it occurred to me that I ought to have three German Shepherds, and the third one ought to be white. That way I could have a certain symmetry to the whole thing: three dogs walking beside me in formation - black, black and tan, and white.

I found Ella at the Pound, a sorry spectacle. She was about nine months old, had just been spayed, her front legs had shaved patches and a belly bare of fur. She was dirty, dingy, and spiritless. When I put my hand up to the chain link fence of her cage, she timidly stepped forward to sniff and give it a brief lick. She was quiet amidst the yapping, yelping, barking, and whining cacophony around her, and she remains the quietest dog I've ever known.

She won my heart instantly, the poor, little girl, a true waif with a pink nose.

4 INT. DAN MARTIN'S APARTMENT - EVENING  
(DAN MARTIN, KAREN)

Dan Martin calls on the phone. Young woman answers.

KAREN

Hello?

DAN MARTIN

Hello, Karen. This is Dan Martin, uh, your father.

KAREN

My father is the man who raised me. I don't know you.

DAN MARTIN

That was quick, right off the bat. Like you had it stored. Ready to use first chance you got.

KAREN

Yeah, right.

DAN MARTIN

I'm your biological father, then.

KAREN

Yeah? What do you want?

DAN MARTIN

I'd like to see you. You and Zachary if I can. I'd like to get to know you a little . . . if I can.

KAREN

Why now?

DAN MARTIN

I retired from the Navy. I have the time to travel.

Silence.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Look, I don't know what you've been told about me, if anything, but I'm just a pretty, ordinary fellow. Not too many bad habits, and I get along with most people. There are reasons you don't know me, and they weren't of my choosing.

KAREN

Uh huh.

DAN MARTIN

Meet me for a cup of coffee. Let me explain a few things. How about it?

She hesitates.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Please.

She hesitates

KAREN

All right. When?

DAN MARTIN

Give me a week to drive down. I'll call you next Thursday evening. Okay?

KAREN

Where are you?

DAN MARTIN

I live in Seattle. I retired to Seattle.

KAREN

And you are driving down to see me?

DAN MARTIN

Yes.

KAREN

All right.

DAN MARTIN

My number here is 515-654-3421. In case you change your mind.

KAREN

Ok.

DAN MARTIN

I hope you won't.

KAREN

I don't think so.

DAN MARTIN

I hope you won't. I will call you when I get to Sacramento. Nice talking to you.

Silence

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Goodbye.

KAREN

Goodbye.

5 INT. MOTEL ROOM IN SACRAMENTO - AFTERNOON  
(KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin settles in and takes a few things out of suitcase. He has a heavy metal box, which he puts under the bed. He dials on the phone.

KAREN

Hello.

DAN MARTIN

Hello, it's Dan Martin I'm in Sacramento. Staying at a motel. Perhaps we could meet this evening. For a cup of coffee.

KAREN

Where?

DAN MARTIN

How about Baker's Square on Fair  
Oaks Boulevard. It's off Howard.

KAREN

I know where it is. That's fine.

DAN MARTIN

Around seven?

KAREN

That's fine. I'll see you then.

DAN MARTIN

Ok. See you then.

Both hang up the phone.

6 INT. BAKER'S SQUARE RESTAURANT - EVENING  
(DAN MARTIN, WAITRESS, KAREN)

Dan Martin is sitting in a booth. Across from him is Karen.

SHOT TIGHT ON DAN MARTIN, VIEWED AS KAREN WOULD SEE HIM

Dan Martin is looking at the menu while a waitress stands.  
Over them.

DAN MARTIN

I hear you are famous for your pies.

WAITRESS

Yes, we are. All homemade. Baked  
in our kitchen.

DAN MARTIN

You have strawberry-rhubarb?

WAITRESS

Sure.

DAN MARTIN

I'm always up for famous pies, I'll  
have the strawberry-rhubarb. And  
cup of coffee. Black and sugar.

(looking at Karen.)

What are you going to have?

KAREN

Coffee with milk, please. That's  
it.

DAN MARTIN

So, where do I start? Maybe right at the beginning. Okay?

I married your mother in San Diego after I joined the Navy. She was, Uh, pregnant with you at the time. So it was; it wasn't with a lot of thought, just the right thing to do. But marriage seemed pretty good to me.

I'd ship out for sea duty, that kept me away for months at a time, but we got along when I was home, and then Zachary was born.

I was at sea while Zach was an infant. Then one day I get a letter. Your mother tells me that she's filing for divorce; she doesn't like being married to a sea man, and is taking the kids and going to Pennsylvania where her mother lives. Also divorced, so it runs in the . . . well, let's leave that.

Just like that - she's gone, you're gone, you're all gone

What could I do? She didn't even want child support. But I sent money anyway. She tore up the checks. I sent presents for birthdays, Christmas, cards, letters. Never heard a word. I tried to call, but she got an unlisted number. After three years of that, I got a letter. She said she was marrying again. You and Zachary didn't know or remember anything about me; she never showed you anything I sent, and it would be best for everyone if I left you alone since you had a new daddy who you loved. What was I supposed to do?

TIGHT SHOT ON KAREN

KAREN

She did that?

DAN MARTIN

Yeah. She did.

Karen nods thoughtfully.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

You know her. Does it strike you as something she would do?

Karen nods again.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

I never hit her. I never did anything mean. I wasn't a drunk or anything like that. I don't know why she didn't want to be married to me. I really don't.

KAREN

You weren't good enough.

DAN MARTIN

Huh?

KAREN

She said you had no future in the Navy.

DAN MARTIN

Really?

KAREN

Uh huh. She's never been satisfied. My dad, I mean stepdad, Roger, he worked in a bank. Branch manager. That was never good enough, even though he was smart. Died of a heart attack at forty-nine, and it turned out he'd made a pretty good amount of money for Allentown.

DAN MARTIN

I'm sorry to hear that.

A doubtful look crosses Karen's face.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

I mean it. I always hoped you had someone decent looking out for you.

KAREN

He wasn't decent.

DAN MARTIN

No?

She shook her head.

KAREN

He molested me when I was thirteen.

DAN MARTIN

Oh God, no.

KAREN

Yeah. I always dreamed my real dad would come and save me, but he never did.

DAN MARTIN

I'm sorry. Your mother?

KAREN

I don't know. I didn't tell anyone. It only happened a few times before I got smart enough to make sure he was never alone with me again.

DAN MARTIN

How did you end up out here?

KAREN

As far away as possible?

Dan Martin nods.

DAN MARTIN

Dan Martin, your mother. . . ?

KAREN

As far as I know, she's back in PA. Filed and forgotten, so to speak. She sends me a card at Christmas, sometimes.

DAN MARTIN

Oh.

KAREN

I got a Masters in Public Administration. And I had a boyfriend from California who wanted to come back and get into government, so I moved out with him, and we bought a house in River Park. He left me a few months ago with the mortgage.

DAN MARTIN

What do you do?

KAREN

I work for one of the water resource boards. There must be dozens of them in one form or another. Water is a big, expensive, state run matter. If you didn't notice, we have two rivers right here. It's a big deal.

DAN MARTIN

I see. And the boyfriend?

KAREN

He's around.

They are both finishing their coffee. There are awkward pauses. The waitress brings a check. Dan Martin pays it. They both get up to leave.

DAN MARTIN

I'd like to see you again. If you don't mind.

KAREN

Let me think about it. Call me in a couple of days.

DAN MARTIN

Ok. I will.

They both exit.

7 EXT. PARK, SACRAMENTO - MORNING  
(DAN MARTIN)

DAN MARTIN

Karen and I got to know each other. Once the ice was broken, we warmed up to each other. Karen's a nice girl. It's a shame I'm the only guy who might appreciate it.

Then Karen surprised me. She offered me a room in her house, which took a lot of guts considering she didn't know me that well. And yeah, she needed help on the mortgage, and sure, she was lonely, too; but even so, it was a big decision, and I was touched by it: that she'd trust me enough to allow me in her home.

8 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING  
(KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin is sitting at the kitchen table. While Karen is clearing the table of dishes and doing them in the sink.

KAREN

I go hiking a lot. Up in the Sierras. Gets me away from everything. I have time to think and not think at the same time. Not worry about anything. Just put one foot in front of the others. I have a backpack and stuff. A bedroll. I can sleep on the ground. Rough it.

DAN MARTIN

Oh, sounds like a good past time.

KAREN

It is. Very much.

DAN MARTIN

I contacted Zachary, but he blew me off. Didn't want anything to do with me. Them's the breaks. I admit though, I had hopes.

KAREN

I get a card from him at Christmas. That's all. We don't stay in touch.

DAN MARTIN

What is he doing?

KAREN

I don't really know. He doesn't say anything in his cards.

DAN MARTIN

Oh. Keeps to himself?

KAREN

Yes, I suppose so.

Listen, this is a three bedroom house. One is small, like for kids. But the other is bigger. My bedroom has its own bathroom. Why don't you think about living here. Pay half the mortgage and utilities. It would allow me to save up some money. I can afford this place.

(MORE)

KAREN (CONT'D)

I just don't have much left over at the end of the month. The mortgage is in my name. I should have known when we did it that way, that he wasn't going to stick around.

DAN MARTIN

I have three dogs.

KAREN

Little dogs. Ok, but they sleep with you. In your room.

DAN MARTIN

They are German shepherds.

KAREN

What? Those are big dogs. Heavy dogs.

DAN MARTIN

They are rather small for German shepherds.

KAREN

I don't care. They are big dogs. Plus, they shed all over the place.

DAN MARTIN

I have learned how to take care of them. I vacuum every day. Brush them all the time. They would sleep in my room. Usually one will sleep on the bed with me.

KAREN

That's disgusting. A big dog sleeping on the bed with you.

DAN MARTIN

Dogs have been sleeping next to humans for thousands of years. That's what they are there for. To protect you. They hear things and smell things you can't. We are the only two species that live together for each other's benefit. They protect us. We take care of them. It works out.

KAREN

Yeah, sure.

DAN MARTIN

If it doesn't work out, no hard feelings, I will find someplace else. It will be around Sacramento. It's nice to be around a daughter. We won't share the mortgage. I will pay it all. I've got a good retirement income from the Navy. Health insurance. Some money saved. I can afford it.

KAREN

You don't have to do that.

DAN MARTIN

I want to do it. It is the least I can do. All those years. I couldn't give you any support. I wanted to. I couldn't. I mean I didn't desert you or anything. It just didn't work out.

KAREN

Sure, dad. . . Dan... Well ok. We'll try it.

9 EXT. PARK, SACRAMENTO - MORNING - **DAY**  
(DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin is walking the three dogs.

DAN MARTIN

You could spend your whole life in Sacramento and never know this big cul de sac of 1700 households exists.

It's a part of East Sac, but entirely segregated from it, too River Park was subdivided and developed in the 1950's as a suburb with ranch style homes, mostly three bedroom, one bath and 1200 square feet. A step up from the smaller (but better made) 1920's workers' bungalows that make up a lot of East Sac.

This was *Leave It To Beaver* land with its streets canopied over with English elms, Russian elms, tulip poplars, silver maples, and a number of Asian varieties like ginkgo, camphor, mimosa, Empress of China, along with crepe myrtles, magnolias, tulip trees (Saucer magnolias),

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

redwoods, cedar, fruit trees, aspens, dogwoods, oak, one giant butternut (a true heritage tree) and a marvelous, great oak, cork tree with its spongy bark.

The main reason outsiders come into River Park is to see what cars they can rob, what garages have been left open to loot, and to park at Glen Hall Park so they can get to the American River Parkway, the County's celebrated, many miles long, riparian park that straddles the river. People also hike down to Paradise Beach to swim, party, and sometimes, drown. That has a nice ring to it: Paradise Beach on the American River. Who wouldn't want to go there?

We get some of the homeless flotsam and jetsam, riff raff that bumble their way up from the river and over the levee to see what they can scrounge or prey on. We get ghetto low-lives with their car stereos thumping and vibrating, going down to the river to party, start fights, and do a little gang banging (but that's gotten rare. The mayor and police knowing which constituencies matter).

Oh yeah, River Park is pretty much all white with a smattering of Asians. The middle class, black folks choose to live in the part of town called The Pocket, inside a bend of the Sacramento River in the south part of town.

It doesn't have to be this way. It just is. Birds of a feather and all that.

This is the kind of city neighborhood that real estate brochures tout as: enjoyable urban living. Low crime, proximity to downtown with short commutes on surface streets, easy access to specialty shops and businesses.

Of course, most specialty items and  
(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

goods are wasted on me.  
I just need a supermarket, a pet  
store, a gold coin dealer, cable TV,  
and a fast Internet connection

10 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING  
(KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

Karen washing dishes. Dan Martin is sitting there.

KAREN

I think I am going hiking. Up in  
the Sierra's. Maybe for a day or  
two.

DAN MARTIN

Why don't you try Oregon. Someplace  
on a beach and not too expensive.

KAREN

That's a drive.

DAN MARTIN

Take a couple more days off. You  
can always get time off. It's a  
government job.

KAREN

I'll check it out on the Internet.

DAN MARTIN

Florence is nice.

KAREN

I'll check it out.

11 EXT. FLORENCE, OREGON - MORNING  
(KAREN)

A little trailer and mobile home park. Karen is coming out  
of the trailer marked office. She walks over to the hatchback  
and opens the back door. Zoe jumps out.

KAREN

Ok. Here we are. In the wild. Ready  
to return your ancient roots?

Zoe pays no attention and goes over to sniff something.

KAREN (CONT'D)

I took you because you are the least  
aggressive of the bunch.

(MORE)

KAREN (CONT'D)

The Andrew Sisters, except you are all dogs. Maybe you could form an act. The Three Bitches.

Karen and Zoe walk from their little trailer, or mobile home down toward the beach. The wind is blowing. There are small pines around. Zoe is running all over the place.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Zoe, Zoe. Come here. Come here. Heel. Heel.

Zoe comes over. Stands next to Karen's leg.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Zoe, sit. Sit.

Zoe sits.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Well, dad really has you trained. You're not so bad after all.

Karen and Zoe walk along the beach.

KAREN (CONT'D)

It's not so bad having a dog. Still cleaning up after you is a pain in the ass. This is Oregon, the wild, and all that, but nobody wants a bunch of dog poop all over the place. So I got to use these little plastic bags. He should have trained you to take a poop on the toilet. And flush. That would really be it.

Ok, it's time to go back. Get some dinner and hit the sack.

Karen and Zoe head back to the cabin.

12 EXT. FLORENCE, KAREN'S CABIN - NIGHT  
(KAREN)

Karen is sleeping. There is banging outside near where they put the garbage. Then Karen wakes up. Zoe is sleeping. Doesn't make a sound. Karen jumps up out of bed, Zoe wakes up, the garbage cans are still banging. Zoe looks at me and ignores the whole racket.

Karen yells out the window.

KAREN

Get of here you bear!

The rummaging stops. Silence. The bear appears to have left. Karen looks at Zoe.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Well, what good are you for anyway?

13 EXT. FLORENCE, KAREN'S CABIN - MORNING  
(RENTAL AGENT, KAREN)

Karen goes outside and cleans up the garbage. The rental agent comes down.

RENTAL AGENT

We're having a lot of trouble with black bears. We keep the garbage as protected as possible. But they still come sniffing around.

And you're not allowed to shoot them because, I guess in Oregon, the bears belong there but people don't. I read about how a policeman in Alaska used a Taser on a black bear and the bear ran off never to be seen again. I thought I might want one of those.

KAREN

If you get a Taser, let me have it while I am here. My dog doesn't seem to be of much use.

RENTAL AGENT

Having a good time. Not much to do here.

KAREN

I guess that is the point. Sort of away from it all. No, you are away from it all. Walks on the beach, hiking through the woods. Sleeping sound and night. Listen to the owls. There is not a lot to do. But a lot to experience. You know what I mean.

RENTAL AGENT

Yep, I've had years of listening to the owls. Have a nice day.

Exit the Rental Agent. Karen and Zoe head down the trail toward the beach.

14 EXT. FLORENCE KAREN'S CABIN - MORNING  
(KAREN)

It is very early morning. Light is streaming in through the windows. Zoe is agitated.

KAREN

Ok. Ok. You got to go. We'll go out. We'll go out. You get me up for this. You gotta poop.

Karen and Zoe go out the door and then start walking. Zoe relieves herself and they continue on a road. A few houses. A little hippie house, next door to a three story mansion, a double wide trailer, next to an A frame.

A big bush moves to the side of the road. Zoe goes into a stance and her hair stands up straight along her backbone. Zoe starts growling. Out of the bush stands this gigantic bear. All black, the bear goes on to its back paw, eight feet tall. The bear stares straight at them.

Zoe stands her ground and growls with the most vicious tone. She looks like she is ready to attack the bear. The bear stands its ground. Zoe is growling. Karen is afraid to run. Afraid to move.

15 EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY- AFTERNOON  
(KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

Karen has just arrived back home. Karen is standing by the front door of the car. Dan Martin is standing facing her.

KAREN

Dad, it was the loudest growl I have ever heard. Really weird. You don't usually hear a dog growl like that. Zoe looks like she might attack the bear. I didn't know what to do, but I decided maybe we ought to leave; leave the bear alone. But I don't want to turn my back on the dog. Zoe, keeps growling. I back off but Zoe keeps growling. These things are about eight feet standing. The bear doesn't look like he knows what do either. He hadn't counted on facing down a dog that isn't about to back down. The bear comes down on to all fours, turns and walks back into the bushes.

Then I'm thinking, 'wow, I just saw  
(MORE)

KAREN (CONT'D)

a bear standing right in front of me. ' My God, they're huge! And Zoe, Zoe I think would have attacked that bear if she had to. To protect me or herself, I don't know, but what a surprise. She was all fight with that bear. Ready to take him on.

DAN MARTIN

I always thought that Zoe is a bit of a sissy.

KAREN

Not when it counted.

Karen and Dan Martin take the stuff off the top of the car and go into the house.

16 INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT  
(GANG BANGER-SKINNY, DAN MARTIN, KAREN)

Dan Martin and Karen are sitting in a movie theater. Behind them are three black teenagers: a fat Gang Banger, a skinny one and a rather muscle bound one. The previews are playing. They are making rude remarks. Talking loudly.

GANG BANGER-SKINNY

Yeah, yeah. I would really like to do her.

GANG BANGER-FAT, GANG BANGER-MUSCLE

Yeah great. Great idea. Maybe three times.

Dan Martin turns around in his seat.

DAN MARTIN

Shut your filthy mouth or I'll shut it for you.

GANG BANGER-SKINNY

Go to hell!

Dan Martin reaches out with his left hand, grabs him by his shirt and throws a right overhand haymaker, smashing his nose flat. Blood is coming down his shirt. A few people in the audience cheer.

The fat kid starts to get up. Dan Martin stands throw a left jab and then a right hand to his jaw. The fat kid goes down. The muscle kid sits in his seat laughing at his pals. Karen is pushing Dan Martin to leave.

KAREN

Go, Dad. Go. Get out. Go.

Karen pushes Dan Martin to the aisle and she grabs my arm and leads him out the theater.

DAN MARTIN

Why are we leaving? I want to see the movie. What about our twenty bucks?

KAREN

You'd rather go to jail or save twenty dollars?

DAN MARTIN

Okay, I see your point.

KAREN

I'll drive, she said getting the keys from me.

17 INT. CAR INTERIOR - NIGHT  
(DAN MARTIN, KAREN)

DAN MARTIN

Well, I'm sorry I spoiled the evening.

KAREN

Are you kidding? You're my hero. Can I marry you?

DAN MARTIN

Huh?

KAREN

Do you have any idea what women have to put up with these days from jerks like that? It's everywhere, you always expect it from guys.

DAN MARTIN

I guess I'll have to go to confession for it, but I don't feel sorry.

KAREN

It's an assault, Dad. Rudeness like that is an assault, and we don't get to do anything about it. But you did. Wait'll I tell the girls. I wish I could give you a medal.

DAN MARTIN

You're not mad I hit those boys?

KAREN

Well, I was scared at first, but it was over before I could really get frightened.

DAN MARTIN

You think they called the police?

KAREN

Well, security, sure, and then the police probably.

DAN MARTIN

Yeah, the suspect will be older white male. Old Guy takes on punks in movie theater.

18 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING  
(DAN MARTIN, KAREN)

Dan Martin and Karen. The three dogs are there. Dan Martin gives each a treat out of his pocket. He then points back to the living room and each dog goes back and lies in its bed.

DAN MARTIN

As I said before, I spent a year or so becoming a Catholic, and then about six months being one before I moved here.

KAREN

What's it like? How does it feel? Are you happier?

DAN MARTIN

Hmm. Hard to say, but I guess so. I don't drink as much, now. I think I like the world a bit more, people more than I did. I might have a dull, blah, blah week, but after I go to Mass, it seems to set me right. And for the week to come. I think it does me some good. Hard to measure.

KAREN

The Catholic Church is the one with the Pope, right?

DAN MARTIN

That's the one, yeah.

KAREN

The Pope is against abortion, right?

DAN MARTIN

Dead set, so to speak. (Karen gives him a look.) Poor choice of words, but yeah, that's one of the things they told me about. No killing unborn babies, no queer marriages, no sex outside of holy wedlock. That's funny, isn't it? Holy wedlock. Sounds like a pro wrestling move.

'Now the Crusher has the Apeman in a holy wedlock and there's hell to pay as the Apeman breaks the bond, a mighty divorce, and slams the Crusher to the mat. '

Karen doesn't look pleased. It's not funny for her.

19 INT. HOUSE OF COINS - AFTERNOON  
(BILL MURPHY, DAN MARTIN, JACK O'COINS)

Bill Murphy walks up to the counter and interrupts Dan Martin and Jack O'Coins, the owner of the place.

BILL MURPHY

Jacko, you filthy, fish-eyed cheat, sell me some gold at the right price, you hear me! He

Bill Murphy comes up to the counter and eyes Dan Martin up and down.

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

Who's the new sucker buying at your lousy prices?

Jack O'Coins ignores him but says.

JACK O'COINS

A man who knows the value of a deal and current market prices

Bill Murphy leans against the counter and looks at Dan Martin, smiling,

BILL MURPHY

How much you buying?

DAN MARTIN

**Just one, this one.**

BILL MURPHY

One? One lousy coin? I'm here to get fifty. What's my usual buy, Jack?

Not looking up.

JACK O'COINS

Fifty

BILL MURPHY

I'm his best customer. He should shove you to the side and take care of me, shouldn't you, Jacko?

JACK O'COINS

Where ya gonna go Bill? Lots of gold dealers. But I put up with you.

BILL MURPHY

You a gold bug? He asked me.

DAN MARTIN

Yes sir, you bet. I have absolutely no faith in stocks or bonds.

BILL MURPHY

After my own heart. Let me tell you this: anything that leaves a paper trail, leaves it open for the government to take everything you've got.

Jack O'Coins completes the sale and slides the plastic encased, gold coin over the counter. Dan Martin turns to leave.

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

Hold on for a second. I want to talk to you.

He slaps a wad of cash down on the counter, thousands.

Jack O'Coins counts it.

JACK O'COINS

Twenty-two thousand.

Jack O'Coins opens his safe and takes out fifty gold coins, and gives Bill some change. Bill scoops up his booty into a sack.

BILL MURPHY

Let's talk. Outside.

Outside the store.

DAN MARTIN

Aren't you afraid someone might target you?

BILL MURPHY

Why I carry this.

He opens his coat and exposes a semiautomatic pistol in his belt.

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

Forty-five. Wouldn't want some stupid bastard to live, would we? Anyway, I'm Bill Murphy, and you look like a kindred spirit. Where do you work? What do you do?

DAN MARTIN

I'm retired from the Navy. Did electrical work. Motors, circuits, generators. Pretty much can do anything.

BILL MURPHY

I can use an electrical engineer. I own Murphy and Sons Construction. I'd pay you in gold, off the books. Nobody would ever know you work for me. Nothing written down. What do you think?

DAN MARTIN

Full time or now and then?

BILL MURPHY

A little bit of both. You come in for as long as takes to get all the electrical right, but you're off until the next job.

DAN MARTIN

Sounds good to me.

BILL MURPHY

You come in and show my son what you know about your job, and if he approves, you're on.

20 INT. ST. MARY'S CHURCH - MORNING  
(DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin is sitting in a pew during mass. There is a long, stringy haired fellow, talking to himself, an off the street vagrant, in a filthy overcoat and ratty clothes sitting behind Dan Martin. He sporadically makes noises. Talks about Mary or Jesus. When there is communion. He gets up and goes to communion. Still making unintelligible sentences.

Everybody in the church notices, but no one does anything. The ushers in the back shuffle around.

Dan Martin turns about points a finger at the street look, made eye contact and says with determination.

DAN MARTIN

Hey! You! Behave yourself or get out!

The vagrant leaves quietly.

21 EXT. ST. MARY'S CHURCH - MORNING  
(LITTLE OLD LADY, DAN MARTIN, FATHER GUS, BEN CURATOLA)

The parishioners are exiting. Shaking the priest's hand. Dan Martin does also. Coming down the steps a little old lady comes up to him.

LITTLE OLD LADY

I want to thank you for making that crazy man be quiet. You must be the only real man here. He scared me, but now, when I see you, I know you'll take care of it. Thank you very much.

DAN MARTIN

Thank you. I don't see why we should let him scare others. We ought to be able to pray in peace.

LITTLE OLD LADY

Yes, he's been here for weeks. I don't know. You've told him before.

(MORE)

LITTLE OLD LADY (CONT'D)

But that doesn't stop him. Tell me your name so I can add you to my prayer list.

DAN MARTIN

Dan Martin. Dan Martin.

Little Old Lady has a notebook and pencil. Writes name in it.

LITTLE OLD LADY

Well, that's easy to spell. Thank you very much Mr. Martin.

She turns and walks away.

Dan Martin turns to walk away. Father Gus is standing on the steps. He calls out.

FATHER GUS

Hold on a minute, Dan.

Dan Martin stands and stops. Waits for Father Gus to finish talking to well-wishers. He comes down the steps when he is finished and heads toward Dan Martin

FATHER GUS (CONT'D)

I have to talk to you about your dogs.

DAN MARTIN

Okay, but let's walk over to them. They're getting antsy. I need to keep them under control.

They walk to under the tree, its large splayed branches high above. The dogs wag their tails in excitement. Dan Martin greets them by rubbing their heads, gives them treats. Then makes them lie down where they were

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

I'm guessing you're going to say that some people are afraid, and you don't want me to leave them here anymore.

FATHER GUS

That's the gist of it.

They are facing the dogs with our backs to the church.

DAN MARTIN

I've been leaving them under the trees for weeks. They have not bothered one person. They just stay there until I come out.

Lucy runs at them, bounds between Dan Martin and Father Gus. and grabs hold of the vagrant's arm that has a knife going toward the Father Gus's back. Lucy's weight knocks the man to the ground. Lucy will not let go and the man lets go of the knife. [This can be played out several different ways to be the most dramatic. ]

Dan Martin rolls the man onto his stomach and sits on his back.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Get the knife away!

Father Gus is standing frozen in shock, but he does as he is told and picks up the knife.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Get some help over here!

A couple of men come over and helped pin the man down so he could hardly move.

Ben Curatola, a thirteen year old is watching.

BEN CURATOLA

Mister, your dog is bleeding.

He points at Lucy's belly.

Lucy maintains her posture and low growl.

DAN MARTIN

Hold him down.

Dan Martin goes over to examine Lucy.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Easy, easy girl.

She's got a stab wound.

(to the Ben Curatola)

Could you get my backpack?

Ben Curatola goes over and gets the backpack. Dan Martin pulls out t-shirt out, presses it against Lucy's wound.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Father Gus! I have to get Lucy to the Vet. It's on Fair Oaks. If you need me.

FATHER GUS

Oh, okay, yeah, yeah, we'll be here.

DAN MARTIN

Can you come with me? I need someone to keep pressure on her.

Quick. Ask your mom or dad, but hurry.

Dan Martin picks Lucy up. She whines in pain. Dan Martin motions to Zoe and Ella. They head over to a truck in the parking lot at the side of the church.

The Ben Curatola runs up with Dan Martin's backpack.

BEN CURATOLA

You forgot this.

DAN MARTIN

Here take the keys and unlock the door. That one, the big black one.

With the door open, Dan Martin lays Lucy in the middle of the front bench seat. He is holding the shirt against her.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Okay, you sit here.

He climbs into the passenger seat. Dan Martin buckles him in.

Dan Martin takes Ben Curatola's right hand and presses against the t-shirt.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Push hard, like this.

I pressed his hand hard against Lucy's belly as she groaned.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Pressure. You need to keep hard pressure on a wound.

Zoe and Ella hop into the back of the cab when Dan Martin tells them to. Dan Martin gets into the truck and drives off.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

What's your name? I'm Dan Martin,  
Dan Martin

BEN CURATOLA

I'm Ben Curatola Curatola.

DAN MARTIN

Okay, Ben Curatola appreciate your  
help.

BEN CURATOLA

Is she going to be all right?

DAN MARTIN

This is Lucy. We'll see.

22 EXT. VET'S OFFICE PARKING LOT - MORNING  
(DAN MARTIN, YOUNG VET)

Dan Martin rushes up to the door. Dan Martin looks at the door, pulls the handle it is locked. Looks at the sign. Then rings the bell. He presses it a couple of times.

After a minute, a young man answers the door.

DAN MARTIN

My dog's been stabbed, we need help.

YOUNG VET

Hold on a second.

DAN MARTIN

I can bring her in.

YOUNG VET

No, let me get a gurney.

He returns with a gurney. They roll the gurney to the truck and gently lifted Lucy on to it. Lucy lets go a painful yelp.

23 INT. VET'S OFFICE PARKING LOT - MORNING  
(YOUNG VET, DAN MARTIN, BEN CURATOLA, VET)

They roll Lucy into the clinic, past the waiting room into the back where the operating room was. They then shift her to the metal table in the center.

YOUNG VET

Keep her calm.

Ben Curatola still holding onto the makeshift bandage. The young vet leaves the room to use the phone, then returns.

YOUNG VET (CONT'D)

The Vet is on call. I'm just an assistant. It'll take about twenty minutes for him to get here

Dan Martin gets very anxious.

YOUNG VET (CONT'D)

Don't worry, he assured me. I know how to prepare her. How much does she weigh?

DAN MARTIN

Sixty-two pounds.

YOUNG VET

Okay, that tells me how much anesthesia to use. Does she have any drug allergies?

DAN MARTIN

I don't know, she's never had any.

YOUNG VET

Is she spayed?

DAN MARTIN

Oh, yeah, they did it at the pound.

YOUNG VET

Then she'll be fine. If she had a reaction, they'd have told you.

The young vet was standing over Lucy and reached out to pull Ben Curatola's hand off her.

YOUNG VET (CONT'D)

Let's take a look.

Pulling the bloody shirt away, he notices Ben Curatola's hand is covered in blood.

YOUNG VET (CONT'D)

You can wash off in that sink over there. (Pointing to sink. )

Dan Martin looks at the blood on his hands and goes over to the sink. He washes his hands and watches the blood go down the drain.

The young vet takes away the bloody shirt and puts on a clean bandage.

DAN MARTIN

What can you tell me? I asked him.

YOUNG VET

I don't know yet. We have to wait for the doctor. We won't know 'til we operate. You can wait outside now if you want.

DAN MARTIN

When the Vet comes.

Looking at Ben Curatola

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

You have a cell phone?

BEN CURATOLA

Sure

DAN MARTIN

Better let your parents know what's going on.

Ben Curatola pulls a cell phone out of his pocket, and is quickly connected.

BEN CURATOLA

Hi, mom.

I'm at the Vet's on Fair Oaks. For dogs. It's by Border's. I'm helping Mr. Martin. He's the man with the dogs at church. You know. Somebody stabbed his dog Lucy. He asked me to help, so I did. I would have told you but there wasn't any time. It was an emergency.

There is a long pause as he listens to his mother.

BEN CURATOLA (CONT'D)

He told me to ask you, but you weren't there, and time was of the essence.

(Looking at the Young Vet.)

What's the address?

YOUNG VET

2345 Fair Oaks.

BEN CURATOLA

Okay. See you then. (Shuts cell phone. )

Ben Curatola shuts his phone.

DAN MARTIN

Well, you're a little rascal, aren't you?

I appreciate your help. Your parents coming to get you? In a little while.

Vet comes in. Wastes no time. Goes straight to Lucy.

VET

Please wait in the waiting room. This is going to be awhile. Tom, check to see if we have any blood as soon as we type her.

The Vet looks up at them.

VET (CONT'D)

The waiting room, please

Dan Martin and Ben Curatola go to the waiting room. Sit there for a moment and then go outside to the truck.

24 EXT. VET'S OFFICE PARKING LOT - MORNING  
(BEN CURATOLA, DAN MARTIN, BEN'S MOTHER)

Dan Martin let's Ella and Zoe out to wander around a bit.

BEN CURATOLA

Can I pet your dogs?

DAN MARTIN

Sure, but give 'em a treat first. Makes you their instant best friend, I told him as I fetched a few treats from the pack and gave them to him.

The black one is Zoe, the white one's, Ella. Go ahead and call them.

He calls them and they did come, stand in front of him.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Tell them to sit

BEN CURATOLA

Sit.

The dogs don't move.

DAN MARTIN

Show them the treats and say, sit

He did that, and they sat. He fed each a cracker.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Watch Zoe. Move you hand away quick.

His finger's get nipped. He pets the dogs in turn but they don't respond other than sniffing him.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Lucy's the one that likes people.  
She's the sweetheart. I suppose I  
can say this in front of the others,  
but she's my favorite. I'd hate it  
if she . . . didn't come out right.  
I don't know much about being stabbed,  
but it seems to me that something  
like this isn't usually fatal. God,  
I hope so. Lucy, well, Lucy was the  
first, and maybe the best dog I'll  
ever see. You got a dog, Ben Curatola

He shakes his head no.

BEN CURATOLA

How long does it take to train them?

DAN MARTIN

Basic training, you know like sit,  
come, stay, that only takes a few  
weeks. But to get them to behave  
off the leash like they do now?  
That takes months and months, and  
then you have to keep at it every  
single day. They don't stay trained  
for long if you don't keep at it.  
That's cause they're smart. They  
figure out real quick if you're  
serious or not, and if you're the  
type that'll let things slide.

BEN CURATOLA

I like these dogs. I like it when  
you leave them under the tree and  
they just stay right there. I've  
called them when you weren't around.  
I call them to come and they lie  
there looking at me like they don't  
understand English.

DAN MARTIN

If you want to get on Ella's good side, scratch her spine at the bottom like this.

Dan Martin shows him what she liked. Ben Curatola laughs at the way Ella responds and bumps against him when he lets up. Ben Curatola's parents arrive with his little brother.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Dan Martin. The man with the dogs. I want to thank you and Ben. He was a great help. He kept the pressure on Lucy's wound. Helped save her life.

BEN'S MOTHER

Well, I think we should get in the car. Ben!

BEN CURATOLA

I want to wait and see how Lucy is.

BEN'S MOTHER

I don't want to have to come back.

DAN MARTIN

I'd be happy to give him a ride.

BEN'S FATHER

That's fine. He'll be all right.

BEN'S MOTHER

Let us know in an hour or so if it's longer than that. C'mon honey, let's get home.

Family exits. Dan Martin puts dogs back into car. Ben Curatola and Dan Martin go back inside the clinic.

25 INT. VET'S OFFICE - MORNING  
(VET, DAN MARTIN)

They wait. The Vet comes out.

VET

She's under sedation and prepped for surgery. We'll go in and see what's been cut, what's bleeding, and repair the damage. From what I can tell so far, it looks like the wound isn't too deep. She should be fine once we put everything in order.

(MORE)

VET (CONT'D)

She hasn't bled that much; it shouldn't be more than a couple of hours getting her fixed up.

DAN MARTIN

Thank you. That's good news. Really good to hear.

Vet nods and leaves the room.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Well, Ben Curatola that's that. I should get you home, get Zoe and Ella home, then I'll come back and wait it out. Okay?

They get up, go outside.

26 EXT. VET'S OFFICE PARKING LOT - MORNING  
(BRIAN YAMAMOTO, DAN MARTIN)

Outside, is a van from Tv10 News pulling up. An Asian man in a suit, in his thirties, gets out.

BRIAN YAMAMOTO

I'm Brian Yamamoto. Are you Dan Martin?

DAN MARTIN

Yeah.

BRIAN YAMAMOTO

You're the man with the dog that saved the priest's life?

DAN MARTIN

I don't know about that, but yeah, my dog went after a lunatic with a knife and got stabbed for her trouble.

BRIAN YAMAMOTO

Well, I want to do an interview with you. Okay?

DAN MARTIN

Okay, but you have to interview this Ben Curatola too. He was there.

BRIAN YAMAMOTO

Absolutely. I'm Brian Yamamoto, by the way.

Brian sticks out his hand. Each shakes it in turn. The cameraman has been getting his equipment ready while they have been talking. He gives Brian a nod.

BRIAN YAMAMOTO (CONT'D)

Okay, let's set up a shot in front of the clinic. What's your address and phone number, Mr. Martin?

DAN MARTIN

Why do you need that?

BRIAN YAMAMOTO

Just in case of a follow up. You can just give me your phone number. We'll call if we need more. How's that?

DAN MARTIN

OK.

BRIAN YAMAMOTO

We'll get both numbers when we are done.

This is Brian Yamamoto, Channel Ten, Eye Witness News, we are here in front of the Oaks Clinic. With Mr. Dan Martin, whose dog saved Father Gus Arrante's life. Mr. Martin's dog. . .

DAN MARTIN

Lucy.

BRIAN YAMAMOTO

. . . Lucy, stopped a knife attack on the Priest. Mr. Martin. . . .

27 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

(FATHER GUS, KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin and Karen are sitting in front of the TV.

FATHER GUS

(On TV)

The irony of the situation was that I had just asked me not to bring my dogs to the churchyard because some people were afraid of them, when all

(MORE)

FATHER GUS (CONT'D)

of a sudden Lucy attacked the lunatic and saved the day. Really, saved my life to be more blunt about it.

KAREN

Dad, there are people who want to help. You saw Lucy lying there, looking so sweet and helpless. Think of all the kids and people watching that and their hearts going out to her.

DAN MARTIN

Hey, I can afford her bills! What's it going to cost anyway? Five hundred? A thousand?

KAREN

You can always give the money to a group.

DAN MARTIN

I hadn't thought about that. Well, there's the SPCA, they run a good show, and there's the Rescue groups for GSDs. Sure, that would be good.

KAREN

You have a lot of phone calls. Messages. You are a very popular guy right now.

DAN MARTIN

I have to think about whether I want this much attention. I will have to repeat myself. It will be so tiresome as to be not worth doing it.

KAREN

There is a fistful of messages from radio stations, two small local papers, The Catholic Herald, the Bishop's office, and many other TV stations in Northern California.

DAN MARTIN

Yeah, all right.

KAREN

Well?

DAN MARTIN

What the hell! Why not? It's not like every day I get to be a guy people want to talk to and show off my three great German Shepherds. And hey! I'm a chatty, upbeat kind of guy.

28 INT. JAY LENO SHOW - EVENING  
(JAY LENO, DAN MARTIN)

JAY LENO

Now folks, let's welcome our next guest. One man. Three dogs. Mr. Dan Martin and his three great German shepherds.

Dan Martin wanders on stage with the dogs to the music and applause of the audience. The dogs act a little confused. But Dan Martin gives them snacks in my hand. They stay clustered around Dan Martin

Dan Martin walks over to the chair by the desk with the dogs. He shakes hands with Jay. Then tries to organize the dogs on the platform. Goes over and jumps on the couch and lies on it.

JAY LENO (CONT'D)

Well, make yourself at home.

Audience laughs. Dan Martin has the other two lie down on the rug.

JAY LENO (CONT'D)

Maybe you and Lucy should switch places, Jay teased, since she's the real star of the group, the hero of the story.

DAN MARTIN

That's true, but her vocabulary is limited.

JAY LENO

That's okay. We've had lots of actors on the show with the same problem.

This draws a good laugh.

Lucy inches closer, lays her head on the arm of the sofa reaching for Dan Martin's hand with her tongue to give it licks. The audience awws.

DAN MARTIN

They're great chick magnets, the only problem is that the chicks end up ignoring me.

JAY LENO

I was telling the audience before you came out what brought you and your dogs here. Why don't you give us the whole story, Dan Martin?

DAN MARTIN

I'd been training my dogs for a few years how to stay and not leave an area even if I disappeared. They must stay and wait for me. They were doing well, so I started taking my dogs to church. I'd leave them lying under the large tree on the lawn at the front entrance while I went in to Mass.

I was standing there with Father Gus, Father Augustine, and we are facing the dogs. Then Lucy just runs at us, goes between me and Ben's Father, and is wrestling this man with a knife. He obviously wanted to stab Father Gus.

JAY LENO

What did you do?

DAN MARTIN

I turned around and saw he had the knife and we wrestled to the ground.

JAY LENO

You never called Lucy.

DAN MARTIN

No.

JAY LENO

I mean, look at her, people. I met Lucy backstage, and to look at her, you don't imagine a ferocious animal, yet, without any training, she senses danger and attacks a knife-wielding assailant. Aren't you amazed?

The audience applauds.

DAN MARTIN

Then a couple of parishioners came over and we kept him down. Someone was calling the police. It was complete confusion.

JAY LENO

Didn't some boy help you?

DAN MARTIN

Yes, Ben, Ben Curatola. He helped me. He kept pressure on the wound. I think Lucy might have bled to death if it wasn't for Ben Curatola's help.

Audience applauds.

29 INT. JAY LENO SHOW BAR SCENE - EVENING  
(JAY LENO, DAN MARTIN)

JAY LENO

I understand that your dogs understand German.

DAN MARTIN

Yes, they do.

JAY LENO

How did they learn German?

DAN MARTIN

They are German shepherds, so naturally they understand German.

JAY LENO

Really.

DAN MARTIN

Right. That's why they are called German shepherds. If they were called French shepherds, they would understand French.

JAY LENO

Makes sense to me. There is something about three German shepherds and a bar.

DAN MARTIN

Right. Three German shepherds walk into a bar.

JAY LENO

But we don't have any bar.

DAN MARTIN

Yes, you do.  
(points to a bar on  
the stage.)

JAY LENO

What do I do now?

DAN MARTIN

Walk over to the bar.

Jay Leno walks over behind the small bar.

JAY LENO

What now?

DAN MARTIN

Call them over.

JAY LENO

Come here. Lucy, Ella, Zoe. Come.  
Come.

The dogs don't move.

DAN MARTIN

In German. In German.

JAY LENO

Hund. Hund. Kommst du hier!

The dogs run over. Put their paws up on the bar. Look at Jay.

JAY LENO (CONT'D)

What now?

DAN MARTIN

Ask them if they want a drink.

JAY LENO

What would you like to drink?

Dogs don't move.

DAN MARTIN

In German. In German.

JAY LENO

Was willst du trinken?  
(pulls out a seltzer  
bottle. dogs get  
excited.)

They do understand German!

DAN MARTIN

Of course, they're German shepherds.

Action goes on with Jay Leno giving shots of seltzer to the dogs. Making add lib comments. Having a good time.

JAY LENO

Well folks, this proves that German shepherds do speak German.

(Motioning toward Dan.)

There is their great owner, Dan Martin, and Lucy, Ella and Zoe. Three great German shepherds.

Applause.

JAY LENO (CONT'D)

Folks, we will be right back after this.

Dan Martin and the dogs get up to leave. Dan Martin gives him treats and he gives one to each dog. Jay shakes everyone's hand and pets the dogs.

30 EXT. BILL MURPHY'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Dan Martin drives up the driveway and stops in front of a very large house. Not a mansion or very elegant. A big house with half a dozen bedrooms and baths, a large living and dining room for entertaining, a nice den, a game room with a pool table, and a swimming pool and Jacuzzi out back.

Bill answers the door. The dogs rushing inside to inspect the grounds. Bill Murphy shakes Dan Martin's hand. Everyone goes inside.

31 INT. BILL MURPHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING  
(DAN MARTIN, BILL MURPHY)

DAN MARTIN

Did you know that a German Shepherd can capture and hold smells inside its nasal cavities for later enjoyment and re-evaluation.

BILL MURPHY

Really.

DAN MARTIN

Yeah, it's like they can bottle a scent and sniff it again as they  
(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)  
 might like. You wonder if besides  
 their dreams of chasing squirrels,  
 barking at strangers or other dogs,  
 they might take imaginary walks around  
 the block re-living their happiest  
 smells of the day?

Bill Murphy stands watching the dogs checking everything out  
 and then leads Dan Martin into the den, the dogs eventually  
 following.

Bill Murphy sits in his dark, brown leather, La-Z-Boy while  
 Dan Martin sits on a matching couch.

BILL MURPHY  
 You want a drink or anything?

DAN MARTIN  
 No, I don't want to put you to any  
 trouble.

BILL MURPHY  
 No trouble. I've got a maid. You  
 didn't think I was going to fix you  
 a gin and tonic, did you?

DAN MARTIN  
 Yeah, I did.

BILL MURPHY  
 So, order something if you want . .  
 . I know, let's have a really good,  
 single malt whiskey. You'll like  
 this.

Bill Murphy presses a switch by his chair and a minute later  
 his Mexican maid appeared.

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)  
 Maria, the usual.

She leaves and quickly returns. They wait for her. Dan  
 Martin looks at the walls, the paintings. Mainly western.

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)  
 It is eighty-year old scotch, a nice  
 splash, with a single ice cube in  
 the small glass.  
**The ice gives it a kind of awakening  
 they say.**

(MORE)

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

**Hell, I don't know, but it tastes  
even better this way than neat.  
Cheers.**

Dear God in Heaven, let me spend  
eternity with a glass of scotch like  
Fortunato's Purse, the one that's  
never empty of gold.

DAN MARTIN

I'll take a case, sir. Just have  
them load it into my pickup.

BILL MURPHY

I'll give you a bottle when you leave.  
Now, how else can I help you?

DAN MARTIN

I'm getting a lot of offers for things  
like movies, commercials, pet food,  
people wanting to be my agent. I  
don't quite know where to start with  
it all.

BILL MURPHY

It's simple. You need an agent,  
somebody in Hollywood. Somebody  
reputable.

DAN MARTIN

Okay. How do I find one I can trust?

BILL MURPHY

Oh, you can never trust an agent, he  
said. You might find one who gives  
a rat's ass about you, has an ounce  
of compassion, but that's a miraculous  
bonus, nothing to be hoped for or  
counted on.

DAN MARTIN

That's no help.

BILL MURPHY

I know a number of lawyers. They'll  
know who's a good entertainment  
lawyer. That's what you want to  
start with. A guy who's always going  
to be on your side when it comes to  
going over every deal you make.  
Your entertainment lawyer will have  
some idea of who'll be the best agent  
for you.

DAN MARTIN

How do I know I can trust a lawyer?

BILL MURPHY

There's caveats everywhere, but he's your first line of defense against unscrupulous men. I'll make some calls and find you a guy you can get started with. He'll sort out the whole agent and agency thing. That's the best I can do. After that, you're on your own. And look, he said leaning forward and pointing a finger at me, pay attention to every part of doing business. Don't be a fool and leave things up to trusting your managers.

I can't tell you how many people have lost everything they owned because they trusted their advisor or manager, even their damned brothers and fathers, who stole everything they had. Pay attention. Otherwise, it's an open invitation to theft.

DAN MARTIN

I get it.

BILL MURPHY

I hope so because one of the saddest things I've learned in life is how completely untrustworthy most people are: priests, cops, laborers, lawyers, politicians, maids (I've sent two to jail), judges. Thieves like you wouldn't believe. If it isn't bolted, welded, locked, chained, and buried in a safe, someone will find a way to steal it.

You know, I generally like people. I like most whom I meet right off the bat. A good handshake, a quick joke to break the ice, going over some bit of business in a straightforward way; I enjoy it. I enjoy the company of men, a round of golf, a luxury box at a Raider's game, the chitchat at a charity gala. I like people.

(MORE)

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

I get along with everybody, but I've got to tell you, I hate a thief, and almost every man I've ever met will steal when they think no one's looking. It's just damned human nature for men to want a little something for nothing. So watch your money. Got it?

DAN MARTIN

Yes sir.

BILL MURPHY

Look, while you're here, I might as well mention something else that might be in the works.

DAN MARTIN

Yeah?

BILL MURPHY

They might be coming after me.

The IRS. There's a new district manager, and I've been warned by a little bird that I'm going to be audited. You never know how it might fall out, but if you get a knock on your door, you'll know why.

DAN MARTIN

I thought I wasn't on the books.

BILL MURPHY

You're not, but people have seen you working for me, inspectors at the sites, other people. If they're asked, they'll probably say something

DAN MARTIN

What do I say if I'm asked?

BILL MURPHY

"If you ever worked for me?"

Bill Murphy leans back and thinks about it for a while.

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

You can say you never have, but if there are witnesses, you're in deep crap. You don't want to lie to the Feds.

(MORE)

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

Half the time they don't bother to prove the crime, but get you for lying about something hardly related to the crime.

You can try this, have a lawyer. I'll set you up with one of mine. I'll cover the cost, and you can admit to working for me off and on, but say you didn't make so much as to think you had to declare it on your forms. You can work out how much that might be, and pay the penalties and balance owed. You'll take a hit, but should come out okay.

DAN MARTIN

It sounds feasible.

BILL MURPHY

Or you can say, screw you, and take off with me to Idaho. I'm not going to roll over. I've got lots more arrows in my quiver. I've got the goods on a lot of people in Sacramento. I'll take everybody down if it comes to that.

32 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - DAY  
(DAN MARTIN, ZACHARY, KAREN)

A knock on the door. Dan Martin goes to open it. A thirty-year bill murphy stands outside.

DAN MARTIN

Hello.

ZACHARY

I'm Zach. Uh huh. Your son.

DAN MARTIN

Oh, okay. You can come in if you want to.

The dogs crowd around him.

ZACHARY

So, these are your famous dogs.

DAN MARTIN

Oh, you know about them? I'm going to have a cup of coffee. You want some?

ZACHARY

Sure.

DAN MARTIN

I'd just made a pot, and it's still warm in the French Press Karen gave me one on Christmas.

Dan Martin pours some coffee. They both put sugar into the cup. Both take it black. Each puts four spoonfuls of sugar in his cup.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

You can tell me about yourself. Let's go into the living room and some comfortable chairs.

They go into the living room.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

What brings you here?

ZACHARY

It's a long story.

DAN MARTIN

Go ahead.

ZACHARY

Well, I got to talking to a guy I met in Allentown one night

DAN MARTIN

Where? Like in a bar?

ZACHARY

Yeah, it was a bar. The guy was Australian, "G'day mate," and no worries, you know? He was quite a traveler. These Aussies go all over the world for years. Anyway, he started telling me about New Guinea, how he'd been there, and saw how a few people go back into the mountains and go placer mining, for gold, you know; and it's pretty much untouched in places; just lying in the bottom of a river or stream waiting to be taken.

DAN MARTIN

Gold, huh? All you have to do is start buying it.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Or, I say we should go and get some if it's as easy as you say.

ZACHARY

'Hold on, mate,' it's not that easy. It takes work and provisioning. You don't just walk upstream like it's a stroll. You need camping equipment. Serious stuff. Cots, tents, mosquito nets. Pans, picks. A lot of stuff.

DAN MARTIN

How much do you need?

ZACHARY

I need at least ten thousand to do it, and I thought you might have ten thousand. You must be getting endorsements and stuff for the dogs.

DAN MARTIN

Zachary, why don't you have ten thousand? You look able bodied to me. You're what, thirty-two? You should have something to show for the last ten years.

ZACHARY

I haven't done well for myself. I've just bummed around spending whatever I make, doing construction and odd jobs.

DAN MARTIN

You a dooper?

ZACHARY

A little weed, some blow if anyone's sharing, a little crank now and then to help me get through work.

DAN MARTIN

I know you drink 'cause you spend time in bars, probably the fastest way to throw your money away there is outside of gambling.

Been married? Got any kids?

ZACHARY

Not that I know of. The kids, I mean. Never been married.

DAN MARTIN

You don't think you're going to get rich quick in New Guinea, do ya?

ZACHARY

Not rich, but a couple hundred dollars a day if it goes well.

DAN MARTIN

You could make \$150 to \$200 a day here if you had a trade like plumbing, electrician, dry waller, even roofing.

ZACHARY

Not any more. Not here. Not with all the Mexicans around working for beans and rice, and beer.

DAN MARTIN

You have a point. I know a man you could work for, though. So what are you here for?

ZACHARY

I thought, maybe, you could lend me the money.

DAN MARTIN

Lend? I'd never see a dime of it again. I can tell just by looking at you. Your life is out of order. Going to New Guinea won't put it in order.

ZACHARY

I'll ask Karen, then. She's doing okay.

DAN MARTIN

Here's what I propose. I'll give you five thousand if you'll work for the rest. I'll pay for a room somewhere. How about that? You can come over for Sunday dinners. We'll be one small, happy family.

ZACHARY

I don't know.

DAN MARTIN

I meant it. We could try to get along together, watch a game, talk things over. I'll try to help.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Maybe I owe it to you. No matter what, I am your father.

ZACHARY

(Thinks it over) Ok. A deal.

DAN MARTIN

You look like you need to clean up. Get your clothes, we'll wash 'em, you can take a shower. You can bring me up to date while we wait for Karen to get home from work. This can be the beginning of a beautiful friendship as me and Captain Renault walked away from the airport at Casablanca. Here's looking at you, kid.

ZACHARY

Huh?.

DAN MARTIN

I don't understand a kid, a man, really, like you. All the men I'd known were people under discipline. There were lots of screw-ups and flakes, but they showed up for work everyday.

Now, don't think of work as the ultimate measure of a man's worth, his productivity, since so much of work is unproductive, and a general waste of time. I suppose standing at an assembly line is productive and not wasteful, but who wants to do that everyday unless there's a gun to your head?

And the entertainment lawyer Bill Murphy set me up with? How productive is taking a ten minute call, charging me for an hour. Is that admirable and worthy of respect?

I'll take a guy with a wood shop who spends eight hours a day using his hands, making something unique and beautiful. That's being productive in my book. Maybe I'll take up woodworking. Hire you.

Karen opens the door and enters. She is surprised to see Zachary.

KAREN

Zachary!

She goes over and gives him a hug.

33 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - CHRISTMAS DINNER - NIGHT  
(DAN MARTIN, ZACHARY, KAREN)

There is a plastic Christmas tree in a corner of the living room. Dishes are still on the table. There are a few bottles of beer on one of the coffee tables. Zachary has on his coat. He is getting ready to leave. Puts on knit cap.

DAN MARTIN

Here's your sweatshirt.

ZACHARY

Thanks I always did like the Sacramento Kings. Never an L. A. kind of guy. Too flashy.

DAN MARTIN

Thanks for gift certificate for Bev MO. Buy myself a bottle of scotch.

ZACHARY

That sounds good.

KAREN

(Kissing Zachary) I need some new underwear. Macy's is just the place.

Appropriate hand shakes, hugs. Zachary exits out the door.

DAN MARTIN

I surprise myself about how much I care about him.

KAREN

Really.

They begin to clean up the dinner plates.

DAN MARTIN

Yeah really. Yeah, going camping, going on a long road trip, straightening him out with sagacious advice, and a father knows best hand of guidance.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

A young man ought, well even a thirty-year bill murphy, ought to have an ounce of optimism in him.

You're a girl and all I can offer you is sympathy. I don't know nothing about being no girl. Can't give you advice on anything. No guidance. But he doesn't want any advice. Guidance. He would resent it. He's stuck in a rut of his own self-pity and making, pretending to a stoicism, Dutch courage, that comes with drinking: an inner monologue of 'woe is me' and 'nobody knows

The trouble I've seen' while trying to act like everything's no big deal.

KAREN

Maybe, he'll come out of it.

DAN MARTIN

I hope so.

How'd we all get to be so full of crap? I want to tell Zachary, Look, you've got to buck up. It isn't all bad. You can get some worthwhile things out of life, but you've got to take some personal inventory here. You got to want something more.

Take my dogs. When I got Lucy, she was as miserable as could be. Sad, defeated, sick, beaten down. Zoe was a frightened pup, voracious for food, mean and aggressive, wanting to hurt others; and then little Ella, as pathetic a waif as ever seen: fearful, depressed, uncaring, indifferent, sure that life was always cruel - but now they've all rebounded, they're all happy and delighted, content and pleased, eager and caring in their own way. Secure.

But we men, we become addicted to sorrow, glad to keep losing, eager to quit on ourselves and others.

KAREN

Well, I am happier than I was. I'm glad that you are around.

DAN MARTIN

Thanks. That means a lot. Means a lot to me.

34 INT. TAVERN - NIGHT  
(BAR BUDDY, ZACHARY)

A few stools. Dark. A depressing place. Zachary and Fred are sitting next to each other, nursing beers. They both have their coats on. It is still winter.

BAR BUDDY

So, they give you ten to fifteen percent of the money recovered. If it is a big guy and they recover a million, then you recover... .

ZACHARY

That's one hundred and fifty to three hundred thousand dollars.

BAR BUDDY

Yeah, I was never so good at math.

ZACHARY

I didn't do so good in algebra, but I can add, subtract and multiply.

BAR BUDDY

When you multiply it out. It ain't winning the lotto. But it's a good chunk of change.

35 EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE, ON PORCH - DAY

Spring time. Warm weather. Dan Martin is outside getting the mail. He looks at one letter with alarm. He goes into the house.

36 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY  
(KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin opens the letter. Reads it.

KAREN

What's that dad?

DAN MARTIN

I got a letter from the IRS. It tells me I've got to appear for an office audit by the IRS at their local service center on Watt Ave.

KAREN

Why would they want you?

DAN MARTIN

Not me they want. Bill Murphy. I work for him. They think I'm a small player who will be intimidated to rat on the bigger fish they're after.

KAREN

So, will you.

DAN MARTIN

I've got to visit Bill. I don't have any idea how to handle this.

37 INT. BILL MURPHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY  
(BILL MURPHY, DAN MARTIN)

BILL MURPHY

I willing loan you one of my tax attorneys. You'll find that helpful. Look, Dan Martin You can play this any way you want. If you want tell them you worked for me, and all that entails, that's all right. Go ahead. I already know they're coming at me, and if you can protect yourself, or get off with a little fine or something, it's no skin off my nose. You do what you think is best.

DAN MARTIN

Yeah, but they're after guys like me to build a case against you. If it was just me, if it was 'cause I didn't declare all my earnings, I might bite the bullet, but when I worked for you, I knew what I was doing. I was partnering in a scheme. I did all right.

BILL MURPHY

Famous last words. I'm not going to hang around. We're getting out. I'm selling everything and moving to Idaho for a while. I might end up in Ireland. I don't know. You come and see me in Idaho with your dogs. You might need a place to get away from the bastards for a time.

Bill Murphy gives Dan Martin his lawyer's card.

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

Call him and make an appointment.  
It is all on me. He is on retainer.

38 INT. J.R.'S LAW OFFICE - AFTERNOON  
(DAN MARTIN)

Lawyer's Office is a converted Victorian in midtown, very nice. The office is decorated with sports memorabilia. It appeared that Jay R. Lewis once played on a championship college team, and then for a few years in the NBA. He'd gone to Stanford.

J.R. is a tall man in his forties, he has all his brown hair in a peculiar coif, very styled, a dark, pin striped suit. They shake hands.

DAN MARTIN

Where are all the rows of law books  
you always see in movies?

J.R.

Everything's on a hard drive now.  
All electrons, no more paper

J.r. smiles, and gestures to a comfortable chair. Dan Martin sits down.

J.R.

Mr. Murphy described your situation  
so let's go over it. Your tax returns  
for the last ten years, but only the  
most recent seven matter, show that  
the only income you declared was  
your retirement pay from the Navy.  
Is that correct?

DAN MARTIN

Yes.

J.R.

But you may have had a few other  
sources of income that you didn't  
declare.

DAN MARTIN

Right.

J.R.

But that's because you thought the  
amount you earned otherwise was too  
small to alter your overall status  
and would have unnecessarily

(MORE)

J.R. (CONT'D)  
complicated your simple 1040 EZ form,  
isn't that right?

DAN MARTIN  
Yes, that's correct.

J.R.  
Great. So what we'll want to  
establish when we meet with the  
auditor is what, if any proof of  
further income they know of, you  
omitted from your tax form. They  
have to demonstrate some idea of  
what they want from you. The  
likelihood is that they have nothing  
in the way of any record they can  
show, any bank accounts that don't  
balance. Am I right?

DAN MARTIN  
About which?

J.R.  
Have you been living beyond your  
present means of income?

DAN MARTIN  
No.

J.R.  
Do you own a home?

DAN MARTIN  
NO.

J.R.  
No extravagant expenses or spending.

DAN MARTIN  
No.

J.R.  
No trips to Vegas with large sums  
won or lost?

DAN MARTIN  
No, it's just me and my dogs living  
with my daughter.

J.R.  
Now, we have no idea how far they  
want to take this.  
(MORE)

J.R. (CONT'D)

Right now, at the audit, they will have your tax returns, and they will ask you to supply them with all the information they want from you. They aren't investigating, they're auditing. They want you to do their work for them. We're not going to do that.

DAN MARTIN

No?

J.R.

No. Here's what they probably know. They know a lot of people have worked for Mr. Murphy over the years, been paid, but there's no record of it. They haven't gone after Mr. Murphy yet because they're building a case. They're fishing.

DAN MARTIN

What's their bait?

J.R.

Or call it a carrot and a stick. Co-operate and you get a carrot, but since I know the IRS, that doesn't mean a deal. That means they'll collect every dime they say you owe them, with interest, and let you walk out with no prosecution for a crime.

The stick, of course, is that they prosecute it as a tax code violation, have you sentenced, and take a lot more money from you. They might sentence you to six months or a year in jail, sentence suspended, probably. Unless they're pissed. Jail and probation for three years, then.

DAN MARTIN

This is serious stuff. Can they squeeze blood from a stone?

J.R.

What do you mean?

DAN MARTIN

The only income I have is my retirement pay. Can they take that?

J.R.

It's the government. They can do pretty much anything. There's a limit of what they can garnishee, though, so you'll get the bulk of that. They might take a couple of hundred bucks out every month. Are you a gold bug like Bill Murphy?

DAN MARTIN

Yes.

J.R.

Fine, but get your gold out of a safe deposit box, or any other place of storage that's registered and recorded. They'll subpoena all your bank records, and get a warrant to open any storage place or deposit box.

DAN MARTIN

What do I do with it?

J.R.

Bury it in your back yard.

DAN MARTIN

You can't be serious?

J.R.

Leave it with someone you trust, then. You trust anyone that much with your life savings?

DAN MARTIN

I have to think about that.

J.R.

Ok.

DAN MARTIN

If I tell Karen, she might mention it to Zachary, and that was no good. I have a next-door neighbor I'm pretty good friends with. He's an elder in his Lutheran church. A sweet guy, takes his religion seriously.

J.R.

Bury it in your back yard. Write a letter describing where to find it. Seal that letter and leave it with me with the instruction it's not to be opened except in case of death. Make a copy and leave it with someone else you trust since this office might forget all about it.

DAN MARTIN

I'm just wondering, what if my daughter sold the house and I didn't know it?

J.R.

That's a possibility. Anyway, you can think about it later. In the meantime, I'll accompany you to the audit. You shouldn't answer a single one of their questions. I'll interrupt you if you start to. You understand?

DAN MARTIN

Yes. What would they ask?

J.R.

"Mr. Martin, is everything on this form you submitted to the IRS correct? You didn't leave anything out, and this accounts for your entire income in 1999, 2000, 2001, etc?"

Go ahead and answer.

DAN MARTIN

Well, as far as I . . .

J.R.

(Interrupts) I'm sorry, Mr. Martin has already represented the facts in the matter by virtue of his signature at the bottom of the form. Do you have any evidence that Mr. Martin has misrepresented anything to the IRS? Ever?  
That will pretty much cover that phase of their process.

DAN MARTIN

What's the next phase?

J.R.

Oh, they bring in their gunsels (and I mean that both ways), their boys with guns and badges to question you like the FBI would, who have the power to arrest if they feel like it.

DAN MARTIN

What if I disappear? Go away?

J.R.

If they have enough evidence, and can show you're a fugitive from justice, they can try you in absentia so that if you decide to show up later, you're guilty. And already sentenced. That's pretty extreme for a relatively small fish. So to speak. It's not like these people like extra work. They prefer to pick on low hanging fruit except when they want to teach a lesson. Make an example of somebody. That somebody would be Bill Murphy. That man is really going to piss them off. He'll never give an inch. .

39 INT. IRS OFFICE - DAY  
(MRS. LIU)

Dan Martin and J.r. sit outside in the hallway. They wait to be collected. Mrs. Liu comes out to get them then ushers them into a private office. Mrs. Liu looks at both of them.

MRS. LIU

Come with me.

Both rise to go.

MRS. LIU (CONT'D)

Let's go Mr. Martin. He have to stay. (Looking at J.R.)

DAN MARTIN

Why?

MRS. LIU

Tax preparers can be at an audit. But not tax lawyers. He a tax lawyer.

J.R.

No, he does not.

MRS. LIU  
This is an audit. Not court.

J.R.  
Fine. See you in court.

Dan Martin gets up to accompany him out.

MRS. LIU  
Okay, you can come in.

Dan Martin and J.r. go into her office and sit facing Mrs. Liu at a desk.

MRS. LIU (CONT'D)  
Is the information on these tax returns correct?

J.R.  
Mrs. Liu, I'm sorry, Mr. Martin has already represented the facts in the matter by virtue of his signature at the bottom of the form. Do you have any evidence that Mr. Martin has misrepresented anything to the IRS? Ever?

MRS. LIU  
Have you ever made any small additions to your income.

J.R.  
Now, regarding your question about any additional income, even small amounts, tell me this, I once won a \$50 dollar bet against my father-in-law, should I have reported that on my income tax form? Did I break the law by not doing so? If Mr. Martin loaned a man fifty dollars with a charge of twenty for interest, and was paid back, would he have to declare that amount, too?

Mrs. Liu stares at him.

J.R. (CONT'D)  
I'm serious. Do we violate the law if we don't report small amounts?

MRS. LIU  
Nobody going to check on that.

J.R.

Then why did you ask about whether Mr. Martin has received any small miscellaneous funds?

MRS. LIU

It is my job to ask.

J.R.

Do you gamble Mrs. Liu?

She hesitates to answer.

J.R. (CONT'D)

Do you report all your winnings on your tax form?

MRS. LIU

It is not your business what I do, she told him.

J.R.

But it is the IRS's business if you fail to report your occasional winnings and that of your husband and children too. Isn't true, Mrs. Liu

MRS. LIU

None of your business

J.R.

The government's, though. Mrs. Liu, if someone were to inform the IRS, a whistleblower say, that you've been failing to report all your income, and that of your husband and relatives, to your own employer, the IRS, what would your supervisor say or do about that?

MRS. LIU

What is your point?

J.R.

Why is Mr. Martin here? Why is he being audited? His records are simple and straightforward as you can see, he gestured to the array of tax filings before her.

She stares at him.

J.R. (CONT'D)

Mrs. Liu, is it possible that you are the part owner of a Chinese restaurant on Broadway with your uncle, Peter Chu? Is the IRS aware of your return on investment? And how many other members of your family are also connected to the enterprise?

Her jaw drops.

J.R. (CONT'D)

You may not know this, but a number of Americans don't like the IRS, and are particularly incensed when its employees violate the laws they enforce upon others. The Sacramento Bee might be interested in a story like that. Mrs. Liu, I'm asking you again. Why is Mr. Martin being audited?

MRS. LIU

There has been a complaint, information given that Mr. Martin has not been accurate in his taxes paid.

J.R.

Who informed?

MRS. LIU

I can't say. Who informed. (She pauses. )

J.R.

The Bee might be waiting for the story Mrs. Liu.

MRS. LIU

Zachary Brewster.

J.R.

Will that be all, Mrs Liu?

They exit.

40 EXT. IRS PARKING LOT - DAY  
(DAN MARTIN)

J.R.

Who is Zachary Brewster?

DAN MARTIN

My son. He came to visit and I got him a job with Bill.

J.R.

Ok.

DAN MARTIN

What a bastard.

J.R.

I'm willing to bet the IRS had no idea you were connected to Bill until your son told them. It's helpful, though. We know that they have no evidence of anything against you. All they have is your son's word. Is he a reliable fellow? Would he make a good witness?

DAN MARTIN

He's basically a loser. A drinker, a dooper, a lazy bum, good for nothing.

J.R.

Great . . . I mean, whatever he says can be discredited in court if it came to that. It won't come to that because we'll inform the government about the character of their witness, and they won't bother to put him on the stand.

DAN MARTIN

How did you know about that Chinese lady?

J.R.

She was the one scheduled to audit you from the letter they sent. Chinese and gambling, well, that's a no brainer. I don't know any immigrant Chinese who aren't crazy for gambling, and as for the restaurant, well, the Chinese get their money into as many pies as they can as soon as they can. Very ambitious people. Love making money, but then they gamble so much of it away, he laughed.

DAN MARTIN

What's next?

J.R.

Oh, I bet they're pissed at you. They're going to want to look at your bank accounts, see if you've been living beyond your means; and if you have a safe deposit box, they'll want to see what's inside.

DAN MARTIN

How can they do that?

J.R.

Easy. They have an informant, right? That's probable cause for a search. Hell, they could even say they suspect you of money laundering for Bill Murphy, or Mexican dope dealers. It hardly matters. They'll dream up something.

DAN MARTIN

Jesus.

J.R.

Yes. They're coming after you, but we know they won't find anything, so all they're doing is intimidating, and, not to put too fine a point on it, there's a bit of terrorism in it. They want to terrify you into giving up Bill Murphy.

How's it working?

DAN MARTIN

What?

J.R.

The terrify bit?

DAN MARTIN

I'm pretty churned up inside. My son betrays what little hope I had for him, and now the government wants to tear my guts out. I am not having a good day here, Mr. Lewis.

J.R.

Can you handle it?

DAN MARTIN

Yeah, but it's also a question of how long?

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

How long do I have to handle it?  
How long can the government keep  
going at it?

J.R.

As long as they want. We have to  
find a way to defeat their interest.

DAN MARTIN

Can Bill do that? We're talking  
about the government here.

J.R.

With the right leverage, anything  
can be done. We had the midterm  
elections last year. The presidential  
one comes up soon, and that throws a  
lot of people into the mix who'll  
want campaign contributions. You  
bet on the right horse at election  
time, and there can be some big  
payoffs. Plus, Bill has documented  
every single deal he's ever made  
that might be considered less than  
above board with audio or tape and  
documents. He could hurt a lot of  
people in Sacramento and the State.  
Rocks tossed in ponds can have lots  
of ripples.

DAN MARTIN

Excuse me for saying so, Mr. Lewis,  
I appreciate your help, but I'm kind  
of astonished at how at ease you are  
in this, these . . .

J.R.

Matters?

DAN MARTIN

Yeah. It seems a long way from the  
basketball court at Stanford.

J.R.

The truth is, I have a thing against  
the government. I hate the  
government. It destroyed my father's  
business, and sent him to jail for  
three years. It's a long story, but  
you have to understand that tax law  
and many regulations are difficult,  
twisted, and hard to comply with in

(MORE)

J.R. (CONT'D)  
the financial sector. My father's partner was a crook, and they went after both of them. Peas in a pod, they said. The partner had a few good connections, whereas my father was conscientious, but naïve.

41 INT. BAKER'S SQUARE RESTAURANT - EVENING  
(ZACHARY, DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin is sitting at a booth. Zachary comes in.

ZACHARY  
What is it? Why we meeting here.

DAN MARTIN  
Sit down.

Zachary sits down.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)  
I know you called the IRS, and reported that I didn't pay taxes on what I earned. I know you hoped to make money off of Bill Murphy by reporting on him.

Zachary says nothing.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)  
I know that you'll never collect a dime on Bill since he was already under investigation, and he'll leave the country before he ever gives them a penny.

They didn't need your help, but they did find it useful that you gave them my name as somebody to go after, so they could get me to inform on him . . . which I won't do. Bill thinks you ought to leave the country and visit New Guinea. If you don't have a passport, he can speed up the process.

ZACHARY  
I have a passport.

DAN MARTIN  
You'll need some money so I have something to show you.

Dan Martin pulls out a small purse. He opens it. And puts twenty two coins on the counter. He counts them out loud to Zachary.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

One, two, three, four...twenty-one, twenty two. Each one is worth a little over thirteen hundred dollars right now. You have your twenty thousand and a bit more. That's probably the only real gold your scheme will ever acquire.

Zachary picks up the coins. He feels their weight.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Don't come 'round asking for more or thinking you can tap me again. I think I might hurt you if you did that. I don't know, but I might be angry enough to. I'm mad as hell right now, as a matter of fact. I never did you wrong. I find you a pathetic human being. Now get out.

Zachary gets up. Puts the coins in his pocket and exits. Dan Martin sits there drinking coffee.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

(talking to himself)

Worthless jerk. Never be anything.

Dan notices someone standing looking over him. Looking at him. It is Zachary.

ZACHARY

Thanks, Dad.

Zachary turns and exits.

42 EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE, BACKYARD - DAY

Dan Martin plants a tree. The hole is extra wide. He goes into the house. Brings out a small but very heavy metal box. He puts it in the hole and then fills in the hole.

43 INT. BILL MURPHY'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING  
(BILL MURPHY, DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin is having a drink sitting there. Bill sits across from him in a chair.

BILL MURPHY

I have liquidated the company. Sold my houses. The equipment and the buildings. I am taking a loss. But I think the housing bubble in California is going to bust. So, I am really selling them at the prices I would get a year from now. Or two years from now.

Bubbles don't last forever. Fools, think the price is going to go up next year, like it did the previous year, and the year before that. That it will keep going up forever. It is the last man, or woman, out before the bubble bursts that makes it. Everyone else is waiting to go under water.

DAN MARTIN

Your gold?

BILL MURPHY

I converted all my cash, assets to gold. Left some in a bank. But have cash to last me a year or two.

DAN MARTIN

I don't know how it works, but I'm told if you get your money offshore to some place the Feds can't touch like the Cayman Islands, you can convert it to bullion, and store it there.

BILL MURPHY

Yeah, you can do that. But it is complicated. It is hard to get at. Better to secure it in the USA, where you, or someone else can get it if you need it. You'd have to spend all your time learning how to do it. The IRS might have records of your phone calls. Info would be on your computer. It maybe safe, but it is too complicated for you.

DAN MARTIN

I see.

BILL MURPHY

What did you do with your gold.

DAN MARTIN

I took it all out of my safe deposit boxes. Drove up to Seattle and got it out. Closed down the boxes. Had it in two banks.

I buried some...

BILL MURPHY

Don't tell me.

DAN MARTIN

I felt stupid doing it. Terrified I was going to lose it all, and finding myself trying to suggest that, well, it's only money, nothing to put your heart into.

BILL MURPHY

It's a little more than that.

DAN MARTIN

It represents all my blood, sweat, and tears, all those years of labor,

BILL MURPHY

Well, maybe if you'd had a wife and a couple of kids to come home to, it wouldn't have felt so hard; and all that money would have been spent to provide for them, anyway.

DAN MARTIN

I wrote three letters detailing exactly where the gold could be found in the event of my death, hospitalization, or imprisonment. I gave one to Jay R. Lewis, one to my next door neighbor whom I trusted, and one to Karen, and warned her not to sell the house before reading it if that ever came up. I think I stressed how important it was, enough to solidify the matter.

BILL MURPHY

You ok, now.

DAN MARTIN

Yeah, I guess.

I sold an option (which had to be explained to me) on my dog story of  
(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Lucy, the hero, and me the great trainer, to a movie producer for close to a hundred grand, and twice that if he made it into a movie with production starting within a year.

BILL MURPHY

So, you are doing all right.

DAN MARTIN

That was a nice chunk of change, and I had to hire an accountant to help me pay as few taxes as possible, but the government loves it when someone hits the lottery. They come in and automatically sweep 50% or more into their coffers.

BILL MURPHY

That is what they do. Take your money.

DAN MARTIN

I'm still getting offers for my dogs to do commercials.

I thought I had made out my last will and testament when I buried that god.

BILL MURPHY

Maybe you have.

44 EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY- AFTERNOON  
(IRS AGENT ONE, DAN MARTIN)

Two IRS agents get out of the car: a couple of white guys in their thirties wearing cheap, ill fitting suits, short haircuts, neither going bald. One trim and more serious looking, the other starting to pudge, looking more friendly. They go up and ring the door bell. Dan Martin answers.

IRS AGENT ONE

Are you Dan Martin?

Lucy is barking in the doorway and all the dogs crowded the entranceway.

DAN MARTIN

Be quiet! I barked at her, and had them sit down.

Who wants to know?

IRS AGENT ONE  
We're from the IRS department of  
investigation and enforcement. We'd  
like to speak to Dan Martin

DAN MARTIN  
You have badges, ID?

They show their badges.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)  
Well, you're speaking to him.

IRS AGENT ONE  
Can we come in?

DAN MARTIN  
All right. (Dan Martin steps aside.)  
Don't mind the dogs. They won't  
bother you.

Zoe goes off. Her Mohawk stands up along her spine, she  
crouches, barking furiously.

45 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY  
(IRS AGENT ONE, DAN MARTIN)

IRS AGENT ONE  
Can you call off your dogs?

DAN MARTIN  
Sure. Come. Come. Have a seat.

Dan Martin takes Zoe by the collar and pulls her toward  
another room. The other two dogs lie there, not making a  
sound. Dan Martin returns. The IRS men are sitting on the  
couch and a chairs.

Lucy and Ella minded their manners, following us into the  
living room where I offered the men the leather couch to sit  
on.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)  
I'm going to have a cup of coffee.  
Would either of you like one?

IRS AGENT ONE  
No thanks. Thanks for offering.

Dan Martin goes and gets some coffee. Heats in the microwave.  
Seems to be stalling for time.

They demurred which I knew they would. I made a hand gesture  
to the two dogs, and they laid down.

I got my coffee, heated it in the microwave for a minute as I pondered my situation. Goes back and sits down in a chair opposite them.

DAN MARTIN

What is it you want with me?

IRS AGENT ONE

We've been informed that for the past few years or so that you have been gainfully employed by Murphy and Sons Construction Company, but failed to report that income. Is that so?

DAN MARTIN

Go on.

IRS AGENT ONE

Go on with what?

DAN MARTIN

Go on with whatever you have to say.

IRS AGENT ONE

Would you answer the question, please?

DAN MARTIN

No thank you. I have no urge to do so.

IRS AGENT ONE

Did you work for Murphy and Sons?

DAN MARTIN

I said, that I have no urge to answer any questions.

IRS AGENT ONE

Ok, Mr. Martin.....

DAN MARTIN

Yes?

IRS AGENT ONE

We'd appreciate your co-operation?

DAN MARTIN

Why?

IRS AGENT ONE

Any help you can give us in our investigation would act in your favor.

DAN MARTIN

Who are you investigating?

IRS AGENT ONE

Bill Murphy. And his sons and daughters.

DAN MARTIN

What's that got to do with me?

IRS AGENT ONE

You worked for him.

DAN MARTIN

When I got a notice for an audit, I consulted a tax attorney. He went with me, and from what I can see, everything about the audit went just fine. My tax returns are in proper order according to the woman who audited me.

So, what's the problem?

IRS AGENT ONE

By taking this position, you place yourself at risk of serious prosecution for tax evasion.

DAN MARTIN

My tax attorney said to refer all questions to him. I can add nothing to what I said. I do not want to answer any questions.

IRS AGENT ONE

It might be best for you to ignore your tax attorney's advice and answer our questions. It might work out better for you.

DAN MARTIN

I faithfully served the United States of America for twenty-five years in the United States Navy, and I tell you that I have never knowingly violated any legitimate law of my country.

IRS Agents get up.

IRS AGENT ONE

I think that concludes are interview.  
(MORE)

IRS AGENT ONE (CONT'D)

We will report that you were uncooperative and refused to answer our questions.

DAN MARTIN

That is correct. Please report that. And see my tax attorney if you have any further questions.

IRS Agents exit the room and go out through the door.

46 EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY- AFTERNOON  
(IRS AGENT TWO)

IRS AGENT TWO

(to other agent)

"Never knowingly violated any legitimate law of my country." Who does he think he's fooling. I think we've heard that one before. "Legitimate laws!" My butt.

47 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING  
(DAN MARTIN, KAREN)

Dan and Karen are eating.

DAN MARTIN

I had a visit today from the IRS.

KAREN

Oh, my God! What did they want?

DAN MARTIN

They wanted to talk to me about Bill Murphy. They are investigating him.

KAREN

What's that got to do with you.

DAN MARTIN

I've worked off the books for him.

KAREN

So they want to put you in jail for that?

DAN MARTIN

No. They want me to rat him out.

KAREN

What are you going to do?

DAN MARTIN

I've already visited the IRS office. With a tax lawyer. They have no evidence. They want to put the pressure on me.

KAREN

What are you going to do?

DAN MARTIN

Nothing. Just nothing.

KAREN

Who are these guys anyway?

DAN MARTIN

Men who are drawn to authority, to policing, to hunting and punishing fellow citizens. Men who adopt an attitude, a personality, a culture of contempt for everyone outside their circle, who find it easy to abuse reason, common sense, common decency, common rights, and common morals.

KAREN

Are you going to make a speech?

DAN MARTIN

I don't think so. Sorry. It will get handled. Not your worry. Mine

48 EXT. PARK, SACRAMENTO - MORNING  
(DAN MARTIN)

Dan is walking his dogs.

DAN MARTIN

Okay, I'm guilty. I know it. You know it. I cheated on my taxes. But what was cheating? I simply kept my own, hard earned money out of the hands of thieves - greedy, vile, sickening, never satiated thieves, who steal it to buy votes so they can keep stealing my money.

In all of human history, I don't think any people have been so thoroughly fleeced by their rulers.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

I could be wrong.

But what's the crime of IRS Tweedledum and Tweedledee? These instruments of the State are equally robbed by the system they work for, and yet, who can feel sorry for them? Just following orders. It's my job. If I didn't do it, someone else would. I'm that guy, too. Or I was. Twenty-five years of following orders, giving orders, noting infractions, except I wasn't such a hard ass. I was a technical expert. I wasn't the guy who gave you a \$150 ticket for going 43 in a 40 mile per hour zone. I'm the guy who said, look, this wiring panel has alto of sloppy work in it, fix it up properly.

I don't know. I'm trying to make sense of what we do because a bunch of jerks made a rule or a regulation, and we're all supposed to act like it came from God, or the country will fall apart if it isn't enforced, and God help the man who knows it's a bunch of bull, and won't abide it.

I don't want to fight anybody. I just want to be left alone. Why the hell can't people leave each other alone.

I'm not a pie in the sky kind of guy, though. I want to fight back. I'd rather be left alone, but when they get my hackles up, damned if I don't want to fight all the bastards.

49 INT. BAKER'S SQUARE RESTAURANT - MORNING  
(DAN MARTIN, KAREN)

Dan and Karen are having breakfast.

DAN MARTIN

It should pain me to say that we aren't close, but I've just followed your lead. There's a reservoir of anger over my failure to have been a proper father.

KAREN

It's not you dad. You did your best under the circumstances then. You're doing great now. It's great having you around. Really great.

DAN MARTIN

You spend more time with Zoe, petting her, asking for kisses, giving her belly rubs on her bed, scratching her spine, and knuckling her jaws.

But Zoe's a taker, not very demonstrative. She seems to sense your sadness, need, and responds to you with more affection than usual.

KAREN

You've noticed.

DAN MARTIN

Yes. Is there something I can do, that anyone can do to raise your spirits a little?

KAREN

I don't know, dad. Things are just getting to me. You try to hold them off, but eventually they get to you.

DAN MARTIN

What things?

KAREN

Things. Disappointments, I guess. I really thought my life would get better in time. It just gets worse. Life sucks. It just sucks.

DAN MARTIN

I could imagine. No mate. No kids. Just work. Tell me about it.

I don't intend to be pushy or anything, but why not come to church with me . . .

Her eyes widen.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

. . . it helped me find a way to be a bit more cheerful about things.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Well, it just helped, and before you say it can't, you have to check it out first. You have to go and see, and then say, 'well, no this isn't what the doctor ordered'. Okay? Just come with me next Sunday and see.

KAREN

Nods her head ok.

50 EXT. ST. MARY'S CHURCH - MORNING  
(DAN MARTIN, FATHER GUS)

Dan and Karen walk up the steps to the Church. Karen is wearing a nice skirt and blouse

They sit in the back of the Church.

DAN MARTIN

You don't have to go through the whole rigmarole of crossing yourself, standing up, kneeling, sitting down.

You can follow the action with this. He hands her a prayer card. You can't go up for Communion if you want to. Members only.

Father Gus is giving the sermon.

FATHER GUS

The Gospel reading was from today is from the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus compares building a house on rock and how it stood up to storms. He compares it to building a house on sand that gets all washed away.

In my twenties I was a sax player, that is I played the saxophone, not what you might have misheard.

Congregation laughs.

FATHER GUS (CONT'D)

I was a gadabout trying to have a good time, but it never quite made me happy, and when I thought about what would make him happy, it seemed that it involved having a sense of peace, and a better outlook on things.

(MORE)

## FATHER GUS (CONT'D)

Gradually, it led me back to the Church, to his vocation, and I am happy to report I still get my needs filled from prayer. It generally gives me a healthy outlook on his work, and the people of my parish because of it. A house built on a rock does endure because life is certainly full of storms. And that rock is the belief in Jesus. Amen.

Congregation says Amen. Father Gus leaves the pulpit.

51 EXT. ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STEPS - MORNING  
(KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

Karen and Dan go down the steps.

KAREN

Maybe we can come here next Sunday.

DAN MARTIN

Sure.

KAREN

I feel a little better. At least somebody believes in something.

Maybe after Church next Sunday, I can talk to Father Gus.

DAN MARTIN

Sure. Sure. Hadn't Lucy saved his life? Him and me, we're like that!  
(Holds two fingers together.)  
He's owes us one.

KAREN

Ok.

DAN MARTIN

I will give him a call. We'll arrange something.

52 EXT. ST. MARY'S PARISH HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Karen and Dan walk up to the door. Karen is dressed formally. They ring the doorbell.

Father Gus appears, welcomes them into the living room. There was a big portrait of Jesus over the fireplace.

Karen glanced at it, and then turns to Father Gus. She suddenly bursts into tears, full blown sobbing and falls into Father Gus' arms.

Father Gus looks at Dan, gesturing for him to go away. He leaves the room and goes outside.

Dan stands around and time passes. He sits, he stands. He walks over to the church, and sits on the marble steps. After an hour, Father Gus and Karen emerge from the Rectory. They are smiling, not pleased or happy, but like they have worked something out together.

53 INT. KAREN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING  
(KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

Dan and Karen are having dinner.

KAREN

Dad, I've had two abortions in my life, the first when I was seventeen, and when I was twenty-four. The second because the boyfriend I'd come out to Sacramento with said he wanted to wait a few years until we were married. Then he dumped me after the abortion.

Maybe, all my failures to find a decent man I can chalk up to being punished for what she'd done. I'd killed two babies. Maybe I deserved bad luck and misfortune. Maybe I shouldn't think this way. But I do. I think about it a lot. I depresses me and that makes it worse.

DAN MARTIN

What did Father Gus say?

KAREN

Jesus forgives.

I'm going to join the Church.

54 INT. BAKER'S SQUARE RESTAURANT - MORNING  
(BILL MURPHY, DAN MARTIN)

Dan and Bill Murphy are having coffee.

BILL MURPHY

Well, I'm done.

(MORE)

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

It's all sold and we're heading off to Idaho.

I want you to come and visit, stay with me, you and your dogs, however long you like. It's all on me. You could train some dogs for the family if you want.

DAN MARTIN

How's that going to keep the IRS off your back?

BILL MURPHY

It won't. They're coming next week with subpoenas for my financial records. Shame they've been destroyed. After all, a defunct business has no need to preserve any records, now, does it? Going to my place Idaho simply puts another layer for the government to work through, extradition and all that. It's all about delaying things. Lawyers are good at that. Then, if things get close to a trial, maybe popping over to Ireland would be nice. I'm not going to live forever, and if I'm gone, I don't think they have enough to go after my sons and daughters. You can find me was on a lake called Pend Oreille. It's pronounced Ponderay by the locals.

DAN MARTIN

What about your vaunted boasts of leverage, his connections, and threatened exposure of corruption.

BILL MURPHY

Nope. Not strong enough. This will be a fight for years. If I lose, I serve three years.

DAN MARTIN

I can handle jail: I've been in the Navy, confined on a ship, working twelve hour shifts, sleeping in a tiny bunk. Nor would it be in a Max security joint. More like a Club Fed, minimum security.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

It's doable.

If I have to pay for a lawyer, though,  
that'd bankrupt me, too.

BILL MURPHY

I will pay for your lawyer. B.J. is  
on retainer. Keep using him.

DAN MARTIN

It's August. It is blazing hot in  
the Valley. I've always wanted to  
live on the beach, along a river or  
lake. Every time you drive down the  
coast, or past Lake Tahoe, and see  
those homes on the shore, you wish  
you lived there. Well staying with  
you would be like that.

55 EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY - MORNING  
(KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

Dan is all packed. Karen comes over. Gives him two boxes.

KAREN

You are already connected. The number  
is taped on the outside. So you  
won't have to remember.

DAN MARTIN

I don't need no sticking phone.

KAREN

You were an electrician in the Navy.  
Not a navigator. Welcome to the  
modern world.

DAN MARTIN

Maybe the old world was better.

KAREN

Maybe so. But it is gone.

Dan and Karen hug and kiss and Dan drives out the drive way.

56 EXT. MOTEL, NEVADA - EVENING  
(MOTEL CLERK, DAN MARTIN)

A not too expensive motel. Dan stops his truck goes in to  
register.

MOTEL CLERK

What kind of dogs you got out there?

DAN MARTIN  
German Shepherds.

MOTEL CLERK  
No kidding? I saw a guy on TV not too long ago who had three German Shepherds. They did the funniest thing I ever saw a dog do. They were some brave kind of dogs. But they could do funny tricks

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)  
I'm that guy. I've got those dogs.

MOTEL CLERK  
No!

DAN MARTIN  
Yeah.

MOTEL CLERK  
No kidding. Could I see them? Sure. Can I get a discount?

DAN MARTIN  
Tell ya what. I'll only charge you for one dog.

Motel Clerk goes out with Dan to meet the dogs. Dan has them do some simple tricks like standing on their rear legs and such.

MOTEL CLERK  
I can't wait to tell my buddies at the Vet's Hall, and . . . hold on! Just wait! Lem'me get my camera or they'll never believe me.

Motel Clerk leaves and comes back.

MOTEL CLERK  
You'll take a picture of me with your dogs? Huh, that's marvelous. Thanks a lot Mr. Martin. Dan. You made my day.

DAN MARTIN  
My pleasure.

Dan takes the dogs for a walk.

57 INT. MOTEL, NEVADA - NIGHT

Dan is asleep. Lucy is along side him with her snout on the pillow. Ella is at the foot of the bed, on the mattress. While Zoe lies beside the bed on the floor, next to Dan.

58 EXT. SANDY POINT, MAIN STREET - DAY

Dan takes his dogs out of the truck and down the street. The street is pretty. Next to a lake. Dan takes it in and walks them to a park.

59 EXT. SANDY POINT, COWBOY DINER- DAY  
(DAN MARTIN, WAITRESS)

Dan enters the dinner. Sits down. Waitress comes over.

DAN MARTIN

You have strawberry-rhubarb pie?

WAITRESS

Nope. But we got rhubarb-strawberry pie.

DAN MARTIN

What's the difference?

WAITRESS

With the strawberry-rhubarb pie, the strawberries go on top. With the rhubarb-strawberry pie, the rhubarb goes on first. We find that our customers prefer the rhubarb-strawberry, with rhubarb on top.

DAN MARTIN

They can tell the difference.

WAITRESS

Sure, they ain't no L.L Beaners from L.A.

DAN MARTIN

You get many L.L. Beaners?

WAITRESS

Yep, see those over there.

(points)

They got their bright clothes and new boots. Look like they wore them one time. Now the locals, they're over there.

(MORE)

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

(points)

Those are the Wal-Marters. Flannel,  
denim, cameo's.

You want something by the way?

DAN MARTIN

A slice of strawberry-rhubarb pie  
and a cup of black coffee.

WAITRESS

Told you got rhubarb-strawberry pie.

Waitress leaves and returns with a cup of coffee and slice  
of pie.

DAN MARTIN

You know a guy named Bill Murphy.

WAITRESS

Everybody knows that loud mouth.

DAN MARTIN

You don't like him?

WAITRESS

No. I like him. He just talks so  
loud when he comes in here. He needs  
a hearing aid. Can't hear anything.  
Refuses to get one. Stubborn old  
coot.

DAN MARTIN

I see.

(Eats his pie)

Waitress sits down next to him.

WAITRESS

He's out here because of the politics.  
Supports some of the local boys.

DAN MARTIN

Who?

WAITRESS

Can't say. Can't say. They want to  
keep out the Coasters.

DAN MARTIN

The what?

WAITRESS

The ones come in from California.

I s'pose there are some good folks in California, but we don't like 'em much here. I hear they're leavin' in droves, now, but nobody wants 'em to move here. They bring their attitudes and higher taxes with 'em. They're like a plague of locusts. They leave their state 'cause they've ruined it. It's no good, and then they ruin everything the same wherever they go. They have no sense at all.

Waitress gets up and moves off. Dan finishes his pie. She brings back a check.

DAN MARTIN

Where's Bill living.

WAITRESS

Out Route 200. Then Bottle Bay Road on the peninsula, facing Sandypoint.

DAN MARTIN

Thanks.

Dan exits.

60 EXT. SANDYPOINT, MURPHY'S LODGE - DAY

Dan pulls up in his truck. Gets out of the truck. Let's the dogs out. They run loose. He looks up at a big rustic, log house. He puts big bag on his shoulder and walks up to the house. Bill Murphy opens the door and welcomes him in.

61 INT. SANDYPOINT, MURPHY'S LODGE - EVENING  
(BILL MURPHY)

It is after dinner. Bill and Dan are having a cup of coffee.

BILL MURPHY

Why don't we go out on the deck.  
Great view.

62 EXT. SANDYPOINT, MURPHY'S LODGE, DECK - EVENING  
(BILL MURPHY, DAN MARTIN)

They sit down. Start enjoying the view.

BILL MURPHY

Where's the dogs?

DAN MARTIN

They are out and running around.  
New smells. New things to figure  
out. They'll love it.

Where are your kids?

BILL MURPHY

They're mad at me. They're renting  
their own places near by, but I don't  
know if they'll stay long. They're  
mad at what I dragged them into,  
breaking the law.

I'm alone here, except for the maid  
who comes every day. Cooks dinner  
and then leaves.

I can't blame them. They didn't  
mind the subterfuge as long as they  
were making a good living, but they  
didn't do it because they hate the  
government, on principle. I'm afraid  
that one or more might turn on me  
for a deal. I've, uh, had to act  
independently about where I've put  
my money.

Who I going to leave my money to,  
though? My kids have enough, and  
don't deserve more. They're mad at  
me? Well, I'm disappointed in them.  
My grandchildren? For what? To  
make them idle hedonists, spoiled  
jerks?

DAN MARTIN

You could leave it to me, I joked.

BILL MURPHY

You wouldn't know what to do with  
it, either. And what would the IRS  
say if fifty million or more suddenly  
appeared in your bank account? I  
could toss you a million in gold,  
maybe, just for kicks, but don't  
count on it; I have no idea what to  
do yet.

DAN MARTIN

Charity?

BILL MURPHY

I've given plenty to charity. I want the money to do something to make people free or freer. But all the institutions, organizations are in business to stay in business. They promote a good cause, but most of them do little lasting good. But gives a bunch of spineless college graduates a good living. I want to pay for people to organize and fight the government. The problem isn't finding a cause to fight for. It's finding a leader whose worth backing in a cause. Everything depends on a leader. And most of them, maybe all of them are egotists like me. Would you trust me to be leader of your cause? Whatever it might be. I don't think so.

Bill Murphy laughs.

DAN MARTIN

You might seek the outcome that pleases you. Not what is best for the group. The two might coincide, but often not. There's a big motorboat down at the dock. Can we take a ride around the lake.

BILL MURPHY

Sure. In the morning. It's a big lake. A lot to see.

DAN MARTIN

You like fishing?

BILL MURPHY

No. Always bored me to tears. Why? We're going to have to learn.

DAN MARTIN

Well, it's fishing, and then hunting for us. Something to do to keep busy.

BILL MURPHY

I don't even like eating fish.

DAN MARTIN

Nah, you'll enjoy eating what you catch.

BILL MURPHY

Do I have to clean them?

DAN MARTIN

We'll see.

Bill looks about the deck at the dogs spread around us.

BILL MURPHY

You've done a good thing with these dogs. These are mighty fine animals. Just beautiful, and they'd be nothing without you, your work. They are meant to work with man. Fulfills their purpose in life. Humans and dogs are meant to be together.

DAN MARTIN

We could get you one or two if you want.

BILL MURPHY

No, I'm too old a dog to teach a young one new tricks, but I sure like these. It pleases me to look at them, or watch them. These are special. Not like yappy, little, rat catchers so many people like. Or lap dogs with silly foreign names.

DAN MARTIN

Right. No silly names.

BILL MURPHY

Every hear from Zachary?

DAN MARTIN

Zachary sent her a postcard from New Guinea. At least he had the will to follow through on that scheme.

BILL MURPHY

Well, he could find gold, make his fortune. Or get eaten by cannibals, or something in between.

They both laugh. The sun goes down.

63 EXT. SANDYPOINT, SAFEWAY GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT - DAY  
(DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin pulls into the parking lot of the Safeway. He leaves his truck windows wide open for the three dogs and goes into the store.

DAN MARTIN

(To the dogs) There the windows are wide open. You will be fine. It's a nice cool day.

Dan Martin goes into the store.

64 INT. SANDYPOINT, SAFEWAY GROCERY STORE, INTERIOR - DAY  
(DAN MARTIN, CLERK)

Dan Martin shops. Puts food in the basket. Buys some dog food and treats for the dogs. Goes through the checkout counter.

DAN MARTIN

Nice day.

CLERK

Yes sir. Yes it is.

You the guy with the dogs that were on TV?

DAN MARTIN

That's me.

Dan Martin pays with cash and exits. The dogs see Dan Martin from the truck and Zoe starts wagging her tail and let's out a bark.

65 EXT. SANDYPOINT, SAFEWAY GROCERY STORE - DAY  
(IRS AGENT ONE, DAN MARTIN, WOMAN SANDY POINT, MALE TOWN RESIDENT TWO, DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE, MAN IN CROWD)

Dan Martin is starts across the parking lot toward the truck. The IRS agents come from behind a large van and are on both sides of him. IRS Agent One grabs him by the arm under his shoulder.

IRS AGENT ONE

Mr. Martin, I have a warrant for your arrest. Put your hands behind your back, sir.

Dan Martin stops dead still.

DAN MARTIN

What?

The two agents start to pull his arms behind his back. They are being rough about it.

Dan Martin pulls his arms out of their grip and knocks the grocery cart down.

IRS AGENT ONE

You're under arrest for tax evasion.  
Stop resisting or you'll be charged  
with that.

CAMERA POINT OF VIEW IS FROM THE DOG'S IN THE TRUCK. THEY  
SEE DAN BEING ATTACKED BY THREE MEN. LEAP FROM THE TRUCK.

CAMERA POINT OF VIEW IS DOG'S RACING ACROSS THE PARKING LOT.

The IRS grabs Dan Martin and trips. They all fall down over  
the grocery cart. They are lying on the ground. IRS Agent  
one has his arm pinned across Dan Martin's throat. IRS Agent  
Two is twisting Dan Martin around trying to put the handcuffs  
on him.

Lucy comes hopping out of the truck, followed by Zoe and  
Ella. They spring across the lot.

IRS Agent Two sees the dogs coming toward him and draws his  
pistol and begins firing.

DAN MARTIN

My God! My God!

Agent Two fires five shots in rapid succession Lucy yelps  
and goes down. A woman starts screaming.

WOMAN SANDY POINT

Oh my God! Oh my God!

Lucy and Ella are on to the IRS agents. Ella has Agent Two's  
gun arm in her mouth and is pulling him down. Agent One has  
pulled his gun but Zoe has his right hand in his mouth and  
the agent drops the gun.

Dan Martin gets up and runs to see Zoe who is lying on the  
pavement.

MALE TOWN RESIDENT TWO

Call 911. Call 911.

People are on to their cell phones.

DAN MARTIN

I need a vet! I need to get my dogs  
to a vet! Can anybody help me? I  
don't know where the vet is here.  
Please, anybody!

A Sheriff and a Deputy emerge from somewhere. They have  
their guns out and point them at the two dazed IRS agents.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE  
Drop the guns. Drop the guns.

IRS AGENT ONE  
We're IRS agents.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE  
Drop the guns. Drop the guns. We'll  
figure that out later.

The IRS Agents drop their guns.

MAN IN CROWD  
I know where a vet is. Follow my  
car.

Dan Martin picks up Zoe and puts her in the back of the cab.  
He puts Zoe. Dan Martin gets in the car. He pulls out of  
the parking lot following the car.

Ella is whining. Lucy is making terrible mewling, crying  
sounds beside me.

66 EXT. SANDYPOINT ANIMAL HOSPITAL - DAY

Dan Martin pulls up and he and the man carry Zoe into the  
hospital. Ella follows them.

67 INT. SANDYPOINT ANIMAL HOSPITAL, RECEPTION AREA - DAY  
(DAN MARTIN, MALE TOWN RESIDENT)

The attendant inside sees what is happening rushes and gets  
a gurney. Dan Martin puts Lucy on the gurney.

There is chaos and confusion as Lucy is brought into the  
operating room.

VETERINARIAN IDAHO  
We'll be operating. We have to stop  
the internal bleeding.

Dan Martin turns to the man and sticks out his hand to shake  
it.

DAN MARTIN  
Thanks.

He brings his hand back. He notices it has blood all over  
it. He wipes his hand off on his pants and shakes the man's  
hand.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)  
Thanks. Thanks a lot.

MALE TOWN RESIDENT

That's ok. What's this that all about?

DAN MARTIN

It's hard to say. These IRS guys wanted to arrest me, and then they started firing at my dogs. Maybe you should go back and tell someone where I am if they want me. I imagine the police are involved now.

Town resident looks puzzled.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

No. I will be here with my dogs.

Man exits.

Dan waits a while, then goes out to the truck. He opens the door. Zoe is lying there dead. Her tongue is hanging out. Dan Martin goes to pet Ella to reassure her. She sort of moves away.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

It will be ok. It will be ok.

Dan Martin picks up Zoe. And starts to carry her to the animal hospital.

DAN MARTIN

Zoe. Zoe. Zoe means life in Greek.

He picks her up and carries her to the animal hospital.

68 INT. SANDYPOINT ANIMAL HOSPITAL, RECEPTION AREA - DAY  
(DAN MARTIN, WOMAN ATTENDANT, DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE, BILL MURPHY, SHERIFF)

DAN MARTIN

My dog . . . where can I put her?  
She's dead.

WOMAN ATTENDANT

Here, follow me. There's a room we can put him in.

DAN MARTIN

Her.

WOMAN ATTENDANT

Her.

Dan Martin follows her to a small room through a maze of some halls, a kennel, and storage places. There was a stainless steel table, and the young woman grabs a towel and spreads it on the metal.

Dan Martin lays Zoe down on the table. Dan Martin turns around looking at the woman. Confused.

WOMAN ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

You can stay as long as you like.

She touches his arm. Dan shakes his head.

DAN MARTIN

No, I have to wait outside. Wait to see how Lucy is doing.

They walk back to the waiting room.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Thank you. Really, thank you very much.

Dan Martin sits down to wait. The woman goes into the operating room. She comes back shortly.

WOMAN ATTENDANT

They are operating on her. It will be a while.

DAN MARTIN

Is Lucy is ok.

WOMAN ATTENDANT

They don't know. It is serious.

Dan Martin goes outside to his truck. He takes Ella of the truck and walks aimlessly around.

A sheriff's squad car pulled into the small parking lot. Sheriff cautiously approaches.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE

Are you the man involved in the shooting at Safeway.

DAN MARTIN

Yes sir, I am.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE

Would you come with me? We'd like to question you about it.

DAN MARTIN

Yeah, no problem, except I have a dead dog inside, another one being operated on, and this one that needs looking after.

Bill, with one of his sons, drives up in their Mercedes sedan. Bill gets out of the car.

BILL MURPHY

(His voice booms, as if he is in charge.) Officer, this man is a friend, he's staying with me at my place. What's going on here?

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE

I'm taking this man to the office for questioning. I'd appreciate it if you didn't interfere.

BILL MURPHY

Yeah, yeah, yeah, but there's a few things to get squared away. We need to take care of his dogs for one thing. Look, Dan Martin, Peter can drive Ella back to our place in your truck if you want. I can follow you to the station, that's all right, isn't it?

SHERIFF

That sounds ok.

BILL MURPHY

But we have to do something about Zoe. Why don't we leave her with the Vet. They know what to do with her.

DAN MARTIN

I supposed they'd cremate her.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE

One The dead dog is evidence. Give me a minute.

He goes into the animal hospital Dan Martin and Bill put Ella in Dan Martin's car. Dan Martin gives Bill's son the keys. Dan Martin's son drives away. Deputy Sheriff One comes out.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE (CONT'D)

They can hold your dog here until the department sends someone out to collect her. I'd appreciate it if you'd come with me now.

BILL MURPHY

(Leans over to speak  
to Dan Martin)

Don't talk to them until I have a lawyer there. He's on his way now.

The deputy sheriff opens the passenger door of the squad car.

DEPUTY SHERIFF ONE

Let's go.

Dan Martin gets in the car.

69 INT. SANDYPOINT SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY  
(BILL MURPHY, DEPUTY SHERIFF TWO, DAN MARTIN, BRAD C. CLAGGART)

There is a front desk, a main room and a corridor with offices.

Deputy Sheriff Two comes over and gives Dan Martin a quick frisk, and then sits down at a desk as he fills out a form. Dan Martin pulls out his wallet and gives him his driver's license.

Bill Murphy enters.

BILL MURPHY

Just your name, rank, and serial number, Dan Martin. Nothing more than that.

DEPUTY SHERIFF TWO

Would you come with me and make a statement about what happened.

DAN MARTIN

I'll need to see my lawyer first, I told him.

DEPUTY SHERIFF TWO

We'd appreciate your cooperation at this time which can only be to your benefit if you help us understand exactly what happened today.

DAN MARTIN

Thanks, but no thanks. I'll need to speak to a lawyer first.

DEPUTY SHERIFF TWO

You'll have to wait to for a lawyer.

DAN MARTIN

Can I go now? I want to get back to the vet's and see about my dog.

DEPUTY SHERIFF TWO

No, sir. You're a witness to a possible crime and have to remain here for the time being.

DAN MARTIN

Possible crime? What else happened at Safeway? If I was the man involved in the shooting at Safeway.

DEPUTY SHERIFF TWO

I'm not at liberty to say.

Enter Brad C. Claggart

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Mr. Martin. I'm Brad Claggart. (Shakes Dan Martin's hand.) Deputy Thompson can we have a room so I can meet with my client.

DEPUTY SHERIFF TWO

Certainly, Mr. Claggart.

Bill Murphy starts go with them.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Bill, this is a private attorney client meeting. You will have to stay here.

70 INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE, SMALL ROOM  
(BRAD C. CLAGGART, DAN MARTIN, BILL MURPHY)

They go to a room. No table, just a pair of cheap metal chairs.

BRAD C. CLAGGART (CONT'D)

Sorry I'm late, but I needed time to find out more about what happened at the Safeway.

(MORE)

BRAD C. CLAGGART (CONT'D)

You see, it wasn't just your dogs that were shot. A little girl, six years old, was shot below the knee, and it pretty much shattered her leg bone.

DAN MARTIN

My God!

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Yes, indeed, she is in our prayers. Those boys who did it, they're under arrest; mainly for discharging a weapon in village limits, and reckless disregard, but there'll be quite a few more charges by the time the police and state are done. So, tell me briefly what happened.

DAN MARTIN

Bill Murphy is under IRS investigation. So am I. They want to force me to testify against Bill. Bill got me a lawyer and he advised against saying anything. So a while ago these two showed up at my door in Sacramento. I wouldn't say anything.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

So these IRS fellows follow you to Idaho, wait until you're out of the house, then try to make an arrest.

DAN MARTIN

Why would they do that? Why not come right to the door, Bill's door?

BRAD C. CLAGGART

What have you been doing since you got here?

DAN MARTIN

Fishing, boating, buying some shotguns and rifles to go hunting.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Hold it right there. Guns and rifles? Well, there you are.

DAN MARTIN

"There you are?" What do you mean?

BRAD C. CLAGGART

These boys thought you were Idaho militia nuts ready to blow them away if they came to serve a warrant at your armed compound.

DAN MARTIN

That wouldn't have happened.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Surely not, but then you don't work for the government which supposes all sorts of things that are far from true. They're thinking that they are in another Ruby Ridge, or something. They wanted you in a place safer for them. When your dogs came running . . .

DAN MARTIN

I could have stopped them if they let me. Zoe was all bark and curiosity, and Lucy would have halted on command. Both of them.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Yes, well, the men panicked. Stupid idiots. They were prepared for a gunfight. A militia man with three German shepherds. Attack dogs.

Your problems with the IRS. Ah, what tangled webs we weave. Anyway, I think we might turn this to your advantage. They're going to want your statement. They're dying for your statement. Your statement . .

There was a knock on the door. Bill puts his head in the door.

BILL MURPHY

I've been listening to the radio in the car while waiting for you. The little girl who was shot?

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Yes?

BILL MURPHY

She's the grandniece of the governor of Idaho. Also there was a chance they'd have to amputate the leg, but apparently they won't after all.

DAN MARTIN

Thank God.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Is that all?

BILL MURPHY

Pretty much.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Then go ahead and close the door.

BILL MURPHY

Sure.

Closes the door.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Well, that changes a few things.  
Were there many people around when  
they started shooting?

DAN MARTIN

A few, I suppose. Nobody who was  
close to me or anything.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

You're probably the main witness to  
the whole thing from start to finish.  
They're going to want your testimony  
badly. I wonder if we can't kill  
two birds with one stone. Your  
testimony in exchange for the IRS  
formally dropping all charges against  
you.

DAN MARTIN

What about Bill and his family?  
That may be a bridge too far. Try  
it, anyway.

Brad C. Claggart walks about the room for a minute. Stroking  
his chin. Thinking

BRAD C. CLAGGART

Okay. So here's where we stand.  
I'll talk to the sheriff and get him  
to release you. You didn't commit  
any crime here. If the IRS still  
wants to serve their warrant, that's  
up to them. If they do, then we'll  
get you bail.

(MORE)

BRAD C. CLAGGART (CONT'D)

I'll explain to the sheriff the terms of your cooperation and see where that goes. Right up to the Attorney general and Governor, I expect.

He stood up and gestured for me to remain.

DAN MARTIN

Send Bill in, if that's okay. I'd like some company.

Claggart nods and leaves. After a moment Bill Murphy comes in.

BILL MURPHY

I'm sorry, Dan Martin God, I'm sorry about your dogs. Those beautiful animals.

DAN MARTIN

Not your fault. If it's anybody's, it's mine. I thought I could get away with something. It's like that old song, 'I Fought the Law and the Law Won.' If they want you bad enough, they get you.

BILL MURPHY

God, I want them to pay, the bastards.

Look, you make a deal for yourself, just yourself if that's how it stands. Don't worry about me or my kids. Ok?

I want you to do that. Understand?

DAN MARTIN

It would be nice to get off the hook, get this thing off my back, especially after what they'd done. Their shooting my dogs means nothing to them though. Collateral damage, that's all.

They sit together quietly for a while.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

I have it in my heart to say a prayer for Lucy and cry in my heart over Zoe.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

That old whine, 'but I just wanted to be able to keep what I earned' seems like ashes and wormwood in my mouth. It isn't wrong to fight for what's yours, but sometimes the cost is more than you can imagine.

Claggart returns He looks at Bill as if to suggest he leave,

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

No he can stay.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

The chief is very anxious to get your testimony, especially when it's fresh. They're burning the lines with the Attorney General who's talking to the IRS, their senators in Washington to see what levers can be pulled. Until they do, you're free to go. You have to remain in the county or they'll arrest you on the IRS warrant, but the IRS isn't pressing for its enforcement. Not until they get things sorted on their end. They're in a world of trouble, I can tell you.

They exit the room.

71 INT. SANDYPOINT ANIMAL HOSPITAL, RECOVERY ROOM - DAY  
(DAN MARTIN, VETERINARIAN IDAHO, BILL MURPHY)

Dan martin and Bill Murphy enter.

VETERINARIAN IDAHO

We've done all we can for her at this point. Lucy caught a bullet in her left shoulder blade which deflected. So it ran along her ribs, cracking a few, and ending up in her abdomen.

We've taken the bullet out, repaired the internal damage which was not as bad as you might think. The bullet lost a lot of velocity, fortunately, after the first impact, but her shoulder is in bad shape, and her ribs, too.

(MORE)

VETERINARIAN IDAHO (CONT'D)

We've put her shoulder together with small plates and screws, immobilized it in a cast, and bandaged her ribs. It will be a few weeks, at least, before she'll be up and around at all.

DAN MARTIN

(Manages a strangled.) Thank you. Thank you very much.

VETERINARIAN IDAHO

You're welcome. I briefly examined your other dog. It looks like she was shot right through the chest into the heart. She died immediately. She was never in any pain.

DAN MARTIN

Thank you. Thank you so much.

VETERINARIAN IDAHO

Your welcome.

Dan Martin gives her a hug and cries to himself.

DAN MARTIN

Can I see Lucy now.

VETERINARIAN IDAHO

Sure, follow me.

They follow the vet. They go into a room where Lucy is lying, bandaged and drugged out.

DAN MARTIN

Such a beautiful dog. Such a beautiful dog. Such a beautiful dog.

Bill Murphy puts his hand on Dan Martin's shoulder.

BILL MURPHY

You'll be all right, Lucy. You'll be all right. Chasing squirrels before you know it.

Veterinarian Idaho She'll be all right. We have to keep her under sedation until her pain diminishes. That will be for a few days.

DAN MARTIN

Let's go. There is nothing we can do.

Veterinarian Idaho Come back and visit. Please visit her.

DAN MARTIN

I will be back tomorrow. Every day.

Exit everyone..

72 EXT. SANDYPOINT ANIMAL HOSPITAL, RECEPTION AREA - DAY  
(BILL MURPHY, CLERK)

Reception area Dan Martin tires to pay the bill with a credit card.

BILL MURPHY

I've got that.

Takes a look at bill. He pulls out a large wad of bills.

BILL MURPHY (CONT'D)

Keep the change as a donation for other dogs. You might have to take care of, where the people can't afford it.

CLERK

Thank you sir.

Exit all.

73 INT. SANDYPOINT, CLAGGART'S LAW OFFICE - DAY  
(BRAD C. CLAGGART)

Dan Martin and Bill Murphy are there.

BRAD C. CLAGGART

In the age of the Internet it doesn't take much time for a local incident to become national news, what with government behaving badly, notorious dogs shot, and a governor's relative wounded. In no time at all you'll be linked by the Drudge Report, followed by a thousand bloggers, and a few national e-zines.

Just because it is a big embarrassment to the federal government, it doesn't mean that they are ready to make amends or call off their . . . yappy

(MORE)

BRAD C. CLAGGART (CONT'D)

curs.

Then there are civil suits against the IRS and their agents to consider.

By killing Zoe and injuring Lucy, they've caused a major loss of income for you that has to be litigated for damages. There was the little girl, her pain and suffering to account for, medical bills, vet bills, a host of things. The IRS agents we have been suspended, then will probably be fired, and the one responsible for the shooting had criminal charges to face besides the various civil suits. This is what I am going to hold over the sheriff and prosecuting attorney until he get the deal I want. The deal will come. In return for your cooperation, waiving your rights to damages and suits against the government, your case, and that against Bill's children will be formally closed with signed guarantees.

The case against Bill will remain open, however. They will refuse to compromise on that. But where they are ever going to find enough evidence to convict him remains to be seen. The whole case is tainted by this and I doubt that they want to force a trial with you, Bill. The whole issue of killing the dog and seriously wounding the young girl will be brought up again. They don't want that.

74 EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY - MORNING  
(KAREN, DAN MARTIN)

KAREN

Dad, dad. She throws her arms around him and gives him a big kiss on the cheek.

Dan Martin takes Lucy out of the truck.

KAREN (CONT'D)

How's Lucy?

DAN MARTIN

Her ribs and abdomen are fine now  
but her shoulder can't bear her full  
weight. She hobbles a bit.

They walk into the house.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

You'd think Lucy'd be like a child  
would be, changed somehow after being  
nearly killed. But she is the same  
sweet, loving dog. She doesn't miss  
Zoe a bit. In fact, she seems glad  
to have lost Zoe since she and Ella  
get along so well, neither wants to  
dominate the other.

They enter through the door.

75 EXT. PARK, SACRAMENTO - DAY  
(DAN MARTIN)

Dan Martin walking Lucy and Ella.

DAN MARTIN

People suggested I replace Zoe with  
another black Shepherd.  
I could train her, maybe get new  
contracts for the team, but the dog  
food and pet store companies had all  
glommed on to the basic idea. Lots  
of commercials appeared on TV  
featuring German Shepherds, even  
different types like mine together  
in two's and three's.

No, that ship has sailed. But the  
movie, especially now there was an  
exciting end to the story - violence,  
mayhem, government agents and so  
forth - that was being scripted and  
set for production, and so I got  
paid again, but it was shocking,  
after taxes, my agent's cut, and  
lawyer's fees, just how much got  
lopped off. Not exactly chump change  
was left, but like I said before,  
you're holding a bunch of coins in  
both hands when vultures sweep down;  
you're struck dumb by how much is  
suddenly gone.

(MORE)

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

Karen got married. She met a man in the become-a- Catholic program, a widower with a little girl.

76 EXT. ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STEPS - MORNING  
(DAN MARTIN)

Shot of Karen leaving the Church in wedding dress. Dan holding a little girl.

DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

His wife had suddenly dropped dead while she was on the phone talking to her mother. An aneurysm burst in her brain. Roger carried on for a few years, but was out of sorts until he started going to church. That's where they met.

77 EXT. PARK, SACRAMENTO - DAY  
(DAN MARTIN)

DAN MARTIN

I saw Bill again when I went back to Idaho to testify against the IRS agent. He said he'd remember me in his will for helping his family, which was nice.

Karen got a letter from Zachary. After failing to get rich quick in New Guinea, he went to Australia, bummed around, and met a girl from New Zealand. He married her, moved to her country, and works for her father in construction. Says he still has a couple of the gold coins I gave him.

I get to be a grandfather, which is more fun than training dogs, I'll admit, and Roger and Karen's first child, Mimi, is quite taken with Lucy and Ella. She enjoys bossing them around, having them over for tea, and Lucy and Ella sit happily by as she lectures them on proper etiquette for eating pretend cakes. The dogs and I walk her to school in the morning, and greet her in the afternoon.

(MORE)

## DAN MARTIN (CONT'D)

They made the movie but changed a few things, turning me into an ex-army Ranger with one big, male German Shepherd who works for a shadowy security organization and . . . well, suffice it to say that there were lots of explosions, car chases, and the dog chewing up bad guys to pieces. It didn't do well.

As for me, I read a little bit of the Bible everyday, but I see why I tend to avoid it. It's not so much an instruction manual, but a maze to be threaded, or a code to be deciphered. I'm beginning to see that if it's wisdom you're after, it's no easy slog.

Other than that, everything's peachy keen, and I can't (shouldn't) complain.