

The Fantasy Fandango
A Musical

Written by

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Draft 1 - Revision of "The Rooster Bowl"
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1 EXT: LOS ANGELES CA - SCHOOL BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

A School Bus pulls to a stop. A bench is in front of an old adobe brick wall erratically painted in contemporary colors.

A group of school kids are getting off as each carries a book or two plus the usual lunch box, bags and educational paraphernalia and cell phones. One boy hangs back. He carries a large managerial stack of books which fall out of his arms before he reaches a bench. An old man steps forward to help the boy gather all of his books.

OLD MAN
Here, here. Let me help you.

BOY
Thank you sir.

OLD MAN
Ah. It warms my heart to see one of the younger generation who likes to study. Most of you children are more interested in games and i-phones.

The Boy looks at the old man with a start.

BOY
You think I like reading these?

OLD MAN
Of course. Education is the key to success, my young friend.

BOY
Well, then, maybe you better help someone else. I only study this much because my mother wants me to be Presidenté.

OLD MAN
Quite a noble aspiration. And what would YOU like to be?

BOY
A football player!

OLD MAN

I see. Not quite as refined as being President, but . . . soccer players do tend to remain heroes longer than Presidentés.

BOY

Oh no, not soccer. Real football.

OLD MAN

You mean North American variety?

BOY

Right on. The Rose Bowl, The Orange Bowl, Cotton Bowl . . . SUPER BOWL !

The Old man ushers the boy to the bench and sets the stack of books aside so they can talk better. He takes the top book from the pile and uses it to fester with.

OLD MAN

Do you know what this is?

BOY

Yes, it's a history book.

OLD MAN

And what does it tell us.

BOY

It tells us what people did a hundred years ago . . . as if that's going to lower the price of frijoles.

OLD MAN

It's a lot more than that, young man! It teaches us the mistakes people have made throughout the years so we don't have to make them again. At least that's what it's supposed to do. But it's a lot more than that, too. The book tells us who we are and how we got here. It tells us why we think and act the way we do, if you read it carefully enough.

BOY

Terrific. That books' all about the history of Czarist Russia.

Embarrassed and frustrated the old man tosses the book a side.

OLD MAN

Okay. If you know it so much about all these bowl games, tell me which one is the most famous.

BOY

It doesn't matter. I like them all.

OLD MAN

You do, do you? Well, I'll bet you don't know that the most famous of all the bowl games is a few hundred miles from here.

BOY

Hug? What teams are playing ?

OLD MAN

Ay, Dios mio. Can't you get your mind of a football for just a minute?

BOY

You mean it's not football?

OLD MAN

NO NO . . . And if you listen to me for just a while I will tell you all about it.

BOY

I'm listening! What's it called?

OLD MAN

It's called the Estadio Fandango! DEPORTE DE FÚTBOL, the biggest and best Bowl game of all time.

FADE TO:

2 EXT: SANTA TITOS, BAJA MX - TOWN SQUARE - NOON

Tourists, cameras and luggage begin to descend the steps of a tour bus. A guide with cap and megaphone begins to lecture the group on Santa Titos and the fiesta . . .

TOUR GUIDE

Right this way, folks. Those of you in the rear, step forward a bit so the others can hear. Stay together.

(MORE)

TOUR GUIDE (cont'd)
 Now, then, in spite of bumpy roads
 and a little weather, we have finally
 arrived, and in plenty of time for
 the festival. I might add, as
 promised, you all will be staying
 here at the Hotel San Cristobal . . .

The flamboyant DOÑA CARTA enters from the hotel door and
 interrupts:

DOÑA CARTA
 I'll take it from here.

TOUR GUIDE
 Ladies and gentlemen may I present
 the Mayor of Santa Titos . . . and
 Chief of Police, affectionately and
 sometimes not so affectionately known
 as DOÑA CARTA.

DOÑA CARTA
 Don't know why I let you drive. These
 people might get the wrong idea . . .

OPENING SONG 1:

THE FANTASY FANDANGO - - SPARKLING, UPTEMPO, WITH LATIN
 FEEL. A PRODUCTION SONG AND DANCE, FEATURING DOÑA CARTA AND
 TOWNSPEOPLE:

DOÑA CARTA (cont'd)
 I WANT TO WELCOME YOU, I'M DOÑA CARTA
 I AM THE MAYOR OF THIS LOVELY TOWN.
 IT'S FIESTA TIME IN SANTA TITOS
 AND PAGEANTRY IS ALL AROUND.
 IT'S JUBILEE, A CELEBRATION
 FEAST FOR ALL A SEASON FOR FUN.
 ALL THE COLOR, ALL THE SENSATIONS
 ARE THE GAIETY OF OUR CITIZENS.

TOWNSPEOPLE
 THE FANTASY FANDANGO
 OUR MAGICAL MARDI GRAS
 WE LOVE TO FANDANGO
 THE SANTA TITOS MARDI GRAS

DOÑA CARTA
 WE WILL MAKE YOUR TRIP SO WORTH WHILE
 YOU'LL BECOME LOST AND IN A TRANCE.
 THERE IS THUNDER IN SANTA TITOS
 WITH LIGHTNING ITS' RAINING ROMANCE.
 IT'S A SPECIAL TIME IN OUR CITY
 A HOLIDAY SECOND TO NONE.
 SO I'LL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
 (MORE)

DOÑA CARTA (cont'd)
TO TELL YOU HOW IT WAS BEGUN.

TOWNSPEOPLE
THE FANTASY FANDANGO
OUR MAGICAL MARDI GRAS
WE LOVE TO FANDANGO
THE SANTA TITOS MARDI GRAS

(DANCE): Townspeople with Mexican flare

DOÑA CARTA
IF YOU CARE FOR LATE NIGHT EXCITEMENT
MY ANGELS WILL CURE YOUR DESIRES,
IN MY COLORFUL HOTEL SAN CRISTOBAL
ENTERTAINING YOU TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
WE KNOW YOU'LL LOVE THE 'DEPORTE'
WE WISH YOU LUCK YOU'RE GONNA NEED
IT.
ROMANCE IS YOURS IN SANTA TITOS
AND WE WANT YOU ALL TO ENJOY.

TOWNSPEOPLE
THE FANTASY FANDANGO
OUR MAGICAL MARDI GRAS
WE LOVE TO FANDANGO
THE SANTA TITOS MARDI GRAS

(DANCE)

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

3 EXT. CUERNAVACA MX - FUTBOL FIELD - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "Our Little Brothers Orphanage"
"Cuernavaca, Mexico"

At "NUESTROS PEQUENOS HERMANOS" in CUERNAVACA, MX, a Jesuit orphanage, we see children of all ages playing fútbol. The teenage team have gotten very good, joined a league and this year are undefeated. They won the south division and have earned a spot in the famous "ESTADIO FANDANGO" bowl game in Santa Titos. Called GALLOS BLANCOS DE CUERNAVACA are mostly boys from the orphanage. Team colors are Maroon and white with a gold strip and the mascot is the cartoon character Foghorn.

The team members are less fortunate but are always with smiles and we see them frolicking, jumping, chasing each other across the field as the team cheers.

A young player rides a goat across the playing field and they all chase him down.

A donor has lent them several buses, so the Priest, Nuns and many class mates are coming to the big match.

Team CHEERS !!!

DISSOLVE TO:

4 EXT: SANTA TITOS - TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON

The Plaza is quiet now, only minimal folks coming and going. Locals FAST BUCKS and SEBASTIANO enter, and obviously intent on getting across the plaza without being noticed.

DOÑA CARTA

Hold it, you two!
I want a word with both of you ...

FAST BUCKS and SEBASTIANO reluctantly come.

FAST BUCKS

Lovely day, isn't it?

DOÑA CARTA

Yes. And I want it to stay that way.

FAST BUCKS

What? You talk as if we have done something wrong. We haven't as much as stepped on a cucaracha, have we, friend?

SEBASTIANO

No. Not even a cucaracha.

DOÑA CARTA

Maybe not. But you're working on it. I can tell.

FAST BUCKS

You do us both a grave injustice.

DOÑA CARTA

Hogwash! Now, listen. I want a clean festival this year. If the tourists complain as much as they did last year, they'll take us off the Tours.

FAST BUCKS

You're not suggesting Sebastiano and I would do anything dishonest, are you?

DOÑA CARTA

Let's just say I'd prefer knowing what business you're going into before you spring anything on the public.

SEBASTIANO

(aside)

So she can get her cut.

DOÑA CARTA

What was that?!

SEBASTIANO

Nothing. Nothing at all.

DOÑA CARTA

(to Fast Bucks)

Anyway. I don't want any of those routines where your friend here puts on a turban and pretends to be some kind of swami ... in order to find people's 'lost' wallets.

FAST BUCKS

(aghast)

Doña !

DOÑA CARTA

Don't you 'Doña' me. And I don't want you selling any more of that onyx jewelry, either.

FAST BUCKS

Now that's legitimate! Who else could sell onyx rings for five dollars apiece?

DOÑA CARTA

Anyone, if the onyx are made out of old dried up licorice candy.

FAST BUCKS

So who's going to know the difference?

DOÑA CARTA

Anyone. The first time they forget to take the thing off in the shower.

FAST BUCKS

(to Sebastiano)

Inventory the jewelry. We'll dump it next Christmas.

DOÑA CARTA

And another thing. I don't want you taking the tourists on any more of those phony tours of Santa Titos.

FAST BUCKS

You mean we can't show them where Pancho Villa saved the portrait of the Virgin Mother from the burning cathedral?!

DOÑA CARTA

Pancho Villa never came within a hundred miles of here!

SEBASTIANO

(aside)

Neither has the Virgin Mother.

DOÑA CARTA

You two know what I mean. Now get out of my way. But stay where I can keep an eye on you.

DISSOLVE TO:

5 EXT. FÚTBOL FIELD - JUÁREZ MX - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: "The Juárez Cuervos Negros"
"Reigning Fútbol Champions"

The Champions with colors of black and gold and mascot the black crow. Players are older, bigger and nastier than the boys of "GALLOS BLANCOS".

They see the sport as work, not in fun. Sponsored by the Tequila Company they have a snooty arrogant air about them. The team boards a private jet, traveling to a cartels' estate near Santa Titos.

DISSOLVE TO:

6 EXT: SANTA TITOS - TOWN SQUARE - EARLY EVENING

A MYSTERIOUS MAN (Extraño Misterioso), in a sport jacket, walks the plaza and obviously does not wish to be recognized. He hides his face with the brim of his hat but WE see it is painted like a skull. Doña Carta stands with her back to the man, her hand behind her, palm up. He carefully approaches Doña and places a small stack of bills in her waiting hand. She turns and nods in the direction of the small door beside the main hotel entrance. He leaves.

SEBASTIANO

Who was that? Cartel?

FAST BUCKS

I've never seen him before.

Doña puts the bills into her purse with a lustful smile.

DOÑA CARTA

Does it really matter?

FAST BUCKS

Strangers fascinate me.

DOÑA CARTA

Well, let them fascinate you somewhere else.

FAST BUCKS

(to Sebastiano)

Looks like a dull festival. I hope you washed out all those hubcaps like I told you?

SEBASTIANO

I did. But are you sure we can pass them off as souvenir salad bowls?

FAST BUCKS

They'll be bigger than pet rocks.

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano walk off.

DOÑA CARTA

Where is Margarita? She said she'd be here an hour ago. Margarita !

MARGARITA

Buenos dias, Tia Carta.

DOÑA CARTA

Ay, me guerita! My little blond one. You are so pretty today. Have you been practicing walking like I told you?

MARGARITA

Si, Tia.

DOÑA CARTA

Let me see.

MARGARITA makes a rather sad effort at looking petite and elegant. She takes baby steps and swings her arms clumsily.

PROFESSOR BOB, (50s) long gray-haired happy-go-lucky American drop out from a state side University, makes an unobtrusive entrance and sits at one of the tables in front of the cafe facing the bus. He makes an inaudible order to CARMEN, the waitress. He then begins to scribble madly on scraps of paper.

DOÑA CARTA (cont'd)

Oh, no, no. That will never do. You look like you're practicing for the Watusi competition instead of the "Miss Santa Titos" title. Who taught you how to walk, anyway, Olive Oil ?

MARGARITA

No Tia.

DOÑA CARTA

Relax. Put your arms down to your sides like so. That's it. Now lift the chin high. Nose straight forward. That's right. Now think elegant. Are you thinking elegant?

MARGARITA

Si, Tia.

DOÑA CARTA

Good, now when you step off, you point the toe right straight ahead.

MARGARITA follows all these instructions to the letter, but when she steps off, she looks down at her foot.

MARGARITA

Like this?

DOÑA CARTA

Don't look down.

MARGARITA

But how do I know if I'm pointing it straight ahead if I don't look at it?

DOÑA CARTA

You'll just have to trust the foot to know what it's doing. Lord knows, not much of the rest of you knows what it's doing.

MARGARITA

Si, Tia.

DOÑA CARTA

Try it again.

She makes another try at following Doña's instructions.

MARGARITA

Is this better?

DOÑA CARTA

Much better. You walk like that for the judges and I'll promise you, you'll win that crown. Now, I want you to remember one more thing. When you walk by the judges' table, Don Miguel, my cousin from Cuernavaca, will be seated second from the left. I want you to wink at him. Can you show me a nice, little seductive wink and wiggle?

MARGARITA

Like this?

Margarita puts her entire face and body into an exaggerated over-gestured wink.

DOÑA CARTA

Ay, Dios mio! I may not survive. Let's go inside. The next bus is due any minute. Think elegant, Margarita.

Margarita and Doña leave through the hotel door.

DISSOLVE TO:

7 EXT: LOS ANGELES CA - SCHOOL BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

Old Man and Boy still sitting on the bench. Seems the old Man inspires the Boy.

OLD MAN

You see, the excitement is just like the Super Bowl.

BOY

Yeah, but do the fans really get that excited or is it just another festival.

OLD MAN

When you put your whole heart into something it IS the biggest thing you can do. You are giving your self to a cause bigger than you alone.

BOY

So, team work, the orphanage . . . success is just doing it, playing the game . . . being a Jugador?

OLD MAN

Listen to my story, you be the judge.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. CUERNAVACA MX - FUTBOL FIELD - MORNING

Futbol team GALLOS is boarding the bus to Santa Titos. Noisy and playful. Each member is given a team jersey and a sack lunch as they board. Pure Joy in the air.

A tearful Manolo, a young star player, waves out the window to his girlfriend "Gabriela".

DISSOLVE TO:

9 EXT. SANTA TITOS PLAZA - LATE AFTERNOON

There is a brief flurry of activity as tourists dismount the steps of yet another bus. Among them is HEATHER HARLOW, (23), petite, dark blonde, willowy, lively and bright. She is well dressed in plain skirts and blouses. Just completed her masters degree. Toting two small suitcases, she stops a young boy and speaks to him.

HEATHER

Nino! favor. Lleva estas maletas al cuarto ... ciento tres, favor.

Heather hands the young boy some change.

YOUNG BOY

En seguida, senora. Gracias.

The young boy leaves through the hotel door with her suitcases. Heather stands for a moment, looking about the plaza to get her bearings.

At this moment, the Professor looks up from his scribbling. Heather and the Professor see each other and there is instant recognition. The Professor stands. Heather strides towards him.

They meet each other halfway.

HEATHER

Professor!

PROFESSOR

Heather, my dear!

HEATHER

I don't believe this.

PROFESSOR

Hardly any more than I do, I'm sure.

HEATHER

So this is where you ended up. Why on earth did you pick a dusty place like Santa Titos?

PROFESSOR

Dusty? May I remind you, young lady, **you** just got off the bus in this ... dusty place.

HEATHER

You have a point. Buy me a cognac and let's swap stories.

PROFESSOR

Oh, it's cognac now. Whatever happened to Orange Crush and Mars Bars?

HEATHER

They went up in the attic along with the Raggedy Ann doll and my paper cutouts of Brad Pitt.

The Professor leads her to his table and gestures to Carmen, the waitress. They sit.

PROFESSOR

You first. Don't tell me, let me guess. You're running away from home.

HEATHER

Don't I wish. No, I'm on an extended tour. So far I think I've been in every art museum in the Western hemisphere. If I see one more art museum, I'm going to puke.

(pauses and sighs)

I saw Santa Titos on one of the lists in the agent's office and I asked if they had an art museum. When she said no, I had her sign me up for two weeks.

PROFESSOR

You've never been able to fool me for very long, young lady. What has your daddy's rebellious little girl done this time to deserve ... banishment!

HEATHER

First of all, it isn't banishment. I'm supposed to be getting a lot of energy out of my system. This trip could be called an international Ex-Lax. Secondly, it's not anything I did that caused the problem. It's what I didn't do.

PROFESSOR

I think I'm getting the picture. With a masters degree, you refused to teach at Meridian, Iowa Senior High.

HEATHER

Can you honestly see me teaching to a roomful of teenage girls with terminal acne? Why are parents so practical about everything? Why can't something happen that isn't part of a master plan - a plan I never helped to make?

PROFESSOR

You and I have a lot in common, young lady. We always have. For all of my laurels as an anthropologist, I discovered one day that sitting in a room with a hundred and twenty-seven different skulls was not only unfulfilling but inane, boring and just plain old silly. So I gave one hundred and twenty-six of the skulls to the Smithsonian, packed a single bag and moved to this charming place. My ulcer went away and I've been happy ever since writing poetry instead of gluing bones together.

HEATHER

I wish I was old enough to drop out.

PROFESSOR

Pah-leeeze! I'm just as involved here as I ever was back there. Do I look like a 'free spirit' to you?

HEATHER

No, I guess not. By the way, I may be sticking my neck out, but what did you do with that last skull?

PROFESSOR

It's on my desk. I smashed a hole in the top of it and I use it to hold all my felt tip pens.

HEATHER

Well, you sure did shock the hell out of Dad. When he learned you had resigned and dropped ... I mean, drifted out of sight, he called the national headquarters of the lodge and had you blackballed.

PROFESSOR

Your father was a stick-in-the-mud before he had money. Can you imagine a man who would go through eight weeks of basic training and not use a single swear word? There has to be something unpatriotic about a thing like that.

HEATHER

You've always been one of my favorite people. I admire you.

SONG 2:

LIFE, IT GOES ON -- BALLAD - SOFT AND HONEST:

HEATHER (cont'd)

DAYS WILL COME AND DAYS WILL GO,
BUT LIFE, IT GOES ON.
IN THIS WORLD
YOU'VE GOT TO BE STRONG.

PROFESSOR

LIFE'S TOO SHORT TO TAKE SO
SO SERIOUSLY.
LEARN TO LOVE AND LEARN TO BE FREE.

HEATHER

IF YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE TO PLEASE
SOMEONE ELSE'S DREAM,
YOU WILL NEVER HAVE A LIFE
THAT YOU CAN CALL YOUR OWN.

PROFESSOR

STARTING OVER CAN BEGIN
WITH A SIMPLE WORD HELLO,
IT'S NOT DROPPING OUT,
BUT DROPPING IN TO LIVE.

PEOPLE LOOK AND PEOPLE SEE
SOME SHALLOW AND SOME DEEP,
AND IF YOU SEE YOURSELF
YOU CAN BE FREE.

HEATHER

I DON'T KNOW JUST WHERE I'LL GO
WHEREVER I'LL BE STRONG,
'CAUSE I'VE LEARNED THAT LIFE,
IT GOES ON.

BACK TO:

Seated at another plaza cafe table is CARSON BENSON, (30), tall, blond, muscular and clean-shaven, (a Sean Connery 007 look). He comes from a well-to-do family but is currently out of favor with his father. Paco and Javier, (both young gamblers with an "east L.A." look), enter and sit with him. Loud chatter and laughter temporarily disrupt the relative calm of the plaza.

Heather notices Carson almost immediately. The Professor reacts unfavorably. Carson does not notice Heather right away.

CARSON

Two pesos says the next woman coming out of the hotel is wearing something . . . Red!

PACO

You're on!

They wait in silence with bills clenched in their fists, watching the door to the hotel intently. Within seconds, a woman emerges carrying a bright red handbag. The rest of her outfit is white and blue.

CARSON

What did I tell you? Pay up, Amigo.

PACO

Hey! She's not wearing red. She's carrying red. You lose, Numero Uno!

The WOMAN notices the commotion.

WOMAN

What's the problem, boys?

CARSON

We had a bet. I said you'd be wearing red. Paco here says you're not wearing it but carrying it. Tell me does a lady wear or carry a purse?

WOMAN

(to Carson)

It doesn't matter. You still win.

She whispers something into his ear. A broad, satanic smile dawns on Carson's face.

CARSON

(to Paco)

Ho, ho, ho, good buddy. Let's bring all those lovely pesos home to papa. She **is** wearing red.

PACO

Where?!

WOMAN

I could prove it to you.

PACO
I'll take your word for it.

The woman saunters off with seductive, confident strides.
Paco reluctantly shells out his losings.

JAVIER
(to Carson)
Still Numero Uno, eh, amigo?

Carmen takes a silent order from each.

PROFESSOR
(to Heather)
I don't like the way you're looking
at that young man.

HEATHER
Oh, Professor, don't be such an old
fuddy-duddy. If I need a conscience,
I'll send for my father.

PROFESSOR
I suspect the worst. That confirms
it.

HEATHER
You don't think I've been making a
tour of the Americas just to look at
surrealistic paintings, do you?

PROFESSOR
You can't blame an old man for
dreaming. I have a feeling that
what's coming up is going to be
miserable for my delicate ears.

HEATHER
Oh, get off it. This is a new dawn. I
wouldn't reject a fling if it was
offered to me. Let's face it, the
selection of men in Meridian is
somewhere between depressing and
rigor mortis. Besides, I'm liberated.

PROFESSOR
Delightful. Liberated from what?

HEATHER
Precisely the kind of prison you're
trying to put me in.

PROFESSOR

Oh. Suppose this "fling" of yours doesn't work out?

HEATHER

So who wants it to work out?! All I want is a little romance. I'm not looking for Prince Charming and a gilded castle.

PROFESSOR

Well, that's a relief. You certainly won't find any gilded castles in that young mans' crystal ball. He's a lounge lizard, a rotter, a loudmouth.

HEATHER

Do us both a favor and put the stone tablets away for a while.

PROFESSOR

. . . and a lady killer . . . I can see my advice and counsel are falling on completely deaf ears.

A loud OUTBURST of cheering and laughter from Carson's table. The turn of a card has resulted in the exchange of more bills.

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

I shall leave you to your cognac . . . and your undoing.

HEATHER

Jealous old coot!

PROFESSOR

Ah, the impetuousness of youth. Do be careful, my dear. I'll be around if you need me.

HEATHER

Thanks, but don't count on it.

She takes pause and then stands to embrace the Professor.

HEATHER (cont'd)

It's so good seeing you again. Sometimes I think you're the only real friend I ever had.

PROFESSOR

I've thought of you often, too. I guess it's hard for me to admit you're not in pigtails . . . catching frogs anymore. Take care.

The Professor walks off as Heather sits twirling her snifter . . . waiting for attention. It is not long in coming.

Carson ends another transfer of money after a successful bet. He spies Heather sitting alone.

JAVIER

Numero Uno, who do you have in the bowl . . . The kids or the pros?

CARSON

I've got a soft spot in my heart for the orphans but my head is into DENARO not made up my mind.

PACO

Big bucks if you lay on the line for the kids. Odds are crazy for the pros.

CARSON

I'll see how they look at the media workout.

JAVIER

Look into their eyes?

CARSON

Yes and body language - - speaking of body language.

Carson nods towards Heather.

CARSON

Well, now. When did that' little bundle drop out of the sky?

JAVIER

She looks married.

PACO

Very Norte Americana but I don't see anyone's brand on her. I say she's married.

JAVIER

I say she's not married.

PACO
 (to Javier)
 You're on.

Paco and Javier put money on the table.

CARSON
 And just to keep this one clean, I'll
 be the one to find out.

PACO
 Wouldn't have a little ... scoring in
 mind, now, would you, amigo?

Paco nudges Javier knowingly. Both LAUGH sardonically.

CARSON
 So what if I do?!

PACO
 A fiver says you don't.

Paco slaps a bill on the table.

CARSON
 You're both on!

Carson covers both bets and strides confidently over to
 Heather's table.

CARSON (cont'd)
 Well, hello there, princess. I don't
 believe I've seen you around here
 before.

Heather drops her homey Midwestern demeanor and adopts a
 snooty, aloof air with an eastern accent to match.

HEATHER
 Probably because I've never been here
 before.

Carson's tone becomes "preppy" and phony to match hers.

CARSON
 Pity. It means you've never had the
 opportunity to meet me.

She squints.

CARSON (cont'd)
Let's take care of that unfortunate
void in your life. My name is Carson.
Otherwise known as Numero Uno.

HEATHER
Heather.

CARSON
May I sit down?

HEATHER
Can I stop you?

CARSON
Hardly likely.

Carson sits down and almost immediately has his arm around
the back of her chair.

CARSON (cont'd)
So what brings you to Santa Titos?
Are you here for the Super Bowl of
Fútbol and the Festival of Festivals?

HEATHER
No, not really. These rituals have
always bored me. I mean, one can
hardly compare tacos and hat dancing
to a cotillion on Oyster Bay, can
one?

CARSON
I quite agree. However, it is
important to keep in touch with the
masses, as it were, the moods of the
people?

HEATHER
I suppose you're right. But one can
do it without actually mingling, if
you know what I mean.

CARSON
Oh, absolutely.

HEATHER
No. Actually, I'm here working on my
masters thesis.

CARSON
Interesting. What's it on?

HEATHER

The sex life of the Aztecs. I'm here to do extensive research.

CARSON

Well, you've definitely came to the right place. But in order to do the kind of detailed analysis of the subject that you'll need, you'll have to speak Spanish. You do speak Spanish, don't you?

HEATHER

No. Actually I don't. I've always regarded Spanish as vulgar, if you know what I mean. I prefer French. A noble language.

CARSON

Oh, I know exactly what you mean. But it is essential to know a few words ... just to get around, as it were.

HEATHER

I suppose.

CARSON

It just so happens I'm an expert at teaching languages.

HEATHER

Do tell. I feel a Berlitz blitz coming on.

CARSON

I could have you speaking fluent Spanish in just a few minutes.

HEATHER

You don't say.

CARSON

Repeat after me. Dame un besito.

During the subsequent, Carson leans closer and closer to her face.

HEATHER

Di mo una bestio.

CARSON

Not quite. Dame un besito.

HEATHER
De ma un bezito.

CARSON
Closer. Dame un besito.

HEATHER
Dame un besito.

CARSON
Exactly right.

HEATHER
What did I say?

CARSON
You said you wanted one of these.

Carson places a kiss on Heather's lips.

HEATHER
I must remember that.

SONG 3:

FEELINGS COME FIRST - - MID-TEMPO, TENDER DUET.
IN A DREAM-STATE THE TWO STARE INTO EACH OTHERS EYES:

CARSON
SINCE I FIRST SAW YOU
I THINK I'M IN LOVE, CAN IT BE TRUE?
CAN IT BE RIGHT?
LET'S FIND OUT TONIGHT.

HEATHER
SINCE I FIRST SAW YOU
SINCE YOU CAUGHT MY EYE,
WHAT A SURPRISE I FEEL LIKE I'VE
KNOWN YOU ALL OF MY LIFE.

HEATHER AND CARSON
SINCE FEELINGS COME FIRST,
LIKE DEJA VU WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE,
SINCE FEELINGS COME FIRST,
DON'T WE DESERVE TO LET OURSELVES GO?

CARSON
I KNOW WE JUST MET
I'VE KNOWN YOU FOREVER IN A WAY
SO DEAL ME IN SLOW,
A STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART.

HEATHER
 I KNOW WE JUST MET
 I'M ON NEEDLES AND PINS,
 WHAT'S GOING ON?
 THIS LITTLE FLING IS GETTING TO ME.

HEATHER AND CARSON
 SINCE FEELINGS COME FIRST
 LIKE DEJA VU WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE,
 SINCE FEELINGS COME FIRST
 LIKE DEJA VU WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE,
 SINCE FEELINGS COME FIRST
 DON'T WE DESERVE TO LET OURSELVES GO?
 LET OURSELVES GO . . .

BACK TO:

The table and reality . . .

HEATHER
 Well, your company is simply divine,
 but I've been traveling for more
 hours than I'm used to. I'd like to
 freshen up and change.

CARSON
 How about dinner?

HEATHER
 That sounds like a super idea. Here?
 About eight?

CARSON
 Done. I'll see you then.

Heather stands and exits quickly through the hotel door.
 Carson strides victoriously back to the table where his two
 companions are waiting breathlessly. He sinks into his chair
 in a daze.

JAVIER
 Well?!

CARSON
 Well, what?

JAVIER
 Is she married?!

CARSON
 Oh. I forgot to ask.

JAVIER
 Well, of all the stupid ...

PACO
 (to Javier)
 Hold it, amigo. I think we have a
 case of the ga-ga's on our hands.

Javier pauses to look into Carson's blank eyes.

JAVIER
 I think you're right. This calls for
 emergency measures.

PACO
 A dose of first-aid coming right up!

Paco picks up a fistful of the bills from the table and waves them under Carson's nose. After a moment of this, Carson comes to his senses.

CARSON
 I check the bet! Jacks or better to
 open!

JAVIER
 Easy, Compadre. You've 'been on a
 little trip. We had to treat you for
 jet lag.

CARSON
 If that was heaven . . .

PACO
 This is worse than I thought.

JAVIER
 Hey, we have some bets on the table,
 in case you've forgotten!

CARSON
 Bets . . . Bets! Why, of course. First
 of all, I scored so these are mine.

Carson starts to gather up a stack of bills in front of him. Paco stops him.

PACO
 Hold it! How do we know you scored?!

CARSON
 Dinner for two, tonight. Here at
 eight.

Paco reluctantly releases the money.

CARSON (cont'd)

And these are mine, too, because she wouldn't have dinner with me if she was married. Besides, I won't be able to pay for dinner without it. Come to papa, all you lovely givers of Bacchanalian joy!

Paco and Javier both settle back in their chairs to fume and grumble. Carson raises the entire wad of bills over his head victoriously. Doña comes to Carson's side unnoticed and snatches the entire fistful of money.

DOÑA CARTA

I'm glad to see you're on a winning streak ... for a change. This will exactly cover last week's rent on your room. I suggest you get busy on this week's.

CARSON

But Doña . . . I need that. As a stake. Just a few more days. Please.

DOÑA CARTA

No. And furthermore, I'm tired of having to chase you down every week. If it weren't for your father, you'd have been in the street months ago. I don't need some kind of international incident to spoil my festival. Don't think you can push me too far. I don't care if your father is a Senator, nobody stays in my hotel for nothing.

Doña Carta leaves with the money.

PACO

It's just a good thing she doesn't know your father's not a Senator.

CARSON

Shhhhhh! I don't need any more problems than I already have.

JAVIER

How did that story get started ?

CARSON

I started it! I'm an expert at dodging creditors. It's always worked.

PACO

So how do you account for the fact that you never get any money from ol' dad? A little moo-la once in a while to bail you out?

CARSON

I tell everyone he's too busy with his slum clearance bill.

JAVIER

Too busy to take care of his son's slum clearance?

CARSON

That's close enough.

PACO

You never did say whether your father really does have money or not.

CARSON

He has it, all right. He could buy this town three times over and have enough left over for a trip around the world . . . in his own liner.

JAVIER

So what's up? How come he turned you out?

CARSON

Dad doesn't appreciate the real me . . . high spirited, adventuresome, devil-may-care.

PACO

. . . lazy, shiftless, irresponsible.

CARSON

Cynic!

JAVIER

Okay, okay, he could get you a decent job somewhere and your problems would be solved . . . right?

CARSON

Six months ago, it would have been just that simple. I owed money all over the city. People were hounding me left and right.

(MORE)

CARSON (cont'd)

I was just about to fall into a slot with an investment firm. Stocks, bonds ... that syndrome. Then I saw a chance to do it my way. I got up that morning knowing ... just knowing it was my day. I had a hundred bucks in my pocket and I played every horse ... and not one bet that I placed lost. I walked away from that cage with a hundred and forty-eight thousand dollars in my pocket.

PACO

Virgin Santa!

JAVIER

So - What happened?

CARSON

Believe me, when my friends found out they were around me with their hands out, within minutes. I was shelling it out like there was no tomorrow ... and happy to do it, too. Some of those people had trusted me longer than I had a right to expect it. I was one happy man that day! I cleared every debt I had plus interest with enough left over a damn decent night on the town. Every debt but one, that is.

PACO

Which was . . . ?

CARSON

After I'd flaked all the bills into other people's hands, this little weasel with a briefcase under his arm tapped me on the shoulder. It seems I owed a wee sum to Uncle Sam.

JAVIER

Vultures.

PACO

Leeches.

CARSON

Well, Dad could put up with my gambling debts all over the place, but trouble with the IRS was too much for him to handle.

(MORE)

CARSON (cont'd)
 You two know the rest. About all I
 got away with was a few suits of
 clothing ... and this.

Carson lifts his hand to show the others a large sparkling
 ring on his finger.

JAVIER
 At least you have something between
 you and starvation.

PACO
 Now, just hit it big here ...

The three descend into a somber pensive silence.

JAVIER
 Hey! Why are we being so morbid?
 Horse Races and the Big Bowl Game is
 coming. We're in the middle of a
 festival, and we're all sitting
 around with our chins on the ground?
 I bet if I staked you, Mr. Numero
 Uno, to a modest wager on one of the
 caballos, you'd be on your way back
 up again!

SONG 4:

WIN, PLACE OR SHOW -- MID-TEMPO POP -- A BRIGHT/FINGER-
 SNAPPING DANCE, A GAMBLING EXPERIENCE:

PACO
 WINNING IS EASY,
 YOU KNOW IT'S EASY COME AND EASY GO.

JAVIER
 WINNING IS THRILLING,
 YOU NEED ONLY TO WIN, PLACE OR SHOW.

PACO/JAVIER
 WHEN YOUR HORSE IS OUT IN FRONT
 AND VICTORY IS ALL YOU WANT,
 TAKING YOU HIGH, YOU KNOW THAT
 IT'S AN ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE.

CARSON
 WINNING IS EASY,
 I GOT THE SAVVY AND I GOT THE COOL.
 THAT WINNING FEELING
 IS LIKE A DOUBLE-EDGED TABOO.

CARSON/PACO/JAVIER
 ROLL THE DICE I'M GONNA WIN
 I'VE GOT THE TOUCH FROM DEEP WITHIN.
 (MORE)

CARSON/PACO/JAVIER (cont'd)
 A FEVER PITCH, I KNOW MY GAME
 I'M IN THE GAMBLERS HALL OF FAME.
 YOU GOT TO WIN, PLACE OR SHOW
 AND KEEP MOVIN', WIN, PLACE OR SHOW.
 YOU GOT TO WIN, PLACE OR SHOW
 YOU NEED ONLY WIN, PLACE OR SHOW.

CARSON
 WINNING IS EASY,
 YOU KNOW IT'S EASY COME AND EASY GO.
 WINNING IS THRILLING,
 YOU NEED ONLY TO WIN, PLACE OR SHOW.
 I WILL BET ON ANYTHING TODAY
 MEET THE TEST AND WIN IT MY WAY.
 STILL, WHEN THE MONEY'S DOWN ON THE
 LINE, I HOLD MY BREATH, EVERY TIME.

CARSON/PACO/JAVIER
 YOU GOT TO WIN, PLACE OR SHOW
 AND KEEP MOVIN', WIN, PLACE OR SHOW.
 YOU GOT TO WIN, PLACE OR SHOW
 YOU NEED ONLY WIN, PLACE OR SHOW ...

Carson, Paco and Javier walk away.

DISSOLVE TO:

10 EXT. ESTADIO FANDANGO - THE NEXT DAY - AFTERNOON

Doña Carta and Carmen are at the Stadium to observe the practice of the CUERVOS NEGROS fútbol team.

RAFAEL RAMERAZ sees Doña and comes over to her.

DOÑA CARTA
 Rafael, welcome to Santa Titos. I am
 Doña Carta the mayor.

RAFAEL
 Very nice to meet you and who is this
 little Chamaca?

DOÑA CARTA
 Carmen, one of my girls.

RAFAEL
 Your girls? . . . Well ah-uh

DOÑA CARTA
 My Cantina, La Posada in the town
 square - come this evening.

Several fans come to get autographs and with them is Sebastiano. Carmen giggles talking to Rafael and others while Doña storms out. Jorge and Manolo with the young GALLOS BLANCOS run on to the other side of the stadium doing cartwheels and flips. All watch and LAUGH.

Doña strongly approaches Sebastiano.

DOÑA CARTA (cont'd)

I've noticed sometimes when you are wrestling with the right words, or opening up a can of whoop-ass, as you like to say, you seem to be sweating quite profusely, - Yeah ?
I was wondering if, perhaps, you have spoke to the Cuervos player about, maybe . . . Chantaje !

SEBASTIANO

Doña, I would never.

DOÑA CARTA

Oookaaaay - Where's Fast Bucks?

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

11 EXT: SANTA TITOS - TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON

Twilight and suddenly a figure appears in the corner of the town square. A menacing sight resembling the night of the dead or "Día de Muertos". Shadows grow and loom covering the space as dancers in Mexican folklore emphasizing ritual "masks" begin a "thriller" style dance. With painted face the Extraño Misterioso (MYSTERIOUS STRANGER) sings:

SONG 5:

CHANTAJE -- UP-TEMPO ROCK -- GROOVE WITH ATTITUDE:

EXTRAÑO MISTERIOSO

EVERYONE LOVES TO WIN, THAT IS TRUE.
SUGAR SCULL IN CONTROL, WIN OR LOSE.
JIVE, CONNIVE, EXPLOIT, START A RAGE,
NO ONE KNOWS IF SHE'LL DO IT AGAIN

DANCERS

BLACKMAIL - BLACKMAIL
WON'T YOU STOP IT - WON'T YOU STOP IT
CHANTAJE

EXTRAÑO MISTERIOSO
 LOOKS DIVINE WITH STYLE AND GRACE.
 DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GOT UNTIL YOU'RE
 IN THE RACE.
 YA CRINGE, YA SHAKE, YA SAY "YOU'RE
 ALL IN THE GAME" - - WELL
 YOUR FRIENDS DON'T KNOW WHEN SHE'LL
 DO IT AGAIN . . .

DANCERS
 BLACKMAIL - BLACKMAIL
 WON'T YOU STOP IT - WON'T YOU STOP IT
 CHANTAJE

EXTRAÑO MISTERIOSO
 JUGADORE, YOU SING A SWEET SONG
 THE CELEBRATION WON'T LAST TOO LONG
 JUGADORE, LISTEN TO ME
 ONE DAY YOU'LL PAY THE PRICE OF
 CHANTAJE !

(DANCE: MODERN "THRILLER" STYLE)

The song ends in a freeze. A fog bellows in - a dream.

Focus shifts back to normal doings, a warm Mexican evening
 in the town square.

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano walk. Sebastiano carries a small
 board covered in black velvet. Hanging from the board is a
 hodgepodge of trinkets, one of them is a rusted horseshoe.
 After looking about the plaza with the board hidden, and
 seeing no one threatening, like Doña Carta ... he raises the
 board high.

FAST BUCKS
 (shouting)
 Step right up, folks! Get your
 authentic relic souvenirs here!
 Genuine articles from the past at
 close-out prices!

A stout ELDERLY WOMAN with a lorgnette comes closer to
 examine the board.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)
 Ma'am. What can I do for you? I see
 you are a discerning gentlewoman of
 exquisite taste ... with a sharp eye
 for a bargain.

ELDERLY WOMAN
 What is this?

FAST BUCKS

That, madame, is a horseshoe.

ELDERLY WOMAN

I can see that, young man. What makes it so special?

FAST BUCKS

I knew the moment I saw you, madame, that you would pick the most valuable relic in our inventory. That happens to be a horseshoe worn and thrown by the very horse Cortez rode during the conquest.

ELDERLY WOMAN

I see. How do I know it's authentic?

FAST BUCKS

Because of my reputation as a merchant and dealer. But I can see you would not be satisfied with that. As well you shouldn't. There are a lot of ... unscrupulous individuals in this business. It gives the rest of us a bad name. But, that's a cross we must all bear, so I am prepared to prove to you that this horseshoe is real.

Fast Bucks takes out a jeweler's glass and slips it into his eye. He takes the horseshoe from its peg on the board and examines it closely.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)

Do you see that mark, madame?

He hands the elderly woman both the horseshoe and the glass. She clumsily tries to see what he is pointing out.

ELDERLY WOMAN

I think so.

FAST BUCKS

That, madame, is the letter R ... inscribed forever into the metal of that horseshoe.

ELDERLY WOMAN

So? Cortez starts with a C.

FAST BUCKS

Right you are, madame. But the horse's name was Rocinante. Very temperamental animal. Wouldn't let the blacksmith put a shoe on his foot if it didn't have an R scratched in its surface.

ELDERLY WOMAN

How much?

FAST BUCKS

A mere five pesos, madame. A sacrifice.

ELDERLY WOMAN

I'll take it.

FAST BUCKS

A superb choice, madame.

Fast Bucks takes her money. She wanders off.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)

(to Sebastiano)

How many horseshoes do we have left?

SEBASTIANO

Two gross.

FAST BUCKS

Great. Don't put another one on the board until the old broad leaves.

SEBASTIANO

Get your authentic souvenirs here!

FAST BUCKS

Ah, my friend. There's nothing like a little good, honest larceny to get the blood circulating.

SEBASTIANO

How long have we been at it now?

FAST BUCKS

Who's counting the years?

SONG 6:

DELIGHTFUL LARCENY -- WHIMSICAL SONG AND DANCE

SEBASTIANO

WHO'S STRAIGHT?

(MORE)

SEBASTIANO (cont'd)
 IT'S FUN TO BE CROOKED.
 TWO OF A KIND IN THIEVERY

FAST BUCKS
 WHO CARES? IT PAYS TO BE GIFTED,
 IT'S DELIGHTFUL-LARCENY.

SEBASTIANO
 IT'S OUR BUSINESS
 TO BE HONEST BUSINESSMEN,
 OUR PRIDE SHOWS THROUGH OUR
 COMMUNITY.

FAST BUCKS
 WE KEEP THE MONEY CIRCULATING
 DOWN AND DOWN TO YOU AND ME !

(DANCE: SOFT-SHOE)

SEBASTIANO
 JUST THINK,
 ANOTHER TOURIST BORN TODAY.

FAST BUCKS
 ANOTHER SUCKER, ANOTHER EASY PREY

SEBASTIANO
 LIKE PICKIN' MONEY OFF A TREE

FAST BUCKS/SEBASTIANO
 DELIGHTFUL LARCENY
 DELIGHTFUL LARCENY

FAST BUCKS
 WHO'S STRAIGHT?
 IT'S FUN TO BE CROOKED,
 TWO OF A KIND IN THIEVERY
 WHO CARES IT, PAYS TO BE GIFTED,
 IT'S DELIGHTFUL LARCENY.

SEBASTIANO
 WHEN WE'RE STUCK
 AND NEED A NEW SWINDLE
 WE LIKE TO PICK ONE WE'VE NEVER
 TRIED.

FAST BUCKS
 IT'S A CASE OF BEING STIMULATED,
 AND A CASE OF BEING SATISFIED.

(DANCE: SOFT-SHOE)

As they dance, the Professor enters and unobtrusively takes a seat in the Cantina on the Plaza.

The town is abuzz with vigorous action. Groups of tourists and townspeople are buying souvenirs and play craps or dice, flipping cards as musicians stroll about. Most intriguing are "**turtle races**". Small quick turtles race each other in a two meter long makeshift track surrounded by cheering onlookers and gamblers wagering on the winners.

The Professor gives Carmen his silent order and continues to write on his scraps of paper.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)

Ah, but my friend, as wonderful as our business is, we should be looking to our retirement. The sweet bird of youth eventually does take wing, you know.

SEBASTIANO

I never thought of you as that old.

FAST BUCKS

I was more or less thinking of you.

SEBASTIANO

I still have a few good years left!

FAST BUCKS

We both do. That's not the point. We should be putting little dibs and dabs aside, and looking for a big killing, for a size-able nest egg.

The Professor smiles heartily and writes.

PROFESSOR (V.O.)

From the blazing heat of mid-day
woodland ...

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano stop their exchange and stand. Looking somewhat puzzled at the Professors charming but odd behavior. The Professor continues, oblivious of everything about him. No one is in the Plaza but Fast Bucks, Sebastiano and The Professor.

Suddenly a group of tourist come through. The chatting and SHOUTING begins to do battle with the Professor's poetry, but the old man's words are still clearly audible.

PROFESSOR (V.O.) (cont'd)
 . . . comes the mossy pungent scent
 of ripe blueberries . . .

The Professor writes on as Fast Bucks and Sebastiano
 continue to stand and shrug at one another.

PROFESSOR (V.O.) (cont'd)
 . . . the children know, and with
 their empty buckets swinging they
 march the slender paths to hallowed
 places.

FAST BUCKS
 (to Sebastiano only)
 Not all that bad.

SEBASTIANO
 If you say so. I've never been one
 for poetry myself.

A very shapely and attractive woman ENTERS through the hotel
 door and saunters seductively past the Professor's table.
 The Professor looks up and his demeanor changes abruptly.
 The woman becomes aware that she is being noticed and plays
 up her "temptress" role, winking at the Professor and
 slowing down her walk to give him a protracted view.

PROFESSOR
 Ibbidy bibbidy undertone, right in
 the ipsy dipsy zone. Over the
 brambles, through the brush, right
 behind . . . **Sin Corazon!**

The woman exits as the Fast Bucks and Sebastiano look at
 each other in puzzlement. A crowd of tourist, children and
 festival goers now pack the square. It is seething with
 activity and NOISE.

ANNOUNCER
 And now, ladies and gentlemen for the
 first event of the day . . . from
 Madrid, Spain the Iberian regional
 champion BUENA SUERTE!

CROWD erupts in cheers.

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)
 And from Jalisco, undefeated . . . SIN
 CORAZON!

CROWD cheers again.

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano look at each other in growing wonderment. They both look down at what everyone is gazing at . . . tortugas - "TURTLES".

The Professor continues to write on his scraps of paper, not noticing any of the GROWING NOISE and activity about him.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
And the winner! **SIN CORAZON!**

Festive music grows and segues into Mexican Ranchero music:

SONG 7:
FELIZ RANCHERO - - UPTEMPO, TRADITIONAL MEXICAN

RANCHERO AND CROWD
MY TURTLE IS A WINNER
I'M A HAPPY RANCHERO
A WINNER - A WINNER
A HAPPY RANCHERO

I - I AM A HAPPY RANCHERO
MY TURTLE IS A WINNER
GANADORA FELIZ RANCHERO
I AM A HAPPY RANCHERO

The crowd SHOUTS and CHEERS. Money changes hands vigorously. There is much back slapping and jumping about. Fast Bucks and Sebastiano are both beside themselves with anticipation.

The Professor continues to write on his papers, oblivious.

FAST BUCKS
Did you see what I just saw?

SEBASTIANO
I think so.
(pause)
No, it can't be!
It was just a coincidence!

PROFESSOR
A summer's deep abundance burns ...
a lonely mockingbird explains the
last cool morning of the fall ... "

FAST BUCKS
There he goes again.

The woman walks by again and repeats her winking seductive motions before the Professor.

ANNOUNCER

And now, the tiny terror from Tampico
Dinero Seguro!

Crowd CHEERS . . .

ANNOUNCER

Paired with that famous turtle from
Saltillo . . . Filoso!

Crowd CHEERS . . .

PROFESSOR

Just before the stinging breath of
winter . . .

(notices the WOMAN)

. . . Higglly pigglly, melons a-go-go,
bobblly bibblly . . . **DINERO SEGURO**.

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano look even more aghast.

BRIEF REPRISE of the "**FELIZ RANCHERO**" SONG.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And the winner. . . "**DINERO SEGURO**"!

CROWD goes into wild CHEERING. Again money changes hands and
there is much NOISY confusion. Fast Bucks and Sebastiano
have to hold each other up, such is their elation and shock.

The Professor continues to write . . .

FAST BUCKS

Amigo, I think we have fallen into
the proverbial pot of a jam.

SEBASTIANO

What was your first clue?

FAST BUCKS

Get rid of that board and let's move
in and try not to rub your hands
together too much. It's pushy.

Sebastiano sets the board down against the bench and both
straighten themselves out a bit -- hair, jackets, etc.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)

Let me do the talking.

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano walk over to the Professor.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)
Excuse me, sir. My partner and I
could hardly help but overhear your
... verses.

PROFESSOR
Are you a devot e of poetry?

FAST BUCKS
Most assuredly.

SEBASTIANO
You better believe it. There was a
young lady named Marta, who went to
the . . .

FAST BUCKS
Uh, yes! We've both dabbled in a
little writing from time to time. I'm
currently working for a national news
magazine. The . . . uh. . . La Prensa
Asombrada.

PROFESSOR
Oh? I've never heard of it.

SEBASTIANO
Not many people have.

FAST BUCKS
We're new on the scene. Anyway, we do
publish good verse from time to time.
As fillers you understand, but we
also believe in adding culture and
refinement to news.

PROFESSOR
What a novelty.

FAST BUCKS
I couldn't make any guarantees, of
course, but if I could hear a
sampling of your work, we might make
arrangements to put some of it in
print.

PROFESSOR
Why, how flattering! I don't have my
portfolio with me, but I could fetch
it quickly enough.

FAST BUCKS

Why don't we discuss the matter over dinner this evening?

PROFESSOR

An excellent suggestion. Here?

FAST BUCKS

Superb. Would eight o'clock be convenient?

PROFESSOR

Eight o'clock it is.

FAST BUCKS

We'll see you then.

FAST BUCKS and SEBASTIANO walk away. The PROFESSOR returns to his writing.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)

If this little number can be worked right, we may be able to retire tomorrow.

SEBASTIANO

I'm worried.

FAST BUCKS

You're always worried. It's precisely what's kept us from growing in the business world. You have no flair, no daring.

SEBASTIANO

I'll stock up on both just as soon as we make our first killing.

REPRISE "**DELIGHTFUL LARCENY**", MUSIC ONLY

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

12 EXT. FANDANGO STADIUM - FUTBOL FIELD - MORNING

A beautiful morning as the sun gleams on the field. At one end, the CUERVOS NEGROS doing exercises and at the other, the GALLOS BLANCOS in a circle around the coach, Francisco and a Priest.

PRIEST

All gather around and together: "Our
Father who art . . . "

The team recites the Lords Prayer as several kick and jump on each other. Francisco is hushing them as the Priest continues.

PRIEST (cont'd)

Remember, we got here all together
through Gods grace. Now we enjoy
ourselves with Gods blessing. I love
each and every one of you. God
Blesses you.

MANOLO

Ve! Ve! Ve GALLLLL-OOOOS BLANCOOOOO
!!!

The whole team repeats.

JORGE

Good form Manolo.

MANOLO

Gracias mi hermano.

The team cheers, jumps on each other and wrestles to the turf.

MANOLO (cont'd)

(to Jorge)

Are you alright amigo? You seem down.

JORGE

I fine. Miss my novia.

MANOLO

Oh . . . Gabriela!

JORGE

Si.

As the team leaves the field, Manolo sits on the grass and lays back looks to the sky. He dreams of Gabriela, an attractive girl, (17) then her image appears in the sky.

A song begins as she sings to him:

SONG 8:

THINKING OUT LOUD - PENSANDO EN VOZ ALTA - A MOVING BALLAD

GABRIELA

LOVER, I WANT YOU TO KNOW
 YOUR LOVING WON'T LET GO
 ALL THESE EMOTIONS IN MY MIND
 SEEM YOUR LOVING GIVES ME
 SOMETHING NO OTHER GIVE ME AND
 ITS A NOTION THAT'S ALL MINE

I'M - THINKING OUT LOUD AGAIN
 CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I LAST SAW YOU
 I'M - THINKING OF LOVE AGAIN
 I'LL BE COMING SOON OH MY DARLING
 I TAKE A DAY AT A TIME
 YOU KNOW THIS OLD HEART OF MINE
 CARRIES A WAIT AT YOUR NEXT CALL
 YOU TELL ME HOW I CAN SPEND MY TIME
 I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SOME KINDA SIGN
 IT'S SERIOUS - SO COLD

I'M - THINKING OUT LOUD AGAIN
 CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I LAST SAW YOU
 I'M - THINKING OF LOVE AGAIN
 I'LL BE COMING SOON OH MY DARLING

DISSOLVE TO:

The CUERVOS NEGROS squad, at the opposite end of the field,
 is in serious game preparations, a job.

Rafael, the star player, barks out instructions.

RAFAEL

Up - down left . . . dribble . . .

Marco Antonio, the energizer, realizes his team is sluggish.

MARCO

Come on guys get focused, jump -
 JUMP, Saltar - Rápido

The players react nonchalant, appearing overconfident.

RAFAEL

Where's the Champs' party? Town
 square and HOTEL SAN CRISTOBAL.

Rafael kicks a hard drive way up into the bleachers.

RAFAEL (cont'd)

Is Mr Cuervos here yet?

DISSOLVE TO:

13 EXT. FANDANGO STADIUM - BLEACHERS - MOMENTS LATER

Across the Stadium, Carson, Paco and Javier walk in and take a seat to watch the teams work out.

CARSON

Those orphans look small but quick.

PACO

The CROWS, on the other hand, look sluggish and . . . well, big.

CARSON

Big - much bigger than the orphans.

JAVIER

"GALLOS BLANCOS" Numero Uno . . .
Don't underestimate those street
kids. SENTIDO DE LA CALLE !

Carson counts a fist-full of bills.

PACO

(to Carson)

I've never seen anyone like you.

JAVIER

They don't call him Numero Uno for nothing.

CARSON

Quiet. I'm counting. Forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty. Two hundred and fifty pesos. It looks like I eat this week.

JAVIER

How 'bout my fiver back, amigo?

CARSON

Here's a ten. You deserve interest.

Carson flakes off a bill for Javier.

PACO

If these fútbol jugadores knew about you, they'd want a cut, too!

CARSON

I got lucky. It's about time, too. I may even have enough to get my laundry out of hock.

JAVIER

That'll be a blessing. You've worn that shirt so many days now, it's ready to go on strike.

PACO

Don't blow it all on dinner tonight.

CARSON

I favor the Crows . . . attitude. Today anyway.

JAVIER

No No - the kids all the way.

PACO

Toss up.

JAVIER

(to Carson)

Numero Uno - you'll be back tomorrow. I'll just keep this ten for you.

CARSON

You two are cute. Prince Morality and the Duke of Conscience. Can't a guy have a little fun without an ethics lecture?

PACO

Far be it from us, Javi, to interfere.

(to Javier)

Come, Your Highness. I fancy a bit of carousing this evening.

JAVIER

And miss the Coronation Ball, Your Grace?

PACO

Oh! It completely slipped my mind. I've been inspecting repairs on the south wing all day. Simply exhausted.

CARSON

Enough, already, I'm impressed.

All three take a stroll, talking and arguing . . .

CUT TO:

14 EXT. OUTSIDE FANDANGO STADIUM - HORSE BARN - CONTINUOUS

Carson, Paco and Javier leave the Stadium towards the paddock and stables in a corner of the grounds. Workers are cleaning up for race day, tomorrow.

CARSON

Any security here, or horses only?

PACO

Jockeys are over there.

JAVIER

(pointing)

That caballo, Lago, is hurting.

CARSON

No run for him.

(pause)

I must have hit about 30 different race tracks in every little town in California.

PACO

Yeah, how'd you do?

CARSON

Pretty much even.

Once in a small town, down to my last fifty bucks, went up to the window to lay it all down. A guy next to me says: "I will up you . . . on your car's pink slip"!

PACO

You prey?

CARSON

Yeah - AND put it all on "Guerrero Roy". The horse has run twice in two years, right? Each time, stiffed out. Now steps up in class . . . goes up against colts, draws an inside post position in a sprint . . . he's got no speed.

(pause)

So - I walked to Chino.

JAVIER

That it?

Carson gives them a dirty look.

JAVIER (cont'd)

"Palero" looks good. Also
"Afortunado". I should sprinkle him
with some of my magic dust.

CARSON

What . . . What's that Javi?

JAVIER

Just something.

DISSOLVE TO:

15 EXT. SANTA TITOS PLAZA - TOWN SQUARE - LATER

At the Cantina, Carson takes a seat. Within seconds, Doña comes through the hotel door and goes directly to Carson.

DOÑA CARTA

My grapevine tells me you had a
rather good day at the "carreras de
tortugas".

CARSON

Loudmouth grapes.

Doña simply holds her hand out and wiggles the fingers.

CARSON (cont'd)

Doña, did it ever occur to you that
you might be accused of grinding the
face of a poor man in the gravel?

DOÑA CARTA

Never! Look at it this way. If you
pay me now, you'll have one whole
week without having to look up into
my charming face . . . as I growl at
you. And you'll also have another
week to sleep in a soft bed with
clean sheets . . . instead of a lumpy
bench in the plaza.

CARSON

You're so convincing. You should have
been a lawyer.

DOÑA CARTA

I am a lawyer. You could hardly expect me to get where I am today starting out as a seamstress?

CARSON

You have a point there.

Carson carefully counts out some of the bills into Doña's waiting hand.

DOÑA CARTA

Excellent. Now, let's try to remain current, shall we?

CARSON

Oh, you can count on it.

Doña exits with a beaming smile on her face. Carson counts the remaining bills in his hands and shows mild dismay.

CARSON (cont'd)

Well, so much for the laundry ... and dessert.

Heather comes through the hotel door and walks to the table where Carson is seated.

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano enter and assume seats at the next table over from Carson and Heather.

CARSON (cont'd)

(to Heather)

You look simply ravishing tonight.

HEATHER

Why, thank you. But when you start with true beauty . . .

Carson stands, pulls her chair out. Both sit.

HEATHER (cont'd)

The rest is simple.

Carmen gives them menus and turns to Fast Bucks and Sebastiano.

CARSON

May I order for both of us?

HEATHER

Oh, I insist.

Carson gives a silent order to Carmen.

SEBASTIANO

There is one thing I don't understand.

FAST BUCKS

What?

SEBASTIANO

Okay. So we get the names of winners in tomorrow's race. Look over the fútbol practices see who has the devil in their eyes. Confidence. Passionate and desire. Follow the Professor. Soooo . . . What good is it if we don't have a chunk of money to lay down?

FAST BUCKS

That, my friend, is phase two. Tonight we are working on phase one.

SEBASTIANO

Oh. That explains everything. By the way. What is phase one?

FAST BUCKS

Oh! Why am I shackled with such lethargy? Phase one consists of securing the proper names of all the winners. Once that is accomplished, we can concentrate all our energies on phase two, which is securing the bankroll. One step at a time, my friend. Order . . . discipline.

SEBASTIANO

. . . Order . . . discipline. Got it.

FAST BUCKS

I doubt it seriously.

Meanwhile at Carson's table . . .

HEATHER

(to Carson)

You haven't told me what you do for a living.

CARSON

Do? What makes you think I do anything?

Though not directly involved in Heather and Carson's conversation, Fast Bucks and Sebastiano become aware of what the pair is saying and quite obviously eavesdrop . . .

HEATHER

Well, I just assumed . . .

CARSON

No, my dear. Some of us are born to perform the menial tasks of staying alive. And some, like myself, are born to higher pursuits. Culture . . . art . . . leisure. It's all a part of the grand scheme of things.

HEATHER

In other words, you're a rich, lazy, spoiled playboy.

CARSON

That's close enough.

HEATHER

Is Daddy in oil, or soybean futures?

CARSON

Mayonnaise.

HEATHER

Mayonnaise?!

CARSON

You've heard of the Crown Regal Mayonnaise empire, haven't you?

HEATHER

Why, of course. You mean . . . you?

CARSON

Precisely. My father's in mayonnaise. He once estimated that one-third of all the tuna fish sandwiches made for children's lunch pails every day had Crown Regal Mayo on them.

HEATHER

That's amazing. It sort of gives one a sense of continuity and belonging.

CARSON

I know what you mean. Anyway, Dad is semi-retired now.

(MORE)

CARSON (cont'd)

He splits his time between the villa on Capri and the castle in Scotland ... when he isn't on a lecture tour.

HEATHER

I don't mean to be rude, but are people really interested in a lecture on Mayonnaises?

CARSON

Oh, he doesn't lecture on mayonnaise. The formulas are all secret, anyway. No. He wrote a book on how to build your own real estate empire.

HEATHER

Ooooh. So, for a couple of grand an hour, he'll talk other people into getting started.

CARSON

Riiiiight.

HEATHER

So, where do you fit in? I should think you'd be learning the ropes to take over in the mayo factory.

CARSON

Well ... uh ... Dad has bigger plans for me. I'm supposed to absorb a little local color in various places around the world, and then study the feasibility of setting up foreign branches. Dad was always a big thinker.

HEATHER

I see. You'll have to pardon another question. I'm just morbidly curious.

CARSON

I like that trait in a woman.

HEATHER

Precisely what's the ratio of 'local color' to all these feasibility studies you're supposed to be doing?

CARSON

Dad leaves that completely up to me. After all, these things are ... delicate.

(MORE)

CARSON (cont'd)
 You just can't plunk a mayonnaise
 factory down anywhere. You have to be
 sure of how the locals are going to
 receive a thing like that.

HEATHER
 Oh, but definitely.

CARSON
 Exactly. It's a big step from crude
 and loathsome to smooth and
 wholesome.

HEATHER
 Oh! To be sure!

Heather's tone indicates she is not taken in by any of
 Carson's story. However, Fast Bucks and Sebastiano have
 reacted to every nuance. Carmen brings food to both tables.

FAST BUCKS
 (to Sebastiano)
 Holy Jalisco! Did you hear all that?

SEBASTIANO
 Sure.

FAST BUCKS
 I do believe fortune is smiling upon
 us. I bet we can convince our young
 friend over there to invest a little
 of his moolah in our scheme.

Over to Carson and Heather . . .

CARSON
 How's your enchilada?

HEATHER
 Somewhere between bonfire and blast
 furnace.

CARSON
 You'll get used to it. By the way,
 would you like to go to the Estadio
 Fandango with me tomorrow? Lots of
 excitement. It's CARRERAS DE CABALLOS
 of our little festival. Maybe we'll
 win a little money.

HEATHER
 Not on your life.

CARSON

Why not?

HEATHER

First of all, I detest sports.

CARSON

Nonsense. It is a beautiful art form.

HEATHER

I've never been interested in man dominating animals for pleasure. In the wild, I suppose it is different. BUT, giving them drugs to run, whipping them into submission, I can think of a lot of ways to give man sport and pleasure without beating beasts.

CARSON

Awww. I think you have the wrong slant on it. If a man lets off a little steam watching horses, maybe he'll be less likely to punch his neighbor in the nose.

HEATHER

Sure. Let the mule bite the cat's head off and its guaranteed he'll never kick the farmer.

CARSON

Really?! What???

HEATHER

Besides ... there's another reason I wouldn't want to go.

CARSON

What's that?

HEATHER

I absolutely will not tolerate gambling in any form.

CARSON

Hoo boy.

HEATHER

I had an uncle once. Next to my father, I guess he was the most important and wonderful man in my life. I watched him. We all watched him.

CARSON

He was gambler.

HEATHER

Not at first. He and my father were partners, I saw a lot of Uncle Todd. Once a week Dad had friends over for poker. That's how it got started, I guess ... innocently enough. Then Uncle Todd started browbeating the other men to raise the stakes. Then he started on the horses, dipping into company funds to cover his bets. And he was losing ... losing big. My father just barely saved the business, but he had to cut Uncle Todd loose. And even when he was a shabby broken wreck in a charity rest home he still dreamed about the one big bet he was going to win that would solve all his problems. It never happened. The last time I saw him, he didn't even remember my name.

A long pause . . .

CARSON

I know where there's a real exciting Mah-Jong tournament.

HEATHER

I'm sorry. I guess I'm on a bit of a downer.

CARSON

Calling that a downer is like saying Niagara is a falls.

HEATHER

Let's see. Is the smile down or up?

Doña comes in from the hotel, walks to Fast Bucks and Sebastiano.

Meanwhile Carson and Heather chat quietly and move ever closer to one another.

DOÑA CARTA

Well, I must say, gentlemen, I'm both pleased and shocked.

FAST BUCKS

How so, Doña?

DOÑA CARTA

One day into the festival and the only complaint on any of my desks is a broken toilet in the bridal suite.

SEBASTIANO

How would they know?

DOÑA CARTA

The couples on their second honeymoon.

FAST BUCKS

Well, if your happy, we are happy.

DOÑA CARTA

So why don't we keep it that way?

FAST BUCKS

By all means. Incidentally, what are the chances of replacing Carmen for an hour this evening?

DOÑA CARTA

I knew it! You're up to, something. I can smell it in the air.

SEBASTIANO

I think that's the cross-draft from the chicken coops.

FAST BUCKS

(to Sebastiano)

Put a lid on it!

(to Doña)

Uh, it's really nothing. We just need a little of her walking about . . . boom-sha-boom, . . . ambiance ya know. An hour would do quite nicely.

DOÑA CARTA

Walking about?! BOOM-SHA-BOOM . . . Whaaa . . . Suppose you start at the beginning . . . and don't leave out any of the details.

FAST BUCKS

Oh, Doña. You're always so suspicious.

DOÑA CARTA

You give me every reason to be. Now spill it!

FAST BUCKS

Well, sit down, then ... please. This isn't something I want to broadcast all over the plaza.

Doña takes a chair.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)

Sebastiano and I were just strolling past the cafe this morning when we chanced to hear some of the verses that old Professor spouts off from time to time. You know the one ... the poet?

DOÑA CARTA

Ah, yes. I've seen him. But what does that have to do with replacing Carmen?

FAST BUCKS

I'm getting to that. Anyway, this morning the Professor was reciting away, when a sexy little number sauntered by and caught the old coot's attention. All of a sudden, he dropped the flowery sonnets and started reeling off a silly little jingle.

DOÑA CARTA

Fast Bucks, I think you've finally flipped your hair piece.

SEBASTIANO

I was here. Listen to him. This is important.

FAST BUCKS

Well, the stupid little verse ended with the name of one of the turtles in the race ... and it won.

DOÑA CARTA

I have a cousin in Monterey who is a very fine doctor. His name is Geraldo. I'll get you his address. All you have to do is talk to him. He'll ask you some questions about your childhood and you just sit and be honest.

FAST BUCKS

Doña. I've never been more serious or sane in my life. That old man reeled off the names of two turtles in a row, and both won.

SEBASTIANO

It's true. I was here.

FAST BUCKS

But he only goes off when there's a pretty woman around. Now, he's going to be joining us for dinner in a few minutes, and we need two of your ... angels ... to replace Carmen over there. Let's face it. She's a doll but her poetry inspiring days are over.

DOÑA CARTA

You're right about that. Oh, good God, what am I saying? You don't think I actually believe any of this, do you? I've heard some wild stories in my time, but this one takes the grand prize!

FAST BUCKS

You have to believe us.

(pause)

No. You don't have to believe us after all. I'd like to hire two of your ladies for the next hour and I think you should give poor Carmen a break. She looks tired.

DOÑA CARTA

Well ... I suppose if you come up with the correct sum of money, you can have the services of two of my angels. And ... if you choose to put them to work serving Chile Rellenos and beer, I certainly can't stop you.

(MORE)

DOÑA CARTA (cont'd)
 They might even enjoy a little rest.
 But they keep all the tips!

FAST BUCKS
 Of course. All we want them to do is
 walk by at the right time and ... uh
 ... uh ... in front of the Professor.

He fills in the meaning with gestures . . .

DOÑA CARTA
 Okay, it's a deal. That'll be ...

Dona Carta leans over and whispers in Fast Bucks ear.

FAST BUCKS
 Cheeeeehauhua! Your rates have sure
 gone through the roof.

DOÑA CARTA
 I have a high overhead.

Fast Bucks reaches into his breast pocket and unfolds a
 wallet. He counts out a small stack of bills into Doña's
 waiting hand.

DOÑA CARTA (cont'd)
 I'll make all the arrangements.
 (long pensive pause)
 Two turtles in a row? ... And they
 both won?

FAST BUCKS
 Oh, forget I said all of that.
 It was just a wild story like you
 said. You've always been able to see
 right through me, you lovely
 enchantress.

DOÑA CARTA
 Now you really have me worried. And
 don't bother using that enchantress
 ploy on me. It hasn't worked the last
 three times you've tried it.

FAST BUCKS
 I'm simply being honest.

DOÑA CARTA

That's a laugh. I've got my eye on you, mister ... and I'm going to be at the Carrera de caballos tomorrow .. It will be interesting to see which of the horses you bet on. THEN, Sundays Fútbol "Fandango Championship" . . . ?

Doña Carta stands and walks away slowly and pensively. She delivers the following line to herself as she leaves . . .

DOÑA CARTA (V.O.)

Hmmmm. Two winners in a row.

SEBASTIANO

(to Fast Bucks)

I'm no expert, but for some reason I get the feeling there was a blunder mixed up in that little transaction.

FAST BUCKS

Daring ... flair!

SEBASTIANO

Order. . . discipline. . .

FAST BUCKS

Let's go and do some investigating.

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano walk off heading towards the Stadium.

Carson and Heather are now in a very close embrace . . .

HEATHER

Y'know. Even though I object to the betting, there still is a heavenly atmosphere here. Have you ever been to Mardi Gras in New Orleans?

CARSON

Yes, I have, and I know exactly what you mean. There's a rumbling excitement just below the surface.

HEATHER

An anticipation ... like at any moment something breathtaking and wonderful is going to spring out of the bushes and pounce on you.

CARSON
 Something dramatic and sublime ...
 like romance.

HEATHER
 Like romance.

SONG 9:
COULDN'T LIVE A DAY WITHOUT YOU - MID-TEMPO POP DUET:

CARSON
 I HAVE LOOKED FOR
 THAT ONE IN A MILLION FRIEND.
 ALWAYS SEARCHING,
 LOOKING 'ROUND THE VERY NEXT BEND.
 BUT OOH, I LIKE THE SIGHTS HERE,
 YES IT LIGHTS UP MY EYES.
 AND OOH, IT'S ENCHANTING,
 I'VE GOT TO GET IT IN MY LIFE.

CARSON AND HEATHER
 YOU KNOW I COULDN'T LIVE A DAY
 WITHOUT YOU,
 OH, I WOULDN'T EVEN WANT TO TRY.
 NO, I COULDN'T LIVE A DAY
 WITHOUT YOU,
 ROMANCE IS THE REASON WHY.
 WE ARE LIVING IN A WORLD
 OF MAKE BELIEVE
 JUST A LITTLE PARADISE,
 I JUST COULDN'T LIVE A DAY
 WITHOUT YOU IN MY LIFE.

HEATHER
 I'VE BEEN WAITING,
 LEFT NO UNTURNED STONE.
 ALWAYS SEARCHING,
 MY MISSION THROUGH THE VAST UNKNOWN.
 BUT OOH, THE MOONLIGHT SPARKLE
 IS IN YOUR EYES, WHAT DID I FIND?
 AND OOH, MY HEART IS BURNING
 I'VE GOT TO GET YOU IN MY LIFE.

CARSON AND HEATHER
 YOU KNOW I COULDN'T LIVE A DAY
 WITHOUT YOU,
 OH, I WOULDN'T EVEN WANT TO TRY.
 NO, I COULDN'T LIVE A DAY
 WITHOUT YOU,
 ROMANCE IS THE REASON WHY.
 WE ARE LIVING IN A WORLD
 OF MAKE BELIEVE,
 JUST A LITTLE PARADISE,
 (MORE)

CARSON AND HEATHER (cont'd)
 I JUST COULDN'T LIVE A DAY
 WITHOUT, YOU IN MY LIFE.
 (REPEAT CHORUS)

Song ends, Carson and Heather indulge in a pleasant but not overly sensual kiss.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

16 EXT. HORSE PADDOCK - FANDANGO STADIUM - MINUTES LATER

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano are sneaking around the stalls gathering information on the horses and looking at charts and names. They stumble into each other like the "Three Stooges". . .

FAST BUCKS
 Names, get names. Gotta be somewhere.

They stumble again.

SEBASTIANO
 Order . . . discipline . . .

FAST BUCKS
 Come on . . . look over every horse
 for anything unusual.

SEBASTIANO
 This one is called "Lago", has a
 limp.

FAST BUCKS
 Si - LAGO is a no go.

DISSOLVE TO:

17 EXT. CANTINA PLAZA - LATER

Heather and Carson finishing up dinner.

CARSON
 I have an idea. I'd like to show you
 my secret thinking place.

HEATHER
 Secret thinking place?

CARSON

Yeah. Whenever I have to do some quiet soul searching and meditation, I go to a little spot just on the edge of town. There's a huge eucalyptus tree right beside a little brook.

HEATHER

Sounds romantic.

CARSON

It's that, too. I'd like to take a long slow walk out there with you. How 'bout it?

HEATHER

Sounds great. But it's getting chilly. Just let me scoot up to my room for a wrap.

CARSON

I'll settle the check and wait here.

Heather leaves. Fast Bucks and Sebastiano return from their recon mission to the paddock and move to Carson.

FAST BUCKS

Excuse me. I couldn't help but overhearing your conversation with the young lady ... especially the part about your responsibilities in your father's company.

CARSON

I don't believe we have met.

FAST BUCKS

Of course. How rude of me. My name is Fast Bucks, my partner Sebastiano. No need to be formal around us.

CARSON

I'm Carson. What can I do for you?

FAST BUCKS

Actually, young man, the question is what I can do for you. May we sit?

CARSON

Sure. What's up?

FAST BUCKS

As you well know, the focal point of this week's festivities here in Santa Titos are the ... games of chance, as it were. Assuming you have already sampled the excitement of the turtle races, the coming horse race and Fútbol Championship then you are no doubt aware of the rather large sums of money which exchange hands around these wonderful events.

CARSON

Yeah. So?

FAST BUCKS

Naturally, what I am about to tell you is not for public consumption. My friend and I agreed before we stepped over here that you appeared to be a man of honor and discretion.

SEBASTIANO

Order and discipline.

FAST BUCKS

Yes.

Glares at Sebastiano, then returns to Carson . . .

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)

We have been fortunate enough to become party to "certain knowledge", for lack of a better term. By tomorrow we will know for certain which perky little horse will emerge victorious.

CARSON

You mean you have a system to beat the odds?

FAST BUCKS

Oh, no, no. Cruder individuals would call it a system. But a system still depends on the odds and, as you well know, few if any actually work. No, my young friend, this information -- I can't reveal its exact nature at this time -- is absolutely certain and foolproof.

CARSON

No kidding? So, where do I fit in?

FAST BUCKS

Well, in spite of our good fortune in falling heir to this data, my partner and I find ourselves unable to raise the necessary capital in time to make the venture profitable.

CARSON

Oh, I get it. You want to touch me for a loan.

FAST BUCKS

An investment. An investment. Think of how proud your father would be of you if he suddenly saw a vast influx of new funds suddenly appear on the books of your firm. Huge sums earned by clever and audacious manipulation on the part of his ingenious offspring.

CARSON

Well, I'd have to talk to the company controller, but I seriously doubt I could get anything substantial together by tomorrow.

FAST BUCKS

Oh. I see.

CARSON

Our funds are tied up ... you understand.

FAST BUCKS

Naturally. But I do wish you would investigate the issue. Your, controller ... might just find some liquid tidbit lying about. Here's my card in case anything turns up.

Fast Bucks hands Carson a business card as he puts it into his shirt pocket without looking at it.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)

Enjoy your evening.

CARSON

You too.

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano return walk off.
Carmen gives Carson his check which he pays silently.

SEBASTIANO
(to Fast Bucks)
Maybe you were right.

FAST BUCKS
About what?

SEBASTIANO
Maybe we should have waited on phase
two. Order and discipline?

FAST BUCKS
I'm seriously thinking of replacing
you ... with a trash compactor.

DISSOLVE TO:

Heather prances through the hotel door wearing a white
shawl. She walks to Carson's side and speaks without
sitting.

HEATHER
I'm ready.

CARSON
Great. Let's go.

Carson stands both walk arm in arm . . .

HEATHER
Who were those men who came to the
table while I was gone? I saw them
through the window of my room.

CARSON
Oh, just some businessmen wanting me
to invest in a fast food outlet.

HEATHER
Are you going to?

CARSON
Not with them. Besides, tonight is a
local color evening, not a business
evening.

Carson and Heather walk off, but before he disappears,
Carson is seen fondling the ring on his finger prominently.

The PROFESSOR makes his way to where Fast Bucks and Sebastiano are seated. The Professor carries a large cumbersome briefcase and is in a nervous dither.

PROFESSOR
I'm sorry I'm late, gentlemen. I'm glad you ordered without me. I'm not very hungry anyway.

FAST BUCKS
Good evening, Professor. Do sit.

The PROFESSOR sits and opens his briefcase. Papers fly about the table.

PROFESSOR
Oh, my. I must confess, gentlemen, this is the first time anyone has expressed any real enthusiasm about my work, and I'm quite nervous.

FAST BUCKS
Perfectly understandable, Professor. I'm sure Robert Frost and Edgar Allen Poe went through the very same thing.

PROFESSOR
Now, what did you have in mind?

FAST BUCKS
Oh, our organization has published any number of genre. Why don't we just start at the top and work down?

SEBASTIANO
Order and discipline ...

FAST BUCKS
My associate will take notes on what we feel is for us . . .
(to Sebastiano)
Won't you ... associate?

SEBASTIANO
Oh, yes, of course.

Sebastiano takes a pad and pen out of his pocket and prepares to write. The Professor thumbs through papers.

PROFESSOR
Ah. Here's one I've always been proud of.

(MORE)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

(clears his throat)

I title it simply ... "Lady".
 "You come to me in sleep like a wild
 bird on white wing - outstretched,
 with pinions spread, as the fingers
 of a hand in fear" ...

FAST BUCKS

Do read the rest of that one.
 It's wonderful.

The Professor hands Fast Bucks the paper.

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)

Very sensual!

(to Sebastiano)

Oh, yes, this is superb. Write this
 one down.

Sebastiano begins to scribble frantically.
 The Professor continues to rummage through his papers.

PROFESSOR

Oh, here's a gem. "Pearls are tiny
 perfect things, extracted from the
 open shells of logic, rounded dream-
 forms plucked at little cost from the
 tender body of my soul ... ",
 I've always thrilled at that one.
 Read on from here.

FAST BUCKS

Oh, yes, indeed. Very thrilling.
 Profound.

(to Sebastiano)

This one is a definite maybe.

WAITRESS #1, a very attractive dark haired woman, ENTERS
 through the cafe door. She is wearing a very skimpy version
 of Carmen's work uniform. She makes her way to the
 Professor's side.

PROFESSOR

Good heavens. I forgot I had this
 one. "I'm taking the morning road,
 through swirling mists, laden with
 the dead cold breath of night ... "

Waitress #1 leans over and shows the Professor a broad
 expanse of her ample bosom.

Meanwhile a Mariachi band starts to PLAY in the plaza.

WAITRESS #1
Is there anything I can do for you?

PROFESSOR
Uh ... hubba hubba sing caffeine,
bubbles bounce on Bailarin!

FAST BUCKS
(to Sebastiano)
Bailarin! Write that down!

SEBASTIANO
I'm writing! I'm writing!

Waitress #1 turns around to tend another table and shows the Professor her derriere.

PROFESSOR
Oh, yes. Ramble scramble hacha mayos,
heaven's blessed with Diablo Choas !

FAST BUCKS
(to Sebastiano)
Diablo Choas! Get it down!

SEBASTIANO
Diablo Choas! Got it!

The Mariachi band plays LOUDER! CHEERS are heard! Dancing begins.

Waitress #2 enters from the cafe door. She is a shapely blonde and wears in identical costume as Waitress #1. She, too, comes directly to the Professor's table:

WAITRESS #2
What'll yours be?

PROFESSOR
Uh ... ga ... ga ... Golly molly
how'd yer day go?
I'm a fan of "Tiras de pollo y
tequila".

FAST BUCKS
(to Sebastiano)
Tequila !?? What?? Was that TEQUILA I
heard . . . It's too noisy . . . That
would mean Ahh . . . CUERVOS?

SEBASTIANO
 Must be **Cuervos Negros!** Write! Write!
 Ahh . . . tequila over chicken --
 Yes, the **crows.**

Plaza noise becomes intolerably loud with music and dance.

SEBASTIANO (cont'd)
 (shouting)
 I'm writing!
 B - B - But I thought I heard **Gallos,**
 . . . chicken strips?

Sebastiano and Fast Bucks look up from the table, shocked.
 FREEZES FRAME at point of highest interest.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

18 EXT: LOS ANGELES CA - SCHOOL BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

The Old Man and Boy still chatting and rise from the park bench to stroll:

OLD MAN
 Well, how do you like it so far?

BOY
 I don't know. It seems to be a lot of fun, but I'm not sure I'd trade it for a good quarterback sneak. I just don't think I'm into fiesta, romance and fútbol all that much.

OLD MAN
 (sighs)
 Listen. Suppose I tell you a little bit about how it all started. Would that help?

BOY
 It might. You are real big on history, aren't you?

OLD MAN
 You better believe it.

BOY
 Okay. Yeah, I am interested in where it all started.

OLD MAN

Well, the time was, long ago, when the Indian chiefs would dress up in all their finest feathers and have games with one another to see which one was the strongest. It was better than fighting wars where everyone got killed, they were running out of chiefs. Anyway, there was this plant that they used for all kinds of things. They made clothing out of it and even a drink called Pulque. The Blue Agave plant. It has spiky fleshy leaves, that can reach over 2 meters. The inter strands were pulled out to make cloth and even canvas. Then someone rolled the hard strands into a ball. So, at the drop of a hat they kicked it . . . at each other, then kicked it back twice as hard. They dug a hole in the ground and struggled with each other to kick it in the hole. Soon they had a Sport Of The Gods.

BOY

Wow. Are you serious?

OLD MAN

It's all in the legends, my boy. All of it.

BOY

Sort of makes it important.

OLD MAN

I thought you'd see it that way.

DISSOLVE TO:

19 ESTADIO FANDANGO - HORSE TRACK - DAY

Crowd stands at the Carreras de caballos finish line. All the principals are present - excitement is high.

ANNOUNCER

There off!

Crowd CHEERS . . . we see faces as race goes on. The horses appear from around the outside of the stadium heading for the finish line. Neck and neck in slow motion. Then finally:

ANNOUNCER (cont'd)
 The winner - the WINNER: **Diablo Choas**
 and SECOND PLACE: **Bailarin**

Fast Bucks is ecstatic as Sebastiano weeps. Crowd CHEERS!

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN:

20 EXT. SANTA TITOS - PLAZA - LATE AFTERNOON

Plaza is abuzz.

Carson and Heather stroll leisurely in a moonlight evening.

CARSON
 I've never met the Professor, but
 I've seen him around.
 Strange old guy. He just sits and
 writes. Sometimes he even recites
 aloud as if he were alone.

HEATHER
 I've known him for years.

CARSON
 No kidding. How did you two end up in
 Santa Titos at the same time?

HEATHER
 A complete accident.

CARSON
 Life does deal out some strange hands
 once in a while. Where did you know
 him from?

HEATHER
 He and my father were war buddies and
 lodge brothers. I'd see him maybe
 twice a year. Once in the middle of
 the summer when he wasn't teaching,
 and once at Thanksgiving. He and Dad
 never stopped going over old times,
 but the Professor always had a little
 time for me. Then the old guy just
 dropped out of sight. One day he was
 there, school ended, the next day he
 was gone. No forwarding address.

CARSON

That is odd.

HEATHER

I'm glad I ran into him.
To know he's all right, and very
happy.

CARSON

I thought he was in exile or
something.

HEATHER

Oh, no. He's here by choice, just
like you.

CARSON

By choice ... yes, of course. By the
way. What is that perfume you are
wearing? It's driving me mad.

HEATHER

It's supposed to. It's called
"Perhaps".

CARSON

I think it should be renamed ...
"Definitely".

HEATHER

The day I bought it, I asked the girl
for something out of the ordinary -
something devastating.

CARSON

(laughs)

Well, it's unraveling my senses. And
so are you. Heather, I think you
could charm the image out of a
mirror.

HEATHER

You were right about this place.
Seems peaceful. Someday I'll show you
my pretend tree.

CARSON

I guess everyone has a little corner
somewhere to escape. The world can
get so angry sometimes.

HEATHER

I know.

They indulge in a long tender kiss.
Abruptly, Carson breaks off and turns to face away.

HEATHER (CON'T)
What's wrong?

CARSON
Oh, I've been so stupid.

HEATHER
What? What are you talking about?

A long pause . . .

CARSON
Other than my name and the fact that
I think you're a wonderful person ...
most of what I've been telling you is
a bundle of lies.

HEATHER
I see. They say that honest
confession is good for the soul. Is
that on the list of things to do in
your secret thinking place?

CARSON
Yeah. I guess so. I'm not in Santa
Titos looking for a place to put a
mayonnaise factory. My dad owns
everything I said he did, but none of
it's ever going to be mine.

HEATHER
Did you and he have some kind of
falling out?

CARSON
To call it a falling out would be
like saying World War II was hectic.
He hasn't spoken to me in six months
and I doubt he'll ever acknowledge my
existence again.

HEATHER
That bad, huh? I should be so lucky.

CARSON
And to top it all off, I'm in deep
trouble with the IRS.

(MORE)

CARSON (cont'd)

The only reason I'm in Santa Titos is because my money ran out. This was the farthest bus ticket I could buy.

HEATHER

Y'know, I may be from a little town in Iowa, but I haven't been shut away all my life. When I met you, I knew two things right off the bat. One, that I could fall for you like a royal avalanche ... and two, that you were the biggest bag of shit I've seen in twenty years.

CARSON

I was that obvious, huh?'

HEATHER

And if it's any consolation ... I'm not here doing a paper on the sex life of the Aztecs, either.

CARSON

That's a shame. I was so hoping.

HEATHER

Quite frankly, I've had a falling out with my father, too. But, unfortunately, we are still on speaking terms. My father is a man of few words ... but they're loud.

CARSON

What's the matter? Did you spend too much money?

HEATHER

Nothing that simple. My college, my major and my career were all chosen for me. Somewhere along the line I tried to figure out why the hell I was spending so much energy living life. Someone else was living it for me.

CARSON

So, are you running away?

HEATHER

No. I'm on extended "R and R". They think I'll come to my "senses". What they don't realize is I came to my senses a year ago.

(MORE)

HEATHER (cont'd)

(pause)

How come you're in trouble with the IRS?

CARSON

Hoo boy. Explain to me again how confession is supposed to be so good for me. The deeper we get into this, the more depressed I get.

HEATHER

Maybe it doesn't work for you. Or maybe you're not being honest enough.

CARSON

I got into trouble with the IRS because of ... gambling.

HEATHER

Shiiii . . . Hoo boy.

CARSON

Well, I guess that about wraps it up for confession hour. Come on, I'll walk you back to the room.

HEATHER

It's not my bedtime yet. And there's still the moonlight.

CARSON

You mean you'll still speak to me?

HEATHER

My father may be a knuckle head, a nincompoop and an old foggie, but I still love him.

A stillness surrounds the two. Heather drifts into slow motion ending still framed. The world seems to stop. Carson looks skyward as music starts. He sings:

SONG 10:

COULD YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME? -- SOLO BALLAD:

CARSON

YOU KNOW I'VE HAD MY FUN AND
I'VE BEEN NUMBER ONE
ALWAYS LIVING FOR THE RAINBOW'S END.
LUCK HAS ALWAYS BEEN,
A BITTERSWEET FRIEND
YOU KNOW WHERE TEMPTATION CAN TAKE
ME.

(MORE)

CARSON (cont'd)

IF I COULD BET RIGHT NOW,
 YOU KNOW I WOULD SOMEHOW,
 GIRL, I'D LEAVE YOU LONELY COULD,
 COULD YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE
 LIKE ME?

YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN AROUND AND
 OFTEN PLAYED THE CLOWN
 NEVER CARING WHERE I'M GOING TO,
 AND WHEN A GUY LIKE ME, MEETS A GIRL
 LIKE YOU THERE MUST BE MAGIC IN THE
 AIR.

BUT IF THE ODDS WERE RIGHT,
 YOU KNOW I'D GO TONIGHT
 GIRL, AND LEAVE YOU LONELY COULD,
 COULD YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE
 LIKE ME?
 IF YOU FIND ROMANCE WOULD YOU TAKE A
 CHANCE?
 COULD YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE
 LIKE ME?

I'VE GOT TO TAKE A STAND,
 AND PLAY MY FINAL HAND.
 WHAT'S THIS GIRL DOING TO ME?
 COULD I BE IN LOVE,
 IN LOVE WITH YOU?

The world goes back to normal.

HEATHER

Y'know, for all of your father's
 bluster, I'll bet deep down he still
 loves you, too.

CARSON

Maybe, but at this point it'd be a
 little hard to find.

HEATHER

Suppose you got yourself squared with
 the IRS ... all on your own, mind
 you. Without any help from him.
 Would that patch things up?

CARSON

Probably. But then, if I got out from
 under the IRS, do I care what Dad
 thinks of me?

HEATHER

It's important. At least try. Then if he still rejects you it would be his problem, not yours.

CARSON

Hold it. You're talking as if there were some kind of solution to all of this.

HEATHER

I still might be able to help you.

CARSON

How?

HEATHER

Weeeell . . . Suppose, now. Just suppose . . . you and I . . . Ah - had a real thing, I mean.

CARSON

So far I like the sound of this.

HEATHER

Serious enough for you to make me a promise.

CARSON

The kind signed in blood.

HEATHER

That, too. But I'm talking about the gambling. You'd have to promise me you'd never as much as put a nickel into a slot machine.

CARSON

That's a big one. But as long as we're just supposing, let's assume I could work that miracle. What next?

HEATHER

I've always been able to manage my father . . . wrap him around my finger, if you will . . . especially if he thinks he's getting his way. I'd be willing to bet that I could charm him into shelling out the cash to solve your problem if he thought you would make me happy the rest of my life. Plus, he knows the ins and outs of the IRS.

CARSON

I've never met your father, but if he's anything like the father of any other young unmarried woman in the world, I'd never stand a chance. I'd get the "unacceptable as a son-in-law" brand and that would be that.

HEATHER

There is another bargaining chip I could use.

CARSON

What?

HEATHER

I'd simply tell him if he wanted little Heather to go back to Meridian to teach, he'd have to wave his magic green wand over your head first.

CARSON

That smacks of blackmail to me. Chantaje !!!

HEATHER

Precisely! Chantaje.

Reprise of Song 5 "CHANTAJE" with an image of the painted face of Extraño Misterioso.

CARSON

Heather ... would you do that for me?

HEATHER

If you'd do something for me.

CARSON

Give up the gambling?

HEATHER

Yes.

CARSON

You're the kind of person that makes me wish I'd done things right in the first place.

HEATHER

Yeah, but think of the fun you've had screwing everything up.

CARSON
You're something, else.

HEATHER
No decisions right now. We have time.
We'll talk.

CARSON
I want to make a decision, now.
The time seems right.

Pause as they look deeply at each other.

HEATHER
Now you must go. I'd like to stay
here and think some more ... alone.

CARSON
I understand.
(pause looking
terrified)
Let's have breakfast together.
The cafe?

HEATHER
Done.

CARSON
See you then. 10:AM

HEATHER
Goodnight.

Carson walks off stopping to turn and look at her several times.

Heather remains standing and pensive for a long moment.

She sings to herself:

HEATHER (cont'd)
I THINK I'VE FOUND ROMANCE,
IT'S REALLY NOT A CHANCE, YES
I COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE
LIKE YOU!

DISSOLVE TO:

21 EXT: SANTA TITOS PLAZA - MORNING

Flooded with people and busy activity. Carson, Fast Bucks and Sebastiano walk through:

FAST BUCKS

Mr. Carson, I wish you would reconsider.

CARSON

No, no - sorry.

FAST BUCKS

Your letting a golden opportunity just flip by.

CARSON

I made a promise - I can't gamble with company funds.

FAST BUCKS

Oh! It's not gambling. It's an ... investment.

CARSON

Can't do it, my decision is final.

FAST BUCKS

As you wish.

CARSON

Gentlemen?

Carson walks to one of the tables in front of the cafe and takes a seat.

SEBASTIANO

So much for phase two.

FAST BUCKS

We're not licked yet.

SEBASTIANO

Oh? It's less than two hours to the race and we haven't got enough money to buy lunch.

FAST BUCKS

There must be someone in this town with enough money to stake us a loan.

Doña Carta walks through the hotel door, and stands chatting with someone at one of the tables.

The Extraño Misterioso (mysterious stranger) enters attempting not to be recognized. A short reprise of Song 5 with the face painted image.

FAST BUCKS (CON'T)

There's that stranger again. He looks like one of us. I'd be interested to know who he really is.

SEBASTIANO

I'll find out later.

FAST BUCKS

Do that.

Doña Carta stands with her hands behind her back.

The stranger slips up behind her and carefully places a small stack of bills in her upturned palm. She smiles broadly, then she hefts the weight of the bills and her smile changes to an angry glower.

DOÑA CARTA

Hold it!

EXTRAÑO MISTERIOSO

Uh ... yes, ma' am.

DOÑA CARTA

You're three pesos short!

EXTRAÑO MISTERIOSO

Uh ... there must be some mistake.

DOÑA CARTA

There is, and it's yours.

The Extraño Misterioso comes back to Doña and gives the bills a cursory count. Then he removes three more bills from his pocket and adds them sheepishly to the stack. Doña nods.

The Extraño Misterioso slips quietly through a "special" door beside the main entrance to the hotel.

Fast Bucks and Sebastiano beam and smile broadly at one another.

FAST BUCKS

There is one person with enough money to help us out.

SEBASTIANO

Yeah, but how do you plan to get her to cut loose of any of it?

FAST BUCKS

Leave that to me.

SEBASTIANO

Something tells me phase two is in deep trouble.

FAST BUCKS

Get lost for a while. I'll handle this delicate matter alone.

SEBASTIANO

Okay. But I still think we should organize just one little quickie tour and charge the suckers double.

FAST BUCKS

Do you mind?! Why don't you find out who that stranger is?

SEBASTIANO

Adios.

Sebastiano wanders off as Margarita comes through the hotel door. She is carrying a sealed envelope.

MARGARITA

Tia. This just arrived for you. It's from Mexico City. It looks important.

DOÑA CARTA

Thank you, mi Guerita. Have you been walking with that book on your head like I told you?

MARGARITA

Si, Tia. But now I have a headache.

DOÑA CARTA

I may not survive. Let me see how you've progressed.

Margarita makes quite an admirable effort at walking with style and grace.

MARGARITA

Am I doing it right?

DOÑA CARTA
That's perfect. Now, think elegant.

MARGARITA
How can I think elegant when my head hurts so much?

DOÑA CARTA
Ay, Dias mio! Forget about your head. I'm surprised that something so empty could hurt at all.

MARGARITA
Si, Tia.

DOÑA CARTA
Now, go inside and rest. I don't want the judges to see fatigue and worry lines on that lovely face.

MARGARITA
Si, Tia.

DOÑA CARTA
Give Tia a big kiss now and run along.

Margarita embraces Doña and leaves. Doña sits at an empty table and opens the letter. As she reads, her mood changes from jovial to morose in gradual stages. Fast Bucks moves close, eventually standing by her side.

FAST BUCKS
Bad news?

DOÑA CARTA
In a way I guess.

FAST BUCKS
I hope no one in your family is ill.

DOÑA CARTA
No, not illness ... worse.

FAST BUCKS
What could be worse than illness ... other than death? . . . OOH !

DOÑA CARTA
Not someone. Something. Years.
Oh, my dear friend. Sit down and talk to an old woman.

FAST BUCKS

Oh, Doña. You're not old.

He sits next to her.

FAST BUCKS (CON'T)

You're just mellow, like a bottle of fine wine.

DOÑA CARTA

Hogwash. I'm an old spinster and I feel every year I've lived.

FAST BUCKS

You have a lot of good years ahead of you. Why lament so?

DOÑA CARTA

I'm not thinking of the years ahead of me. I'm wondering where all the ones behind me went to. Where did they all go? I was a child, then a young woman, then a middle-aged woman, and now ... ? It just seems like I haven't done enough.

FAST BUCKS

Nonsense. What other woman do you know that is Mayor, a Chief of Police, owner of a hotel and a cantina, and draws as much respect as you ... because of your station and wealth.

DOÑA CARTA

I'd trade every bit of it to be thirty again.

FAST BUCKS

And knowing you, you'd probably win it all back. And then in thirty years from today you'd be sitting right here at this table saying exactly the same thing.

DOÑA CARTA

You have a point.

FAST BUCKS

What grave news has depressed you so.

DOÑA CARTA

It's from my sister Inez in Mexico City. She's graduated from begging me to retire to DEMANDING IT.

FAST BUCKS

But, how could she ask an active person like yourself to retire? It's absurd.

DOÑA CARTA

She claims I'm causing scandal for the family. She says I should be in a black shawl, rocking on a veranda, going to church three times a week lighting candles for all our departed relatives ... growing wrinkles.

FAST BUCKS

I can't see you living like that. You need excitement. You need problems to solve! Investments to make.

DOÑA CARTA

Perhaps.
But eventually . . .

They stand and begin to sing and dance a waltz:

SONG 11:

IT'S TIME TO GO -- SLOW AND HONEST, $\frac{3}{4}$ WALTZ TIME

DOÑA CARTA (cont'd)

AM I SLOWING DOWN? IS IT OBVIOUS?
AM I ACTING LIKE A CLOWN?
IF I SHOULD CHANGE, IN TWILIGHT DAYS
WHO WOULD COME AROUND?

FAST BUCKS

IF I ACT MY AGE, WOULD MY YESTERDAYS
HAUNT ME ONE BY ONE?
WHEN I PLAN MY DAY IN A BUSY WAY
AGE WOULD NEVER COME.

DOÑA CARTA

THESE LINES ARE DEEP AND WE OVER EAT
WE'RE NOT QUITE FINISHED LIVING

FAST BUCKS

WE HAVE SO MUCH
(MORE)

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)
 WELL, MAYBE IT'S LUCK
 COULD BE IT'S TIME TO GO?

(TOGETHER THEY DANCE - - WALTZ)

FAST BUCKS (CON'T)
 IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD OF MEMORIES
 I REMEMBER TIMES OF OLD.

DOÑA CARTA
 AND AS I LOOK BACK, IT'S NOT SO BAD
 TO SAY THAT IT'S TIME TO GO.

(TOGETHER THEY DANCE - - AND SING)

DOÑA CARTA AND FAST BUCKS
 YES WE ARE SLOWING DOWN'
 BUT WE SHOULDN'T FROWN
 WE'RE CLOSING IN ON GOLD.
 TIME HAS CHANGED AS IT SLIPS AWAY
 COULD BE IT'S TIME TO GO?
 YES, IT'S TIME TO GO.

They sit back at the table:

FAST BUCKS
 I think you should get your mind onto
 something else this instant. You'll
 be souring the festival if you go on
 with this, this ... morbidez.

DOÑA CARTA
 Something tells me you have the very
 thing I should be thinking about.

FAST BUCKS
 As a matter of fact, I have.
 Have you given any thought to the
 possibility of making a little extra
 cash using the method Sebastiano and
 I have secured?

DOÑA CARTA
 Yes, I have.

FAST BUCKS
 You have?!!

DOÑA CARTA
 Indeed. I've given it some very
 serious thought.

FAST BUCKS

What is your thought?

DOÑA CARTA

This letter . . . made it for me.

FAST BUCKS

Not sure I understand.

DOÑA CARTA

If I am to retire, then I'll need some kind of substantial nest egg to keep me in . . . shawls and candles. If I could place some large bets and be sure of winning enough, I could move to Mexico City and not have to reduce my lifestyle, if you get my meaning.

FAST BUCKS

I do indeed. Now, then. As long as you are so willing to place some bets for yourself, I was wondering if. . .

DOÑA CARTA

. . . If I'd stake you and Sebastiano to a hefty slice of the pie?

FAST BUCKS

Well, yes . . . if you could see your way clear. We'd pay you back with interest.

DOÑA CARTA

The answer is yes. Skip the interest. All I want is my investment back.

FAST BUCKS

Whaaaaat?! Doña, are you feeling all right?

DOÑA CARTA

As well as can be expected under the circumstances.

FAST BUCKS

You mean you would loan me money to make some bets and not attach any conditions at all?!

DOÑA CARTA

I didn't say that. There would be one small condition.

FAST BUCKS
That's the Doña I know!

DOÑA CARTA
Use the money to get into some legitimate business. I hear through the grapevine that Maria Barbara is selling the book store. I think you should use your winnings to get into books.

FAST BUCKS
Books?!!

DOÑA CARTA
Books.

FAST BUCKS
But why?

DOÑA CARTA
Simple. Put that pea sized brain of yours to work. If I retire, who do you think will take my place?

FAST BUCKS
Don Frederico?

His face goes stark with terror.

DOÑA CARTA
Precisely. He's fat, mean, sadistic and unscrupulous. He would not look the other way with some of your wild schemes the way I have.

FAST BUCKS
Could I convince you to reconsider retiring?

DOÑA CARTA
Oh, Fast Bucks my friend. If it isn't this week, it will be next week or the week after. My retirement is inevitable any way you look at it. Face facts and don't struggle anymore. Do I have your promise you'll use your winnings to buy the book store?

FAST BUCKS
You win. You always do.

DOÑA CARTA

Good. I'll go inside and shake down the petty cash drawers ... and my stockings. I'll meet you at the Estadio "Saks" Cantina.

FAST BUCKS

Until then.

Doña Carta walks through to the hotel. Fast Bucks is left mute and shocked.

Camera swings to Paco and Javier and immediately moves in on Carson.

PACO

There he is. Numero Uno!

JAVIER

How was your date, amigo?

CARSON

Super. I think I'm falling in love.

PACO

Did you hear that, Javi? This sounds serious.

JAVIER

What's your diagnosis, Doctor Paco?

PACO

A severe case of anamoratoxia of the lower heart throb.

JAVIER

I also see evidence of an acute parahemal nuptual.

PACO

Javi, this is definitely an emergency. I recommend large infusions of booze, immediately.

JAVIER

And a thorough flushing of the inner pockets with hypo-indemic gambling.

Javier produces a deck of cards. They all sit:

PACO
 How 'bout a little five card draw
 just to get the old eyes open? We
 need a warmup for the races anyway.

CARSON
 Count me out.

PACO AND JAVIER
 Whaaaaaat? ! !

CARSON
 I said, count me out.

JAVIER
 This is worse than I thought.

PACO
 Hold it! Hold it! This is all going
 too fast. It's hard to believe that
 between last night and this morning,
 Numero Uno should get turned off by
 gambling.

(to Carson)
 Just exactly what did happen on this
 date of yours?

CARSON
 Nothing, really.

JAVIER
 Nothing?!! You change from River Boat
 Rex to Goodie Two Shoes in less than
 twelve hours and you say nothing
 happened?!

CARSON
 I'd like to keep this to myself,
 guys. It's kinda special.

PACO
 Well! I guess that tells us
 something.

CARSON
 Aw, come on, amigos. Don't take it
 like that. I still think the world of
 both of you. It's just that ... this
 one's different. I don't have to talk
 about her to make her real or more
 interesting or more ... beautiful.

JAVIER

Well, as long as you put it that way.
But how 'bout just one teeny little
bet, just to keep your hand in.

CARSON

Can't, guys.

DISSOLVE TO:

Heather appears standing motionless. Fast Bucks, also motionless. Both at opposite ends of the Plaza steps and look to the sky. Carson standing center. The two waitresses, Margarita and Carman, stroll up to Javier.

Mood is surrealistic as the world stops and Carson looks and moves first to one and then to the other in a seesaw battle. Javier walks over to Carson and with baseball cap on backwards Javier sings:

SONG 12:

IN LOVE WITH LUCK - MID-TEMPO - RAP - ROCK/LATIN

JAVIER

JACKPOT, THERE IS NO LIMIT. "NUMBER
ONE" ALWAYS COOL'N REPRESENTED BY
LADY LUCK SHE SLIDES UP ON YOU,
KEEP IN MIND NOT DEJA VU.
IN THE LOOP - DOUBLING DOWN, NO LONG
SHOT HERE YOU'RE SELF-ENDOWED
AN INSIDE STRAIGHT, NOT BAD ROMANCE
NO VICTIM OF LOVE NOR CIRCUMSTANCE.
OH LA LA LA, CHA CHANG CHANG CHANG
LET FANDANGO TAKE YOU AWAY
ROLL THE DICE - PAY THE PRICE
LOSE OR WIN - A ROAD TO SIN
A GAMBLING MAN PAYS TO WIN

MARGARITA AND CARMAN

YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH LUCK
YOU MIGHT AS WELL FACE IT
YOU CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF TABU LOVE
IN LOVE WITH LUCK,
YOU'RE STUCK IN THE MIDDLE
YA JUST CAN'T HELP IT - IN YOUR BLOOD

JAVIER

ANTE UP, PLACE A BET, DOUBLE DOWN ON
THE WORDS I'VE SAID
HOW COULD YA THINK OF GIVING UP?
YOU'RE TORN BETWEEN LUCK AND LOVE.
GOING 'ROUND - UPSIDE DOWN

(MORE)

JAVIER (cont'd)
 WIN OR LOSE - YOU ARE BOUND
 TO WEIGH BOTH SIDES - AND DECIDE,
 ROLL THE DICE - IT'S PARADISE
 OH LA LA LA, CHA CHANG CHANG CHANG
 LET THE FANTASY TAKE YOU AWAY

MONEY'S DOWN - TENSION MOUNTS
 FEEL THE RUSH - YOU BLUSH
 IT'S IN THE BLOOD - YOU GOT THE BUG

MARGARITA AND CARMAN
 YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH LUCK
 YOU MIGHT AS WELL FACE IT
 YOU CAN'T GET ENOUGH
 OF TABU LOVE
 IN LOVE WITH LUCK, YOU'RE STUCK IN
 THE MIDDLE
 YA JUST CAN'T HELP IT - IN YOUR BLOOD

Carson walks to Fast Bucks instead of Heather. The world returns to normal, a noisy plaza. Carson strides back to the table as action resumes as if he never left.

PACO
 Now, I ask you.
 What harm could one little bet do?

JAVIER
 He's right. Besides, what right does she have coming into your life and rearranging it? Today it's the gambling. Tomorrow it'll be what you wear and who handles the cash.

PACO
 Then she'll start dictating where you live and where to take vacations. I tell ya, ya gotta let her know who's boss up front. Now, how 'bout a little bet?

CARSON
 Well . . . ?

JAVIER
 The cafe door! Does someone go in first . . . or come out first?

PACO
 I say in.

PACO puts money on the table.

JAVIER
I say in, too.

JAVIER puts money on the table.

PACO
What'd 'ya say, Numero Uno?

JAVIER
Cover it, amigo. Just a little one.

CARSON
I say out!

Carson puts money on the table. All three wait a few moments. Carmen enters through the cafe door.

CARSON
I guess that shows who's Numero Uno!!

Carson gathers the money from the table.

Heather enters through the hotel door. She sees what Carson is doing and stops in her tracks, aghast!

HEATHER
Well !!!

CARSON
OH. Caught with my fingers in the jam.

Heather turns abruptly and heads back for the hotel.

CARSON (CON'T)
HEATHER, wait!

Heather stops reluctantly, but she remains with her arms folded facing away from Carson.

HEATHER
So. That was some promise.

CARSON
It was just a two dollar bet! What harm could that do?

HEATHER
You broke a promise!

CARSON
I know. But I see how serious you are about it, now. It won't happen again.

HEATHER

You knew how serious. I was about it last night!

CARSON

Aw. Give a guy a break. I've been gambling all my life. How'd 'ya expect me to just stop all of a sudden?

HEATHER

Then why did you say you would? I pleaded with you to think it over.

CARSON

You were right. Let's talk about it some more. I'll try harder.

HEATHER

I was foolish. I was lame brained enough to think I meant something to you. I thought you would really change for me. But when it comes right down to it, no one ever really changes, not for someone else.

CARSON

I can change. But you have to have a little understanding. Maybe even some patience.

HEATHER

Forget it. I'm not sure I want to get involved with you anymore. Maybe we should have just done what you wanted to do and let it go at that. At least we would have had something to remember.

CARSON

Don't do this. You're throwing away the big one just because I was stupid for a few seconds. Haven't you ever been stupid for a few seconds? Are you pretending to be that perfect?

HEATHER

I sure have been stupid ... and a lot longer than a few seconds. Last night was a good example.

CARSON

Last night was not stupid. And I did mean everything I said ... even if I did backslide a little.

HEATHER

No. You didn't backslide. Because in order to backslide you have to make some kind of progress, and you didn't make any kind of progress at all. You are a hopeless gambler and that's what you'll always be ... compulsive and hopeless.

CARSON

That's not true!

HEATHER

Then what's that in your hand, prayer cards?!

(Pause)

They're tickets to hell!

CARSON

That's the way I feel about the money!

Carson hurls the bills in his hand to the ground.

HEATHER

It won't work. It's over. You had your chance and you blew it. And as far as any help with your ... problem well, you can forget that, too.

CARSON

I guess it's good we both found out the truth.

HEATHER

Just what is that supposed to mean?

CARSON

It's pretty obvious no one but a saint is ever going to be able to live with you. I wish you luck in finding him. In the meantime I hope you have a lot of romantic flings to chase away the loneliness. You might find yourself searching for quite some time.

Without waiting for a response, he storms OFF.

Heather stands mute for a moment. Then she slowly and tearfully gathers up the bills from the ground. The PROFESSOR comes slowly to her side.

PROFESSOR
I couldn't help overhearing ...

HEATHERR
Oh, that.

PROFESSOR
I think we should have a little chat. Just like we used to. Pretend we're walking beside the river in Meridian. It's summer ... and you want to know where frogs come from.

Heather manages a weak smile

HEATHER
Okay.

The Professor leads Heather to one of the tables. They sit.

PROFESSOR
I don't expect you to really listen to me. Since when does any youngster listen to any old man these days? But, I think you were rather harsh with that young man.

HEATHER
For someone who warned me he was a rotter, you sure do have a lot to say in his defense.

PROFESSOR
I'm not defending him. What he did was wrong. But I'm entitled to change my opinion on a person. I'm entitled to admit I was wrong.

HEATHER
I see what you're driving at but you're wasting your time.

PROFESSOR
If Carson had tried to cover up the fact that he was gambling with a lie, then I could excuse you for your reaction. But he admitted it - up front.

(MORE)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

Now that's the sign of a true man. I think you've made a very serious blunder.

HEATHER

Oh, Professor. You're getting me all confused. I just don't want to get involved with anyone like Uncle Todd. It was too awful.

PROFESSOR

Did you ever stop to think that without you, Carson might just end up like your Uncle Todd? And with you ... well, you might be just what he needs.

HEATHER

I'd never forgive myself if I thought for one second I'd driven Carson that way.

SONG 13:

GO TO HIM -- MID/SLOW TEMPO, FOLKSY AND SIMPLE

PROFESSOR

GO TO HIM, IF HE NEEDS YOU
GO TO HIM, YOU MAY NEED HIM, TOO
I SHOULD KNOW, I'M AN OLD MAN
AND I WAS ONCE LIKE YOU.

LOOK INTO, THESE OLD EYES
THERE YOU'LL FIND,
A YOUNG HEARTED FOOL, SAYING
GO TO HIM, IF HE NEEDS YOU
YOU MAY NEED HIM, TOO.

WHY NOT DO, ONE OR TWO
OF THE THINGS THAT YOU PROMISED
YOURSELF TO.
LIKE FALL IN LOVE, A NATURAL STEP
TO CARE FOR HIM LIKE YOU CARE FOR
YOURSELF.

HEATHER

I CAN'T COPE, WITH A GAMBLING MAN
STAKES SO HIGH, I'VE SEEN THAT END.
LIFE'S TOO SHORT, TO CARRY ON
THE WAY HE CARRIES ON.

BUT JUST HOW LONG,
DOES THE SEARCHING GO ON
FOR A SAINT BEFORE SETTLING ON LOVE?

(MORE)

HEATHER (cont'd)
 COULD YOU BE RIGHT, COULD I BE WRONG
 OH, I WISH I KNEW,
 COULD I NEED HIM, TOO?

CAN'T I FIND, THAT PERFECT MAN
 WITHOUT A CARD IN HIS HAND?
 COULD HE BE RIGHT COULD HE BE THE
 ONE?
 LORD, I WISH I KNEW.
 YES, I MAY NEED HIM TOO.

Heather sighs.

HEATHER (cont'd)
 Why does life have to be so
 complicated?

PROFESSOR
 If it were simple, there would be no
 fun.

HEATHER
 Sometimes I'd almost be willing to
 trade a little of the fun for some
 answers.

PROFESSOR
 None of us are born into this world
 with guarantees, Heather. We all have
 to take chances sometimes. You listen
 to a little of your heart, a little
 of your head ... and then you simply
 have to hold your breath and ...

HEATHER
 Yes, I get it.

PROFESSOR
 Come, now, my dear. Let's go to the
 estadio. I think there's a little
 drama about to unfold that might be
 fun to watch.

HEATHER
 You know what I think of that place.

PROFESSOR
 We can't always avoid the unpleasant
 places in the world. There is pain in
 a dentist's chair, but we come out
 better for the experience.

HEATHER

Professor, it sounds to me like you know something the rest of us don't.

PROFESSOR

Young lady. With only a few exceptions, I'm older than any two people in this town put together. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if there are a few shreds of knowledge in this old head that aren't in yours.

HEATHER

That's what I like about you, Professor. Always so clear and concise. No wonder you went into bones and ancient garbage heaps.

PROFESSOR

Precisely. That way there's no one around to tell me when I've concluded wrong. Now, if we don't hurry, we'll miss all the excitement.

HEATHER

Okay. But stick close to me. I don't feel like being alone in that jungle.

PROFESSOR

I'll never leave your side.

The PROFESSOR chuckles sardonically.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. ESTADIO FANDANGO - AFTERNOON

The crowd gathers. There is a mounting murmur and hubbub over the anticipation of the big match.

Dona Carta and Fast Bucks anxiously watch. Heather and the Professor standing. Carson, Paco and Javier seated across the stadium.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And now, ladies and gentlemen!
Welcome to the Fútbol National
Championship de Mexico.
Between "GALLOS BLANCOS" from
CUERNAVACA, Morelos Mexico and
"CUERVOS NEGROS" from JUÁREZ,
Chihuahua Mexico.

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER (O.S.) (cont'd)

CROWD CHEERS !!!

FAST BUCKS

(to Dona Carta)

Okay, I placed the bets very quietly.
I don't think anyone noticed.
It's all riding on the CROWS now.

DONA MARTA

Good. We can't be too careful with a
thing like this.

Meanwhile . . .

CARSON

(to Paco and Javier)

I stood right behind Fast Bucks and
watched where he put his money. And
boy did he lay down a wad!

PACO

Your finger looks kinda naked without
that ring. Hope you got good cash for
it.

CARSON

After this, I'll be able to buy the
mine they dug the stone out of.
That pawn shop is a rip.

JAVIER

I see Heather over there. Little Miss
Prim And Proper decided to soil her
petticoat at the Fandango after all.

CARSON

Well, wonders never. Look at her. She
knows I'm here but she won't even
wave. Boy, am I glad to be rid of
her.

Then . . .

HEATHER

(to the Professor)

Look at him. Strutting around like a
molting peacock. He knows I'm here
but he won't even look this way! Boy,
am I glad I'm rid of him!

PROFESSOR

Heather!

HEATHER

Oh, Professor. You don't expect me to wave first, do you?

PROFESSOR

No, I suppose not. But you can be a little more compassionate. The lad is solving his problems in the only way he knows how.

HEATHER

Ghastly!

(pause)

Professor, do you believe in fate?

PROFESSOR

I most certainly do.

HEATHER

Well, so do I. You say we sometimes have to take chances and maybe you're right. I've never gambled in my life but I think today's going to be a first.

PROFESSOR

Would you like some money?

HEATHER

I'm not putting up money. I'm going to wager a hug and a kiss - and maybe a little of my pride. If Carson wins that bet he just placed he's never going to see me again. And not you or anyone else is going to lay a guilt number on my head for abandoning him when he needs me the most. Got that?

PROFESSOR

Perfectly clear. What if he loses?

HEATHER

Then . . . he gets a hug and a kiss from me. He can interpret the gesture for whatever he wants. If he's too proud to forgive me, then that's his problem.

PROFESSOR

Letting your future ride on a game?

HEATHER

If you don't tell the birds, I won't.
Besides, can you think of a better
way to make the decision?

PROFESSOR

Not offhand.

Meanwhile . . .

DONA CARTA

(to Fast Bucks)

Ya know, I'm going to miss the
excitement, but maybe retirement
won't be so bad after all. In a
strange sort of way, I'm looking
forward to a rest. Aaaaand, if I get
bored, maybe there's a little inn to
keep in the big city. Something out
of the way - small, but charming.
Who knows? Anyway, it'll all be so
different. Yes, I'm anxious.

FAST BUCKS

Books might not be so bad either.
I'll have a chance to read all the
classics. All those wonderful stories
I promised myself someday I'd get to
but never had the time. Think of it,
Doña. If I really work on making
myself a broadminded, respectable
man, maybe someday they'll call me
another Cervantes.

DONA MARTA

Ah, my friend, a very noble goal.

Back to Carson seated several rows away.

CARSON

(to Paco and Javier)

I've never been this nervous with a
single bet before in my life.

PACO

There's a lot riding on this one.

CARSON

You better believe it. But I can
almost taste the polluted air of home
right now.

JAVIER
We'll miss you, amigo.

CARSON
I'll bet! Just as soon as I get settled in the brokerage house and put an apartment together, it's visas for you two so I can show you my pueblo ... it's a little bigger than this one.

PACO
The match is about to start.

Slow pan and rack focus to the green Fútbol field of play.
Music begins.

SONG 14:
THE DANCE OF THE JUGADOR -- INSTRUMENTAL - SLOW, RITUAL LIKE INDIAN/LATIN RHYTHM, BUILDING INTO AN UP-TEMPO CLIMAX.

The spotlight become hazed and the players or JUGADORS start movement. It turns into a ballet type ritual dance. Voices are involved not lyrics.
Dancing and Shouting - Exotic and Primitive. Two featured ballet-styled dancers enact the fútbol match as it is being played.

Music fades . . . ending with a sudden and eerie silence.
Then a SINGLE CROW CRIES.

Dissolving back to a wide shot. Loud CHEERS AND CELEBRATION.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
"GALLOS BLANCOS" . . . WINNERS!
From CUERNAVACA, Morelos . . .
The youngsters "GALLOS BLANCOS"

ALL
Huh?!

All the PRINCIPALS fall into a stunned silence.

Then the entire ESTADIO FANDANGO erupts. The familiar back slapping, shouting, money exchanging and each group of PRINCIPALS become animated, while others remain frozen.

DOÑA CARTA
(to Fast Bucks)
You worm! ! !

FAST BUCKS

I think I hear Sebastiano calling me.
Coming, friend!

DOÑA CARTA

Freeze!! Do you know what you've
just done?!

FAST BUCKS

Uh . . . ?

DOÑA CARTA

I'm ruined!

FAST BUCKS

Please, Dona Marta. I'll pay you
back. Every dime, I promise!

DOÑA CARTA

You'll be shystering in this town for
twenty years to pay me back what I
just lost!

FAST BUCKS

Not with Don Frederico as Mayor, I
won't.

DOÑA CARTA

And what makes you think Don
Frederico will be Mayor?!

FAST BUCKS

Your retirement ?

DOÑA CARTA

Retirement! How can I retire now?! I
don't have enough for the first
candle, let alone the shawl and the
rocking chair!

Meanwhile . . .

CARSON

(to Paco and Javier)

Oh, My God.

PACO

Easy Friend, You've lost big before.

JAVIER

I have just about enough left for
lunch.

CARSON

Thanks Amigo. I wonder how many lives, empires have come to ruin because of one single breathtaking roll of the dice?

PACO

Hard to say, amigo. But you'll bounce back.

JAVIER

Sure. You'll see ... tomorrow.

CARSON

No. Not this time. I think maybe Heather's right. I am incurable. Tomorrow's luck won't be any better than today's.

Then . . .

PROFESSOR

(to Heather)

Well, young lady. I heard you made a bet a little while ago. Isn't it time you paid up?

HEATHER

I honestly didn't think I'd have to.

PROFESSOR

That's no excuse. We never enter a wager expecting to lose. Then again, you might not have lost. Yet. A promise is a promise.

HEATHER

There are some people I could name who don't think so.

PROFESSOR

HEATHER!

HEATHER

Oh, okay.

Heather begins to cross the bleachers toward Carson but very, very very slowly. Fast Bucks continues talking to Doña.

FAST BUCKS

Doña - my dear friend, calm yourself. A case of the vapors is not going to help our situation.

DOÑA CARTA

No, throwing you to the gallos would!

FAST BUCKS

Now, I admit that our situation looks very bleak, but I have an idea that might solve everything.

DOÑA CARTA

It was your idea that got us into this!

FAST BUCKS

That's why I feel partly responsible.

DOÑA CARTA

Partly?!! You're going to be tomorrow's entree in the cafe. Boiled snake!

FAST BUCKS

Don't you even want to hear my idea?

DOÑA CARTA

It can't do any harm, since it's the last idea you're ever going to have.

FAST BUCKS

I think we should get married.

Pause . . .

DOÑA CARTA

What did you just say?

FAST BUCKS

I think we should get married.

DOÑA CARTA

You have gone absolutely bananas.

FAST BUCKS

No, I haven't. It's simple. If we get married, then I can mind all the businesses for you. You can settle back and rest, like you want to.

(MORE)

FAST BUCKS (cont'd)
 And everything I make out of the -
 enterprises, is automatically yours
 ... ours.

DOÑA CARTA
 There's something radically wrong in
 all that, but I can't quite put my
 finger on it.

FAST BUCKS
 Wouldn't you like to be married,
 Doña? I admit I'm not the best
 husband material in the world, but
 marriage is probably the only thing
 you haven't done.

DOÑA CARTA
 WHAT ? . . . What the hell. I
 couldn't be any worse off than I am
 now.

Heather reaches Carson and stands before him for a long
 moment before reaching up, putting her arms about his neck
 and placing a gentle kiss on his cheek.

CARSON
 I lost.

HEATHER
 Sorry to hear that.

CARSON
 Are you really?

HEATHER
 Carson, I didn't come over here to
 say I told you so.

CARSON
 Good. What did you come over for?

HEATHER
 To give you a hug and a kiss, nothing
 more. That was the bet.

CARSON
 The bet? Since when are you gambling?

HEATHER
 Since the Professor sat me down on
 the river bank and told me about
 frogs.

CARSON

You're crazy and wonderful.
Will you listen to another promise?

HEATHER

No. No more promises this time.
We'll take it a day at a time.

CARSON

Okay. From now on I listen to you.

HEATHER

Oh, I don't want you to stop talking
on my account.

PACO

(to Carson)

Well, amigo, it looks like you're not
Numero Uno anymore.

HEATHER

(to Paco)

Wanna bet?!

Across the stadium on the GALLOS BLANCOS sideline the Champions celebrate with gusto. All players are doing flips and they have released chickens that the kids are chasing. The Priest holds the CHAMPIONSHIP Trophy above his head and gleefully hands it to the coach.

To the left there is young Manolo on a cell phone talking to his girlfriend, Gabriela in Cuernavaca - tears rolling down his face.

Back to the center of the field:

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

And now, ladies and gentlemen; It gives me great pleasure to announce the winner of this year's MISS SANTA TITOS competition. Of the fifteen lovely young ladies who entered ... every one a winner in her own right ... there, of course, can only be one who will wear the coveted crown. The winner ... the little miss who will reign as MISS SANTA TITOS for the coming year ... MARGARITA !

WILD CHEERING drowns out the last name.

MARGARITA enters on the arm of Sebastiano as a crowd gathers around them. There is much commotion and flower throwing.

She bows and blows kisses to the crowd. Doña is given a studded tiara which she places on MARGARITA'S head.

DOÑA CARTA

At least something went right today.

FAST BUCKS

That brings up a bit of a problem.

DOÑA CARTA

What?

FAST BUCKS

What to do with Sebastiano? He's nothing without me. How am I going to tell him I have a new ... partner?

DOÑA CARTA

Well. We could always keep him around for a little ... skullduggery, on the side. No need of losing the touch just because of retirement, you know.

Sebastiano pops in the picture . . .

SEBASTIANO

No need to tell me anything, friends. I have a new business venture.

FAST BUCKS

Oh? Where would you get the capital to go into any kind of venture?

SEBASTIANO

Oh, it won't take much. The assets are already ... in place.

FAST BUCKS

Pray tell, what is it?

SEBASTIANO

It's called ... "Cha cha LaFrance".

FAST BUCKS AND DOÑA CARTA

Cha Cha Lafrance?

SEBASTIANO

Also known as "Margarita la Guerita".

DOÑA CARTA

Cha Cha Lafrance?! Mi Guerita!

SEBASTIANO

You see, I found out who the stranger was, just like you asked, amigo.

The EXTRAÑO MISTERIOSO (mysterious stranger) walks up to Sebastiano and Margarita. Speaks to Doña.

EXTRAÑO MISTERIOSO

I think I can clear up this matter rather quickly. My name is Bruno Sorrentino, and I'm visiting from Mexico City. I'm in movies, a producer, and I've had my eye on your niece, Margarita - that name has to go. It's quite obvious she's had lots of professional training in poise and charm and I can't wait -- can't wait!! -- to get that lovely face in front of a camera. I'm taking her ...

Gestures to Sebastiano

... and her agent back with me in the morning. We'll be signing the contract right after the screen test.

FAST BUCKS AND DOÑA CARTA

Her agent?!

SEBASTIANO

Her agent. Cha Cha is just the beginning, of course. I'll be setting up offices in Mexico City to handle all my other clients. Drop in and see me the next time you're in the big city.

FAST BUCKS

Oh ... we'll do that.

DOÑA CARTA

Cha Cha Lafrance?

FAST BUCKS

Agent?

DOÑA CARTA

Screen test?

FAST BUCKS

Contract?

DOÑA CARTA

Mi Guerita?

FAST BUCKS

Doña Carta, do you get the feeling
today just isn't our day?

DOÑA CARTA

Distinctly.

OPENING SONG REPRISE 15:

THE FANTASY FANDANGO REPRISE - - UPTEMPO, LATIN FEEL AND
SPARKLING:

DOÑA CARTA (cont'd)

WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THE FIESTA
AND YOU'RE A WINNER IN SANTA TITOS
WE WISH YOU ALL FOREVER SMILES
AND FOR NOW, IT'S TIME TO GO.

FAST BUCKS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY SOME ANCIENT
JEWELRY OR A CHAIN OF SOLID GOLD?
I COULD GIVE YOU A GOOD CONNECTION,
BUT FOR ME, TOO, IT'S TIME TO GO.

TOWNS PEOPLE

THE FANTASY FANDANGO
THE MAGICAL MARDI GRAS
WE LOVE OUR FANDANGO
THE SANTA TITOS MARDI GRAS . . .
FANDANGO!

DANCE

HEATHER

IT IS A DEJA VU OF MEMORIES
AND I'VE FOUND MY ROMANCE.
I COULDN'T LIVE A DAY WITHOUT YOU
NO, I'D NEVER EVEN TAKE THE CHANCE.

CARSON

YOU CAN FIND YOURSELF IN SANTA TITOS
YOU NEED ONLY TO WIN, PLACE OR SHOW.
AND IF YOU LIKE TO GET A BIT ROMANTIC
FALL IN LOVE WITH THIS SPECTACLE.

TOWNS PEOPLE

THE FANTASY FANDANGO
THE MAGICAL MARDI GRAS
(MORE)

TOWNS PEOPLE (cont'd)
WE LOVE OUR FANDANGO
THE SANTA TITOS MARDI GRAS . . .
FANDANGO!

DISSOLVE:

23 EXT: LOS ANGELES CA - SCHOOL BUS STOP - AFTERNOON

Old Man and the Boy still sitting on the bench.

OLD MAN
Now, you see. I'll bet you never knew
all of that was there.

BOY
I didn't.

OLD MAN
Is that at least as much fun as a
football game?

BOY
I guess so. I just never knew it was
so close to here.
I like to Fandango and Fútbol.

OLD MAN
Yes, my young friend. You see, it's
all right to fall in love with
something beyond the fence . . .
something in someone else's yard . .
. as long as you know and appreciate
what is on your own side.
Do you understand?

BOY
I think so. And I suppose if I take a
good hard look at what's on my side -
I'll find out there really isn't much
difference.

OLD MAN
You're learning, son. You're
learning. By the way what is your
name?

BOY
Fernando.

OLD MAN
Intriguing.

BOY

Can I have my book, now?

OLD MAN

Of course.

The Old Man hands the BOY the book as he gathers up all the others and makes his way to the steps of the bus. He stops and looks back.

BOY

I hope I'm as smart as you when I'm your age.

OLD MAN

You will be. Just remember there are a few things to learn about life that aren't in those books.

BOY

I'll remember. Thank you, old one,
. . . Oh, and one more thing.

OLD MAN

Yes?

BOY

I'll give you the Oregon Ducks and seven-and-a-half points in the Rose Bowl !!!

THE END