

For Love Or Money

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Inspired by actual events,
but we will never admit which ones are real.

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INT. DUSK A DESERT ROADSIDE BAR

Ice falls into a glass. Whiskey is poured. We follow the drink through a lively roadhouse bar. A band is playing. The drink reaches Dave, a middle-aged white man in a black T-shirt and jeans at a corner table.

Medium shot as the waitress delivers the drink.

WAITRESS

Eight dollars. Want to start a tab?

DAVE

Yeah, I'm waiting on someone.

The Waitress looks at Dave as if she has seen him before.

WAITRESS

Have you been in here before?

Dave makes eye contact with The Waitress.

DAVE

No, never been here before.

Smiling, Dave continues.

DAVE

Guess I have one of those faces.

WAITRESS

(Not fully believing him)

OK, if you need anything let me know.

The Waitress retreats to tend to other patrons. Dave sips the drink looking around with a reminiscent gaze. The band launches into "All Along The Watchtower" stealing his attention. He studies then dismisses the distraction for what they are, background noise. The door of the bar opens and Dave turns to see who enters. We see a man silhouetted by the setting sun. RANDY, a stylish black man in his 50s, enters the bar and heads towards Dave's table. Dave stands up to acknowledge him.

RANDY

Deee. Beee. It's been a long time my brother, give me some love.

Randy hugs Dave like a family member he hasn't seen in a long time. As they sit at the table Dave responds.

DAVE

Randy how are ya... good to see you.

Settling into the table Randy notices the band.

RANDY
Who are these guys?

DAVE
I have no idea. You want a drink?

RANDY
Yeah.

The Waitress seeing Randy arrive returns.

WAITRESS
What can I get you?

RANDY
Uhhh... Jack and Coke please.

WAITRESS
I'll be right back with your drink.

As she leaves Dave instructs the waitress.

DAVE
Just put it on my tab.

There's an uncomfortable silence they both want to break.

RANDY
How's your family?

DAVE
They're good, the boy is growing like
a weed. How is Ashley doing?

RANDY
She's good, she's uh, you know I got
my granddaughter living with me now.

DAVE
Really, I didn't know, how's that?

RANDY
It's good. She keeps me on my toes.
Keeps me young.

DAVE
Yeah I have no doubt about that.

They make small talk but seem to have more to say, each waiting for the other to speak. The atmosphere is tense, they're cautious about what they say to each other.

RANDY
Yeah it's a trip.

The waitress returns with Randy's drink.

WAITRESS
Jack and coke. Let me know if you need anything else.

The Waitress leaves looking back like she's seen them before. Randy tastes his drink. He looks at Dave and sighs...

RANDY
So, how you feeling Dave?

Dave waves in a gesture to dismiss the concern.

DAVE
Oh it's all good, no worries man.

Randy smiles like he doesn't believe him.

RANDY
Well if you say so.

Changing the subject Randy looks at the band.

RANDY
Remember those days?

DAVE
We had some fun, glad we survived them. Have you talked to Rob?

RANDY
(Smiles)
Rob Dog. Yeah, I see him pretty often. He still plays. He works for the county, keeps busy with his boy.

Dave sighs, smiles and shakes his head.

DAVE
Robby Dog...(Laughs)...Long neck...

Randy laughs and for a moment they fall into an old rhythm.

RANDY
Wutchuyno about that? You a baby gorilla knuckle.

They laugh.

DAVE

I know that you got a big head. Look at ya. Big Ol' Monsta-Mardi Gras Head.

RANDY

Ohh you a stank foot.

Both laugh then silence returns. Randy has something to say, but unsure of Dave's reaction the small talk continues.

RANDY

Man you were crazy back then.

DAVE

Me!? What about you?

Randy reacts defensively, showing there is past tension.

RANDY

Oh So you're saying it was my fault?

Dave smiles to put him at ease.

DAVE

No man. I'm saying we both were crazy.

RANDY

Maybe you're right, we held our own.

They both relax and the conversation gets real.

DAVE

Sometimes I think we blew it, like we were given this incredible gift, this incredible opportunity.

RANDY

(Interrupts)

And we just blew it. Yeah yeah. I've heard that all before.

DAVE (CONT)

See that's my point. I used to think we wasted that gift, but lately I think it played out as it did because God was protecting us from ourselves.

Randy wants to tone down the suddenly intense vibe.

RANDY

I don't know DB, we were just kids.

DAVE

You're right... we were kids that thought they could take on the world and you know something? We did.

Randy acknowledges Dave in a nostalgic way.

RANDY

Yeah we did, for a minute... we did.

DAVE

We were literally dreaming out loud.

INT COLLEGE APARTMENT 1991

A sparsely furnished space with a couple of bean bag chairs and a table. Dave, a 22-year-old white male with red hair and his girlfriend Shannon, early 20s white female with a 90s hippie chick vibe, enter. They are returning home from class. Both have a youthful appearance and an air of innocence.

DAVE

I was thinking we could go out to eat.
Do you have a lot of homework?

Dave closes the door as Shannon gets a drink from the fridge.

SHANNON

No, just some reading.

She smiles as she returns to the living area.

SHANNON

So where do you want to go?

Dave falls into one of the bean bag chairs and responds.

DAVE

Cool, you pick where we go.

Shannon sits on his lap and playfully replies.

SHANNON

I love when I choose! BJ's it is then.

Dave laughs as he pulls her closer.

DAVE

I knew you'd say BJ's, it's your favorite place.

SHANNON

Thanks for letting me pick it all the

time.

Shannon kisses him and heads down the hall to their bedroom.

DAVE

How else can I keep you happy?

Shannon answers a bit flirty as she walks down the hall.

SHANNON

Ohh, you have your ways.

Dave watches her disappear into their room. The phone rings. He looks for the phone but he can't find it, we hear Shannon answer the phone in their bedroom.

SHANNON

One second.

Shannon emerges from the room, brings the phone to Dave.

SHANNON (CONT)

It's someone about your ad.

Shannon sits down next to Dave as he takes the phone.

SPLIT SCREEN PHONE CONVERSATION.

We see Dave and Shannon on the right and RANDY a black male in his 20's on the left side of the screen.

DAVE

Hello, this is Dave.

RANDY

What's up? I'm Randy, I'm a guitar player calling about your ad looking for a band. I like your influences man. So what are you looking to do?

DAVE

I want to write and record, and play shows, but not covers, originals. So how long have you been playing?

RANDY

Cool... originals is what we want to do too. I've been playing for 10 years and Rob, my bass player, he's been playing for a few... but he's really good.

Dave's interest is piqued, its hard to find a bass player.

DAVE

Who are you into? What kind of stuff do you want to play?

RANDY

I like Hendrix and the Chili Peppers but I also like Funkadelic and Prince, he's a bad ass guitar player.

DAVE

Yeah he is.

RANDY

I'm looking to play something edgy, rock with soul and funk, we just want to play great songs man. Do you write?

Dave's interest is growing as he listens.

DAVE

Yeah, I write lyrics. I try to write on guitar but I'm not a guitar player.

RANDY

Well that sounds good because we can play but we don't write lyrics.

Randy hesitates for a moment, and asks shyly.

RANDY

I just have one question though; Do you have a problem playing with black people?

Dave pauses surprised and unsure how to answer. He laughs.

DAVE

No man... (continuing to laugh) Do you mind playing with a white Irish guy?

Randy laughs and is instantly back at ease.

RANDY

No, you can't list your influences and not have some soul to ya!

Dave laughs along relieved they got past that moment.

DAVE

So what do you want to do?

RANDY

Let's meet. You, me and Rob. Are you free tonight? We could meet up at The Sports Pub and see what's what.

Dave feeling like this could be a good move answers quickly.

DAVE

Yeah I can meet you there, it's just down the road from where I live.

RANDY

Cool, lets hook up around 10, we will be the two black guys sitting at the bar.(Laughs) Oh and bring some lyrics with you so we can see your style.

DAVE

Alright, I'll meet you there.

RANDY

Right on, see you later tonight.

SPLIT SCREEN ENDS.

Dave hangs up, Shannon enthusiastically asks,

SHANNON

SOOO???

DAVE

This guy Randy might be the real thing, he has a bass player too.

Shannon senses he is playing down the call. She lets him.

SHANNON

SO what's next?

Dave gives her a quick kiss.

DAVE

Next we go out to dinner.

SHANNON

That's not what I meant!

DAVE

I know, he asked me to meet them at the pub tonight around 10.

He continues nervously as he doesn't want to leave her alone.

DAVE

I thought I could do that after dinner
when you have to do your schoolwork.

Shannon sensing his hesitation wants to be supportive.

SHANNON

Yeah that will work perfect.

DAVE

Come on, let's go to BJs.

They exit the apartment excited by what lies ahead.

EXT. SPORTS PUB PARKING LOT NIGHT TIME

We follow a gray Mazda RX7 as it parks. Dave exits the car
and walks towards stairs that lead to a second floor bar.

INT. SPORTS PUB

Dave enters. There's an eclectic crowd of 25 people. A DJ is
spinning alternative rock remixes. It's an atmosphere he
likes. He sees 2 black guys at the bar. One, Randy, looks
like a musician, the other is ROB, a mid 20s black male that
looks more like a college student. Dave approaches them.

DAVE

Hey are you Randy?

Randy and Rob look over Dave. He's not what they expected.

RANDY

Yeah, you're Dave?

Dave sits at the bar next to them.

DAVE

Yeah, nice to meet you guys.

Dave starts to shake Rob's hand as Randy jumps up and throws
his arm around Dave.

RANDY

Man give me some love, we hug our
friends, (To Bartender) Mike, get my
friend a beer.

BARTENDER

What do you want?

DAVE

MGD bottle.

RANDY

Sooo you're the guy that put up the ad
at The Underground.

DAVE

Yeah, I just moved here from Jersey
for school and I want to start a band.

Rob listens, he is quiet but he doesn't miss much.
Randy, always the showman, jumps in like a car salesman.

RANDY

Well we're your guys, we wanna do the
same, and we can definitely play!

Dave likes the charisma and confidence Randy displays.
BARTENDER MIKE returns with DAVE's MGD.

BARTENDER

Three bucks.

Dave puts a five dollar bill on the bar and continues.

DAVE

I brought some lyrics for you to check
out. What gear do you guys have?

Rob starts to answer but Randy interrupts.

RANDY

Rob's got an Ibanez bass and he's
getting a cabinet. I've got a Fender.

Rob looks at Randy like he's stretching the truth.

DAVE

Cool.

Dave hands his lyric book to Randy.

DAVE

Do you guys have a place to rehearse?

Randy opens the notebook and skims the contents.

RANDY

We can write at my house, and a friend
who wants to manage my band has an
office we can use to jam.

Randy stops on a page and reads it intently.

RANDY

Man, this is deep. Rob check this out.

Randy hands the notebook to Rob. A couple of pretty girls walk by. Randy jerks to attention.

RANDY

I love booties.

After a pregnant pause Randy and Rob laugh as Dave struggles to respond, Rob hands the notebook back to Randy.

ROB

Cool man, good stuff.

RANDY

What you think Rob? Should we jam with this cat or should we beat him up?

Randy sensing Dave's shyness playfully puts him in a headlock. Rob and Randy laugh as Dave wrestles uncomfortably.

DAVE

Hey man get off me.

Randy lets up and laughs with Rob.

RANDY

Dave you gotta ease up man, so tense.

DAVE

Do you guys want to get together and try to write some stuff?

RANDY

Definitely. Let's meet tomorrow around 7 at my friends office and see what we can do.

Rob nods as Randy rights the address in Daves notebook.

DAVE

Sounds like a plan.

RANDY

Now let's get our drink on and be big up in here. You wanna be big tonight Rob?

Rob laughs. Dave looks at Randy amused and in disbelief.

Randy calls to Mike the Bartender.

RANDY

Mike, can we get some shots here?

Mike brings shots of tequila. Dave tries to decline but doesn't want to be uncool and Randy notices immediately.

RANDY

Rob, check this guy out, what kinda Irish guy doesn't want to do a shot with his new band?

DAVE

It's cool, I just have an early class.

RANDY

No worries, you gotta do your thing, we'll just do one.

He raises the shot glass as Rob watches.

RANDY

Here's to the funk.

RANDY sees two girls across the bar and continues his toast.

RANDY

And to getting our freak on! (laughs).

They down the shots, a brotherhood with cause has been born.

INT. COLLEGE APARTMENT LATER THAT EVENING 12:00AM

Shannon reads in a beanbag while waiting for Dave. He enters, feeling bad about being later than expected, but with a visible optimism. She greets him with a smile.

SHANNON

Hey, how'd it go?

DAVE walks over to her and kisses her.

DAVE

It was good, this might be something.
We're gunna get together to play
tomorrow at 7.

Shannon sensing his worry, eases his mind with her support.

SHANNON

Great! I hope this is the band you
want, I know it's important to you.

DAVE
 (Relieved)
 Thanks, come on, let's go to bed.

He pulls her up and they disappear down the hallway.

INT.DAVE'S CAR

Dave is driving. He arrives at the warehouse at 6:55 and looks for Randy and Rob. He doesn't see them so he waits. The clock now reads 7:25 but he is unsure if they're late or if he's in the wrong place. Just as he gives up Randy and Rob arrive in a white truck. Rob hesitates as Randy appears drunk, clutching a bottle of cough syrup. Dave is confused, thinking he made a mistake as they don't seem like the guys he met the previous night.

Rob breaks the ice.

ROB
 Sorry we're late, had a little trouble getting Randy.

Randy not wanting to seem like the problem interjects.

RANDY
 Sorry, I had my daughter, was waiting for my mom to get home to watch her.

Dave now just wants to get this over with.

DAVE
 It's ok, if you're not up to it, we can do this another time.

RANDY
 No way, I'm always up to jam, let's grab the gear and do this.

They grab the amps and guitars from the truck. Randy leads the way to the office. The owner, a white guy with clean cut looks, dressed casually, opens the door.

RANDY
 This is my friend Dave, it's his place, and your name is Dave too. So we going to call you Little D, and this here is Super Dave.

Everyone laughs, SUPER DAVE shakes LITTLE D's hand.

SUPER DAVE
 Nice to meet you.

They enter the spacious office which is sparsely furnished.

SUPER DAVE

We've got plenty of space for you
guys. Lock up when you're done.

Randy and Rob set up, Dave pulls up a chair with lyrics in hand and waits curiously.

RANDY

Ok Little D, what do ya think of this?

Randy plays a Hendrix-infused riff and Rob adds a funky bass groove. He starts to solo. It's a stunning sound. His playing is soulful, powerful, gritty and beautiful. Dave's apprehension fades as he grins in amazement. Randy picks up speed playing blazingly fast with sharp precision yet drenched in soul. He then drops back and looks at Dave.

Dave's never heard or seen anyone play what Randy just effortlessly did. It's a goose bumps moment. He is hooked. He begins to scat some vocals softly over their groove. Randy and Rob listen intently as Dave, eyes closed, searches for his place in the song. His key is off and on, but the feeling and lyrics are deep, which piques their curiosity.

They continue to play and grow more in tune with each other. The song ends, Dave is in disbelief about what just happened.

DAVE

Man, that was awesome. That's exactly
what I'm looking to do.

RANDY

Yeah I was digging that lyric, that
was some real poetry there, deep bro.

Rob laughs and mimics Randy.

ROB

Deep bro.

They laugh. Randy and Rob light cigarettes and get serious.

ROB

That was cool. Let's play it again.

The camera pulls out as the music continues.

EXT. OFFICE/WAREHOUSE TWO HOURS LATER

The gear is packed in Rob's truck. Randy, Rob and Dave are talking. Randy and Rob are smoking, Dave is not.

RANDY
I like our chemistry and those lyrics
were heavy bro.

Rob nods.

DAVE
Thanks Randy, you guys are great.

RANDY
We need a PA, cause I couldn't hear
you. I want to hear you singing.

Dave feels a bit unprepared, nervously replies...

DAVE
Yeah sorry, I'll get a PA. I wasn't
trying to project tonight, I was just
seeing how it felt ya know?

ROB
Ohh I know.

DAVE
This is exactly the kind of stuff I
want to do, you know any drummers?

RANDY
Yeah we can get together with a few
guys and see who feels right... what
do you think Rob?

Rob takes a drag on his cigarette.

ROB
We could reach out to Anthony or
Scrubby, maybe Kevin? Theres a few
guys we can check out.

RANDY
But let's get one or two songs down we
can actually play before we get all
violent with drums.

Everyone laughs.

DAVE
Well I gotta go, my girl is waiting on
me. So call me and let's figure out
when we can get together again.

RANDY
What do you mean you gotta go, you

gotta come grab a beer with us.

Rob shakes his head saying no. Randy looks at Rob.

RANDY
Rob don't be like that.

They all laugh as Dave gets into his car.

DAVE
Ok let's talk tomorrow.

Dave pulls away and Randy and Rob continue to talk.

ROB
So what do you think?

RANDY
I don't know, I love his lyrics and his vibe, but I need to hear him. He seems shy. I ain't half-stepping, I need this band. We'll see.

Rob nods in agreement. They put their cigarettes out as the camera tilts up into the street light above.

INT. COLLEGE APARTMENT DAYTIME

Dave and Shannon are starting their day with coffee.

SHANNON
So when are you going to call them?

DAVE
(Laughs)
Are you trying to get rid of me?

SHANNON
No... it's just exciting, especially if they are as good as you say.

DAVE
They are that good... but it's early, they were going out after, so I'll call this afternoon.

SHANNON
You should have went with them!

DAVE
No, Randy seems a little wild. And I don't like leaving you home alone.

SHANNON

Oh it's ok, you're a good boyfriend...
I've trained you well.

DAVE

You trained me eh?

The phone rings, Dave answers it.

SPLIT SCREEN PHONE CALL WITH RANDY.

DAVE

Hello?

RANDY

Morning little D! (Laughs)

DAVE

Randy? (Laughs) I'm surprised you're
up... I thought you were going out?

RANDY

Naaa, we went home. I have my daughter
today, gotta get my Dad game on.

DAVE

No rest for the weary.

RANDY

Right! So listen, Rob and I were
talking and we really loved your vibe.
We wanted to know if you could come
down tonight too.

DAVE

Tonight?

Dave looks at Shannon who is nodding her head yes.

DAVE

Can we go earlier?

RANDY

Yeah... let's start at 5, it's the
weekend so the place is empty.

DAVE

Yeah I can do 5.

RANDY

And hey, we know you don't have a PA
but we want to hear you sing, can you
bring anything you can sing along to?

DAVE
Like an audition?

Randy sensing Dave finds the request odd laughs it off.

RANDY
No man, we just want to hear your voice, we know you can't sing over the amps, plus its not like these are finished songs. Maybe you got a tape?

DAVE
I guess I can figure something out.

RANDY
I just want to see what we can do cause I was hyped last night ya know?

DAVE
Yeah I was too... I was too... still am. So I'll bring something.

RANDY
Right on... we'll see you at 5 and we'll work a few hours on some songs.

DAVE
Ok... see you at 5.

SPLIT SCREEN ENDS.

Dave hangs up the phone and looks at Shannon.

SHANNON
They want to jam again? That's great!

DAVE
Yeah but weekends we always go out, you ok with me being gone again?

SHANNON
Yes! Maybe you can drop me off at Sharon's and pick me up after.

DAVE
yeah ok we can do that.

SHANNON
This is great! What else did he say?

Dave looks a little confused and concerned.

DAVE

He said they want to hear me sing.

SHANNON

Like an audition?

DAVE

No, he said they just want to hear me,
I don't know, I guess I can sing to
something. I'll figure it out.

SHANNON

Bring a walkman and sing to a song you
like to sing.

DAVE

It's just weird, I put up the ad for
musicians, and the guy that answered
it is asking me to audition for him.

Shannon senses Dave's hesitation and wants to be supportive.

SHANNON

You don't seem ok with it.

DAVE

(Snaps out of it)

No I'm good, so what are we doing?

SHANNON

Ok... well we need some stuff so let's
get our shopping done.

DAVE

Ok cool, let me shower and we can go.

Dave walks into the bathroom Shannon goes to the kitchen.

SHANNON

Okay, hurry up!

EXT. OFFICE/WAREHOUSE EVENING TIME

Randy and Rob wait in the truck, Dave pulls in.

RANDY

Here he is. I told him to bring
something to sing so we can hear him.

ROB

You asked him to sing acapella for us?

RANDY

Yeah man, I couldn't hear him last night. I need to know he can sing.

ROB

Okay man, but thats tough to ask him to sing on cue for you. (Laughs)

Dave parks the car next to Rob's truck.

DAVE

What's up fellas?

The three musicians get out of the vehicles.

RANDY

What's up 'lil D? Did you bring something for us to hear?

DAVE

Yeah, I don't have any recordings of my old band so my girl said to sing to something I like.

RANDY

yeah, that's all... just want to hear you... what are going to sing to?

DAVE

I brought a walkman, I thought I'd sing Cult of Personality, we covered that in my first band in Jersey.

Rob nods in approval.

RANDY

Cool... yeah I dig Living Colour, ...so let's see what you got.

DAVE

Right here?

They look around, the complex is empty, no one else is there.

RANDY

Why not?

Dave sighs and shakes his head.

DAVE

Okay, why not...

Dave puts on headphones, steps into open space, hits play and

closes his eyes. He decides to go for it. We hear the intro.

V.O.

(Malcolm X)

"And during the few moments we have left, we want to talk right down to earth, in a language that everybody here can easily understand.

The song kicks in and like a light switched on Dave explodes. The first verse begins and Dave belts it out. It's on.

DAVE

(Sings)

"Look in my eyes... what do you see?... The cult of personality"

Dave spins and bounces. Randy and Rob are shocked as this shy dude transforms into a pinball of energy, singing with pure passion. He's not perfect, but he feels it, it's contagious and they feel it too. The song ends, they smile.

We see a passing ambulance stop and the driver yells out.

AMBULANCE DRIVER

Hey is that guy ok?

Randy and Rob bust out laughing. Dave feels embarrassed. Randy catches his breath, waves at the ambulance driver.

RANDY

Yeah he's fine. Just had to get that out of his system.

The driver shakes his head and drives away. They laugh.

RANDY

Damm little D where'd that come from!?

Dave laughs.

RANDY

I thought you were about to have some kind of seizure... you crazy bro!

ROB

(Laughs) You always like that?

DAVE

Nooo... I just didn't know what to do, so I just went with what I felt.

RANDY

When we're playing and you're going to go off like that let a brother know so we can get out the way.

DAVE

So we all good?

RANDY

yeah man we're good. You're like an exploding ball of energy... the people won't know what hit them.

ROB

Come on... Let's go inside and jam.

Randy throws his arm around Dave and they start walking in.

DAVE

I never had to audition for a band I was starting before.

RANDY

That was no...

INT.ROADSIDE BLUES BAR PRESENT DAY

Randy and Dave are at the table talking over drinks.

RANDY

Audition. It wasn't!

DAVE

What would you call it? Put me on the spot making me sing for your approval. And you were answering MY ad!

RANDY

Man I'm sorry. I had no idea you felt that way.

DAVE

Yeah you did, we talked about it that day and you said the same exact thing.

RANDY

Maaan... That was thirty years ago. Why are you still holding onto it?

DAVE

Whatever man. Let's just agree to disagree when it comes to that day.

The conversation stalls, they stir their drinks, take a sip.

DAVE

So what do they want us to do? Did you even talk to Rob?

RANDY

Well it's been 25 years, you know how things work, they always looking to make money. But if we participate we can make more this time, and yeah Rob is cool with it if we are.

DAVE

What about Scrubby's family?

RANDY

I didn't call them yet, I thought you and I should talk first.

RANDY

You know (Sings) "Together... we can be, in perfect harmony..."

That warms the conversation up. Dave softly sings back.

DAVE

(Sings)

"Just you... and me... together....."
(Sighs)... That was such a good song.
I'm still so proud we created that.

RANDY

Me too, we made a good writing team. I really wish we had written more.

Randy nostalgically gets ahead of himself, but knows better.

RANDY

You know we should...(Stops himself)

DAVE

We should what?

Dave knows what Randy will say, but he wants to hear it.

RANDY

Never mind, you remember the day we wrote that?

DAVE

Of course, it was me, you and Rob at your mom's.

EXT.RANDY'S MOM'S HOUSE 1992

A suburban Ranch house in Las Vegas with a gravel front yard. Dave pulls up. We follow him to the door. He knocks. Randy's Mom ISABELLE a strong Christian black woman in her early 40s, with a very thick Panamanian accent answer the door.

ISABELLE

Hello Dave. Come in, they are in Randy's room... are you hungry?

DAVE

Hi... no, no thank you I'm not hungry.

Dave follows the sound of guitar and bass as he walks to the room. He enters, Randy and Rob are working on a song.

RANDY

About time 'Lil D. Check this one out.

ROB

What's up D... how you doing?

DAVE

Let me hear what you're working on!

Randy plays a melodic guitar part with a catchy groove, Rob gives it a deep anchoring bass line. Dave's eyes light up.

DAVE

Whoa!

Dave opens up his notebook to an empty page and grabs a pen.

RANDY

Just listen, feel it, see where it takes you...

Dave rocks back and forth to the groove, eyes closed and starts to scat words meeting them in the sound. The song moves to an uplifting chorus, as the chorus ends...

DAVE

Wait... run that section again.

ROB

2...3...4...

As the chorus starts Dave sings softly...

DAVE

(Sings)
Together... we can be...

Finding more confidence, he lifts his voice.

DAVE
 (Cont. sings) "in perfect harmony....
 Just you.... And me.... Together."

As the chorus ends. Everyone stops. They know it's special.

RANDY
 Where'd that come from? That's great.

DAVE
 I have no idea... It just popped.

ROB
 That's pretty, Let's see where it
 goes.

They continue to work and the song takes shape. Isabelle
 opens the door and listens as they end the chorus.

ISABELLE
 Wow that's goood.

RANDY
 Thanks Mom... we're trying to work.

ISABELLE
 Oh stop it Randy, it's good but you
 should be singing about Jesus.

RANDY
 It could be about Jesus mom.

ISABELLE
 Then you sing it proudly. You don't
 hide it. Anyway I made food. Come eat.

RANDY
 We will. Let us finish.

Isabelle waves at them and closes the door.

ROB
 Randy you should eat.(Laughs)

RANDY
 (Rolls his eyes)
 Ok again...

EXT. RANDY'S HOUSE

We hear the song as evening turns to night in a short time

lapse. The song fades as Randy, Rob and Dave exit the house.

ROB

Man that makes 3 good songs now.

RANDY

Yeah. "Together". That might be the best yet.

DAVE

I can hear people singing it with us. We need a drummer to finish these now.

RANDY

Well I've been talking to this guy Gary Wright, he's really good, and he wants to jam when we are ready... so I'll set it up for this Saturday.

DAVE

You already set something up? Why didn't you tell me?

RANDY

Until tonight, I didn't think we were ready.

DAVE

What do you think Rob? Have you played with him before?

ROB

No, not yet, but Scrubby is one of the best in town man, it'll be cool.

DAVE

Scrubby? Why is he called Scrubby?

RANDY

I don't know, but he's in a band called the Scrubs.

ROB

Randy, He's in 2 bands man.

DAVE

How is that going to work?

RANDY

Don't worry, he'll want to play with us.

ROB
(Laughs)
Really? How do you know that?

RANDY
Who wouldn't want to play with us!?

DAVE
If you say so, I don't want to settle on a temporary fix ya know? When it feels right you know it, and it comes together, like it can't be denied.

RANDY
D you're crazy... What are you a guru?

Randy and Rob laugh.

DAVE
Seriously, seeing a band, I can tell right away if it's real. Can't you?

RANDY
Yeah I see what you're saying.

DAVE
There's something that happens when we play, our connection is real. So when we find the right drummer, we will know it, because they'll feel it too.

ROB
I think I get what you're saying.

DAVE
We're like a street gang...

RANDY
... and there ain't no way out. (he laughs)

DAVE
Well hey, Saturday... that sounds good... Alright.. I gotta

RANDY
(Interrupts)
yeah we know... you're late... you gotta go.

DAVE
Well I am, and I do so I'll talk to you tomorrow... later guys.

Randy and Rob watch Dave rush to the car and drive off.

RANDY

Man, he's hung up on that girl.

ROB

You don't know that, he lives with her man and they just moved here. They probably don't know too many people.

RANDY

All I know is he's right, there is something real here. He's shy but he's authentic. I believe him. People will connect with him, but he's kinda innocent ya know? And if she is too this will eat them alive.

ROB

Hey man, we haven't even met her. He ain't you, so don't go planting this stuff in his head.

RANDY

Oh I know that... but watch.

ROB

I'm going to bounce, tell your Mom thanks for the grub. See you tomorrow.

Rob walks away and Randy goes back inside.

INT. COLLEGE APARTMENT NIGHT TIME

Shannon sits on a bean bag chair, listening to U2's ACHTUNG BABY, reading. Dave enters feeling guilty for being late. Shannon looks up.

SHANNON

Hey... you're home.

DAVE

I'm sorry I'm late again... It always takes longer than I think it will.

SHANNON

It's ok... We didn't have any plans, I was just reading. How'd it go?

DAVE

It went good! We wrote a song tonight that's really good... and we are going to play with a drummer on Saturday...

so hopefully he's the guy.

SHANNON

That's great! I want to hear it!

Dave sits down next to Shannon on the beanbag chair.

SHANNON

When can I meet the guys?

DAVE

Yeah we need to do that soon, they want to meet you too.

SHANNON

They want to meet me?

DAVE

Of course, I talk about you all the time.

SHANNON

What do you tell them?

DAVE

That you're amazing!

Shannon pushes him and laughs.

SHANNON

No, really, what do you say?

Dave laughs and puts his arm around her.

DAVE

Nothing really, I tell them I want to get home to you when we're done.

Shannon grows uncomfortable with what she hears.

SHANNON

Great! So they think I'm trying to keep you home.

Dave laughs but he see's Shannon is serious.

DAVE

No, not like that, I say that when I'm leaving so they know I'm trying to go.

SHANNON

Like an excuse?

Dave sensing this could lead to an argument pulls her closer.

DAVE

No, like a reason, my reason. You know how important you are to me, I followed you across the country.

SHANNON

I know. I'm sorry.

DAVE

You're the most important thing in my life, and I worry leaving you at home when I go meet the guys. I wish I could be in two places at once.

SHANNON

I'm sorry, I don't know why I feel this way, I just wish we had more time together.

DAVE

It's ok. I'm sorry I've been gone so much, I'll make more time for us.

Shannon changes the subject.

SHANNON

Let's invite them over for the Fishbone Pay Per View tomorrow!

DAVE

Yeah, that's a good idea. Come on, lets go to bed.

They feel suddenly uncertain about their future as they head down the hall into the darkness.

FISHBONE SHOW MONTAGE

Randy is sleeping. Sunlight is doing its best to invade the dark from behind the blinds. We hear the intro to Fishbone's "Bonin In The Boneyard." The phone rings.

FISHBONE

"What do you want, why don't you just leave me alone?"

The song starts, he fumbles around and answers the phone.

RANDY

Hello.

DAVE

Randy!

RANDY

D... What do you want?

DAVE

Are you asleep? It's almost noon!

RANDY

You're tripping. What do you want man?

DAVE

We're getting the Fishbone pay per view tonight... you guys should come.

RANDY

Cool man. Yeah we can check that out. But next time wait 'til I'm awake.

DAVE

You do realize most of civilization is about their business now right?

RANDY

(Laughs)

You're crazy, why do I got to be uncivilized?

DAVE

Alright, sorry man. Show starts at 8, so come over at 7 and bring Rob.

RANDY

Alright, see you later.

Randy hangs up. Isabelle brings Ashley to him.

ISABELLE

I have to go to work, so I'll pass this beautiful child off to you.

RANDY

Good morning baby girl.

Randy plays with Ashley... Dave and Shannon at UNLV... Randy plays guitar... Rob chilling at home... Dave and Shannon walk home... Randy hands Ashley off to her mom... Dave and Shannon getting ready... Rob and Randy hang out, Randy is drinking... Dave and Shannon eat... Rob and Randy driving over to Daves.

RANDY

Rob Dog, let's stop at Circle K and

grab a little house warming gift.

ROB
Dude you already got your drink on and we're not even there yet.

RANDY
Come on, we need smokes anyway.

They pull into Circle K... Randy goes in and grabs 40 oz beers and whiskey... Dave checks the clock nervously.

SHANNON
What time did you tell them to come?

DAVE
7... I'll call, maybe they forgot.

Dave calls... Randy drinks whiskey in the parking lot... Rob tries to move him along. We hear Dave's phone conversation.

DAVE
Hi, it's Dave, is Randy home?

ISABELLE
He and Rob left about 45 minutes ago.

DAVE
We must've mixed up our times. Thanks.

ISABELLE
Okay, goodbye.

Dave hangs up, looks out the door, sees them pull up.

DAVE
They're here.

Randy rolls out of the truck drunk... Shannon can hear the ruckus... she is uncomfortable... hurricane Randy barrels up the stairs... Dave meets them.

RANDY
Little "D", a Fishbone.

Randy laughs, Rob is embarrassed, Dave is now concerned.

ROB
Sorry we're late "D". Had a little trouble with Randy.

RANDY
Man you trippin'. I'm just tryin' to

have some fun.

Shannon watches them enter, she's amused, Randy bolts over to her, she extends a handshake but Randy grabs her for a hug.

RANDY

Shannon! It's about time this Irish guy let us meet you, come here girl... ohh no, we hug, we're family.

Shannon is alarmed as Randy quickly invades her space.

SHANNON

Hi, you must be Randy, nice to meet you. FINALLY.

RANDY

Damn Little "D", you didn't tell us Shannon was so pretty.

SHANNON

(laughs out loud)
Little "D"!?

RANDY

Oh, he didn't tell you about that? We already have a Super Dave, since he's a lil' dude we call him "Little D".

SHANNON

Oookay.

Dave is embarrassed, he changes the topic.

DAVE

It's about to start, anyone want a beer or something?

ROB

I'll take one.

RANDY

I brought my own.

They all sit. Randy pulls out a half drank whiskey bottle... Dave turns up the volume as the Fishbone show begins. The manic energy is something Randy has never seen. We see Randy's brain short circuit and he laughs. He jumps up and starts to ska dance and jump around.

RANDY

Oh Hell Yeah.

Everyone braces for impact. Shannon is very uncomfortable.

ROB
Randy, chill man.

DAVE
You're going to destroy the place!

We see quick shots of Randy going crazy, while Rob and Dave try to contain him... Shannon looks uncomfortable. The show ends, Shannon is ready for them to call it a night.

DAVE
So what did you think of that?

ROB
That was cool man. A lot of energy.

RANDY
(Sings)
"Got me Bonin"... I'm getting my
Fishbone groove on.

Everyone laughs, Dave tries to end the night.

DAVE
Right on man, so tomorrow yeah? We're
still on to play with Scrubby right?

RANDY
Yeah, but that's tomorrow. Let's go
down to the Sports Pub and get big.

Rob and Dave laugh, Shannon looks confused.

SHANNON
Get big?

RANDY
Yeah Shannon, we go out, have a few
drinks and you know... We're big!

ROB
Only thing that's big is your head
man, big ol' Monsta Mardi Gras head!

DAVE
Your head is big bro.

RANDY
Well your neck is long Rob. Rubber
neck. (Laughs)

SHANNON

(Laughs)

Ok... well I'm going to stay home but
you guys go.

Dave looks like "oh hell no", Rob senses it's time to go.

ROB

Come on Randy let's go.

RANDY

Wait. Where's your guitar? I want to
play something for you guys.

Dave hoping this ends the night retrieves an acoustic guitar
and hands it to Randy. Randy looks to Shannon.

RANDY

(Calmly)

Shannon this is for you...

Randy begins to play, as always it is soulful and beautiful.

RANDY

(SINGS)

"Ohh Shannon thank you girl, ohh
Shannon so beautiful, ohh Shannon, a
Fishbone"...

The beautiful guitar morphs into a funky riff. He stops,
laughs, hands the guitar back to Dave and heads for the door.

RANDY

Okay Rob, let's get up out of here.
Little "D" I'll see you tomorrow.

Randy walks out the door.

ROB

(Laughs)

Oookay. Thanks D. Shannon it was nice
to meet you, we'll see you soon.

SHANNON

Rob it was great meeting you too.

Rob heads out. The door closes. Peace is restored.

DAVE

I'm sorry about that.

SHANNON
(Sarcastically)
Why what do you mean?

Dave sits next to her on the beanbag.

DAVE
You know what I mean, but hey you
heard him play, I told you.

SHANNON
Yeah, he is incredible on the guitar
and he is quite a show.

DAVE
He's not always like that, when he has
his daughter he is like a normal dad.

SHANNON
I would hope so. Rob is nice.

DAVE
Yeah Rob is really cool. Tomorrow we
will see what's up with Scrubby.

DAVE
I really am sorry. If I knew he'd show
up like that...

SHANNON
It's ok, you're not like that, and he
is mostly harmless.

Dave stands up and pulls Shannon up.

DAVE
(Joking)
What do you mean? Am I BORING YOU?

SHANNON
(Laughs)
No. You know what I mean... Come on...

They head down the hallway into the dark.

EXT. THE OFFICE/WAREHOUSE LATE AFTERNOON

Rob and Randy pull in next to Dave. Dave smiles. Randy looks
hungover, wearing dark shades.

DAVE
How we feeling fellas?

RANDY

You're a funny man today aren't you.

Rob and Dave laugh as they all get out of their vehicles. SCRUBBY, early 20s white male dressed casual, arrives in a packed Honda hatchback. He bounces out of his car.

RANDY

What's Up Scrubby!

SCRUBBY

Hey Randy, Hey Rob, nice to see you guys.

ROB

Thanks for coming down Scrub.

RANDY

This is Dave, he just moved here from Jersey, we've been writing with him.

SCRUBBY

How's it going man, I'm Gary.

DAVE

Nice to meet you.

SCRUBBY

Well let's get set up and jam!

They carry in gear and set up drums, amps, speakers and microphones. It's a real rehearsal. Scrubby is upbeat, lighthearted and confident yet humble. They like his energetic personality and are fast friends.

RANDY

Let's warm up with this groove. See what you think of this.

Randy and Rob start the same Hendrix infused jam that Dave first heard. Kicking the bass drum in time, a smile creeps over Scrubby's face. The song continues as Scrubby lays a solid backbeat, instantly powering the jam. He instinctively knows where to go as it changes. Randy looks to Dave who is watching intently and smiles. Rob and Scrubby form a deep pocket like they've played together for years as Randy starts to solo beautifully. They complement each other perfectly. Dave is awestruck by the powerful connection and sound. Randy looks to end it but Rob and Scrubby keep going. Rob walks to the front of Scrubby's kit facing him. They continue to play faster, a rhythm section let loose, laughing and then stop.

SCRUBBY

Man, someone wipe the funk off of me!

Everyone laughs.

ROB

That was solid.

DAVE

You sure you haven't played together before?

SCRUBBY

I know, right? Show me one of the songs you guys are working on.

Randy lights a cigarette, looks at Dave.

RANDY

(To Dave)

Whutchu think?

DAVE

Let's try "Together"

RANDY

Alright. This ones called "Together".

Randy and Rob teach Scrubby the song. Randy counts it in.

RANDY

1...2...3...4

The song starts, Scrubby keeps time on the kick drum, they run the verse and the chorus.

DAVE

Okay, to the top. Let's try it.

Dave starts to sing, Scrubby plays and the song comes to life. They're in sync and the energy is off the charts. As the song ends, Scrubby is hooked.

SCRUBBY

Man that's pretty, we need a bridge... after the second chorus...

Randy, Rob and Dave know they have found their drummer.

SCRUBBY

Show me another!

BECOMING A BAND MONTAGE.

The band play "Dangerous Thing" and grow to be a confident band. We see images of rehearsals... hanging out together... a handwritten song list grows... Randy takes care of his daughter... Dave writes... Shannon waiting alone and with friends, guys take interest in her... Dave returning to an empty home. As the song ends in a polished performance. Two months have passed. The band now have a full set.

EXT. OFFICE/WAREHOUSE NIGHT

Rehearsal ends and the guys are packing up and talking.

DAVE

I think we are getting there.

SCRUBBY

We need a name. What should we call ourselves?

RANDY

Something that represents us. We're two black guys and two white guys but we're one ya know?

ROB

Why's it gotta be black and white man!

Everyone laughs.

RANDY

You're crazy Rob. We're all mixed together, like an aluminum soup that cooks all day, until it's just right. But once you hear us, we get under your skin. Where everyone's the same.

SCRUBBY

Yeah! I like these ideas! Dave you're the writer, what do you got?

Everyone looks at Dave, he laughs.

DAVE

Don't look at me! Sometimes I can't believe I'm in a band with you guys, but we need a name because we should be thinking about gigs.

RANDY

Yeah man, I think it's time to let the people in on this. They ain't ready.

ROB

Well we got eight originals and if we play a cover or two we can fill a set.

SCRUBBY

Yeah we can play a couple covers in our own way.

DAVE

Exactly, it's gotta feel like a show so a cover has to fit our songs, it needs to feel organic. Like it's ours.

RANDY

"D" you're crazy, organic? We ain't no botanists. I just wanna blow up spots.

They all laugh but Dave is in rock and roll sermon mode.

DAVE

I'm serious. Our sound is the sum of us, it's pure, but we have to go further. Think about what U2 just did with Zoo TV. It was a SHOW. Bands like that pack stadiums, you don't think there is a plan? Those moments that make them iconic, I want that for us.

RANDY

U2? Man, I know you dig them, but Bono ain't got no funk like this.

SCRUBBY

No I get it. He's saying it should be an experience they take with them.

DAVE

Exactly, I want to hear people singing our songs with us. Don't you want to FEEL that energy?

SCRUBBY

What about that Battle of the Bands at The Sports Pub? The deadline is in 3 days. That could be a cool first show.

ROB

Everyone will be there for sure.

RANDY

That's the gig! I'll sign us up but we need a name first.

DAVE
What about "The Cause"?

RANDY
Naa, sounds like "The Cure". Too 80's.

ROB
You got three days to agree on something. Just make it cool man.

SCRUBBY
Three days...

They look at each other like they've discovered something.

SCRUBBY
Well I'll say it. What about "3 Days"?

DAVE
I like it! I can see it on a T-shirt.
The number 3 then Days.

RANDY
It's biblical. In three days we rise.

ROB
Your Moms will like it Randy. (Laughs)

They all agree. "3 Days" has a name. Happy with their name and a plan for a gig they leave and go their separate ways.

INT COLLEGE APARTMENT NIGHT TIME

It's dark and quiet as Dave enters. He heads to the bedroom, peaking in. Shannon is asleep. Disappointed, he goes in and closes the door.

INT COLLEGE APARTMENT MORNING

8 AM and the alarm goes off. Dave gets up, Shannon is already gone. He is disappointed. Time lapses as he kills time at home waiting for her. The living room clock says 4:30 PM. Dave is in the bean bag sketching. He hears her coming and puts his pad down to greet her. Shannon enters.

SHANNON
Hey, I didn't think you'd be home.
Thought you'd be off with the guys.

DAVE
Not tonight, I have't seen you today.

SHANNON

Well I'm home, here I am.

DAVE

I don't get it. Are you mad at me?

Shannon gets a drink from the fridge and sits on the beanbag.

SHANNON

No I'm not mad, you haven't been here.
So I'm spending time with my friends.

DAVE

So, what does that mean?

SHANNON

It doesn't mean anything. We knew I'd
move in with my parents next month
when they get into their house. Things
will change, but it'll be like before
we moved here.

DAVE

Change always means the end of
something, or they wouldn't call it
change. I just need to know we are
okay. You've felt distant lately.

SHANNON

Well it's you that has been distant
because you're never here anymore.

DAVE

I know, I feel like I need to be in
two places at once to keep everyone
happy.

SHANNON

No. You are doing what you've been
dreaming of. And I'm really proud of
you. It's just...

DAVE

It's just what?

SHANNON

I miss spending time with you.

Dave feels like he is being pulled in two directions.

DAVE

I'm sorry. You are the most important
person to me.

SHANNON

I know you say that all the time.

DAVE

But you don't believe me?

SHANNON

I believe you you want me to feel it.

DAVE

And?

SHANNON

Yes, I believe you.

DAVE

So we're good?

SHANNON

Yeah, we're good. I need to study.

Shannon goes to the bedroom to study. Dave watches her go. We see a close up of Dave's face bathed in uncertainty.

INT.ROADSIDE BLUES BAR PRESENT DAY

We cut to a close up of Dave's older face. He is distant.

RANDY

Hey, you alright?

Dave snaps back to the present.

DAVE

Sorry man, yeah all good.

RANDY

Where'd you go? 'Cause you weren't here.

DAVE

I was thinking the closer I got to my dreams, the further away I was from the things that were important to me.

RANDY

Bro, you wanna put those bricks down?

DAVE

Man you never understood me. You had been married, had a kid, got divorced. I hadn't experienced any of that.

RANDY
Dave you hadn't experienced much of
anything yet.

Randy gets a text message, he reads it and replies.

DAVE
Everything okay?

RANDY
Yeah, it's all good.

Randy finishes sending his text and continues.

RANDY
You remember that first gig?

DAVE
The Battle of the Bands?

RANDY
Maaan... that was no battle.

DAVE
The battle was getting ready for it.

EXT. OFFICE/WAREHOUSE DUSK

Dave pulls into the rehearsal space, he sees the guys loading gear... and there are a lot more people there.

DAVE
What the hell is all this?

Dave exits the car. Randy greets him. He's had a few drinks.

RANDY
Hey man! You ready to do our thing?

DAVE
Hey... what's all this?

RANDY
I invited some people in to hear us,
give us a little feedback.

DAVE
You should have told me man.

Randy can tell Dave isn't happy about it.

RANDY
What's the big deal bro? It's just

friends, you know Super Dave and over there is SEAN, we call him BOO.

DAVE

Yeah I know Boo. I see it's friends, I just wasn't expecting to perform.

Randy throws his arm around Dave, they walk towards everyone.

RANDY

Relax "D", it's not that serious. Let's just play our songs like we do.

DAVE

What choice do we have man.

INT. OFFICE/WAREHOUSE REHEARSAL SPACE

Dave scans the room. There are 15 extra people. He sees Super Dave and his girlfriend, Scrubby's girlfriend BRANDY and Boo.

SCRUBBY

Okay, we ready?

ROB

Yeah man, Randy you ready?

Randy, the life of the party, is holding court with friends. He returns his attention to the band.

RANDY

Yeah Robbie dog, are you?

SCRUBBY

Dave?

Dave looks to Scrubby unsure. He knows he has to sing.

DAVE

Yeah Scrub. "The Future", Count us in.

The room gets quiet as they launch into a heavy song "The Future". Randy and Rob face the audience but Dave focuses on Scrubby. He starts to sing and is hesitant, but grows comfortable. Randy goes full Rockstar and the friends are immediately impressed and get into it. The song ends and Dave still has his back to the audience.

SCRUBBY

You all good "D"?

The friends whoop it up. Dave turns and smiles in relief.

DAVE

Thanks.

RANDY

Let's run "Dangerous Thing".

Scrubby counts them in and they tear into Dangerous Thing.

SCRUBBY

1...2...3...4

EXT. OFFICE/WAREHOUSE EVENING TIME

"Dangerous Thing" fades out. Rehearsal is over and the last of the friends congratulate the band as they leave. The guys talk about the up coming gig.

RANDY

That was cool man. But "D" you gotta just open up a little more man.

DAVE

I know, I wasn't expecting a crowd.

RANDY

That wasn't a crowd, that was just our friends. You better be ready for the real thing.

DAVE

I'll be ready. Just tell me next time.

Scrubby and Rob watching the back and forth interject.

SCRUBBY

It was good, a few rough spots, we will get them ironed out.

ROB

No doubt, let's get back at it tomorrow.

They all say goodbye and head out. Rob and Randy get into the truck, they start to drive.

RANDY

So what you think Rob?

ROB

I'm feeling good man.

RANDY

Doesn't it bother you Dave was so shy?

ROB

Yeah, he was holding back but he'll be ok, we've seen him freak out before.

RANDY

Yeah, but I don't like how shy he is.

ROB

Maybe you should trust him, he trusts us, even when you show up out your damn head.

Randy shoots Rob a displeased look.

RANDY

Nobody can say I don't carry my weight. Nobody can say you and Scrubby don't. Can you say that about Dave?

ROB

I don't know, we have great songs with him, he's totally committed and most the time he sounds good. You can't expect him to be like you.

RANDY

I'm just saying he better show, cause I know we will, and if he doesn't then we need to find someone that will.

ROB

Whoa Randy chill, we ain't done nothing yet and neither has Dave. Give it a chance, trust him.

In silence as they drive, the Vegas lights in the distance.

INT COLLEGE APARTMENT BEDROOM MORNING

Dave and Shannon are asleep. The alarm goes off. They wake up. Shannon stretches and gets up.

SHANNON

Good morning.

Dave rolls over, Shannon bounces on the bed in excitement.

SHANNON

Today is the show! How do you feel?

DAVE

Like I want to go back to sleep.

Shannon goes to the closet, and chooses her clothes.

SHANNON

Oh, come on. You have to be excited,
it's your first gig tonight!

DAVE

It doesn't feel real just yet but that
might be because I'm not awake.

SHANNON

Are you nervous at all?

Dave sits up.

DAVE

Nervous? Why would you say that?

SHANNON

No reason. It's just a big deal, the
first "3 Days" show!

Dave watches Shannon as she is getting ready for the day.

SHANNON

Well, I've gotta get going, I'm meet
friends at the library this morning.

DAVE

But you're coming tonight, right?

SHANNON

Yes, of course! I'll be home in a few
hours. Then we can get something to
eat and go to YOUR FIRST SHOW!

Shannon looks at the clock.

SHANNON

Shoot I'm running late so I gotta go..

Shannon kisses Dave and heads for the door.

SHANNON

...See you later.

Shannon leaves, Dave walks to the kitchen, he brews coffee,
looks at the clock and sighs. With hours to kill he goes to
the stereo, puts on headphones, and sinks into the beanbag,
eyes closed. We hear David Bowies's "Heroes."

SHOW DAY MONTAGE

THE SCREEN HAS 4 VERTICAL PANELS. ONE FOR EACH BAND MEMBER.

We follow the guys before the show. Randy cares for his daughter... Dave at home waiting... Rob and Scrubby at their jobs... Randy plays guitar and makes calls... Dave plays guitar... Scrubby and Rob drive home and grab their gear.

Rob picks Randy up. Their two panels merge into one, leaving 3 panels on screen. They all drive to the gig. Shannon is with Dave... Brandy is with Scrubby. They arrive at the Sports Pub. The split screen ends as the montage continues.

They prepare for the gig. They unload the gear... Super Dave and Boo arrive... They all walk to a taco shop and eat... they return to the Sports Pub and watch a band play.

It's time for "3 Days" to play. Dave and Scrubby kiss their girls as the band head to the stage. The montage and "HEROES" end. We hear the sounds of a packed club.

The MC DJ IRA walks onto the stage to introduce them.

DJ IRA

Wow that last set by Sugarhouse was killer! Now we've got a Sports Pub debut! Here tonight for their very first show... 3 Days.

The crowd claps as they walk on the stage. They look ready. Sensing Dave is nervous Randy pulls him, head to head.

RANDY

"D" look at me, look at me.

Dave and Randy make eye contact.

RANDY

We're all here together brother. Look at me, feel me. If you go there man, I promise you I'm going there with you.

Dave nods, his breath slows as he draws focus.

RANDY

This is our time. All the work. All the prep. All for right now. We go there together. Let's do this.

Randy lets go of Dave's head and he pats his own heart.

DAVE

Thanks bro. I feel you. Let's do it.

Randy looks to the band. The anticipation is heavy. The 4 musicians lock in together. It's them against the world.

RANDY

"Dangerous Thing".

SCRUBBY

1..2...3...4

Randy, Rob and Scrubby explode. Dave immediately bounces as electricity surges through him. The club roars and grooves. A couple of photographers snap photos. One, a cute brunette girl, focuses on Randy. He plays to her for a moment. Dave fueled by the power of the band sings with passion making believers of everyone. The moment is timeless and perfect. Shannon watching is both proud and shocked. This is much more powerful than anything Dave's done before. She knows things will change. Their friends celebrate. They play a blistering set closing with "Together". Dave sings the final chorus.

DAVE

(Singing)

"Together, we can be, In perfect
Harmony"

Scrubby and Rob stop on a dime. Dave looks at Randy.

DAVE

(Singing) "Just you.... And me...."

Randy stops playing and Dave sings the last word.

DAVE

(Singing)

"Together....."

The crowd explodes. The band look at each other in shock. Dave looks out at the crowd as if seeing them for the first time and the shyness creeps back in.

DAVE

Thank you.... We're "3 Days".

Dave walks off the stage as the crowd roars. The others follow and pounce on Dave in celebration. Shannon finds Dave, he smiles at her. She hugs and kisses him.

SHANNON

I am so proud of you, I cannot believe

how good you guys are!

DAVE

I don't remember any of it, was it really ok?

Randy throws his arms around them both and pulls them to him.

RANDY

Was it ok? It was like an out of body experience!

Super Dave and Boo join the celebration. Shannon feels out of place in the excitement.

SUPER DAVE

Come on everyone, Shots are on me!

At the bar people crowd to congratulate them. Dave sits quietly with Shannon while everyone is going crazy. DJ Ira make his way to the microphone.

DJ IRA

I want to thank our sponsors for making tonight possible. Vegas has a great live music scene and you guys make it possible, so let me hear you!

The crowd applauds. We see Ira on stage from behind the band.

DJ IRA

The bands here tonight are destined to do great things...but tonight's winner, I don't think anyone would doubt, is 3 DAYS!!!!

The crowd erupts. People surround them to congratulate them. As the celebrating continues we hear the noise fade out.

EXT. SPORTS PUB PARKING LOT AFTER THE SHOW

The band are outside packing up. Super Dave is talking with Randy, Boo is helping load amplifiers.

BOO

What a night. I knew you guys would kill it!

SUPER DAVE

There's no telling where this will go.

Randy shaking his head.

RANDY
Maaaaan... I told you!

ROB
Randy bring that big ol' mardi gras
head over here and load up your gear.

Everyone laughs. Shannon, feeling out of place, waits quietly. Scrubby talks with Brandy as he puts drums into his car. Randy helps Rob and Dave put the amps into the truck.

SCRUBBY
Man that was special, what's next?

RANDY
Let's get together next week to plan.

DAVE
Alright guys, sounds good.

Dave motions to Shannon as he grabs her hand.

DAVE
We're going to head out.

RANDY
Hold up "D", let's all grab a drink.

DAVE
We can't bro... moving Shannon back in
with her parents tomorrow... remember?

SCRUBBY
We're going to take off too Randy.

Randy watches a couple of cute girls enter the club.

RANDY
Okay, you domesticated family people
head home.

Randy motions to the door where the girls just entered.

RANDY
But I'm going to go check THAT out.

Randy, Boo, Super Dave and Rob head back into the club. Randy stops at the door and yells back.

RANDY
I'll call you tomorrow "D". Don't you
forget what I told you tonight.

Randy watches Dave leave, and then he enters the club.

MOVING DAY MONTAGE

Randy sits in the dark playing "Cruel" on an acoustic guitar. He smokes and sips a 40 oz beer. The phone rings but he doesn't answer it. We see a montage of Randy playing and Dave moving Shannon into her parents house... Shannon and her parents happy reunion... Dave feels like he's losing her... Dave driving home alone... Randy playing soulfully.

RANDY

(Singing)

And another thing baby, you're cruel.

Dave's car drives down an empty street into darkness.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. 4 KEGS BAR/RESTAURANT - NIGHT

We follow Dave into The 4 Kegs' smoky atmosphere, passing the bar, he enters the dining area and joins the guys in a booth.

RANDY

There he is, get over here ya 'lil
Irishman.

Dave slides into the booth next to Scrubby.

DAVE

Sorry I'm late, just finished moving
Shannon into her parent's house.

ROB

'Sup "D". How did it go? All good?

RANDY

Of course it's all good, he just has a
little more time for his band now.

Dave tries to laugh it off.

DAVE

Yeah Rob it's all good, just a change.

Scrubby pours a mug of beer for Dave and hands it to him.

DAVE

Thanks Scrub, so what's next?

RANDY

Gigs are lining up, everyone wants us,

it's a trip.

SCRUBBY

I knew that was coming. I'm still not over last week.

Rob laughs and shakes his head. They are all elated.

RANDY

Me either, I want to play everywhere.

SCRUBBY

Let's get a van and tour Cali.

RANDY

Absolutely, they got freaks there too.

Everyone laughs.

DAVE

First let's finish enough songs for an album.

RANDY

Bro we need a deal first, I've been talking to some people that can help.

ROB

Oh yeah? Who you been talking to?

RANDY

I talked to Tony, he was signed in Apocropha.

SCRUBBY

That was a speed metal label. I don't think they would be interested in us.

RANDY

No man, he was telling me we need an entertainment lawyer, and they set up showcases, thats how we get a deal.

ROB

Man you don't know any lawyers.

RANDY

I don't know any yet, but I will.

Everyone laughs but Dave shakes his head. Rob and Scrubby can sense tension as Randy and Dave have different ideas.

DAVE

That will come but for now we should focus on writing enough good songs for an album. We can play gigs to perfect our show and build a following.

RANDY

Yeah we will do that too.

SCRUBBY

Well when are we playing next?

RANDY

We were invited to play next week at Favorites, but Fuddy Duddys, Aruba, Club Rock, Calamity Janes all want us. I'm serious, everywhere.

They all smile with the good news. The mood lightens up.

DAVE

When should we rehearse?

ROB

I say Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

RANDY

Man, I'm going to work everyday, you guys show up if you want.

Everyone laughs.

DAVE

Ok rehearsals Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Tuesday we can write at Randy's.

They settle in to hang out. Hours later, Dave and Randy talk at the bar. Rob and Scrubby play pool in the background.

RANDY

You ain't said much... you alright?

DAVE

Yeah, it's good to hang out without needing to rush home.

RANDY

Yeah "D", Shannon is with her family but you're with your family too man.

Randy lights a cigarette, and takes a drag.

RANDY (CONT)

...Can I tell you something?

DAVE

Of course.

RANDY

Now don't get upset with me, cause I love you "D" and I'm trying to help.

DAVE

I won't.

RANDY

A week ago, we were on stage tearing it up, you were a punk rock poet, it was beautiful.

DAVE

Yeah I know, it was...

RANDY

(Interrupts)

No listen to me, let me finish...

Dave nods, looks at Randy and intently listens.

RANDY

...when the show ended you try to fit back into a box with Shannon. You're living two lives and you have to stop.

DAVE

Bro you just don't like her.

RANDY

That's not true, I think she's a sweetheart but if we're really going to do this, the life we have to lead is not for her, she doesn't want this. The guy she wants is not who you are.

DAVE

How do you know that?

Randy takes a drag off his cigarette, exhales.

RANDY

I got eyes, I see how uncomfortable she is when you are doing your thing.

DAVE

I don't know man, she saw me playing

in New Jersey, she loved that.

RANDY

Yeah 'cause it was just a band playing for fun. What we are doing is a whole other thing. What YOU really want to do is a whole other thing.

Dave contemplates what Randy is saying.

DAVE

We don't know what's going to happen.

RANDY

Yes you do, you got us all believing in what this band can be and you know what? You're right about the band but you're wrong about Shannon...

Randy throws an arm around Dave for emphasis.

RANDY

...I'm your brother, I don't want to see you go through this, but you're going to have to choose which life you want to live, and I know you man, that life isn't enough for you. You gotta be who YOU are.

DAVE

So what? I should break up with her?

RANDY

It'll play out how it does, but what you show the band, you have to LIVE it for the audience, for us, for YOU.

DAVE

Randy this isn't an act, this is my life.

RANDY

It's ALL our lives. You're the one always talking about being real, being authentic, being honest but bro you ain't being honest with yourself. You have to be who you really are, or you will regret it. That's all I'm saying.

Rob and Scrubby finish their pool game and walk over.

SCRUBBY

Hey what are you guys doing over here?

Falling in love?

They all laugh.

RANDY

He's pretty but not that pretty...

Randy tries to kiss Dave on the cheek, everyone laughs.

RANDY

...Come on "D" you know you love me.

They all keep talking. Dave contemplates what Randy said.

INT. COLLEGE APARTMENT NIGHT TIME

It's quiet and dark, some decor is missing. Dave enters and looks around, quiet in the stillness. We hear the bass line of "BUZZWORLD". Dave finds himself in the mirror in a seminal moment. He hears conflicting voices. Shannon telling him things won't change. Randy urging him to be who he really is. "Little D" accepts who he is and becomes "DB."

BECOMING DB MONTAGE

The song "BUZZWORLD" kicks in. Dave looks in the mirror, close-up on his face. His appearance morphs. His hair gets longer, he gets another earring, his hair is braided, shaved on the sides, He has hair wraps with beads. He walks through a club. His clothes change to a tie-dye shirt and overalls... colored sunglasses... He get a tattoo of Calvin and Hobbes on his arm... Dave at Shannon's house showing her the tattoo.

DAVE

I've always wanted to get this.

Shannon in disbelief touches the tattoo.

SHANNON

No way! That's not real.

DAVE

Of course it is!

Randy changing too... wearing a tie-dye shirt, dark glasses and a mad hatter hat... Dave and Randy bonding on stage... singing head to head...Dave embracing the crowd...Dave enters rehearsal wearing short overalls, sunglasses, and combat boots with no socks.

RANDY

Hey "D" did you forget your socks?

DAVE

I'm not wearing socks, like Mike Tyson when he fights. I'm a gladiator.

They all laugh.

RANDY

Man put some damn socks on boy, little stank foot Barry.

More laughter.

We see the band bonding at bars and at friends' houses... on stage performing...the brunette photographer taking photos....black and white performance images, many of Randy... the photographer and Randy are making a connection.

SPORTS PUB EXTERIOR - NIGHT

"Buzzworld" fades as the montage ends, We see Randy standing at the foot of the stairs talking to some girls. Dave comes down behind Randy and playfully puts his head over Randy's shoulder. The brunette photographer comes up to them.

RANDY

What's up photographer girl? I see you taking your pictures.

She is pretty, late 20s, confident with a hippy chick vibe.

RANDY

I'd love to see your work. What's your name?

GIRL PHOTOGRAPHER

Ilana, nice to officially meet you.

RANDY

Ilana. That's pretty, this is Dave, we call him "D" and I'm Randy.

Randy takes her hand and kisses it.

ILANA

Yeah I know all about you Randy. I work for Scope Magazine. I'd love to do something on you guys.

DAVE

Nice to meet you Ilana.

Dave moves from behind Randy to shake her hand.

DAVE

I'm sure we can do something.

RANDY

Oh yeah we can do something but what do you mean you know about me?

Ilana smiles. She likes him but doesn't make it easy for him.

ILANA

I hear you're a guy that gets around.

RANDY

I wouldn't believe everything you hear, I'm just enjoying myself.

Dave sensing Randy's opportunity walks off smiling.

DAVE

He's really not that bad.

RANDY

Really, I'm not. You should get to know me for yourself.

ILANA

Well, let's start with an interview.

RANDY

Okay we can do that but now you have to do something for me.

Ilana is a little unsure what he is going to say.

ILANA

And what is that?

RANDY

Let me see your camera and I'll show you what I see.

ILANA

What you see?

RANDY

You'll see yourself through my eyes.

Ilana reluctantly agrees and hands Randy the camera.

RANDY

Okay now look at me.

Ilana feels shy, gazes at the lens. Randy snaps a picture.

RANDY
Say purple nurple! (laughs)

INT.ROADSIDE BLUES BAR PRESENT DAY

The conversation between Randy and Dave continues.

DAVE
Purple fucking nurple, that IS what
you said! (Laughs)

RANDY
Hey I had to make her laugh.(Laughs)

DAVE
Randy she thought you were crazy.

A black man in his 50s approaches the table, he grins. Randy looks up, looks to Dave and motions. Dave looks up.

DAVE
So that's who you've been texting.

RANDY
Yeah man, had to be a family reunion.

The man reaches the table and Dave and Randy greet him.

DAVE
Rob!

ROB
What's up "DB"? (laughs) I see you and
the big head are still talking. That's
good!

Dave hugs Rob like a long lost brother.

RANDY
Yeah we're catching up, I'm telling
him how crazy he was back in the day.

Afraid Dave might get defensive Randy winks at him. Rob sits down at the table as the waitress comes over.

WAITRESS
What can I get you?

ROB
I'll have a Heineken.

Randy thanks the waitress as she heads off to get his drink.

ROB

It's good to see you... been a minute!

DAVE

The Mardigras head and I were just talking about when he met Ilana.

ROB

She was cool. She took great photos.

DAVE

Yeah bro, those photos told our story.

RANDY

Man... that was just who we were.

DAVE

Yes it was. The good and the bad, life imitates art doesn't it... or maybe for us it was the other way around.

Randy brings the conversation back to the business at hand.

RANDY

Those days gave us our songs, we gotta take advantage of this offer.

Dave sighs, they have to talk business. He turns to Rob.

DAVE

What do you think Rob?

ROB

I think we should check it out. We've got some unfinished business ya know?

Randy watches them talk.

DAVE

First, what about Scrubby's family?

RANDY

Give them his share. Have you even seen or talked to Brandy or the kids?

Dave back peddles as guilt washes over him.

DAVE

No, I haven't seen them since he died.

ROB

Bro you need to. They should know you.

DAVE

I couldn't, for a long time I was very bitter. This is the first time we've been in the same room in 30 years.

RANDY

You have only yourself to blame for that, we all did and said stupid shit but you gotta forgive your family.

DAVE

If I hadn't made peace with it, I wouldn't be here now.

Seeing Dave struggle Randy ends the tension.

RANDY

I know man, I'm just saying let's focus on what was good because when it was good, maaaaan, It was really good.

INT. OFFICE/WAREHOUSE REHEARSAL SPACE

The band and Boo are in the space as Ilana interviews them.

ILANA

Let's start at the beginning, how did you guys get together?

DAVE

I put up an ad at The Underground, Randy and Rob answered, they knew Scrubby and here we are.

RANDY

Oh that sounds inspired "D"... but you left out the ambulance.

Everyone laughs.

ILANA

Ambulance? Why do you call him "D"? There's lots of nicknames in the band.

RANDY

'Cause he's "Little D".

DAVE

Actually I go by my initials "DB", it's how I sign my drawings in school.

RANDY

Ohhh, now you "DB" huh? I guess you're

getting too big to be "Little D".

Everyone laughs again.

RANDY

Rob and I know each other the longest,
we've been friends since we were kids.

BOO

Randy, you're trippin. I've known Rob
longer, we played in the school band,
when you thought you were Prince.

Everyone Laughs hysterically.

ILANA

(Laughs)

Prince? This'll be good. Tell me more.

The band all laugh like it's an inside joke they share.

ROB

Ilana, heres what really happened.
Back in the day, Randy and I lived in
the same development.

RANDY

Like I said Rob, we've been friends
since we were kids.

ROB

Maaan when I first met Randy I didn't
like him! (laughs) We were the only
two kids with afros on our street, so
I thought let me check him out, so I
met him and he was WEIRD. (Laughs) One
day out of nowhere he came with this
flying foot of Judah karate kick and
nearly kicked me in the mouth...

Surprised by Rob's story everyone laughs.

ROB(CONT)

I was like "oh hell no". Then he
starts pop locking, singing some Gene
Simmons "God of Thunder" shit. I was
like "OK I'll check you out later".

Everyone laughs hysterically.

RANDY

Oh I forgot about that. Sorry Rob.

ROB

Anyway, he was weird, he was into Funkadelic and Kiss, and I heard of Kiss but I wasn't into that stuff. He used to have the metal kids come over to jam and he would just destroy them.

Everyone laughs.

ILANA

What about this Prince thing?

ROB

(Laughs)

In school everyone was into Prince or Michael Jackson and Randy was into Prince, BIG TIME! He used to go around saying crazy shit to girls like your lips would make a lollipop too happy.

Everyone busts up laughing again.

RANDY

Man I just wanted to be the lollipop.

Everyone laughs and Rob continues.

ROB

But that's when he really started to play, one time he played the Star Spangled Banner at school and everyone thought it was a recording, it was that good. Then he started to play in bands and he asked me to check it out. So I started to play bass and we'd jam. That's what really happened.

RANDY

Prince is bad ass, he's a huge influence for me.

Randy makes a sound like Prince. Everyone laughs.

ILANA

Ooooookay...

Ilana steers the interview back to the band's story.

ILANA (CONT)

Your live shows are the thing to see, where does that intensity come from?

SCRUBBY

Apparently it comes from Prince...

Everyone laughs.

SCRUBBY(CONT)

No, I don't know. Really from the first time we played it's been there, it's hard to explain, we just clicked.

ROB

Scrubby and I lock in and create a pocket that grooves. That gives Randy and DB the freedom to do what they do.

RANDY

I just feel it, if that's intense, okay, but we all feel it together, we carry each other. We're family.

ILANA

What do you think "DB"?

DAVE

When I think of the bands that I love, at their essence they're really a street gang. What they share is deeper than friendship, that's where the songs come from. I think we have that. A 3 Days show is the sum of all of us. Scrubby, Randy and Rob are all great but that could be a disaster if they aren't playing TOGETHER. When we play we support each other. Like a table we lift and hold each other up. All we're trying to do is connect with each other and the audience. It's like we're playing for our lives every time we play, ya know? And I think if we feel it, the audience feels it too because it's real and they know it.

Everyone is quiet for a moment and then they all laugh.

ROB

Okay professor.

RANDY

Maaan "DB" just compared us to furniture. You a lampshade.

Everyone laughs.

SCRUBBY

Okay that was deep, he does that.
(laughs) But he's right. Something happens when we come together but I couldn't tell you why or what it is. I just know it's real. Come see us play, maybe you can tell us what it is.

RANDY

That's right!... Then tell the people.

ILANA

I'll be at Favorites this weekend and I'll tell the people for you Randy.

They all laugh. The band's aura is luring, Ilana feels at home around them.

EXT. FAVORITES BAR PARKING LOT

Randy and Dave meet Ilana at the entrance to the club. Randy hugs Ilana. Boo is working the door with Bouncer MIKE, a friendly, stocky white guy that looks like a rugby player. Mike says "hi" to the guys and Boo "bro hugs" Dave and Randy.

BOO

What's up fellas? It's packed already, it's going to be a good night.

RANDY

Boo, we love ya. Thanks for watching the door. Nobody fucks with Boo!

BOO

You know it!

DAVE

Thanks bro... we'll see you inside.

INT. FAVORITES BAR

The stage sits behind the bar, there are dart boards, pool tables and high top tables. Rob, Scrubby and Super Dave are at a table. Dave, Randy and Ilana join them.

DAVE

You guys seen Shannon?

SCRUBBY

No I haven't seen her.

ROB

Don't worry, I'm sure she'll be here.

The first band finish, "3 Days" head to the stage. Dave doesn't see Shannon. Randy sensing Dave's distraction pulls him head to head in their pre show ritual.

RANDY

THIS is our family, if you go there,
I'm going with you, all of us
together. Feel me "D" Let's do it, for
us, for them, it's our time. Let's go!

They separate, all the members make eye contact.

RISE OF THE BAND MONTAGE.

We see the band play several songs in a montage that shows them growing in popularity and skill as distractions begin.

DAVE

What's up Favorites? This is a new
song called "It's Alright".

They rip into an intense fuzzy song, with a funky bottom. The performance is blazing, more energetic and polished than before. With each gig they get better.

DAVE

(sings)

"Everyone's hiding from something,
everyone's got some pain, where do we
go in the running, when everything
feels the same?"...

Dave moves to Rob and continues to sing.

DAVE (CONT.)

"Everyone's got a secret, Everyone's
told a lie."...

He spins around and heads to Randy and continues.

DAVE (CONT.)

"We hold on to it so tightly... till
we loose ourselves and wonder why."

The chorus explodes. Dave and Randy sing sharing the mic.

DAVE AND RANDY

(Singing)

"Its Alright... Alright"

We see Ilana snap iconic black and white pics of the band... the band recording in a studio... Ilana taking promo photos of them on Fremont St... "3 DAYS" on marquees... The band on

stage and hanging out at clubs... The audience and entourage grow...The cover of Scope Magazine with an image of the band... A guy with long black hair picks up the magazine in a guitar store and opens it.

We see the band on stage at The Aruba, Randy stage dives and he falls down. Dave jumps off the stage to get his friend.

DAVE

Whoa dude are you ok? That looks serious. We gotta get you out of here.

RANDY

No way, get me up. Gotta finish.

DAVE

Randy I think you have a broken arm.

RANDY

I think you're right but I'm finishing the set, get me up there!

They lift Randy back up on stage, the crowd goes berserk. We see the band in the ER. Randy has a cast on his arm.

DAVE

Told you it was broken.

ROB

You ain't right in the head man.

They all laugh.

We see the band backstage before a gig.

RANDY

Man this is what it's all about.

DAVE

It's cool but I want to see us on the cover of Rolling Stone. I want to play arenas. This is only the first step.

RANDY

You're crazy "D". People digging our music and buying us drinks, the girls, getting paid, I'm enjoying the ride.

DAVE

Bro I ain't doing any of this for a couple hundred dollars and free beers.

RANDY

Oh yeah? What are you doing this for?

DAVE

For the connection between us and the crowd. That energy that flows from them to us. I'm addicted to that man. I'm doing this for the love.

We see the black haired guitarist entering Calamity Janes, he gets stopped to sign an autograph... the band is on stage, Randy has partially cut the cast on his arm so he can play. They are in the chorus of "Alright"

DAVE

(sings)

"It's Alright...."

He holds the microphone out to the crowd and they yell back

CROWD

"Alright!"

The black haired guitar player watches them... the band play a large festival... Randy and Dave talk to a couple of girls.

GIRL 1

We're going to the Loveshack, Wanna come with us?

DAVE

Where's that?

GIRL 2

It's just this place we go to party. You should definitely come.

RANDY

"Loveshack Baybeeee"

We see the band, Ilana, Brandy, Super Dave and Boo at The Loveshack, it's a wild scene. Randy and Ilana are a couple.

DAVE

So you and Ilana yeah?

RANDY

I think so man, she's really cool.

DAVE

It's good to see man.

RANDY
Where's Shannon?

DAVE
I don't know. She said she'd come
today but she didn't.

RANDY
It's alright my brother.(sings)
"Alright"

3 Days is closing a show with Together in front of 1000 people. Ilana takes photos from the stage... black and white photos of them and a full house... The black haired guitar player watches from the soundboard area and talks with Super Dave. DB holds the mic out to the crowd. The band stops.

CROWD
"TOGETHER"

Huge eruption from the crowd. Dave pats his heart.

DAVE
Thank you, we're "3 Days".

He walks off, Boo hands him a beer, the band play a last chorus. Randy and Rob stop. Scrubby plays an epic drum fill and the show ends.

RISE OF THE BAND MONTAGE ENDS.

We see Super Dave talking to the black haired guitar player.

BLACK HAired GUITAR PLAYER
I'd love to meet them.

SUPER DAVE
Absolutely, let's head backstage.

They head backstage. As they walk several people acknowledge the black haired guitar player. He is clearly known. They reach the dressing room. Super Dave knocks and opens the door. We hear them from inside "Super Dave!"

SUPER DAVE
That was ridiculous! You guys have to
be feeling good.

Super Dave motions to the mystery man as they enter the room. Randy immediately recognizes the new guest.

SUPER DAVE
I want you guys to meet someone,

RANDY
 (interrupts)
 Stevie Salas!

STEVIE SALAS
 Yeah that's me, how you guys doing?

SUPER DAVE
 You know him?

RANDY
 Man every guitar player knows Stevie Salas, it's really nice to meet you.

The rest of the guys say "Hi" and greet Stevie.

RANDY
 Hey you want a beer man?

STEVIE SALAS
 Yeah, I'll take a beer.

Stevie grabs a seat. Boo hands a beer to Stevie.

SUPER DAVE
 So Stevie has an idea for you guys.

STEVIE SALAS
 More of an invitation than an idea.

SCRUBBY
 What's up?

STEVIE SALAS
 I found you guys on the cover of Scope and checked you out. I gotta say, you guys are special. Next month I have a gig in LA, I'd like you guys to open.

RANDY
 Man, that would be awesome. Where?

Stevie takes a sip of his beer.

STEVIE SALAS
 The Viper Room.

They all know The Viper Room is an ultra cool place to play in LA in the 90s. This is a huge opportunity.

DAVE
 Holy shit man, The Viper Room? Wow, thanks, yeah we want to do that.

RANDY
Absolutely.

Stevie shakes Randy's hand.

STEVIE SALAS
Great! It'll be fun. So Randy let me
see her.

Randy hands his guitar to Stevie who noodles on it. It's obvious he's a gifted player. They are fast friends. Dave seems distracted, he knows Shannon is not there.

STEVIE SALAS
This thing you got going on with 2
black guys and 2 white guys is cool.

RANDY
We just see each other as brothers.

STEVIE SALAS
Exactly, I could feel that. And this
crowd tonight, man they were singing
your tune back to you, in a club!

RANDY
When they feel it, we feel them too.

STEVIE SALAS
If it goes over in LA, maybe I can
introduce you guys to some people,
help you move forward.

RANDY
That's what I'm talking about! That'll
work!

Dave's not focused on Stevie's offer, he gets up to leave.

SCRUBBY
You look like you're heading out "D".

DAVE
Yeah, I'm heading home, talk to you
guys tomorrow.

RANDY
Hold up, let's grab a beer with
Stevie.

DAVE
I got stuff to do tomorrow so I'm out,
I'll talk to you tomorrow.

Dave leaves. The others hangout with new friend Stevie Salas.

INT. COLLEGE APARTMENT DAYTIME

The phone rings and it wakes Dave up. He answers it.

DAVE

Hello.

SHANNON

Hey it's me, you still sleeping?

DAVE

No, I'm up.

SHANNON

I thought you were going to meet me this morning.

DAVE

I thought you were going to come to the show last night.

SHANNON

Sorry, I went out with friends and I didn't think we'd make it in time.

DAVE

It's ok, I'll come meet you somewhere.

SHANNON

I'm at the library. I'll come over there, Be there in a few minutes, ok?

Dave is wondering what's up with her.

DAVE

Okay, I'll see you when you get here.

Dave hangs up, gets himself together. We see him pouring a cup of coffee. Shannon knocks on the door and then comes in.

DAVE

You knock now? This is your place too.

SHANNON

I was being polite I guess, it feels different now that I don't live here.

Dave moves to give her a hug but she is very distant.

DAVE

I just made some coffee, want some?

SHANNON

No, I had some earlier this morning.

Dave sits in a chair at the table and looks to her concerned.

DAVE

So what's up?

Shannon sits in the other seat at the table.

SHANNON

I needed to talk to you, I think we've needed to talk for awhile.

DAVE

I'd like that.

SHANNON

Look, you know I love you but I don't like how this feels anymore.

DAVE

What do you mean?

SHANNON

I feel left out, I'm tired of feeling alone.

DAVE

I don't get it. I ask you to do everything with me, you say no or that you'll come and then you don't show.

SHANNON

That's because I don't like feeling like an outsider with your friends, they wonder why I'm even there.

DAVE

But with your friends you never ask me to come along. I try to involve you.

SHANNON

I know, I'm sorry, it's just...

DAVE

It's just what?

SHANNON

Look at you, you've changed. Everything that was important to you, school, friends, me. You don't have time for any of it, everything's about

the band, and you're always off with Randy doing God knows what, and I'm not accusing you of anything, but it's like I don't even know you anymore.

DAVE

You don't know me anymore? Shannon I'm the same guy. I'm just working towards a goal now.

SHANNON

I know but look what it's doing to you, look who you are becoming.

DAVE

What does that mean? I'm still me.

SHANNON

You're never around. I'm not a part of any of your life anymore.

DAVE

What? I'm sorry I'm chasing my dreams, Why can't you support that?

SHANNON

Don't tell me I didn't support you. I supported you every step of the way.

DAVE

Yeah when it's easy, now you run away.

SHANNON

I'm not running, you're changing.

Dave feels betrayed, like a cornered dog tries to hurt her.

DAVE

Hey I'm sorry this isn't what you expected. Dreams don't come true on a schedule, you have to fight for them, but what would you know about that? I can't believe you're blaming me for trying to do something you've always known I wanted to do...that's who I am, this is who I've always been. I think you're afraid to admit you don't have your own dream. So instead you blame me, and tell me I'm hurting you... Jeezus...

Shannon's eyes well up with tears.

SHANNON

I never thought it would come to this,
what we had, it's gone. You hurt me
and I wanted you to know it.

Shannon gets up to leave and Dave gets desperate.

DAVE

I'm sorry...I love you. Don't go.

SHANNON

You know what? I know you are. I know
you didn't mean for this to happen, I
know you'll get what you want, but you
paid for it with us, and it'll cost
you more in time... I gotta go.

Shannon leaves. Dave with his pride bruised turns the hurt
into motivation, thinking "you haven't seen anything yet." He
puts on music, grabs the phone and calls Randy.

RANDY

Hello.

DAVE

Hey bro. We need to go be big tonight.

RANDY

(solemn)

Hey "D", I was just about to call you.
I don't think we can tonight.

Dave can tell something is up by Randy's tone.

DAVE

What's up?

RANDY

Rob called, his Dad died.

DAVE

Oh no, How's he doing?

RANDY

He's not good man, his Dad just died.
Just come over.

DAVE

I'm on my way.

Dave tosses the phone, grabs his keys and walks out the door.

EXT. ROB'S HOUSE AFTERNOON

Randy, Dave and Scrubby walk up to the door carrying flowers. Randy knocks, ROB's SISTER, black girl in her 20s, answers.

ROB'S SISTER

Come in Randy hi guys, Rob's out back.

Rob is at the table on the patio, smoking, looking into the distance. Scrubby, Randy and Dave approach.

DAVE

Rob I'm so sorry.

Rob gets up and they all hug him.

ROB

'Sup fellas, thanks for coming over.

They all sit with Rob around the table in silence.

RANDY

Your Pops was a good man Rob, he's a part of you and he always will be.

ROB

I just thought I had more time with him, there were things to say.

SCRUBBY

We're here for you, anything you need.

ROB

I have to take care of stuff for a few days but you need to get ready for LA.

RANDY

We ain't doing nothing without you. We do this as a family or not at all.

ROB

Families still got to do what they got to do Randy. Don't worry about me.

Time lapses, the sun goes down while they sit together.

INT. 4 KEGS BAR/RESTAURANT NIGHT TIME

Beer fills a mug. We hear Dave and Randy talking.

DAVE

What a difference a day makes.

RANDY
You ain't lying.

The Bartender bring the mugs of beer to them.

BARTENDER
Here you go Randy.

RANDY
Thanks Kim.

They take a slow long drink and Randy lights a cigarette.

DAVE
You going to Ilana's tonight?

RANDY
No, I'll stay close to home, I'll
check in on Rob in the morning again.

DAVE
Yeah that's a good idea.

RANDY
You going to see Shannon?

DAVE
No, we broke up.

RANDY
What? Wait, when did this happen?

DAVE
This morning.

RANDY
Why didn't you say anything?

DAVE
I don't know. What Rob's going through
is a lot heavier than a breakup.

RANDY
So what happened?

DAVE
She doesn't know who I am anymore.

RANDY
What the fuck does that mean? You're
the same guy, just funkier.

DAVE

Anyway, it's over. I wanted to go out tonight but now it seems unimportant.

RANDY

Fuck that Dave, we going to get big here. You can sleep at my house.

Randy motions to the bartender.

RANDY

Hey Kim, can we get 4 whiskeys?

KIM

Sure love, coming right up.

Kim pours 4 whiskeys for them.

RANDY

Alright this first one is for Rob.

They throw them back grimacing. Randy lifts the second glass.

RANDY

Come on now don't leave me hanging.

Dave not wanting to fall behind raises his glass.

RANDY

And this one, this one's for you.

Dave and Randy throw back the second drinks.

RANDY

Wooooooooooooo.

DAVE

Oh hell, what did you make me do?

They laugh the first laugh of the day and continue to talk.

RANDY

All right, now you and me are here...

Randy holds his arms wide, hands holding 1 finger up.

RANDY (CONT)

we're going to be like this...

He moves his two hands together until they touch.

RANDY (CONT)

..We're going to be one.

Dave and Randy laugh.

LIFE OF THE PARTY MONTAGE.

We hear the song "Cruel." We see Dave and Randy party like rock stars... in bars surrounded by hanger ons... at Ilana's house writing and drinking... giving in to the insanity and distractions of being in a band.

We see Dave and Randy at Super Dave's apartment.

SUPER DAVE

You guys want a hit of acid? We can go to the Sports Pub and trip out.

RANDY

Fuck it! You down Dave?

DAVE

I've never tried it. What's it like?

RANDY

FUN! Do a half and you'll be all good.

They all take acid. We see Dave moving through the sports pub crowd, the acid is kicking in, he loves it. Dave and Randy go see DJ Ira. They burst into laughter as Ira's head morphs into the McDonald's crescent moon character.

CRESCENT MOON HEAD IRA

What's up guys?

Dave is laughing almost uncontrollably.

RANDY

Whats up Ira. We're tripping on acid.

Ira laughs, he has a florescent blow up guitar hanging on the wall, he pulls it down and decides to mess with Randy.

CRESCENT MOON HEAD IRA

Hey Randy, check this out.

Ira bends the guitar, Randy's eyes bug out. They stumble out of the booth laughing saying "Crescent moon head".

We see a rehearsal, Rob looks different, he's edgier.

ROB

What the fuck are you all looking at?

Rob grabs a 40 ounce beer and takes a big chug of it.

ROB(CONT)

Let's jam.

Randy and Rob in Mad Hatter hats and sunglasses with Dave exiting the Sports Pub loaded. A few girls wait for them.

RANDY

We need to find somewhere we can go.

FEMALE FAN

I live across the street in the apartments, we can go there.

ROB

That'll work.

DAVE

Sure, why not. What's your name?

FEMALE FAN

My name is DANI. Come on!

Randy throws his arm around Dani, a cute blonde college girl.

RANDY

Lead the way Dani.

We see them at Dani's drinking and partying. Boo is painting a mural on her wall... We see Dave at Favorites. The bouncer Mike comes up to him.

MIKE

We need help. Randy's out of control.

Mike leads Dave to the parking lot, Randy is standing on the back of a car, wearing only boxer shorts, combat boots, dark sunglasses and his guitar. He's got a bottle of Jack Daniels in his hand, swaying back and forth laughing hysterically.

MIKE

Randy, please get off the car.

DAVE

Randy man, what are you doing? You gotta get off the car.

Randy just looks at them, laughs and takes a swig of whiskey. 2 girls in a convertible pull up. They look up at Randy.

GIRL

Hey Randy, what are you doing?

GIRL 2

Come on Randy, come with us.

Randy jumps off the car into the backseat of the convertible.
The girls drive off with him. Everyone is stunned.

MIKE

Well at least he's off the car.

Dave and Mike start walking back in.

DAVE

But where did his clothes go?

We see Randy and Dave writing at Ilana's house very late.

DAVE

What do you think of this?

Dave sings softly over the guitar.

DAVE

"She is dangerous, She is my dream.
she's my worst fear, and all
temptation in between. If I could love
her, you know I'd never fade away. I'm
caught in her storm, a sensual rain."

Randy stops playing the guitar, and looks at him.

RANDY

Whoa, tell me that's written down.

DAVE

Yeah, it's in a notebook at home.

We see Dave at home, there's a knock on the door. It's Rob
with Randy, Boo and Super Dave who are clearly high.

ROB

Sorry "D", I can't take him home like
this.

DAVE

Yeah no worries.

They enter the apartment. Super Dave sinks into the beanbag.

SUPER DAVE

Ohhhhh...

Super Dave looks paranioid.

SUPER DAVE(CONT)
 ...I'm sinking in. I can't move.

They all laugh.

RANDY
 "DEEE BEEE", where were you tonight?

DAVE
 'Sup bro, sorry, I needed to sleep.

RANDY
 (sings)
 "It's Alright... Alright" (laughs)

Rob looks at Dave in disbelief.

ROB
 Sorry man.

We hear Randy flushing the toilet, growling and laughing. Rob and Dave walk over to see what he is doing.

RANDY
 It's a dragon.

He laughs, growls and flushes the toilet again... Randy and Dave with Dani at her house, they are passing out on the couch. Randy slumps against Dave and his lit cigarette burns Dave's face, who wakes and yells:

DAVE
 I'm on fire!

This wakes Randy. Seeing what happened Randy makes it even.

RANDY
 Dude no, I'm sorry, look it's alright.

He puts the cigarette to his cheek and burns his face too.

DANI
 You guys need help.

"Cruel" and the montage ends. Dave is asleep. The phone rings waking him up. It's Randy. We see Dave but we hear the conversation.

DAVE
 Hello.

RANDY
 Hey "D", sorry to wake you. I'm at

Dani's, I gotta get home, my mother in law needs to drop Ashley off.

DAVE

Yeah, no problem. I'll be right there.

DANI'S APARTMENT. EARLY MORNING

Dave enters. Dani is passed out on the couch. Randy is on the phone with his mother in law, wearing a white nightgown, combat boots and sunglasses.

RANDY

I am a good father, I'll be home in an hour, sorry if that's making you late.

Randy hangs up the phone and looks at Dave.

RANDY

Sorry bro, they're tripping.

RANDY'S MOM'S HOUSE EXTERIOR. EARLY MORNING.

Dave and Randy pull up. They sit in silence in the car.

RANDY

You ever think we're tempting fate?

DAVE

You mean are we partying too much?

RANDY

Sometimes I think God's going to get tired of us acting like this and the consequences are gonna be harsh.

DAVE

I don't know man, I have faith, but I don't think God punishes like that.

RANDY

Mom is always preaching at me bout the consequences of sin maybe she's right.

They sit in silence. Suddenly as if a hand pushes down on them the car sinks a few inches. They are spooked by it.

DAVE

Did that just happen?

RANDY

No no no, I most certainly didn't see or feel nothing.

They sit in silence for another moment freaked out.

RANDY (CONT)
But I'm going to sit in the car 'til
Ashley gets here alright?

We see the car with Randy and Dave inside in silence.

INT.ROADSIDE BLUES BAR PRESENT DAY

Randy, Rob and Dave keep talking, the bar has less people.

ROB
You sure you weren't just tripping?

DAVE
I don't know what it was but it's the
kind of shit that only happened to us.

RANDY
I'm telling you it was a warning
because it was just after that

DAVE
(interrupts)
Hey that was NOT your fault. You need
to know that.

ROB
I've been telling him that for years.

RANDY
Many sleepless nights I wonder if we
weren't so crazy would it've happened?

DAVE
No way to know. Life's like dominoes,
every action leads to the next.

RANDY
So you're saying it had to happen?

DAVE
No I'm saying we can't predict if
something will lead to good or bad.
It's like you can't serve two masters.

RANDY
Going biblical on me?

DAVE
Why not? It's the truth isn't it?

Randy can sense what Dave means by what he said.

RANDY

They call it the music BUSINESS.

DAVE

I know, but before the business we were unified around the songs and the band's bond, but as soon as you add money into the mix, look what happens.

RANDY

Hey I'd love to live in a world that doesn't require money, but that shit ain't going to happen. You weren't being very realistic back then.

DAVE

Maybe not, I was naive about business.

RANDY

Business? Bro you were naive about everything but you learned quick.

ROB

Come on man, we all didn't know what the hell we were doing, let's move on.

RANDY

Remember D, I had a baby and needed money. It wasn't about connecting to the crowd and the things it was for you, for me it was a way to provide.

VIPER ROOM LOS ANGELES NIGHT TIME

The Marquee reads "Stevie Salas with special guest 3 Days". In the dressing room the band prepare with Ilana, Brandy, Super Dave and Boo. They are anxious. This is a big show. Stevie Salas enters.

STEVIE SALAS

Hey guys, I just wanted to say hi. I'm looking forward to this, you ready?

ROB

Yeah man.

STEVIE SALAS

I can't wait to see how this crowd reacts to you guys!

RANDY

We're going to bring it to them.

The stage manager comes to collect the band.

STAGE MANAGER

You guys good to go? 5 minutes?

STEVIE SALAS

Alright showtime! I'll see you soon.

Stevie leaves, the guys are pumped. Brandy hugs Scrubby.

BRANDY

Go out there and blow them away.

Ilana gives Randy a kiss.

ILANA

I know you guys will be great.

Ilana hugs Dave, Rob and Scrubby. The others get up to leave.

BOO

Go blow up the spot!

SUPER DAVE

This is your night! I can feel it.

The door closes, it's just the band now. Scrubby leads them to the side stage. The LA backstage vampires all watch this baby band coming to be sacrificed or crowned. The house music and lights go out. The stage lights come up.

RANDY

Get in here...

Randy pulls them all into a tight huddle.

RANDY (CONT)

This is it. We're going to take it to them. These motherfuckers don't know what's about to hit them, leave no doubt, bring all of it for us, for nobody else, FOR US. Leave it all out there TONIGHT. LET'S DO THIS!!!

The band breaks the huddle and the room temperature changes, they are focused and determined as we hear the MC.

MC

Please welcome to the stage. "3 Days"

Scrubby leads them onto the stage. He sits behind the drums. Randy and Rob put their instruments on. Dave walks to the microphone, he scans the packed room and finds their friends. The band make eye contact communicating without words. Dave breathes slow and deep sharpening himself. He turns back to the crowd grabs the mic as we hear Scrubby count them in.

DAVE

What's up LA?

They launch into "The Future". They are on fire. Their friends howl. The reserved LA crowd go nuts as Randy plays the intro lead. Rob and Scrubby thumping as Dave launches into the verse, playing with the crowd. The song ends, the crowd goes wild. DB introduces "Come Together."

DAVE

LA we're here... Let's come together.

Scrubby and Rob lay down a funky groove as Randy channels a mean Hendrix vibe on the melody. In true LA fashion a couple of guys that look like they're in a band make a crack.

CROWD GUY

What are they the Black Chili Peppers?

Randy looks pissed. Dave, back to crowd, mouths to Randy.

DAVE

I got this...

Dave gives the hecklers a fuck off look and intros the band.

DAVE

We've traveled from Sin City to join
you here in Los Angeles...

The crowd roars.

DAVE (CONT)

Los Angeles, Tinsel town, The land of
make believe...

The crowd roars in acknowledgment. Dave has them.

DAVE (CONT)

So in the land of make believe we're
here to bring you something real,
ain't no pretenders up here tonight...

The crowd sways to the groove. Dave moves behind Scrubby.

DAVE (CONT)
 On drums, da man that brings the power
 on time all the time, Gary Wright...

Scrubby plays a fill and the crowd cheers. Dave moves to Rob.

DAVE (CONT)
 Robbie Dawg make it funky for the
 people now...

Rob plays funkier, Dave puts his arm on Rob's shoulder.

DAVE (CONT)
 Let me introduce the man who's groove
 ya can't deny. I dare you to stand
 still, ya can't! On bass Rob Carter...

The crowd bounces to Rob's groove. Dave starts towards Randy.

DAVE (CONT)
 ..And now, we got some soul for ya.

Dave, arm around Randy, leads him in front of the hecklers.

DAVE (CONT)
 We got the fire for the people....are
 you ready?

Dave holds the mic out, the crowd cheers. Dave looks at Randy
 and shakes his head. Randy plays a burst but holds back.

DAVE (CONT)
 Naaaa man, they're not ready.(Dave
 sings) Are you ready? Sing with me Yes
 I'm ready... Are you ready?, Yes I'm
 ready... Are you ready?

The crowd plays along in the call and response, shouting.

CROWD
 "Yes I'm Ready"

They shout back louder, Dave changes it up.

DAVE (CONT)
 I think they're Ready, On guitar the
 fire and soul, Randy Herrera. Come on
 Randy Give it to them!

Randy bursts into a powerful, soulful solo. You can hear
 every note as they go blazing by. The hecklers' jaws drop as
 he burns the guitar in front of them. Dave off microphone
 yells at them.

DAVE (CONT)

That's right motherfuckers. You can't fuck with that.

Dave kisses Randy on the cheek and they kick into the chorus.

They close with "It's Alright". Dave jumps off the stage, and climbs on a table. He motions the band to continue.

DAVE (CONT)

Come on Randy, one more time. (sings)
"It's Alright... Alright...."

Randy and Dave sing the chorus across the room. The crowd loves it. Dave bounces back to the stage.

DAVE (CONT)

We're "3 Days". Thank you LA.
Goodnight.

He walks off stage. The band play the chorus a last time, as it ends Randy lets the guitar feedback. The crowd erupts as the band leaves the stage. We see them celebrating backstage, with Boo, Super Dave, Brandy and Ilana.

It's later, everyone's gone, Randy and Rob are at the bar.

RANDY

Let me thank Stevie before we leave.

ROB

Cool man, tell him thanks from me too.

Randy finds Stevie in his dressing room.

STEVIE SALAS

Randy! Man you guys killed it! Remind me not to follow you guys again!

RANDY

Yeah, it was a trip, they really got into it with us.

STEVIE SALAS

I have a tour of Japan coming up, you guys should open. You'd make money and I have a good distributor in Japan. You'd be huge there!

RANDY

I'd love that. But why do you want to help us?

STEVIE SALAS

What comes around goes around brother.
People helped me, now it's my turn. If
I can help you get a deal over there,
I'd like to produce your album.

RANDY

That would be great.

STEVIE SALAS

I'll talk with my team, you talk with
the guys, let's see what we can do.

They shake on it and walk out together.

RANDY

I'll talk to you soon Stevie.

Stevie waves to Rob and smiles as he heads out the door.

ROB

What's up man?

RANDY

I don't want to say until I know for
sure, but there might be something
cool coming up from Stevie.

ROB

Cool... Well let's get out of here
cause we gotta drive back tomorrow.

Randy and Rob take one last look around and leave.

DRIVING FROM LA TO VEGAS, MORNING

We see all the guys and their friends crammed into a
passenger van with their gear. Everyone is asleep, but Dave
who is driving, and Randy who is in the passenger seat.

RANDY

Why did you leave so early last night?

DAVE

Cause I was the one driving us back
this morning.

RANDY

You should have stayed man, it was a
trip.

DAVE

How was Stevie?

RANDY
He was cool man, he definitely dug us.

DAVE
Really? What did he say?

Randy looks out the window, deciding to keep the conversation to himself.

RANDY
He said he didn't want to follow us again.

DAVE
Wow thats a cool compliment!

Randy keeps looking out the window as the desert flies by.

INT. 4 KEGS BAR/RESTAURANT

Randy carrying a folder, joins Rob, Dave, Scrubby and Super Dave in a booth.

RANDY
Sorry I'm late, got some news, Stevie Salas asked if we would be interested in going on tour with him to Japan.

They are shocked. This is the first they've heard this.

SCRUBBY
A tour of Japan?

Dave takes the folder and opens it up. He looks confused.

DAVE
Hold up. Randy this is a contract. How long have you known about this?

Dave passes the folder to Scrubby.

RANDY
Since the Viper Room.

DAVE
That was a month ago! Why haven't you said anything?

RANDY
I didn't know it was real and didn't want to waste our time if it wasn't.

SCRUBBY

This is a six week tour Randy.

ROB

Man I don't even have a passport. How long does it take to get one?

SUPER DAVE

A month but you can expedite it.

DAVE

Why did he send a contract? We've never talked about it?

RANDY

I told him we'd do it.

DAVE

You told him we'd do it without speaking to us about it?

RANDY

It's a tour, real money and a chance to get a distribution deal. Why wouldn't we do it?

ROB

You should've told us about this man.

RANDY

You too? You're crazy, this is a great opportunity. Didn't you guys say you wanted to tour? "D" didn't you say you wanted a record deal?

DAVE

Of course we want those things, but you can't just tell someone we'll do a tour without us talking about it.

RANDY

That's bullshit man. Did we all agree on the gigs we played last year? NO, I booked them. And I'm booking this.

SCRUBBY

What if one of us couldn't do it?

RANDY

The way I see it we got to, it's far enough out that we can all do what we need to make it happen.

DAVE

Fuck that. This isn't just your band. You don't have any right to speak for us, you can't speak for me. You need to tell Stevie we're not doing it.

RANDY

You're tripping Dave, you know we should do this.

DAVE

No I don't know that. I want a major deal with global distribution and a world tour. I don't want to limit us to just Japan.

The tension is uncomfortable. Scrubby tries to broker peace.

SCRUBBY

We have to start someplace, and Japan might be fun but you gotta bring it to us, if it's a good idea of course we will all want to do it.

DAVE

No fuck that man, how am I supposed to trust you when you're making deals without our say. You say this is a family, but it's not a family when you do shit like this. I'm out of here.

Dave gets up and leaves in anger. Scrubby gets up too.

SCRUBBY

Well I guess the meeting's over.

RANDY

Hold up. What about this tour?

SCRUBBY

It doesn't sound like we're doing it Randy. You should have asked us first.

RANDY

What about you Rob?

Dave feels bad, he turns back and he hears them talking, but they don't see him.

ROB

Dave doesn't want to do it so what does it matter?

RANDY

Then he can stay home and we'll go.
I'll sing or we'll get someone else.

Dave, unseen, feels betrayed, walks out more angry.

SCRUBBY

That's fucked up. I'm gunna go before
I hear anything else that crazy. I'll
talk to you guys tomorrow, hopefully
we all come to our senses.

Scrubby walks out. Randy sits in denial.

ROB

Randy, the tour could be cool but
Dave's right. What if we get a deal in
Japan and it blocks a better one in
the US? We gotta be smart, and you
can't fire Dave cause he's mad at you.

RANDY

All I know is I need to get mine,
we're blowing up spots, all we get is
a couple hundred for it. Man, we
should be making a lot more. I say
take the money when it's there. I
think Dave's just scared.

ROB

Dave's a warrior on that stage.
Everything we've done, we've done
together. We can't stop that now.

SUPER DAVE

I'll talk to him.

ROB

I'm going to take off. We good Randy?

RANDY

Yeah.

ROB

No Randy. WE GOOD?

Randy looks up at Rob but he isn't ready to budge.

RANDY

Yeah we good.

Rob leaves, now it's just Super Dave and Randy.

SUPER DAVE

I think we need a few shots, come on.

Super Dave and Randy go to the bar on a mission.

EXT. 4 KEGS BAR/RESTAURANT PARKING LOT NIGHT TIME

It's hours later, Randy and Super Dave stumble out.

SUPER DAVE

Have faith Randy, it will work out.

RANDY

That's why we need you, you're so positive, you're Super Dave.

SUPER DAVE

We will figure this out, don't worry.

RANDY

I'll call "D" and make it right.

SUPER DAVE

Come on, I'll drive you home.

RANDY

You okay to drive Super Dave?

SUPER DAVE

I'm great Randy. It's all good. It's all going to be good.

INT. RANDY'S ROOM NOON

Randy is taking care of Ashley. The phone rings. Isabelle answers and brings the phone to him.

ISABELLE

Randy, it's for you.

Isabelle picks up Ashley and leaves. We see Randy on the phone and hear the conversation. It's Super Daves Mom.

RANDY

Hello.

SUPER DAVE'S MOM

Randy...

She is crying and it immediately concerns Randy.

RANDY

This is Randy.

SUPER DAVE'S MOM
It's Dave's Mom, I needed to call you.
Dave never made it home last night.

RANDY
What do you mean? Is he ok?

SUPER DAVE'S MOM
No Randy... Dave's dead.

Randy is confused and shocked.

RANDY
What do you mean? How? I just saw him.

SUPER DAVE'S MOM
They found him in his car. The police
said he had a heart attack.

RANDY
Wait... what?

SUPER DAVE'S MOM
They said he OD'd. I said that can't
be, they said he had drugs in the car.

Randy is overcome with emotion.

RANDY
Oh no no no.

SUPER DAVE'S MOM
Randy did you know Dave did drugs?
Were you with him? Did you know?

In shock Randy's mind races with images of him and Super Dave partying, doing drugs. He doesn't know what to say.

RANDY
Ohhhh no...no... no no no no

Randy drops the phone.

INT. OFFICE/WAREHOUSE REHEARSAL SPACE EVENING

Dave and Scrubby are waiting for Randy and Rob.

SCRUBBY
You were pretty hard on Randy last
night.

DAVE
Yeah I was pissed, if I stayed any

longer, I'd have said something I'd really regret today.

SCRUBBY

Yeah, well you weren't wrong, we just need to communicate better.

DAVE

What do you think?

SCRUBBY

After sleeping on it, I think it's an opportunity but six weeks is too long. We're better off finding a lawyer to get us in the door with a major here.

DAVE

Exactly. I think the right doors will open for us and we'll get the deal that we really want here.

SCRUBBY

Just remember, the doors that open, we don't always see as a door. Maybe the Salas offer is a door, you know?

Dave thinks about what Scrubby is saying.

DAVE

There you go using logic, see where that gets us.

They laugh. The door opens and they see Rob.

DAVE

Where's Randy?

ROB

Randy's not going to make it, we got some bad news.

DAVE

Is everything alright?

ROB

No man, Super Dave died this morning.

Scrubby lowers his head. Dave stands up shocked.

DAVE

What? We just saw him last night.

ROB

The police found him in his car, he OD'd and had a heart attack.

SCRUBBY

OD'd?? On what? How?

ROB

Cops said they found coke in the car.

DAVE

Have you guys ever seen Dave do coke?

ROB

Never but his Mom called Randy this morning and she asked if he knew Dave was doing drugs, it fucked him up.

SCRUBBY

Yeah that would fuck any of us up.

DAVE

Is Randy alright? They were close.

ROB

NO MAN, Randy is messed up right now. So we gotta help him get over this.

They all agree, Dave feels guilty for the night before.

EXT. RANDY'S MOM'S HOUSE

Dave walks up and knocks. We see Randy in his dark room. Motionless he stares out the window. He can see Dave, but he ignores him. Time lapses, Randy stares out the window. The guys stop by, we hear multiple calls, Randy ignores them. Dave drives up. We hear a phone call between Dave and Ilana.

ILANA

I still can't get him on the phone, I'm really worried.

DAVE

We're all worried. We keep calling and going to the house but no answer. I was thinking he wasn't there.

ILANA

I talked to his Mom, she was in LA but she's back now. She says he's staying in his room, he won't talk to anyone.

DAVE
I'll head over, if his Mom lets me in
I'll talk to him.

ILANA
I'm worried he thinks this is his
fault, tell him we love him and tell
him to come see me in New York.

DAVE
If he'll talk to me, I'll tell him.

EXT. RANDY'S MOM'S HOUSE

Dave knocks on the door. Isabelle opens the door.

ISABELLE
Come in. Randy is in his room, he's
barely been out, help him if you can.

DAVE
I'll do whatever I can.

INT. RANDY'S ROOM

Dave enters the room. It's dark.

DAVE
Randy?

Dave sees Randy sitting in the corner. He has 2 guitars on
playing soulful hammer-ons on both guitars at the same time.

RANDY
Hey "D", does this look crazy?

DAVE
Yeah man, that's insane looking.

Randy keeps playing. Dave sits down on the bed.

DAVE
We've been coming by and calling and
you won't talk to anyone.

RANDY
I can't.

DAVE
We love you man, we're here for you.

RANDY
I appreciate that.

Dave watches while Randy plays. He seems dazed.

DAVE

Ilana called, she wants you to go to New York to see her.

RANDY

I'll see her when she gets back home.

DAVE

Why don't you want to see Ilana?

Randy looks at Dave, you can see the hurt in his eyes.

RANDY

It's my fault "D". It's my fault.

DAVE

It's not, it was a terrible accident.

RANDY

The last thing he said to me was that it was going to be alright. It's not.

DAVE

I promise it will be. I know you can't see it, but trust me it'll get better.

Randy puts his head down.

RANDY

What if that was me, what would happen to Ashley? And then how selfish am I for thinking that?

DAVE

You're a dad, everything is filtered by how it affects Ash. Don't blame yourself for it not being you, God has a different plan for you.

Randy looks up and listens as Dave continues.

DAVE (CONT)

..You've got a lot of living to do, for Ashley and yourself. Sitting here feeling guilty won't change what happened, but we can control whats next by living better lives. Thats how we honor Dave.

RANDY

I worry God's gunna take more away.

DAVE

You know better. God's not punishing you. He's blessed you with a beautiful daughter. He's trying to get your attention and He's waiting for you to get back on your feet.

RANDY

I don't even know where to start.

DAVE

Spend time with your daughter and Mom, then call your Pops and get a flight, go see Ilana. Clear your head.

RANDY

Okay man... I'll try.

INT.ROADSIDE BLUES BAR PRESENT DAY

Dave, Randy and Rob are still having drinks and reminiscing.

RANDY

I never thanked you for being there for me that day. I had been feeling like it was going to catch up with us, and then it did.

DAVE

It did... but you picked yourself up.

Rob finishes his beer and gets up to go.

ROB

Well I gotta work tomorrow fellas, so I'm going to head out.

DAVE

What? Come on man, stay for one more.

ROB

No, I gotta go but it was great to see you Dave. I hope we see more of you.

Dave and Randy say goodbye to Rob. Dave gives him a hug.

DAVE

I'm really glad you stopped in. You take care of yourself brother.

RANDY

Alright Rob, I'll call you tomorrow.

Rob starts to walk away, he turns and says:

ROB
Remember, we got unfinished business.
Let's do this for us, for our kids,
alright?

Rob heads for the door. Dave and Randy sit down again.

DAVE
Rob Carter ladies and gentleman.

RANDY
There goes the rubber neck.

Randy knows it's getting late, and there are things to say, so he starts with a confession.

RANDY
I have to tell you, after the fight at
the 4 Kegs, I was so mad, I told the
guys that if you didn't want to go,
we'd do it without you. I'm sorry man.
I didn't mean it.

DAVE
Yeah you did. Once business got thrown
in we couldn't see the forest through
the trees.

RANDY
The almighty I subtracted the WE.

DAVE
It's dangerous being a big fish in a
small pond, you don't know about the
sharks out there until it's too late.

INT. MCCARRAN AIRPORT LAS VEGAS EVENING

Randy is on a pay phone in the terminal talking to Ilana.

ILANA
You're at the airport? All set?

RANDY
Yeah, I'm on the Redeye so I get into
New York at 6 am. Sorry it's so early.

ILANA
I'll meet you at Kennedy, then we'll
get breakfast. I'm happy you decided
to come to New York. Just get here!

RANDY

Okay, I gotta go. I'm going to see if I can get an upgrade. I'll see you in the City in the morning.

Randy hangs up the phone. He walks towards the gate area.

INT. DELTA PLANE

Randy takes an aisle seat in first class. A man in his early 40s is next to him. He looks like who hippies grow up to be. A FLIGHT ATTENDANT approaches to serve them.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Care for a drink before the flight?

RANDY

Yeah, Crown Royal and Coke.

MAN

That sounds good, I'll have that too.

The Man introduces himself to Randy.

MAN

Guess we're neighbors. Hi I'm Tom.

RANDY

How you doing, I'm Randy.

The Flight Attendant brings the drinks. Randy grabs a CD walkman and a Jimi Hendrix book from his bag. Tom notices.

TOM

Hey, Jimi Hendrix. You listen to Jimi?

RANDY

Yeah, he's a big influence on me.

TOM

I saw Jimi and Janis at Monterey.

RANDY

For real? What was that like?

TOM

I was a teenager. God now thinking about it I feel old! But I was never the same after that night.

RANDY

I bet. I wish I could have seen him.

The plane takes off and Randy and Tom continuing to talk.

TOM
So you're a musician?

RANDY
Yeah I play guitar in a band in Vegas.

TOM
Got anything I can hear? I'd love to know what you sound like.

RANDY
Alright yeah, I have a demo CD.

Randy hands Tom the Walkman. He watches as Tom listens, We hear "Dangerous Thing" begin. Tom looks at Randy.

TOM
This is you?

RANDY
Yeah.

TOM
Holy shit!

Randy smiles. Tom continues to listen.

TOM
What label are you with?

RANDY
Nobody. We're kind of a new band.

TOM
Jeezus, this is really good.

Randy watches as Tom listens. They talk thru the flight.

KENNEDY AIRPORT INTERIOR. - EARLY MORNING.

Tom and Randy exit the plane. As fate would have it TOM's WIFE and Ilana are next to each other. They both stop and hug their partners and laugh. The girls look surprised.

TOM
Oh this is funny. Randy this is my wife Mimi. Randy and I have been talking all flight.

RANDY
This is Ilana.

Tom pulls out a business card and hands it to Randy.

TOM

I think you're really talented and a lot of fun. I might be able to help you. Come see me at my office and we can talk and I'd love to take you guys out to dinner. Sound good?

RANDY

That sounds good to me!

TOM

Great! We gotta run, I have to get to the office.

Tom and Mimi leave. Randy looks at the card. It says Tom Davis with an NBC logo, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York.

ILANA

Who is he Randy?

Randy hands Ilana the card and watches her. She looks down at it, in disbelief she looks up wide eyed and smiles.

EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE NEW YORK MORNING

Randy and Ilana are having coffee, talking and catching up.

ILANA

I missed you. I'm sorry I wasn't home for you when it happened.

RANDY

When Super Dave died, you can say it.

ILANA

I just don't want to upset you. You were in a really bad place. You've never not returned calls before.

RANDY

Sorry about that, a lot was going on and then Super Dave. It was too much and I needed a minute, but I'm here.

ILANA

And look what happened! You met someone that can help you! I mean Tom Davis. Did you know who he was?

RANDY

No. We didn't talk about him. He just

wanted to know about me and the band.

ILANA

You should go tomorrow. I have to work so that would be perfect.

RANDY

Alright, I'll go tomorrow.

EXT. 30 ROCKEFELLER CENTER DAYTIME

Randy walks across Rockefeller Plaza. He sees the NBC logo. He goes in. We see him in a crowded elevator. It stops and the doors open revealing the Saturday Night Live logo as he exits. He sees the Receptionist and walks over to her.

RANDY

I'm here to see Tom Davis.

RECEPTIONIST

Your name?

RANDY

Randy Herrera.

RECEPTIONIST

I'll let him know you're here.

Tom comes for Randy. The Receptionist is impressed.

TOM

Randy! Glad you stopped by. Come in.

Tom leads Randy to a conference room decorated with photos of the SNL greats, a stunning display of history and talent.

TOM

Have a seat. Want anything to drink?

RANDY

No I'm fine. So you work here?

TOM

Yeah, I've been writing comedy here with my partner for over 20 years now.

RANDY

Now it makes sense.

TOM

What makes sense?

RANDY

Why Ilana was tripping, she knows who you are. It didn't occur to me. We were talking music, I wasn't thinking.

TOM

Actually it was nice to talk music and art without someone having an agenda.

RANDY

Yeah I know what you mean.

TOM

I've been thinking about you since we met and I guess now I do have an agenda. I was really excited by our conversation and your band's music.

RANDY

Thanks, we got a good thing going.

TOM

You do, and I was thinking I like this guy and his music. I think I can help him. Would you like me to help you?

RANDY

Sure! But I mean, what can you do?

TOM

Being in TV for over twenty years I know how hard it is to open doors and now that I have some success...

RANDY

(interrupts)

Some success?

TOM

OK, maybe a lot of success, but that success has put me in a position to help. What do you hope to achieve?

RANDY

We want a record deal, to play big shows, magazine covers, all of it.

TOM

You want to live the dream.

RANDY

We want our music to be heard, to connect with as many people as

possible but we're not foolish. We also want to be paid for it.

TOM
and that's why you need a manager.

Tom walks around the table and sits by Randy.

TOM
I was shocked you don't have a manager or a deal yet. You guys sound ready.

RANDY
We've come a long way in 2 years.

TOM
It shows and I was excited because sometimes you meet people at just the right time. Know what I mean?

RANDY
I'm not sure I do.

TOM
Sometimes you meet someone when their goals line up with yours. You see my career is in TV but I've always loved music and I've been thinking I want to find the right band I can manage.

RANDY
You want to manage us?

TOM
I'm interested in finding out if that's a possibility. I'd like to meet the rest of the band. I'd love to set up a show for you here in New York.

RANDY
Wouldn't it be easier to come see us in Vegas. You were just there right?

TOM
True, but I want to see you with an audience that's never heard you. I know you have a following in Vegas and you told me about The Viper Room but this is New York, you know what they say. If you can make it here...

RANDY
You can make it anywhere, yeah, but

that means we all have to travel here.

TOM

Getting you guys here is easy, that's just flights. It's worth it to see how a New York crowd reacts to you.

RANDY

Well what are you thinking?

TOM

Ever heard of CBGB's?

RANDY

You're tripping! CBGB's!?

TOM

Yeah I know the owner.

RANDY

I'm sure the guys will want to but let me call them first.

Tom motions to a phone on the table.

TOM

There's a phone right there!

RANDY

Oookaay, can this do conference calls?

TOM

Tell you what, let's have some fun with this. Give me their numbers.

Randy writes the numbers down, Tom calls his secretary.

TOM

Janice I need you to set up a conference call for us. Tell these guys you're calling for Randy and then link us up in here. Can you do that?

JANICE

Of course Mr. Davis.

TOM

Randy put them on speaker and introduce me to them.

CONFERENCE CALL SPLIT SCREEN

We see Randy and Tom on the right half of the screen. The

left is split in 3 with Rob, Scrubby, and Dave.

JANICE

Hold please. Ok, Randy is on the line.

RANDY

Hey, what's up fellas?

The guys take turns greeting Randy in a phone reunion. Tom smiles, he likes their enthusiasm. The guys realize they're all on the call, they greet each other too. Tom laughs.

RANDY

Maaaaan, you won't believe where I am.

ALL THE GUYS

Where are you?

RANDY

I'm at Rockefeller Plaza staring at the stars of Saturday Night Live with my friend Tom Davis.

ALL THE GUYS

What? No way. No you're not.

RANDY

I'm for real man. Hold up. Tom say hi.

TOM

Hi guys, it's nice to meet you. I'm Tom Davis with NBC.

ALL THE GUYS

Wow! Hi!

RANDY

I met Tom on the plane and I played our demo for him and he likes it. He thinks he can help us.

ALL THE GUYS

No way! How? What's up?

RANDY

I'll let Tom tell you.

TOM

Well guys, Randy told me all about your band and he played me the demo. I gotta say I was blown away.

ALL THE GUYS

Wow! Thanks!

TOM

I think I can help you get a record deal but I'd like to see you play here in New York for an audience that's never seen you. Would you guys come to New York to play a show? And don't worry, I'll take care of everything, pay for everything, What do you think?

The guys are all extremely excited by this opportunity.

DAVE

Where are you thinking we could play?

RANDY

Bro you're not going to believe it, You've been to shows in this place.

TOM

I was thinking CBGBs.

DAVE

Holy shit, Serious? CBGBs? Hell yeah!

They flip out. CBGBs is revered. Tom laughs, he likes them.

TOM

Great! I'll set up a show and get you out here. Then we can see what we can do. I'd love to help.

They all are celebrating on the phone. Tom laughs.

TOM

My assistant Janice will set everything up, and Randy will call with details. I'll see you all soon.

They hang up. The split screen ends.

TOM

They seem great! I love it when we do things like that! come on, let's get something to eat.

Randy can't believe what's happening as they walk out.

INT.ROADSIDE BLUES BAR PRESENT DAY

Dave and Randy have moved to the bar which is mostly empty.

DAVE

I still can't believe you were sitting next to Tom Davis and didn't know it.

RANDY

None of us knew who he was, we just knew of his work.

DAVE

Before I knew it we were in New York.

RANDY

Like that saying. In a New York Minute. It all happened so fast.

DAVE

Springsteen wrote "Is a dream a lie if it don't come true, or is it something worse?" I remember thinking about that a lot when we were in New York.

RANDY

It was all laid out for us, why couldn't you just enjoy it?

DAVE

We were doing it all, what we dreamed, but it felt like we had to kill what we loved to get what we wanted, Shannon warned me that would happen.

NEW YORK MONTAGE

We hear the song "It's On". We see the band traveling to New York... Ilana documents their trip... A limo takes them through the city... a time lapse of them in Time Square, the city speeds by them. They are in awe... they arrive at CBGBs.

CBGBS NIGHT CLUB INTERIOR- NIGHT

The band are in the dressing room. The tension is so thick you could cut it with a knife. They are focused and serious. knowing they are playing for their lives tonight. Tom enters.

RANDY

This is Tom Davis.

TOM

Hey guys, I'm excited to see you play.

They greet Tom and thank him for the opportunity.

TOM(CONT)

Jimi Hendrix said "all I play is truth
and emotion", I know you guys do too.
Have a great show!

Tom leaves as the stage manager summons them. They rise, make eye contact assuring each other. No words spoken. We follow them down the hall, passing the same faceless people they've seen in Vegas and LA. The house music and lights go out, stage lights come up. Off stage they huddled up.

RANDY

Here we are, the show of our lives,
this one's for EVERYTHING! Let's take
it! Look where we are! We're at
mother-fucking CBGBs! they ain't ready
maaan, but we are! Let's show these
fuckers what heart and soul is! Let's
funk this place up! It's our time now!
we go together! for us!

The MC introduces them.

MC

Please welcome in their New York
Debut. Three Days.

They take the stage like cold calculated assassins on a mission. Gone are the nerves of the past. Each ready to give everything they have. Randy and Dave scan the crowd. Tom watches by the soundboard. Scrubby counts in "Dangerous Thing". Randy ignites the entire room with the intro solo. A wave of energy flows from the band to the crowd who go nuts. Tom watches in awe. We see a quick cut montage of the band and the crowd meeting in the sound. It's the pinnacle of their abilities. We see Dave intro a song.

DAVE

This is for our friend Tom.

They play a flawless heavy funky version of "All Along The Watchtower" honoring how Randy and Tom met. They close with "Together", the entire house sings the last chorus for them.

CROWD

"Together"...

The crowd explodes. Tom can't believe what he has seen. As is custom Dave puts the mic in the stand and quietly says.

DAVE

Thank you. We're "3 Days"

Dave walks off. The band play the chorus, Rob and Scrubby end on a powerful fill. They walk off, From the side of the stage they watch as Randy continues and then ends by dropping the guitar and letting it feedback. He walks off.

Off stage they collapse into each other, tears in their eyes. They left it all on the stage. They are sweat drenched, exhausted, emotionally drained and exhilarated.

They go to the dressing room. Waiting for them is champagne. Dave grabs it, shakes it up, and sprays them all with it. Tom enters with his wife Mimi, he immediately hugs Randy.

TOM

Oh my god! I don't know how you did that but thank you. You reminded me of the power of music. It felt like back in the 60's.

SCRUBBY

We went for it. That felt so good!

Dave looks at his bandmates with clear eyed pride.

DAVE

We've had lots of moments on stage but not like that, the show of our lives!

Dave throws his arm around Randy.

DAVE (CONT)

..Bro, no words man.

TOM

I've never seen a band take an audience on a ride like that. And they've never seen you before!

ROB

They were freaking out. (Laughs) So we just started freaking out too.

Everyone laughs.

TOM

Congratulations guys, Let's celebrate tonight, and tomorrow let's talk about what we can do together. Sound good?

The celebration continues, they toast a perfect night.

INT. ROCKEFELLER CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM 9TH FLOOR DAYTIME

From the empty conference room we hear enthusiastic voices coming towards us, a lot of "woah check that out" talk. The band, Tom and his assistant enter.

TOM

Grab a seat, anyone want anything?

Tom sends Janice to bring some drinks for them.

TOM

I don't know the last time I was this excited about music. I think I can help you guys.

Janice returns with drinks. She passes them out. Randy sits quietly watching how his friends react to Tom.

TOM

I've been in entertainment for more than 20 years but starting out, I didn't know anyone. I've always felt with success, I should pay it forward.

They listening intently, Tom continues his pitch.

TOM(CONT)

Music has always been my first love, that's why I write comedy. Comedy is timing. Comedy is lyrical. Sadly, music is not my talent but it is yours

The band continues to listen focused on his every word.

TOM(CONT)

But unfortunately, you can have all the talent in the world but if you aren't lucky enough to meet the right people, nobody will ever hear you. And even if you do get a foot in the door, there's no guarantee you'll be successful. Go to any record store and see all the bands you've never heard of because they never had a chance to be heard...

Tom takes a sip of his water.

TOM(CONT)

...That's where I can help. I've got the roledex that comes with 20 years of success in entertainment, but I'm

still a hippy at heart whose first love was music. I can open the doors to get you heard.

Tom pauses, they are hanging on his words.

TOM(CONT)

So guys, what I'd like to do if you let me, is be your manager, your advisor, but I'd also like to get you started with some funding to record an album in a top studio. Then I'd like to shop it to my friends who run labels and see what happens.

They all seem very impressed with Tom's offer.

SCRUBBY

Who are your friends? What companies?

TOM

Clive Davis was with me last night.

SCRUBBY

I told you guys that was Clive Davis!

TOM

I'm also friends with Jimmy Iovine and a few others. These are major label people that I can bring to the table.

DAVE

That sounds expensive, you're a busy guy, what do you want in return?

Tom smiles at Dave like he expected the question.

TOM

I was hoping you guys would agree to give me 15% of all revenue.

ROB

How would the recording scenario work?

TOM

I'd like to get you into a studio here immediately. When we get a deal I'd like to be paid back, first money in, first money out, which is a standard investment deal. Of course the music license is yours, but I'd like to own the master recording, just until the investment is repaid. Then I'll

transfer it to you. I only need to protect what I'm prepared to spend and be compensated fairly for what I bring to the table. My reward will be working with you on real music.

RANDY

Why record in New York instead of Vegas? Wouldn't that save you money?

TOM

We have studios here we work with all the time so I can get good rates and great engineers for you to work with.

RANDY

My daughter is in Vegas, so are our families. Our sound comes from Vegas, wouldn't it be easier to record there?

Dave worries Randy is messing up, he tries to take control.

DAVE

They have the best studios in the world here, it's what we've wanted.

SCRUBBY

We're so tight right now, it won't take long to get the tracks down and mixed, then we can go home.

DAVE

Yeah Randy, probably only take a couple weeks, we won't be gone long.

Randy feels ganged up on and betrayed.

RANDY

You all didn't want to go to Japan on tour but now you want to record in New York, I don't get it, but I'll do whatever everyone wants.

DAVE

Rob what do you think?

Rob wants to support Randy, but this is a dream scenario.

ROB

If we all want to do this. I'm down.

Tom senses Randy's hesitation and wants to ease his mind.

TOM

Randy I promise to take good care of you, you can fly home anytime you want. Whadayah say? Want to do this?

It's not the scenario Randy wants but he reluctantly agrees.

RANDY

Alright, I guess we're doing this. How do we get started?

TOM

Great! I'll have my lawyer draw up an agreement and I'll get you guys into the studio and set you up with everything you'll need. You should be able to get started next week.

SCRUBBY

What studio?

TOM

My first choice is Electric Ladyland.

They all look at Randy.

TOM(CONT)

..Yeah that Electric Ladyland, I thought it would have good energy for you guys.

INT.ROADSIDE BLUES BAR PRESENT DAY

We see Dave and Randy seated at the bar.

DAVE

Electric Ladyland, Fucking Electric Ladyland. Why did you act like recording in New York was a problem?

RANDY

I don't know man. I met Tom and we were friends, then you guys come out and suddenly he's making bigger plans than I ever could. I felt like I was losing control. I don't know. I was just a kid. When I think about it now, it doesn't make a damn bit of sense.

Dave shakes his head, but he understands.

DAVE

Bro, I thought we had agreed that we

all made the decisions together.

RANDY

Yeah I know but I wasn't digging that, you guys kinda forced that on me and it was like either I do things that way, whichin' I didn't want, or I was afraid the band was going to end.

DAVE

I gotta admit I had the same fear because every decision, you and I fought it out. I can't imagine how sick of that shit Rob and Gary got.

RANDY

You know I love ya "D" and I wanted you with me but I was afraid we wouldn't make it if I wasn't in control.

INT. ELECTRIC LADYLAND STUDIOS

We see a big open recording room. We hear voices in the control room. We move through the empty studio into the control room. The engineer, DARREN, is talking.

DARREN

I'm Darren, it's going to be great working with you guys. I listened to your demo, great tunes. Now our job is to record the best performances we can at the highest quality possible.

ROB

That'll work.

DARREN

You guys play in a style we should record live, then overdub solos and vocals. The emphasis will be capturing the energy that you bring, so that sonically it represents you.

Darren shows them the biggest sound desk they have ever seen.

DARREN

I'll be working from here. As you can see, we have more tracks than you will ever need. So we're going to mic everything, capture it all.

RANDY
Can we add tracks to fill it out?

DARREN
Yeah of course, I'm here to empower
your creativity.

SCRUBBY
This is a trip.

DARREN
But a word of caution, stick to what
makes the songs great, thats what got
you here. Use this studio to color,
shape and focus them. You've been
living in these songs for awhile, you
know why people love them, and what
you love about them, stick to that.

They agree and look to Darren like a spirit guide.

DARREN
See that white board behind you?

They all acknowledge the board with reverence.

DARREN(CONT)
That's our map, right now it's blank
but we'll fill it with all the songs,
what they need and our progress on
them. So we have a blank board guys.
What are we starting with?

They all look to Randy for direction.

DAVE
Randy bro, you call it.

RANDY
Alright here we go.

Randy stands up and writes on the board "Dangerous Thing".

DARREN
"Dangerous Thing". So it begins!

The band walk into the live room. Recording techs assist
them. The band put on their headphones as it gets real.

DARREN
When you're ready, we will roll tape.

SCRUBBY
You guys all ready?

RANDY
Good to go.

Dave nods. Scrubby looks to Rob.

SCRUBBY
Hey Rob, you ready to get funky?

They all laugh, and it eases the tension of the moment.

ROB
Yeah maaan. Count us in.

RECORDING MONTAGE

Scrubby clicks his sticks to count them in. We hear and see parts of "Dangerous Thing", "Alright", "Who We Are", "It's On", "The Storm", "Together" and "Cruel" being recorded... Ilana documents the sessions... Darren working the board... Tom enters the control room.

TOM
Hey Darren. How are they doing?

DARREN
You weren't kidding, these guys are great but Randy is other worldly.

TOM
How are they to work with so far?

DARREN
So far so good, but ask me next week when they start making the hard choices. They work well with each other, and they're real close, like brothers, it will either be great or there will be a lot of squabbles.

TOM
The songs come from all of them, Randy is the soul but Dave's the heart so I hope the heart and soul are in sync.

We see the white board growing with their progress... Randy flies home to see Ashley... Dave doing vocal takes... Scrubby and Rob listen... Randy doing solo takes... the band, Tom and Darren listen to mixes... Randy and Dave argue over changes... Scrubby wants more drum volume... Randy wants more guitars... We see them at a local bar. Randy and Dave are in

a heated discussion.

DAVE

We don't have extra tracks live, let's keep the record close to that.

RANDY

Look man, I've been playing these songs for 2 years, I play what I play live but I've been hearing all these other things and I want to try them.

Darren and Tom are in the control room while the band play.

TOM

Whats the progress report?

DARREN

They're close. We've got great takes on all the songs but they're not all in agreement on some of the parts.

TOM

By not all you mean Randy and Dave?

DARREN

Yeah, you got two guys trying to be captains of the ship but it's weird, sometimes they build each other up and sometimes they fight like this is the hill they're willing to die on, it's like this is their process.

TOM

And Scrubby and Rob, how about them?

DARREN

So far it seems like it's normal to them ya know? Rob is quiet, Scrubby is a pro, (laughs) but I get the sense that Rob's getting fed up with them.

TOM

Maybe they need a producer, to get Randy and Dave in line.

DARREN

I don't know, you might have a mutiny, they might see a producer as a common enemy. They are nearly done.

They stop playing. Dave and Randy have words about something. Rob has had enough, he takes his bass off.

ROB

That's it, you two are driving us crazy. We should be done. I'm not playing another note til you guys figure your shit out, fuck it I'm out.

Rob walks out, shocking the others. Randy and Dave follow Rob like scared kids chasing after an angry parent.

RANDY

Rob! Rob come back man.

DAVE

Hey man it's all good, we'll get it.

Tom and Darren watch from the control room.

TOM

You were saying?

DARREN

There you go but watch, I bet that gets them in sync and we finish soon.

TOM

You think?

DARREN

I can tell with these guys, nobody fucks with the family, if they feel threatened they pull together. I'd put money on it, tomorrow they'll be done.

INT. NEW YORK BAR

Randy, Dave and Scrubby are at the bar trying to compromise.

SCRUBBY

You both need to squash this. We have a killer album nearly done, the songs sound great, you're tripping over stuff that in the end won't matter.

DAVE

I'm sorry, sometimes I get so intensely focused, I can't see what's happening around me.

SCRUBBY

I'm happy with the record. I know Rob is too, Talk it out and we can finish and be really proud of what we have.

Scrubby gets up to leave and he adds a final plea.

SCRUBBY

It's up to the two of you.

DAVE

Scrubby's right. We're nearly there.
What do you need?

RANDY

This is my dream too ya know? I wanted to record at home but you wanted to do it here. So here we are. I want the guitar tracks to be perfect. I want it to be a different experience when people listen with headphones. I want them to be picking out little parts after they've heard it 100 times.

DAVE

Bro, it's not a guitar record though, we're a rock band, playing songs in a pop formula, we can't get in the way of the rhythm, the vocals need to be simple so people can sing along.

Randy spreads his arms out wide.

RANDY

So we're at an impasse. You're over here and I'm way the hell over here.

Dave looks at Randy and it clicks, he smiles.

DAVE

You're right, we're so far apart, look at your hands.

Randy looks left and right and it hits him too.

RANDY

Damn, pan the parts further out. Rob's gunna trip tomorrow.

DAVE

We will never hear the end of it.

They both laugh.

INT. ELECTRIC LADYLAND STUDIOS

Everyone is grooving and listening as the last track ends. Tom loves what he hears. They are all smiles and happy.

TOM
Congratulations, you finished your
first album and it's great! You should
be proud of what you've accomplished.

They all thank Tom. Tom continues to direct the moment.

TOM(CONT)
Darren, make 20 CDs. I'll have them
picked up tomorrow.

Tom addresses the guys:

TOM
Take a few days and relax, I'm going
to set up some meetings and see what
we can do. I'd say you guys earned
some fun so let's go to dinner at
Tavern on The Green to celebrate.

The guys hug each other and thank Darren and Tom. They feel
like they are about to achieve their wildest dreams.

INT.ROADSIDE BLUES BAR PRESENT DAY

Dave and Randy are still drinking and talking. they can no
longer avoid what they don't want to talk about.

RANDY
We did that album in two weeks.

DAVE
Two weeks that were the product of two
years.

RANDY
True, I was so proud of what we did.

DAVE
Me too, while Tom was working, it felt
like the dream was coming true, like
we survived the pursuit of it.

RANDY
Can't we just admit we were both
assholes, forgive each other, and
agree to do something great now?

DAVE
I already said, if Gary's family is
taken care of and we split everything
equal, I'm good, why are you so
concerned with asking me now?

RANDY

Because I'm trying "D", I'm trying to do things the way you always wanted.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

The conference room is decorated with 3 Days posters. A stereo is set up. Tom and Janice at the head of the table, with reps from Interscope, Warner, Sony, Virgin, and Atlantic records. The band are seated across from the record execs. We hear the final notes of the album end, everyone applauds.

TOM

There you have 3 Days' first album. 12 songs, several are radio ready.

Tom turns to the band members.

TOM

These men represent the biggest labels. I met with them and I gave them all copies of the album and a press kit. They are here today because they are interested.

The guys look at the label reps... they nod.

TOM(CONT)

Now today is not about signing a record deal... not yet...

The label guys chuckle. The band listens, Tom continues:

TOM(CONT)

Today is for them to get to know you. It's a chance for you to share what you envision. So let's talk about taking "3 Days" to a top 10 album.

The band love that. Tom looks to the band.

TOM(CONT)

Guys, you've done the hard work. What would you like to see happen?

The guys look at each other, they feel put on the spot.

TOM

Don't be afraid to speak your minds. Randy what do you want to see happen?

RANDY

I'd like to produce our albums or

choose the producers. I know it's your investment, but I want to be with a company that believes in us. If a label trusts us, then we can feel good entrusting our future to that label.

ROB

I'd like to make sure it's a multi album deal. I want to know whoever we are with is committed to us growing.

Scrubby looks at his bandmates.

SCRUBBY

I know we will have to tour a lot. I know it's important we get albums out and then promote them, but I'd like equal value placed on writing, recording and promoting. We need to release new songs that we feel great about playing if we're going to go out and play them a hundred nights a year. I want to be able to take the time needed to make new albums knowing we all win if the albums are great.

Dave's been listening, he hasn't said anything. Tom notices.

TOM

And what about you Dave?

Dave thinks for a moment, he seems not engaged.

DAVE

I agree with everything they've said.

RANDY

Now I know you got something to say.

Randy smiles at the executives across from him.

RANDY (CONT)

Don't let them off that easy "DB".

Everyone laughs, but Dave looks gravely serious.

DAVE

It's interesting, we're sitting here across the table from our dreams because that's what you represent. We entrusted Tom with our music, and here we are at a table with the people that hold the keys to our dreams. We've

bled for these songs and each other. We poured every ounce of who we are into this album that we just listened to in 44 minutes. 44 minutes that sums up who we are now. But we'll grow and be something new in another year or two with new experiences to draw from. And those experiences will produce a different album. Will it have 6 singles on it? I don't know, all I know is we will kill ourselves to deliver it, so I hope that whatever label we are with understands that there are lives and dreams bound in the albums we make. I hope they treat those albums not just as another product because an album by us IS us.

The band laughs nervously.

SCRUBBY

See what happens once we get him talking?

They all laugh but Dave stays serious, something is off.

TOM

He makes a good point. These guys are 23-24 years old. A multi record deal will take them into their 30's and they'll be different people then. Each album is an individual record, not a product in a line of products.

The label guys are all nodding along. Tom now addresses them.

TOM

So you've heard the record, you saw them at CBGBs, you met them, what do you think?

The guy from Interscope speaks first.

INTERSCOPE REP

Well, it's great to meet you guys. When Tom told me he had a band for me to check out it peaked my interest because he's never done that. I imagine my colleagues feel the same.

The label execs all nod.

INTERSCOPE REP(CONT)

We're not going to try to sell you guys. We may all want to present a deal to you, but we'll do that with Tom, individually.

WARNER REP

I want to say that we may work together, but we have very different roles. Tom is really the bridge between our world, which is the business of music, and your world which is creating music.

ATLANTIC REP

But we understand that it's our job to support you guys. We just need to know that you realize the art really does need the business. If we understand our roles, we can build a relationship that is beneficial to everyone.

SONY REP

I want to ask do you really want to be in the music business? We hear the same starry eyed stories all the time but when we ask an artist to meet their obligations, it can be like pulling teeth. I know you say it's a dream for you. We understand that, but I, WE need to know you are prepared to do what it takes to live that dream. We can make you guys stars if you do your job well, but at the end of the day we have to make a profit on your music because if we don't make money together then we shouldn't be in business together. I know that's harsh but I want to make sure you hear it.

This makes Dave uneasy, he sighs and leans forward as the band brace for his reaction.

DAVE

There it is, the eternal struggle. Thank's for having the guts to talk about it, because even if this turns into an Irish wedding we shouldn't dance around the elephant in the room. Art or business? Love or money? Maybe's its love of the art of money.

RANDY

We know it's a business, we know you guys need to make money, hell, we need to make money so we get it.

Dave hears that but he clearly is not done.

DAVE

(to Randy)

You know you can't serve two masters right? That's biblical, you will end up loving one and hating the other.

Tom senses trouble and tries to defuse the situation.

TOM

And that's why managers exist, to bridge the worlds of art and money.

Dave looks to Tom with understanding but he's not done.

DAVE

But Tom it's really a business for you as well isn't it? I know you like our music and trust me I know Randy's fun to hang out with but would we be here if they didn't think they could make money with us?

There's silence but Dave just can't bite his tongue.

DAVE

Yes we want a record deal and we'd be proud to be with any of you. Yes we want to tour and promote, we will do our jobs, but the reasons we want those things are very different than your reasons. You see, I want to stand on a stage with my brothers and experience the rush of energy I feel when I see people grooving to our music. Do you know what that feels like? Of course you don't. But WE do. I want to feel that rush when our audience sings with us at the top of their lungs. Do you know what that feels like? How could you? Tom is the closest in this room to understanding that because he's heard the laughter from a joke he's written. So then what's our motivations? I do this for love. You do what you do for money. See we're all selling something aren't

we? Even we are when we're performing. The difference is our audience believes us because they know it's REAL for us. Is it real for you? Your job is to make an artist feel like selling their soul and giving you control of it, is in their best interest. You take it with a wink and a smile but let's be real, you don't share the dream. We know we need the business, but from my point of view it's a deal with the devil. We use each other to get what we want, don't we? I have no illusions about how it works. I know you guys need to get yours, Tom needs to get his, and we aren't fools, we want to get ours too. Everyone wants a piece of that pie when records and tickets are selling don't they? Then it's keep it coming, keep it coming, until the dream that started it all is used up and becomes a lie. So it's good we know where each of us is coming from.

The Sony guy feels chewed out by a kid. The others seem amused, respecting that Dave had the guts to say what he did.

Dave gets up.

DAVE

Sorry guys, I don't like being called a child by someone wanting to make money off me. Tom I trust you, I'm sorry if I've embarrassed you but someone had to say it.

Dave walks out of the meeting. The band can't believe what happened. Randy tries to recover.

RANDY

Singers, they're special aren't they.

Everyone laughs.

RANDY (CONT)

Let me go talk to him.

Randy gets up and walks out the door. Rob and Scrubby follow. Randy catches up to Dave.

RANDY

Come here man.

Randy takes Dave into an office. Rob and Scrubby follow.

RANDY

Have you lost your damn mind? What the fuck was that?

DAVE

I'm sorry but I won't be talked to the way that guy from Sony just did.

RANDY

You just embarrassed us all, this IS a business and we're talking with the top guys, and that's what you do?

DAVE

Randy they don't care about us.

RANDY

I don't care! I'll do the dance cause I got a daughter to take care of. When did you get so selfish playing Russian roulette with our lives?

DAVE

This is no game, this is my life. Any deal we sign defines us for the rest of our lives. I'll be damned if I'm going to just do the dance for someone dangling a deal in front of me.

RANDY

What did you think? That they're going to just say ohh DB you're so special, here's your deal. No man, these are mutherfuckin' sharks we're swimming with and they're going to get their pound of flesh and you want to act like that ain't how it is?

DAVE

Randy this is bigger than the deal.

RANDY

Bullshit, you've been more focused on a deal than any of us. You just didn't know how it really works. And now it's there for us to take and you decide you don't like the rules of the game.

DAVE

Thats not the problem. The problem is you're so thirsty you can't tell the

difference between the water and the sand. It's easy to say "we're a family" until you don't see what I do. Then we find where we're really at.

RANDY

I'll tell you where it's at, you need to walk back in there, joke about it and sit your ass down. And you better hope they still come to the table.

DAVE

Really, you talkin to me like you're my Daddy? Telling me what to do?

RANDY

I'm telling you what you need to hear. I'm telling you how it is.

DAVE

Fuck that. I'm out of here.

Dave starts to walk out. Randy grabs him. Dave pushes Randy. They end up on the floor. In the heat of the melee, they hit each other, Randy has a bloody nose, Dave's lip is bleeding. Not believing whats happening Rob steps in.

ROB

What the fuck is wrong with you two? I can't believe this shit. Dave you tripped out in there. Randy you just freaked out in here. Man, ain't nothing good going to come of this if you guys can't get back to being friends, You guys used to be the best of friends. Now look at ya, you make me sick, all of it was for nothing.

Rob storms out the door, Scrubby follows him.

SCRUBBY

Well I guess it's back to Vegas... want to play in a band?

INT.ROADSIDE BLUES BAR PRESENT DAY

Randy and Dave are still talking at the bar.

RANDY

Dave, what were you afraid of?

DAVE

I wasn't afraid of anything.

RANDY

"D" it's been 30 years, something happened 'cause you were the most focused dude, and you just blew it up... why?

DAVE

I don't know.

RANDY

Come on man.

DAVE

I DON'T KNOW! And it wasn't just me. You came after me pushing every button you could. Then you fucking hit me man and that was it. I don't know if it was what the Sony guy said or maybe I wasn't willing to sell our souls but I just couldn't stop myself. It had been building up with all the bullshit with us fighting over every damn thing. Somewhere we lost what made the band special and you know what? I've come to realize that it didn't matter when, it was going to blow up no matter what. I knew that when things got tough over Japan you wanted to replace me. Right then I knew there was no real bond. It was all just a stepping stone to get to what you wanted.

RANDY

You knew? How did you know?

DAVE

What difference does it make? And you know what else? A couple months later Tom called and told me that all was forgiven and all we needed to do was get you and I in a room, forgive each other and we could still sign a deal. He had offers from each label there, even Sony. Did you know that?

RANDY

No I didn't know.

DAVE

I knew there's no way he spoke to you because if he did then the message would have come from you, Rob or Scrubby, but Tom? Hell, that just

meant the offers he got were massive.

RANDY

But what about us? Didn't you feel bad we never got to live our dreams?

DAVE

That dream was a lie, and now you want to wake the skeletons, relive it all, just so I'll agree to the album being re-released, but they don't even need my permission. They own it.

RANDY

We do need your permission Dave, before Tom died he transfer the ownership of the master to us. It's been ours for nearly 10 years now.

DAVE

And you're just telling me this now?

RANDY

We hadn't spoken for 20 years at that point. I figured let the past die.

DAVE

So why now man?

RANDY

Because I know you had a health scare and you and I have to make peace before it's too late. The label has been asking me since the album turned 20 if we would do a re-release with promotion. Even a documentary telling the story and each year I've said I'll talk to you and I've let it slide, but not this year. "D" we lost Scrubby. I lost my Mom. I lost my brothers and my Dad. We ain't getting younger. I needed to look you in the eye and know you forgive me, I need you to know I forgive you. I need my family to be whole, so the record thing, man that's just my excuse to talk to you.

Dave wells up emotionally. It's time to forgive.

DAVE

Damn Randy. I forgive you. I told you I forgave you a long time ago. We will always be brothers.

RANDY

I know, but I needed to hear it and I
needed you to hear it from me.

Randy takes a deep breath, he thinks for a moment.

RANDY

30 years ago you asked the question is
it for love or money? And it damn near
killed us all. It's taken me 30 years
to realize bro that you were right,
it's for the love because in the end
the love is all that we can take.

CUT TO BLACK.

IN THE END MONTAGE

We hear the song "In The End". We see images of the success
of the album... music videos from existing footage.. magazine
articles...the guys in post band life working... hearing
their songs on the radio... Dave buys a copy of the CD in a
store... the album hits number 1...they win a Grammy that no
one accepts. We see Dave, Randy and Rob aging. They are
amused when a song of theirs comes on classic rock radio. The
last image is of the 4 members of the band with their friends
in the rehearsal studio, all the best of friends.

We sit in black for a moment.

INT. RANDY'S HOUSE PRESENT DAY NIGHT TIME

We are in the dark house. The door opens,Randy walks in.

RANDY

Come on in "D".

Dave enters, he sees photos of them when they were young
hanging on the wall.

DAVE

Hey Randy, grab your guitar. I have
this idea.

CUT TO BLACK.

The End.