

LIFTED

"Pilot"

Written by

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COLD OPEN

INT. COMMERCIAL AIRPLANE - DAY

A cabin-full of human cartoon characters: huge furs, ski suits, chic club attire.

KLAUS (O.S.)  
(light Austrian accent)  
Denver passengers, we begin our  
final descent into Moosewalk,  
supreme ski resort of America and  
the world.

THE SHERIFF, a Hunter Thompson figure, lazily reclines his chair, puffing on a joint. THE CARLSON TWINS, hyper-athletic twenty-somethings, pull energy supplements in perfect unison. PRODIGIOUSLY-BEARDED MEN compare facial growth.

KLAUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
The time now is 9:15, the  
temperature 33 degrees Fahrenheit  
and dropping, and I have it on the  
authority from Moosewalk's chief  
meteorologist that today - could -  
be...a powder day.

Cheers burst forth all over the cabin. SMALL CHILDREN race down the aisle throwing torn-paper "snow" in the air. They run by KLAUS: our speaker is an old man in radically out-of-date ski gear who speaks directly to camera.

KLAUS (CONT'D)  
You heard me correct. Today could  
be our first truly, madly, deeply  
powderific storm of the season.

MELANIE, a fresh-faced 23-year-old, is revealed in the row behind Klaus, staring open-mouthed at his narration. OWEN, the young man grading papers next to her, pokes his head out.

OWEN  
First time in Moosewalk?

They both look too normal compared to the rest of the cabin.

MELANIE  
First time anywhere. I don't know  
if I chose the right place.

OWEN  
How old are you?

MELANIE

Twenty-three.

OWEN

Right time at least. I'm Owen.

MELANIE

Melanie. Are you coming home, Owen?

OWEN

Back to paradise.

MELANIE

(wanting it to be true)

Is it?

OWEN

(indicating cabin)

It's all natives, if you noticed.  
In retreat from the real world.

MELANIE

What if the real world's what I'm  
looking for?

OWEN

Hm. Then I feel your confusion.

MELANIE

What about you?

Owen pulls up a PHOTO on his phone.

OWEN

Three days with my brother and  
brand-new nephew. Doesn't get more  
real than that.

MELANIE

He's beautiful!

Owen looks at the picture for a beat. Wistful.

OWEN

Yeah.

Klaus interrupts with another announcement.

KLAUS (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, Madame Sinski  
will now lead us in the snow dance.

The Captain's voice comes over the speaker.

CAPTAIN (O.S.)  
Ladies and gentlemen, we are in our  
descent, and there will be no snow  
dance.

MADAME SINSKI, a voluminous aged bohemian, leaps to her feet.

CAPTAIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Please remain in your seats.

Madame Sinski begins to dance. Others pop up and join her.

CAPTAIN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
For your own safety...

A MUSIC STUDENT pulls out his violin and begins to jam. The whole plane is at it until the FLIGHT CREW forms up at the front of the cabin. The music falters...then the crew begins to dance. The violin leaps back in.

Melanie looks on in shock (and some delight). Someone taps her shoulder: AARON KLEIN, a zit-faced twelve-year-old.

AARON  
If you losers don't dance, my  
associate's gonna sock you in the  
mouth.

Aaron nods in the direction of an EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BLONDE GIRL across the aisle, who cracks her knuckles, mad-dogging Mel.

OWEN  
(cheerfully)  
Aaron, my man, I'm grading your  
algebra test right now! You  
wouldn't wanna help me solve for F,  
would you?

Aaron disappears behind his seat.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
How long are you staying?

MELANIE  
Just for the season...

OWEN  
That's what they all say.

MELANIE  
...I hope.

OWEN  
You hope?

She shrugs, looking around.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Then you might wanna learn this.

She turns to see Owen standing, his hand extended to her. As the paper snow falls, she takes his hand and begins to rise.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. ARRIVAL DRIVE - AIRPORT - DAY

Melanie blinks out into the sunlight. There's a large shuttle painted with blue sky and smiling clouds emblazoned *Cloud 9*.

A badly-dressed valet (OGGIE) struts away from the shuttle, realizes it is still rolling, and rushes back in to brake it.

Beyond the shuttle, A GROUP OF FUR-CLAD WOMEN fall over each other pointing up. A private jet swoops down onto the runway.

A city bus rolls up. Ski-rack mounted on the side.

EXT. BUS STATION - DOWNTOWN - DAY

Spilling out of the bus, Melanie unfolds a map. Owen pauses to advise her.

Suddenly Aaron darts by. He pops around a corner and joins a GROUP OF BOYS in the alley.

They are CJ (taller, more muscular than the rest); TUM (wider and more physically mature); and JIMMER (medium, with a naturally funny air about his face).

AARON

So?

CJ

So what?

AARON

Did we get any?

JIMMER

Yeah, but we had to hide it in my butt. Can you get it out for me?

Aaron recoils, as Jimmer chases him, butt-first.

JIMMER (CONT'D)

No, really, it's up there somewhere, I think it's stuck.

TUM

We haven't gone in yet.

AARON

Why not?

CJ

We were waiting for you, dumbass.

The boys walk around the opposite corner.

INT. MOOSEMART GROCERY STORE - DAY

The boys gather in a dark corner behind the frozen foods.

JIMMER

Do you think he'll sell to us?

CJ

Just let me do the talking.

AARON

I can ask.

CJ

He won't be able to see you without kneeling. I'm asking.

RYAN, a shaggy-haired employee, walks by and sees them.

RYAN

What's up guys? How we doin today?

CJ

You know what we came for.

RYAN

Ah, I'm sorry dudes, can't do it.

CJ

What?

JIMMER

Told you.

RYAN

Yeah, turns out we can't sell to minors. Big Man laid down the law.

CJ

Did you tell him it was for a science experiment?

RYAN

No dice. No ice.

AARON

It sublimates anyway, there'll be no evidence!

RYAN  
Ever hear of inventory? Register  
logs? Receipts?

TUM  
You could just give it to us.

RYAN  
Right. On the house. Get your  
parents in here, then we can talk.

CJ  
Damn it, dude, why the hell would  
our parents buy us dry ice?

RYAN  
Cause you're such sweet little  
kids.

Dean walks off.

JIMMER  
Ass!

EXT. MOOSEMART PARKING LOT/NEARBY ROAD - DAY

The boys tromp away, the picture of dejection.

JIMMER  
Now what the hell are we gonna do  
with our weekend?

AARON  
Whoa!

They jump back as a SLEEK, SUPER-EXPENSIVE CAR roars by.

The Fur-clad Women give chase, shoes in hand, shouting come-  
ons, pleas, and wordless notes of excitement.

TUM  
Wonder Bill's back.

JIMMER  
Thunder Bill.

CJ  
What a baller.



EXT. STREETS - DAY

The car snakes through town, trying to lose the women. Pedestrians wave as it goes by.

Klaus, riding a bicycle, turns to his audience.

KLAUS

This specimen belongs to Mr. Randolph van der Bijl, Moosewalk's resident billionaire. Last year, he is purchasing an entire team of Swedish masseuses to keep his pet kodiak bear free of stress. The bear hibernates now, so I don't know what becomes of the masseuses.

Klaus stops at an intersection, the car slows behind him. One of the back windows rolls down. Two feet, in spiked heels, stick out and begin to jostle.

Klaus takes to the audience, flashing a grin.

A bus passes with Owen floating in the window.

EXT. BUS STOP - OUTSIDE OWEN'S APT. COMPLEX - DAY

Owen descends with bags. His complex is a series of small, low buildings, a mile uphill from the town proper.

INT. OWEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Owen pops in, humming the violin tune from the plane.

OWEN

Hello?

No answer. He tosses one bag on the floor and breaks right for his bedroom, instantly reappearing in comfy clothes.

He picks up his bag and carries it into the kitchen.

A note has been left on the refrigerator, *Gig in Gunnison. No time to shop. See you tomorrow maybe. WELCOME HOME! -G*

Owen opens the fridge: the note doesn't lie.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Goddamnit.

JEN (O.S.)

I know.

Owen jumps and shuts the refrigerator door, revealing JEN FORLETTI (late-20s, sprung energy, a devilish gleam in her eyes) in PJs. She leaps on him.

OWEN

Jesus, Jen. I told you not to sleep in Galen's room when I'm not here.

Jen shoves him aside and pokes into the fridge.

JEN

Moses, Owen. I slept in *your* room.

OWEN

I just changed in there.

JEN

Yeah, you should really get consent first.

Jen unwraps a stick of butter.

OWEN

Wonder Bill's back.

JEN

Pssh. I know

OWEN

How do you know?

JEN

Cause we're going to his party.

OWEN

I've got work to do.

JEN

Not that much though.

OWEN

How do you know?

JEN

Cause we're going to his party.

Jen bites down on the stick of butter. Owen looks at her blankly. In the window behind him, Melanie can be seen walking up the road.

EXT. WHISKY RIVER ROAD - DAY

On one side Melanie sees Owen's complex. On the other, cliffs rising above homes worth more than her life. She carries a bag from MAISON CHOCOLAT.

Rounding a corner, Melanie gets a view of THE GOLD LEAF INN, an ancient lodge-turned-B&B-turned-dormitory-turned-rent-fixed-housing-complex, garishly painted in honor of its name.

She looks at a cracked sign, unhinged from one of its posts: *The Gold Leaf Inn* it reads, *Moosewalk's Hidden Treasure*.

EXT. THE GOLD LEAF INN - DAY

Melanie knocks on a door labeled 15 with duct tape.

SAMMIE (O.S.)

It's open.

INT. ROOM 15 - THE GOLD LEAF INN - DAY

In the center of a tiny room, SAMMIE (24, plump-cheeked, wearing a sports bra and basketball shorts) dances like mad to the *Prince Of Egypt* soundtrack.

SAMMIE

Hey, dude! You moving in?

Sammie rolls to her feet and greets a laughing Melanie with a half-handshake fist-bump.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)

Welcome. Sammie.

MELANIE

Melanie.

SAMMIE

Melanie. That can work. This is the uh -- what? Oh, yeah.

She cuts the music.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)

That's, like, my exercise, you know. Tryna get that skinny-thicc vibe. You know what I mean.

Sammie is a NorCal surfer at heart. Her goofy expression and difficulty with plosives give her a foolish, puppy-dog air.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)  
Hey, let me, um, give you a tour.

Sammie slips on a large, brimmed hat befitting a tour guide.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)  
Welcome to the room. Where you'll  
be staying for the next --

MELANIE  
Don't know.

SAMMIE  
Don't know! Moving on!

Sammie points to a map on the wall above one of the beds.  
There are red pins all over.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)  
That's all the places I've  
traveled. I wanna finish it, by the  
time I'm 40.

MELANIE  
40? Wow. That's...impressive.

SAMMIE  
Yeah, well, you know. Goals.  
Aspirations.

A large chunk of the map has been torn out.

MELANIE  
What happened to Australia?

Beat. A bad memory? Sammie moves right past it.

SAMMIE  
Anyway we can get you a different  
color, put you up here if you want.

Sammie's bed. The blanket has an image of a cactus dabbing.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)  
I try to keep the energy in this  
area real positive. Project and  
attain. I don't know if it helps.

A futon stacked with snowboarding gear. There's also a shirt  
on top, which, after a sniff, Sammie puts on.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)  
So yeah, do you ski, ride?

MELANIE

Don't know yet.

SAMMIE

What?! It's supposed to be a pow day. We gotta get you on something!

MELANIE

What do you suggest?

SAMMIE

Me? I'd say ride. Sideways. Everything sideways.

Next stop, tiny kitchen.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)

Do you cook?

MELANIE

A little, yeah.

SAMMIE

Same. I'm actually a pretty good cook. Like if it comes in a box, I can make it happen.

Bathroom. Sammie pokes her head in. Closes the door.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)

Give it a little bit.

MELANIE

What's that noise?

There's a PULSING SOUND coming through the wall.

SAMMIE

Our neighbors. They're Brazilians. You ever been to Brazil?

MELANIE

Not yet.

SAMMIE

Yeah, well you pretty much know what it's like now. They're stupid hot.

Sammie bangs on the wall and playfully shouts.

SAMMIE (CONT'D)

Quieté! Quieté mis hermanos!

MELANIE

Don't they speak Portuguese?

Sammie shrugs.

Melanie unpacks. Sammie opens a beer with one hand and grabs a dumbbell with the other.

SAMMIE

Where you gonna work, dude?

MELANIE

I'm applying to Cloud 9. That's where my brother --

SAMMIE

-- Stop it. I work at Cloud 9.

MELANIE

Really?

SAMMIE

I'll walk you in there, brah, they'll job you on the spot. Bellman. That's where it's at.

MELANIE

Is it?

SAMMIE

When's your interview?  
(offering her beer)  
You should drink a little first.

MELANIE

I don't know.

SAMMIE

No. Trust me. I'm like the best employee they have.

MELANIE

Are you sure?

SAMMIE

(brief reflection)  
Top ten.  
(brushes it off)  
One beer now. I walk you in, and if it's not working, call time out and we'll soak you for real. You'll nail it.

MELANIE

Sounds good.

Sammie pumps iron with one hand and drinks deeply with the other, she offers the can to Melanie once more:

SAMMIE

Dude, it's gonna be an amazing season.

Melanie smiles, unsure, as she reaches for the beer.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. "SWEET SPOT" ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

LORNA INGEBORN, spiritual grandmother to all Moosewalk, leans over the counter, looking down at Aaron, CJ, Jimmer, and Tum.

LORNA

I would love to give you some, but you boys know you're too young.

CJ

Too young? Tum, show Ms. Lorna your chest.

LORNA

Ronald, you keep your little nipples under wraps --

CJ

-- Go ahead, Tum.

Tum pulls up his shirt, showing an explosion of chest hair.

LORNA

Dear lord. That's more than my husband has on his head.

Lorna passes the boys a brown paper sack.

LORNA (CONT'D)

Here. Now enjoy the rest of your weekend. And I don't want to see any of you in the paper tomorrow.

INT. OWEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Owen goes over homework at the table, several cans of beer next to him. Jen leans her head in.

JEN

You know I often think I can do math when I'm drunk.

The trail of beers leads back to her. She drinks one.

OWEN

Don't you have other friends?

JEN

Nope. Just you.



OWEN  
How would we even get in?

JEN  
I have my ways. You remember.

OWEN  
Stop flirting.

JEN  
You stop. I'm getting us in.

OWEN  
Give me the day to work.

JEN  
Unh-unh. Pow-day, lady-friend.  
Have you not looked out the window?

There is, indeed, a light snow starting.

OWEN  
Party or ski. Not both.

JEN  
(chanting)  
ALWAYS BOTH. ALWAYS BOTH.

OWEN  
Jen.

She dramatically swipes his papers away, accidentally taking out a bunch of cans, which she tries awkwardly to catch.

JEN  
It's turn time, kid: put your stuff on. We're getting first tracks on the Chutes if I have to drug you and drag you myself.

Watching her struggle, Owen smiles in acquiescence.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Klaus stands before the CLOUD 9 HOTEL. The hotel is up a side road abutting the slopes of a mountain. Klaus begins...

KLAUS  
Cloud 9 Hotel. A very strange story --

...but just then, Melanie and Sammie turn up the drive, stealing attention from Klaus and his story.

Klaus waves off his drifting "audience".

KLAUS (CONT'D)  
-- I tell you later.

EXT. CLOUD 9 ENTRANCE - DAY

The drive is packed with cars trying to leave.

BELL STAFF scramble, pulling carts, parking cars, and yelling at one another. GUESTS squeeze into and out of vehicles: COWBOY-HATTED TEXANS, ALOOF NEW YORKERS, PLATINUM BLONDES, STARVED L.A. WOMEN, RUSSIANS, ITALIANS, etc.

Melanie and Sammie reach the bell-stand and ROBIN, the A.M. captain. Despite his youth, Robin is a sad clown. With no guests around, his posture is a world-weary slump.

SAMMIE  
Yo, Robin.

A weary smile from Robin, his eyes light a little.

ROBIN  
Oh, Doop-a-doop. My day just got better.

SAMMIE  
Yeah, yeah, you wish I was working today.

ROBIN  
What are you doing here? You think I come on my days off?

Robin mimes a gruesome and indifferent suicide.

SAMMIE  
I'm bringing my new roommate. She's applying for Bellwoman.

ROBIN  
Why would she do that?

MELANIE  
Hi, I'm Melanie. How's it going?

ROBIN  
Robin. I hate Winter. I hate cold. I might start stabbing people.

Behind them, DEAN, a young bellman, loses control of a loaded cart, which rolls off into the circle of cars. Dean chases, screaming, as it broad-sides a brand new Audi.

Robin slams his head against the desk.

INT. CLOUD 9 LOBBY - DAY

Inside, mounted animal heads rest on the walls above employees in white gloves. Reclaimed barn wood is adorned with polished brass. It's a mixed vibe.

The floor is chaos. A manager in chaps rushes past Sammie and Melanie. Sammie fails to get his attention.

INTERNATIONAL GUESTS snap pictures next to the stuffed heads.

PARENTS literally drag THEIR CHILDREN out of the building.

Oggie replaces a mounted head with a SMALL CHILD.

A PHEASANT trots through the lobby, pursued by CHEF ERNESTO.

At the back of the lobby, double-doors open onto the pool. Sammie pulls Melanie in that direction.

EXT. CLOUD 9 POOL DECK - DAY

The pool is lovely, but not the people. Heavy guts abound. Only YOUNG LADIES in the hot tub, and a fit, EUROPEAN MAN strolling around in a speedo improve matters.

GIA, a 50ish woman, with a sunbaked, witchy appearance surveils the dude. Sammie and Melanie approach her.

GIA

You rare, sweet little bird.

SAMMIE

'Sup, Gia.

GIA

Huh? Who? Oh. Hey, Dooper.

SAMMIE

My roommate's applying for a job.

GIA

(not turning)

How does he look in a speedo?

Sammie mimes "ignore that" to Melanie. In the background, Aaron, CJ, Jimmer, and Tum creep behind the hot tub.

SAMMIE

Arrright. Gia'll take care of you.  
I'm going to get some face-shots.  
Call me when you're done.

MELANIE

Thanks, Sammie.

SAMMIE

(walking away)  
Pssshh.

Gia slips her hand in the pool and makes the sign of the cross over Melanie.

GIA

Now you'll be one of us.

Aaron and crew crouch at the edge of the pool area. On a hushed signal, they lob dry-ice bombs into the hot tub.

The young ladies jump up screaming. The boys watch the bikini-clad women with great delight.

Gia rushes over to the girls. Several seconds later, A MAN IN A SCUBA MASK surfaces in the tub and scrambles out.

INT. CLOUD 9 LOBBY - DAY

Sammie catches Oggie pushing an empty cart off the elevator.

SAMMIE

Hey, Og-man.

OGGIE

SamBam!

SAMMIE

Pow-day out there.

OGGIE

Don't remind me. I'm crying here.

SAMMIE

Come out with me!

OGGIE

C'mon, I'm working.

SAMMIE

Work? Eugh. Gross. I don't know.  
You look a little sick to me.

OGGIE

Who else is coming?

SAMMIE

I've got Ross-For-Less, I don't  
know, maybe Cal, too. Hittin first  
tracks on the Chutes.

OGGIE

Son of a bitch.

He looks out the window at flakes falling. A Tahoe pulls up,  
and A HUGE FAMILY (in numbers and personality) squeezes out.

OGGIE (CONT'D)

OK, let's do this.

He spins the cart into the wall, walking away as it crashes.

EXT. GONDOLA LINE - DAY

Owen and Jen hop on the gondola as it swings by.

Sammie, Oggie, and ROSS catch one a half-minute later.

INT. GONDOLA - CONTINUOUS

They split it with some GRIZZLED OLD SKI BUMS.

The old dudes giggle as their friend pulls out a joint and  
lights up. Oggie rolls his eyes at Sammie.

OGGIE

How come we got the cool ones?

INT. OTHER GONDOLA - DAY

Owen and Jen sit on one bench. On the other, FOUR MEN IN  
MATCHING ATTIRE sing a barber-shop quartet "Mack The Knife".

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE - DAY

Sammie & Co. strap their skis to their backs.

OGGIE

This is going to be the first great run of the year. I can feel it.

ROSS

Uh, guys.

Ross examines boot-prints in the snow. He follows them with his eyes to reach Owen and Jen, hiking far ahead.

OWEN

-- I'm tired of spending all Fall waiting for Winter, and surviving all Spring just for Summer.

JEN

But it's so worth it. Especially in like two minutes.

OWEN

I know it's worth it! But don't you ever feel like there are things you want that you just can't get here?

JEN

Like decent Thai food?  
(masking real concern)  
What, are you gonna move?

OWEN

Maybe. I don't know.

This hits Jen hard, but she covers fast, rushing ahead.

JEN

Yeah, right. You could never live anywhere else. This place spoils you for the rest of the world.

Stomping and grunting sounds behind them.

OWEN

Do you hear something?

The Cloud 9 crew struggles up-hill. Boots in all colors pound the powder. Kicking up clouds. Sammie growls. Ross stumbles in front. Oggie crashes over him.

EXT. TOP OF "THE CHUTES" - DAY

Owen and Jen calmly snap their helmet straps and use their bindings to kick snow off their boots. Sammie & Co. stumble into the clearing, falling to their knees.

JEN  
Oh hey. What's up, guys?

SAMMIE  
Jen?

JEN  
Yeppers. Didn't want first tracks,  
didjya?

OGGIE  
I hate you. And whoever that is.

OWEN  
Owen.

OGGIE  
Oh, sup Owen.

SAMMIE  
Don't you have class today?

OWEN  
It's Sunday, Dooper. See you at the  
bottom.

Jen blocks Owen with a pole.

JEN  
(to Ross)  
Unless you want to get us into  
Wonder Bill's party.

ROSS  
It's my sister's spot.

JEN  
(playing hardball)  
Oh, well. We tried. Least we get to  
carve the powder.

She moves as if to jump into the Chutes.

ROSS  
No wait!

Owen and Jen pause.

ROSS (CONT'D)  
I'll get Monica to put you on the  
list. But please don't tell anyone.

Jen smiles.

EXT. THE CHUTES - DAY

Owen, Jen, Sammie, Oggie, and Ross bomb down the chutes, making nice, elegant turns, hucking five-footers, and taking face shots. Ross gets a huge roll in, and pops up smiling.

INT. EXECUTIVE OFFICE - DAY

THADDEUS HOBART, Owner and Operational Manager of Cloud 9 Hotel, sits across his desk (and nameplate) from Melanie, staring at her with the mismatched eyes of a husky.

His lustrous red mustache twitches, and at last he speaks.

THAD

Why did you come here?

MELANIE

For a job?

THAD

No. Why did you come here?

Melanie, who had withered a bit under his gaze, now sits up.

MELANIE

I studied finance at Chapel Hill. My professors told me I should go into risk management. They told me where to intern. Told me where to work. Pretty soon I'm graduating, and I've got a position lined up with Bank of America in Charlotte. My classmates are either on the same train, or they wish they were. But I look into the mirror, and say "risk management. Am I a risk manager?"

Thad's mustache twitches again.

THAD

Yes you are.

MELANIE

(sincerely, fearfully)

I am?

THAD

Do you know why toddlers make such good skiiers?



MELANIE

Low center of gravity?

THAD

Lack of fear. They point the skis downhill. This is a place for the reckless, the wild. Men and women who push beyond the border of civilization, who drag gold and silver from the mountains, who deliver the mail on strips of wood with rags for bindings, who return from war in the snows of Italy with a need deep in their hearts for something that doesn't exist yet, so they make it.

By this point Thad is on Melanie's side of the desk. He squats so that his face is level with hers.

THAD (CONT'D)

You came with a return ticket for two weeks from now in case it doesn't "feel right," didn't you?

Melanie nods. Thad's mustache twitches again. His eyes widen.

THAD (CONT'D)

You're holding onto that job offer as we speak. Bank of America.

Melanie holds his gaze for a second, then lowers her eyes.

THAD (CONT'D)

I'd say you're managing your risk pretty good.

He sees Melanie's hurt expression and softens. Puts a hand (in a large fringed glove) on her shoulder.

THAD (CONT'D)

I hope you enjoy Moosewalk. It's a special place. Maybe you'll even stay longer than you think. But if you wanna work here, one beer ain't gonna do it.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. GOLD LEAF INN, ROOM 15 - EVENING

Sammie gets ready to go hot-tubbing.

SAMMIE

Oh my god, dude. So dope. It's knee-deep up there already.

MELANIE

Sounds amazing.

SAMMIE

You don't even understand. But you will.

MELANIE

I wish. But I think I'm leaving.

SAMMIE

What? No. Gross. After one bad interview?

MELANIE

I don't belong here. He looked into my soul.

SAMMIE

Eeah that's Thad. Put your suit on, we gotta move.

MELANIE

Where?

SAMMIE

We're going hot-tubbing.

INT. OWEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Owen comes out of his bedroom, dressed for the party.

JEN

Glory be, the boy cleans up after all!

OWEN

Ready to crash a party, Mom.

JEN

You're the Mom! And you're gonna need an extra layer, it's cold outside.

EXT. GOLD LEAF INN - NIGHT

MELANIE

We just go in other people's hot tubs?

SAMMIE

This town's full of em, believe me, there's plenty of room. Besides they know the deal: you throw a jacuzzi down you're gonna get some poachers.

MELANIE

Isn't that trespassing? Won't we get kicked out?

SAMMIE

Uh...don't know, and not if we do it right. C'mon let's go.

MELANIE

I don't...

Sammie sets her face very close to Melanie's.

SAMMIE

Have some fun. You're here. There's pow on the mountain. The time is now.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OWEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jen dances by herself, holding a bottle of liquor. Owen backs out of the door, wearing a coat and carrying his backpack.

Owen grabs the bottle. Swigs. Smiles.

EXT. WHISKY RIVER ROAD - NIGHT

Melanie and Sammie descend the left side of the road, toting six-packs. Owen and Jen are heading the opposite direction, passing the bottle.

OWEN

Melanie!

Melanie looks over and sees him. Owen smiles broadly. The two pairs come together in the center of the road.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Where you guys off to?

He notices Melanie doesn't seem all that happy.

SAMMIE  
Poaching hot tubs. You?

JEN  
Poaching a party.

Jen glances at Owen and Melanie, perhaps waiting for an introduction. Snow falls lightly on their hair and coats.

MELANIE  
Looks like our dance worked.

OWEN  
You're right. We're goddamn heroes.

Jen clocks their focus on each other.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Have you found the real world yet?

Melanie lifts her shoulders, beginning to smile at him.

MELANIE  
You?

OWEN  
Oh no. Have fun tonight.

EXT. WONDER BILL'S MANSION - NIGHT

At the gate, Klaus speaks to the camera.

KLAUS  
The mansion of van der Bijl, with scenic view of Whisky River and the back bowls of Medley Mountain. In the 70s, Thunder Bill, as he was then known, gave new meaning to the term powder day. He hid cocaine in his walls, so when the parties ran out, he would punch through the plaster in search of it, often reducing the house to a skeleton.  
(MORE)

KLAUS (CONT'D)

It is said many of that generation  
were permanently altered from  
snorting drywall.

(a moment of reflection)

Poor Tweety.

Owen and Jen, both drunk, come to the door, where a WOMAN  
greet's guests.

JEN

Hi, I'm Jen Forletti. This is my  
friend, Owen.

GREETER

Oh, you're Monica's friends.

JEN

Yes. Monica's, like, best friends.

GREETER

Yep. You'll find her around the  
corner, in the entrance next to the  
Rodin. Thanks for coming!

As Owen and Jen walk away, the Fur-clad ladies from the  
beginning try to scale the walls to sneak in.

EXT. STREETS OF MOOSEWALK - NIGHT

Melanie and Sammie, now joined by Oggie and Ross, descend on  
Hotel Escalante, one of the nicest hotels in town.

OGGIE

Melanie, right? Do it like you own  
the place.

They stride in through the front, nodding at the doorman.

EXT. WONDER BILL'S POOL AND GARDEN - NIGHT

Owen and Jen pass an absolutely stunning pool, with a  
terraced garden rising behind it into the hills.

In the background, Aaron's crew creeps down the garden.

JEN

What the shit is a Rodin?

OWEN

I think it's that.

He points to a sculpture standing before a small entrance.

JEN

Dude, they're gonna be sorry they let us in.

OWEN

I want it to get weird. I wanna set his bear loose and ride it.

JEN

I'm gonna tell all these ladies I'm 40 but I have the most amazing surgeon.

OWEN

They'll flip out.

JEN

I'll tell em it's Uncle Tony.

OWEN

What does he do?

JEN

Taxidermy.

They go to the door and knock. And knock again.

Aaron grips a brown bag. Early guests splash in the pool.

JEN (CONT'D)

Let's just go in. I hafta pee.

INT. WONDER BILL'S STORE-ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Catering staff vibrate about, as does Wonder Bill's personal party planner, LENA DRURY (late 20s, severe). Jen whistles at all the activity.

JEN

Damn, Gina.

Lena hears her and zooms up.

LENA

Where are your uniforms?

JEN

Oh, we're friends of Monica's.

Lena makes an impatient gesture.

JEN (CONT'D)

Jen and Owen. She said she put us on the list.

LENA

Yeah. On my staff list. God, did you not bring uniforms?

Owen and Jen exchange looks. Owen laughs loudly.

EXT. ESCALANTE HOT TUB - NIGHT

The Cloud 9 folks relax in the hot tub, drinking beers. Melanie is getting loose.

MELANIE

-- So then I look into the mirror, and I say, am I a risk manager?

SAMMIE

Hell no.

MELANIE

Right! Well, right. But then...what am I?

SAMMIE

You're a bellwomanperson.

MELANIE

Apparently not.

OGGIE

Yeah, me neither.

SAMMIE

What?

OGGIE

Fired. Word got out I was on the mountain. They scanned my pass.

ROSS

Oh, that sucks, man.

OGGIE

It was worth it. Besides, next time I go back to Cloud 9, I'm gonna be staying there. And I'm gonna take a shit in the middle of the bed, right after turn-down, then call Thad to come clean it up.

INT. WONDER BILL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Owen and Jen help plate and wash dishes while THE REST OF THE STAFF swirls in and out, buzzing from the party.

ONE GIRL struts by, showing off a hundred-dollar bill. Seeing that, ANOTHER undoes a couple buttons on her top.

Lena rolls her eyes and swings by Owen and Jen.

LENA

It's getting good out there! How are fresh glasses?

JEN

Two minutes.

LENA

Good good! Drunk guest are happy guests. Randy can't stand these things until everybody loosens up. I think he's still hoping someone hops on the stripper pole.

JEN

I will totally hop on the pole.

LENA

Keep drying.

Owen raises a hand for her attention, then points at himself.

Lena looks him over and lets out a single bleat of a laugh. She walks away.

Jen throws down her work, with a huge sigh. She plucks some of the hors d'oeuvres off the tray. Owen pulls out homework.

JEN

Maybe his bear will party with us.

A FELLOW CATERER swings by, making noise at them. They both flip him off without bothering to look.

The door behind them shoots open, and a HUSKY, BOUNCER-TYPE drags Aaron and Tum in by the arms.

JEN (CONT'D)

What are you guys in for?

AARON

Nothing.



TUM  
We saw some boobs.

JEN  
(offering them high-fives)  
All right!

AARON  
Barely. It was too dark.

Aaron and Owen lock eyes.

AARON (CONT'D)  
Hi, Mr. Shoger.

TUM  
Hi.

Owen picks out two graded assignments. He hands the first one to Aaron and the second to Tum.

OWEN  
(smiling)  
Not bad. Needs improvement.

Suddenly, the MUSIC from the other room changes, followed by excited chatter and applause.

Owen, Jen, and the boys gaze at the moving shadows visible in the gap below the doors, listening to the music and the sound of the party, as it reaches a climax.

OWEN (CONT'D)  
Anyone know the forecast tomorrow?

Sigh.

EXT. ESCALANTE HOT TUB - NIGHT

Melanie is increasingly loud and demonstrative.

MELANIE  
It's like, I'm too weird for my family, too weird for Charlotte, too weird for finance. Then I get here and suddenly it's, sorry you're too square, man.

SAMMIE  
Shit, dude. Everyone here is outta their freaking mind. And if they're not, give em a season.

REVEAL Klaus sitting next to them, still in ski goggles.

KLAUS

Sammie is correct in that regard.

SAMMIE

You gotta let the life do its work.

MELANIE

I don't have time!

SAMMIE

What? Why not?

MELANIE

I wanna be...somewhere. Or something. And I'm on the bank's clock.

SAMMIE

Tell em you're not coming.

MELANIE

No. No.

SAMMIE

No, for real. Here.

Sammie grabs for Melanie's phone. They struggle, and the phone plops into the hot tub. Melanie laughs hysterically.

A throat clears above the tub. They look up to see an ESCALANTE SECURITY GUARD.

ROSS

Oh, it's OK. We're guests of the Wendelbaums.

GUARD

What room is that?

ROSS

Uh, 302-C.

GUARD

Out, gentlemen. Ladies.

They get out and begin to grab their things.

SAMMIE

C'mon man, the Escalante doesn't have letters. That's the Fox.

ROSS  
I can't keep them all apart!

A voice from off:

THAD (O.S.)  
Ms. Martin?

Melanie looks up to see Thaddeus Hobart approaching with a martini glass in his fringed glove. She tries to hide behind her bundle of clothes.

MELANIE  
Hi!

THAD  
Poaching hot tubs on your first night.

MELANIE  
Um...

THAD  
And with these yahoos.

MELANIE  
I'm sorry -- this isn't -- I wouldn't normally --

THAD  
Now THAT'S the spirit I'm looking for. It just happens we have a new opening at Bellwomanperson. What do you think? Wanna stick around a while?

Melanie smiles.

"All I Ever Wanted" from *The Prince Of Egypt* begins to play.

INT. ROOM 115 - GOLD LEAF INN - NIGHT

Sammie pushes a green pin into the map.

SAMMIE  
All right, dude! It's gonna be the best season ever. Get ready to get weird.

There it is. Melanie's pin in Moosewalk, CO. You are here.

END OF EPISODE