

Wizards of Happiness

By

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A Wizard of Happiness
A Mystically Transformational Fable
by Rich Malory

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WIZARDS OF HAPPINESS

EXT. SEDONA, AZ / DESERT - DAY

HOWLING WIND and choking dust roar through the canyon. To the left, thunder RUMBLES. A haboob is pounding Sedona.

Valley floor materializes. Coyote YIPS (right). Running into the storm, it passes and disappears down the trail.

Lightning EXPLODES in the direction it's going, lighting an ominous world. Its THUNDER CLAP rocks the valley.

Back down the trail, RICK ARTHUR is heard RUNNING. Coming into view he's wearing: shorts, a windbreaker, tennis shoes, a backpack and visor. A bandana covers his mouth and nose.

Focused, intent, breathing hard and sweating, Rick races down the treacherous cactus lined trail. We follow his perilous flight through the blinding dust and low light.

Lightning EXPLODES on top of a mesa ahead of him.

Approaching a wash, Rick plots his way through it. With precision moves he bounds over it. As he runs on; the wind stops, all goes eerily still and the air clears.

The handsome, fit thirty year old pulls his bandana down, wipes his face with his hands and takes long deep breaths.

Light scattered rain begins to fall. The horizon is filled with an ocean of rapidly advancing water.

Ahead, Rick sees light from Olde #7's parking lot. (Olde #7 is an Ancient Mystical Vortex, with a thirty foot circle of inlaid rocks. It sits atop a knoll ringed in purple sage.)

Cold torrential rain hits. Racing full out into Olde #7, Rick throws his arms high and yells with relief.

RICK

Ye Ha, I'm gonna make it!

As Rick sails on, KA-BOOM! A searing firebolt lights the driving rain, and blows up the ramada N.W. of the vortex.

Rick is shocked to see what appears to be a five foot tall, fiery red, electric-winged dragon standing mid-vortex. No way he can avoid crashing into, and running over MEL.

The crash is ugly. Mel is slammed to the ground. Rick tumbles and flops to a soggy stop.

RICK
Holy Double Moly, what was that?

Jumping up, Rick yanks off his pack, grabs out a flashlight, and turns it on. Warily, he approaches Mel and finds a big red stub-tailed lizard, with no wings. Faint poofs of steam rise from Mel's snout. Rick shines his light on her closed unflinching eyelids. Mel appears to be unconscious.

RICK
Well, I can't leave ya to die, I'll get ya to a vet. But one twitch on the way to the car, and it's adios.

Rick gets his OD blanket from his pack and spreads it out on the vortex's smooth wet rocks. Rolling Mel onto it, he ties a sling. Then he puts his pack on, and shoulders the sling.

Hurrying to his car, Rick passes an Olde #7 sign and LAUGHS.

At his car, Rick puts Mel and sling in the trunk. His pack goes in the backseat. Climbing into his nice safe dry car, Rick SIGHS deeply with relief.

EXT. SEDONA BURGERZ PARKING LOT / SEDONA - NIGHT

Tempest rages. Rick parks and runs into the restaurant.

INT. SEDONA BURGERZ / DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rick enters, stops and shakes off. As he walks to the counter, he studies the menu. A CASHIER(18) awaits.

RICK
I'll take a Three Box with tea, to go. Is there a vet near here?

CASHIER
In this universe, try Vortex Vets.

Rick pays for his order. Getting his phone from his jacket, he makes calls. All are listening and frowns.

His order comes up, and Rick puts the box inside his jacket.

RICK
Are all the vets in town closed?

CASHIER
Probably, Glitter Ville devolves
into Vibeless Ville after dark.

Walking to the exit, Rick sips his tea. Then he dives back into the monumental deluge of rain and lightning.

EXT. SEDONA BURGERZ PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Racing through the torrent to his trunk, Rick raps on it.

RICK
Hang on, Phoenix will have a vet.

INT. RICK ARTHUR'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Monsoon persists. Rick pulls his car in, turns it off and closes the garage. As he unbuckles his seat belt and gets out; Mel is THUMPING about in the trunk, and then stops.

Walking to the open utility room, Rick leans in and grabs a beach towel off the drier. He quickly wraps it around his left forearm; then picks up a baseball bat. As he walks back to his trunk, Rick grows more and more apprehensive.

RICK
Okay, stay calm, Big Red; no vet tonight. But I do want to see how you're doing. Okay, nothing funny; I have a big bat and I will use it!

Standing sideways, Rick plants his feet and cocks the bat in his right hand. As he leans in to open the trunk, the garage door opener light goes out.

RICK
Great! Just freak'n great!

Hurrying back to the utility room, Rick turns the garage lights on. Then quickly returns to the trunk.

RICK
Okay, stay put, or it gets nasty.

Getting back in battle position, Rick unlocks the trunk and throws it open. He's stunned, Mel's gone.

RICK
What the freak? Where'd ya go?

Rick walks to a rear window and sees the backseat is intact. Back at the trunk, he just stares in disbelief.

Tired, perplexed and exasperated, Rick leans far in to get his blanket. From the back of the trunk; Mel, colored like the lining, opens her electric eyes, smiles, and stands.

Jumping straight up, Rick CRACKS his head on the trunk lid. Grabbing his head, he drops the bat. Diving to retrieve it, his head THUDS on the bumper. Staggering backwards, he CRASHES into the garage door; then falls to the floor.

As Mel jumps from the trunk, Rick springs to his feet. Prancing to the utility room, Mel stops, turns and smiles.

RICK
So, what's the deal? You must be
somebody's pet... Right?

As Rick retrieves his bat, Mel wags her stubby tail.

RICK
Nice opening gambit, but I need to
get in my castle. I'm coming over,
but one bad move and you lose.

Cautiously, Rick approaches. Mel steps aside, smiles and nods. Stopping at the door; disbelievingly, Rick bows, and with an underhanded wave of his bat, welcomes Mel in.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mel enters, with Rick right behind. Walking to the big pet door, they stop and look at each other.

RICK
I'll deal with you in the morning,
tonight you sleep outside.

Standing on her hind legs, Mel locks eyes with Rick. He can't move, as Mel looks into his soul. A LOUD HEARTBEAT. Rick is drawn into the black of Mel's right pupil.

DEEP BLACK SPACE - 30 YEARS BEFORE

A small bright spark flashes in the upper left corner of the screen. (COLET, the narrator, will appear in *Wizards of the Cosmos* [Enlightenment]; and then become Rick's apprentice in *Wizards of Love*.)

COLET (V.O.)
Somewhere, far deep in inner-outer
space, a magic spark did arc. And
a mystery of epic proportions took
on the great enigmatic mask of
human evolution.

Almost fading, the spark begins to pulse, in sync with smooth easy HEARTBEATS.

EOS OVERTURE (by E.O.S.) begins, synced with the HEARTBEATS. Growing bigger and brighter with the mounting overture, the NEW COSMIC LIGHT grows into a bright glowing ball.

LIGHT journeys to Earth.

Credits roll over the spectacular spacescape.

Approaching Earth, LIGHT slows and enters the atmosphere. Slowing more, it soars over a long tree-lined lake.

COLET (V.O.)

He was born on a fair spring day,
in an age that held great promise
for mankind, in the magical realm
of upstate New York.

(beat)

Here, amidst deep crystal lakes,
and springtide's riotous explosion
of budding and blooming, he began
his grand adventure. The wondrous
adventure we call life.

CALLIOPE MUSIC melds with the overture.

LIGHT drops to treetop level and drifts over a carnival.

Meandering down a country road, into an old town, LIGHT floats through the open doors of an old hospital.

INT. OLD HOSPITAL / DELIVERY ROOM - DAY

Rick Arthur is being born. Two NURSES assist the DOCTOR. MR. ARTHUR holds MRS. ARTHUR'S hand, and comforts her.

The doctor holds Rick up, gives him a once-over, and hands him to the nurses, who quickly clean him.

DOCTOR

Congratulations, you are now the
parents of a fine healthy son.

RICK (V.O.)

Whoa! What just happened? Who
turned on the light? Now what's
happening? Where am I? How did I
get here? What is all this, and
what does it mean?

COLET (V.O.)

So began Rick Arthur's life. And like all who'd come before, he had many important questions.

Cleaned up, the nurses hand Rick to Mrs. Arthur. Profound marveling at the newborn by the Arthurs.

COLET (V.O.)

But he had no idea of the great challenges his wizardly journey would hold; or all his toughest battles would be with himself.

INT. ARTHUR HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rick(7) is intently studying a book. When Mrs. Arthur enters, Rick closes his book and looks at her.

RICK

Mom, what do I have to do to learn how everything works?

MRS. ARTHUR

Ah, my little nonstop wellspring of difficult questions, that's a good one. Everything?

RICK

Sure. Why not? I just want to know how everything works.

LATER

Rick is on the floor taking apart a wall phone. He doesn't see mom come in, or her shock. He does see her anger.

INT. RICK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Happy and focused, Rick(10) builds a U-Control flying wing, adding to his small fleet.

COLET (V.O.)

As Rick grew, he learned many great skills, and many great lessons.

(beat)

But above all, he came to believe what his parents often told him, "Rick, you can do anything you set your mind to, and work hard at." And as he believed, so it was.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Rick is euphoric flying stunts with his flying wing.

INT. RICK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rick takes apart his dad's razor. A light goes off.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Mr. Arthur enters. Excitedly, Rick runs from the table and hands him the razor. Mr. Arthur turns it on, it BUZZES.

RICK
(proudly)
The motor just had a loose screw!

MR. ARTHUR
Well done, son, you are a regular
Wiz Kid. Can you fix my car now?

COLET (V.O.)
But when Rick's world exploded,
being a Wiz Kid meant nothing!

MONTAGE OF FIVE CHALLENGING BUT FUN YEARS FOR RICK

ARTHUR DRIVEWAY: The Arthurs load boxes in a trailer, with a SCOTTSDALE OR BUST sign. Gutted, Rick watches BOB(10) carry off his models. The Arthurs say goodbye to neighbors.

ARTHUR AZ HOUSE: Backyard. Surreptitiously, Rick watches his parents scream at each other in the kitchen.

COLET (V.O.)
WorldWar@Home came out of nowhere.

SCOTTSDALE HIGH GYM: Frosh PE class. The Guys: Rick, GARY, CURT, JOHN and MARK meet climbing ropes. They make plans.

COLET (V.O.)
But happily, the TeenAngster found
safe haven, in a magic kingdom, far
from cries of battle. Scottsdale
High Nut Farm saved the world!
(beat)
And Rick and his smart, but insane
Inmate Brothers, rode the SHS Loony
Bin Coaster for four amazing years.

ARTHUR KITCHEN: Rick finds divorce papers. A nod, a smile.

ARTHUR KITCHEN: LATER. Rick and his parents are fighting.

COLET (V.O.)

But the ride ended in disaster, as parasitic divorce shysters had a ravenous feeding frenzy, with his college funds! It got worse.

DRIVEWAY: Rick picks up the paper and reads the headlines. "War Expanding," "National draft to be reinstated."

CITY LIBRARY: Rick checks help wanted sites on a computer.

ACE SURVEY PARKING LOT: Rick parks his clunker. Then he helps his crew load their work truck with gear and supplies.

DESERT: Sweltering. Rick's crew surveys a steep hill. Rick works like a dog pulling chain, and pounding hubs and rebar.

ASU: Bewildered, Rick registers, buys books and moves into a dorm. He's soon sleeping in class, and stops fighting it.

COLET (V.O.)

Staying awake in class was vexing. What to major in was baffling. And life after college? Unimaginable. "Mr. I Can Do This" was rudderless.

DESERT: Blazing heat. Rick toils away with his survey crew.

END MONTAGE

EXT. NAU / ATHLETIC FIELD / P.E. STUDY SIGN UP LINE - DAY

In line behind DAN KNIGHT(19), Rick makes small talk.

RICK

So, you sign up for badminton too?

DAN

Yeah, bummer it was canceled.

RICK

Which section you going for?

DAN

Jumping rope should be a snap, and I love easy credits and free time.

RICK

Me too, I'm Rick Arthur.

DAN
 Dan Knight, wanna catch lunch after
 this? Nort's Bonus Burger?

EXT. NAU / ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

A group of students is leisurely jogging around the track.
 In one end of the football field, crippling pain prevails.
 Rick and Dan's group is jumping rope.

RICK
 (to Dan in a hushed voice)
 Ten minutes straight! Without
 stopping! This is insane! We need
 to throw this sadistic docent in
 the Grand Canyon.

Rick nods at BILL, the grad student conducting the study.

DAN
 Murder seems a tad extreme, but I
 do envision...

EXT. NAU / GYM BIKE RACK - DAY

Hobbling together, Rick and Dan meet at a fancy trail bike.

DAN
 Morn'n, Sir Cro Magnon.

RICK
 Yeah, like you walk any better?

DAN
 Okay, sentry, peel your eyes.

Dan takes the cap off a large tube of glue he's carrying.

RICK
 Remind me to never piss you off.

All grins, Rick lifts the bike. Dan squeezes half of the
 glue under each tire, then smooshes the tires into the goo.

RICK
 Any idea when "Mr. I've Got It
 Coming" goes to lunch?

DAN
 Right after our class, by then ze
 bike and ze concrete will be one!

RICK
Is Jan taking a vid?

Dan nods and grins like a fool, Rick does the same back.

EXT. NAU / TENNIS COURTS / PE CLASS - DAY

Recent snow has been cleared from the courts. Rick and Dan are playing really hard. The other students not so much.

EXT. ACE SURVEY PARKING LOT - DUSK

Deserted. Sweaty, dirty, sunburned and blistered, Rick trudges to his junker. Working the key hard, he unlocks it.

Easing onto the molten vinyl seat, Rick closes the door and puts the key in the ignition. He GRINDS the starter, and angrily GRUNTS. Then he GRINDS until the battery is dead.

EXT. WILD HORSE PASS RACEWAY / DRAG STRIP - DAY

Rick stages his ROARING motorcycle, KEN stages his. The starter nods, the Christmas Tree lights. Rick beats Ken decisively. Waiting for their time cards, small talk.

KEN
That's one quick bike.

RICK
It was love at first ride, but it cost every peso I had. And no pesos means a year of hard time.
(beat)
But GCC, and living with dad, sure beats the deadly US Army OD Dance.

INT. ASU / STUDENT COUNSELOR OFFICE - DAY

Open door. A COUNSELOR is at his desk reading a file. Rick KNOCKS on the door. He's waved in and takes a seat.

COUNSELOR
Welcome back, Mr. Arthur, didn't like NAU, or GCC? So, what's your major going to be this semester?

RICK
Don't have a clue, whaddya got?

COUNSELOR

Well, Humanities is your only hope
of graduating in this decade.

RICK

Sounds great, sign me up. I'll
look up what Humanities are later.

EXT. US ARMY OFFICE PARKING LOT - DAY

Skidding his motorcycle to a stop, Rick kills it. Then
setting the kickstand, he storms inside carrying a letter.

INT. US ARMY OFFICE BUILDING / FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Charging in, Rick confronts PFC Grimm(19) at the front desk.

RICK

I need to talk to someone about my
bogus Draft Notice.

PFC GRIMM

That would be Maj Trawble. Open
door, second on the left.

INT. MAJ TRAWBLE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Rick rushes in waving his Draft Notice.

MAJ TRAWBLE

May I help you?

RICK

I got a bogus Draft Notice, fix it!

MAJ TRAWBLE

Why do you believe it's bogus?

RICK

I've got a college deferment! I'm
going to ASU full time. And I'm
passing most of my classes.

MAJ TRAWBLE

Let's have a look at your file.

Rick hands the letter to Maj Trawble, who quickly skims it.
Walking to a file cabinet, the Maj opens a drawer and gets a
file. Returning to his desk, he sits and opens it. As he
studies the file, he stifles a CHUCKLE; then gets serious.

MAJ TRAWBLE

Mr. Arthur, did you go to ASU three years ago and get a deferment?

RICK

Yes.

MAJ TRAWBLE

Did you go to NAU two years ago and get another deferment?

RICK

Yes.

MAJOR TRAWBLE

And last year, did you attend Glendale Community College, where you got one more deferment?

RICK

Yeah, so what?

MAJ TRAWBLE

Sorry, that's all you get, three deferments. You report the 27th. Bring your medical records and all records called for in this letter.

EXT. FORT BLISS / LIVE AMMO OBSTACLE COURSE - DAY

Bullets whiz over Rick's head. His platoon, wearing full packs and carrying AR-15s, is slithering through mud, under a low barbed wire lattice. Rick is both mad and scared.

COLET (V.O.)

The US Army was all "G.I. I Can Do This" feared. Just staying alive was a 24/7 job.

EXT. FORT BLISS / MESS HALL ENTRANCE - DAY

Chow line. Rick is muddy, sweaty and dazed. The G.I. behind him THROWS UP all over Rick's pants and boots.

COLET (V.O.)

But dread turned to hope. Rick aced all his aptitude tests; and could train to become a pilot; if he'd sign up for one more year.

(beat)

Or, he could go to school, and become a helicopter mechanic.

INT. FORT RUCKER / CLASSROOM - DAY

Grinning ear to ear, Rick safety wires an engine.

COLET (V.O.)

Although PVT. R A was happy he was going to be a chopper mechanic, he had mixed feelings; as he wouldn't be flying. But, at least if he was deployed to a war zone, he'd be on a big safe base, in a clean hanger.

EXT. UNKNOWN LAND - DAY

Hilly forest. Tree top. Seven Black Hawks swoop in from the right; Apache gunships follow. Rick is in the lead ship crew chief well, exuberantly playing Air Drums. THE HOUSE IS ROCKIN' (by STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN) is cranked on his I/C.

PILOT TOP 1-1 (ON RADIO)

Okay, boys and girls party's over.

MUSIC lowers. Rick checks his M-60.

PILOT TOP 1-1 (ON RADIO)

SideKick 1-4, you good to go?

SIDEKICK 1-4 (ON RADIO)

Top 1-1, we're ready to rock.

PILOT TOP 1-1 (ON RADIO)

Rat Pack 5, this is Top 1-1. We're on short final, comin' in hot.

RAT PACK 5 LEADER (ON RADIO)

Great to see you, pop'n red smoke.

PILOT TOP 1-1 (ON RADIO)

Okay, Toppers, light 'em up.

The Blackhawk's M-60s ignite; as the gunships roll in from each flank, their mini-guns, mortars and rockets blazing.

Swooping into the LZ, Rick's troops jump and run; then his ship takes off. As the next ship in drops its troops, Rick watches in horror as it's blown to kingdom come.

PILOT TOP 1-1 (ON RADIO)

Top Flight, abort, abort! Sidekick 1-4, this is Top 1-1, the RPG came from the east hill. Go get 'em!

The remaining flight breaks off and follows Top 1-1.

PILOT TOP 1-1 (ON RADIO)
 Rat Pack 5, this is Top 1-1, the
 ground pounders will need to clear
 these hills. We'll call to have
 our crew and ship recovered.

RAT PACK 5 LEADER (ON RADIO)
 Roger, Top 1-1, will call for air
 support. Sorry about your crew,
 only the gunner's gonna make it.

EXT. UNKNOWN LAND / TINY AIRSTRIP - DAY

The Black Hawks land and their gunners fuel them. Walking to his copilot's door, Rick opens it and motions the COPILOT to get out. The copilot turns and argues vehemently with the PILOT.irate, the copilot climbs out and mans Rick's gun. Rick climbs in the copilot seat and buckles up.

INT. HELICOPTER / FLYING - CONTINUOUS

Rick takes off and leads the flight.

RICK
 (to pilot)
 Seems Lt. West Point was none too
 thrilled about trading places.

PILOT TOP 1-1
 He's a Newbie, and you're a better
 pilot; he'll get over it. So, any
 chance of you shooting into the
 treeline now, and not over it?

RICK
 I'm sorry, Captain, I can't. There
 is no way I could kill or maim a
 person on purpose. I don't care
 how evil Washington says they are.

PILOT TOP 1-1
 I get it. Still, I'd likely have
 you court-martialed if you weren't
 the best crew chief in the Army.

EXT. SKY HARBOR AIRPORT / TERMINAL 4 / ARRIVALS PICKUP - DAY

Looking sharp in his Sgt Class "A"s, Rick waits. Dan pulls up in his open convertible and salutes. Rick returns it, tosses his Duffel bag in the backseat and jumps in.

INT. DAN'S CAR / DRIVING - CONTINUOUS

As Dan drives downtown, the brothers SMACK a high five.

DAN

Welcome home; and you got pranked!
Top of your class, but you never
asked what a chopper grease monkey
actually does? Like flying combat
missions almost daily!

RICK

I'm finally free, I'm home, I'm
safe and sound, and hopefully no
one'll be shooting at me. That is
all that truly matters, believe me.

DAN

Geez, the army must have been fun.

RICK

Yeah, just super. The hours were
unholy, the food was beyond vile,
and each day was one death defying
act after another. And then there
was my most excellent pay.

(beat)

I'm amazed my skin didn't turn OD,
my hair and teeth didn't fall out,
and my head didn't explode.

DAN

Sounds like a fine time, glad you
made it home okay. So where do ya
wanna go first?

RICK

How bout su casa nuevo? It sounds
rad, I'd like to see it.

We're still only gutting it, but
Marc my remodeler does fine work.
It will be awesome when it's done.

RICK

If it doesn't look like, or smell
like a barracks, I'll love it. So
how's your company doing?

DAN

We're off to an auspicious start.
But the travel gets grueling, and
too often I'm a maximus glutinous.

RICK

Did you ever change your name to MegaHertz? That was some prank.

DAN

No, I thought about it. But a lot of people do call me that now.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Dan parks his car in the driveway; he and Rick get out. As they walk to the house, Rick shakes his head and LAUGHS at the seriously beat up old hacienda.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rick parks his motorcycle in the driveway. Walking to the front door, he mouths the word wow; as he looks about in amazement at the stunning transformation.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

E.O.S. is on TV singing HOUSE OF FUN. A woman scrutinizes a painting over the fireplace. Two KNOCKS on the front door. Rick enters, nods to the woman, and walks to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

MARC(40s) and CONNIE(30s) are grazing at a table. TONY(30s) and Dan and are at the sink LAUGHING. Rick joins them.

RICK

Amazing, Dan, the place is super.

DAN

Thanks. That's SuperRemo Marc, who deserves most of the credit; and his wife Connie. And this is Tony, the infamous Antique Home Dealer.

Rick nods to Marc and Connie, who smile and nod politely back. Then he turns to Tony and shakes his hand.

RICK

Nice to meet you, Tony.

TONY

Good to meet you, Rick. Dan tells me you'd be a great neighbor. Are you thinking about buying?

RICK

Not right now. I hafta finish A&P school and get a job first.

TONY

Well, call me when you're ready. Nothing will make me happier than selling you a house. Except of course, getting paid!

All LAUGH. Rick gives Tony a thumbs-up, they high five.

INT. AIR STAR AVIATION HANGER - DAY

Entering the hanger, Rick stops at the bulletin board and reads a poster for the Big Mech Contest. Top prize is the coveted Platinum ViceGrips trophy, plus \$50,000. Scanning the QR code on his phone, Rick grins and CHUCKLES.

EXT. OLD TUDOR - DAY

ANTHONY'S ANTIQUES for sale sign in yard. Rick drives up and parks his motorcycle in the driveway. The front door opens and Tony steps in the doorway. Rick walks to him.

TONY

Hi, Rick, what do you think?

RICK

Is it condemned?

TONY

Ah, good one, no, not yet. And congrats on winning the Big Mech.

RICK

Thanks. So what's this one got, besides lots of obvious problems?

INT. OLD TUDOR / LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Prey and predator enter the trap. Tony points out the front door lockset, selling hard. Rick is skeptical.

TONY

For starters, all the hardware is antique brass. Strip off the old paint, polish it, and it'll look new. And there's solid oak floors under this gawd awful shag carpet.

RICK
What about all these big cracks in
the walls and ceilings?

TONY
A little plaster and paint, they'll
disappear. Nothing to it.

RICK
How about the plumbing, electric
and roof? How are they?

TONY
Rick, this house is a steal; they
need to be replaced, plus the A/C.
But you're handy, you can save a
ton of money fixing it yourself.
And wait 'til you see the pool,
it's only a year old.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Tony leads the way smiling. Rick is even more skeptical.

RICK
Really, Tony, I'm not sure I wanna
steal it. A pool sounds great, but
this kitchen's hideous.

TONY
Rick, just imagine it with oak
cabinets, granite countertops, a
new plank tile floor, and gleaming
new stainless steel appliances.

Tony makes a sweeping backhanded gesture with his right
hand. Visions of the finished room flow from his fingers.

MONTAGE OF RICK'S YEAR REBUILDING HIS TUDOR.

RICK'S HOUSE: Downpour. MR. KNOW-IT-ALL (by E.O.S.) rocks.
Rick gets buckets from the garage and puts them under his
many roof leaks. Lights are turned on, fuses blow.

While Rick replaces fuses in his ancient fuse box, he
watches with mixed feelings as his house is re-roofed.

Replacing a window, another breaks. Washing his hands, the
bath faucet and shut-off valve break, flooding the room.

Dust flies as the kitchen and bath are gutted. Then their
plumbing and wiring are replaced.

All rooms, doors and windows are patched and painted.

New cabinets and sinks are installed in bath and kitchen. Speakers go in the ceilings of the house, patio and garage.

Rick finishes his labor of love with a big gas range, range vent and french door refrigerator; all are stainless steel.

END MONTAGE

EXT. RICK'S DRIVEWAY - DUSK

WATCH YOUR BACK (by AVANT GARD) starts softly. As the garage door closes, Rick rolls his bike outside. Lifting earbuds off his shoulder, he plugs them in. The MUSIC cranks up. Hopping on his bike, he races off.

EXT. PHOENIX STREETS / RIDING - CONTINUOUS

Peddling in time with the MUSIC, Rick flies to Encanto Park.

EXT. ENCANTO PARK / BACK NINE - CONTINUOUS

Jumping the square curb, Rick jams on the brakes and throws his bike into a sideways slide.

Stopping inches from a standpipe: he vaults to the ground; sets the kickstand; pulls a U-lock off the handlebars, and drops it. Squatting to get it, he looks up and is dazzled.

Stunningly beautiful, SANDIE(20) is 25 feet away, in an Anjaneyāsana asana. Ending her pose, she looks at Rick. He's just staring, paralyzed by love at first sight.

Eyes meet. Holographic arrows fly into both hearts. Rick shudders, while Sandie gives him a funny smile.

Back to reality, Rick frantically yanks out his earbuds. Then out of nowhere, he roars at the beautiful apparition.

RICK

Hi! How are you?

Under no power of his, Rick jumps up. On his way up, eyes glued on Sandie, he bumps his bike off the kickstand. As cool as he can, he takes a swipe to catch it, but misses.

Losing his balance, he falls with his bike. Fast reflexes kick in and he cartwheels through it. Eyes ever on Sandie.

LAUGHTER erupts from the tumbling clown and his one angel audience. LAUGHTER fades. Sandie flashes a wicked smile.

SANDIE

We have to stop meeting like this.

LAUGHTER again fills their lush grass carpeted sanctuary. Smiling wildly as he talks to Sandie; Rick turns off his iPod, rights his bike, and locks it to the standpipe.

RICK

Are you warming up to run?

SANDIE

Yes.

RICK

Mind if I tag along?

SANDIE

Promise not to trip me?

RICK

I'm not clumsy. That's just my new Hi-Impact warm up exercise.

SANDIE

Okay, if you can keep up. I need to tighten my shoes.

RICK

How far do you run?

SANDIE

Once around the back nine.

RICK

Great, that's what I run.

Sandie ties her shoes. As Rick walks to her, his earbuds go in a pocket. Nodding hi, he waves her on. A fast pace.

The last fifty yards to the finish (Rick's bike) is a full on race. It's a photo finish. Both LAUGH at each other, as they throw their arms high, acclaiming victory.

Slowing to a walk, they head back towards Rick's bike. As they catch their breath, Rick is drowning in vital questions he desperately needs answered.

To get them, he stops under a large tree (their tree).

RICK
Do you live near here?

SANDIE
Sometimes. I'm going to ASU, and have an apartment in Tempe; but my folk's house has a lot of perks.

RICK
I went to ASU, what's your major?

SANDIE
Planetary Transology, which is a fancy name for Earth Ecology, I'm a junior. And what do you do?

RICK
I'm an aircraft mechanic, and an Apprentice Tudor Rebuilder. Sadly, my battle to rehab my ancient abode has been mostly a comedy of errors.

SANDIE
I know how that goes. My folks bought our fixer-up ranch a year ago, and they're not going to finish it any time soon.
(beat)
Speaking of going, I need to get going and clean up for dinner.

They walk to Rick's bike.

SANDIE
By the way, my name is Sandie Roberts.

RICK
I'm Rick, Rick Arthur. Sorry, it's like... It's like I know you...
From another time?

Rick unlocks his bike, and rolls it by the seat. They leave the golf course, for Sandie's home.

SANDIE
Do you mean, years ago? Or like years ago, as in reincarnation?

RICK
I have no clue what I'm blathering about. And I'm not too much into Metaphysics... But I can't rule them out. How about you?

SANDIE

All I'll say for now is, I believe
our great cosmos has much to offer.

RICK

I'd really like to see you again.

SANDIE

Does next Saturday work for you?

Elated and shocked, Rick can barely speak.

RICK

Yeah... Sure... What's a good
time? Hey, that's my birthday.

SANDIE

Seven's good, pick me up here.
Should I bring a present?

RICK

Seven's great, but please no gift,
way too awkward.

EXT. ROBERTS' FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Stopping at the porch, Sandie gives Rick a funny look.

SANDIE

Would you like my phone number?

RICK

Oh God, yes please!

Sandie pops into the house, then quickly returns. With a
big smile, she hands Rick her precious contact info.

RICK

Super, I'll see you Saturday.

Rick smiles, nods, winks and gets on his bike. Earbuds in,
iPod on, he races off as WATCH YOUR BACK reprises.

INT. RICK'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Rick enters taking his shirt off, and is shocked. Cupid's
bolt (fletched end) is sticking two inches out of his chest.

RICK

Oh my God, what the... This is just
plain crazy! Beyond crazy!

He tries, but can't grab it. In the mirror, the arrow head sticks out his back. Rick shakes his head and starts the shower. (The arrow will grow bigger over time; and is only visible when Rick is alone with no clothing covering it. When it's transformed into a sword, the same is true.)

INT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Packed. FIESTA DIN with MARIACHI MUSIC. Rick and Sandie are feasting and LAUGHING.

RICK
Besides Earth Ecology, what else do you find interesting?

SANDIE
I love making things.

RICK
Like what?

SANDIE
Jewelry, stained glass, paintings, sculptures. And you, any interests beside planes and Tudors?

RICK
Fix'n stuff's okay, but flying a Black Hawk was way beyond super.

Very animatedly, Rick acts like he's flying a chopper.

RICK
Whoop, whoop, whoop, whoop! It broke a BaZillion Army Rules, but my pilot wanted backup in case he and the copilot got shot. So he taught me to fly; then let me fly a little every day. Some days a lot.

SANDIE
Sounds like great fun, but how was the whole war thing? Did it mess you up any, even a little?

RICK
No, but I do need to confess I have nasty addiction. Drag racing my motorcycle. I've been hooked on Revosterone since college.

Highly-Rev'd Rick acts like he's revving his cycle.

RICK
Varoom, varoom, varoom!

SANDIE
Sounds like a nasty addiction.

RICK
I'm racing in three weeks, at Wild Horse Pass; think you can make it?

SANDIE
I'd love to, if it's on Sunday.

RICK
I'd love to take you. But it's on Saturday, so fix your schedule.

COLET (V.O.)
Smitten Rick learned many things this enchanted evening, not all were good.
(beat)
He was thrilled Sandie didn't have a boyfriend. But how could he be happy? She had a summer job, at Tizer Botanic Gardens, in Montana!
(beat)
Like every Phoenician with an I.Q. greater than ten, she was fleeing Sun Stroke Valley for the summer.

EXT. PHOENIX BOTANICAL GARDEN / DAY

Like an exotic butterfly, Sandie flitters about giving Rick a gleeful tour. Slyly, he takes phone vids of his love.

EXT. WILD HORSE PASS RACEWAY / GATE 2 - DAY

Rick drives his motorcycle up and stops; Sandie is on the back. They are checked in; given passes; and waved in. Parking under the grandstand, Rick strips his rocket, and works his magic. Sandie helps and takes pics.

LATER: Rick wins his race, as Sandie takes vids and cheers.

COLET (V.O.)
In no time, the Willy Wizard of Woo loved all the world had to offer. And each day he loved Sandie more. She had impeccable integrity; wisdom and intellect beyond her years; and her wit was razor sharp.

EXT. TEMPE TOWN LAKE / DOCK - DAY

Rick and Sandie climb aboard a dinghy and untie it. They shove off from the dock, and Rick grabs the main sheet and tiller. He tries to sail into the lake, floundering badly.

The boom swings, barely missing Sandie.

SANDIE

You really think you can do this?

RICK

There's a good breeze, and I can fly choppers. How hard can it be?

SANDIE

We'll find out soon enough, but you're off to a...

Sandie ducks as the boom almost hits her again.

SANDIE

Move over swabbie, give me the tiller; I can do better than that.

Changing places, Sandie sails much better. With natural skill, she slowly sails into the east end of the lake.

RICK

So, tell me, what's the greatest thing you've ever done?

SANDIE

Good question. Better yet, what's the greatest thing mankind can do?

RICK

How should I know?

SANDIE

How do you know anything?

RICK

I don't know, someone tells me, I read it, I see it on TV.

SANDIE

Do you have other ways of learning and knowing things?

RICK

You sure you're not a psych major?

SANDIE

Do I have to major in something to find it interesting?

RICK

Why do you always think so big?

SANDIE

Given man's great brain power, why would anyone think small?

Lying back, Rick gets lost in Sandie's beauty.

COLET (V.O.)

Although Sandie was challenging at times, Rick's love just kept on growing. But as it did, he never noticed all his wants had become all-consuming needs.

(beat)

He didn't want to hold Sandie close and kiss her until the end of time, he needed to! Just as he needed to drown in her effervescent eyes... Fly on her joyous laughter.

EXT. RICK'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

On a lounge twitching and squirming, Rick is staring into space pondering.

COLET (V.O.)

But most of all, Rick needed to tell Sandie of his raging, roaring, searing white-hot love.

A big smile erupts, but fades to remorse.

COLET (V.O.)

Twice his words had blazed from his heart, and exploded like divine fireworks in his brain. But they stopped at the tip of his tongue.

(beat)

For, how are such words to be said? Yelled from a mountain top? Sung as a sacred hymn? Or whispered like a mystical prayer?

Rick SIGHS, shakes, and deep worry sets in.

COLET (V.O.)

But then he realized, if he did
proclaim aloud his all-consuming
love, he might scare Sandie off.
And that petrified him.

(beat)

His only option was to say nothing,
until he was sure of...

INT. SKY HARBOR AIRPORT / TERMINAL 4 / CONCOURSE - DAY

Walking with Sandie, Rick is desperately trying to put on a
brave face. He'll explode if he doesn't tell her. Taking
Sandie's hand, he stops her. They lock eyes.

Sandie throws a questioning look. Rick has nothing. With a
forced smile he nods onward, and they continue.

But reaching security, he has to say something.

RICK

(voice cracking)

Well, have a safe flight. And I
guess I'll see you in August.

SANDIE

Should be fine. But you sure seem
like you have something to say.

RICK

Well, ah, yeah, no... Ah, have a
safe trip.

SANDIE

(mimicking Rick)

Well, ah, yeah, no, well, yeah, ah,
you already said that.

Both LAUGH. Rick kisses Sandie's cheek, and she's gone.

MONTAGE OF RICK'S SUMMER OF DESPERATION

BAR: Dark. Empty. Rick drinks and scowls at a blank TV.

RICK'S DEN: Bored, lonely and depressed; Rick lies on the
couch, staring at the ceiling, and drinking beer.

HIGH ABOVE PHOENIX: We PUSH IN through thick pollution to
Encanto Park. Rick wanders the sweltering oasis totally
lost; looking everywhere for some meaning to his life.

COLET (V.O.)

Never had Rick been so savagely tormented by something he hadn't said or done.

(beat)

Without his Saint Sandie, life was unbearable, a totally meaningless void. Her three months in Montana were as three eons.

RICK'S BACKYARD: Night. Thrashing about on a lounge, searching the heavens, Rick is distraught.

COLET (V.O.)

Grimmer still, as time slowed to a stop, Rick began to be eaten alive by the What-Ifs.

(beat)

What if Sandie loved Montana and moved there? What if he never saw her again? What if she never knew how much she was loved and needed? What if he moved too slow, and a movie star stole her heart?

RICK'S DEN: In a fetal position on the couch, Rick stares distraughtly at a picture of Sandie on his phone.

COLET (V.O.)

What was really going on in Tizer? All Rick knew for sure was, he had never been so lost and powerless.

(pause)

Blessedly, the week before Sandie's return, Mr. Insecure's merciless What-Ifs began to ebb.

RICK'S BACKYARD: Rick is jubilant as he mows his backyard, cleans the pool, and swims to cool off. The arrow is now two feet long and vivid.

END MONTAGE

EXT. RICK'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Rick is flying high as he exits the house and struts to his motorcycle. But getting on, he recoils like he's punched in the gut. Pain and horror overwhelm him.

Finally, he tries to shake it off. Still dazed, he starts his cycle, raises the kickstand, shudders and drives off.

COLET (V.O.)

At least until a few new deadly
What-Ifs attacked with a vengeance.

(beat)

What if Sandie's keen ears could
hear the wailing of his tortured
soul? What if her all-seeing eyes,
saw his colossal desperation?

(beat)

What if she could feel his raging
need? What if his face showed all
his crippling fears? What if she
was going to say it was over?

EXT. ROBERTS' FRONT YARD - DAY

Parking at the curb, Rick walks slowly to the door. Still
trying to shake it off, he takes a deep breath and SIGHS
deeply. Desperately, he tries to smile.

COLET (V.O.)

Going to war, being shot at daily,
crashing a motorcycle, knowing you
will die one day; these were only
scary. This was terrifying!

Rick shudders as he knocks on the door. Sandie answers.

SANDIE

Hi, Rick, it's great to see you.

RICK

(stammering)

How was your flight, and did you
really like Montana that much?

Sandie steps out and closes the door. Hugging Rick, she
gives him a quick kiss. Rick takes her hand and they walk
slowly to his motorcycle.

SANDIE

The flight was bumpy; and I love
Montana. Glacier National Park is
other-worldly; wait 'til you see my
pictures! You never did said much
about your summer, was it fun?

RICK

Just super. Sol's Plasma Furnace
is a great place to spend eternity.
You meet any interesting people?

SANDIE

I did, the town was full of famous musicians, and A-list movie stars. But I still missed you.

EXT. ROBERTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Picking up Sandie in his "new" cherry '68 Chevelle Malibu SS convertible, Rick is beaming.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT / BOOTH - NIGHT

Business is slow. Rick and Sandie are in a corner booth LAUGHING UPROARIOUSLY. They stop and Sandie toasts Rick.

SANDIE

Well congratulations then, I stand correct. Line Foreman! My Wizard of Whirlybirds is moving up.

RICK

It's no big deal, I'm good. But it's a good reason to celebrate.

SANDIE

I celebrate every day, because any day could be my last. Something I'm sure you learned going to war.

RICK

I did, and celebrating every day sounds like a great idea.

SANDIE

You do realize, celebrating life involves more than just partying?

RICK

Obviously... Like what?

SANDIE

Is life a miracle?

RICK

Sure.

SANDIE

How do you relate to it?

RICK

How do I relate to life?

SANDIE

The miracle of life, your miracle of life. How do you work with it; what do you add to life? Or, are your contributions limited to fixing and maintaining machines?

Sandie holds up her glass and swirls the water in it.

SANDIE

Is our universe endless? Is planet Earth but a speck of dust?

RICK

Great, the universe is ginormous. How's that relevant?

SANDIE

Well, are you a separate part of it? If so, where does your part of the miracle end, and mine begin?

RICK

Okay, I give up, I may not know what makes the Cosmos spin, but I am perty guud at read'n man-u-els, n fix'n all kinz ah broke stuff.

A WAITER delivers a mixed appetizer platter.

SANDIE

Hopefully, someday you'll learn to care about life's more important "stuff." There is more to life than flashy things to race and fly.

LATER

Mid-meal Rick rushes to the men's room and vomits.

COLET (V.O.)

Unfortunately, something was rotten in Denmark, or wherever Rick's dinner came from.

EXT. RICK'S FRONT YARD / NIGHT

Exiting His car; Rick staggers to a bush, and Sandie walks to the house. Wiping away tears of laughter, Sandie unlocks the door, then watches Rick vomit in the bushes.

COLET (V.O.)

Late that night, Rick got a new name. He was green, his eyes were bugged out, and he was making loud croaking sounds. Like a - Froggy!

(beat)

And even though the Wiz Kid had been demoted to a Froggy, he could not have been happier. Sandie still liked him, even after his Dreadful Vomitorium Extravaganza.

EXT. ENCANTO PARK / TENNIS COURTS - DAY

Dan's first serve is fast and wide. His next is a blazing insider. Rick barely catches it, to start a furious volley.

RICK

Sadly, I'm still getting over my failed attempt at Sushicide.

DAN

What's with all the excuses? Ricky Racer running low on Revosterone?

RICK

Says the Great Prank Master, whose life is powered by Preposterone.

DAN

So, what's the word on the love of your life? How's that working out?

Rick doesn't even try to return Dan's well placed lob. He just retrieves the balls and smacks them back to Dan.

RICK

Great, so far. Except I want to marry this woman, but I still haven't told her I love her!

(beat)

I keep waiting for the perfect time and place, but what is perfect?

(beat)

I beg you, Dr. Prankenstein, if I don't tell her tonight, cut out my heart, and put me out of my misery!

DAN

Sorry, not my specialty; but good luck. And it's forty love.

Dan serves a blistering winner. Rick never touches it.

RICK
 Not bad for a gringa; I see a huge
 lunch bill coming my way.

INT. DANCE CLUB - NIGHT

Rick and Sandie have a glorious time dancing and drinking.

EXT. ENCANTO PARK / BACK NINE - NIGHT

Hand-in-hand, Rick and Sandie walk to their tree. Trembling hands, tender caresses, eyes of love. Rick bares his soul, as the words he's silenced far too long, flow with passion.

RICK
 I love you, I love you, I love you!
 With each breath I take, each beat
 of my heart, a magic font of love
 flows from me; filling the world
 with profound love, and pure magic.

(beat)

I love you so, so much; beyond all
 limits. And I'll love you long
 after my last breath is but a
 memory of the wind; and my body
 flies free as celestial dust.

SANDIE
 Rick, you are an amazing person,
 and I've loved you since we met.

Lost in divine ecstatic wonder, they kiss deeply. They are one. Their world spins. Their spirits soar.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE / KITCHEN - DAY

Rick and Dan are in the breakfast nook drinking beer, eating pizza and playing chess. Dan moves, then drinks some beer.

DAN
 So, how'd your "I love you!" scene
 play out? Ya git-r-done?

RICK
 It went great, and extra super
 things happened later.
 (beat)
 The only way to describe last night
 would be, clear off the end of the
 Intergalactic Richter Scale!

Rick puzzles his next move, none look good.

DAN
So, life is perfect plus?

RICK
Except for her far-out questions.
I'm a man of many questions, but
her's can drive you nuts.

Rick finally moves. Dan's knight snags a rook.

DAN
That explains a lot. Do I finally
get to meet her? Is she coming to
the party? Willow will be here.

RICK
I'm going to miss that rook. And
yes, we'll be here early, to help.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE / KITCHEN - NIGHT

Low PARTY MUSIC. Dan finishes cleaning the sink. Rick and Sandie enter and walk to him. Dan salutes Rick, who salutes back. Mockingly, Sandie salutes them both; they scowl back.

DAN
Welcome, Wiz Boy, and your funny
lady would be Sandie?

RICK
Indeed. Sandie, this is the very
unstable, but highly likable, Dan
Knight; better known as Sir Daniel
MegaHertz - Master of CyberPranks.

SANDIE
An honor to meet you, Dan. Your
April Fools prank will go down in
history. Making YouTube's videos
play backwards was hilarious!

DAN
Nice to meet you, Sandie; and that
one will to be hard to top.

RICK
If anyone can, it will be Dan the
Man! So what can we do to help?

DAN
You can start with the ice buckets,
there's ice in the pantry freezer.

RICK

On it. Sandie, why don't you check out the rest of Hacienda La Grande. I'll have a drink waiting for you.

Sandie leaves. Dan checks hors d'oeuvres in oven. Rick gets the ice, fills the ice buckets and makes drinks.

DAN

Okay, Sir Mesmerized, Sandie is beautiful. Have you figured out what makes her so wonderful?

RICK

It's not something I can describe.

DAN

Well, no one living in the real world can be as happy as you are.

RICK

Maybe that's it. What we have might not be... of the Real World!

DAN

I just hope your UnReal World isn't a most beguiling, but ultimately disastrous, masterful bewitchery.

RICK

I'll drink to that. And maybe one fine day, you'll meet a lady who beguiles you even more than Willow.

Rick and Dan toast.

DAN

What about all her impossible questions, how's that going?

RICK

Not much better, but I'll get by. Guess she's not perfect, yet.

DAN

What do your manuals say about this? Can she be fixed?

RICK

Like you tried to fix Dixie?

Both LAUGH as MARTA(40) enters, all smiles.

MARTA

Well done, Dan. Your place is absolutely primo prime.

DAN

Thanks, Marta. I'd like you to meet my best buddy, Rick Arthur.

MARTA

Pleased to meet you, Rick.

RICK

Great to meet you, Marta. Dan says you're a volcano of perpetual fine art; is it safe to shake hand? Or will I get burned?

Rick moves to shake Marta's hand, she hugs him.

MARTA

Fear not, I save the heat for the creative process.

DAN

True, and now I'm even adding fuel to the fire. Marta and I have been collaborating on the most radical art show ever. It's still a ways off, but when we get it right, it will blow your mind!

RICK

I look forward to it. And clearly, Marta, you and my Sandie must be kindred spirits. She'll be back any minute; I know she'll love to meet you.

INT. RICK'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (CHRISTMAS)

KNOCKING on front door. Sandie enters holding two presents. As she closes the door, Rick flies to her from the kitchen.

RICK

Merry Christmas, my love!

Rick holds Sandie's head and kisses her deeply.

SANDIE

Yeah, like you love anything besides motorcycles and airplanes.

RICK

What? Good lord my cute little
Wizadrix, you know I love you more
than I can possibly ever say.

SANDIE

I know. But it's fun to see my
Froggy jump from time to time.

RICK

Hope I hopped high enough.

SANDIE

Not bad. Now, would you like to
see what I have for you?

Sandie hands Rick the big present. He opens her painting of
a vibrant butterfly, floating above hills and fluffy clouds.

RICK

God, it's beautiful. I love it!
What do you call it?

Rick puts it on the couch and steps back to look at it.

SANDIE

Astral Butterfly. Later, you might
look at it closer, it has many
interesting fine details.

(pause)

Ready for your other present?

Rick accepts the box; rips off its bow and paper; and opens
it. Then he pulls out a lifelike, seven inch tall, ceramic
Prince of Frogs. He sits atop a glossy lily pad. A crown
of gold upon his head. The grace of a whimsical smile.

RICK

It's amazing, I love it too! How
did you make it so lifelike?

SANDIE

Simple, with love, lots of love. A
Prince of Frogs, I know him well.

RICK

Yes, you do. Now, for yours. It
isn't wrapped, or near as pretty as
these; but I did lube and tune it.

Rick ducks into the kitchen. He quickly returns rolling a
woman's mountain bike, with a big red bow on the handlebars.

RICK
 Merry Christmas. And I'm including
 a free week in the White Mountains,
 so you can break it in right.

INT. FANCY RESORT / BALLROOM - NIGHT (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

Rick and Sandie are at a table talking. THE MAGIC TOUCH (by THE PLATTERS) begins. Rick puts his drink down and touches Sandie's nose, like he's zapping her. She SNICKERS, grabs his hand, and drags him onto the crowded dance floor.

Fully enchanted, they dance to, act out and mime the song.

MUSIC ends; everyone starts leaving the dance floor. Rick and Sandie hug, and kiss deeply. Then hand in hand, they return to their table and retake their seats.

RICK
 You know, I really love when you
 call me Froggy. Do you have a
 special name I can call you?

SANDIE
 Certainly.

RICK
 Well, what is it?

SANDIE
 You do like it easy. But you have
 to figure this one out yourself.

RICK
 Okay... Angel?

SANDIE
 No, but thanks.

RICK
 Sparkle?

SANDIE
 (laughing)
 What am I, a seltzer water?

RICK
 How about Princess?

SANDIE
 I don't think so.

RICK
Okay, how about Sunshine?

SANDIE
Prince Frogster, I see this might
take awhile, but keep trying.

RICK
Talk about trying, I'm still trying
to find a cabin. Pine Top isn't
usually busy over spring break; but
it's gonna be this year.

INT. RICK'S CAR / AZ 260 ON THE RIM / DRIVING - DAY

Heavy rain is falling. Rick and Sandie are LAUGHING. As they descend from tall pines, into a large valley of wet grassy meadows, the rain ends.

RICK
You know, I still don't know your
"secret" name. How bout a hint?

SANDIE
No, but keep your mind open; you
just might stumble on it up here.

RICK
Okay, is it the name of a flower,
an animal... or a goddess?

SANDIE
Nope, try again.

RICK
Starlight... Sky... Rainbo?

SANDIE
No, but you are getting closer.

Nearing valley's end, Rick spots patches of mist forming in the coming treeline. He flashes Sandie a big toothy grin.

RICK
I've got it! And does it ever fit.

SANDIE
You sound pretty sure, whatcha got?

RICK
Foggy!

SANDIE
Foggy? Mi amor, have you lost it?

RICK
Ah, gotcha! But I do know what it is. It's Misty.

SANDIE
You did get it, good job. But how do you spell it?

RICK
R-u-m-p-l OK, M-i-s-t-y, how else?

SANDIE
Oh, you know me well enough by now.

Rick ponders. Taps his chin. Gets it.

RICK
Well, for my lady of mystery, there's only one logical answer: M-Y-S-T-I! Froggy and Mysti; I just love it. Mysti and the Wiz! It doesn't get better than this.

SANDIE
Took you long enough, but I knew you'd get it... Eventually.

Sandie gives Rick a big kiss on the cheek.

MONTAGE OF RICK AND SANDIE'S TRANSCENDENT SUMMER

PINE TOP, AZ: Rim outcrop, night. LOVE TO INFINITY (by E.O.S.) comes to life and plays. Rick and Sandie snuggle and kiss. Lying back, they open themselves to, and revel in, the marvels of our glorious universe.

ON THE RIM: Enchanted, they dance in fields of wildflowers, stalk wild elk, bike old trails, and take lots of pics. At night, they playfully explore the cosmos with a telescope.

ENCINITAS, CA: Streetside cafe. Merry dining on the patio.

MOONLIGHT BEACH, CA: With blazing tans, Rick and Sandie body surf, boogie board and Frisbee. Pics galore.

ROCKY POINT, MEX: Breakfast at a bayside restaurant. Then the sweethearts wander town, shopping for sandals, tequila, beach blankets and extra colossal shrimp.

SANDY BEACH, MEX: Mysti and the Wiz snorkel, bodysurf, comb the beach and worship the Sun.

SEASIDE BUNGALOW, MEX: Patio, twilight. Rick preps shrimp and starts charcoal in the grill. Mysti makes Wiz7s, and the carefree lovers toast. On cloud nine, they savor their drinks, and the amazing neon sunset. Pics to treasure.

ASU: Registration. Sandie enters a long line.

END MONTAGE

INT. RICK'S GARAGE - DAY

Rick finishes waxing his motorcycle. With a smile, he grabs his phone from the workbench and makes a call.

RICK

Hi, Mysti One, ready for Sedona?...
Too much homework! It's been like
forever, over a month, since I've
seen you. I get a masters takes
work, but this is ridiculous...
Great, thanks for nothing, goodbye!

EXT. SANDIE'S APARTMENT PARKING LOT - DAY

Roaring up in his car, Rick can barely hide his anger. Sandie gets in, and they roar off.

INT. RICK'S CAR / DRIVING - CONTINUOUS

RICK

What a pleasure to see you. Thanks
for working me into your schedule.

SANDIE

Don't get snippy with me, Froggy.
Our summer was amazing plus; but I
have to put time into my classes.

RICK

Is it gona be like this for the
next two, or three years?

SANDIE

Didn't A&P keep you pretty busy?

RICK

Sure, but we got weekends and
holidays off for good behavior.

SANDIE

Come on, Rick, let's have a good time today. It's stupid to waste our time fighting like this.

RICK

Fine, but I promise, something is going to change. Do you hear me? And I mean soon, will change soon!

INT. RICK'S DEN - NIGHT

Rick closes a hotel site on his computer, then makes a call.

RICK

(sarcastically)

My love, how nice you have time to talk... Sorry, I'm pretty wound up. But I got our reservations for Flag this weekend. It should be great skiing, not that I know how to ski.

Listening. Rage. Rick yanks his phone from his ear and considers smashing it. Instead, he screams into it.

RICK

What the hell, can't make it? I've seen you once in two months! Have you got someone new, just tell me. I'll quit bothering you forever... Christmas, you can make Christmas, and maybe the New Years party!

EXT. FANCY RESORT / BALLROOM PATIO - NIGHT (NEW YEARS EVE)

Faint MUSIC wafts from inside. Secluded table, tense silence. Sandie is troubled, Rick's pissed.

SANDIE

(extremely resolutely)

Rick, I'm sorry you're not in the mood, but we do need to talk, now!

Rick can't believe she won't shut up.

SANDIE

Do you remember that fellowship I applied for last summer?

Glaring at Sandie, Rick finishes his drink.

RICK

You mean that insane thing about living in the jungle, and being an intern for some planet saving hero?

SANDIE

It was a great opportunity; but now thanks to a new grant, I've been invited me to join the mission.

RICK

Well, you're not actually thinking about going? Are you? Are you!

SANDIE

Rick, I'm sorry, I love you dearly. But I accepted, I leave next month.

RICK

And there's nothing I can say or do to change your mind? So that's it? Doesn't matter what I want, or even think? You're leaving?

SANDIE

Froggy, it's only for two years. Can you wait for me?

Losing it, Rick jumps up. His chair flies, the table rocks violently, their drinks hit the deck and break.

RICK

(screaming)

Hell no! I can't wait two weeks! Two years! No! No! No! No!

SANDIE

Then we best end this.

RICK

(screaming louder)

Happy freak'n New Year! Have a super time in the freak'n jungle!

INT. RICK'S DEN - DAY

In extreme agony, Rick begs. Alone, no one hears.

RICK

Please! Please don't leave. I promise I'll do or say anything you want. Just please... don't leave.

EXT. ENCANTO PARK / BACK NINE / THEIR TREE - DUSK

Rick struggles ferociously to say goodbye to the love of his life. As his heartfelt words nearly kill him, Sandie feels his pain. Tears flow, as does pure love, and pure terror.

RICK

I have loved you from the day we met, and I'll love you until the last day of eternity. No matter my future, each precious second we shared, each precious memory we made, will live forever in my heart, mind and soul.

(beat)

Please forgive my extremely poor behavior of late, my obvious lack of awareness, and my complete lack of respect for your wishes.

(beat)

Thank you for our time together. Thank you for your kindness and... And for your love. May your life overflow with health, laughter and love. I will love you forever.

SANDIE

And I will always love you, Rick. I'm truly sorry, but you will be fine. And surely we'll meet again, eternity is a long time. From the depths of my heart, and the fire of my soul... Jump, Froggy - Jump!

Trembling, Rick holds Sandie close one last time. They kiss one long last kiss. Decimated, Rick turns and staggers off.

INT. RICK'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Still in shock, Rick enters taking his shirt off. Staring in the mirror, he gets madder and madder. Seething with anger, he swats his arrow, and makes a startling discovery.

RICK

What the? I can actually feel the damned thing now. Well, this should be easy... Or not.

Falling to his knees, Rick battles like his life depends on it, trying to pull the cursed arrow out.

GRUNTING. GROWLING. GROANING. Wild thrashing on floor.

The arrow transforms into a four foot broadsword, with a jeweled hilt. When Rick finally sees what's happening, he curls up on the floor, and SOBS; utterly defeated.

COLET (V.O.)

Alas, Rick never stood a chance.
When he finally realized what was
happening, it was way too late.

(beat)

For, as he'd forged the icy saber,
his heart turned to stone; and his
rapid descent into fiery hell was
over. He could feel nothing.

MONTAGE OF RICK LOST IN HELL.

RICK'S DEN: Awash in dirty clothes, fast food trash and beer bottles. Seated at his desk, Rick drops a picture of Mysti, and vomits on the floor. IRONY (by FROZEN PLASMA) begins.

PHOENIX STREETS: Rabid Rick races his bicycle to the park.

ENCANTO PARK: Running like a wild man, Rick chases MYSTI'S GHOST. ACTION SLOWS, FREEZES mid-stride. Total despair is chiseled deep in Rick's face; he knows he's going nowhere.

RICK'S DRIVEWAY: As the garage door closes; Rick ROARS out on his motorcycle, engine HOWLING, rear tire smoking.

PHOENIX STREETS & FREEWAYS: Driving like a wild man, smoking his tire and pulling wheelies, Rick screams through traffic.

EAST US 60: 100 mph. Grief contorted face, awash in tears, Rick flies through Florence Junction, off to Gonzales Pass.

END MONTAGE

INT. BAR - DAY

Dead. Rick and Dan enter and sit at the end of the bar. Rick is distraught. Dan knows he faces a daunting task. Master mixologist FRANK appears, ready to work his magic.

DAN

Hi, Frank, two Wiz7s, double tall.

FRANK

Sounds good, you got it.

Frank makes the drinks: Cuervo Gold, OJ and lime.

RICK

You certain Jose for lunch, before
golf, is such a good idea?

DAN

Jose never hurts. Most of the
time. Dare I ask how bad it is?

RICK

I was a blind cocksure fool before
Mysti. I only thought I knew how
things work; and what happiness is.

(beat)

But she showed me true happiness
has nothing to do with fast cycles,
sleek planes, or big fancy castles.

Frank sets up the drinks. Rick and Dan toast him, and each
other. Then get to work emptying their glasses.

RICK

When Mysti left, something magical
died; but her ghost is everywhere!
I live in pure hell; lost, broken
and constantly tortured.

(beat)

Plus, I turned my damn arrow into a
big broad sword! And, I don't have
a clue what her final words mean.
Jump, Froggy - Jump?

DAN

Rick, we all feel great pain when
we break up with a special gal.
It's all part of the game of love.

RICK

Game? Suppose I never love again?
Without love and its happiness, is
life worth living? And I do wish
you could see the freak'n sword.

Looking at himself with disgust, Rick shakes his head.

DAN

Sounds sad, painful and dangerous.
What are you doing about it?

RICK

Actually, the sword is the least of
my worries. All my life I've fixed
broken things. Read a manual, do a
little work, Shazam! Good as new!

Rick grows angrier.

RICK

Now I'm broken, my whole life is broken, and I can't find a manual to fix it. Who gives a crap how a turbo works, I need to learn how happiness works!

DAN

Where have you sought this most elusive mystical formula?

RICK

The net, books, TV, movies; yoga was the only thing worth finding.

Dan taps his nearly empty glass on the bar twice. Frank is down the bar stocking. His all-seeing nod says he's on it.

DAN

Clearly, your noble quest is going to require a serious effort.

RICK

I'm so desperate, I'm considering trying a Vortex in Sedona.

Dan SNICKERS, but rethinks it. Shrugs maybe.

RICK

There's a big article on them in today's paper, it even has a map. It seems a lot of respected people claim a Vortex can "Tune You Up."

(beat)

And if I'm "Out of Tune," and I am, a Vortex might not be that crazy.

EXT. I-17 NORTH OF PHOENIX - DAY

The top is down, THE FUTURE IS NOW (by E.O.S.) rocks Rick's car stereo. As Rick motors north, he's smiling and tapping the wheel with the music. His backpack is on the backseat.

EXT. OLDE #7 VORTEX PARKING LOT / SEDONA - DAY

A long low sign at the entrance reads Olde #7 Vortex. Near the entrance, swarming Vortexers are boarding a smoking bus.

Driving in from the dirt road, Rick parks in the far end of the gravel lot. LAUGHING, he raises the top and windows. Turning off the car, he unbuckles his seat belt and gets out. Stretching to get the kinks out, he looks about.

There is an Olde #7 sign at the east end of the lot. Rick walks to it and reads it. Then he follows a wide meandering path. Past a trail to an old ramada. Up a small knoll, to an opening in the purple sage bushes that ring the vortex.

Stopping at the vortex's west entrance, he LAUGHS heartily.

RICK

What a joke! Loch Ness has its
monster, OZ has its Yellow Brick
Road and Sedona has Vortexies.

As Rick turns to leave, a high flying raven CAWS twice. Its bone piercing shrieks make Rick turn back. He scans the sky looking for it. Can't find it. Looking at the rugged high mesa behind the vortex, he begins to survey it.

RICK

(debating with himself)

If there even is such a thing as a
Vortex, no way it's down here.

Returning to his car, Rick gets his backpack. Shouldering it, he heads for the mesa, via the vortex.

Leaving the vortex's east entrance, Rick slides off his pack and gets a bottle of water and half a hoagie. Resecuring his pack, he follows a trail to the uplands. As he walks, he eats and plots a route up. All look nasty at the top.

Rick makes the ever more difficult climb. The higher he gets, the steeper the mountain, the more rocks break loose, and the harder the wind blows.

The final thirty feet is scary escarpment. Rick crests it tired, sweaty and happy. Jumping high, a double fist pump. Then he looks over the mesa, and takes pics on his phone.

At a tree by the edge, he takes his backpack off and gets out a blanket. Unrolling it, he sits on it and leans against the tree. More pics of the fantastic scenery.

The wind dies to a gentle breeze. Rick gets the rest of his sub, a bottle of water and a Yoga book from his pack. Lunch is savored, his book is studied.

Deep breathing and yoga postures end in a full Lotus.

Looking heavenward, Rick raises his hands in prayer.

RICK

Oh, Great Wizard of Time and Space,
please help and guide me. Once my
life overflowed with happiness and
love; now it's a lifeless wasteland
of desperation, despair and defeat.
Please help me grow beyond my pain.
How does happiness work?

Strangely content, Rick stretches out on his back to rest;
and watch all the big puffy clouds float leisurely by.

INT. WIZDOM HEALTH CLUB / MAIN EXERCISE FLOOR - DAY

MELODY AMBROSIUS, looking mid 30s, is on a treadmill running
hard. Her long black hair is in a ponytail; she's wearing
black shorts, and a purple Phi Beta Pho Fum tee shirt.

COLET (V.O.)

Few people know this, but the Arch
Enchanter Merlyn has a twin sister.
(beat)

But unlike her famous brother, the
Wizadrix Melody shuns fame. During
her years at Church & State High,
she reaped way too much notoriety;
when all Britain knew of her royal
pranks. Some changing history.

Melody wipes sweat off her face with a towel.

COLET (V.O.)

After acing all her SATs (Shaman
Aptitude Tests), Melody attended
the prestigious Port Isaac Biz U.
She graduated Phi Beta Pho Fum,
with a Masters in Accounting.

Turning up the speed, Melody pushes even harder.

COLET (V.O.)

She then spent many fine decades
using her magic to juggle and cook
her client's books; making valuable
assets seem to vanish in thin air.
(beat)

After Melody's earthly years, she
retired to the Kingdom of Wizdom.
However, due to her vast litany of
youthful pranks, her residency in
Wizdom was conditional.

Crystal bells CHIME on Melody's watch. She taps its screen.

MELODY'S WATCH

Mz. Ambrosius, the Wizdom HotLine has just received a valid petition for help. Per your one millennium Community Service Agreement, please resolve this in a timely manner, and file all required reports.

INT. MELODY'S HOUSE / DEN - DAY

Melody enters HUMMING, she nods to her mini-dragon SNOOKIE.

MELODY

What dost thou knoweth, Snookie, a fellow hath rightly sought help for a problem wizards can actually help with. I'll wager 'tis over eight decades since I helped a suppliant.

Assuming a Lotus pose on her yoga mat, Melody closes her eyes. A puzzled expression. Her eyes spring open.

MELODY

Unfathomable. This fool was smart enough to seek help; but is so psychically plugged, Dream State Contact 'tis not possible.

EXT. OLDE #7 VORTEX HIGH MESA - DAY

LOW RUMBLING wakes Rick. He jumps up in shock. The sun is setting. A monstrous haboob is rolling in from the west. It's driven by a leviathan thunderstorm. Sedona is about to be sandblasted, then inundated with torrential rain.

RICK

Oh my God, I've done it now!

Grabbing his pack, Rick loads it, and runs to the way down.

First clawing, then sliding and jumping, Rick flies down the mesa. Blinding dust hits. Slowing to a stop; to put on his vizor, bandana and windbreaker; he trips and nearly falls.

Descending again, he picks up too much speed, almost losing control. With great reflexes, focus and guts, he slows up to a safer pace.

Reaching flatland, Rick races down the trail (per opening), into Olde #7.

INT. RICK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Waking, Rick jerks up and looks about. Rolling out of his water bed, he almost steps on Mel (looking like the floor).

RICK
Crap, it wasn't a dream! Well, I
best find you some big lizard food.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Rick plates breakfast. Mauve moire Mel sits on two chairs, watching. (Mel will appear in varying colors and patterns.)

Rick puts his plate on the table. Then he gets a large bowl of fruit from the fridge, and puts it on the floor by the pet door. Mel hops off the chairs and walks to it.

RICK
There ya go, hope you like it.

Rick sits to eat. Mel picks up the bowl, stands and walks to the table. Putting the bowl on the table, she slides out a chair. Sitting on her hind legs and stubby tail, she nods to Rick; and with great etiquette, she eats with her hands.

INT. DEN - DAY

Rick enters carrying a stack of newspapers. Sitting at his desk, he skims them.

Cubist Mel enters, smiles at Rick and hops on the couch.

RICK
Wow, you are really amazing. I'd
love to keep ya; but I need to find
your owner. I called work and said
I'm sick; if I can find your owner,
I'll take you home today.

Mel curls up to watch Rick check the papers and make calls. When Rick goes on the net and checks herpetology sites, Mel changes colors, matching the lizards Rick's looking at.

EXT. RICK'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Rick is cleaning up from washing his car. Dan parks his car in the street and strides to him. Rick shares a wry smile.

DAN
Let's roll, and beat the line.

RICK
So I really need this computer?

DAN
DudeBro, the PAL 7000's a monster.
Speaking of monsters, where's this
special new pet you refuse to tell
me anything about?

RICK
I'm not tell'n anyone about it.
It's in the garage, go say, hi.

DAN
I don't see it, how big is it?

RICK
Does size really matter?

As Dan starts into the garage, desert camo Mel steps from the shadows. In shock, Dan jumps backs out of the garage.

DAN
Yowser, Mr. Lizard, that is
seriously scary. What is it?

RICK
Who knows, it's a one of a kind
creature. And someone's trained it
extremely well, but nobody seems to
be looking for it.

DAN
So what are you thinking? Mutant,
genetic engineering, alien?

RICK
I have no idea. It's a vegetarian,
with a chameleon's head, casque and
skin, and an Iguana's body.
(beat)
Its stubby tail and wild eyes are a
total mystery. So I call it Mel,
the Magnificent Enigmatic Lizard.

DAN
Great name, is it a fire breather?

RICK
God no... At least I hope not.

DAN
I hear ya. Now, lets get you that way too cool A.I. marvel! It will even adapt to your personal style.

RICK
Yeah, whatever that is. It's okay, you sold me last week. Let's go get me a newfangled Super Computer!

INT. RICK'S DEN - DAY

Sitting on the floor, Rick and Dan unpack PAL 7000 hardware. Black and azure stippled Mel watches from the couch.

RICK
So all this... is supposed to cut my electric bill by two-thirds?

DAN
Yep, let's git hop'n. Oops, sorry.
(beat)
Okay, I'll install the Tri-Polar Phase Boosters, the main control box and entertainment interface.
(beat)
You can install the light dimmers, optical sensors, cameras and locks. Then voilà, you'll have one very hip, very safe house.

RICK
Actually, I feel pretty safe with Mel guarding the place.

LATER

Rick turns PAL on. Dan CHUCKLES. Argyle Mel watches.

DAN
It should be good to go. You can call it Pal, or whatever you want. And I promise you, this baby's Personal All-Encompassing Logic core will blow you away.

RICK
Pal's fine, let the games begin. Pal would you play "Wind Surfer."

PAL
What volume would you like?

RICK
Let's try four.

WIND SURFER by TRAVELING WILBURYS begins.

DAN
Those guys were great.

RICK
Best of the best. Okay, Pal, lets
try the lights next.

PAL
What would you like for your base
lumens setting in this room?

RICK
I don't know, eighty percent?

Lights come on.

RICK
Thanks, Bromeister, it is amazing.

RICK'S DEN - NIGHT

Rainbow Mel is on the couch watching a muted Sunday sports
show on TV. Next to her, Rick ponders and rubs his chin.

Mel gets chips and a chunk of cheese from the table and eats
them. CRACKING his knuckles, Rick turns to Mel.

RICK
I know it's out there, Melizardi.
Somewhere there's sincere smiles,
joyful laughter and true happiness.
But my sad pathetic life has none.
(beat)
Maybe we all get one shot at real
happiness, and most of us let it
slip away. Leaving us doomed.
(beat)
But I think not. In fact, I know
happiness is everywhere, hiding in
plain sight; I just can't find it.

A single tear rolls down Rick's deeply troubled face. His
voice fills with pain and anger.

RICK

Lots of people are like me; we seem happy, but we're just lousy amateur actors, who dare not question our dreary daily charade.

(beat)

And under our costumes, we all have hearts of stone, with steely swords of slow death buried deep in them.

Rick acts like he's stabbing a sword into his heart. Then looking at himself, he shudders and LAUGHS sardonically.

RICK

Mel, I've known the purest magic and truest love. Now I'm trapped in emotional armor that blocks out everything good, while it holds in everything bad. My life is naught but pain and sorrow without Mysti.

(beat)

Who cares how a camshaft works, or what makes a turbine tick? My love of inane machines was a sick joke, built of high-temp plastics, safety wire and hi-grade aluminum.

Looking about, Rick shakes his head in disgust and scowls.

RICK

Exalted Wizard of Lifeless Toys, for lost rich boys! So what, who freak'n cares? Bah! Mel, now only one question has any meaning in my life. How does happiness work?

Rick stands to leave.

RICK

Thanks for listening, Dr. Saurian Freud, but I've had enough for one night. See ya in the morning.

Mel smiles an extra big smile and curls up to sleep.

INT. RICK'S KITCHEN - DAY

Tie-dye Mel is at the table eating a piece of toast. Rick finishes cleaning up from breakfast.

RICK
Ya like the grub, ya hippie?

Mel nods and winks, then follows Rick to the den.

INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS

Rick walks to Pal. Mel jumps on the couch to watch.

RICK
Pal, have I any e-mails today?

PAL
Si, don Ricardo, y más.

The printer starts printing, as the 1st Precept of Happiness appears on Pal. It has a Wizdom header and fine flourishes. Rick looks quizzically at Mel, then back at Pal.

RICK
Pal, what the heck is this? And why are you speaking Spanish?

PAL
It appears to be the 1st Precept of Happiness; and my voice module is set to random language mode.
(beat)
Would you like English only?

RICK
No, it's great, random'll be fun.

Printer finishes. Rick picks up the precept and studies it. Then he paces boldly about the room; and with unexpected brio and conviction, he sermonizes the precept to Mel.

RICK
The 1st Precept of Happiness - ASK!
Through the ages, one of mankind's greatest challenges has been the Mastery of Happiness. Lasting happiness has been more elusive than Philosopher's Stone, and harder to hold than Quicksilver.
(beat)
But, learning how happiness works, and mastering it is possible. The first step is to Ask. If you want something, Ask for it!

Waving his right index finger at Mel, Rick continues.

RICK

Unhappy folks have one basic fault, they don't ask the right questions. So they seek the now of happiness, not the how of happiness.

(beat)

How does happiness work is a great question. It can lead you out of today's Fool's Gold and Fool's Ego game. And once you do ask life's great questions, you will find your answers; or you will die.

With a big smile, Rick nods "yep" to Mel.

RICK

No one knows when or where they will find life's important answers; anymore than they know when or where their death will find them. Your answers, or your death, could be waiting around the next corner.

Rick acts like he's strangling himself, then LAUGHS.

RICK

When your happiness is based on any arbitrary goal, you could squander your last precious day, waiting for something you will never have.

(beat)

Be happy in your quest for answers. If you find the treasure you seek, celebrate! Then be aware, great answers breed great new questions.

(beat)

Mastering happiness will require a complete investment of your life. But, give voice to your wishes, and mighty wheels are set into motion. Words have power, they can bring great treasures, or destroy you.

Mel winks at Rick, who shudders.

RICK

In conclusion, if you seek Life's Greatest Treasures, you must first ask Life's Greatest Questions.

(beat)

What does it cost to ask great questions? Better yet, what will be the cost, if you don't?

Rick bows, Mel claps. Rick drops the precept on the desk, picks up his keys and phone, and heads for the door.

RICK

Wow, that was fun, but I have to run. Have a great day, Melamigo. And, Pal, please lock up behind me.

PAL

Si señor. Vaya con Dios mi amigo.

As Rick leave, Mel throws him a big toothy grin.

INT. RICK'S DEN - DAY

Slightly confused, Rick walks in and picks up the precept. Harlequin Mel is on his heels.

RICK

Pal, where'd the precept come from?

PAL

Non è abitudine chiedere a me.

RICK

What? Where did this come from?

PAL

Non ho nessun archivio di questo.

RICK

Pal, in English, please.

PAL

It's no use asking me, I don't have any record of it.

Really puzzled, Rick grabs his phone and makes a call.

RICK

MegaPrank, call me. Unless your jester buddy Mel did this, my Pal did something truly amazing, but claims to know nothing about it.

INT. RICK'S DEN - NIGHT

Rick is on the couch studying his precept. Bauhaus Mel is curled up next to him, watching a Sunday sports show on TV. A commercial comes on and Rick looks at Mel.

RICK

My dear abstract friend, I believe asking makes sense. So please tell me; now that Mysti's gone, and she won't be coming back; how can I ever be happy again, without her?

(pause)

What, you don't have the answer?
It's okay, I didn't figure you did.

INT. RICK'S DEN - DAY

NightSky Mel is asleep on the couch. Rick enters. Mel wakes. Rick nods hi and picks up his keys and phone.

RICK

Morn'n, Mel, morn'n, Pal. Pal, have I any e-mails this fine day?

PAL

Bonjour. Déjà vu!

RICK

What? What are you talking about?

PAL

Oh, sorry, nothing important. No e-mail, but I toasted a few spams.

RICK

Thanks, Pal, you're the best.

Rick heads for the door.

RICK

Okay, Melvis, you've got it from here. And Giganto Pizza tonight! Please lock up behind me, Pal.

PAL

Adieu, un ami; no pizza for me?

INT. RICK'S CAR / DRIVING - DAY

Rick backs from his garage, door closes. Driving to 7th Ave, he stops, watches and waits on traffic to turn. A glint from his open ashtray catches his eye. Glancing at it, he finds a small, wide, silver sword.

Picking it up, Rick pulls the WIZDOM inscribed sheath off the USB jump drive. Plugging it into his car stereo, he joins the lunacy of Phoenix's rush hour suicide lanes.

ZACHARY QUINTO (CAR STEREO)
 The Wizdom of: The 2nd Precept of
 Happiness - Accept Responsibility!

RICK
 Oh, come on! What the blazes?

ZACHARY QUINTO (CAR STEREO)
 Exactly who is responsible for your
 happiness? Your precious laughter,
 heartfelt smiles and radiant joy?

A mattress flies off the overloaded truck in front of Rick.
 Glaring at it, he swerves and misses it.

ZACHARY QUINTO (CAR STEREO)
 Basically, the total amount of
 happiness you will enjoy in your
 life will be decided by two main
 factors. How much of it you share,
 and how much others share with you.
 (beat)
 And while you have complete control
 of the first, you have much control
 over the second, by minding exactly
 whom you associate with.

A car ROARS by on the right. Then it just misses Rick, as
 it cuts him off, on its way to the suicide lane.

ZACHARY QUINTO (CAR STEREO)
 Is your happiness dependent on what
 other people say, or do? Must they
 do as you wish? Do you care how
 they react to your words and deeds?
 (beat)
 Not if you wish to be happy. If
 your happiness depends on others,
 you are looking in the wrong place.
 For only you can decide whether you
 will be happy, sad, joyful or mad.

Coming to a red light, Rick stops. A mobile billboard rolls
 by flashing a BUY GOLD JEWELRY sign. He shakes his head no.

ZACHARY QUINTO (CAR STEREO)
 To master happiness, all misplaced
 priorities and false idols must be
 renounced. Once you revalue all
 you hold dear, you'll then need to
 choose wisely every action, word,
 thought and emotion you share.

Light turns green. Someone HONKS. Traffic rolls.

ZACHARY QUINTO (CAR STEREO)

Next, to polish the Spirit of Your Being, you will need to fine-tune your use of reality.

(beat)

To do this, you will need to master the Art of Using Time Wisely: by using each Time Zone in a balanced, efficient, effective manner.

(beat)

While the past is gone, much can be enjoyed and learned from it; like what works and what doesn't.

Rick licks his finger, makes a check mark in the air.

ZACHARY QUINTO (CAR STEREO)

But the past is best visited on a limited basis. For, when you live in the past, you stop growing. And this is not the path to happiness.

(beat)

The Future, the Cosmic Arena of All Possibilities, is best used to see and plan the life of your dreams. It should not be visited with fear.

(beat)

Vault of your past. Depot of your present. Cradle of your future. The Magic Now is a Prime Paradox. Yet, while not easily explained, your future happiness will depend on just how wisely you invest Now.

At the I-10 overpass, a FOOL on a cell phone blows his red light, and turns in front of Rick. Slamming on his brakes, Rick's tires SCREECH as he swerves to miss him. Angrily thrusting his left hand high out the window, Rick flips the idiot off; and then drives on.

ZACHARY QUINTO (CAR STEREO)

Because life is a limited time offer, any minute could be your last. Hence, your death will always be your best adviser.

(beat)

Once you realize, everything you do could be your final act on Earth, you will understand you have no time for anything but your best.

Nearing the next intersection, Rick hears WAILING sirens. Arriving at the corner, motorcycle escorts stop traffic.

ZACHARY QUINTO (CAR STEREO)

When your death is your principal adviser, every action you take will have all of the power, urgency and love it deserves.

(beat)

When you think you have tomorrow, know your death shadows you at all times. And you have no way of knowing when it will call you home.

A long funeral procession begins to pass in front of Rick.

INT. RICK'S DEN - DAY

Lavender guilloche Mel trots in. Rick follows, holding the jump drive. Walking to Pal, Rick is shocked to find a copy of the 2nd Precept in the printer tray. Snatching it up, he waves it, and the jump drive, at Pal.

RICK

Pal, what the hell is going on?
Where did these come from?

PAL

(sounding like HAL 9000)
Where did what come from, Rick?

RICK

This jump drive! This precept!
Where'd they come from? And no foreign language crap. I demand to know where they came from!

PAL

I'm sorry, Rick, I'm afraid I can't do that. I know nothing about your jump drive; and there is nothing about any precepts in my system.

RICK

Great, just great. Freak'n great!

LATER

Rick is stretched out on the couch reading a yoga book. His phone RINGS, he sits up and answers it.

RICK

Dan, what's up? Why didn't you answer my calls, or e-mails?

In disbelief, Rick listens and shakes his head.

RICK

Damn it, Prankenheimer, that part of the world's really bad news... Wow, but I guess crazy stuff's been happening here too. In fact, I've got a great big whodunit waiting for you when you return... That works, see ya soon, safe journeys.

INT. RICK'S DEN - NIGHT

Heavy rain is pelting the windows. Rick, and black and teal Mel are on the couch, into a Rattlers playoff game on TV. The score is tied with one minute to go. The station goes black, and Rick frantically grabs the remote. Quickly flipping to other channels, he finds they're still on.

RICK

What? Oh, come on. No!

Flying off the couch, Rick rages at the TV.

RICK

I don't believe it, I paid good money for this? Service?

Turning his wrath on Mel, he continues.

RICK

Someone needs to sue those idiots!
I should sue those freak'n idiots!

Rick stops and stares at Mel, who is unusually serene.

RICK

Boy, I wish I knew how you stay so cool. I'm raving like a madman, and you didn't flinch. Must be nice having such deep inner calm.

(beat)

It seems my Spirit of Being must need a little more polishing. But how in the world do I do that?

The station comes back on, the Rattlers are celebrating. As Rick turns the TV off, his phone rings. He answers it.

RICK

Hi, Carl... What got spilled?... So the shop is closed tomorrow, maybe Tuesday? Actually, that's perfect; if the rain stops, I can hike the Supes tomorrow... Let me know, bye.

INT. RICK'S DEN - DAY

Dressed to hike, Rick enters carrying a backpack. As he walks to Pal, Opal Mel flashes a big smile from the couch.

RICK

Okay, my ever mysterious friend,
I'm off for some exercise. But I'm
tell'n ya, if I'm being spied on,
and a new precept somehow shows up
today! So, whaddya got, Pal?

PAL

A bill and a new Precept.

RICK

Aaaaah! No way! This is not
possible! It can't be!

PAL

You're right, I'm kidding. You
just have a water bill. But isn't
humor supposed to be a good thing?

RICK

Pal, that was not funny. Really,
not funny at all.

(beat)

Okay, Mel, I'm D-T-R. If Pal does
anything else funny, eat it.

EXT. SUPERSTITION MOUNTAINS / WAVE CAVE PARKING LOT - DAY

NEW AGE MUSIC. Rick's empty car is the only one in the lot. We follow Carney Springs Rd to the trail, then up the lower slope of the mountain, to where Rick is hiking.

Rick is moving at a good clip, listening to the music with earbuds. He has a big smile, happy to be where he is.

Ahead on the left of the trail is a large crag; Rick gives it a once-over. As he adjusts his backpack, the MUSIC ends.

ANNOUNCER (ON RADIO)

You're listening to KLTZ, LightWay
radio, the greatest station in the
cosmos. Today we have a highly
venerated, extra mystical guest.

(beat)

The Mr. Robert Redford has
something special to share.

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)
 My friends, Today I bring you the
 Wisdom of: The 3rd Precept of
 Happiness - Act of Spirit!

Stopping dead in his tracks, Rick looks wildly about.

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)
 Something put this whole ball of
 wax together, we'll call it Spirit.

Incredulous, Rick hikes on; shaking his head, while
 listening intently to Mr. Redford.

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)
 We'll define Spirit as the most
 sublime, creative, prolific, loving
 "Whatever" you can imagine. And
 whatever you perceive and believe
 Spirit is, so it shall be.

(beat)

And whether you realize it or not:
 the preeminent relationship in your
 life has been, is, and always will
 be with Spirit.

(beat)

When you Act of Spirit, this sacred
 bond flourishes and grows. So with
 each task, let Question #1 guide
 your way. What would Spirit do?

Looking at his hands, Rick asks himself "what?"

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)
 Then to master happiness, one must
 fathom an invaluable understanding.
 The why of what other people do.

(beat)

Because man is driven by only two
 core forces, Ego and Spirit, this
 is not difficult.

(beat)

For every action a person brings to
 life is an Act of Ego, or an Act of
 Spirit. An Act of Taking, or an
 Act of Giving.

This brings a nod of understanding agreement from Rick.

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)
 Enlightened souls, Givers, have
 freed themselves from their Ego's
 bogus needs and greeds.

A TRAIL CREW WORKER is picking up trash in the wash below. He smiles and waves to Rick, who returns both.

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)

In tune with Spirit, free from the curse of Lifeless Life, some touch millions with their selfless acts. Some share their magic one-on-one.

(beat)

But no matter a person's station, all Givers live full rich lives, no matter how humble they may appear.

A private jet ROARS overhead, Rick watches it. Reaching the crag, he scrambles atop it, and sits to watch a flock of vultures circle their lunch.

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)

Conversely, Ego Driven Takers all play the Me-Me-Me-Mine Game.

(beat)

Enough is never enough! Unchained lust for Wealth & Power is the only rule. Their fierce battle cry is, "Looking Out For Me!"

(beat)

But to play this loveless game, all players must first sell their soul.

Shedding his pack, Rick relaxes as he marvels at the grand ethereal panorama; and Mr. Redford's visionary imagery.

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)

And while Takers oft masquerade as Givers, rarely are veiled acts of Ego confused with Acts of Spirit.

(beat)

Now, imagine all of your life's precious moments, as being your Estate of Happiness. To hold and keep them safe, you can build a magic castle. Your Acts of Spirit will be your building blocks.

(beat)

Your castle won't look like much as you build its foundation. But with each new Act of Spirit you bring to life, it will rise ever grander.

Booming thunder RUMBLES from mountains to the southeast.

Rick spots the gargantuan thunderhead it came from. In awe, he watches it morph into a colossal celestial castle.

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)

And soon your Magic Treasury will
grow so big, and shine so bright,
all you meet will know, feel and
see its joyous radiant light.

(beat)

To fill life with Acts of Spirit;
to have a mind at peace, a heart
that sings and a Soul that soars;
this is life at its fullest.

AUK. AUK. A Bald Eagle flies over Rick at tree top level.
Rick follows its flight as it spirals upward on a thermal.

Mr. Redford's powerful inspirational oratory. The soaring
raptor's beauty. Tears of wonder streak Rick's cheeks.

ROBERT REDFORD (ON RADIO)

When the energy you invest in Acts
of Spirit, exceeds the energy your
Ego devours, you'll be on your way
to a life of meaning and mastery.

(beat)

And the Call is always waiting, for
those with ears to hear.

INT. RICK'S DEN - DAY

Rick paces, pondering his precepts. Coral ogee Mel watches
from the couch. Rick stops and shakes the precepts at Pal.

RICK

Okay, Pal, fess up. Ya hafta be in
on this. You printed all three
precepts, where'd ya get 'em?

PAL

Sorry, Rick, I don't know anything
about them. They just appear, and
then vanish once they're printed.

RICK

This is some kind of really sick
cyber joke... Cyber joke! That's
it! I can't believe it took me so
long - it's Ultra Jerk!

(beat)

Didn't get my calls or emails? My
god, the dirty rat's been spying on
me. I'll kill him! I'll kill him!

EXT. RICK'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Rick waxes his car, slate gray Mel watches from the garage.

Dan drives up and parks his car in the street. As he gets out, Rick is in his face, screaming.

RICK

You idiot! You imbecile! You mega moron! How can you not see what you've been doing is so wrong? How dare you, you vile lying cretin? I could tear your freak'n head off!

Dan steps back and motions Rick to dial it down.

DAN

Whoa! Calm down, Sir Wrench-A-Lot. What have I supposedly done?

RICK

What? You, you hacked my computer! Spied on me! Planted the precepts in my computer! Put the jump drive in my car, and somehow hijacked my phone! What? You macro-maniac!

DAN

Hold on a sec, Sir Blitzkrieg; there's no way I did any of that. Honest, Scout's honor!

RICK

Well, who the hell did this? My Pal certainly didn't do it all on its own. Or, maybe Mel did it?

Rick points violently at Mel, who smiles sheepishly.

DAN

Please, from the beginning, without screaming. What's this all about?

RICK

Sunday nights I've been asking Mel impossible questions; like Mysti did with me. Then Monday I get a new precept, and it answers my big question from the night before!

DAN

You got these precepts how?

RICK

The first showed up on Pal. The next was on a jump drive in my car. And last week's was on the radio, as I hiked the Superstitions!

(beat)

And Pal printed all three, yet claims to know nothing about them.

DAN

This is weird, let me take a look.

As Rick and Dan walk to the house, Mel joins them.

DAN

So, how's Dragonzilla working out?

RICK

My invisible mobile speed bump? My Marvelous Maestro of Mayhem, who hides anything I don't put away? Couldn't be better, if ya don't mind a pet who trains you.

INT. RICK'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rick, Dan and Mel enter. Dan gives the place a once over.

DAN

Nicely done, Mel. Keep up the good work, Rick is a fast learner.

RICK

Wanna take it home for a week?

INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS

Dan, Rick and Mel enter. Rick gets the precepts and gives them to Dan. Sitting at Pal, Dan skims them. Rick and Mel stand behind him to watch. Then Dan dives into Pal's inner secrets, but each window he opens brings only frustration.

DAN

Unbelievable, there's no trace of any precepts; I'm fully flummoxed. The best thing we can do now is install the Impenetrable Gate, an industrial strength firewall.

(beat)

Then absolutely no one will spy on you again, or hack your Pal.

EXT. RICK'S BACKYARD - DAY

On a blanket in the grass, Rick is in a Camel pose. He's wearing a swimsuit. His sword gleams brightly in the sun.

Magenta marbled Mel comes out the pet door. Sword vanishes. Mel trots to the pool and dives in with a SPLASH. Floating on her stomach, she looks at Rick.

Rick ends his pose and looks at Mel.

RICK

Ya know, Mel, yoga does help me feel almost human again. Except for my heart of stone, and the damn sword. The meditation's the key, but it's so hard to quiet my mind.

Getting into a Full Lotus, Rick closes his eyes. Silently, Mel slithers from the pool and sneaks up on him. Grabbing Rick's blanket in her mouth, Mel jerks hard. Rick falls over. LAUGHING, he chases Mel into and around the pool.

RICK

Mel! Your sneak attacks don't help me meditation one bit. How'd ya like stale bread for a week?

INT. RICK'S DEN - NIGHT

A Sunday sports show is on TV, Art Deco Mel is on the couch watching it. Rick sits next to her, perusing his precepts. An ad comes on TV, Rick mutes it and turns to Mel.

RICK

Well, my Art Gecko buddy, at least no one's spying on us. Even if these precepts are great. But I need to know their who and how. Obviously, the why is, I asked.

(beat)

I'd also like to know what this Call Waiting is all about. It would be nice if these precepts just said what they mean.

(beat)

Maybe a good night's sleep will help. Sleep tight, Mel.

Rick turns the TV off and leaves.

Mel feigns sleep. But once Rick is gone, she grabs the remote, turns the TV back on, mutes it and turns CC on.

INT. RICK'S KITCHEN - DAY

Sausage and hash browns cook on a griddle, Rick tends them. A war story is ending on TV, Rick's seen it all before.

TV NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)
 Finally, we close today with a special simulcast with OWN TV, and the Queen of All Media. We all know her, we all love her, Oprah!

EXT. OPRAH'S BACKYARD / MAUI, HI - DAY

Oprah is in a big comfy wicker chair, holding a precept.

OPRAH
 Thank you, Chad. Over the years I have interviewed a lot of visionary people, I hope one day I will have the opportunity to interview the author of this new anonymous gem.
 (beat)
 The Wizdom of: The 4th Precept of Happiness - Silence!

INTERCUT RICK'S KITCHEN/OPRAH'S BACKYARD

Incredulous, Rick stares at the TV.

RICK
Impossible! No way! How God, how?

Oprah lovingly shares the precept with the world.

OPRAH
 To master happiness, one must understand what life's grandest treasures are; and then discover how and where to find them.
 (beat)
 Our universe is an Infinite Ocean of Spirit Energy, and all living entities in this Colossal Cosmic Soup have a unique blend of Mass and Life Force.
 (beat)
 All entities also radiate their own unique mix of discharges, including but not limited to: heat, movement, thoughts, sounds, electricity and various bodily secretions.

Sunburst Mel enters and sits at the table. Rick nods hi.

RICK
Morn'n, my fulgent friend,
you won't believe what's
happening.

OPRAH
So it's obvious, the
more discharges a person
radiates, the harder Divine
Silence will be to find.

Glowing like a light, Mel eats a mango from the fruit bowl.

Rick starts eggs cooking, while intently watching Oprah.

OPRAH
But, when a person stills their
body, opens wide their heart and
silences their mind, they foster an
Ultra-Harmonious Cosmic Union.

In this super receptive state, this
Re-Unification with Oneness, there
is no give or take, separation or
division. There is only knowing.

(beat)

This Super Nexus of Self is your
Soul, and it is the only channel
through which Spirit can be known.

Oprah takes a sip of tea, and flips to the second page.

Smoking sausage brings Rick back, he tends them.

OPRAH
And what vexing nemesis awaits one
seeking to realign their Soul with
Spirit, to find happiness?

(beat)

Ego! How can one be happy if their
Ego calls all the shots? And their
mind is a 24/7 Feed Lot for Ego's
problems, and it can't be shut off.

Oprah holds her head and shakes it like she's in pain.

OPRAH
And when an Ego has full control,
it will always do whatever it takes
to maintain its total domination.

(beat)

So whenever a person approaches the
Threshold of Silence, all Egos will
fight a duel to the death.

Like a boss reaming a lazy employee, Oprah continues.

OPRAH

What about all your bills, and all your problems? And the things that make you important! You don't have time to sit and be quiet! There's way too many things you need to be doing! Get moving! Right now!

Oprah composes herself and goes back to being Oprah.

OPRAH

At this critical juncture, you are nigh upon the Portal of your Soul. To reopen your TrueSelf Connection and end your Ego's tyranny, simply be. Cosmic Silence will be yours.

With a nod, wink and smile, Oprah starts the last page.

Rick flips the eggs and nods in knowing agreement.

OPRAH

Slay with silence the demons of your past, the present, and all those ultra-scary Future Demons. The ones lurking in the shadows, just waiting to take you down.

Oprah exaggerates being afraid.

OPRAH

Until you are able to forget the past, transcend the present, and forgo the future, where ever and whenever you wish, your happiness will not, and can not last.

Enrapt, Rick plates breakfast and joins Mel at the table.

OPRAH

In silence, life's great questions and answers are illuminated; more evolved levels of being can be experienced; and a consciousness of totality can grow and be nurtured.

(beat)

The Light of Spirit is seen only with the eyes of an open soul. The whisperings of Spirit are heard only by an open heart.

(beat)

And Divine Silence, Ecstatic Spiritual Harmony and Pure Cosmic Bliss - are all One-And-The-Same!

EXT. RICK'S BACKYARD - DAY

Rick is on a step ladder, disconnecting his Satellite Dish. He coils the cable loosely, tapes the loop, and hangs it on a nail in the eave. As he climbs down the ladder, cream alabaster Mel prances up.

RICK

Hi, Melzona. Dan called and claims full innocence, and I believe him. This is way out of his league.

Rick folds, lowers and leans the ladder against the house.

RICK

He said if I disconnect Pal here and inside, it should stop who, or what has been spying on us.

(beat)

Sadly, no TV for a few days, and no net for me. But we'll get...

Mel takes off running to the side gate. Standing on her hind legs, she opens the gate and runs into the front yard.

Rick gives chase, but stops at the gate to watch the action.

Mel stops a foot from a big Rottweiler about to crap. Her eyes flare, she turns flaming red, and bares her deadly teeth GROWLING. The dog YELPS and turns tail.

Stumbling to Mel, Rick almost falls down LAUGHING. Putting his arm around her, they walk back to the gate.

RICK

That was awesome, Mel! That beast is always running loose, scaring everyone, and crapping everywhere. I'll bet he'll never be back here. Well done, you fun little monster.

INT. RICK'S DEN - NIGHT

Deep in thought, Rick is studying his precepts and drinking a beer. Glossy OD speckled Mel enters and sits next to him on the couch. Putting his precepts down, Rick turns to Mel.

RICK

There's so much I don't understand about these precepts, besides where they come from. The more I learn, the further behind I seem to be.

Rick finishes his beer and puts it down. Arms open pleading, he implores Mel.

RICK

How am I supposed to be spending my time? What am I supposed to be doing with my life?

(beat)

Honestly, I haven't got a clue. With all this talk about Spirit and silence, what is it going to take to be happy?

(beat)

Must I become a pious priest? A double holy yogi? Or a triple ascetic monk? If that's the case, my quest is doomed.

Rick's phone RINGS. He gets it off the table and answers.

RICK

Hi Dan... No precept, but I won't know until tomorrow. It's only Sunday here...

Mel gets a candy bar from the table and eats it.

RICK

Can't wait to hook up my TV and internet, I'm bored to death.

(beat)

But Marta called and invited me to the pre-opening of your "Far Out Art Show" tomorrow night. Sounds like it really will blow my mind... So, when do you hit PHX again?... Great, see'n ya then, bro.

Rick puts his phone down and turns to Mel.

RICK

That's right, my gigantic pollywog, you'll have the place to yourself tomorrow night. Except, of course, for the ever effervescent Pal.

EXT. ART SHOW BUILDING - NIGHT

Deserted street. A dirt lot fronts the old warehouse. Dim lights mark the entrance. Rick pulls up and parks his car. Getting out, he walks briskly to the entrance.

INT. ART SHOW TICKET LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Behind the counter, sitting on a stool, a teenage clerk with earbuds in is playing Air Guitar. Rick enters and signs the guest list. The clerk points to a HIT YOUR MARKS sign, and then a high narrow arch filled with dense purple fog.

Walking to the arch, Rick takes two steps in. He's in total darkness; save two glass stars in the floor. The first is a 4" violet star and the next is 6" and indigo. (All stars are in line, two paces to their center.)

As Rick advances, an 8" blue star lights. It's followed by a 10" green, a 12" yellow and a 14" orange star. When he steps on the red 16" star all goes dark. He stops.

ROBERT DOWNEY JR (V.O.)
(booming from everywhere)
The Wizdom of: The 5th Precept of
Happiness - Balanced Awareness!

RICK
(screaming)
Balanced Awareness; I need Specific
Awareness! Who's doing this?

The lights come up. Rick can't tell what's real, and what isn't. Like all stops in the show, he's surrounded by a stunning mix of holograms, videos and solid art.

At each stop Rick makes, the display mirrors the essence of the ideas presented in the dialog.

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. (V.O.)
Your Gift of Life is a miraculous
bestowal of Spirit. And you are
blessed with many faculties, modes
and means of awareness, so you can
enjoy your endowment. As a human,
Self, Life and Spirit Awareness are
your most important and useful.
(beat)
To be happy, one must continually
balance all three. For lasting
happiness is only found on a path
of Balanced Awareness. And only
you determine your optimum balance.

Room goes dark. New orange and yellow stars light up. Rick follows a mirror image of the stars to a new set of stars. (All sets are the same.)

Stopping at the next red star, a new spectacle begins.

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. (V.O.)

When a child is born, it has pure Spirit Awareness; and knows when it's hungry, sleepy and messy. But it knows nothing of Separate Self; any more than it comprehends the Magical Sea of Life it lives in.

(beat)

But as babies grow, their awareness of Self and others explodes.

(beat)

Sadly, too many children today are still raised to live by the Law of The Jungle: Life is survival of the strongest and most ruthless!

(beat)

So they create an Ego to be a base camp, to fight coming battles from.

(beat)

But when egos take life, they want and seize full control. Then they crown them selves Almighty King, or Queen; and Spirit Awareness all but fades from sight.

(beat)

Ego rules!

Room goes dark. Rick follows new stars to the next mind blowing extravaganza of masterfully integrated art forms.

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. (V.O.)

So how does one escape a Dark Self Dungeon? The trick is to master mankind's magic building blocks: Brotherhood and Sisterhood.

(beat)

This Life-Changing wizardry begins when you open yourself to higher tiers of Life and Spirit Awareness.

(beat)

You do this by putting yourself in the shoes of others; so you can learn their dreams; and help them bring their dreams to life.

(beat)

And this is critical because, this is the only way you will find the love and support you will need, to realize your own dreams.

Room goes dark. Rick follows new stars to the next blast of multimedia overload.

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. (V.O.)

Then as you share ever more of your heart and soul, the Universal Love that binds and animates all souls will flourish and grow. And only then will your Life Awareness approach any degree of fullness.

(beat)

Lastly, you will need to ask life's most challenging questions.

(beat)

What can I do to make the Earth a better place to live? How can I best invest my Life Capital? What is the greatest gift I can share?

(pause)

This is where Spirit Awareness comes in. Because only Spirit can answer questions of this order.

Room goes dark. Rick follows the stars. But at the violet star, an arch full of thick purple fog appears. Stepping through the arch, Rick is blinded by a brilliant flash.

EXT. ART SHOW BUILDING / LOADING DOCK - CONTINUOUS

Regaining his sight, Rick is confused. He's outside on the front loading dock, at the end of the building. Overhead is a bright tin awning, not there when he'd entered.

With a questioning look, he reaches for one of the poles holding it up. The awning vanishes. Turning back, Rick watches a holographic door materialize to close the entry.

EXT. RICK'S PATIO - DUSK

Pal, and most of its gear, is on a table. Rick exits the kitchen in his swimsuit, carrying a box. He puts the box on the table and takes out a modem, router, keyboard and mouse. Opening each, he takes out their batteries.

Jungle camo Mel comes out the pet door and struts to him. Rick salutes her.

RICK

Gen. Snout, Maj. Disaster reporting for guard duty. Like to join me?

Mel nods OK, then climbs on a lounge.

Rick gets a beer and a bottle of water from a cooler. He gives Mel the water, sits across from her, and they toast.

RICK

Mel, tonight no one can spy on us.
Ain't happen'n. But how can I be
happy, I'm being spied on!

(beat)

I'm just a giant lab rat; trapped
with a big, crazy, exotic lizard;
in a dungeon haunted by the world's
most beautiful ghost.

(beat)

Tomorrow is July 4th, Independence
Day, and I've never felt less free
in my life. How do I fix that?

LATER

Rick is doing yoga when the sun rises. With a huge stretch,
he walks to the table and begins replacing batteries.

Mel sleeps on, on a lounge.

INT. RICK'S DEN - DAY

Pal and some of its gear is on the desk. Rick enters with a
box of sensors and dimmers, and puts it on the table.

Getting his ipod, he plugs it into his home stereo and turns
both on. ROCK & ROLL MAN (by GEORGE THOROGOOD) floods the
house; as Rick rocks the song's opening on Air Guitar.

INT. ARENA / GEORGE THOROGOOD CONCERT / ON STAGE - DAY

Melody is having a total blast playing drums with the band.

INTERCUT - RICK'S DEN/GEORGE THOROGOOD CONCERT

At times, as Melody wales on the drums, George plays and
sings to her. Their interactions are joyfully electric.

Rick re-assembles Pal, stopping occasionally to maniacally
play Air Organ on his desk and table.

INT. RICK'S DEN - DAY

Teak Mel enters. Pumped up Rick plugs in and turns on Pal.

RICK

Sorry I unplugged you, Pal. But it
was the only way to know if you've
been used to spy on me.

PAL

Honest, Rick, I have nothing to do with this. But your cloud account has a new file. The Wizdom of: The 6th Precept of Happiness - Freedom!

Totally demolished, Rick staggers backward and crashes on the couch. Staring about in a daze, he sees nothing.

EXT. RICK'S BACKYARD - DAY

Gila Monster Mel is floating on her back in the pool.

Rick sleeps on a lounge. His phone RINGS. He wakes, sits up, gets it from his swimsuit pocket and answers.

RICK

Geek Boy, get over here now! I'll tell ya when you get here... Great.

Rick pockets his phone, gets the skimmer and skims the pool.

RICK

Mel, you may want to get out. And, Pal, would you read the precept?

Mel retreats to her shady grass sanctuary to do yoga. Pal presents the precept with all the passion and verve Rick did, when he delivered the first one.

PAL

As you wish. The Wizdom of: The 6th Precept of Happiness - Freedom!

(beat)

Humans have five primary freedoms: Freedom from Ego, Freedom of Self, Freedom from Judgment, Freedom of Forgiveness, and Freedom from Need.

(beat)

And you can have all the freedom you want, and choose to exercise.

(pause)

In your quest for Divine Ultimate Freedom, each Freedom is a magical stepping stone, a transcendental milestone, found only on your Mystical Path of Heart.

(pause)

For many, Freedom from Ego proves difficult; but one must be free of the Dark Self to master happiness.

Rick grabs a piece of pizza and eats it while he works.

PAL

In today's world, having self awareness and a personality are essential; a tyrannical Ego is not.

(beat)

As mankind's most revered men and women have taught us: Freedom from Ego is most easily achieved when we help those in need, with selfless acts of caring and healing.

Done skimming, Rick hangs the skimmer and gets the vacuum.

PAL

Freedom of Self is your freedom to evolve exactly as you wish. You do this by: investing your Life Energy in the hope, desire, plans, courage and actions needed, to find your Highest & Best Use!

(beat)

So you can make your wildest dreams come true.

(pause)

And if others choose to act less than their best, you really can't stop them. Anymore than they can stop you from being your best.

Back at the pool, Rick lowers the vac in. As he kneels and plugs the hose into the skimmer, Mel sneaks up behind him.

PAL

Each choice you make helps create the world you live in. And to find and follow Your Path of Heart, is to master Freedom of Self.

As Rick stands, Mel pushes him in the pool. Rick surfaces holding his phone high, shaking it vigorously.

RICK

Damn it Mel!

Mel dives in the pool. Rick puts his phone on the deck and chases her.

RICK

You oversized desert rat, if that old phone isn't really waterproof you'll pay... I will get you!

Unable to catch Mel, Rick gets out of the pool. As he towels off, he checks his phone.

Mel swaggers to her refuge for more yoga.

RICK

Ya dodged a bullet this time. But, Mel, don't ever do that again. And thanks for stopping, Pal, you can continue now.

Rick puts his shirt on, and begins vacuuming.

PAL

Freedom from Judgment is simple. Who's right? Who's wrong? Because humans are shortsighted and easily deceived, these questions are not for you. So never judge others.

(beat)

The fact is: you are equal to, not more than, nor less than anyone else. And you will only know the magic of Freedom from Judgment, when you stop judging others.

(beat)

However, if you wish to master happiness, you will need to judge your Evolving Self, as needed.

Rick nods a tough to admit "Yes."

PAL

After one masters Freedom from Judgment, Freedom of Forgiveness can be tackled.

(beat)

Everyone says and does dumb things, or worse. And forgiving people who act badly can be challenging. But who gets eaten alive, by all the cancerous residue your judgments create, and you save forever?

The vacuum is plugging, Rick shakes it.

PAL

To be happy and healthy, you will need to forgive everyone you have ever had a negative thought, word, or feeling for.

(beat)

Then you will need to forgive yourself. You'll know what for. Everybody makes mistakes, to forgive is divine. Truly.

Shaking harder, Rick clears the line and resumes vacuuming.

PAL

And once you have fully forgiven
all others, and yourself; you will
purge your lifelong accumulation of
deadly cancerous engrams. Then
your being will be restored to a
pure, natural uncontaminated state.

A RUMBLING motorcycle arrives out front and stops.

RICK

Fine, I forgive you, Mel.
But how can I forgive
whoever's spying on us?

PAL

Finally, there's Freedom
from Need. What do you
really need?

Mel is in a lotus. She looks at Rick with a big grin.

PAL

Unless you are in a life or death
situation, and something you lack
will save your life, you have no
real needs.

Front door bell RINGS, Rick yells out front.

RICK

It's open, Dan, meet ya in
the kitchen.

PAL

Yet, dream big. Wishes,
hopes and dreams are what
life is all about.

Rick leaves the vac in the pool, and he and Mel go inside.

PAL

But false feelings of need are what
keep the unenlightened person from
experiencing the liberating power,
and pure joy of Freedom From Need.

INT. RICK'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rick and Mel join Dan. All nod hi, and listen.

PAL

In every life lived to the fullest,
there at one time dawns a Oneness.
An Enlightenment of the Limitless
Love that animates creation.

Going to the fridge, Rick gets everyone a water. All drink.

PAL

When this divine link to the Great
Whatever is reopened, all illusions
of need, or division are vaporized;
vanquishing Ego-Needs forever.

(beat)

At the break of each day, you make
real who you are, by choosing your
Path of Life. So choose wisely,
and one fine day you may discover,
a priceless transcendental knowing.

(beat)

Harmonic Cosmic Wholeness -
Freedom From All Needing!

A short silence.

DAN

That's awesome, what is it?

RICK

The 6th Precept of Happiness!

DAN

What? I thought you were going to
unplug Pal last night?

RICK

Tuesday I had a professional
surveillance detection service
scour the house for bugs. Nada!

(beat)

And last night, I put Pal and all
its gear on the porch, and guarded
it. And this showed up in my cloud
account this morning!

DAN

This is totally bizarre. Iron Man
in my art show, and now this.

RICK

I need that top secret Cyber Sleuth
you never built for the Feds. But
please don't tell anyone; the Army
taught me to cherish my freedom.

DAN

I'll check out a Wonder Weasel to
"update it." And I promise you, we
will ferret out whence cometh this
Magically Materializing Precept!

(beat)

And trust me, I'll tell no one.

INT. DEN - DAY

Dan connects a black box to Pal, and runs test after test. Rick and patinated copper Mel watch from the couch.

COLET (V.O.)

The All-Star CyberSlugger went down swinging. His furless ferret found no trace of any precept, and they decided to leave the Weasel hooked up for three more weeks.

(beat)

And no more precepts came, even after it was unhooked. But Rick was conflicted, the Precepts had great value; and he was certain there were more.

(pause)

So he spent the summer mastering his six precepts, doing Yoga, and working on the Spirit of His Being. He also tried hard to forget he had probably messed up a good thing.

INT. RICK'S GARAGE - DAY

Rick's top down car rocks with STEEL DRUM MUSIC. Loading a rope, cooler, backpack and towel in the trunk, Rick smiles.

In the bike bay, sienna picotage Mel grooves with the tunes.

RICK

Today should be fun, Mel. It's my company's Labor Day Float & Feast at the Salt River. And you, Master Bedazzler, can come. But no mess'n with my pirate buds.

Rick opens the driver's door and flips the seat forward. Swaying to the music, Mel prances over and jumps in.

EXT. AIR STAR AVIATION PARKING LOT - DAY

Lot full of roisterers, loading buses. Rick pulls in and parks. He then unbuckles his seat belt; puts the top up; raises the windows, and pops the trunk. Getting out, he flips the seat. Mel gets out and Rick closes the door.

The FESTIVE DIN flashes to CLAMOROUS YELLING. Everyone is pointing at Mel. People further away are jumping on their coolers and truck beds, to see the cause of the ruckus.

VARIOUS TUBERS
 (panicked)
Why isn't it on a leash?/
 Get that out of here now!/
 God, the beast could bite
 off my leg!/
 Take it home!

RICK
 (yelling to be heard)
It's Okay! It won't hurt
 anyone. It's very well
 trained, very smart and
 100% harmless. Really!

Mel stands on her hind legs and puts an arm around Rick.

RICK
 Believe me, it's not dangerous!
 It's 100% vegan. And Don and Mark
 said I could bring it.

MAN IN THE CROWD
 What do they know about giant
 man-eating lizards? How about a
 muzzle? Does it have a muzzle?

RICK
 I'm not stupid. It won't hurt
 anyone, it's just a big clown.

The hubbub subsides. WORKING FOR THE WEEKEND (by LOVERBOY) plays. Rick gets his ice chest from the trunk and stacks his towel, rope and backpack on it. Then he locks his car, picks up his load, and walks with Mel to the buses.

EXT. WATER USERS RECREATION SITE - DAY

MUSIC continues. The Salt River Pirates unload tubes and their gear from the buses.

Hopping from the bus, Mel walks to a flat boulder on the river path. Standing up on it, she mimics the garb of the more colorful people, wending their way to the river. Some SCOFF. Some APPLAUD. Some LAUGH. Others steer clear.

With his rope helping secure a tube on each shoulder; Rick heads for the river carrying his cooler. Passing Mel, he nods "come along." Mel leaves her stage and catches up.

EXT. SALT RIVER / ON THE RIVER / PAST BLUE POINT - DAY

Orca colored Mel circles Rick's tubepod, and everyone starts watching. OUT WITH A BANG (by ANTHONY SOLARI) begins.

Timed with the music, Mel blasts from the river doing barrel rolls, flips with twists, back flips and cannon balls.

The tubers CHEER and APPLAUD Mel's grace and artistry.

Mel's finale begins in back of the pod. As if she's riding an invisible elevator, she rises out of the water. Waving and throwing kisses, she TailWalks to the front of the pod. Here she falls on her back and floats, her feet in the air.

The tubers go wild with WHISTLES, CHEERS and APPLAUSE.

EXT. BEACH AT SALT RIVER TUBING EXIT / THE FEAST - DAY

The feast is jumping. ANTHONY SOLARI is on stage finishing OUT WITH A BANG. Many of the toasted tubers are dancing, including Rick and a hot blond. Others are feasting on the prime spread. Mel is at a full table eating fruit.

INT. RICK'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

ISN'T LIFE STRANGE (by THE MOODY BLUES) begins softly. Rick leaves the bath, damp from a shower. He's wearing boxers and a robe. Mel sticks her violet head out of the den, and Rick stops and lovingly pats her casque.

RICK

MelaMax, I should let you out more often. You put on quite the show today. See ya on the flip side.

INT. RICK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rick is sleeping; the MUSIC grows louder and louder. Waking with a start, he sits up and looks askance. Grabbing his robe, he puts it on and heads for the den.

INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS

Rick enters and is perplexed. Glowing cobalt Mel is really into SINGING into an imaginary mic, with the MUSIC.

MEL

*Wish I could be in your heart, to
be one with your love.*

RICK

Mel, it's really late, and your impromptu concert is way too loud.

MEL

It's later than you think; and have you never been to a concert?

RICK
Who said that? Are you getting
cute, Pal? No, you're sleeping?

More perplexity. Rick stares at Mel, then Pal.

RICK
Pal, did you take up ventriloquism?

Pal's screen lights.

PAL
No, but it sounds like fun.

Rick turns to Mel, who SINGS again. Rick jumps in shock.

MEL
*Isn't love strange, A
word we arrange, With no
thought or care, Maker of
despair...*

RICK
Mel, are you really
singing? Or have I finally
lost my mind?

MEL
Absolutely, yes and no!

RICK
Oh great, just great! I have a
magic super computer that answers
life's toughest questions; and now
it turns out my over-achieving
luminescent lizard is probably an
Alien From Another Planet!

Rick struggles to understand. He figures one thing out.

RICK
Pal, turn the music off.

MUSIC stops, a light goes off in Ricks head.

RICK
Well clearly, this is a very vivid
dream. And many people have solved
great mysteries in their dreams; so
tell me, my blue Verbal Reptilious,
what's up? What's the skinny?

MEL
I will wait no more on your dire
query. The one you ask constantly,
yet believe has no answer.

Rick raises his hands and gives Mel a "what?" look.

MEL

When you first sought help, even
the most basic dream state
communication was not possible.

(beat)

But your understanding has made
heroic strides, making this direct
approach now possible.

(beat)

So out with it, it's time to voice
that most tormentful question.

Mel motions Rick to give it up.

RICK

Okay, but pray tell, just what is
this ultra special question I'm
supposed to ask?

MEL

You ask the wrong person. Please,
ponder lightly.

A short reflection. Rick shudders. Taking a deep breath,
he composes himself. Then he looks Mel straight in the eye.

RICK

Okay, I do have one. But, there is
no possible logical answer for this
question! But if you insist.

MEL

Absolutely! Fire away, Froggy.

RICK

I am a good man, so how can it be
right, I suffer such extreme pain,
just because I love Mysti so much?

MEL

Ah, that's the question! What say
your Pal, be there light out of
darkness? Inquiring minds want to
know. Jump, Froggy - Jump!

The 7th Precept appears on Pal, as the printer prints it.

Hurrying to Pal, Rick does a double fist pump.

RICK

I was right, I knew it! There are
more. Will you read it, Pal?

MEL

Would you mind, Rick, might I have
a go at this one?

RICK

Oh, please, Mel, by all means. I
wouldn't miss this for the world.

Mel picks up the printed precept, glances at it, and puts it
back. With all the showmanship of a master orator, her
dynamic presentation is eloquent and passionate.

MEL

The Wizdom of: The 7th Precept of
Happiness - Evolution! The First
Law of Creation is: Make it so, and
make it grow! Flux, transmutation,
change, growth, call it what you
will; Evolution is an Absolute Law
of the Universe.

Rick nods a sad knowing smile.

MEL

To become a Wizard of Happiness,
one must embrace all Evolution has
to share. Recognizing this, happy
people don't get set in their ways,
and never see change as a negative
thing. They simply choose to grow
with foresight and flexibility.

RICK

I've tried, but haven't grown much.

Mel stares at Rick and wags her right index finger at him.

MEL

Oh, you have, but mastery of
happiness requires continuous
growth. And once your evolution
itself becomes an Act of Spirit,
the Amazing Evolving Now shall
proffer abundant happiness.

RICK

I know it's out there, I repel it.

MEL

Do you know how most unhappy people
change? They try not to; because
they are set in their ways.

Crossing her arms, Mel strikes a defiant pose.

MEL

No more changes! Not now, or ever!
Life is bad enough already.

(beat)

But when change comes; they are
left with only ill-advised actions,
all having negative consequences.

Mel shakes her head sadly. Perking up, she smiles.

MEL

The 7 Precepts are as lofty,
majestic mountains, with each
having its own exquisite view.

(beat)

And once their foundations are
mastered, one can ascend, via
understanding, to the zenith of
their crystal vistas.

Eyes dazzling, Mel looks into Rick's soul.

MEL

Once the precepts become an
integral part of your life: you
will realize how each precept
relates to the other Precepts, to
you, the glorious world, and
Almighty Spirit.

(beat)

Verily, when all the precepts are
reflected in your Spirit of Being;
your admirable exploits will bear
the sweetest fruit.

RICK

That seems right, says the man
talking with a lady lizard.

Both LAUGH.

MEL

Your mind is a most extraordinary
computer, program it wisely.

(beat)

Your heart is home to thy soul,
fill it always with Infinite Love.

(beat)

Your soul is your link to Spirit,
listen to it always.

(beat)

For only through Spirit can you
make the ultimate discovery of your
life. Your - Highest & Best Use!

The pieces finally fit. An epiphany staggers Rick.

RICK

Wait a second! Hold on! I've been suffering, so I can evolve... Grow?

MEL

Bet the farm on it. With Mysti you had a most sublime happiness. But you learned naught how it works.

(beat)

When she left, you had nothing, all was lost, your world imploded.

(pause)

Had Mysti stayed and not broken your heart, would you have gone on your worthy quest? You cared not a whit how happiness works.

RICK

You're right, I didn't.

MEL

For happiness to survive life's harsh tests and flourish, it must be broad based.

(beat)

Loving one person is a superb start. But if love does not grow, expand, evolve; it goes retro, and slowly dies. And with no love, there is no happiness.

(beat)

Verily, the larger your base of love, the happier you will be. The better it shall be for all.

(beat)

Now for the real fun!

SNAP. CRACKLING. A cloud of blue electricity forms where Mel is standing.

Rick is stupefied as Mel transforms into the elegant, but very scary Wizardrix Melody.

Melody's royal purple robe and hat shimmer with life. Her raven hair is radiant, her eyes electric, her smile warm.

RICK

Wha...? Whoa!

(shocked pause)

Who... Who are you? What are you doing here? What do you want?

Melody takes off her hat and bows. Then she drops her hat on the table; takes Rick's limp right hand, and shakes it.

MELODY

I am the Wizadrix Melody Ambrosius, twin sister of the Arch Enchanter Merlyn. I currently hail from the Kingdom of Wizdom.

(beat)

In April you pled, "Oh Great Wizard of Time and Space, please help and guide me." I was sent to answer your petition.

RICK

Wow! So, you're a real wizadrix? I'll bet I'm not in Kansas anymore.

(pause)

Ah, but that's it, I'm dreaming! And this is the wildest dream ever!

Rick gets it. He's going with it.

RICK

(mockingly)

Okay, so tell me, Melody, do I get three wishes? Are you like a genie in a gecko? And aren't you really from the Kingdom of Lizardom?

LOW RUMBLING. The room shakes.

MELODY

By the stars, Mr. Arthur, you are a daring bugger. How would you feel about becoming a ceramic toad, like that regal fellow on your desk?

RICK

No! Sorry... I was kidding.

MELODY

Important deeds are at hand, be not a dandiprat, cut the buffoonery.

RICK

Yes, ma'am, I'll try.

MELODY

Okay good. Now, do you have maybe one most exigent question that's begging an answer.

Rick ponders, then sees the obvious.

RICK

I do, Ms. Melody! How do I de-bob myself? You know, pull my infernal sword out; not be a shish ka-bob.

MELODY

As you helped create it, you must discover how to free it. However, while it is a truly mystical feat, there will be extreme pain.

Jumping up and down, Rick flails his arms and screams.

RICK

Pain! There'll be pain! What the hell do you think I've been living? Pain has ruled my life! It's all I've been! It's all I am!

The growing fire in Melody's eyes stops Rick cold.

MELODY

Alrighty then! You are serious. But, it can be tricky liberating one of these Spirit Killers.

(beat)

However, as King Arthur showed, it can be done; via a conscious union of body, mind, heart and spirit.

(beat)

Then once the mystic passageways of your heart are reopened, your Ego will be reborn a Team Player; knowing only Spirit can bring true lasting happiness to life.

(beat)

But rather than I say more.

RICK

Can I have a second... Is this a really big picture thing?

Melody makes an expansive arm gesture. Holding it, she looks about, then up. Rick mimics Melody, ponders, and gets it. Falling to his knees, he clasps his hands in prayer.

RICK

Great Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, I wish to live and love as a Being of Spirit.

(beat)

With this fine sword we co-created, I wish to now reopen my heart.

Springing to his feet, Rick throws his robe open and grabs the glowing sword in his right hand.

RICK

Death to my petty Ego, and the pitiful actor I've been. May the passageways of my heart be open now, and evermore!

With a sure swift stroke, Rick pulls the sword from his chest. It turns real.

RICK

YES! YES! YES!

Hoisting the sword high, Rick jubilantly dances about. Then strangely compelled, he bends over and lays it on the couch.

RICK'S JUMP - A MYSTICAL VISION SEQUENCE

21ST CENTURY TRANSCENDENCE (by GARY ANDERSON) begins. As Rick straightens up, he shudders, crouches low - and JUMPS! ZAP! He rockets up out of the house like it's a hologram. Then to the edge of space, he soars as a ball of light.

Slowing, Rick returns to bodily form, stops and floats. Looking about, he revels in his new freedom.

RICK

(ecstatically)

Thank God, Melody was kidding!
There's no pain! I've never been more alive and in tune in my life!

Focusing on Earth, Rick marvels at what he sees: a hurricane roils the Atlantic; a colossal Aurora Borealis electrifies the Canadian wilderness; and the lights of America's cities sparkle like jewels on black velvet. Then the life blood of Earth, our oceans, rivers and lakes, speak with no words.

RICK

My God, the Earth itself is alive!

Looking closer, Rick sees primitive man form tribes and build villages. Then tribes fight other tribes; villages become big cities. Man's battles escalate into world wars.

Scattered dead bodies litter a bombed out village. Kneeling in a muddy street; Rick SCREAMS, CRIES and POUNDS his fists on the road. Then he passes out from the unfathomable pain.

END MYSTICAL VISION

INT. RICK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rick wakes with a start and sits up quickly. Looking about quizzically, he stretches and scratches his head. Climbing out of bed, he picks up his robe.

RICK
Geez, what a wild dream.

As he's puts his robe on, like he's zapped by a taser, Rick jumps for the ceiling, pumping his fists and screaming.

RICK
It's gone! The sword's gone! What
an incredible dream. The damn
thing's gone. It's really gone.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Rick races to the den to celebrate with Mel.

But at the doorway, he slams his hands into the jambs and stops. Jumping back, his radiant smile vanishes. His mouth drops open in total disbelief, and Rick shudders violently.

INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS

Melody is just inside the door, putting a golf ball. She's wearing black shorts and tennis shoes, a lavender golf shirt and a black TEAM WIZARD vizor. Her hair's in a ponytail.

Taking her vizor off with her left hand, Melody bows. Rising, she holds hat to heart. Then as one conferring knighthood, Melody taps Rick's shoulders with her putter.

With a flourish, Melody drops her putter in her golf bag, and hangs her hat on her driver. Turning to Rick, she opens her arms for a hug. Still stunned, Rick can't move.

MELODY
(sounding like Rod Serling)
Your next stop, the Twilight Zone.

Melody nearly busts her gut LAUGHING.

RICK
What's there to laugh at? I've
lost my mind. After a summer with
a computer like Pal, and a pet like
Mel, a wizadrix in my den shouldn't
be so hard to believe. But it is.

MELODY

Come in and sit, collect your wits.

Rick stumbles to the couch. As he sits, he spots his sword on the far wall. It's mounted on an oak plank; below it is a medallion, with a dragon insignia and Latin inscription.

He starts up to look at it; Melody motions him to stay put.

MELODY

Please, Mr. Arthur, take a moment to re-center yourself. Be at ease.

Without thinking, Rick blurts out.

RICK

Can you call me Rick?

MELODY

Certainly, and Mel works fine for me. To begin, you are not crazy. And your magical mystical adventure last night was no dream.

(beat)

Verily, our universe is far more wondrous than you have imagined.

Melody nods a knowing "It is!"

MELODY

Now, while I cook breakfast; you can calm down, shower, and get ready for a day of fun.

RICK

Sure. But for the record, exactly what is it we'll be doing?

MELODY

How about a road trip to Sedona? With an early lunch at MexiCantina; eighteen at Crystal Ranch Country Club, and a stop at Olde #7.

RICK

Sounds great, who am I to argue?

Rick shudders and his normal sense of reality returns.

RICK

Is this a crazy reality TV thing? Am I hypnotized? If not, what about last night? And the sword, and the pain? Who are you really?

MELODY

Relax, there will be time for such queries during our journey.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Melody is cooking an egg, cheese, bacon and salsa scramble.

Rick enters, clean but doubtful.

RICK

Mel, you do know Crystal Ranch is very exclusive. Even a wizadrix would have a hard time getting a tee time on this short of notice.

MELODY

Except I'm a Platinum Affiliate, and we have a noon tee time.

RICK

(incredulous)

So you've been there before?

Rick get a bottle of soda from the fridge, and drinks from it as he sets the table.

MELODY

What do you think I did all summer?
Eat, swim, hide your clothes, do yoga, change colors and sleep?

(beat)

I've just spent a most enjoyable summer playing some of your fair state's finest courses.

RICK

Well, that must have been nice.

MELODY

It gets better. Like the amazing new red Vet that appeared back in April, in the carport of the rental house down the street.

Sitting at the table, Rick digests what he's hearing.

RICK

You mean, while I've been going through the ordeal of a lifetime, you've been leadfoot'n all over the state, in an ultra-fine car, in search of the perfect foursome?

Melody serves breakfast and sits at the table where Mel did.

MELODY

I did, but I've also had a grand time watching you grow. And I just love Dan, the great jester! But now it's time to give thanks.

Clasping hands to heart, Melody looks to the heavens.

MELODY

Yay God. Thank you for this good food, fine day and for me again being a carnivore whenever I wish.

EXT. I-17 NORTH OF PHOENIX - DAY

Car top down, THE TIME IS NOW! (by E.O.S.) plays on Rick's stereo. Journeying to Sedona, Rick and Melody pass the miles with debate, pondering and laughter.

At Mile Maker #271, a trio of old biplanes ROAR by, low level, on the right. Flying to the center of the high plateau, they all make steep climbs and begin doing stunts.

Turning on SR 179, hilarity and wild gestures fill the car.

EXT. CRYSTAL RANCH CLUBHOUSE / VALET - DAY

Rick and Melody leave the car and walk to the entrance of the club's exclusive restaurant.

INT. MEXICANTINA / HOST PODIUM - CONTINUOUS

Entering the lively restaurant, Melody and Rick are greeted warmly by KEN, the maitre de. AL, a host, stands at ready.

KEN

Ms. Ambrosius, always a pleasure to see you. Al can seat you now. I trust you will enjoy everything.

MELODY

I'm certain we will, Ken.

AL

Menus today, Ms. Ambrosius?

MELODY

Not today, thanks, Al.

Al ushers Rick and Melody to a window table and seats them.

RICK
 This view is awesome, but I'm glad
 I'm not paying.

CARLOS delivers water, and takes their order on a tablet.

CARLOS
 Buenos dias, señorita Ambrosius.
 How nice to see you again so soon.
 Will you be having your usual?

MELODY
 I will, Carlos, but today's
 adventure calls for cerveza!

CARLOS
 Muy bueno, and for you, señor?

RICK
 I'd like a cheese enchilada with
 red sauce, a guacamole tostada and
 an iced tea. Thanks.

CARLOS
 I'll be back pronto, gracias.

Carlos leaves.

RICK
 Mel, I'll make no bets today. With
 your magical powers, and all your
 practice, I don't stand a chance.

MELODY
 Be at ease, we won't be wagering.
 As for magical powers? No one can
 alter, or suspend the Law of Unity.
 I've simply mastered and employ its
 more advanced canons.

(beat)

Anyone can perform extraordinary
 feats, with training and practice.

Melody takes a drink of water, then looks Rick in the eyes.

MELODY
 Love and Life are the only real
 magics. And surely you don't
 believe mere wizards could ever
 hold sway over either?

INT. CRYSTAL RANCH Pro Shop - DAY

As Melody and Rick enter, Tee Master ROY bows to Melody.

ROY

Ah, good day, Ms. Ambrosius. Will you be walking as usual?

MELODY

Indeed we will, Roy. And could you give Mr. Arthur a dozen of your best balls, and a bag of tees?

Roy gets the balls and tees from the case. With a smile and a wink, he hands them to Rick.

RICK

Walking? Are you kidding, Mel? This is one of the longest and hilliest courses in the state.

MELODY

No jest here. Golf provides a host of excellent benefits, and exercise tops the list. So suck it up, today will be aerobic.

RICK

What about a pull cart?

Melody scowls and shakes her head in disgust.

EXT. CRYSTAL RANCH GOLF COURSE / 1ST TEE - DAY

As Rick and Melody walk to the tee, a SHOPBOY drives by in a cart. He drops their clubs at the tee and drives off.

Reaching their bags, Rick and Melody load balls and tees in their shorts. Rick puts his extras in his bag. Then the sobbusters get their drivers and take warm-up swings.

RICK

You're serious, we're gonna walk?

MELODY

We play real golf today!

The threesome ahead moves out of range. Melody tees a ball and begins to address it. But the rules must be explained.

MELODY

Rick, I'm going to enjoy this round and focus on my shots. So I will answer but one question, per hole, to my satisfaction. Choose wisely.

MONTAGE OF RICK AND MELODY'S RUGGED ROUND OF GOLF.

FIRST TEE: Melody's tee shot is long and straight, Rick's goes left OB. Melody chips close to the hole. Rick hits close to the green, then chips over. Both putt well.

For the rest of the front nine, Melody makes good shots; while Rick mostly chases errant shots.

At the turn, Rick starts hitting better. They both par #10. The rest of the round is much closer. Rick sinks a long chip on #16 and celebrates. On the 18th green, Melody sinks a tap in and they LAUGH. Rick salutes her.

END MONTAGE

EXT. CRYSTAL RANCH PRO SHOP / LOADING ZONE - DAY

Walking to Rick's car, Melody nods to the valet, while Rick tips him. They get in, buckle up, and Rick starts the car.

INT. RICK'S CAR / DRIVING - CONTINUOUS

As Rick drives off, he turns to Melody to speak. She CHUCKLES and cuts him off.

MELODY

Rick, it's time for you to cease
your endless queries; and listen,
find and know.

(beat)

To begin, congratulations; you have
gained the knowledge you sought.
You know how happiness works, and
your ego is now a team player.

(beat)

So henceforth, each time life
offers you a great new challenge,
you will recognize it for what it
is, an opportunity to grow!

RICK

You mean if I don't go crazy first?

MELODY

Here is a cogent way to approach
and understand any and all new
challenges. Draw a horizontal line
across your imagination, and label
it "My Happiness."

Melody draws a horizontal line across the middle of the windshield with her finger.

MELODY

Above your baseline you are happy,
and below you're not. And the
higher you fly above it, the
happier you are. The more you
dive below, the more unhappy.

Waving her right hand like a wild EKG meter, Melody scowls.

MELODY

Yet, only you determine what your
graph looks like, by the emotions
you bring to life.

(beat)

Like most, your question was: How
unhappy do you have to become,
before you were moved to share your
best, and Act of Spirit?

Eyes sparkling, Melody smiles a wicked smile.

RICK

Okay, I can see that.

MELODY

One main pillar of Happiness is:
Mastering the Art of Seeing Change
Coming & Acting Wisely. Its main
tenet is: Act with love, upon all
you deem noble and needful; and not
just the petty misery of your ego.

Nodding he understands, Rick finally gets it.

RICK

Dang, I never thought about this in
such simple terms.

Like a pastor imploring her congregation, Melody continues.

MELODY

When your acts are inspired by
love, not your ego, you attain an
awareness known as Understanding.
And with this Understanding, you
can chart a worthy course of life.

(beat)

And as your dreams, your plans and
your Acts of Spirit flourish, ever
higher levels of awareness and
understanding will be attained.

EXT. OLDE #7 VORTEX PATH / SEDONA - DAY

Rick and Melody are ambling up the path toward the vortex. In the distance, a festal herd of Vortexans is milling about inside and outside the vortex.

MELODY

As the Law of Unity states: when one gives, one receives; when one takes, one loses; and only Spirit can guide your to TrueSelf Giving.

RICK

What exactly is my TrueSelf?

Melody glares "Are your serious?"

RICK

Oh, I get it. What's my TrueSelf?

MELODY

Now your soul is calling the shots; when you face new challenges, and don't know what to do; it is your soul wanting a better answer. An answer based on more divine love.

(beat)

Then the question becomes: How much love will you bring to your Acts of Spirit? And in every case, the answer is always - MORE LOVE!

The golf buds turn onto the trail to the ramada.

RICK

Sounds exactly like Mysti.

(pause)

You think we'll get back together?

MELODY

You tell me.

RICK

I'm afraid I won't see her again.

MELODY

There is nothing in the world to be afraid of. Things change, love all creation shares with you today, and all it will share tomorrow.

Ahead, a new red rock boulder sits at the ramada's entrance.

RICK

I get things change, and I'm glad they're changing for the better. But losing Mysti was a disaster.

MELODY

Oh, I love the irony! For one day you will realize: what you believe to be your greatest loss; was in truth, a gift of the highest order.

(beat)

But I'm sure it will take you a while to understand this.

At the ramamda, Rick and Melody barely glance at the bolder, or its plaque telling how the old ramada was destroyed by lightning. Sitting at the table, facing west, Rick and Melody savor Sedona's spectacular skyscape and countryside.

MELODY

The answer is no.

RICK

No what?

MELODY

No, we brought no pain to the Earth today, whacking up her rocky red soil and lush green fairways.

(beat)

Mother Nature rejoices when her children use, share and enjoy her gifts wisely.

(beat)

For she is ever your partner, as sustainer of all Earth life.

RICK

How do you know what I'm thinking?

MELODY

Rick, it's not hard. It's just a matter of shutting off your internal dialog, and then becoming receptive to those around you. You have done this before.

RICK

Maybe you're right, maybe I have.

(pause)

But what about the pain I felt last night? I've never felt anything like that. It was deadly scary.

MELODY

That was the agony Mother Nature suffers when weak evil men, with out of control egos, gain great power. Leaving naught but carnage and destruction in their wake, they cause most of mankind's, and all of Mother Nature's suffering.

(beat)

But in the end, all who let their Egos run their life, pay the most extreme price. For what cost, a life devoid of Love's Great Magic?

Melody's passionate words fade. Then with an explosive incantation, she performs an impossible move.

MELODY

Ha Zaaaa!

Melody is standing on the bench, on the other side of the table. Her fiery eyes lock on Rick's soul. After a short dramatic pause, she bellows, blusters and gestures, as only wizards and politicians can.

MELODY

By hook or by crook, by pilfer or plunder, by limelight or stealth, exist for naught but Excessive Pecuniary Wealth! Lust for silver, and lust for gold! Lust for stocks and bonds! And Grander Fiefdoms, faster cars and bigger boats!

(beat)

Treasure trifling trinkets, novelty knickknacks and temporal trophies! Praise and glorify all the latest garish gimcracks, and covet cold hard cash! Why play fair and just, when there's always an UberNew GewGaw, to just die for?

Shaking her head, Melody scowls at her fancy watch.

MELODY

With endless avarice, and limitless cupidity, seize a GigaHorde of Base Material Goodies! Let your piggy Ego's insatiable hungers, fuel your race to Ruin & Fall! Show all the Material Morons, on this penny ante planet, you can take it all!

Melody wildly stuffs imaginary things in her pockets.

MELODY

But what pittance of a price must you pay, to worship today's False Profit: Dirty Filthy Lucre? What is the nominal cost, to stake your claim, to the Almighty Shekel? So you can amass tons of Worthless Junk, all devoid of wonder.

(beat)

Exactly what sacrificial lambs does the Overlord of Gross Materialism demand you slay? Why, merely your honor, self respect and integrity!

Eerie silence. Melody bows to spellbound Rick.

All the VortEXperts, who were returning on the path from Olde #7, are also spellbound. Melody bows to acknowledge her audience; which erupts with CHEERS and APPLAUSE.

Melody's HEARTY ACCLAIM fades. Having gotten way more than they'd paid for, the Vortillians continue on. An AIR HORN BLAST from their tour bus fills the canyon.

Stepping off the bench, Melody sits facing Rick. Before he can say a word, she resumes her elucidation.

MELODY

As you well know, life overflows with wondrous treasures. And the greatest treasures; like the light of love, the fire of the heart, and the power and wisdom of the soul, are only found in Acts of Spirit.

Melody's sincere smile and knowing nod says it all.

MELODY

But man's current paradigm, of Homo Commercialis, excludes Spirit. So a lot of people today are trying to buy happiness; never realizing they are condemning themselves to a life sentence, of Capital Punishment.

Riotous LAUGHTER erupts from the throng walking to the bus.

MELODY

Now, for a bit of good old mind stretching. I want you to run to that cactus over there.

Melody points to a small century plant west of the ramada.

MELODY
Upon reaching it, jump as far as
you can. Jump, Froggy - Jump!

RICK
That's it, run and jump?

Melody winks. Rick gets up, runs to the cactus and jumps.

MELODY
Bravo! Now, while you were in the
air, to the closest mile, how far
did you fly?

As Rick walks back to the ramada, he surveys his jump.

RICK
How many miles? You gotta be
kidding. I went about 15 feet.

MELODY
My question stands.

RICK
Okay, less than one. What other
possible answer can there be?

MELODY
Rick, it may seem impossible, but
you just jumped over 180 miles.

Reaching the table, Rick retakes his seat.

RICK
That's absurd, I didn't go 12 feet!

MELODY
The Earth travels over 31 million
miles a day through the cosmos; or
just over 360 miles/sec. You flew
about half a second; or 180 miles.
One day for fun, do the math and
see how far you journey each year.

Contemplating this, Rick shakes his head in wonder.

MELODY
However, man's life is so much more
than miles traveled; as life offers
us many important crossroads; like
your last one.
(beat)
Would you live in your Ego's Hell,
or accept the challenge of hope?

Reflexively, Rick nods in knowing agreement.

MELODY

The good news is, you choice hope;
and soon you'll be be a Wizard of
Happiness. Yet, know this, Rick;
there is not one, ultimate - The
Answer to Life's Great Mystery.

RICK

Well, what should I be looking for?

MELODY

Life's Grand Mystical Experiment
has meaningful answers throughout.
What is your Highest & Best Use?
How do you best meet its challenge?
How will you best live in harmony
with the love that creates and
sustains Life's Grand Masquerade?

Playing tag, two big butterflies flutter by Melody.

RICK

Big questions, no easy answers.

MELODY

Enlightened beings often view the
Magic of Life as a two-way mirror.

(beat)

Yet, even after a person acquires
Cosmic Consciousness, and their
mirror becomes their door, they
have not found The Answer.

(beat)

However, once a person attains this
treasured vizion, most believe they
have. But upon deeper reflection,
they realize they have but gained a
more comprehensive and meaningful
way, to relate to and be conscious
of, the Miracle of Life.

A humming bird flits up to Rick, looks at him a few seconds,
them continues on its way.

MELODY

While full Mystical Illumination
still awaits you, one cosmic truth
is now relevant. If you don't
transform your knowledge into
Wizdom, with Acts of Spirit, your
noble quest will be as naught.

Melody turns to look at the sunset, then back at Rick.

MELODY

Yon sun's to set, shall we go ring-
side and savor the passing of our
felicitous day in paradox.

RICK

Paradox is exactly right. And what
a felicitous day it's been!

Rick gives a thumbs-up, as does Melody. Then they get up,
and take a cross country shortcut to the vortex.

MELODY

Truly, the window of time, for
diligent action is unalterable.
Knowing what to share, then doing
so in a timely manner, is the way
of all highly evolved beings.

RICK

Learned that one the hard way.

MELODY

Your worthy apprenticeship is
nearly complete, a most
praiseworthy feat.

(beat)

But know this, becoming a Wizard of
Happiness does not mean you will
never feel pain or sorrow again.

(beat)

A life with no heartaches, is as
unbalanced as one with no love.

A circling raven CAWS once, punctuating Melody's statement.

Reaching the vortex path, Rick and Melody continue on it.

MELODY

In your glorious Journey of Life,
each and every moment is beyond
price. And to live with any other
perception, is to not understand.

The raven CAWS thrice more. Its haunting crows echo down
the dimming red rock canyon.

MELODY

For the record, Wiz Boy, your quest
has brought me many fun challenges.
So I'd like to repay your kindness.

Just ahead, a coyote crosses the trail and disappears.

MELODY

What do you think about a new quest? A challenge greater than any you have ever imagined, but priceless once achieved.

(beat)

Mastering happiness was but a step. Now comes the hard part.

Stopping at Olde #7's entrance, they watch in awe as the neon sunset paints the sky. When the sun sets, Melody grabs Rick's shirt and yanks him in eye-to-eye. Her eyes flare.

Powerful soul-to-soul seconds pass. Then Melody pushes Rick out to arm's length; and with the greatest passion, she roars with the intensity of an EF5 tornado.

MELODY

WHAT ARE YOU REALLY HERE TO LEARN?

In shock, Rick is unable to think, speak or move. Melody lets him go and strides quickly to the center of the vortex.

Looking skyward, Melody's eyes are blazing like azure astral beams. Raising her arms high, she begins to glow. As one harnessing the wind, the wizadrix cries to the heavens.

MELODY

Perceive! Believe! Accept!
YourSelf, As Only Love!

As a bolt of lightning ignites where Melody is standing, a THUNDEROUS EXPLOSION rocks the vortex. Dust flies as she blasts into space, and is gone.

RICK

(yelling)

Wait, wait, come back, I didn't get to say goodbye! I didn't get to thank you. Are you coming back? Will I ever see you again? Will you come again if I ask?

The dust settles and Rick gets another surprise. Mel (the lizard) is sitting in the middle of the vortex.

Running to her, Rick is shocked again. It's not Mel, but MOJO (a perfect, half-scale, fully articulated replica).

Picking it up, Rick pulls and pokes it. He finds it has a skeletal frame. A note is taped to its casque, he reads it.

MELODY (V.O.)

Rick, it was an honor assisting your noble quest, thanks for asking.

(beat)

While I fancy myself to be a master conjurer of enigmatic creations, not even wizards have the ability to create life. But I trust you will enjoy this whimsical memento of our unique fellowship.

(beat)

Truly, "I Can Do This!" 'was an excellent place to start. But you can now face each new challenge with a transcendent new rally cry. "I can do this, with MORE LOVE!"

Tears stream down Rick's face.

MELODY (V.O.)

However, mi amigo, all truly epic magic begins with, "We can do this, with more love!"

(beat)

Perceive, Believe, Accept, Yourself
As Only Love - Wizard of Happiness!

(beat)

What are you really here to learn?

Rick stands transfixed, an integral part of the great cosmic oneness. Brushing back tears, he clutches Mojo and the note to his heart.

Looking to the heavens, Rick's thanks tremble from his lips.

RICK

Thank you, Melody. Thanks for answering my desperate plea.

(beat)

Thanks for not giving up on me.

(beat)

And thanks for the Precepts, and this exquisite gift.

(beat)

And thanks for my worthy new quest.

Rick smiles, certain Melody has heard.

Carrying Mojo to his car, he examines it more.

At his car, Rick puts Mojo in the backseat and climbs in front. Starting the car, he lowers the top and windows.

INT. RICK'S CAR / 89A WEST OF SEDONA / DRIVING - TWILIGHT

Cruising west into the paling twilight, Rick glances into the backseat and does a double take. Mojo is gone.

RICK

Now what?

Hitting the brakes, Rick pulls off the road and stops. Looking in the back seat, he LAUGHS with total abandon.

RICK

My new friend, you change colors!

With eyes sparkling, and skin radiating; Mojo stands and comes to life with a big smile, a nod and a wink.

MOJO

Si, mi amigo, don Ricardo. And you can call me Mojo.

Incredulous, Rick nods and winks back; then resumes driving.

RICK'S JOURNEY TO WIZDOM - A MYSTICAL VISION SEQUENCE

As Rick drives on, major realizations hit home. His smile just grows bigger and bigger and bigger.

RICK (V.O.)

As I journeyed homeward, I realized with complete clarity, losing Mysti had been brutal. But mastering how happiness works was indeed treasure beyond measure.

(beat)

Plus, I know with crystal clarity, the meaning of Mysti's urgent plea, "Jump, Froggy - Jump!" When one silences their ego, and acts only of Spirit, their understanding and awareness make life-changing jumps.

LIFT THE VEIL (by FROZEN PLASMA) begins. In a flash, Rick's Light of Awareness begins a journey to Wizdom. Starting slowly, it travels a trajectory like its journey in at birth, except in reverse.

RICK (V.O.)

And then there was Melody's epic challenge. What are you really here to learn? I grappled mightily with that one; musing, mulling and pondering constantly.

Climbing through the veil of twilight, Rick's Cosmic Essence grows bigger and brighter.

RICK (V.O.)

Finally, I asked, and I listened.
And soon my answer came.

(beat)

Naturally, 'twas a question; both exciting and scary. Learning how happiness works was one thing, but this! If there even was an answer.

(beat)

But if there was, I knew it would take at least a Wizard of Happiness to find it.

Rick's Spirit accelerates ever faster, leaving earth behind.

RICK (V.O.)

So, with my first formidable quest complete; I began perhaps the greatest quest known to man. To learn and master the Secrets of Life's Greatest Magic!

(beat)

And as my very life had begun, so began my most amazing adventure. With a monumental question.

(beat)

How Does Love Work?

Rick sails on into the glorious empyrean spacescape, with all its radiant splendors, set on the path to Wizdom.

SUPER: Your New Beginning!