

FIRST DRAFT

JANIS

Written by  
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JANIS ,

the genesis

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FADE IN:

INSERT:

KATY PERRY

"Janis is a very special case study in courage...  
The Angels created Janis to entertain us and  
we lived with her and shared her fondest dreams,  
and, yes, we all gladly sang along. She was mag-  
netic, and mystical and prophetic... The epitome  
of life. We'll always love you, Janis. Always."

DISSOLVE:

OPENING CREDITS ROLL, AS WE SLOWLY FADE TO:

MUSIC OVER: 'BORN TO BE WILD', STEPPENWOLF...  
VOLUME SCREAMS.

EXT. TEXAS SKIES - SOUTH OF HOUSTON, TEXAS - DAY

OCTOBER 1, 1965

INT. - POV - COCKPIT, TURBO-JET HELICOPTER - DAY - MONTAGE

AS WE SWEEP ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE OF TEXAS, NEAR THE GULF OF MEXICO, WAVES CRASHING.. At the controls, rookie pilot ... KRIS CRISTOPHER. The chopper drops down extremely LOW, near a local college, and zooms upward recklessly.

INT. - LAMAR UNIVERSITY - DAY, AS AN EMPTY HALLWAY IS MAGICALLY...

SUDDENLY flooded with students leaving classes; JANIS JALEN(20) corners a friend BILL PATE(19), who is dating her best friend, LINDA WEAVER...an assignment is unreal!

JANIS

Five books in three weeks;  
he's gotta be kidding dammit.  
Look, and his toupee is on  
crooked, the old fossil..haha.

THEY BOTH START LAUGHING RUDELY, AS DR. WILLIAM TUCKER, PHD., WALKS BY, FIXING HIS WIG WHICH LOOKS LIKE A DEAD, ROTTING RACCOON...GLARING AT THEM..

BILL

(laughing)

Don't look - doctorate from Harvard.  
Poli Sci happens to be my Major -  
you're gonna make me fail this mother.

JANIS

I don't care.... sweetheart.

SHE GRABS BILL'S HAIR AND ADJUSTS IT LIKE TUCKER'S, AS THEY CONTINUE GRINNING... THE CHEMISTRY IS THERE.

BILL

Janis... You're a maniac... see you Tuesday.

PAN, AS Janis runs for the exit, her blonde hair bouncing. She is special and in her presence, you were very aware of it...

TWO WEEKS LATER ....

INT. - HALFWAY HOUSE, JAZZ AND BLUES CLUB - DAY - BEAUMONT, TX

An urgent call comes in... as BILL takes the call. Linda is screaming that Janis may be killed. Her father has already slapped her mother around - then, he beat up Janis, in a drunken episode and, then, pushed her down a flight of stairs.. V.O., INTERCUT CONVERSATION:

LINDA (VO)

You've gotta drive down and pick up Janis... her father is going to kill her... I mean it.. He pushed her down a flight of stairs and beat her. He's drunk - in a rage. Help her..!

BILL

Yeah... that's bad, but it's a family thing. I don't know them... really.

LINDA

SCREAMING... you have to help her dammit.... I'm at work, I can't leave..

BILL

OK... OK.... give me a minute ...

LINDA

We don't have a minute - her mother is laying unconscious on the kitchen floor.. Please hurry goddam it..!!

CUT:

EXT. - BEAUMONT STREETS - DAY ... AS BILL LOWERS LINCOLN CONVERTIBLE TOP, AND..

BURNS RUBBER, STORMS OUT... MONTAGE - HIGH SPEED DRIVE, HWY. 59 SOUTH...

As, Bill races (120 MPH) down to Pt. Arthur, at Janis' home on Groves Ave., weaving in and out of traffic, in a death-run... Finally, pulling in the Jalen driveway, her sister LANA and MITCHEL start loading clothes... Soon, Janis emerges, BATTERED.... crying and trying to survive an attack.. CLOSE IN: we see blood coming from her nose and mouth, and numerous facial cuts...This is truly, urgent!

JANIS  
(wiping some blood)  
I've got one more dress, and we're  
outta here...just a second..

PANS...She runs for the house and quickly returns; there is  
a grave sense of desperation in her eyes..

BILL  
Hurry.... move it Baby. (as she runs)

THEN. THUD! The car's doors slam shut and he looks at her -  
Bill's mouth drops open in shock...

JANIS  
I'll be OK.... Go.... GO!! OH, GOD!

SUDDENLY, we see GARTH JALEN, her father, has panicked and  
is now on the front porch, with a .45 caliber handgun...YELLS!  
In a drunken, psychotic rage...

GARTH  
DON'T... DON'T back that car out with my  
daughter... You S.O.B. - that's my daughter.  
I'll kill both of you... ((points gun)

BOOM!! A shot goes over the windshield.. Bill ignores the  
ambient danger, slams shifter into reverse and moves out..  
out onto the street CAMERA FOLLOWS.... still in reverse,  
for THREE CITY BLOCKS, finally darting into a side street and  
zooming away...Garth screams insults and threats running flat  
out in chase... the quiet suburban area is cut open by his  
rampage...neighbors gawking, and looking on from their porches.

INT. - 1965 LINCOLN CONVERTIBLE, CONTINUOUS... DAY

Trying to grasp this incredible attack...

BILL  
Janis...? What happened, did you do  
something to set him off? Why did he...

JANIS

(sobs heavily)

I stayed out past my curfew, 1AM..  
I came in with Paul Cooper at 1:30  
last night...dad was waiting, said  
he'd deal with me later... you can  
see what the bastard did...

PULLING INTO - GROVES PACKAGE INC., a liquor store driveway...

BILL

This can't be happening... we both need a  
drink.. I'll take care of your father.

He returns shortly with 2 fifths of Jack Daniels and  
a six-pack of Coke... and quickly mixes both a drink..

JANIS

Where are we goin'...? I can stay with  
Linda.. right? (still crying a little)

BILL

Maybe later... I'm taking you back to the  
Halfway House... you can stay there free,  
indefinitely.. Daddy Dearest will never  
find you there..

CUT TO:

INT. CAR- CONTINUOUS

MOVING DOWN THE HIGHWAY, top is now up and, there is a quiet,  
unspoken bond between them..

JANIS

I don't wanna be a burden... Thanks. You  
may have just saved my life...(downs drink)  
Give me that bottle...!

BILL

(narrow grin)

MY dad's slapped me all over the house,  
a couple of times.. Your dad and mine,  
they're from the old school.. hit first,  
questions later.

JANIS

Yeah? Well, they're both monsters...

BILL GRACIOUSLY GRABS A KLEENEX, and wipes some of the blood and a few tears from Janis' face, as she stares at him gratefully.

BILL

You'll get over this... I know I did,  
when it happened to me.

THE LINCOLN ENTERS THE DRIVE OF THE HALFWAY HOUSE, a jazz and blues club, founded by Bill and his friend, JESSE DUPLISSEY. The two are rich kids, with unlimited funds at their disposal. The club, owned by Jesse's mother Ellen, is a carbon copy of TARA from the film, "Gone With The Wind". PANS, as they start moving clothes in, as CINDY AND CATHY run over, to pitch in and help.

INT. - HALFWAY HOUSE CLUB - DAY, AS WE SEE THE BAND'S STAGE ... AND LAYOUT

FOLLOW, AS... Janis is shown her new home, a cool apartment, upstairs, fully furnished with nice furniture, and a stocked kitchen.. free of charge. Two other apts. Will soon be used. She's a lucky cat, she's landed on her feet.

JESSE, tells Janis he's there for her if she needs anything..

JESSE

Just say the word, and I'll get you  
whatever you need. This is your home.

Bill puts his arm around Janis, who manages a smile... barely.

BILL

This is gonna work out fine...you'll  
see. Trust me.

He places a \$100 bill in her blouse pocket; Jesse not to be outdone, places \$200, with a kiss on the cheek..

NINE WEEKS LATER... MONTAGE - JANIS WORKS IN THE CLUB, TRIES TO PLAY GUITAR AND DRUMS.... AND, SINGS A LITTLE... NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME.

AT a Christmas party, the club is full and several PEOPLE give Janis gifts, which almost brings her to tears...her life has returned to 'normal'.

Janis grabs Bill and asks what he's gotten her for the holiday; he says nothing much.. The house band, "Dave Hargis and the L.A. Boys", play Smokey Robinson: "I don't like you, but I love you.." Wow! Better than Smokey himself... 'You Really Got A Hold On Me" (He hands her \$500 in cash.)

BILL

My dear parents are still in Europe; I don't know where. They sent me a certified check for \$20,000. I won't see them for 6 months.. maybe a year. This is "risky business" for sure. (Smiling)

JANIS

Wow... Jesus H. Christ. I wouldn't be complaining boy...

BILL

Maybe you and I can hit New Orleans this weekend?

JANIS

Let's rock on... baby. I think I'm in love. What happened to Linda?

Smiles narrowly...

BILL

Ahhh.. she's history. (laughs)

CUT TO:

LATER...ON THE ROAD, INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 10, EAST...BILL'S GOLD 1965 MUSTANG TAKES AN EXIT... CONVERTIBLE TOP DOWN.....80 MPH... VARROOOOM!

INT. - MUSTANG - NIGHT..

MUSIC OVER, "MUSTANG SALLY" FILLS THE SOFT, MIDNIGHT AIR...

BILL

(grinning)

I decided to run down to Galveston; we can stay at the 'GALVEZ Hotel'..



Janis jumps up and looks over the windshield...

JANIS

Oh, cool. I wanna walk on the damn beach with a full moon in the sky...

CAMERA PANS, tilts up to a gigantic moon... JANIS SINGS...

JANIS (sings)

"Mustang Sally, you better slow that goddam Mustang down - you been burnin' rubber all over town, Jesus, slow that mother down... ahhhh... your daddy's lookin' for you...all over town...ohhh."

THEY SING TOGETHER ... and soon they arrive at the FERRY LANDING, and take the 8 mile trip across Galveston Bay. CAMERA FOLLOWS. PAN... (MONTAGE)

**MONTAGE - CAR EXITS FERRY AND PULLS INTO GALVEZ ENTRANCE... NIGHT**

Bill checks in quickly, while Janis swipes two fifths of Southern Comfort from the bar...LATER, as they finish making love, Janis dresses quickly and runs down to the deserted lobby... as Bill follows and zoom... they dart across the street and jump onto the glowing beach.. Janis finishes off a bottle of Comfort and throws it into the surf.

PANS: On the beach Bill wonders who Janis actually is... and what she wants from life.. Full Moon glows above.

BILL

What do you wanna do with your crazy life? You can sing with the band... I heard you with the guys - you're not bad. Who are you?

JANIS

I'm still in freakin' college. I want a degree in History or Anthropology... (laughs) Yeaaaah! Pretty normal, right?

BILL

Yeah. You can do anything you want to - you're free, white and 21. (smiling) I don't see any chains on your legs..haha.

JANIS

I used to think that. But.. You're only  
as good as... what you... settle for.  
(looks at him, eyes going wide)

My mother said I was too shy, afraid  
to even go to school..

BILL

No way, Baby.

JANIS

Yeah. It's true.. She would make me  
recite the words: 'I'll be brave and  
and I won't cry... cross my heart and  
hope to die..' (Tears well up and fall)  
I was so afraid some of the kids wouldn't  
like me, or think I was cool... Oh, God  
I still feel that way...

(wipes her tears)

I just want to be loved.. that's all I  
want..

BILL PULLS HER IN AND HOLDS HER...

BILL

I love you... always have... always will.

AFTER A SOFT EMBRACE THEY WALK BACK TO THE HOTEL...

MONTAGE... AS THEY MAKE LOVE AND ENJOY THE SOFT MIDNIGHT.  
LATER.... 5AM.... THE ROOM IS QUIET, DAWN IS BREAKING OVER THE SURF IN  
THE EAST... JANIS PICKS UP A TV SET AND SCREAMS...

JANIS

Hey... wake up..! Hey... Look! You  
think if this TV set had wings, it would  
fly... haha...watch man.... I'm heaving this  
thing...

(She throws it out an open window..BOOM..  
it crashes below as the tube explodes)

Oh, God that was fun... what else can I  
heave...?

BILL  
(smiling)  
Awwww crap, I'm gonna have to pay  
for that mo-fo... They've got my  
credit card number... Jeeesus!

SUDDENLY, GETTING DRESSED... LAUGHING UNCONTROLLABLY..

BILL  
Ahhhhh..... Ahhhhhhhhhh

JANIS  
Let's split sweet pea... ohhh... God  
you're fun to be with.. Are we gonna  
get arrested?

BILL  
YES! YES! Run like hell...

CUT:

EXT. - GALVESTON FERRY - DAY.....MUSIC OVER:  
Dolphins play... they sit in the '65 Mustang and listen to  
"The Beach Boys"... 'I wish they all could be Califor-  
nia girls...'... and, 'Wouldn't it be nice..'

JANIS  
Maybe we'll make it to Malibu one day.

SHE PULLS A JOINT OUT FROM HER PURSE... LIGHTS IT..

JANIS  
Take a hit...

AS HE HITS THE JOINT...

BILL  
Trust me... we're gonna make it...  
I've got a good feeling about you -  
(smiling in a wry, curious gaze)  
I'm gonna make you a star...

JANIS

I like the way that sounds... Hell,  
hit me with your best shot.. Woooo.

INT. - MUSTANG - DAY... ON THE DRIVE BACK ... CONTINUOUS

JANIS

I just wanna do something good with  
my life - I mean it's mine, not my  
parents... I love bein' with my band  
friends and Dave, singin' with the guys.  
If somehow I could just get started..  
ya know? And, Mom wants me to see a shrink?

MUSIC OVER: "Help Me Rhonda".....

BILL

Yeah. I know. I'll pull some strings,  
maybe.. (starts singing)

"Help me Janis....help, help me Janis, oh,  
get that girl outta my heart.."

JANIS

(kissing Bill as he drives..) You got it  
Baby... take another little piece of  
my heart ... baby. Take another little piece  
of my heart...I'll make it feel good..

BILL

That's the lead lyric line for a good  
song. Hey. Remember those words...  
yeah, remember those epic words...  
(grinning)  
It's magic when you sing those words.

He looks at her quizzically...smiles.

BILL

(sings)

"Oh, take it... take another little piece of my heart, now baby. Oh, now you got it ... and I hope it felt good.. I'm gonna give you another little piece baby... and, I know it feels good..."

JANIS

Yeah. Right on man... that's kinna groovy. (laughing)

CUT:

INT. - HALFWAY HOUSE... THREE WEEKS LATER... WE LISTEN AS...

CATHY takes a call at the Halfway House, as Janis and Jesse look on...

CATHY

You're a musician? You wanna speak to the Manager? OK, just a second...(yelling) BILL... catch this call, some guy...

Bill emerges with a cigarette and talks for a while..

INTERCUT CONVERSATION:

CALLER (V.O.)

Yeah, I had a few problems - got in a legal jam; did some county jail time. I'm nationally known - had some hit singles. I need a job, sir...can you help me, I'm really desperate. PLEASE!

BILL

OK, you've got your sheet music and some instruments... (looking at Janis grinning) Come on by and I'll let you open for the house band...

CALLER

You may not realize it - but you're savin' my life, sir...

BILL

Sorry... ahhh.... I didn't get your name...

Long pause... breathing..

CALLER

(deep raspy voice)

Sir... THIS IS JOHNNY CASH. I'm just about broke - I'm in Houston. I got twenty-five dollars and my guitars, that's all... except the clothes on my back.

BILL

Oh, great to hear from you. I'll drive over and pick you up... sit tight. Glad to have you on board.. Johnny Cash.

Jesse, Cathy and Janis go wide-eyed and start clapping..

CASH

I'm at the downtown bus station, I'll be lookin' for ya, sir...

BILL

You got it.. I'm in a red convertible. See you soon... Hang tight...

JESSE grabs the phone and starts calling friends and telling them he has their first well-known STAR in the club... in a massive tsunami of awe and visceral joy.. WOW!

JANIS

Oh, God... I wanna sing with Johnny. Ohhhh.... "Folsom Prison"... Wow... I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die..

LATER.....IN THE CLUB, JANIS WATCHES AS JOHNNY CASH WRITES AND SINGS AN UNFINISHED SONG....."SUNDAY MORNING COMING DOWN"...

INT. - DAY - CASH SITS ALONE ON STAGE WITH A GUITAR- THE LYRICS ARE ALL WRONG..

CASH

(to Bill) I can't get the words straight.  
(grins) I keep screwin' up the same line..  
Haha. (Hits a few chords)

JANIS

The melody and timing are perfect...

CASH

Yeah. I keep pushin' myself higher and higher... but I can't get the words..  
BILL! Help me out here... you got any ideas?

RAIN STARTS pouring outside and KIDS run down a sidewalk; PAN.  
dusk forces itself on the city; no signs of life outside.

BILL

Ahhh. Maybe. (looking out front window; SINGS)  
"There's nothing as lonely as an empty sidewalk...oh, Sunday morning comin' down."

CASH

Oh, yeah. I like that. I'm gonna write that one down! You think I can use it? They're you're words man... But I need 'em bad.

JANIS

WOW! I love that line...

BILL

Sure. Go ahead and use them - just put me on the By Line...(grins)

JANIS sits at the foot of the stage and gazes at Johnny, like a school girl eyeing "The Beatles".

CASH

Will do, my good friend. You and I co-wrote this one. And, thanks again for the apartment upstairs... Hell, I could stay here six months.

BILL

You deserve it. Forgot to tell you, B.J. Thomas is coming in this weekend... that should be fun. He's a wild, crazy guy.

CASH

Yeah. We can rock on... I heard about B.J. (laughing) He likes the ladies...

BILL

Oh, and JUNE CARTER called... she's worried about you.. (smiling)

CASH

Thank God somebody knows I'm alive....  
(SINGS) .."OH, SUNDAY MORNIN' COMING  
DOWN.." (PLAYS GUITAR MELODY)...

FADE TO:

INT - CLUB - BILL SCREAMS ON THE PHONE... TO  
DAVE MILLER, OWNER OF 'THE EXECUTIVE CLUB'...

INTERCUT CONVERSATION:

BILL

(sales pitch)

Janis is young, but, she's really good. Man! She sings the blues better than Billie Holiday... I'm serious, Janis is gonna draw in people from all over North Texas. She's working with Johnny Cash, who is playing at my club right now. We're both workin' with her vocals. She sounds like a female... James Brown!



MILLER

Holy God. OK, Lord, if she's that good I can put her on for a week at \$500 a week... if she draws a big crowd, I'll keep her for another week... Get her up here. I got a \$800 bonus for you if she sets fire to the house.

JANIS shakes her head, "no", mouth drops open...

BILL

OK, we're doin' it dude... she's flying up in exactly two weeks. I'll call to confirm. I owe you one, Dave. Bye.

JANIS, waving her arms... pacing up and down..

JANIS

Baby, I'm not ready yet... I scared to go to Dallas alone. You gotta come with me. Ohhhhh.... gimme a stiff drink. In the name of the father, the son, and the holy ghost.... help me.

CASH (grinning)

The Holy Ghost will help ya.... he's helped me a bunch of times.

JANIS

What is this HE? What if the Holy Ghost is a woman?

CASH

It don't rightly matter, darlin'. Then... she'll help ya. You're gonna be fine... trust me. I done heard you sing.

TWO NIGHTS LATER.....ONE A.M.... A TALL MAN IN A 3-PIECE ENTERS THE CLUB... PEOPLE, DRESSED IN JEANS, DESIGNER SWEAT SHIRTS STARE. HE LOOKS AROUND...

MAN

Hey.... guys.... Is the Owner around?

Walking over to Bill... smiling broadly. He is KENNY ROGERS, singer/songwriter.

KENNY

Hi, Bill. Glad to meet ya. Kenny Rogers. I just started a new group called, "First Edition"... and we just cut a new song.. 'I Think She Loves Me'. Can you do me a little favor and let me sing it to your crowd tonight. It's on all the radio stations, tomorrow, 8 A.M. Nationwide promotion via R.C.A.

BILL

I don't know, man. We're closing up right now. You shoulda called..

KENNY

Please, man, I'm beggin' ya. I'm from Houston, drove all the way over; just for you and the club. You gotta great reputation man. Righteous dude.

BILL

Ahhhh... OK, just give me the short version. Sing the first couple of lines...

ROGERS, LOOKS PALE...LABORED..

KENNY(emoting; a capela)

"My best friend told me just today. He said, it's true. That girl said she loves you... ohhh..."

BILL

OK... cool. (yelling at stage). Guys, Kenny Rogers is gonna sing his new single. Middle C.

KENNY HAD A HIGH-PITCHED VOICE... almost a falsetto - SHOCK WAVES ran through the band, Cash looked startled dumbfounded, confused. Janis yelled obscene words...! They assumed (wrongly) he was probably GAY. (This is before the current 2018 era of equality, acceptance and inclusion.)

JANIS

CRAP....OH, CRAP! Come on.

KENNY (squeaking)

(taking stage)

Hi, I'm Kenny Rogers... I'm singin' a new single we recorded.

CASH hits a couple of chords and then stops! Janis leaps off the stage almost breaking her leg!

CASH

This is my stage, and I ain't singing with 'pretty boy' here.... ain't gonna happen.  
BOOM! BOOM!... DRUMMER HITS HIS BASS DRUM.

BILL WALKS OVER to stage and grabs Janis by the belt and lifts her (kicking) back on stage, and tells Cash to stop the B.S. Janis sneers, mocking Bill.

CASH

I own this stage... nobody tells me....

BILL (smiling)

Johnny, you owe me \$5000... start a base line.  
Janis, you and me are singing backup... Let's go... 1...2...3...

THE BAND STARTS BACK UP with a base line of Middle C... Janis sings back up... Cash comes through with some good melody and Rogers starts his song and hits a sweet spot after a few lines. NOT BAD... but, it sounds exactly like The Beatles, 'She Loves You'..... with minor changes. But, we all let it slide..

AS IF SOME MIRACLE OF CALM AND DECORUM AND KINDNESS has descended, polite and genuine applause erupts.... smiles break out as Kenny thanks everyone and slips away. Janis and our gang had done a great job with a fair song!

DISSOLVE:

FIVE DAYS LATER... HALFWAY HOUSE - NIGHT

INT.- (CONTINUOUS) -JANIS REHEARSES TOP 10 SONGS...SHE'S NOT CUTTING IT.. STILL NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME... 2 A.M... SHE'S DUE IN DALLAS IN FOUR DAYS. PANIC IS CREEPING IN! HER TIMING IS OFF - HER VOCALS ARE WAY TOO SOFT! BARELY AUDIBLE...!!

TWO GIANT AMPEX STUDIO OPEN-REEL TAPE RECORDERS CAPTURE EVERY MOMENT, EVERY SOUND. A crowd of 25 COLLEGE KIDS, drink and giggle and wait for some good vibes.. . A few have already dozed off on the floor.

BILL

Play back the last song.... (Listens)  
Yeah, too soft.

(to band members)

Hey, you guys know James Brown's 'Please, Please'? BAND STARTS A GREAT INTRO...

JANIS

I'm not singin' that... oh, no. I don't do that type of music. And, he's screaming. I will not scream at my audience - I respect them, they're human beings. No way dude.

BILL

We have to cover the top 10 songs on the  
Billboard charts. So we have to do "Please,  
Please" and "Cry, Baby".

JANIS

Ain't gonna happen, baby doll.

PULLING OUT HIS WALLET...

BILL

OK, I'll pay you \$500 to sing these songs  
the right way. (Grins)

JANIS

Yeah... I'm listening. Show me the money!

LAURA, in the audience, jumps up..

LAURA

Hey, man, I'll do it for \$400. I'll nail  
it.

IGNORING HER...

JESSE

(lurking in the audience)

Hold the band... I'll sing 'em... come on  
William.

JANIS (in mock defeat)

Give me the money, OK? I'm gonna do it!

She takes the money and frowns.. sneers...

This is fake. You printed it at Kinkos.  
(laughs)

JOEY, the Drummer grabs the money and looks at Bill..

JOEY

Hey, it real people. No problemo.

Janis grabs the \$500, in \$100 bills and shoves it in her bra.... zoom, it's gone.

JANIS

OK, I'm cool, I'm workin' with you.  
(bending down from stage - to Bill)  
Please, Please... this one's for you  
baby! Just for you.

LOOKING MISTY-EYED...

JANIS

Your family and friends can hurt you some-  
times, but this song makes me feel good.

BAND PICKS UP AMAZING INTRO... IT'S MAGIC. JANIS SINGS...  
(This song was introduced first by James Brown))

JANIS (softly)

Oh, baby... Please don't go, awwww  
please don't go... Oh, I love you so.

Bill yells... MOTIONS...pick it up, louder... "DO YOUR  
BEST JAMES BROWN IMPERSONATION...!"

JANIS (Louder)

I'm beggin' ya.... I'm beggin' ya  
please don't go.... Baaaby!

BILL (interrupting)

Just scream Janis. SCREAM.

JANIS

(screaming)

Oh, baby I'm you're woman... Oh, I  
love you so....Baby...please don't go...  
Oh, oh, oh I love you so...

SONG CONTINUES...BAND MEMBERS SING GREAT BACKUP HARMONY AND VERSE.  
BILL LEAPS TO HIS FEET AND GIVES SILENT APPLAUSE, THUMBS UP. THE  
AUDIENCE JUMPS TO THEIR FEET AND FOLLOWS BILL'S LEAD, IN TOTAL AWE!

SONG WRAPS UP AND CLOSES... ONLOOKERS IN A STATE OF SHOCK. LAURA,  
SITTING NEXT TO BILL AND JOHNNY CASH STARTS A LOUD APPLAUSE. EVERYONE  
PRESENT FOLLOWS, BAND MEMBERS PUT DOWN INSTRUMENTS, GET UP AND APPLAUD.  
AT THIS MOMENT IN AMERICAN MUSIC HISTORY A BRILLIANT STAR IS BORN...!  
THIS WAS THE BREAKOUT PERFORMANCE.

JANIS

(almost crying)

You're not making fun of me are you? Is this  
real? (hopeful) Thank you so much..

BILL

Yes, yes... it's real. We love you. Fantastic  
work. I want you to sing EVERY song you do  
just like this one.

Wistful and dreamy, looking to the future with visceral hope..

JANIS

I thank you and my soul thanks you. I just  
want to have a safe place to live, in peace,  
where, people care about me. You might have  
heard, my home life isn't goin' too well. Oh,  
thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

We love you Janis... you're family.

A single tear falls from her eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. - JOPLIN HOME - PT. ARTHUR, TEXAS  
 INTERCUT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - MRS. JOPLIN PLEADS  
 WITH JANIS...

DOROTHY JALEN

Janis, darling, me and your father  
 want you to come home - he says he's  
 sorry he hit you. You can't stay shackled-  
 up with that boy at that club. And you  
 have to stop drinking. And you can't  
 smoke that marijuana stuff, it illegal,  
 baby.

JANIS

OK, mamma, I'll come back for a quick  
 visit. I forgive Daddy... tell him...  
 and I still love both of you...I'll  
 always..

DOROTHY

OK, call before you come so I can make  
 dinner for you. Bye. Click. (hangs up  
 suddenly)

LATER.....

INT. - HALFWAY HOUSE - BAND STAGE...as we see  
 Janis taking guitar lessons with Johnny Cash; he  
 shows her various chords and tells her to hold vocal  
 notes longer. She listens intently; the LA Boys House  
 Band goes over sheet music. JESSE yells out:

JESSE (VO)

Janis, tell Bill his mother called  
 from London - she's sending him more  
 money. (a beat) And, the Executive  
 Club owner in Dallas is pushing your  
 date back three weeks...

JANIS

Right. Will do. Tell her to send  
 me some money!

She hits a couple of pretty good chords; learning fast!



GUITAR 101 CONTINUES, WITH CASH, THE PATIENT, KIND TEACHER. SOON, CASH TAKES A BREAK, SLIPS AWAY... JANIS HITS A FEW CLASSIC NOTES AND STARTS A NEW SONG.. SOUNDS LIKE A SMOKEY ROBINSON HIT..

JANIS (soulful)

Come with me... Come with me  
Oh, baby, listen to your heart.. yeaah  
Come with me to a world we will start  
In our souls we will find it - our love  
will always bind it...ohhh

BAND JOINS IN, BIG BASS SOUND... SINGING  
HARMONY.. BOOM! HEAVY DRUMS.

Can you see the love inside of me?  
Can you see the love inside of me?  
Ohhh, that's all I want ...  
Baby, baby, baby please come with me...  
We gotta be free, we gotta be free, ohh  
Baby, ain't no worry, ain't no sweat  
Baby you ain't seen nothin' yet... ohhh

THIS NEW CREATION WORKS WELL, AS THE BAND CLOSES OUT  
AFTER THE LAST FEW LINES..WOW! BAND APPLAUDS, ALONG  
WITH CASH OFFSTAGE.

FADE TO:

THREE WEEKS LATER.....

EXT. - DALLAS AIRPORT - LOVE FIELD.. PAN, AS A JET LANDS.

INT. - JANIS WALKS THROUGH LOBBY WITH BILL IN A BLUE  
BLAZER, WEARING DESIGNER SUN GLASSES, WITH A GUITAR --  
HAILS AN OLD BEATEN CAB... TO THE EXECUTIVE CLUB.

MONTAGE - (5 Minutes) INT. - DAY - EXECUTIVE CLUB

JANIS OPENS.... with the House Band and 'Please, Please' as  
the CROWD screams for more. She goes through 2 Sets, wrapping  
up with "I Got The Rockin' Pneumonia and the Boogie Woogie  
Blues". Closing out the night with a classic, "One More For  
The Road"... TO MASSIVE SRO APPLAUSE.

NEXT STOP, NASHVILLE, ST. LOUIS AND, 'BAD BROTHER AND THE BLUES  
COMPANY'...JANIS HITS THE STAGE..AND SOME DRUGS. WHO  
THE HELL CAN BLAME HER..? HER LIFE HAS BEEN A TOUGH TRIP.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.....

INT. - SUN RECORDS, RECORDING STUDIO - DAY ...as Janis and Bill ask BIG MAMMA THORTON if they can record a blues classic, "Ball And Chain". She agrees, laughing.

BIG MAMMA

(Laughing) You think you can make some people happy with that old thing, sure, just rock darlin'. You be sure and give me some royalty money - if you make any, haha.

She grabs a business form off a desk nearby...

JANIS

Ok, sure.. I will. I will. (signs form)

BILL

We love that song, Mamma... work of a genius.

BIG MAMMA

I think Elvis wanted that song too... but I wouldn't let him have it. Now, you children get me a copy of that song when you get it done... oh, Lord.

DISSOLVE TO:

DECEMBER 10, 1966

EXT. - 'THE BLUES FACTORY' - NIGHT, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI....as Bill and Janis enter....SRO Crowd.

INT. - THE BLUES FACTORY - CLUB - NIGHT

CLUB OWNER, JOHN ALEXANDER, TELLS THEM... Janis will earn \$3000 for one week, because her reputation has now luckily spread around the country and she's in high demand.

JOHN

Excited to have you. If you really pack 'em in... I'll give you 2 weeks! That's 6 Grand baby. You're nationally known now.

FADE TO:

MONTAGE: JANIS PERFORMS, "CRY BABY" and "MOVE OVER"..  
ET AL... CROWD STARTS DANCING IN THE ISLES.

FADE TO:

INT. - SHERATON HOTEL, RIVERFRONT PLAZA - NIGHT  
Janis hits a bottle of Jack Daniels, Black Label, sitting on bed watching TV. A MOVIE, 'WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE?' PLAYS LOUDLY.

JANIS

(hitting the Jack)

Oh, my God. Where is Baby Jane? (laughing)  
They hid her - they put that poor baby in the freakin' basement, in a cage, with chains around her legs. She's been in there since she was 5 years old.

BILL

(Sips his drink)

Well, how old is she now?

JANIS  
Seventeen. And, I thought I had problems.  
They don't feed her, and she's only four  
feet tall. (Laughing) Call 911.

LAUGHING UNCONTROLABLY...

BILL (mock concern)  
Will do. This is a pay phone over  
here. You gotta quarter...? Haha.

Janis still giggling... Changing subject.

JANIS  
BABY! Do you know my mother says we  
are shackled up together, and we should  
immediately get married... we're living  
in mortal sin.

BILL  
Oh, sorry. I would, but I have an in-  
curable, fatal disease...

BOTH LAUGHING...

JANIS  
(kissing him hard)  
Yes, infantile paralysis of the...  
ahhhh..... brain.

The love-making begins, as Janis leads the way... maybe  
she's found a real love after all.

TV MOVIE  
(SOUND OVER)

Baby Jane where are you? Do you  
still love your mamma? I'm your MAMMA...

FADE TO:

INT. - THE BLUES FACTORY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS...  
A magical glow covers the large crowd. Janis takes  
the stage, sets down a bottle of Southern Comfort.

JANIS

This has been wonderful. I love St.  
Louis. This has been the best gig of  
my career... (Applause) Thanks for the  
memories. (sings) "You really got a hold  
on me... you really got a hold on me..."  
(Hits Southern Comfort)

AUDIENCE MEMBER

We love you.... stay another week!

JOHN ALEXANDER

She'll be back soon! Soon.

A MAN APPROACHES THE STAGE, TALKS TO JANIS BRIEFLY ...  
He is a musician, lead singer SAM ANTHONY and founder of,  
"Bad Brother and the Blues Co.", asking if Janis would  
join them for a concert the next evening at Cardinal  
Stadium. Expected paid attendance - 40,000. She  
smiles sweetly and waves as he slips out exit.

INT. - SHERATON HOTEL - NIGHT - A MAGICAL MOOD  
Excitement is growing.

BILL

So, you're gonna do the gig with Bad Brother,  
at Nine P.M.? They gonna pay you?

Happily, with hope for a good show..

JANIS

Yeah. They promised, and I'll get national exposure  
cause 'Rolling Stone' is covering it for a special  
edition. Can you believe?

Smiling broadly, proudly.

BILL

Totally awesome. You deserve it baby. We have to  
get the money in cash, we can't take checks -  
they might bounce.

JANIS

Yeah. Right, we don't actually know them. But  
I appreciate the gig. Whoooa.

BILL lights a joint.....

FADE TO:

EXT.- CARDINAL STADIUM - NIGHT - ROCK CONCERT  
Janis sings the last two lines of "Ball and Chain" to  
deafening cheering...

CUT:

TWO WEEKS LATER....  
INT. - HALFWAY HOUSE (TEXAS) - DAY  
INTERCUT TELPHONE CONVERSATION:

CHAD HOLMS and SAM ANTHONY of Bad Brother invite JANIS  
to be their Lead Singer.

SAM (VO)  
Janis, you're in the band now. WE ALL  
want you to be our lead singer...!

CHET  
Meet us in Denver, we'll sent you  
airline tickets.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. - DENVER AIRPORT - SUNSET GLOWS  
MONTAGE, as JANIS, BILL join band in Denver. Next Stop:  
(STOCK: JET TAKES OFF FAST.)

DISSOLVE TO:

VIDEO INSERT: 8 MINUTES SCREEN TIME

MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA..... JUNE 17, 1967

\*\*INTERCUT: STOCK FOOTAGE OF "MONTEREY POP FESTIVAL", WITH LIVE ACTION  
FROM THIS SCRIPT; CROWD MILLS AROUND (MONTER. POP CD1 - 1968 Revision).

John Phillips....."The Mamas and the Pappas"... et al

INSERT: LIVE FOOTAGE OF JANIS JALEN ON STAGE... SFX SEQUENCE...  
JANIS SINGS AN ELECTRIFYING VERSION OF BIG MAMMA THORTON'S "BALL  
AND CHAIN"..... MASSIVE CROWD IS IN AWE, AS WE SEE IN A SWEEPING  
PAN.

MONTAGE: TWO OTHER SONGS - "MOVE OVER", "TO LOVE SOMEBODY".

GRACE SLICK, PERFORMS WITH 'JEFFERSON AIRPLANE'. JANIS JOINS IN.  
"Don't You Want Somebody To Love?" ...

DISSOLVE TO:

MAY, 1968  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

INT. - HOME OF SAM ANTHONY - NIGHT

JANIS QUESTIONS THE USE OF HEROIN AS A RECREATIONAL  
DEVICE, BUT IS CONVINCED TO SHOOT UP BY SAM'S WIFE,  
KAREN...

JANIS  
I can't do this; I'm scared I'll die.  
I've never done this before...!

KAREN  
Look, we all do it - not a lot; just  
to take the edge off and relieve the  
performance tension. When I'm onstage  
I'm as nervous as a cat on a barbeque  
pit....LOL.



PAMELA, a groupie, insists...

PAMELA

It's just a small hit. For real, won't hurt you. If you won't shoot up with us they won't let you join the band. And, they'll hold your money. And, we all sleep with the guys in the band too. That's just the way it's done.

Karen paces around an ornate fireplace, then GRABS Janis' arm.

JANIS

Do I have to. (frowning) Take me to the hospital if something happens. (a tear falls) I don't like heroin, too strong, too addictive.

Janis is injected and soon feels the 'high' effects of the drug.

PAMELA

It's better that pot baby.

LATER, listening to Fleetwood Mac....

JANIS

OK, I do feel a little better. My parents are gonna kill me. Bill's gonna kill me. We can't do hard drugs at the Halfway House, just pot and a little speed. I usually just drink bourbon though. Can't go onstage without it.

SAM sticks his long-haired, 'hippie' head in the door.

SAM  
Gettin' high again. Hahaha.

JANIS  
Check outside and see if the  
Fuzz is around. Any pigs?

SAM  
(looking out window)  
All clear...

JANIS  
I'm gonna develop sudden blindness  
from this crap.

RIOTIOUS LAUGHTER ERUPTS, as Janis smiles...

KAREN  
Don't worry Songbird, I'm a very well-known  
Doctor. Ph.D. From U.S.C. (laughing)

CUT:

LOS ANGELES, CA... THREE WEEKS LATER

INT. - COLUMBIA RECORDS, RECORDING STUDIO - DAY

Janis signs record contract with Columbia, and exits contract with Mainline Records and receives a Pay Voucher for \$390,000 for previous concerts and the one-time use of rights to "Ball And Chain", et al... A LAWYER, BOB WORTHMAN, explains...

BOB

(as Janis signs docs.)

This releases you from any exposure to Mainline Records and signs you herein with Columbia. And we've got a voucher for you for \$390,000.

JANIS

Really?

BOB

And, we have a \$20,000 sign-on bonus from Columbia.

Hands a note to PAULA, a secretary.  
Two PHOTOGRAPHERS start snapping shots.

JANIS

Oh, Groovy, man.

Paula returns with a formal Legal Contract and a check for \$20,000 attached. Hands it over.

PAULA

(smiling)

Welcome aboard, we're so glad to have you.

JANIS  
Right on. Peace and love.

LATER..... IN RECORDING BOOTH...

*Janis wails, but can't get the words to "Down  
On Me" right.*

JANIS  
I'm changin' these words a little.

STUDIO ENGINEER, in control room agrees.

ENGINEER  
Right, Janis. Smooth them out a  
little...'Yeah, when I was a girl..'

DISSOLVE TO:

FOUR WEEKS LATER... TEXAS

INT. - HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY - A Brilliant Sunset In The West.  
JANIS, SNEAKING IN...

Janis is home for a two-week SURPRISE visit and reunion with  
her religious, estranged parents and sister, Lana, brother,  
Mitchel.

JANIS (yelling)  
Bill, baby, are you here...are you hiding  
from me?

From behind the fireplace.. making weird faces.

BILL

No. I'm in Paris with Fleetwood Mac.

They run toward each other and exchange a warm embrace.

JANIS

Oh, I missed you... God.

He pours her a glass of Jack Daniels, Black.

BILL (gazing)

You lookin' good doll...

Janis grabs the Jack...

JANIS

Gimme that bottle dude. I need it.  
(tips it up) I got my Columbia  
contract; and, they're releasing  
"Another Little Piece Of My Heart".  
Radio stations already have it and  
they love it.

Laughing wildly.

BILL

You used those words we were playing  
around with two years ago?

JANIS (grins)

Yeah. Exact same lines... (laughs)  
Someone upstairs is pullin' some  
strings for us. And, I got my  
escrow payment from Bad Brother.  
Finally. \$390,000.

BILL

Unbelievable. Congrats. You be a  
rich mamma, now.

He hugs her and holds her close. Jesse enters.

JESSE

Hey, good to see ya. You were on  
the news last night.

JANIS

OH, yeah. I was at the "Whiskey-A-  
Gogo and some guy tried interview me.  
(grins)  
He chased me out in the street. Haha.

DAVE

Welcome home Janis, good to see ya.

Drummer hits the snare drums... boom...boom!

DAVE (cont'd)

You're in the big time bands now.  
Don't forget us little guys.

Bill moves to kitchen for another fifth of Jack.

JANIS

Love you. Columbia says 'Piece Of My Heart'  
will hit #1 as soon as it's released. Pre-  
orders are massive. In 5 weeks.

BILL

Incredible. Give me credits on  
that label.

JANIS

YOU, got it. (smiles) Hey I decided  
to build my mom a new house with some of  
that bread. They already drew up the  
blueprints and started construction.

BILL

Cool... You're an Angel.

JANIS

And, I may lease a plane. Beats the  
hell outta commercial PanAm flights.

BILL

Don't get ahead of yourself babe. Let me look at your bank account.

JANIS

Exactly. I want you to check the balances. I don't trust Bad Brother, or Sam or their lawyers, or COLUMBIA....

Janis holds her hand out.... palm up.

JANIS

Gimme your car keys - I've gotta run to Pt. Arthur for a couple of hours.

BILL

What about your dad?

Frowns.

JANIS

No sweat, he works 'till 9 every night. He'll never know I was there. I've got to give my mom the keys to her new house in Pt. Acres. It's costing me \$140,000.

Tosses his keys.

BILL

Put some gas in it - and don't red line it.



She runs out of the club with a large purse.

JANIS (blows a kiss)  
Will do. Thanks sweetheart.

DAVE  
She's gonna blow that Jaguar engine.

JOHNNY CASH  
I don't ever let women drive my motor  
vehicles.

SCREAMING SOUND OF AN ENGINE AND SCREECHING TIRES,  
BURNING RUBBER...

CASH  
I hope you got some good insurance,  
brother.

EXT. - STREET, IN FRONT OF CLUB - DUSK  
PAN, as Janis speeds by in a Jag convertible. BOOM!  
FLAMES SHOOT FROM CAR'S EXHAUSTS.

DISSOLVE TO:

SIX DAYS LATER -

INT. - HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

Pouring Rain outside. JANIS RUNS IN, LOOKING QUITE  
INNOCENT.

JANIS

Hey Bill, baby, I brought your car back.  
It runs good, like a bat outta hell.

Bill is, well, dismayed.

BILL

Ahhhhh... I thought you were coming back  
in 4 or 5 hours? Janis? Any problemas?

JANIS

Oh, negative, baby.... sweetheart. There's  
one little scratch on the fender. I can  
polish it out (rubbing motions)... with my  
hankkerchief. (smiles)

SHE PULLS A HANKERCHIEF FROM HER PURSE.  
SMILES SWEETLY, RUBBING.

BILL, JESSE, JOHNNY, AND DAVE, AND KAREN (CLUB WORKER)  
STROLL OUT ONTO THE FRONT PORCH AREA. VIEWING THE CAR.

JOHNNY

Oh, mother of mercy.

BILL

Dear Holy God....

THE JAG HAS THE ENTIRE FRONT END CRUSHED, TIRES ARE BUBBING  
BENT FENDERS, WINDSHIELD IS BROKEN; TOP IS DOWN AND IN SHREDS,  
RAIN WATER IS FILLING UP THE INTERIOR, AS SMOKE POURS FROM A  
BURNED OUT ENGINE AND 5-SPEED TRANSMISSION, TAIL LIGHTS ARE  
FLASHING WILDLY... THE \$30,000 JAGUAR IS TOTALLED OUT!

JANIS

There was a little accident at the 'Driftwood Sheraton Hotel' on Lakeshore Drive. Mamma wouldn't let me stay at home. To avoid...

BILL

Dear old dad.

JANIS

Yeah, right. I'll buy you a new car angel.

BILL SOBS AND CRIES PHONY TEARS OF ANGST ...

JANIS

I know those are fake tears. And, mamma said I have to go see a Psychologist.

DAVE

I'll drive you to the shrink, honey.

BILL

Don't worry I got it. She's gonna buy me a new Mercedes on the way to the ol' Headshrinker.

KAREN

She doesn't need a shrink, she's cool.

CUT:

OCTOBER 29, 1968 - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

BAD BROTHER AND THE BLUES CO., Ft. Janis Jalen, is set to appear at Candlestick Park Baseball Stadium. Two of the band members are ill, so Janis goes it alone, to the joy of the MASSIVE crowd of 64,000...!

EXT. - BAND'S STAGE - NIGHT... as the crowd of young adults and a few older hippies rock on. Janis finishes a recent song.

JANIS

"Oh, sweet Mary help me through the night,  
the cold, cold, night..."

Song winds down. Janis intros the next song - one she co-wrote.

JANIS (cont'd)

This is a little tune that we recorded  
a few weeks ago; it's been #1 on the  
charts for 5 weeks.

GRACE SLICK AND STEVIE NICKS JOIN HER ONSTAGE....

CROWD ROARS A DEAFENING SCREAM... PAN, as a little drinking and pot smoking breaks out spontaneously.

JANIS

"I know, know you get lonely sometimes  
and I, I know you wanna feel good to  
erase the pain - so I wanna, wanna help  
you baby... so take it, oh, take another  
little piece of my heart, now, baby. You  
know you got it if it makes you feel good."

MONTAGE: (6 Min. Screen Time)

GRACE and STEVIE join in taking turns with the classic words...

BAND will showcase each instrument with a Solo "ride"...  
Sax, Lead Guitar, Bass, Drums, et al.

A SURPRISE GUEST, ELTON JOHN, EXCITES AND WOWS THE SRO CROWD  
WITH A SOULFUL VERSION OF HIS HIT, "ROCKET MAN", WITH  
CROWD'S SCREAMS OF APPROVAL... JANIS, GRACE AND STEVIE  
JOIN IN WITH HUGE ENERGY...

AS the concert ends, Janis waves approval and throws huge  
kisses to the crowd, as Bill, et al mingle backstage.

The resident CONCERT MANAGER at Candlestick, pays Janis  
her percentage of the Live Gate Proceeds... in his Small  
Office.

MANAGER

Janis, I'm blown away. Great show..  
peace and love. Your share is coming to  
\$84,996... I'll round it off to \$85  
Grand. (hands it over; as she signs  
for proceeds)

JANIS

I got like, 18%...?

MANAGER

Exactly, Bad Bro was a no show so  
you get the entire payday. Nice,  
right? (Hands her a black briefcase)

GRACE

I need a couple of thousand. Hey,  
gimme a loan, Janis.

Elton John pops in and announces..

ELTON

I need \$200,000 mate... (smiles)

BILL takes the briefcase, and SUDDENLY.... Janis decides it's a nice night for a walk at 2 A.M....the air off the Bay is cold, so they jog towards Haight-Asbury and The Roosevelt... it's only 5 miles. Bill also carries a gun in his back pocket just to ensure safety.

NEAR THE Marina Dist., home of the rich clubs and theaters women walk with mink stoles and dripping in diamonds, laughing and enjoying the jewel-box glow of the Golden Gate Bridge. At the HORIZINS restaurant, Janis opens the front door and yells at a waiter, ROBIN WILLIAMS, a hopeful stand-up comic in his spare time. No one knows they're holding a stash of 85 Grand in cash! BILL THROWS JANIS' NEEDLES IN THE BAY.

BILL

Hurry, we're gonna get our asses robbed...  
and, KILLED!

JANIS

No one has the guts to rob me, I'm too bad.

MUSIC OVER: "Self Control" - "The night is my world, pretty lights, pretty girls... I live among the creatures of the night, I've lost the will to fight. You take my soul, you take my self control...ohhh" (LB)

AERIAL SHOT: CAMERA PANS ACROSS SAN FRANCISCO BAY AND WE MOVE ABOVE THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE; GLITTERING SAILBOATS MOVING IN THE BAY AND A JET PLANE PASSING OVER, NEARBY WE FEEL THE MAGICAL GLOW OF THE PORT AND ALCATRAZ SO CLOSE WE CAN REACH OUT AND TOUCH IT.

THEY WANDER INTO THE HAIGHT-ASBURY DIST. ... and mingle with a few friends they pass along the way. At the 'End Of The World' jazz club, Janis throws open the door and yells at a black musician on stage, JIMI HENDRIX.

JANIS

JIMI HENDRIX! You gotta play a gig with me in two weeks, OK? I'm at the Roosevelt.

JIMI gives a thumbs-up sign and rocks on with a wild version of 'Foxy Lady'.... as JACKSON BROWN plays some heavy backup... CLOSE IN:

JIMI

Yeah, mama.... you got it.  
(begins a guitar solo)

A treacherous trip is halted near it's end when STARBOY, a hippie street person stops them on a sidewalk. GRABS Janis' shoulder.... He's a strange looking dude!

STARBOY

Hey, Janis, good show tonight. You was beltin' 'em out. (studying her hard)  
What you doin' in this here neighborhood?

BILL

We're cool.... just walking home to the Roosevelt.

STARBOY

Hey, you OK... I run this here neighborhood,  
so you can pass. Gimme a joint Janis, for  
me, yo brother... Starboy. I'm a Space Cadet,  
I play among the stars. (grinning)

She pulls a cigarette reefer out of her bra.

JANIS

It's strong, man, It'll knock you on your  
butt. (laughs)

He lights it up.... smiles.

STARBOY

What's in the briefcase dude?

JANIS

Dirty underwear man. I lost my suitcase.

She opens case and there are rags and dirty underwear  
covering the \$85,000.

STARBOY

(laughs hard)

I seen everything now! Close that thing.  
I'm gonna trip out.

(pointing)

Hey, I'll show you a quick way outta  
this asphalt jungle... follow me.



Janis sings: "Pappa Was A Rollin' Stone"... a capella.

He leads them 5 blocks over to the entrance of The Roosevelt Hotel; at the front entrance:

STARBOY

If you need anything, you ask for me.  
Everybody know me in there. Come on  
over to Ghirardelli Square tomorrow,  
I'll buy you a drink. Top of the World  
Bar...great view of Alcatraz.

Smiles all around alert Bill and Janis they've just narrowly averted a disaster, with a wild looking street hippie!

BILL (flashes peace sign)

Peace and love man. Keep the  
faith. We're the future.

INT. - ROOSEVELT HOTEL - NIGHT... ROOM 802...  
Phone rings, Janis answers - talks for a  
minute...

JANIS

Yeah. OK, cool. October 15,  
at the Avalon Ballroom...  
I get \$90,000. Got it, Sam.

"Bad Brother and the Blues Co." has a new concert  
date to push the release of their new album...  
of the same, exact name.

BILL

Another gig? Don't shoot up anything before you go on, you're gonna get busted and blow your brilliant career.

She looks in her purse ... laughs... still searching.

JANIS

I ain't stashing nothing. It's them Bad Brother guys doin' all the shootin'. You sound like my mother and my grandmother and my little sister, Lana. Hahaha.

BILL

Don't bring any "smack" back to the Halfway House. (smiling)

JANIS

I'm cool with that... LOL. I'd like to see you stoned on 'horse'. Hahaha.

BILL

I'm not doin' that stuff. I gotta career later after Lamar. I'm goin' to law school baby.

JANIS

Oh, Lord.... You gonna become one of them 'suits'?

BILL

I don't know, maybe.

Giggling and guffawing...

JANIS

Someday when I grow up man...ahh..  
I'm gonna stop all this counter-  
culture jive... and join a convent  
and become A NUN! (puts a towel over head)

She lights a big joint....

BILL

(sings) Don't Bogart that joint my  
friend; you been holdin' it and I  
sure would like a hit. Don't Bogart  
that joint my friend pass it over  
to me..

Janis is laughing so hard, she spits out a big gush  
of Jack Daniels and Coke... WHOOSH.

JANIS

I gotta put you on stage baby.... you sing  
that good.....Ahhhhhh. Whoaaaa.

FADE:

THE NEXT MORNING.....As she awakens, jumping up... grabs  
the phone on night stand. Makes stunning announcement.

JANIS

Oh, God.....I'm hungry. Wow.

BILL (awakening)  
What the F...?

On the phone... Janis orders her fav food.

JANIS  
Yeah. Tell the kitchen to send me up  
scrambled eggs and bacon and caviar,  
and Dom Perigon champagne ... for two.

LATER....Janis downs some cold Dom. Phone rings.

JANIS  
Yeah. I'm busy...

LANA JALEN, Janis' sister explains Garth won't allow the  
family to move into the new house in a few weeks.  
INTERCUT CONVERSATION:

LANA (pained)  
Hey, it's me Lana...I tracked you down.  
Daddy said we can't move into the new  
house. And, it's so beautiful with a  
pool...

JANIS  
OK.... why, might I ask?

CLOSE IN:

LANA

He said it was built with drug money and people died from those drugs... he said it was blood money. All the money they use to buy tickets to your concerts is... black market money. Is that true?

JANIS

Well, we both know he's crazy as hell. I'm flying home in a couple of days... I'll set his butt straight. My money is from absolutely honest work.

LANA

He hit Mitch last night, and then beat Mamma again... (sobbing)

INSERT: Garth Jalen BEATS his wife, daughter and son... as they cry out for mercy.

JANIS

I'll be back in two days. Call the police, and tell them I said to go over to the house.

LANA

I tried. They said they can't respond to domestic disputes - we just have to work it out within the family.... (moaning)

JANIS

Sit tight. I'll be there soon. Tell Mamma I called..

LANA

OK...

Janis slams down the phone...

BILL

He went off again?

JANIS

I'll take care of that bastard - he's  
my father. (crying) Gimme your gun...  
I'm takin' it back to Pt. Acres...

FADE TO:

INT. - SUNSET SOUND RECORDING STUDIOS, LA - DAY

Janis records a new song... "Turtle Blues" and starts  
writing, "I Ain't Gonna Be The One Left Behind"...

JANIS(sings)

"I got them turtle blues mamma..."

(wraps and...)

"Hit it. 1...2...3... I ain't gonna be  
the one left behind. I'm a natural born  
woman and I'll damn sure tell ya what's  
on my mind..."

To PRODUCER (CHAD HOLMES) and STUDIO ENGINEER

CHAD

Sounds good. We'll print that one.

JANIS

OK, Chad, that's a wrap. I'll finish that other song later, I gotta get back to Texas, darlin'.

She checks the gun in her purse to make sure it's LOADED.

CONTINUED...

Returns to TX with new Columbia cont; ditches Mainline Records...Cheap Thrills is released... Aug, 1969

"Another little piece of my heart", hits #1 (oct 1968).... album is platinum... JJ leases jet and buys a new home for her parents.....? Aug, 1968

Janis leaves BBATHC after, money is missing and massive heroin use... moves back to Halfway House and back to Pt. Arthur...

Buys plane tours on her own as single act...

Forms Star Power Records with Jimi Hendrix and Jackson Browne and Jim Morrison (the doors)

Sells plane???

Forms Cosmic Cowboys.....new album....Oct., 1969

FULL TILT ROCKERS.....MAR, 1970..... AUG< RECORDS 'ME AND BOBBY MCGEE'

(Aug. 1970)

Dick Covert shows...Dick.....  
ditches plane visits father, who rejects her

High School reunion which goes poorly... JESSE/JANIS call Bill 2 LA  
Oct, 1970.....news of passing.....