

MANGAS DAM

"Look what the Cat Drug In"

Written by

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PRELUDE

EXT. THE SKY OF NEW MEXICO - DAY

Underneath a vivid blue sky, a low flying BEECHCRAFT BONANZA follows a river through the red New Mexico landscape.

INT. BEECHCRAFT BONANZA - CONTINUOUS

EDGAR ALAN "BEN" BENNETT V, 30s dressed in new outdoor gear pilots the plane. His wife DELILAH, 20s, dressed a la New York Fifth Avenue sits at his side filing her nails.

BEN

Delilah! Look at that. Oh my God. I can't believe how beautiful it all is.

Delilah glances out the window.

DELILAH

I don't know, Ben. Looks like a lot of dirt to me. How soon will we get there? I have to use the rest room.

Ben glances at the fuel gage. **Dangerously low.**

BEN

Soon. I hope.

DELILAH

I wish you would've stopped in Albuquerque like you planned.

Ben banks the plane.

BEN

There it is! I'm sure of it. The Tumbleweed Lodge! Delilah. Our new home. Mangas Dam, New Mexico.

Delilah looks out the window and forces a sick smile.

EXT. THE SKY OF NEW MEXICO - CONTINUOUS

Ben circles the "lodge" - An old house converted to a restaurant and store. Dirt parking lot. Gas pumps. Cabins out back. Storage units. Trailer park. Double dumpsters.

BEN

Over there. Look, Delilah. That's our new house. The double wide by the bluff.

Eyes wide, mouth agape, Delilah is mortified.

DELILAH

Edgar Alan Bennett! You expect *me*
to live in *that*! You said a
"Lodge." That's...shit!

EXT. TUMBLEWEED LODGE - SAME TIME

An old rusted Chevy pick-up truck drives down a narrow
unlined country road.

Right before the bridge over the river is a sign:

Welcome to THE COMMUNITY OF MANGAS DAM, NM

Population ~~48~~ 47

END OF PRELUDE

ACT ONEEXT. THE TUMBLEWEED - MOMENTS LATER

The old rusted Chevy pick-up truck drives into the empty dirt parking lot, past two gas pumps and parks up against the logs in front of the restaurant.

A sign above the wood building reads:

THE TUMBLEWEED

RHETT WILSON, 80s, wizened, gruff Korean War vet, gets out, slams the door. He glances up at the Beechcraft circling above then ambles into the restaurant.

INT. TUMBLEWEED LODGE RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

It's old. Lots of wood. A mirror along the length of the wood bar; Formica topped tables; Naugahyde covered chairs; thin worn carpet in the restaurant section.

CLEMENTINE "CLEM" JONES, 50s, head waitress - been around the block, leans against the bar and talks with the cook, good natured JESUS "ZEUS" RAMIREZ, 30s, who leisurely smokes under the "NO SMOKING" sign.

They look up as Rhett enters and looks around the otherwise empty restaurant.

RHETT

Clem. Zeus. Where the hell are they?

CLEMENTINE

'Lo, Rhett. The fisherman're just now comin' off the river. Too early for happy hour.

RHETT

Oh my darlin' Clementine, I'm talkin' 'bout the new owners. It's 2 o'clock sharp. And...?

Rhett snorts, turns a circle with his arms outstretch, then sits at the bar.

Clem puts a glass of tap beer and an ashtray in front of Rhett who nods his thanks and lights up a cigarette.

ZEUS

Saw a plane circling.

CLEMENTINE
They comin' by plane?

RHETT
How the hell should I know. I'm
just supposed to hand over the keys
when they get here.

ZEUS
At 2 o'clock?

RHETT
Sharp.

Rhett plops a huge bundle of keys onto the counter.

EXT. REMOTE AIRFIELD - DAY

The Beechcraft lands and comes to a stop on the asphalt strip punctuated by an orange wind sock and concrete tie downs.

DELILAH (V.O.)
Oh my god! Ben. It keeps getting
worse. Where's the terminal?

INT. BEECHCRAFT BONANZA - DAY

Ben examines a map, then quizzically gazes to the west.

BEN
I don't understand. There should
be a road right over there. And
the river just beyond.

DELILAH
We're lost? Oh, my, God! We're
lost! Get me out of here! Now!

Ben climbs out of the plane.

DELILAH
Where're you going. Don't leave
me!

EXT. REMOTE AIRFIELD - DAY

Ben walks to the edge of the mesa and looks down. He sees a road below along the river. In the distance, The Tumbleweed.

Ben thoughtfully shuffles back to the plane. Delilah is still strapped in her seat. She frantically punches her cell phone.

DELILAH

Where have you brought me, Ben?
There's no cell service. How can
that be? This is America.

Ben checks his phone then wanders around looking for bars.

DELILAH

Where's the limo?

She reads the look on Ben's face and almost cries.

DELILAH

No limo? No cell service? No rest
room! Edgar Alan Bennett the
Fifth! Where have you brought me?

INT. THE TUMBLEWEED - DAY

The door opens and the group looks up. Withered, cynical
CHARLENE "CHARLIE" BROWN, 70s, chain smoker with smoker's
voice, pulls her oxygen tank behind her as she enters.

Clem puts an ashtray in front of Charlie as she sits at the
bar. Rhett lights Charlie's cigarillo.

RHETT

Gonna blow us all up someday,
Charlie Brown.

CHARLIE

Yeah, yeah. Where's the new kid?

Clem serves Charlie a glass of Chardonnay.

ZEUS

Y'mean Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Alan
Bennett the fifth? No show. But
I'm bettin' it's "adios amigos" as
soon as they see this place.

Rhett pulls out a \$20 bill and slaps it on the counter.

RHETT

I'm in, Hey-Zeus. Nobody plops
down a couple of million without
knowing what they're getting into.

EXT. REMOTE AIRFIELD - DAY

Walking with difficulty in her stiletto heels, Delilah
follows Ben to the edge of the Mesa.

DELILAH

No-No-No! You can't just leave me.

Ben points at the distant building far below.

BEN

See that, Delilah. That's the Tumbleweed. You obviously can't walk in those shoes. I can get there faster by myself. I'll be back in no time.

DELILAH

But I have to go to the bathroom.

BEN

Pee in the bushes, Delilah, and wait in the plane. You'll be fine. I don't think you'll have company.

DELILAH

Oh. Yeah. Just drug dealers. And smugglers. Who else would land in this god forsaken place.

BEN

I think there's more to worry about with rattlesnakes and scorpions.

Delilah shrieks as she wiggles and stumbles back to the plane.

EXT. NEW MEXICO HILLSIDE - DAY

Ben picks his way down the steep, rocky hillside. He sees a BLUE RAM PICK-UP TRUCK coming up the road below.

Ben waves and shouts, loses his footing, and slides screaming down the slope before he comes to a stop in a bush.

The truck continues around a hill and disappears from sight.

EXT. REMOTE AIRFIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Delilah looks around then crouches down, and pees behind the plane.

She hears a vehicle approach on the gravel road and quickly pulls up her pants and scrambles into the plane.

The blue Ram Pick-up truck comes over the rise and slides to stop.

DELILAH
No. No. No. No. No. No!

Delilah slams the cockpit door and slinks down out of sight.

INT. RAM PICKUP TRUCK - SAME TIME

Capable, cosmopolitan SAM FONTAINE, 40s with a British accent, eyes the Beechcraft suspiciously and talks on a radio.

SAM
Lenna. See that?

LENNA(O.C.)
(on the radio)
Beechcraft Bonanza? Yea. I see it. That's high dollar. Boss? Do we have a drug deal going down again?

INT. CESSNA SKYHAWK - SAME TIME

Easy going Pilot LENNA COLORADAS, Jicarilla Apache, circles the airfield.

LENNA
Can you see anything?

SAM O.C.
(on the radio)
I think someone's inside.

LENNA
Jus' so you know, Boss, I'm packin'...

INT. BEECHCRAFT BONANZA - CONTINUOUS

Delilah sees the plane circling and panics. She gets low in the seat and frantically tries her cell phone. No bars!

DELILAH
Shit! Ben. Where are you? You son of a bitch. Leaving me out here with drug dealers and smugglers and snakes and scorpions.

She types a text: **In case you find me dead...**

EXT. REMOTE AIRFIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The Cessna Skyhawk lands on the field as Sam sneaks around the back of the Beechcraft with gun in hand.

EXT. NEW MEXICO HILLSIDE - SAME TIME

Ben has gotten better at traversing the hill. He slides on his feet and gets some momentum.

BEN

Yee-ha. John Wayne. Here I come!

The hillside gives way with Ben in the slide. He hollers as he tumbles to the bottom.

EXT. REMOTE AIRFIELD - MOMENTS LATER

The Cessna Skyhawk taxis towards the Ram pick-up.

Delilah peers out the window, sees a native American woman jump out of the plane with a gun!

Sam yanks open the door of the Beechcraft and points a gun at Delilah. Delilah SCREAMS and closes her eyes.

DELILAH

Don't shoot! Don't shoot. I didn't see anything. I won't say anything. My eyes are closed! I didn't--

SAM

Shut up already!

Sam lowers the gun and yells to Lenna.

SAM

We're good!

DELILAH

Please. Please! Don't shoot me.

SAM

Lady. Open your eyes. I'm not gonna shoot you.

Shivering with fright, Delilah opens her eyes one at a time as Lenna steps up beside Sam.

SAM

I'm Samson Fontaine. Call me Sam. I own the River's Edge Fishing Lodge. This here is Lenna Coloradas. She flies in fresh fish and vegetables for me twice a week. Who are you?

DELILAH

I-I thought you were drug dealers.

Lenna laughs heartily as she snaps her gun into her holster.

LENNA

We thought you was a drug dealer.

SAM

What are you doing here?

DELILAH

Ah. The - uhm - Tumbleweed? My husband thought the airstrip was right next door.

Sam and Lenna look at each other with eyes raised in surprise.

LENNA

He's walking?

Delilah nods.

LENNA

To the Tumbleweed?

Lenna laughs.

SAM

Come on. I'll give you a ride.
You can help us unload the produce.

Delilah climbs out of the plane, stumbles in her spike heels towards the truck. Lenna and Sam look at her heels and exchange smirks.

LENNA

That's okay. We got it. Wait in the truck.

Lenna does a little wiggle and a stumble in imitation of Delilah as she walks behind Delilah. Sam laughs.

EXT. NEW MEXICO ROAD - LATER

The road runs along the river. In the weeds, Ben washes his face in the river, hears a vehicle approach, and looks up.

He stumbles up the embankment just in time to see the blue Ram pick-up pass by. He recognizes his wife.

BEN

Delilah? Delilah!

An exhausted Ben stumbles after the truck calling her name.

EXT. THE TUMBLEWEED - MOMENTS LATER

Sam pulls his truck into the dirt parking lot and stops in front of the door.

Delilah gets out, slams the door, and struts to the entrance. Sam yells out the window.

SAM
You're welcome!

Delilah doesn't bat an eye. Sam grins and shakes his head as he pulls away.

INT. TUMBLEWEED LODGE RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Rhett and Charlie sit at the bar. Clem serves food to RESTAURANT PATRONS - Mostly Fisherman with stories.

The door opens. Delilah struts in. Spiked heels click the hardwood floor. Patrons look up.

Silence.

She pauses, removes her sunglasses, arrogantly looks around. Disgusted.

The Patrons look at Delilah - totally out of place in her stylish outfit - and shake their heads in disbelief.

Zeus enters from the kitchen, places plates on the counter.

ZEUS
Oye, mamacita. ¿Quieres bailar?

Zeus does a little dance. Delilah gives a look that could kill. Zeus smiles and raises his hands in the air. The patrons stifle their laughter.

DELILAH
Rest room?

Zeus points.

Delilah struts to the rest room and slams the door. Patrons listen to her struggles with the lock before turning to each other and commenting on the apparition.

As Clem takes plates to customers, the door opens. A filthy, exhausted Ben staggers in and totters to the bar.

CHARLIE
Will ya look what the cat drug in.

Clem hurriedly goes back behind the bar.

CLEMENTINE
My goodness. You look...

Ben collapses onto a bar stool.

BEN
Water. Please.

Clem fills a glass and places it before him. Ben pours the glass over his head, then slams the glass on the bar and impatiently motions with his hand for a re-fill.

Everyone in the bar looks up.

Clem refills it. Ben gulps down the second glass as Delilah opens the rest room door. Ben slams the glass on the bar.

Clem refills it again.

Delilah steps out from the restroom, glides to the bar and glares at Ben. Ben lifts his head at the sound of stilettos.

BEN
Delilah!

Delilah swings her bag and proceeds to beat Ben who puts his arms up as a defense.

DELILAH
You son of a bitch! How dare you
leave me out there! I could have
been killed!

BEN
Delilah!

DELILAH
And raped!

BEN
Please.

DELILAH
And stung by scorpions!

BEN
I thought--

DELILAH
And bit by rattlesnakes!

BEN

But--

DELILAH

And died of thirst!

BEN

Delilah! Stop!

Delilah stops. All gape in astonishment. Delilah looks around. Glares. All lower their eyes.

Rhett gets up and shuffles over to Ben.

RHETT

I'm guessin', you're Edgar Alan
Bennett. The fifth.

Ben nods.

RHETT

You're late.

Rhett tosses the bundle of keys into Ben's hand who drops them. He bends over and picks them up.

RHETT

Welcome to the Damn Community.

Confused, Ben squints.

CHARLIE

The Community of Mangas Dam, you
moron. You're standing in it.

Rhett points to the \$20 bill on the counter and signals to Zeus he won the bet. Zeus smiles and pockets the bill.

ZEUS

Cool. Thanks.

Rhett mutters as he shuffles to the door. He stops. Turns.

RHETT

White one with the winch is yours.

Rhett heads for the door.

DELILAH

A wench? A wench! What kind of
place is this?

Onlookers laugh. Rhett shakes his head in disbelief .

RHETT
You'll fit the bill.

Rhett rolls his eyes and walks out the door.

Confused, Ben looks at Clementine.

CLEMENTINE
The white truck. Out front.

ZEUS
Got a mechanical device hooked to
the front bumper. Un-winds and re-
winds.

Delilah looks at Zeus without understanding.

ZEUS
Handy when you get stuck in the
mud. I'm guessin' you will sooner
or later get stuck. Somewhere.

Delilah looks fearful.

CLEMENTINE
You look like...Uhm. You might
want to go freshin' up.

Delilah grabs the cue and pushes past Ben to the door.

DELILAH
I'm going to kill you, Ben. Don't
just stand there looking stupid.
Come on! That piece of shit better
have a bathtub. A clean bathtub...

Ben follows Delilah out the door. Thru the windows, everyone
watches Delilah and Ben argue their way to the truck.

CHARLIE
Well. Things sure did just get
more excitin' around here. Think
I'll have another.

ACT TWOEXT. THE TUMBLEWEED - DAY

Thursday. 8:25 A.M. on the old clock. The morning rush is over. Many dirty tables to clean.

The morning waitress, a sweet young thing, JANE JOYCE, 20s, carries dirty dishes to a tub then yells through the door to the kitchen.

JANE

Break time! Phoebe! Esther!

Garrulous dishwasher PHOEBE LEE, 70s, enters from the kitchen.

PHOEBE

'Bout time, Jane.

JANE

You know everybody's hangin' out to get a glimpse of the new owners.

Morning cook, taciturn Navajo ESTHER BEGAYE, 40s, enters and refills her coffee mug and joins the ladies at the bar.

ESTHER

Heard they're not the sharpest knives in the drawer.

They sit up straight at the sound of a truck pulling up outside.

Jane checks thru the windows while Phoebe and Esther prepare to scurry away.

JANE

False alarm. Just Zeus.

Esther and Phoebe return to their seats at the bar.

Jane pours a cup of coffee for Zeus as he walks in.

ZEUS

Buenos días! Phoebe. Esther.
Gracias, Jane. Where's the new jefe?

ESTHER

Maybe they did each other in.

ZEUS

He said meet him here for
breakfast. Did I miss them? What
time do city folks get up?

PHOEBE

Clementine left a note said they'd
be here for breakfast, but we
haven't seen them. Did you meet
them? What're they like?

ZEUS

Well...

Zeus smiles broadly and gets up to do an imitation of Delilah walking in spiked heels and talking in uppity style.

ZEUS

(mimicking Delilah)

I'm going to kill you, Edgar Alan
Bennett the fifth. How dare you
bring me to this garbage hole in
the wall. That piece of shit better
have a clean bathtub... And cold
Champagne on ice. A masseuse on
call...

Jane notices a truck drive up. She looks out the window then tries to interrupt Zeus. Phoebe's laughter is too loud.

JANE

Zeus!

ZEUS

You had better have Egyptian cotton
sheets with one thousand thread
count.

PHOEBE

Is that real?

ZEUS

(normal voice)

Si. Mi madre buys them on discount.

JANE

Zeus!

Ben walks in the door and stops to watch the performance. Enjoyment turns to severity when he realizes his wife is being mocked.

ZEUS

(imitates Delilah)

Oh, Ben. I need a new bed. I can feel the pea beneath my cheeks. I do believe I am bruised. Bruised!

Ben shuts the door loudly and waits.

JANE

Good morning.

Zeus turns around slowly. All are momentarily speechless.

BEN

Good morning. Uhm. Morning crew?

They nod.

PHOEBE

You must be Edgar?

ESTHER

New owner?

BEN

I am. But call me "Ben."

Jane finishes wiping a table and dries her hands.

JANE

Hello. Uhm...Sir. I'm Jane. Morning waitress. Going on...hmm...

(counts on fingers)

...eight years, I guess. Wow. I didn't...

Phoebe steps forward, thrusts out her hand to Ben. They shake.

PHOEBE

I'm Phoebe. Dishwasher. I live in the trailer court same as you. 'Cept you own it an' I don't. Been here thirty years. Can't afford to live anywheres else an' I sure do hope you don't raise the rent.

BEN

Well. I... hadn't thought about it.

The cold stares make Ben uncomfortable.

BEN

I *probably* won't. I mean... Yeah.
No! I...I won't raise your rent.

He turns his attention to Zeus.

BEN

Weren't you here last night?

ZEUS

Yup. Night cook. Name's Jesus. Clem
'n everybody else mostly calls me
Zeus. I answer to both.

Zeus holds the palm of his hand up.

Ben thinks they are going to shake hands but Zeus tries to slap and fist Ben's hand. Unfamiliar with this New Mexican greeting, Ben flubs it.

Esther shakes her head as she walks away. Ben looks confused.

PHOEBE

Aah. That's Esther. Don't mind her.
Morning cook. Been here forever but
not as long as me. She talks
sometimes and sometimes she don't.
She thought your wife might'a done
you in. Or vice versa.

JANE

Phoebe!

PHOEBE

Well. After last night, the whole
town is abuzz. Ya'll sleep okay?

BEN

My wife will be here shortly.

EXT. DOUBLE WIDE - DAY

An older double wide separated from the rest of the trailer court by a fence. Large porch with a hot tub. The car port currently holds a fishing boat and an older Lincoln Town Car.

Delilah exits the double wide wearing short shorts. Her crop top shows off a jeweled belly button ornament.

She wrestles the door to shut, then SLAMS it hard.

She stumbles on her spiked heels between the floor boards of the porch.

Nearby, CAP FLORES (old as the hills) is outside his single wide watering a tree. He stares mouth agape at Delilah.

DELILAH

What are you staring at, old man?

Delilah makes her way to the Lincoln Town Car and slams the door. She tries to start it but the engine just GRINDS.

Cap Flores watches Delilah get out and slam the door.

DELILAH

Stop staring!

She gets out her cell phone. No signal.

DELILAH

Damn it! Do you even speak English? Yes? No? Can you talk? Which way to the Tumbleweed? Can you give me that?

Cap Flores points his nose in the Navajo way towards the sign and an angry Delilah stumbles down the dirt road in her spiked heels.

RESIDENTS of the trailer court appear to watch as she stumbles by. Screen doors Squeak open and slam shut.

INT. THE TUMBLEWEED - DAY

Ben is going over menus with Zeus when a hot and sweaty Delilah stumbles in. Jane looks up from her side work nearby.

Ben jumps up immediately. Zeus exits to the kitchen.

BEN

Delilah. Are you all right?

DELILAH

That damn car would not start.

BEN

Did you walk? Did you get lost?

DELILAH

It's a dirt road, idiot. I thought we were going to a lodge. And furthermore, I want a new car. A Lexus. That car is for old people.

She sits at the table with Ben. Jane approaches with a menu and glass of water. Zeus, Ester and Phoebe appear in the doorway to the kitchen.

DELILAH

And! We absolutely need a new mattress.

Behind her back, Zeus dances with a know-it-all bow and chokes on stifled laughter. Jane glares at him.

JANE

Good morning, Ms. Bennett. Can I get you some coffee?

DELILAH

I'll have a cup of coffee with honey, a glass of fresh squeezed orange juice, Eggs Benedict with poached eggs. Tomatoes on the side.

Jane just stands there holding the water and menu and looks quizzically at Delilah who stares back just as quizzically.

JANE

Ever heard of "hello"?

Delilah exhales audibly and looks at Ben for support.

BEN

Delilah. This is Jane.

There is a pregnant pause finally broken by...

JANE

Welcome to Mangas Dam. Ms. Delilah.

Ben smiles gratefully at Jane.

DELILAH

Are you the cook?

JANE

No. That would be Esther.

Jane nods toward the three standing in the doorway, Esther nods and Delilah rolls her eyes.

BEN

I took the liberty of ordering the house specialty for breakfast.

DELILAH

Ben. You know--

Ben leans in toward Delilah and whispers.

Zeus, Phoebe and Esther lean in to listen.

BEN

Delilah. They don't have fresh oranges. Eggs Benedict is not on the menu. When in Rome...

DELILAH

We own this place, Ben.

Zeus, Phoebe and Esther collectively lift their eyebrows and roll their eyes as they disappear back to the kitchen.

DELILAH

I should be able to have whatever I want. Mr. Fontaine of the River's Edge Fishing Lodge has fresh fruits and vegetables *flown* in twice weekly.

BEN

Sweetheart. Maybe we'll do that. But right now--

DELILAH

Maybe, I should go to the River's Edge for breakfast. I hear they have a *real* chef and not some short order cook.

Delilah looks up at Jane who stands with coffee pot in hand and mouth open in amazement.

DELILAH

What do you think? Jane is it?

Jane nods. Puts the coffee pot on the burner.

JANE

Well... The River's Edge is three miles down river but you have to place reservations for breakfast the night before. You could go to town. That's 35 miles. Or you could go to the city - 196 miles. Or, you could fix it yourself. Theo - our dearly departed owner and friend - frequently fixed her own meals.

DELILAH

Just get me some damn coffee.

JANE

Mangas Dam coffee? That we can do.

Jane pours a cup of coffee and brings it to the table with a plastic honey bear.

DELILAH

Impertinence doesn't suit me.
You're fired.

BEN

No! No, No, No. We need these
people, Delilah. We *need* them.
(To Jane)
You're not fired.

Jane returns to behind the bar as Esther enters with a two plates of food and places one in front of Ben. Phoebe and Zeus watch from the doorway.

ESTHER

Huevos Rancheros con Christmas.

Red and green sauce smother everything. Ben has never seen anything look so unappetizing. Conscious of all eyes upon him, Ben forces a smile. Delilah makes a face.

BEN

Thanks. Looks...Uhm...looks...
Good.

Esther places the second plate in front of Delilah.

ESTHER

Eggs Benedict with two poached eggs
and tomatoes on the side.

Delilah looks up at Esther with surprise on her face.

DELILAH

Hmph. Well. What do you know.

BEN

Thank you.

Esther nods and returns to the kitchen. Delilah takes a bite.

DELILAH

Ben! This is absolutely delicious!
The eggs are perfect! And the
sauce...!

Phoebe smiles and looks as proud as if she cooked it herself.

PHOEBE

Our Esther graduated from the Santa Fe School of Cooking. She can make anything. We generally just feed the fisherman before they go out for the day. They want good, fast, 'n filling. So that's what we do...

DELILAH

(under her breath to Ben)
Make her stop.

PHOEBE

We got homemade biscuits 'n gravy 'n homemade pancakes. Then later--

BEN

Got it. Good, fast, and filling.

PHOEBE

Right.

BEN

Phoebe. We're going to eat now.

PHOEBE

Right.

Jane pulls Phoebe away who whispers..

PHOEBE

Jane. Did you see that? She got somethin' stuck in her belly button. I think it's a jewel. Who does that?

INT. THE TUMBLEWEED - DAY

Jane, Rhett and Charlie shoot the breeze, while smoking and drinking in an empty restaurant.

CHARLIE

What do'ya mean, he's never been fishing before.

JANE

Zeus took him out in the boat to teach him some fly fishin'. Told him fly fishin' is a rich man's sport and if was going to run this place, he'd better be able to talk the talk.

RHETT

And cast the line. Why didn't he start him on shore?

JANE

Zeus was afraid he'd fall in.

CHARLIE

Yup. He'd drown real fast with waders on. Maybe next time.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Zeus guides the fishing boat down the river as Ben attempts to fly fish from the bow. Delilah sulks in the stern.

ZEUS

Nice 'n easy. Back. Forward. Back. Hold that loop! Don't bend your wrist! Now lay it down nice and easy. Don't drop that tip! Whoa!

Ben attempts to follow directions but somehow wraps Delilah in the line. She screams.

DELILAH

Again!

A patient Zeus sets the oars and untangles Delilah.

ZEUS

Happens all the time with newbies.

DELILAH

Yeah. Well. I don't think I like fly fishing. Just take me back.

ZEUS

I can't do that, Ms. Delilah. We're floating. We have to get to the take-out down river.

Ben once again attempts to cast.

BEN

That's why they call it a "float trip," Delilah.

DELILAH

Huh. Well. They also call it fishing and I haven't seen a fish yet.

ZEUS

Why don't you try casting. You
might like it.

Delilah roles her eyes, picks up the rod and makes no effort to do it right. With bent wrist, she flips it back, slaps Ben in the face with the fly, then flips it over the stern.

Ben yells in pain, drops his rod, grabs his eye and writhes. The boat rocks as Zeus tries to steady it.

Immediately a fish grabs Delilah's line. She stands up in excitement and rocks the boat.

DELILAH

I got one! I got one!

Ben's rod floats past the boat and tangles in Delilah's line.

ZEUS

Sit down! Both of you!

Delilah yanks her line. Ben grabs his rod. The boat lists and Delilah and Ben fall overboard.

Delilah screams as she floats down past Ben. Ben tries to grab her as she goes past. He manages to grab her shoe - a spiked heel.

He tosses it away and attempts to swim after her in his cumbersome life jacket.

Zeus paddles furiously to catch up.

ZEUS

Stand up! Stand up!
(under his breath)
City folk!

They pass THREE FISHERMAN in waders who watch in amazement.

THREE FISHERMAN

STAND UP! STAND UP!

FISHERMAN ONE

Hey idiots! It's only three feet
deep.

INT. THE TUMBLEWEED - DAY

Bedraggled Delilah slouches at a table while Ben, Charlie, Jane and Esther watch Clementine measure and mix a drink in a shaker.

CLEMENTINE

Guaranteed to work magic. Whiskey. Dark rum. Brandy. Fresh squeezed lemon. Ginger. Honey. It's supposed to be garnished with an apple slice. That we don't have.

Clementine pours it into a martini glass.

BEN

What's it called?

CLEMENTINE

It's an Old Irish Cure. Tell her to drink it real slow, and it'll warm her up in no time.

CHARLIE

Either that or she won't remember a thing.

Ben takes the glass over to Delilah and sits with a beer.

DELILAH

What's this?

BEN

Guaranteed to help you feel better.

She tastes. Makes a face. Gags.

DELILAH

This is shit!

CHARLIE

Chug a lug, Chica. Guaranteed to put hair on your chest.

Zeus enters from the kitchen.

ZEUS

Whoever heard of grass on a playground.

Too late he notices Charlie refers to Delilah. Jane covers.

JANE

Talking shit about me, again, eh, Zeus?

ZEUS

Ahhh, Tarzan do anything for Jane.

The employees and Charlie huddle in conversation, glancing occasionally to Delilah and Ben who are apparently arguing.

JANE
Why are they here?

ZEUS
They're locked out of the house.

CHARLIE
Shit. Didn't anybody tell them the back door doesn't lock.

ZEUS
He'd already called a locksmith.

ESTHER
That's gonna cost. Thirty five miles from town. After hours.

CLEMENTINE
He coulda bought a new door for less.

The three fisherman walk in the door sans waders.

CLEMENTINE
Gotta work.

JANE
Time to go home. By-by, ladies.

Esther nods to Clem and Charlie and heads out the door with Jane.

Zeus slips back to the kitchen as Clem pours three glasses of water and grabs some menus.

CLEMENTINE
Sit anywhere, gentleman.

They take a seat and peruse the menu. One notices Delilah and nudges the other two to look. They agree she looks familiar.

FISHERMAN ONE
Hey Darlin'. How far did you get before you decided to stand up?

Delilah stands up, a little wobbly after three shots, staggers over to the smiling fisherman, and tosses his glass of water in his face.

The fisherman howls in surprise. The other two LAUGH.

Ben is on her heels, apologizing profusely as is Clementine who follows with a dry cloth.

BEN

I am so sorry. Please forgive my wife. She doesn't usually drink the hard stuff.

CLEMENTINE

So sorry. Here's a clean dry towel.

FISHERMAN ONE

Don't worry. I've been wet before.
(to Delilah)
Feel better now, Darlin'?

Delilah shrieks in anger and goes in for another glass.

DELILAH

Don't "darlin'" me you inbred Neanderthal.

Ben holds Delilah back.

BEN

I think we should leave, Delilah.

DELILAH

You just gonna let him treat me that way? I'm gonna kill you, Ben.

Ben smiles at the fisherman as he hauls screaming Delilah out of the restaurant.

Rhett enters in time to hold the door.

Clem wipes up the mess and takes their order.

Rhett sits next to Charlie. Clem takes the order back to the kitchen.

RHETT

Did I miss anything, Charlie Brown?

CHARLIE

Well, Rhett. It's like this. Another day as the river churns. Ms. Delilah keeps threatening, but she hasn't killed the Fifth, yet.

RHETT

Sounds more like she downed a fifth.

Clem returns and pours Rhett a beer. Rhett nods thanks.

CHARLIE

Shit. Clem only poured her three shots. I counted.

CLEMENTINE

She's a light weight. For sure. Girl can't hold her liquor.

CHARLIE

Can't hold a fishin' rod, neither.

RHETT

I heard she fell in an' took the Fifth and Zeus with her.

A woman in the parking lot can be heard SCREAMING bloody murder. Everyone in the restaurant looks up, looks at each other, then heads for a door or window.

EXT. TUMBLEWEED LODGE - DAY

The screaming continues. Charlie, dragging her oxygen tank, is the last one out the door and shoves herself between Rhett and Clementine.

Delilah stands in the middle of the parking lot screaming hysterically.

CHARLIE

She certainly has a pair of lungs on her.

Ben tries to escort Delilah to the truck. He points at what appears to be stick while repeating Delilah's name over and over.

CLEMENTINE

What's he pointing at?

Zeus exits the restaurant pushes his way through the crowd. He makes his way over to the "stick," turns and smiles at his audience, then picks up a large KING SNAKE.

The crowd cheers. He takes a bow, then walks toward still screaming Delilah and Ben.

ZEUS

Ms. Delilah. Just a plain ol' king snake.

Delilah grabs onto Ben and buries her head.

Get away!	DELILAH Get away!...	ZEUS Won't hurt ya.
Get away!	DELILAH Get away!...	BEN Delilah!...Delilah!
Get away!	DELILAH Get away!...	ZEUS Great to have around. Keeps the rodent population--

Zeus shakes his head, carries the snake over to the brush and gently sends it on it's way.

Delilah still screams as the chuckling crowd shuffles back into the restaurant.

INT. THE TUMBLEWEED - DAY

At the bar Clementine serves refills to Rhett and Charlie while they light up.

Zeus stomps in the door moments later.

CHARLIE
Jesus. You should've brought the that poor thing inside. Serve to keep Miss High and Mighty out of every body's hair.

CLEMENTINE
We got already one, Charlie. Hangs out in the store room. Miss Theo thought he was good for keeping mice and spiders under control.

ZEUS
We call him "Duke."

Rhett raises his glass.

RHETT
Sure hope I'm here when Ms. Delilah meets Sir Duke. That'll be one hell-of-a good show.

All laugh.

EXT. DOUBLE WIDE - DAY

Ben stands on the porch with the LOCKSMITH whose van is parked nearby. Cap Flores sits on his porch and watches.

LOCKSMITH

New nickel Keypad Door Lever: \$119.
 Installation: \$75- that's a
 discount by the way. I waved the
 after hours fee bein' you're new 'n
 all. And one dollar per mile: \$36.
 Total - carry the two, carry the
 one: \$230. Plus tax.

BEN

What! I could have bought a new
 door for that price.

LOCKSMITH

A new door costs five hundred to
 one thousand, two hundred 'n thirty
 dollars. I can do that, too.

Ben shakes his head in defeat, and counts out the money.

LOCKSMITH

Thanks. You might want to look in
 putting the lock on the back door
 some time.

BEN

We'll just keep the one we have.

LOCKSMITH

There isn't one.

BEN

What?

LOCKSMITH

Hasn't been for years. I quoted
 Miss Theo but she said it was too
 'spensive. And besides Cap Flores
 over there keeps watch.

(To Cap Flores with gringo
 accent)

Hey Cap. Como Estas?

Cap Flores nods.

LOCKSMITH

He's as old the hills. He's been--

The locksmith is interrupted by a loud crash followed by
 SCREAMS. Ben and the locksmith stumble inside.

INT. DOUBLE WIDE - DAY

Decorated a la 80s. Ben and the locksmith head for the source of the screams.

INTO THE BATHROOM.

Delilah sits in a bathtub-filled to the brim with bubbles. The bathtub has fallen through the floor.

LOCKSMITH

Well, that's a pretty sight.

DELILAH

Get out! Get out! Get out! Get out!

She throws a sponge at the locksmith who ducks then heads out the door.

LOCKSMITH O.C.

My brother-in-law is a plumber!

BEN

Delilah. You can quit screaming. I think you're fine.

DELILAH

I am not fine! I am not fine! You Neanderthal. Are you blind? The bathtub has fallen through the floor.

BEN

I can see that for myself.

DELILAH

Well?

BEN

The stopper seems to hold fast.

Delilah throws a wet wash cloth.

Ben sits on the toilet and SIGHS.

BEN

Delilah. We have to make this work. And you're not helping. Please.

He puts his head into his hands.

INT. THE TUMBLEWEED - DAY

Rhett and Charlie Brown still smoke and drink at the bar.

Many more customers to be served keep Clementine busy.

JUSTIN SHEPHERD, 50s fit and debonair, steps inside and lets his eyes grow accustomed to the darkness. As he studies the room, Rhett and Charlie watch him in the mirror.

CHARLIE

Looks like he's casing the joint.

RHETT

Nice suit. Expensive. Think he's got a gun?

CHARLIE

Don't know where he be hidin' it. That suit's snuggly tight in all the right places.

Clementine returns from the kitchen with plates of food.

CLEMENTINE

Sit anywhere.

JUSTIN

I'm looking for someone.

CLEMENTINE

Okay then. Sit at the bar if you've mind to. I'll be right with you.

Justin nods to Rhett and Charlie in the mirror. They nod back. Justin takes a seat near, but not next to, Rhett. Clementine goes back behind the bar.

CLEMENTINE

Would you like something to drink while you wait.

JUSTIN

Can you make a Perfect Manhattan?

CLEMENTINE

I could if we had the ingredients. I can make a regular Manhattan. Though I've heard it's not the same.

JUSTIN

It most certainly is not.

Rhett, Charlie, and Clementine all raise their eyebrows.

INT. THE TUMBLEWEED - DAY

Breakfast is in full swing. Noisy patrons, including the three fisherman dressed in fishing garb, fill many of the tables.

Esther brings plates of food out to the bar. Jane waits on tables. Phoebe comes out to clear and clean tables.

The door opens and in walks Delilah and Ben who take their seats at an empty table.

Esther, Jane, and Phoebe just happen to be at the bar at the same time.

PHOEBE

Oh, joy. The prima donna is up with the robins this morning.

JANE

Be nice, Phoebe. She's our boss.

PHOEBE

Have you heard her? She screeches like a cat. And waddles like a duck.

ESTHER

Hmph. Fish out of water not happy.

Esther shakes her head as she disappears back into the kitchen. Phoebe imitates Delilah's wobble as she follows right behind.

Jane serves two glasses of water, two cups of coffee and a honey to the table.

JANE

Good morning. Same as yesterday? Esther picked up some oranges in town last night. We can serve you fresh squeezed orange juice.

Delilah looks surprised.

DELILAH

She did? For me. And I've been such a bitch. I'm really not, you know. At least, I don't want to be a bitch. I just...I just...

Delilah looks very sad and vulnerable.

JANE

Don't want to be here.

Delilah looks at Ben who looks at Jane.

JANE

Well, fresh orange juice coming up.

The three fisherman stop by the table on their way out.

FISHERMAN ONE

Goin' try catchin' some fish today,
Darlin'?

Delilah takes a breath. Her nostrils flare. Ben kicks her under the table and shoots her a warning look. He nods.

Delilah speaks through clenched teeth. A complete phony.

DELILAH

Oh. You. I ... am ... very sorry.

FISHERMAN ONE

No worries, missy. You were mighty entertainin' yesterday. Part of the vacation. What makes it memorable.

The fisherman LAUGH as Zeus enters from the kitchen with a cooler.

ZEUS

Hey, gentleman. Ready to catch some fish?

The three fisherman VOICE their readiness. Esther brings food to the bar.

FISHERMAN ONE

Miss Esther. Breakfast was superb. As usual. Best in the land.

Esther nods and smiles.

ZEUS

My truck is right outside.

FISHERMAN ONE

Meet you there.

The fisherman exit out the door.

ZEUS

Hey, boss. Some dude was in here last night looking for somebody. A city type. Never seen him before. Made Clementine nervous he did.

BEN

Did he say his name?

ZEUS

Nope. But Rhett and Charlie said it was like he was casing the joint. Clementine said he ordered a "Perfect Manhattan." I never even heard of a "perfect Manhattan," have you?

Ben and Delilah fearfully look at each other.

ZEUS

You okay, Boss?

Ben nods, clenching his teeth, then looks hard at Delilah.

BEN

Did you...?

DELILAH

No. No! I didn't. Ben! I would never!

Ben angrily pushes his chair back and leaves hastily through the door with Delilah close behind.

Zeus, Jane and Esther watch through the window. Ben is the angry one now. He and Delilah are obviously not a happy couple.

The trio watch Ben and Delilah get into their truck, SLAM THE DOORS and watch them SLIDE OUT of the dirt parking lot. The fisherman jump out of the way and watch in astonishment.

JANE

Zeus? Zeus. What did you say?

Zeus has no idea. He shrugs his shoulders.

ZEUS

I don't know. Think maybe he owes somebody money? Maybe the mafia? He is from New York City. Has his own private plane.

JANE

Don't be stupid. You don't buy a fishing lodge if you owe the mafia money. What do you think, Esther?

ESTHER

I think, we should not think too hard. I think, we should wait and see. I think, we should go back to doing what we do.

She turns and walks back to the kitchen.

INT. THE TUMBLEWEED - NIGHT

Rhett and Charlie, both slightly inebriated, are at their respective places at the bar.

Few patrons remain, chatting over their meals.

Clementine waits on tables while Zeus cooks and delivers the food.

Ben and Delilah silently eat their meal at a nearby table.

Phoebe enters from the kitchen and goes to Ben's table.

PHOEBE

Thanks for bonus, boss. I never figured for it, so that makes it even better.

BEN

Well, Delilah and I appreciate how you all kept the lodge running after Ms. Theo passed.

Delilah nods. Phoebe nods back and goes to the bar.

Clementine serves Phoebe a glass of chardonnay.

PHOEBE

The boss gave me a bonus. I got two hundred dollars. I get to keep my schedule, too. Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Two hours each.

RHETT

You should retire, Phoebe.

PHOEBE

I can't retire, Rhett. I'm on social security for heaven's sake. Got to work till I drop.

(MORE)

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

It's the American way. Did you get a bonus, Clementine?

CLEMENTINE

We all got a bonus.

CHARLIE

I didn't get bonus. And I drink here every night-God damn it. I helped keep this place goin' one drink at a time.

RHETT

And that's why they could afford to give out a bonus, Charlie Brown. You can be proud. Your favorite charity is thriving. Speakin' of... Clementine. Can I have another?

CLEMENTINE

'course.

Clementine pours and serves a glass of tap beer, then empties the ash trays.

Zeus enters, lights a cigarette under the NO SMOKING sign.

Ben comes to the bar.

BEN

Clementine. I would like to buy Ms. Brown a drink.

CHARLIE

Don't "Ms. Brown" me, young man. The name is Charlie. And thank you very much. I'll take that drink.

As Clementine pours a glass of Chardonnay, the door opens and all look up.

Sam Fontaine stands in the doorway and looks around. He sees Delilah and smiles. Delilah shyly waves her fingers. Sam speaks to someone behind him.

SAM

She's here. Apparently by herself.

Ben steps toward Sam. Everyone holds their breath.

BEN

Who are you and what do you want with my wife?

Sam again speaks to someone behind him.

SAM
He's here.

Ben looks quizzically at Delilah.

DELILAH
That's Mr. Fontaine. He drove me
down from the airstrip.

Sam enters and right behind him is Justin Shepherd.

BEN
Is that him? From last night?

Clementine nods.

Sam steps up to the bar next to Ben. Holds out his hand.

SAM
Name's Sam Fontaine. Like your wife
said, I own the River's Edge Lodge.

Ben tepidly shakes his hand while his eyes are on Justin.

SAM
Could say we're your competition
except you're not in our league.

BEN
What are you doing here, Justin?

JUSTIN
What do you think, Ben? I came to
see how my little darlin' is doin'.

CHARLIE
I wouldn't call her that if I were
you. The lady don't take kindly to
being called "darlin'."

All eyes turn to Delilah who has teeth clenched and holds the
table with clenched hands.

DELILAH
Why are you here, Daddy? Why
couldn't you just stay away?

Daddy? Everybody looks at everybody and back again.

JUSTIN
I've seen where you live, Delilah.
A dive.

(MORE)

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

You know there's no lock on the back door. And look at this place. Looks like it was thrown together in the 50s and hasn't been updated since. Naugahyde seats? Really?

RHETT

I take issue with that, Sir. It was thrown together in the 50s. But it was re-painted in the 70s.

CHARLIE

If you knew what you were talking about, you'd recognize the 70s color palette.

RHETT

Harvest gold. Avocado green--

JUSTIN

I was being facetious.

RHETT

Whoa. Excuse me. Charlie. Do we know what "facetious" means?

CHARLIE

I don't know, Rhett. You're the doctor. Maybe we should ask Mr. Perfect Manhattan here.

JUSTIN

Delilah. Tell me you don't want to spend your life among these idiots.

RHETT

Idiots? Ha. Look at 'im. He's out numbered. And he's casting aspersions.

JUSTIN

A few drunks. I think I'm safe.

DELILAH

Daddy!

JUSTIN

I can take you home, darlin'. I've arranged it with Sam's pilot.

Justin takes her arm as if to escort. Delilah spins away.

DELILAH

Go away, Daddy. Leave us alone.
Ben is my husband. He inherited
this lodge from his Aunt Theo. And
we have to make it work.

CRASH! Clementine drops a glass. Everyone looks at Ben with surprise, and then at each other.

Charlie spins around on the seat getting somewhat tangled in her oxygen hose. She yanks it out.

CHARLIE

Why...why, you're little Eddie! I
remember you. Theo took you in
that summer after your mama died
and your daddy got that no good new
girlfriend.

Justin LAUGHS.

JUSTIN

Face facts. "Eddie" Alan Bennett
the Fifth is not gonna make it.
Just like he couldn't make it in
the last business that was handed
to him.

The locals look at each other and wonder.

DELILAH

Well, at least he didn't go to
prison like the rest of the family
did.

Eyes widen. Jaws drop.

JUSTIN

Delilah, you best come back with me
to New York. People are looking for
you. Second thought, I'm not
asking, Darlin', I'm telling.

Delilah stands up, grips her chair. The crowd holds their breath. She picks up her drink and tosses it in her father's face.

The Crowd EXPRESSES APPROVAL.

CHARLIE

Ooh. I warned you. The lady don't
take kindly to being called
darlin'.

Justin grabs Delilah's arm.

JUSTIN
You're comin' home.

Delilah stomps on his foot with her spiked heels. Justin lets go of her arm with a HOLLER, grabs his foot and hops on one leg.

ZEUS
Ouch. I am never makin' fun of those spiked heels ever again.

Rhett leans over and puts a fatherly hand on Ben's shoulder.

RHETT
Son, Don't you think it's time you stepped up to bat?

Ben clears his throat and stands taller.

BEN
Sir, I think you should leave.

Justin looks around and settles on Ben. Everyone holds their breath.

JUSTIN
Are you talking to me?

Delilah roles her eyes.

DELILAH
Oh, Ben! Be a man for a change.

Ben hesitantly steps up and, with excellent form, gives Justin a right upper cut to the jaw. Justin falls to the floor out cold.

DELILAH
Ben!

Surprised CHEERS from everyone except Delilah.

SAM
Excellent form, my man. Excellent form. Did you practice the art of boxing?

Ben, nods, rubs his hand and seems a bit surprised.

Delilah kneels at Justin's side.

DELILAH
Daddy? Daddy. Wake up!

Delilah stands up and beats Ben over his head and shoulders with her handbag.

DELILAH
You son of a bitch! How dare you.
You Neanderthal.

BEN
Delilah. I thought you wanted me--

Justin groans and Delilah stoops to his side.

SAM
Clementine. Rum and coke for me. In fact, After that show, I'll buy a round.

Clementine pours drinks all around.

Meanwhile, Delilah pats Justin's face.

Clementine holds up a glass of water, Delilah nods and Clementine pours it over Justin's face. He chokes and gags and comes to.

Delilah helps him up.

DELILAH
You okay, Daddy?

JUSTIN
We'll talk later. This is not over.

He staggers and pushes his way to the bar and waves at Clementine.

JUSTIN
I'll take a Perfect Manhattan.

Clementine rolls her eyes, shakes her head, and serves him up a glass of tap beer while Charlie admires his tush and gives it a little squeeze.

CHARLIE
Awfully nice suit.

Justin slaps Charlie's hand away.

CHARLIE
Pimp or drug dealer?

Justin gives her a questioning look, then picks up the glass and observes how unappetizing it looks and smells.

Sam lifts his glass and everyone follows suit, except Justin.

SAM

Here's to the new owner. With an upper cut like that, "the Fifth" with survive.

Delilah throws Sam an angry look. Sam corrects himself.

SAM

New ownerssss. Ben and Delilah. You'll definitely hold you own with those spike heels. Theo would be proud. Of both of you.

ALL

Here, here!

Everyone drinks, except Justin and Delilah.

DELILAH

Daddy?

JUSTIN

What, Darlin'.

Delilah purses her lips. Charlie leans in.

CHARLIE

Don't call her "Darlin'," you moron.

Charlie LAUGHS.

EPILOGUEINT. THE TUMBLEWEED - NIGHT

The restaurant has pretty much emptied out. A few customers remain at the tables.

Clementine gathers dirty glasses and dishes.

Zeus stands at the end of the bar and makes notes as customers hand him money which he puts in a bank bag.

Phoebe stands next to him and watches the action.

Rhett steps over and slaps a hundred dollar bill in front of him. Phoebe's eyes widen.

RHETT

One hundred says he doesn't last two months.

CLEMENTINE

Now, Rhett. You can't push on 'em to make that so.

RHETT

No worries, Clementine. I'm just gonna watch em' fall. What about you, Phoebe?

Phoebe shrugs.

PHOEBE

I think they'll...adapt. Eventually.

She pulls a twenty dollar bill out of her apron.

PHOEBE

Eddie's got a good heart. He was such a cute little boy. And he sure did hold his own against that mean man.

Rhett shakes his head, lifts his glass to Phoebe.

RHETT

A sucker's born every minute.

Zeus takes the money, then hesitates before making an entry in his book.

ZEUS

Phoebe? Sure 'bout this?

PHOEBE

Somebody's gotta root for the boy.
Though...I'm not bettin' on the
prima donna stickin' 'round.

Zeus and Rhett laugh.

RHETT

I love you, Phoebe.

Phoebe playfully hits Rhett.

END OF EPISODE