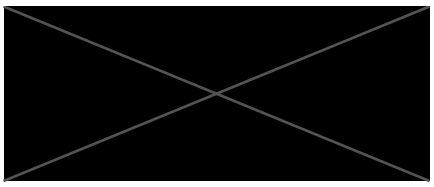
THE BOOK OF JOE

By

DAN LAURIA



THE SCREEN IS BLACK:

We hear the great Jimmy Durante singing As Time Goes By. In the distance a flash of light. Seven seconds later another flash. CREDITS ROLL: After each flash another credit appears. We realize that the black is the darkness of night and as dawn approaches we realize the flashing is a lighthouse guarding the coastline to an island. The lighthouse sits atop of a high cliff known as Lilith's point. As we get to the instrumental portion of the song we start to hear our story teller, Vincent.

1 EXT. WATERWAY APPROACH TO ISLAND - DAWN 1

VINCENT (VO)
Once upon a time there was an island. Our island. From it's highest point, one can see a ribbon of steel bridges connecting the jagged shore line of the northeast. There's no bridge to our island though. Only a ferry which comes twice a day. Oh! That's not ...

A large ferry carrying a number of cars comes by. A large modern day charter boat filled to the brim, with well to do summer vacationers crosses it's wake. (1A)

That's not our ferry. And that .. that's one of many charters for the rich who travel each year to this part of the world to watch whales. They never watch us though. They just ... just watch the whales. That's our ferry in it's wake, Captain John's ferry. Comes twice a day. The ferry is going over to the lighthouse steps coming down from Lilith's Point to pick up Herb the caretaker. Herb is the keeper of the light and Herb .. well .. Herb is Herb.

The ferry going towards Lilith's Point passes by. There are about ten passengers aboard. A passenger waves.

VINCENT (VO) (cont'd)
That's Doc Potts the only doctor on the island coming back from a night on the mainland. Nice guy. Doc and Herb love our island, as most of us do. A tranquil, too-glorious-to-be-real place where you can lose the self you are, or find the self you've never been. A peaceful place with friendly people. Most of which were born here.

VINCENT (VO) (cont'd)
I, myself came here many, many years ago from the city of big shoulders, Chicago. I came to paint and never left.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 1

VINCENT (VO) (cont'd)
But this story is not about me or Father Dominic, the priest who runs Saint Michael's, the Catholic school located here. Nor is this about "Rusty" Parks, who's always been the mayor of the only village on the island. No, this story is not about the artist or the priest or the politician or the the doctor or the man who runs the light. It's about Joseph, a hero from a forgotten war, brother of our priest, employee of the Mayor and, my dear friend.

2 EXT. ROAD AND CLIFFS OF ISLAND - CONTINUOUS 2

We see a pickup truck moving along the dirt road that runs alongside the high majestic cliffs of the island. We see; "Parks and Recreation" stenciled on the door.

VINCENT (V.O.)
That's Joseph's truck. One of the few vehicles on the isle. It's a very nice truck. The young kid sitting next to Joseph is Chris. He'll be going to college in the fall. He's the captain of the baseball team and they still have a championship game ahead of them. Big thing for a small place like this. He's an orphan who works with Joseph on weekends ..after school..holidays..summer vacations. They spend a lot of time together. Ooh! And did I tell you? Joseph's from Chicago too. Go figure.

3 EXT. MCPHEARSON COTTAGE - DAY - CONTINUOUS 3

Joseph's pickup truck PULLS UP to a small cottage along the cliff's edge. As they take tools out of the truck, they hear a argument coming from the McPhearson cottage.

VINCENT (V.O)
That's Eric McPhearson's cottage. Eric's coldhearted when sober and just evil when laced with drink.

A vase goes flying through the kitchen window. It breaks. BETH COMES OUT and picks up the pieces of her vase. (END OF CREDITS)

VINCENT (V.O.)
That's Beth McPhearson. She doesn't need the whiskey to get her Irish up. Like I said; "a peaceful place."

SHE YELLS AT McPhearson AND CHARGES BACK INTO THE HOUSE.

4 EXT. VINCENT'S DOCK - DAY 4

Vincent pulls up to a small lone dock and steps out of his craft and talks directly to camera.

VINCENT
This story is not about them either. This story is about my friend, Joseph the landscaper, and the beautiful Hollywood legend who loved him.

5 EXT. MCPHEARSON'S COTTAGE - DAY 5

JOSEPH & CHRIS ARE WITHDRAWING TOOLS FROM THE TRUCK BED.

CHRIS
Sounds like he's been drinking again.

JOSEPH
Why she puts up with that bastard I..?

JOSEPH CHARGES OFF TOWARD THE McPHEARSON COTTAGE

CHRIS
Where're you going?

JOSEPH
Just stay with the truck.

6 INT. MCPHEARSON KITCHEN - DAY 6

JOSEPH ENTERS. ERIC AND BETH INSTANTLY BECOME SILENT.

JOSEPH
Excuse me. I noticed your roof was ..

MCPHEARSON
We don't need you or your brats.

BETH
Why!? When are you gonna fix it?

MCPHEARSON
When I damn well feel like it.

BETH
Right. (PAUSE) Joseph, why don't you come back after Mr. Blowhard here leaves shore?

JOSEPH
Sure thing.

MCPHEARSON
Who else comes around while I'm at sea busting my ass?

JOSEPH
Eric! There's no call for that.

6 CONTINUED: 6

MCPHEARSON
She’s a slut.

BETH SLAPS McPHEARSON.

BETH
Bastard.

McPHEARSON TAKES A COLD STARE AT BETH.

MCPHEARSON
You bitch.

JOSEPH
Have you two gone crazy!? Cool down!

Joseph THROWS himself between them. McPhearson is yelling at Joseph for trying to protect his slut of a wife, and Beth is yelling at Joseph to get out of the way so she can hit her bum of a husband with a black, cast-iron frying pan. McPhearson takes a drunken swing that lands on Joseph’s jaw and sends him reeling into the flight path of Beth’s frying pan. Joseph rises again only to be hit by a thrown water pitcher.

JOSEPH (cont'd)
Now, you’ve pissed me off!

7 EXT. MCPHEARSON’S COTTAGE - DAY 7

Joseph EXITS holding an ice-filled towel to the side of his head. Beth FOLLOWS.

BETH
Joseph, I’m sorry about this.

JOSEPH
Yeah. When he comes to, you tell him if he ever hurts you in any...

BETH
He throws things around and punches walls but he’d never hit me.

JOSEPH
If he ever lays a hand on you I’ll come back and really kick his ass.

BETH
Don’t worry about me.

JOSEPH
You should come to the rectory with me right now. I mean it.

BETH
No. I can’t, but thank you.

CHRIS STANDS BY THE TRUCK WITH TOOLS IN HAND.

7 CONTINUED: 7

CHRIS
You all right?

JOSEPH
Bring the tools.

CHRIS
What were they fighting about?

JOSEPH
When you're older.

JOSEPH - WALKS TOWARDS CLIFF.

CHRIS
He thinks she's trolling the sheets while he's trolling his nets.

JOSEPH
What did you say?

CHRIS
He thinks she's getting it while he's at sea...fishing.

JOSEPH
Don't let Father Dom hear you or ... Where'd you learn to talk like that?

CHRIS
From you.

JOSEPH
My ass.

CHRIS
I bet when you were seventeen in Chicago, you talked like...

JOSEPH
That was Chi. This is paradise Chris, don't ruin it. (WALKS AWAY)

CHRIS (MUMBLING)
It's an island ... a small ... claustrophobic ... stinkin' island.

FOLLOWS JOSEPH WITH TOOLS CUT TO:

8 EXT. LILITH'S POINT - DAY 8

Joseph and Chris WALK towards the cliffs overlooking the sea. They approach a weather-beaten sign that reads "Lilith's Point." Below this, it reads: "Danger: No Cliff Climbing." Joseph goes to the edge of the cliff and sits on a boulder. He stares down at the shoreline below while still holding the ice bag to his head.

8 CONTINUED: 8

CHRIS
'Bout time we replaced this old sign.
(no response)
Termites have eaten half of it away and the dampness has done in the rest. I could just pull it out. I ...
(no response)
Joseph? Should I just pull it out?

JOSEPH
Do it.

CHRIS DOES AND STARES AT THE UNEARTHED SIGN.

CHRIS
No problem.

JOSEPH
No problem.

AS IF THE SIGN HAS BEEN RIPPED FROM HIS HEART.

CHRIS
You okay?

JOSEPH
Do me a favor Chris, put in the new sign. I'm gonna climb to the shore.

CHRIS
Why don't you go around the light house and take the steps.

JOSEPH
Whatta you my mother? Don't worry.

CHRIS
Just be careful. You're not as young as you used to be.

JOSEPH
Very funny! When you're finished drive the truck back.

CHRIS (EXCITED)
All right!

As Joseph decends the cliffs he tosses Chris the truck keys. Chris catches them and shouts back.

CHRIS
Hey, coach! Lilith Rae really come to this island?

JOSEPH
Yes.

CHRIS
Why?

8 CONTINUED: (2) 8

JOSEPH
When you’re older.

CHRIS
Again with the older. CUT TO:

9 EXT. ROCKS BELOW LILITH’S POINT - DAY 9

Joseph walks along the rocks. He climbs onto a weathered hull of a ship that rest on the rocky coast. As we look deep into the eyes of this gentle soul we see DAY pass into TWILIGHT. The roar of the sea turns into a seductive calm. SUDDENLY we hear the SOUNDS of a distant WAR. BOMBS EXPLODING, WELL-AIMED MORTAR ROUNDS and HAND GRENADES causing men to SCREAM in terror. The snapping of small arms fire is overheard. As is the sound of men YELLING OUT ORDERS amid the WAILING OF PAIN. Mounting sounds of chaos. The eyes are now the teary, troubled eyes of a twenty-five-year-old young man. As the sounds subside, YOUNG JOSEPH reaches up.

YOUNG JOSEPH
Please...just hold me.

YOUNG LILITH
If you’ll hold me.

LILITH, a woman of forty-five, still vivacious, still in every way a picture of classic beauty, reaches for the Young Joseph. They KISS. The once lovers slowly fall out of frame. As Joseph contemplates the sea, he smiles.

VINCENT (V.O.)
Amazing how beautiful a memory can be.

Sitting on the rocks, back against the hull, is VINCENT our storyteller. His easel, paints, and tripod are wrapped and folded neatly. He’s eating a piece of cheese carved from a small wheel. A bottle of wine at his side.

JOSEPH
Hello, Vincent.

VINCENT
Hello, my friend. Would you care to share a piece of cheese that I had specially flown in from the darkest corner of Cicero, Illinois.

JOSEPH (SMILING)
Cicero?! Is there blood on it?

VINCENT
Wouldn’t be surprised.

JOSEPH (CLIMBING DOWN)
How could I refuse?

9 CONTINUED: 9

VINCENT
A domestic wine...but I assure you it's got some life to it. What happened to your head?

JOSEPH
It's nothing.

VINCENT
If you say so.

HANDS JOSEPH A CHUNK OF CHEESE AND THE WINE BOTTLE.

JOSEPH
Did you paint today?

VINCENT
No, not today. No image came to me as strongly as the one that was just in your eyes.

JOSEPH
Vincent, you're a very wise man.

VINCENT
Me? No, I'm crazy. (Joseph Laughs) Ask anyone on this island.

JOSEPH
Well, my crazy friend, stop by Rusty's tonight, I'll repay your kindness.

VINCENT
I assume your brother will be there?

JOSEPH
I'm sure.

VINCENT
We shall have another great philosophical debate.

JOSEPH
Another bullshit session.

VINCENT
You just don't appreciate the workings of great minds.

JOSEPH
Right. See you tonight.

VINCENT
Wine, stimulating conversation, good friends ... how could I refuse.

9 CONTINUED: (2) 9

As Joseph walks away, Vincent rises to his feet. We are drawn into Vincent's gaze and carried back twenty-five years. We see Joseph walk away as the camera rises to see young Joseph and young Lilith standing on the point.

YOUNG LILITH
They say I'm too old to be a star.

YOUNG JOSEPH
Tell them to see me.

YOUNG LILITH
Thank you, my love.

They WALK past Vincent standing against the railing along the path leading to the point. Vincent turns to camera.

VINCENT
Yes ... yes, it was lovely. CUT TO:

10 EXT. OLD STONE CHURCH - NIGHT 10

A full moon highlights an old Gothic-style church, giving it's cold stone an air of warmth. Joseph, now washed and dressed in a new pair of jeans and flannel shirt, enters.

11 INT. OLD STONE CHURCH - NIGHT 11

Joseph dips his hand in the holy water and makes the sign of the cross. He approaches the altar, genuflects, and goes to an alcove to the side of the pulpit. Here is a statue of the Virgin Mary. We see a gold plaque with the inscription "Statue of Our Lady donated by Ms. Lilith Rae." Joseph places a dollar in a box, lights a candle, and says a short prayer. He then rises and EXITS through the side door next to the confessional booth. CUT TO:

12 EXT.ORPHANAGE PORCH - EARLY EVENING 12

The door opens on the magnificent sight of the school/ orphans' home. The summer moonlight bathes this beautiful, New England mansion with its wraparound porch. A number of boys are on the porch playing games, listening to tapes and CD's, and trying to act cool. SISTER ANN, "the rock" of this orphanage, comes through the front door as Joseph approaches.

SISTER ANN
All right. All right, boys. Time to be hitting those books.

BOY 1
Hey Coach!

BOY 2
Coach, you gonna come in and watch the game tonight? Yanks and Red Soxs.

12 CONTINUED: 12

JOSEPH
Where?

BOY 2
Fenway.

JOSEPH
I'd love to, but I have to see Father Dom. Besides, you all know the Sister's rule about school nights.

SISTER ANN
I'm glad to see one ruffian knows the rules around here.

BOY 1
Friday ain't a school night.

SISTER ANN SMACKS HIM IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD.

SISTER ANN
Did you go to school today?

BOY 1 (RUBBING)
Yes, Sister.

SISTER ANN
Then it's a school night. Now, in you all go and if I ever hear a one a ya use the word "ain't" again, you'll curse the day the good Lord gave little boys tongues.

THE BOYS ENTER THE HOME WITH THE USUAL COMPLAINTS.

BOY 2
If <u>you</u> asked her, coach, she'd bend the rules.

SISTER ANN
I would, would I? Am I that much of a soft touch for you, Joseph?

JOSEPH
They must know how deeply in love we really are.

SISTER ANN (LAUGHING)
I never heard such bull.

JOSEPH
Sister's right, guys. We've got our last game tomorrow on the mainland. Homework and bed.

BOYS
Right, coach. We're gonna kill 'em.

GENERAL "GOOD-NIGHTS" FROM THE BOYS.

12 CONTINUED: (2) 12

SISTER ANN
And where might you be going tonight? As if I didn't know.

JOSEPH
To watch the game at Rusty's.

SISTER ANN
Your brother is already there with that ... that ... painter, Vincent. The heathen. He's a bad influence on the children.

JOSEPH
Beautiful night isn't it.

SISTER ANN
Change the subject if you like. And yes, it's a beautiful night, and you should have a date.

JOSEPH (MOCK SHOCK)
Why, Sister! Is that a proposition?

SISTER ANN (SMILES)
You should be so lucky.

JOSEPH
Where's Chris?

SISTER ANN
Where else? In the kitchen.

JOSEPH
Maria's daughter's in there too?

SISTER ANN MAKES THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

SISTER ANN
God help us. (Sister Enters)

JOSEPH SMILES AND EXITS. CUT TO:

13 INT. ORPHANAGE KITCHEN - NIGHT 13

MARIA is buzzing around like the pro she is, preparing the baked goods for the next day's breakfast. Chris is working the industrial dishwasher with the aid of Maria's daughter, Angela.

MARIA
... they asked to film their final goodbye on the last day of shooting. And the director, Mr. Walsh, said "Okay." They did and that's the last time Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland ever worked together.

13 CONTINUED: 13

ANGELA
Sounds romantic.

CHRIS
I thought you didn't like Westerns.

MARIA
This wasn't a Western. It was a love story. It wasn't about lust. It was about feeling. Feeling with your heart instead of that carrot between your legs.

ANGELA
Mama!!!

JOSEPH THROWS OPEN THE DOOR & WITH A SWEEPING GESTURE.

JOSEPH
(bowing a la Errol Flynn)
"I can't imagine anything finer than walking through life with you at my side, Ma'am."

MARIA
"I would be honored, sir."

MARIA CURTSIES A LA OLIVIA de HAVILLAND.

CHRIS
If you two knew how funny you look.

JOSEPH
That's what Errol Flynn said to Olivia de Havilland in "They Died with Their Boots On."

CHRIS
Oh brother!

MARIA
Kids!? It's like teaching a jackass how to use the toilet.

JOSEPH
Angela, how's my girl tonight?

ANGELA
Just fine, coach. Ready for tomorrow?

JOSEPH (RE: CHRIS)
Ask him. He's the captain.

CHRIS
We're ready.

MARIA
Ready for what? I thought sports was over for the year.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2) 13

ANGELA
The championship game. St. Michael's is playing for the eastern regional.

MARIA
East, north, south, what do I know from football?

CHRIS
Baseball.

MARIA
Whatever. I'll bake more cookies.

JOSEPH IS MUNCHING ON A FRESHLY BAKED COOKIE.

JOSEPH
You just keep cooking like this and you don't have to know anything else. (to Chris) I want the team at the launch by eight bells. Okay?

JOSEPH STARTS TO LEAVE.

CHRIS
Okay coach.

JOSEPH
Good night. Night Maria, Angela.

MARIA (SHOUTING)
Don't you dare bring Vincent back here tonight. (JOSEPH EXITS)

ANGELA
Captain Chris.

FADE OUT:

14 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - NIGHT - OLD 14

This is the heart of the island, the only gathering place for the island natives. RUSTY enjoys the spotlight granted the host. He's a large, elderly man with a smile from Bangor to Boston. Tending bar is Rusty's right hand man, Willie. As Joseph enters, Rusty is chewing Doc Potts' ear off. Waitressing the bar is MOLLY McKAY, a weather-worn woman in her fifties who exudes vitality. In the corner alcove of the crowded pub sit Vincent and Father Dominic. Joseph enters and runs into Molly.

JOSEPH
Hi Molly. How's the lotto?

MOLLY
A bust. Ten tickets a week and nothing.

JOSEPH
Keep trying.

14 CONTINUED: 14

MOLLY
You bet I will. It's my only hope to get off this stinkin' island.

JOSEPH
We'd miss you.

MOLLY
Sure .. sure.

SHE THROWS AN "Oh Sure" LOOK TO rUSTY AND EXITS

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I'm tellin' ya Doc, even Jonah never saw a mouth this large come out of...

DOCTOR POTTS
(filling his pipe)
I'll have another brandy.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Willie, brandy.

WILLIE
Brandy. (Willie pours)

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
As I was saying. The mouth on this thing must of been ...

JOSEPH
Evening Doc. Rusty, Willie.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I don't believe the timing on you two.

JOSEPH
What's with Molly?

DOCTOR POTTS
She's addicted to Lotto. Needs to join a twelve step program.

JOSEPH
What's the score?

DOCTOR POTTS
Yanks up by two in the sixth.

JOSEPH
Let's go join his Hollyship.

DOCTOR POTTS
Yes, time to raise the level of conversation.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I should cut you off for that.

14 CONTINUED: (2) 14

JOSEPH
Rusty, send over a round and join us.

WILLIE HANDS DOC HIS BRANDY AS THEY START TO EXIT.

WILLIE
Cut 'em right off.

RUSTY GIVES WILLIE A LOOK AS WE ... CUT TO:

15 INT. RUSTY'S PUB INNER ALCOVE - NIGHT - OLD 15

Joseph and Doc head over to a long wooden table in an alcove. Vincent and Father Dominic are in the middle of a heated debate.

FATHER DOM
It's not an either/or, it's a...

VINCENT
You can't have it both ways, you ...

FATHER DOM
God can have it anyway God wants, no questions asked ...

VINCENT
A sophomoric response even for you ...

JOSEPH
Gentlemen ...

FATHER DOM
This collar comes off, you know.

VINCENT (TO JOSEPH)
How can this man be your brother?

DOCTOR POTTS
Biologically?

FATHER DOM
He has no concept of faith.

VINCENT
And you're blind.

FATHER DOM
Joseph, Sister Ann is right, we must keep him away from the boys.

VINCENT
Doc, you are a reasonable man. Either God has the power to stop evil and chooses not to, or God does not have the power. Either way, God's not worth worshipping.

15 CONTINUED: 15

FATHER DOM
You hear him?!

DOCTOR POTTS
Rather a simplistic point of view.

FATHER DOM / VINCENT
He negates faith. He negates life.

JOSEPH
You're both assuming a lot.

FATHER DOM
What assuming?

JOSEPH
That good and evil in our eyes is the same as in God's.

DOCTOR POTTS
Exactly. (PAUSE)

FATHER DOM (TO VINCENT)
See.

VINCENT
See nothing!! (raising his glass) Very good Joseph. Salute.

RUSTY ARRIVES WITH WILLIE CARRING A TRAY OF DRINKS.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Enough of this bullshit. Let's get down to the important things in life: beer and baseball. Coach, I have a little proposition for you.

WILLIE
A proposition.

FATHER DOM
Money, no doubt.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
This concerns you too, Dom. So turn your collar around for a second, you might learn something.

VINCENT
This must be good.

DOCTOR POTTS
We're all ears.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Any chance of us losing tomorrow?

JOSEPH
None.

15 CONTINUED: (2) 15

FATHER DOM
God forbid.

VINCENT (TO JOSEPH)
He wants you to throw the game.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS JUMPS TO HIS FEET.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Take that back or I'll have to defend my loyalty to this island by wiping the floor with you...

DOCTOR POTTS
Gentlemen, please...

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
...right here before the good Father.

FATHER DOM
Don't let me stop you.

JOSEPH
All right, take it easy.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
No one loves this island more ...

WILLIE
No one.

JOSEPH
Of course you do. Of course. Now, what's your point?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Point? Points!! Yes, exactly. You are a ten-to-one favorite.

WILLIE
Ten - to - one.

FATHER DOM
That's good?

VINCENT
That's great.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
That's a lot. And we need money for new uniforms for next season.

WILLIE
Next season.

JOSEPH
My basketball team needs a new gym.

15 CONTINUED: (3) 15

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I told you to forget that gym. I can't even raise two grand for new uniforms UNLESS you ...

VINCENT
Here it comes.

FATHER DOM
Ohhh! I won't ask them to throw the game. It's not right.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
You too?

FATHER DOM
Satan has come to ...

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
That's it. Take the collar off and step outside.

WILLIE
Outside.

FATHER DOM
Don't think I won't. I'm from Chicago you know. We don't say anything...

ALL THE MEN
...unless we're ready to back it up.

FATHER DOM
As long as that's understood.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I'm not asking you to throw the game. However, if you were to win by three runs or less I could get four to one.

FATHER DOM
What?

WILLIE
Four to one.

VINCENT
That's a little different.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
As the mayor of this isle, I have to come up with ways to raise funds for the school ... our children. I can't be writing to Lilith Rae every week for fifty cents to buy toilet paper.

WILLIE
Toilet paper?

15 CONTINUED: (4) 15

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS (TO WILLIE)
Will you stop being a pest and go back to the bar and get us another round!?

WILLIE
Another round. (EXITS)

DOCTOR POTTS
A very interesting dilemma.

JOSEPH (SMILING)
There's no dilemma.

VINCENT
No quarter asked, none given.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Ah! Stow the bull. We're talking about our island here. We're talking dollars and cents. Don't kid yourself that's the way of the world.

DOCTOR POTTS
Situational ethics.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
It's for the kids ...

FATHER DOM
I just don't see ...

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Brand new uniforms.

FATHER DOM
I don't...Joseph? I can't ask you ...

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
An embroidered St. Michaels' logo.

FATHER DOM
Joseph??

JOSEPH
Dom, don't worry about it. Let's just drink up. Gents, to the best team.

THEY ALL CHEER AND DRINK FADE OUT:

16 EXT. ORPHANAGE PORCH - LATE NIGHT 16

Doc's car PULLS UP and Dom and Vincent ROLL OUT of the back seat. Father Dom is drunk, and it shows. Vincent is drunk, and it doesn't show. Joseph is not drunk.

DOCTOR POTTS
You need help?

16 CONTINUED: 16

JOSEPH
No Doc, I can handle it. 'Night.

DOCTOR POTTS
'Night boys. (PULLS AWAY)

VINCENT
'Night. 'Night. We're not talkin' some great philosophical theory here.

FATHER DOM
It's a principle we're talking.

VINCENT
Points of reason.

FATHER DOM
Points of faith.

FATHER DOM PUSHES VINCENT AND VINCENT PUSHES BACK.

VINCENT
I'll show you what to do with your goddamn points.

FATHER DOM
We're in front of God's house, you miserable Pagan. (SWINGS WILDLY)

JOSEPH
Shut up!

FATHER DOM
Shush!! He gets loud when he drinks.

VINCENT
Me!?

FATHER DOM
Yes. You.

VINCENT
You're the loud one.

FATHER DOM
You.

VINCENT
You.

FATHER DOM
You.

JOSEPH
You two better knock it off before Sister Ann ...

SISTER ANN (O.S.)
Before Sister kicks both your asses.

16 CONTINUED: (2) 16

Sitting on the porch like two centurions at the gate are Sister Ann and Maria. They are not happy with our drunks.

JOSEPH/VINCENT
Good evenin', Sister. Maria.

SISTER ANN
I'll good evenin' ya.

FATHER DOM (TO JOSEPH)
You see ... you see how your drunken ways have disturbed the good Sister. (To Sister) It breaks my heart to see my own brother in this miserable state.

JOSEPH
Me!?

SISTER ANN
I'll take him the rest of the way, Joseph. You take the other.

VINCENT
Sister, would it be in your good nature to spare a glass of hot milk for someone as wretched as me?

FATHER DOM
Don't let him near the children.

VINCENT (TO FATHER)
Will you shut up!...Please, Sister?

SISTER ANN
Maria, a glass of milk and that's all.

VINCENT (BOWING)
Thank you, kind lady.

Vincent winks at Joseph. Then he and Maria start to WALK AROUND the orphanage to the kitchen.

MARIA
You looked like Alan Hale when he was walking that ole tightrope in "Gentleman Jim."

VINCENT
With the great Errol Flynn.

MARIA
He played Flynn's father.

VINCENT
Some women think I resemble Flynn.

MARIA
Some women are blind.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (3) 16

VINCENT AND MARIA EXIT TO THE KITCHEN.

FATHER DOM
Joseph, my kind brother, do you need me to help you home?

JOSEPH
I think I can make it alone.

FATHER DOM (ENTERS)
God bless you then and good night. And good night to you good Sister Ann.

JOSEPH
'Night, Sister.

SISTER ANN
Good luck in the game tomorrow. I'll say a prayer for you and the boys.

JOSEPH
That may be cheating.

SISTER ANN
Whatever. As long as we win.

A LOUD CRASH IS HEARD FROM WITHIN THE ORPHANAGE.

SISTER ANN (cont'd)
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph...

FATHER DOM (O.S.)
I'm all right ... I'm ALL RIGHT!!

SISTER ANN
Quiet!!! (ENTERS)

Joseph starts his slow, lonely walk home. As he passes the kitchen area, he looks in the window and sees Vincent and Maria LAUGHING. Vincent whispers in her ear, and Maria, in mock shock, waves a belligerent hand at Vincent. Maria then sits on Vincent's lap and kisses him gently. Joseph smiles and walks towards the beach. (16A)

17 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT 17

AS JOSEPH WALKS WE HEAR THE VOICES OF:

YOUNG LILITH (V.O)
I don't know what would have happened to me if we hadn't found each other.

YOUNG JOSEPH (V.O.)
I know <u>exactly</u> what would have happened to me. CUT TO:

18 INT. YOUNG JOSEPH'S ROOM - NIGHT 18

Young Joseph sits on a window seat as dawn washes across his face. He wears only his pants, no shoes or socks. No shirt. On the other side of the room, partially in shadow, Young Lilith sits up in bed.

YOUNG JOSEPH
It's dawn. You're a good listener.

YOUNG LILITH
I usually do all the talking.

YOUNG JOSEPH
I couldn't talk about that war before,
...I couldn't get it out of me.

YOUNG LILITH
That was before me, darling.

LILITH WALKS TO JOSEPH AND HOLDS HIM CLOSE TO HER HEART.

YOUNG LILITH (cont'd)
It'll always be part of your mind. But
I'll push it out of your heart.

DISSOLVE TO:

19 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT 19

JOSEPH JUST STARING AT THE MOON.

20 EXT. LIGHTHOUSE CATWALK - NIGHT MOONLIGHT 20

HERB STANDS ON THE CATWALK PRAISING THE MOONLIGHT.

HERB
Come on and shine. Shine for all of us
to see. Shine you beautiful moon. Shine
on this place. (HE HOWLS)

21 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - MORNING 21

Vincent, who is hung over, is on the Dock helping CAPTAIN JOHN HAYDEN tie up to shore. Chris, his teammates, and a few CHEERLEADERS are having cake and milk provided by Maria and Molly off the back of a golf cart. TWO BOYS from St. Michael's are by the dock looking into the fishing scows that dot the coast of this village. One of these boats, The Norseman, belongs to Eric McPhearson.

CAPTAIN JOHN
Yo, the line! (Throwing line)

VINCENT
Yo!

CAPTAIN JOHN
The bow ... the bow, Vincent.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 21

VINCENT
Just throw the rope ... bow, aft ... a fun-du-gotts, hey!

CAPTAIN JOHN
Secure it well.

VINCENT
John, don't bust my balls. It's too early. Just throw the rope.

JOSEPH
Does someone have a slight hangover?

Joseph hands Vincent a much needed coffee. Joseph ties the line as Vincent sits on a dock piling and drinks.

VINCENT
Don't you start. Between your brother's bullshit, Rusty's cheap vino and Maria's lectures, I've seen hell.

JOSEPH
Maria's what?

VINCENT
All right, first ...a bit of paradise, but followed by the wrath of woman.

JOSEPH
Thou doth protest too much.

VINCENT
Joseph, my dear friend, let me enlighten you on this point. First God created Paradise and <u>then</u> God created Woman.

JOSEPH
My brother would be happy to hear you acknowledge even the existence of God.

VINCENT
Don't tell Dom, but I've always believed in God. As a matter of fact, I have too much faith in God to believe in religion. Especially his.

JOSEPH
I'm glad for you ... to believe.

VINCENT
One has to believe in something.

JOSEPH
So they say.

VINCENT
What do you believe in, Joseph?

21 CONTINUED: (2) 21

JOSEPH
You must be hung over.

VINCENT
Sorry, I'll just keep my mouth shut.

JOSEPH
I believe in these kids...this island.

Captain John Hayden COMES ON TO THE DOCK, mail sack over his shoulder. Joseph finishes tying line.

CAPTAIN JOHN
Just let me make my mail drop at Rusty's and we'll be on our way.

JOSEPH
I'm going to need you coaching third base today John.

CAPTAIN JOHN
One way to get the ferry to wait for you, put the captain on third base, hey? Here's your newspaper, Vincent.

John tosses Vincent his daily copy of The New York Times, then heads towards Rusty's pub to drop off the mail.

JOSEPH
You coming today?

VINCENT
Not today.

JOSEPH
Dom doesn't make it you can coach first base.

SISTER ANN (O.S.)
He will like hell.

SISTER ANN IS WEARING A CAP WITH A St. MICHAEL'S EMBLEM.

SISTER ANN
Morning, Joseph. (tO VINCENT) Thought you'd still be sleeping it off.

VINCENT
(holding up the newspaper)
Came for my Times.

SISTER ANN
Don't mess it up. I'll be reading it when we get back. (CALLING)
Angela, Maria! Get everyone aboard.

JOSEPH
Are you joining us, Sister?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3) 21

SISTER ANN
Your brother has taken ill.

VINCENT
Something he ate?

SISTER ANN STARES VINCENT DOWN.

SISTER ANN
I'll be coaching first.

JOSEPH
Thank you.

VINCENT
Good luck to you and the boys, Sister.

SISTER ANN
Luck, ha. (GOES ABOARD)

VINCENT
I don't think she likes me.

JOSEPH
No. But she may love you.

VINCENT
A frightening thought.

HERB COMING OFF THE FERRY GOES OVER TO JOSEPH.

HERB
We'll get 'em today, hey sister?!

SISTER ANN
That we will Herb, that we will.

HERB (POINTS)
Joseph there's a storm brewing yonder.

MCPHEARSON (O.S.)
Get the hell away from there.

AS JOSEPH LOOKS AND EXITS FRAME WE... CUT TO:

22 EXT. MCPHEARSON'S FISHING BOAT - DAY - CONTINUOUS 22

MCPHEARSON
I'll not have you screwing up my nets.

BOY 1
We didn't touch your lousy ...

MCPHEARSON
I took a hook in the arm the last time you brats fouled my nets.

CHRIS
That's bull.

22 CONTINUED: 22

JOSEPH
Hey! Hey, what's going on here?

MCPHEARSON
They were tangling up my nets again.

BOY 2
We did not, Coach.

BOY 1
Coach we was just ...

JOSEPH
All right! All right I want you two to apologize to Mr. McPhearson.

BOY 1
But Coach, we ...

JOSEPH
You heard me.

BOY 2
We're sorry if we did anything.

BOY 1
Yea.

JOSEPH
Get on the ferry. You too, Chris.

CHRIS
No one touched his lousy nets.

McPHEARSON GRABS CHRIS'S ARM.

MCPHEARSON
You calling me a liar boy?

JOSEPH GRABS McPHEARSON'S ARM.

JOSEPH
Get on the ferry, Chris.

CHRIS
Yes, sir.

MCPHEARSON
You keep these brats in line or I'll give 'em a lesson of my own.

JOSEPH STARES AT McPHEARSON, EYES FILLED WITH RAGE.

JOSEPH
(slowly, frighteningly)
If you <u>ever</u> touch one of these kids again ... I'll kill you.

THEY STARE EACH OTHER DOWN AS THE FERRY BELL SOUNDS.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2) 22

CAPTAIN JOHN (O.S.)
All aboard! Come on, Coach. We have a game to win.

23 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - DAY 23

Joseph JUMPS aboard the ferry as it's leaving. Vincent is sitting on a piling reading his New York Times. Rusty, half dressed, COMES RUNNING out of the tavern yelling to the ferry.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Joseph! Remember four to one! FOUR TO ONE! (To VINCENT) I hope he knows what he's doing. We could put away a nice piece of change today.
(stretching and yawning)
You have to go to heaven to find a more beautiful morning than what we have here in the Northeast.

CHARTER GOES BY WITH A FULL LOAD OF WHALE WATCHERS.

Ah! Look a charter taking it's cargo of the filthy rich out to play with the little whales. (MOCK WAVE) Look at'em. With their pretty little hats and their fat wallets ... the dirty bastards. Don't you hate 'em. Don't you just hate 'em Vincent. (PAUSE) Vincent! What ya reading there?

Vincent, absorbed in what he's reading, holds up his hand as he finishes an article in his New York Times.

VINCENT
Lilith wrote a book.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
A book!

VINCENT
Comes out next month. It's about us.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
About us, you say?

VINCENT
I didn't say. The New York Times Book Review says.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Must be true then.

VINCENT
One chapter. About us.

23 CONTINUED: 23

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I'm sure she only has a kind word or two for her friends here in the north.

VINCENT (READING)
"Perhaps the most erotic, passionate episode in this great actress's life came not among the glittering, artificial lights of Hollywood, but on the pristine, moonlit sands of a beautiful isle off our north eastern coast.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
It says that?

VINCENT
It also says she's dying. Cancer.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Cancer, you say.

VINCENT
I don't say, the New York Times says.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Must be true then. Shame! God bless her generous heart.

VINCENT
We have to tell Joseph.

Vincent stands gazing out over the bay. The ferry can barely be seen in the distance. The bright yellow morning turns slowly to the orange dusk of an early New England summer sunset. CROSS FADE TO:

24 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - SUNSET 24

Joseph returns with his successful ball team. Victory CHANTS are heard from the ferry. Captain John rings the ferry bell as Herb and some of the boys cast the lines to a few of the locals ashore. Many of the inhabitants of the island are there as the five piece high school band starts to play. As the ferry docks, a HORDE OF SCREAMING TEENAGERS assaults the landing and run to their parents. Angela is no exception, running to Maria. Most of the boys from the orphanage immediately surround Father Dom, who stands there in a daze, flanked by Vincent, Rusty, Willie, Molly and Dr. Potts.

ALL THE BOYS
We killed 'em. We're number one! Numero uno! We murdered 'em.

24 CONTINUED: 24

SISTER ANN
Boys! Give the good Father some room. Well Father, we kicked their butts all the way back to the hills. The land lovers. We beat 'em seven to four.

CHRIS
It would've been more but Coach let the second string finish the game.

FATHER DOM (UNENTHUSIASTICALLY)
That's great, just great, Sister.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS (SADLY)
We're very proud of all of you.

WILLIE
Proud.

FATHER DOM
Very proud. Now Sister, would you please see to it that the boys make it back home? I have something to discuss with Joseph.

SISTER ANN
Not again tonight!

FATHER DOM
Sister, please do as I say.

SISTER ANN REALIZING SOMETHING IS WRONG.

SISTER ANN
If you say so, Father. Chris, let's get the boys back to the school and celebrate over one of Maria's dinners.

CHRIS
You heard Sister.

ALL THE BOYS START TO LEAVE.

CAPTAIN JOHN
It's the first time a school this small has won the regional in any sport. We're on the map, hey.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Great job, John.

WILLIE
Great.

HERB (SOMETHINGS UP)
Perhaps we should get going before we have the darkness upon us.

24 CONTINUED: (2) 24

CAPTAIN JOHN
Hold your horses Herb.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
It is getting late, John.

WILLIE
Late.

CAPTAIN JOHN (SOMETHINGS WRONG)
Well...Yea, Guess I'll be shoving off.

DOCTOR POTTS
I'll help you cast off.

JOSEPH
I put in the second team to give them some experience for next year. The rest was in God's hands. Now we can start planning my new gym. Right? (PAUSE) Why the long faces?

VINCENT
Lilith's dying.

A LONG SHOT of Vincent handing Joseph his New York Times. Joseph takes the Times and slowly walks to the end of the dock as Vincent, the Mayor, and Father Dom WALK AWAY. Willie stands there looking at Joseph. In the background Dr. Potts, having thrown the lines aboard the ferry, now joins the exodus as the ferry pulls away. Rusty goes back to Willie and pulls him away.

25 EXT. LAUREL DOCK TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO - DAY 25

Young Joseph is waving good-bye. A young, vibrant Lilith Rae waves back from the deck on the departing ferry.

26 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - PRESENT - DAY 26

The New York Times falls from Joseph's hand as he walks away. The camera pans to a CLOSE-UP of Vincent.

VINCENT (TO CAMERA)
Odd; some can live so long and never feel a moment of life, while others can live an entire life in a moment.

As Vincent walks away, the setting sun of this day becomes the rising sun of a chilly new morning.

DISSOLVE TO:

27 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - DAY 27

The ferry is returning. Captain John tosses a mail sack to Rusty, and Willie tosses a small sack of mail to the Captain. Two islanders board the ferry as Herb exits.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: 27

HERB
Morning boys.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Morning Herb.

WILLIE
Morning.

HERB (HOLDING UP BOOK)
Got mine already.

CAPTAIN JOHN
Here ya go, Mayor. And I got something else for you.

CAPTAIN JOHN DROPS A BOX ONTO THE DOCK.

CAPTAIN JOHN (cont'd)
From Lilith Rae. It’s books. I’ve got four more boxes. There’s enough here for half the island.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Books, you say.

CAPTAIN JOHN
I robbed one for myself. (EXITS)

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Not suppose to be out till next month.

WILLIE
Next month.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
(TO WILLIE) Let’s get these inside.

RUSTY LOOKS BEWILDERED AS WE... CUT TO:

28 INT. RUSTY’S PUB - DAY 28

The books are on top of the bar. Sitting at a table, reading from a chapter about halfway through Lilith’s autobiography, are Mayor Parks, Father Dom, and Vincent. Each reads in silence. Mayor Rusty Parks lets out a laugh. Father Dom looks at the Mayor with a disapproving scowl. Rusty stops laughing. Vincent just beams. When Father Dom throws a look his way, Vincent’s smile broadens. They all continue reading.

FATHER DOM
Oh my God!

VINCENT SLOWLY CLOSES HIS BOOK.

VINCENT
Your brother is a great man. CUT TO:

29 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - LATER THAT DAY 29

The pub is packed with locals. They are glued to the television. Oprah is on.

OPRAH
You are some lady. You speak so freely about dying.

CLOSE-UP of Molly. Her eyes are filling with tears. She is watching Lilith Rae being interviewed. When Lilith speaks, the CAMERA PANS the clientele in Rusty's pub. Lilith is never seen, only heard.

LILITH'S VOICE
I've had a wonderful life. And at this moment, I'm as alive as you are.

Oprah laughs. The television audience applauds. The locals, including Vincent, Father Dom, Molly, Willie and Mayor Rusty Parks, are mesmerized.

OPRAH'S VOICE
Okay, then...tell us about Joseph.

MORE APPLAUSE FROM THE AUDIENCE IN RUSTY'S PUB.

MOLLY
Sssshh!!!

LILITH'S VOICE
Darling, I was depressed, lonely, without self-worth. Joseph's kindness became my inspiration.

OPRAH'S VOICE
He couldn't have been that good.

LILITH'S VOICE
Better. He made love to my soul.

THE AUDIENCE APPLAUDS AND SO DO THE PEOPLE IN RUSTY'S pUB

OPRAH'S VOICE
"LIFE" by Lillith Rae. We'll be right back after these messages.

More applause from the television audience. As Oprah's interview is interrupted by a commercial.

VINCENT
Beautiful, isn't it?

MOLLY
Wonderful.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
You realize what this might mean?

29 CONTINUED: 29

VINCENT
Aaah! Love.

FATHER DOM
What are you two talking about?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Tourists.

WILLIE
Tourists.

Father Dom looks to Mayor Parks, who nods in the affirmative. He looks to Vincent, who does the same. The camera slowly pans up to the TV as Oprah holds up a copy of Lilith's book.

OPRAH'S VOICE
"LIFE" by Lilith Rae coming to bookstores near you this month.

FADE TO:

30 EXT. LILITH'S POINT - SUNSET 30

Beth McPhearson sits facing the ocean on the stone bench that stands high above the cliffs of Lilith's Point. She cradles a copy of Lilith's autobiography to her heart. Joseph drives up, parks his truck, and walks over to Beth. She turns her face away. Joseph sits.

BETH
I came here to read your book.

JOSEPH
It's not my book.

BETH
Have you read it?

JOSEPH
No.

BETH
Why not?

JOSEPH
Maybe I wanted more than a chapter.

BETH
Read it soon. For me. For all of us who have never been touched like that.

Joseph gently TURNS BETH'S FACE towards him. We see that she has been beaten. Her right eye is almost swollen shut. Joseph instantly JUMPS UP.

JOSEPH (FURIOUS)
Where the hell ... I'll kill the ..

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 30

BETH
(pulling at him)
He's out to sea. Please Joseph ... please ... don't..just sit with me.

JOSEPH (ANGERED)
I'll find you a place. For now you'll stay at the church. With the sisters.

BETH
Don't yell at me ... please ...

JOSEPH
I'm sorry, Lady Beth. I'm not yelling at you. I'm screaming at myself for not doing something before this.

BETH
He found a statement from the clinic that I went to last month.

JOSEPH
Clinic?

BETH
I won't have a child with him. God knows what he might do ... I thought I was to old to ...

JOSEPH
I'll get you out of here right now.

BETH
That's not what I need. I need you to hold me, Joseph. Just hold me for a moment. Hold me like you did Ms. Rae.

31 EXT. LILITH'S POINT - SUNSET - CONTINUOUS 31

LONG-SHOT of Joseph gently rocking Beth back and forth while the sun sets behind them.

32 EXT. LIGHTHOUSE CATWALK - NIGHT MOONLIGHT 32

HERB HOWLS AT THE MOON.

33 INT. EMMA'S ROOM - NIGHT 33

Emma, is an old woman who's wearing black. Her face is a map of grief. She is watching the Tonight Show.

LILITH'S VOICE
Why thank you.

JAY'S VOICE
Now this guy ...

LILITH'S VOICE (PLAYFULLY)
Joseph?

33 CONTINUED: 33

JAY'S VOICE
Yes, Joseph. Now, come on, he can't be that terrific.

The CAMERA PANS Emma's poor cottage. We see the top of a dresser with her wedding photo from many years ago. A more recent photo of her husband with a piece of black ribbon draped across it. The CAMERA is back on Emma AS:

LILITH'S VOICE (VO)
But he is.

JAY'S VOICE (VO)
I've only read the excerpt from the times book review but when this book comes out he's going to have a whole nation of men intimidated.

LILITH'S VOICE (LAUGHS)
You all should be. Most men don't like women. Joseph does. Most men don't listen to women...Joseph does...

WE PAN TO THE BLACK OF EMMA'S DRESS AND CROSS FADE TO:

34 INT. CONFESSION BOX - MORNING 34

EMMA (WHISPERING)
Father...it's Emma. Tell me where I can find Joseph?

FATHER DOM
Joseph, why?

EMMA
I need someone who will listen to me.

FATHER DOM
But I ... I'd ...

We see a very frustrated and confused Father Dom as he tries to grasp what has happened we ... FADE TO:

35 EXT. MCPHEARSON'S COTTAGE - DAY 35

JOSEPH COMES out OF THE COTTAGE, FOLLOWED BY BETH.

BETH
Joseph ... thank you.

JOSEPH
I care, Beth. I mean that.

BETH
Joseph I...I want you to know...I..I..

JOSEPH
(finishing her thought)
I know. This won't be happening again.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 35

BETH SPOTS CHRIS SITTING IN THE TRUCK AT THE ROAD.

BETH
God Bless you Joseph. (exits to house)

Joseph now notices Chris, who sits in the truck reading Lilith's book. Joseph heads over to the truck.

JOSEPH
I came to fix the fence.

CHRIS
All night?

JOSEPH
Shut up and move over.

JOSEPH GETS INTO THE DRIVER'S SIDE AS CHRIS SLIDES OVER.

CHRIS
Yes, sir.

JOSEPH
What are you reading that for?

CHRIS
(looking at Joseph in awe)
Wow! Lilith Rae.

JOSEPH
I said, shut up!

CHRIS (BEAMING)
Okay, Coach.

JOSEPH
And wipe that smile off your face. You look like a hyena. CUT TO:

36 EXT. OLD STONE CHURCH - DAY 36

Joseph pulls up to the front of the church with Chris who is still reading.

JOSEPH
I'll be right out. Then we're going over to clean the far cove.

CHRIS
Don't worry about me I have plenty of reading to do.

JOSEPH
Wise ass.

As Joseph is about to enter the portals of the church Father Dom exits. He stops Joseph.

36 CONTINUED: 36

FATHER DOM
Ah! There you are.

JOSEPH
Hi, Dom. What's up?

FATHER DOM
What's up. What's up he wants to know. You tell me what's up?

JOSEPH
What are you talking about.

Dominic grabs Joseph under the arm and walks him along the front of the church.

FATHER DOM
Before early mass, Emma came to confession. She wanted to talk. Probably about her late husband's passing.

JOSEPH
Yea ... What's that to do with me?

FATHER DOM
She wouldn't speak to me.

JOSEPH
Why?

FATHER DOM
They only want you.

JOSEPH
They? Whatta ya talkin ...

They turn the corner of the church to see Emma and four other women dressed in black sitting in the garden waiting to speak to Joseph. Emma rises. The others follow suit. One holds out a cake. Another cookies.

EMMA
Joseph.

JOSEPH LOOKS TO DOMINIC WHO LOOKS TO HEAVEN. CUT OUT:

37 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - DAY 37

Close up bucket of water being towed in a little red wagon. We pull back to see Willie pulling the wagon and following his leader the Mayor Parks. A lemonade stand has been constructed at the entrance to the pier. Beautiful lemons have been painted around a 50cents per glass sign on the front of the stand. Vincent stands behind an easel while sketching Doc Potts who sits on a boardwalk pilling. Molly is cleaning the stand.

37 CONTINUED: 37

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
She looks great Vincent, just great. You are a man of immense talent.

VINCENT
Thank you sir.

DOCTOR POTTS
Let’s hope he does as well with me.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I’m sure he will Doc, I’m sure he will. Willie pour that water.

WILLIE
Pouring.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
How’s the lemonade coming.

MOLLY
We may need a few more lemons.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I’ll have Willie bring out some more.

MOLLY
Look who’s coming.

Shot of Father Dom walking to the dock. He’s mumbling to himself. Everyone gives a good morning to the amiable priest who returns the greetings.

FATHER DOM
Morning everyone. What’s up boys.

DOCTOR POTTS
Rusty has entered into a new business.

VINCENT
The great entrepreneur.

FATHER DOM
What’s all this.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
When Lilith’s book comes out I’m betting we’ll get a dozen or so visitors a day for a good month.

MOLLY
A month at least.

FATHER DOM
You can’t be serious.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Maybe two.

37 CONTINUED: (2) 37

WILLIE
Maybe two.

VINCENT
I say more.

FATHER DOM
Has everyone on this island gone out of their minds.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Now father, this here stand could make us a good twenty to thirty dollars a day. We could use it for new uniforms.

MOLLY
With Maria's cookies who knows. And it all goes to St Michael's.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Minus cost and labor of course.

WILLIE
Of course.

FATHER DOM
I give you all blessings for your gracious thoughts but it seems like a lot of work for little return.

VINCENT
I think you're dead wrong. We're all in for the time of our lives.

FATHER DOM
You have a sick mind.

VINCENT
We'll see.

FATHER DOM
Doc, you're an intelligent man. What do you think?

DOCTOR POTTS
Well Dom, I see three possibilites; One you're right and in a week or two it all dies down. But I think that's unlikely with Lilith's reputation. Rusty's probably right and we will have a heavy visitation for a month or so and then a few fans every now and then from now on.

FATHER DOM
What's the third possibility. (PAUSE)

VINCENT (SMILES)
Tell 'em Doc.

37 CONTINUED: (3) 37

DOCTOR POTTS
This island becomes the isle of love and one of the great tourist spots of the world.

FATHER DOM
You're not serious.

DOCTOR POTTS
Stranger things have happened.

VINCENT
I can see it now. The isle of LOVE.

FATHER DOM
The isle of ... Oh! MY ...

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Tourists from all over the world.

WILLIE
Tourists.

VINCENT (IN DOM'S EAR)
Women tourists.

FATHER DOM WALKS PAST THE POSING DOCTOR POTTS TO THE EDGE OF THE DOCK AND STARES OUT OVER THE WATER. THE OTHERS START TO DROP WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND FORM A GROUP LOOKING TOWARDS THE GOOD FATHER. CLOSE UP FATHER DOM.

FATHER DOM
Oh, my God!

MOLLY
I better start fixing up the inn.

VINCENT
Amore'!

FATHER DOM
Oh, my God!!!

Dom walks to end of dock and stares out over the water. He seems to be lost in thought.

38 EXT: WATERWAY APPROACH TO ISLAND - DAY 38

WOMEN IN BOATS. (To the Benny Goodman rendition of "Flat Foot Floogy with the Floy Floy.") The ferry is heading full speed to the landing dock. This time, however, the ferry is filled with women. WOMEN of all ages, shapes, and sizes are waving and yelling, "Joseph! Joseph, we love you." As the ferry gets close, we realize that Captain John's craft is not alone. WOMEN in speed boats are passing him by. A close look reveals three elderly ladies paddling a canoe. Two other women are hard at work pulling the oars of a row boat. Finally in the distance a cruise liner turns toward the island and we realize it's also filled to the brim.

38 CONTINUED: 38

QUICK CUT SEQUENCE:

A. HERB WAVES TO BOATS FROM LIGHTHOUSE CATWALK

HERB
Welcome. Welcome.

B. WILLIE POLISHING THE BAR

C. VINCENT PAINTING A ONE ON THE LEMONADE SIGN SO IT READS A DOLLAR FIFTY INSTEAD of FIFTY CENTS PER GLASS. WILLIE HOLDS PAINT CAN.

E. CLOSE UP: FACE OF WOMAN ON BOAT

F. MARIA FURIOUSLY MAKING COOKIES

G. MOLLY PUTTING TABLE CLOTH ON TABLES IN THE INN

H. RUSTY ENTERS BAR AREA DRESSED IN KILT

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Well, is it a grand look or is it not?

WILLIE
Grand.

I. CLOSE UPS OF WOMEN'S FACES

J. EXTREME CLOSE UP OF FATHER DOM FROM HIGH ANGLE

FATHER DOM (SCREAMS)
Oh! My God.

END OF SEQUENCE CUT TO:

39 EXT. SHORE LINE - DAY 39

Far below, we see Joseph and Chris raking seaweed and kelp into a rowboat. Joseph stares into the waving green of the seaweed and once again we hear the sounds of a distant war going through his memory. Chris' voice breaks the silence.

CHRIS
Coach? Joseph, what's wrong?

JOSEPH (WEAKLY)
Nothing's wrong.

CHRIS
You haven't said ten words for the last week. We don't even stop for lunch anymore.

JOSEPH
There's work to do.

39 CONTINUED: 39

CHRIS
You've been working my ass off for days. What gives.

JOSEPH
If it's too much for you, then quit.

CHRIS
Sorry. (continues working)

JOSEPH (RELUCTANTLY)
No Chris. I'm the one who's sorry.

CHRIS
I haven't said a thing about Mrs. McPhearson. I give you my word.

JOSEPH
Thank you. She doesn't need anymore pain. But it's not that.

CHRIS
What is it?

JOSEPH
It's this whole thing about Lilith dying and the old ladies. I don't know what to say to Emma and the others on this island. I just listen.

CHRIS
Maybe that's what they want.

JOSEPH
That's what Doc says.

CHRIS
You really think they'll come.

JOSEPH
I don't know. Chris, we've never talked about women and things ...

CHRIS
Coach we know a lot more than you think. We have the internet.

JOSEPH
Then know this. A woman is something very special and they should never be hurt in any way.

CHRIS
What's that to do with Lilith's book?

JOSEPH
Chris you've never seen death. It's frightening and it's lonely.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2) 39

JOSEPH (cont'd)
I’m just trying to make this island beautiful for her when she comes. IF she comes.

CHRIS
You should call her.

JOSEPH
You think?

WILLIE (O.S.)
Joseph! Joseph!!

Far off in the distance, Willie comes running toward Joseph and Chris. He’s completely out of breath.

WILLIE
They’re here.

CLOSE UP OF A CONFUSED JOSEPH CUT TO:

40 INT. RUSTY’S PUB - DAY 40

The place is packed. Molly stands behind the bar. Father Dom and the Mayor are stuffed into a corner. Even some of the LOCAL ISLAND WOMEN are there, including Emma. Each woman is wishing for only one thing: a word, a moment with Joseph, the world’s greatest lover. The CAMERA MOVES between Vincent and his spellbound audience.

VINCENT
Love! Welcome to the isle of love. Welcome to the isle of warmth and kindness. I say warmth and kindness, not lust, not filth, not sex ... but love. I say this because lust has no lasting passion and sex is fueled by an intensely hot, burning flame that quickly subsides. It soon becomes a faded memory. Not here. Not on our isle, our monument to the eternal moment that can only come about when two people have allowed their souls to touch. A spiritual--yes--a religious insight.

The CAMERA PANS to Father Dom, mouth opened, his eyes rolling to heaven. Rusty smiles.

VINCENT (cont'd)
Yes, spiritual. For all those who embrace what has happened here are deeply moved, overwhelmed with compassion in a way that compels them to become better human beings. We all know how Lilith, her career gone, her talents rejected, her star fading into obscurity, until God ... Yes God ...

FATHER DOM COLLAPSES IN THE CORNER.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 40

VINCENT (cont'd)
... intervened and brought to her a soul. A lost, bewildered soul, more tortured than her own. A soul scarred by war.

THE WOMEN ARE MESMERIZED. VINCENT'S VOICE GETS SOFTER.

VINCENT (cont'd)
These two souls touched. They embraced. They made love. They made love and the world changed. Now you ... all of you ... will be touched by that pure, unselfish love.

WOMEN SWOON:

VINCENT (cont'd)
Only here can you feel the warmth of their lips as they touched for the first time. You can feel love!

A WOMAN FAINTS.

Joseph stands in the doorway at the other end of the room. He watches Vincent in awe.

VINCENT (cont'd)
The wetness that spewed between them as they lay on the beach amidst the rolling thunder of the sea. The heat. The heat of a summer night colliding with the heat of their love. A heat so strong, so intense that two souls were forged into one. Forged into a moment of love the world will never forget. Only here ...

VINCENT SPOTS JOSEPH.

VINCENT (cont'd)
Ladies, here ... here is Joseph!!!

ALL EYES TURN TO JOSEPH. A STILLNESS.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS (YELLS)
Tell them, Joseph. Tell the world.

THE WOMEN WAIT WITH BATED BREATH.

JOSEPH
It was ... good.

Some women FAINT. Some CRY. Others burst into WILD APPLAUSE. Joseph is mobbed by women. CUT TO:

41 INT./EXT. MONTAGE WITH JOSEPH 41

A. Our once rustic inn now begins to change before our eyes. The one time den of back slapping men has been transformed into an elegant, bright, flowery cafe that caters to a female clientele. The booths are now cushioned and decorated with flowers. Bob Vila meets Martha Stewart.

VINCENT (V.O.)
Things really started to change around this little island of ours.

B. Joseph sits at a large table with a huge line of kindly old ladies waiting to have their books signed and to have a word with him.

VINCENT (V.O.)
The women came forth with Lilith's book in one hand and a sample of their favorite recipe in the other. Joseph, being Joseph, was polite to one & all.

C. WITH SOME, HE WALKS ALONG THE BEACH.

D. WITH SOME, HE DANCES.

E. WITH SOME, HE LISTENS AS THEY POUR OUT THEIR HEARTS.

F. BUT WITH MOST, HE HAS TO EAT.
Each has brought him her most treasured family recipe.

VINCENT (V.O.)
Each day brought with it a new score of women who wished only the presence of the world's greatest lover.

Joseph accepts yet another chocolate cake from an elderly woman who gets quite flustered and withdraws a hankie and pats her reddened cheeks.

G. Father Dom, sits to Joseph's left, a collection plate in hand and reaps the rewards of Joseph's good will.

VINCENT (V.O.) (cont'd)
As each of the ladies received her book, signed by their modern day Valentino, Father Dom reaped the rewards. For the kids of course.

One woman escapes Father Dom's trap and he starts to give her the Italian horns. Then another coin hits the basket.

DOM
Why you lousy ... God bless you. You're a fine woman to be thinking of the children of St. ...

ANOTHER DONATION IS PLACED IN THE BASKET.

41 CONTINUED: 41

FATHER DOM
Oh! God bless you, my dear.

H. MOLLY IS MIXING A FANCY EFFEMINATE DRINK IN A BLENDER.

VINCENT (V.O.)
Rusty brought the art of entrepreneurship to its zenith.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
What the hell is that?

MOLLY
A toasted almond. These ladies don't drink shots and beers.

WILLIE
Almonds.

MOLLY (PROUDLY)
We're getting five bucks a drink, and Willie can make three at a time.

WILLIE
Three.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I adore you. (kisses her cheek)

MOLLY
Do you? Do you really?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Sure I ... (SUDDENLY) Five dollars!!!

WILLIE
Five.

VINCENT (V.O.)
The whole island prospered.

CUT TO:

42 EXT. CRANE SHOT OF LAUREL DOCK - DAY 42

As even more women COME OFF the ferry, we see the dock covered with small mercantile booths--hot dog stands, cotton candy, popcorn, cold drinks, ices, jewelry, and T-shirts with "LOVE ISLE" embroidered across them.

VINCENT (V.O.)
However, there were a few exceptions who expected more than just a kind hello, a smile, and a signed book.

43 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING 43

Mayor Rusty Parks and Vincent are PUSHING a reluctant Joseph around the corner landing to room number 3.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: 43

VINCENT
Joseph, you have to do this.

JOSEPH
I don't have to do anything. I've eaten four lunches today already.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
There's this nice German lady.

JOSEPH
Oh! No more bratwurst, no more kugel.

VINCENT
Will you stop with the food. Forget food. It's not about food.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
This woman is a multi millionaire.

JOSEPH
But I can't eat anymore.

VINCENT
Joseph, don't be so damn naive.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
For this kind of money, one must do a little more than lunch.

VINCENT
Duty calls.

Our three Musketeers are now in front of Room 3. A "Do Not Disturb" sign is prominently displayed. The Mayor opens the door. Vincent pushes Joseph into the room.

44 INT. ROOM #3 - EARLY EVENING 44

A bay window looks out over the dark green Atlantic, where the setting sun can be seen. Joseph is pushed. The door shuts behind him. MAXINE steps in front of the window. Had Dr. Mengele's experiments been successful, this would have been the female prototype of the master race. She is a perfect specimen, a modern-day Amazon, six feet tall and dressed in black leather.

JOSEPH
Hello. (NO RESPONSE) The sunsets are beautiful this time of year. Just ...

MAXINE
I hadn't noticed.

JOSEPH
Oh! You must find time to enjoy our sunsets. And our sun..

44 CONTINUED: 44

MAXINE
Perhaps we'll watch the sunrise together.

SHE MOVES TOWARDS JOSEPH.

JOSEPH
Yes...yes. Well, I came to thank you for your...your...generous donation...

MAXINE
Your welcome.

Maxine GRABS Joseph and KISSES him in the strongest, most powerful kiss ever given on screen. Joseph is motionless in her bone-crushing grasp.

45 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING 45

The Mayor is on his knees, eye to the keyhole. Vincent leans over the Mayor pressing his ear to the door.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I can't see a damn thing.

VINCENT
Ssssh!

FATHER DOM (O.S.)
What's going on, boys?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Joseph is getting us a new gym.

FATHER DOM
He's meeting with an architect?

VINCENT AND THE MAYOR SLOWLY LOOK UP TO SEE FATHER DOM.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
What are you doing here?

VINCENT
Get out of here, Dom.

VINCENT (cont'd)
Believe me, this is not for you.

FATHER DOM
What's going on?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Well you see he's ... he's ..

FATHER DOM
Where's Joseph? Where's my brother?

VINCENT
Doing God's work.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: 45

VINCENT AND THE MAYOR TRY TO PUSH FATHER DOM AWAY.

46 INT. ROOM #3 - EARLY EVENING 46

MAXINE BREAKS THE KISS. JOSEPH IS IN SHOCK.

MAXINE
I like it rough.

JOSEPH
Excuse me?

MAXINE
I like it rough!

JOSEPH
Rough?

Maxine hauls back and DELIVERS A RIGHT CROSS to Joseph's chin, sending him flying backwards across the room and onto the brass bed.

47 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING 47

Hearing the loud sound of Joseph hitting the bed, Vincent, the Mayor, and Father Dom stand motionless.

FATHER DOM
(PAUSE) What was that?

VINCENT
A donation.

Suddenly Father Dom RUSHES to the door. Vincent and the Mayor GRAB him.

FATHER DOM
(CALLING) Joseph!!!

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Dom! Dom, please!

VINCENT AND THE MAYOR TRY TO COVER FATHER DOM'S MOUTH.

VINCENT
Will you shut up?

A HAND SLIPS OFF FATHER DOM'S MOUTH.

FATHER DOM
Joseph! Joseph!!! CUT TO:

48 INT. ROOM #3 - EARLY EVENING 48

Maxine stands at the foot of the bed, looking down at Joseph. She RIPS OPEN the top of her black leather blouse, revealing a pair of beautiful, perfect breasts. CLOSE-UP of the breasts. CLOSE-UP of Joseph, light from the setting sun crashing through the window onto him.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: 48

He lies on the bed, mouth open in awe. A pack of condoms LANDS on his chest. A shadow slowly crosses his body.

JOSEPH
Oh! My God!

49 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - EARLY EVENING 49

The Three Stooges are still wrestling in the hallway. Joseph SCREAMS.

FATHER DOM
You're killing my brother!

VINCENT
He won't die, I promise you.

FATHER DOM
(CALLING) Joseph!!!

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
She's making a very large donation.

AT THAT STATEMENT THEY ALL STOP.

FATHER DOM
What?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Money ... she's donating a fortune.

The door quickly OPENS. Joseph APPEARS, trying to escape. He's DRAGGED BACK. The door SLAMS.

FATHER DOM
She's killing him.

FATHER DOM CHARGES AGAIN. VINCENT & THE MAYOR TACKLE HIM.

VINCENT
He's fulfilling her dream.

FATHER DOM
Joseph!!! Joseph!!! Joseph!!!

THEY DRAG THE POOR FATHER AWAY. CUT TO:

50 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY LANDING - LATER 50

Father Dom, Vincent, and the Mayor wait. Father Dom paces from window to linen closet and back.

FATHER DOM
He's probably dead.

VINCENT
What a way to go!

50 CONTINUED: 50

FATHER DOM
You brought this on with your satanic speeches to those poor, lonely ladies. I've seen what it does to them.
(to the Mayor)
And you! Capitalizing on such a thing. You're nothing more than a pimp ... a panderer.

VINCENT
And you?

FATHER DOM
Me! Don't you dare compare ... or associate me with what you've been doing here tonight. It's disgusting.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Ssssh!!! Listen! (PAUSE) God, it's awfully quiet.

FATHER DOM
He's dead.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Just think; a new dorm for the kids.

VINCENT
Joseph's new gym.

A loud GROAN and the sound of a bed CRASHING to the floor fills the hallway. All are silent.

FATHER DOM
What the hell was that?

VINCENT
Another donation.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Must of been a large one.

FATHER DOM
This isn't funny. That's my brother in there. Only God knows what's happening to ... OH! OH! She's coming.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
The closet.

The Mayor PUSHES Vincent INTO THE CLOSET and follows close behind, leaving Father Dom outside on the landing. Father Dom looks down the hallway and sees Maxine COMING AT HIM. Father Dom desperately tries to open the closet door, but can't. The now-conservatively- dressed Amazon approaches. Father Dom freezes, doorknob in hand. His mouth drops open as he is confronted by sex itself. He is speechless.

50 CONTINUED: (2) 50

MAXINE
Good evening, Father.

FATHER DOM
I ... I ... uh ...

MAXINE
This has been the most spiritual moment of my life. I left my donation to St. Michael's with Joseph.

FATHER DOM
Thanks..it's... ah ... tax deductible.

MAXINE
May God bless you, Father.

SHE KISSES FATHER DOM'S HAND.

FATHER DOM
Go you pea ... in peace.

MAXINE LEAVES HAPPILY. THE LINEN CLOSET DOOR OPENS.

VINCENT
The Lord does move in mysterious ways.

FATHER DOM
Yes He ... Joseph!!!

THE THREE BLIND MICE RUSH TO ROOM #3.

51 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - EARLY EVENING 51

They ENTER. Joseph lies sprawled across the bed, head hanging over one side. The sheets are barely covering his naked frame and a check is in his hand. Cautiously, the three soldiers approach their fallen comrade.

FATHER DOM
My brother's been murdered.

VINCENT
He's not dead.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Just sleeping.

VINCENT
Our gallant knight is exhausted.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Look! A check!

FATHER DOM
How much?

THE MAYOR TRIES TO PRY IT OUT OF JOSEPH'S HAND.

51 CONTINUED: 51

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Can’t get it out of his hand. Got it.

HE SUCCEEDS AND HANDS IT UP TO VINCENT.

VINCENT
(looking at the check)
I am humbled before this man.

THE MAYOR GRABS THE CHECK BACK FROM VINCENT’S HAND.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
This is ... is ... wow!

FATHER DOM ALMOST FAINTS. THEY STARE DOWN AT jOSEPH.

FATHER DOM
God! What does he have under there?

VINCENT
A miracle.

Slow pan to Joseph sleeping then slowly pan up and out the window. In the distance the Light house can be seen. Herb is heard howling at the moon. SLOW FADE:

52 EXT. ROAD AND CLIFFS OF ISLAND - DAY 52

Joseph is in training. Driving the pickup next to him is Willie as the Mayor rides shotgun. Vincent is peddling his bike alongside. Joseph is sweaty and exhausted. Chris, who is running with Joseph, is fresh, the obvious beneficiary of youth.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Atta boy. You’re looking good, Joseph.

WILLIE
Looking good.

VINCENT
You look like shit. Maybe you should start lifting some weights.

JOSEPH
How far have we ... you know?

CHRIS
Maybe three miles coach.

JOSEPH
How much have we raised so far?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Almost enough for the dorm. But your new gym is still a ways off.

52 CONTINUED: 52

JOSEPH
We’re going to have to find another way to get my basketball team a new gym. Because this is all going to die out soon. Right? Right?!

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Joseph, that brings up something I’ve been meaning to speak to you about.

JOSEPH
Yea? What?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
A ski resort.

JOSEPH (STOPS)
Are you nuts?

WILLIE SLAMS ON THE BRAKES. VINCENT RUNS OVER CHRIS.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
We’ll make a fortune.

WILLIE
A fortune.

VINCENT
Ski the Isle of Love. I like it.

CHRIS
I can be an instructor.

JOSEPH
Forget it.

CHRIS
But Coach I ...

JOSEPH
I said, forget it!

VINCENT
Joseph, how are you going to stop it?

JOSEPH
That’s my problem. I’ll ... I’ll work it out. (STARTS TO WALK AWAY)

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Please, Joseph just listen ...

JOSEPH
I said no. You’re all crazy. It was alright at first, but it’s been over two months and the crowds are growing. More women to talk to...to dance with ...to read poems TO .. eat their food.

52 CONTINUED: (2) 52

VINCENT
Tough life.

JOSEPH
It's not funny, Vincent. It was fine as long as no one got hurt.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
No one's been hurt.

JOSEPH
Me! I've been hurt! Me!

Joseph WALKS to the side of the road and sits against a tree facing out over the cliffs to the ocean.

VINCENT
Why don't you three head back?

CHRIS
Is he all right?

VINCENT
A little tantrum. All celebrities get them. The pressure. I'll talk to him.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Good plan. You talk to him.

WILLIE
Yea talk.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Hop in Chris.

Chris JUMPS in the truck. He Willie and the Mayor PULL AWAY. Vincent sits beside Joseph and smiles.

JOSEPH
I'm warning you. Take that grin off your face. I'm in no mood for any of your ethereal, aesthetic, metaphysical bullshit. Do you realize ... can you comprehend what's going on here? There's a woman coming to meet me from Zaragoza, where ever the hell that is.

VINCENT
Spain.

JOSEPH
Spa ... Says she'll make a sizable donation to the children of St. Michaels if I'll just talk to her. She says talk, she don't mean <u>talk.</u>

52 CONTINUED: (3) 52

VINCENT
You let the truth out. And these women want the world to hear it.

JOSEPH
What?

VINCENT
That most men are shits. Selfish bastards who marry them and then dole out love like misers. Women have their children, cook for them, work in their homes ... fan their egos. And what do they get? A quickie now and then on a Saturday morning. A few years of quite contentment. And that has to pass for love.

JOSEPH
Their past loves have nothing to do with me and Lilith.

VINCENT
You restored their faith. You spend one week with a woman, and you're loyal to her for the rest of your life. (Joseph goes to respond)
So they think. Women cherish loyalty. They cherish it because they know men are incapable of it. You're the exception that proves they might have been right about THEIR one true love.

JOSEPH
Where do you come up with this stuff? I mean does it just spew forth like..

VINCENT
It's the truth. You have to face it.

JOSEPH
Vincent, I'm exhausted. I CAN'T EAT ANYMORE. I want my sanity restored.

VINCENT
Then leave the island. Disappear for awhile. This time next year all will be forgotten. Run!

JOSEPH
I thought about that. I can't leave. Not just yet. I ... I ...

VINCENT
You're waiting for Lilith. You have to call her you know.

52 CONTINUED: (4) 52

JOSEPH
What could I possibly say to the great Lilith Rae after all these years.

VINCENT
The truth. That you still love her. Joseph you have to call. You must see that this is Lilith's story too.

CLOSE UP JOSEPH PAN TO THE SEA. FADE OUT:

53 INT. ORPHANAGE - FATHER DOM'S OFFICE - EVENING 53

The room is filled with books and the amber glow from a Tiffany lamp. Joseph sits at a big oak desk and after great hesitation, he picks up the phone.

54 INT. LILITH'S HOME - EARLY EVENING 54

Her beautiful Beverly Hills living room. Two chairs face a fireplace with gas logs burning, providing the only light. From behind we can tell that the chairs are occupied by the arms on the arm rests. A phone rings.

MEL (O.S.)
You stay put. I'll get it.

MEL SCHNEIDER GETS UP AND HEADS FOR THE PHONE.

MEL (CONT'D) (O.S.)
Hello? I'm sorry, but Ms. Rae is not receiving any calls right now. Yes... yes, I understand, but...Joseph? Well, hello. Yea, it's Mel. Hold on.

Mel goes over to Lilith with the cordless phone, hands it to her, and LEAVES the room. The camera pushes in. Then slowly comes around the chair to reveal LILITH RAE. She sits in the amber light from the fireplace. Although she is dying, that magic...that something is still there. The magic something that's given to the great stars like Barbara Stanwyck, Garbo, and Deitrich. That ageless, timeless something ... that spirit.

LILITH
Joseph, how I hoped you'd call. Are you angry with me for writing the book? I hoped not. How could I possibly tell my story without mentioning the most important moment of my life? (PAUSE) No, Joseph. No. You don't know what you're asking. I want you to remember me the way I was. (PAUSE) Oh, my darling I ... (PAUSE) Yes, then. Yes, my love. A command performance for you. Yes, darling.

DISSOLVE TO:

55 INT. ORPHANAGE - FATHER DOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT 55

JOSEPH, STILL SITTING AT FATHER DOM'S DESK, HANGS UP.

56 EXT. ORPHANAGE PORCH - LATER THAT NIGHT 56

Sister Anne sits on the porch with Maria and Vincent. It's quiet time: the boys of the orphanage are asleep.

MARIA
The first one was "Sea Hawk." She and Flynn had that instant magic...that chemistry. They both knew they would be friends for life, and they were. They did half a dozen films together. All hits. Every one. They never ...

JOSEPH EXITS HOME AND JOINS THEM ON THE PORCH.

VINCENT
Good evening, Joseph.

JOSEPH
She's coming here to die.

THERE IS AN AWKWARD SILENCE.

SISTER ANN (ABRUPTLY)
Good night, Maria.

MARIA
Good night!?

SISTER ANN GIVES MARIA THE GET LOST SIGN.

MARIA (cont'd)
Yes! Yes, it's late. Let's go.

SISTER ANN
You'll walk Maria to her quarters.

VINCENT
I was waiting for Joseph to ...

SISTER ANN
Vincent! Get the hell out of here! I'll be having my say to Joseph alone.

VINCENT
Yes, Sister.

MARIA
Good night.

VINCENT (O.S.)
I'd love to hear this.

MARIA (O.S.)
No, you wouldn't.

56 CONTINUED: 56

SISTER ANN (PAUSE)
What did you say to Lilith?

JOSEPH
We lost a life together. The least she could do was share her death.

SISTER ANN
Bull. There would have been a few good years at best. Not a life. Mind you, she's no saint in my book, but she's done some great things for the children of this island. And she should not be hurt by us in this way.

JOSEPH
Hurt?

SISTER ANN
Yes, hurt. Especially by you. You and the other vultures on this island have taken the one pure moment in this woman's life and used it, exploited it, worked it for your own ends.

JOSEPH
But Sister, we...

SISTER ANN
I'm pissed off at all of you. Regardless of how noble the cause, the means to this end will not rationalize what you have stolen from her.
(getting up)
I'm not speaking to you as a nun. I'm speaking to you as a woman. You've used her. And she'll hate us for it. And I won't blame her. May the good Lord forgive me, but I'm praying that she'll be taken to God before she finds out what's going on around here.

SISTER ANN ENTERS THE ORPHANAGE, LEAVING jOSEPH ALONE.

57 INT. OLD STONE CHURCH - NIGHT 57

Joseph kneels before the statue of Our Lady and makes the sign of the cross. He fires a wick and starts to light a candle. As the flame ignites, we travel back in time.

DISSOLVE TO:

58 INT. OLD STONE CHURCH - FLASHBACK 58

Young Joseph and Young Lilith are in an alcove that is under construction. There is no statue, just a bare, wooden cross.

58 CONTINUED: 58

YOUNG LILITH
It’s a wonderful old church.

YOUNG JOSEPH
It needs a lot of work. So does the orphanage. Unfortunately, orphanages are considered a thing of the past.

YOUNG LILITH
I expect Spencer Tracy, dressed as Father Flanagan, to come bursting through the door and scold you.

YOUNG JOSEPH
I’d have a lot to say to him too.

YOUNG LILITH
You have little faith in all this.

YOUNG JOSEPH
I left my faith ten thousand miles from here.

YOUNG LILITH
Then have faith in me as I help build this church.

YOUNG JOSEPH
Stay with me?

YOUNG LILITH
Promise to light a candle for me each and every day. Pray for my soul even if you can’t pray for your own.

Young Joseph takes Lilith’s hand as he lights a candle. As the wick is brought back to his lips to be blown out ... we see the present day Joseph.

JOSEPH
I promise.

Joseph makes the sign of the cross and WALKS up the center aisle to exit the church. As he passes under the balcony, we see the back of Vincent seated in the choir loft. Vincent TURNS TO CAMERA.

VINCENT
How strong...the power of love.

59 EXT. FERRY - EARLY MORNING 59

Lilith Rae in a fur coat sits on deck. Mel, cigar in mouth, sits on the ferry railing.

LILITH
It’s beautiful. Isn’t it, Mel?

59 CONTINUED: 59

MEL
At 4:30 who could tell? I didn't know there was a 4:30 in the morning.

LILITH
It's said that a person is closest to God during sunrise and sunset.

LILITH WINCES.

MEL
You're in pain.

LILITH
I'm fine.

MEL
Yeah. Sure you're fine. You're great. This is a cockamamie idea to come all this way in your condition.

LILITH
You didn't have to come.

MEL
Of course I had to come. I'm your agent. I still get ten percent.

LILITH
Oh, I see. For a second there I thought you were going to say it was because you loved me.

MEL
Don't be a wiseass. If I didn't love you, would I be on this facockta boat?

Captain John COMES OVER. He removes his cap as if approaching royalty.

CAPTAIN JOHN
Ms Rae? I just wanted to thank you for all you've done for the kids.

LILITH
It's been my pleasure. And thank you for the private cruise my captain.

CAPTAIN JOHN
Ms. Rae? I'm sorry but we have to make a pick-up at the lighthouse steps and then it's just a short hop to the island dock. Only take a second.

MEL
Whatta we stopping for?

CAPTAIN JOHN
We have to pick up Herb the caretaker.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: (2) 59

MEL
I thought the lighthouses were all computerized now.

CAPTAIN JOHN
They are. But nine years ago when they modernized this lighthouse and fired Herb some other computer kept sending him his check. Herb figures if one computer can make a mistake then any computer can make a mistake. So we pick him up every morning and bring him back at night.

LILITH
How charming.

CAPTAIN JOHN
I have to warn you, he's a little crazy.

MEL
Don't worry skipper we're from Hollywood.

LILITH
Thanks for the warning, my captain.

CAPTAIN JOHN
Joseph will be waiting at the landing with Doc Potts.

LILITH
Joseph?!?

CAPTAIN JOHN
Yes, Ma'am. The Mayor says to tell you not to worry about the tourists.

MEL
They're all sleeping.

CAPTAIN JOHN
No one knows you're coming. May be some local fisherman shoving off but no tourists.

HERB (VO)
What the hell is going on down there. You're early for God sakes.

CAPTAIN JOHN
That would be Herb. I'm sorry...we didn't mean for..for what's going on..

CAPTAIN JOHN BACKS AWAY AS IF FROM ROYALTY.

MEL
Just what we needed, another nut.

59 CONTINUED: (3) 59

LILITH
Stop being an old sourpuss. Look! Can you imagine a more beautiful place to live ... or die?

THE ISLAND COMES INTO VIEW THROUGH EARLY MORNING MIST.

MEL (O.S.)
Yes. The Polo Lounge. CUT TO:

60 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - SUNRISE 60

As the ferry approaches the dock, we see Joseph standing there alone. Behind him, Doc Potts sits in the driver's seat of his Land Rover. Lilith looks to Joseph.

DISSOLVE TO:

61 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - SUNRISE 61

Joseph stands on the dock looking at Lilith. Lilith looks in Joseph's direction. In the background, local lobster fishermen are getting ready their ships. All stop to see the early ferry. Herb goes to Lilith.

HERB
I'll help with the bags. Ms Rae it was a pleasure to finally meet you.

LILITH
The pleasure was mine Herbert.

MEL
Better let me help you.

LILITH (DETERMINED)
No, Mel. I'm fine.

Herb and Mel carry the luggage off the ferry ramp past the Joseph of today, who doesn't take his eyes off Lilith. In the background Doc Potts gets out of the van to open the back door to help Mel and Herb. They exchange greetings while loading the luggage.

THE JOSEPH AND LILITH OF TODAY EMBRACE.

LILITH
Oh, my love.

Joseph holds Lilith and slowly turns. The friends of now and the lovers of then change with each graceful turn.

JOSEPH
I've missed you so.

62 EXT. MCPHEARSON' FISHING BOAT - DAY 62

Beth is watching the reunion. McPhearson comes up to her

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: 62

MCPHEARSON
What the hell is this?

BETH
You wouldn't understand.

MCPHEARSON
And you better get that look out of your eyes.

Beth laughs and WALKS AWAY. McPhearson turns and looks at Joseph and Lilith, in the distance. CUT TO:

63 INT. ORPHANAGE PARLOR - DAY 63

The gang's all here. Vincent, the Mayor, Father Dom, Maria, Molly, Angela, Willie, Chris and, of course, Joseph. Doc Potts and Mel sit off to the side. Sitting in the big red leather chair that dominates the room is Lilith. Joseph sits on a hassock at her side and gently holds her hand. Maria is refilling Lilith's cup of tea. Sister Ann sits on the opposite side of the room.

LILITH
Maria, your daughter is gorgeous! She'll break a lot of hearts.
(to Chris)
And you, young man...I've heard a great deal about your slider.

CHRIS
You like baseball, Ms. Rae?

LILITH
Dodger season box holder for years.

CHRIS
Hey, Coach? You never said.

JOSEPH
I never knew.

ANGELA
We're real glad you're here, Ms. Rae.
(indicating Chris)
Well, we should get going.

LILITH
You'll come see me later, promise?

THEY BOTH NOD ENTHUSIASTICALLY AS THEY LEAVE.

FATHER DOM
We should all leave Lilith now. I'm sure Lilith wants to rest up.

SISTER ANN
Perhaps she'd like to talk first?

63 CONTINUED: 63

LILITH
Yes, please don't go. It's wonderful here. It's just like the pictures Sister Ann has sent me. Peaceful.

SISTER ANN
It's not that peaceful.

DOCTOR POTTS
You should rest, Lil.

LILITH
I'll be resting soon enough, Doc. Let's not rush it.

FATHER DOM
But it was such a long trip.

SISTER ANN (TO LILITH)
It's not you they're worried about. It's their own black hearts.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
That's not fair, Sister.

WILLIE
Not fair.

VINCENT
Perhaps we should go.

MEL
I'm completely lost. What's goin'...

DOCTOR POTTS
Mel, why don't you stay at my place? I'll explain it all on the way over. You can have Steve's old room.

MEL
That all right with you, Lil?

LILITH
Of course, darling. I'm sure I'll be well taken care of.

MARIA
I'll see to it myself. But right now, I'd better go find something to do.

DOCTOR POTTS
We'll check in with you later.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Don't go.

WILLIE
Go. (Runs out)

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (2) 63

Doc Potts, Mel, Willie and Maria LEAVE. Vincent, the Mayor, and Father Dom are nervous. Joseph sits calmly.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I guess I'll be going too. Vince, care to join me?

VINCENT
Sure, Rusty, I'll ...

SISTER ANN
Rats deserting the ship.

FATHER DOM
Sister Ann, that's quite enough.

LILITH
What's up, Joseph?

JOSEPH
Sister Ann doesn't approve of what's been going on around here.

LILITH
Tourists upset the balance of nature?

FATHER DOM
They give us donations for the kids.

LILITH
Well, hurrah for us!

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Great for us.

VINCENT
It seems you've created a new Valentino.
They come to meet Joseph.

LILITH
My poor Joseph! Have they shattered your peace of mind?

JOSEPH
Something like that.

VINCENT
You don't understand, Lil. Each one who comes to meet Joseph ... Joseph, the great lover ...

FATHER DOM
Don't make it worse.

VINCENT
... makes a donation.

LILITH
What's wrong with that?

63 CONTINUED: (3) 63

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
(with great difficulty)
Well...a few ... mind you ... very few ... have donated a small fortune. And a few of these few ... well ... they want more than their book signed.

LILITH LOOKS TO JOSEPH WHO JUST NODS A YES.

LILITH
Oh! (PAUSE) Oh, my God!

FATHER DOM
That's what I said.

SISTER ANN
They're all pigs.

JOSEPH
I'm sorry, Lilith.

Lilith PUTS HER HEAD DOWN into her hands and appears to be crying. They all look to one another. Sister Ann is wearing her "I told you so" look. Then Lilith's head rises up to reveal the tremendous laugh that has enchanted the screen for years. She's filled with joy.

LILITH
I think this is great.

JOSEPH
You don't mind?

LILITH
Mind?! It's wonderful.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Well I'll be damned.

FATHER DOM
Yes.

VINCENT
I knew it!

They all LAUGH except Sister Ann. One by one they realize she is not laughing. They stop and look at her. Only Vincent has the nerve to smile. Sister Ann rises and, for a brief moment, stands her ground. And then--

SISTER ANN
I was wrong.

SHE LEAVES. THEY ALL START LAUGHING AGAIN.

JOSEPH (TO LILITH)
You're fantastic.

CUT TO:

64 EXT. JOSEPH'S COTTAGE - EVENING 64

Joseph's cottage is quaint, well kept, with a warm feeling to it. Joseph's truck is parked along the picket fence that surrounds the dwelling. The white linen curtains on the windows diffuse the amber glow of the candlelight within.

65 INT. JOSEPH'S HOME - EVENING 65

Joseph and Lilith are sitting at Joseph's modest dining room table. They have just finished their meal.

LILITH
That was divine. If I could cook like that, I wouldn't have to act.

JOSEPH
I heard you were a great cook.

LILITH
You heard wrong. Some P.R. person telling the gossip rags I learned to cook for some part or another. I can't boil an egg. If I could, I might have been able to hold on to one of my three husbands.

JOSEPH
Well, I could have cooked.

LILITH
I would have loved every morsel.
(after a moment)
Joseph why didn't you follow me?

JOSEPH
I knew what the answer would be if I asked you to choose between what you had to do and me. (PAUSE) Why didn't you come back?

LILITH
I knew what my answer would be when you asked me to choose between you and what I had to do.

JOSEPH
Well maybe we could of ...

LILITH
Life is too short to dwell on regrets. It's just a tease, isn't it? Once you get the hang of it ... the plug gets pulled. (SMILES) Damn!

JOSEPH TAKES HER HAND.

JOSEPH
Yea, damn.

65 CONTINUED: 65

LILITH STARES AT JOSEPH AND SMILES.

LILITH
Let me help clear the table.

JOSEPH
No. You go into the living room and pour a glass of wine. That's an order.

LILITH
Well, aren't we the little boss?

JOSEPH (PLAYFULLY)
I've gotten used to having women obey my every command.

LILITH
Just don't forget who made you, baby.

They both laugh as Joseph EXITS to the kitchen and Lilith GOES into the living room.

66 INT. JOSEPH'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 66

Lilith takes in the room, studying everything in sight. First by eye, then by touch.

LILITH (WHISPERING)
Home. It's a wonderful home.

JOSEPH (O.S.)
What did you say?

LILITH
What's in the next room?

JOSEPH (O.S.)
A small den. Then a bedroom and bath.

LILITH
May I see your den?

JOSEPH (O.S.)
It's a mess. The kids are trying to teach me how to use the computer, but I'm afraid it's hopeless.

LILITH
I know the feeling.

JOSEPH (O.S.)
Would you rather have coffee?

LILITH
Don't be ridiculous, darling. I'm not dead yet. (TO HERSELF) That's what I love about you Lil, your sensitivity.

DISSOLVE TO:

67 INT. JOSEPH'S DEN - NIGHT 67

Lilith stands in the doorway, looking at Joseph's life. On the walls surrounding his desk are hundreds of pictures of children who have come through St. Michael's over the past twenty odd years. She sits at the desk and looks at the wall full of pictures. Joseph ENTERS the room and stands behind her.

LILITH
For a man who's never been married, this is quite a family.

JOSEPH
These are our children.

LILITH
We must have been very busy.

JOSEPH
If it wasn't for your generosity.....

LILITH
Sssh! Don't. That's just money. There have been many men in my life but no little boys. I always wondered where God hid them.

JOSEPH
God just took care of them for you.

LILITH
You believe in God?

JOSEPH
You?

LILITH
Yes. I just hope God can believe in me. I won't apologize for my life.

JOSEPH
I'm sure we're judged by our actions.

LILITH
Then I'm a lost cause.

JOSEPH
There're no lost causes here. That's the most loyal fan club any actress ever had. From all over the country they send me reviews ...

LILITH
I hope not all of them.

Joseph pulls out a scrap book with the word "Lilith" written across the top in gold leaf.

67 CONTINUED: 67

JOSEPH
All. There are three other volumes.

LILITH STARTS THUMBING THROUGH THE BOOK.

LILITH
You have pictures here from long before I ever met you. So young. The camera always projected me with an illusion of beauty.

JOSEPH
You’re still beautiful.

LILITH
I must pour you wine more often. Look ... Ty Power. Talk about gorgeous! He could act too. That famous dance scene when we seduced each other. Very risque for the time. He was such a gentleman. Whenever I worked with someone I didn’t care for, it helped if I thought of him. That is, until I met you, of course.

JOSEPH
Yeah! Right.

LILITH
Whenever these reviews speak of passion in my scenes, they were speaking of us. You were my Ty Power.

JOSEPH
We never danced together.

Lilith STANDS UP. Takes hold of Joseph’s hand. She cradles herself into his chest.

LILITH
May I have this dance.

JOSEPH
There’s no music.

LILITH
I’m a star, darling. There’s always music.

SHE HUMS A SLOW WALTZ AS JOSEPH HOLDS HER CLOSE.

LILITH (cont'd)
I want to live every day I can ... then ... I’ll need your help, my love.

They slowly DANCE in the amber hue from the Tiffany lamp. We begin to hear Billy Vera’s version of Hopeless Romantics playing in the background. CUT TO:

68 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - DAY 68

A MONTAGE OF THE NEXT TWO WEEKS ON THE ISLAND.

VINCENT (V.O.)
And they continued to come.

A. An ELDERLY WOMAN receives a kiss on the cheek from Joseph and FAINTS.

VINCENT (CONT'D) (V.0)
And books. He signed copy after copy. Father Dom continued to sit at the end of the reception line and blessed all those who donated to the cause.

B. Joseph signs book after book as Father Dom blesses all those who drop a donation into the basket.

VINCENT (CONT'D) (V.O.)
Each day, Doc and Mel sat at the bar as Mel delighted in telling stories about life in Hollywood.

C. A LARGE GROUP OF WOMEN is gathered around Mel and Doc Potts. Mel hits an obvious punchline. All laugh, especially Doc Potts and Willie who's tending bar.

VINCENT (CONT'D) (V.O.) (cont'd)
Chris and Angela were the keepers of the till, counting every dollar raised for the building fund. God, I hope they don't become Republicans.

D. Angela stands before a graph indicating that they are halfway home in the drive to build a new field house. Chris ENTERS with a basket full of money and dumps it on the table. They smile at each other.

69 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - SECOND FLOOR - HALLWAY 69

VINCENT (V.O.)
Rusty was truly the lord of the manor, the keeper of the flame.

Joseph EXITS a guest room at the far end of the hallway. He looks exhausted and stuffed. He belches. The Mayor comes over to him, leads him to another door, takes a key, and opens the door. Joseph frowns. The Mayor smiles and sends Joseph into the lion's den. The Mayor now beams and rubs his hands ala Scrooge.

70 INT. GUEST ROOM - JOSEPH ENTERS 70

His eyes fall upon an elderly lady who sits behind a table that is covered with an enormous array of food.

LADY
I hope you're hungry.

70 CONTINUED: 70

JOSEPH BURPS AND SMILES POLITELY. CUT TO:

71 INT. ORPHANAGE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 71

Lilith is sitting up in bed. Maria is beside her. Each with a glass of wine, enjoying a relaxing chat and watching an old Errol Flynn/Olivia D'Haviland movie.

VINCENT (V.O.)
Maria became Lilith's personal nurse. I had the hardest task of all. To sculpt a monument to love.

72 INT. VINCENT'S STUDIO - NIGHT 72

VINCENT IS FEVERISHLY WORKING ON THE BASE OF A SCULPTURE.

VINCENT (V.O.)
This would normally be a pleasant task for an artist such as myself, but in this case, I wasn't sure if I'd have enough time. Time!

73 EXT. THE PORCH - DAY 73

Lilith and Sister Ann sit at a picnic table with coloring books and four children, no older than five or six.

VINCENT (V.O.)
By day, Sister Ann would bring some of the smaller children to visit with their patron. Not for long, mind you. Lilith would cherish these times the most. For the children didn't care that she was a great star. They just wanted to know why the clown in the coloring book had to have a red nose or why the horse couldn't be blue

END OF THE MONTAGE.

74 EXT. ORPHANAGE PORCH - DAY 74

A LITTLE GIRL with a flower in her hand stands next to Lilith who is seated.

LITTLE GIRL
Miss Lil, could you put the flower in my hair?

LILITH (PLACING FLOWER)
Why of course. Fifty years in the business, and now I'm doing hair. There you are! Oooh, you look beautiful. A Spanish Princess. Matadors kneel at your feet to gaze up into those beautiful eyes.

74 CONTINUED: 74

LITTLE GIRL (LAUGHING)
You talk funny.

THE LITTLE GIRL RUNS OFF.

LILITH
Another critic.

Lilith sees Beth standing at the corner of the porch. Beth is clutching a copy of Lilith's book.

LILITH (cont'd)
Hello.

BETH
Hello, Ms. Rae. Sister Ann said it was all right to ... I hope I'm not bothering you.

LILITH
What Sister Ann says goes around here. I'm just a hired hand. Do you want me to sign your copy?

BETH (AWKWARDLY)
Please.

BETH HANDS LILITH THE BOOK. LILITH STARTS TO WRITE.

LILITH
Your name?

BETH
Beth.

LILITH
To Beth ... (PAUSE) You're Joseph's Beth? Lady Beth.

BETH
He told you about me?

LILITH
We have few secrets.

BETH (LEAVING)
I guess I shouldn't be here.

LILITH
Why? We have more in common than any two women on this island. If you want, we can compare notes.

BETH
Please don't make fun of me.

LILITH
I'm sorry but you see I'm jealous.

74 CONTINUED: (2) 74

BETH
Of me? Why? You ... you .. People love you. Men dream about you.

LILITH
Yes, I'm special. So are you my dear.

LILITH FINISHES WRITING AND HANDS THE BOOK BACK TO BETH.

BETH (READING)
"To Lady Beth ... There is love. Don't waste it."

LILITH
Come sit here with me and we'll talk of love and other misadventures.

Lilith motions to Beth to sit next to her. As Beth climbs the stairs and sits next to Lilith, THE CAMERA PANS AWAY to the porch light as day turns to night.

DISSOLVE TO:

75 EXT. ORPHANAGE PORCH - NIGHT 75

Lilith and Sister Ann are seated, enjoying the evening and each other's company. Molly comes out of the front door. She's lighting a cigerette.

MOLLY
Well girls everything is done. The crews all asleep.

LILITH
I'd kill for a cigarette right now.

MOLLY
I give you this and I'll be killed.

SISTER ANN
That's God's truth.

LILITH
Join us.

MOLLY
I think I'll walk back and enjoy this cigarette in peace. Good night.

MOLLY EXITS LEAVING LILITH AND SISTER TO THEMSELVES.

SISTER ANN
Summer storm brewing.

LILITH
Feels that way. I'm always so happy to see Joseph when he comes, but I don't know what to say to him.

75 CONTINUED: 75

SISTER ANN
Tough day at the office?

LILITH (LAUGHS)
That's good.(PAUSE) Thank you, Sister.

SISTER ANN
For what?

LILITH
Your kindness.

SISTER ANN
It's my job.

LILITH
Well, you do it very well.

SISTER ANN
I don't approve of the shenanigans goin' on around here. And after reading your book, you'll be needing all my prayers and then some. But you're a hell of a woman Lilith Rae, and God would only be foolish if He denied Himself your company.

LILITH
That's the nicest review I've ever received. But like most critics, you've gotten it wrong.

SISTER ANN
How's that?

LILITH
God would be denying <u>Herself</u>.

SISTER ANN (LAUGHS)
Now wouldn't that be a pisser.

Lilith SUDDENLY GRABS her chest. She takes a deep breath and doesn't exhale. Sister Ann jumps out of her chair.

SISTER ANN (YELLING)
Maria! Come quick!

QUICK CUT TO:

76 INT. ORPHANAGE KITCHEN - NIGHT 76

MEL IS SITTING ALONE. DOC POTTS ENTERS.

DOCTOR POTTS
When life gets to this point, I always feel so helpless.

MEL
How much longer?

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: 76

DOCTOR POTTS
Week, maybe two, no more. An there will be pain.

MEL
Hard to imagine a world without Lilith Rae in it.

77 EXT. JOSEPH'S COTTAGE - NIGHT 77

Joseph COMES OUT of the front door moving fast. Father Dom is following him.

FATHER DOM
We're not through talking about this.

JOSEPH
I'm through talking.

FATHER DOM
Joseph, please! Come back inside it's about to storm. You'll catch your death.

JOSEPH
Then you can say Last Rites over me.

FATHER DOM
You've got to talk Lilith out of this.

JOSEPH
It's Lilith's path we walk now.

FATHER DOM
I will not let you cross this line.

JOSEPH
You can't stop us Dom. It's her last performance, and I'm going to help.

FATHER DOM
YOU CAN'T.

JOSEPH
Watch me.

FATHER DOM
Then you'll rot in hell.

JOSEPH LOOKS HARD AT HIS OLDER BROTHER...THEN TAKES OFF.

FATHER DOM (CALLING AFTER)
Joseph!! Joseph!!!

FATHER DOM STANDS ALONE AS THE FIRST DROPS OF THE SUMMER STORM STARTS TO FALL. CUT TO:

78 EXT. SHORE BELOW LILITH'S POINT - NIGHT 78

It's beginning to RAIN. The summer wind has begun to grow to a SMALL GALE. The sea has taken its cue from the wind and the waves have risen to incredible heights as the lighthouse lamp intermittently passes. Joseph stands upon the rocks and SCREAMS to the heavens.

JOSEPH
Go ahead! Go ahead...wash it all away. Take it...take it away from me again!!

Thunder CLAPS and LIGHTNING highlights Joseph's face. He hears a man screaming at the top of his lungs. Joseph looks up toward Lilith's Point and there, silhouetted by the lightning, is Eric McPhearson drunk and in a rage. Beth, not running from him, holds her ground.

MCPHEARSON (SCREAMING)
You murderer. Slut!

HE SLAPS HER AND SOMETHING IN BETH SNAPS.

BETH
This is the last time you're ever going to hit me. You bastard.

Joseph IMMEDIATELY STARTS to ascend the cliff leading to the point. The argument builds as Joseph gets closer. McPhearson tries hitting Beth again, she is leading him to the edge of the cliff. Suddenly, she grabs a rock and THROWS it at Eric's face. He FALLS to his knees.

MCPHEARSON
You bitch! You're going to beg me to kill you. You're gonna beg to die.

Eric STRUGGLES to get up. Beth screams then RUNS full speed into Eric, sending him SCREAMING to his DEATH on the rocks below. Beth is lying over the edge of the cliff, barely able to hold herself from falling. THUNDER! LIGHTNING! Beth looks to Joseph standing twenty feet away. She RISES. Their eyes meet. Joseph EXTENDS HIS HAND to her. She slowly turns and WALKS away. Close up Joseph. A clap of thunder followed by a howling.

DISTANT SHOT OF LIGHTHOUSE IN STORM CUT TO:

79 INT./EXT. VINCENT'S STUDIO - NIGHT 79

Through the window we see Vincent feverishly working. He comes over to the sink. THUNDER! LIGHTNING reveals a face staring at Vincent. Vincent jumps back in horror.

VINCENT
Jesus H. Christ! I think you gave me a heart attack.

79 CONTINUED: 79

JOSEPH (OUTSIDE)
I need your help. CUT TO:

80 EXT. MCPHEARSON FISHING BOAT - NIGHT 80

The STORM is at it's height. From a distance, we see Joseph and Vincent approaching The Norseman.

VINCENT (YELLING)
What are we doing?

JOSEPH
Stealing Eric McPhearson's boat.

VINCENT
Can't we wait until the storm's over?

JOSEPH (YELLING)
No. We'll let it drift before we start the engine.

VINCENT
Are you going to tell me why we're doing this?

JOSEPH
No.

VINCENT
Okay. All right. I don't have a problem with that. If you say so...

CUT TO:

81 EXT. NORSEMAN - AT SEA OFF LILITH'S POINT - NIGHT 81

Joseph and Vincent bring the boat around the island towards the rocks off the coast beneath Lilith's Point. Vincent has all he can do to steer the craft as the lighthouse beam punctuates the ghostly scene.

VINCENT
Where are we going?

JOSEPH
The cove below Lilith's Point.

VINCENT
You crazy?!? We'll crash on the rocks

JOSEPH
That's the idea. Here, put on this life jacket. Tie this rope to you.

VINCENT
We stole a boat in the middle of a storm just to beach it on the rocks?!?

81 CONTINUED: 81

JOSEPH
You got it. I'll get us as far in as I can. Then we'll have to swim for it

JOSEPH GOES TO THE BOW.

VINCENT
I'm too old for this shit.

WE SEE the tiny vessel working it's way past one half-sunken rock formation and then another. Finally, its starboard side is RIPPED by a jagged rock about fifty feet from shore. Joseph and Vincent JUMP ship and start working their way over the rocks and through the surf.

82 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT 82

Joseph and Vincent are exhausted and out of breath. Joseph HELPS Vincent onto the beach.

VINCENT
Would you mind very much telling me why we just did what we did?

JOSEPH
I'll show you.

JOSEPH POINTS TO A CRUSHED BODY.

VINCENT
Eric McPhearson?!?

JOSEPH
If anyone saw us take his boat, you had no idea why I needed your help until you got here. To this spot.

VINCENT
What the hell is going on?

JOSEPH
Then I told you I killed him and threw his body off the cliff. We stole ... I stole the boat to make it look like a fishing accident.

VINCENT
Why would you do that?

JOSEPH
He found out about me and his wife.

VINCENT
What if no one saw us?

JOSEPH
Then do as your conscience tells you.

82 CONTINUED: 82

CLOSE-UP ON VINCENT as he WATCHES Joseph walk away. Vincent looks towards the light house.

VINCENT (TO CAMERA)
He’s not a very good liar. Someone once said something like...no greater act than to lay down one’s life for his fellow man. I don’t know.

VINCENT STARTS TO WALK AWAY, THEN TURNS BACK TO CAMERA.

VINCENT
Don’t worry. Nobody saw us but Herb.

VINCENT WALKS THE BEACH IN THE FIRST LIGHT OF DAY.CUT TO:

83 INT. DOC POTTS’ HOME - EARLY MORNING 83

Pounding is heard on Doc Potts’ door. The Doc comes out of his bedroom, puts a robe over his pajamas, and opens the door. There, soaking wet, is Father Dom.

FATHER DOM
I’ve been walking all night.

DOCTOR POTTS
Dom what the hell ... Take that coat off. I’ll get you a brandy. Sit. Sit!

FATHER DOM
I’ll get your chair all ...

DOCTOR POTTS
The hell with the chair. Just, sit.

DOC POTTS POURS A GLASS OF BRANDY.

FATHER DOM
I couldn’t sleep.

DOC POTTS HANDS THE BRANDY TO HIS FRIEND.

DOCTOR POTTS
What happened?

FATHER DOM (cont'd)
I’ve known you for thirty years. Granted we don’t agree on much. But I’d appreciate your counsel. I need to talk to you about ... about life.

DOCTOR POTTS
Any particular life or life in general?

FATHER DOM
Does that matter?

DOCTOR POTTS
Some say, that’s all that matters.

83 CONTINUED: 83

The door to the Doc's bedroom OPENS, and Mel COMES OUT in his underwear and T-shirt. There is an awkward silence.

MEL
Oh, Doc! I'm sorry. I didn't realize that Father was ...

DOCTOR POTTS
It's all right, Mel.

MEL (EXITS)
I didn't mean to ...

FATHER DOM
I should leave.

DOCTOR POTTS
You wanted my advice. My counsel?

FATHER DOM
Maybe .. maybe .. some other time.

DOCTOR POTTS
It bothers you that much?

FATHER DOM
You don't understand. Everything has gone upside down around here for me.

DOCTOR POTTS
What world do you live in, Dom? All the summers Steve and I spent here, together. Who the hell did you think he was? When he died last year, all the condolences. All but yours, Dom. Yours never came. You say you respect me. Need my guidance. But a door opens and all these years of friendship vanish because I no longer fit within some guidelines that have been imposed on you? Not on me ... on you.

FATHER DOM
Some of us need those guidelines.

DOCTOR POTTS
And some of us don't. Those guidelines are killing us. (PAUSE) All right forget friendship. At this moment, I'm still your doctor, and I'm concerned about your mental health. So here's my advice. Loosen that straitjacket on your neck. Get some blood to the brain. Be human. You may be an excellent priest, Dom. But Joseph doesn't need a priest now. He needs his older brother.

FATHER DOM
I don't know if I can do that.

83 CONTINUED: (2) 83

DOCTOR POTTS
You can stay here till it stops raining. Start a fire and I'll get you some bedding.

Doc enters the bedroom. CLOSE UP DOM. Doc re-enters to find Dom gone. CLOSE UP DOC. FADE OUT:

84 EXT. BEACH BELOW LILITH'S POINT - DAY 84

ANGELA
I love it here after a storm. It feels so clean.

CHRIS
Lilith met Joseph here.

ANGELA
Lilith and I talked a lot ... especially about you.

CHRIS
She doesn't really know me.

ANGELA
I filled her in.

CHRIS
I bet you did.

ANGELA
I know you'll be leaving soon ... but I want us to make love before you go.

CHRIS (SHOCKED)
What the hell did Lilith say to you?

ANGELA
She told me no matter what happens, make sure the first time is with someone special, someone you love but know ... know it will never last.

CHRIS
Angela I ...

Angela laughs at Chris' nervousness and runs to the mount of the inlet where the path from the beach to Lilith's Point begins.

ANGELA
I want to climb up to the point.

CHRIS
No way it's to dangerous.

Angela disappears around rocks, she seems fearless and joyfull of the adventure.

84 CONTINUED: 84

ANGELA
I'm not worried you'll be with me.

CHRIS
Angela come back here, you'll...Shit! This is gonna...Oh! Damn!

Chris catches up with Angela who has stopped dead in her tracks. She looks down into the seaweed on the shore.

CHRIS (cont'd)
It's very dangerous to climb ... What's the matter? (ANGELA SCREAMS)

CLOSE-UP: DEAD BODY OF ERIC McPHEARSON FLOATS. CUT TO:

85 INT. ORPHANAGE BEDROOM - DAY 85

Doc Potts is checking Lilith's pulse. Mel sits to the side of the bed. Maria stands at its head. The mood is forcefully pleasant.

MARIA
You look better today.

MEL
Still a beauty.

LILITH
Thank you both. I love lies like that. Doc, can you get me one more day? I have a very big date tonight.

THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. THE MAYOR & WILLIE ENTER.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Excuse me. Maria, I need to see you for a minute.

MARIA
What's the matter?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Maybe we'd better talk outside.

WILLIE
Yea, out side.

LILITH
Damn it, Rusty, if you've got something to say, then say it!

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
I didn't want to upset you, Lil. But Chris and Angela were walking along the beach and found Eric McPhearson's body. Angela is a little shaken.

85 CONTINUED: 85

MARIA
My poor baby! (runs out)

LILITH
Tell Angela to come see me later.

MEL
What happened?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
From what Chris says, it looks like a shipwreck in the storm last night. Willie and I are gonna check it out now. Doc, can you come with me?

DOCTOR POTTS
Sure thing.

MEL
Who was he?

LILITH
Beth's husband.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
A drunken bum. A piece of dirt.

WILLIE
Dirt.

LILITH
Well don't sugar coat Rusty. Who knows about this?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Just us and the two kids.

LILITH
Can we keep it that way?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Why?

LILITH
I may have plans for Mr. McPhearson.

DOCTOR POTTS
For what?

LILITH
To help Joseph and me.

MEL
Lil!??

LILITH (SMILING)
Mr. McPhearson is going to help make us immortal. The dirty bastard.

85 CONTINUED: (2) 85

FADE OUT:

86 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - LATER THAT DAY 86

Herb is sitting at a table having his dinner. Molly pours a cup of coffee. Rusty and Doc sit at the table. Willie stands there trying to pin on a badge.

MOLLY
Anybody for coffee?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Not now. Later.

MOLLY (EXITS)
Can't say as I blame you.

HERB
Been wondering when you boys were gonna get around to me.

DOCTOR POTTS
Couple of the kids found Eric McPhearson's ship beached on the shore this morning. Crashed on the rocks.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Willie being our sheriff needs to file a report.

WILLIE
Report.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Just routine.

WILLIE

Routine.

DOCTOR POTTS
Once that's done I can declare him legally drowned at sea for the coast guard report.

HERB
Saw that mean bastards' ship pile up on the rocks last night at the height of the storm.

WILLIE (WRITES)
Height of storm.

DOCTOR POTTS
Any chance of you seeing that ship crash on the rocks with no one aboard.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
It's something Lilith's cooking up.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED: 86

HERB
For Ms. Rae?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
For Lil.

HERB
Coast guard will look for a body.

WILLIE
Herb, they won't find it.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Willie!

WILLIE
Don't Willie me. I'm the law on this island and I'm responsible to make this apparent accident look above board.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Yes sir.

WILLIE
Now Herb.

HERB
You asking me to swear that I saw McPhearson's ship crash upon the rocks during the storm last night without that bastard McPhearson on board?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
That's what Willie needs to hear.

WILLIE
I can speak for myself. I need to hear it. Yeah.

HERB
I can honestly swear in any court in the land that McPhearson was not on his boat last night when it crashed. Now if you boys will excuse me I have a ferry to catch. A nights work to do.

WILLIE TEARS UP HIS NOTES AND SITS AS HERB EXITS THE BAR.

FADE OUT:

87 EXT. ORPHANAGE PORCH - DAY 87

Vincent, Maria, Mel, and Lilith are waiting for the arrival of her date. Lilith looks stunning. Joseph's truck pulls up, and he hops out with a dozen roses in hand. He is dressed sharply for those who know him. New black jeans, black shirt and a green suede jacket.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED: 87

Lilith RISES from the big wicker chair. Mel and Vincent rush to help her. Lilith stares them down.

LILITH
Don't you dare.

Joseph RUNS UP the steps and places the roses in Lilith's hands. He gallantly PICKS HER UP in his arms and takes her to the truck. Maria opens the passenger door.

MARIA
You look beautiful.

LILITH (TO MARIA)
Flynn had nothing on my man. Maria, why don't you take these. I'll just keep one. (Hands Maria the Roses)

JOSEPH HANDS VINCENT SOMETHING.

JOSEPH
My ring and my medal.

VINCENT
St. Genesius? Don't know that one.

LILITH
Why Vincent, that's the patron saint of actors. Mel, don't wait up for me.

LOSS SWEEPS ACROSS MEL'S FACE.

LILITH (cont'd)
That's a joke, Mel.

MEL
I love you, Lil.

LILITH
Of course you do, darling.

Joseph ENTERS the truck. All look at Lilith. She looks at them. Throws a farewell kiss and then TURNS AWAY. The truck MOVES OUT. Maria puts her arm on Mel's shoulder. Vincent WALKS TO THE CAMERA.

VINCENT (TO CAMERA)
I ... never mind.

VINCENT WALKS AWAY. CUT TO:

88 EXT. LILITH'S POINT - SUNSET 88

Joseph and Lilith walk over to the stone bench. They sit holding hands. Lilith holds one rose in her other hand. Their faces are touched by moonlight.

88 CONTINUED: 88

LILITH
The people here...so giving. I have a crush on them all. And those young people...especially Chris and Angela.

JOSEPH
There's been many fine young people over the years.

LILITH
Then it's been a rewarding life?

JOSEPH
Yes. Very.

LILITH
Other lovers?

JOSEPH
Do you want me to lie?

LILITH
Not now.

JOSEPH
A couple. One school teacher. That lasted quite awhile.

LILITH
What happened?

JOSEPH
She finally left, married a stock broker. There was even a married woman in Banger. One weekend a mouth.

LILITH (PLAYFULLY)
How scandalous of you.

JOSEPH
It was convenient for both of us. This must seem dull compared to your world.

LILITH
I lived in a place with people who question nothing and live for only one thing; to bite the world in the ass everyday. Whoever chews the biggest pound of flesh is King or Queen.

JOSEPH
How did you survive?

LILITH
I learned to bite back.

JOSEPH
You would.

(CONTINUED)

88 CONTINUED: (2) 88

LILITH
In my world greed justifies our acts. When one of life's questions hits us in the face, we just throw our hands in the air. C'est la vie, who is John Gault? Then we make another film.

JOSEPH
You were a very good actress.

LILITH
On this island...the problems come with a set of solutions. And I find it peaceful. Even among us sinners.

JOSEPH
Killing people in someone else's war. Somehow that's been justified, while gentle acts have been maligned.

LILITH
Was I the cause of your questioning?

JOSEPH
You let me find peace in the asking.

LILITH
Thank you.

LILITH WINCES AS A SHARP PAIN COMES AND GOES.

JOSEPH
Lilith I ... I've always loved you.

LILITH
I know. That's why I've included you in the end of my story. What a glorious setting. (STANDS) I'm scared, Joseph. Like before a performance. God! It's been a hell of a ride. The second half was all because of you darling.
(SMILING)
You never used me, Joseph. I only took and you only gave. I should say something clever now complete with aesthetic affectations. But I can't think of a damn thing. Hell with 'em if they can't take a joke.

Lilith leans down to the sitting Joseph, and gently KISSES his lips. She places the rose in his hand.

LILITH (cont'd)
Close your eyes ...

JOSEPH
Lilith I ...

88 CONTINUED: (3) 88

LILITH
Just close your eyes and remember the night we first made love. We were beautiful then. Gorgeous!

LILITH MOVES AWAY FROM THE BENCH.

CLOSE-UP ON JOSEPH. A tear rolls down Joseph's face. Only the sound of the summer wind and the sea rolling up on the shore below is heard. The CAMERA PULLS BACK.

89 EXT. LILITH'S POINT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 89

LONG-SHOT from behind the bench. Joseph sits ... ALONE. There is a rose in his hand.

90 EXT. LIGHTHOUSE CATWALK - NIGHT MOONLIGHT 90

Herb stands on the catwalk and shakes a fist at the moon. He howls ... he cries. CUT TO:

91 EXT. OLD STONE CHURCH - NIGHT 91

Joseph's truck PULLS UP in front of the church. A voice calls to him as he is about to enter the church.

BETH (O.S.)
Joseph!

Joseph walks over to Beth and, without saying a word, gently holds her bruised face as if wanting to heal her.

JOSEPH
You okay?

BETH
Thanks to you.

JOSEPH
I don't know what you're talking ...

BETH
Doc and Mayor Parks came to me today. They found Eric's craft beached on the rocks in the cove. I told them he was drunk last I'd seen him. With this face, I guess they believed me.

JOSEPH
I'm sure they did.

BETH
Never found his body. They figured it washed out to sea.

JOSEPH
Maybe it did.

91 CONTINUED: 91

BETH
Joseph, I don't know what you said or did ... but thank you. I ... I ...

JOSEPH PUTS HIS HAND TO HER LIPS.

JOSEPH
I don't know what you're talking about. Now, I'm going in to light a candle for Lilith. Join me.

BETH
I can't go in there. I couldn't face..

JOSEPH
Couldn't face who, Beth?

BETH
I just can't go in there.

JOSEPH
This is God's house not man's.

BETH
I can't. I just ...

JOSEPH
Okay. Okay. I'll be here for you.

BETH
You mean that, don't you?

JOSEPH
I'm from Chicago. We never say anything ...

BETH/JOSEPH
.. unless we're willing to back it up.

SHE KISSES HIS CHEEK. She turns and hurriedly walks away as Joseph rubs the kiss just laid on his face.

FADE OUT:

92 INT. OLD STONE CHURCH - NIGHT 92

Joseph goes through his daily ritual; putting his hand in the holy water, walking down the aisle, genuflecting before the cross, and then going to the alcove. He sits with his arms stretched across the backrest. Father Dom ENTERS through the side door and sits in the pew behind Joseph. There's a respectful silence.

JOSEPH
Let's not fight, Dom.

FATHER DOM
I came to apologize for ...

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED: 92

JOSEPH
Forget it.

FATHER DOM (PAUSE)
It’s so calm in God’s house.

JOSEPH
That’s funny, I just implied that to someone who really needs you now. But she’s afraid to come into this house. I feel sorry for her and even more sorry for you. I know how hard all this is for you to accept.

FATHER DOM
Acceptance. That’s a tough one for all of us but you. Why is that?

JOSEPH
Because everyone tries to balance acceptance with judgment. Lilith taught me to balance all things with kindness.

FATHER DOM
I’ll pray for Lilith.

JOSEPH
Drop one in for me while you’re at it.

FATHER DOM
Please find it in your heart to forgive a very confused man. I ...

JOSEPH
Dom, what you don’t understand is that there is nothing to forgive.

FATHER DOM
Will you be going soon.

JOSEPH
In the morning.

FATHER DOM
You’re sure about all of this?

JOSEPH
Yes.

FATHER DOM
Well, I better go explain this whole thing to the good sister.

JOSEPH
Good luck.

FATHER DOM
I’ll need it.

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED: (2) 92

Father Dom makes the sign of the cross and starts to leave. He stops and turns to Joseph. Nevermind.

CLOSE UP JOSEPH CUT TO:

93 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - MORNING 93

AN OVERHEAD SHOT of Laurel Dock. The entire town square is FILLED WITH PEOPLE. It's mostly women, a line of whom are going and coming out of Rusty's Inn. Captain John's Ferry is at the dock and so is the Cruise Liner that sports a billboard along the port side that says; "Sail to the Isle of Love." However, across the pilot house is a long, wide black ribbon.

VINCENT (O.S.)
People from everywhere came to see the closed coffins of the world's two most popular lovers. The Hollywood legend and the common man she adored.

94 INT. RUSTY'S PUB - DAY 94

TWO COFFINS are displayed in the open room of Rusty's pub. Chris, Angela, and other children from the orphanage act as ushers and keep the line of mourners moving. The Mayor, kilt and all, greets all the people who enter the makeshift funeral parlor. Doc Potts and Mel shake hands with some of Lilith's Hollywood friends who have made the journey to say farewell.

VINCENT (O.S.)
Celebrities and fans alike came from all over to pay their last respects. I had to have the monument ready for the burial. A major undertaking if I say so myself.

95 INT. VINCENT'S STUDIO - DAY 95

Vincent is feverishly working. He works like a madman, yelling and cursing at the marble.

VINCENT (O.S.)
Sister Ann was true to her word. Each and every day she prayed for the soul of her friend, Lilith.

96 INT. SISTER ANN'S ROOM 96

SISTER ANN IS KNEELING BEFORE THE CANDLES IN HER ROOM.

VINCENT (O.S.)
Father Dom and the good sister never came to Rusty's, but they promised to be at the burial. Dom and Joseph's <u>other</u> brother would say a few words.

97 INT. SMALL BOAT - DAY 97

Captain John is manning a small boat with an outboard motor. He has one passenger ... the other brother, ANTHONY. He's dressed in an expensive suit, wears glasses and sports a neatly trimmed mustache and goatee. John laughs at Anthony, who turns and gives a hard stare. John stifles his laugh.

VINCENT (O.S.)
The press had a field day with the entire event. They even bought the other brother routine.

98 EXT. LAUREL DOCK - DAY 98

As Captain John docks, a horde of reporters rush to Anthony and start asking him questions. Captain John acts as bodyguard and pushes Anthony through the crowd. As Captain John and Joseph/Anthony reach the end of the horde...

REPORTER
Excuse me! Anthony! Do you condone what Ms. Rae and your brother did?

ANTHONY
I don't condone or pass judgement on anything that Lilith Rae has done. And if you do, then ... then you've missed the point of her life and I feel sorry for you ... because you missed something very special.

THEY HOP IN DOC POTTS' LAND ROVER AND TAKE OFF.

99 EXT. ENTRANCE TO LILITH'S POINT - DAY 99

The funeral of Lilith Rae and Joseph, her lover. A large statue, covered with canvas, now stands on Lilith's Point. A large crowd stands around it. Everyone is facing Father Dom, who is in civilian dress for the first time that anyone can remember. As the high school band plays a medley of theme songs from Lilith's movies, WE PAN to the Mayor, Willie, Doc Potts, Mel, and Molly.

VINCENT (VOICE OVER)
As Lilith requested, wine was to be served. We all waited for two things: to hear what a man would say at his own funeral and to see my masterpiece.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Doc, I need you to sign the official death certificate.

WILLIE
Official.

99 CONTINUED: 99

DOCTOR POTTS
Of course. By the way, here's the personal effects I removed from the body. Joseph's body.

Doc Potts hands the Mayor, Joseph's ring and medal. He signs the document.

MEL
That's Saint Genesius. Patron Saint of actors.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
No kidding? I'll see he gets them back as soon as ...

MOLLY
Ssssh!

WILLIE
Yea, ssssh!

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
Right. Doc, I need you to sign the official coast guard report on McPhearson. Presumed drowned at sea.

WILLIE
At sea.

DOCTOR POTTS
Of course. (SIGNING) First thing he's done right.

MEL AND DOC POTTS WALK AWAY. RUSTY LOOKS AT MEDAL.

MOLLY
Rusty, are those tears in your eyes?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
No. It's the wind. Do me a favor don't buy anymore lottery tickets, okay?

HE AWKWARDLY TAKES MOLLY'S HAND.

MOLLY
Okay.

100 EXT. PATH TO LILITH'S POINT - DAY 100

CHRIS AND ANGELA ARE WALKING.

CHRIS
We better step it up or we'll miss the funeral. This should be good.

ANGELA
I've already said goodbye to Lilith.

100 CONTINUED: 100

CHRIS
Oh!

ANGELA
I love you Chris.

CHRIS (AWKWARDLY)
After college, I may come back here.

ANGELA
You don’t have to say that.

CHRIS
I mean it. I always wanted to see the world, but lately the whole world’s been coming here.

ANGELA
Sure?

CHRIS
I’ve been thinking about majoring in civics. Rusty Parks can’t be mayor forever and a lot could be done here.

ANGELA
This is not about promises.

SHE KISSES HIM PASSIONATELY.

FADE OUT:

101 EXT. ENTRANCE TO LILITH’S POINT - DAY 101

A LITTLE BIT AWAY FROM THE CROWD, ANTHONY APPROACHES BETH

BETH
How are you doing?

ANTHONY
Mustache itches.

BETH
Sure you want to give up the title?

ANTHONY
Not my style.

WE PAN to Maria and Molly going around pouring wine and champagne. They come upon Sister Ann dressed in a peasant-style flowery spring dress.

MARIA
Sister, you look beautiful.

SISTER ANN
Don’t act so surprised. And pour one for me. I’m going to need it.

101 CONTINUED: 101

MOLLY
Trust me, Sister, it can't hurt. Wine or champagne?

SISTER ANN
Wine, of course.

MARIA FILLS THE SISTER'S GLASS HALF-WAY WITH RED WINE.

SISTER ANN (cont'd)
More.

MARIA
Anything you say, Sister.

The music STOPS, and Father Dom steps before the covered statue to address the crowd.

FATHER DOM
Ladies and gentlemen, I come today not as a priest but as a brother and a friend to two of the finest people I have ever known. Lilith Rae had no immediate family. Yet all those on this island who knew and felt her kindness are her family. All the fans who for years adored her films are her family. Some may cast a judgmental eye upon her lifestyle, but I say to them, "Even in heaven, the scales of justice have two plates." May God bless her sweet endearing soul.

CLOSE-UP ON SISTER ANN.

SISTER ANN
Amen.

SHE DRINKS HER WINE AND SIGNALS MARIA FOR A REFILL.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
(LOUD WHISPER) Psssh! Joseph.

FATHER DOM
What?

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
About Joseph. Say something.

FATHER DOM
My brother Joseph's family was also very small, just me and ... and ...

MAYOR HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO BAIL OUT THE BEFUDDLED PRIEST.

RUSTY PARKS
Thank you, Father. Thank you for those kind words about Ms. Rae.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED: (2) 101

RUSTY PARKS (cont'd)
Now, to say a few words is Joseph's other brother, Joseph. I mean Anthony.

Vincent, who is holding the rope for the unveiling in one hand and a drink in the other, can't stop himself from laughing. Sister Ann walks over and hits him in the back of the head.

VINCENT
Ouch! Hey! You ...
(seeing it's the Sister)
... You look very nice today, Sister.

CLOSE-UP OF ANTHONY/JOSEPH:

ANTHONY/JOSEPH
I feel like I know everyone here. (EVERYONE LAUGHS) The mayor has asked me to take Joseph's place as coach. I was hesitant until he told me about the new gym that is being built.

RUSTY ROLLS HIS EYES AND NODS IN AGREEMENT

ANTHONY/JOSEPH (cont'd)
It would be hard to fill Joseph's shoes but I think I'll give it a shot. (APPLAUSE) I'm sure...as a matter of fact...I know...Joseph would want all of us to remember his love for Lilith and for all of you. Lilith taught Joseph that; "Love is the little giggle that God puts in all our hearts." He loved Lilith Rae and he loved all of you. I ... He ... Amen.

As Anthony steps back, the Mayor motions to the band to play. The camera PANS the crowd as they listen to "What I Did for Love." WE SEE Doc Potts with Mel, Father Dom and Sister Ann, Maria with Vincent, the Mayor and Molly. While the camera rests on Anthony, Beth comes over to him and whispers in his ear.

BETH
Your mustache is coming loose.

ANTHONY/JOSEPH
Thanks.

He pats down his mustache. The music ends, and the Mayor gives Willie thumbs up. Willie pulls the rope and the canvas drops REVEALING the monument. The base is a retrospect of Lilith's career. Upon it sits a beautiful carved rose lying on a simple marble bench. It is simple and elegant. Maria impulsively kisses Vincent. Sister Ann looks to Vincent.

SISTER ANN
You did well.

(CONTINUED)

101 CONTINUED: (3) 101

VINCENT
Thank you.

MAYOR RUSTY PARKS
What do we do now?

FATHER DOM
I don't know. Joseph?

JOSEPH/ANTHONY HOLDS UP A GLASS OF WINE.

JOSEPH
Salute.

EVERYONE HOLDS UP THEIR GLASSES.

CROWD
Salute.

PEOPLE RAISE their glasses in the toast and then KISS each other. Some people are surprised to see the Mayor in an embrace with Molly. Some people think it's about time. Old people embrace. Young people embrace.

DISSOLVE TO:

102 EXT. LIGHTHOUSE BEACH - DAY 102

CHRIS AND ANGELA ARE IN AN EMBRACE.

DISSOLVE BACK:

103 EXT. ENTRANCE TO LILITH'S POINT - DAY 103

PEOPLE ARE STILL TOASTING AND EMBRACING.

MEL (TO DOC)
Lilith would have loved this.

BETH RAISES HER GLASS TO JOSEPH AND BEAMS.

BETH
To life.

JOSEPH (SMILING)
Life.

CLOSE-UP ON VINCENT: With a drink in his hand he leans into frame. Vincent raises his glass.

VINCENT
To love.

CUT TO:

104 EXT. LITITH'S POINT 104

AERIAL SHOT OF VINCENT'S STATUE/MONUMENT, TO LOVE. IT SITS ALONE ON THE POINT FOR ALL TO SEE.

(CONTINUED)

104 CONTINUED: 104

IN THE DISTANCE STANDS THE LIGHT HOUSE WITH HERB ON THE CAT WALK. HE HOWLS AT THE COMING MOON. DURANTE SINGS; YOUNG AT HEART.

THE END