

# HONEYMOON HEAVEN

Written for the screen  
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INT. LOS ANGELES APARTMENT - NIGHT

Silhouetted, a WOMAN holds a CHILD at a window. Flashing lights and walkie talkie noise bathe them through the glass.

EXT. APARTMENT - SAME

On the street a LIGHT-SKINNED MAN, handcuffed, ducks into a police cruiser aided by TWO BIG COPS.

LOURDES (V.O.)

(Latin accent)

*You wake up one day with a bad  
feeling--something's gonna happen.  
You try, but you can't get your man  
to stay in the house.*

(beat)

*And then life ain't never the same.  
That's the way it is for a lot of  
girls I know.*

The man in the cop car looks out the window, sees his wife and baby. She stares back, unmoving. Finally she turns away.

INT. BUS - DAY

The bus destination sign: BARE HILL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

LEE, 35, Italian-American, chunky, clutching a *Travel and Leisure* magazine, climbs aboard. She happily greets the driver GUS, 54, and MRS. TUCKER, 70, who pulls knitting needles and blue yarn from under her seat behind Gus.

Lee hellos her way down the aisle. The bus is filled with women of all races and ages. She smiles broadly when she sees DEL, 37, black and slightly built. Del holds up a stack of magazines, on top of which is *Essence* featuring Halle Berry.

LEE

(off the *Essence* cover)

Uggh! I want that body!

Lee plunks down next to Del and kisses her hello, excitedly.

FREEZE FRAME ON: LEE AND DEL BEAMING AT EACH OTHER.

LOURDES (V.O.)

*Maybe it was because they're both  
nurses, but somehow they found each  
other on the bus. They don't  
socialize off the bus, almost  
nobody does.*

(MORE)

LOURDES (V.O.) (cont'd)

*On the ride some of the black girls hang, and us Chicanas can either spread around or sit together and talk home talk, but black and white as tight as Lee and Del is pretty rare.*

(beat)

*Inside, in prison--well, inside you stay with your own, that's the beginning and the end of it. But inside's a world I don't even like to think about.*

INT. BUS - LOURDES'S SEAT - DAY

LOURDES, 32, Latin American, sits in the row across from Lee and Del watching them pick apart the Halle Berry spread.

LOURDES (V.O.)

*Some of the girls can read on the way, but I get sick. I'm glad Lee and Del aren't sitting in front of me 'cause if the person in front of me reads I get nosy, and then I get sick plus a stiff neck.*

INT. LEE'S SEAT - DAY

More women shuffle down the aisle, taking seats with their kind--whites with whites, blacks with blacks, etc.

DEL

You got anything for us?

LEE

Think you can handle it?

DEL

Listen up, girls, Lee's got one!

The bus quiets as Lee turns and sits on her knees to be seen.

LEE

(telling her joke)

A black guy and a guinea are going the speed limit. Who's driving?

They're stumped.

LEE

The cops!

The crowd howls with laughter and applauds just as...

INT. BUS - DOORWAY - SAME

...PAM, 19, a wide-eyed innocent hits the top step, looking around nervously, sure that they're all laughing at her. She sees an empty seat in front of Lourdes and goes for it.

INT. LOURDES'S SEAT - SAME

LOURDES  
(to Pam)  
You can't sit in that seat.

PAM  
Pardon?

LOURDES  
'S Renee's seat. She's got a thing  
bout it. Somethin bout the light.

PAM  
Oh. Sorry.

She looks around, twice as nervous.

LOURDES  
(off the seat next to her)  
You can sit here if you want.

She just about pees with relief and sits.

PAM  
My name's Pam.

LOURDES  
It would be. I'm Lourdes.

Pam starts organizing her bags.

LOURDES (CONT'D)  
New meat?

PAM  
Pardon?

LOURDES  
Is your guy new meat up there? Is  
this his first time inside?

Pam nods shamefully.

LOURDES

Hey, like we're not all on this bus  
for the same reason?

(beat)

You hear from him yet?

PAM

I got a letter. He says he doesn't  
know how he can stand it.

LOURDES

That's good. That's a good thing  
'cause it's when they start to get  
comfortable up there you got to  
worry. What's he in for?

PAM

Auto theft.

LOURDES

Not that. I mean how much time.

PAM

The lawyers say he'll have to do at  
least a year and a half.

LOURDES

You don't go around asking what a  
guy's rap is in here. That's like  
personal, you know? But the length  
of sentence--well, everybody counts  
the days.

PAM

Oh.

LOURDES

A year and a half is small change.  
He'll do that with his eyes closed.

INT. RENEE'S SEAT - DAY

RENEE, 45, high maintenance, sits in her seat with the good  
light. She carries several industrial size Avon make-up sales  
cases. She hangs one on the seatback and begins setting up.

INT. LEE'S SEAT - DAY

THE SISTERS, black, 20s, come down the aisle gossiping.

THE SISTERS  
 (in unison)  
 Hi Del.

DEL  
 Girls.

Next down the aisle is DOLORES, 25.

DOLORES  
 (to Lee)  
 I'm gonna tell him this trip. I'm  
 really gonna do it.

LEE  
 Attagirl, Dolores.

DOLORES  
 No, I really am. It'll break his  
 heart but I got to.

FREEZE FRAME ON DOLORES LOOKING PAINED.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*She has this boyfriend inside,  
 Dolores, only last year she married  
 some nice square Joe. She didn't  
 tell him about her guy inside, and  
 so far she hasn't told her guy  
 inside about this Joe. She figures  
 he waits all week breathless for  
 her visit, which maybe is true and  
 maybe is flattering herself.*  
 (beat)  
*Personally, I think she likes to  
 collect guilt like people collect  
 stamps or butterflies or whatever.*

DOLORES UN-FREEZES.

DOLORES  
 I just feel so guilty.

Dolores moves on down across from The Sisters.

INT. LOURDES'S SEAT - DAY

Lourdes sees Pam has a sack of food: sandwiches, pie, etc.

LOURDES  
 You gonna eat all that?

PAM  
 Me? Oh, no, I figure, you know--the  
 food inside--

LOURDES  
 They don't let you bring food in.

PAM  
 No?

LOURDES  
 Only cigarettes. A carton a month.

PAM  
 He doesn't smoke.

LOURDES  
 That's not the point. Cigarettes  
 are like money inside. Your guy  
 wants anything, wants anything  
 done, he'll have to pay in smokes.

PAM  
 What would he want to have done?

LOURDES  
 (uncomfortable)  
 Whatever. We stop at the diner, you  
 get some change and load up on  
 Camels from the machine. He'll  
 thank you for it.

GUS (O.S.)  
 Headin' out, ladies--

INT. DRIVER'S SEAT - DAY

GUS  
 (closing the door)  
 --take your seats.

Directly behind him Mrs. Tucker knits.

FREEZE-FRAME ON MRS. TUCKER.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*Every week Mrs. Tucker sits behind  
 Gus, poking him with her knitting  
 needle to keep him awake. She's  
 been coming up faithfully every  
 weekend for thirty-forty years,  
 something incredible like that.*

UN-FREEZE MRS. TUCKER.

GUS  
Seen your grandkids lately?

MRS. TUCKER  
No. They moved last month. Dallas.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*Mrs. Tucker knitting her blue sweater, always blue. Sometimes when I can't sleep I start thinking that it's really the same exact sweater, that she goes home and pulls it apart and starts from scratch again next trip. Not 'cause she wants to but 'cause she has to, it's her part of the punishment for what her husband done.*

Mrs. Tucker catches sight of a truckload of cows passing.

INT. LEE'S SEAT - DAY

The cows pass Lee. She's looking at the bag on Pam's knees.

LEE  
(to Pam)  
That isn't food is it?

PAM  
(apologetic)  
Yeah. I didn't know.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A dead rabbit fries on the hot asphalt. The bus roars past.

INT. LOURDES'S SEAT - DAY

LOURDES'S POV--Renee makes up her face in the mirror.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*I made the mistake of sitting next to Renee once, and she bent my ear about lip gloss for three hours straight, all the way to the diner. You wouldn't think there'd be that much to say about it.*

INT. LEE'S SEAT - DAY

LEE

My Little Jimmy is convinced he's the man of the house. Five years old, acts like he's the Papa Bear.

DEL

He remembers his father?

LEE

He likes to think he does, but he doesn't. His favorite saying now is 'Why should I?'

DEL

Uh-oh.

LEE

And he picks up all this stuff in the neighborhood. God, I want to get out of there!

(beat)

Lonnie makes parole this rotation, I'm gonna get him home and get his head straight and get us moved outta there.

DEL

Like to the country or something?

LEE

Just anywheres it isn't so mean and Lonnie's not near his asshole so-called buddies.

DEL

Yeah.

LEE

And I want--oh, I don't know, it sounds kinda stupid really.

DEL

What?

LEE

I want a dishwasher.

Del laughs.

LEE  
(embarrassed)  
You know what I mean?

DEL  
Yeah, I know.

LEE  
I want something in my life I just  
get it started and then it takes  
care of itself.

DEL  
I hear you talkin'.

LEE  
The other night, Jimmy--now I know  
some of this is from those damn  
TRANSFORMERS cartoons and all, but  
some of it is not having a father.

DEL  
Lay it on me.

LEE  
I swear--he's in his room doing his  
prayers. He does this thing, the  
nuns told him praying is just  
talking to God.

DEL  
The new breed of nuns, right?

LEE  
Right. So I hear Jimmy, having like  
these one-sided conversations. 'Uh-  
huh, yeah, sure, I will, no  
problem, I'll try, uh-huh, uh-huh,'  
and he thinks he's talking with  
God, see, like with an imaginary  
friend. Or maybe he really is  
talking to God, how would I know?

DEL  
Could be. We'll find out one day.

The bus pulls in to a diner parking lot.

LEE

Anyhow, the other night he's praying and he's got that tough-guy look I hate so much pasted on his face like all the other little punks in the neighborhood and he's quiet for a long time, listening, and then he kind of sneers and looks up at God and says, 'Why should I?'

INT. DINER - DAY

Lee puts a quarter in the weight-telling machine.

INT. DINER - LATER

The women are all taking seats at the counter or in booths.

GUS

Keep it simple ladies, we got a clock to watch.

ELVIRA, 40, the owner of the diner holds up her order pad.

ELVIRA

Have your orders ready, girls! I want to hear numbers!

INT. DINER - COUNTER - DAY

Lee, Del, Lourdes, Pam, and Mrs. Tucker are at the counter.

LEE

So he figures we'll go down to Mexico, that old bit about your cash travels farther there? I don't know how far it goes but after that honeymoon I know how fast.

Pam gets up suddenly, grabs her purse and runs off.

LEE

He was just trying to be sweet, really, figured he was gonna show me this wonderful time, 'cause he's been there and I haven't and he knows what to order and I don't and he knows where to go and all that-- only he doesn't, you know, he just thinks he does.

DEL

Sounds familiar.

LEE

So he's heard of this place--jeez, it's so long ago--Santa Maria de la Playa, something like that.

(turning to Lourdes)

You must know it, Lourdes. It's on the coast.

LOURDES

Lots of coast down there.

LEE

There's like these mountains, and the ocean--

LOURDES

Sorry, I've never been to Mexico.

DEL

You're shittin' me! You?

LOURDES

You ever been to Africa?

Del bursts out laughing.

DEL

You got me, girl, you got me!

LEE

Anyway, he says to me, 'Baby, we're talking paradise here, we're talking Honeymoon Heaven. I got this deal.'

DEL

They always got a deal.

INT. DINER - MRS. TUCKER'S COUNTER SEAT - SAME

Mrs. Tucker sits at the counter, looking forlorn. Elvira comes over with her order pad.

ELVIRA  
How's it going, Mrs. Tucker?

MRS. TUCKER  
Just the water. I'm not hungry.

ELVIRA  
Not good to skip lunch, Mrs. Tucker. You got a long ride ahead.

MRS. TUCKER  
Just the water, thank you.

Elvira moves on to...

INT. DINER - LEE'S COUNTER SEAT - SAME

ELVIRA  
(to Lee and Del)  
Hey girls. Let's see, we got a Number 3 and a Number 5, mayo on the side. Ice tea or lemonade?

DEL  
Lemonade.

LEE  
Me too.

Pam returns, an armload of cigarettes, packs fall all over.

ELVIRA  
(to Pam)  
How 'bout you, hon?

PAM  
Um, could I see a menu?

FREEZE FRAME ON PAM, CIGARETTES TUMBLING FROM HER ARMS.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*I see Pam is one of those people who is accident-prone for life and that her marrying a car thief is no coincidence. A catastrophe waiting to happen, this girl.*

UN-FREEZE PAM.

Elvira points to the paper plates on the wall.

PAM

Number four sounds exotic.

DEL

(to Lee)

So, he's got this deal...

LEE

Right. He's got this deal where he brings these DVDs down to San Miguel de los Nachos, whatever it was, and this guy who runs a brand-new resort there is gonna give us red-carpet treatment in exchange.

DEL

DVDs...You mean like, movies?

LEE

Jim Carrey, Tom Cruise, you name it. Fresh from Kmart. Why they can't go to their own store and buy these things I don't know. What's the story down there, Lourdes?

LOURDES

It's a mystery to me.

LEE

Anyhow, we got thousands of the things we're bringing through without paying duty, a junior version of the scam he finally went up for, only I don't know because they're under the backseat and he keeps laying this Honeymoon Heaven jazz on me.

DEL

Jesus. With Richard, his deals always have to do with clothes. Man come in and say, 'Sugar, what size dress you wear?' and my stomach just hits the floor.

LEE

And he brings the wrong size, right?

DEL

Ever damn time! We took our honeymoon in Jamaica, back when we was livin' high. Girl, you never saw nobody with more fluff in her head than me back then.

LEE

You were young.

DEL

Young ain't no excuse for being stupid. I had one of those posters in my head--soft sand, violins playing, cuba libres, and I was the girl in the white bikini. I thought it was gonna be like that always.

(beat)

Richard gets outa there, gets his health back, we gonna party, girl. That's one thing the man know how to do is party.

LEE

Yeah, Lonnie too. They both get clear, we should all get together sometime, four of us, do the town.

They smile uncomfortably, then both focus on their food.

FREEZE-FRAME DEL AND LEE IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE.

LOURDES (V.O.)

*Guys inside, black and white, aren't likely to even know who each other is, much less get together outside and make friendly. It's a sickness you pick up inside. Or maybe you already got it when you go in and the joint makes it worse.*

UN-FREEZE DEL AND LEE.

They sit a beat, trying to figure a way to break the ice.

LEE

Bet you look great in a white bikini.

DEL

Girl, that's the last time I been to any beach.

INT. KITCHEN ENTRYWAY - DAY

The waitress, CHERYL, 18, comes out with the food, solemnly putting plates down in front of Lee, Del, Pam and Lourdes.

Pam squints uncertainly at her Number Four-- a monte cristo.

INT. DINER - LEE'S SEAT - LATER

Lee and Del are well into their food. Between bites:

DEL

I think maybe I'll ask him this visit. About the kids.

LEE

You'd be a good mother.

DEL

You think so?

LEE

Sure.

DEL

Richard with a baby in his lap. Sometimes I think it's just what he needs--responsibility, family roots, that whole bit, settle him down. Then I think how maybe he'll just feel more pressure, you know? And when he starts feelin' pressure is when he starts messin' up.

Del slaps herself across the face to clear the thought of it.

DEL (CONT'D)

Just got to get him healthy first.  
Plenty of time for the rest.  
(looking at Pam)  
So, how's the Number Four?

Pam, still staring at her plate, yet to take a bite.

PAM

It's interesting...different.

She chomps down on it, scared to chew.

LEE

You can't finish, I might take a bite.

DEL

(to Lee)

Girl, don't you even look at that Number Four. Thing is just evil with carbohydrates. I don't wanna hear you bellyache about how you got no willpower all the way home.

LEE

I got willpower. I'm a goddamn tower of strength. It's just my appetite is stronger.

DEL

Naw.

LEE

My appetite is like Godzilla, Del, you seen it at work, layin' waste to everything in its path.

DEL

Hah-haaah!

LEE

But I'm gonna whup it.

DEL

That's what I like to hear.

LEE

Kick its butt.

DEL

Tell it, baby.

LEE

I'm losin' twenty pounds.

DEL

Go for it!

LEE

And I'm quittin' smokin' too.

DEL

You can do it, Lee.

LEE

And when that man makes parole he's gonna buy me a dishwasher!

DEL

Get down!

The both crack up. Lee takes a sip of water, thinking.

LEE

You know, much as I want him out, sometimes it feels weird that it might really happen. My sister's a paralegal secretary--she keeps telling me to end it, move on. Even gave me a business card from one of the divorce lawyers there.

(beat)

You get used to being on your own, get your own way of doing things.

DEL

I hear you talking.

LEE

The trouble is, it ain't so bad that I'm gonna leave him, but it ain't so good I'm dying to stay.

Lee plays with her food. Del looks around the room.

DEL

(to Elvira)

Hey 'Vira: A black man and a Dominican going the speed limit, who's driving?

INT. DINER - DOORWAY - DAY

The women leave. Again, Lee feeds the weight machine a coin.

INT. BUS - LEE'S SEAT - DAY

It's quiet. Lee and Del peruse *Travel & Leisure* and *Essence*.

INT. BUS - DOLORES'S SEAT - DAY

Dolores looks at a photo of her boyfriend.

INT. LOURDES'S SEAT - DAY

LOURDES (V.O.)

*The visits remind me of confession--  
you go into a little booth, you  
face each other through a window,  
you feel weird afterward. I think  
about the things I don't want to  
forget to tell Yayo.*

She stares out at roadkill. She leans over and taps Renee.

LOURDES

Hey, hon, how much for blush?

INT. PRISON WAITING ROOM - DAY

All the women settle down in fold-up chairs. An ADMINISTRATOR comes in just as Del is about to sit.

ADMINISTRATOR

Delphine Somerset?

She looks up, hovering over the chair.

ADMINISTRATOR (CONT'D)

Would you come with me please?

LEE

(nudging Del)  
Principal's office.

Del follows the administrator down the hall.

LOURDES

(to Pam)  
Don't be so nervous.

PAM

I just...I keep wondering who he's  
gonna be all of a sudden.

LEE

I remember my first visit. You get  
used to it. Hell, I can't remember  
me and Lonnie talking for an hour  
straight before he went inside.

The door opens and ADMINISTRATOR #2 enters.

ADMINISTRATOR #2  
Mills? Mrs. Lee Mills?

LEE  
Yes?

Administrator #2 waves her over. Lee goes into the hall, Lourdes and the others can see them through a window.

Administrator #2 says a few words and Lee's face goes white and she turns away. Administrator #2 puts a hand on Lee's shoulder and leads her down the hall.

YAYO (V.O.)  
Big blowout last night in the mess.

INT. VISITING ROOM - DAY

Yayo is on a phone looking at Lourdes through glass.

YAYO (CONT'D)  
*Anglos contra los negros.* Lot of  
guys hurt, one guy cut pretty bad.

LOURDES  
Black or white?

YAYO  
A black dude got stabbed. This guy  
Richard. He was a musician outside.

LOURDES  
And the guy who stabbed him?

YAYO  
This guy Lonnie, was real close to  
parole. Got him up in solitary now.

INT. ADMINISTRATOR #2'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Lee sits alone, staring out the window in shock. The door opens, administrator #2 enters.

ADMINISTRATOR #2  
Time's just about up, bus'll be  
leaving soon.

Lee pulls herself out of the chair and shuffles to the door.

ADMINISTRATOR #2  
Don't forget this.

She picks up the *Travel and Leisure* and hands it to Lee.

INT. VISITING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Yayo and Lourdes on the phones. TWO GUARDS step in behind Yayo. Yayo stands. He looks Lourdes straight on.

YAYO

I think about you all the time.

LOURDES

Me too.

He hangs up.

LOURDES (V.O.)

*It isn't true. Whole days go by  
when I hardly give him a thought,  
and when I do it's more an idea of  
him than really him in the flesh.*

The guards and Yayo at the door, he looks small between them. Lourdes watches him go and is suddenly overcome with emotion.

INT. BUS - AFTERNOON

Things are one big whisper as all the women fill in those who don't know what went down. Suddenly everyone shuts up.

Lee climbs aboard, feeling the stares. No one says a word. Gus plays with his sunglasses. Mrs. Tucker arranges yarn.

INT. LOURDES'S SEAT - SAME

Lee zombies down the aisle and sits down next to Lourdes.

INT. BUS - DOORWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Pam gets on. It takes a moment for her to compute that Lourdes has a seat partner. She grins nervously at Lee and Lourdes then picks an open row in the way back.

INT. BUS - DOORWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Del boards, taking all her strength to keep from crying. She holds her head up. Some women try not to look at her, giving her privacy. Others put on their most sympathetic faces.

As she passes The Sisters both put their hands out to her.

SISTER #2

If there's anything we can do...

Del moves on without looking down.

EXT. COUNTY ROAD - AFTERNOON

The bus rumbles over a potholed stretch.

INT. BUS - MRS. TUCKER'S SEAT - AFTERNOON

Mrs. Tucker just stares blank eyed out the window.

INT. LEE'S SEAT - AFTERNOON

Lee and Lourdes sit in silence.

INT. BUS - DEL AND PAM'S ROW - AFTERNOON

Pam takes a loud bite out of an apple, the bag of food on her knees again. Del broods next to her. The bus is quiet except:

PAM

I never thought about how they'd have those guns. I never saw one up close, only in the movies or TV. They're real, they look so heavy and like if they shot it would just take you apart--

DEL

White girl, I don't want to be hearin' bout none of your problems!

INT. DRIVER'S SEAT - AFTERNOON

Gus shifts gears, steering off the ramp onto the highway.

INT. DOLORES'S SEAT - AFTERNOON

Dolores meditates on the picture of her boyfriend.

INT. RENEE'S SEAT - AFTERNOON

Renee doesn't have her make-up kit up. She stares blankly.

INT. BUS - LEE'S SEAT - AFTERNOON

Lourdes stares out the window.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*If there's life in hell, this is  
 what the field trips are like.*

Lourdes turns to look at:

Lee, her jaw muscles working overtime, digesting everything. Suddenly she opens her purse. Shuffling through a dozen or so cards in her wallet: ShopRite, pediatrician, lotto stubs, coupons, her Hospital Identification card, RN Association card, and... Lauren Marks, divorce attorney.

INT. DINER - DOORWAY - AFTERNOON

All the women file in past the weight machine. The anti-choking poster is behind it. Lee doesn't stop with a quarter.

INT. DINER - PHONE BOOTH - AFTERNOON

Lee walks by the phone, pauses. She pulls out a quarter, looks back at the weight machine, steps into the phone booth.

INT. DINER - COUNTER - AFTERNOON

Lourdes sits. Mrs. Tucker sits a seat away from her. Dolores fills in the gap. Del sits at the other end by herself.

DOLORES  
 (to herself)  
 I didn't tell him. I didn't have  
 the heart.

Pam takes a seat on the other side of Lourdes.

PAM  
 (sotto, to Lourdes)  
 What's up?

Lourdes leans over and whispers. Pam looks horrified.

INT. DINER - MRS. TUCKER'S SEAT - AFTERNOON

Mrs. Tucker stares at the menu wall. Elvira leans in.

ELVIRA

Rough trip from the look of y'all.  
Your appetite back, Mrs. Tucker?

MRS. TUCKER

(weakly)  
Yes, I have. I'm very, very hungry.

INT. DINER - COUNTER - DOLORES'S SEAT - AFTERNOON

Dolores, still in a fixed gaze.

DOLORES

(to herself)  
Next time. I'll tell him next time.

INT. DINER - PHONE BOOTH - AFTERNOON

Lee scrapes the card from the divorce attorney across the keypad. The attorney's voice comes through the phone.

LAUREN MARKS (V.O.)

Okay, Mrs. Mills. I'll see you on  
Wednesday then. We'll move forward.

LEE

Yes we will. Thank you.

Lee hangs up. Pauses, takes another quarter and dials.

INT. DINER - COUNTER - MRS. TUCKER'S SEAT - AFTERNOON

Mrs. Tucker rests her head on the counter, closes her eyes.

INT. DINER - PHONE BOOTH - AFTERNOON

LEE

(to phone)  
Don't 'why should I' me, young man.  
Tell your sister I'll be home in a  
few hours. I want the table set.

JIMMY (V.O.)

What did daddy say?

LEE

Daddy said he misses you. I'll tell  
you when I get home. I love you.  
Don't forget to tell your sister.

JIMMY (V.O.)

Love you too, mom.

She hangs up, gathers herself, and pushes open the doors of  
the phone booth only to hear a chorus of loud panicky voices.

INT. DINER - COUNTER - MRS. TUCKER'S SEAT - SAME

Gus shakes Mrs. Tucker, whose head rests on the counter.

GUS

Mrs. Tucker can you hear me? Mrs.  
Tucker?

She slides from her seat onto the floor half-conscious, her  
eyes glassy. Gus catches her and lays her on the floor.

PAM

Where's the poster?!

Lee pushes her way through.

LEE

Step back. Give her room to  
breathe!

She grabs Mrs. Tucker's wrist to find a pulse. Del pushes  
through the crowd from the other side.

DEL

(to Lee)  
You got a pulse?

LEE

Not much. It's fluttering around.

DEL

(to Elvira)  
Get an ambulance here.

Elvira sends Cheryl running to the back.

LEE

Any tags on her?

Del checks around Mrs. Tucker's neck.

DEL  
Not even Saint Christopher.

Del opens Mrs. Tucker's eyelids, checking her pupils.

LEE  
Anybody ever hear her talk about a  
medical problem?

Everyone looks at everyone else.

GUS  
She said the doctor said to 'watch  
her intake', whatever that means.

Elvira hands Del a bag of buns to pillow Mrs. Tucker's head.

ELVIRA  
She didn't eat lunch. You should  
never skip lunch.

DEL  
(to Lee)  
She got sugar maybe?

LEE  
Or something like it.  
(to Elvira)  
Some orange juice.

Elvira runs off.

GUS  
Usually she talks my head off--  
today she was like depressed or  
something.

Elvira comes back with a glass of OJ. Del pours a little  
between Mrs. Tucker's dry lips.

LEE  
(to Del)  
Just a little. Could be the  
opposite.

Mrs. Tucker's eyes open wider.

MRS. TUCKER  
I like juice.

DEL  
Here, take a little more.

Mrs. Tucker swallows more.

MRS. TUCKER  
That's good. Juice is good.

EXT. DINER - AFTERNOON

Across the lot, the women boarding the bus. An ambulance sits near the entrance to the diner.

Lee and an EMT stand over Mrs. Tucker's wheeled stretcher.

Del talks to EMT #2 in the b.g. Then Del goes to the bus.

INT. BUS - AFTERNOON

The women are all either climbing aboard or standing in the aisle waiting, talking about Mrs. Tucker.

Del climbs on and finds a seat in the middle. Pam goes for the seat next to Del, but Lourdes pulls her into another.

EXT. DINER - AFTERNOON

LEE  
(to Mrs. Tucker)  
You take care of yourself and do what these gentlemen tell you.

Mrs. T looks at the EMT's--one's black and one's Hispanic.

MRS. TUCKER  
(smiling at her own joke)  
Hey, Lee, who's driving?

INT. BUS - DOORWAY - AFTERNOON

Everyone's seated. There are a couple open seats in the back and then the one next to Del.

Lee gets on, everyone watches without trying to seem obvious. Lee looks around casually and then tries to make it look as coincidental as possible, picking the seat next to Del.

GUS  
Sweet dreams, ladies. We're bringing it home.

INT. RENEE'S SEAT - EVENING

Renee angles her make-up mirror so she can see Lee and Del.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*It's getting dark, but none of us  
 are dreaming. We're all listening.*

INT. DOLORES'S SEAT - EVENING

Dolores looks up to see if Lee and Del are talking.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*I don't really know how to explain  
 this, and like I said we're not  
 exactly the Junior League on this  
 bus, but there's a spirit.*

INT. THE SISTER'S SEATS - EVENING

The Sisters' eyes bore holes in back of Lee and Del.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*There's a way we root for each  
 other, and somehow we feel that the  
 way it comes out between Lee and  
 Del will be a judgement on us all.*

INT. LOURDES'S SEAT - EVENING

Pam looks at Lourdes expectantly.

INT. LEE'S SEAT - EVENING

Lee and Del aren't looking at each other.

Finally, after an interminably long time...

DEL  
 So. San Luis Abysmal.

LEE  
 Huh?

DEL  
 Mexico. You were telling me about  
 your honeymoon down in San Luis  
 Abysmal.

LEE  
Yeah. San Something-or-Other.

DEL  
And he says he speaks the language.

A collective sigh goes through the bus.

LEE  
Right. Only he learned Spanish at  
Taco Bell. He's got this deal,  
right?

INT. THE SISTER'S SEATS - SAME

Both Sisters sit back, relieved at what they see.

SISTER #1  
About time.

INT. LEE'S SEAT - SAME

LEE  
So we get to the so-called resort  
and he cuts open the backseat and  
all these DVDs fall out, which I  
know nothing about.

DEL  
Course not.

LEE  
Only on account of the heat they've  
like warped, right? Melted!

DEL  
Naw!

LEE  
And this guy who runs the resort is  
pissed off, going crazy on Lonnie.  
But Lonnie's pissed too 'cause this  
so-called brand-new resort is so  
brand-new it's not built yet.

DEL  
Don't say it, girl.

LEE  
It's just a construction site.

DEL  
Ha-haaaaaaah!

INT. LOURDES'S SEAT - SAME

Lourdes hears Del laughing. She leans back, closes her eyes.

INT. RENEE'S SEAT - CONTINUOUS

Renee hangs her make-up rack on the back of her seat.

INT. DOLORES'S SEAT - CONTINUOUS

Dolores wraps a blanket around herself, trying to sleep.

LOURDES (V.O.)  
*As long as we stay on the bus,  
rocking gentle through the night,  
we're okay, we're safe.*

INT. LEE'S SEAT - CONTINUOUS

LEE  
There's a beach only they haven't  
brought in the sand yet, and  
everywhere these little fleas are  
hoppin' around and my ankles get  
bit and swole up like a balloon.

DEL  
I been there, girl!

LEE  
Honeymoon Heaven, he says to me!

DEL  
Honeymoon Heaven.

INT. DRIVER'S SEAT - EVENING

Gus changes gears, pulls into the fast lane, and starts to whistle-- a theme from some big romantic movie. The volume increases and the whistling BECOMES THE END SCORE...as the bus rolls off into the night.

FADE TO BLACK.