

WHAT I DID FOR CHOCOLATE

Written by

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INT. OFFICES OF PALMER FINANCE - DAY

ANN BROWN is walking down the hall with two slices of chocolate cake on paper plates. She is a drab little admin in her late 30s, with long brown hair and big doe eyes hidden behind thick glasses. She stops in front of an office and stands in the doorway.

ANN

Hey, Greg. Here's the slice of birthday cake you asked for.

GREG ALLEN, turns away from his monitor and treats Ann to a gorgeous smile. Adonis in a well-tailored suit.

GREG

Thanks, Ann, you're the greatest.
Just put it here.

A thrill goes up Ann's spine, but before she can move, DERRICK snatches one of the plates of cake from her hand.

DERRICK

And this one must be for me.
Thanks, Ann.

ANN

But that was--

Derrick continues down the hall and disappears in his office.

ANN (CONT'D)

--mine.

INT. GREG'S OFFICE - DAY

Ann comes into Greg's office and puts the remaining plate on Greg's desk.

ANN

So... Greg, can I talk to you?

GREG

Well, I'm kind of busy. But, what is it?

He takes a bite of cake.

ANN

Ron stole my idea to add
Invitrocorp to the portfolio.

GREG

Yeah. It was a great idea.

ANN

But it was my idea.

GREG

So? You should be proud it's being implemented.

ANN

But he stole it.

GREG

Be flattered. Ron hasn't stolen one of my ideas since June.

ANN

I could at least get some credit--

GREG

Look. I don't want to hurt your feelings, but Invitrocorp would never have flown with an admin chained to it. As it stands, everybody thinks it's brilliant. Just reframe it as Ron shepherding your idea through the system on your behalf.

ANN

But--

GREG

Ann, have you been hit on the head? Because it's like you've forgotten where you are.

ANN

I only--

GREG

Seriously, what do you want me to do? Walk into Ron's office and say, "You steal admin idea. Me hit you on head with club." Is that what you want?

ANN

Well, no.

GREG

Of course not. Just calm down.
Get over this right/wrong thing you
have going on.

He gets up to leave.

GREG (CONT'D)

Oh, hey, before you go, I left a
bunch of stuff on your desk that I
need faxed out tonight.

He starts out the door.

GREG (CONT'D)

Thanks Ann. You're the best admin,
ever. Gotta go. Hot date. Oh,
before I forget, I got a weird e-
mail from my hotel in Cusco. Could
you just reconfirm everything for
my Machu Picchu trip? Please,
Annie-pie? Great. You're just
super. Really, really super. Oh,
and don't forget the limos. Aw,
man. Now I'm late. See ya.

Greg rushes out. Ann Greg's plate, sits in the side chair,
sighs longingly after her boss, and licks his fork.

INT. HALLWAY TO ANN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SANDRA is standing outside Ann's door, holding a bundle in
her arms. She is a good decade older than Ann and by the
looks of her, a very good cook.

SANDRA

What took you so long? You said
you were going to leave after you
printed up Derrick's strat plan.

ANN

Please don't make me talk about it.

Ann unlocks the door and the two women enter.

SANDRA

Uh-oh! Somebody needs hot cocoa...

The door swings closed.

INT. ANN'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

The women are lounging on the sofa in their Snugglies, feet propped up on the coffee table. Sandra is watching TV over the tops of her fuzzy slippers and Ann is hemming something brown.

ANN
(It bubbles up again)
InvitroCorp was MY discovery.

SANDRA
I know, Ann. Sucks.

ANN
Ron. Ron sucks. That's what
sucks. Ron sucks.

SANDRA
Ron's too pretty to suck. Oh, no,
wait, wait... He can suck my toes.

ANN
You'd get rabies. And Greg! I
can't believe Greg wouldn't even
help me!

SANDRA
Is he supposed to?

ANN
Well, I am his admin.

SANDRA
And Derrick's, and Anthony's and
Howard's. Ann, it's like you think
you're one of them. Stop it, just
stop! This is how ulcers get
started. You should be flattered
anyone even listened to you.

ANN
If I hear the word *flattered* one
more time, I think I'll scream.

SANDRA
All I know is that Ron wouldn't
listen to ME if I told him his desk
was on fire. It's not like you're
eligible for commission.

ANN
It's the principle of the thing.

SANDRA

Don't care. It's 11:00. Get
channel seven.

ANN

Fine. Where's my card?

Like turtles on their backs, they both struggle to grab their
lottery cards. Ann changes the channel.

TV ANNOUNCER

...in a lump sum. Tonight's
drawing is for 739 MILLion DOLLars.
All right, America...! The first
number... is 47!

SANDRA

I have 47! I chose my age!

ANN

I have 47! I chose your age!

TV ANNOUNCER

The next number is 37.

ANN

I have 37! I chose my age!

SANDRA

Oh, Man! I thought you were 39!

TV ANNOUNCER

And our third PowerPong number is
three, America.

ANN

Oh, my God, I have three! My
grandma had three lucky cats!

SANDRA

What?

ANN

Oh, I always play three. Hey, I
think I get 50 bucks for this.

TV ANNOUNCER

All right America, the next
PowerPong number is 17!

ANN

My birthday is the 17th! Oh, my
God. OH, MY GOD!

TV ANNOUNCER

And introducing our last PowerPong winner Howard Drake, who won a million dollars for matching the first five balls!

A smiling, friendly farmer in overalls waves at the lovely people in America-land.

ANN AND SANDRA

Augggghhhh!!!

TV ANNOUNCER

And the fifth number that we have been waiting for, America, is 23!

ANN

Meh!!! Meh!!!

TV ANNOUNCER

And now, ladies and gentlemen, the PowerPong number for today is... brought to you by "The Mummy Changes Everything." Be sure to catch it this Friday in a theater near you. And now, good luck everybody, the PowerPong number is 13. Yes, lucky 13 is the winning PowerPong number for tonight. Thanks for watching, and pong on, America!

Deflation. A shocked silence overtakes the room, then screeching. The women hugging and jumping up and down almost drowns out the angry neighbors pounding on the ceiling and the water pipes.

ANN

I won a million dollars!!! I won a million dollars!!! Eeeeeeeee!!!!

SANDRA

Oh, my God, you're rich!!!
Riiich!!! You're a millionaire!

ANN

Wait! Wait, a minute, wait!
Taxes. It's not a million dollars,
there's taxes!

SANDRA

Taxes. Don't they take, like,
half?

ANN

I don't know. Maybe. Tax tables!
There's tax tables on my old taxes!

SANDRA

Get your taxes!!!

Ann tears off toward her bedroom closet, with Sandra close behind. She pulls at a box, which clatters onto the floor. She digs into it, fishes out a manila envelope and dumps its contents. The women scramble for the tax tables and leaf through them.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Federal, 39.6.

ANN

State, 8.82. New York City, 3.876.
So that's... uh... 52.296%. So I
get... Four hundred and seventy
seven thousand dollars.

Another silence overtakes the closet. Then, pandemonium.

ANN (CONT'D)

I won four hundred and seventy
seven thousand dollars!

More hugging, jumping and screaming.

SANDRA

Ann, what are you going to do?

A sly smile crosses Ann's face along with the idea crossing her mind.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICES OF PALMER FINANCE - DAY

Ann teeters into the office dressed gaudier than a Kardashian. She's been drinking. Sandra gasps and scrambles out of her cube. RON sticks his head out of his office.

RON

Ann! How nice of you to join us.
What is that? Some kind of a prom
getup? Aren't you a little old for
that? Whatever. I have a call in
five minutes. Get me some coffee?
Thank you.

Greg calls out of his office.

GREG

As long as you're going, I could use another fix.

DERRICK

Hey, yeah. Me, too.

Ann walks to Greg's office and looks in. He is looking at a travel site about Machu Picchu. She harrumphs to no one in particular, then sashays to Ron's open door.

ANN

Gee, Ron, I'd love to get your coffee for you, but unless you give me credit for InvitroCorp, I'LL QUIT! I'LL QUIT!

Ann smiles and sways, waiting for a reaction. Ron walks to the doorway, mouth agape. Greg falls all over himself hurrying to Ann. All of the managers are at their doorways, now.

GREG

Quit? Over InvitroCorp? Why would you do such a thing?

ANN

Because, Greg, I matched five balls in the PowerPong game, which makes me a half a millionairess and able to explore my options.

RON

(Laughing at the joke)

Ann, that's ridiculous. You made a mistake. I'm sure you just read it wrong. Now be a good girl, get me my coffee.

ANN

If you give me credit for InvitroCorp.

RON

Oh, I get it. You want more money. You're pulling this little stunt as a bargaining chip to get a raise. There's no lottery.

DERRICK

You know, Ann, in this economy, nobody can afford to pay non-revenue-generating personnel.

GREG

On the other hand, Ann, if you really did win this money, you're going to need someone to manage it. I'll give you a special rate.

He winks at the guys.

ANN

You would give me special treatment?

GREG

Well, sure.

ANN

I would be your special client? Because, you know, after 11 years, I have learned a little something about taking care of my own needs... Financial...

The planners fight to contain their amusement. Ann suddenly turns green.

ANN (CONT'D)

Uh, oh!

She turns away from Greg and is now face-to-face with Ron. She bends in half, spewing tequila-laced vomit all over Ron's shoes.

ANN (CONT'D)

Ooops. My bad.

Ron is momentarily frozen in shock. Then,

RON

What the--! Oh, my God! That's it! I've had it! YOU'RE FIRED ANN! FIRED! Get out of my sight! Oh, my God! Pack your shit!

Ron storms off to the men's room.

ANN

Does that mean I get unemployment?

GREG AND DERRICK

NO!!!

ANN
 (to Greg)
 Can I still be your spe--

GREG
 ANN!!!

ANN
 I'm sorry... Hey, you know what?
 I don't feel sick at all any more.
 Oh... I wrecked my pretty dress.
 Oh, well. I can make another one.
 Hey! Where's my plant!?!

She picks up the potted plant from her desk and hugs it, then pulls herself together proudly.

ANN (CONT'D)
 Good day, gentlemen. I said good
 DAY!

She marches off around the corner, with Sandra close behind.

INT. ELEVATOR LOBBY - DAY

SANDRA
 Ann! You okay?

ANN
 That wasn't how I pictured it going
 at all. Hey! You up for Mexican
 tonight? I'm buying.

SANDRA
 How about I make some chicken soup
 at your place?

The elevator arrives and Ann steps in.

ANN
 Okay. Hey, Sandra! Guess what? I
 know what I'm going to do with my
 money, next. I'm--

The elevator door closes.

CUT TO:

EXT. PERUVIAN ANDES - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A small-ish jet travels through fluffy clouds above the rocky peaks of the Andes.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Ann is pressed against the back of her seat, eyes like pie plates, knuckles white. The flight attendant makes her landing announcement welcoming everyone to Cusco, gateway to Machu Picchu. The plane descends, encountering the inevitable bout of turbulence. Ann yelps with every bump.

In the aisle seat next to her is DAVID ANDERSON. He is in his late 40s, with salt-and-pepper hair. He is wearing a suit and tie and is reading a medical journal.

ANN

We're getting awfully close to that mountain! Should we be this close to that mountain?!?

DAVID

(Glancing through Ann's window)

No, I'd say we're not nearly close enough. Get ready for a thrill.

The plane hits the runway HARD. Ann shrieks and clutches David's arm. The plane struggles to ascend, barely missing a row of houses at the far end of the runway, as it rises again over the jagged Andes.

ANN

What's happening? Are we going back to Lima? Do you think the landing gear is damaged? Will we have an emergency landing in foam? Can we even make it to Lima?

DAVID

That was a bounce landing. It's common in Cusco. The pilot was too far from the mountain and got caught an updraft. He's circling so he can try again in a minute.

ANN

Bounce landing?

DAVID

Of course, if the pilot flies too close to the mountain we may catch a downdraft, in which case we will have a crash landing.

ANN

Crash landing?

DAVID

Very tricky, landing in Cusco.

The plane makes a second run around the mountain and Ann's eyes widen in fear as scrubby bushes zoom past her window. The plane makes a perfect landing and the foreigners burst into applause.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Cusco. The temperature is 23 degrees and the local time is 11:41. Due to the extreme altitude, please be especially careful de-bording the plane. Oxygen masks are located inside the terminal for your convenience. Thank you for choosing VolarAndes and have a pleasant stay. Señoras y señores, bienvenidos a Cusco. La temperatura...

INT. CUZCO AIRPORT - DAY

Ann picks up her luggage from the conveyor belt. She gasps and staggers a few steps. David catches her just before her knees buckle, guides her to an oxygen tank, and slips a mask onto her face.

DAVID

Breathe normally. Don't gulp.
You'll be fine in a minute.

ANN

So many pretty stars...

DAVID

You've never been at 12,000 feet,
have you?

ANN

I've never been anyplace, hee, hee,
hee.

DAVID

Interesting first outing. Do you
have someone to take you to your
hotel?

ANN

I have a driver. Oh, look...
There's my name.

A short Inca man is standing in the arrivals area. He is holding a sign that reads, "Ann Brown." Ann waves at him sloppily, and the driver waves back.

DAVID

Feeling better? Good. Let me help you with this.

Ann takes off her mask and David takes the largest of Ann's suitcases, ushers her to her driver, and leaves her in his care.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Now, when you get to your hotel, you need to sleep as long as you can and then try to eat some chicken soup, but nothing more. Okay?

ANN

Okay, thank you. By the way, can you tell me which restaurant is the most popular restaurant that everybody who's anybody goes to for chicken soup?

DAVID

Restaurant, eh? The Golden Cuy, I suppose. Pleasant dreams.

ILYAPA, an Inca man in his 30s, pushes his way through the crowd and approaches David.

ILYAPA

David! Welcome home!

DAVID

Thanks, good to be home--where the air is clear because there is none.

ILYAPA

So, who was that you had your arm around? A new girlfriend, I hope.

DAVID

Hardly. Just another tourist with oxygen issues.

ILYAPA

Well, you can't blame me for hoping you would come back with a little more than a grant after your trip. You did get the grant?

DAVID

Well, of course I did. You know as well as I do they'll never cut off my funding.

ILYAPA

Okay, David. You keep telling yourself that.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE GOLDEN CUY - NIGHT

Ann enters the Golden Cuy and is seated at a crummy little table in the corner. She orders chicken soup and sees Greg sitting at a table across the room.

ANN

Yessss. I knew it.

She realizes that Greg is sitting with SRA RIVERA, a regal Spanish beauty in her 50s. There is another man at the table, SUPAY. He is a wiry Inca with the cold gaze of a hawk. Ann stands, arranges herself, and approaches Greg's table.

ANN (CONT'D)

Oh, my gosh, Greg! Hi! I had no idea you would be here at the same time as me.

Greg looks up in surprise and confusion, which quickly turns into discomfort.

GREG

Ann! What are you doing here?

ANN

Well, Greg, you told me about your upcoming trip here, probably about a thousand times. Really, how could I resist getting in on the action?

SRA RIVERA

Action? Really, Greg. Do tell.

GREG

I, uh...

Ann turns to Sra. Rivera and holds out her hand for an enthusiastic handshake.

ANN

And, wow, this is a treat! You're Isobel Rivera, the Queen of Cocoa. I'm Ann, Ann Brown. Oh my gosh, what a thrill! I read about you in Business Woman Magazine. And now here you are with Greg. Wow! What are the chances?

SRA RIVERA

I would say that the chances are excellent that I would be meeting with my financial advisor. Greg has been privately servicing my account since he interned for me in college.

ANN

Oh, right. Must be the altitude. Of course, I knew that.

GREG

No, you didn't. No, she didn't.

ANN

Greg tells me everything.

GREG

No, I don't.

SRA RIVERA

Greg, who is this friend of yours that you either talk to or don't?

GREG

Not a friend, Isobel, an admin. Ann was my admin at the new company and we really only worked together for a short time.

ANN

Well, yes, but in that short time, we worked very, very closely together. In fact, you know, I think I knew what Greg was thinking before he even thought it himself.

GREG

Ann, read my mind right now.

SRA RIVERA

No, don't stop. I'd love to know how close you are.

Ann sees that everyone is staring daggers at her.

ANN

Oh, no. No, no! Don't get me wrong. No funny stuff. I never interfered in any of Greg's relationships. And now that I think about it, Greg talked about you constantly and with such fondness. No. Not fondness, affection. Admiration? And I just... I... Oh... Wow! Look at all of us. Here in Peru! Just a group of old and new friends having drinks in Peru, like a---

GREG

Admin! Ann, you were an admin! Not a trusted partner, not an equal, not a friend, an admin.
(Taking Isobel's hand)
In fact, now this is interesting, Isobel. Ann just won the lottery. She doesn't work for anyone any more. And most of all, she does not work for me.
(Staring at Ann)
You know, Ann, I haven't properly congratulated you, have I? Congratulations, Ann, well done. Great seeing you again. Why don't you call Sandra and we'll catch up in New York when we both get home.

SRA RIVERA

Yes, my dear. This is a private celebration for my recent win in Belgium for exotic fine chocolate blends. Lovely to meet you. Do keep in touch with Greg, will you?

ANN

Oh! Right... Absolutely. Just going to head on back to my table and have some chicken soup... Alone... 'Cause I love me that chicken soup. Uh, nice to meet you.

Sra. Rivera and Supay are staring bullets at Greg. Greg is staring bullets at Ann. She meekly returns to her table and sits. A waiter sets a bowl of chicken soup in front of her, but she can only stare at it.

EXT. ORIGIN OF THE INCA TRAIL - DAY

A group of about 15 people in high tech gear is gathered outside of a rickety hut with a sign that reads, "Welcome to Inca Trail." Ann approaches the group in her homemade hiking outfit, which is covered in pockets. Once again, she sees Greg, who is chatting up a pretty hiker.

ANN

Greg? Hi.

GREG

Ann! Seriously? What are you doing here?

ANN

Well, hiking. You made it sound so cool at work that I wanted to do it, too.

GREG

Ann, do you know how much trouble you got me into last night?

ANN

I'm sorry, Greg. I just wanted to make friends with one of my idols.

GREG

Ann! Sra. Rivera thinks I am blabbing her business all over New York!

ANN

I'm sorry, Greg. I see how wrong I was. Don't worry, I won't bother you anymore.

She walks over to the edge of the group. RANDY, the tour guide, walks up to the entrance of the footbridge and claps to get everyone's attention.

RANDY

All right, people, gather 'round! My name is Randy, and I will be the lead guide on our trip to Machu Picchu. First things first, let's all get to know each other. When I call out your name, tell us where you're from, and a little about yourself. So, let's start with Greg Allen.

GREG

Hi, I'm Greg Allen, I'm from New York, I'm a financial planner, and I love hockey! I love to play it, and I love the Rangers!

RANDY

Oh, we're gonna tangle, man. I'm a Philadelphia boy. FLYERS!!! Okay, who's next? Josie Carter. Where are you Josie?

FADE TO:

RANDY (CONT'D)

Okay, is there anybody whose name I left out?

ANN

Me. I'm Ann Brown, I'm from...

RANDY

Oh, right. You were the last-minute addition. Great! Come on, people, listen up. So, the first thing I want to impress upon you is that the Inca Trail is a very special place. Do NOT touch anything that may appear to be an artifact. Do NOT attempt to take anything with you. What starts in the Andes STAYS in the Andes. All right! Let's go!

EXT. INCA TRAIL - DAY

The hikers pass an exuberant morning on the trail. Greg has latched onto a group of three busty blondes who look as if they might serve St. Pauli beer for a living. Ann is bringing up the rear taking photos with her smart phone.

EXT. CAMPSITE - AFTERNOON

The group arrives at the first campsite. As they clamber onto the site, they are surprised to encounter a tiny tent town, the largest of which is a mess hall.

INT. MESS HALL - NIGHT

The hikers are seated at a long table eating chicken stew and spaghetti. Everyone is telling jokes and laughing.

Greg and JACINTHA, one of the St. Pauli girls, are huddled together at one end getting to know each other better. Ann is sitting at the other end falling asleep in her stew. One of the PORTERS gets carried away with the jovial atmosphere.

PORTER

Two men were walking to Cusco and stopped along the road for the night, when a puma came up. One man got up and ran. The other man said you can't outrun a puma. The running man said, "No, I only have to outrun you!"

Silence.

ANN

There's pumas here?!?

Everyone busts out laughing at Ann's alarm.

RANDY

All right, you guys. Cheer down. We'll have a big party in Aguas Calientes at the end of the trip. What do you say?

(Everyone cheers)

Okay! We have a brutal day of hiking tomorrow. So back to your tents, everybody.

(Pointing at Greg)

Your OWN tents.

(Everybody cracks up)

So I'll see you all at five a.m.

(Everybody groans)

EXT. INCA TRAIL - MORNING

Everyone's asses are being kicked by the Inca trail. The porters pass up the hikers on their way to the next campsite, carrying everything from tents to crockery with ease. A few hikers applaud them. Eventually, the hikers enter a clearing with several benches.

RANDY

Okay, everybody, we're going to rest here for a few minutes. Eat some trail mix, but try not to get too relaxed, or it'll hurt twice as much when we start again.

Greg and Jacintha walk around the ruins hand-in-hand. Something catches Greg's eye.

He picks up a cool rock and shows it to Jacintha. The rock is the size of a large peach and is the shape of a six-pointed star with a hole in the center. It is shiny and black, and some parts sparkle. A porter sees and tells Randy.

JACINTHA

Greg, this is so beautiful. I love it. Can I keep it?

GREG

Sure sweetie. Uh-oh.

Randy makes a bee line toward Greg. Greg puts the rock behind his back and passes it to Jacintha.

RANDY

All right, Greg. You know the rules. We're guests in this country. Cultural violations can get you in a world of hurt.

GREG

Hey, man. I have no idea what you're talking about.

Greg holds out both hands and then pats his vest.

GREG (CONT'D)

Nothing to see here.

He puts his hands behind his back and receives the cool rock back from Jacintha.

JACINTHA

Nothing here, unless you would like to perform an inspection.

RANDY

Fine. I stand corrected.

Randy walks off. The porter glares at Greg and Jacintha.

GREG

I guess what we have here, is a hot cool rock.

JACINTHA

I don't want to throw it away. What do we do?

GREG

We need a disinterested third party to carry it for us.

He sees Ann wandering around taking photos.

GREG (CONT'D)

Bin-GO. My old admin. I can schmooze her into anything. Watch and learn.

He saunters up to Ann.

GREG (CONT'D)

Hi, Ann. I've been thinking, and I'm really sorry I came down on you so hard. I get that you were just trying to fit in.

ANN

I'm sorry, too. I shouldn't have tried to act like some kind of a big shot. Can we be friends again?

GREG

Absolutely. Here. I'll even show you my cool rock.

Ann takes the rock.

ANN

Wow. That is a cool rock.

GREG

Hey, let's do a selfie. Just you and me, Ann.

Greg takes a selfie of himself and a sliver of Ann holding the cool rock. Jacintha looks on.

GREG (CONT'D)

I'm gonna tweet this to Ron. Man, he's gonna be so jealous.

ANN

Twitter works here?

GREG

Eh, it'll just sit in my buffer until I get a signal. We'll show the rock to Ron in person when we get back to New York, okay?

ANN

Hey, wait. We're not supposed to touch anything, let alone take it.

GREG

Oh, don't worry about that. Didn't you just see me talk to Randy about it? He meant taking stuff from the ruins. This was just kind of laying on the path a couple of miles back.

(Then,)

You know, Ann... I've really missed you at the office.

ANN

You have?

GREG

Sure. It's just not the same place without you.

ANN

Really?

GREG

Really. You know, I had an ulterior motive in tweeting that photo.

(He takes her hand)

Ann, a half-million won't last you long in New York. I'm hoping that if we can get on Ron's good side, I can bring you back on in a junior analyst position.

Jacintha calls over to the pair.

JACINTHA

Greg, we're getting ready to start again.

GREG

Think about it, Ann. I gotta go. Really wish I hadn't hooked up with her, now that we're friends again. But, I don't want to hurt her feelings. You know?

He turns to leave.

GREG (CONT'D)

Oh! Annie-pie, can I ask you a huge favor? I'm such an oaf. I'm afraid I might lose our cool rock. Can you just stick it away in one of your fancy little pockets and keep it safe'til we get to Cusco?

ANN
Sure. I'm happy to.

She sticks it in one of her pockets and buttons it. The Inca porter sees the interchange between Ann and Greg and becomes so angry he has to walk away.

GREG
Oh, and mum's the word. Randy told me that if it got out that I had a cool rock, then everybody was going to want one.

JACINTHA
Greg?

GREG
Gotta go. You're the best friend ever, Annie-pie.

ANN
See ya.

GREG
See ya.

Greg rejoins Jacintha.

JACINTHA
You are good.

GREG
You may call me Master, if you like.

INT. ANN'S TENT - NIGHT

It's pitch black when a smart phone alarm goes off, filling the tent with a pale blue light. The time on the phone reads 3:30 a.m. Ann groans and fumbles for it. Randy, the cook, and the porters are already at work outside.

RANDY (O.S.)
All right, people. This is it! Breakfast in half an hour, then we're off to see the sunrise at Machu Picchu! Woo!!!

EXT. INCA TRAIL - PREDAWN

Flashlights provide the only light guiding the hikers. The group climbs to a rocky platform.

RANDY

All right, everybody! We have arrived! We are at The Sun Gate of Machu Picchu! WOOOO!!!

HIKERS

WOOOOOO!!!

RANDY

It's about a half hour until sunrise, so we'll hang out here for that. Then, we'll head down and you're free to wander on your own for however long you want to stay here. I'll be giving a personal tour, for those of you who can still stand me, but either way, we'll meet up again at 7:00 tonight at the Inca Hut to par-tay!!!

HIKERS

WOOOO!!!

A drop of rain falls, then two, then hundreds. Everyone scrambles to put on their rain gear and huddles together in groups of twos and threes. Acutely aware of her solitude, Ann wanders away from the group unnoticed and just keeps going. She soon arrives at the main gate of the fabled city.

She wanders down the ancient paths, eventually finding herself on the back terraces, where six or seven llamas are munching on grass. She approaches one to get a close-up with her cell. It shies away.

ANN

Oh! Are you afraid of my backpack?
I must look like a giant to you.

She takes off her backpack and makes another attempt at a beauty shot.

ANN (CONT'D)

Hello, Mr. L-l-l-lama. You look a little wet. But you got the pretty big brown eyes, yes you do... Yes you do... Yes, ye--

The llama stops chewing and spits a thick, slimy wad of goo in Ann's face. She RECOILS TO THE RIGHT.

ANN (CONT'D)

Eeeeeewwwww!!!

Then, she RECOILS TO THE LEFT and falls off the terrace onto a construction area. She lands on a piece of corrugated tin that breaks loose and flies like a toboggan down the city's drainage conduits and through the underbrush until she splashes down in the roiling Urubamba river.

Ann clings for life in the rushing whitewater, shrieking for help and her mommy as the muddy river sweeps her closer and closer to the hydroelectric plant.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

David is photographing a tiny flower with an old flip phone when he hears the commotion. He climbs a boulder at the riverbank and grabs a nearby dead branch. He snags Ann with it, pulls her from the frothing water and drags her to the riverbank. Ann is covered with clumps of mud, blood, lichens and leaves.

ANN

OhMyGod! OhMyGod! Thank you!
OhMyGod! Thankyou-thankyou-thankyou-
thankyou! Oh, God! Oh God!

DAVID

Okay! It's okay! You're safe now.
You're safe.

(Attempting to calm her)

You know, I love it when the girls
call me God, but why don't you call
me David? Alright?

ANN

Uhhhh... David...

DAVID

Good. Now, if you can sit up and
tell me your name, I'll go ahead
and assess your injuries.

He looks in each eye and checks her scalp for bumps as she speaks.

ANN

I'm Ann-uhhh-Brown. Owww! You're
a doctor?

DAVID

Yes, Anna. It's your lucky day.
Follow my finger.

ANN

Not Anna. Ann. Just plain Ann.

DAVID

Okay. Well, Just-Plain-Ann, let me get a look at that arm. I hope you're not too attached to this blouse.

ANN

I can make another one.

David tears off her sleeve, causing Ann to squeal in pain. He stops and narrows his eyes at her. Then, he uses the sleeve to make a tourniquet.

DAVID

Can you tell me what happened to you?

ANN

Lama.

DAVID

Llama?!?

ANN

It all happened so fast. I was at Machu Picchu. There was this lama... Hiss, spit, goo on me, fall, slide, water, owww...

David picks a few leaves from a nearby plant.

DAVID

Here. Chew these. They'll help with the pain and keep you from stiffening up. You might feel a little strange.

He pauses to gather his thoughts.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So... Ann... Did the llama spit on you before or after it shot you?

ANN

What?!? Shot me!

DAVID

That's a bullet wound in your arm. You've been shot.

ANN

Shot? That's not possible!

DAVID

Well, your arm says otherwise. Do you know who did this to you?

ANN

Nooooo! I'm nobody to shoot at. I'm just an admin. Or I was...

DAVID

Hmmm... Well. I've got to get you back to camp before it rains again. I don't see anything life-threatening here, so I would prefer to avoid the hospital and the police. Whoever shot you is likely having a beer in Aguas Calientes as we speak. It would behoove you not to show up in front of him. It could be very bad for your health. Can you walk for me?

ANN

Not really.

DAVID

That wasn't a question. The quipatu-tuatl should be taking effect any minute. Here, put your arm around my neck.

Ann puts her good arm around his neck.

DAVID (CONT'D)

That-a-girl. Up we go...

They stand up together. Ann is shaky, weak and limping. David coaxes her on as they disappear into the underbrush.

DAVID (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Excellent... See? This isn't so bad... I'm going to take you home with me and you can curl up in front of a nice, warm fire with some yummy, yummy cuy stew.

EXT. RAINFOREST - DAY

Ann is leaning heavily on David as they make their way down the tangled path.

ANN

Hey, don't I know you from someplace?

DAVID
I don't see how.

ANN
I never forget a face and... What was I saying?

DAVID
I'm not sure.

ANN
Owww! I need to sit.

DAVID
Stay with me, Ann. Talk to me. Tell me what a nice admin like you is doing in a place like this.

ANN
I... Owww... won the lottery, so of course I quit my job. Doesn't everybody? But then, I got this brilliant idea to pretty much stalk my old boss on his vacation. I thought maybe he... we... I don't know. Who am I kidding? I'm not his type. But, maybe he needs a new type. Oh, God, what if I'm just an idiot?

DAVID
Well, Ann, if it's any comfort, the mere fact that you are questioning your intelligence indicates that you are not an idiot.

ANN
Okay, fine. So then what am I?

DAVID
Oh, I don't know. A victim of hope? Unwise, perhaps?

Ann begins to feel the effects of the leaves she chewed.

ANN
Unwise. Exactly. That's it. I'm unwise. I'm unwise in love. You are so smart, really. You! You are so wise. You are a wise guy. Doctor. Doctor-guy. Hey, so what kind of doctor are you, anyway? A loooooove doctor?

DAVID
No, far from it.

ANN
A podiatrist? No... Ummm... A
urologist? Oh! I know! A
proctologist! Heh, heh, heh!

DAVID
No, certainly not.

Ann stops walking and looks into David's eyes.

ANN
A dream doctor, that's what you
are. This is a dream. And you...
are a fantasy. Well done, me. So,
do we fly away, now?

DAVID
No, Ann, I'm just a doctor, and we
are most decidedly earthbound.

Ann teeters in his arms a moment, then turns and leads the
way down the path.

ANN
No, I'm pretty sure I'm flying.

DAVID
All right, you've convinced me.

ANN
If you're not a dream doctor, maybe
you're an imuno-lol-ogist? Veteran-
anal-ologist?

DAVID
No, no, no. Alright! An
oncologist, I'm an oncologist.

ANN
Oh. Man. All your patients die.

DAVID
Why did I get up this morning?

ANN
So, what's a nice-looking
oncologist like you doing in a
place like this?

DAVID

Oh, my... Research. The ancient Inca practiced an advanced form of medicine and there is an abundance of promising natural remedies they used that I am slowly rediscovering here in the rainforest.

ANN

Well, whatever you gave me is fan-damn-TASTIC! I feel no pain at all! Are you going to take all your discoveries back home and become as rich as me?

DAVID

I don't know. How rich are you?

ANN

I'm a half a millionairess. More. I invested.

DAVID

Really? Well, good for you. But no, I'm not taking anything home any time soon, and I'm certainly not taking THIS remedy home until I can separate its healing qualities from those that you seem to be experiencing right now.

ANN

Then you'll go home? You're American, right?

DAVID

Minnesota. Rochester.

ANN

Me? New York, New York.
(Singing ever more loudly)
A wonderful town, the Bronx is up
and the Battery's down.

DAVID

Ann, if you could, please lower the volume a little? Let's not attract attention.

ANN

Are you embarrassed to be seen with me? Are we in a crowded restaurant?

DAVID

Ann, in addition to your shooter,
there are other nefarious players
in the rainforest.

ANN

Nefarious? Like who? Drug lords?

DAVID

Well, yes.

ANN

There's drug lords in the jungle!?!

DAVID

Shhhhh...

ANN

Shhhhh...

DAVID

Very good. We have worked out an
understanding. I don't bother
them, they don't bother me. But,
if we don't advertise our presence,
we avoid the issue altogether now,
don't we?

ANN

(Singing)

All together, now. We can shut our
yaps. All together now. We can
shut our yaps. All together now...

DAVID

It was raining, I could have stayed
in bed and caught up on my
journals.

They arrive at David's Jeep.

DAVID (CONT'D)

All right, Julie Andrews...

ANN

I'm Ann.

DAVID

...here we are. Your carriage
awaits.

DAVID pours ANN into the passenger seat of his Jeep.

ANN
 (Snapping an imaginary
 whip)
 Whi-chaaaa! Driver! On Dander!
 On Pander! On Grommet and Putin!
 Ah-ha, ha, ha, ha! I said POO! Ah-
 ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

DAVID
 Shhhh...

ANN
 Shhhh...

The Jeep starts with a jerk, and the two drive off through the rainforest.

EXT. DAVID'S CAMPSITE - LATE AFTERNOON

David and Ann arrive at David's campsite. There is a large, permanent canvas tent with an awning. One of the flaps of the tent is open, revealing a work area filled with mice in cages, lab equipment, and an enormous laptop with a tiny little screen. Next to the tent is a beat up Toyota that probably used to be white. In front of the tent is a stone fireplace, oven, and stove. Scattered around are several director's chairs.

ANN
 ...I don't have to outrun the puma,
 I only have to outrun YOU!

David laughs in spite of himself.

ANN (CONT'D)
 Say, there aren't any pumas here,
 are there?

DAVID
 (Indicating the pistol at
 his side)
 Why do you think I carry this
 sidearm?
 (Jumping out of the Jeep)
 Ilyapa! I have a surprise for you!

ILYAPA
 Is that a girl under that mud?

ANN
 I'm a very dirty girl.

DAVID

I'm afraid that's the quipa-tu-tuatl speaking. Ilyapa, this is Miss Ann Brown of New York City. She was visiting Machu Picchu when she had an unfortunate encounter with a bullet. She's going to stay here a day or two until whoever shot her has moved on.

David helps Ann out of the Jeep.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Ann, this is my assistant, Ilyapa. We've been working here together for... what is it? Ten years now?

ANN

Ten years! Why would anybody stay in a jungle for ten years?

DAVID

I haven't found what I'm looking for.

Ilyapa gives Ann a meaningful look, which Ann returns with exaggerated puzzlement.

ILYAPA

I'll set up a cot and get you something to wear.

David gently takes Ann by the elbow and guides her behind the tent.

DAVID

Thanks, Il! Let me show you where the shower is. Try to avoid getting that wound wet. I'll dress it permanently once you've cleaned up. There's soap in the shower and I should caution you, the water is a bit nippy.

Ilyapa appears from around the corner.

ILYAPA

For you, miss. A towel, and something to wear. They belong to the doctor, so they may be a little large.

ANN

Okey-dokey.

Ilyapa hands the pile to Ann, then walks with David around the tent into his laboratory. David gathers a few bottles, some mesh, and some bandages as they speak.

ILYAPA

Who do you believe shot her? Drug runners?

DAVID

I don't see how. They wouldn't try such a thing in the middle of a tourist area and she's obviously never ingested anything stronger than a margarita.

ANN (O.S.)

EEEEEEEEEEEE!!!!!!

DAVID

You know, I told her it was cold.

ILYAPA

I believe she is sober now.

DAVID

No doubt. But, the more I think about it, I can't help but feel it was some sort of mistake---that she got in the way of a poacher or something. Because, really, who would knowingly harm a hair on that silly little ragamuffin's head?

Ann walks from behind the tent. She is almost drowning in David's shirt. The pants are rolled up at the bottom, and are held at the waist with a bungee cord.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Why don't you sit down right here? Are you allergic to any antibiotics?

ANN

I don't think so.

DAVID

Good. This is going to pinch.

David gives Ann a shot, puts on some reading glasses and begins to clean the wound.

ANN
OUCH!!! Am I going to need
stitches?

DAVID
No, after I clean this out, I'm
going to glue some mesh on you and
when this heals, it will fall right
off. Do you have any sense of
where the shot may have come from?
Do you remember seeing any unusual
birds, any unusual animals?

ANN
Just lama goo hitting my face.
Ohhhhh, it had grass in it.

David hands Ann two capsules and a glass of water.

DAVID
Here, take these. You'll be amazed
at how quickly you heal.

ILYAPA
I have some rice and cuy stew for
you, miss. My wife made it.

Ilyapa hands Ann a plate.

ANN
Thank you, Ilyapa. Ummm... My
compliments to the chef. I didn't
realize how hungry I was.

David goes to the stove and gets some stew for himself. When
he turns around, Ann is nodding off into her plate.

DAVID
Don't fall asleep, yet.

ANN
I'm not.

DAVID
Good. I'd hate to have to carry
you to your cot.

Ann falls completely asleep.

ILYAPA
Say, isn't that your girlfriend
from the airport?

DAVID
 What girl? Oh! So it is. I never noticed.

ANN
 (Barely a mumble)
 Airport? Where?

ILYAPA
 I knew something was going on!

DAVID
 You are about as funny as a head wound, Il.

ILYAPA
 I'm trying to point out that it is time for you to move on.

DAVID
 With this little thing?

ILYAPA
 No, in general. You know, Juana could give you many fine sons.

DAVID
 Juana? Oh, please. She's so overt.

David scoops Ann up into his arms, and carries her to the opening in the tent as she snuggles into his neck.

ILYAPA
 Oh, so you want someone who is secretly feminine?

DAVID
 No, I don't want anyone, Il. I married the love of my life, and it's over. Drop it! Please!

ILYAPA
 Fine. You going to be okay with her here?

DAVID
 She's had a long day. I'm sure she'll sleep through the night and well into the morning.

ILYAPA
 All right. See you tomorrow, D.

EXT. DAVID'S CAMPSITE - MORNING

David is reading a medical journal and drinking his morning coffee. Ann peeks out from behind the flap.

ANN
Hello...?

DAVID
Good morning! How's my favorite patient?

ANN
Patient? What happened? Where am I? And who are you?

DAVID
Don't you remember?

ANN
Well, I had this dream about Machu Picchu, and a lama, and I fell and...
(Her breath catches)
And I was shot.

She sits in one of the director's chairs.

ANN (CONT'D)
And you're a doctor. And you saved me. And I think I need to be really embarrassed, now.

DAVID
Please don't be embarrassed. You were under the influence of a powerful herb. I've seen much stranger behavior.

ANN
Really?

DAVID
Well...

ANN
Oh, no!

DAVID
Would you like some eggs?

ANN
Yes, eggs would be great, thank you. I'm really not like that.

DAVID

Nobody is. Believe me, I understand. How is your arm?

ANN

It's not that bad. Are you sure I was shot?

DAVID

Quite. Would you like some coffee? I have a week-old newspaper, if you'd care for something to read. Ilyapa should be by with a new one any time now.

ANN

Coffee would be great. And I'm happy to read a paper. Do I remember something about drug lords?

DAVID

Don't worry, we're safe here, although they are a fact of life in these parts. We stay out of each others' way. I patch up the occasional gunshot wound, and in turn, we agree to disagree, if you will.

ANN

Don't you worry they'll steal all your equipment?

DAVID

Not really. They sold it to me. Why would they steal back their old equipment?

David hands Ann the newspaper and goes to the stove to get coffee. He turns around to see her holding the paper almost up to the tip of her nose in order to read.

He squeezes his eyes closed against an idea he doesn't like. Then, he goes inside the tent and returns with a pretty pair of wireframe glasses. He contemplates them for a moment before giving them to Ann.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Will these help?

Ann squints at the glasses like a mole, then takes them and slips them on.

ANN

Oh, yes, much better. Perfect, actually. Thank you. How did you know?

Before David can construct an answer, Ilyapa drives up in his crappy Toyota. He jumps out of the car almost before it has stopped.

ILYAPA

David, you need to look at this.
Oh! Good morning, miss.

David steps away and glances at the headline: TOURIST SHOT.

DAVID

They heard about Ann?

ILYAPA

No! Read.

David reads, then folds the paper in half, obscuring the headline. He shows the picture to Ann.

DAVID

Does this man look familiar?

It's the photo of Greg holding the cool rock. Ann's face is almost completely cut out of it.

ANN

Oh, that's my boss, Greg. See?
There's my eye.

David gravely unfolds the paper, showing Ann the headline.

ANN (CONT'D)

What? No!!! Is he going to be all right? I have to go to him! Come on! Let's go!

Ann runs toward the car. David catches her by the shoulders, turns her, and looks into her eyes.

DAVID

Ann. He had a subsequent heart attack accompanied by a stroke. He's not going to survive.

ANN

But, there's so much I have to say to him... I have to say goodbye!

DAVID
Oh, Ann, he won't hear you.

ANN
(Crumpling to the ground)
Nooooo!!!

David sits next to her, puts his arm around her and draws her to him. Ann throws her arms around him and sobs. Ilyapa sits next to David.

ILYAPA
I believe she's in danger.

DAVID
Yup.

ILYAPA
She doesn't know why.

DAVID
Nope.

ILYAPA
In Greg's case, an unknown Inca man accused him of molesting his sister, shot him, and escaped into the rainforest. But, as different as these two situations are, it's too much of a coincidence for two hikers to be shot. I can't remember when one hiker was shot.

DAVID
...by an unknown assailant. I didn't see any mention of Ann's disappearance. I wonder why.

ANN
They forgot I was there.

DAVID
What? What do you mean, they forgot?

ANN
I was a last-minute addition and I wasn't on the roster. I didn't really meet anybody that would miss me, and of course, I'm so memorable.

ILYAPA
I remembered you.

Ann sits up and wipes away her tears with her fingers.

ANN

But, I don't get it. The girl Greg was sleeping with on the hike was Dutch. And in Cusco, I'm pretty sure he was sleeping with Sra. Rivera. Girls come to him. He's not a molester, but now he's dying for it?

DAVID

Back up. Isobel? The chocolate queen?

ILYAPA

More like the snake queen.

DAVID

Be kind, Ilyapa. So, how would Greg know Isobel?

ANN

He "serviced her account" during a study abroad and he's been counting her cocoa crispies ever since.

DAVID

Huh. Sounds like Greg had a girl in every port.

ILYAPA

Or he's in every girl's port.

ANN

HEY!!!

DAVID

Ilyapa!
(Whispering, referring to Ann)
Unrequited love, here.

ILYAPA

I'm sorry I was vulgar, miss. Every girl but you.

ANN

HEY!!!

DAVID

I'm becoming curious as to what you see in him.

ANN
You don't understand.

DAVID
Plainly. But, how about this. I'll,
What do you say about the two of us
going on a little fact-finding
mission in town?

ANN
Great! Let's go!

DAVID
No, you need to stay here, rest,
and get your health back. Come on.

He escorts Ann into the tent.

INT. DAVID'S TENT

David gets a few things from some bottles, and Ann sits on
her cot.

ANN
But, I want to see Greg!

DAVID
I'm sure you do, and I don't care.
You don't appreciate how badly
injured you are. You need to rest.
Now, do you mind if I give you
something so you can sleep while
we're gone?

ANN
If it'll get me well enough to see
Greg.

DAVID
Fine. We'll see. Here, take
these. They're the same thing you
took yesterday, and see how much
better you are?

ANN
(Taking the pills)
Amazingly better. Thank you for
taking care of me. I didn't mean
to give you a hard time.

DAVID
Okay. Well. Here. Take a deep
whiff of this flower.

ANN
 (She complies)
 Oh, it tickles my no--

Ann falls dead asleep. David puts her feet on the cot, pulls up a cover, and tucks her in. He brushes a few hairs off her forehead, muses to himself for a moment, and walks outside.

EXT. DAVID'S CAMPSITE

David emerges from the tent. He and Ilyapa walk to David's Jeep.

DAVID
 She is the most sensitive little thing.

ILYAPA
 Do you believe there is any chance it could be a coincidence?

DAVID
 My gut says no. Either something happened to them in their office, in which case, why come all the way to Peru to kill them, or something happened to them on that hike.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. INCA HUT - DAY

David and Ilyapa enter the restaurant, walk to the bar and sit. A luscious Latina barmaid sidles up to David.

JUANA
 David. It's been so long since you've come to visit me.

She leans over the bar, such that her breasts are undeniably in David's line of sight.

DAVID
 (Looking into her eyes)
 Hello, Juana.

JUANA
 Would you like the usual?

DAVID
 (Smiling)
 Sure.

ILYAPA
Hola, Juana.

JUANA
Hola.

ILYAPA
La misma, señorita?

JUANA
Bien.

Juana steps away to fulfill their orders.

DAVID
Overt, overt, overt.

ILYAPA
Fine sons, fine sons, fine sons.

Juana turns around and serves a beer to each man with varying degrees of care.

DAVID
So, I gather there was quite a bit of excitement here last night. Were you working?

JUANA
Ay, que yes! It was terrifying!

DAVID
Oh, you poor thing. Tell me all about it.

JUANA
That tour guide, Randy, brought a group of hikers in to celebrate, as if a million people never hiked here before. Randy and the man began to argue about a "cool rock." Then they yelled at each other about another hiker. Andi, Anna...

ILYAPA
Because the other hiker didn't come to the party? Because they both love her?

JUANA
No, it was about her and this rock.

DAVID
A girl and her rock. Go on.

JUANA

But then! An Inca man runs in from
nowhere.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. INCA HUT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The INCA MAN is in Greg's face, yelling.

INCA MAN

You slept with my sister, and now
you will pay for her innocence!

GREG

What are you talking--

The Inca pulls out a gun and shoots. Greg collapses to the
floor as the Inca disappears out the door.

RANDY

GREG!!! Oh, man, I knew something
like this would happen!

Women are shrieking. Randy rushes to Greg's aid, and fumbles
his vest and shirt open. No longer bound by cloth, Greg's
blood spreads across the floor.

RANDY (CONT'D)

Greg, I'm here, buddy. You're
gonna be okay.

BACK TO PRESENT:

ILYAPA

Did you know the Inca? Was he
arrested?

JUANA

No, I've never seen him before, and
I'm sure we will never see him
again.

DAVID

What about the sister? Was she
with the American when her brother
shot him?

JUANA

No, he was making kissy-face with a
European woman.

DAVID

Well, then, how do you know there even was a sister? If the American had been hiking for three days, how would he have the time, energy, or opportunity to hook up with an Inca?

JUANA

How should I know? Maybe he met her in Cusco. The Inca had no doubts.

The CHIEF OF POLICE enters the bar and takes a seat next to David.

JUANA (CONT'D)

Hola, Esteban.

ESTEBAN

Doctor! What brings you to town? Tequila, Juana, por favor.

DAVID

Nothing in particular. Change of scenery, I suppose. Sounds like you could have used me here last night.

ESTEBAN

That's very funny. A researcher for a bullet wound.

DAVID

So, what do you think?

CHIEF OF POLICE

About what? A vacationing American with a wandering pee pee?

DAVID

So then, you think he did it? You think he got what was coming to him?

ESTEBAN

I think he had a big mouth, and that kind deserves whatever happens to him.

Esteban gets up and throws down a couple of coins.

ESTEBAN (CONT'D)

If you will excuse me, I must get back to work. Another train full of tourists will be here any minute. Juana! ¿Nos vemos más tarde, eh?

JUANA

Claro, Esteban.

He swaggers out the door.

DAVID

Esteban? Really? Juana, I'm hurt.

JUANA

Just say the word and Esteban will be a very lonely man tonight.

DAVID

Trouble like that, I don't need. But Juana, is the tour guide still here? Or any of the hikers?

JUANA

Nobody stays here more than a day. They all took the train back to Cusco.

ILYAPA

This reminds me. I have to pick up that thing for Tamaya at the train station.

DAVID

Oh, that thing. Right.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You know, Juana, I can see how worried you are. While Ilyapa runs errands for his wife, I can check on your hiker.

JUANA

Oh, that's so nice of you, David.

DAVID

Anything for you, Juana. C'mon, Il.

The two men exit the bar.

INT. RANDY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A NURSE enters Greg's room to check on him. His chest is bandaged, near his shoulder.

NURSE
Oh, good. You're awake.

GREG
What happened to me?

NURSE
Don't you remember? You were shot.

GREG
Oh... The... Inca?

NURSE
Yes. The Chief of Police is here.
He would like to talk to you about
it.

GREG
Okay...

NURSE
Esteban, you may come in, now.

ESTEBAN
Gracias, Florinda. Podriamos
hablar en privado?

NURSE
Por supuesto.

The nurse leaves them alone.

ESTEBAN
Hello, Mr. Allen. Do you know why
I'm here?

GREG
To find the Inca who shot me?

ESTEBAN
I am here to tell you that what
happened to you is a message. You
have made a serious violation. And
violations will not be tolerated.
We have already dealt with your
idiot girlfriend.

GREG
Jacintha?

ESTEBAN
No. The ugly one.

GREG
ANN!?! Oh, my God! Oh, no, not
Ann, not Ann. She didn't do
anything!

ESTEBAN
Reports would suggest that she did,
and more. Now, you are going to do
exactly as I tell you, unless you
want the Inca to finish his job.

Esteban pulls out a syringe filled with a milky liquid.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

David walks down the hallway toward Greg's room. The nurse
walks out of another patient's room.

DAVID
Florinda. Hi! I'm looking for
Greg Allen's room.

NURSE
Why are you looking for him?

DAVID
Well, he was shot in Juana's bar,
and she was so upset that she asked
me to check in on him.

NURSE
You will need to speak with Dr.
Sanchez.

DAVID
Of course. Is he around?

NURSE
I'll check.

The nurse leaves, and Esteban exits Greg's room.

DAVID
Esteban. I thought you went to
meet the train.

ESTEBAN
I took a detour.

DAVID

So, how is the American? Juana asked if I might be able to help.

ESTEBAN

Well, you can't. He is in a coma. No one expects him to live.

DAVID

I wonder if I might have a look at him.

David moves to enter the room, but Esteban blocks him.

ESTEBAN

No! He is the object of a criminal investigation.

DAVID

I'm here as a doctor, Esteban.

Dr. Sanchez appears in the hallway.

DR. SANCHEZ

Well, hello, David. What brings you here?

DAVID

Juana asked me to check in on the American who was shot last night. You know, I might be able to help. I've had some promising results with the quipa-tu-tuatl on gunshot wounds.

Dr. Sanchez exchanges a look with Esteban.

DR. SANCHEZ

Honestly, David, Mr. Allen is in critical condition. I'm sure you mean well, but this is beyond medicinal herbs. It's a matter for a currently-practicing physician.

DAVID

Right. Gotcha.

Dr. Sanchez enters Greg's room. David looks in the door to see that Greg is slack-jawed and unconscious.

ESTEBAN

Go back to your test tubes, David. Nobody needs you here.

INT. DAVID'S TENT - DAY

Ann begins to stir in her cot. Her eyes flutter open, then she wakes with a start.

ANN
Where...? Oh, right.
(Calling out)
David? Ilyapa?

She gets up and walks out of the tent.

OUTSIDE OF THE TENT

Ann looks around the deserted site.

ANN
Anybody? Gonna be back soon?

She sees the newspaper on a chair, picks it up and strokes Greg's picture. She begins to read, walking back inside the tent.

BACK INSIDE

She returns to her cot, sits, and stares at the picture of Greg. Her eyes well up with tears.

ANN
Oh, Greg. Please get better,
please get better, please get
better. Why did you have to come
here? Why did I have to come here?

She throws the paper down.

ANN (CONT'D)
I don't even know where I am. All
I really know is... Nothing.

Ann gets up and carefully snoops through David's things. She finds a small jewelry box and opens it. In the box, she finds a picture, which fascinates her for a long time. In the bottom of the box is a set of pearl earrings tied together with pink ribbon. She looks at the photo again and realizes what it all means.

ANN (CONT'D)
(Whispering)
Oh, wow...

Ann carefully replaces the contents in the box and puts it back in its place. She looks around some more, plays with the mice a few minutes, sighs and picks up a medical journal from a stack. She begins to read as she exits the tent.

EXT. DAVID'S CAMPSITE - DUSK

Ann is reading outside of the tent as David and Ilyapa return.

ANN

Well? How did it go? Did you find out what happened?

DAVID

Yes and no.

ILYAPA

According to Juana, it happened exactly like the newspaper said.

DAVID

But, here's where it gets interesting. Greg and the tour guide had a big fight about you.

ANN

About me? Because I was missing?

DAVID

No, Juana said that it was about you and some kind of rock.

ANN

Oh, my God! The cool rock!

DAVID

Yes, actually. Those were the exact words that she used: "the cool rock."

Ann jumps out of her seat. She runs into the tent and returns with the sparkling black stone and gives it to David.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What's this?

ANN

It's the rock! This is the cool rock! From the picture in the paper.

DAVID
Where did you get this?

ANN
Greg found it on the trail. He was afraid he'd lose it, so he gave it to me for safekeeping until Cusco.

DAVID
Smuggle, Ann. He asked you to smuggle an artifact as far as Cusco.

Ilyapa examines the rock.

ANN
Oh, David. Don't be silly. Greg isn't like that.

DAVID
Really. What's my clue?

ILYAPA
This is a mace. There are hundreds of these all over the countryside.

ANN
But this one is all black and sparkly. It can't be just some worthless thing! Greg and Randy fought about it.

ILYAPA
It's just a mace.

ANN
No!!! It's the only thing we have in common! Somebody shot both Greg and me, and it can't be for no reason at all! People don't attempt murder for nothing. It can't be for nothing! It can't be!

DAVID
Well, to tell you the truth Ilyapa, I've never seen one of these in obsidian. It's a completely impractical material for bludgeoning purposes. It shatters too easily. Perhaps it's part of a statuary? In which case, it could have some artistic or ceremonial value.

ILYAPA

I don't know of any artwork or statues with an obsidian mace, but if there is one that I have never heard of, that would make it very rare.

DAVID

You know, Esteban said something that's been sticking in my head. He implied that Greg had been shot because he had been indiscrete about something.

ILYAPA

I believe his exact words were that Greg had a big mouth.

DAVID

Which has nothing to do with any Inca girl. Greg and the tour guide had a loud fight about a rock, not a girl.

ILYAPA

A girl that no one has ever seen or talked about. And, honestly, David, the Inca don't get upset over sex the way you foreigners do.

DAVID

Right. The sister was a cover story. Which brings us back to the one thing our two victims have in common, and the one thing everyone heard Greg fight about.

Everyone looks at the obsidian mace. There is a gust of wind and it begins to rain.

ANN

Could this be worth the lives of two people?

DAVID

I don't know, but it's worth exploring. Ilyapa, do you think Atauchi would know what this is?

ILYAPA

He is our wisest shaman. He speaks directly with the mummies.

DAVID

All right, it's settled. I'll hike out to see Atauchi first thing in the morning.

ANN

I'm going with you.

DAVID

Ann, it's a strenuous hike to the shaman. You just stay here and rest.

ANN

What!?! I don't think so! Need I remind you that I hiked the Inca Trail. And that hike isn't for sissies! I have done nothing but sleep since I've been here. I'm healing very well, and if Greg truly is about to die, I need to do this one last thing for him.

David tries to compassionately take Ann's hands as it begins to rain a good deal harder.

ANN (CONT'D)

NO! Don't you be all sympathetic with me! I'm going with you and that's all there is to it! I'm not some delicate flower. I hiked the Inca trail and I'm hiking with you. If that rock is the reason why we were shot, then it's my responsibility.

DAVID

You're right. You're exasperatingly right! But nobody's going anywhere tomorrow if we all catch our deaths of cold.

Everyone runs into the tent for shelter as it begins to pour.

INT. DAVID'S TENT - NIGHT

Ilyapa gets towels for everyone to dry off. David establishes a modem handshake.

DAVID

I hate fall.

ILYAPA
This could last a good long time.

DAVID
Or not.

ILYAPA
I hate fall.

DAVID
Well, according to the radar, it looks like the good news is that it's not going to rain any harder, so Il, you may drive home any time you like. The bad news is that it looks like Ann and I won't be able to hike until at least the day after tomorrow.

ILYAPA
Good! Then you will come to my house tomorrow for Umisha. Tamaya wants to meet Ann. And, I know how much you love Tamaya's fried cuy.

DAVID
Well, I don't know. I wouldn't want Ann to overtax herself.

Ann touches David's forearm.

ANN
Oh, David, please? It'll be fun.

David puts his hand on Ann's hand.

DAVID
All right. Apparently, I'm overruled. I suppose It's high time you had fun on your vacation.

Their eyes meet.

ANN
Thank you.

The couple becomes aware of Ilyapa's presence and the moment is gone.

ILYAPA
Well, I'll just be on my way.

ANN
Good night, Ilyapa. Safe home.

DAVID
Good night, Il.

ILYAPA
Good night, Ann. Good night, D.
I'll see you at my house at noon.

Ann takes a seat on her cot and holds out her hand like a good little girl. David gives her two pills, which she takes dutifully. Then, he hands her a sleeping flower.

DAVID
Inhale this fully, Sleeping Beauty.

ANN
David, please don't make fun.

DAVID
Of sleeping?

ANN
Never mind.

David sits on Ann's cot.

DAVID
Ann, I hope you know I would never make fun of you. I'm beginning to think that you don't see all of your wonderful qualities the way Il and I do.

ANN
I have wonderful qualities?

DAVID
More than I can count. Now, breathe deep. You have a very weird day ahead of you.

Ann smiles at David and takes the flower, smells it, and passes out cold. David tucks her in, sits on the edge of the bed, and watches her sleep for a moment or two before getting up, grabbing a journal and settling in for a long read.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

It is drizzling as Ann and David pull up to a muddy field. In the center is one lone tree decorated with balloons, dishpans, baseball hats, small tools and dime store toys.

A group of about 20 Inca men and women are holding hands and circling the tree.

In the center is an Inca with an axe, who takes a whack at the tree, then rejoins the ring, as the next Inca moves to the center and picks up the axe.

David waves to Ilyapa, standing next to the tree offering a shot of something alcoholic to the revelers as each one passes him. He waves for Ann and David to come over.

ILYAPA

David! Ann! I am so happy to see you here. Come! Join the circle. The price of admission is a drink of chicha de jora!

DAVID

(Aside to Ann)
That's homemade corn beer.

Ilyapa holds out a plastic cup to Ann. She takes a gulp.

ANN

Wow! Way stronger than Yeungling!

ILYAPA

David?

David takes a gulp, and he and Ann join the ring.

ANN

So, what are we doing?

DAVID

This is the Ritual of the Umisha. Think of it as the world's weirdest piñata. Everyone takes turns chopping at the tree and when it comes down, everyone scrambles for the gifts.

ANN

The gift of a dishpan?

DAVID

You would love one, if yours were cracked. So, try not to fell the thing, because whoever brings the tree down decorates it next year.

ANN

I can't kill a tree.

DAVID

Ann. The tree is already dead. They dug it up out of the rainforest last week. Come on, embrace their tradition. But, use your other arm. This one may be healing quickly, but you can un-heal even faster.

It's Ann's turn. She picks up the axe and gives a wimpy swing at the tree. The axe head just bounces off. Now, it's David's turn. He gives the tree a mighty whack, sending out splinters in every direction. The crowd cheers his name. David pulls Ann out of the circle. They head toward Ilyapa's house, past a pen full of chirping cuys.

ANN

Oh, how cute!

DAVID

No, they're not. Step away from the cuys. Do not make friends with the cuys.

David knocks on the door of Ilyapa's house. Ilyapa's wife, TAMAYA, answers and beckons them in.

INT. ILYAPA'S HOUSE - DAY

TAMAYA

David! Welcome! And you must be Ann. Ilyapa has told me so much about you.

ANN

Thank you for inviting us into your home, Mrs., uh, Ilyapa.

TAMAYA

Please, call me Tamaya. Look at you. Ilyapa told me to find some women's clothing for you. Come with me.

She takes Ann by the hand and leads her into another room. Ilyapa walks up behind David, seemingly from nowhere.

ILYAPA

That was quite a blow you gave that tree. All of the ladies are so impressed.

DAVID

I just thought I would move things along. The sooner the tree is down, the sooner we eat.

ILYAPA

And the sooner we dance. So, how are you adjusting to your new roommate?

DAVID

Great. She's no trouble at all. She's a charming girl, really. In fact, it's nice to have someone around, even if she is asleep the majority of the time.

Tamaya enters the room, beaming with pride.

TAMAYA

And now, a proper Inca lady.

Ann solemnly enters the room wearing a blue dirndl skirt with a red alpaca pullover. Her hair has been braided into two pigtails tied together at the tips in the middle of her back. She is wearing a black fedora.

DAVID

Well, I'm speechless.

ANN

Please stay that way.

ILYAPA

Well I think you look beautiful in red, Ann. It brings out your features. David, give me your phone. I want to take pictures.

Ilyapa uses the ancient flip phone to take photos of Ann posing with Tamaya and David. A roar from the crowd outside. Someone has chopped down the tree. Ilyapa and Tamaya run to the window.

TAMAYA

Who did it?

ILYAPA

I think it was Caiya. Next year will be a good tree.

Several villagers stream into the house past Ilyapa and Tamaya.

ILYAPA (CONT'D)

Sit, sit, everyone! We have honored guests tonight. Our Dr. David and his new friend Ann! Fried cuy for everyone!

Cheers of excitement as Ilyapa's daughters bring heaping plates of vegetables, potatoes and whole fried cuy from the kitchen. Tamaya seats Ann and David at the head of the table, then takes a seat on the other side of Ann.

TAMAYA

Ilyapa tells me you and David are hiking up to see the shaman tomorrow.

ANN

Yes. We need him to look at an artifact somebody gave me.

TAMAYA

Your friend who was shot? You know Ann, the mountains are no place for a woman. There are drug runners.

ANN

But they know David, and they have a protection agreement to leave each other alone.

TAMAYA

David doesn't know every drug runner. The fact that nobody knows the Inca who shot your friend proves that there are many strangers in the rainforest.

ANN

Don't worry. David has been to see the shaman dozens of times and nothing has happened.

TAMAYA

I'm sure you're right. May I?

ANN

Yes, thank you.

Tamaya takes Ann's plate and fills it with potatoes. On top, she places a fried rodent: tail, claws, look of terror, and all.

Ann freezes in shock and horror. Then, she pastes a smile on her face.

ANN (CONT'D)

Wow. My goodness. Isn't this just stunning? Excuse me for a minute, please? I just remembered something really important.

She turns to David, who is deep in conversation with Ilyapa, seated at his other side.

ANN (CONT'D)

(Whispering urgently)
David? David? David?

DAVID

(Whispering in return)
What?

ANN

There's a fried rat on my plate.

DAVID

No, there is a fried guinea pig on your plate.

ANN

Oh, my God! That doesn't make it better.

DAVID

I told you not to make friends with the cuy. Now, I'm counting on you to be gracious.

He pours them both some chicha.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Smile. And cheers. Follow my lead, and start with a thigh. Don't look at the face, and pretend it's a teeny, tiny chicken.

David breaks off a back leg and chews on it with gusto, sucking on the bone. Ann rivets her eyes on him and mimics him move for move until the chicha is gone, and the cuy is nothing but bones. Afterwards, they are chatting and laughing while Ilyapa's daughters keep everyone's glasses full.

ILYAPA

...and he never spoke to me again!

An Inca man wearing a hospital orderly uniform walks in the door.

ILYAPA (CONT'D)
Punchau. You're late.

PUNCHAU
I know. I had to help move that American man. They sent him to Cusco.

ANN
What? Cusco! Why?

PUNCHAU
They said his employer moved him for insurance.

ANN
So he's better?

PUNCHAU
I don't know his condition, except he seems to be in a deep coma.

ANN
Oh, God. Poor Greg. I'd give anything to see him again, but now he's even further away.

DAVID
Ann, can't you forget about Greg for one night? It's not like you were even dating.

Ann's cheeks flush and she runs out of the house.

ILYAPA
Well, you've really stepped in the alpaca mess now.

DAVID
She is incapable of seeing what a cad he is.

ILYAPA
David, you just made her look like a fool. Go apologize to her.

David follows Ann outside. People are beginning to stare. Ilyapa grabs a nearby guitar.

ILYAPA (CONT'D)
Hey, everybody, how about some music?

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

Ann stands alone staring at the fallen tree.

DAVID

Ann, I'm sorry for what I said. It was a cheap shot.

ANN

Yeah, it was. For your information, I've known Greg for 15 months. He was just beginning to see me as something more.

DAVID

Ann, he's a womanizer. Why would you want to be involved with someone who would make you constantly check over your shoulder for another woman? You deserve a man who would make you the only one. Believe me, it's the greatest feeling in the world.

ANN

Well, first of all, we can't help who we fall for. And you don't understand how sweet he is. And he told me he wants me back.

DAVID

What on Earth does that mean?

ANN

He said that when we got home, he would try to bring me back as a junior analyst.

DAVID

Really. Was that before or after he asked you to keep the rock?

ANN

That's not how it was. He gave me the rock as an afterthought.

DAVID

After he offered you a promotion.

ANN

Who cares which happened first? I would have kept the rock for him anyway. And I know he knew that.

David give a sigh of capitulation.

DAVID

Of course he did. I know that about you, already. Devoted and thoughtful, that's you, Ann.

ANN

Why does that sound like an insult?

DAVID

It's not. A man can only hope to be worthy of such things.

ANN

Really? That's probably the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me.

DAVID

You need to talk to more people. Come on, let's rejoin the party. As I recall, our goal was to give you the best vacation ever.

ANN

Woo!

They turn and head back to Ilyapa's house, their voices fading as they walk away.

DAVID

Why do people say, "Woo"?

ANN

Beats me. Why do people have their mouths open in selfies?

DAVID

What's a selfie?

ANN

Wow, you have been gone a long time.

INT. ILYAPA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ilyapa is singing and playing old sock hop tunes on guitar and everyone is dancing. Ann and David enter chatting and laughing.

TAMAYA

All right, you two. On the dance floor, no excuses.

ANN

But, I don't know how--

DAVID

Don't worry. It's easy, I'll show you.

Ann awkwardly follows as David leads. The tune ends and Ilyapa's playing changes tone. He begins to play Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling in Love." Ann and David sway to the music. They only have eyes for each other. The music ends, but not the dance.

ILYAPA

That's all from me, everybody!
Good night, and have a safe trip home.

Ann and David walk lazily toward Ilyapa.

ANN

Thank you so much for the wonderful evening. It was outstanding.

DAVID

Agreed. Thank you, old friend.
Ann and I should be back from the shaman the day after tomorrow. See you then?

ILYAPA

See you then.

They leave. Ilyapa turns to Tamaya, grinning.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

Ann and David get into the Jeep.

ANN

That was a lot of fun. I'm so glad we went.

DAVID

I'm glad, too. It's been a while since I've cut loose like that. I don't know why I don't do it more often. It's actually very good for the--

He looks over at Ann, who is fast asleep. He smiles and starts for home.

FADE TO:

EXT. DAVID'S CAMPSITE - NIGHT

David stops the Jeep near the tent. He gets out, walks up to Ann and contemplates her for a moment. Then, he scoops her up in his arms and heads for the tent.

DAVID

Come on, my little sleeping flower.
We've had a long day and we'll have
an even longer day tomorrow.

EXT. DAVID'S CAMPSITE - MORNING

Ann is buzzing around making breakfast. David walks out of the tent and is surprised at the sight.

ANN

Good morning! I've made coffee,
and I'm just about to fry some
eggs. You like them runny, right?

DAVID

Ann, what are you doing? You don't
need to cook for me.

ANN

Yes, I do. You've done nothing but
take care of me for days. This is
the only way I have of thanking
you. Granted, it isn't the cute
little furry thing you showed me
how to eat last night, but all you
have in your pantry is mice.

DAVID

(Laughing)

I wish you could have seen the look
on your face.

ANN

Oh, yeah? Well, you should have
seen the look on your face after
Tamaya dressed me up. For a
second, I thought your head might
explode.

DAVID

Red is your color, though.

ANN

I just-- I want you to know I had a really good time last night.

DAVID

Yeah, it was fun, wasn't it? The last time I danced like that was-- Well, a long time ago.

ANN

Well, plainly, I've never danced like that. Maybe when this is all over, we can go dancing in town.

DAVID

Ann, that was just-- it just kind of happened. I'm not in any position where I, uh...

ANN

Oh, no, of course not. I'm one of your patients. That would be un-hippocratic or something. I get that. I guess I really just need to concentrate on Greg.

DAVID

Right. Greg.

ANN

But, hey! I really do want to remember how much fun we had last night. Remind me and I'll give you my e-mail address so you can send me the photos, okay?

DAVID

Absolutely. Ilyapa's really good at that kind of thing.

(Then,)

This is a lovely breakfast, Ann. Let's enjoy it and once the shaman tells us how this rock fits into the scheme of things, we'll be able to get you back to civilization. I'm sure a warm shower must sound really good to you right now.

ANN

Right. Warm shower.

EXT. RAINFOREST - DAY

Ann and David drive up to a set of stone steps crudely cut into the mountainside. David parks the Jeep between some bushes and gets out. He cuts some underbrush and covers the Jeep.

ANN

So, you're afraid the drug runners will take your Jeep?

DAVID

Better safe than sorry. I don't know anyone in these parts. I never worry about the Jeep at camp because--

SIMULTANEOUSLY:

DAVID (CONT'D)

They sold it to me.

ANN

They sold it to you.

They laugh at the coincidence. David helps Ann up to the first set of steps.

EXT. RAINFOREST - LATER

Ann and David are making their way through the rainforest.

DAVID

...and have you ever heard of Wart Away?

ANN

Yes! Granny Brown used that on her chin to get rid of a wart that had been there for 70 years. Didn't get rid of the big, long hair, though.

DAVID

That was my very first discovery here. Comes from frog saliva. Of course, the trick is getting a frog to salivate.

ANN

Show it a plate of olives. Works on me every time.

DAVID

Oh, so you prefer savory over--

They hear the sound of a woman screaming bloody murder. They freeze, blood running cold.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Puma.

David pulls out his revolver.

ANN

It killed a woman!?!

DAVID

No, that's what they sound like when they're in oestrus.

ANN

Oestrus... Heat? There's a puma in heat!?!

DAVID

We need to hurry. Prick up your ears. She may not be interested in us, but her suitors might be.

EXT. SHAMAN'S CAVE - DAY

Ann and David arrive at a hole in a rock on the path to someplace else. Ann continues climbing.

DAVID

Ann, stop. We're here.

ANN

What? I'm confused.

DAVID

Atauchi! Ńoqa ka-ni David.

The shaman emerges from his cave.

ATAUCHI

David! My favorite doctor from Minnesota!

DAVID

I'm honored that you will receive me. I have a mystery that I cannot solve and I humbly request your help.

ATAUCHI

David, I am always happy to help you. Please introduce me to your companion.

DAVID

Atauchi, this is Ann. She is from my home country, from New York. Ann, this is Atauchi, our wisest shaman.

ATAUCHI

Ah! Ann from New York. Please come in.

(Singing as he enters the cave)

Start spreadin' the news...

ANN

Seriously?

DAVID

The shaman knows all.

INT. SHAMAN'S CAVE - DAY

ATAUCHI

So, David, what is the mystery that brings you to me?

DAVID

Ann, here, was a hiker on the Inca Trail. When she arrived at Machu Picchu, she was shot. That same night, a friend from the same tour was shot by an Inca. He lies dying in a hospital as we speak. We believe they were shot because of an artifact they took. We are hoping you can identify it.

Ann pulls out the obsidian mace.

ANN

It's this! Can you please tell us the significance of this artifact?

The shaman takes the artifact, inspects it for a moment and begins to laugh.

ATAUCHI

David, you came a very long way to play a joke on an old man.

DAVID

What do you mean?

ATAUCHI

This is from a junk store. They sell these to tourists.

ANN

What!?! Junk store? No!!! Greg found this on the trail. It can't be junk. If we weren't shot because we took this mace, then why? You are supposed to be the wisest of all Inca! Tell me! Who shot us? Tell me! Why won't you tell me?

ATAUCHI

I'm sorry, miss. If I knew who shot you and your friend, I would give him up to your justice. But I do not know him.

David sighs and rubs his face with his hands.

DAVID

I can't believe I'm going to ask this. What about the mummy? Since it was an Inca who shot Greg, do you think the mummy might know why?

ATAUCHI

This is a mystery. And the mummy lives in the world of mystery. If it was an Inca who shot your friend, he will know. I am happy to ask him.

DAVID

Thank you Atauchí. I owe you a big favor.

ATAUCHI

We owe each other many favors.

The shaman grabs a few things and leaves.

ANN

When will he be back?

DAVID

Probably the first thing in the morning.

ANN

Okay, explain to me who this mummy is. Is he another shaman?

DAVID

Perhaps a deceased shaman, but more than likely, it's a deceased king.

ANN

Wait. What? He's going to talk to a real mummy?

DAVID

Yes.

ANN

A real mummy.

DAVID

Yes. Ann, it's like this.

They sit.

Most people believe that the Inca empire disappeared when Pizarro murdered Atahualpa. But, in reality, the empire withdrew deep into the Andes. Tradition has it that when an Inca king dies, he is mummified and continues to live in his former home and advises the current living king and shamans.

David takes Ann's hands.

I can honestly tell you that any time Atahualpa has sought the mummy's advice, he has been amazingly accurate. Although cryptic. My guess is that the mummy simply isn't up on modern terminology.

ANN

Well, I guess that isn't the weirdest thing I've heard since I've been here.

Ann shivers. David grabs an alpaca blanket from the foot of the bed and returns to her side.

DAVID

You're cold. Here, wrap up in this. It's going to be a long night.

David sits, and Ann curls up next to him.

ANN

What happens if we never find out who shot Greg and me?

DAVID

I don't know. Part of me thinks you should get out of Peru as quietly as possible, and part of me is afraid that the shooter will hunt you down once it's common knowledge that you're alive.

ANN

Right.

DAVID

On the other hand, if the shooter thinks you're dead, why would he waste his time on the comings and goings of lottery winners in Queens?

ANN

No reason. And if it were someone from New York, why not just arrange for an "accident" in the subway?

DAVID

Exactly. I think that our wisest course of action is to get you to the American embassy in Lima. I can drive you. We can get you a new passport, send for your things, and then, you can go home.

ANN

Home.

DAVID

You make it sound like a foreign concept. Isn't that what you want?

ANN

I don't know what I want any more. I never really thought past Machu Picchu. Everything turned out so differently than I expected. And, no, I don't know what I expected.

DAVID

Okay then, why don't we think past Machu Picchu right now?

ANN
I don't think I can.

DAVID
Well, of course you can.

ANN
No, it's weird, but I can't.

DAVID
All right, then I'll start. Why don't you use your winnings to go to college?

ANN
I don't know. It's overwhelming. I've never had the whole world of possibilities in front of me before.

DAVID
That's a very lucky dilemma, Ann. Let's figure this out. What are you good at? Or, what might you enjoy doing if you had the proper training?

David puts his arm around Ann, and they settle in together.

ANN
Well, I'm super good at math.

DAVID
Really? I struggle with math.

ANN
Really? It's just patterns. Anyway, I think I could be good at finance. I know as much about it as Greg does.

DAVID
Okay, that's one. Go on.

ANN
I like to sew, I like to draw. I think it would be great if I could help people, like you do.

DAVID
(Suddenly far away)
Did help people. I did help people. Until I couldn't.

ANN

What do you mean? You help people every day. Ilyapa told me that you delivered every child in his village under the age of ten.

DAVID

Well, the women had a little something to do with it.

ANN

Oh, please! I got shot and fell off a flippin' mountain, and today I'm fine. Because you and your discoveries saved me. Face it! You're a brilliant doctor, David. You saved my life! Nobody else did that, it was you! Admit it!

DAVID

What? Fine! Guilty as charged! What's come over you?

ANN

I don't know! I'm just so frustrated and I don't know why, because it's none of my business. I just-- Why is your life so small?

DAVID

Excuse me?

ANN

Why is your life so small, now? You said you worked in Rochester Minnesota. I'm not stupid. That's the Mayo Clinic. You were an oncologist at the Mayo Clinic.

DAVID

So?

ANN

So that means you used to be one of the best doctors in the world! You could be back at home helping hundreds of people, right now. Your discoveries could be saving so many lives. But, no! The last thing you brought to the world was wart cream and here you sit today in the middle of some rainforest playing Tarzan!

(MORE)

ANN (CONT'D)

(Then,)

And I get it! I get that your wife died. I get that you had to drop off the planet for a while, but--

DAVID

How did you know about Marie?

Silence.

ANN

I, uh... Fine. I woke up almost right away the day you guys went into town, and I didn't know when you were coming back, so I started looking around for something to do, and I ran across a little box. I thought there might be some cards in it, or something.

DAVID

You looked through my things?

ANN

Well, to be fair, I was left alone in a tent by a man who drugged me twice.

DAVID

Your injuries had to be immobilized!

ANN

I didn't know you then! I needed to know if I should protect myself!

DAVID

I was trying to help you!

ANN

It was an accident! How was I supposed to know you were carrying a tragic secret around in a little wooden box?

DAVID

Oh, my God.

David starts to leave. Ann is right on his heels.

ANN

Don't you run out on me! Running away won't bring her back and playing dead won't, either!

(MORE)

ANN (CONT'D)

In fact, what an insult! If she could be alive right now, for ten minutes, what do you think she would do? Hide in a jungle?

DAVID

I'm doing important work.

ANN

What? Finding a cure for her? I hope it includes time travel.

Flaming silence.

ANN (CONT'D)

It's been ten years, David. Do you really think it's here?

DAVID

So, what do you want me to do? Give up? Go home? Help a few more people die?

ANN

I want you to be happy. I want you to do what you're best at, and what you're meant to do, not what you're driven to do. And no, I don't want you to help people die. Honestly, I'm not sure you're particularly cut out for oncology. I want you to care for people---living people. I want you to get past your loss and help living people live.

David sits and puts his head in his hands.

ANN (CONT'D)

Well, thank you David, for helping me see that it doesn't matter what the shaman finds out. Greg is dying and this whole stupid quest won't change it. It's time for me to let Greg and all this stuff go.

DAVID

You've still been shot.

ANN

Whoever did this got what he wanted. It's time for me to go home.

She drapes her blanket around David, gets another one for herself and sits across the room.

ANN (CONT'D)

I don't care how long you sit in this rainforest David, it's not going change even one event.

INT. SHAMAN'S CAVE - DAY

The shaman enters the cave to find Ann and David curled up on opposite ends of the room.

ATAUCHI

Good morning, you two.

Ann and David awaken with a start, then both scramble to their feet.

ANN

You're back so soon!

ATAUCHI

No, it's the middle of the morning.

DAVID

So, did the mummy tell you anything?

ATAUCHI

Yes. The mummy has dreamed many futures for many years. But, then he found a dream that could save his people. Ann, the mummy told me the same person shot both you and your friend. It was a man who dances for the white powder witch. She didn't like the way your friend washed her hands. And you, she just didn't like.

ANN

Witch! What's that supposed to mean? Is it another shaman?

ATAUCHI

I only know what he told me. David, the time has come for you to live or die here. The mummy has brought you the greatest gift a man can have. You will accept it or reject it in the field of sleeping flowers.

DAVID

But, sleeping flowers don't grow in fields.

ATAUCHI

I'm sure you're right, David. Of course they don't.

DAVID

No. Really. They grow--

ATAUCHI

Ann, The mummy wanted you to know this: with 47, 37, 3, 17, 23 you were given great responsibility. You will be asked to choose truth over beauty that deceives. And in so doing, you will either save our people, or you will go to Paris.

ANN

What the...

ATAUCHI

So! Chicha before your trip back? I know I could use some.

DAVID

No, thank you, Atauchi. We'll just fill our canteens and be on our way. We appreciate your help.

David begins to fill the canteens.

ATAUCHI

Go with the Gods then, and take the upper path. There's a puma in heat below.

Ann and David look at each other and break out laughing.

EXT. RAINFOREST - LATER

Ann and David are hiking on the upper path.

DAVID

So, Ann, you're awfully quiet. The numbers Atauchi told you, they wouldn't have been the numbers you chose to win the lottery, would they?

ANN

The mummy brought me here, didn't he? That's why I can't think past Machu Picchu.

DAVID

Look, don't get spooked. He told me I'm supposed to either live here or die here. Well, obviously. I told you he's cryptic. It's like analyzing poetry.

ANN

How am I supposed to save his people? I'm just an admin. And I've always wanted to go to Paris.

DAVID

And yet, you came here.

ANN

I had to see if there was anything between Greg and me.

DAVID

Tell me, Ann, what was your best-case scenario?

ANN

What do you mean?

DAVID

If, unfettered of your office protocol, Greg had confessed his admiration and nascent feelings for you, what did you envision?

ANN

Wow. That was a little offensive.

DAVID

I'm sorry. That was unfair. Greg just brings out the jerk in me. I hope you know I have the utmost respect for you. But, seriously, Ann. What do you see happening in a future with Greg?

ANN

On the airplane here, I had a dream about this little farm house outside of the city. It was raining and we were sitting on the porch.

(MORE)

ANN (CONT'D)

Greg and me and our little girl.
We were drinking hot chocolate and
teaching her how to add with little
wrapped candies.

DAVID

The Greg you know? The Greg who
dates various and sundry women? Is
that who you really see as the
father of your child? Do you
really see him being happy adding
two-plus-three chocolate kisses?

ANN

He can change. People change all
the time.

DAVID

Of course they do, Ann. Happens
every day. Can we pick up the
pace, please?

ANN

Sure. No problem, on this sucky,
sucky path.

DAVID

Well, we should be back at the Jeep
in a few minutes, so soon it won't
matter.

David freezes.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Stop! Listen.

Voices are heard in the distance.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(Whispering)

Drug runners! Follow me!

David grabs Ann's hand and they run into the underbrush, TWO
INCA MEN pass.

ANN

David, I know one of those men.

DAVID

What?

ANN

I know one of those men. I've seen
him before. In Cusco.

(MORE)

ANN (CONT'D)

He works for Sra. Rivera. He was having dinner with her and Greg.

Ann jumps out of the underbrush, scurrying onto the path in pursuit of the men.

DAVID

(Whisper-yelling)

Ann! What are you-- Stop it! Get back here! Damn it!

David leaps onto the path and takes off after Ann. She is alternately following the three men and hiding, until she sees them enter a large compound protected by a chain link fence topped with razor wire. Ann hides behind a bush and David catches up with her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What are you doing? These are drug runners. They would just as soon kill you as look at you.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Will somebody please help me?

Ann and David exchange looks, then try to get a better vantage point to see the woman. It is Sra. Rivera. She is trying to carry a large bag. One of the Inca men runs to help her.

ANN

Is this Sra. Rivera's cocoa plantation?

DAVID

No, Ann. Do you smell the sulfur and petroleum? This is a cocaine refinery. Apparently, it's Sra. Rivera's refinery. But, look at the bags of cocoa on that truck over there. I'll bet you a nickel she's shipping cocaine inside bags of cocoa powder. Brilliant!

ANN

Oh, my God... The white powder witch, it's her isn't it?

DAVID

Well, she can be a witch.

ANN

And that Inca over there is hopping to every word she says. It's almost like he's... Dancing.

DAVID

Ann, don't get carried away.

ANN

Oh, my God! He's the Inca that shot Greg. And he's the one that shot me, too.

DAVID

Well, if we can believe a mummy.

ANN

You said he was amazingly accurate.

DAVID

And this is amazingly convenient. Although, to be fair, the principle of Occam's Razor might favor your conclusion. The simplest choice is usually the correct one.

ANN

The white powder witch didn't like the way he washed her hands. Washing? Laundering! Greg was laundering her drug money. Oh, my God! And he's been doing it since college, when he didn't know any better!

DAVID

I'm sorry, Ann.

ANN

I made this happen.

DAVID

What? How did you come to that conclusion?

ANN

When I saw Greg having dinner with Sra. Rivera, I went up to the table like I was some kind of a hot shot. I implied that as Greg's assistant, I knew everything about every project he was working on, including Sra. Rivera's.

(MORE)

ANN (CONT'D)

(She clasps her head in
her hands)

Greg tried to tell her I didn't
know anything, but I just kept
talking and talking. He got so mad
at me. He told me I was going to
blow everything for him.

(Her eyes fill with tears)

Oh... It's my fault. He's dying
because of me. Because I'm the one
that made them think that Greg had
a big mouth. It was because of me.

DAVID

Ann, look at me. Greg wasn't shot
because of you. It was because he
willingly mixed himself up with the
international drug trade. He is
dying because a drug lord shot him,
which is how they all die. You
were not the cause.

ANN

But I was the trigger.

DAVID

How could you have guessed that
things were anything other than
normal? Greg didn't tell you what
was going on. You can't punish
yourself for not being psychic.

ANN

Maybe not. But I can make it
right.

DAVID

Wait. What are you going to do?

ANN

I'm going to bust her ass.

DAVID

Ann, you need to stay out of this.
These people won't think twice
about killing you.

ANN

Give me your phone.

DAVID

What?

ANN
It's got a camera. Give me your
phone.

DAVID
Ann, stay out of this.

ANN
Fine. Go. Leave. I know where
the path is, I know how to get to
the road. I will figure this out
myself.

DAVID
Oh, dear God. I'm not leaving you
alone.

ANN
Give me your phone.

DAVID
No.

ANN
Give me your phone.

DAVID
All right, fine. Watch your step.
Move slowly. And be careful.

ANN
Actually, I thought I'd have the
butler announce me.

David takes Ann's face in his hands and looks her in the
eyes. Her breath catches.

DAVID
Ann, this is serious. Please be
careful.

ANN
I'll be careful.

David gives Ann the phone and she creeps off to take several
photos of Sra. Rivera directing operations. She takes
several shots of the Inca and turns around to see that she is
face-to-face with A DOBERMAN.

ANN (CONT'D)
Shoo. Shoo, boy. Good doggie.
Shoo, boy.

The dog begins to growl.

ANN (CONT'D)

No, no! Good boy! I don't have
any food for you. Go on home, boy.
Good boy.

The dog begins to bark ferociously, gets a mouthful of Ann's trousers and won't let go. A MAN in the compound looks up to see the commotion.

MAN

Miren! Entrametida!

Ann tries desperately to shake free of the dog, dropping the phone. David rushes to help her, but Sra. Rivera's men get there first. David ducks behind a bush. The men take Ann into the compound and present her to Sra. Rivera.

Outside of the compound, David picks up his phone, buttons it into a pocket and walks off.

Back at the compound, Sra. Rivera waits for the intruder to be brought to her. A man joins her. He slides his right hand around her waist and nibbles her neck. It's Greg. His left arm is in a sling strapped around his torso.

GREG

What's going on, gorgeous?

SRA RIVERA

Intruder.

The gate of the compound opens and Ann is marched in.

GREG

Ann! Oh, my God! Ann!

SRA RIVERA

Did you know about this?

GREG

No! How could I? I was told your people dealt with her, and then I was invited to be unconscious.

SRA RIVERA

Huh... The doctor came asking after you. Said he had a remedy.

GREG

Dr. Sanchez?

SRA RIVERA

No, a researcher we tolerate.

GREG

Listen, Isobel. I know you're going to do what you think you have to, but I just want you to know that Ann really didn't know anything about your operations. In her words, she was trying to act like a big shot because she admired you so much.

SRA RIVERA

Do you think she could be an asset to us?

GREG

Maybe. I just-- Look. She doesn't deserve to die like this.

SRA RIVERA

Do you honestly think I can let her go at this point?

Greg is hatching a plot in his head. Ann is brought before Sra. Rivera and realizes that it's Greg standing before her.

ANN

Greg! Oh, my God, you're alive! And healthy... I hoped so hard...

GREG

I'm sorry, Ann. You should never have pursued me.

He turns and goes inside the office

ANN

But, Greg! I loved you! Greg! Greg!!!

SRA RIVERA

He cannot help you.
(Her anger is building)
But, tell me, Ann. Why aren't you dead?

She flies into a red-faced rage.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

(To the dancing Inca)
Why isn't she dead?!? You told me you killed her!
(Shoving him)
What the hell is the matter with you? Can't you do anything right?
(MORE)

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

(To Ann)

Who are you with?

Ann gasps in terror. Sra. Rivera slaps her in the face.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

Who are you with?

ANN

(Stifling a sob)

Umm, nobody?

SRA RIVERA

Really. Then, how is it that you are here after you were shot and fell off the mountain?

ANN

He missed? And I really didn't fall that far.

Sra. Rivera slaps the crap out of the dancing Inca.

SRA RIVERA

Idiot! Do I have to do everything myself?

A convoy drives up, led by Esteban.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

Tie her up and throw her in the powder room!

Supay ties up Ann and throws her into a small warehouse.

INT. POWDER ROOM - DAY

Ann finds herself in a room filled with bags of cocoa powder. Now calm, Sra. Rivera enters, followed by Supay.

SRA RIVERA

So, my dear. Do you know why you're in this warehouse?

ANN

To kill me?

SRA RIVERA

Not quite. Greg asked me not to kill you. Poor thing. He really does seem to love you deeply.

ANN

He does?

SRA RIVERA

Of course. So, because of Greg's years of faithful service, and because I believe in love, I am willing to work a deal with you. I will forget all this unpleasantness if you will. All you need to do is tell me who you are working with, and I will personally oversee your return with Greg to the States.

ANN

Dead or alive?

SRA RIVERA

You tell me.

ANN

Honestly, I'm not working with anybody. I just needed to find out who shot Greg and why.

SRA RIVERA

Fine. So, you managed to make your way here through the rainforest alone.

ANN

Yes. Well, no. I followed your foreman, so yes.

SRA RIVERA

And those aren't the doctor's clothes you're wearing?

ANN

I don't know whose they are. I stole them off somebody's clothesline.

Sra. Rivera slaps Ann off her feet.

SRA RIVERA

I gave you a chance to redeem yourself with me. It's obvious that you're working with the doctor. Make no mistake. I will hunt him personally.

ANN

No!!!

SRA RIVERA

Oh, a little attached, are we?
Well, it's not difficult to
understand. The doctor has laid
his healing hands on me many times,
and it was, as satisfying as I'm
sure you have found it.

ANN

Snake.

SRA RIVERA

Yes, it was. What to do... Greg
doesn't want me to kill you, so...

She takes a knife from her boot and slashes a bag of cocoa powder, takes a handful and throws it in Ann's face. Ann gasps in surprise, causing her to inhale the cocoa. As the dry powder hits her lungs, Ann begins to wheeze.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

Oops.

Sra. Rivera throws another handful in Ann's face, and another, and another.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

Supay! Wheel the fans over here!

She empties several bags of cocoa on the floor in front of the fans.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

Ever hear of death by chocolate?

Sra. Rivera turns on the fans and aims them at the cocoa sending a flume of powder at her choking captive. Smothering, Ann struggles to turn her head to find a stream of breathable air.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

(Coughing)

My goodness, it's quite the Pompeii
in here. Come on, Supay, one could
die of asphyxiation in here as
easily as an ancient Italian.

The two begin to leave, but Sra. Rivera turns back to Ann.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

I'm going to deal with Esteban,
now.

(MORE)

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

If the cocoa hasn't managed to kill you in an hour, I'll just have to disappoint Greg. Hasta luego, Annie.

They leave. Ann is slowly succumbing to the fine brown powder caking around her nostrils. Every sob wracks her body with coughing.

A handkerchief-covered fist breaks a window. The hand opens the latch and slides the window up. David slides through it and lands on the floor. He turns off the fans, pulls out his Swiss knife, and slices Ann's bonds. Cradling her in his arms, he shakes out his handkerchief and attempts to wipe the chocolate from her face.

DAVID

Ann, Ann. What is your condition?

ANN

Can't breathe.

David turns her over in his lap and pounds on her back.

DAVID

Cough, baby. Bring it up.

Ann virtually pukes chocolate and collapses in David's lap, gasping.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Okay, that's a good start.

The knob on the warehouse door jiggles, and it opens, revealing a silhouette in the doorway. David draws his pistol. The figure enters and closes the door.

GREG

Ann? Ann!

ANN

Greg! I'm here!

GREG

(Seeing the doctor)
Who are you?

DAVID

Just a friend.

GREG

Come on, we gotta get out of here.

DAVID

That window is out of their line of sight. Ann, can you stand yet?

ANN

I think so.

She tries to stand, then collapses in a heap, coughing.

DAVID

Ann, take a minute and gather your energy while we pile up some sacks by the window.

He motions for Greg to get started.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Do not relax. We're going to have to run for our lives. You can feel as sick as you need to once we're safe. But, until then, you have to pull together everything inside you. Can you do that for me?

ANN

Yes.

DAVID

Good girl. I'll be right back. Do not relax.

David helps Greg pile cocoa bags up against the window, creating a staircase. He returns, puts Ann's arm around his neck and stands her up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Come on, baby, let's go.

Greg shimmys out of the window. Ann stumbles, coughs up some crud, gasps a few times, then crawls up the makeshift staircase. She drops out of the window, followed by David. The three make their way to the far side of the warehouse area. They come to a hole dug under the fencing, squirm through, and run to the underbrush where they rest.

GREG

How are you doing?

ANN

Better. Fresh air, good.

DAVID

We can rest here for a minute, but don't relax.

GREG

They're going to figure out we're gone any minute.

DAVID

Ann, I think we can make it to the Jeep if you concentrate. It shouldn't be that far.

A commotion of yelling rises from the compound.

DAVID (CONT'D)

That's it! Follow me!

David grabs Ann and the three barrel through the rainforest. In a few minutes, they reach the clearing where the Jeep is hidden, but the men from the compound catch up with them. They grab Ann, David, and Greg, and SLAM them into the ground. Sra. Rivera catches up.

SRA RIVERA

Take his gun and tie their hands!
Correctly, please.

(to Greg)

I think the time has come to tell you that you have been a constant disappointment to me ever since college.

GREG

Isobel, please. Just think this through.

SRA RIVERA

Oh, I think everything through. Supay, Guachimines! We'll walk them far enough into the jungle that their bodies can't be smelled from the road. The doctor was popular, I'm sure his assistant will be looking for him. If they find his body, people will start to snoop.

ANN

David, I'm so sorry I involved you in this. All you did was try to help me and now we're going to die. I'm so sorry I did this to you.

DAVID

Ann, I came to the rainforest to die.

SRA RIVERA

Oh, shut up! Now, march!

Sra. Rivera shoves her gun in Ann's back and pushes her into the rainforest. The others do the same with David and Greg.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

You know, David, she's right. It's a pity you're going to die for such a little nothing. Really, I don't know what you see in this little boy. But, you had your chance, and you treated me like a virus.

DAVID

More like a cuy, Isobel. Remember, Ann, how I taught you to eat cuy?

ANN

Yes, David. Yes, I do.

SRA RIVERA

Shut up! David, I believe I'm going to enjoy watching you die. In fact, Guachimines, gut-shoot him when we get there. I want him to die slowly. Maybe I'll gut-shoot her, too. Oh, but no. I think it will hurt you more, David, to die next to a woman with no face. Supay, do what you want with Greg.

Sra. Rivera and the Inca men walk the three deep into the rainforest at gunpoint.

SRA RIVERA (CONT'D)

This is fine right here.

They stop in a spot where the rainforest looms thick up to one side, and a field of sleeping flowers slopes down to the other.

DAVID

Sleeping flowers. Thank you, mummy.

SRA RIVERA

Down on your knees!

DAVID

ANN! RUN!!!

David bends over, spins to the right and slams a shoulder into Guachimine's rib cage, knocking him into the sleeping flowers. He follows it up with a swift kick to the head.

Ann follows David's lead, shoves Sra. Rivera down with her shoulder, kicks the gun from her hand and takes off running up the trail.

Greg follows suit, but has trouble with Supay, due to his injury. A rock flies out of the rainforest and hits Supay in the temple, knocking him into the sleeping flowers.

David runs toward Ann, as Sra. Rivera grabs her gun out of the dust. She sees David and shoots. Ann hears the gunshot and turns in time to see David fall into the field. He doesn't move.

Another rock flies out of the rainforest and takes out Sra. Rivera. Ann races toward David. Greg is frozen, staring at a shadowy figure emerging from the rainforest.

GREG

Who are you?

Ann turns to see it's the shaman.

ANN

Atauchi! How...?

The shaman pulls a large knife from his belt and slices Ann's bonds.

ATAUCHI

The mummy did not say I could not help.

Ann runs to David and pulls him onto the trail. The shaman pulls up handfuls of sleeping flowers and piles them onto the drug lords' faces. He kneels next to Ann, who is cradling David in her arms and rocking him back and forth.

ANN

David! David! Please be asleep,
Please be asleep!

ATAUCHI

He is not gravely wounded.

ANN

How do I check for a pulse?

GREG

Cut me loose, and I'll show you.

ANN

NO! Atauchi, do NOT cut him loose.
Greg's going to jail with the rest
of them.

GREG

But, I saved your life.

ANN

No, David saved my life. More than
once.

GREG

But, what about us? You and me?

ANN

Us? Are you kidding me? After all
the ways you've shown me that I'm
just a tool? A tool to bring you
cake! A tool to plan your trips!
A tool to smuggle this stupid rock!

She pulls it from her pocket and flings it at his face.

GREG

Come on, Ann, you're just
distraught.

ANN

DISTRAUGHT!?!

GREG

Annie-pie, we can run away. Just
you and me. What if we run away to
Paris? I bet you've always wanted
to go to Paris. I can change my
name and we can forget any of this
ever happened. We've got the
money. What do you say, Annie-pie?
We could have such a great time
together.

Ann looks up at Greg as if in a dream. She carefully lays
David on the ground.

ANN

Sorry, David.

She stands and looks Greg in the eyes.

ANN (CONT'D)

Okay, I've never done this before,
so I hope I don't mess it up.

She clutches her hands together like a little child praying, suddenly swings, and smashes Greg in his glass jaw. He goes down like a sack of potatoes.

ATAUCHI

Good choice.

ANN

For all the good it'll do anybody.

She kneels next to David and takes him into her arms again.

ANN (CONT'D)

Come on, David. Please come back to me. I need to tell... No, maybe it's better you're asleep.

(Then,)

I thought I was in love with Greg because he was nice to me, but you were right. He was really just buttering me up like so much toast. On the other hand, you get mad at me all the time, but... I know it's because you care about me and don't know how to admit it. And I get that you can't let go of Marie. I get that. If I ever had a love like that, I wouldn't let go either. But, the thing is that--

She takes a deep breath in preparation.

ANN (CONT'D)

I have fallen in love with you, David. And I know that you can't handle that. So, I'm going to do you a big favor and just go home, but at least I said it. I love you, David, and at least I said it.

DAVID

Marie...

ANN

No, David. It's just Ann. We're in Peru, and it's just me. Just Ann.

DAVID

No. Marie. She made me promise.

ANN

Okay...

DAVID
She made me promise I would marry
again, but I lied to her.

ANN
David, nobody's blaming you.

DAVID
(Sitting up)
No, I didn't know I didn't lie.

ANN
Okay, triple negative. Lay back
down.

DAVID
Ann, would you stop? I'm trying to
say I love you!

ANN
And now you're hallucinating.

DAVID
Ann!

He catches her face and locks her eyes in his.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Ann. I have fallen in love with
you, too. And I want us to think
about a future together.

ANN
A future?

David kisses the question off her lips.

ATAUCHI
All right. Hankey pankey. I'll
just go tie some branches together
and drag those three up to the
Jeep. And... Nobody's listening.

The shaman goes to the edge of the rainforest and starts
pulling down and cutting branches.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BELGIUM CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL - DAY

Lords and ladies, businessmen, and starving models are hushed
by the MASTER OF CEREMONIES.

M.C.

Ladies and gentlemen, the winner of
the exotic chocolatier of the year
is...

(Painfully long pause)

Brown Chocolate!

The crowd erupts into applause, and a very pregnant Ann
waddles up to the podium. David helps her navigate the
steps.

ANN

Oh, wow, I am just stunned! Thank
you, thank you so much.

(Then,)

I want to thank the judges for
their kind consideration and also
to recognize my competitors for
inspiring me to constantly achieve.
And of course, I would like to
thank my wonderful husband for his
unconditional support.

She leads a round of applause for David.

ANN (CONT'D)

I especially want to thank my Inca
farmers, managers, and friends for
converting their farms to cocoa and
making this risk become a reality.

More applause.

ANN (CONT'D)

And lastly, I would like to say
thank you, mummy. We could never
have done this without you. Thank
you, everybody. Thank you, mummy.
Thank you all so much!

She throws herself into David's arms.

THE END