

FADE IN

INT. MUSTANG -- DAY

Gina, an attractive woman in her mid-thirties , is driving her orange Mustang along a remote highway. She notices a red warning light flickering on the dash. She frowns and puts on her dark glasses

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MUSTANG -- LATER

Gina is trying to ignore the warning light, which is now staying on. She puts her hand over the light and drives with one hand. There is a band-aid over one finger. She peels it off with her teeth and sticks it over the warning light.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MUSTANG -- LATER

The car engine sputters and misfires, then cuts out completely

GINA

PISS!

EXT. DESERTED HIGHWAY. -- CONTINUOUS

The car coasts in to the side of the road. Gina gets out and stands looking helplessly at the steam coming from the hood. She glances up and down the deserted road, gets back in the car and tries to start it, without success. She gets out again, stares at it furiously and kicks a tire. She takes out her cell and dials

GINA

Erin?... Listen, honey, the car broke down...yes...I don't know, I think the engine's on fire or something...there's smoke coming out...Yes, all we need!... Can you call Frazier's. I'm on 89, about 30 miles outside of town...No,I'll catch a ride with them...Thanks sweetie...Yeah, I hope so too! Bye.

She throws the phone into the car and sits despondently on the driver's seat, feet on ground, head in hands.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERTED HIGHWAY. -- LATER

Gina is in the same position. She looks up as a tow-truck approaches, and stands watching as it does a U turn, pulls in and stops in front of the Mustang. The name AXELROD REPAIRS is painted on the truck. Vaughan, a heavy-set guy in his early 20's wearing blue mechanic's overalls, gets out and walks over to her.

VAUGHAN

Hi! How're ya doin'?

GINA

Not too great... You from Frazier's? He looks at her quizzically

VAUGHAN

Axelrod's...Frazier's closed down months ago...

GINA

Oh...I didn't know...

VAUGHAN

So what's the problem?

GINA

It just stopped...and smoke came out of the front...

Vaughan looks at the hood then at her

VAUGHAN

Steam...OK, open it up...

Gina gets in and starts groping around for the hood release. Vaughan watches her appreciatively as she leans across to reach under the dash. She gets increasingly flustered, embarrassed by her inability to find the hood release. He reaches across her and pulls the catch, brushing her chest as he does so. She shifts angrily away. He notices the bandaid on the dash.

VAUGHAN (CONT'D)

What's this?

GINA

Oh...It was bugging me...

VAUGHAN

It's supposed to bug you!

GINA
I thought I'd make it into town...

Vaughan shakes his head, goes around to the front of the car and opens the hood He tries to twist off the radiator cap but it is still too hot to touch.

GINA (CONT'D)
Is it serious?

VAUGHAN
Over-heated...Can't say till we get
it in...

He slams the hood down

GINA
Can I get a ride into town? He
looks her at her boldly, smiles

VAUGHAN
Sure...

He attaches the tow-hook while she gets her bag, phone and jacket out of the Mustang. He operates the winch, pulling the car onto the tow-truck He finishes checking the car is securely fastened.

VAUGHAN (CONT'D)
OK, let's go.

Something in his manner makes her hesitate

GINA
You know what...I think I'll take a
cab...

Vaughan frowns in disappointment

VAUGHAN
Suit yourself...

She watches him get into the truck

GINA
Damn!

She punches in a call on the cell as he drives off...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TAXI-CAB -- AFTERNOON

Gina is being driven into the small Western town of Silverado. She leans forward to speak to the taxi-driver

GINA
Could you stop at the ATM?

TAXI-DRIVER
Sure...

GINA
How much will it be?

TAXI-DRIVER
'Bout 57 bucks...

Gina is dismayed at this... He slows and pulls over

EXT. MAIN STREET -- AFTERNOON

Gina inserts her card in the ATM, and enters her PIN. She tries to withdraw \$100 but gets "Transaction Declined". She tries \$60 with the same result. She snatches the card.

INT. TAXI-CAB -- AFTERNOON

Gina gets into the cab

GINA
Machine's out of order...I'll have to give you a check.

The cabbie looks at her suspiciously in the mirror

TAXI-DRIVER
With ID?

GINA
Of course!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AXELROD'S GARAGE -- DAY

Gina's car is there with the hood up. Vaughan is working on another car. George Axelrod, the owner, is visible in his squalid little office, talking on the phone. Gina comes in, looks at her car. Harvey, a short lean whiskery old guy with long grey hair in a pony-tail and a grey beard, is underneath another car. His POV, as he slides out and looks up at her as she walks by and goes to the office. He grins salaciously, revealing several missing teeth

INT. GEORGE'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

George is on the phone. Gina enters and he gestures to her to sit down. She glances at the beat-up old sofa but remains standing, looking around at the various calendar pin-ups as he speaks

GEORGE

...Like I say, it could be the starter, or it could be the switch. You'll have to bring it in...OK
...OK, I'll do a card for tomorrow morning...Sure...

He disconnects and looks at her with an appreciative grin

GEORGE (CONT'D)

How ya doin'?

GINA

Good...The Mustang...Have you had a chance to look at it?

GEORGE

Oh right...the Mustang...I'll check with my guy...hang on... He exits the office

INT. AXELROD'S GARAGE -- CONTINUOUS

George goes over to Vaughan

GEORGE

Hey Vaughan- did you look at the Mustang yet?

VAUGHAN

(in a low voice)

Yeah- it's the thermostat is all...if she'd put the heater on she'd probably have made it...could do with a new radiator though, don't you think? He gives George a conspiratorial wink.

GEORGE

You reckon?

VAUGHAN

Sure!...Another thing...she's got a super-charged engine in there!

GEORGE
Is it OK?

VAUGHAN
Yeah...very!

George nods expressionlessly and goes back to his office

INT. OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

George re-enters, pulls a wry face

GEORGE
Radiator's shot, I'm afraid...

GINA
Surely not...I thought he said it
was too hot ...

He stares at her for a moment, then gives a snort of laughter

GEORGE
No...the radiator cools it down...

GINA
So why do they call it a radiator?

George just shrugs, grinning at her ignorance

GINA (CONT'D)
Well- is that going to be
expensive?

GEORGE
I'll have to check, but a new rad's
going to run you into 5 or 6
hundred...plus labor of course...
Gina slumps slightly at this, sighs

GINA
Well if that's what it is... I
suppose you'd better go ahead

GEORGE
We'll have to order the part...call
me tomorrow...

She walks out. George watches her from the office door.
Vaughan comes up and they both focus on her butt as she
leaves

VAUGHAN
I can think of a few things to do
with that!

GEORGE
Dream on!

VAUGHAN
Shall I get a rad?

GEORGE
Nah...Harv can fix the leak and
clean it up good as new!...

VAUGHAN
What about the engine?

GEORGE
I dunno...

VAUGHAN
She'll never know George...She
didn't even know how to open the
hood!

GEORGE
Well... see if you can get a
standard engine then...

VAUGHAN
You got it!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUNGALOW -- AFTERNOON

Gina enters, greeted by her teenage daughter Erin

ERIN
Hi Mom!

GINA
Hi darling...Jeez, what a day!

ERIN
Did you get the car fixed?

GINA
No...it won't be ready before
tomorrow...and it's going to cost a

GINA (CONT'D)
 fortune! I need to talk to your
 gramps...

She goes to the phone and makes a call

GINA (CONT'D)
 Dad?...Hi Dad, how are
 you?...Good...Well, not so good...

Gina takes a deep breath. She doesn't want to say this.

GINA (CONT'D)
 I'm in a jam, Dad... Yeah, I'm
 fine...it's the car...it broke down
 coming back from Durango...it's in
 the garage and it's gonna cost a
 lot to fix.....God, I hate to ask
 again...but until the settlement
 comes through...I can't ask
 Gerry... They said at least
 700...maybe more. It's the
 radiator.....Yeah, I guess...I'll
 pay you back, soon as the
 settlement comes through...Thanks
 Dad!

FADE TO:

INT. HARPER'S OFFICE -- DAY

Gina is sitting opposite her attorney Rick Harper

HARPER
 ...We've been all through this
 before, Gina. He's got the accounts
 locked down, and we're still
 waiting on his affidavit...Until
 the hearing you're limited to
 essentials...

GINA
 A car is an essential!

HARPER
 I agree, but they said routine
 maintenance only...Can you borrow
 it?

GINA
 Guess I'll have to...

FADE TO:

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE -- DAY

The mustang swings into the drive, where Gina's father Max, is waiting. She gets out, frowning

GINA
Hey Dad!

MAX
Hi baby!

They embrace affectionately.

MAX (CONT'D)
So how's she drivin'?

GINA
I don't know...feels sorta tired,
but OK I guess...

MAX
What's the damage?

Gina takes the bill out of her jeans pocket and gives it to him, grimacing

GINA
It's horrible...

MAX
Let's see...new thermostat...new
radiator...labor...tow
charge...tax...\$875! Whoa!

GINA
Well, they had to take the engine
out...

MAX
They did what?

GINA
Yeah, I know they did because I
called by this morning in case it
was done and it wasn't ready...They
had the whole engine out...

Max frowns at this. He finds the hood latch, opens the hood and scans the engine. He puts on his glasses, peers closer, then slams the hood down breathing hard

MAX
Damn crooks!

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For the complete script please contact Jennifer Brooks at
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