

Driftwood

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EXT. VIOLENT WAVES CRASHING ON ROCKS ON BEACH-NIGHT

The wind howls across the beach as a storm passes through.

EXT. BEACH-DAY

An elderly couple dressed in long pants, long sleeve shirts and holding a bucket, JED WILSON and BETTY WILSON, are the only ones up at this early morning hour as they stroll down the debris filled beach looking for sea shells. The waves are calmly brushing up against the sand.

Jed and Betty are now two hundred yards down the beach. They walk past a large piece of driftwood about ten feet long resting on the shoreline.

They stop abruptly and notice the body of a young man, about five feet tall, dressed in blue pants and a white short sleeve shirt, with a nasty bump on his head, NATHAN POLEAN.

Betty stays with Nathan as Jed goes for help.

EXT. OLD WOODEN BEACH HOUSE-DAY

Jed arrives at an old, white painted, peeling, beach house with a torn screen door.

He knocks on the door. BILL GLEASON, a younger man dressed in his pajamas, comes to the door.

BILL GLEASON

(half awake)

Jed, what the heck do you want at this hour? And if you got to pee, go in the ocean.

JED WILSON

(frantic)

Call Sheriff Matthews. We found a body.

Bill Gleason looks around and then he spots Jed's wife by the driftwood.

BILL GLEASON

Is it dead or alive?

JED WILSON

He's still alive but barely.

BILL GLEASON

I'll call Doc Peters.

JED WILSON

No! No! You know the rules.
Anything strange happens, we give
Sheriff Matthews a call first.

Bill nods his head in agreement then rushes off to call
Sheriff Matthews as Jed quickly heads back to his wife.

EXT. OLD POLICE CAR PULLS UP TO THE BEACH-DAY

SHERIFF MATTHEWS, a career police officer and thirty five
pounds over weight, arrives with twenty three year old,
skinny DEPUTY CLARK, his rookie sidekick and cousin. They see
everyone standing out by the driftwood and head over to
investigate.

EXT. DRIFTWOOD ON BEACH-DAY

Everyone nods hello to each other.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Do you recognize him?

BILL GLEASON

He aint from around here.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

A stranger. My daddy always told me
to be cautious around strangers.

Sheriff Matthews and Deputy Clark come around to the other
side and take a look at the young man, who is breathing but
still asleep.

JED WILSON

We done right calling you first,
right Sheriff.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

You done good Jed. You done good.
Does he have a wallet? A driver's
licence? Any ID?

JED WILSON

We searched him and nothing.

BETTY WILSON

I'm sure his folks must be worried
stiff.

BILL GLEASON

He was probably out fishing last night and got caught in that freak storm.

JED WILSON

That did come out of nowhere. I'm surprised we didn't find more people washed up.

DEPUTY CLARK

Maybe he's from up north, Buford.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Lets take him back to the station and call Doc Peters. At least we can get that nasty bump on his head checked out.

DEPUTY CLARK

It looks like his ribs are beat up too.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Maybe he'll wake up by then and we can get him back home before lunch.

All the men help lift Nathan and carry him over to the police car.

EXT. POLICE CAR PARKED ON BEACH-DAY

They load Nathan into the back seat. Sheriff Matthews and Deputy Clark drive away.

INT. POLICE CAR-DAY

They are driving towards the station. Deputy Clark takes a quick look at Nathan then turn back around.

DEPUTY CLARK

He looks like the Buford type.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

What the hell is that suppose to mean?

DEPUTY CLARK

Buford, where the smartest man in town is the one passing through.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
(small chuckle)
That's a good one.

DEPUTY CLARK
What about, Buford, where the best
looking bitch in town is the one
with four legs.

They both laugh. They drive past a sign that reads,
"Warrenville Strawberries The Best in the South" and stop
laughing.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Roll down you window all the way.
It's just as hot as yesterday.

DEPUTY CLARK
Do you think we're going to lose
the strawberry crop this year?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
(angry)
Don't talk like that. It's gonna
rain soon. People around this
country calling this a depression.
It's just a little drought and bad
luck.

DEPUTY CLARK
But its been over five months and
no rain and on top of that four
months of this heat.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
This town is full of hard working
people and if we all keep praying,
I'm sure the good Lord will answer
our prays.

DEPUTY CLARK
Maybe we shouldn't have base the
entire town's existence on dam
strawberries.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
(stern voice)
Hey! Don't talk bad about
strawberries. Without them this
town doesn't exist.

DEPUTY CLARK
My point exactly.

They quiet down as they pull into the police station. A small one story red brick building in need of a paint job. They carry Nathan inside.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

The station has two old wooden desks with cheap metal chairs and three cinder brick jail cells and a ceiling fan.

Next to the right side window is a thermometer that reads one hundred and fifteen degrees. On the other side of the room is a giant strawberry made from paper mashie and a picture of a strawberry framed.

One wall is covered with poster celebrating twenty five years of the strawberry festival. They put Nathan in one of the cells.

Sheriff Matthews wipes his face.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

I thought I told you to keep the fan on.

Deputy Clark walks over towards the fan switch and turns it on.

DEPUTY CLARK

Sorry boss.

Sheriff Matthews feels the breeze on his face and doesn't move.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

That's better.

Sheriff Matthews walks over to his desk and picks up the phone.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Doc, this is Sheriff Matthews. You better get over here, seems we got a John Doe that washed up this morning and he's pretty bruised up. (pause) Ten minutes is fine. He ain't going anywhere.

Sheriff Matthews hangs up the phone and stands under the fan.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

Ahhhh.

Both men are standing under the fan with their eyes shut looking up and cooling off.

DEPUTY CLARK
What about him?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
What about him?

DEPUTY CLARK
He's probably hot in that cell.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
You can go get him if you want.

DEPUTY CLARK
Why bother him. He looks so peaceful in there.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
That he does. That he does.

EXT. OLD CAR PULLS UP AT POLICE STATION-DAY

DOC PETERS, a tall thin sixty five year old man, dressed in a black suit, steps out and walks in carrying his medical bag.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

DOC PETERS
Sheriff. Deputy. Another hot one today.

He wipes the sweat from his brow and joins them under the fan with his eyes closed.

DOC PETERS (CONT'D)
So where's Mr. Doe?

The Sheriff points to the cell.

DOC PETERS (CONT'D)
Aaaaaaah this feels so nice.

Doc Peters looks over at the man in the cell but he's too hot to move.

DOC PETERS (CONT'D)
A couple more seconds won't kill him.

All three men stand there cooling off. Then all of a sudden Nathan lets out a cry.

NATHAN POLEAN (V.O.)
 (yells)
 Josephine!

All three men rush into the cell.

INT. CELL-DAY

They lean over Nathan. Doc Peters wipes his face with a towel. He notices the bump on his forehead. His eyes are still closed.

DOC PETERS
 Just rest young man.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
 Josephine. Don't tell me there's
 another body on the beach some
 where.

Nathan wakes up and grabs Doc Peters by the throat.

NATHAN POLEAN
 Where is she? Where is she?

Doc Peters can not breath and starts to choke. The Sheriff and Deputy help release him from Nathan's grasp. Nathan falls back to sleep.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
 (to Doc Peters)
 Are you OK?

DOC PETERS
 Strong son of a bitch.

DEPUTY CLARK
 What the hell was that?

DOC PETERS
 Looks like he's been through some
 sort of stressful situation and
 obviously he's suffering from some
 sort of delusion.

DEPUTY CLARK
 I bet this Josephine has something
 to do with it.

Nathan starts to wake up with no memory of what just happened.

NATHAN POLEAN

Where am I?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Warrenville, North Carolina.

NATHAN POLEAN

Who are you?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Sheriff Matthews, this is Deputy Clark and Doc Peters.

NATHAN POLEAN

Who am I?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

I was gonna ask you that question.

NATHAN POLEAN

Why is it so hot in here?

DOC PETERS

That's a lot of questions for some one who doesn't know his name. Let me take a look at that bump on your head first. This could be why you don't remember anything. Give it time I'm sure your memory will come back.

Doc Peters wipes the bump with his towel. Then he checks Nathan's head for more bumps. He also notices the bruised rib under Nathan's torn shirt.

DOC PETERS (CONT'D)

Those ribs look like they took a beating. Wrap some of this tape around them. They should be OK in a few days.

Doc Peters picks his nose and hands the stranger some gauze tape.

DOC PETERS (CONT'D)

What was the last thing you remember?

NATHAN POLEAN

I was drowning, I think.

DOC PETERS

Does the name Josephine mean anything to you?

NATHAN POLEAN

Who's Josephine?

DOC PETERS

You were calling out her name.

NATHAN POLEAN

When?

DOC PETERS

Right before you started choking me.

Nathan closes his eyes as if he is suffering from a headache.

NATHAN POLEAN

Nathan. Nathan Polean, that's my name.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Now we're getting some where. So Nathan where do you live and how did you end up on the beach?

NATHAN POLEAN

I don't remember.

DOC PETERS

Give Nathan a day to recover and I'm sure everything will come back to him. Here take some aspirin, it'll help dull the pain.

Doc Peters hands Nathan the aspirin and Nathan hears a female nurse's voice in his head speak in a stern tone.

FEMALE NURSE IN NATHAN'S HEAD (V.O.)

Medication time. I want everyone to take their pills or I will have to call Mr. Club to help.

Nathan takes the aspirin and pretends to swallow it. He hides the aspirin in his pocket when no one is looking.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Well if you don't mind sleeping in the jail, you're welcome to stay here.

NATHAN POLEAN
Considering I have no where else to
go.

Nathan searches his pockets for money.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)
And no money that sounds like a
good offer.

Nathan lays back down and rests. The Sheriff walks out
towards the front door with Doc Peters and Deputy Clark stays
behind.

INT. FRONT DOOR POLICE STATION-DAY

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
(whispers to Doc Peters)
No memory and no money, sounds like
another bum that stumbled into
town.

DOC PETERS
(whispers to Sheriff)
I don't like strangers suddenly
showing up in our town. Especially
now, we have to much at stake. Just
make sure he doesn't throw a monkey
wrench into the deal.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
(whispers to Doc Peters)
I'm gonna head over to Mayor Erps
office and tell him what's going
on. I'll make some calls and see if
anyone reported a missing person.

Doc Peters leave the station with Sheriff Matthews.

DEPUTY CLARK (V.O.)
What should I do?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
When he wakes up take him down to
Joe's and get him something to eat.

The Sheriff walks Doc Peters out.

INT. CELL-DAY

Deputy Clark pulls up a chair and watches Nathan sleep. Three hours go by and Nathan starts to wake up again. Deputy Clark leans in real close.

DEPUTY CLARK
Are you hungry Mr. Sleepy Head?

NATHAN POLEAN
(pissed off)
My name is Nathan not Mr. Sleepy Head.

DEPUTY CLARK
Excuse me Mr. Grumpy but it's lunch time and lunch is on the house.

NATHAN POLEAN
For a free lunch you can call me whatever you want Mr. Bad Breath.

Deputy Clark backs off and smells his breath. They both walk out.

EXT. BALTIMORE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL-DAY

We see the slightly run down hospital with policemen and newspaper people leaving.

INT. BALTIMORE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL-DAY

Diplomas line the walls of the president's office, DOCTOR TOON, a well dressed man with glasses and a black suit. DR. APPLETON, a slightly shorter an with the same black suit walks in.

DOCTOR TOON
Dr. Appleton, have you heard the latest police report on the accident?

DR. APPLETON
No Sir.

DOCTOR TOON
Well it seems that their could be one survivor.

DR. APPLETON
Who?

DOCTOR TOON

Nathan and if they get to him before we do, we are finished. Take two staff members and find him. If you find him, medicate him then drown him.

DR. APPLETON

By now his regular medication should be wearing off and that could be trouble for anyone who runs into him.

DOCTOR TOON

Try looking near in the smaller towns along the coastline and be careful.

DR. APPLETON

Yes Sir.

Dr. Appleton leaves the office.

INT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-DAY

A small bar and restaurant where all the locals go for lunch. Nothing fancy just burgers, sandwiches, pies, drinks and a pool table.

Deputy Clark and Nathan walk in. The fifteen people eating there look at Nathan in a funny way. They sit down at a table against the wall.

The waitress comes over and takes their order.

WAITRESS

So Deputy what'll you and Nathan have?

DEPUTY CLARK

That didn't take long to get around town.

WAITRESS

Doc Peters had an early lunch today.

DEPUTY CLARK

Two double cheese burgers and two cokes.

WAITRESS

What about some strawberry pie? It could be the last one this year.

DEPUTY CLARK

Sounds good to me.

The Waitress walks away. Nathan looks around the room as if he is trying to figure everyone out. He feels a sharp pain in his head and starts to rub it.

DEPUTY CLARK

Are you OK Nathan?

Nathan notices everyone looking at him in a mysterious way.

NATHAN POLEAN

(to Deputy Clark)

Is the men's room in the back?

DEPUTY CLARK

Back right.

NATHAN POLEAN

I just want to wash my hands.

Nathan gets up and heads into the men's room it is obvious he has a headache.

INT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL MEN'S ROOM-DAY

Nathan is the only one in the small bathroom. He turns on the faucet and splashes his face. When he looks up he sees a vision of a lady dressed in an old Victorian dress and he is in a sort of uniform.

He strains to see the woman's face but it is out of focus. A second later the vision is gone. Then he hears a female voice in his head.

FEMALE VOICE IN NATHAN'S HEAD

(off)

Come, Come hold your Josephine one more time.

Then the voice stops. Nathan's personality has changed. It is as if the lady's voice has changed him into a different person. He stands up straighter and has more confidence in himself. He prepares to exit the bathroom.

INT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-DAY

Just then BILLY JOE THOMAS, a tall, long haired man in his early thirties with muscles and a tattoo, walks in.

Right behind him is five foot one inch, Blonde beauty and power hungry JOSEPHINE ERPS, the Mayor's wife. Everyone in the bar looks away, out of fear.

Billy Joe walks over to the corner of the bar and beacons the owner, JESSE WELLS. Jesse is an elderly man with a slight limp. He tries to hide the fact that he hates Billy Joe. He puts on his best happy face and walks over to him.

BILLY JOE THOMAS

(to Jesse Wells)

I love Wednesdays Jesse. Wednesday is payday and I'm afraid I'm gonna have to ask for a little more this week. I gave myself a raise.

JESSE WELLS

Business is slow Billy Joe and we gotta eat too. You understand don't you?

BILLY JOE THOMAS

Abe Walker said the same thing this morning. I figure he'll walk again in four months.

Billy Joe grabs Jesse by the throat and pulls him over the bar towards him. Josephine watches everything from a corner table right across from Deputy Clark. She looks at Deputy Clark who looks the other way.

BILLY JOE THOMAS (CONT'D)

I'll break your legs right now and your wife's later unless you start pulling cash out of your pocket in about five seconds.

Jesse tries to respond but he starts choking. Then Billy Joe releases his grip and Jesse collapses on the bar. His wife, LORIE, older lady dressed in an old dress but with some fire in her soul comes over to comfort Billy Joe.

BILLY JOE THOMAS (CONT'D)

What is she gonna do?

Lorie moves towards Billy Joe but is stopped by Jesse. Lorie throws the money on the bar counter. Everyone in the restaurant turns away but still tries to listen.

LORIE WELLS

Take the dam money, just leave my
husband alone.

Billy Joe grabs the money and slowly walks towards Josephine's table with a perverted smile on his face. She smiles back with the same perverted smile.

Just then Nathan comes out of the bathroom with his new attitude. He notices Josephine. She doesn't notice him as her eyes are fixed on Billy Joe.

Nathan accidentally bumps into Billy.

NATHAN POLEAN

Watch where you're going boy.

Billy Joe takes a swing at Nathan and strikes him on the chin. Nathan staggers for a second and strikes back hitting Billy Joe in the chest.

Billy Joe is caught off balance and falls backward and bangs his head on the foot step under the bar. His body lays motionless on the floor. Everyone in the place is in shock.

One of the locals runs out to get Doc Peters as everyone gathers around Nathan. Jesse places his hand on Billy Joe's throat to feel for a pulse.

JESSE WELLS

He's dead.

Loris bends down to take a closer look.

Nathan realizes what he has done and the shock converts him back to his old self. He starts to worry what will happen to him. Deputy Clark comes over.

DEPUTY CLARK

OK, Let me take a look at him.

Deputy Clark feels his throat for a pulse.

DEPUTY CLARK (CONT'D)

He's dead alright.

Then Doc Peters enters the restaurant and pushes himself through the crowd.

DOC PETERS

OK, let me take a look at him.

Doc Peters feels for his pulse.

DOC PETERS (CONT'D)
 Yep, he's dead.

Lorie spits on Billy Joe's face. Josephine comes over.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
 It looks like a clear case of
 murder to me, Deputy Clark.

Everyone looks at Nathan as Josephine, upset, comes closer
 and leans over the body of Billy Joe.

LORIE WELLS
 It was self defense, wasn't it
 Deputy?

DEPUTY CLARK
 That's the way I see it.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
 Will see what happens when the
 Mayor gets involved.

JESSE WELLS
 My wife says it was self defense,
 it was self defense.

Josephine, upset, leaves quickly.

JESSE WELLS (CONT'D)
 I would think the Mayor would be
 happy over the news.

NATHAN POLEAN
 So Deputy Clark, what happens to
 me?

Silence comes over the restaurant and everyone listens.

DEPUTY CLARK
 Like I said, it was self defence.
 I'm sure the Sheriff and the Mayor
 will agree and we have plenty of
 witnesses. I don't think we're
 gonna have a trial.

DOC PETERS
 Billy Joe had no kin. We could
 actually just burry him in the
 cemetery and I'll even pay for the
 tombstone.

NATHAN POLEAN
 What about the girl.

DEPUTY CLARK

Josephine.

Nathan's eyes light up when her name is mentioned.

DEPUTY CLARK (CONT'D)

The Mayor is gonna have to control
his own wife.

NATHAN POLEAN

She's married.

DEPUTY CLARK

And she's pissed off at you right
now.

LORIE WELLS

She's a whore and as far as Billy
Joe goes, I want that dirt bag out
of here before he starts to stink
up the place.

JESSE WELLS

Nathan, I consider you a hero for
what you did. Since no one else in
this town would stand up to Billy
Joe.

Jesse grabs Nathan's bill and rips off his part of the lunch.

JESSE WELLS (CONT'D)

As long as you're in this town,
your meals here are free.

Nathan nods his head in thanks.

Then Jesse hands Deputy Clark the remainder of the bill.

JESSE WELLS

(to Deputy Clark)

You, on the other hand, still have
to pay.

All the people in the restaurant start to pat Nathan on the
back and thank him for what he did. Deputy Clark feels
uncomfortable with the crowd's reaction towards Nathan and
decides to leave with him.

DEPUTY CLARK

(to Nathan)

Lets grab the burgers and eat at
the station.

They exit the restaurant.

INT POLICE STATION-DAY

Nathan and Deputy Clark walk into the police station with their food. They sit under the fan and pull up a small wooden table to eat on.

DEPUTY CLARK

You better start eating. I have to make a phone call and tell the Sheriff what happened.

Nathan starts to eat as Deputy Clark calls the Sheriff from his desk.

DEPUTY CLARK (CONT'D)

Susie, Deputy Clark, is Sheriff Matthews there? (pause) It's official police business. (pause) Yes it is about Billy Joe. (pause) The Sheriff said Self defense. How's Nathan? Does he remember anything?

Deputy Clark looks at Nathan for a response. Nathan shakes his head no.

DEPUTY CLARK (CONT'D)

Nope.(pause) OK see you soon.

Deputy Clark hangs up the phone and walks over to the table to start eating.

NATHAN POLEAN

That lady in the restaurant, Josephine, she's the Mayor's wife but it looked like she was with Billy Joe.

DEPUTY CLARK

Josephine is trouble. The whole town knows she just a power hungry whore. When she was a young girl, about fifteen, rumor is, she kissed one of the judges to become Junior Miss Strawberry. I don't know where she kissed him. I don't have to tell you what she did to become Miss Strawberry Queen.

NATHAN POLEAN

She sees something she wants and she goes after it.

DEPUTY CLARK

And anyone who follows gets in trouble. Your lucky the Mayor is on your side with this Billy Joe thing or you would be in jail.

NATHAN POLEAN

(sarcastically)

I'm in jail now.

DEPUTY CLARK

I'm not joking around. She's the Mayor's wife.

NATHAN POLEAN

That didn't stop Billy Joe.

DEPUTY CLARK

And look what happened to him.

Nathan looks around and sees twenty five posters taped to the walls. The first one reads, Strawberry Festival 1900 and all the rest in numerical order till the twenty fifth one.

NATHAN POLEAN

I take it strawberries are important to this town.

DEPUTY CLARK

That's correct and no rain means no strawberries and no money and no jail for you to sleep in if you're still around.

NATHAN POLEAN

Where's the closest body of fresh water?

DEPUTY CLARK

Lake Tusk in Buford up north. They get water from the winter snow from the mountains to the west. They're suppose to share it with us except they closed our rights to the dam ever since they started growing strawberries too.

NATHAN POLEAN

Lake Tusk.

DEPUTY CLARK

We used up the last of our water supply two weeks ago.

(MORE)

DEPUTY CLARK (cont'd)
 All we need is three more days of
 watering and they should be rip
 enough for picking.

NATHAN POLEAN
 How far is Lake Tusk?

DEPUTY CLARK
 Four hour drive.

Just then the phone rings.

DEPUTY CLARK (CONT'D)
 Excuse me a second.

He picks up the phone.

DEPUTY CLARK
 Deputy Clark, can I help you.

Deputy Clark looks at his watch.

DEPUTY CLARK (CONT'D)
 I'm leaving right now.

He frantically hangs up the phone and excuses himself.

DEPUTY CLARK (CONT'D)
 I got to go. Take a nap or
 something. I'm be back soon. Just
 don't leave the jailhouse.

Deputy Clark leaves in a hurry. Nathan looks out the window
 to see which way he goes and decides to follow him.

EXT. MAIN STREET OUTSIDE JAILHOUSE-DAY

Nathan walks down the main street ducking into store fronts
 as he follows behind Deputy Clark. Half of the store fronts
 offer some form of strawberry related food to entice the
 public to come in.

Nathan runs into Jed and Betty Wilson.

BETTY WILSON
 (to Nathan)
 Well, good afternoon stranger.

JED WILSON
 Honey, he has a name now.

BETTY WILSON
 Sorry about that Nathan.

Nathan tries not to draw too much attention to himself. Deputy Clark turns around and Nathan suddenly turns away from Deputy Clark and hugs Betty Wilson. Deputy Clark doesn't see Nathan and continues on.

Nathan stops hugging Betty Wilson and continues following Deputy Clark.

JED WILSON

He's an affectionate fellow.

Nathan walks across the street and down an alley and sees Deputy Clark walking into an old office building turned into a storage facility for tractor parts. Nathan sees a window open on the left side and decides to crawl in.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING MENS ROOM-DAY

Nathan bangs his head on the window. When he gets up he starts rubbing it. His other personality starts to come out. He stands up straight and looks at himself in the mirror more confidently.

Nathan finds himself inside the men's bathroom. Just two urinals and two stalls both in bad shape. He opens the door slowly and follows the sound of the voices.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING-DAY

He is right outside the conference room and peaks in.

Nathan sees Sheriff Matthews, Doc Peters, Josephine Erps, MAYOR ERPS, a well dressed man in his mid sixties with thick black hair, Deputy Clark and FIVE FARMERS.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM-DAY

Nine of them are sitting around an old wooden conference table while Mayor Erps draws on the chalk board.

MAYOR ERPS

As you know Billy Joe Thomas passed away this morning so he won't be contributing to the meeting.
(pause) We are approaching the eleventh hour and if we don't come up with a plan to save the strawberry crop, say good bye to your little town people.

LOU WOOD, an old time farmer, dressed in his overalls, speaks.

LOU WOOD

My family started farming here over two generations ago and I for one don't want it to end with me.

All the other farmers nod their heads in agreement. Lou's anger starts to build.

LOU WOOD (CONT'D)

We pay a fair amount of taxes to the state and the Government. What the hell are they doing to help us or do they even care.

All the other farmers start to show a little more anger as they nod in agreement.

MAYOR ERPS

Calm down Lou. You can't go blaming the weather on the government.

LOU WOOD

I hear Buford has water. Why can't you call their Mayor and make a deal? All we need is three days worth and the crop will survive.

MAYOR ERPS

Buford depends on the strawberry harvest just like us. We sell to the same market up north, so why do you think they would want to help their competition?

LOU WOOD

Compassion for their fellow man. Besides we would pay for the water with the profits from the crop.

MAYOR ERPS

Trust me, Buford wants to see this town go under. Then they can call themselves the strawberry capital of the south.

DOC PETERS

I agree with the Mayor, Buford is not going to lend a helping hand. When they built that dam last year, they knew what they were doing. They're waiting for us to die.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

We've tried to work out a deal while the dam was being built and they just laughed at us.

LOU WOOD

We invested all our money in fifteen trucks to haul strawberries and they're just sitting there doing nothing.

MAYOR ERPS

We have to solve this problem ourselves with no help from the outside.

Nathan gets an idea and barges in.

NATHAN POLEAN

Water. I can get you all the water you need.

MAYOR ERPS

Who the hell are you!

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

This is Nathan Polean and my Deputy was suppose to keep him at the station.

MAYOR ERPS

This is a private meeting.

LOU WOOD

I would be interested to hear what he has to say, since no one else has any suggestions.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

This aught to be good.

MAYOR ERPS

I'll give you some southern hospitality. You got one minute then get the hell out of here.

NATHAN POLEAN

In one minute I'll tell you how to save your precious strawberries but you have to realize this is war. If you're looking to survive you're as good as dead. You have to want to win and by winning I mean take what you need from whoever has it.

LOU WOOD

Keep talking we're listening.

NATHAN POLEAN

Lou, you and your men have the equipment, the trucks. Buford has the a lake full of water. You go under the cover of darkness and fill up the trucks with water. That should be enough for three days.

MAYOR ERPS

We are not going to convert to criminal activity for any reason.

NATHAN POLEAN

It's water. Water from the melting snow. Who owns the snow?

Everyone looks confused.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

No one owns the snow. Therefore no one owns the water. Besides, Buford isn't gonna miss a little water. I'm sure the lake will still be there after we're done.

LOU WOOD

(to Nathan Polean)

I like your attitude.

DOC PETERS

(to Lou Wood)

Thou shall not steel. Are we not good Bible folks?

LOU WOOD

Like Nathan said, who really owns snow?

NATHAN POLEAN

And I'm willing to go with you. To lead the way. If we get caught I'll take the blame. You have nothing to lose but strawberries and this town.

Everyone in the room stops for a second to ponder what Nathan just said. Josephine can't help but be drawn to him in some strange way.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

I will personally arrest any man
that violates the law.

MAYOR ERPS

I think we heard enough from Mr.
Polean. Deputy Clark, will you
escort Mr. Polean outside and
remind him not to push his welcome
here.

Deputy Clark gets up and calmly escorts Nathan outside. Lou
looks at Josephine and nods his head to her. She gets up and
starts to head out.

MAYOR ERPS

And where are you going?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Ladies room or do I need to ask
permission?

She leaves.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING-DAY

Deputy Clark is upset with Nathan.

DEPUTY CLARK

I thought I told you to stay in the
jailhouse.

NATHAN POLEAN

I'm just trying to help you people
save this little town.

DEPUTY CLARK

Nathan, just head back to the
jailhouse and pray that Sheriff
Matthews doesn't put you in jail
for good.

Deputy Clark walks back inside. Just as Nathan is about to
leave Josephine calls to him from the women's bathroom
window.

JOSEPHINE ERPS (V.O.)

Nathan.

Nathan looks around for a few seconds and then he sees
Josephine.

JOSEPHINE ERPS (CONT'D)
Yes you, come over here.

Nathan walks over to the window.

NATHAN POLEAN
Why?

JOSEPHINE ERPS
I ain't going to bite.

Nathan walks over slowly.

JOSEPHINE ERPS (CONT'D)
Meet us at Joe's restaurant, in the
back at nine o'clock tonight. And
here, a get out of jail free key.

She hands him a key.

NATHAN POLEAN
What about what happened to Billy
Joe earlier?

JOSEPHINE ERPS
Till death do us part.

Nathan grabs the key and nods his head yes.

Josephine disappears back into the bathroom. Nathan heads
back to the jailhouse.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Nathan is sitting in his cell holding his bruised ribs when
he gets a sharp pain in his head. He closes his eyes tightly
and calls out for Josephine.

NATHAN POLEAN
Josephine!

Then the sharp pain is gone. He sits up and looks at himself
in the mirror across the room. He slowly walks closer to the
mirror with his hand inside his shirt holding his ribs.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)
This town will be mine and so will
Josephine.

His other personality has come forward again. Just then
Sheriff Matthews and Deputy Clark come in. The Sheriff is
very upset with Nathan.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Deputy Clark, put this man in his
cell and lock the door.

Deputy Clark firmly grabs Nathan and drags him into the cell.
Deputy Clark slams and locks the door.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
(to Nathan)
This town don't like strangers.
Especially ones that try to stir up
trouble. Now we're going home for
the night and locking the front
door so no one can bother you.
Tomorrow morning I'm personally
gonna drive you to the highway and
say good bye.

Sheriff Matthews and Deputy Clark both leave. Nathan waits a
few minutes and then unlocks the cell door. He walks over to
the locked front door and unlocks it and walks out.

INT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-NIGHT

Nathan walks into a full house and heads towards the back of
the restaurant, he is met by Jesse.

JESSE WELLS
Nathan, nice to see you again.

NATHAN POLEAN
Jesse my friend. How are you?

JESSE WELLS
I'm fine.

Nathan pats him on the back and continues walking towards the
back of the restaurant. Nathan sees Josephine, dressed very
sexy, sitting all alone with a glass of beer half empty. She
notices him and calls him over. Nathan sits down slowly.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
I bet you're wondering why I wanted
to see you?

NATHAN POLEAN
Does it have something to do with
strawberries?

Josephine smiles back at Nathan then she gets serious.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Some people see the glass half
empty and some see it half full.

Josephine points to her glass of beer.

JOSEPHINE ERPS (CONT'D)

I just want another beer. It sounds
like you're the same way.

NATHAN POLEAN

I'm not concerned about the beer. I
want the brewery.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I want the man that wants the
brewery.

NATHAN POLEAN

What was Billy Joe and more
importantly, what about your
husband?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Both of them are just a means to an
end.

NATHAN POLEAN

With talk like that it's easy to
see why you were Miss Strawberry
Queen.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

You blow a few judges and you're
the Strawberry Queen.

NATHAN POLEAN

You like to win.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

At any cost. See being ambitious is
tough. Being an ambitious woman is
a curse.

NATHAN POLEAN

I like ambition.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I liked your idea about the water
and more importantly so did Lou.
He'll be meeting us here shortly.

NATHAN POLEAN

That idea will land me in jail.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
You're already in jail.

NATHAN POLEAN
But permanently.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
Not if we do it right.

NATHAN POLEAN
Won't your husband get a little
upset.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
Furious but there's nothing he'll
be able to do about it if we save
the strawberry crop. You will
become the most popular man in
town.

NATHAN POLEAN
More popular than the Mayor?

JOSEPHINE ERPS
Yes.

She takes a sip of her beer.

JOSEPHINE ERPS (CONT'D)
I got a little secret for you.

NATHAN POLEAN
I love secrets.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
(whispers)
Right now he needs me more than I
need him.

NATHAN POLEAN
(whispers)
And why is that?

JOSEPHINE ERPS
(whispers)
I'm the only one in Billy Joe's
will. Which means I inherit some
pretty valuable land. Some land
that will make me rich soon.

NATHAN POLEAN
(whispers)
From strawberries?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

(whisper)

No, but with the money I make I can buy this entire town. I just need someone to help me run it. A real leader.

NATHAN POLEAN

(whisper)

What is so valuable about this land?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

(whisper)

If you lead the farmers to the water, I'll tell you. But don't mention anything to Lou about the land. That will be our little secret.

Lou walks in and heads towards them. He sits down at the table.

LOU WOOD

Hello Josephine. Hello Nathan.

They both nod their heads hello.

LOU WOOD (CONT'D)

Josephine and I loved your idea.

NATHAN POLEAN

I'm glad someone did.

LOU WOOD

So are you gonna lead us?

NATHAN POLEAN

I wouldn't have it any other way.

LOU WOOD

Great, I'll gather the rest of the farmers and we'll meet you at Wister Point, say one hour.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I'll drop you off at Wister Point myself. It will give us more time to talk.

NATHAN POLEAN

Why don't you join us?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

What, the mayor's wife involved in underhanded business. It would ruin my husbands career.

Lou Wood gets up and leaves the two alone.

They start talking as one hour goes by. They are laughing together and starting to feel romantic towards each other. They notice that it is time to go so they leave. Nathan places his hand on her back as they sneak out the side door together.

EXT. WISTER POINT-NIGHT

An old dirt road with no lights just fifteen trucks with their headlights off and fifteen farmers waiting. Josephine drives up and lets Nathan out.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Good luck boys.

Josephine winks at Nathan then notices that his zipper is open. She directs her eyes towards it. He notices it and zips it up. She smiles and drives away.

NATHAN POLEAN

Gentleman, start your engines.

Nathan climbs into Lou's truck and off they go.

EXT. NEXT MORNING LAKE TUSK BUFORD COUNTY-DAY

MAYOR TAYLOR of Buford, an older, overweight man, wearing pajamas, exits his lake front home early in the morning with a cup of coffee.

He notices his boat is laying on dry land. He looks at the lake and all the water is gone. He drops his cup of coffee.

Then he looks over the valley below to see all the strawberry fields have been washed away.

MAYOR TYLER

(to himself)

What the hell is going on?

EXT. LOU WOOD'S STRAWBERRY FIELD-DAY

Water is flowing from the sprinkler as Nathan and Lou congratulate each other on a job well done.

LOU WOOD

I would have loved to see the look
on the Mayor Taylor's face this
morning.

Nathan smiles.

LOU WOOD

Nice touch, flooding their fields.

NATHAN POLEAN

Well, my job is done here. Can you
give me a lift back to town. Time
for me to face the music.

LOU WOOD

I think you're gonna like the tune.

Lou and Nathan walk to lou's truck and head into town.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Sheriff Matthews is on the phone with Mayor Erps.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

It's that dam Nathan. He ran off
last night with Lou and the others.
(pause) How the hell do I know,
because he's not here. (pause) No
this doesn't ruin the plan it just
complicates it. (pause) What do you
want me to do about him? (pause)
Yes I could just shoot him but then
I would end up in jail. (pause) OK,
let me think about it.

Deputy Clark rolls into the office all smiles and with a cup
of coffee.

DEPUTY CLARK

Good morning Sheriff Matthews!

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Notice anything different this
morning?

Deputy Clark looks around then freezes at Nathan's empty
cell.

DEPUTY CLARK

Holly shit!

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
That's right, holly shit.

DEPUTY CLARK
Where's Nathan?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Take a guess.

DEPUTY CLARK
He went over to Buford last night?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Mayor Erps was on the phone with
the Mayor Taylor all morning. Seems
like Buford had a major flood.
Their entire crop has been washed
away. That town might not survive.

A loud noise can be heard coming down the street. It sounds
like trucks honking their horns and people cheering. The
noise is getting louder and heading towards the station.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (CONT'D)
What the hell is that racket?

Both of them get up and walk outside to see what all the
commotion is about.

EXT. MAIN STREET OUTSIDE JAILHOUSE-DAY

A parade of trucks is slowly coming down the street with
Nathan at the front.

TOWN'S PERSON
Sheriff Matthews, Sheriff Matthews,
did you hear. Nathan saved the
strawberry crop. He's a hero.

They all head outside.

EXT. STREET NEAR JAIL-DAY

Everyone comes out of their homes and joins the celebration.
The street fills up quickly.

DEPUTY CLARK
What should we do now?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Just smile and shake his hand.

Sheriff Matthews goes inside. The parade has stopped at the jailhouse and Nathan gets off the truck. He addresses the crowd.

NATHAN POLEAN

Thank you. Thank you. I might have washed up on your shores like a piece of driftwood but you took me in and made me feel like I was born here. Viva la Strawberry!

Everyone looks confused. Then Nathan repeats his last statement but in English.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

Long live the strawberry.

Everyone cheers. Nathan, all smiles, walks up to Deputy Clark and grabs his hand and raises it.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

I would like to thank your honorable and caring local police. If it weren't for them I would be homeless.

The crowd cheers. Deputy Clark is caught up in the moment and smiles back at the crowd. He waves to the people as he escorts Nathan into the station.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Sheriff Matthews is upset as he hangs up the phone with the Mayor.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

(to Nathan)

That was the Mayor. He and I are extremely upset with you Nathan. Let me explain it the best way I can. I don't like people that disobey me. Then parade around town like some conquering hero.

NATHAN POLEAN

In times of crises a true leader takes matters into his own hands.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Don't get smart with me boy.

NATHAN POLEAN

What are you gonna do, throw me in jail?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

No, as a matter of fact I'm gonna throw you out of jail. Deputy Clark, this is a free man I see before me. Return him to the public.

DEPUTY CLARK

What do you want me to do?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Get this man the hell out of my jail.

Deputy Clark escorts Nathan out. When he opens the door everyone cheers again.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

(to Nathan)

I'm gonna find out who the hell you are and where you're from and take you back there myself.

Then Nathan walks away into the cheering crowd.

EXT. MAIN STREET OUTSIDE JAILHOUSE-DAY

The crowd pats Nathan on the back as he walks towards Joe's restaurant for something to eat.

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

We see an old Victorian house with a half finished well by the mail box and bags of cement laying on the ground.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

An old Victorian style home nicely decorated, Mayor Erps is yelling at Josephine.

MAYOR ERPS

So help me, if I ever find out that you had something to do with that water deal, I will divorce you and drive you out of this town forever in a second.

(MORE)

MAYOR ERPS (cont'd)

Now we have to wait one more year
and hope the drought continues.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

You'll divorce me for that but you
won't divorce me for sleeping with
Billy Joe. What kind of a man are
you?

MAYOR ERPS

Billy Joe was business and you knew
it miss strawberry queen. Without
his land we couldn't convince the
government to drive that new
railroad through our land. Instead
they would have gone the other way
and the dam strawberry farmers
would get rich on the deal. Now
with a successful harvest they will
be able to afford to pay the taxes
on their land. We could have had it
all. With the fortune we were gonna
make on the railroad deal we could
have brought those bankrupt farms
for pennies and owned this entire
town. Dam strawberries.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Just remember I am the only
benefactor in Billy Joe's will.
That land is now mine. So if you're
gonna make threats you better think
them through. It was my ambition
that dragged you to the top and I
can drag you down.

MAYOR ERPS

I might have been dragged to the
top but now that I'm here I like
it. I don't intend on being dragged
down, especially by an over
ambitious town hussy. Remember, I'm
the mayor not you.

Josephine gets up and starts to walk out of the room when
Mayor Erps sternly grabs her arm and turns her towards him.

MAYOR ERPS (CONT'D)

I'm leaving town for the mayor's
convention in Washington. I'll be
gone for a few days and when I come
back, I don't want to be hearing
any rumors about you.

(MORE)

MAYOR ERPS (CONT'D)

I will confirm the meeting with the railroad people for that afternoon when I return. If you or that Nathan cause even a ripple in this deal, I will have you both hung.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

On what grounds?

MAYOR ERPS

Our front yard.

Mayor Erps grabs his bag and leaves. Josephine sits there and watches from the window as he drives away.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

(to herself)

I think it's time this town had a new mayor.

INT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-DAY

Nathan is eating breakfast alone when Josephine walks in and sits down at his table.

NATHAN POLEAN

You were right I am the most popular man in town but now I'm also homeless.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I can get you a home but more importantly how would you like to be the most powerful man in town?

NATHAN POLEAN

Popularity without power is nothing. First things first, where do I sleep?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

My place.

NATHAN POLEAN

Where is the mayor going to sleep?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

He's out of town and soon to be out of office.

NATHAN POLEAN

What do you mean?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

This town needs new blood. A young leader. Someone who's not afraid to do whatever it takes to keep this town running and that someone is you.

Nathan looks surprised but also likes what he hears.

NATHAN POLEAN

Words like that will start a revolution.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Maybe that's what this town needs.

NATHAN POLEAN

You realize that if I stay at your place rumors will run wild and when your husband comes back things will get nasty.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Nasty isn't the word for it.

NATHAN POLEAN

Are you willing to risk everything you have on a stranger?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Not a stranger but a leader.

NATHAN POLEAN

We're going to make enemies?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

This town is getting a little crowded.

NATHAN POLEAN

Why do I feel I've known you all my life Josephine?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I'm just a female version of you. By the way, remember I promised to tell you a little secret?

NATHAN POLEAN

I was going to bring that up next.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

You can't tell a soul.

NATHAN POLEAN
Cross my heart hope to die.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
You will if they find out and so
will I.

Nathan can not wait to hear the secret. Josephine leans forward and whispers to Nathan.

NATHAN POLEAN
So where do I fit in?

JOSEPHINE ERPS
We have to come up with some plan
to dethrone my husband, Sheriff
Matthews and Doc Peters too.

NATHAN POLEAN
You talk as if you have already
planned this out.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
(whispers)
I have.

Nathan gets more intense as he leans in closer.

NATHAN POLEAN
(whispers)
Cut off the head of the snake and
the snake dies and in this case
it's a three headed snake.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
(whispers)
Once we start this their's no
turning back.

NATHAN POLEAN
(whispers)
It's you and me baby.

Nathan winks at Josephine as they get up and leave the restaurant to head back to her house.

EXT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-DAY

Deputy Clark sees Nathan and Josephine leaving together from across the street. He hides behind a parked car as he watches the two head off.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Doc Peters and Sheriff Matthews are sitting and talking.

DOC PETERS

So what the hell are you going to do about this Nathan?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

What do you want me to do shot him in broad daylight?

DOC PETERS

We can lose everything if the farmers find out about the railroad.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

The only way they'll gonna know about the railroad is if Josephine tells him.

DOC PETERS

Did you think she will?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

I didn't know.

DOC PETERS

Maybe Mayor Erps, her and Nathan are all in this together and planning to squeeze us out of the deal.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Nobody is going to squeeze us out of this deal. We have to find out who Nathan Polean really is before he screws everything up.

DOC PETERS

Let me ask around maybe I can find out something about him.

Doc Peters leaves the station as Deputy Clark comes in.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Where the hell have you been?

DEPUTY CLARK

I just saw Nathan and Josephine walking towards Josephine's house.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Stay here, I have to ask Nathan a few questions.

Sheriff Matthews grabs his keys and leaves.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

NATHAN POLEAN

How can you afford a house like this? I didn't think a small town mayor made that much?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

What he lacks in salary he makes up in perks.

NATHAN POLEAN

What kind of perks?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Lets just say he gets a piece of every business in town for relaxing the zoning restrictions.

NATHAN POLEAN

What zoning restrictions?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Some of them are real but most of them were made up. These people are very simply minded.

NATHAN POLEAN

He must know a lot of legal mumbo jumbo to sound convincing.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

No, just a few big words.

Josephine has lead Nathan upstairs to the bedroom. She starts to slowly undress.

NATHAN POLEAN

Are you hot?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

It's too hot to give oral with cloths on.

She takes off her bra and panties and proceeds to give Nathan oral sex.

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

Looking up from ground level, is Sheriff Matthews. He is watching the both of them.

He heads back to his car, which is out of sight and drives away.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE BEDROOM-DAY

Nathan notices Sheriff Matthew's car in the distance but says nothing to Josephine.

EXT. DOC PETERS OFFICE-DAY

The Sheriff's car pulls up in front of Doc Peters one story building at the end of main street.

Sheriff Matthews walks.

INT. DOC PETER'S OFFICE-DAY

Doc Peters treating a THREE YEAR OLD BOY while his MOTHER looks on.

The boy has something that looks like blood covering his entire head. Doc Peters takes his finger and tastes the substance.

MRS. HEADY

What is it Doc?

DOC PETERS

Strawberry juice. I see no cuts or open wounds.

Doc Peters hands her a wet towel.

DOC PETERS (CONT'D)

Here, just wipe it off before it dries and the bees chase his around.

MRS. HEADY

Thank you Doc Peters. I'm a little low on money right now.

Mrs. Heady takes out a package wrapped in the local Newspaper. It has a lamp in it. Doc Peters nods his head thank you and places the gift, still wrapped, on his desk.

MRS. HEADY
It's from my sister in Washington
D.C.

She takes little Jimmy and leaves. Sheriff Matthews comes
closer.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Did you find anything out about
Nathan?

DOC PETERS
Nothing yet. What about you?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Josephine is at it again.

DOC PETERS
Don't tell me that little whore has
brought him into the deal.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
He's trouble. We have to get rid of
him and fast, before Mayor Erps
comes back and before the railroad
people get here.

DOC PETERS
Do you think she told him about
that?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
I hope not, for her sake.

DOC PETERS
How do you want to handle it?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Just like you did with Lou Wood's
wife when she started causing
trouble.

DOC PETERS
Just cause I didn't have a diploma
to practice medicine. You don't
have to go to medical school to
cure people. You do it with love.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Two drops of cyanide in his coffee
and you say it was a heart attack.
Make sure it's a public place.
Plenty of witnesses.

DOC PETERS

Fine with me. You better let me offer him the coffee. He might be suspicious of you. Do you want to tell Mayor Erps?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

The less he knows the better. Who knows, we might have to offer him some coffee someday.

DOC PETERS

We, have to look out for each other. After all we were actually born here, not them.

Doc Peters picks up Mrs. Heady's gift and throws it in the garbage. He doesn't notice the newspaper article with Nathan's Face on it. The article headline reads, "15 Napoleon Bonaparte's drown as psychiatric hospital cruise hits storm."

DOC PETERS

I'll do it to night, at Joe's. I'm sure he'll be at Josephine's till he gets hungry.

Sheriff Matthews nods his head good-bye and walks back to the station.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-NIGHT

After an afternoon of fooling around Nathan is hungry.

NATHAN POLEAN

Do you want to take a break and get something to eat?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

We'll have to head into town. I don't cook.

NATHAN POLEAN

Rumors travel fast in a small town.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I hope you're not afraid of these people. If they smell fear you won't be able to rule them.

NATHAN POLEAN

Why don't you stay here and I'll bring something back.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I'll be waiting. Also don't forget tomorrow is harvest day. Everyone meets at a farmers house and helps pick strawberries.

NATHAN POLEAN

Sounds like fun.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

And I get to wear my Miss Strawberry Queen gown.

She smiles at Nathan in a seductive manor as he dresses and heads to town.

ENT. COUNTRY ROAD TO TOWN-NIGHT

Nathan notices the full moon.

NATHAN POLEAN

(to himself)

Full moon brings out all the crazies.

INT. DOC PETERS OFFICE-DAY

The cleaning lady is cleaning up Doc Peters office and sees the lamp he threw away. She takes it, wrapper and all.

EXT. DOC PETERS OFFICE-NIGHT

Once outside, the cleaning lady throws away the wrapper and it blows off into the night and gets stuck in the tree across the street.

INT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-NIGHT

Nathan walks into a crowded restaurant with Lou Wood and the other farmers present. Everyone welcomes him and says nice comments about the strawberry crop. Nathan finds a table in the back and sits down. Doc Peters has been waiting at the bar and joins Nathan.

DOC PETERS

Do you mind if I join you?

NATHAN POLEAN

Not at all. I was just going to order some take-out but I guess I can share a cup of coffee with you.

DOC PETERS

How's the head?

NATHAN POLEAN

My thoughts are clear.

Doc Peters takes a closer look at Nathan's head.

DOC PETERS

It seems to be healing. Can you remember anything at all about your past?

NATHAN POLEAN

I know one thing.

DOC PETERS

What's that?

NATHAN POLEAN

I like this town.

Doc Peters sits back and gives Nathan a fake smile. The waitress comes over and takes their order.

WAITRESS

What will it be tonight gentlemen?

NATHAN POLEAN

Two cheese burgers medium well with fries to go and a coffee.

DOC PETERS

Just give me a bowl of chicken soup and coffee.

NATHAN POLEAN

That sounds good. I'll have chicken soup too.

The waitress writes it down and leaves.

DOC PETERS

So how long do you intend on staying in Warrenville?

NATHAN POLEAN

I don't know. It kind of grows on you like vine on a tree.

The waitress brings over the two coffees and a basket of rolls with strawberry jam. Doc Peters takes a roll and while spreading the jam on it, flips the jam accidentally on Nathan's shirt.

DOC PETERS

I'm sorry. How clumsy of me. You better go in the bathroom and wash it off. Strawberry leaves a nasty stain.

Before Nathan gets up he secretly grabs his knife and hides it in his shirt sleeve. As he walks towards the men's room he holds the flat end of the knife so that he can see what Doc Peters is doing in the reflection. He notices Doc Peters pouring something into his coffee.

When he comes back from the bathroom, Doc Peters is a little nervous.

DOC PETERS

It looks like the stain is out. You know you have to act quickly when it comes to trouble stains. That could have ruined the shirt.

NATHAN POLEAN

That would have made a bad ending to this lovely evening, right Doc.

DOC PETERS

Yes it would have.

Doc Peters talks a little louder so that others can hear what he is saying.

DOC PETERS (CONT'D)

You know that a traumatic blow to the head like the one you suffered could also cause a massive heart attack days later.

NATHAN POLEAN

I did not know that.

Nathan sees the waitress walking towards him and trips her intensionally. She nearly drops her tray on Doc Peters. This is just enough distraction for Nathan to switch the coffee cups.

DOC PETERS

Watch where you're going!

WAITRESS

Sorry Doc.

Everyone in the restaurant looks to see what is happening. She catches her balance again and moves on.

NATHAN POLEAN

That was a close one.

DOC PETERS

Dam waitress.

Nathan picks up his coffee and takes a sip. Doc Peters does the same.

NATHAN POLEAN

(louder tone)

You know Doc, a man of your age shouldn't drink to much coffee, it can cause a heart attach.

Doc Peters looks at Nathan in a funny manner. Then Doc Peters starts to choke and he drops to the ground. Nathan yells out for help.

NATHAN POLEAN

Is there a doctor in the house!
This man is having a heart attack!

Everyone turns to see what is going on.

NATHAN POLEAN

(whispers to Doc Peters)
Oh, that's right you are a doctor.

Nathan and the rest of the patrons watch helplessly as Doc Peters slowly dies. Nathan slowly backs away and Jesse steps in to take control of the situation.

JESSE WELLS

What's happening?

WAITRESS

He's having a heart attack.

Then Doc Peters takes his last breath and dies. Jesse feels for a pulse.

JESSE WELLS

I better call Sheriff Matthews.

Nathan grabs his meal waiting for him at the front desk and leaves the restaurant.

INT. POLICE STATION-NIGHT

Sheriff Matthews gets the phone call.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Doc Peters had a heart attack.
 (pause) Was he with anyone? (pause)
 Nathan and all of a sudden Doc fell
 to the ground and died. Where's
 Nathan now?

Sheriff Matthews hangs up the phone and ponders what to do next. Then he starts to talk to himself.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

With Doc out of the picture, I
 inherit Doc's land so this is a
 good thing. We can always get
 another Doc. So Nathan just make me
 a richer man. To bad I'm going to
 have to kill him.

EXT. HOTEL WASHINGTON D.C.-DAY

A high class hotel in the heart of Washington D.C.

INT. HOTEL ROOM IN WASHINGTON D.C.-DAY

Mayor Erps is waking up with a HOOKER, half naked, next to him as his phone rings.

MAYOR ERPS

Yes.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)

We have a situation here Sir.

MAYOR ERPS

What kind of a situation?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)

Doc Peters is dead and I think
 Nathan had something to do with it.

MAYOR ERPS

So arrest him.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)

I have no hard proof that he did
 anything wrong but that's not the
 real problem.

MAYOR ERPS

What is?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

I kicked Nathan out of his jail cell in hopes that he would leave town but instead he hooked up Josephine.

MAYOR ERPS

That little whore.

This wakes up the hooker sleeping next to him and he insures her that he is not talking about her. She goes back to sleep.

MAYOR ERPS (CONT'D)

And you can bet she told him and they're probably planning to cut us out of the deal somehow.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)

How do you want me to handle this?

MAYOR ERPS

I'll handle Josephine, you just deal with Nathan.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)

I'll find a way to make it happen. Did you get a hold of the railroad people?

MAYOR ERPS

Yes, the meeting with them will be in three days. Do what you have to do before I get home.

Mayor Erps hangs up the phone and starts to get ready for his conference meetings.

EXT. LOU WOOD'S STRAWBERRY FIELD-DAY

Everyone is ready to start picking the strawberries. All the farmers have their trucks ready and plenty of workers on hand.

LOU WOOD

Thank you for all showing up.

A car pulls up in front of Lou's house. Dr. Appleton exits. He looks around and sees the gathering of people in the back and heads that way. He stops to hear what Lou has to say.

LOU WOOD (CONT'D)

Now before we start, lets give a loud thanks to Nathan Polean. For without his help we wouldn't have any strawberries to pick.

The crowd cheers as Nathan makes himself known.

NATHAN POLEAN

Thank you. You are to kind. I have someone special that wants to say something to you.

Josephine comes threw the crowd in her strawberry queen outfit.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Let the picking begin.

Dr. Appleton walks over towards Nathan.

Everyone rushes into the fields and starts picking. Josephine joins them for moral support.

Nathan stays behind. He notices Dr. Appleton walking towards him with a smile on his face as if he knows him. They are all alone.

DR. APPLETON

Hi Nathan. Do you remember me Nathan?

Nathan looks at the man and then it hits him.

NATHAN POLEAN

How could I forget a familiar face like yours Doctor Appleton. All the shock therapy sessions we shared.

DR. APPLETON

You're a tough man to find Nathan.

NATHAN POLEAN

I'm not going back. This town needs me.

DR. APPLETON

You and I both know what happens to you when you stop taking your medicine.

NATHAN POLEAN

I'm not crazy. I'm just ambitious.
Besides this is a small little
town, that's all I want not the
entire country.

DR. APPLETON

Lets go for a drive. Just you and
I. You can show me this little town
of yours.

NATHAN POLEAN

OK. That sounds harmless. We'll
talk about old times.

They both get into Dr. Appleton's car.

EXT. STRAWBERRY FIELDS-DAY

Josephine notices Nathan walking away and so does lou Wood.

EXT. ROAD CLOSE TO DR. APPLETON'S CAR-DAY

Nathan signals to Josephine that everything is OK.

EXT. STRAWBERRY FIELDS-DAY

She smiles back at him and continues with her work. Lou comes
over to Josephine.

LOU WOOD

Do you want me to follow him in the
truck?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Let's see how he does on his own.

INT. DR. APPLETON'S CAR-DAY

Nathan and Dr. Appleton both sit in the front seat as they
drive into town. They pass Sheriff Matthews on his way out to
see how the strawberry picking is going.

EXT. SHERIFF MATTHEW'S CAR ON ROAD-DAY

He turns around and follows Nathan's car.

INT. DR. APPLETON'S CAR-DAY

DR. APPLETON

Tell me Nathan, have you killed anyone yet?

NATHAN POLEAN

It was officially called self defence.

Just then TWO HELPERS, Big men dressed in white coats, from the hospital, that were hiding in the back seat wrap a rope around Nathan from behind.

Nathan struggles as one of them tries to stick him with a needle to relax him.

DR. APPLETON

Just relax Nathan. We're not taking you back to the hospital, that would only complicate the law suit. We just want to make sure you never get to tell your side of the story.

Nathan struggles and gets one hand free. He grabs the needle from one of the helpers and stabs Dr. Appleton with it. The car starts to swerve as Dr. Appleton falls asleep.

Nathan has to bite the finger off one of the helpers and spits it out the window, to release his grip on Nathan's throat.

Then Nathan jumps out the side door as the car steers off the road, through a fence and into gas tanks near an abandoned farm. The crash causes an explosion.

Sheriff Matthews arrives but the car and the bodies are burnt past recognition.

NATHAN POLEAN

That was close.

The fire is too hot and the flames are out of control. Sheriff Matthews can only stand there with Nathan and ask questions.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

What the hell happened! Who are they?

NATHAN POLEAN

Hooligans.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Holligans! What the hell does that mean?

NATHAN POLEAN

These three guys stopped by the farm and asked if I could show them the way into town. They got crazy. I wanted out, so they threw me out of the car. Then boom!

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Death just seems to follow you around.

NATHAN POLEAN

You're standing pretty close there Sheriff Matthews.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Mayor Erps comes back tomorrow morning and this town doesn't put up with homeless people.

Sheriff Matthews gets into his car and drives away. Nathan walks back to Lou's farm.

EXT. LOU'S FARM-DAY

When he arrives back at the farm Josephine runs over to him as everyone else looks on.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

What was that loud noise and all the smoke?

NATHAN POLEAN

Just a careless accident. I was lucky to escape before the car crashed.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Are you hurt?

NATHAN POLEAN

I'm a pretty tough cookie.

Nathan addresses the crowd.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

Please don't let this spoil the fun we are having on this joyous occasion. Pick till you can not pick anymore.

Everyone goes back to picking except Josephine.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I know what you need. Lets go back home and relax for a while. I've done my job here.

NATHAN POLEAN

The mayor is coming back tomorrow. What are we going to do about that?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Give me some time to think.

INT. JOSEPHINE'S CAR-DAY

They get into Josephine's car and drive away. As they approach the scene of the accident Nathan notices the road is full of oil from the explosion and very slippery. Josephine's car slides around.

NATHAN POLEAN

Watch out the road is full of oil, very dangerous.

They look at each other and stop the car quickly. The smoke from the accident is still rising into the air.

EXT. ROADSIDE BY ACCIDENT-DAY

They get out of the car and collect buckets of oil from the puddles as the sun sets.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

My husband comes home tomorrow. We have only one road that comes off the main highway to town.

NATHAN POLEAN

It would be a shame to waste all this oil.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Then the only person standing in the way will be Sheriff Matthews.

NATHAN POLEAN

He's tough but I can handle him.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Lets do it.

NATHAN POLEAN

With the mayor gone, who will replace him?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

The council will call an emergency meeting and have elect a temporary mayor till they can organize a more formal election.

NATHAN POLEAN

Who's on this council?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Lou Wood and the other four farmers, Sheriff Matthews, Deputy Clark, Jesse Wells and me. You just need five votes to pass a new law.

Nathan smiles.

INT. WASHINGTON D.C. HOTEL-DAY

Mayor Erps is ending up his conference. As he walks through the hotel lobby with his bags. He says good bye to one of the other Mayors, TED BAKER, an older man but sharp dresser.

MAYOR TED BAKER

Mayor Erps.

MAYOR ERPS

Yes Mayor Baker.

MAYOR TED BAKER

Did you learn anything new?

MAYOR ERPS

Yes, all I need from the government is more special favors like the ones you big city mayors get.

MAYOR TED BAKER

Don't go thinking us big city folk have it easy. I wish I had your problems. Somebody lost a dog or raccoons in the neighbor's garbage.

MAYOR ERPS

I'd take your issues if they included all the government handouts that went with them any day.

MAYOR TED BAKER

Here, read this article when you get a chance. This is a real problem.

Mayor Baker hands Mayor Erps a newspaper. Mayor Erps takes the paper and rolls it under his arm.

MAYOR TED BAKER

Just be happy you don't have the problems Mayor Taylor has in Buford. Looks like all their dreams got washed away.

MAYOR ERPS

Strawberries is a tough business my friend.

Then Mayor Erps leaves. Mayor Baker waves good bye.

MAYOR TED BAKER

(to himself)

Guys like that never last long in this business. They never appreciate what they have.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE BEDROOM-DAY

Nathan and Josephine wake up and just smile at each other.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Looks like a beautiful day.

EXT. MAYOR ERPS IS DRIVING HIS CAR-DAY

EXT. SMALL CAFE ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY-DAY

Mayor Erps stops at a small cafe to get something to eat for lunch. He enters the restaurant carrying his newspaper.

INT. SMALL CAFE ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY-DAY

Mayor Erps sits down and looks at the menu.

MAYOR ERPS

Not a strawberry on the menu. Thank
you God.

The WAITRESS comes over.

CAFE WAITRESS

Can I take your order Sir?

MAYOR ERPS

Double cheese burger and coffee.

The Waitress walks away with his order. Mayor Erps looks
around and sees that the only other person in the cafe is an
ELDERLY MAN sound asleep on his table. He decides to read the
newspaper article.

CUT TO:

PICTURE OF NATHAN POLEAN IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL UNIFORM

BACK TO:

MAYOR ERPS IN RESTAURANT.

MAYOR ERPS

Phone! I need a phone! This is an
emergency!

CAFE WAITRESS

Sorry, the phone is out of order.

MAYOR ERPS

Where's the closest phone?

CAFE WAITRESS

Warrenville has one at their police
station I believe.

Mayor Erps gets up all frustrated and rushes past the
Waitress carrying his lunch. He bumps into her and spills the
food all over the floor. He rushes into his car and
frantically drives away.

CAFE WAITRESS

Big city folks, always in a rush.

EXT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-DAY

Nathan and Josephine arrive in front of the restaurant and pause for a second.

NATHAN POLEAN

Lets make ourselves very visible
and wait till the news hits town.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Can I cry on your shoulder?

NATHAN POLEAN

If it would make you feel better.

Nathan smiles at her as they both enter the restaurant.

INT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-DAY

They sit down at a table in the middle as people come over and thank Nathan for the great harvest. He nods his head in acknowledgement back to them. Nathan picks up the menu and notices it is different. Everything on it has strawberries with it or in it.

NATHAN POLEAN

Strawberry soup. Strawberry steak,
Strawberry salad. Strawberry fried
chicken and today's special triple
strawberry pork chops with
strawberry potatoes. What happened
to the double cheese burger?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Today we celebrate the harvest with
everything strawberry. Don't be a
big baby. It's only one day.

NATHAN POLEAN

One day won't kill me.

The Waitress comes over and takes their order.

WAITRESS

And what would you like with your
strawberries today?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Just a salad would be fine and some
strawberry coffee.

WAITRESS

And for your Sir?

NATHAN POLEAN

A double cheese burger with fries
and can I have the strawberries on
the side?

WAITRESS

Sure can't. Do you want the
strawberries fried or sauteed?

NATHAN POLEAN

Fried.

The Waitress walks away and Nathan looks disappointed.

They wait for their food and converse in small talk.

INT. RESTAURANT DEPUTY CLARK'S TABLE-DAY

On the other side of the restaurant Deputy Clark is sitting
down and eating strawberry cookies.

INT. RESTAURANT NATHAN'S TABLE-DAY

Waitress comes back with their meal and leaves. Nathan just
stares at his strawberry burger.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Eat it.

NATHAN POLEAN

I don't like strawberries.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Take the burger and put it in your
mouth and chew or I'll grab it with
my hand and shove it down your
throat. Then you can go to the
men's room and throw up. But not
till your plate is clean.

NATHAN POLEAN

And why so hostile?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Because no one is going to elect a
mayor that doesn't eat
strawberries.

NATHAN POLEAN

Point well taken.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
And save some room for dessert.

Sheriff Matthews burst into the restaurant and walks over to Deputy Clark.

INT. RESTAURANT DEPUTY CLARK'S TABLE-DAY

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
What the hell are you doing?

DEPUTY CLARK
Eating strawberry cookies. You want one? They're good.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
While you're stuffing your face with cookies I was busy doing police work and I need to finish it.

DEPUTY CLARK
What happened?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
We have three bodies burnt past recognition out by Lou's farm. I need to make some calls to the other states in the area to see if we can place a name to the bodies.

DEPUTY CLARK
What do you want me to do?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Take the squad car and make the rounds. I don't want anymore strangers coming into town.

DEPUTY CLARK
What should I do if I see some strangers?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Tell them we're closed.

Sheriff Matthews looks around and sees Nathan and Josephine talking and having a good time. This aggravates him and he leaves. Deputy Clark grabs his car keys and leaves two seconds later.

EXT. MAIN HIGHWAY ON OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN-DAY

Mayor Erps is frantically driving. He sees the sign for the exit ramp to Warrenville and speeds up even more. He is the only car for miles. When the car reaches the oil spot it spins out of control.

His car flies off the road.

EXT. SIDE STREET NEAR MAIN HIGHWAY-DAY

On the other side of an old dilapidated barn just three hundred yards from the Warrenville exit, Deputy Clark steps out after taking a piss break.

He hears the loud noise and sees the black smoke in the distance. He gets into his car and rushes off to investigate.

EXT. MAYOR'S BURNING CAR-DAY

When he arrives on the scene he notices a body still in the car. He races over to the vehicle and pulls it out.

He looks at the man's badly burnt face but he still can't recognize him. He searches for a wallet and pulls it out. When he reads Mayor Erps' name he can't believe it.

EXT. POLICE CAR-DAY

He Goes back to the police car and calls Sheriff Matthews.

DEPUTY CLARK
(trembling voice)
Sheriff Matthews answer if you're
there. I have an emergency.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)
Yes Deputy Clark, what is it?

DEPUTY CLARK
Mayor Erps has been in a accident
and I think he's dead.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)
Is he breathing?

DEPUTY CLARK
I can't tell his face is burnt.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)
Where are you?

DEPUTY CLARK
Warrenville exit off the main
highway.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)
OK, stay there. I'll barrow a car
and meet you.

Deputy Clark hangs up. The newspaper article with Nathan's picture blows out of the car and slowly burn as it lands right behind Deputy Clark.

INT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-DAY

Everyone is smiling, eating and drinking something with strawberries in it. They all have strawberry red lips and fingers.

Sheriff Matthews and Deputy Clark enter and you can tell by their faces the news is bad. They walk over to Josephine.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Josephine, can I talk to you in the
back please?

JOSEPHINE ERPS
Sure Sheriff.

She gets up and they head towards the back of the restaurant.

INT. BACK OF RESTAURANT-DAY

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
I'm afraid I have some bad news.
Your husband is dead. His car skid
off the road and crashed into a
tree. He was burnt past
recognition.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
Then how do you know it was him?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
His wallet.

Josephine covers her eyes and excuses herself to the ladies room. Sheriff Matthews looks at Nathan.

NATHAN POLEAN
Tragic news?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

It's just the beginning.

Sheriff Matthews gives Nathan a stern look and leaves. Deputy Clark stays behind. The people next to Nathan overhear the news and word spreads quickly.

NATHAN POLEAN

So Deputy Clark, what happens next?

DEPUTY CLARK

I guess we have a funeral.

NATHAN POLEAN

After that. I mean this town needs a leader, someone to replace Mayor Erps and show these people the light at the end of the dark tunnel.

Everyone in the restaurant is listening to Nathan.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

There must be something in the town's by-laws in case of a situation like this.

Just then Josephine exits the ladies room and answers the question.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Why their is a section that says we can elect a stand in mayor till formal elections are held. It is a temporary job.

JESSE WELLS

I nominate Nathan Polean as our new mayor.

Everyone in the restaurant agrees and the chatter about Nathan as mayor increases. Even Deputy Clark gets behind Nathan and rushes over to the police station.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Deputy Clark rushes in and sees Sheriff Matthews pondering.

DEPUTY CLARK

Sheriff, I got good news. Nathan has accepted the job as temporary mayor.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Over my dead body.

DEPUTY CLARK
It's in the by-laws. Josephine said
so.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
By-laws my ass.

Sheriff Matthews thinks for a few seconds and gets an idea.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Deputy Clark, do me a favor and
pick up two slices of strawberry
pie from Joe's. One for me and one
for you.

Sheriff Matthews hands Deputy Clark some money.

DEPUTY CLARK
Sure I love strawberry pie.

He grabs the money and leaves. Sheriff Matthews gets on the
phone.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Hello Lou, this is Sheriff
Matthews. I'm calling an emergency
meeting of the council. I'll get
Deputy Clark and Josephine. Can you
tell the others? Say your house at
eight tonight. Say, why don't you
the other farmers and I meet at
seven. I have something private to
discuss.

Sheriff Matthews hangs up the phone and looks at a map of
Warrenville.

INT. LOU WOOD'S HOUSE-NIGHT

It's seven o'clock, Lou and the other four farmers are
sitting around the table with Sheriff Matthews looking at a
map of Warrenville.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
I have great news for all of us.
Before Mayor Erps accidently passed
away he told me he was approached
by some railroad people.

(MORE)

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (cont'd)

They are meeting in three days about a land deal. I will take the mayor's place and keep this meeting with them.

He points at the map.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

Starting at Lou's farm and continuing on down to Ed's farm, then Mike's farm, then Hank's farm, then Tom's farm and finally my land. We all make a shit load of money. More then you would selling strawberries. But, they might want to go the other way through Mayor Erps and Josephine's land, which would leave you all out of the picture and all I ask in return is voting to amend the by-laws. All mayoral candidates must be born in Warrenville and keep it amongst ourselves.

LOU WOOD

Then we would lose are farms.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

With the money you make you can buy new land in Buford and never have to worry about water again.

FARMER ED

But this would prevent Nathan from becoming mayor.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

This is an opportunity of a lifetime. What if this drought continues into next year and they build the railroad somewhere else. We all lose.

FARMER ED

I agree with the Sheriff. Lets take this opportunity and run with it. Sure Nathan's a good guy but this is business.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

I need all of you together or the deal is off.

Everyone looks at Lou and he agrees to go along with the deal.

LOU WOOD

OK. You have my word as long as I can still farm. After all dirt is dirt.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Don't worry, your hands will be getting dirty.

LOU WOOD

What will we tell Nathan?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

We'll agree to let Nathan become temporary mayor till the election and then kick him off the ballet and maybe one of us will be the new mayor.

They all nod heads in agreement.

ENT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Nathan and Josephine are walking back to her house when the phone rings. She rushes in to answer it.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Hello, emergency meeting at eight, at Lou's. Sure I can make it Sheriff.

Josephine hangs up the phone. She is not happy with the call.

JOSEPHINE ERPS (CONT'D)

Something doesn't sound right. Sheriff Matthews calling an emergency council meeting.

NATHAN POLEAN

We have to get a hold of those railroad people tonight and schedule the meeting for tomorrow morning or tomorrow afternoon at the latest.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I'll call them right now and see if we can arrange a meeting. Let's meet somewhere in Buford.

(MORE)

JOSEPHINE ERPS (cont'd)

I've spoken to them many times on the phone so this shouldn't be that big of a deal.

NATHAN POLEAN

Perfect. Make the call.

Josephine dials the phone and arranges the meeting.

EXT. LOU' WOOD'S HOUSE-NIGHT

It is exactly eight o'clock as Josephine arrives at Lou Wood's house. She notices the other trucks present and places her hand over the engines to see if they are still hot. They are cold.

INT. LOU' WOOD'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Josephine walks in and greets everyone. She notices that they have been sitting and discussing matters for a while by the strawberry cookie crumbs on the floor.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Hope I didn't miss anything.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Not at all we all just got here five minutes ago. We're just waiting on Jesse. I already spoke to Deputy Clark and know where he stands. He can't make it, one of us has to be on duty.

Just then Jesse arrives.

JESSE WELLS

Sorry for being late. We had a busy day today.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Let us begin the meeting. With the untimely passing of Mayor Erps we are in need of a replacement and it will take at least three weeks to formally run elections. In the meantime we, the council, can pick a temporary mayor to fill in. I open the floor for nominations.

FARMER ED

My deepest sympathy Josephine.

Josephine nods her head in thanks.

FARMER ED (CONT'D)
I nominate Nathan Polean.

JESSE WELLS
I second the nomination.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Any other nominations?

No one says a word.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (CONT'D)
Show of hands for Nathan Polean.

Everyone raises their hands.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (CONT'D)
All hail the new Cesar. I take it
you.

Sheriff Matthews looks at Josephine.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (CONT'D)
Will tell Nathan the good news?

Josephine nods her head yes.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
What about the formal elections?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Lou and I will get all the proper
paperwork together and in a few
days we'll meet again.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
So we're finished?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
I think we've accomplished enough.

Everyone agrees and slowly they all get up and leave.
Josephine senses something else is going on without her
knowledge but she can not place her finger on it.

She looks towards Lou and he sheepishly looks away.

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Josephine arrives home and sees Nathan waiting outside for her. She walks towards him with a half hearted smile on her face.

NATHAN POLEAN

What's wrong?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I don't know. It went well, to well. You're the temporary mayor by unanimous vote.

NATHAN POLEAN

What's wrong with that?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

All the car engines were cold. They must have been talking about something without me.

NATHAN POLEAN

I don't trust Sheriff Matthews. He's up to something.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

We have to make sure everything goes well tomorrow with the railroad people.

Nathan puts his arm around Josephine and the both of them retire for the night.

EXT. MAIN HIGHWAY TO BUFORD-DAY

Nathan and Josephine are driving to meet the railroad people in Buford. They pull up to a small cafe, the same one Mayor Erps ate at and see TIM WALKER, an average size man, dressed in a black suit and a waiting.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Mr. Walker, I'm Mrs. Erps the Mayor's wife. I sorry but he can't be here with us this morning but I have his assistant Mr. Polean with me.

TIM WALKER

Josephine, please call me Tim. Nice to finally meet the voice on the phone.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
You came alone?

TIM WALKER
Everyone else is on vacation. Let's
finalize this deal and get on to
building a railroad.

NATHAN POLEAN
Shall we go inside and do this over
coffee and strawberry pancakes.

TIM WALKER
That sounds good to me.

They all enter the restaurant.

INT. SMALL CAFE ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY-DAY

After one hour of talking and eating. Josephine and Nathan
close the deal.

EXT. SMALL CAFE ON THE MAIN HIGHWAY-DAY

TIM WALKER
This was very pleasant. You'd be
amazed at how cut throat people can
be when they sees these type of
dollars being offered.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
Warrenville is just a small sleepy
little town. We're not like those
big cities.

TIM WALKER
Well, have a great rest of the day.
Oh, if you need to reach me, I'll
be on vacation out of the country
for two weeks so it will have to
wait till I get back.

NATHAN POLEAN
We should be alright.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
Have a nice vacation.

Josephine and Nathan wave good bye as Tim gets in his car and
leaves.

NATHAN POLEAN

You know Sheriff Matthews is going to come out swinging when he finds out about this.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

He can swing all he wants. When you're the mayor you can fire him.

NATHAN POLEAN

Can the temporary mayor fire him?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

No, just the mayor.

NATHAN POLEAN

So I have to stay alive till the elections. Then this town will be all ours.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Three weeks is a long time.

They get into Josephine's car and drive back towards town.

MAIN STREET OUTSIDE DOC PETER'S OFFICE-DAY

Hours later, that piece of newspaper with Nathan's picture is still caught in the tree branches and starts to move. A slight breeze enters town and it causes the newspaper article to fall out of the tree towards the ground.

It blows down the street.

EXT. POLICE STATION-DAY

The newspaper stops right in front of the police station. Sheriff Matthews leaves the station and steps right on the paper without even looking at it. He continues walking down the street towards Joe's for lunch.

The newspaper article blows down the street.

EXT ALLEY NEAR JOE'S CAFE-DAY

The newspaper blows into an alley way. Josephine comes walking out of the alley and walks down the street. Two older, Victorian dressed ladies, MRS. CRANK and MRS. HOLMES, walk past her and make a comment.

MRS. CRANK

This town would be so much better
without that little whore sleeping
with every strange man that wanders
into town.

Josephine overhears it and is upset. She goes back to
confront the two old ladies.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Excuse me Mrs. Crank and Mrs.
Holmes but I couldn't help
overhearing that rude comment you
just made. Allow me to set the
record straight.

Both women are in shock but curious.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

After my father died my mother
moved us to this little piece of
paradise. It wasn't easy growing up
the poorest girl in town. My mother
did what she could, wash cloths,
sew, anything to make ends meet. I
myself got by on the kindness of
strangers. Like Mr. Crank, my fifth
grade teacher, who helped me get
straight A's in class in exchange
for certain things his wife
wouldn't do.

MRS. CRANK

Why you little whore.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

And Mr. Holmes and his general
store, where he taught me how to
barter goods for services.

MRS. HOLMES

Watch for tongue little hussy.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Now you have something to chat
about over dinner. Good day ladies.

Josephine walks away.

INT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-DAY

Sheriff Matthews walks in.

JESSE WELLS

Good afternoon Sheriff Matthews.
Everybody I talked to today is very
excited about Nathan as the new
mayor.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

He's the temporary mayor. We still
have to run formal elections
remember.

JESSE WELLS

I think he's as good as in for the
formal elections. I mean who else
even has a chance?

Sheriff Matthews replies with a fake smile and goes back to
reading the menu. Jesse walks back to the kitchen.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

(to himself)

He wants to play hard ball with me.
I can throw the ball pretty dam
hard.

A loud horn is heard from outside the restaurant and everyone
looks to see what is happening.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

Who the hell is making that racket?

The loud horn continues till people leave the restaurant and
file into the street.

EXT. JOE'S BAR AND GRILL-DAY

Nathan is coming down the street with Josephine blowing her
car horn. She stops in front of Joe's restaurant and Nathan
gives a speech. Everyone in the restaurant comes out.

NATHAN POLEAN

Thank you. Thank you warm people of
Warrenville. As your newly
appointed temporary mayor, I have
seen how hungry you are for the
good life. A life without the
struggles or worries. I will
promise to grow this town into an
empire. An empire that will
flourish with prosperity.

The crowd cheers.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

Thanks to our strawberry harvest, we are ready to take advantage of all the opportunities that exist. Buford has had some set backs in their strawberry harvest. They have no money, will purchase their land, for pennies on the dollar. Next year's harvest will be double and then we will expand south into the town of Wellington. Warrenville will become a giant in the south.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

(to himself)

What the hell is he talking about? Empire. If I didn't know any better I would say he's crazy.

NATHAN POLEAN

This is the time to strike. Who is with me?

Everyone in the crowd has become mesmerized and cheers with excitement.

Josephine is confused.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

(whispers to Nathan)

I thought we were going to buy all the land in Buford?

NATHAN POLEAN

(whispers to Josephine)

Buford today. Wellington tomorrow.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

(whispers to Nathan)

Maybe we shouldn't do anymore spur of the moment speeches. Yeah, from now on, check with me first before you say anything, as a consultant of course.

Nathan is not happy with this and hides it behind a fake smile as he nods his head OK.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

(to himself)

This is madness. What are these people thinking.

Josephine starts marching down main street and Nathan follows. Then a small crowd follows behind them. The crowd gets larger the further they march.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
 (to himself)
 They are following him like the
 lemmings to the sea.

Sheriff Matthews goes inside the station in disgust.

EXT. NEXT MORNING SMALL CAFE BUFORD-DAY

Sheriff Matthews is sitting in the same small cafe waiting for the railroad people and no one shows up. He decides to give them a call.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
 (to Waitress)
 Excuse me. Where is your phone? I
 need to make a long distance call.

CAFE WAITRESS
 I'm sorry but the phone is broken.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
 Where's the closest phone?

CAFE WAITRESS
 I believe the sheriff's office in
 Warrentville has one.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
 I am the sheriff of Warrentville.

CAFE WAITRESS
 Then you know exactly where the it
 is.

Sheriff Matthews gets up and leaves all pissed off. He races back to Warrentville.

EXT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Sheriff Matthews pulls up in front of the station. He sees a, "Vote for Nathan Polean", poster on the station door and takes it down.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Sheriff Matthews sits at his desk and calls the railroad people.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Hello, this is Sheriff Matthews, I need to speak to Mr. Tim Walker.

MR. WALKER'S SECRETARY (V.O.)

Mr. Walker is out of town and won't be back for two weeks.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

I had an appointment with him this morning and he never showed up.

MR. WALKER'S SECRETARY (V.O.)

Let me check his schedule. Hold please.

She goes to check Mr. Walker's schedule as Sheriff Matthews waits a few seconds.

MR. WALKER'S SECRETARY (CONT'D)(V.O.)

Sorry for the delay Sir, Mr. Walker has no appointments for today.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

This meeting was set up a month ago with Mayor Erps.

MR. WALKER'S SECRETARY (V.O.)

Mayor Erps, that meeting was rescheduled for yesterday. Yes, Mr. Walker met with his wife and a Mr. Polean.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

That's not right. I have to talk to Mr. Walker.

MR. WALKER'S SECRETARY (V.O.)

You'll have to wait till Mr. Walker comes back to answer all questions.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

No, no, no, there has been a huge mistake Miss.

MR. WALKER'S SECRETARY (V.O.)

All mistakes have to be discussed with Mr. Walker.

(MORE)

MR. WALKER'S SECRETARY (V.O.)

He should be back in the office in
two weeks. Please call back then.
Good day Sir.

She hangs up the phone and Sheriff Matthews is angry he yells
at the top of his lungs.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

(to himself)

No one pulls a fast one on me. When
the farmers find out they've been
screwed on the railroad deal
they'll change the amendment back
and Nathan will become mayor just
to spite me. I have to find a way
to connect Nathan to those three
guys that crashed and burned.

Sheriff Matthews gets up, gets into his car and drives away.

EXT. SCENE OF FIRST CAR ACCIDENT-DAY

Sheriff Matthews arrives only to find a burnt car off the
side of the road. He walks around to see if he can find any
clues.

Sheriff Matthews sees three crows fighting over something on
the side of the road about twenty yards behind him. He goes
to investigate.

He finds the finger of the hospital helper and his high
school ring with his name engraved on the inside.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Fairfax High School class of 1931
Fairfax Virginia. Greg Jones.

Sheriff Matthews gets into his car and heads back to the
station.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Sheriff Matthews walks in and gets on the phone right away.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

This is Sheriff Matthews in
Warrenville, North Carolina. I need
to speak to your sheriff. I think I
might have a missing person you
might be looking for.

SHERIFF'S OPERATOR (V.O.)
Hold please.

SHERIFF JOHNSON (V.O.)
This is Sheriff Johnson can I help
you.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
This is Sheriff Matthews in
Warrenville North Carolina. I
wonder if you might be looking for
a Greg Jones, Fairfax High School
class of 1931.

SHERIFF JOHNSON (V.O.)
Yes we have. As a matter of fact
all three people are missing from
the hospital. Did you find them?
Cause they have a lot of explaining
to do up here.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
I got what appears to be Mr. Greg
Jones's finger, if that helps
explain anything. What hospital did
he work at?

SHERIFF JOHNSON (V.O.)
The Baltimore Psychiatric Hospital.
You must of heard what they did to
those patients. It was in all the
major newspapers.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
We only get the local paper down
here. What happened?

SHERIFF JOHNSON (V.O.)
If they're dead its probably the
best thing for them. They had no
right to do what they did. I hope
they are all in hell right now.
They tried to murder all of those
patients. Fourteen out of fifteen
bodies found. I hope they find that
last person alive to testify and
close down that mad house.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Thank you Sheriff Johnson. I'll
call the hospital tell them what I
found.

Sheriff Johnson hangs up the phone and redials.

RECEPTIONIST BALTIMORE HOSPITAL (V.O.)
Baltimore Psychiatric Hospital can
I help you?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
I need to talk to someone about
Nathan Polean.

RECEPTIONIST BALTIMORE HOSPITAL (V.O.)
Hold on Sir, I'll connect you right
away.

The receptionist connects him.

DOCTOR TOON (V.O.)
This is Doctor Toon, can I help
you?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Yes, this is Sheriff Matthews in
Warrenville, North Carolina. I
found the finger of one of your
employees Greg Jones but that isn't
why I'm calling.

DOCTOR TOON
(off)
Is he alive?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
No, Mr. Jones and company are dead.

DOCTOR TOON (V.O.)
I wasn't asking about him. Is
Nathan still alive?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Yes.

DOCTOR TOON (V.O.)
You know he believes he is Napoleon
and he will stop at nothing to get
what he wants. Anyone that stands
in his way will end up dead.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
That explains a few things.

DOCTOR TOON (V.O.)
Are you going to arrest him Sheriff
Matthews?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Arrest or deliver.

DOCTOR TOON (V.O.)
Maybe, we can work something out.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
You want me to bring him in through
the back door not the front door.

DOCTOR TOON (V.O.)
Do we have an understanding?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Maybe, but what if I deliver two
patients. Nathan and lets say a
female friend.

DOCTOR TOON (V.O.)
I help you, you help me.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Now we have an understanding.

Sheriff Matthews hangs up his phone and gets his hand cuffs
and sticks them in his pocket.

Sheriff Matthews gets up and heads over to Doc Peters office.

INT. DOC PETERS OFFICE-DAY

Sheriff Matthews walks into Doc Peters office. He scavenges
through the cabinet draws and finds some sleeping pills.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
Jackpot. These should do the trick.

Sheriff Matthews leaves.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Sheriff Matthews has cut the lid off a strawberry pie and
sprinkles the crushed sleeping pills over the top before
putting the lid back on.

Then he sprinkles some crushed pills into the coffee pot. He
also takes some fresh strawberries and sprinkles some over
them and tops it with whip cream.

Sheriff Matthews looks around the station and thinks for a
second. Deputy Clark enters the station eating a double
cheese burger and Sheriff Matthews gets an idea.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Say Deputy, can you go to Joe's and get me three of those double cheese burgers?

DEPUTY CLARK

You must be hungry.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

I'm going to invite Nathan and Josephine to lunch. I would like to share my ideas with them. After all he could be our next mayor.

Deputy Clark smiles, nods his head in agreement and leaves. Sheriff Matthews calls Josephine's house.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (CONT'D)

Josephine, this is Sheriff Matthews. I was wondering if you and Nathan would like to join me at the station for a working lunch. You know, to discuss of the issues so when Nathan becomes mayor, he and I will be on the same page.

JOSEPHINE ERPS (V.O.)

We just had lunch.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Well then lets just meet for coffee.

JOSEPHINE ERPS (V.O.)

I'll have to take a rain check if you don't mind Sheriff Matthews. Good day.

Sheriff hangs up the phone and looks at all the food on the table.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS

Looks like I have to do this the old fashion way.

Sheriff Matthews takes out his pistol to see if it has enough bullets. Then he opens his desk draw and grabs a small club. He hides the club under his shirt and leaves.

EXT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Sheriff Matthews runs into Deputy Clark as he is leaving. Deputy Clark is carrying the three double cheese burgers.

DEPUTY CLARK
 Sheriff Matthews! I got your cheese
 burgers.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
 Keep them. I'm going to be out of
 town for a few days so I need you
 to watch the station.

DEPUTY CLARK
 Sure thing. Where you going?

SHERIFF MATTHEWS
 A friend of mine lost something,
 I'm going to return it to him.

Sheriff Matthews gets into the police car and drives.

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

Sheriff Matthews pulls up to Josephine's house. He drives
 right past the cement bags by the half finished well. He gets
 out and rings the door bell.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

Nathan answer's the door and is immediately knocked in the
 head by Sheriff Matthews. Nathan falls to the floor
 unconscious. Sheriff Matthews handcuffs him.

He takes one step inside the house and Josephine smashes a
 jug on his head from behind the door. He too is unconscious.

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

When Nathan wakes up he is still handcuffed. He notices
 Josephine trying to lift Sheriff Matthews' limp body and dump
 it into the well.

NATHAN POLEAN
 Can you get the keys to the cuffs
 before you dump him?

JOSEPHINE ERPS
 Well since you're awake you can
 help me with this tub of lard.

Josephine gets the keys and she uncuffs Nathan.

NATHAN POLEAN
 You should have woke me earlier.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I tried but you were out like a light.

NATHAN POLEAN

You dragged both of us over here by yourself? You're a lot stronger than I thought.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Not strong, just determined. Now if you're done with all the questions, can you give me a hand?

Nathan gets up and together they dump Sheriff Matthews into the well.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Now we just add a little cement and water.

They start pouring the cement and water into the well.

NATHAN POLEAN

That should harden in a few hours.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Lets go inside and I'll take care of that bump on your head.

Josephine takes Nathan inside the house.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

Once inside she cleans up his wound and places some ice on it. Nathan is a little suspicious of Josephine.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Come up stairs and we'll lay down for a while. You need some rest.

Josephine starts to take off her cloths as she walks up the stairs. Nathan hesitates for a second then follows her.

NATHAN POLEAN

Sheriff Matthews isn't the only one starting to harden.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I should call a council meeting before everyone misses him and see if we can move the elections closer.

NATHAN POLEAN
That's a great idea.

Josephine leads Nathan into bedroom.

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE BY THE WELL-DAY

Sheriff Matthews has managed to slowly climb out of the well still covered in cement. He painfully makes his way to the police car and tries to call Deputy Clark for help.

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Deputy Clark is sound asleep with all the half eaten food around him while he snores the day away.

SHERIFF MATTHEWS (V.O.)
Help. Help. Deputy Clark come in.
Emergency.

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

The cement has hardened and Sheriff Matthews is frozen in his squad car with the sound of a snoring Deputy Clark still on his radio.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

Nathan looks out the window and sees someone in the police car. He is in a panic.

NATHAN POLEAN
Someone is in Sheriff Matthews' car
and it looks like he's calling for
help.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
That's impossible.

They rush out to investigate.

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-DAY

They walk quickly towards the police car.

NATHAN POLEAN
Just act natural and let me do all
the talking.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Who is it?

NATHAN POLEAN

It doesn't look like Deputy Clark.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Whoever it is has bad taste in cloths.

They reach the police car and realize it's Sheriff Matthews, frozen in cement.

NATHAN POLEAN

Dam, I have to give him a lot of credit. He's one tough son of a bitch.

They both hear a snoring sound coming from the radio.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

What's that sound?

Nathan turns off the radio.

NATHAN POLEAN

I don't know but he snores like an elephant.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

What do we do with him?

Nathan feels for a pulse and Sheriff Matthews wakes up and grabs Nathan by the arm. Then he goes for his gun and starts to point it at Nathan.

NATHAN POLEAN

Hit him with the shovel.

Josephine just stands there and watches as Sheriff Matthews freezes before he can pull the trigger.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

He's dead. Why didn't you hit him with the shovel?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

The shovel wouldn't have helped. The cement was too hard.

NATHAN POLEAN

OK, let's dump him back in the well.

They both carry him over to the well and dump him in.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

What about the police car?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I'll put it in the garage for now.
Then later to night I'll drive it
out of state and leave it for some
kids to steal. You follow me and we
come back home.

NATHAN POLEAN

The council is the only group
standing in our way now and I don't
think they'll put up to much of a
fight.

They both walk inside the house.

EXT. TOWN HALL-DAY

The town hall building is an old two story white wooden
building at the end of main street. Deputy Clark and all the
farmers are arriving as Nathan and Josephine pull up.

NATHAN POLEAN

Good morning all.

DEPUTY CLARK

Good morning. Say Josephine,
Sheriff Matthews is out of town on
business. If we need his vote to
break a tie we'll have to wait till
he returns.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I don't think we'll need him for
this vote.

LOU WOOD

So what is this emergency meeting
all about?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Lets discuss this up stairs in the
council room.

They all walk into the building. They pass ED, the desk
clerk, an old man dressed in a white shirt and slacks,
smoking a cigarette while reading the morning paper.

They all wave to him and he pays no attention to them. He just continues reading the paper as he waves back.

INT. HALLWAY TO COUNCIL ROOM-DAY

They continue walking up the stairs to the second floor. They pass a sign that reads, "Gas company working on pipe" with an arrow pointing to the lever on the gas line which is right outside the door to the council room. Lou Wood stops everyone just before he opens the door.

LOU WOOD

Sorry Nathan but these meetings are only open to council members. Rules are rules.

Nathan smiles but everyone can see he is upset. Everyone else enters. Josephine shrugs her shoulders in disbelief. She pats Nathan on the back as she enters.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

This shouldn't take that long.

She closes the door behind her.

INT. COUNCIL ROOM-DAY

The council members are sitting around an old wooden table in a room that is sparsely decorated with a strawberry theme.

LOU WOOD

OK Josephine, you called and we came.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I want to move the election date up three weeks and call for elections this weekend.

LOU WOOD

Why the rush?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I think this town needs leadership and fast. On a personal note it would help me cope better with the tragic loss of my husband.

DEPUTY CLARK

It does seem kind of funny not having a real mayor.

LOU WOOD

OK, does everyone agree to moving up the elections to this weekend?

Everyone raises a hand signaling yes.

LOU WOOD (CONT'D)

That was easy. Now let's go over the new rule from the last council meeting for electing a mayor.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

What new rule?

Josephine is upset.

LOU WOOD

It was no big deal. We only needed five votes and it passed without any troubles.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Again, what new rule?

LOU WOOD

It was Sheriff Matthews' idea. Only a person born in Warrenville can submit his or her name for office of mayor.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

That is no big deal! When the person that is best suited to lead this town is not eligible.

LOU WOOD

Rules are rules.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I wasn't even aware of these changes. I want a re-vote on the issue.

LOU WOOD

OK. All in favor of keeping the rule as is, raise your hand.

Everyone raises their hand except Josephine.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

And after he saved the strawberry crop and all your farms. Is that how you repay him?

LOU WOOD
You are making this thing to
personal. It's business.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
If not Nathan then who?

No one their raises their hand.

DEPUTY CLARK
You know Josephine, if you were
only a man I would nominate you.

She is caught off guard by the comment.

LOU WOOD
We just want to farm and make sure
we can continue to farm generations
from now.

Josephine gets up all pissed off.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
I excuse myself from this meeting.
With all do respect gentlemen, good
day.

Josephine exits the room and slams the door behind her. Lou
Wood excuses himself.

LOU WOOD
Excuse me gentlemen. I have to use
the men's room.

DEPUTY CLARK
You better take the back exit and
use the one down stairs. The one up
here is still broken.

Lou exits the back door of the council room and walks down
stairs to the men's room.

INT. TOWN HALL SECOND FLOOR-DAY

Josephine tells Nathan everything that happened.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
You're out. It's over.

NATHAN POLEAN
Over. Nothing is over. What are you
talking about?

JOSEPHINE ERPS
 If you're not a native of
 Warrenville you can not become
 mayor. Thanks to Sheriff Matthews.

Nathan ponders for a second then looks at the sign on the
 wall with the arrow pointing to the gas line.

NATHAN POLEAN
 Has this been made public knowledge
 yet?

JOSEPHINE ERPS
 No. No one but the council knows
 about it.

NATHAN POLEAN
 Let me talk to them. Don't worry
 about a thing. I'll meet you at
 Joe's for a drink to celebrate.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
 Are you sure?

NATHAN POLEAN
 Yes. I can handle this. Just meet
 me at Joe's

Josephine kisses Nathan on the cheek.

JOSEPHINE ERPS
 I have a dream and I know you won't
 disappoint me.

NATHAN POLEAN
 I won't.

Josephine walks down stairs and out the front door. Nathan
 steps on the gas line and breaks it. Gas pours out into the
 hallway.

Nathan calmly walks over and opens the window in the front
 hallway. Then he calmly walks down stairs towards the desk
 clerk.

INT. TOWN HALL-DAY

NATHAN POLEAN
 Can I borrow a smoke?

Ed just hands Nathan a cigarette while still reading his
 newspaper.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Nathan lights the cigarette and walks out the front door.

EXT. TOWN HALL-DAY

He takes a big puff and throws the cigarette into the second floor window. Nathan calmly walks away. He sees Josephine in the distance and calls out her name.

NATHAN POLEAN

Josephine! Wait up!

He walks quickly to her.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

That was fast. What did they say?

NATHAN POLEAN

It doesn't really matter.

Then BOOM! The second floor of the town hall blows up. The burning debris is falling everywhere as Nathan just smiles at Josephine.

They see Ed and Lou stumble out of what is left of the burning town hall. Nathan and Josephine are not too happy but try not to show it.

NATHAN POLEAN

Lucky bastards.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

We better go over there it makes it look like we care.

NATHAN POLEAN

You're right.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I'll take care of Lou and you tend to Ed.

They head over to help.

EXT. TOWN HALL-DAY

Josephine grabs Lou and whispers something in his ear as she secretly hands him a piece of newspaper. Nathan is concentrating on making sure Ed is OK and he doesn't see what Josephine is doing.

The town's people bring wet cloths for Ed and Lou but they are not hurt just shaken up. Others are pouring buckets on the burning building and trying to clean up the mess as night falls.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Nathan and Josephine are standing in the kitchen.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Do you think Lou suspects it was you that blow up the town hall?

NATHAN POLEAN

I don't know he survived unless he was down stairs at the time of the explosion.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I think you should go over there as a goodwill gesture. After all he and I are the only surviving members of the council and we would need his vote to change any laws.

NATHAN POLEAN

That actually sounds like a very good idea. Why don't you come with me?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

I think this has to be done man to man. You know what I mean.

NATHAN POLEAN

Yeah.

JOSEPHINE ERPS

Take my car and I'll be waiting for you when you return.

Josephine walks past Nathan and brushes her hand on his crotch. He takes her keys and leaves.

EXT. LOU' WOOD'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Nathan arrives at Lou's house to find him waiting for him outside on his porch. It looks like he is hiding something next to his rocking chair.

NATHAN POLEAN

Hey Lou, I just wanted to see how
you were doing?

Nathan gets out of the car and walks towards Lou.

LOU WOOD

It's not personal. It's business.

Lou reveals his shot gun.

LOU WOOD (CONT'D)

All I know is farming and that's my
life. I have nothing against you
Nathan. You're just crazy.

NATHAN POLEAN

What are you talking about?

Lou tosses the newspaper article with Nathan's picture in it.
He catches it and reads it.

LOU WOOD

Josephine. Her and I have a deal. I
take you back to the hospital and
she gives me some farm land in
Buford and control of the lake,
after she buys it.

NATHAN POLEAN

So this is all about strawberries
and water Lou.

LOU WOOD

Funny you say that, water Lou. I'm
not much of a history buff but
didn't Napoleon lose his last
battle at Waterloo?

NATHAN POLEAN

Josephine was in this with me. I
wouldn't trust her.

LOU WOOD

Josephine and I go way back. I was
one of the judges that helped her
become Miss Strawberry Queen.
Besides, she never tried to kill
me. So get in the car and you
drive.

They get into Lou's car and drive away.

EXT. MAIN HIGHWAY-NIGHT

Nathan's mind is running one hundred miles a second. Then he sees an oncoming car in the far distance and gets an idea.

NATHAN POLEAN

I'll make a deal with you Lou.

LOU WOOD

You're not in the position to make deals.

NATHAN POLEAN

Well just listen to this one. See that car up ahead?

Lou looks into the darkness and sees headlights.

LOU WOOD

Yes, so what.

NATHAN POLEAN

I'll stop the car and let you get out or I'll run the truck head on into that car and we'll see who survives.

LOU WOOD

You're crazy.

NATHAN POLEAN

You read the article.

LOU WOOD

If you do that we'll both be killed.

NATHAN POLEAN

Maybe. If you take me back to the hospital, they will kill me. My odds are better surviving a crash.

LOU WOOD

I can shot you right now.

NATHAN POLEAN

Then the car would run off the road and crash into a tree. You might survive and then again you might not.

The oncoming car is getting closer as a nervous Lou decides what to do.

LOU WOOD

I don't think you'll do it because then all your dreams of being the emperor will die.

NATHAN POLEAN

Take the first step and unload the shot gun Lou before it's too late.

Lou is still nervously pondering what to do as the oncoming car gets closer.

NATHAN POLEAN (CONT'D)

Lou, I figure you have about ten seconds to make a decision before I have to make one for you.

Lou takes a deep breath and blesses himself and fastens his seat belt.

LOU WOOD

I don't think you have the balls.

NATHAN POLEAN

We'll find out shortly won't we.

The oncoming car is approaching rapidly. Both men look straight ahead as Nathan turns Lou's side of the truck into the oncoming car. Crash!

EXT. SIDE OF ROAD-NIGHT

Nathan slowly wakes up and can not move.

He rolls his eyes to see the other driver impaled on the tree branches above him. He looks forward to see Lou standing right in front of him without a scratch. Nathan has a look of disbelief in his eyes.

LOU WOOD

You should have blessed yourself and buckled up.

NATHAN POLEAN

You can't trust her. She was going to leave you and the other farmers broke. You can trust me.

LOU WOOD

She's ambitious. You're crazy. I'll take my chances with ambitious.

Lou aims his shot gun at Nathan and fires killing him. Lou turns away and walks back towards town.

EXT. TOWN HALL-DAY

Ten years later Warrenville has a new town hall building. A news van is parked outside.

INT. TOWN HALL COUNCIL ROOM-DAY

A new rebuilt council room is where the NEWS REPORTER is interviewing the new mayor.

NEWS REPORTER

You are the first female mayor and the richest woman in the state. Do you have any advice for other woman thinking of entering politics?

JOSEPHINE ERPS

It's a man's world so act like one.

Josephine smiles and offers the young man a strawberry.

THE END