

BLACK SCREEN

Text crawls from right to left:

"This story is based on REAL mythological figures."

FADE IN:

INT. HEAVEN: THE THRONE ROOM - DAY

We see three thrones from behind. The middle, largest one is ornate with a big "G" on it, the left one, also ornate, has "HG", while the right one, a simple, plain home-made wooden affair, has "JC". Clouds billow around the floor. We hear SNORING.

CLARENCE, a short, somewhat portly angel, is fast asleep on the middle throne, legs over the arm. As a novice angel, his wings are small and under-developed. The place is a mess, clearly from the remains of a big party.

ST PETER enters, dressed in angel attire, i.e. flowing white robes. He is always serene, bathed in the glow of his halo. He moves as if on wheels. He COUGHS politely when he sees Clarence.

Nothing.

He COUGHS louder.

Nothing.

He SIGHS. He grabs his halo and throws it like a boomerang at Clarence. It PINGS the sleeping angel and returns to St Peter. He blows on it, polishes it on his sleeve, then returns it above his head.

ST PETER
Best invention ever!

Clarence initially brushes off the blow, but leaps off the throne when he sees St Peter, grabs his broom and resumes sweeping.

ST PETER (CONT'D)
Nice try, Clarence. Haven't you finished yet? G's gonna be back any day now.

CLARENCE
I know. I know. It's just... those cherubim are disgusting.

ST PETER
That's as may be, but the place better be spotless.

Clarence SIGHS and points at the thrones.

CLARENCE
Are they ALL coming back this time?

ST PETER

Looks like it.

(shudders)

That Holy Ghost gives me the creeps.

CLARENCE

Where've they been all this time - must be over a hundred years by now?

ST PETER

You don't think this is their only planet, do you?

CLARENCE

(chastened)

'Course not. Er... do they know what's been going on down there while...?

ST PETER

(uncomfortably)

Never mind that. Get this place cleaned up.

St Peter leaves. Clarence sweeps more vigorously. He accidentally knocks into the throne. A secret drawer in the arm springs open. Inside there is a scarab, attached to a necklace. It has a slight ethereal glow.

Clarence is curious. He checks no one is looking and picks it up gingerly. He SCREAMS with pain and drops it. He jumps up and down, shaking his hand and blowing on it like it's on fire.

CLARENCE

Holy shit!

It sinks through the cloud floor. Clarence looks down, horrified. There is a hole in the cloud, and we can see the scarab falling towards the land far below.

St Peter rushes back in. Clarence quickly knocks the drawer shut with his hip as he kicks cloud over the hole.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

Caught my hand.

St Peter rolls his eyes, turns and leaves. Clarence opens up the hole in the floor again and gazes down.

EXT. OLYMPUS (CO) - DAY

Wide view of a neat, pretty town with a majestic Rocky Mountains backdrop, all clad in snow - like a scene from a Swiss chocolate box. We see something fall from the sky, with a WHISTLING sound, followed by a PLOP.

CLARENCE

Oh, oh!

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The cave looks very ancient Greek, with beautiful marble columns, amphora and nude statues.

The ancient gods, dressed in togas and laurel wreaths, have fallen asleep in front of a huge feast, barely touched, in front of them. ZEUS and HERA are snoozing very regally at the head of the table on large thrones.

We hear the PLOP sound again.

Zeus suddenly jerks up like a meerkat, and INHALES.

ZEUS

The key!

DISSOLVE TO:

BLACK SCREEN

ALEX

Wednesdays, eh? Aren't they the worst?

FADE IN:

EXT. JUMBO - DAY

CLOSE UP on ALEX, a high school senior, looking bewildered. He is unprepossessing, and looks the studious kid that he is. Clouds are whizzing passed. He is unruffled.

The camera slowly pulls back during the voiceover to reveal him sitting on the wing of a Jumbo jet.

ALEX

If you'd told me a few days ago
I'd be vrooming off to Europe on
the wing of a Jumbo jet at 30,000
feet, I MAY have been skeptical.

He looks towards the cockpit. The pilot does a double-take. Alex gives him a sheepish smile and a wave. The pilot, confused, gives him a little wave back.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It all started a couple of days
ago...

EXT. OLYMPUS (CO) - DAY

The camera glides above the pretty town we saw earlier.

ALEX

I mean, my life was nothing
special...

At ground level we see a sign on the outskirts:

Olympus, Colorado

Fit for the gods

Population: 32,500

Elevation: 3,500 ft

ALEX (CONT'D)
 ... In a pleasant enough town in
 the boondocks...

The camera continues to Alex's modest house.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 With all the thrills and spills
 that entails.

The camera passes effortlessly through the wall into...

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alex lies in bed. The walls are covered in fantasy pictures, movie posters, and scantily clad actresses, models and singers.

ALEX
 I was just a normal high school
 senior.

The camera pans around to show the other wall, covered floor to ceiling in books, with one shelf of academic awards. An impressive array.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Well, almost normal.

DIANE
 Alex, Sweetie. You're going to be
 late.

Alex pulls the covers over his head with a GRUNT.

ALEX
 With parents who really haven't a
 clue what's going on in my life...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

Speech Day. Alex goes up to receive his academic prize in scroll form. His parents applaud, but his mother DIANE looks especially proud.

ALEX
 My mother, bless her, is always
 happy when I pick up these...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Basketball game. The ball comes to Alex. It is an easy shot at the hoop. He misses. His team mates look pissed.

His father, GENE, a physically impressive man, SLAPS his forehead. His mother smiles consolingly.

ALEX
 My dad, on the other hand... a
 sports nut.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

I guess, in his own way, he is proud of me, but... If only I could trade a fraction of the academic stuff for even a little... well, let's just say my ball skills are so bad I'm surprised I can get my underpants on in the morning without serious injury!

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alex is sitting at the table, reading. He moves the book out of the way as his mother places a breakfast tray in front of him. The scene is actually domestic bliss.

ALEX

Yea, I know, I know. Another whiny, self-absorbed brat. But that's the whole point of being a teenager, isn't it?

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT - DAY

Alex watches as a flock of school divas walk by. His gaze focuses in on HELEN, Queen of the Pack. She is picture perfect, absolutely gorgeous, like a model. He lusts after her forlornly. He SIGHS.

A group of jocks walk by and just nonchalantly push him aside. Frustration is written all over his face

EXT. OLYMPUS (CO) - STREET - DAY

Alex and HECTOR (latino) ride their bikes. They are very skilled, absent-mindedly doing "tricks" from time to time, such as balancing on one wheel, etc. Their interaction is very comfortable and warm.

ALEX

This, by the way, is my normal, more prosaic, mode of transport. Oh, and this is my best friend, Hector, my virtual twin. He was born two days before me in the same clinic - and he's not afraid to play the age card.

HECTOR

Listen to your elders, young man.

ALEX

See what I mean?

They turn into the Fairground.

EXT. FAIRGROUND - DAY

Alex and Hector wander aimlessly around the attractions when ALISON comes up behind them. She is a warm, sweet, intelligent girl, pretty but not a hottie.

ALEX

And this is Alison, the final member of our triumvirate. Yes, I know - it doesn't help if I use words like that all the time. I would like to say we are The Three Musketeers, but we're more the Three Bikemen of the Apocalypse. Anyway, I guess that brings you up to speed now.

Hector gestures towards the roller-coaster.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It was just another day in paradise - or so it seemed...

HECTOR

Let's start here, guys.

Alex looks up at the SCREAMING passengers hurtling by.

ALEX

Wouldn't you rather dip your balls in boiling wax?

Hector LAUGHS. Alex is visibly discomfited.

ALISON

Don't be a wuss. Let's go!

ALEX

(to himself)
Shit!

There is a very easy familiarity between the three, but it is clear from the way Alison stays closer to Alex and frequently touches him that she has a big crush on him.

INT. ROLLER-COASTER ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

They join the queue for the roller-coaster. Alex looks very uneasy. He stares at the little girl standing with her mother in front of him. She is so excited about going on the ride, talking umpteen to the dozen.

The carriage arrives. The man in charge directs the flow. Mother and child go into the first row. Alex heads for the back, but the man directs him next to the girl.

ROLLER-COASTER MAN

Fill from the front. Fill from the front.

Alex looks horrified. The girl gives him an excited smile. He turns and sees Hector grinning sadistically.

EXT. ROLLER-COASTER - NIGHT

The roller-coaster gyrates wildly. There is a bright flash and sound of a camera shutter.

FREEZE FRAME the picture. Hector and Alison (2nd row) and mother and daughter (1st row) look thrilled;

Alex looks petrified, his eyes closed. All have their hair standing on end.

P.O.V. ALEX

Alison is holding the photograph. They all LAUGH. She puts it meticulously in her purse.

EXT. OLYMPUS (CO) - STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The boys wave goodbye to Alison, and resume walking with their bikes.

ALEX

Doesn't it bother you we're about to finish high school and we've never really done anything, or been anywhere, or... or... experienced life on the edge.

HECTOR

I missed breakfast this morning.

ALEX

Be still, my beating heart.

HECTOR

Relax. Besides, what adventures could YOU possibly want? You're scared shitless of a roller-coaster.

ALEX

They're not natural!

(sigh)

I guess, all I really want is to get laid.

They both LAUGH.

HECTOR

So speaks Olympus' top scholar!

ALEX

You can laugh. The way things are going, we're both gonna graduate virgins.

They stop dead when they see Helen and the divas straight ahead.

Alex immediately looks nervous, trips over his bike and falls over a hedge. The divas LAUGH, then head off.

Alex lies mortified on the long grass. He holds his side in pain.

HECTOR

Yup. Virgin for life.

As Alex tries to get up, his hand finds something in the long grass. He pulls out the scarab we saw at the beginning. Its ethereal air captivates him. His reverie is interrupted when Hector's helping hand comes into view.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
What you got there?

ALEX
Haven't a clue. It was in the
grass.

He looks at it again. He thrusts it at Hector.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(menacingly)
Maybe it's the Eye of Mordor.

Hector looks at it closely.

HECTOR
(mock excitement)
The one... dung beetle to control
them all.

They LAUGH and start to walk away, Alex clutching his side painfully. He is about to throw the scarab away when he has second thoughts, and puts it in his pocket.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BATHROOM - DAY

Alex takes off his pajama top and looks at a huge bruise in the mirror. He winces. He returns to...

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

He sees the scarab on his bedside table. He picks it up, only mildly interested, hesitates, then puts it around his neck. Immediately, and unbeknownst to him, the huge bruise fades to nothing.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alex is having breakfast on a tray. His mother sits opposite as usual and picks up her sewing. She looks every inch the school librarian she is. She speaks with a slight BBC British accent.

DIANE
Gene, the Principal says Alex
should aim for an Ivy League
School.

GENE
Jesus, Diane. How're we gonna
afford that?

Alex looks hurt. Diane gives him a reassuring, not-to-worry smile... and gives Gene a how-stupid-and-insensitive-can-you-be look! Gene looks back at her with that typical "What? What have I done?" expression.

DIANE
(to Alex)
Don't worry, dear, we'll manage -
even if I have to sell BOTH your
father's kidneys.

As Gene passes a mirror, he rubs his balding pate.

DIANE (CONT'D)
They say baldness makes a man look
virile and handsome.

GENE
I'm not going bald!

DIANE
Well, that's one hell of a
parting, dear!

Alex's brother VINCE comes in, all rippling muscles. He
sees the scarab. He shakes his head disapprovingly.

VINCE
Pressing flowers not enough,
little bro? Now you're wearing
jewelry. You going totally queer
on us?

DIANE
Vince, dear, that's "ARE you going
totally queer?" Grammar, please.

VINCE
Sorry, mom.
(to Alex)
You gotta get outta those... er...

Vince looks at his mother and corrects himself.

VINCE (CONT'D)
(awkwardly)
You need to get out of those books
and do something manly for a
change. Like a real sport.

DIANE
That's better.

Vince nods proudly at this maternal validation.

GENE
Yea, Alex. Even Hector and Alison
are more sporty than you. And...
(pointing to Vince
proudly)
Football scholarship!

Gene puts his arm around Vince and they leave.

ALEX
But he can hardly spell his own
name!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT - DAY

As the trio park their bikes, the School Divas arrive in a
very nice car. The boys are immediately distracted.
Alison looks on in disgust.

ALISON

Seriously, guys? If their brains were dynamite, they wouldn't have enough to blow their hair off.

She leaves. The divas don't even notice the boys' existence as they swan by.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKERS - DAY

Alex, Hector and Alison are at their lockers when some bullies come by, hurling INSULTS at Alex: "Nerd" "Teacher's Pet" "Asshole". Their body language is hostile.

One of the bullies SLAMS Alex's locker shut, right on his fingers, and, cowards that they are, they run off LAUGHING.

Alison and Hector wince. They look at his hand - no harm done. Instead, there are finger indentations in the door. Alex felt nothing. Hector and Alison look at each other in amazement.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - SPORTSFIELD - DAY

Hockey game. Alison dribbles through the opposition and scores a great goal. Her team mates hug her in celebration. Alex and Hector are impressed.

ALEX

Nice one, Ali. Great goal.

She beams, and waves back.

HECTOR

She just cut through them. Got some balls, our Alison.

ALEX

I'm amazed she's still got any teeth!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYING FIELD - DAY

Intra-class soccer game. Hector plays well, but Alex is totally useless. As they walk off the field Alex sees Helen watching, and feels even more dejected. He slumps down next to Alison, clearly on edge.

ALEX

Jesus, I'm crap. We lost 5 nil.

ALISON

You were lucky to get nil!

ALEX

Thanks!

ALISON

But...

She puts her hand on his shoulder, but he pulls away.

ALEX

Just leave me alone, okay?

Hector looks at him disapprovingly.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Hey, Alison, I'm sorry. I...

He turns but she's gone.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ENTRANCE - DAY

The boys are leaving the building.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

An excited Zeus has his arms in the air and his eyes closed. His hands make a come-to-me gesture towards them.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ENTRANCE - DAY

The scarab glows faintly under Alex's shirt.

ALEX
Bummer of a day.

HECTOR
Shit happens, man.

ALEX
Alison?

HECTOR
Still pissed. That wasn't cool,
Alex. She loves you, you know.

ALEX
I love her too. She's like our
sister. We've all been best
friends since we were in diapers.

HECTOR
(to himself)
For someone so clever, you're not
that bright.

ALEX
What?

They are distracted by Helen's perfume as she wafts by. Suddenly, she stops, pauses, then turns back to Alex. They are startled from their reverie.

HELEN
Hi, Alan.

Alex looks behind him, then realizes she's talking to him.

ALEX
Oh... hi.

Helen is very seductive and "helpless" as she speaks.

HELEN
Mr Ellis is so mean. He gave me
an "F".

(MORE)

HELEN (CONT'D)

Now I've gotta do it all over again. And I have plans for the holidays. I don't know what to do.

HECTOR

Try doing the work.

Helen ignores him, concentrating on Alex.

HELEN

I'm gonna flunk... unless someone can help me... not flunk. You reckon you could help me, Alan? I'd be EVER so grateful.

ALEX

(trying to be cool)
Shhhhhure, Helen. It's ALEX, by the way.

She gives him a big fake smile and a small wave.

HELEN

I'll call you. Thanks, Alan.

As she turns, she gives Hector a superior, condescending look. She rejoins her pack. Alex is dumb-struck.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT - DAY

Alex looks dazed as they cycle out of the school grounds.

HECTOR

Didn't see that coming. Be careful, Alex - don't get your hopes up - Helen is a goddess and we are but mere mortals.

ALEX

It's just a little homework, Hector.

HECTOR

Huh! How on earth are you gonna help her? I'll bet she thinks buffalos really do have wings.

ALEX

Is someone a little jealous?

HECTOR

Okay, I admit I wouldn't climb over her to get to you. But, come on, Alex, you've got nothing in common with her. You're thinking with your dick. You know it would just be sex, right?

ALEX

And the problem with that is...?

HECTOR

Okay. You got me. Ask her to bring a friend.

Alex makes a turn towards the snowy mountains.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
Hey. Where are you going...?

Alex continues, oblivious. Hector shrugs and follows.

EXT. HILL ROAD ON MT OLYMPUS (CO) - DAY

The road gets steeper, and the boys have to stand up on the pedals to make progress. Alex's cell phone RINGS as he struggles to pedal.

ALEX
(inhaling rapidly)
Is that...?

As he fumbles to get it, he loses his balance and crashes the bike. The phone falls over the edge of the cliff.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Aaaagh! Shit!

He climbs down to get it. As he reaches it, he slips and knocks it down further into a cave. He follows it in.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The scarab around his neck starts to glow brightly. He picks up the phone and impatiently looks at the screen.

ANGLE ON CELL-PHONE

NO SIGNAL

ALEX
Damn!

He is about to leave, when he is drawn towards a faint blue light coming from deep within the cave. Turning a corner, he stops in his tracks when he sees a wonderful, colorful world. There is a beautiful lake with a clear blue sky above. On one side is land with trees, beautiful flowers, streams and waterfalls, birds and animals. It is like paradise.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Holy Shit.
(shouting)
Hector! Get your ass down here.
You gotta see this.

He rushes out. The scarab is now glowing strongly.

Alex's shout awakens HERMES, dozing on a hammock. The shock causes him to upend the hammock and fall to the ground. He looks a little effeminate, with his winged cap, and winged feet.

HERMES
Stop. Wait.

He rushes after Alex, but hits an invisible force field with a THUD, and slides to the ground.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The ancient gods are bored out of their minds. Hera is on her throne at the head of the table. She looks around.

HERA

Zeusy, where are you, honey?

Nothing. Zeus is apart from the others, pacing nervously up and down.

HERA (CONT'D)

Someone, entertain us. Any volunteers? Aphrodite?

APHRODITE is truly gorgeous and sensual. She is prettying herself in front of a mirror.

CUPID is a child-like being with small wings, usually found flying around in Aphrodite's proximity with a bow and arrow.

ATHENA is another beautiful goddess, but looks more scholarly. She puts on a pair of glasses to read a scroll.

BACCHUS lounges comfortably in a mild alcoholic stupor, quaffing wine and scoffing grapes.

APOLLO keeps himself slightly apart, minding his own business. He is beautiful. Almost effeminate, he sits meticulously manicuring his nails. He discernibly glows.

POSEIDON is very powerfully built, with a permanent curmudgeonly expression. He casually throws his trident up and down like a baton-twirling cheerleader.

POSEIDON

Not HER again! For Chrissakes.

Everyone looks up in horror.

HERA

Wash your mouth...

Zeus CLICKS his fingers and appears instantaneously on his throne at Hera's side.

ZEUS

This is it, guys. The key is here!

Excited, he absentmindedly throws a thunderbolt here and there. Whatever it hits is burnt to a cinder, but immediately regenerates as new. His wandering eye catches the beautiful serving nymphs. Hera watches him carefully and gives the cold eye to any nymph who gets too close.

Zeus looks around at his disconsolate family. They haven't grasped the importance of this moment yet.

APOLLO

Eh?

ZEUS
 What's the matter with you morons?
 The key is here!

The penny finally drops. There is a palpable excitement.
 Hermes rushes in.

HERMES
 (excited)
 He's here! The bearer of the key
 is here! The scarab is outside!

They all look at him as if that's old news.

ZEUS
 (to Hera)
 What bloody good is a messenger
 if...?

Hera makes a calm down gesture and smiles benignly at the mystified Hermes.

POSEIDON
 About bloody time too, if you ask
 me.

ZEUS
 Bring him in.

Hermes' expression turns from excitement to dread.

HERMES
 Ah!... He, er, left again, dad.

ZEUS
 What?! Stupid boy!

Zeus throws a thunderbolt at Hermes but he ducks and it hits a startled Apollo instead. Apollo lights up like a Christmas Tree. Hermes slinks behind his father.

Poseidon is startled by the explosion - his trident lands on Cupid, pinning him to the ground by the neck. He grabs his trident back and threatens Hermes with it. Cupid rubs his neck in relief.

POSEIDON
 How could you let him get away?

HERA
 (fuming)
 We finally get a chance to leave
 this...
 (gesturing towards
 paradise)
 ... dump, and you screw up. I
 don't know. I blame your
 father...

She looks at Zeus angrily. Zeus gives her a bored "here-we-go-again" look. The gods are all agitated and picking on Hermes. There is so much bottled up tension.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Alex and Hector marvel at the miraculous world in front of them. Hector crosses himself.

HECTOR
Wow! You were right. What is
this? The Batcave?

ALEX
Isn't it awesome?

Cautiously, they walk forward.

HECTOR
(hesitatingly)
What do we do now? Call the
police?

ALEX
To tell them what?

HECTOR
I dunno. Hey, look at your
necklace! It's on fire. What's
that all about?

The scarab is glowing brightly.

ALEX
It's a SCARAB, Hector.

HECTOR
Potato, po-tah-to.

Alex gingerly touches the scarab as if it were hot, but it isn't. He looks puzzled.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

Zeus magics up a huge virtual screen. Everyone concentrates on the giant image of the boys standing in the cave. As it zooms in on the scarab around Alex's neck, there is an audible GASP of excitement.

POSEIDON
That's it! The key!

ZEUS
Okay. Everyone stay calm. We
don't want to scare them off.
Hmmm. How are we going to get
them to come in?

ATHENA
You mean, two horny boys?

They all turn towards Aphrodite. She smiles seductively.

ZEUS
Good girl, Aphrodite. We need a
really good show here.

Zeus spots the permanently angry-looking ARES.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

And Ares had better stay out of sight.

He turns Ares into a statue, frozen in the act of protesting.

HERA

Zeus, he's our son!

ZEUS

I don't care. That boy gives me the willies.

INT. CAVE - DAY

[This image is from Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus" - included as an Appendix for reference.] Beautiful celestial MUSIC suddenly fills the cave. The boys are alarmed and about to run when they see the voluptuous figure of a naked Aphrodite, a picture of loveliness, rise serenely from the lake on a huge shell, her hands strategically preserving her modesty. She is completely dry. She is blown towards the shore by 2 intertwined semi-naked winged spirits. She is joined by one of the Horae, goddesses of the seasons, dressed in medieval gown, who hands her a flowered cloak. Flowers are floating down from heaven.

For a moment, the boys stand in awe, jaws agape.

ALEX

It can't be. That looks like Aphrodite, the goddess of love.

HECTOR

Wow! Pretty hot for all those miles on the clock.

Aphrodite SNEEZES.

ALEX

Gesundheit.

Alex awkwardly offers her his jacket. She looks genuinely surprised and touched by the gesture, but declines.

APHRODITE

Thank you. Yes, I am Aphrodite.

ALEX

But you live in Greece, not Colorado.

HECTOR

(to Alex)

THAT'S the only thing you find odd here - her zipcode?

APHRODITE

(sadly)

Ah, that was such a long time ago.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The gods are totally concentrated on the virtual screen.

POSEIDON
(impatiently)
Just grab them and bring them in!

ZEUS
Patience, brother. Patience. You
know we can't touch the bearer of
the scarab.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Aphrodite holds out her hand invitingly to the boys, but they stand rooted to the ground. She smiles radiantly.

APHRODITE
Do not be afraid. Let me show you
around. It'll be so nice to have
company again.

The boys WHISPER to one another.

ALEX
She LOOKS friendly enough.

HECTOR
Not to say, drop-dead gorgeous.
Man, no wonder those Greeks
worshipped her. I'd be her toy
boy, any day.

APHRODITE
(smiling benignly)
I'm afraid that's not an option...

The kids look surprised.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)
But if you ask for anything
reasonable...

HECTOR
What? Grant a wish? What is
this? Aladdin's cave?... I
know...

Suddenly, Hector's face lights up as an enormous swelling appears in his pants, and he falls over.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
Aaagh! That was a joke -
something else! Something else!

APHRODITE
(smirking)
Friendly word of advice - we can
read minds!

She returns Hector to normal. He gets up and checks his privates.

HECTOR

Wow! Some trick! Hey, Alex, why don't you ask for Helen? Maybe that'll get her out of your system, once and for all. What the hell? She's gonna chew you up and spit you out anyway!

APHRODITE

(yawns)
Shooting fish in a barrel.

She walks gracefully towards them. Suddenly, there is a BOINK sound as she hits the invisible force field. The boys look puzzled at each other.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

Ouch!

Recovering her composure, she beckons to the boys to come forward. They look at each other indecisively.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

(seductively)
Come. You won't be disappointed.

P.O.V. FROM BEHIND APHRODITE - DAY

Aphrodite gradually lets the cloak slip from her shoulder. It falls to the ground. She is stark naked once again. She raises her hands to rearrange her hair.

ALEX

(dreamily)
Ask for who?

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The gods are watching intently on Zeus' impromptu screen.

ZEUS

That's my girl! Now, we've got them. Get everything ready. And remember: behave... or else!

They all perform magic at the same time. Flowers spring up. Plates of food and goblets of wine fly around and crash into one another, spilling everywhere.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Enough!

With a heavy SIGH, he waves his arm and order is restored.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

If you want a job done properly,...

INT. CAVE - DAY

ETHEREAL MUSIC is playing. The boys' eyes are popping out of their heads. They are bathed in a warm light. Again, Aphrodite puts out her hand and beckons them forward.

HECTOR
 (whispering)
 What's with all the... hair? And
 she's a bit... chunky, isn't she?

APHRODITE
 I heard that!

ALEX
 (annoyed)
 What's the matter with you? She's
 classically "full-figured".

HECTOR
 (chuckling)
 "Full-figured"? Listen to you.

ALEX
 She's gorgeous.

Alex approaches her, trance-like. Hector looks nervously around, then follows him. They pass through the invisible barrier easily, as if walking through a waterfall. The scarab is glowing very brightly.

THE GODS
 They're in!

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

Aphrodite leads the boys to the inner sanctum. When the gods see the scarab glowing around Alex's neck, they are enthralled, nervous, impatient. They sit the boys at the table, and treat them like royalty. The boys are amazed at the spectacle of the gods at home.

HECTOR
 Who are all these people?

ALEX
 It looks like a... whole gaggle of
 Greek gods! Maybe she really is
 Aphrodite. Amazing!

ZEUS
 Smart boy, Alex...

ALEX
 How do you know my name?

ZEUS
 We are the gods.

HECTOR
 (laughing)
 Get outta here.

ZEUS
 That's exactly what we intend to
 do.

Hector looks puzzled, but is then distracted as fantastic food appears before them. He tucks in enthusiastically;

Alex is more cautious. Whenever they eat something, the plate is magically replenished.

HECTOR
Do you think they've got any
tortillas to go with this?

ALEX
You're thinking about food? Now?

Alex turns to Zeus.

ALEX (CONT'D)
If you are the ancient gods, how
come you speak English?

HECTOR
What are you talking about?
They're speaking Spanish.

ZEUS
We gods speak directly to the
brain. Everyone understands us...
even the Irish, occasionally.

Cupid is in the background excitedly practicing with his bow and arrows. His aim is lousy.

ALEX
If you really are the gods,
then..., er,... who did Zeus rape
in the form of a swan to beget
Helen of Troy?

Hector looks at Alex strangely and mouths the word "beget!?".

Zeus looks very embarrassed; Hera looks very angry. Zeus motions towards Hera with his thumb.

ZEUS
Hey, kid, you're killing me here.
(whispers)
Leda.

ALEX
Okay.

HECTOR
That doesn't prove anything. YOU
know that and you're not a god.

ALEX
(to Zeus)
Why are you here?

Zeus's face gets angry. There is a rumble of thunder. Then he remembers the boys are there and calms down.

ZEUS
You know, everything was fine
until your God broke our deal.

ALEX
What deal?

ZEUS
I knew it!
(to Hera)
See? I told you we couldn't trust
that one. They never heard about
our deal.

EXT. CLOUDS - DAY

There is a sign overhead:

1,012th Annual Deity Conference

Cloud 9

The gods are all huddled around a table, along with deities from other parts of the world - Buddha, Brahma, Shiva, and so on. Mid-air above the table is a floating globe.

ZEUS
(to Alex)
We agreed to carve up the world
between us.

ANGLE ON GLOBE

A hand appears holding a knife. It carves up the globe.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
It worked fine until your God got
greedy and wanted it all. We were
tricked into this imprisonment.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

Hector crosses himself.

HECTOR
Our God doesn't TRICK people.

ALEX
Why imprison you? Why not just
kill you?

ZEUS
Duh! We're immortal. No one can
kill us.

ALEX
So, what are you doing here?

POSEIDON
(angrily)
Kicking our damn heels, that's
what.

ZEUS
What my brother is trying to say
is that we've been cooped up here
for centuries, isolated.

(MORE)

ZEUS (CONT'D)

And we have not been enjoying what is rightfully ours.

HECTOR

And what would that be?

ZEUS

We want to be worshipped again. That's what gods are for - worshipping. Them's the rules.

Hector crosses himself again.

HECTOR

Holy mother of Jesus! That would really piss off the Pope... and my mom!

ALEX

Why do you need to be worshipped?

They look at him, stumped. They don't know what to say.

POSEIDON

That's what we do.

ALEX

And what do we get?

Again, they look stumped.

BEAT

HECTOR

Alex, we should leave - this is getting too weird. I don't trust them. Come on, let's go.

He gets up, but his attention is diverted by the nymphs.

ZEUS

Alex, my friend, we mean no harm.

He gestures to Aphrodite to sit on the other side of the boy. As Zeus continues to talk, Alex finds his gaze seriously distracted by the careless way Aphrodite's toga fails to cover her breasts.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

When we were in charge, the world was a much simpler and more tolerant place. We're not going to cause any trouble.

ALEX

Didn't you throw Christians to the lions?

POSEIDON

Wouldn't you?

Without taking his eyes away from Alex, Zeus waves a finger at Poseidon and he looks like The Man in the Iron Mask. Poseidon's protests are mute and in vain.

ZEUS

Sure... maybe that was... a bit
cruel... to the lions. But these
are details, dear boy. Details.

HERA

Alex, will you be our guide to
this new world?

ALEX

(surprised)
Me?!?

HERA

We don't know what's happened
while we've been locked up here.

Aphrodite smiles and turns slightly towards him. Her
breast slips out from her toga once again.

APHRODITE

We need someone intelligent like
you, Alex.

She caresses his arm. He crosses his legs, embarrassed.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

You'll do this for us, won't you,
Alex?

Alex turns to Hector, but he is surrounded by gorgeous
nymphs and couldn't care less!

HERA

We are very generous to our
friends, Alex. Whatever you want.

APHRODITE

I've already promised him Helen.

Alex fantasizes.

INT. STAPLES CENTER, LA - EVENING

The LA Lakers are playing the Houston Rockets. The score
is LAKERS 100 ROCKETS 101. There are only seconds left to
play. Alex, in Lakers strip, has possession of the ball.
He launches it into the net. A fantastic shot. The BUZZER
goes. All the players treat him like a hero.

ALEX

My dad would be so happy if I got
on the basketball team.

Gene has a front row seat and is jumping up and down
ecstatically. He runs onto the court to hug his son.
Vince remains seated, jealously watching from the side.

EXT. MONUMENT VALLEY - DAY

ALEX

Oh, and I've always wanted a
convertible.

CLOSE UP on Alex driving a beautiful 1960 Cadillac with the top down. He looks so cool with his Oakleys! The camera pulls back to reveal Helen next to him... and his school backpack in the back. He drives with one arm around her.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The gods look at each other, completely lost. Poseidon manages to rip the mask off. He is now calmer.

ZEUS
Okay. We'll figure out what they are.

ALEX
That easy?

ZEUS
Yes.

ALEX
If you can do all that, why can't you get yourself out of here?

ZEUS
This force field is too strong, even for me - nothing can get in or out - except with the key.

Zeus points at the glowing scarab.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
But I do still have power, Alex. Look below you.

Alex looks and suddenly grabs the table. They appear to be floating above a huge abyss, and at the bottom is the Underworld. HADES, a pallid, ghostly figure, dressed in black leather biker gear, waits on the bank of the River Styx for the ferryman bringing the souls of the dead. Hades gives a ghoulish thumbs up. Zeus acknowledges it.

ALEX
Aaaagh!

The Underworld disappears.

Poseidon tries to get in closer to the conversation, but trips over Cupid, and accidentally lets fly his trident.

SLOW MOTION

The trident heads straight for Alex. Looks of horror on the faces of the gods. Alex turns to see the trident just as it reaches him. The scarab becomes incandescent.

Before Alex can react, there is a THUD sound as the trident hits a force field millimeters from his heart. The trident turns into rose petals that fall gently to the ground.

NORMAL MOTION

ALEX (CONT'D)
Wow! Thanks. You saved my life.

Zeus, slightly out of Alex's sight line, shrugs to Hera, making it clear it wasn't him.

Poseidon, meanwhile, grabs Cupid angrily and dunks him in a huge amphora of wine, holding him under by the ankles.

POSEIDON

You're worse than a dog, runt.

APHRODITE

He didn't mean to, Uncle P.

Poseidon looks at her, then at Zeus. The message is clear. He pulls Cupid out and throws him into the air. He flies around VERY erratically, HICCUPPING.

Alex watches this with wide-eyed wonder.

ALEX

Hector, these really are the Greek gods. Isn't this awesome?

Zeus suddenly looks very excited and very eager. He leans in, trying not to intimidate Alex. He is almost shaking with anticipation.

ZEUS

You see that jewel over there?

Their gaze turns to a huge jewel atop a pedestal.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Hold the scarab and point it at the jewel.

Alex is a little confused, but doesn't see any harm. He takes out the scarab.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Good. Now rub it and say...
"Black olives".

ALEX

(surprised)
Black olives?

ZEUS

You got something against black olives?

Alex rubs the scarab and points it at the jewel. Both glow incandescently.

ALEX

Black olives.

The moment the words escape his lips, there is a WHOOSHING sound, and a great flow of energy rushes to the scarab as it absorbs the force field. Alex is knocked backwards and momentarily winded by the force on the scarab.

Big FLASH.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - NIGHT

The gods are on the top of the mountain enjoying their sudden freedom. Zeus is standing with his arms raised high. Lightning flows from both. There is the Mother of all Storms. Poseidon is so pleased, he even hugs Cupid.

Alex is happy, exhilarated and scared. The scarab around his neck is glowing brightly.

ALEX

This is gonna be so much fun!

Hector stands next to him, looking very worried. He crosses himself again.

HECTOR

Oh, oh! What the hell have you done, Alex?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HEAVEN: CLOUDS - DAY

ST PETER and ST MICHAEL are playing Grand Theft Auto in front of a giant image on a cloud. The WHOOSH from below reverberates.

ST PETER

That can't be good.

EXT. HEAVEN: CLOUDS - DAY

POV back of 3 thrones on a cloud. St Peter is addressing the occupants.

ST PETER

... so, it looks as though they've escaped.

JESUS stands up, halo over his head, looking very serene and divine.

BEAT

JESUS

Holy Shit!

EXT. HEAVEN: PEARLY GATES - DAY

St Peter and St Michael are briefing Clarence. The Mission Impossible Theme Tune plays in the background.

ST PETER

Your mission, Clarence, is to neutralize the scarab before...
(he crosses himself)
...all Hell breaks loose.

CLARENCE

(surprised)
Me? But how? We can't touch it.
And I don't have my wings yet.

ST PETER

You got us into this mess, you'd better fix it - and before G gets back.

CLARENCE

You won't regret it, chief. I won't let you down.

THE CAMERA PANS BEHIND ST PETER'S BACK

St Peter's has all his fingers crossed.

EXT. HEAVEN: PEARLY GATES - DAY

Clarence is in a leather flying suit, white scarf and goggles. He has a jet pack on his back. He salutes awkwardly to St Peter, and fires up the jet pack. Out of control, it flies up and up.

ST PETER

(shouting, and pointing downwards)

You're going the wrong way!

Clarence flies into a cloud, out of sight.

EXT. CLOUDS - DAY

Resting on the clouds is a Quarter Moon, with a boy and a fishing rod on it [it is the Dreamworks sign]. Suddenly, Clarence appears through the cloud and CRASHES into the moon. Startled, the boy slips off the moon and barely manages to hang on by his fingertips. Clarence, meanwhile, falls straight down and lands...

EXT. HEAVEN: PEARLY GATES - DAY

... at St Peter's feet. St Peter & St Michael roll their eyes. St Peter helps Clarence back onto his feet, then lifts him up and launches him like a javelin down to earth.

ST PETER

God help us!

St Michael crosses himself.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

With 9 full size gods all standing, huddled in the middle, they keep bumping into each other or the furniture. Cupid can't stand the crush and flies out through the wall.

HERA

Very, er,... cosy!
(whispering to Zeus)

Do something.

Zeus struggles to free his hand, then gives it a gentle wave. The walls and furniture retreat in all directions. Gene and Diane stand in amazement.

ALEX
 Mom. Dad. These are, er... gods
 from Europe.

DIANE
 If you say so, dear. Welcome to
 our humble abode.

GENE
 (loudly and slowly)
 Wel-come. Mi casa es su casa.

ALEX
 Dad, please, they're foreign - not
 deaf... or stupid.

With a large friendly smile, Gene extends his hand to shake theirs. They raise their right hands in greeting.

GODS
 Salve!

Gene feels rather awkward, but he can't help but be impressed by how fit and virile they look.

GENE
 (to himself)
 Please yourselves.

DIANE
 Tea? Coffee?

The gods wander about, touching anything and everything, completely relaxed. Alex tries to guide them towards chairs, but it's like herding cats.

ALEX
 Where's Hector?

POSEIDON
 Home. We don't need him.

Alex looks sad for a moment, then shrugs. There is excitement in his face.

ZEUS
 (to Alex)
 So, this place is called
 "Olympus"? Nice touch. Your
 God's got a sense of humor.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

Clarence comes in to land, but bounces several times before coming to a complete stop, upside down, in a bush. He dusts himself down. He looks proud of himself.

CLARENCE
 Getting better!

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Diane holds out a tray of cakes and cookies to Hera.

DIANE
 Europe, eh? That's nice. I
 haven't been to Europe for years -
 SOMEONE here never has the time.
 (sighing)
 I'd love to see Paris and the
 Eiffel Tower again.

HERA
 Paris?

ALEX
 You would have known it as
 Lutetia, in Gaul.

Diane looks at him, impressed.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (sotto voce)
 Asterix books.

Hera looks at Zeus, who gives a "why not?"-look back. He
 motions to Hermes to go. In an instant, he is gone.

Bacchus picks up a beer can.

GENE
 Help yourself.

Bacchus looks at it quizzically.

BACCHUS
 What does it do?

GENE
 Do? It's a beer can.

BACCHUS
 Ah! Beer!

Bacchus ignores the ring pull and gently pokes his finger
 straight into the can. It squirts out, startling all the
 gods. He swallows it all in one gulp. He puts the can
 down, and looks at Zeus, disappointed.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
 Bleagh!

Gene looks a little hurt. Hermes suddenly reappears, and
 nods to Zeus.

ZEUS
 Madam, please look outside.

Obligingly, Diane goes to the window. Startled, she lets
 go of the tray which CRASHES to the floor. Her jaw drops.

DIANE
 Oh, my goodness.

They all rush to the window to gawk at... the Eiffel Tower
 in the field behind the house. Zeus waves his hand.

INT. JULES VERNE RESTAURANT AT TOP OF EIFFEL TOWER - DAY

Alex's family look around as very startled and confused French waiters, all with cliché moustaches and white aprons, try to understand what just happened. They argue with each other in French and push each other around.

Zeus and Hera stand to the side, unimpressed.

Looking at the view, Diane's expression goes from excitement to disappointment.

DIANE
Of course, it's not really the
same in Colorado, is it?

ZEUS
(to Alex)
I see women haven't changed much
in 2,000 years!

ALEX
Better send it back. The
French... I mean, the Gauls... are
a pretty touchy lot.

HERA
You think they would miss... this?

Zeus waves his hand, and they are back in...

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

They see Gene looking at his bald head in the mirror.

ZEUS
Something wrong with your head?

GENE
(embarrassed)
No!

He looks jealously at the flowing locks on the gods.

GENE (CONT'D)
It's just... when I see your
hair...

ZEUS
Oh, that. No problem.

Zeus waves his finger. Instantly, Gene's hair grows back. He checks it excitedly in the mirror with both hands.

GENE
Look, Diane. It's back.

DIANE
That's nice, dear.

GENE
Can you bottle this? We can make
a fortune here.

HERMES

Really? Tell me more.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - TV SCREEN - DAY

The TV weather map shows clouds and storms over the whole USA - EXCEPT Olympus, Colorado.

WEATHERMAN

So, the whole lower 48 is covered by this freak stormy weather, with the exception of...

(points to the map)

... Olympus, Colorado here. I've never seen anything like it in all my 20 years...

The weather report is interrupted by BREAKING NEWS sign.

A NEWS ANCHOR appears on screen.

NEWS ANCHOR

Reports are coming in that the Eiffel Tower has been stolen...

We see images of a startled and angry Parisian mob where the Eiffel Tower used to stand.

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

... by the British. Is this a Comic Relief stunt?

The next picture is of the tower on the Thames, near Parliament. The British look very bemused and confused.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ALEX

(to Zeus)

You missed!

ZEUS

(mischievously)

I never miss.

Vince comes home, gives Alex a wedgie and laughs inanely.

VINCE

So, what's with all the fancy dress, runt? A toga party?

ATHENA

Who is this base specimen?

ALEX

(chuckling)

This retard is my brother, Vince.

Vince gives Alex a hard shove, almost knocking him over.

VINCE

Watch your mouth, nancy boy.

Zeus shakes his head disapprovingly and turns Vince into a gecko. Diane, who has not seen any of this as she has served her guests, turns round.

DIANE
(puzzled)
Oh. I thought I heard Vince.
Cake anyone?

The door bell RINGS.

DIANE (CONT'D)
My goodness, who could that be?
Excuse me. I'll be right back.

Diane goes to answer it.

ALEX
(whispering to
Zeus)
I know he's a jerk, but you gotta
turn him back.

ZEUS
Got to!?! He's lucky I didn't feed
him to the Minotaur. Here, take
this.

A glass jar appears from thin air in his outstretched hand. Inside it is a fly.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
When you think he's learned his
lesson, feed him this magic fly -
it will turn him back to normal -
if that's what you really want.

Alex looks at the fly, then the gecko. He is about to free the fly, but the gecko is gesticulating angrily.

ALEX
You never let up, do you, Vince?

He pockets the jar, ignoring the gecko's protests.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

Clarence is standing at the door. He suddenly realizes he's still wearing leathers. He panics. He waves his hand and is wearing a deep sea diving suit.

CLARENCE
Wrong!

He tries again. A ballet costume.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)
(desperately)
No!

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bacchus and Apollo find the drinks cabinet. Apollo is intrigued by Alex's sunglasses and iPod lying on top.

He strikes a David Caruso pose from CSI Miami as he puts on the shades. He looks in the mirror and nods approvingly. [From now on, Apollo is always wearing the sunglasses.]

APOLLO

Cool.

He looks at the iPod puzzled. Alex puts the earphones in the god's ears and switches it on. Apollo's expression becomes very excited. He looks at the iPod, incredibly impressed.

APOLLO (CONT'D)

(loudly)

Sure beats the droning of those priestesses - miserable cows!

Alex motions to him to lower his voice.

Bacchus, impatient with the intricacies of the lock on the drinks cabinet, decides to push it right through with his finger. His eyes light up. He holds up a bottle of scotch.

GENE

30 year old single malt. You have a good eye.

Passing him a shot glass, he gestures to Bacchus to have some.

BACCHUS

Thanks.

Gene watches wide-eyed and horrified as Bacchus holds up the near full bottle, and drinks it all, finally wiping his mouth dry on his sleeve. Impressed, Bacchus looks at the bottle label. He nods approvingly, then puts his hand to his chest.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Wow! Quite a kick!

He turns to look for another bottle in the cabinet, but Gene heads him off urgently.

GENE

You got a real problem there, fella.

(to himself)

Shit! A hundred bucks! What a schmuck!

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

Diane opens the door to a beggar - it is Clarence.

CLARENCE

(flustered)

Er... any old cans or plastic bottles, ma'am?

DIANE

Well, it's not a good time right
now,...

In the background, Cupid is practicing on a dart board. He fires an arrow, misses and hits Diane. She falls instantly in love with Clarence. Her expression changes from kindly to demurely lustful. She grabs him and pulls him in.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Come in.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Clarence is sitting at the table while Diane lays out all sorts of food and drink in front of him.

DIANE

More apple pie?

Embarrassed, Cupid flies back, through the wall, to...

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cupid hides behind Aphrodite. Gene finds it hard to take his eyes off the voluptuous goddess. Bacchus is fast asleep on the floor in the corner. Apollo is lying on a sofa like a teenager, with his feet up over the sofa arm, nodding and gyrating gently to the music from the iPod.

ALEX

Things have changed a bit since
you were... you know. Rome and
Athens are, well, basically just
tourist spots now.

ATHENA

What!? But they were the center
of the civilized world... thanks
to us!

ALEX

Down the tubes, like many others
since - Spain, France, Britain.

HERA

Zeus, honey, we've got to go home -
see Athens and Rome.

ZEUS

Okay, my sweet. You're coming
too, Alex.

ALEX

Me? I've got a test tomorrow.

ZEUS

(waving his hand in
the air)
You just got 100%.

ALEX

Can Hector and Alison come as
well? Er... also 100%?

ZEUS
(nodding to Hermes)
If they must.

Hermes vanishes.

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Hector is getting Alison a coke.

HECTOR
... and there were these gorgeous
waitresses... or whatever they
were.

Alison touches his forehead.

ALISON
What have you been smoking,
Hector?

Suddenly, Hermes appears. They are both startled. Hermes waves his hand and they all disappear.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ALEX
So, how are you going to do this?
Will you beam us up?

Zeus looks at him puzzled.

Suddenly, Hector and Alison appear.

HECTOR
What the...?

Zeus ignores them.

ZEUS
We can do it like this...

He CLICKS his fingers.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
Or... No, I have a better idea...
let's get a good look at this new
world.

ALEX
They want to see Greece. Are you
in or out?

Hector and Alison look at one another confused.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The gods and the kids are flying through the air. There is a faint protective air bubble visible around the kids.

ALEX
Too late.

ALISON

This is awesome. I thought Hector
was pulling my chain.

Hector edges closer to Aphrodite. He looks besotted.

HECTOR

I don't feel safe. Can I hold
your hand?

Aphrodite raises an eyebrow, then holds his hand. He looks
like the cat that got the cream.

EXT. NIAGARA FALLS - DAY

The gods pause to admire Niagara Falls. They dive in and
out half way up, although they don't actually get wet.
Onlookers are very confused. Alex is exhilarated.

ALISON

I should have brought my camera.

Poseidon sees The Maid of the Mist sailing towards the
falls. He raises his trident to throw it. Zeus
intervenes.

ZEUS

Not yet, brother. Not yet.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The gods are fascinated by a jumbo jet. They sit on the
wings, bouncing up and down.

Alex sits on the wing. He gives the pilot a sheepish smile
and a wave. The pilot, confused, gives him a little wave
back. Alex turns to the camera and shrugs.

Ares stands on the engine and bends down to look in.

ALEX

I wouldn't do that if I...

Ares suddenly gets sucked into the engine.

ALEX (CONT'D)

... were you.

Alex is horrified and looks back. Ares comes shooting out
the back of the engine like a bullet before regaining his
composure and flying back to the plane.

Ares stands next to Alex and looks around at the other
gods. They never noticed what happened. He puts his
forefinger to his mouth.

ARES

Not a word, mortal. Understood?

ALEX

(suppressing a
smile)

My lips are sealed.

Zeus walks up to the window and peeks in.

INT. JUMBO - DAY

There is pandemonium in the plane as the gods walk through the walls of the plane.

EXT. JUMBO - DAY

Alex hesitates. Athena grabs him kindly by the hand, while Apollo puts his arms round Hector and Alison and guides them in.

INT. JUMBO - DAY

The three friends are amazed, and pat themselves down to double check.

BACCHUS

(to Alex)

You travel in beer cans! Amazing!

The plane's few passengers are confused and panicking.

ZEUS

(to Alex)

What's the matter with these people? Haven't they seen gods before?

ALEX

Maybe they're not used to hitchhikers at 30,000 feet.

Zeus SHOUTS at the passengers.

ZEUS

QUIET!

Everything shakes like in an earthquake. Everyone is cowed into silence. Some WHIMPER.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

That's better.

(to Alex)

So, you mortals can fly now! Impressive!

HERA

It's so cramped in here. How do they put up with it?

ARES

Yes. There isn't room to swing a Trojan.

A teenager looks puzzled, opens her purse and looks at a condom quizzically.

Zeus waves his arms and the fuselage expands considerably in all directions, then the center of the plane empties to be replaced with reclining couches.

ZEUS

(to Hera)

Is that more to your liking, my sweet?

HERA

I suppose it'll do.

Zeus rolls his eyes.

ZEUS

Why don't we ask the driver to take us home while we feast? Would you like that, my dear?

Hera nods grudgingly.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

(to Hermes)

Tell the driver to take us to Athens.

Hermes obediently rushes to the front of the plane.

INT. JUMBO COCKPIT - DAY

The two pilots are in a state of shock.

PILOT 1

You'd better take over, Bill. I'm seeing things. I could've sworn I just saw...

PILOT 2

No, no, Jim. I saw it too...

Hermes walks through the locked security door into the cockpit. The pilots are startled. Pilot 1 instinctively presses the emergency signal button.

HERMES

Dad wants to go to Athens.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

A red alarm light and SIREN suddenly start up. Everyone springs to attention. The CONTROLLER is startled and spills his coffee all over his pants. He grimaces and is about to explete when he sees his colleagues staring at him.

CONTROLLER

Hijacking! Emergency procedures. NOW!

He dabs his pants with a cloth.

CONTROLLER (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Ow! Ow! Ow!

INT. JUMBO - DAY

Zeus beckons to the cabin crew.

ZEUS

Now, slaves, we are minded to feast. You may serve us.

The cabin crew serve them from the trolley. Zeus looks at the food, tries a bite, then almost gags.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

What manner of poison is this?

There is a CHEER from the passengers. Suddenly, there is a wild boar roasting over a bonfire in the middle of the plane. The passengers start COUGHING because of the smoke. Zeus smoothly makes a hole in the roof with his hand.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Okay. Let's get this party started.

All the while, Alex and his friends watch events with wide-eyed wonder. This is fun!

EXT. AIRFORCE BASE - DAY

Three war planes are being scrambled.

INT. JUMBO - DAY

ANGLE ON

The gods lying back and feasting.

PULL BACK

The two pilots have joined the gods and are very merry on the food and wine.

ZEUS

We need some dancing girls.

He looks at the stewardesses. They are nearly all over 50, or even 60.

Pilot 1 looks at Zeus wistfully.

PILOT 1

This IS an American airline.
Unions, you know.

Zeus magics up a goblet with mist dripping over it.

ZEUS

Ladies, try this.

They obediently pass around the goblet and drink from it.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

(to Pilot 1)
This will take 30 years off them.

As they drink, they morph (and shrink!) into gorgeous young women. Except the last, much younger stewardess. She becomes a 2 year-old baby.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Oops!

The stewardesses start dancing, scantily clad, around the bonfire.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

The CONTROLLER is on the radio to the fighter planes.

CONTROLLER

Do you have a visual?

AIR FORCE PILOT

Affirmative. I can... wait...
There's someone sitting on the
hood.

CONTROLLER

What? Are you shitting me?

The Controller looks at the others and smiles nervously.

CONTROLLER (CONT'D)

Am I being punk'd?

INT. FIGHTER PLANE COCKPIT - DAY

The lead fighter pilot brings his plane up parallel with the airliner's cockpit. We see Hermes sitting cross-legged on the hood, enjoying the ride.

AIR FORCE PILOT

And there's no one in the cockpit.
Oh, and the plane...

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

The Controller slumps in his chair.

AIR FORCE PILOT

It's, er, swollen in the middle,
with smoke coming out the top.
What do we do?

INT. JUMBO - DAY

Athena is deep in conversation with Alex. Alison watches jealously from afar. She turns to Hector.

ALISON

I think it's time to go back.

HECTOR

Are you kidding? This is awesome.

Hector rests his head on his hand as he stares adoringly at Aphrodite.

ATHENA

Harvard, eh? If that's what you
want, do it.

ALEX
 Huh! If only life were that simple. It costs an arm and a leg.

Athena holds out her hand. Suddenly a pouch materialises on it. She gives it to Alex.

ATHENA
 This should help.

He takes out a gold coin and looks at her picture on it.

ATHENA (CONT'D)
 Not my best side, but...

ALEX
 (disappointed)
 They're not valid currency anymore.

ATHENA
 You're a bright lad, Alex. I'm sure you'll figure out something.

She puts her hand reassuringly on his arm. Athena spots Alison's jealous reaction. She smiles benignly. Alex is distracted by the sight of the warplanes outside.

ALEX
 Oh! Oh! We've got company.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

The Controller and several officials are debating what to do next.

CONTROLLER
 Orders are clear.

INT. FIGHTER PLANE COCKPIT - DAY

CONTROLLER
 (on radio)
 If the plane poses any threat, shoot it down. Understood?

BEAT

AIR FORCE PILOT
 Affirmative.

The pilot unlocks his weapons system.

INT. JUMBO - DAY

Alex goes up to Zeus and points out the window.

ZEUS
 Ares. Bring them in.

Ares walks out of the plane on to the wing, pointedly giving the engine a wide berth.

INT. FIGHTER PLANE COCKPIT - DAY

The air force pilot is stunned.

AIR FORCE PILOT
Er..., control! Do you read me?
There's someone walking on the...

He disappears from the cockpit. As do the other two pilots.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

CONTROLLER
Yes? Walking where? Hello?
Hello?

INT. JUMBO - DAY

The three pilots are lying on couches being fed and watered by the stewardesses.

ALEX
What about the planes? And their
base? They can send missiles.

ZEUS
Relax, Alex. Ares, go fix this.

ALEX
Please don't hurt any one.

Zeus looks at Alex, slightly miffed.

ZEUS
Ok. Ares, stand down. Aphrodite.
You take over.

Ares and Hector look very unhappily at Alex.

APHRODITE
Okay, dad. Let me just get the
info I need.

Aphrodite moves over to one of the pilots, who looks up at her, totally besotted. She gently touches his head, closes her eyes and concentrates for a moment. Suddenly, she opens her eyes and looks startled. She looks down at the pilot with a grin.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)
Naughty!
(to Zeus)
I've got what I need. Back soon.

ZEUS
Good girl!

EXT. JUMBO - DAY

Aphrodite is standing on the wing. She waves her hand and the 3 warplanes turn into doves.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

There is panic and consternation as the three jet fighters disappear from the screens. The ghostly image of Aphrodite appears in the background. She waves her hand and the atmosphere changes totally. Everything is calm. Nobody remembers a thing.

CONTROLLER

(yawning)

This is soooo boring. Nothing ever happens around here.... How did my pants get wet?

INT. JUMBO - DAY

Zeus pushes the curtain aside to come out of the galley. He straightens his toga. He is followed by a very disheveled stewardess, with a contented smile on her face. Her hair is standing on end, and she is positively glowing.

ZEUS

Oh, it's good being me!

ATHENA

(to Alex)

Mom is going to be real pissed!

ALEX

Your dad does have a bit of a reputation!

Alex looks at the King and Queen of the gods. Zeus is totally happy and carefree; Hera is seething, strumming her fingers on the couch.

Alison is trying to ward off the drunken attention of Bacchus, while Hector enjoys the show.

Pilot 2 is puffing on a huge Cuban, with a semi-naked stewardess on his lap.

PILOT 2

Now THIS is what I call flying.

THE CAMERA PANS TO SHOW A VERY CONTENTED SCENE OF GODS AND HUMANS REVELING, THEN PULLS BACK THROUGH THE WINDOW...

EXT. JUMBO - DAY

... and continues out to show the plane, Hermes sitting astride the front, flying out of shot, totally misshapen, with a big bulge in the middle, smoke billowing from a hole in the main cabin roof.

EXT. ATHENS - THE PNYX HILL - DAY

POV from the Pnyx hill. Alex, Hector and Alison look awe-struck at the classic view of the Acropolis and Mount Lykabettos in the background.

The gods are in tears at the sight of their monuments in ruins. Each tear that drops on the ground turns into a flower. Athena and Apollo are particularly distraught.

ATHENA

Sure, the Athenians could be real windbags, but they were MY windbags. And the plays were great.

BACCHUS

Oh, the piss ups we had!

APOLLO

What barbarism led to this?

HERA

(sniffing)

What's wrong with the air here?
It stinks.

ALEX

Oh, that's gas fumes.

Zeus waves his hand in front of his face.

ZEUS

Gas? What sort of infernal beans are these guys eating?

EXT. ROME - THE FORUM - DAY

Again, the gods are upset at all the beautiful temples and buildings in ruins.

ALEX

...and the Germanic hordes flooded into Western Europe and set the continent back a thousand years.

Bacchus is wearing a baseball cap with the Parthenon and "Souvenir of Athens" on it.

BACCHUS

This is terrible. The Romans were the best. They really knew how to party. How did they lose it all?

ALEX

(shrugging)

Too many parties?

ZEUS

So, who's the most powerful now?

ALEX

Hard to say. There are zillions of Chinese, and they've gotten rich and powerful selling us crappy cocktail umbrellas.

ALISON

They've also got the biggest army.

HECTOR

And all the money.

ALEX
 Yes, but "they" always tell us
 we're the only Superpower.

The gods look puzzled.

HECTOR
 We've got better gadgets.

ZEUS
 So, why don't you use them and
 rule the world like Rome did?

ALISON
 It doesn't work that way any more.
 We have Human Rights now.

The gods look horrified.

ZEUS
 HUMAN rights? What possible
 rights could you mortals have?
 Well, we have DIVINE RIGHTS - and
 that, dear girl, supersedes all
 else.

In the background a group of Japanese tourists get very
 excited when they spot the gods, thinking they're a tourist
 attraction. They all start CLICKING their cameras.

ARES
 The world's gone mad. What's that
 noise?

As they turn around, about half the Japanese tourists mix
 in with the gods, and start waving "V" signs to their
 camera-toting compatriots. The gods look confused.

EXT. NEW YORK - TIMES SQUARE - DAY

ALEX
 Washington runs the country, but
 New York owns it.

The gods are very impressed by the skyscrapers and lights.
 In the background, Cupid keeps letting loose arrows, but
 they always miss. No one bats an eyelid at the gods being
 dressed in togas in the middle of winter.

ZEUS
 So you rebelled against the
 British because of the taxes? How
 are your taxes now?

ALEX
 I didn't say the plan was perfect.

EXT. NEW YORK - ROCKEFELLER CENTER - DAY

They see the giant Christmas Tree overlooking the ice rink.

ZEUS
 What's that for?

ALEX

To celebrate Jesus' birth.

ZEUS

A fir tree?!?! For Jesus of Nazareth!? Why not an igloo?

He shakes his head in bewilderment.

ATHENA

So this place is Christian?

ALEX

(hesitantly)

Actually, Manhattan is pretty much run by the Jews.

Zeus looks even more confused. His attention is drawn to events outside the nearby NBC Studios.

A beautiful celebrity, immaculately dressed for maximum impact - high slit skirt, and plunging neckline barely containing her clearly fake boobs - gets out of her limo to be greeted by a fawning mob of media and fans, and the flash of dozens of cameras.

APHRODITE

(horrified)

Who is that stick insect?

ZEUS

Why is she being worshipped?

ALEX

She's a celebrity.

HERA

What's that?

Alex, Hector and Alison look at one another.

ALISON

Someone who's famous for being famous.

ZEUS

That's it?

HECTOR

Usually there's a sex tape mixed in there as well... or rehab... or both.

ALEX

Are you going to cast a spell and make us worship you now?

ZEUS

We can turn pigs into warriors and jackasses into leaders...

ALEX

Someone's beaten you to that one!

ZEUS

... but you have free will -
unfortunately. We can make you DO
things, but we can't force you how
to FEEL.

HERA

Except Cupid and his arrows, dear.

ZEUS

Well... yes... that goes without
saying. But worship has to come
from within...

ALEX

Well, nowadays nothing is real
unless it's on TV. So, if you
want to get your message out
there, that's the way to do it.

HERA

How?

ALEX

Do the shows.

ZEUS

Okay. Let's do it then.

ALEX

Well, it's not that easy.

ZEUS

Alex, dear boy. Yes it is!

They part security like Moses parting the Red Sea. The
fans in the street, although confused, cheer wildly.

ONLOOKER 1

Who are they?

ONLOOKER 2

No idea, but they must be famous.

ONLOOKER 1

Is that Gucci she's wearing?

Aphrodite pauses and turns to the crowd. She poses and
bathes in the adulation. A barrage of cameras flash
excitedly at the beautiful image in front of them. A
COCKNEY PAPARAZZI calls out.

COCKNEY PAPARAZZI

Take yer top off, luv!

INT. NBC STUDIO - DAY

Daytime TV Program in progress. TV PRESENTER (40s,
expensive suit) is talking with an oversized teenage woman.
She is clearly TRAILER TRASH.

TV PRESENTER

Okay. So, when did you find out
that you'd married your father?

TRAILER TRASH
My grandma's 30th birthday party.

The gods enter and walk around freely. When he sees himself in a monitor, Poseidon thrusts his trident into it.

The TV Presenter looks puzzled at the producer. He puts his finger to his ear-piece. He is very professional and good-natured.

TV PRESENTER
(to the TV camera)
Hmm... seems we have a change to
the scheduled program.

With a smile, but with a hint of frustration, he throws his papers in the air.

TV PRESENTER (CONT'D)
Looks like I don't need these any
more.
(to producer)
Is this a promo for a new sitcom?
Someone could have told me!

ALEX
(to Zeus)
You have to speak to the camera...
that thing there in front.

Zeus positions himself in front of the main camera.

TV PRESENTER
Can I help you?

Zeus ignores him and speaks directly to the camera. The TV Presenter shrugs in confusion.

ZEUS
Mortals, you will be glad to know
we are back. I am Zeus, and this
is my family. It is sad to see
how the world has gone to the dogs
in our... absence, but it's not
too late for us to fix this. All
we want in return is what is
rightfully ours - temples,
sacrifices and worship.

POSEIDON
And priestesses. Don't forget the
priestesses.

ZEUS
And priestesses, lots of them.

POSEIDON
Decent ones, no skanks.

ZEUS
Give us what we want, and you'll
have nothing to worry about.

The red light on the camera goes out. Zeus turns to Alex.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
Will that do it?

ALEX
God knows!

ZEUS
No, I don't. That's why I asked.

The intruders suddenly vanish.

TV PRESENTER
(forced laughter)
Those Saturday Night Live guys!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKERS - DAY

Alex is talking animatedly with Hector and Alison.

ALEX
Wasn't that awesome?

ALISON
Rome was so beautiful.

HECTOR
I've still got a bad feeling about
all this. They're loose cannons.

ALEX
I didn't hear you complaining when
you were engrossed in
Aphrodite's...

HECTOR
(embarrassed)
That would have been rude. But
you should have got your wishes in
while the going was good.

ALISON
What wishes?

ALEX
I forgot about those.

HECTOR
Too late now. They don't need you
anymore.

ALISON
What wishes?

HECTOR
So... what's next?

ALEX
I think we've got History.

HECTOR
No, Bozo. With the Keystone Gods?

ALISON
 (exasperated)
 WHAT wishes?

At this point, Helen comes up to them.

HELEN
 Hi, Alan.

She grabs Alex intimately by the arm. He looks at the others, surprised, embarrassed... and not a little thrilled.

ALEX
 Er... hi, Helen.

She kisses him on the cheek. He blushes.

ALISON
 Hey! Do you mind? We were...

Alex is about to speak but Helen moves herself between him and Alison, and leads him away by the arm.

HELEN
 I gotta talk to you, Alan.

Alison watches dumbfounded as Alex is led away. He turns back towards her, but is too far away.

HECTOR
 Oops! That may be my fault.

ALISON
 What?

HECTOR
 Nothing. Let's go.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

As Helen leads Alex to the classroom by the arm, her hunk boyfriend KEN suddenly blocks their way.

KEN
 Helen, get over here. You stay away from her, nerd-boy.

Alex looks momentarily concerned, but Helen grabs his arm even tighter. Hector and Alison turn the corner in time to witness the scene.

ALEX
 Don't you think the lady should have a say in who she goes with?

Ken moves in closer.

KEN
 (scoffing)
 First, she ain't no lady. Second, I'm warning you: keep away from my girl.

He lunges at Alex with his fist. The scarab glows. The fist strikes the force field around Alex with a BOINK sound. Ken falls to the ground in agony, nursing his broken hand. No one looks more surprised than Alex. He holds the scarab tightly in his hand and glances at it with new respect. Everyone looks at Alex with a mixture of new-found admiration, fear and trepidation.

Alison turns to Hector.

ALISON
You haven't told me everything,
have you, Hector?

Hector shrugs guiltily, and disappears into a classroom. She grabs him by the collar, pulling him back into the corridor.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Not so fast, you!

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - SITUATION ROOM - DAY

The full national security team is in session. There are monitors along the wall.

PRESIDENT
Anything else?

The Chief of Staff points to the monitors.

CHIEF OF STAFF
Well, sir, there's a lot of
chatter about this morning's Today
Show.

He presses a remote control. Several of the News Channels around the world are showing the clip of the gods.

PRESIDENT
Oh, the Saturday Night Live
sketch? I didn't get it. But,
then again, who does? What of it?

CHIEF OF STAFF
Our sources tell us it wasn't SNL.

PRESIDENT
So, who was it?

CHIEF OF STAFF
Probably just a prank...
hopefully!

INT. VATICAN - POPE'S QUARTERS - EVENING

The Pope is sitting serenely with several cardinals. An old television on a stand is in the middle, with an old VHS machine on top. A Cardinal pauses the tape. It is the gods on the Today Show.

THE POPE
Oh, oh!

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

In the drive is a beautiful horse and carriage, with the roof folded back. Alex stands and admires it with Helen. He strokes the horse's neck, and slides his hand along the beautiful carriage. Helen is not impressed.

ALEX
I probably should have been more
specific about the convertible.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

The gods are feasting merrily. Zeus stands up, a big smile on his face.

ZEUS
Let's have some fun. Let's stir
things up a bit!

EXT. VOLCANO - DAY

Zeus is standing on a mountain peak, arms up high. He sets off a volcano with a huge thunderbolt and earthquake.

ZEUS
That should get their attention.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

In the background, Bacchus is propping up a bar, drinking. Apollo, cool as a mountain stream with his shades on, wanders about serenely, listening to the iPod. Zeus magics up a stage and a large sign:

Kneel before your gods

The gods try to intimidate people with their "magic tricks", turning men into stone, etc.

MAN 1
Hey, I saw you guys on TV! Look,
Ethel, it's them!

The crowd gets excited. The people LAUGH and look for the hidden cameras. No one takes them seriously. Again Cupid misses with his arrow. In a rage, he breaks his bow and throws it in the garbage. Aphrodite passes a Victoria's Secret store and doubles back to go in.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - MOMENTS LATER

Aphrodite exits store with lots of shopping bags.

INT. GUN STORE - DAY

Cupid is being served by an ASSISTANT. There are many guns on the counter. Cupid points to one.

ASSISTANT
Can I see some ID?

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - EVENING

Calm weather. A happy Poseidon whips up a huge storm. A ship is tossed this way and that on the giant waves.

INT. SHIP'S BRIDGE - DAY

The captain and crew struggle to control the ship, listening in stunned disbelief to the radio.

RADIO

North Atlantic, light winds,
becoming variable 2 or 3, then
southeast 3 or 4 later. Good.

EXT. VOLCANO - DAY

Zeus watches horrified as, instead of being afraid, tourists flock to the volcano to take pictures. The media arrive in droves, on land and by helicopter and small plane.

ZEUS

I don't believe it! This isn't a
show!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

New basketball trials. Alex walks into the gym. The divas cheer. The coach blows his whistle.

COACH

Alex. You're next.

Hector approaches his friend.

HECTOR

Hey, good luck, amigo. It'd be
awesome if we're both on the team!

ALEX

Thanks, Hector.

Hector throws the ball to Alex, who is standing on the center line. Alex spins it on his finger, then tosses it effortlessly from there directly into the hoop, without touching the sides. The divas applaud wildly.

Hector's jaw drops.

Alex is passed another ball. This time he slams it down hard on to the ground. It bounces up and lands square in the hoop, again without touching the sides.

Finally, he is passed another ball. His back is to the hoop. He swings the ball down between his legs in a scooping motion, launching it high, but it is heading way off target. There is an EXCLAMATION of disappointment from the crowd. But, half way there, the ball's trajectory curves and it goes straight into the hoop. Perfect!

The cognoscenti are stunned, but the divas are enthralled. They mob him as he comes back to the bench.

Hector and Alison look at each other in disbelief.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - NOTICE BOARD - DAY

The team list is amended by the coach. He takes down Hector's name and replaces it with Alex's.

Hector sees Alex walking away jubilant and is happy for him. Then he looks at the board, heart-broken.

HECTOR

What the...? That's not fair.

Alison comforts Hector.

[The weather in Olympus is now like summer - warm, sunny, with all the flowers in bloom.]

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alex sits at the table waiting for his breakfast, while Diane prepares a tray.

ALEX

You know, mom, I think I should quit school. What's the point?

DIANE

Just you forget it, young man. You're not too big to go over my knee. I never expected that attitude from you - your brother, maybe, but not you.

She stares at him.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Are we clear?

ALEX

Yes, mom.

DIANE

Good. I don't want to hear any more of this nonsense. You WILL finish school, and that's that. Speaking of your brother, where is he?

Alex gestures towards the gecko on the wall, but Diane's mind is elsewhere. The gecko makes a begging gesture to Alex, but he ignores it. Diane picks up the breakfast tray. Alex clears the table in front of him for the tray. Diane walks right passed. Alex is stunned.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Clarence is sitting up in bed. The TV is on. Diane lays the tray down on his lap. There is love in her eyes.

DIANE

Did you sleep well, Clarence, dear? If there's anything else you need, just let me know.

She fluffs the pillow up for him. Alex sticks his head in. He stares incredulously at the scene before him.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

The place is full. Hector and Alison enter and want to join Alex's table, but there's no room. Alex shrugs apologetically. They go to the next table.

Alex stares at the provocatively dressed Helen, totally besotted. He tries hard not to stare at her perfect breasts, but it isn't easy.

ALEX

So, Helen, what do you do in your free time?

Helen looks at him blankly.

HELEN

I like going to parties, I guess. And shopping. Oh, and I like sex. I really like sex.

Alex blushes brightly. He looks around nervously.

ALEX

Er... don't you think it's exciting that the ancient Greek gods have come back? You know, the ones Homer wrote about?

HELEN

Homer Simpson wrote a book?!

Alison and Hector LAUGH condescendingly. Alex looks at them angrily. Helen yawns.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Hey, Alan, let's go and make out.

Alex is stunned. They get up to leave. Alex is clumsy, knocking people and things in his haste.

Alison is heartbroken. Hector comforts her. He looks angrily at Alex as he leaves.

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - HELEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Very soft focus. Helen leads Alex into her room by the hand. She is undoing her blouse. They head for the bed.

We see a smiling ghostly image of Aphrodite looking on in the background. We can clearly see she is now wearing Victoria's Secret lingerie under her toga.

EXT. HEAVEN: CLOUDS - DAY

Clarence is reporting back to St Peter and St Michael.

CLARENCE

The boy never lets go of it, chief.

ST MICHAEL
What are we going to do?

ST PETER
You're going to have to give the
Boss the bad news.

ST MICHAEL
Me? Why me?

ST PETER
It's your job.

ST MICHAEL
No, it isn't. It's yours.

They look at one another, then nod at each other and do
Rock, Paper, Scissors.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Alex points the scarab at his bike.

ALEX
Clean, damn you! Blow up tires!

Nothing. He SIGHS, and pumps up the tires manually.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Useless thing!

Suddenly, a bush catches fire and GOD (QL) appears out of
it, in the guise of Queen Latifah (or similar). Her robe
is smoldering a bit, and has soot patches all over it. She
looks a little flustered and embarrassed.

She turns round towards the burning bush, then waves her
hand and the fire goes out. She notices the smoke coming
from her robe and beats it out. Alex barely seems to
notice.

QL
Yo! Haven't done that one for a
while. Bit out of practice.

ALEX
So, which one are you? A Nubian
goddess? It's getting so hard to
keep track.

He continues pumping up his tires. QL looks astounded.

QL
I thought you were the bright one.
Doesn't the burning bush tell you
anything?

ALEX
That's not much of a trick. All
you guys can do that.

QL
I don't believe this. You're
supposed to be awe-struck!

ALEX
We're not ignorant savages any more.

QL
Huh! Scholars differ on that point. I am YOUR god.

ALEX
MY g...? Oops.

He stands up straight, almost to attention.

ALEX (CONT'D)
But you're..., er... you're...

QL
Yes, I know... a little... shorter than you expected, right? I get that a lot.

Alex trips and the handlebar goes straight into his groin. He CRIES with pain.

ALEX
Ow! So much for intelligent design. Why on Earth did you put our balls there?

QL
Aw, come on, cut me some slack, eh? It was late Saturday and I was beat. They were the bits left over after I made Adam. Nowhere else to put them.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Alex and QL are rocking gently on children's swings. From time to time, QL spins the swing, and generally has fun like a kid.

QL
Centuries since I've been on one of these.

ALEX
Kids aren't allowed to use them anymore in case they fall off.

QL
I really don't know how you guys have survived. Anyway, to the point at hand. What on earth have you done, boy?

ALEX
(defensively)
Hey, YOU were the one who broke the deal with these guys.

QL
Is that what they told you? And you never checked?

ALEX

How? Google? Ask Siri?

QL

Yes, we had a deal, but THEY broke it. Your new friends sent the Romans in to destroy my temple in Jerusalem and persecute my Christians. Sorry, the gloves were off. They had to be stopped.

ALEX

So you flipped the Romans?

QL

Now you get it. And you've gone and ruined everything. They are wild, selfish and uncontrollable. You've got to fix this.

ALEX

Me?! Why me? Why can't you? You did it before.

QL

You have the power, Alex. Gods can't control each other. I had to trick them last time, and lock them up in that obscure cave. Nice touch to call it Olympus, don't you think?

QL CHUCKLES to Herself. Alex nods unenthusiastically.

QL (CONT'D)

I thought they would be safe here.

ALEX

What happened?

QL

What happened? YOU happened. The scarab.

ALEX

Why'd you leave it lying in the grass?

QL

I didn't... it was... it fell from Heaven.

ALEX

(incredulously)
Fell!?

QL

Someone... dropped it.

Alex LAUGHS.

ALEX

Why don't you just take it back?

He holds it out.

QL
It's not that easy. We can't touch it.

ALEX
Hang on. If none of you can touch it, how did you get it to Heaven?

QL
Can't a girl have any secrets around here?

Alex gives her a "'fess-up" look.

INT. HEAVEN: THE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Suddenly, Alex finds himself standing in front of QL on Her throne. She motions towards the wooden thrones.

QL
Okay. Let's just say it helped having a carpenter in the family.

She points to St Peter and St Michael standing nearby.

QL (CONT'D)
Alex, this is Pete, and this is Mike. Guys, this is Alex.

They give polite waves to each other.

Alex casually waves the scarab around. QL and the saints flinch slightly whenever it gets near.

ALEX
So, what's with...

Alex rubs his hands together and sounds like Gollum.

ALEX (CONT'D)
... my precioussssss?

QL
Do you always behave like an idiot?

Alex looks chastened.

QL (CONT'D)
Well, if you MUST know, way back when, the universe was created by the supreme being. He then gave us planets to play with. After too many fights, he created the scarab to control us.

ALEX
They say you stole it.

QL shuffles in Her seat uncomfortably.

QL
(unconvincingly)
Well, they would, wouldn't they?

ALEX
Who is this supreme being?

QL
He's all-powerful.

ALEX
Stands to reason. But what's his name? Chronos? Ra?

QL
He whose name cannot be said.

ALEX
Voldemort?

QL
Who? No...

ALEX
Come on, he...
(off QL's look)
...Or she... must have a name.

QL
I can't.

ALEX
Okay, if you don't want to level with me...

He starts to walk away until he realises he has nowhere to go.

QL
(frustrated)
Okay. Okay.

She looks nervously at the saints. She urges him to come closer.

QL (CONT'D)
Not here.

She waves Her hand and they vanish.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

They are back on the swings.

QL leans in to whisper. She is sweating.

QL
It's...his name is... Cyril.

Alex bursts out LAUGHING.

ALEX
Cyril!?!?

QL
 (nervously)
 Shhhhh! Shhhhh!

Alex composes himself once more.

ALEX
 Look, I've got no argument with you, but I don't see what's wrong with the New World Order. I mean, the whole planet's been going to hell in a handbasket for years...

QL
 Hey. Isn't not easy being a single parent!

ALEX
 You've got to face it - your brand's damaged goods.

QL
 Brand?

ALEX
 Yes. When the shit really hits the fan here - you know, floods, hurricanes, reality TV - we call it an Act of God. What's with that?

QL stares intently into Alex's eyes.

QL
 (firmly)
 Fix this, Alex.

BEAT

Alex looks puzzled for a moment.

ALEX
 Are you ordering me?

QL looks frustrated.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 You can't, can you?

QL
 Be careful, Alex. You're playing with fire - you ain't seen nothing yet!

QL waves her arm and disappears in a puff.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Alex is in a restless sleep. Hermes appears out of thin air, waking him - and the gecko on the wall behind him. It gesticulates angrily to Alex.

HERMES
 We got a problem. You gotta come.

Alex and Hermes disappear. The gecko slumps.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Hermes takes Alex to the gods in their new home on top of the mountain. It is a building site, with all sorts of fabulous creatures doing their bit to put together a beautiful city of gold and marble, fit for the gods.

The gods themselves are lounging around watching TV, a humongous virtual screen the size of a house. Zeus and Hera fight over the remote control. Zeus puts it on mute.

ZEUS

I'm not happy, Alex. I'm not seeing any progress.

HERA

They're ignoring us. They really don't want to get on Zeusy's bad side.

ZEUS

(aside to Hera)
Stop calling me Zeusy!

ALEX

I guess everyone thought it was just a prank. You're gonna have to rethink your strategy. What are you after? Fear or love?

The gods look at each other.

ARES

Who cares?

ALEX

I still say TV is the most effective way to get your message across.

INT. NBC STUDIO - MORNING

The Today Show is in progress. Mid-sentence, the presenters suddenly find themselves, on their sofas, in the middle of...

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - CONTINUOUS

The New Mount Olympus. Zeus & Hera are on the sofa. Zeus addresses the camera.

ZEUS

We really don't want any trouble. We're prepared to sweeten the deal. If your king does what we ask, then we will give America global power like we did with the Romans.

HERA

You should do as he says. He's a bit unstable, you know.

(MORE)

HERA (CONT'D)

He has so many issues. He had a very troubled childhood. Talk about a dysfunctional family! His father ate all his brothers and sisters.

ZEUS

(to Hera)
Do you mind?!?

MATT LAUER

But aren't you his sister AND his wife? Isn't that a bit Appalachian?

Hera looks away and fixes her hair. Zeus is upset.

ZEUS

Enough. I have been patient and asked nicely - but that can change! You know what we want. Your king should speak with Alex here.

He points to Alex, standing shocked in the background.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

As a friendly demonstration of what we can do, the sun and moon will disappear for one hour at noon today.

There is LAUGHTER from one of the technicians. Now Zeus looks really angry. The technician is turned into a puppy.

EXT. OLYMPUS (CO) - ELECTRICAL STORE - DAY

Hector sees the broadcast on a TV screen in the window.

HECTOR

Whoa! That's Alex on The Today Show!

He is overheard by a JOURNALIST.

JOURNALIST

You know him?

Hector nods. The journalist pulls out his note-pad.

JOURNALIST (CONT'D)

Okay. Tell me more.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is mobbed by reporters, and hordes of religious devotees of every stripe - Hare Krishnas, Moslems, Buddhist and Hindu monks, Evangelicals, and nutters carrying sandwich boards proclaiming "The end of the world is nigh. Friday, after lunch". They are very NOISY, and start pushing one another, until a full scale fracas ensues. Some choice UNHOLY WORDS are uttered.

EXT. NEW YORK - ROCKEFELLER CENTER - NOON

A street clock strikes noon. The wintry sun disappears and the clear sky goes pitch black. The street lights come hesitantly back on. People are stunned. Some pedestrians stop in the street and look up at the sky.

TAXI DRIVER

Get the [BEEP] off the [BEEP]
road.

EXT. MONTAGE - DAY

The blackout causes panic and accidents aplenty around the world.

Car accident in Tokyo - the drivers get out, bow to each other, and exchange papers.

Car accident in LA - the drivers get out and start shooting at each other.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - DAY

One wall is covered in TV screens. The Talking Heads are now taking the gods seriously and demanding the government do something. There is CNN, Fox, MSNBC, CNBC, BBC, Al-Jazeera. The Playboy Channel has a feature on nude portraits of Aphrodite "Miss Olympus, 1000 BC - the hottest goddess in history".

The President is surrounded by his National Security advisors, civilian, military and spook. He is on the phone. He nods seriously.

PRESIDENT

Okay, make that a skinny Venti
Decaff Latte to go.

He turns to his advisors.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Are you sure this isn't the
Russians, or the Chinese, or
terrorists?

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

Yessir.

PRESIDENT

Okay, guys - then who we gonna
bomb?

Everyone shrugs.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Is it the French?

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

No, sir.

PRESIDENT

Pity.

CHIEF OF STAFF
Should we call the boy, Mr
President? At least he's
American.

PRESIDENT
Why?

CHIEF OF STAFF
(hesitantly)
Well, their offer... you know...
that whole world power thing -
would it really be so bad?

There is an uncomfortable pause for thought. Everyone goes
quiet and looks at the President.

PRESIDENT
We couldn't... could we?

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alex and his father are in the kitchen. A small TV, on
mute, is showing a news item about the gods' broadcast.

ALEX
Hey, dad, I made the basketball
team.

Gene is too busy opening a crate of Hermes Hair Restorer
bottles. Slogan: "Gone Yesterday; Hair Today"

GENE
(absentmindedly)
What? Oh, good for you. This is
gonna make us rich, boy!

Alex notices Vince the gecko on the wall in the background.

ALEX
I guess you've learned your lesson
by now, right?

The gecko sits up, nodding and pleading.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I sure hope so.

The gecko nods even harder. Alex pulls out of his pocket
the glass container with the magic fly. The gecko stands
up on his hind legs, very alert, ready to go.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Time to fix this.

As he gets up to take the container to the gecko, his
father accidentally knocks it from his hand.

SLOW MOTION

Alex dives to stop it falling, but it crashes on the floor
and shatters. The fly escapes. The gecko looks panicked
and leaps in the air to catch the fly, but Gene walks in
between. The gecko hits him in the face.

Gene swats the gecko away, and it goes SPLAT on the wall, then slides slowly down. Alex looks horrified and rushes to the window as the fly speeds out.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

The fly is caught and eaten by a bird which suddenly turns into a very startled naked man. He hovers briefly mid-air, then falls to the ground with a THUD. Alex stands devastated at the window. Media cameras CLICK noisily.

INT. CABLE TV BROADCASTS

Contrast Fox and CNN.

CNN ANNOUNCER

Radical extremists are holding the world hostage.

FOX ANNOUNCER

(wrapped in an American flag)

Liberals have sold their souls to the devil, and are palling around with heathen gods.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Zeus is addressing Poseidon, Ares, Apollo, Bacchus, and Hermes.

ZEUS

Okay, boys. Time to ratchet this thing up a bit.

EXT. MONTAGE - DAY

The gods switch off the oil and gas pipelines worldwide. We see Apollo gingerly turning the taps, then pulling out a wet towel and trying desperately to clean his hands.

Poseidon stops the ships.

Ares throws missiles at neighboring armies to provoke confrontation.

Hermes is floating above a telephone exchange. There are zillions of wires emanating from the building. Suddenly they break loose and tie themselves in big pretty bows.

Bacchus is lying in a drunken stupor in a wine cellar. He briefly regains consciousness.

BACCHUS

What was I supposed to do again?

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

The gods are watching TV again. They look bored.

ATHENA

(sighs)

Thousands of channels; nothing but crap.

There is a news item with pictures of a large scale army mobilization.

NEWS ANCHOR

The French Government is building up troop concentrations along the English Channel. They have given London an ultimatum to return the Eiffel Tower or face the consequences. The British meanwhile are mobilizing an appropriate response...

EXT. WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER - DAY

Thousands of rabid football fans, itching for a fight. Many carry signs such as "Fuck off, Frogs", "No Garlic-munchers" and "Boo!"

INT. NEWS STUDIO - DAY

The news anchor shivers, as if in the cold.

NEWS ANCHOR

Brrr! That's a pretty uneven contest, wouldn't you say so, Charles?

EXT. PARIS - DAY

Reporter CHARLES MONTGOMERY is standing amidst a heaving throng of reporters in front of the Elysee Palace.

CHARLES

Absolutely, Bill. The French Cabinet has been in emergency session all day. Sources close to the government inform me that, in an effort to reassure a concerned populace, they have sought help from Italy in replenishing stocks of white flags.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Alex suddenly appears with Hermes. Zeus mutes the TV.

ALEX

What are you doing? Not exactly a nuanced approach, is it?

ZEUS

We don't do nuance.

ALEX

I'll say. This was never part of the deal. No one was supposed to get hurt. You never said anything about starting wars.

ZEUS

That's what we do. Remember the Trojan War - all over a woman.

(MORE)

ZEUS (CONT'D)

(sotto voce)

Wow, was she gorgeous!

ALEX

Why wars? I thought you were supposed to love and protect us.

Zeus and Hera LAUGH. Zeus wipes a tear from his eye.

ZEUS

Good one, Alex. Wars are great for business. Both sides start praying really hard.

ALEX

Don't you think you're maybe tightening the screws just a little too hard? Give them time to get their act together.

HERA

(pointing to the TV)

All they do is talk, talk, talk. We thought the Greeks were bad, but your politicians...

ALEX

It's called democracy.

Zeus points towards the screen, exasperated.

ZEUS

It's called crap, Alex. They're not focusing.

ALEX

But, think about it. How are they going to build you all those temples?

ARES

Slaves, like you've always done. Duh!

ALEX

(horrified)

What!?! We can't put the blacks back into slavery.

ZEUS

(puzzled)

Who said anything about the blacks? We believe in equal opportunity slavery, just like the Romans.

ALEX

It takes time. That's how things work now.

Zeus looks at him doubtfully.

ZEUS
All right, but they'd better
deliver... and soon! Okay?

Alex shrugs.

ALEX
By the way, I need another fly.

ZEUS
What!? Oh, for that half-wit
brother of yours.

ALEX
Yes. The last one got away.

Zeus is momentarily amused.

ZEUS
(sternly)
Finish the job, Alex. You help me
and I'll help you. Do we
understand each other?

Alex's face says it all: What the hell have I done?

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Hermes leaves Alex in the living room and disappears.
Clarence has his head on Diane's lap. She strokes his head
gently.

DIANE
We should move to Europe,
Clarence. We'll be so happy
there. There's nothing for me
here any more.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The kitchen is full of boxes of hair restorer. Alex goes
to the sink and gets some water. Gene rushes in, holding a
For Sale sign.

GENE
Great news, Alex! You're finally
getting what you wanted. We're
moving back East. You can't run a
business like this from here.

Alex is numb.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex looks out the window. The coast is clear. He climbs
out, into the garden, over the wall and away.

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HECTOR'S FATHER opens the door. He is very cold.

HECTOR'S FATHER
Oh, it's you. Hector isn't here.

ALEX
I need to talk with him.

HECTOR'S FATHER
Leave him alone, Alex. How could
you do that to a friend?

ALEX
Do what?

HECTOR'S FATHER
You know what. You never earned
that place on the basketball team.
You don't even like sport!

ALEX
But...

He shuts the door, leaving Alex standing forlornly on the porch.

EXT. ALISON'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Alex presses the doorbell, again and again.

ALEX
Come on, Alison. Come on.
Answer, will you?

There are no lights on in the house. Despondent, he turns and leaves. As he goes, we see Alison pull back a curtain and peek through an upstairs window. Alex turns to look at the house once again. He sees Alison. He is shocked and devastated. He stands stunned for a moment, then, visibly upset, he runs home.

He runs under a street-lamp on a corner, splashing through a puddle. As he disappears, we see another kid walking from the side street to the same puddle. As he steps into it, he sinks up to his knees.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

A very worried Alex is soaking in the tub. The gecko sits on the edge.

ALEX
I'm really sorry, Vince. I've
totally screwed up. I'll get you
another fly, somehow.

The gecko is now much calmer. He shrugs sadly, and rests his head on his "hand".

Suddenly, QL WHOOSHES into the bathroom. There is a SCREECHING sound as She applies the brakes. The gecko is startled and falls in the bath. QL goes SPLAT against the wall.

QL
Damn Newton's Laws.

She regains Her composure, then turns to Alex.

QL (CONT'D)
Not used to coming down here any
more.

She sits down on the closed WC. There is a CRACK sound.
QL stands up to reveal a cracked toilet lid.

QL (CONT'D)
Cheap plastic crap!

Embarrassed, She sits on the edge of the bath instead.

Alex pushes a huge pile of bubbles over his private parts.

QL (CONT'D)
(smiling benignly)
You can't fool me!

This time Alex is not so sure of himself.

QL (CONT'D)
I don't want to say I told you so,
but...

The gecko crawls out of the bath, covered in foam, and
coughing bubbles.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER

Alex is still in the bath, while QL is now sitting on a
chair with Her feet up. They are both drinking wine.

QL
Is this a Merlot? I might get me
a case.

ALEX
Okay, you were right - they are
somewhat... volatile. They don't
understand how much the world has
changed. It's just one big game
to them.

QL
I hope for your sake, you find a
solution before they blow you all
up.

ALEX
I don't get it. None of this was
supposed to happen. The world is
in chaos, on the verge of world
war. I've lost my two best
friends. My father thinks he's
Rockefeller, my mother wants to
run off with a beggar, and my
brother is a... gecko.

QL
Did you really think life could be
that easy?

(MORE)

QL (CONT'D)

You just wave a hand and get everything you ever wanted, with no consequences? That's very disappointing, Alex.

QL takes an appreciative sip from the glass.

QL (CONT'D)

Do you have any olives to go with this?

Alex shakes his head.

QL (CONT'D)

Pity. Where were we? Oh, yes. No point in sugar-coating it. This is all your fault. You let them out with the scarab - you'll have to put them back.

ALEX

Can't you send Jesus? I thought saving us was kinda his thing.

QL

Alex, dear boy. If man needs saving, it's from himself. You're your own worst enemies.

ALEX

Okay, but WHO made man? Isn't that YOUR responsibility? Why didn't YOU make US better?

QL looks a little uncomfortable.

QL

If you must know, you were the BETA version. Anyway, it's up to you now. Good luck!

ALEX

But...

QL vanishes in a PUFF. The fallout blows the bubbles all over the place. Alex wipes the bubbles from his face. He looks very worried.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What the hell am I supposed to do, Vince? She's not exactly specific, is She? It's all help, short of actual assistance.

He slowly sinks below the surface of the water.

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE - MORNING

The President is on the phone.

PRESIDENT

This is the President, er...

AIDE
 (sotto voce)
 Alex.

PRESIDENT
 ...Alex. We need to talk. So,
 what's the bottom line here?

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex is gobsmacked. Despite all that's happened, this is the President of the USA! He stands up straight, out of respect, and his whole demeanor becomes both more deferential and more business-like.

ALEX
 Good morning, Mr President, sir...
 Yes, they really are the ancient
 gods... No, I have no reason to
 believe they wouldn't keep their
 word... Yes, sir, I would say
 Aphrodite IS all real.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

PRESIDENT
 That's amazing!

CHIEF OF STAFF
 The deal, Mr President? The deal?

PRESIDENT
 Oh, yes. So, you think they would
 guarantee us Top Nation if we play
 ball? I gotta be able to sell
 this to the media.

CHIEF OF STAFF
 (exasperated)
 To Congress, Mr President! To
 Congress!

PRESIDENT
 Oh, yea. Them, as well.

ALEX
 You don't really have much choice,
 sir. They have tremendous power.

PRESIDENT
 Yes, we've noticed. Will they
 share that technology with us?
 Preferably before the Chinese
 steal it. Just imagine what we
 could do with that.

ALEX
 They may. I can ask. But you
 know they're not just talking
 about America, sir? They want the
 whole world. And they expect you
 to deliver that as part of the
 bargain.

PRESIDENT

Much as I'd love to tell the world what to do, I can't. You know the Middle East, boy. One side will always do the opposite of whatever the other side is doing.

(sighs)

I'll have to call a special meeting of world leaders at the United Nations. That part shouldn't be difficult. I think your friends have got everyone's attention!

They hang up. Alex's expression morphs from pride at being on the phone with the president, to thoughtfulness, to despair.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT - DAY

Alex waits outside the school for Hector and Alison to emerge. Their body language is very cold.

ALEX

Hector, Alison. I'm so glad I found you. I...

ALISON

You've been a real jerk, Alex.

Alex feels like he's been stabbed. He physically recoils. He looks at her sadly for a moment, then remembers the bigger picture.

ALEX

Look, I'm sorry, but things are getting way out of control. I just had the President on my cell-phone, for chrissakes!

Hector gives him a stern look.

HECTOR

I told you to leave the cave. I told you not to trust them. But, no, you're the smart ass who knows better.

ALEX

You were right, Hector, and I was wrong. There! Happy now?

HECTOR

It's a start.

BEAT

HECTOR (CONT'D)

(impressed)

Really? The President? Wow!

ALEX
 You know, they're really not that
 bad - they're just a big family...
 with some unresolved issues.

ALISON
 You mean, like the Mafia?

Alex looks at Alison again with a deep sadness in his face.

ALEX
 (slowly)
 Look, I'm really sorry. I know
 I've...

At this point, Hermes suddenly appears.

HERMES
 Alex, we gotta go. Problem.

ALEX
 Again? Why can't you just leave
 me alone? I'm in the middle of
 something here with my friends.

ALISON
 (coldly)
 Friends? You think so?

Alex looks devastated.

HERMES
 (sternly)
 I said NOW.

HECTOR
 Seems you always have more
 important things to do, Alex.

ALISON
 Yes, Alex, go. You're on their
 team now.

Hermes & Alex disappear. Hector and Alison soften.

ALISON (CONT'D)
 He did seem a bit worried, didn't
 he? Do you think he's okay?

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Alex and Hermes arrive at the mountain top. Alex wipes
 away a tear from his eye.

ALEX
 Hey, I was busy there!

There is real strife between the gods. They are all
 arguing, except Athena who sits to the side, reading a
 scroll. She looks up and shakes her head disapprovingly at
 the others.

HERMES

They hate each other. You choose your friends, but you can't choose your family. They just want to do their own thing, but dad says no, so they fight.

Zeus walks over wearily.

ZEUS

I can't contain this much longer, Alex. We need our own temples, our own space, so we don't have to look at each other any more. Try to imagine it - a Thanksgiving Dinner that lasts NON-STOP for 2,000 years!

ALEX

Why not magic up, or whatever you do, the temples yourself?

ZEUS

You're supposed to do that as a sign of devotion. Why should we do it for ourselves? Where's the worship in that?

EXT. UN BUILDING, NY - DAY

Buzz of activity as limo after limo arrives with stringent security. All sorts of crackpot demonstrators strut their stuff, waving banners.

INT. UN BUILDING - ROOF - DAY

The gods are all waiting to go to the meeting. Athena is instructing them like a film director.

ATHENA

Okay, people, this is going out live, so let's get it right first time! Shock and Awe. Let's show these mortals what we're made of.

Alex watches impassively. He looks worried.

Some UN workers come on to the roof for a smoke, including some very fine young ladies. Zeus becomes distracted and eyes the girls. Hera's eyes follow his to the girls.

HERA

That's it! Enough is enough. I want a divorce.

She points at the girls who all suddenly age 30 years and add 40 pounds.

ZEUS

What?

HERA

It's bad enough you can't keep a knot in it when I'm not there, but to rub my face in it...

ZEUS

But, Hera, Honey...

HERA

Don't you "Hera, Honey" me, you ape. I should have listened to mummy - she said not to marry you.

ZEUS

(deeply hurt)
Mummy said that?

HERA

She said you'd be no better than dad.

ZEUS

I resent that. I never ate my kids.

HERA

Details. Details. Details.

They argue. The others look concerned and duck and weave to avoid the lightning bolts.

Athena turns to Alex. She looks very worried.

ATHENA

Is this really such a good idea? I despair sometimes, I really do. They squabble like kids. They're my family, and I love them, but... they really shouldn't be left in charge of a candy store.

Alex looks at her surprised.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

And they forget the past so quickly. We lost last time because your God tricked us into being altogether in the same place at the same time. So why are we risking it again?

ALEX

Sorry. Are you asking me?

ATHENA

I hope you don't ever forget the magic phrase that set us free - and permutations thereof.

Now Alex is puzzled. She looks at him disingenuously.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

Just thinking out loud. What do we do now?

Alex turns to the arguing gods and SHOUTS.

ALEX

Hey, people... er... gods....
whatever. You need to be focused.
What are you here for? A domestic
dispute or... well, let's call a
spade a spade - to blackmail the
world?

They stop arguing and look at one another. Zeus looks at the others. His eyes narrow. A strong glowing thunderbolt hovers over his hand, ready to go.

ZEUS

We'll come back to this later.
Anyone else want to argue?

Hera flicks the middle finger at Zeus behind his back.

ALEX

(to himself)
They're really going native.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - DAY

The heads of state are assembled. There is an empty podium in the front. The BUZZ of conversation fills the hall.

Suddenly there is a blinding light, accompanied by beautiful, serene MUSIC. Rose petals fall from above. The gods appear resplendent on gold thrones on the podium. They glow slightly, giving them an ethereal presence. Their expressions are really dour. Only Athena looks pleased with the show so far.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VISITORS GALLERY -
CONTINUOUS

Alex's parents, Hector and Alison suddenly appear in a heap on the floor. They all look very surprised. In Gene's top pocket is the gecko. As they pick themselves up, QL lands on them, flattening them. QL jumps up quickly and dusts Herself down.

QL

Hmm. Sorry about that.

HECTOR

Hey! What's going on? I was
watching the game. Where are we?

QL

Shhhh! Quiet, boy.

DIANE

(looking around)
Has anyone seen Clarence?

ALISON

Look! There's Alex. And the
gods.

GENE
 (wistfully)
 Isn't Aphrodite gorgeous?

Hector's head almost spins as he turns to look wistfully at Aphrodite. He turns to QL.

HECTOR
 Why are WE here? Who are you?

QL is shocked. She is about to answer when...

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

Zeus raises his hand. He is in a foul mood.

ZEUS
 Quiet! Let's get this over with.
 You know why we're all here. Tell
 us how you plan to deliver.

A BRITISH DIPLOMAT stands up, holding a pamphlet.

BRITISH DIPLOMAT
 If it pleases the chair, point of
 order. If I can refer you to
 Chapter 7, Paragraph 6 of the...

Zeus rolls his eyes and waves his hand. The Brit is forcibly and unceremoniously pushed back into his seat by an invisible hand. He continues to speak, but no sound comes out. He looks crest-fallen.

Zeus leans forward menacingly on his throne. He points to Alex standing on the edge of the podium.

ZEUS
 You continue, boy.

ALEX
 Me!?

ZEUS
 Yes, you. Better for everyone I
 don't get wound up any more.

Alex clears his throat and looks at the assembly. He starts sweating profusely.

With a kindly smile, Athena mops Alex's brow.

ATHENA
 Don't worry. You'll do fine.

ALEX
 (nervously)
 Thanks.

ATHENA
 And, remember, you still have the
 scarab.

ALEX
 (puzzled)
 What?

He composes himself and turns to the Hall.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 I think you understand by now we
 are talking here about ANCIENT
 rights that predate human history.

PRESIDENT OF CHINA
 What this got to do with us?
 These are Gweilo gods, not Chinese
 gods.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA
 Indeed! We've already got so many
 gods - we don't need any more.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR
 Ve want Thor!

ARAB SHEIKH
 So, if we change to you, will we
 still get the virgins?

The AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER, wearing a hat with dangling
 corks, joins in the debate.

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER
 Can we have the one with the great
 tits?

Everyone starts speaking at the same time. Why do the
 Americans get top position? What about this? What about
 that? Who's going to pay for...? Etc etc

The gods look at each other incredulously.

ARES
 Just destroy them all and start
 again. Why not? Just give the
 word.

The diminutive RUSSIAN PRESIDENT stands up with a swagger.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT
 We will not accept American
 imperialism. Never! This is
 Hollywood spectacle to intimidate
 us. We're leaving.

There is a chorus of agreement in the hall and many
 delegates get up to leave. Alex winces.

ALEX
 What is wrong with these idiots?

ZEUS
 (bellowing)
 Did I say you can leave?

The room shakes, but they ignore him and head for the exits. The doors are locked, and the protests get louder.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
(even louder)
Enough! You will not leave until
I say so. And just to make
sure...

At this point, the walls and roof melt away to reveal a black sky with zillions of stars.

Zeus looks to Hera, who is still fuming.

INT. UN BUILDING, MOON - CONTINUOUS

The FRENCH PRESIDENT points to the sky.

FRENCH PRESIDENT
Merde alors! Ve are on ze moon!

The hall is now in an air bubble on the moon, and they can see the lunar surface in all its stark beauty around them. The delegates gaze in hushed awe at the spectacle of Earth hanging peacefully in the firmament. Alex is wide-eyed with excitement.

Hermes notices something outside and points it out to Zeus. Zeus follows his gaze. He is dumbfounded.

EXT. MOON - CONTINUOUS

There, not too far away, is an American flag on a pole.

INT. UN BUILDING, MOON - CONTINUOUS

Zeus looks at Alex. Alex shrugs.

Zeus CLAPS his hands. Everything shakes.

ZEUS
Back to your places. NOW.

They docilely return to their seats. Zeus nods to Alex and a prepared script miraculously appears in his hands.

ALEX
Firstly, we demand the restoration
of our temples, or the
construction of new ones, to the
same or better specification.

SPANISH AMBASSADOR
Jose Perez, Ambassador of Spain,
speaking. We've got loads of
churches we don't need any more.
Can't we convert them?

CUT TO:

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VISITORS GALLERY -
CONTINUOUS

QL looks very pissed off with the question.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

ZEUS

What?! Second-hand temples! No way, Jose!

Ares, looking disapprovingly at Apollo, adds...

ARES

And we don't want to share either. We're not Pizza Hut and KFC.

Another voice from the auditorium.

QUESTIONER

Who's gonna pay for all this?

ALEX

Look at this as an insurance premium. Do you really need to be reminded of the consequences...?

P.O.V. ALEX - CONTINUOUS

Alex looks up towards Zeus, then scans the room. Suddenly he notices his family, Hector and Alison in the audience.

Diane gives him a little wave. He starts to hesitate.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

Alex puts down the script. Everyone is looking at him.

ALEX

What on earth are we doing here? All this bickering... fighting... hostility. What for?

Zeus turns to Hera and Aphrodite.

ZEUS

What's going on?

Aphrodite concentrates on Alex, then turns towards Alison in the audience.

APHRODITE

Alison.

Alex turns to the gods.

ALEX

You're gods - you should be setting a better example. You're family, but you never stop fighting.

Zeus starts to protest. Alex raises his right hand. We see the scarab wrapped tight around it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

No. This time, let me say my piece.

He turns to the world leaders.

ALEX (CONT'D)
And you lot are a disgrace!

He points to Earth in the sky above them.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Look at that beautiful planet of ours. So fragile. We're going to ruin it, if we don't change our selfish ways.

Alex addresses Hector & Alison and family directly.

ALEX (CONT'D)
And I'm no better. I've also been selfish. I had a wonderful, loving family, and two of the best friends anyone could wish for. But I wanted more - stupid stuff, in the grand scheme of things. Did it make sense? No. And, deep down, I probably knew that the whole time. As my best friend so eloquently put it, I behaved like a jerk, and that's why we're in this mess today.

ANGLE ON ALEX'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS

ALEX (CONT'D)
I only hope they can find it within themselves to forgive me.

Alison, Diane and Hector wipe away a tear. Gene is gushing, and blows his nose. The gecko wipes his eyes.

ALEX (CONT'D)
So, what happens now? Our history is full of strife, wars, holocausts, you name it. We profess to believe in Peace and Love, and yet we pervert that into holy wars, inquisitions and Jihads. The hypocrisy is phenomenal.

Alex takes a deep breath. His voice becomes more forceful.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Yes, we've screwed up royally, but we actually have the means to solve most of our problems, if only we have the collective will. Where is the vision? Where is the leadership? That's YOUR job, not mine!

ZEUS
(to Aphrodite)
He's backtracking. We need insurance. Get Alison.

In an instant, Alison is on the podium with the gods.

Alex is horrified. He rushes towards her. With the movement of his finger, Ares creates a chasm between him and the gods. He teeters over the edge, barely managing to prevent himself from falling.

ALEX
Leave her alone!

ZEUS
Finish the job, Alex!

ALEX
Send her here to me first.

ZEUS
Oh, no, no, no! You don't get to set conditions. You do what you're supposed to do, and she'll be fine.

Zeus spins his fingers and Alison is trapped in a cocoon force field. She tries to get out, but can't.

ATHENA
Hey, dad, don't you think...?

ZEUS
Not now, Athena. You stay out of this.

Alex looks desperate. What to do?

ALEX
Alison, grab this!

SLOW MOTION

He hurls the scarab into the air. The gods all freeze in horror and watch it fly towards Alison.

Ares launches himself in its path, but it just pushes him out of the way. It continues its trajectory towards Alison, slicing through the force field and into her hands. The force field evaporates. She is free.

BACK TO NORMAL MOTION

ZEUS
Very noble, Alex... but very stupid!

He raises his hand and Alex is thrust violently backwards against the wall. He is almost knocked out.

ALISON
Stop!

Unconvincingly, she holds up the scarab.

ARES
Do not mess with us, little girl.

Alison rushes to help Alex. Poseidon wags his finger and a rock suddenly appears in front of her and she trips, letting go of the scarab which once again flies through the air and lands on the floor.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VISITORS GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

Hector leaps into action and rushes towards the stage.

HECTOR
Hey, you leave my friends alone!

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

ZEUS
(chuckling)
Hah! It's you again! Quite the little pest, aren't you?

Zeus forgets Alex, who slides down the wall to the floor, semi-conscious. He projects a force field against Hector, who is thrown hard against the wall near his friend.

QL
Enough, Zeus. Let them be. Your argument is with me, not them.

The gods look into the crowd where they heard QL's voice.

ZEUS
It's Her!!

ARES
Revenge, dad. Revenge!

Zeus releases Hector from the force field.

HECTOR
Ow! Dios mio! That hurt. Alex, are you okay?

The gods stand up and grow in stature. Their expressions are very hostile. All except Athena. She remains calm, slightly to the side, looking very pensive.

QL stands firm.

QL
Zeus, my friend, you've had your fun, but your time has passed.

ZEUS
Get real. You know these worthless beings will follow whatever they're brainwashed to follow. And if you think I'm going back in that prison with...
(pointing to the others)
HER and THEM, you've got another think coming.

QL

Look. I'm sure we can reach an accommodation.

ZEUS

We don't do deals.

Zeus fires a thunderbolt at QL. A force field appears in front of Her to deflect it.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Ares, left flank. Poseidon, take the right.

A divine battle ensues. QL can't defend all the mortals. The people outside Her protective shield are turned into various animals or mythological creatures.

Alex starts to come to. He sees Hector.

ALEX

Are you crazy? You attack these guys with... what? Your charm? They...

Suddenly he sees the scarab lying on the floor, but the chasm is still between him and it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Look, I gotta get the scarab and finish this... but, hey, thanks!

He gets up and takes a running jump but falls short, barely managing to hold onto the edge by his fingertips. He looks down into the chasm and nearly faints. He looks up and sees a very concerned and frightened Alison, lying on the ground, nursing a painful leg. He shakes his head to force himself to concentrate. Summoning all his strength, he hauls himself out of the chasm and onto the surface once more.

He slithers next to Alison.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Alison! Are you okay? I am so sorry! I've been a real jerk.

ALISON

Yes you have, but now's not the time. Get the scarab!

He gets up. Poseidon sees him heading for the scarab. He raises his trident and is about to throw it when...

HECTOR

Hey, fish face. Pick on someone your own size.

Enraged, Poseidon turns and throws his trident at Hector. He is impaled against the wall. Alex and Alison are horrified, and freeze momentarily. Tears are pouring down Alex's face.

ALEX
 (choking with
 grief)
 Noooooooo!

Alex remembers the scarab which is glowing brightly with all the celestial energy in the room. He grabs it, and jumps on Alison just in time to deflect a thunderbolt from Zeus.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Hold on to me tight, and, whatever
 you do, don't let go.

He rubs the scarab furiously, and points it in this direction and that. Nothing. He waves his fist in exasperation.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Abraca-fucking-dabra!

He looks at Alison.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (frantically)
 Shit! What am I supposed to do
 now? I wish I'd never gone to
 that cave. I wish I'd never
 released these maniacs from...

He sees Athena quietly and serenely remaining apart from the fight. He remembers her words...

EXT. UN BUILDING - ROOF - DAY

ATHENA
 I hope you don't ever forget the
 magic phrase that set us free -
 and permutations thereof.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ALEX
 What did she mean?

He starts rubbing the scarab furiously again.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Black olives.

Nothing.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Olive oil.

Nothing.

He sees Athena rolling her eyes and shaking her head.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Green olives.

No sooner are the words out of his mouth than a bubble force field flows from the scarab and entraps the gods once again. Alex is thrown violently backwards by the force. The gods rise up to resist but it is too late. Only Athena gives him a benign smile.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VISITORS GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

The gecko, now standing on Gene's shoulder watching events, suddenly transforms back into Vince. Gene collapses under the sudden weight. Vince is startled, then ecstatic as he checks himself physically.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

ZEUS

Hey, Alex, reverse the spell.

HERMES

Do it, Alex, do it.

Alex holds steady.

APHRODITE

Please, Alex. Whatever you want, it's yours.

Alex visibly weakens at Aphrodite's blandishments. Surprised, he sees Athena shaking her head.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

You can have Alison.

ALISON

He doesn't need you for that!

She gives Alex a beautiful smile. He feels a glow inside and smiles back. They turn to Hector. The trident has disappeared. Hector is badly winded, but otherwise all right. Alex looks around, confused. QL turns all the animals back into delegates. She looks at Alex expectantly. The rest of the audience is clearly shaken.

QL

So, how's this to end, Alex?

He stands thoughtfully for a moment, then addresses the world leaders.

ALEX

I'm going to give you another chance to fix this planet. Don't balls it up this time!

He turns to the gods.

ALEX (CONT'D)

As for you guys... I've grown surprisingly fond of you, I must say, but do you really want all this? Have you any idea what war means now? We're not talking swords and shields any more.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

We're talking whole cities
disappearing in seconds. Your
religion was based on superstition
and it isn't going to work any
more. The human race is much more

(air quotes)

"Sophisticated" now...

(looks at audience)

Well, let's just say, it's moved
on. And so must you. I don't
want to send you back, but what
other options are there?

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Breakfast at Alex's house. Alex clears the table in front
of him so Diane can put his breakfast tray down. The
scarab is around his neck. Gene ruffles Alex's hair as he
passes.

GENE

Howya doing, son?

Gene (his head half bald again) passes a mirror, pauses and
SIGHS. He kisses Diane on the head. She smiles
contentedly back. Vince comes in.

VINCE

(very politely)

Hi, Bro.

He puts his hand on Alex's shoulder in a friendly, non-
aggressive way. A fly passes in front of him. A long
tongue shoots out from his mouth. He eats it.

Clarence has his nose pressed to the window. He is staring
at Diane, love smitten. He SIGHS.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Alex and Alison are sitting next to each other, watching a
basketball game. They stand up and cheer as Hector sinks a
great basket.

ALEX & ALISON

Way to go, Hector!

The WHISTLE blows, and the players head for the changing
room, to the cheers of the divas.

ALEX

Nearly forgot. I got you a
souvenir of my misadventures.

He puts a necklace over her head. The pendant is one of
Athena's gold coins.

ALISON

I love it. Thank you, Alex.

Over the moon, she kisses him on the cheek.

ALEX
It seems they are real collectors'
items, so, college... here I come!

Alison looks down nervously.

ALISON
Alex, did you... I mean, did you
and Helen... you know?

Alex smiles.

ALEX
I am such a stud!

FLASHBACK

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - HELEN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

The scene is soft-focus romantic. Helen leads Alex to the bed and they sit on the edge. She continues undoing her blouse. Alex can see she's not wearing a bra underneath. He is excited and nervous. The ghostly image of Aphrodite looks on approvingly in the background.

ALEX
Everything was looking good.

She leans over and opens the bedside drawer.

ANGLE ON DRAWER

We see, amongst the sex paraphernalia, a pair of fur handcuffs and a tea assortment box. She takes the box.

ALEX (CONT'D)
You want tea!? Now?

She CHUCKLES, as she opens the box. It is full of an assortment of condoms.

HELEN
I've got fruit flavor, if you
want.
(holding one up)
These are popular. Which one do
you want, Alan?

ALEX
It's ALEX!

HELEN
That's what I said.
(impatient)
So, are we gonna do this?

He pauses and looks at her. He shakes his head sadly.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - CONTINUOUS

ALEX

I couldn't do it. I just couldn't do it. It all felt so... empty, all of a sudden. Amazing. She was better stocked than Walgreens!

Alison throws her arms around him and gives him a big kiss on the mouth.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You were always the one for me. I was just too stupid to see it.

She holds him tight.

ALISON

Don't you miss it all though?

ALEX

Nah. Omnipotence is over-rated.

She gives him a playful thump.

He picks up a basketball and launches it towards the hoop. It misses by a mile.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I am so glad everything is back to normal.

Alex turns to the camera with a smile. The scene behind him freezes.

ALEX (CONT'D)

... well, almost. You see, faced with being trapped together again for all eternity, they couldn't do a deal fast enough. In return for giving up their powers, the gods didn't have to go back to the cave. They got to live normal lives like any other immortal.

Over the END CREDITS, we see the gods in their new occupations.

EXT. MILITARY TRAINING CAMP - DAY

Ares is a five star general directing war games.

INT. BRIDGE OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER - DAY

Poseidon looks resplendent and distinguished as the Admiral of the fleet.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHER'S STUDIO - EVENING

Apollo is modelling Armani underwear.

EXT. STREET - DAY

A UPS van pulls up outside a building. Hermes, in UPS uniform, gets out with a package and his hand-held control gadget. There is a smile of pure contentment on his face.

EXT. IRISH PUB - EVENING

Customers enter what is clearly a popular watering hole. The sign above the door:

The Bearded Clam

INT. IRISH PUB

Bacchus is behind the bar, serving customers... but also drinking the profits!

INT. BROADWAY THEATER - AFTERNOON

Athena is directing a production of Oedipus Rex.

ATHENA

No! No! No! That's not what
Sophocles meant.

EXT. LARGE HOUSE - NIGHT

The house has a red light over the door. There are girls in scanty nighties sitting at some of the windows.

INT. LARGE HOUSE FOYER

Girls in sexy lingerie are fawning over clients. We see Aphrodite. She is the Brothel Madam. Cupid is at the back minding the cash register.

INT. SENATE OFFICE - DAY

Zeus, in a beautiful Italian suit, is sitting behind a large mahogany desk. We can see the Mall and the Washington Monument through the window. His gorgeous SECRETARY enters, followed by Hera, dressed in classic Chanel.

SECRETARY

Your wife, senator.

HERA

Remember, Honey, dinner at the
White House tonight. I don't know
why that damn fool keeps inviting
us.

ZEUS

Don't worry, snookums. I haven't
forgotten.

As they talk, the camera pans round to reveal a stunning intern hiding under the desk.

FADE OUT: