WILD PALMS

Sixth Hour

"Hello, I Must Be Going"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. ELECTION HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Giant posters of the Senator and Josie: KREUTZER 2008! A Range Rover is parked out front. A battered Sixties car ENTERS FRAME. A GIRL gets out, holding a brick.

GIRL

This is for Grace Wyckoff!

She hurls the brick through GLASS, SHATTERING it. SCREAMS from inside as people duck for cover. A guy from the car throws something under the Range Rover; the CAR ROARS OFF. After a beat, the Ranger Rover EXPLODES in flames.

INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

A war meeting's in progress. A long, oval table. ELI, WOJOWDE, HARRY and other FRIENDS and radicals are seated. Harry looks awkward, uncomfortable. The gathered Friends intone a communal prayer (Harry does not join them):

FRIENDS

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done, the ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won...

ELI

Before we begin, I very much want to acknowledge the efforts of one among us: Harry Wyckoff.

The Friends applaud -- then rise -- to honor him. Harry smiles weakly.

INT. ANOTHER PART OF THE LIBRARY - LATER THAT DAY

The meeting has ended. Harry sits on tatami mat. Eli enters.

ELI

How does it feel to be a leader, Harry?

HARRY

Viva Zapata. Wanna know how I really feel? Sick! Violated... like I killed Grace a second time -- on television.

(CONTINUED)
ELI
It got results.

HARRY
(sardonic)
Know what, Eli? They should have moved you right from the Perceptory to Channel Three -- you would've made a helluva programmer.

ELI
It was a terrible thing, Harry, but it opened people's eyes -- Grace would have demanded that.

HARRY
(caustic)
Don't tell me what she would have 'demanded' -- you don't know anything about her!

ELI
What do you want from me?

HARRY
Deirdre. Kreutzer said he would give her to me -- if we gave him the GO Chip.

ELI
Can't do it, Harry --

HARRY
(grabbing him roughly)
Why?

ELI
Because with the GO Chip, he will become immortal, a holographic vampire -- unstoppable! From an unspeakable, unreachable place, he will orchestrate the death of the world --

HARRY
(exiting)
You're crazy as he is!

ELI
Harry, listen --

(CONTINUED)
HARRY  
(exits)  
I'll have my family back -- one  
way or another. Do you  
understand, Eli? Those are my  
politics.  
(beat)  
And you can go to hell.  

Harry storms out; Eli slumps down sadly, hand to his face.  

INT. WILD PALMS - MASTER BEDROOM - CLOSE ON TV - DAY  

Groucho Marx, in Animal Crackers. He sings, "Hello, I  
Must Be Going." We PAN TO the SENATOR, in bed. A  
PHYSICIAN takes his blood pressure.  

SENATOR  
Well, what is it, Doc? A heart  
attack -- or indigestion?  

PHYSICIAN  
Stress of the last few days --  
you're acutely hypertensive. I'd  
like to put you in Cedars...  

SENATOR  
No hospitals.!!  

PHYSICIAN  
I can't force you. I'm going to  
medicate you; I want you in bed  
- no alcohol or Mimezine...  

SENATOR  
You're no fun.  
(calls out)  
Grindrod!  
(to Physician)  
What about the Go Chip?  

PHYSICIAN  
If I can get your pressure under  
control, you've got a week or so.  
-- after that, I can't say what  
your body will tolerate...  

SENATOR  
A week, huh...  
(calls out)  
Grindrod!  

Lt. Grindrod enters, with Coty behind him, as the  
Physician exits.  

(CONTINUED)
SENATOR
Why haven't you bailed Josie?

LT. GRINDROD
We're trying --

SENATOR
My sister, in jail? What's the matter with you? Get her out -- if you have to break her out!

Grindrod exits.

COTY
We'll never contain this, Papa -- it's a fiasco.

SENATOR
Where's the murder tape?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

COTY
Being treated at the lab. Even
the diehard New Realists think
Josie's guilty -- they're running
scared --

SENATOR
Then straighten 'em out!

The Senator exits from bed, testily.

EXT. WILD PALMS - TERRACE/ZEN GARDEN - DAY

PAIGE sits on chaise, smoking a cigarette; she looks
nervous. The Senator enters from house, comes close to
her.

SENATOR
You knew Harry was going to bust
into Channel Three, didn't you?

PAIGE
No! --

SENATOR
-- knew he was going to use that
tape! Why, Paige?
   (caressing her hair)
Am I a handsome man? Am I a
virile man?
   (pulls on hair)
Answer me!

PAIGE
Tony, please!

SENATOR
Am I a decrepit cuckold?

He grabs her arm, twisting it.

PAIGE
Stop it!

SENATOR
You were supposed to come back
with the GO Chip, but instead
you brought a plague to my
house...

PAIGE
You're hurting me --

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SENATOR
(singing weirdly into her ear)

Hello. I must be going! I cannot stay. I came to say. I must be going --

PAIGE
I'll go back! I'll get Harry to hand it over...

He throws her down; picks up GLASS table and hurls it to ground, SHATTERING it. Paige cowers as he strides into Zen garden. He lifts one of the heavy stones as he speaks, hurling it into pool. Then he strides through the garden, causing general damage.

SENATOR
I assure you: I have not come all this way to die like a trapped wolf, like a circus dog! I am a soldier! I am mustering my troops... and we are storming heaven!

EXT. WYCKOFF HOUSE - DAY

Harry drives along in filthy Corvette -- by now, it looks like something you'd find in a Wilderzone used car lot. Frustrated and disconsolate, Harry finds himself back at the old house. He exits car, stands in walkway. The place is boarded up; a sad vestige of what it once was. There is graffiti scrawled (some in Japanese): PRAY FOR THE STOLEN CHILDREN, REVOLUTION NO. 9, LOS VOLADORES and WE LOVE YOU, GRACE. Harry walks toward house, feeling the full weight of his journey. He tries door, out of habit -- to his surprise, it opens.

INT. WYCKOFF HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

Harry enters the ghostly house. More graffiti and litter inside. Some furniture remains; much has been looted.

HARRY
(softly)
Honey? I'm home!

He hears something -- from upstairs. Harry grabs a heavy candleholder, ascends stairs.

UPSTAIRS HALL/COTY'S ROOM/DEIRDRE'S ROOM

More noise; DRAWERS OPENING and CLOSING. Moves cautiously down hall. The noise emanates from Coty's room.

(CONTINUED)
Harry peers in, ready to strike -- PETER'S there, looking through bureau.

PETER
Coty's room -- I always wanted to see his room. It would have been mine...

HARRY
Peter, help me out: why did the Fathers take you from Grace and me? What do you know?

PETER
They steal children... dreams... memories -- a regular fire sale. When they say 'everything must go,' they aren't kidding.

HARRY
Why me, Peter? Why my family --

PETER
You really don't know, do you? (beat) Let's talk to the source...

HARRY
Wild Palms?

PETER (nods, ironic)
Should we take the car or the pool?

They smile; Peter takes his hand, leading him out.

OMITTED

EXT. METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER - DAY

The PRESS (REPORTERS) await. JOSIE exits building and descends steps, flanked by ATTORNEY and men in suits.

REPORTER #1
Why'd you kill her, Josie?

Josie
I didn't kill anyone.

REPORTER #2
How'd you make bail?

(continued)
ATTORNEY
That was a doctored tape -- a fabrication -- in a few days, we'll prove it!

REPORTER #2
Is your brother going to choose a new running mate?

REPORTER #3
Will he drop out of the campaign?

JOSIE
Absolutely not! Why should he?

REPORTER #3
What's your defense going to be?

ATTORNEY
Not guilty!

REPORTER #1
But the whole country saw you murder your daughter.

REPORTER #3
Seeing is believing --

JOSIE
(to Reporter #3; withering)
You must be kidding.

She enters limo -- Range Rover follows.

INT. LIMO - DAY
Lt. Grindrod and TOBIAS SCHENKL face Josie on opposite fold-out chairs.

JOSIE
When will the tape be ready?

LT. GRINDROD
Tonight.

JOSIE
And the GO Chip?

LT. GRINDROD
I'm assuming Harry Wyckoff is in possession.

JOSIE
Get word out in the Wilderzone: if he doesn't turn it over within 48 hours, we'll kill the little girl.

(CONTINUED)
LT. GRINDRÖD  
She's your granddaughter...

JOSIE  
Don't get sentimental on me.  
(to Tobias)  
In one week, my brother will be  
elected President of these United  
States. On the night of his  
victory, the GO Chip will  
transform him into a veritable  
God. We will serve him and his  
images! There will be a great  
purge of those who are opposed to  
us -- we will make genocide look  
like hit and run.

EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN/MAIN HOUSE - NIGHT  
Harry and Peter emerge from bushes, and make their way  
through darkness of Zen garden, to house. THROUGH the  
picture window: seated at dinner table are the Senator,  
Josie, Paige, Schenkl and TABBA.

HARRY  
They got Josie out! But how...

EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT  
The same group as seen through window: Paige looks  
particularly depressed -- the Senator is grim. Josie  
enters, takes a seat beside the Senator.

TABBA  
I don't know how you could stand  
jail for a minute. I cringe...

JOSIE  
Wasn't so bad. Plenty of books --  
mostly Synthiotics, I'll have you  
know. Highly ironic.

SENATOR  
When are we releasing the tape?

TOBIAS  
Tomorrow morning: CNN -- all the  
networks. Channel Three will run it  
round the clock.

JOSIE  
Eat something. You look haggard.

(CONTINUED)
TABBA
(to Paige)
Do you think I should do a feature
during hiatus?

SENATOR
What about 'co-conspirators'?

TOBIAS
A Channel Three engineer and two
high-level Mimecom employees have
surrendered themselves to state's
attorney -- New realist loyalists.
They'll admit to eyewitnessing the
murder and doctoring the tape per
Harry Wyckoff's orders.

SENATOR
Make sure their families are taken
care of.

Coty and DEIRDRE enter -- Deirdre goes to Tabba, Coty
throws his arms around the Senator's neck.

COTY
Daddy, can we see it? Can we?

EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN - NIGHT
Harry's startled to see his baby girl.

HARRY
Deirdre! --

Harry makes a move toward her; Peter holds him back.

PETER
Stay back!

EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT
Tabba and Deirdre exit as Coty squeals with excitement.
The Senator dims the lights; the tape begins.

EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT
CAMERA PUSHES IN ON Harry -- he reacts in stunned horror.

HARRY
My God...
EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT

The Grace/Josie murder tape begins, with the action starting at Grace kneeling. CAMERA PANS UP, revealing Harry in Josie's place. Though their words are different, their actions -- including the strangulation -- are virtually the same.

GRACE (V.O.)
Please don't hit me, Harry!

HARRY (V.O.)
You're just like your mother.
Now, get up!

Peter pulls at his father, who's riveted by the display.

PETER
Don't look. Don't look!

EXT. WILD PALMS - NIGHT

The tape continues...

GRACE (V.O.)
What are you going to do?

HARRY (V.O.)
The Fathers have got to be stopped -- I know you're one of them!

GRACE (V.O.)
No -- I'm just a woman! But the Fathers are good, Harry! They want to bring freedom of images to the People --

HARRY (V.O.)
As leader of the Friends, I must set the example -- you must die!

GRACE (V.O.)
Please, Harry! Don't hurt me!

HARRY (V.O.)
Long live the Friends! Death to New Realism! Long live the revolution!

Harry strangles Grace until she dies. 

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
FADE IN:

EXT. WILDERZONE - BAZAAR - DAY

Woiwode passes through area. The Purveyor emerges from damp black tent set up between stalls.

FRAIL CUSTOMER

The images are no good!

PURVEYOR

Get outta here.

FRAIL CUSTOMER

The images don't hold! You're diluting the images!

She pushes aside Customer; spots Tully, approaches with bagful of colorful cassettes.

PURVEYOR

Help you out today?

WOIWODE

No thanks...

PURVEYOR

(rummaging in bag)

Got some Kung fu... Johnny Carson... bloopers from 'Church Windows'...

(as Woiwode moves on)

How about holotropics: Fugu, just flown in. Got Mimezine... Imagithol --

WOIWODE

Not today.

PURVEYOR

You're the painter, right? Sorry to hear about your friend. Awful what happened; we're seeing more and more of that -- they call it 'image sickness.'

WOIWODE

I don't approve of drug dealers -- I don't even like the way you smell. Save the condolences...

PURVEYOR

You know, I've been looking for you --

WOIWODE

Get outta my face!

(CONTINUED)
You have friends in high places. They heard about your loss; they made something for you -- to get you through the night.

She pulls a cassette out, hands it to him. There's a photo of Tommy taped across it.

Come inside -- I'll play it for you.

He hesitates a beat. She holds tent flap open; Woiwode enters. The Purveyor smiles to herself, follows him into...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WILD PALMS - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darkness. A holo ANCHORMAN stands at the foot of the bed.

... continuing violence in the wake of today's allegations of doctored holotapes and conspiracy. A Channel Three engineer has been arrested in the bizarre case and Harry Wyckoff, the disgruntled head-of-business-affairs-turned-revolutionary, is now being sought in the murder of his wife. Only one week ago, the nation was shocked when 'Church Windows' was interrupted by --

CLOSE ON HAND

Its finger presses button on remote control.

BACK TO SCENE

The Anchorman vanishes, replaced by the Harry/Grace murder holo -- it plays eerily MOS. We slowly PAN TO bed. Josie and Tobias Schenkl are under the covers, intertwined; Josie smokes, muses.

TOBIAS

Did you know the entire universe began as a tiny little speck:

(kisses neck)

infinitely hot...

(CONTINUED)
JOSIE

Ininitely dense. You know, I'm worried about my brother.

TOBIAS

Emotionally?

JOSIE

Physically -- I talked to the doctors. What if his body rejects the chip, Tobias? What if it kills him?

TOBIAS

And it was all the 'emperor's New Mind?'

(shakes his head)
Not gonna happen. You know your brother, Josie -- he hasn't come all this way just to let a little thing like the body get in his way.

(beat)
What will the Senator be like -- after the transference?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JOSIE
Ghostly: When he speaks, it will be like the sound the palms make when the leaves clash against themselves in the wind.

TOBIAS
He'll look like himself?

JOSIE
Like a hologram. He'll be able to reach into our dreams -- by then, half the world will be on Merezine. He'll be like Christ.

TOBIAS
And we, His disciples. One day, we'll follow him -- we'll go to that ghostly place.

JOSIE
Yes, St. Tobias...
(kisses him)
there will be time for that. But first, I want us to feel what it's like to rule a country and its people absolutely.

TOBIAS
It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it.

They begin to kiss. A KNOCK at the bedroom door; Tobias gets up to answer. Josie's angry at the interruption.

JOSIE
This better be good!

Tobias confesses sotto voce with a servant.

TOBIAS
It's Mr. Wyckoff -- in the library.

Josie bustles out of bed.

LIBRARY
Harry's sitting down, facing Josie as she enters in robe; After a beat, Tobias enters wearing one of the Senator's sulkas. He stands in doorframe throughout scene.

(CONTINUED)
JOSIE
Well, well -- if it isn't 'America's Most Wanted.'

HARRY
Hope I didn't catch you at a bad time. I wanted to tell you that you did a helluva job with that tape of me and Grace.

JOSIE
I knew you'd appreciate it.

HARRY
The TV programmer in me screams, this could be a hit! Kill a 'mystery' guest off every week. Start historically: one week Caesar, the next, Hoffa --

Josie sits on the sofa, fingers the strange telephone on the table beside her: it says Mimetel -- Harry is a holo!

HARRY
'Death to New Realism! Long lived the Friends!' Who wrote that dialogue? Did you really think anyone would believe it?

JOSIE
Does it matter? We're already climbing up in the polls again. Don't you get it? No one gives a damn.

HARRY
Why bother with an election? Why not just seize control?

JOSIE
My brother has infinite respect for the middle class.

HARRY
I want my daughter back, Josie. Does the Senator still want to make a deal?

JOSIE
You have it?

HARRY
I will. Just tell me where to bring it.

(Continued)
CONTINUED: (2)

Tobias steps over to Josie, sits down beside her.

TOBIAS
Japantown. Sunday, four o'clock --
the Festival of Ghosts.

Harry reacts when he sees Tobias.

INT. WILDERZONE - HUNGRY GHOST - NIGHT

Harry sits in booth -- across from him are Josie's and
Tobias's holos; it's evident that throughout preceding
scene, Tobias remained hidden from Harry's view.

CHOKO tends bar. It's uncrowded; Eli Levitt watches the
weird scene from his stool.

HARRY
Schenkl! You sick animal!

TOBIAS
Don't 'project' on me, Harry...

HARRY
All those years... you used what
I told you. How many died? If I
ever get my hands on you --

TOBIAS
Oh, please, Harry -- stop the
adolescent posturing.

JOSIE
Sunday, four o'clock. Ciao!

Josie and Tobais' holos vanish. Harry hangs head in
frustrated rage. Eli Levitt walks over, sits. He removes
his wedding band and places it on the table.

HARRY
What's this?

ELI
The GO Chip -- when they took it
from your hand, we embedded it in
the coating: the wedding band
Josie gave me. I like the irony.

HARRY
Why now, Eli?

ELI
Word on the street is someone's
going to hit the Senator -- soon.
CONTINUED:

HARRY
(takes it)
Talk to your people. I don't want
anything to happen to him -- not
before I get to Deirdre --

ELI
I can't control that.

HARRY
You've got to try --

Harry clutches his head, wincing with pain.

ELI
What is it?

Harry tilts his head back; a deep blue fluid drips from
his nose.

HARRY
What --

ELI
It's the Mimezine -- Schenkl must
have overdosed you at the
Perceptory. Come on! I still
have some of the antigen...

He lifts Harry from the booth; Choko comes over to help.

INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - WOIWODE'S ROOM -
CLOSE ON DISCARDED MIMEZINE AMPULES - DAY

CAMERA PANS TO Woiwode, in bed. Sitting on the bed's
edge is TOMMY, shirtless.

WOIWO De
I sing the body electric... How
strange -- who is that sitting on
my bed? It feels like you --
smells like you. Is it a horror?
To be gotten through the night
by something made at Mimecom?
Is it a horror...

TOMMY
(stands; boyish)
Hey, Tully, come on! Stop painting,
will you? We're gonna be late!
It's the Fourth of July -- they're
making bonfires on the beach...

(Continued)
WOIWODE
(crying)
If there's a God, forgive me! For
I am lonely, and I am blind!

TOMMY
Hold me...

Woiwode stands, approaches -- but as he does, Tommy's
toyo begins to break up, fading and reappearing.

WOIWODE
(confused)
Tommy?

TOMMY
Hey, Tully, come on! Stop painting,
will you? We're gonna be late!

WOIWODE
(afraid)
Tommy, don't leave me!

TOMMY
They're making bonfires on the
beach --

WOIWODE
Tommy!

Tommy vanishes -- Tully screams.

OMITTED

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Tobias Schenkl enters from hall. A few beats after he's
in, Harry takes him from behind, holding him in a head-
lock while raising the "rhino knife" for Schenkl to see.

TOBIAS
Don't do it, Harry!

HARRY
Give me a reason, Tobias!

TOBIAS
There are still things you need
to know -- don't do it --

HARRY
Everything I need to know is
right in my hand...

(CONTINUED)
TOBIAS

If you kill me, you'll never see
Deirdre again!

(CONTINUED)
Reluctantly, Harry eases his grip. Tobias shakily walks to his desk, sits.

TOBIAS
It isn't safe for you to be out and about. If they pick you up...

HARRY
Nothing's going to happen to me as long as I have the GO Chip...

TOBIAS
Why don't you lay down on the couch -- like old times.

HARRY
Tell me what you know about the Chip. What will happen when I give it to the Senator?

TOBIAS
He will become immortal...

HARRY
It's impossible --

TOBIAS
Do you know what Paradise is, Harry? No longer encumbered by the body, whatever you imagine is made real before you. That's the GO Chip -- what your father Dex dreamed only about...

HARRY
You're insane -- all of you! --

TOBIAS
Too many of us now, Harry -- Synthiotics is worldwide. We have our enemies, too -- they've outgrown the Perceptories. When the election is over, those who aren't with us, we will enslave -- in a thousand Manzanars.

Harry gets woozy: his hand goes to his nose -- blue fluid. Then he claps his hands to his ears in pain; we hear CHURCH BELLS accompanying his agonies.

TOBIAS
What's the matter, Harry? Cat got your mind?

Schenkl starts to laugh; Harry runs from the room. We STAY ON Schenkl.
EXT. STREETS - DAY

TIGHT TRACKING SHOT WITH Harry as he runs wildly, BELLS clamoring. He stops, holds handkerchief to his nose -- great blue stains. WIDEN as he stumbles into his car, pulls away.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

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EXT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT.

29
INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

CLOSE ON steel tray. Someone drops acupuncture needles in. We LOOSEN to reveal Harry, laying on futon, a human porcupine; Sako deftly removes them. Paige ENTERS FRAME.

    PAIGE
    You okay?

    HARRY
    What happened?

    PAIGE
    They found you in the 'Vette, on the street. What happened to you?

Harry puts his fingers to his nose, then looks at them to see any traces of blue.

    HARRY
    (ironic)
    Just a heavy session with the shrink.

    PAIGE
    Choko's been working on you.

    HARRY
    (ironic)
    Comforting.
    (hand to head; troubled)
    I heard the bells...

    CHOKO
    (JAPANESE)

    HARRY
    What'd she say?

    PAIGE
    She says, you've got the sickness, but you're not gonna die.

    CHOKO
    (JAPANESE)

    (CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

PAIGE
You're stronger than Tommy was.
She calls you the 'original rhino-
dreamer.'

HARRY
Terrific. Does the Senator know
you're down here?

PAIGE
(nods, then)
I couldn't stay with him anymore.

HARRY
You didn't happen to bring any
of that snake-in-the-bottle
stuff --

CHOKO
No alcohol!

Choko has removed the last needles; exits with supplies.  Harry caresses Paige's cheek.

HARRY
It's good to see you.

PAIGE
(notices hand; mixed
emotions)
You've got your ring on...

HARRY
Long story.
(stands)
Let's go.

PAIGE
Where?

HARRY
I just wanna see blue sky.

He takes her hand; they exit.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD HILLS - DAY
They've parked in the Corvette on Mulholland, looking out
over the smoggy cityscape.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

HARRY
I open my eyes in the morning, and
I think: Is what I'm seeing real?
First thought of the day. What's
real, Paige? Can you tell me?

PAIGE
Deirdre's real. Peter's real.
(hand to her mouth)
We are.

He walks to ridge and stares out. She follows.

HARRY
Feel like travelling, Paige?

PAIGE
Yes.

HARRY
We could fly away somewhere -- or
live in a big old house in the
mountains. That's what Grace
always wanted to do.

Paige lowers eyes, deferring to Grace's memory.

HARRY
I want to find some Norman
Rockwell-town, with maple trees
and park benches and a shiny red
fire engine. A decent place --
where people still respect reality.

She smiles, puts her arms around him.

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EXT. WILDERZONE - BAZAAR - DAY

As he lopes through the stalls, Tully Woiwode looks worn
and haggard -- like so many Holoheads who hang around this
section of the Wilderzone.

PURVEYOR
Hey, Twenty-Twenty! Back so soon?

WOIWODE
I need more tapes.

PURVEYOR
You gonna start paying for these
things, Twenty-Twenty?

WOIWODE
I'm strapped today. The next time --

(CONTINUED)
PURVEYOR
I'm out of 'Tommy' tapes.

WOIWOE
(desperate)
Don't cut me off! You'll get your money today!

PURVEYOR
I said I'm out. Look, a friend of yours came by. She might be able to help you...

WOIWOE
Who?

PURVEYOR
A lady. Said she'd be over at the Mimeplex. I think she has some tapes --

Tommy hurriedly exits; the Purveyor slyly watches him go.

PURVEYOR
(to self)
She'll fix you up, Twenty-Twenty. Fix you up real good...

EXT. MIMEPLEX-ODEON - DAY

The marquee reads: Mike Rauch in "WILDERZONE COP" - Rated R.

INT. MIMEPLEX-ODEON - DAY

An uncrowded matinee. Instead of a screen, there's a stage. Onstage is a grungy apartment with adjacent hall. A cop works his way down the hall, holding his gun. He kicks in apartment door and enters. The Cop hugs the wall while looking for suspects.

ANGLE ON WOIWOE

In his seat, perspiring -- looks around nervously. Suddenly, Josie leans forward from darkness of aisle behind him. He's startled. The "movie" onstage continues through scene: the Cop thinks he's found his suspect hiding under a bed -- But it's a pretty young girl. (Their scene plays out inaudibly in b.g.)

JOSIE
Hello, Tully. Don't panic -- I'm not going to hurt you.

(CONTINUED)
WOIWODE
You --!

JOSIE
(touching his special glasses)
You really see with those things.

WOIWODE
Yes. And with the MIMEZINE...

JOSIE
Phenomenal! I'm so glad. I brought some 'Tommy' tapes for you: very high quality. I thought it was better I gave them to you myself -- that disgusting girl in the Wilderzone's been diluting the images. That's why you can only watch them once.

WOIWODE
Why are you doing this?

JOSIE
I'm making amends.

She hands him a bag of holocassettes, he looks in, but resists.

JOSIE
There is something you could do for me. I've been looking for Eli Levitt --

WOIWODE
No!

JOSIE
I understand he's preparing to assassinate my brother...

WOIWODE
Please don't make me!

JOSIE
I love my brother very much -- as much as you love Tommy...

WOIWODE
At the press conference; that's where he's going to kill him --

(continues)
CONTINUED: (2)

JOSIE
I'm going to give you all the tapes that you need...

WOIWODE
(sotto voce)
Might I but live to see thee in my touch/I'd say I had eyes again...

JOSIE
Come on, Tully -- Tommy's waiting for you...

She hands him a holotape.

INT. WILD PALMS - SENATOR'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Winds blow the curtains in. Coty sits on the Senator's hospital bed, pleading.

COTY
Don't give Deirdre back!

SENATOR
I've never seen you like this --

COTY
Josie and Tobias -- they're going to kill her! Josie hates me!

SENATOR
It'll be all right, son...

COTY
It won't! It won't!

Coty lays his head on the Senator's lap, and cries; Kreutzer strokes his head.

(CONTINUED)
SENATOR
All my sons... I thought if I
put you under the same roof, we'd
have a dynasty. I made a mess of
it, didn't I?

COTY
Are you really going to the
place where holograms go?
(as the Senator
nods)
But you're not going to die?

SENATOR
I'll be stronger than ever.

COTY
The GO chip's taking you?

SENATOR
They'll put it...
(touches the back of
his own head)
here. See: the way you and I --
and Josie -- look at the world...
is the right way. The only way.
I carved this house, Wild Palms,
out of the sand. The people need
someone to lead them out of the
desert to the oasis. We're
building a larger house, is all --
an ark. A place of many mansions;
and we will have many to serve us.

COTY
Will I be able to see you?

SENATOR
Of course...

COTY
Touch you?

SENATOR
(sweetly sad)
No.

COTY
Will you forget me?

Never.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

COTY
Don't forget to remember, Daddy.
Don't forget to remember me...

The Senator strokes his son's head.

EXT. WILDERZONE - BAZAAR - DAY

Choko and Eli browse through sidewalk bins. A merchant watches them. Eli hands a strange tangled root to Choko.

ELI
Ask him if this can also be used for image sickness.

As Eli continues to browse and Choko speaks to merchant in strange tongue, a battered 60's car pulls up -- men in suits jump out and grab him, punching him in the gut. He doubles over. Choko turns and is shot down; the merchant ducks. Eli is dragged to car with hood over head.

EXT. MUNICIPAL POOL - ENTRANCE - DAY

The battered car pulls up. Eli is dragged to pool area.

SWIMMING POOL AREA

The pool's filling up -- water gushes in from its sides. They sit Eli down and take off his hood.

JOSIE
I've been searching for you.

ELI
Shotgun wedding, Josie?

JOSIE
More a 'baptism.' Know who told me where to find you? Your old artist-in-arms -- Tully Woiwode.

ELI
I don't believe that.

JOSIE
Scout's honor. Called me up, all by himself. Even told me about the GO Chip -- hidden in the engagement ring I gave you. Is nothing sacred, Eli?

ELI
You won't win, Josie.

(CONTINUED)
JOSIE
Hungry, Eli? You'll love the food
here -- soup's a little watery...

She indicates the pool: floating in the deep end are a
table and chairs -- just like when they met before.

ELI
You're sick...

JOSIE
You don't think I'd let you kill
my brother, did you?
(tom en)
Show Mr. Levitt to his table.

Two men in swimsuits drag Eli over to the edge and throw
him in, then jump after. Eli clings to side of pool,
with the men in swimsuits holding him on either side.
Josie kneels down close to her old lover.

JOSIE
The revolution's over, Eli. We
went in the tunnels today and
rounded 'em up. They're all dead
-- Harry... Deirdre... that slut
Paige Katz -- everyone. All your
close, personal Friends --

Eli reacts painfully to her lies. She nods to the men in
swimsuits; they dunk Eli, then pull his gasping head from
the water.

ELI
I'll see you in hell, Josie --

JOSIE
I was going to suggest some
wine, but I don't think it's a
good idea -- one should never
drink and drown. And you are the
designated drowner --

She shoves his head under the water and holds it there.

JOSIE
Goodbye, Eli. It could have
been so good with us.
(closing her eyes,
almost rapturously)
So good... So good --
INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - COMMUNAL AREA - DAY

Harry removes the rhino knife from its box and slips it into a sheath at her waist. Paige enters, holding a poster in her hand -- of Harry's face, with "INNOCENT" slashed over it. She shows it to him.

PAIGE
They went up overnight --
thousands of them.

HARRY
Start the revolution without me.

PAIGE
What time is the rendezvous?

HARRY
Four.

PAIGE
I want to come, Harry.

HARRY
No --

PAIGE
I'm still the Senator's wife --
the Fathers are less likely to
pull anything if I'm there...

HARRY
Have you seen Eli?
(as she shakes her head)
He's the one who's going to kill
Kreutzer. If he dies before I
get to Deirdre...

EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY

Harry and Paige arrive at colorful "o-bon" festival --
dancers, revelers in kimonos, etc.

In a different section of the festival, a Range Rover
pulls up, followed by MimeCom van.

EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN/POOL/PATIO - DAY

Josie and the Senator, in the middle of press conference.
Around 15 REPORTERS; several video crews. (Dialogue will
overlap the Festival of Ghosts.)

(CONTINUED)
REPORTER #4
There's been strange talk you're preparing medically for some sort of 'cosmological expedition' --

SENATOR
Heard that one myself -- read it in the tabloids. My favorite golf partner and I had a giggle about it.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

REPORTER #5
Who's the golf partner, Senator?

SENATOR
Elvis, who else?
The press roar with laughter.

EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY

Harry sees Deirdre exit Range Rover in distance. As he and Paige move toward her, a procession passes. Paige and Harry get separated by dancers; a Lady Dancer breaks off, following Harry...

EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN/POOL/PATIO - DAY

The press conference continues.

REPORTER #3
Can you address the growing problem of Mimezine addiction and image sickness?

SENATOR
There will always be abusers -- that's human nature. Synthiotics is deeply involved in prevention and detox; our hearts and our hands reach out to these people.

EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY

The Lady Dancer yanks Harry around a corner, pummelling and wrestling him to the ground. Harry tears off the Dancer's wig, smearing the white-face -- it's Tobias Schenkl. Harry pounds the living crap out of him, but Schenkl manages to hang on, getting some licks in.

EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN/POOL/PATIO - DAY

Back to press conference.

REPORTER #4
Polls seem to indicate that the longer Harry Wyckoff remains a fugitive, the greater support for him grows. He's becoming a martyr for the underground, and his appeal is crossing over --

JOSIE
I am not a vindictive person. He murdered my daughter; I simply want justice done.
WILD PALMS - "Hello, I Must..." - Rev. 8/11/92 33.

EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY 46

Paige frantically tries to find Harry.

Deirdre stands beside Range Rover, holding onto hand of one of the men in suits. A Technician in MimeCom van looks at his watch.

EXT. WILD PALMS ZEN GARDEN/POOL/PATIO - DAY 47

More.

REPORTER #1
The Friends have said the Fathers are poised to stage a coup d'état if you fail to win the election. Can you comment?

SENATOR
The coup began with 'Church Windows' and will end with my election to the White House. My army? The American people...

Reporters AD LIB a few more questions.

EXT. FESTIVAL OF GHOSTS - DAY 48

Harry is getting the best of Tobias Schenkl, when men in suits appear to rescue the psychiatrist. They knock Harry down and spirit Schenkl off. We TRACK WITH Schenkl as they reach the Rover.

MIMECOM TECHNICIAN
What's happening?

TOBIAS
I have it -- let's go!

MAN IN SUIT
Do we leave the girl?

TOBIAS
No! Change of plans --

Deirdre's bundled back inside -- Harry charges from b.g.

TOBIAS
Move! Move! Move!

The Rovers -- and Deirdre -- pull away. Harry pounds on the window, where he and Deirdre lock eyes; he's thrown off as the car accelerates. Paige runs up.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

PAIGE
Are you okay?

HARRY
Yeah... I'm okay.

Harry gets himself together. Paige takes his hands in hers, examining the bloodied knuckles.

PAIGE
You're bleeding --

HARRY
(notices hand)
The ring --

PAIGE
What is it?

HARRY
He took the ring!

And Harry Wyckoff's bargaining "chip" with it.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
FADE IN:

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Chaos in the streets. Men in suits clash with Friends as the incident is filmed by rogue cameramen.

PROTESTERS (V.O.)
The whole world is watching! The whole world is watching! The whole world is watching!

"Dreaming" is slowly substituted for "watching" as the violence continues...

INT. WALT WHITMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Harry is readying a gun; Paige enters, stands in door. We can hear the PROTESTERS' VOICES in b.g.

PAIGE
Eli's dead. They've called a War Meeting at MacArthur Park; they're going to attack Channel Three and the lab at MimeCom...

HARRY
Where's the Senator?

PAIGE
There's a surgical suite at Wild Palms -- that's where they did the procedure...

HARRY
I'm going -- to get Deirdre. I'll come back for you and Peter.

PAIGE
I've come all this way for you. Don't leave me behind -- not now.

HARRY
Where's Tully?

PAIGE
No one's seen him -- we're worried he was picked up.

EXT. WILDERZONE - BAZAAR - DAY

We START ON "INNOCENT" POSTERS of Harry Wyckoff glued to wall. Tully Woiwode ENTERS FRAME, walks along -- jittery and paranoid, he looks like he's detoxing. (CONTINUED)
Schenkl is on the phone. Josie sits on the couch, in darkness, drink in hand. She watches a holo ANCHORWOMAN.

ANCHORWOMAN

... On this day before the election, signs the campaign of Senator Tony Kreutzer is crumbling as support grows for the fugitive Harry Wyckoff. Wyckoff released copies of his late wife's diaries to the media earlier today -- diaries which support growing allegations of murder, torture and New Realist mind control in corridors of MimeCom. Sporadic violence continues...

TOBIAS

Yes, we'll come. Right away.

He hangs up.

JOSIE

What is it?

TOBIAS

Your brother underwent the procedure.

JOSIE

He was supposed to wait for me -- I wanted to be there -- !

TOBIAS

Something went wrong. It seems Harry got the chip to the boy -- Peter. He tampered with it; Chickie taught him some tricks.

The DOORBELL RINGS; Schenkl goes to answer.

JOSIE

(stands, stricken)

I have to go to him! --

It's Lt. Grindrod at the door. Before Schenkl can greet him, Grindrod is shoved inside by a couple of Floating World boat-hand/acolytes. They grab Josie and Schenkl. Lt. Grindrod breaks free, makes a move; they blow him away. Tully Wolwode enters front door. When Josie sees him, she's terrified.

(CONTINUED)
TOBIAS
You blind fool -- what do you
think you're doing?

The acolytes pummel Schenkl in the stomach. He falls
to the ground; they kick him as Josie watches helplessly.

JOSIE
Tully, please --

WOIWODE
What a strange world. So
dramatic -- so... predatory.

JOSIE
Don't kill me! Not now --

WOIWODE
(ironic)
Just when everything was going
so well?

JOSIE
(groping)
Tully -- we're like two old
generals!

WOIWODE
Yin and yang -- Jewel and the
Lotus!

JOSIE
I respect you! Please, Tully!
Tell me what you want!

(continued)
CONTINUED:

HARRY
It's all right -- Kreutzer's
dead. I made sure of that.

They exit toward house.

INT. WILD PALMS - DAY

Harry and Paige enter, cautiously. An eerie stillness.

SENATOR (O.S.)
Harry? Is that you?

Harry sees the Senator, sitting at his desk, shrouded in
darkness. Harry is clearly taken aback.

HARRY
Yes, Senator. It's me...

SENATOR
I knew you were coming -- that's
why I sent them all away. This
is not Olympus now: mortals will
not be tolerated. I've made an
exception -- for you.

PAIGE
(behind Harry,
whispering)
Something's wrong with him.

SENATOR
Some hours ago, I received the
GO Chip implant...

HARRY
How do you feel?

SENATOR
They said it couldn't be done.
'Do not pass 'go', they said.
(laughs)
Do not collect $200 --

HARRY
I want to talk.

SENATOR
We never talked enough. That was
my fault. Now we have all the time
in the world...

(CONTINUED)
HARRY
You had more that just an affair with my mother -- didn't you?

SENATOR
We enjoyed each other's company, Berenice and I -- Dex wasn't too thrilled. We had a child together, did you know? Dex thought it was his. Named the boy 'Harry.' He found out, Dex did, tried to kill me. I had to defend myself...

HARRY
Why didn't you tell me? Instead of this insane charade -- why?

SENATOR
The garden is filled with lies, Harry -- little lies -- thousands over a lifetime, like lilies of the field. My lies are Mimecom's -- state-of-the-art, for the masses...

HARRY
You took Peter -- my son away from me. You took everything from me I loved. Tell me why!

SENATOR
Do you know what the unicorn does when it's surrounded by hunters, Harry?

HARRY
Tell me why, you psychotic sonofabitch!

SENATOR
It somersaults into the nearest abyss, breaking the fall with its horn...

Harry's come up close to the Senator now.

HARRY
You destroyed Coty --

SENATOR
Your brother Coty -- it's rather like an Arabian tale, isn't it, Harry?

(CONTINUED)
HARRY
You made him into a monster --

The Senator's image begins to waffle -- we realize he is a holo.

PAIGE
Oh my God...

SENATOR
(weirdly calm)
What's happening?

HARRY
We altered the chip -- Peter and I. My son... some of your own people helped us.

The Senator laughs ruefully.

SENATOR
You know, if there was time, I'd tell you all about your mother and me. I'd tell you things only the wild palms know... Can't feel my legs -- ain't that the craziest thing?

(softly sings)
Hello, I must be going. I cannot stay. I came to say. I must be going --

HARRY
Don't leave - not yet! Face me, Father!

SENATOR
I'm glad I came but just the same I must be going --

HARRY
You ruined everything you touched. What was the matter? Wasn't this world enough?

SENATOR
I'll stay a week or two --

HARRY
You didn't have to run to Paradise -- Paradise was here! Here, damn you! Paradise was here!
The Senator reaches out for Harry, tenderly. He is waffling and breaking up now -- not much time left.

SENATOR
-- but I am telling you, I must be going!

HARRY
Coward!

SENATOR
(stops singing)
This is the way the world ends.
Not with a bang, but a whim --

He vanishes. Paige sees something outside.

PAIGE
On the terrace!

ANGLE ON DIERDRE

THROUGH the window, standing on the terrace. Harry and Paige exit.

EXT. WILD PALMS - TERRACE - DAY

Harry rushes to Deirdre -- before he can get to her, Coty and several (MARITIME) acolytes emerge from the shadows, with guns. They pull Deirdre back. Coty looks drained.

COTY
Did you speak to Father?

HARRY
In the living room.

COTY
Living room? Funny -- his body's in the guest house. You know, I talked to him awhile; then he floated over the roof like a Chagall...

HARRY
It's over now.

COTY
(laughs weirdly)
Easy for you to say. Hello, Mother.

PAIGE
Let us go...

(CONTINUED)
COTY
You're very James Bond today, Mother.
(to Harry)
She was always in awe of Pussy Galore...

Harry advances on him. Coty pulls a derringer from his coat.

COTY
Stay away!

HARRY
All this time, and I find out we're brothers...

COTY
(sardonic)
Harry Wycoff, this is your life!

HARRY
Our father is dead; I'm taking Deirdre. Why don't you come with us? Leave all this behind --

COTY
That's what Daddy wanted -- to leave everything behind. And look what happened...

HARRY
Put down the gun.

COTY
Am I going to die old, Harry? Or will I have a second childhood?

PAIGE
Coty, put it down!

COTY
(shaking head)
Too late...

HARRY
It was too late for the Senator -- not for you. You're just a boy...

Peter enters.

COTY
The plot thickens.

(continued)
HARRY
Peter, stay back.

PETER
I wanted to be here... I belong with you and Deirdre.

COTY
What a poignant moment...

HARRY
What are you gonna do, Coty? Kill us all?
(walks closer; as Coty gets nervous)
Deirdre's watching -- what do you think she sees? Do you think she wants to stay with someone like you?

COTY
She loves me!

HARRY
How could she love a monster?

COTY
Don't you talk to me that way!

HARRY
Deirdre baby, come on. Come to Daddy...

COTY
Leave her alone!

PAIGE
Forgive me, Coty! I closed my eyes to what they were doing to you!

COTY
(to Paige)
You shut up!

HARRY
If you love Deirdre so much, let her decide for herself.

COTY
She wants to stay with me! She loves me! I know she does!

HARRY
Come on, baby. Daddy's here. (CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

COTY
(aimed at Harry)
I'll shoot!

HARRY
In front of your baby sister?
You're a lousy role model, know that?

PAIGE
I'm sorry, baby, for letting them
destroy you. I'm so sorry!

COTY
(spacing out)
I'm the only one now... the only
Father --

HARRY
(to Deirdre)
Come to Daddy, baby...

PAIGE
(moving toward Coty)
My poor baby!

COTY
(snapping out of
reverie)
I'll kill you dead, Mama!

PAIGE
You wouldn't hurt me -- give me
the gun...

She's almost upon him; Coty hesitates.

COTY
Mother? Who am I?

PETER
Father, look out!

One of the Acolytes is about to shoot; Harry wheels on
him, FIRING. The Acolyte gets a SHOT OFF, wounding Paige
-- as others reach for guns, Harry finishes them off.
Paige has charged Coty, taking gun; he flees. Suddenly,
a piercing scream:

DEIRDRE
Daddy!

(CONTINUED)
Deirdre runs to Harry; Peter joins them. All hug, then Harry goes to Paige, who has a flesh wound. He gathers them up and they exit.

EXT. MIMECOM - NIGHT

The laboratory sign is illuminated by flames.

EXT. ELECTION HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

CLOSE ON burning campaign poster -- a photo of the Senator and Josie, curling up as it burns, THROUGH shattered window.

EXT. CHURCH OF SYNTHIOTICS - CLOSE ON SIGN - NIGHT

Burning.

INT. CHURCH OF SYNTHIOTICS - NIGHT

Candlelight. Inside, we TRACK PAST a few tattered, frightened Acolytes, standing before Coty. He is in sooty, tattered robes.

COTY

Poor men have grown to be rich men... and rich men grown to be poor again.

ALL

And I am running to Paradise.

COTY

The wind is old and still at play, While I must hurry upon my way...

ALL

For I am running --

A burning beam falls and the Acolytes scatter. We PUSH IN ON Coty, left standing there alone, pathetic. He lifts his head to the sky with a horrific, rage-filled scream.

EXT. WILD PALMS - ZEN GARDEN - NIGHT

GUNFIRE in b.g. as house is under siege. Someone pours kerosene onto garden and sets it ablaze. SIRENS KEEN and WAIL in b.g. as we PAN UP TO palm tree, its fronds on fire.
CLOSE ON giant poster of Harry. WE PAN DOWN TO Harry, exiting building with Peter, Paige and Deidre; the Corvette awaits them. Paige's arm is bandaged, spotted with blood. Debris in the streets; triumphant MARCHERS walk-arm-in-arm, holding candles.

MARCHERS
O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done. The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won...

They pull away.

PAIGE
Where will we go?

HARRY
I'm taking you to the tunnels at the beach -- where Chickie lived. It'll be safe there; I want you to be with the children.

PAIGE
What will you do?

HARRY
I have to come back -- they need me. Remember what you told me, Paige, about a thousand years ago? That you wanted a world where you could keep your dreams open at night?

Suddenly, a CLANGING of CHURCH BELLS. Harry instinctively touches his nose, checking for "blue" blood -- nothing. Then, Harry slows, looks up, over his shoulder -- they're passing a church.

ANGLE ON BELLS in tower, RINGING furiously.

A FRIEND stands at the base of the church, looking up toward the bells.

FRIEND
The Fathers have fallen! The Fathers have fallen!

Relieved, Harry smiles ironically.

HARRY
(to self, aloud)
O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

He then rockets off. We PAN TO Tobias Schenkl -- a ruined man. He watches them go.

TOBIAS
You will be my last patient of the day... I will tear your mind apart with my hands --

EXT. PACIFIC OCEAN HIGHWAY - DAY

Harry, Paige, Deirdre and Peter drive along the deserted highway. Peter's in backseat, asleep; Deirdre sleeps in Paige's arms. Harry reaches over and caresses Peter; then strokes Deirdre's head. She stirs.

HARRY
(to Paige)
She talked back there, did you hear her?
(to Deirdre)
You're safe now...

She opens her eyes, a little disoriented.

DEIRDRE
Daddy?

HARRY
What is it, baby?

DEIRDRE
There's so much I want to tell you.

Harry smiles -- as does Paige.

HARRY
There'll be time, baby. There'll be lots of time.

The new day dawns as the fugitives make their way to the tunnels. The water burns with sunlight.

FADE OUT.

THE END