1A WIDE



Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

A dim bedroom at dawn: an alarm clock ringing on the nightstand beside the bed, a lump under the blankets.

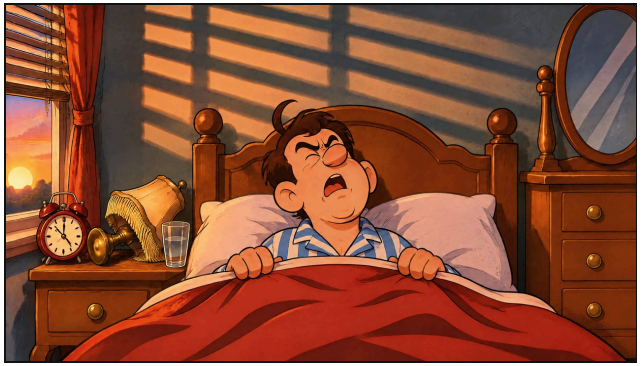
1B CLOSE



Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

An arm flails out from under the blankets and swats wildly across the nightstand; the bedside lamp topples over.

1C MEDIUM



Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Steve's head pokes out from under the blankets, eyes squeezed shut, groaning at the ceiling.

STEVE: Why?

1D INSERT



Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

The alarm clock on the nightstand, its hands at a quarter to seven.

STEVE (V.O.): My thirty-fifth birthday happened two weeks ago. I wasn’t feeling too hot that morning.

1E MEDIUM

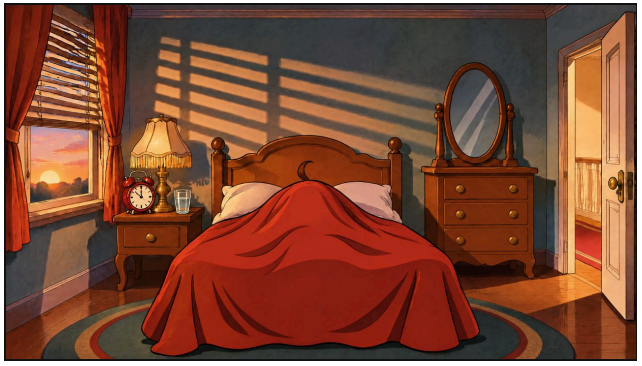


Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Steve, half out of bed, sets the fallen lamp back on the nightstand with a deep sigh.

STEVE (V.O.): Yup, that’s me on my birthday. The plan was to skip work and sleep in.

1F MEDIUM



Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Steve pulls the blankets back over his head; only a lump and a tuft of hair show.

1G WIDE



Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

The alarm rings again; the bedroom door opens and light floods in; Jennifer leans her head in from the hallway.

JENNIFER: Get the hell up and come downstairs. Breakfast is almost done.

1H CLOSE

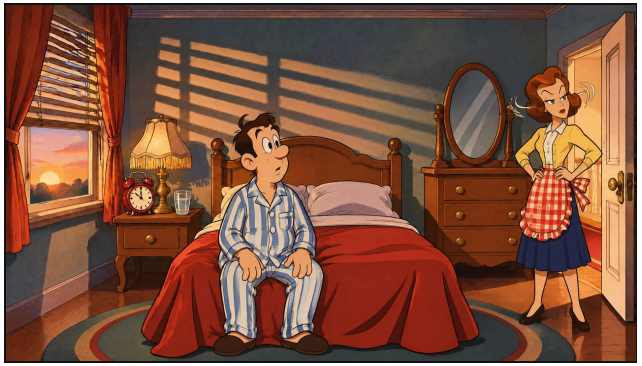


Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Steve, sitting up, yanks the alarm clock's cord out of the wall socket with a look of disgust.

STEVE (V.O.): So much for the plan.

1I TWO-SHOT

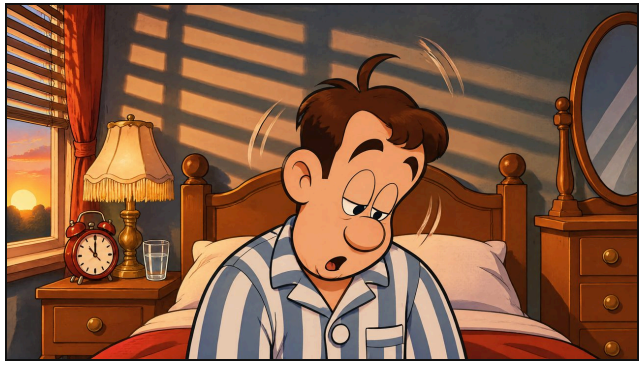


Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Jennifer in the doorway shakes her head in disbelief; Steve sits on the bed and stares at her blankly.

JENNIFER: Steve? — STEVE: Uh?

1J MEDIUM

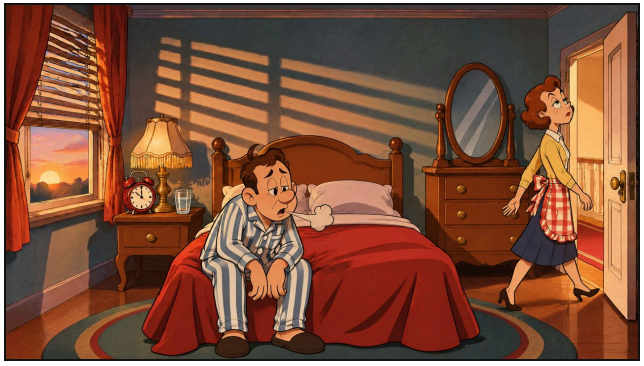


Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Steve nods over and over like a sleepy dog, eyes half shut.

JENNIFER: Take a shower and come downstairs. — STEVE: Uh-huh.

1K MEDIUM

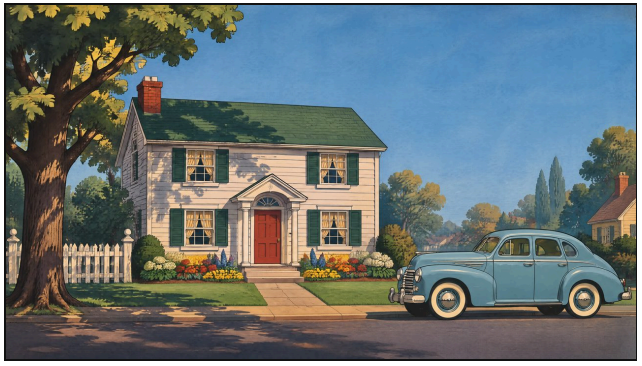


Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Jennifer rolls her eyes and walks out; Steve sits slumped on the edge of the bed and sighs.

STEVE (V.O.): Only if I had stayed in bed that morning. (sigh) I never would’ve had to fire my secretary.

1T TITLE

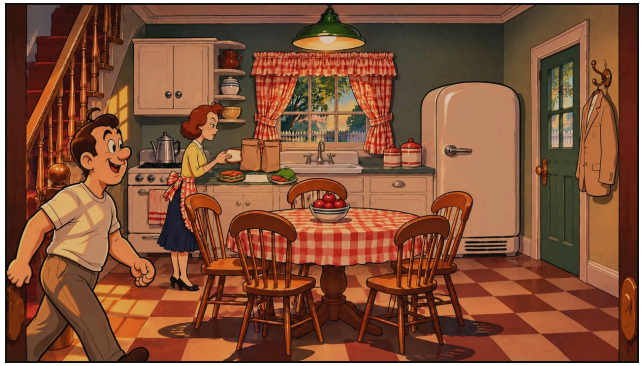


Sc 1 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

Title-card background: Steve's suburban house in the morning sun, the street quiet, a wide clear sky for the title.

ROLL OPENING CREDITS AND TITLE

2A WIDE



Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve comes down the stairs into the kitchen in a white T-shirt and slacks, his hair wet from the shower.

2B WIDE

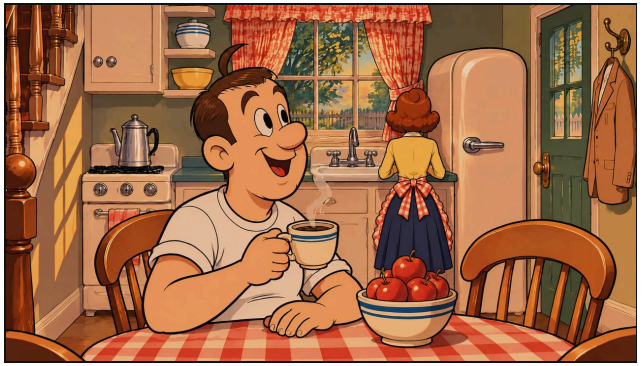


Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

The kitchen: Steve pours himself a cup of coffee and sits at the table while Jennifer rushes back and forth making lunches.

STEVE: Morning dear.

2C MEDIUM



Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve at the kitchen table with his coffee, looking up hopefully; the table in front of him is bare, no present.

STEVE (V.O.): When I went down for breakfast, I thought my wife would tell me “Happy Birthday”. Maybe even have a small gift waiting for me.

2D MEDIUM

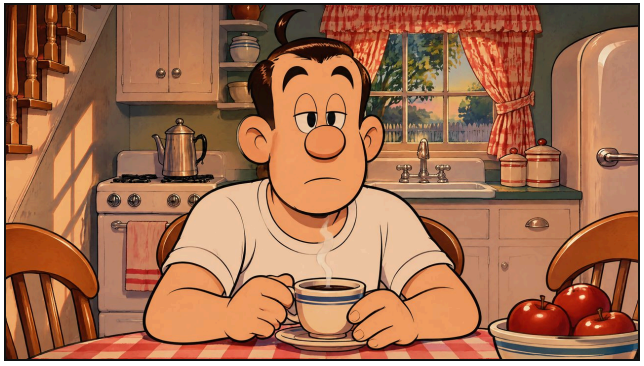


Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Jennifer tosses sandwiches into paper lunch bags and shouts toward the stairs.

JENNIFER: Jack. Sara. Come down and eat before you’re late for the bus again.

2E CLOSE

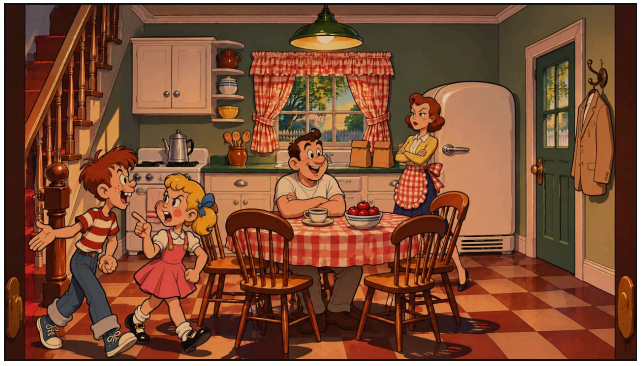


Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve's deadpan face over his coffee cup.

STEVE (V.O.): I didn’t even get a “Good Morning”.

2F WIDE



Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Jack, 12, and Sara, 9, come running down the steps into the kitchen, arguing with each other.

2G TWO-SHOT

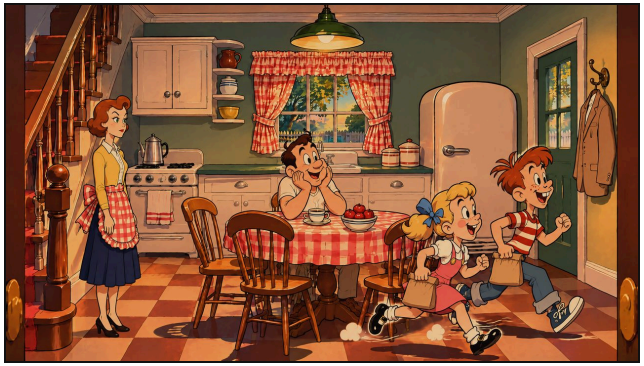


Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Jack and Sara gulp down a glass of orange juice at exactly the same time.

STEVE (V.O.): My wife forgot my birthday. Typical. There was still hope. I was thinking the kids would remember and wish me a “Happy Birthday”.

2H MEDIUM



Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve at the table watches the kids hopefully as they rush past him without a look.

2I WIDE



Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

The kids grab their book bags and lunch bags off the counter and run for the back door, waving to their mother.

JACK AND SARA: Bye Mom!

2J MEDIUM

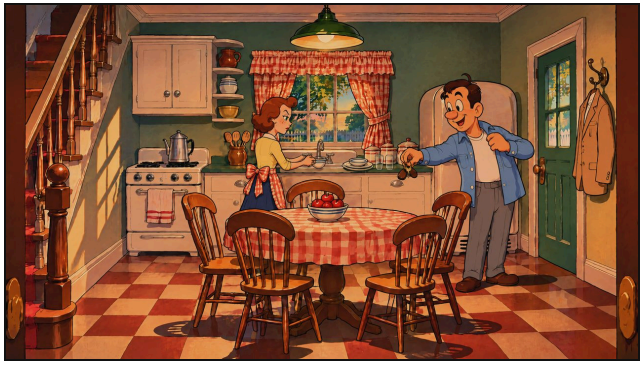


Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

The door slams behind the kids; Steve sits alone at the table, his little wave left hanging.

STEVE (V.O.): Not even a “Bye, Dad”. That figures. It’s just another day, I thought.

2K MEDIUM



Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve stands, slips on a blue button-down shirt and picks up his car keys.

STEVE: Well, I guess I’ll head into the office for a while.

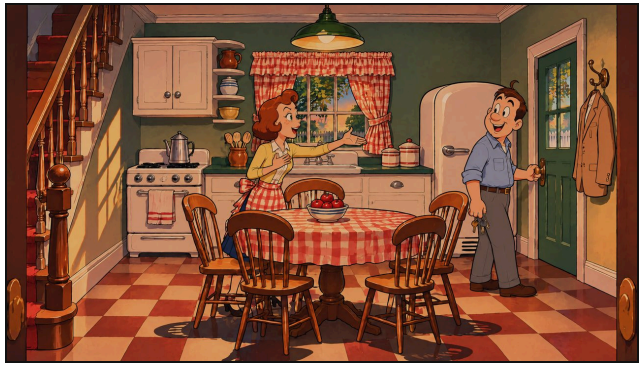
2L TWO-SHOT



Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve kisses Jennifer on the cheek; she keeps working; he heads for the door.

2M MEDIUM



Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve at the door, hand on the knob, turns back with sudden hope as Jennifer calls to him.

JENNIFER: Oh Steve. (beat)

2N CLOSE

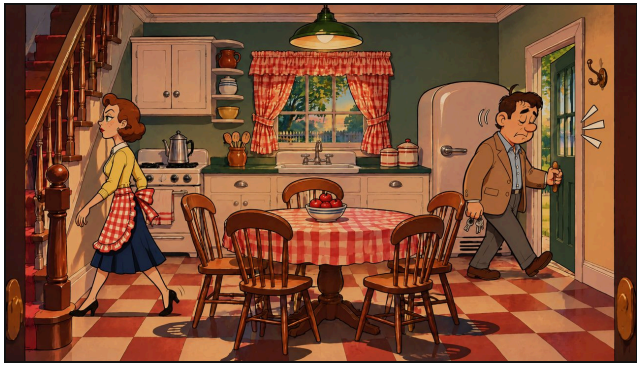


Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Jennifer, not looking up from the lunches.

JENNIFER: Pick up some milk on your way home.

2O MEDIUM



Sc 2 · INT. STEVE’S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steve nods, disappointed, and slams the door on his way out.

STEVE (V.O.): For a split second, I thought she remembered.

3A WIDE



Sc 3 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - LOBBY - MORNING

The door opens into the reception lounge of a small office; Steve walks in; a beautiful woman sits at the reception counter.

STEVE (V.O.): When I started at the office that morning, I was feeling pretty low. But things changed as I walked into my office.

3B MEDIUM



Sc 3 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - LOBBY - MORNING

Cindy behind the counter beams at Steve with a huge smile.

CINDY: Good morning, boss, Happy Birthday.

3C CLOSE



Sc 3 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - LOBBY - MORNING

Steve's face lights up with a wide smile.

STEVE (V.O.): At least someone remembered. — STEVE: Thank you, Cindy. I thought everyone had forgotten.

3D TWO-SHOT



Sc 3 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - LOBBY - MORNING

Cindy leans on the counter toward Steve, warm and teasing.

CINDY: I wouldn’t forget your birthday, Steve. How could you even think something like that?

3E MEDIUM



Sc 3 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - LOBBY - MORNING

Steve waves it off modestly, already turning toward his office.

STEVE: Ah, it’s not important. But thank you for remembering. I got some work to do, so hold my calls for me, please.

3F CLOSE



Sc 3 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - LOBBY - MORNING

Cindy gives Steve a subtly provocative look and licks her lips slightly.

CINDY: Anything you say, boss.

3G MEDIUM



Sc 3 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - LOBBY - MORNING

Steve walks toward his back office door, glancing back, puzzled.

STEVE (V.O.): There was something different about Cindy today. I couldn’t put my finger on it, but she seemed to be...flirting with me.

3H MEDIUM



Sc 3 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - LOBBY - MORNING

Cindy peeks around the corner of the counter with a sly smile, watching Steve shut his office door.

STEVE (V.O.): My day was picking up.

4A INSERT



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

Fade in on the office wall clock at half past eight.

4B INSERT



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

The same wall clock, its hands now at twelve noon.

4C MEDIUM



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

Steve at his desk, buried in paperwork, pen moving fast.

STEVE (V.O.): I worked until noon. I had completely blocked the morning out of my mind...

4D WIDE



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

There is a knock: Cindy opens the office door and peeks in, looking at Steve with great interest.

STEVE (V.O.): Next thing I knew, Cindy was knocking on my door.

4E MEDIUM



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

Steve looks up from his papers, aware of the way she is looking at him, a little uncomfortable.

STEVE: Uh, Cindy? Everything all right?

4F MEDIUM



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

Cindy leans in the doorway, all charm.

CINDY: You know, it’s such a beautiful day outside, and it’s your birthday. I thought we could go to lunch, just you and me.

4G MEDIUM



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

Steve runs his hands through his hair and pretends to weigh his options.

STEVE (V.O.): The way she looked at me. Was she just being nice, or was it something more?

4H MEDIUM



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

Cindy walks up to Steve's desk and leans over it toward him.

CINDY: Aw, come on. It will be fun.

4I CLOSE



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

Steve's eyes widen.

4J MEDIUM



Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

Steve, straight-faced, pretends to consider.

STEVE: Yeah, you know what, Cindy? After careful consideration, that sounds like a damn good idea.

4K WIDE

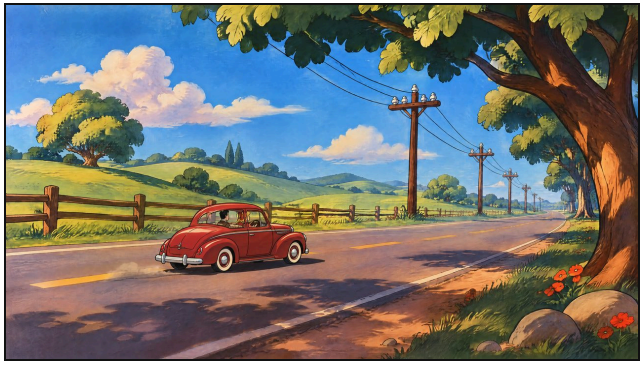


Sc 4 · INT. STEVE’S OFFICE - BACK OFFICE - NOON

Cindy laughs, grabs Steve's hand and leads him up from his chair and out of the office.

STEVE (V.O.): It’s just lunch. No harm in that, right?

5A WIDE



Sc 5 · INT. CINDY’S CAR - HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Cindy's car on a two-lane highway through green countryside in the afternoon sun.

STEVE (V.O.): So we went to lunch. She drove us out into the country to a little private place.

5B TWO-SHOT



Sc 5 · INT. CINDY’S CAR - HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Inside the car, seen through the windshield: Cindy driving, Steve in the passenger seat; Cindy glances at him.

STEVE (V.O.): Now we were heading back to the office. … Shit, I almost forgot about the milk.

5C MEDIUM



Sc 5 · INT. CINDY’S CAR - HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Cindy at the wheel, glancing sideways at Steve with a provocative smile.

CINDY: Hey boss. — STEVE: Yeah?

5D INSERT



Sc 5 · INT. CINDY’S CAR - HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Cindy's hand on Steve's thigh, giving it a little squeeze.

5E TWO-SHOT



Sc 5 · INT. CINDY’S CAR - HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Cindy, hand back on the wheel, eyes on the road, coy; Steve turns to her.

CINDY: You know, it’s still such a beautiful day. We don’t need to go back to the office, do we? — STEVE: No, I guess not. What did you have in mind?

5F CLOSE



Sc 5 · INT. CINDY’S CAR - HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Steve swallows hard, his heart in his throat.

STEVE (V.O.): My heart just got jammed in my throat. I already knew what she was going to say next.

5G MEDIUM



Sc 5 · INT. CINDY’S CAR - HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Cindy, her hand back on Steve's thigh, says it plainly.

CINDY: Why don’t we go to my apartment?

5H CLOSE

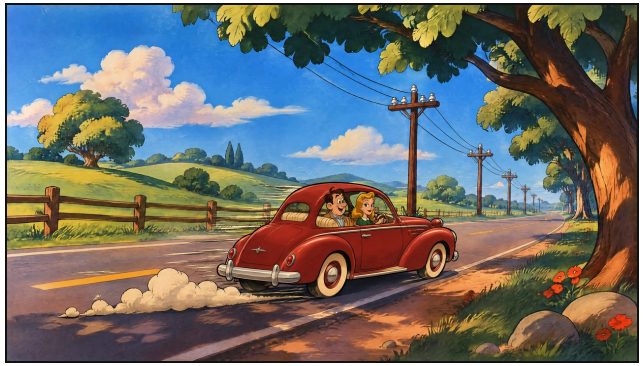


Sc 5 · INT. CINDY’S CAR - HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Steve answers too quickly, grinning.

STEVE: Sounds good to me.

5I WIDE



Sc 5 · INT. CINDY’S CAR - HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

The car speeds away down the highway.

STEVE (V.O.): My birthday started out bad. Now I was about to get one hell of a present. I remember thinking how lucky a bastard I was.

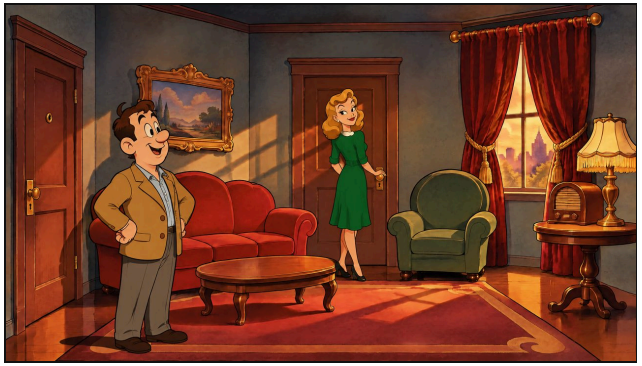
6A WIDE



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

The door of Cindy's apartment swings open; Cindy and Steve walk into the living room.

6B MEDIUM

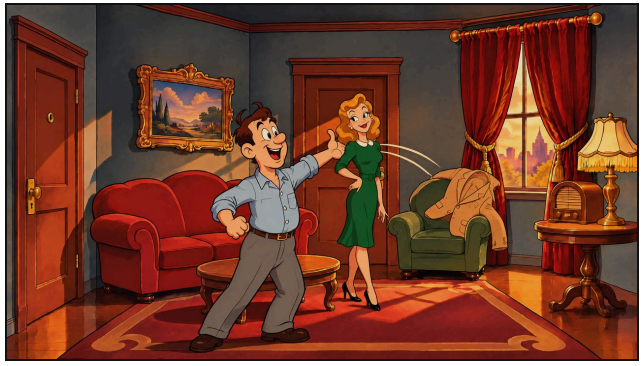


Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Cindy pauses by the bedroom door with a sly look back at Steve.

CINDY: Boss, if you don’t mind, I think I’ll go into the bedroom and slip into something more comfortable.

6C MEDIUM

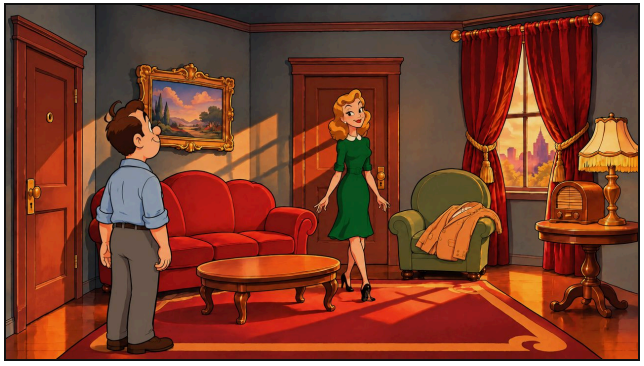


Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Steve, very excited, tosses his jacket onto a chair.

STEVE (V.O.): Oh yeah. Happy birthday to me. — STEVE: Sure. I’ll wait here.

6D MEDIUM



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Cindy walks slowly toward her bedroom and gives Steve one last knowing smile over her shoulder.

CINDY: I’ll be right back.

6E WIDE



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

The closed bedroom door; the camera holds on it.

STEVE (V.O.): She went into the bedroom for, I’m not sure exactly how long, maybe about five or six minutes.

6F MEDIUM



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

The bedroom door opens: Cindy walks out holding a birthday cake with lit candles, singing.

STEVE (V.O.): I was in shock. She had a cake.

6G WIDE



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Pulling back: the living room; behind Cindy, shadows of other people in the dark bedroom.

STEVE (V.O.): But that wasn’t all.

6H WIDE



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Everyone is out of the bedroom singing: dozens of friends, the kids, and Jennifer.

STEVE (V.O.): More people were here. Dozens of our good friends. The kids. And my wife.

6I WIDE

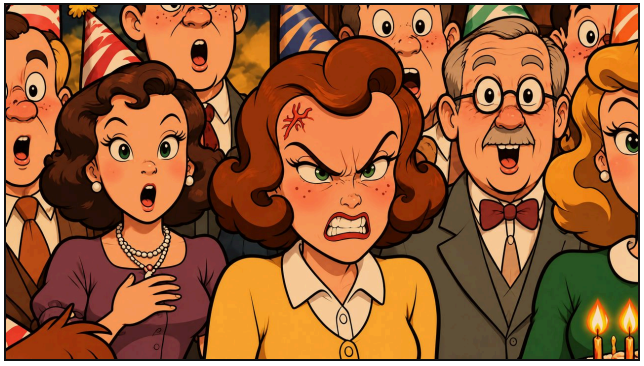


Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

The singing stops dead; shock on every face; the back of Steve's head just visible in the foreground.

STEVE (V.O.): What a wonderful surprise party Cindy threw for me.

6J CLOSE



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Close on Jennifer: the most angry look on her face.

6K WIDE



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

From behind Steve: the back of his head a soft blur in the foreground, all his friends and family staring.

STEVE (V.O.): All I could do was stand there...

6L WIDE



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

The focus switches to the foreground: Steve from behind, the back of his head and his bare shoulders, as every guest stares.

STEVE (V.O.): Butt...Ass...Naked.

6M LOW



Sc 6 · INT. CINDY’S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

From low behind Steve: his bare backside and legs frame the stunned party.

STEVE (V.O.): That’s the reason I fired my secretary.