

J U M P I N G S H I P
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TITLES AND MUSIC - DAY

A high aerial shot, following a winding countryside river on a Summer evening sunset, comes down and closes in from behind and then around to a lone man steering a narrow boat slowly in mid-stream.

INTER-TITLE

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace." Jimi Hendrix

EXT. BOAT - EVENING

The reflections of a sunset glimmer on the undulating surface of the water. A man, RYAN (30) who is wearing an army jacket and has long hair and a beard is at the helm of the narrow boat pulling into a mooring spot. A black man, MARK (29), also wearing an army jacket, is walking a dog on a lead along the tow-path, Ryan salutes and Mark salutes back before walking away. Ryan has arrived at the bank, has turned the engine off and is mooring the boat.

MARK (V.O.)

Yo, you vagabond Ryan. Looks like you've done ok. Smart move getting out, guess having my brains and guts all over your clothes and face was just enough to flip you out for good. Not a damn thing you could have done. IED - Instant Extreme Death, not that I knew a damn thing about it, just my time to check out. We all knew the dangers, except you maybe. Were you still in some kind of game. Straight from X-Box to Ex-plosion. Hear they ran your mind through all manner of tests, put you on some new wonder drug. How's that working out for you? I'll be around if you need me, let me know, if shit gets too much.

Ryan walks towards a nearby pub, alone, he goes into the garden.

EXT. PUB GARDEN - EVENING

Sitting outside in the pub garden are a young couple in the middle of a heated discussion. The woman, CHARLIE (26) is wearing hippy clothes and speaks with an American accent, her partner, RAY(30) is English. Ryan walks past them into the pub as background music plays outside.

CHARLIE

... so you drink as much as you want, I can't because I have to drive, again!

She throws her hands in the air then picks up some car keys from the table which she plays with throughout.

RAY

Surely you can have a couple, there's no harm in that. You're more fun when you've had a few. No one's going to pull you over out here. We're in the middle of nowhere!

Ray takes a drink.

CHARLIE

You don't listen do you?! You know how I feel about drink-driving. Are you stupid or something?

RAY

Don't call me stupid, I've told you about that before. It's obviously you who doesn't listen. Anyway I deserve a drink, I've earned it after a hard week's work.

CHARLIE

Ha! You say you work, I'm not sure being an estate agent counts.

RAY

I don't know what your problem is with estate agents, you've never understood it. We provide an essential service. Anyway, at least I have a job.

Ray drinks more.

CHARLIE

That's cold, you know I loved my old job.

RAY

Yeah, but you just couldn't help opening your big mouth and telling your boss what you really thought about him. That's basically your problem Charlie you can't keep it shut. Then there was that little matter of theft that you tried to keep quiet.

CHARLIE

The guy was an asshole Ray, he was taking advantage of all of us. He had it coming. I'll find something else, something better, I know that, I know that.

RAY

Just how many jobs is it now that you've had in the last year?

CHARLIE

What are you getting at?

RAY

How many?

CHARLIE

Too many, what do you care!? Its not like you've got behind me in any of them. Where are you going with all of this?

RAY

You haven't committed to one of them, not one. You sneak in, you trash the place and then you fuck off. You're a walking disaster zone Charlie.

Charlie goes quiet for a while as Ryan walks out of the pub carrying a pint and sits down nearby.

CHARLIE

If I'm such a basket case why the hell do you want me around (beat) There's only one answer to that it doesn't make me feel too good. Why?

RAY

I honestly have no idea. You're trouble and bad luck. While we're at it why do you insist on wearing those shitty clothes? They make you look cheap. Why don't you smarten yourself up a bit? Have a bit of pride in your appearance, you could learn something from me in that respect.

CHARLIE

Well fuck you very much! I like these clothes. Where do you get off talking like that! You're full of shit Ray, full of it.

RAY

Don't be so naive Charlie,
everyone's full of shit in the
final analysis. The trick is not to
look like it.

CHARLIE

I don't need this, no one needs
that. You're stupid, vain and
ignorant, oh yeah and did I mention
stupid. Whatever I thought your
good points were, I can't see 'em
now. You've lost it.

Ryan is sitting in the background trying not to eavesdrop but cannot but help overhearing what they are saying as they are talking quite loudly now. He's playing with a beer mat and drinking his pint but he can't help glancing over from moment to moment.

RAY

You know, you start these stupid
arguments all the time lately and
I'm just tired of it. If you're so
smart why don't you just move on up
and find someone who's more...
more... less stupid than what you
think I am? Hey?

CHARLIE

It wouldn't be hard, it would beat
hanging around with an arrogant
loser like you, especially such a
stupid one.

RAY

For Christ sake Charlie, stop
saying that! I'm leaving, big time,
I'm gone. You used to be very...
agreeable and...

CHARLIE

I think the word you're looking for
is tolerant.

RAY

Whatever, somewhere along the line
you've turned into a catastrophic
nightmare. Give me the keys!

Ray holds out his hand but Charlie holds the keys away.

CHARLIE

What! You're just going to leave me
here?!

RAY

Just give me the damn keys.

He grabs her by the arm but she resists and they struggle. Ryan looks up and quickly reacts by standing up and moving close to Ray.

RYAN

Leave the young lady alone.

RAY

Who are you, the sheriff of this poxy place?

He continues in trying to wrestle the keys from Charlie.

RYAN

Let go of the lady's arm or I'll be forced to disable you.

RAY

And how are you going to do that, have you got a lasso?

RYAN

I might break your leg at the knee, I don't know, it might turn out slightly different. It might be an elbow, it's hard to say how these things turn out sometimes.

Ray lets go of Charlie's wrist, as they both look at Ryan.

CHARLIE

Take your precious, underpowered car and piss off. You, me, finished. Don't even think about making some pathetic phone call in the morning when you realise what a dick you are. Your number's erased. I hope you crash.

Charlie throws the keys away and they land under a table. Ray walks to get them.

RAY

You're so sad Charlie, you need to get a grip, get a life, because you sure as shit haven't got one now.

CHARLIE

I'll have a life the second you're out of it. Good riddance!

As Ray leaves he bumps into a chair and bangs his head retrieving the keys from under the table. He leaves the pub in a hurry, looking back at Ryan. Charlie puts her head in her hands then looks up to the sky.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Ahh! Bastard men, they're all the same!

Ryan sits back down, then leans over.

RYAN

We're not all the same. Are you ok?

CHARLIE

Excuse me?

RYAN

I just said 'We're not all the same' and then I said 'Are you ok?'

CHARLIE

Yes, yeah, I'm fine. I'm fine really, thank you, sorry, that was my boyfriend, ex-boyfriend.

RYAN

I picked that up.

CHARLIE

Sorry, he's an idiot. All that's been brewing for quite a while now. I guess it had to come to a head.

RYAN

Didn't sound like there was much love lost.

CHARLIE

Ah, it was always going nowhere, I'd have been better off without the scum a long time ago.

RYAN

Better getting out when you can.

CHARLIE

Relationships!

RYAN

Who needs 'em!

Charlie looks over to Ryan to look at him properly for the first time, suddenly interested in him and what he might have to say.

CHARLIE

You talk like maybe you've been through some yourself.

RYAN

Not so much really, but i've been through a whole heap of other shit to keep me going for life. A lot of 'conflict' I think is what they call it.

It's silent for a while.

RYAN (CONT'D)

How are you doing for a drink?

CHARLIE

I could use one.

RYAN

Well you don't have to drive any drunken estate agents home in the near future.

CHARLIE

I hate driving anyway, too fast, too dangerous. I mean not me, I'm safe.

She forces a laugh.

RYAN

What can I get you?

CHARLIE

Bottle of lager, thanks.

RYAN

Won't be a minute.

Ryan gets up and goes into the pub. Charlie moves to his table. The music changes and some more people arrive nearby. Ryan returns with the drinks.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Here we go.

CHARLIE

Cheers, that's a nice watch you're wearing.

Ryan looks at his watch as he talks.

RYAN

Oh this, yeah, we've seen some interesting times together. Its funny I've been thinking of getting a new one, I'm sort of turning over a new leaf right now, can't seem to say goodbye to it though.

CHARLIE
What's your name?

RYAN
Oh me, I'm Ryan.

CHARLIE
Cheers Ryan, pleased to meet you,
grateful too. I'm Charlie.

RYAN
Cheers Charlie.

They drink.

CHARLIE
So you've landed in my little
excuse for a life, what's your
story Ryan? You're not an estate
agent are you...

RYAN
No, no, it's worse...

CHARLIE
I'm sorry, that's just not
possible.

RYAN
I was in the army, I got out six
months ago.

CHARLIE
Now I don't believe you. Shit! I
thought the jacket was some kind of
fashion statement.

RYAN
Fashion is not my strong point.

CHARLIE
That's amazing, I never met a real
live soldier.

RYAN
Oh I'm real alright, and alive, God
knows how.

CHARLIE
It's so cool, is this your local?

RYAN
No, I'm just passing through, on a
kind of holiday, just need some
peace and quiet, time to think.
Home for a couple of weeks is
moored right over there.

He points to the boat which is in a pool of light and has a few lights on inside.

CHARLIE

That is a good life. Drifting along the water without a care in the world. I've watched people going by, so slow and dreamy. Everything can get so hectic with life, it can be hard to breathe. It is beautiful around here isn't it.

RYAN

That's what I'm all about right now.

CHARLIE

Smart move getting out of the forces.

RYAN

To tell you the truth I didn't know much about it. Psychiatric evaluation.

There is an awkward silence but Charlie keeps upbeat.

CHARLIE

Well you'll be pleased to know there's not much of a war going on around these parts

RYAN

Well that's good, eh! I don't feel like any more, violence, death, destruction, hate etcetera, etcetera.

CHARLIE

I guess you don't want to talk about it heh!

RYAN

You got it in one. Some things are best left... unremembered.

There is quiet again.

CHARLIE

Do you know if they have rooms here?

RYAN

I've no idea. Probably.

There is silence again as Ryan looks into his drink.

CHARLIE

Er.. Ryan, I'm in a bit of a tight spot. I didn't think it through, sort of all happened on impulse, no boy-friend, no roof over my head.

RYAN

You need some money.

CHARLIE

Yep, I'm kind of skint.

Ryan is quiet for a while.

RYAN

Why don't you stay on the boat tonight, there's several spare bunks. You can decide what you want to do in the morning.

CHARLIE

Er.. that's very kind, I'm not sure, you wouldn't take advantage of an innocent, naive girl who's down on her luck would you?

RYAN

Ah, I see what you mean, you needn't worry about that, As an officer I'm a gentlemen too, you know, when I have to be.

CHARLIE

Ok, cool. Thank you.

She holds out her hand and they shake.

RYAN

I can't imagine you're so innocent.

CHARLIE

Why, whatever do you mean.

Ryan smiles.

RYAN

Have you got everything?

CHARLIE

My life's in this bag...

They finish their drinks and leave the pub garden. Charlie puts her coat on and carries her bag as they walk towards Ryan's boat, Ryan leading the way with a flashlight.

EXT. BOAT - NIGHT

They get onboard, Ryan flicks a light switch bathing the interior in a soft light and they go inside.

INT. BOAT - NIGHT

The boat has an 'almost new' feel to it and everything is tidy. Charlie explores everywhere, impressed, occasionally remarking on what she discovers.

CHARLIE

Mind if I check everything out?

RYAN

Make yourself at home.

CHARLIE

This is nice. It's so compact, the loo is tiny! Everything has its own little place.

As she walks through the length of the boat, Ryan sits down, and Charlie's voice fades out to be replaced by a voice over in Ryan's mind. It is that of Mark, the young black man we saw at the beginning.

MARK V/O

What are you doing my friend? This was supposed to be just about you and me. She'll get in our way, slow us down, she's a distraction man, get shot of her as soon as you can dude. What you have here is a parasite. We have work to do, remember?

Charlie reappears.

CHARLIE

This is a rental right?

RYAN

Yeah... It's not mine.

CHARLIE

You're very neat and organised.

RYAN

Yeah, I was going to say don't mess stuff up if you can help it.

CHARLIE

Aye, aye Captain.

Charlie salutes.

RYAN

Yeah, you don't need to get into that either.

CHARLIE

Is there music?

RYAN

Er.. yeah there's a radio and a CD player, but I haven't tried then out yet, I haven't got any CDs.

CHARLIE

No problem, I have some right here.

Charlie pulls some CDs from her bag and puts one in the player. It bursts into life very loud, Ryan jumps back, then Charlie quickly turns it down.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Oops sorry.

The music is now quiet and calm.

RYAN

I suppose you'll want some food.

CHARLIE

Let me cook... if that's cool, it's the least I can do.

RYAN

Ok.

Charlie cooks, whilst Ryan just sits in the one place, staring into the mid-distance, listening to the music.

MARK (V.O.)

You see, what I'm telling you, they come from nowhere, just show up and take over, just like that. You might as well surrender right now!

RYAN

SHUT UP!

CHARLIE

What was that?

MARK

Nothing, I was just... talking to myself.

EXT. BOAT - NIGHT

The music continues as a night montage plays: lights from their boat and others plays across the water.

The wind in the trees and people inside their boats laughing can be heard. The moon sits high draped in light clouds.

INT. BOAT - NIGHT

In Ryan's boat they are now eating. They have opened a bottle of wine, and are drinking.

RYAN

I guess it's time to turn in,
there's a bunk back there that's
made up, you can use that.

CHARLIE

Thank you so much. One thing, have
you got any nail scissors?

RYAN

No, but you can use this, it's got
some scissors on it.

CHARLIE

Oh, you were in the Swiss Army!

RYAN

Oh, boy! I'm out of here, see you
tomorrow.

CHARLIE

Night Ryan.

RYAN

Yeah, really goodnight, Charlie.

They go to bed in separate bunks, leaving the plates and washing up for the next day.

EXT. BOAT - NIGHT

The lights go out on the boat and the moon travels across the sky.

INT. BOAT - MORNING

The sun rises. Ryan steps off the boat in his dressing gown and slippers, carrying a water container, he steps onto the path, stretches, yawns and walks down the path to fill his container. Charlie appears in the galley in an oversize cartoon T-Shirt and finds the coffee.

CHARLIE

Oh, thank god!

Charlie makes coffee, Ryan returns.

RYAN

Hey you're up.

CHARLIE

Just about, my head feels a couple of sizes too big. Do you want a coffee.

RYAN

Mmm, yep for sure, I call it kick start, can't really do without it.

Jump cut, they are both sitting outside drinking coffee. Ryan reads a newspaper, the headline is about a war.

CHARLIE

Hey Ryan

Ryan looks up from his paper.

RYAN

Yeah.

CHARLIE

I was wondering if you minded me staying on the boat for a few days? I don't mind chipping in, doing my share...

Ryan puts his paper down.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I mean don't feel like you have to say yes or anything, it's just an idea. I'll pull my weight, I won't get in the way.

MARK (V.O.)

That's it dude, holiday over, game over, no more peace and tranquility for you my friend.

RYAN

Look, I'm on holiday, I wanted some time alone but... here's the deal. I like you and your company will be great, I'm used to a bunch of rough dirty men, swearing and shooting the shit out of everything. Just... just don't tell me what to do. Ok?

CHARLIE

Aye aye captain!

She salutes him.

RYAN

And you can cut that out, jeez!

Disappearing inside she returns wearing a lovely flowing dress looking summery and beautiful. Ryan does a double take.

RYAN (CONT'D)
You look...different.

CHARLIE
Different how?

RYAN
Different good.

CHARLIE
Thanks. (She smiles) Just going to look about, if that's ok.

RYAN
Hey, it's a free country.

CHARLIE
It is that.

Charlie jumps ashore putting on her sunglasses. The surrounding countryside is beautiful as she walks. Trees, flowers, sheep, birds, horses, butterflies - nature.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Charlie returns with flowers in her hair. They unmoor the boat, push off and get underway. Mark walks by in the other direction walking his dog. Mark waves and Ryan waves back.

MARK (V.O.)
Yeah, alright man, you've done good. She's fine Ryan, could do a lot worse, better than those scrubbers we used to pick up on leave. American, mmm... I bet she tastes sweet as a Pepsi Cola. And a hippy too, she'll be getting her crystals out and wanting to read your aura next.

CHARLIE
So what's the plan?

RYAN
Time we moved on, explore more of the river. You never really know what's round the next corner.

CHARLIE
True.

RYAN

Maybe you'd like to take the tiller for a while, I'll show you the ropes.

CHARLIE

Imagine, me and a real soldier, who also appears to be a sailor, wants me to take his tiller and show me his ropes!

RYAN

Ah, give me a break.

Ryan shows Charlie how to steer the boat.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Left, right, really gentle and sensitive. There's a slight lag between when you steer and when she turns.

CHARLIE

I got it.

RYAN

Ok, I can just sit back and watch this poetry in motion whilst slugging on a old one.

He takes a lager from an ice box, opens it and drinks.

CHARLIE

Tell me something cool about the forces.

RYAN

You sure? I don't think there's much that's cool about it.

CHARLIE

I'm super interested, you can skip the gory bits.

RYAN

It's all about orders and upping the ante when it comes to facing your fears.

CHARLIE

Chain of command, can't question that in the heat of the moment.

RYAN

Yeah, but at some point you begin to ask who's giving the orders to the man at the top.

CHARLIE

Or the woman.

RYAN

That's just plain scary.

CHARLIE

Let's just say the power behind the power.

Ryan is casual and off hand as he speaks, as if he's seen it all before and doesn't really care anymore. He just looks around, drinking his lager.

RYAN

Mmm... Cut to the chase, soon you see action, you're being shot at, bullets all over the shop.

CHARLIE

Just like in the movies.

RYAN

Well, no, not really, you're not in a cinema no one's eating popcorn, and your friend next to you isn't being blown to pieces, body parts everywhere.

CHARLIE

Ooo, gross.

RYAN

Then you descend into a kind of accelerated insanity, with no limits.

CHARLIE

How does it end?

RYAN

It doesn't. I was signed off as unfit for purpose, damaged goods, not right upstairs, the war continues, it's just... internalised.

CHARLIE

What was your diagnosis?

RYAN

They've got lots of names for it; post traumatic stress disorder covers a multitude of malfunctions. I hate labels.

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

For me it was psychotic episodes, insomnia then, when you do get some sleep, nightmares that don't stop when you wake up.

CHARLIE

I see, worse than a movie then.

RYAN

You can walk out of a movie. Throw in some hallucinations and feelings of persecution and you get the picture.

CHARLIE

How do you feel now?

RYAN

Processed.

CHARLIE

Like a product?

RYAN

Oh, I'm human alright, I'm in touch with my emotions, I'm a regular citizen, just tightly packed with an assortment of mixed nuts.

Ryan taps his head with his knuckles.

RYAN (CONT'D)

After the hospital they gave me some money but the best things are the drugs. I'm in a state of constant bliss, I might as well be American!

CHARLIE

I'll be having some of those.

RYAN

Absolutely not, my mixed nuts, my drugs.

Ryan taps his head again.

CHARLIE

How long since they cleared you from the hospital?

He counts on his fingers.

RYAN

Er... It was three days ago.

CHARLIE

Three... So you... I mean you...

RYAN

That's it, I figured I needed a holiday, so far so good, it's, what's the word... tranquil.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Charlie is drumming on the table with a pair of chopsticks whilst listening to music on her headphones. Ryan is in the galley finishing a pile of washing up. The last item is a large chopping knife which he cleans and dries. The drumming is becoming faster and more intense. Ryan looks over to an oblivious Charlie as he plays with the knife balancing it with the point on the palm of one hand, turning it with the other, light reflecting from its blade. Charlie is lost in the music drumming frantically in rhythm. Ryan takes an orange, placing it on a chopping board and cuts it into smaller and smaller pieces until there is nothing left but a pulpy mess. The chopsticks up close are blurred with their speed. Ryan walks slowly over, carrying the knife and chopping board, lifts one ear of her headphones, making Charlie jump, and whispers in her ear through clenched teeth.

RYAN

Would you be so kind as to stop what you are doing?

CHARLIE

Oh, sorry, was it... bothering you?

RYAN

Just a tiny little bit.

CHARLIE

No problem.

RYAN

Would you care for some fresh orange?

Ryan offers the board but Charlie shakes her head at the mess on it.

CHARLIE

No, no thank you, I'm good.

She puts the chopsticks down carefully together on the table.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

The boat is underway again with Ryan at the helm. CARLO (28), a musician carrying his guitar walks along the tow path and waves, Charlie who is plaiting her hair waves back. Carlo calls out.

CARLO

Hi, any chance you could take me
down river a way? I've been walking
all day.

Charlie looks to Ryan.

CHARLIE

Can we?

Ryan is a little uncertain.

RYAN

I'm not sure, we don't know him.

CHARLIE

Go on, live a little.

RYAN

Ok, just for a while.

Charlie shouts to Carlo on the bank.

CHARLIE

Come on board!

Ryan steers to the bank and Carlo hops on.

CARLO

I won't be any trouble, I'll just
play some music if I may, I've got
this new song going round my head,
I've just got to get it out.

CHARLIE

Cool, let's hear it.

Carlo sits on the top of the boat and begins to play. Charlie
looks to Ryan.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'll steer for a bit, have another
beer, we have live entertainment,
enjoy!

RYAN

Why not indeed.

Carlo plays, Charlie steers and Ryan opens a bottle of lager.
They drift along for a while but the lyrics to Carlo's song
start to affect Ryan who becomes uncomfortable.

CHARLIE

Ryan I've been meaning to ask you.

RYAN

What?

CHARLIE
About your clothes.

RYAN
What about them?

CHARLIE
Do you have any other ones?

RYAN
Yeah, I've got other clothes, but what's wrong with these? I'm no fashion model, I know that, but who really gives a shit!?

CHARLIE
You might decide you do. Might make you feel different. Maybe you'd feel better in something more casual?

RYAN
I feel fine just like this, this isn't a film Charlie, I'm not some vain actor playing some dumb role in a fucking movie.

Ryan is becoming agitated but this is not noticed by Charlie who is looking straight ahead at the river, Carlo still plays and sings, the lyrics are pertinent to the situation and troubling in their irony.

CHARLIE
Maybe you should think about updating your wardrobe. It's not like you're in the army anymore.

Ryan is looking around stuck for words. Eventually he starts talking quietly in a whisper to himself. Charlie is oblivious to his change in mood and hardly registers his responses.

RYAN
Update my wardrobe! What's next?

CHARLIE
I'm not criticising, it's just a suggestion.

RYAN
Suggestions, not far off orders; Maybe you should do this, perhaps you should do that. You might try something different. You could, you should, you ought to...

CHARLIE

Forget I mentioned it, it's not important really, not important at all.

RYAN

Bit late now, self conscious now. Maybe there's other things I need to change... like my personality, or my mind!

The music is rising in tempo and pitch, the lyrics compounding Ryan's isolated state of mine.

CHARLIE

Appearances don't really mean a thing, it's how you feel inside that defines who you are.

Ryan loses the plot completely, suddenly trying to take his clothes off in a moment of panic, he is swearing and in distress. As he has his clothes over his head he loses his balance and falls off the boat into the water. Carlo stops playing, Charlie lets out a scream and the boat cruises on slowly with Ryan thrashing about in the water. Ryan shouts out.

RYAN

I'm ok! I feel much better! My head was getting too hot. I just need a change of clothes! You should come in, it's very refreshing.

Charlie cuts the power and steers to the bank. Ryan swims to the boat and scrambles aboard. Carlo jumps ashore.

CARLO

I'll be ok walking from here on, thanks for the ride, nice meeting you folks, have a nice day!

RYAN

It wasn't the music my friend. Trust me the music is very good, honestly, it's not the music.

Carlo walks away. Ryan stands in front of Charlie, soaking wet.

RYAN (CONT'D)

All I needed was to cool off and a change of clothes.

He's smiling and really goofily happy.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Ryan showers singing 'Fly Me To The Moon'. He appears wearing a towel around his waist and drying his hair with another.

CHARLIE

I picked out some clothes, you'll look great in these.

Ryan changes and is now wearing a white linen shirt, jeans and flip flops, he looks down.

RYAN

What do you call a French man wearing sandals?

CHARLIE

I don't know.

RYAN

Philippe Phlop

CHARLIE

Ha, ha. I've got something to top it off. It was Ray's but, well, he couldn't pull it off.

She reveals a hat which she gives to him, he gives it a dubious look.

RYAN

There's no way I'm wearing this, it's got a flower on it!

CHARLIE

You never heard of flower power?

RYAN

You never heard of the fashion police? I'd get six months to a year for this thing.

He reluctantly places it on his head.

RYAN (CONT'D)

How do I look?

MARK (V.O.)

You look like a dork my friend, she's stitched you up proper good.

Charlie claps her hands..

CHARLIE

Perfect.

RYAN

Trouble with you is you're obsessed with image.

CHARLIE

Vanity has its plus points.

MARK (V.O.)

That's it mate game over, by the way you just lost.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Ryan and Charlie sunbathe, on top of the boat, listening to music. Ryan is trying to tie a complex knot, Charlie is folding a piece of origami paper as she tells her story.

RYAN

So how did you come to be here?

CHARLIE

Well I sort of cleverly invited myself onboard and you were unable to say no.

RYAN

No, I mean originally.

CHARLIE

Well, when a man and a woman really like each other...

RYAN

Ok, ok, not that far back.

CHARLIE

Born in San Fransisco to pot smoking hippie parents.

RYAN

Ah, so it's in your blood.

CHARLIE

As I was saying, then I left home for New York to study Psychology.

RYAN

Another mind bender!

CHARLIE

Please, I'm trying to remember here. I met Jake who was studying American literature. Then I dropped out. Don't think I'm stupid, I'm just not cut out to be staring in books all day, so I decided to try acting for a while.

RYAN
Explains a lot.

CHARLIE
What's that supposed to mean?

RYAN
Nothing, it's just how do I know
you're not acting now?

CHARLIE
You don't.

RYAN
I'll work it out, one way or the
other, keep going.

CHARLIE
We moved together back to Frisco

RYAN
Can't escape those hippie roots.

CHARLIE
I can stop if you like.

RYAN
Sorry, carry on.

CHARLIE
Jake got a job teaching English but
we couldn't get pregnant despite
trying, all the time...

RYAN
You have to be dedicated.

CHARLIE
Amen to that. I sort of wandered
into photography, got pretty good
actually and scored this cool job
on a new culture magazine that some
friends started. It was good for a
year and then it folded, backers
pulled out then we moved back to
New York, which was the mistake.
Jake got post grad work and left me
for a French intern student.

RYAN
Crafty, sneaky bunch those
Frenchies.

CHARLIE
I know! They're all, ooh la la,
with their fancy lingo and vino.
Stole my man from right under my
nose. I do like croissants though.

RYAN

You have to take what you can from an experience like that.

CHARLIE

So then I get a break, via an old volleyball friend, to be a photographer for the US Olympic team.

RYAN

Far out...

CHARLIE

Isn't it! We travelled to London, I covered the whole thing, from the inside. Job done I decided to stay.

RYAN

What a ride.

CHARLIE

Then I met Ray in Starbucks of all places. The next day my camera gear was stolen, should have taken that as a sign. I've had a whole heap of crappie jobs since then, but without my camera gear I'm severely handicapped. My work visa ran out a few months back. Basically you're harbouring an illegal alien on the run.

RYAN

Wow, that's quite a journey, where does it go next?

CHARLIE

Floating along with current, wherever it may take me. There.

Charlie holds up her Origami Man in a Boat.

RYAN

Done it!

Ryan holds up his tied knot.

MARK (V.O.)

Oh brother, I'm not sure I like where this is going Dude, I mean I've got your back and all that but you've got to work with me here, I've got your best interest in mind. Just remember these words; heartbreak, ball and chain, subservience.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Ryan is steering the boat when Charlie appears through the door.

RYAN

Hi, are you ok steering a while, I just thought of something.

CHARLIE

Right you are Captain.

They switch over and Ryan goes inside.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Steady as she goes.

He returns holding a large digital SLR camera. Charlie sees it immediately.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Ah, you've been holding out on me. Canon 5D MkII, with the sweet lens, that's state of the art. You never told me you were a pro snapper.

RYAN

Friend gave it to me, I'm a bit of a beginner if truth be told.

CHARLIE

How long have you been at it?

RYAN

Two days.

CHARLIE

I'll whip you into shape.

Ryan takes photos of Charlie steering the boat.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hey, I'm not posing for you if that's what you have in mind.

RYAN

Oh, the photographer doesn't want to be photographed! Don't worry, I'm a scenery person.

CHARLIE

Oh so I'm not a worthy subject then?

RYAN

Well, yes, I mean no, but you said...

CHARLIE

Keep your hair on, I'm just yanking your chain.

RYAN

You yanks and your yanking, just don't yank too hard, I'm British I don't get it. May I?

CHARLIE

Fire away, it's not hard to find my good side, I'm good from any angle. Mmm... brings a whole new meaning to the phrase shooting people.

Ryan takes more pictures of her and after a while pauses to look at what he has.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I hope they're flattering.

RYAN

Well you can't get the models these days.

CHARLIE

Ha!

RYAN

Actually they're really good, must be the camera.

CHARLIE

Beginners luck (beat). This is fun, I could do this all day.

RYAN

Well we've got all day. I'm just going for a dump.

CHARLIE

Charming!

Charlie steers whilst picking up the camera and looking at the photos. Not concentrating the boat drifts and she crashes into the bank of the river. Ryan is in the loo, reading his paper and is jolted around, shouting out..

RYAN

What the hell!

CHARLIE

Whoops! Sorry! Shall we stop for lunch?

RYAN

Might as well... Now that we're by the bank!

EXT. BOAT - DAY

They have moored up and Charlie is busying herself putting food and in a cool box and gathering plates and cutlery. Ryan appears.

RYAN
What are you doing?

CHARLIE
I thought it would be nice to eat
off the boat.

RYAN
That would be... nice...

CHARLIE
Here you take this.

She hands him the cool box.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
And...

She disappears and comes back with a duvet from one of the beds.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I'll take this.

She picks up her bag.

RYAN
Grab the radio.

Ryan picks up a portable radio.

CHARLIE
Prepare to disembark!

RYAN
Aye, aye.

They walk a short way, Charlie is looking over the top of the duvet. Finding a beautiful place under a tree Charlie spreads out the duvet and placing the radio in a nook in the tree turns on some music. There is the end of one song and as they settle and unload the cool box the Radio DJ springs into life.

DJ
Another hot one! I'm sure all you
festival goers are enjoying the
warmth, don't forget that
sunscreen. Me I'm stuck in a little
box but loving it all the same, and
that's a fact.

(MORE)

DJ (CONT'D)

It gives me great joy simply
sending out groovy vibes over the
airwaves, reaching all of you who
might otherwise be without the
marvellous, modern miracle of
music. This one is going out to all
the lovers out there, you know who
you are, yes that's you. Enjoy.

A song plays as Charlie and Ryan eat and drink. She turns up
the volume stands and dances, swaying and twirling.

CHARLIE

I love this tune. Come on, up!

RYAN

No, I'm fine, I don't... do that.

Charlie lifts him up.

CHARLIE

It's not as if anyone's watching.

MARK (V.O.)

I can see you, I can see
everything, just go with it. It's
not as though it's embarrassing,
like she says, no one's looking.
Find your mojo brother.

Ryan gets up and they dance together. Eventually Ryan lifts
her up onto a low tree branch where she sits laughing. The
music comes to an end.

DJ

And if that doesn't touch your
soul, you've probably already
gone...

More music plays.

CHARLIE

Get me down, before I fall down.

Ryan hands her a drink.

RYAN

I think I like you right there,
can't cause and mischief.

CHARLIE

This is this the life, don't you
think? Good view from a little way
up.

RYAN

I've got to admit, I don't see as
how it could get much better.

CHARLIE
I've got something that might fine
tune it a little.

RYAN
I doubt that.

CHARLIE
Hand me that box, just in the top
of my bag there.

RYAN
This one?

CHARLIE
Yep that's it.

Ryan hands her the box which she opens and produces a joint.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Abracadabra.

RYAN
Is that what I think it is?

CHARLIE
Call it what you like, lets blaze
it up and see what we can't see.

RYAN
My mind is already a mess, won't it
make it worse? I'm already on a
heap of meds.

CHARLIE
Maybe it'll sort you out, works for
me, it's your choice.

Charlie lights the joint, and inhales.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Anyway this is natural, not like
those synthetic chemicals they've
pumped into you, it can't do any
harm.

RYAN
Ok, Ok, I'll try it, give me that
thing.

Charlie hands him the joint, he smokes it.

CHARLIE
Hold it in.

He holds his breath for a long time.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Ok that's enough now.

RYAN
Funny taste and smell.

CHARLIE
Funky. Most people cough and splutter.

Ryan smokes again.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I'll have it back, any time you're ready.

RYAN
Oh, yes of course.

Suddenly there is a loud buzzing sound, Ryan freaks out waving his arms around.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Ah, what is! It's got me! It's a bee or wasp or something. I think it's in my hair, is it in my hair. There's twofold them!

Charlie is very relaxed.

CHARLIE
Calm down, it's just a bee.

RYAN
It's in my shirt, I'm sure it is. Jesus! Help me!

CHARLIE
Look it's gone, it was just a big old friendly bumble bee.

RYAN
Are you sure it's gone?

CHARLIE
Yeah, it's gone, it's ok, it's gone.

RYAN
That was close, it had me, I thought I was a gonner.

CHARLIE
Chill it's just a little bit of nature, they make honey and pollinate the flowers.

RYAN

Don't tell me to chill, I'm chilled, they sting too you know.

He sits down and is quiet for a few seconds.

RYAN (CONT'D)

What's all this yellow stuff?

CHARLIE

It's pollen.

RYAN

It's everywhere! Look, it's all over me. I can't get it off! My god, we must be breathing this in all the time. It can't be good for you, what if it gets in your blood!? Its probably poisonous. We've got to get out of this place, it's infested. There's ants too, hundreds of them! Why are you laughing?

Ryan gets up and walks away a distance, before beckoning Charlie.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Come on Charlie, move slowly towards me, walk away from the infestation, you'll be fine, slowly and carefully.

CHARLIE

You're paranoid and I'm not going anywhere. Oh honestly.

Charlie jumps down from the tree.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Sit down, realise that you are in a beautiful place and that you're surrounded by nature that isn't going to hurt you.

RYAN

Mmm... Paranoid you say, well I don't like it, not one bit. I think you could have too much of that shit, I was alright before.

With Charlie's help, Ryan tentatively walks back and sits down on the duvet next to Charlie, still not trusting the pollen, brushing it off himself as the radio continues to play music.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Just give me a minute, I'll be cool.

He breathes in deeply and lies down with his hands behind his head, looking through the trees to the blue sky. An aeroplane leaves its jet trails high up. The clouds speed up and race across the sky-scape, the sunlight and shadows moving across the scene. He closes his eyes and slowly a smile grows as he drifts off to sleep.

MARK (V.O.)

Let go buddy, let all of it go.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

They are playing backgammon, sitting down opposite each other on the roof of the boat.

RYAN

Charlie, you're American, you know about crazy shit, right?

CHARLIE

I have my moments.

RYAN

I've been going through a weird one since we met; flashbacks, mood swings, irrational behaviour, feelings of powerlessness, lack of appetite.

CHARLIE

Maybe it's your time of the month.

RYAN

Hey? Well, I can barely keep a lid on it all. What's happening to me? To us, in this place?

CHARLIE

I'm a very attractive girl and you, well you're quite something, not your usual every day kind of hunky bozo. I expect even a blind man could sense there's something between us.

RYAN

Yes, but what, it's doing my nut in, there's just not enough room in there to keep it all together.

CHARLIE

Perhaps you should let some of it out, blow off steam occasionally.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

We could start with a few minor arguments and go from there.

RYAN

No. Differences of opinion and even disagreements I can handle, you can work them out, come to some sort of solution. But as soon as they turn into an argument you lose your reasoning.

CHARLIE

Well, I disagree.

RYAN

I get angry, Charlie, the blood rises. I get angry and it gets worse. It's aggression and I'm afraid it's... uncontrollable.

CHARLIE

Maybe I can un-train you, do some reverse engineering.

RYAN

I've had more shrinks than you can shake a stick at, but you can have a try.

CHARLIE

Step one, you've got to learn to relax.

RYAN

But I am relaxed.

CHARLIE

No, you just think you are. Right now your aura is tight and twisted and tortured...

MARK (V.O.)

I knew it! The old aura angle, you start believing in this nonsense and there's no going back, it's joss sticks and crystals all the way to the mung bean salad. No spare ribs on the BBQ for you my friend, don't say I didn't warn you.

CHARLIE

Your aura should feel like a glowing ball of warm energy in and around your entire being. Can you imagine this?

RYAN

I can imagine it, just about, but actually feeling something like that, that's a whole other thing.

CHARLIE

People make such a fuss over it all but it's quite simple. I've got a great idea, to make you see yourself in a whole new light. Do you trust me?

MARK (V.O.)

Ryan... Stay with me here buddy.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Ryan is sitting on a chair in just a pair of shorts, hunched over with his head in a large bowl of water. He sits up quickly and the water flies off his head in long sprays in slow motion catching the sun. Charlie, who is standing behind him gets wet too.

CHARLIE

Close you eyes.

Ryan closes his eyes, Charlie takes some shampoo and starts to massage it into his hair.

RYAN

Mmm... That feels good.

CHARLIE

You like?

RYAN

I like, I like a lot, feels like you're massaging my brain at the same time. Does this count as brainwashing?

CHARLIE

That maybe closer to the truth than you think. You do realise your hairs are aerials for receiving cosmic vibrations.

When she has finished with the shampoo, Charlie tips the bowl of water over his head then takes a towel and rubs his hair dry. She trims his hair with scissors leaving it long but tidier. When she is happy, she ties the towel around his head in a turban.

Set to music in a montage Ryan is sitting on the chair as Charlie trims his large unkempt beard with a pair of scissors. The clippings fall to the floor and she applies shaving foam to his face.

She shaves the beard bit by bit, first a drop handlebar moustache, huge sideburns, a goatee. A big moustache, huge sideburns, a Charlie Chaplin then everything except small sideburns. She holds a mirror up at various stages for Ryan to see the progress. When finished Charlie sits back satisfied.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Not bad, not bad at all.

Ryan is still holding up the mirror.

RYAN

What have I become? Who am I?

CHARLIE

Whoever you want to be.

RYAN

Thank you, I think.

CHARLIE

I'm not finished yet.

Ryan is now lying face down on a towel with Charlie sitting astride him, giving him a massage. Ryan is letting out some satisfied and almost painful groans as Charlie applies great pressure.

RYAN

You realise...

CHARLIE

Uh uh, no talking.

There are more groans from Ryan as the sun is beginning to set. Finally Charlie stops.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

My work here is done.

RYAN

I can't tell you how good you've made me feel.

Ryan has sat up and their faces are quite close. Charlie senses the moment and talks softly.

CHARLIE

You don't have to tell me, just show me.

Ryan moves confidently towards her and reaching out, moving her hair from her face, holds her head with one hand. The distance between them disappears and they are kissing, gently, then with more passion.

INT. BOAT - EVENING

Charlie and Ryan are inside the cabin on Ryan's bed, kissing and laughing.

CHARLIE

Do you want to, you know...

RYAN

More than you can imagine...

MARK (V.O.)

Yeah man, you're in here, it's a win-win situation, chalk one up for the boys.

RYAN (V.O.)

Back off dude, can't you see I'm busy here!

MARK (V.O.)

Yep, you're busy all right, busy getting some for yourself and selling your soul at the altar of broken dreams. How long's all this going to last? Blink and she'll be gone. All they want is love on the run and a free ride.

RYAN (V.O.)

All the same, whilst it's good if you'd kindly get out of my head I'd appreciate it.

MARK (V.O.)

Hey, you're the boss, you're the one with your whole life in front of you. I'm just the dead buddy trying to keep an eye out for you.

RYAN (V.O.)

Well keep an eye out some place else. I need some space, some privacy, some intimacy. I'm working here!

MARK (V.O.)

Don't mind me, I'm cool, I'll just pretend I'm you, getting some love action from beyond the other side.

RYAN (V.O.)

Oh man, if you keep on like this I'm not going to be able to, you know... perform.

MARK (V.O.)
 Perform! This should be good, I've
 never seen a performance before!

Ryan can't go through with having sex and breaks off the
 foreplay.

RYAN
 I'm sorry, I'm not sure I can do
 this.

CHARLIE
 Oh. But I thought.. Ok. We don't
 have to. Is it me?

RYAN
 No, it's not you, it's not me
 either... It's hard to explain. I
 just need to go and look at the
 water pump.

CHARLIE
 Oh, Ok.

Ryan exits the cabin, leaving Charlie flushed and bemused. He
 goes outside, pacing about in circles.

RYAN
 Fuck!

He returns to the cabin with renewed determination and this
 time they make love. From outside we hear their giggling and
 the lights go out.

EXT. BOAT - NIGHT

MONTAGE - RIVER NIGHT LIFE - TO MUSIC

INT. BOAT - MORNING

In bed Ryan sits propped up by cushions, hands behind his
 head with a great big smile. Charlie is next to him asleep.

MARK (V.O.)
 Now don't tell me that wasn't what
 the doctor really ordered.

RYAN (V.O.)
 Oh, it's you again.

Ryan's smile disappears.

MARK (V.O.)
 Didn't think you were going to get
 rid of me that easily did you. I've
 got a say I feel better too.

(MORE)

MARK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
That's right, full of the joys of
Spring! I was with you all the way
man. A good nights sleep too.
Amazing.

RYAN (V.O.)
Oh get lost, leave me in peace.

MARK (V.O.)
Oh, it's like that is it. Whatever
you like, I know when I'm not
wanted. Feel free to take it from
here solo. You're the captain of
your soul, master of your fate.
Just think of me as a voice with no
choice.

Charlie walks up, smiling.

CHARLIE
Morning handsome.

RYAN
Hello.

CHARLIE
In bed with my own little soldier.

RYAN
I'm not a soldier, I'm an ex-
soldier.

CHARLIE
Yeah, but you were killer last
night. Mmm... I feel all safe and
snugly, no one can touch us here.
Got my own hero, right here.

RYAN
I'm no hero either.

CHARLIE
Course you are, I bet you've killed
loads of bad guys.

RYAN
Several to tell the truth.

CHARLIE
Wow, that's so cool.

Ryan's mood quickly changes.

RYAN
It's not cool, or smart, it's
fucking stupid.

CHARLIE

Oh, I just thought, I don't know what I thought.

RYAN

There's no thinking in it. Just us and them. It's all just the movies for you isn't it? It's not pretend, people you shoot, people who get shot up next to don't just get up again when the director shouts 'Cut'.

Charlie has now woken up fully and is paying attention.

CHARLIE

It must be... insane.

RYAN

I never killed anyone up close, always at a distance. You don't see their face, you don't hear them scream. They just drop, you don't know their name either.

CHARLIE

Nothing personal huh.

RYAN

No, absolutely not, you're in the moment, full of adrenaline, focused, alive. And the enemy believes in one thing, killing you.

CHARLIE

But you know you're doing the right thing?

RYAN

You don't question that. Doubt and you die. I hit this guy at about forty metres, he had an RPG, a rocket propelled grenade, pointed at us. It was him or me, I pulled the trigger, there was the sound, the kickback. He collapsed in a strange way, kind of funny, funny weird. He was the first one, when I went up to him later... You know when you look at someone sleeping, they're serene, maybe dreaming, there is peace, stillness but life. You don't want to disturb them because they are content in that place.

CHARLIE

I looked at you like that last night, just like a baby.

RYAN

But this guy, he was still, he lay awkwardly, it seemed unnatural. I decided I'd sent him to hell, then I looked at his face, he was smiling, a stupid, twisted grin and I knew it was him that had sent me there instead.

CHARLIE

You're not in hell now, it's just an horrific memory.

RYAN

It's a memory that keeps snapping back into the present.

CHARLIE

There's only one way around that.

RYAN

Tell me.

CHARLIE

Make new memories.

RYAN

Make new memories, how?

CHARLIE

It's what we're doing right now. It's a way of living. Come here.

Ryan looks over to Charlie and they kiss.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Ryan turns the key, the engine comes to life and Charlie casts off, throwing the coiled ropes into neat piles.

CHARLIE

All done Captain.

She salutes.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You know this would make the lousiest get away vehicle.

RYAN

I'll remember that if we ever rob a bank.

CHARLIE

We'd probably get apprehended by a
Copper on a bicycle.

RYAN

Talking of things criminal, have
you got any more of that grass?

CHARLIE

I thought you didn't like it.

RYAN

Maybe I'm in a better mood for it
now.

CHARLIE

I've only got a little.

RYAN

How about you go inside and roll a
little winner.

Charlie goes inside and returns instantly with a big joint.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Is that what you call little!

CHARLIE

No point going half measures.

She lights it and hands it to Ryan.

RYAN

DIY Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

CHARLIE

Well it's mind and body and it's
therapeutic for me at least.

RYAN

What's in this?

CHARLIE

It's just pure grass, I think that
strain is called Northern Lights.

RYAN

It's got a brand name!

CHARLIE

Sort of, depends on the type of
plant.

RYAN

But what's in the grass?

CHARLIE

Tetrahydrocannabinols

RYAN
What do they do?

CHARLIE
They sort of take over your brain.

RYAN
They stop it working!?

CHARLIE
No, they provide alternative neuro-transmitter circuits.

RYAN
Short cuts?

CHARLIE
Scenic routes. Free your mind and your ass will follow.

RYAN
Why don't they give it to all people who can't think for themselves or who just want to think differently?

CHARLIE
An ideal situation, a utopia even, but when you look at the practicalities it would create a chaotic culture.

RYAN
Isn't it already chaotic?

CHARLIE
Not in this part of the world.

RYAN
Seems a shame only a few people can experience this.

CHARLIE
It has a funny way of getting to the people who need it.

RYAN
I think we should spread the word.

CHARLIE
You mean become dealers? They come down pretty hard on dealers these days, even people growing their own, before long you'd be banged up staring at four walls.

RYAN

But I've got ex-forces friends who could really benefit from this. Relaxed, loose, free... Happy.

CHARLIE

Well it's good shit!

RYAN

Where do you get yours?

CHARLIE

There's this funky albino Rasta I know, he's called Ghost Man, does all his rounds on a little white Lambretta. He does quite well for himself.

RYAN

I bet he does, I'm thinking he's in the right business. We could make some real money out of this. Where does he get it from?

CHARLIE

Not sure. Can we stop talking about this, it won't go anywhere, I can tell you that for a fact.

RYAN

It's so clear, it's the way forward. Why didn't I think of this sooner?

Charlie has become a little saddened by the direction of the conversation but offers a change.

CHARLIE

When we stop, do you want to make out for a bit?

RYAN

Make out! Make what out? I can't make anything out, I'm as high as a kite. I'm floating here.

CHARLIE

Perhaps I'd better take the tiller. What have I done? Stoner victim on board. You better lie down.

Charlie steers and Ryan lies down on top of the boat staring at the sky.

RYAN

How long am I going to feel like this?

CHARLIE

A long time possibly but put that criminal mastermind out of your head. Not good to start daydreaming dollar signs.

RYAN

Aye, aye captain.

He salutes.

INT. BOAT - EVENING

They have moored up for the night and are cooking together in the galley. Music is playing as they talk.

CHARLIE

See, easy, nothing to be scared of.

RYAN

Never really fancied myself as a cook.

MARK (V.O.)

It's woman's work mate. You watch, she'll have you doing the washing up too. You're supposed to have your slippers on whilst she serves you hand and foot.

CHARLIE

It just takes practice and love.

She sprinkles herbs from a height.

RYAN

Thank you Charlie.

CHARLIE

For what?

RYAN

Teaching me cooking, cleaning me up, making me feel human again. Thanks for it all.

Charlie laughs.

CHARLIE

No problem, all part of the stowaway stroke freeloader service.

RYAN

I think we've got that symbiotic thing going.

CHARLIE

You scratch my back, it's a two way street. This will need to simmer a while. What else is there?

RYAN

Hey, one thing, I keep wondering about.

CHARLIE

Shoot.

RYAN

Your bag, it's pretty big and pretty full, what on Earth do you have in there?

CHARLIE

Everything!

Charlie empties her bag onto the table. It's a huge jumble of mainly small items and there are a lot of them. A salt shaker, books, keys, toys, a library card, guitar plectrums, pencils, hotel match books, a Rubik's cube and much more besides. Ryan stares at the mess and then at Charlie.

RYAN

Now that's a lot of crap!

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE

Beautiful isn't it.

RYAN

So you just sort of collect stuff?

CHARLIE

My life story in material form. I've always carried around the most important things, ever since I was a kid. Not sure why, it's probably a security thing.

Ryan moves his hand through some of the objects.

RYAN

Most of this doesn't even seem useful even.

CHARLIE

Depends on what you think of as having a use. They all remind me of something, or some place or someone, that's useful to me.

RYAN

Souvenirs!

CHARLIE

Why stop the habit of a lifetime!?

RYAN

What about these keys? What's their story?

CHARLIE

Ha! Those are Ray's garage and shed keys, he'll be looking for them. And of course, he won't find them!

Charlie looks over all the items and then picks up a small carved wooden elephant. She turns it over in her hands and then gives it to Ryan.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I was in India a few years ago and I was staying with this great old lady who carved things in the evenings to sell to tourists. One night we were sitting around a fire and she told me of when she was young and how she met her husband. All the time she was talking she was making this, then she gave it to me, you see it has a history: her story.

RYAN

It's so smooth.

Charlie takes it back.

CHARLIE

Yeah, it means a lot that she gave it to me 'cos usually I just take stuff.

RYAN

So basically you're a thief.

CHARLIE

That's a value laden term. Makes it sound like its wrong. I relieve undeserving people of things they don't need or appreciate. Things that are better off with me.

RYAN

You steal things from people you don't like.

CHARLIE

No. Take this little book on fossils.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Ray had it on his shelf, he probably never even looked at it and my Dad used to be into fossils. So it reminds me of my Dad.

RYAN

What if his Dad gave it to him?

CHARLIE

Oh, you don't get it.

Charlie starts putting everything back in her bag.

RYAN

Maybe I should start hiding my valuables before they start taking on special meaning for you or you figure I don't need them anymore.

CHARLIE

Like I say, you don't understand.

RYAN

There's a name for people like you.

CHARLIE

Oh yeah, what's that?

RYAN

You're a kleptomaniac.

CHARLIE

Well I never did like labels.

Charlie has nearly refilled the bag and looks up to see steam coming from the galley.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Dinner will be nearly ready.

RYAN

Great, I've got quite a hunger coming on.

They move away towards the galley. The little elephant is left sticking out of the bag next to Ray's key fob.

EXT. BOAT - MORNING

They are moored up, Ryan is coiling a rope. Charlie jumps off onto the tow path.

CHARLIE

We're out of milk, I'm just going to see if I can find some.

RYAN

You'll be lucky, I can't imagine there's any shops nearby.

CHARLIE

Still, I'll have a look about.

RYAN

Ok, have fun.

She walks along the path happily singing and humming, brushing her hand along leaves and taking in the beauty all around. Ryan is in a chair, reading a book called "The Road Less Travelled". Charlie sees a man walking towards her as she gets closer he appears as a large and rounded COUNTRY BUMPKIN, wearing wellies and a straw hat. He is drinking from an earthenware flagon. As he draws close Charlie stops to talk to him.

CHARLIE

Hello there.

BUMPKIN

Hello, my, you're as beautiful as this day.

CHARLIE

Why, thank you, you have a certain style yourself.

BUMPKIN

That's very kind,

The bumpkin looks down at his scruffy clothes.

BUMPKIN (CONT'D)

I just threw this on. What's a young girl doing out here all by herself? You have to be careful, there's all manner of strangers about.

CHARLIE

Oh, I'm not by myself, I'm travelling with my man-friend. We're on a narrow boat, just back there.

BUMPKIN

Hang on a minute, you're American aren't you?

CHARLIE

That's right, born and bred!

BUMPKIN

Well well, a real American, as I live and breathe.

Ryan turns a page of his book. A STRANGER approaches him on the path, Ryan offers a friendly wave.

RYAN

Hi there.

STRANGER

Good afternoon to you Sir.

RYAN

Lovely day!

STRANGER

One of the good Lord's finest.

RYAN

You don't happen to have the time do you, I seem to have misplaced my watch.

STRANGER

I'm sorry, I don't wear a watch. In fact I have given up ownership of all devices that need the use of any artificial electricity source. I only require the energy of the sun.

He spreads out his arms and looks up to the sky.

RYAN

Oh, I see. Thank you anyway.

STRANGER

Have you offered yourself to the power of light?

Ryan looks in trouble. Meanwhile Charlie is still talking to the Bumpkin.

CHARLIE

What I'm really after is some milk. You don't happen to know if there is a little shop around here somewhere?

BUMPKIN

A shop! Oh, no,no! You won't find a shop near here, not until you get to Hilltown, and that be five mile at least, as the crow flies.

He takes a drink from the cider flagon.

CHARLIE

That's a shame. I suppose I better head back.

BUMPKIN

Now, there is a farm over yonder,
you'd do well to go there. They
sell fresh milk there, it can't be
more than ten minutes from this
very spot.

CHARLIE

That farm up there?

She points.

BUMPKIN

That's the one for you. Jack
Grimble's place, been farming for
years. You tell him Bernard sent
you and he'll probably give it you
for free.

CHARLIE

Thank you, you've been very kind.

BUMPKIN

Before you go can you do me a
favour?

CHARLIE

What can I do for you?

BUMPKIN

Can you say, "Have a nice day"?

CHARLIE

Have a nice day!

Charlie smiles and turns in the direction of the farm. The
Bumpkin winks at her and walks away swaying as he continues
to drink. Ryan has been cornered.

STRANGER

A man like you could benefit
greatly from the fusion power of
our great solar friend.

RYAN

Really, thank you and everything,
but I'm fine all the same.

STRANGER

I sense you have been through
troubled times my brother.

RYAN

You have no idea, but I think I'm
over the worst of it. I'm kind of
on holiday so, if you don't mind...

STRANGER

Follow the path of the celestial
globe as it arcs across the sky and
you will find rhythm in your soul.

Charlie is walking along whistling, carrying a large
container of milk. A gentle breeze blows her hair across her
face as she flicks it back looking up at the trees as the
light flares through the leaves.

RYAN

Look my friend, I like the sunshine
as much as anyone. I'm sure you're
a really nice guy but I think
you've got the wrong person with
me.

STRANGER

I can see you are tortured by the
shadows of life. Allow me to give
you one of these books it will
bring light into your heart.

RYAN

I've got a book thank you, it's a
very good one and I'm right in the
middle of and quite enjoying it as
a matter of fact. Please go about
your business.

STRANGER

This is my business, your mind is
in danger of being engulfed by the
unknown darkness all around. You
must turn back!

At that moment Charlie returns with the milk.

STRANGER (CONT'D)

Turn back I say!

CHARLIE

Is this guy bothering you?

RYAN

Well yes.

Charlie turns to the stranger and puts her face right up to
his.

CHARLIE

This man is a trained killer, if
you don't beat it he'll rip your
arm off and club you to death with
the bloody end. Understand?

The stranger looks bemused and in shock and then walks off,
looking over his shoulder several times.

STRANGER

Follow the light!

RYAN

You scared him good and proper.

CHARLIE

You can't be too tough on crazies
like that. I got milk!

She holds up the container.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Charlie is taking photos of Ryan steering the boat with his camera.

CHARLIE

Photos are funny. If you don't take them you remember things in one way, and if you do take them you remember them in another. Just the act of taking them seems to change the experience.

RYAN

I remember the days of films, you had so many rolls, so many shots and you didn't know what you'd got 'til afterwards when you'd have them processed. That instant thing wasn't there, they were pure nostalgia.

CHARLIE

I know, and you actually had the prints in your hands to keep or give. You still print from these but mainly the photos end up in a computer somewhere.

RYAN

When I was, about ten or so we went on a family caravan holiday to Devon, our family and another, two caravans. Me and my sister played with their kids who were about the same age. We flew kites, ate outside, went rock pooling and caught shrimps, Dad even caught a lobster. In a field we built a house out of hay bails and then took great pleasure knocking it all down the next day. The four of us children even put on a show for the adults. It was a golden time.

CHARLIE

Sounds idyllic, like a dream.

RYAN

It is, I can see it now, and I don't even have any photographs of it. It's just a dream-memory.

CHARLIE

You're lucky, you can't make that stuff up.

RYAN

Sometimes a photograph just captures something though, a feeling, that wouldn't have been there in your memory had you not taken it.

CHARLIE

I think of them as more than just records, they're a sort of heightened reality, a way of concentrating life into one little moment.

RYAN

I know what you mean, but you have to know when to stop, when to put the moment machine down and continue living life.

CHARLIE

I get you Ryan, I just get you.

RYAN

I have my moments.

At this moment Mark walks past with his dog.

MARK (V.O.)

Remember me? Well I want you to stop remembering me. Forget about me. You don't want me cluttering up your memory right? You remember what the girl said? Make new memories. If you know what's good for yourself, you'll do it, starting now.

RYAN (V.O.)

I'm afraid.

MARK (V.O.)

No you're not, you've just got memories of fear. You don't have to just survive anymore, you don't have to fight for you life anymore.

(MORE)

MARK (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You just have to live your life,
and start to remember this new life
it too will appear and then
disappear into the past, remember a
moment from it every day.

RYAN

Every day remember a new moment.

CHARLIE

What was that?

RYAN

Nothing, just mumbling to myself.

INT. BOAT - NIGHT

They are lying in bed together.

CHARLIE

You see it's good the camera is not
in here.

RYAN

I don't know, there's a big market
for amateur porn.

CHARLIE

If you think that's the way this is
heading you've got another thing
coming buster.

RYAN

I don't know, with the right
lighting and a good script, might
be quite tasteful.

CHARLIE

It's seedy and without love.

RYAN

You're right, it's funny though I
was thinking about money.

CHARLIE

I haven't got any.

RYAN

Me neither, but there's got to be a
way. I'm thinking the chances of me
getting a job are pretty slim, even
less so actually holding one down.
I've been thinking of option B.

CHARLIE

What's option B?

RYAN
B for Business.

CHARLIE
You've got to sell a service or a product.

RYAN
We could do both, what we were talking about the other day, buying and selling grass.

CHARLIE
Stop right there, I'm not interested, get it, there is no 'We', if that's what you're talking about.

RYAN
It would be so simple, we could import and distribute. Think of the people we could reach.

CHARLIE
You've had a couple of spiffs and now you want to corner the world market. It's sad Ryan.

RYAN
If we started small, it wouldn't take long to expand. I just need to run some numbers to calculate turnover and profit. That albino guy, what's his name, Ghost Man, he could be our way in.

Ryan is talking strangely and Charlie's replies are increasingly upset and angry.

CHARLIE
Drop it Ryan, seriously, you don't know what you're talking about. You're not a dealer Ryan. You're like a child, it's illegal and stupid.

RYAN
But you smoke it.

CHARLIE
Because my parents did! It's a bad habit, it's destructive, it's just part of my image, something superficial that I do so I can convince myself that I'm still hip. Anyway, my mixed nuts, my drugs! Remember?

Charlie taps her head with her knuckles.

RYAN
You're a hypocrite.

CHARLIE
Shut up! I told you to leave it.

RYAN
I don't know why you're so
sensitive about this.

He touches her shoulder but she violent pushes his hand aside and rolls away from him.

CHARLIE
Fuck you Ryan! I'm going to sleep
now. I'm not listening to you.

Charlie turns the light off.

RYAN
But you haven't even heard my plan.

Ryan, shrugs his shoulders.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Women!

Charlie lies with her back to him, eyes open, with a tear running from one of them.

INT. BOAT - MORNING

In the semi-darkness of the cabin Charlie is awake, Ryan is asleep, snoring gently. Quietly and being careful not to disturb him she gets out of bed, gathers her clothes and exits closing the door gently behind her. She puts her clothes on and gets her bag. Taking some paper and a pen she hurriedly scribbles a note and leaves it on the table. Then she leaves the boat, picking up Ryan's camera on the way out. She closes the door.

INT. BOAT - MORNING

Ryan wakes up, stretches and smiles, seeing Charlie is not there he shouts out.

RYAN
Hey, put the coffee on Charlie, you
saucy Americano!

Untroubled he swings his feet off the bed and onto the floor putting on his flip flops and a dressing gown. Yawning and stretching more he walks into the galley to see the note on the table. As he reads his face begins to drop.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Ryan, sorry to leave you like this, but I'm not comfortable with your behaviour last night. I've seen people go down that road and I want none of it. I told you and you wouldn't listen. You don't know me, not really, and I find it scary how well adjusted you seem to be so soon after your rehab. I can't believe you. I've got to go now.

Ryan screws the note up and sits down, defeated. He puts his head in his hands and the slowly looks up.

RYAN

You dickhead!.

He walks outside but there is no sign of Charlie. He goes back in and slams the door shut. He tidies and cleans with army discipline, he makes the bed and finds his clothes on the floor, he throws them aside. He puts on his old combat trousers and sits on the bed.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Shit!

Getting up he unties the boat, turns the key and gets underway, standing holding the tiller.

RYAN (CONT'D)

That's how you do it, that's how you fuck everything up. You just stop listening. You concentrate on yourself, you forget about the other person and you look out for number one.

MARK (V.O.)

You're best off this way mate. Life's a one player game, she'd just hold you back, bring you down. You don't need the baggage, travel light, that's the secret.

RYAN

I'm a fool, a bloody fool. You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. That's the truth.

MARK (V.O.)

Don't beat yourself up dude, just relax into it. You started out on your own, now you can carry on. Hey it's a holiday, not a bloody workshop. They come and go, they're all the same, trust me.

RYAN

I need this, I need her. She needs me, I know she does. Trust yourself. Find her and when you've found her be cool. No, fuck cool, be straight, honest, apologise.

MARK (V.O.)

It's a test, she's doing this to get one up on you. You lay down now, you'll never get up. She'll have you right where she wants you, on your knees and wrapped around her little finger. See how you like that.

Ryan shouts out.

RYAN

I don't believe this shit!

Ryan puts the boat into full power.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Come on, you bastard, can't you go any faster?!

EXT. BOAT - DAY

SLOW MOTION MONTAGE SET TO MUSIC - RIVER LIFE

A compilation of slow motion moments featuring moving images seen from the boat of the other boats and people on shore; buildings, bridges, roads, cars, motorcycles, pubs, pub gardens, people waving, eating, sunbathing, swimming, kids playing, dogs, animals in fields.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Ryan is driving the boat.

RYAN

Come on! Faster! Where is she?

EXT. TOWPATH - DAY

Charlie is walking slowly down a pathway by the river. She approaches an OLD MAN and an OLD WOMAN sitting together on a bench, they are having fun, talking to each other and laughing occasionally. As Charlie approaches, the old woman looks up.

OLD WOMAN

Hiya!

CHARLIE
Nice day isn't it.

OLD WOMAN
Wonderful when you're free and
easy.

CHARLIE
Could you tell me if there's a town
near here?

OLD MAN
You're only a half mile away from
Wexville.

CHARLIE
Is there a bank there?

OLD MAN
There's a bank, a post office, a
mini-supermarket, it's positively
civilised.

CHARLIE
Thank you so much, I just need a
bank.

OLD WOMAN
Are you ok young lady? You seem a
little lost.

CHARLIE
I'm good thanks, I just need to
find my way... Home, actually.

OLD WOMAN
And where would that be?

CHARLIE
I'm... That's the thing, I'm not
quite sure.

OLD MAN
Well that's no good, little lady,
we can't have that. Where have you
come from?

CHARLIE
Just back there.

She points behind herself.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I was staying with this guy on a
narrow boat and we sort of fell
out.

OLD WOMAN
Here, sit down a while.

The couple move apart and Charlie sits between them.

CHARLIE
I don't know why he... I did the
right thing, but he wouldn't
listen, it's his fault but, I don't
know now, he just...

Charlie is now sobbing and the old couple comfort her.
Between sobs she turns on the camera and shows it to the
couple.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Here, I have some photos. He took
some of them and I took a few too.
That's him, he's a soldier, well
he's not a soldier anymore.

OLD MAN
I used to be Army, got as high as
Sergeant Major. Spent most of my
time in Africa, trouble with the
Sahara is there's just too much
sand.

Charlie laughs between tears.

OLD WOMAN
It's dreadful, he won't go near the
coast, too much sand he says.

CHARLIE
There's me and another one of him.

OLD MAN
Have you got one of the two of you
together?

CHARLIE
Er... No, I don't think so.

OLD MAN
Well that's no good, we can't have
that.

Ryan shouts from thirty feet away, bringing the boat to the
bank.

RYAN
Charlie!

CHARLIE
Hello!

She shouts and waves, the old couple wave too.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

We need to talk.

The old lady talks to Charlie quietly.

OLD WOMAN

Argue it out, it's always the best way.

OLD MAN

We still like a good argument.

CHARLIE

He doesn't like arguing.

OLD WOMAN

Oh of course he does, he just doesn't know it yet.

CHARLIE

Ok.

Ryan has now walked up to Charlie. The old couple sit and watch.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I panicked!

RYAN

Panicked!

CHARLIE

What you have to understand is that I have spent most of my life running away from things, from people. As soon as it all gets a little complicated I'm off. I guess I always need to be moving.

RYAN

Well that doesn't exactly make me feel a whole lot better.

CHARLIE

I'm trying to explain. For the first time I started to feel like I had made a decision, but the wrong one.

RYAN

So I'm a wrong decision now!

CHARLIE

No. We've only known each other a few days but I really feel for you and that scares me considering what you are.

RYAN

What am I? What am I? Defective military hardware? A malfunctioning weapon? A lethal robot with a screw loose? Is that what you think I am?

CHARLIE

No, that's what YOU think you are and that's the problem.

RYAN

I'm only mad because you just vanished. You gave me just enough hope to lead me into a sense of security and then stole it away.

CHARLIE

Maybe I thought you were in it just for the sex.

The old couple hold hands and look at each other lovingly.

RYAN

That's not true and you know it. Jesus, I liked all the other stuff too.

OLD MAN

Mind your language young man, you're a civilian in a public place now.

Ryan looks at the old man in disbelief.

CHARLIE

That "other stuff" is real life and it doesn't get much better than that either. You've got to open up and realise when you're on to a good thing.

RYAN

Yeah, yeah, I get it. My body is free but my head is still stuck in a war. I can't help that Charlie, neither could an army of doctors. You can't just empty your mind and start with a clean sheet!

CHARLIE

That's exactly what you think you CAN do! You have sex with some woman and you expect all the bad shit will go away and you'll be reborn as a perfect new man.

RYAN

You made me feel like a new man,
that's your fault!

CHARLIE

Memories have a habit of coming
back, good and bad. You said it
yourself. I'm worried you might
suddenly go psycho on me.

RYAN

I'm afraid I'm still a bit... wild,
I need time to let the anger
subside. I need... another chance.
I'm sorry, about all the...

Ryan looks at the old couple who are both looking with hope
in their eyes.

RYAN (CONT'D)

... the criminal mastermind stuff.

CHARLIE

I can see this is going to be an
uphill struggle. You'll have to be
my work in progress. Can you handle
that?

RYAN

It'll be cool, you'll see. Are we
good?

CHARLIE

I think if you can... We're not
good, not yet, good is something to
aim for. But I think we're going to
get better.

The old woman turns to the old man.

OLD WOMAN

Isn't that lovely, they're going to
get better.

RYAN

We should get on the boat.

CHARLIE

Ok, come on.

Charlie looks at the couple.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Thank you for your kind words.

OLD WOMAN

Glad to help. Your camera! Would you like a photo of the both of you together?

The old man holds up the camera.

CHARLIE

Oh, ok, if its no trouble. You turn it on here and just point and shoot.

OLD MAN

There you go.

The old man takes the photo expertly framing it and putting it at an angle, and hands the camera to Ryan, saluting him as he does so.

RYAN

Thank you sir.

Charlie holds Ryan's hand and they walk towards the boat.

OLD WOMAN

Be good!

OLD MAN

And if you can't be good, be good at it!

The old man looks to his wife.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)

I liked her accent.

OLD WOMAN

I liked his hair.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

They are eating on the boat. It's a beautiful day and the radio is playing. Ryan is back in his new clothes. The mood is playful and flirtatious.

RYAN

Better than McDonalds.

CHARLIE

The Big Mac is the heart of the American diet.

RYAN

Might explain a lot.

CHARLIE

It's affordable and represents all four major food groups.

RYAN

You don't actually believe that do you? You've been brainwashed.

CHARLIE

Look who's talking!

RYAN

I met some American soldiers once, they were idiots.

CHARLIE

No disrespect honey, but you may have been mixing in the wrong circles.

RYAN

What do you think of the British?

CHARLIE

You're clever but you think you're funny and that makes you look stupid.

RYAN

There's much wisdom in wit.

CHARLIE

Quirky, goofy, sarcastic but not wise babe, leave that to the experts.

RYAN

I've heard it said that our two countries are separated by a common language.

CHARLIE

Well I'm sure I don't know what you mean.

RYAN

Proves my point.

CHARLIE

Whatever. I'm gonna go home someday.

RYAN

What will you do?

CHARLIE

I'll probably get a qualification in astrology and do phone-ins on a public service radio station, tell people how to align their auras.

RYAN

Serious?

CHARLIE

Might be...

RYAN

We had a war between our two countries.

CHARLIE

Yeah, it's kind of important to us. Independence. Sent you packing we did, threw all you tea overboard at the Boston Tea Party and at great cost split from your royalty and government.

RYAN

How do you feel about all that?

CHARLIE

Pretty good, how about you?

RYAN

Well I'm not sure, come to think of it.

CHARLIE

I better level with you. I'm CIA and I've been sent to spy on you because of the military secrets in your mind. My mission is to siphon off all your wealth and power until there is nothing left but a dry husk.

RYAN

You watch too much TV!

CHARLIE

Yes, and we use it to control the world! Ahh ha!

RYAN

Now I know your real identity I have no alternative but to keep you here hostage, under house arrest. That is until I report back to MI6 with my findings until then you're all mine, to do with as I please.

CHARLIE

Not if I lure you to the other side
with my exotic charms and then
overpower you with my secret
weapon, the cheese and onion
quiche.

Charlie flicks her fork at Ryan, hitting him in his face. He returns fire and a food fight ensues which gets very messy.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Montage to music. They negotiate a lock.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Mark is walking by on the tow path with his dog but now in the opposite direction to the boat. He is now wearing jeans, T-shirt and trainers, he waves one last time, Ryan waves back,

MARK (V.O.)

Hey Ryan, Ryan, are you there? This
dream we're in, where does it go?
Where does it end? What happens
next?

RYAN (V.O.)

If we carry on like this we could
just keep going forever. That's the
beauty of it...

MARK (V.O.)

Later my man, good luck, good luck
with everything.

Mark fades away, dissolving into the background landscape with his dog.

Carlo, carrying his guitar appears, coming into view along the tow path, replacing Mark, appearing as he walks in the same direction as the boat.

CARLO

Hey guys, you got room for one
more?

RYAN

Sure thing.

Ryan drifts over to the bank and Carlo jumps on board.

CARLO

Thanks guys.

CHARLIE

We didn't get your name. I'm Charlie.

CARLO

Carlo, Carlo Jones at your service.

RYAN

Here have a beer Carlo, I'm Ryan. Make yourself at home.

CARLO

Cool. I've got an idea for a new tune, just a few notes really, can I play a while?

RYAN

Knock yourself out dude.

EXT. BOAT - DAY

Carlo is sitting on the front of the boat playing a tune on his guitar, the music drifts back to the stern where Ryan is driving, wearing his hat. Charlie is lying on the roof of the boat on a towel in her bikini wearing shades, reading a book as she sunbathes. She looks up Ryan.

CHARLIE

How do you feel?

RYAN

Never felt quite so at one with the world.

CHARLIE

How's your aura?

RYAN

I'm keeping it under my hat.

CHARLIE

Nice place for it.

She goes back to reading her book which we see has "King Kong" on the front of it.

RYAN

What are you reading?

CHARLIE

It's about the making of the film King Kong, the 70s version.

RYAN

Interesting?

CHARLIE

Yes, listen to this. "A box of Nikon cameras, the latest and best models, used in the film by Jeff Bridges, has been stolen from the props truck. Their value is an estimated \$20,000. Also missing is a \$1,200 jewelled watch belonging to Dino De Laurentiis. Everyone knows the theft is an inside job, and no one is particularly surprised. Looting on a movie set is a fact of life as natural and American as apple pie. Surprisingly no one accuses the extras of the crime."

RYAN

Where on earth did you find a book like that?

CHARLIE

I borrowed it from someone who didn't appreciate it as much as me.

RYAN

Mmm... Have you got the time?

Charlie looks at Ryan's watch on her wrist.

MUSIC begins in the background in a lead up to the end of the story.

CHARLIE

It's the afternoon. Hey I was going to ask you, with your condition and everything. Do you ever hear any voices?

RYAN

Used to have one, a friend, Mark was his name, maybe it was just my imagination. No, he was definitely there somewhere. He's gone now, I think, gone some place else, some place better. Who knows where. This is his boat, was his boat, he sort of left it to me, said I could have it if something happened. Think he would have liked it being used like this...

Ryan stops talking out loud and he and Charlie are quiet for a while.

RYAN (V.O.)

I don't get it; why would he buy a boat and then sign up and go to war? Maybe he found he didn't like water... Wonder if he ever even used it... Strange he only talked about it that once... Where are we? I need a map of some sort. What day is this? What are we actually doing here? All alone sort of. It is nice here though, slow, calm, tranquil..

Ryan's solo V/O becomes his speaking voice as he starts to talk to Charlie.

RYAN

... drifting into the unknown, towards the future, whatever that might be.

CHARLIE

You got it babe, no sense making too many plans, you don't know what's round the next bend, can't factor in the unexpected, no point trying, gotta leave room for the mystery to unfold, best take it slow and easy. Just what is the top speed of this thing?

RYAN

Three, maybe four miles an hour.

CHARLIE

When do we have to be wherever we're going?

RYAN

Not sure, I seem to have somehow lost track of time...

CREDITS : MUSIC

Aerial shot up and over the boat and river.