

One Easy Lesson
By Susan Albershardt

EXT. A WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Several large boats, winterized for bad weather, sit outside the warehouse. A thin layer of snow coats the scene. All is serene until an agonizing SCREAM breaks the silence.

INT. THE WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A large, partially-built sailboat occupies most of the space. Next to the boat, a MAN is bound and tied to a chair. His face is bloody and one eye is so swollen you can't see it.

PAPA LUIGI, a heavysset Italian mobster, sits in a chair facing the man and chews gum. His sons SAL and TONY, 20-something and dressed like it, stand on both sides of the man holding baseball bats.

PAPA LUIGI

Before I let the boys start on your arms and legs...one more time...where's my shipment?

BLOODY MAN

I told ya...the boat was empty. I tore it apart and there was nothing there.

PAPA LUIGI

Who owns the boat?

BLOODY MAN

Some guy named Max.

PAPA LUIGI

What's his last name?

BLOODY MAN

I don't know.

Sal takes a batter's stance and swings at the man's legs. He howls in pain.

PAPA LUIGI

Did I tell you to hit him again?

SAL

No...I...thought you wanted him to talk.

PAPA LUIGI

I'll do the thinking. You do as I say. He can't finish my boat with broken legs, you idiot!

BLOODY MAN

All I know is he runs an export
business in Connecticut. Please
don't hit me again.

PAPA LUIGI

If you're lying to me...we'll be
back.

(to his boys)

Let's go.

(beat; to the man)

Sorry about that last whack...

(drops a wad of cash in
the man's lap)

For you doctor's bill...

CUT TO:

EXT. A MIDDLE-CLASS HOME IN THE SUBURBS - ESTABLISHING -
MORNING

The house is decorated for Christmas. Several different
ALARM CLOCKS BLAST the silence.

INT. JASPER AND AMANDA'S BEDROOM

JASPER KROGH slams the "off" button on the alarm clock,
notices his wife's appealing position and snuggles into her;
he's feeling frisky.

AMANDA pushes him away.

AMANDA

It's Wednesday, Jasper.

JASPER

Can't blame a guy for trying...

He rolls out of bed, passes a beautiful scale model of a
fully-rigged sailboat mounted on the wall as he heads for the
bathroom.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Jasper exits his bedroom to find TRIP, his hormonal 13-year-
old son, peering through a crack in the door into his
sisters' bedroom.

INT. THE TWIN'S BEDROOM - TRIP'S P.O.V.

CANDY and SANDY, 15-year-old identical twins, are putting on makeup. When they are done, they aren't identical anymore.

CANDY

If John asks you to the movies, I think you should say you have other plans...

SANDY

But I want to go out with him...

CANDY

You have to play hard to get...

ON TRIP AND JASPER

JASPER

Trip, stop spying on your sisters.

TRIP

(still looking)
I'm not spying.

JASPER

What are you doing then?

TRIP

Learning.

JASPER

Learn somewhere else.

Jasper opens a door that has a large sign on it that reads "DO NOT ENTER" beneath a picture of a skull and cross-bones.

INT. CLIFFORD'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Filled with a mass of electronic equipment. Someone is buried under the blankets; SNORING loudly.

Jasper pulls the blankets off CLIFFORD, a 17-year-old nerd with scraggly long hair, wearing Star Trek pajama bottoms and no shirt. His eyebrow is pierced.

JASPER

Rise and shine, pal.
(wrinkles his nose)
And take a shower. You smell like...bad.

As Jasper leaves the room, Cliff shoots him "the bird."

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Jasper ENTERS the kitchen, now dressed in a conservative suit and tie. Cliff and Trip are sitting at the kitchen table eating cereal.

Amanda hands Jasper a cup of coffee, which he takes a slug of, burning his throat.

JASPER
HOT! HOT! HOT!

AMANDA
It's helps to blow on it first,
honey.

Trip snickers from the table. Cliff ignores him.

Sandy and Candy ENTER the kitchen, now dressed in sexy outfits, although totally different. Candy's is pink and frilly while Sandy's is all black.

They move together in a weird synchronicity common to identical twins, although they try to hide this trait whenever possible: one gets out two glasses, while the other gets juice from the refrigerator and pours.

JASPER
You're not wearing that to
school... are you?

CANDY/SANDY
(simultaneously)
Yes. Why?

JASPER
It's kind of short...

CANDY
Our cheerleading uniforms are
shorter than this.

SANDY
Get with it, Dad. This is how all
the girls dress.

CLIFFORD
The slutty girls...

CANDY/SANDY
We heard that!

JASPER
Amanda, help me here?

AMANDA
Clifford, that's not nice.
Girls, I think you look cute.
Jasper, would you like some
breakfast?

JASPER
Gotta run...I want to drop by a
client's before I go to the
office... He's not returning my
calls for some reason.

AMANDA
Don't forget I have writing class
tonight and some Christmas
shopping...
(rubs fingers together)

Jasper pulls out his wallet and hands Amanda some money.

The kids grab their book bags and jackets and stand in line during the following...

CLIFFORD
And my technology club meets
tonight... There's dues...
(puts his hand out)

Jasper hands him a \$20.

CANDY
We have a game...

SANDY
...and everyone is going out after
to the Big Burger.

Jasper hands them each \$20.

TRIP
And I'm going to the new
Transformers movie...

Jasper hands Trip the last \$20 bill from his now empty wallet. He's cleaned out.

AMANDA
(kissing Jasper's cheek)
Looks like you're on your own
tonight, hon.

JASPER
Looks like it.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE GIANNI EXPORT/IMPORT OFFICE - DAY

Jasper pulls his late model SUV into the parking lot behind the building. A red Corvette is parked next to the back door. Jasper opens the back door to the building and steps inside.

INT. THE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Jasper steps into a large very dark room filled with all kinds of boxes. No one is there. Jasper stumbles through the dark interior, hears a NOISE coming from an open door where a light is on.

INT. GIANNI'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

MAX GIANNI, short, balding, overweight, is hurriedly throwing things from his desk into a box.

JASPER (V.O.)
Hey, Max. What's up?

MAX
(startled)
Jesus, Jasper! You scared the shit outta me.

JASPER
Sorry. What're you doing?

MAX
Going on a trip.

Max puts a golfing trophy into the box.

JASPER
When will you be back?

MAX
Dunno.

JASPER
A week? Two weeks? Next year?

MAX
Maybe never.

JASPER

Never? What about the money you owe me?

MAX

I don't have it.

JASPER

Max, that was my kid's college education! Retirement for me and my wife! Max, I took out a second mortgage on my house!

MAX

I'm sorry, Jasper. I kinda got in over my head.

JASPER

What does that mean - over your head?

MAX

I lost it.

JASPER

You what!? How does someone lose two hundred thousand dollars!?

MAX

I was winning. At one point, I doubled your money. But then...

JASPER

Then what?

MAX

My luck turned... lost everything on the Dallas game.

(shakes head)

God damned Cowboys!

JASPER

I loaned you that money to invest in a business deal with the Chinese! A sure thing that was supposed to make both of us rich!

Max grabs the box, pushes past Jasper, and heads out the door. Jasper follows.

MAX

A sure thing don't exist, pal.

EXT. THE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Jasper grabs Max's arm to stop him; he towers over the twerp.

MAX

Jasper, I gotta get out of
here...now!

JASPER

You're not going anywhere until you
pay me back my money - pal!

Max is sweating now. He tries to wiggle away from Jasper,
but Jasper is holding on tight.

MAX

Jasper, you gotta let me go.
There's some really bad people...
(looks around)
They'll kill me!

JASPER

Not if I kill you first... you
little prick!

Jasper twists Max's arm until it starts hurting...

MAX

OK...OK...Listen...You can have my
boat.

JASPER

What kind of boat?

MAX

A sailboat.

JASPER

How big?

MAX

Oh, it's big... A 62 foot Ocean
sloop...

JASPER

(suddenly very interested)
Really?

MAX

She's a beaut'. You'll love 'er.
(pulls out the boat key
and a file from the box)
Here's the key and all her
papers...

Jasper releases Max to take the papers.

MAX (CONT'D)

There's a buyer in Miami Beach who
will buy it if you can get it there
before he leaves on December 31.

(climbs into his car)

I gotta go...

Max pulls out of the parking lot and PEELS off.

Jasper watches Max take off with a million questions left
unanswered. He looks at the key in his hand. He throws the
key into the air, catches it and smiles broadly.

As he climbs into his car a black HUMMER slowly drives by and
stops.

INT. THE HUMMER - CONTINUOUS

Papa Luigi watches Jasper from the passenger seat. Sal
drives and Tony watches from the back seat.

SAL

Who's the gibbon in the cheap
suit?

TONY

Never seen him before.

PAPA LUIGI

Follow 'im.

SAL

Why?

PAPA LUIGI

(backhands Sal)

So we can find out who he is!

SAL

Aw! Papa, that hurt!

PAPA LUIGI

Don't ask so many questions the
next time. Go!

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

As Jasper pulls out of the parking lot, the Hummer follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Trip and his buddies, BRAD and DIXON, exit the movie theater.

DIXON
Oh, my God, Trip, there's
Isabelle...What're you goin' do?

ANGLE ON

Four YOUNG GIRLS loitering in front of the movie theater,
including ISABELLE, a pretty 13 year old.

TRIP
Follow me...and learn.

The crew follows Trip as he walks by the girls. The girls
turn to stare at the boys, who keep on walking without saying
a word.

Isabelle breaks from the group of girls to catch up with
Trip.

ISABELLE
Hi, Trip.

TRIP
Hey, Isabelle.

ISABELLE
Did you like the movie, Trip?

TRIP
Awesome! Best one yet.

ISABELLE
I thought so, too. We're going to
The Burger Stop. Wanna come?

The crew is suddenly very excited, while Trip remains calm.

TRIP
Sure. Let's go.

Dixon and Brad exchange looks, truly amazed and impressed.

DISSOLVE TO: