FADE IN:

CITY OF ANGELS

lies spread out beneath us in all its splendor, like a bargain basement Promised Land.

CAMERA SOARS, DIPS, WINDS its way SLOWLY DOWN, DOWN, bringing us IN OVER the city as we:

SUPER MAIN TITLES.

TITLES END, as we --

SPIRAL DOWN TOWARD a lush, high-rise apartment complex. The moon reflected in glass.

CAMERA CONTINUES TO MOVE IN THROUGH billowing curtains, INTO the inner sanctum of a penthouse apartment, and here, boys and girls, is where we lose our breath, because --

spread-eagled on a sumptuous designer sofa lies the single most beautiful GIRL in the city. Blonde hair. A satin nightgown that positively glows. Sam Cooke MUSIC, crooning from five hundred dollar SPEAKERS.


On the table next to the sleeping Venus lies an open bottle of pills ... next to that, a mirror dusted with cocaine.

She rouses herself to smear some powder on her gums. As she does, we see from her eyes that she is thoroughly, completely whacked out of her mind...

She stands, stumbles across the room, pausing to glance at a photograph on the wall:

Two men. Soldiers. Young, rough-hewn, arms around each other.

The Girl throws open the glass doors ... steps out onto a balcony, and there, beneath her, lies all of nighttime L.A. Panoramic splendor. Her hair flies, her expression rapt, as she stands against this sea of technology. She is beautiful.

On the balcony railing beside her stand three potted plants.

The Girl sees them, picks one up. Looks over the balcony railing ... It is ten stories down to the parking lot. She squints, holds the plant over the edge.
GIRL

Red car.

Drops the plant. Down it goes, spiralling end over end -- until, finally ... BAM -- SHATTERS. Dirt flies. A red Chevy is now minus a WINDSHIELD. The Girl takes another plant.

GIRL

Green car.

She drops it. Green Dodge. Ten stories below, BAM. Impact city. Scratch one paint job. Grabs the final plant and holds it out, saying:

GIRL

Blue car.

POW. GLASS SHATTERS. Dirt sprays. A blue BMW this time. The Girl loves this game ... her expression is slightly crazed. She reaches for another plant -- There aren't any. Her smile fades -- And for a moment, just a moment, the dullness leaves her eyes and she is suddenly, incredibly sober. And tears fill her eyes as she looks over the edge --

GIRL

Yellow car.

And jumps the railing. Plummets, head over heels like a rag doll. Hits the yellow car spot on. She lies, dead, like an extinguished dream. Still beautiful.

CUT TO:

1A  EXT. BENEATH THE PIER    NIGHT

FOUR TOUGH-LOOKING DOCK WORKERS are camped out under the pier, warming themselves around a small bonfire, laughing loudly. Christmas decorations dangle above them from the pier, and empty beer cans litter the sand around them.

CAMERA PUSHES IN to discover an old collie tied to one of the pilings. Then we realize that the dog is being tormented by the dock workers. They flick lighted matches at him. Shake their beers and spray him in the face. These guys are not rocket scientists.

The dog cowers, tugging on the rope. Tries to get away. All to the great amusement of its tormentors.

One of them turns, laughing --

As a shadowy FIGURE strides calmly up to the fire:
Long hair.
Cigarette dangling from-lower lip.
Shirt-tails hanging loose below the waist.
Nothing threatening in his manner as he plops down beside the men, smiling.

They are immediately on their guard.

   RIGGS (FIGURE)
   Happy holidays. Mind if I join you?

   PUNK #1
   Yes.

   PUNK #2
   Fuck off.

Riggs smiles at him innocently. Strokes the collie's fur with one hand. With the other, he reaches into a paper sack and produces, a spanking new bottle of Jack Daniels, possibly the finest drink mankind has yet produced.

   RIGGS
   I need help drinking this. Cool?

The dock workers exchange glances. There seems to be no harm in this. One of them frowns:

   PUNK #1
   You a homo?

   RIGGS
   Do I look like a homo?

   PUNK #1
   You got long hair. Homos got long hair.

   PUNK #3
   I hate homos. Arrggh.

Riggs shakes his head, laughs.

   RIGGS
   Boy, you guys are terrific. You make me laugh, you just do.

At which point, appropriately enough, Punk #4 shakes a beer and sprays it in the old collie's face.

The DOG pulls away, WHINING. Riggs leans forward.

   RIGGS
   This your dog? Nice dog.

And then, he proceeds to do a peculiar thing: He starts to talk to the dog -- in what seems to be the dog's own language.
Very weird, folks...
He coos, snuffles, barks softly, then withdraws,
listening, his ear to the dog's muzzle.
Riggs nods. Frowns.
The others look on, puzzled.
Then Riggs looks at each of the four dock workers.

RIGGS
Huh— You know what? He says he
doesn't want you to spray beer in
his face. He says he just hates
that.

A pause. Uncomfortable. Then --

PUNK #1
Oh, he does ... ?
(beat)
Well, mister, why don't you ask
him what he likes...?

The others snicker. Riggs simply nods.

RIGGS
Okay.

And once again, begins to confer with the dog. Listens
intently, piecing together what he is hearing.

RIGGS
What ... ? You want ... oh. Oh,
hell no, I couldn't do that ...
Nossirree bob, you little nut.

He ruffles the dog's hair.
The men are more puzzled than ever as Riggs turns and
says:

RIGGS
(chuckling)
Get this: He wants me to beat
the shit out of you guys.

Everything stops. A cloud passes over the assembled
faces and a pin-dropping silence ensues.

Riggs, completely heedless, once again attends to the dog:

RIGGS
What's that ... ? The one ... in the
middle... 'is a stupid fat duck'...
What ... ?
(listens again)
Oh ... Oh! A 'stupid fat fuck!'
Right.

He looks up, shakes his head.
RIGGS
Boy, this dog is pissed.

The one in the middle grabs Riggs by the collar. Hoists him to his feet. Gulp.

Stands, staring down at Riggs, whose eyes are completely neutral, like a snake's.

PUNK #1
Buddy, you're shortening your life span.

He flicks open a mean-looking switchblade.

Riggs is dead meat.

So why then, does he choose this moment to execute a Three Stooges' routine, consisting of nose tweak, eye gouge, and rotating fist that bobs the dock worker on the head... ? He's nuts or something ...

Riggs steps back and adopts a neutral fighting stance. The others begin to circle.

The DOG BARKS. Riggs turns to the dog, but his eyes never leave his grinning attackers.

RIGGS
(to the collie)
What's that ... ? You want me to take the knife away... and break his elbow... ?

Circling ...

Riggs, watching them, his eyes beginning to dance ...
Breathing slow and even ...

RIGGS
But that would be excruciatingly painful ...

Something inside Riggs is gearing up ... the others can perhaps sense it, their smiles falter a bit, they crouch, combat-ready ...
Riggs, eyes blazing ...

RIGGS
And if I separated the fat one's shoulder... he'd probably scream ...

No doubt about it. We know from the look in Riggs' eyes he's nuts. He wants the fight, badly, all four of them at once ...

And then Punk #1 springs ...
Big mistake.
Needless to say, mincemeat is made of the four meddlesome dog-torturers.

The beach is littered with their writhing forms as Riggs does, finally, what he set out to do:

Unties the dog.

Starts to go.
As he does, he pats his shirt ...

Pats his jeans ... Realizes his wallet has flown free during the fracas.

Scoops to retrieve it from its resting place on the sand, where it lies open, and as it lies open, yes, folks, that is a badge we see.

Riggs, we realize, is an officer of the law.

He lights a cigarette and notices the collie, seated. Frowns:

RIGGS

He begins to walk away. The dog remains close at his heels. Following him.

RIGGS
No, no. Don't follow me. I'm an asshole. Go away.

The dog sits obediently and Riggs walks away. He can't help it, looks back over his shoulder...

Sees the dog watching him with a beseeching expression. Pitiful.

RIGGS
Aw, shit.

He signals the dog.

RIGGS
Awright. Move it. Let's go.

The COLLIE BARKS happily and dashes toward him through the surf, kicking up sand and water.

As they shuffle off against the palm-lined skyline, we hear, supered, Riggs' voice.

RIGGS (V.O.)
So. You live in the area? What's your major ... ?
And so on as we ...

CUT TO:

2 OMITTED thru 2
thru 4D thru 4D

5 EXT. MURTAUGH'S HOUSE - PRE-DAWN 5

Palm trees cast shadows on the lawn. Toys, lots of them, littered across the lawn. A Big Wheel, a G.I. Joe figure. Christmas lights are strung across the eaves.

CUT TO:

6 INT. HOUSE - BATHROOM SAME 6

A real gun, a .38 Police Special, dangling in its holster from the back of a chair. Next to it -- A real badge, gleaming in the light. It identifies its owner as LAPD Robbery/Homicide.

7 ANOTHER ANGLE 7

A birthday cake comes INTO FRAME. A set of matronly hands places it directly in front of --

8 DETECTIVE ROGER MURTAUGH 8

Seated in the bathtub. He groans, throws a towel over himself, and mutters in mock indignation: Roger is tough: An old-fashioned fighter, wears his past like a scar. Piercing eyes; cynical. He is surrounded by his family; wife and three children, names and ages as follows: TRISH: Roughly thirty-eight. She used to be a stunner. NICK: Ten years old. Precocious. CARRIE: Age seven. Eyes like saucers. Adorable. RIANNE: Heartbreaker stuff, Seventeen. Takes your breath away folks. The cake is a real beauty.

CARRIE
Make a wish, Daddy.

RIANNE
Go for it, Dad.

MURTAUGH
(smiles)
Go for it, huh...? Okay, I'll go for it.

He blows out the candles. Applause. His gaze lingers on -- the cake. Or rather, the message scrawled atop it in icing: WELCOME TO THE BIG 50

The presents arrive.
EXT. SIMI VALLEY - MORNING

The scorched landscape stretches out beneath a lattice-work of high-tension power lines. Only scrub grass grows here. Rusted railroad tracks wander into the distance, and nestled beside them, like the last stop before death -- sits a lonely trailer home. Battered TV antenna. A dirt yard which houses a beat-up pickup truck. Dead garden sprouting weeds. The ground begins to tremble ... like an earthquake, RATTLING the POWER POLES, as, without warning -- An express TRAIN BLASTS BY CAMEPA and streaks past the trailer at seventy miles an hour.

INT. TRAILER HOME

Now we are inside, the RUMBLING FAINTER ... And we are looking at a tired, chiseled face. Etched with line and shadow. Eyes closed, as the shadows from the speeding train strobe across DETECTIVE SERGEANT MARTIN RIGGS. Morning is not a good time for Riggs. The CLOCK RADIO suddenly BLARES to life: "Silver Belllls ... It's Christmas Tiiime in the City..." Riggs snaps awake instantly. Alert. Tense. Face bathed in sweat.

ANOTHER ANGLE

He is not alone. In the doorway sits a thoroughly loveable black Labrador. Sitting stock still. Staring at Riggs, watching him sleep. Tail going thump-thump-thump on the carpet.

Riggs sits up. Stares at the dog.

RIGGS
Sam, today is the first day ...
of the rest of my life.

He lights a cigarette. Inhales. Coughs and hacks.

The TRAIN THROBS by outside, rattling his skull ...

CUT TO:

INT. MURTAUGH HOME - SAME TIME

And it is a typical morning for Detective Roger Murtaugh. Chaos. The TELEVISION BLARES. Young Carrie Murtaugh wails like a banshee. Her brother Nick tells her to shut up. Trish Murtaugh is burning eggs in the kitchen. Roger Murtaugh enters then, fixing his tie. The following dialogue is fast and furious, tossed over the shoulder as Murtaugh scurries to and fro, getting dressed:

MURTAUGH
Honey, what's this on my tie?
She looks.

TRISH
An ugly spot?

MURTAUGH
Thanks. Sharp as a pin.

TRISH
I'm thinking of going on 'Jeopardy.'

MURTAUGH
Don't take any questions on cooking.

TRISH
Thanks. I love you, too.

Carrie is still shrieking. Tears stream down her face.

MURTAUGH
Hey, kid, turn off the waterworks, okay?

CARRIE
(points to Nick)
Daddy, he changed the channel!

MURTAUGH
NOOOOO.

NICK
She's a crybaby, Dad.

MURTAUGH
Mind your own business. (nods toward the TV)
That's illegal.

NICK
What's illegal?

MURTAUGH
Can't put a dead body in an ambulance. This 'Kojak'?

NICK
'Strasky and Hutch.'

MURTAUGH
Huh. It's illegal. Never put a dead body in an ambulance, son, you got that?

NICK
Sure, Dad.
MURTAUGH
Honey, where's the spot remover?
(turns to Carrie)
Young lady, stop crying or I'll give you something to cry about.
Damn.

He dabs at his tie. Carrie screams. In the kitchen Trish drops the eggs, swears. The PHONE RINGS. Carrie screams.

MURTAUGH
That's it. I'm gonna give you something to cry about.

He grabs a copy of Newsweek and hands it to her.

MURTAUGH
Starving children. See? They haven't eaten, it's very sad.
Cry.

He moves away.

CARRIE
Daddy, you're weird ...

MURTAUGH
Thank you, Carrie. Hear that, honey, the children think I'm weird.

TRISH
They're bright children.
(hangs up the telephone)
Honey, you know a man named Dick Lloyd? Don't step in the egg.

MURTAUGH
Where's my thinking? I should've checked the floor for egg. Dick Lloyd ... ?
(beat)
Jesus, Dick Lloyd. What's he want?

TRISH
The office called. He's been trying to reach you for three days now.

MURTAUGH
I haven't talked to him in... shit, twelve years? No, wait a minute, that would make me fifty years old, that can't be right.
TRISH
(smiles)
You're not getting older, you're getting better.

MURTAUGH
Inform the children of this.
(kisses her; heads for the door)
Forget the eggs, I'll eat later.

TRISH
Whatever.
(beat)
Honey?
(as he stops)
How come I never heard of Dick Lloyd?

MURTAUGH
I never talked about him.

TRISH
Oh.
(beat)
Vietnam buddy?

MURTAUGH
Yeah. Vietnam buddy.

He exits the kitchen, crosses the entrance hall. Stops, noticing Rickles the cat, who is happily munching on the remains of Roger's birthday cake.

MURTAUGH
Hey.

He swats it aside. Pauses, his gaze lingering on the silent message which gnaws at his guts.

THE BIG 50 ...

He comes out the front door. Flicks off the Christmas lights, crosses to the car. Looks up, and sees -- his oldest daughter Rianne. Jogging past. She wears an adorable pair of dolphin shorts. Walkman headphones. She waves.

RIANNE
'Bye, Daddy.

He waves.

MURTAUGH
(shakes his head)
Goddamn heartbreaker. She's a heartbreaker.

CUT TO:
Riggs enters the living room, naked. Scars on his back, the kind you get from knives. Runs a hand through limp hair. Turns on the lamp. As he does -- the TELEVISION also springs to life; hooked to the same circuit. Pops three aspirin from a bottle. Chews them. Opens a bag of peanuts, throws it to the big Lab, who gobbles them down.

Eats a sandwich, standing in the middle of his apartment. 'Looking at the floor. What a lonely fucking guy ... Straps on his gun. .9 millimeter Beretta, if it matters. Throws on a jacket. Downs a shot of whiskey. Pauses, looking at a photograph on the wall. Riggs, much younger, along with a pretty and vivacious woman in a wedding gown: his wife. Stares at the photograph. His fingers twirl the whiskey glass with completely unconscious skill. Tense. Tense ... twirling the glass ... RICHARD DAWSON DRONES from the TV (our survey says -- !). Riggs slings the shotglass. Dead center, SHATTERING the TV SCREEN.

CUT TO:

Targets: Human silhouettes with kill zones numbered. Murtaugh enters. Sheds his coat, unholsters the .38. Steps to the red line. Shifts. Stretches. Cracks his neck. This is a ritual for him. He stops to examine his right hand, holding it steady before his eyes. Except there is a slight tremble. Tiny, but it's there. He frowns. Braces himself: Cross-draws with lightning swiftness. -- BAM! -- The sound is DEAFENING in the closed room. A neat round hole appears in the target. Perfect shot: a neat third eye. Murtaugh smiles. Holsters his gun. Puts on his coat -- and sings softly to himself:

MURTAUGH
Happy birthday to me ...

CUT TO:

Sergeant Martin Riggs is driving. He looks like he hasn't slept. He certainly hasn't shaved. The DISPATCH RADIO SQUAWKS. He turns down the MUSIC from the car radio and hears:

DISPATCHER (V.0.)
All units in the vicinity and
Fourteen X-ray thirty-one,
shooting in progress at Venice
Beach, Washington and Navy.
Three victims down, PA en route
Fourteen X-ray thirty-one, handle
code three.
Riggs hits the gas pedal and PEELS OUT.

CUT TO:

16  EXT. CENTURY CITY PARKING LOT  -  MORNING

The sky threatens rain. Cars buzz by as the city awakens.

A section of the parking lot is cordoned off by yellow streamers which read: POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS, and as we watch, a black and white patrol car pulls up, admitting two beat COPS and a young hooker. Her name is DIXIE, and she is not happy.

DIXIE
Can I stay in the car?

COP #1
No.

DIXIE
Aw, cut me a break. I told you already: she came out on the balcony --

COP #1
(points)
That balcony ... ?

DIXIE
-- No, the Chandler fucking Pavillion, of course that fucking balcony, and then she jumped, and then I puked in a trash can. Can I go now?

COP #1
Not 'til you talk to the Sarge.

DIXIE
Terrific. Where the hell is he?

17  INT. MURTAUGH'S CAR

The sarge drives up and gets out. A BEAT COP Toes by.

BEAT COP
Happy 50th, Rog.

MURTAUGH
Fuck you.

He crosses to the two Cops and Dixie.

COP #2
Hey, Sarge.
MURTAUGH
'Morning, Phil. Get some rain, looks like.
(beat)
Hey, Dixie. Nice threads.

DIXIE
Hey, Murtaugh. Tell these bozos to lay off.

MURTAUGH

COP #1
Had a jumper last night, Sarge. Dixie here was walking by, saw the whole thing.

MURTAUGH
You got a statement? Send her home.

DIXIE
Thanks, Rog. I'm beat, you know how it is.

MURTAUGH
Sure.
(points to her outfit)
All dressed up and no one to blow.

DIXIE
You're hilarious.

She exits. Cop #2 escorts Murtaugh across the parking lot.

COP #2
Nice wholesome girl. She got a new job, you know.

MURTAUGH
What's that?

COP #2
County ceiling inspector.
(beat)
So. Fifty years old, huh?

MURTAUGH
Eat me.

They stop next to the Porsche. Murtaugh grimaces.
COP #2
Name is Amanda Lloyd, age twenty-two, prostitute, one arrest, no convictions. Born Tennessee, parents --

MURTAUGH
What was the name?

COP #2.
Lloyd. Amanda Lloyd. You know her ... ?

Murtaugh looks stunned. He speaks very slowly:

MURTAUGH
I knew her dad.

COP #2
Jesus.

(an awkward pause)
Vehicle is registered to her. She landed right on top of her own car.

MURTAUGH
Find out who bought it for her. Her sugar daddy.

COP #2
Take some looking into.

MURTAUGH
So look.

CUT TO:

18 OMITTED

19 INT. AMANDA LLOYD'S APARTMENT - DAY

Murtaugh stares at the photograph we saw earlier. The two soldiers. One, we can assume, is Dick Lloyd. The other is Murtaugh. Younger, trimmer. He speaks into the phone.

MURTAUGH
Hello, honey ... ? Give me the number for Dick Lloyd. What ... ? Yes, the man who called me this morning. His daughter just took a dive out a window.

19A EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE LOT - DAY

Martin Riggs and three lot employees are gathered around the liftgate of a truck bearing a load of Christmas trees. The truck shields them from the view of customers picking out trees in the lot.
The lot employees are actually DRUG DEALERS. They look around nervously in all directions as Riggs tastes a sample of their wares.

RIGGS
Good stuff.

DRUG DEALER ONE
You better fuckin' believe it.

RIGGS
Okay. Let's do it. How much?

DRUG DEALER TWO
How much for how much?

RIGGS
For all of it.

DRUG DEALER THREE
You want it all?

RIGGS
Yeah.
(glances at the trees)
And maybe a nice big six-footer to put it under.

DRUG DEALER ONE
The tree you can have for nuthin'. But the shit is gonna run you a hundred.

Riggs lets out a soft whistle at the amount.

RIGGS
That much, huh?
(digs into his pocket)
Okay. Let's see what I got.

He pulls out a roll of money and begins to count it out in twenties and small bills.

RIGGS
Twenty, forty, sixty --

The Drug Dealers exchange dumbfounded expressions.

DRUG DEALER ONE
Hey, man. Hey!
RIGGS
Wait, wait ... shutup. I'm losin count. Where was I? Oh, yeah...

(continues to peel off the bills)
... Eight, ninety, ninety-five, ninety-six, ninety-seven...
(digs into his pocket for loose change)
... Ninety-seven-fifty. Sixty.
Seventy-five. Okay, there's ninety-eight dollars and twenty cents...

He is about to check his other pocket for change when Drug Dealer One stops him.

DRUG DEALER ONE
Forget it, dumbshit.

RIGGS
C'mon. I'm almost there. Gimme a minute to --

DRUG DEALER ONE
One hundred thousand, you stupid fuck! One hundred thousand!

Riggs is floored. He can't believe his ears.

RIGGS
Oh, Jesus ... I can't afford that. Not on my salary.
(beat)
Look... let's do this instead ...
(pulls out his wallet)
I take your complete stash, okay? I take it all. For free. And you assholes go to jail.

As he says this, he flips open his wallet and shows his badge. The Drug Dealers at first look startled, then disbelieving.

RIGGS
I could read you your rights, but ... nah. You guys know what your rights are.

DRUG DEALER ONE
Fuck you, man. That badge ain't real. And you ain't real.
DRUG DEALER TWO
But you're sure as hell one
crazy fuck!

Riggs' eyes begin to blaze. His nostrils flare. Like
a maniac, he lunges at Drug Dealer Two.

RIGGS
You callin' me crazy!? You
think I'm crazy! You, wanna see
crazy? I'll show you crazy!
This is crazy!

Riggs then proceeds to slap and pummel the Drug Dealer
in the manner of the "Three Stooges"... complete with
"WOO-WOO" sound effects.

But he ends the routine by pulling a nine-millimeter
Baretta from behind his back and pressing it against
the neck of Drug Dealer Two.

RIGGS
That's a real badge. I'm a real
cop. And this is a real gun.
(to the other two
Drug Dealers)
Face down on the ground. Arms
and legs out. Do it now!

Dealer One and Three begin to follow orders but Riggs
sees a flicker in their eyes that him to trouble.

He spins around -- a FOURTH DRUG DEALER is behind him
with a shotgun. The SHOTGUN EXPLODES. Riggs ducks,
allowing Drug Dealer Two to take the full force of the
'blast in the face.

Riggs rolls in the sawdust FIRING his BERETTA.
Dealer Four takes a bullet between the eyes.
Dealer Two now has an AUTOMATIC RIFLE in his hand.
It CHATTERS in Riggs' direction. Sawdust and pine
needles fly in the air -- but Riggs is able to blow
him away.

One more Drug Dealer left. Riggs can't find him.
His eyes dart in all directions. Where is he?!

Behind Riggs, that's where! He presses a revolver to
the back of Riggs' head, taking Riggs' Baretta from
him and tucking it into his belt.

That's when:

19B FIVE NARCOTICS OFFICERS

come running from their stakeout positions around the
lot. But they stop short when they see that Riggs is
being held with a gun pointed to his head.
The Drug Dealer begins to move with Riggs toward a van parked nearby.

RIGGS
(to officers)
Shoot him! Shoot him!

DRUG DEALER
(to Riggs)
Shut up!

RIGGS
(to Drug Dealer)
Fuck you!
(to officers)
Shoot him! Shoot him!

The narcotics officers don't know what to do. They are frustrated. Helpless. Immobilized.

Riggs sees the van looming up. The van means defeat. The van means disgrace. The van means victory for the bad guys, and we know that Riggs would rather die than be the instrument of the Dealer's escape.

19C CLOSE ON RIGGS AND DRUG DEALER

The veins are popping out in Riggs' neck. The Drug Dealer is getting nervous and panicky. His gun hand is trembling. The barrel of the gun jiggles against the back of Riggs' head.

RIGGS
(to Drug Dealer)
Do it, asshole. Pull the trigger.
Pull the trigger.

DRUG DEALER
Shut the fuck up!

They move closer to the van. The narcotics officers have their guns poised for action, but don't dare use them.

DRUG DEALER
(to officers)
Guns down! Guns down!
RIGGS
(to officers)
Shoot him! Kill him!
(to Dealer)
Pull the trigger!
(to officers).
Waste him!
(to Dealer)
Shoot me!
(to officers)
Kill him!!

The Dealer is so freaked now that his grip on Riggs slips momentarily -- and Riggs sees his opening.

He spins. Kicks the Dealer in the groin. Dislocates his arm -- sending the gun flying. Riggs retrieves his Baretta from the Dealer's belt and shoves the barrel into the Dealer's face.

Riggs' entire body quakes with rage. His finger begins to squeeze back on the trigger. He wants to kill the guy so bad he can taste it... and yet, he doesn't do it.

The other officers arrive and step between Riggs and the Dealer.

Riggs turns away. Breathing hard. Adrenaline pumping. He tucks the Baretta into his belt, then notices that his hand is covered with the spilled blood of one of the Drug Dealers.

It gives Riggs pause. For a moment, he just looks at it.

HOLD ON Riggs. VERY CLOSE. And the look in his eyes.

Police have seldom looked this busy. Yes, there are RINGING PHONES. Yes, there are CLATTERING TYPEWRITERS. Yes, it looks like a circus. And here comes Captain of Detectives ED MURPHY, moving like an after-breakfast juggernaut. Behind him, a young woman rushes to keep up. The POLICE PSYCHOLOGIST, no less.

PSYCHOLOGIST
I want Martin Riggs pulled from duty.

MURPHY
Um... no.
PSYCHOLOGIST
No. No?? Captain, he walked into the line of fire.

MURPHY
Very brave individual, don't you think...?

PSYCHOLOGIST
This is utter bullshit.

MURPHY
Oh, is it? Forgive me.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Martin Riggs is a cop with a death wish.

Murphy shoots her an incredulous look.

PSYCHOLOGIST
You can quote me. It happens to be my professional opinion.

MURPHY
Um... good opinion. See you tomorrow.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Captain...

MURPHY

PSYCHOLOGIST
Oh, do you?

MURPHY
Yeah. I am sure you're aware the department offers a disability stress pension --

PSYCHOLOGIST
Yes, I'm aware --

MURPHY
-- Except we don't offer it to everybody, only cops who seem to suffer from

PSYCHOLOGIST
-- From abnormal stress, yes, I know. Or suicidal tendencies.

MURPHY
Give the lady a cigar.
PSYCHOLOGIST
You think Riggs is playing a game?

MURPHY
Sure. He wants the cash. Seen it a hundred times. He'll come around.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Sir, with all due respect ... I think that's a dangerous attitude to take. May I remind you that his wife of eleven years was recently killed in a car accident, and

MURPHY
I know all about Riggs, Doc. He's a tough bastard.

PSYCHOLOGIST
(intense)
He is on the edge. He may be psychotic.

MURPHY
Bunch of psych bullshit—Look, can I pee now?

PSYCHOLOGIST
I think you're making a mistake by leaving him in the field. He's suicidal.

MURPHY
End of discussion. We're gonna wait. And then, if he offs himself ... Well, then we'll know I was wrong.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Yes, sir. Then we'll know.

CUT TO:

27  EXT. SIMI VALLEY - NIGHT

Rain sweeps in off the desert. Cold. Drenching. Riggs walks slowly toward his trailer home, head down. The RAIN BEATS on him. He doesn't notice. Under his arm he carries a large cardboard box.

28  INT. RIGGS' TRAILER - SAME TIME

Riggs enters, soaking wet. Switches on the lamp. Depressing. Jake appears, tail a-thump. Tongue wagging doggishly. Riggs reaches atop the refrigerator, grabs a bag of peanuts. Opens it, tosses it to the dog.
RIGGS
Sam, every day ... in every way ... 
I'm getting better and better.

Opens the box and removes its contents. Brand new color TELEVISION. Plugs it in. Switches it ON. Sits down with a bottle of whiskey. Drinks. On the screen, the Grinch steals Christmas from the residents of Whoville.

29 ANOTHER ANGLE 

Riggs opens a drawer beside him, and takes out a bottle of sleeping pills. Picks it up. As he does -- the sound of the TELEVISION FADES OUT -- silence, dead silence... As Riggs rolls the bottle in his fingers. Slowly, thoughtfully, unscrews the cap ... dumps them on the table. Runs his fingers through them. CLICK... CLICK... Stares. Mesmerized. RAIN BEATS on the window.

30 EXT. TRAILER 

The RAIN CONTINUES to hammer the lonely little pit which Riggs calls home.

CUT TO:

31 L.A.P.D. - MORNING 

A zoo. A sign reads METRO ROBBERY/HOMICIDE.

Roger Murtaugh sits at his desk, lost in thought. Behind him, McCASKEY, Class Three Detective. He talks to Murtaugh:

McCASKEY
See, you're behind the times, Sarge. Guys in the Eighties aren't tough. They're sensitive people. They show emotions around women and shit like that. 
(beat)
I think I'm an Eighties man.

MURTAUGH
How you figure?

McCASKEY
Last night: I cried in bed, so how's that?

MURTAUGH
Were you with a woman?

McCASKEY
No, I was alone, why the fuck you think I was crying?

MURTAUGH
Sounds like an Eighties man to me.
Another detective enters. Rail-thin, nose like a beak. His name is BURKE.

Behind him in the door frame we see a fat cop pass by down the hall, walking backwards; a beat, and then he is followed by four more cops singing the world's shittiest rendition of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." It sounds like pigs mating.

Burke approaches Murtaugh:

BURKE
Got some news on the Lloyd case, Rog.

MURTAUGH
That was quick.

BURKE
So was the autopsy.  
(takes a deep breath)
You ready for this? They're not calling it suicide.

MURTAUGH
What?

BURKE
Surprise, surprise. First off, coroner found evidence she took barbiturates.

MURTAUGH
Brilliant. There was an open bottle on her table.

BURKE
Right, right. That's not the surprise. Surprise is someone doctored the pills.  
(beat)
Every capsule was loaded with drain cleaner.

MURTAUGH
Jesus ... 

BURKE
If she hadn't jumped, she woulda been dead inside fifteen minutes.

MURTAUGH
(sighs)
This case blows.
ACROSS the room, a detective takes off his gun and slings the holster across his chair. As he EXITS FRAME -- PAN to reveal: Martin Riggs as he enters the squad room. Shuffles from foot to foot, looking lost. Lights a smoke.

Murtaugh slings on a jacket. Turns to go. Notices Riggs.

Riggs resembles a bag person. Unshaven, limp dirty hair, grimy leather jacket.

He frowns, says:

MURTAUGH
McCaskey, if my wife calls, tell her late dinner.

BURKE
Ho, Rog- I'm not through yet. I'm supposed to tell you two more things.

MURTAUGH
Shoot.

He is still looking at Riggs, who is slowly wandering from desk to desk, smoking -- Stopping near the desk with the holstered gun.

BURKE
First, condition of the sheets and mattress indicate someone was in bed with Amanda Lloyd just before she died. That's A.

MURTAUGH
What's B?

BURKE
B is, I'm supposed to tell you you're breaking in a new partner on this.

Now Murtaugh is eyeballing Riggs. Cautious.

MURTAUGH
(distracted)
I don't work partners.
BURKE
You do now. C.I.T. transfer, some
burnout they want you to keep on
a leash.

MURTAUGH
Oh, perfect. Can I trade in my
life for a new one?

At which point, across the room, Riggs removes the hol-
stered gun and hefts it, curiously. Suddenly all hell
breaks loose:

MURTAUGH
Gun !!

He bolts like a cheetah.

Cops dive for cover, a secretary shrieks, and Murtaugh
goes plowing through the squad room like an express
train, blowing people out of the way -- Cops grabbing
for their holsters -- Riggs, meanwhile, looking around
frantically, he's trying to find the guy with the gun
who is, of course, himself.

Murtaugh takes a flying leap      sails across
the desk, going for the glory And Riggs, in the
blink of an eye, simply ducks and flips Murtaugh
neatly over one shoulder. There is a hideous crash
of BREAKING GLASS and OVERTURNING FURNITURE. Ouch...
McCaskey, meanwhile, screams to Burke:

McCASKEY
What the shit is going on?

Burke sighs, shakes his head:

BURKE
Roger just met his new partner.

36 INT. OFFICE 36

Darkness. A soft CLICK as a gun is cocked. The barrel
gleams faintly in the dim light. A voice:

MAN (O.S.)
There are three guns on you.

VISITOR
Easy. Take it easy.
   (beat)
I'm going to light a match.

He does. Holds it near his face.

MAN (O.S.)
Thank you, Mr. Mendez.

LEADER
If you'll follow me, please.

MENDEZ
Who the hell are you?

LEADER
That's hardly important. If you like, you may call me Mr. Joshua.

MENDEZ
Swell.

They move toward a door in the rear wall.

JOSHUA (LEADER)
I trust you're having a pleasant holiday season?

MENDEZ
(looks at him)
Yeah. It's a fucking joy, thank you.

37 INT. BACK OFFICE - SAME TIME


Behind the desk sits a large, rugged man with eyes like chips of stone. This is the GENERAL.

GENERAL
Yes, Joshua...? Ah, Mr. Mendez. Please, have a seat.

Joshua stands off to one side. Mendez sits.

MENDEZ
(under his breath)
Where'd you get him? Psychos 'R.' Us?

GENERAL
Hardly.

Points to another merc.

MENDEZ
I like the sunglasses. Very Hollywood.
GENERAL
Mr. Larch is unfortunately missing an eye. For anonymity's sake, he chooses to forego wearing a patch.

MENDEZ
Swell. Blind people with guns. This is a class act. Maybe we can run over to the V.A. and pick up a couple amputees. Bargain rates after six.

GENERAL
I don't find you funny.

MENDEZ
I don't find this goddamn setup funny.
(beat)
You're using mercenaries, for Chrissake. Tell me I'm wrong.

GENERAL
No. You're not wrong.

MENDEZ
And I'm supposed to trust these bozos?

GENERAL
My people are loyal, Mr. Mendez. They are loyal to me.

MENDEZ
Bullshit.

GENERAL
Joshua. Hold out your hand.

Joshua steps up to the General and extends his arm.

GENERAL
Do you smoke, Mr. Mendez?

MENDEZ
Yeah.

GENERAL
Give me your lighter.

Mendez frowns, cautiously hands a silver cigarette lighter to the General. Who promptly pulls an old G. Gordon Liddy maneuver:

He holds the flame right under Joshua's hand. Searing it. Mendez looks on, a trifle pale.

As for Joshua, he makes no sound at all. Simply stands, trance-like.
GENERAL
You wish to do business with us, yes?

MENDEZ
Jesus ...

GENERAL
Mr. Joshua is in a great deal of pain. You wish to make a purchase, yes?

MENDEZ
I ... yes. Sure. Jesus.

The General nods, hands the lighter back to Mendez.

GENERAL
Filthy habit, smoking.
(beat)
The bulk of the heroin will arrive Friday night. We will make delivery at that time. Please have the money ready, and no tricks. If you try to cross us, I'll have Joshua cut out your eyes.
(beat)
Merry Christmas.

38 OMITTED 38
39 39
40 EXT. UNMARKED POLICE CAR – DAY 40

Riggs and Murtaugh cruise through downtown Los Angeles. Riggs drives, while Murtaugh scowls. There is an awkward pause.

MURTAUGH
Turn right.
(beat)
So. They tell me you're a good cop.

RIGGS
I try.

MURTAUGH
Heard about your little stunt yesterday. Pretty heroic stuff.
(as Riggs does not reply)
File says you worked for the Phoenix Project in Vietnam, that right?
RIGGS
Yes.

MURTAUGH
Assassin stuff?

RIGGS
Maybe.

MURTAUGH
And they gave you the Congressional Medal of Honor.

RIGGS
It was a lean year.

MURTAUGH
It's over, you know.

RIGGS
What is?

MURTAUGH
The war.

RIGGS
Yes. I know.

MURTAUGH
Just thought I'd remind you.

(beat)
Check out your piece?

He reaches across the get Riggs' gun. At which point Riggs' hand shoots out -- and stops him cold.

RIGGS
Bad manners, man.

Riggs removes the gun himself. Steers with his knees. Drops the chambered bullet. Slips out the magazine, Hands the gun to ------------

RIGGS
Don't hurt yourself.

Murtaugh hefts the weapon, turning it over in his hand: Beretta .9 millimeter. Smooth, well-oiled. Accurized. Murtaugh frowns.

MURTAUGH
.9 millimeter Beretta. That's some serious shit.

RIGGS
Military switched from Colt to Beretta in 1985. It's a better piece. Wide ejection port, no feed jams, no stovepipes.
MURTAUGH
What's it take?

RIGGS
Fifteen in the mag, one up the pipe. You carry a wheelgun?

MURTAUGH
.38 Special.

RIGGS
Lot of old-timers carry that.

Murtaugh shoots him a look. Replaces the gun.

MURTAUGH
File says you're registered with Newark P.D. as a lethal weapon.

RIGGS
File don't lie. Look, friend, let's cut the shit. We both know why I was transferred. Everyone thinks I'm suicidal, in which case I'm fucked and no one wants to work with me. Or they think I'm faking to draw a psycho pension, in which case I'm fucked and no one wants to work with me. Basically, I'm fucked.

MURTAUGH
Guess what?

RIGGS
What?

MURTAUGH
I don't want to work with you.

RIGGS
Then don't.

MURTAUGH
Ain't got no choice. Damn. We're both fucked.

RIGGS
Terrific.

As they speak, Riggs has pulled to a stop in front of a large downtown bank building.

MURTAUGH
(rubs his eyes)
I'm very old ...
(sighs)
... God hates me, that's what it is.
RIGGS
Hate him back. Works for me.

He lights a cigarette.

CUT TO:

41 INT. BANK BUILDING - DAY

Dick Lloyd's office: everything about it looks starched and perfect. In the b.g., bank employees shuttle between desks, building and toppling empires. DICK LLOYD paces back and forth. He is the man we saw earlier in Amanda's photograp, standing next to Murtaugh. Now he looks like shit. He addresses Riggs and Murtaugh, who are seated in the office.

LLOYD
Murder ... But I thought ...

MURTAUGH
Poisoned. Even if she hadn't jumped ... she'd still be dead.

LLOYD
Jesus.
(beat)
Jesus, I can't take -------.

He sits, staring out the window. A broken man.

MURTAUGH
Dick, why did you call me yesterday?

LLOYD
(very far away)
Called you...? Yeah. That's right ... I heard you were working out here ... I wanted you to find her for me, Roger. Take her

MURTAUGH
Out of what?

LLOYD
She did movies, Roger ... Naked movies ... Saw one of them...... saw my little baby ... smiling...... She did it ... with a woman. She was on top of a woman, Roger-...!

MURTAUGH
Easy, Dick.

Lloyd turns, facing them. Intense:
LLOYD
I want a promise.

(beat)
You owe me. You know you do.

MURTAUGH
Yes. I know that.

LLOYD
When you find who did it, I want you to kill them. If it's more than one, I want you to kill all of them. Make them squirm first, take your time ... and fucking kill them.

MURTAUGH
I'm a police officer, Dick.

LLOYD
Forget the law. It's easy to do. You owe me.

MURTAUGH
(pause; then)
We have to go now.

Lloyd does not look up. Riggs and Murtaugh head for the door.

LLOYD
I know you can, Roger. You kill them. You do that.

The cops exit. The door shuts.

42 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Riggs and Murtaugh head for the car. Riggs takes out a pack of cigarettes.

MURTAUGH
You gonna smoke in the car?

RIGGS
Thinking about it.

MURTAUGH
Terrific.

He puts the top down.
Riggs takes out a cigarette, starts to put it in his mouth. Stops.

RIGGS
Whoops. Shit.

He replaces it in the pack, takes another. Murtaugh looks at him.
MURTAUGH
What was wrong with that one?

Riggs points to the tip of the replaced cigarette. We notice two things: a) It looks like it's about fifty years old; and b) there is a tiny red mark, circling the filter.

RIGGS
This one is the last cigarette
I'll ever smoke.
Trick I learned from my dad. I smoke all I want, but when I smoke this one ... I'm through.

MURTAUGH
Brilliant. Get in the car.

RIGGS
Want me to drive?

MURTAUGH
You're suicidal, remember?

RIGGS
Anyone who drives in Los Angeles is suicidal.

They get in. Murtaugh heaves a sigh, stares bleakly out the window. A moment, then Riggs says:

RIGGS
He said you owed him. What did he mean?

MURTAUGH
We served together in '65. He saved my life in the La Drang Valley. Took a bayonet in the lung.

RIGGS
That was nice of him.

MURTAUGH
I thought so.

The RADIO SQUAWKS. Murtaugh TURNS it UP.

DISPATCHER  (V.O.)
All units and seven eight twenty-one, possible jumper at the corner of Santa Monica and La Cienega, seven eight twenty-one handle code two.

Murtaugh keys the hand mike.
MURTAUGH
Four King Sixty en route.

RIGGS
This is great. I love this job.

MURTAUGH
Stow it.

EXT. CITY INTERSECTION - DAY

A building, ten stories high. On the ledge, a lone man poised high above the street. Beneath him, a crowd has gathered. A police car. A searchlight. A crowd of office workers, rubber-necking to beat the band. One or two kids yell, "Jump, jump."

Murtaugh's car glides to the curb. The doors burst open and the two partners emerge. A PATROL COP approaches.

PATROL COP
Hey, Sarge, you wanna handle this?

MURTAUGH
Where's the psychologist?

PATROL COP
Sitting in traffic.

MURTAUGH
Swell.
(beat)
Who's the guy?

PATROL COP
Salesman name of MacCleary. Left the office party. Went upstairs and walked out on the ledge.

MURTAUGH
Think he'll go?

PATROL COP
Seems serious enough. Who knows?

Riggs clears his throat. Murtaugh turns.

RIGGS
I can handle this.

MURTAUGH
You qualified to talk to jumpers?

RIGGS
I've done it before.
MURTAUGH  
(reluctant; then)  
Okay. You're elected.  
(as Riggs turns to go)  
Hey.  
(as Riggs stops)  
No guns. No kung fu. Just ... 
bring him in.  

RIGGS  
Sure. Bring him in.  

MURTAUGH  
Right.  

Riggs moves off toward the building. Murtaugh looks after him. Was this a mistake ... ?  

44 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY 44  

Riggs appears on the roof. There, about five yards away, stands the JUMPER. Agitated. Breathing hard.  

Below is ten stories of open space. The wind blows.  
Riggs nods to the Jumper.  

MacCLEARY (JUMPER)  
Go away.  

RIGGS  
My name is Riggs.  

MacCLEARY  
Fuck off.  

RIGGS  
I can't do that.  
(beat)  
What's your name?  

MacCLEARY  
Look, I know all the psychology bullshit, it won't work.  

RIGGS  
I'm not a psychologist.  

MacCLEARY  
Yeah? What are you?  

RIGGS  
Homicide cop.  

MacCLEARY  
You're early. Hang on a couple minutes, you can go to work.
RIGGS
At least tell me your name. Look, I gotta fill out the little piece of paper. Okay?

MacCLEARY
(swallows)
Len. Len MacCleary.

RIGGS
Thanks. 'Preciate it.
(beat)
That M -- C ... ?

MacCLEARY
M -- A -- C, now get outta here.

Riggs leans out farther, perches on the ledge. Absolutely calm.

RIGGS
Why are you doing this?

MacCLEARY
None of your goddamn business.

RIGGS
Fair enough.
(pause; then)
I'm coming out. Take it easy.

Riggs stands, steps out onto the narrow ledge. He seems unconcerned.

MacCLEARY
Don't come near me!

RIGGS
Ssshhh. Easy. I'm just going to talk.

MacCLEARY
Touch me and I'll jump.

RIGGS
I understand.

45 EXT. BUILDING - DAY 45

On the ground below, Roger Murtaugh reacts with disbelief. His partner is taking an insane risk. Up above, Riggs pauses. Around him the WIND BLOWS treacherously.

RIGGS
You're not the first guy to think of this, you know. Everyone's got problems.
MacCLEARY
You know shit.

RIGGS
Wrong. You're wrong.
(beat)
I almost tried this once.

MacCLEARY
You're breaking my heart.

Riggs takes out his wallet, flashes it at MacCleary.

RIGGS
This is her picture.

MacCLEARY
Nice. Fuck off.

RIGGS
I'm trying to tell you I understand, you dope.

He takes a step closer.

MacCLEARY
Don't touch me. I'm not doing anything wrong.

RIGGS
I know that. Not like you're murdering anyone.

MacCLEARY
Right. Only one hurt is me.

RIGGS
Same way I look at it. I'm gonna stand beside you, okay?

MacCLEARY
No!
(beat)
Dammit, keep away.

RIGGS
Please. This is scary stuff.
Just ... let me stand next to you.

MacCLEARY
Don't try nothing.

RIGGS
I try something, we both go.
MacCLEARY
Right.

Riggs slowly steps up to the man. Shudders.

RIGGS
There. Fuckin' cold, up here.
(beat)
Helluva day for both of us, huh?
(looks around at
the sea of traffic
far below)
Here we are.
(beat)
God, this is really scary. I'm
scared.

MacCLEARY
Me, too.

RIGGS
You wanna smoke?
(pulls out
cigarettes)
Let's smoke, okay?

MacCLEARY
Sure.

Riggs offers a smoke. MacCleary reaches for it. And Riggs snaps a handcuff on his wrist. Snaps the other end onto
his own wrist.

MacCLEARY
Hey ...

RIGGS
Sorry.
(beat)
See this key?

He holds up the key to the cuffs. Flings it out into
space.

RIGGS
We're together on this. You can
go if you want. But you take me
with you. Makes you a murderer.

MacCLEARY
You bastard.

RIGGS
You'll be killing a cop.

Silence.
RIGGS
I'm going inside. What say you come with me?

He turns, starts to ease along the ledge. MacCleary swallows hard, says:

MacCLEARY
Fuck you, I'm jumping.

And suddenly Riggs turns on him. Eyes like steel.

RIGGS
You wanna jump ... ? You really want to ... ?
(long pause; then)
Fine. Let's do it.

He steps to the edge.

MacCLEARY
Hey, what the fuck ...

RIGGS
You asked for it.

MacCLEARY
Hey, wait a minute ... !

Riggs does something very drastic. He jerks them both off the ledge. Holy shit. The crowd gasps.

RIGGS
Geronimoooooo ...

As down they plunge, all ten stories -- Tumbling and falling -- MacCleary shrieking like a lunatic ... And suddenly, BAM -- ! They land in a fireman's net. Bounce a few times. Come to rest, safe and unharmed ... Riggs rolls over with a sour look on his face. Cops surround them. MacCleary is a trifle upset.

MacCLEARY
Get him away from me!! Cut me loose!! Crazy fucker tried to kill me!! Did you see that?? He tried to kill me!!!

And so on, screaming and ranting -- As a uniformed cop cuts Riggs free with a set of clippers. Riggs stands shakily. Steps away from the net. And there is Roger Murtaugh. Visibly upset.

Did I say upset? I meant enraged. He grabs Riggs, slams him against the wall. Tries to grab his collar. Riggs' hand shoots out. Lightning fast. Stops Murtaugh's hand. Stops it cold. They stare into each other's eyes.
RIGGS  
Don't ... touch me.

Murtaugh will not back down.

MURTAUGH  
What the fuck did you just do???

RIGGS  
I controlled the jump. You wanted him down. He's down.

MURTAUGH  
C'mere.

He yanks Riggs around the corner, away from the other cops.

MURTAUGH  
Okay, turkey, no bullshit. Do you want to kill yourself?

RIGGS  
Aw, for Chrissake ...

MURTAUGH  
Shut up. Just yes or no, do you want to die? Huh? Yes or no?

RIGGS  
I got the job done.

MURTAUGH  
You're not answering the question!!!

RIGGS  
(angry)  
What do you wanna hear, man? You wanna hear that I got a bottle of pills in my room? I do. Every day I wake up, I look for a reason not to take them. Doing the job, that's ... that's the reason.

Murtaugh looks at him. Nods. A moment, then:

MURTAUGH  
You want to die.

RIGGS  
I'm not afraid of it.

MURTAUGH  
Here.  
(unholsters his gun)  
Pills are too slow. Use a gun. Use my gun. Go ahead, pal.
A pause. Riggs looks at the gun.

MURTAUGH

Be my guest.

He offers the gun to Riggs.

MURTAUGH

Go ahead. If you're serious.

Riggs smiles, takes the gun without missing a beat. Puts it to his head. CLICK -- ! The hammer is cocked. Murtaugh and Riggs stare each other down. Tense. Reading each other.

RIGGS

You shouldn't tempt me, Roger.

MURTAUGH

Put it in your mouth. Bullet goes in your ear, might not kill you.

Meanwhile, in the b.g., pedestrians are diving for cover. Murtaugh and Riggs are oblivious. Riggs puts the gun under his chin.

RIGGS

Under the chin's just as good.

They stare at each other. Riggs' finger begins to tighten on the trigger. Turns white with pressure. It looks like he's going to do it. At the last second, Murtaugh jams his thumb in front of the hammer, and CLICK Jesus ...
The hammer thuds against his thumb.

Murtaugh grabs the gun. Stares at Riggs, wild-eyed.

MURTAUGH

Jesus. You're not trying to draw a psycho pension.

(beat)

You're really crazy ...

RIGGS

(smiles coldly)

So now you know.

MURTAUGH

Yeah. Now I know.

46 INT. POLICE LINEUP - DAY 46

The Police Psychologist we met earlier is talking on the telephone:
PSYCHOLOGIST
You're asking me if he's stable
and I'm telling you no. We're
talking about a man who carves
notches in his gun barrel. Ore
for each kill. He blew a man
to Pieces yesterday. Is this
helping?

INTERCUT:

47  ROGER MURTAUGH

Standing at a pay phone, listening. He nods:

MURTAUGH
Terrific. So you're saying I
should worry.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Are you kidding? The guy's a time
bomb. When he goes... stand back.

MURTAUGH
Thank you, Doctor. You've been
very helpful.

He hangs up. Rubs his eyes tiredly and says:

MURTAUGH
I'm too old for this shit.

CUT TO:

48  INT. MURTAUGH'S CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

Silence. Murtaugh fumes. Riggs keeps his mouth shut.
Murtaugh takes his anger out on the road: SLAMMING the
BRAKES; SQUEALING around corners, etc.

But he can't hold it 'in. He explodes:

MURTAUGH
(pounding his fist
against the wheel)
It's my birthday, dammit! Fifty
years old today! Fifty goddamn
years old! Thirty years on the
force! Not a scratch on me! Not
a scar! I got a wife! Kids!
House! Fishing boat! But I can
kiss all that goodbye, 'cause my
new partner's got a death wish!
My fuckin' life is over!

RIGGS
Roger --
MURTAUGH
Shut up! Why you talkin' to me?! I'm not he're anymore! I'm gone! I'm dead! You're gonna see to that! You wanna die -- and you're gonna take me with you!

Silence again. Murtaugh gnashes his teeth. Riggs looks at him with a very serious expression.

RIGGS
I didn't know that.

MURTAUGH
Know what?!

RIGGS
That today was your birthday.
(beat)
Happy Birthday, Roger. I mean that sincerely.

Murtaugh looks taken aback by the genuine sound of affection in Riggs' voice.

RIGGS
I just hope we stay alive long enough for me to buy you a present.

Riggs says this with a straight face -- but there is a playful glint in his eye that Murtaugh doesn't miss. And he laughs out loud in spite of himself. It breaks the tension, and Riggs knows it.

RIGGS
Where we going?

MURTAUGH
Beverly Hills.
(beat)
Got an address on Amanda Hunsecker's meal ticket. But remember ... this guy isn't a suspect yet. We're gonna question him; not damage him.

Riggs raises his hands -- as if to say, I'll be on my best behavior. Murtaugh swings the car onto Sunset Blvd.

The kind of house that I'll buy if this movie is a huge hit. Chrome. Glass. Carved wood. Plus an outdoor solarium: A glass structure, like a greenhouse only there's a big swimming pool inside. This is a really great place to have sex.
INT. SOLARIUM

The swimming pool is covered by a vinyl tarpaulin. Surrounded by a jungle of plants.

AT POOLSIDE TABLE

Sits a very rich person. He is wearing an $800 designer ensemble. Beside him, an elegantly-appointed shotgun leans against the table. He is on the phone.

RICH GUY

Listens asshole, you gotta tell me these things ... Yeah, we got a problem. My margin is completely fucked up, and we got athletes snorting the shit and pitching over dead, how's that for a problem... ? Yes, I'm holding two keys now. Terrific, call me back.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODEN GATE - SAME TIME

Riggs and Murtaugh approach the gate. Riggs tosses out a cigarette. Suddenly -- There is an ELECTRIC HUM and the gate glides softly open, admitting a red Honda scooter, a dashing blonde behind the wheel. She ROARS off down the street.

Riggs and Murtaugh exchange glances. The GATE CLICKS, starts to glide shut. The cops enter.

EXT. HOUSE WINDOW - SAME TIME

Riggs' face comes INTO FRAME, peering cautiously through a plate glass window. He whistles softly.

RIGGS

Take a look.

Murtaugh steps to the window, looks in.

MURTAUGH'S POV - THROUGH THE WINDOW

Enough cocaine to service the third tier at Yankee Stadium.

A BLONDE, BIKINI-CLAD WONDER sits on the couch, happily snorting. She sees Murtaugh and waves hilariously. Makes come-hither gestures.

Murtaugh scowls, turns to Riggs.
RIGGS
I'm thinking probable cause.

MURTAUGH
Jesus. Maybe I should call for backup.

RIGGS
What am I, chopped liver?

Murtaugh looks at him. Sighs.

MURTAUGH
No killing.

RIGGS
No killing.

He grins cheesily-

56  EXT. SOLARIUM

Riggs and Murtaugh approach the frosted glass door. They draw their guns.

MURTAUGH
Nice and easy.

RIGGS
Nice and easy.

Murtaugh takes a deep breath. Kicks open the door.

MURTAUGH
Police. Hold it right there.

57  INT. SOLARIUM

The rich guy does not hold it right there. In fact, he has already snatched up the SHOTGUN. He triggers a BLAST, BLOWS OUT GLASS next to Murtaugh. Murtaugh dives, rolls, comes up in a combat crouch. BAM --- The rich guy takes it in the shoulder. Spins around. The gun clatters to the ground. Riggs and Murtaugh approach, guns drawn. The rich guy writhes on the ground, clutching his shoulder. Murtaugh says to Riggs:

MURTAUGH
See how easy that was? Boom. Still alive. Now we take the gun away ...
   (he does)
   ... And we question him. Know why we can question him? Because I got him in the shoulder. I didn't blow him up or jump off a building with him.
RIGGS
No fair, the building guy lived.

MURTAUGH
Whatever. The point is, no killing.

RIGGS
No killing.

MURTAUGH
Right. Piece of cake. I'm very happy. Read the man his rights, I'll be over here being happy.

Unfortunately ... as Murtaugh speaks, he does not see the man on the ground has a hideaway gun tucked into his waistband. As Murtaugh talks, oblivious ... The guy takes out the gun with his good arm -- and aims dead center at Murtaugh's back. Riggs, however, notices. And springs into action. Before the rich guy can fire ... Riggs' foot flashes out like a pile driver. CRACK! The guy flies backward. Lands on top of the pool tarpaulin. Oops. It promptly surrounds him in a sucking, vice-like grip. Murtaugh dives forward and extends his hand. Too late. The vinyl surrounds the screaming rich guy, sucks him below the surface. Smothers him.

Drags him to the bottom. Murtaugh looks on, wild-eyed. On the bottom of the pool is a vinyl tomb. Murtaugh dives in. Swims to the bottom. Yanks, and strains, but we all know it's no fucking use. The vinyl stops moving. Murtaugh stares... and then he gives up. Surfaces at the side of the pool, gasping and wheezing. Riggs kneels down beside him.

RIGGS
Oops.

Murtaugh stares daggers at him.

MURTAUGH
Have you ... ever... met someone you didn't kill... ?

RIGGS
Haven't killed you yet.

MURTAUGH
Terrific, you want a little gold star?

(lie pulls out a soaked pack of cigarettes)

Shit.
Behind Riggs and Murtaugh, crime scene cops scurry back and forth. Flashing lights. Cameras. Murtaugh makes his way to the car. Riggs beside him. As they reach the car, Murtaugh stops:

MURTAUGH
Look, I' m sorry I said that shit back there.
(beat)
You saved my life. Thank you.

RIGGS
I bet that hurt to say.

MURTAUGH
You have no idea.

The two detectives come through the front door, shedding their jackets. Young Carrie appears, nursing a Popsicle.

CARRIE
Hi, Daddy. Is that a crook?

MURTAUGH
No, honey, this is Martin, my partner.
(scoops her up; hugs her)
Tell Martin what you think of crooks.

CARRIE
Buttheads.
(giggles)
They're buttheads.

RIGGS
Kid's no dummy.

CARRIE
Daddy, Mommy says you hate her cooking.

MURTAUGH
Tell Mommy hate is a mild word.

Trish is cooking as the two cops enter.
Hi, honey.

(he looks in
the oven)
We're having something brown... A
largish brown object ...

It's roast.

Dammit, I wanted to guess. Honeny,
this is Martin, my new partner.
He'll be joining us tonight, okay?

Sure. Roast okay with you, Martin?

Fine.

How about brown, roast-like
substance?

Roger, you're being an asshole.
(kisses his ear)
Don't forget to compliment Rianne
on her shoes.

Got it. Drink, Martin?

Bourbon, if you have it.

Murtaugh exits. Riggs stands awkwardly as Trish removes
the roast from the oven.

My wife could burn water.

You're married?

I was. She's dead now.

Oh. I'm sorry.

No problem.

He reaches for a stray piece of roast. Trish slaps his
hand.
TRISH
Don't pick.-

Riggs smiles. A genuine smile, the first we've seen.

60A INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME

Murtaugh is fixing drinks as RIANNE enters. We all heave a sigh. She is strictly to perish for.

RIANNE
Hello, Father.

MURTAUGH
Hello, daughter. Nice shoes.

RIANNE
Oh, Daddy, aren't they great?

MURTAUGH
Absolutely. How much they cost?

RIANNE
A hundred and ten dollars. Do you really like them?

MURTAUGH
A hundred and --
   (frowns)
   -- They're shoes.

RIANNE
Right.

MURTAUGH
You wear them on your feet.

RIANNE
Right.

MURTAUGH
And that's all they do ... ? There's not, like a TV inside?

RIANNE
Nope.

MURTAUGH
(shakes his head)
I'm very old.

CUT TO:

61 INT. MURTAUGH'S DEN

Young Nick Murtaugh is sitting in front of the TELEVISION, watching a "Charley Brown Christmas" and coloring a picture with a big box of crayons. He stops. Frowns. Looks up -- At Martin Riggs, who is peeking
his head around the corner, watching with rapt fasci-
 nation. Riggs chuckles, points to the screen:

RIGGS
This is good. I like this.

Nick looks at him very strangely. Okay, so the guy
likes cartoons ...

62   INT. DINING ROOM - MEALTIME

Everyone is gathered, eating.
Incredibly homey and domestic-looking.
For Riggs, who eats ravenously, it is the first taste
of warmth in many a long year.

62A  ACROSS THE TABLE

We notice something kind of neat:
Rianne simply cannot take her eyes off Riggs.
She stares at him, in a trance. Her brother NICK nudges
her in the ribs. She pulls a face.

62B  MURTAUGH

Has also noticed his daughter's attentions, and you can
bet he's not all that happy about it.

63.  EXT. MURTAUGH'S HOIJSE - DRIVEWAY - BOAT - NIGHT

Trish Murtaugh wheeling garbage pail to curbside.

TRISH
(sarcastically)
That's okay, honey. I'll take
out the garbage.

Boat. Murtaugh's head appears sheepishly from within.

MURTAUGH
Yeah. Thanks, honey.

On board boat, Murtaugh is working on the engine. Riggs
sitting on driver's seat.

MURTAUGH
Whaddaya think?

RIGGS
You know anything about boats,
Roger?

MURTAUGH
Know how much they cost.

RIGGS
I mean, can you sail this thing?
MURTAUGH
What's wrong with you? This ain't a sailboat.

RIGGS
(smiling)
That's what I thought.

MURTAUGH
No trick to it. That's the front. That's the back. Water all around. Why you gotta make things so complicated?

RIGGS
I don't. That's just how they are.

Murtaugh opens an ice chest, takes a beer for himself and tosses one to Riggs.

MURTAUGH
Oh, yeah. You mean Amanda Hunsacker's murder?

RIGGS
Now, did I mention that?

MURTAUGH
You don't have to. I can read your mind.

Riggs makes no reply. He just looks at Murtaugh over the rim of his beer can.

MURTAUGH
I don't get you, Riggs. What's the problem? We got one dead girl and one dead guy. Dead guy killed the dead girl and we killed the dead guy 'cause he wanted us to be dead guys. Seems pretty easy to me.

Riggs has wandered over to the instrument panel. He inspects the switches and gauges.

MURTAUGH
Look, her sugar daddy was dealin' drugs. She said somethin'... or did somethin'... or saw somethin' she shouldn't have, and he pitched her off the balcony into the sweet by-an'-by.

(beat)
That's why he came at us today with a shotgun.

RIGGS
I don't know. Sounds a little too neat to me.
MURTAUGH
Of course it's neat. And what's wrong with neat? I like neat.

Riggs flips a switch and the MOTOR ROARS to life. Murtaugh leaps up.

MURTAUGH
Hey! Watch what you're doin'!

Murtaugh fumbles with the switches in a futile effort to turn off the engine. But Riggs knows exactly which switch to flip.

RIGGS
Lookin' for this?

He silences the engine. Murtaugh glares at him.

MURTAUGH
You asshole.

RIANNE
Hi, Dad...

Murtaugh jumps, startled by his daughter's arrival. Rianne and Riggs exchange a glance.

MURTAUGH
What is it, Rianne?

RIANNE
Mark wants to take me out to a club tomorrow night.

MURTAUGH
You're grounded -- you know that.

RIANNE
Please, Daddy ...

MURTAUGH
Which one is Mark, anyway?

RIANNE
The blond one.

MURTAUGH
Oh, yeah. The one with pits in his face.

RIANNE
Those are dimples.

MURTAUGH
Those are pits. When he smiles, I can see through his head.

(beat)
The answer is no. End of story.
RIGGS
C'mon, Rog. Have a heart.

Murtaugh looks at Riggs -- not appreciative of his intervention.

MURTAUGH
The girl was smoking pot in the house. She's grounded!

RIANNE
Next time I'll just take a beer instead. Why can I have a beer and not a joint? It's not coke, you know, Dad.

Murtaugh looks down sheepishly at the can of beer in his hand. Riggs grins to himself.

MURTAUGH
'Cause right now, beer's legal and grass ain't. Right or wrong.

RIANNE
Wrong.

RIGGS
Right.

She stalks off. After a moment, Murtaugh looks over to Riggs.

MURTAUGH
I've lost track... did we resolve anything here tonight?

Riggs shakes his head, smiles and starts to climb off the boat.

RIGGS
Yeah. We resolved that your wife takes out the garbage. Your daughter smokes pot, which is illegal but shouldn't be -- that you don't know from boats, and you got one hell of a family, guy.

Walking towards truck together.

MURTAUGH
Thanks.

RIGGS
Enjoyed the meal.

MURTAUGH
Bullshit, but thanks anyway.

A pause. Riggs stands there. Then:
RIGGS
You don't trust me at all, do you?

MURTAUGH
Tell you what. Make it through tomorrow without killing anybody. Especially me. Or yourself. Then I'll start trusting you.

RIGGS
Fair enough.

He walks toward his truck. Stops.

RIGGS
I do it real good, you know.

MURTAUGH
Do what?

RIGGS
Kill people ... Only thing I ever did good. When I was nineteen, I did a guy in Laos from a thousand yards out. Rifle shot in high wind.

(beat)
Ten guys in the world coulda made that shot. Huh. Only thing I was ever good at.

(pause; then)
Well, see you tomorrow.

MURTAUGH
Yeah. See you then.


64 OMITTED

65 EXT. SUNSET STRIP - NIGHT

Martin Riggs cruises along in his battered pickup truck past all-night dives and porno houses. The streets are nearly deserted. Except for a young HOOKER on the corner. Real young, maybe seventeen. Riggs sees her and pulls over to the curb. The Hooker approaches.

HOOKER
Hi, handsome. Looking for something?

RIGGS
Aren't we all?
HOOKER
(nods)
Are you affiliated with any law enforcement organization?

RIGGS
(pause; then)
No. Get in the car.

She does. Closes the door.

RIGGS
How old are you?

HOOKER
Twenty-two.

RIGGS
Bullshit.

HOOKER
Why, you like 'em young?

RIGGS
Younger the better. How old are you?

HOOKER
(almost shyly)
Sixteen.

Riggs nods. Takes out a hundred-dollar bill and sets it in her lap.

HOOKER
Wow.
(beat)
So, what do you want?

RIGGS
I want you to come home and watch television with me.

He drives away from the curb.

66 INT. MURTAUGH HOME - NIGHT 66

The house is dark and quiet at this hour. Roger Murtaugh fixes a sandwich in the kitchen. Rickles the CAT PURRS, rubs against his leg.

MURTAUGH
Hey.

He kicks it aside. Notices a package on the counter, together with a scribbled crayon note:
HAPPY BIRTHDAY SERGEANT MURTAUGH

The gift is a 99c special, right off the rack at Pic N' Save: The TUFF N' READY Police Action Playset; Tiny plastic gun, made in Taiwan. Tiny plastic badge. Murtaugh smiles. Notices another package next to it. Frowns. Its label reads: ROGER MURTAUGH: POLICE EVIDENCE.

67 INT. LIVING ROOM  67

He opens the package. Two things: a high school yearbook; also a videocassette. Takes it, slides it into a VCR machine. Turns on the television.

TIME CUT TO:

67A INT./EXT. RIGGS' TRAILER - NIGHT  67A

The Hooker watches TV -- really enjoying the Three Stooges. Riggs stands apart from her. He's not watching TV; he's watching her watching TV.

He wears a melancholy expression. The world is full of happy families like Murtaugh's, but he has to get by like this.

His eyes shift to a photo of his wife. He picks it up and views it sadly.

HOOKER
(turning to him)
You're not having a very good time, are you?

Riggs puts down the photo.

RIGGS
(sweetly)
You don't know that. Maybe this is how I look when I'm having a good time. Maybe I'm having the best time of my life.

HOOKER
(after a beat)
Are you?

Riggs doesn't answer.

HOOKER
I know... sing me something.

RIGGS
I don't sing.

HOOKER
Come on. Sing me a song.
RIGGS
I don't know any songs.

HOOKER
Not even a Christmas song?
Everybody knows a Christmas song.

Riggs shrugs and makes a half-hearted attempt:

RIGGS
Something through the snow,
in a one-horse open sleigh ...

HOOKER
Good. That's good.
(helps him out)
Over the hills we go,
laughing all the way.

RIGGS
Something something ring,
making something bright ...

HOOKER
Oh, what fun it is to ride ...

RIGGS
To grandma's house tonight!

They know they got it wrong, but they're pleased with themselves just the same. The Hooker hugs Riggs impulsively. Riggs looks uncomfortable. He'd like to show her some platonic affection, but he knows that's impossible.

He gently unwraps her arms from around his neck.

RIGGS
I better take you back now.

68 SAME PLACE - LITTLE BIT LATER

Murtaugh is in front of the TV. On his lap is a high school yearbook. Open to the middle. He glances down, sees -- a photograph of Amanda Lloyd. Senior picture. Smiling. Young. The girl most likely to. He looks up at the television. On the screen Amanda Lloyd is writhing in ecstasy. Smiling. Murtaugh continues to watch. Lights another cigarette. There is a sad, faraway look on his face.

CUT TO:

69 INT. HALLWAY

Very late now. Murtaugh walks down the hall to a bedroom door. Opens it a fraction. Inside -- His daughter Rianne is asleep.
A shaft of moonlight falls across the bed. She is more beautiful than we've ever seen her.

Murtaugh crosses to the bed, leans down, and kisses her forehead. She stirs in her sleep, smiles like a cat, and whispers:

RIANNIE
... Mark ...

Murtaugh recoils. Stands up. We realize that up until this moment, see, he thought she was maybe a virgin ...

INT. MURTAUGH'S BEDROOM

He takes off his robe, drapes it on a chair. Gets into bed silently next to his sleeping wife. Lies awake, staring up at the ceiling. The RAIN BEATS on the window, throwing odd shadows across his face. He drifts toward sleep. As he does, we ever so slowly ...

CROSS FADE TO:

INT. MURTAUGH BEDROOM

Sunlight streams through the windows, Murtaugh stirs groggily, forces open his eyes. Staring him in the face is Martin Riggs' scruffy, early morning face. Murtaugh frowns.

MURTAUGH
... Martin... ?

RIGGS
Good morning, Roger. I've been doing a little thinking.

Murtaugh just stares at him.

RIGGS
About the night Amanda Hunsaker died.

Murtaugh grimaces.

MURTAUGH
Do you know what time it is ... ?

RIGGS
Day time?

MURTAUGH
I'll get dressed.

CUT TO:

INT. MURTAUGH KITCHEN

In the kitchen Trish is singing something bluesy, fixing
coffee. At the table Nick is drinking milk. Murtaugh sits. Riggs takes off his shoulder holster, and with meticulous care drapes it delicately over the back of his chair. Sits opposite Murtaugh.

RIGGS
You're seriously using ketchup?

MURTAUGH
Yeah.

RIGGS
On eggs.

MURTAUGH
Yeah.
(beat)
Who made the ketchup?

RIGGS
Heinz.

MURTAUGH
Who made the eggs?

Riggs looks to Trish.

TRISH
(across the room)
You two are so hilarious I could bust.

Riggs leans forward.

RIGGS
Roger.

MURTAUGH
Yeah.

RIGGS
That hooker who witnessed the jump the other night. What was her name?

MURTAUGH
Dixie.

CARRIE
What's a hooker?

MURTAUGH
Shh, quiet, I'm combatting crime.

NICK
A hooker is a ...
RIGGS
(interrupts)
Right, and she's in Century City
witnessing Amanda Hunsaker's suicide

MURTAUGH
or murder --

RIGGS
right, or murder, and my question
is... what is she doing there? I
called Wilshire Vice, that's not
her usual turf.

MURTAUGH
Wow.
(beat)
Wow. That's really reaching.

RIGGS
Cut me a break, it's a hunch, Roger.
I'm having a hunch.

MURTAUGH
You couldn't have it at home, you
had to come here at 7:30 A.M. and
have it.

RIGGS
7:35, and yes, I thought you'd be
excited.

MURTAUGH
I'm thrilled.
(pause)
Okay.

RIGGS
Okay, what?

MURTAUGH
Okay, go for it. I'm listening.

CUT TO:

73   INT. OUTDOOR FIRING RANGE - DAY

Riggs and Murtaugh stand on line at the range. Around
them the echoing BOOM of gunshots fills the morning air.
They struggle to be heard over the tumult:

MURTAUGH
We know someone was in bed with
Amanda Lloyd the night she died.

RIGGS
Right. 'Til now we assumed it was
a man.
MURTAUGH
Okay. Let's say it was Dixie.

RIGGS
Okay. Disgusting, but okay: Let's say Dixie slipped the drain cleaner into the pills.

MURTAUGH
Say someone paid her to do it.

RIGGS
Sure. She thinks, terrific, Amanda swallows a couple downers and boom, she's dead. Then Dixie --

MURTAUGH
If it was her --

RIGGS
Right, right, then Dixie has plenty of time to spritz the place up, get out, whatever.

MURTAUGH
Except Amanda jumps out the window.

RIGGS
Or Dixie pushes her. Either way

MURTAUGH
Either way, she's gotta make a fast getaway, 'cause now the body's public. She hauls ass downstairs.

RIGGS
People are coming out to see what happened.

MURTAUGH
Someone spots her. She says 'shit.'

RIGGS
Right. She actually stops and says, 'Shit.'

MURTAUGH
Or, 'Damn.'

RIGGS
Or 'Golly, I've been spotted.' The point being --

MURTAUGH
The point being, now she has to cover her ass.
RIGGS
Right. So she says, 'Officer, officer, I saw the whole thing.'

MURTAUGH
Right.

RIGGS
Right.

MURTAUGH
(sighs)
That's pretty fucking thin.

RIGGS
Very thin.

MURTAUGH
(smiles)
Hell with it. Thin's my middle name.

RIGGS
Your wife's cooking, I'm not surprised.

MURTAUGH
Would you lay off the cooking?

RIGGS
Tell her that.

Riggs steps to the line. Draws the Beretta, fires off a full clip. Three-shot rhythms, two in the chest, one in the head, two in the chest, one in the head. Removes the magazines lovingly snaps in a new one.

MURTAUGH
You sleep with that thing under your pillow?

RIGGS
I would if I slept.

MURTAUGH
Here, stand back.

Murtaugh steps to the red line. Stretches. Cracks his neck. Shifts from foot to foot. Finally steadies himself. A moment then: He cross-draws with lightning swiftness. -- BANG -- ! The REPORT is DEAFENING. The target grows a neat third eye. Perfect shot. Dead center. Murtaugh grins, holsters his gun.

MURTAUGH
Hey-hey. Would'ja look at that? Pretty good for an old man.
Riggs shrugs. Draws. FIRES. He isn't even looking.

Nonetheless. -- He puts a magnum round right through the hole made by Murtaugh's .38. The hole gets .60 inches wider. Murtaugh scowls.

MURTAUGH

Yeah, yeah. Eat me.

He stalks away, pissed off.

Murtaugh's car glides up to the curb. In front of a row of neat frame houses. Old neighborhood. Late model cars. A LITTLE black KID playing on the sidewalk.

The two cops get out, stride toward a cottage set back from the street. They pass the Little Kid who is playing with a plastic bucket and a headless Star Wars figure.

RIGGS

Hey, kid. What'cha doing?

The Kid grins, obviously pleased with himself.

LITTLE KID

I put this on top and it fall down.

He demonstrates. He puts it on top. It falls down. He grins happily. Riggs shakes his head.

RIGGS

Good thinking.

They keep walking. Toward the cottage.

MURTAUGH

Very thin.

RIGGS

Probably nothing.

They mount the steps to the walk. As they do -- The HOUSE suddenly EXPLODES. It BLOWS APART concussively. There is a flash of light, a loud, flat BANG --! And the thing tears to pieces. Glass blows out. Wood sprays. Flying shrapnel. A wall of flame. Riggs hits the dirt, smothering the Little black Kid. Murtaugh dives for cover behind a telephone pole. A piece of shrapnel imbeds itself; right next to his head. Carnage. Noise. The tumult slowly begins to fade. Echoes. Flames rage to the sky. Smoke rolls. Beams collapse. The cottage is no more. Murtaugh climbs to his feet, dazed; stares at the rubble. Looks over toward Riggs, who is getting up off the Kid. The Kid is shaken, but unhurt.
MURTAUGH
Hey.

Riggs turns.

MURTAUGH
You're on fire.

Riggs looks. The back of his coat is completely ablaze.

RIGGS
Shit.

He takes it off, flings it aside.

Goes up to Murtaugh—Lights a cigarette.

RIGGS
Probably nothing.

MURTAUGH
Thin. Very thin.

76 EXT. BURNED-OUT COTTAGE - LATER

Cops prowl through the gutted remains. Charred and black. Nothing left. A body goes by on a stretcher. Murtaugh stops it.

MURTAUGH
Ho.

(he looks under the sheet)

Jesus.

ATTENDANT
We're hoping to find some teeth. in there. Otherwise, could be anybody. Black, white ... Could be a fuckin' bowl of soup, for all we --

MURTAUGH
Okay, okay.

The stretcher continues toward the waiting truck. Murtaugh looks off, whispers:

MURTAUGH
Bye-bye, Dixie.

77 ANOTHER ANGLE

Martin Riggs is examining a twisted hunk of metal as Murtaugh walks up beside him.

MURTAUGH
What'cha got?
RIGGS
Part of the device.
(beat)
Holy cow.

MURTAUGH
What?

RIGGS
Artwork. This is goddamn artwork.

MURTAUGH
Swell. I'm glad you liked it.

RIGGS
You don't understand. This is real pro stuff. Haven't seen this since...
well, since the war.

MURTAUGH
Come again?

RIGGS
C.I.A. used to hire mercs who used this same setup. Mercury switches.

Murtaugh frowns. A PATROL COP taps him on the shoulder.

PATROL COP
Sir, I think you'd better come with me.

Riggs—and Murtaugh exchange glances. They move off, across the street.

78  EXT. STREET - BACK OF FIRE TRUCK  78

Riggs and Murtaugh stand by the rear of the truck. A CONSTRUCTION CREW watches from behind, heavy equipment idling softly. Next to them sits the little black kid from earlier, coloring with crayons. His mother hovers...

COP
Okay, here it is. The little kid says he saw someone working on the meter this morning.

MURTAUGH
Where?

COP
Across the street at Dixie's. He was playin' some kind of game, hidin' under the stairs. Says he saw the guy pretty good.

MURTAUGH
Jesus. This could be a break.
RIGGS
You kidding? The kid's six years old.

COP
If that.

MURTAUGH
You call the gas company?

COP
Sure did. No one supposed to check that meter for at least another month.

MURTAUGH
(nods)
Let me handle this.

COP
Be my guest.

RIGGS
Wanna wear the chicken suit? I got some clown makeup.

MURTAUGH
Stow it.

He crosses to the boy.

MURTAUGH
Hi. I'm Detective Murtaugh. What's your name?

ALFRED (LITTLE KID)
Alfred.

He stares at Murtaugh with eyes like saucers.

MURTAUGH
How old are you, Alfred?

ALFRED
Six.

MURTAUGH
Wow. Six.
(beat)
Bet you like the Gobots, huh?

Alfred nods.

MURTAUGH
Me, I'm a G.I. Joe man.

ALFRED
(points)
Is that a real gun?
MURTAUGH
Yes, it is.

ALFRED
Do you kill people?

MURTAUGH
No. If a guy is hurting someone, I try to shoot him in the arm or something. Just to stop him.

ALFRED
Momma says policeman shoot black people.

Murtaugh grimaces. Alfred's mother looks away quickly.

MURTAUGH
Alfred, this man you saw. The meter man ... ?

(beat)
You get a good look at him?

ALFRED
I saw him.

MURTAUGH
Great. Listen, you ever watch 'Starsky and Hutch'? 'Cause the police, sometimes they need help. They need police helpers. Detectives.

(he takes out a plastic badge, puts it on Alfred's chest)
If you want, you can be a junior detective. If you want.

The kid looks at him. Distrust.

MURTAUGH
Keep it, it's yours. Official detective.

Alfred nods, grins.

MURTAUGH
The man at the meter. Can you ... picture him in your head? Think about what he looked like. Got it?

Alfred nods. Murtaugh picks up Alfred's box of crayons. Hands it to the little boy.

MURTAUGH
I want you to draw him for me.
ALFRED
I'm a good drawer.

MURTAUGH
Try to draw the man.

Riggs clears his throat. Rolls his eyes.

RIGGS
Oh, brother. This is good. I like this.

MURTAUGH
Can it, Martin.

RIGGS
We're gonna put out an A.P.B. on Big Bird.

MURTAUGH
Very funny.

RIGGS
(laughs)
Attention all units. Large yellow bird. Silly voice.

MURTAUGH
You're hilarious. Alfred, draw the man, okay?

Alfred nods, takes the crayons, and carefully selects a bunch of colors. Lays them out like Da Vinci fixing his palette. Riggs shakes his head.

RIGGS
Brilliant police work? I think so.

TIME CUT:

Minutes have passed.

MURTAUGH
Martin, have a look at this.

Riggs crosses. Alfred has finished his drawing, and guess what? It's hilariously bad. Like a six-year-old drew it or something. Riggs rubs his eyes.

RIGGS
Oh, my...
(begins to laugh)
... Oh, my...

He laughs even harder now. Murtaugh scowls, snatches the picture away.
MURTAUGH
Terrific. Very professional.

Riggs is hooting. Murtaugh shows the picture to Alfred.

ALFRED
He laugh at my picture.

MURTAUGH
Shhh. Don't mind him. He's crazy.

ALFRED
I'm a good drawer.

MURTAUGH
You bet.
(points)
Alfred. This is ... the man's arm, right?

ALFRED
Yeah.

MURTAUGH
Okay. Now this mark. Is this ... What is this?

ALFRED
He had it on his arm.

Riggs stops laughing. Moves in closer.

RIGGS
Whoa. What was on his arm?

MURTAUGH
Was it a birthmark?
(points to his arm)
Was it like this?

ALFRED
No. It was pained.

MURTAUGH
Pained.

RIGGS
Pained, pained. What's he saying?

MURTAUGH
Ssssshh. 
(beat)
It was ... painted?

ALFRED
Yeah.
MURTAUGH
Like a tattoo?
(beat)
Do you watch Popeye? Was it a tattoo like Popeye has?

Riggs rolls up his sleeve, exposes his Marine tattoo.
You've seen the type: A Tweety Bird with a machine gun, or some such.

RIGGS
This is a tattoo.

The boy's eyes go wide once again. He points at Riggs' arm.

ALFRED
It was that.

The cops stop, puzzled.

MURTAUGH
It was that? You mean... just like that...?

ALFRED
Yeah. Man had the same thing.

RIGGS
You're sure?

Alfred nods. The cops exchange glances:

RIGGS
Special Forces tattoo...?

MURTAUGH
Martin.

RIGGS
Yeah.

MURTAUGH
What the hell are we into here...?

80 EXTERIOR CLIFFSIDE HOUSE - DAY

A sprawling, expensive villa nestled on the side of a bluff overlooking the ocean. Terraces, verandahs, gazebos. Architecture that merits three syllables. The ocean looks cheap by comparison. A memorial service is in progress. A group of people, mostly young, friends of Amanda Lloyd; all are dressed in funeral black.

81 NEARBY --

Martin Riggs is collapsed in a lawn chair, smoking and looking thoroughly out of place. Seeing the girl, he frowns... puffs on his cigarette, and rolls a quarter over his knuckles like a stage magician. Nimble, trained
fingers. A thoroughly unconscious habit.

Dick Lloyd looks worse than ever. He stands, staring out over the ocean -- as a hand comes out of nowhere ... grabs his shoulder, and spins him roughly around: Face-to-face with Roger Murtaugh. Eyes burning like cold fire.

MURTAUGH
Hi, guy.

LLOYD
Roger... What ... What's up, buddy?

MURTAUGH
Not much.
(beat)
Wanna tell me about it?

LLOYD
Tell you about what?

MURTAUGH
Don't bullshit me. That's over.
(beat)
Your daughter wasn't killed because of something she was into. She was killed because of something you're into. Stop me if I'm wrong.

LLOYD
I don't know what you're talking about. Roger, I ...  

MURTAUGH
Keep your hands in front.

LLOYD
(stops; startled)
Hey. Take it easy, man.

MURTAUGH
Fuck easy.
(beat)
When you called me the other day, you were gonna blow the whistle, weren't you?

LLOYD
Blow the whistle on what?

MURTAUGH
You tell me. You were gonna spill your guts. So they killed your daughter. Tell me I'm wrong.
Lloyd swallows hard, flustered. He can't meet Murtaugh's eyes.

MURTAUGH
Talk to me.

LLOYD
Can't ... can't do that ...

MURTAUGH
They killed your daughter.

LLOYD
I...

MURTAUGH
They paid off a hooker to poison your daughter. Talk to me!

Lloyd shoots a desperate glance across the lawn. At his other daughter, Amanda's twin.

LLOYD
Dammit, Roger, I've... ve o another daughter!

MURTAUGH
She'll be protected.
(beat)
It's over, pal.

LLOYD
Protected. That's a laugh... You don't know these people.

MURTAUGH
Acquaint me.

TIME CUT:

83  INT. LLOYD'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER  83

The two men are inside now. The sunlight filters in through a large picture window from the lawn.

Lloyd is pacing back and forth. He touches his stomach in the classic gesture of ulcer-carriers everywhere. Opens the fridge, removes a carton of milk. There must be three cases of the stuff. Drinks, turns to Murtaugh. A man at the end of his rope:

LLOYD
It goes all the way back to the war.

MURTAUGH
I'm listening.
LLOYD
I ended up working for a group
called Air America. C.I.A. front,
secretly ran the entire war out of
Laos. I was part of a special
unit called Shadow Company. Mercs.
Trained killers. When Charley was
bringing in heroin to finance the
V.C. government, Shadow Company
went in and burned it all down. We
killed everybody. But we also ... formed a plan.

MURTAUGH
Keep talking.

LLOYD
Couple of years ago, Shadow Company
got together again. The war was
over, but we still had a list of
sources. In Asia.

MURTAUGH
And ... ?

LLOYD
And we've been bringing it in ever
since.

MURTAUGH
Bringing what in?

LLOYD
Think real hard.

MURTAUGH
Heroin.

LLOYD
(nods)
Two shipments a year. Run by
ex-C.I.A. Soldiers, mercs. No
one knows.

MURTAUGH
You son of a bitch.

Lloyd does not reply. A pause, then:

MURTAUGH
If you were getting cold feet,
why'd they kill Amanda? Why not
just kill you?

LLOYD
They can't. They need me.

MURTAUGH
Why?
LLOYD
My bank. It's the front. Makes everything look good on the tax report.

MURTAUGH
The tax report ... ?

LLOYD
This is big business, Roger.

MURTAUGH
(ice cold)
Not any more. I'm gonna burn it down.

LLOYD
You can't. It's too big. These guys are trained killers.

MURTAUGH
Tell me about the next shipment.

LLOYD
No. No way.

Murtaugh grabs a framed picture of Amanda, slams it down on a wooden bul—cher block. The GLASS SHATTERS. Lloyd stares.

MURTAUGH
Tell me!!!

Lloyd flinches. Leans back, a dreamy look in his eyes. Speaks from very far away ...

LLOYD
(softly)
Nothing ... wrong with the kids, Roger. We're all fucked up. Us old bastards ... We're killing them.

And suddenly there is a gun in his hand. Aimed at Murtaugh.

LLOYD
Back off.

MURTAUGH
Oh, swell. Good move.

LLOYD
I'm not kidding. I'm in too far now.

Murtaugh does not budge. Lloyd cocks the hammer.

LLOYD
The gun is silenced, Roger.
Murtaugh stares him down. Eyes like fire.

MURTAUGH
What's it gonna be, buddy ... ?
You gonna save my life, just so
you can snuff me twenty years
later...?

LLOYD
Things are different now.

MURTAUGH
I guess.

A moment. Lloyd stares intently. Finger sweating on the
trigger.

MURTAUGH
If you can do it, do it. I don't
fucking care anymore.

Lloyd blinks. Swallows. Another moment. Finally -- He
lowers the gun. Sighs.

LLOYD
... What do you want to know... ?

Murtaugh relaxes visibly. And that's when two things
happen. The picture WINDOW GLASS suddenly COLLAPSES.
Falls TINKLING into a million shards. And the carton of
milk in Lloyd's hand pops, spurting milk all over the
front of his black suit. He frowns. Stares at the
dribbling milk. Blinks. And his eyes snap open wide, as
blood seeps out of his shirt, spattering the floor.

LLOYD
Roger -- !

With his dying breath, he leaps in front of Murtaugh.
Takes the SECOND BULLET. The one meant for Murtaugh.
It blows him into Roger, takes them both to the floor in
a breath-crushing impact. More BULLETS CHOP the kitchen.
China PLATES BURST into a glassy spray. Food spatters
and gushes, staining the walls. Murtaugh rolls free,
then, a man possessed: Screams out the window:

MURTAUGH
Riggs!!!

84 EXT. LAWN

Murtaugh's voice is far away. Riggs looks up from his
lawn chair. Notices two things: One: Everything seems
normal. Nobody has heard the shots. Two: The glass in
the kitchen window... something strange, what the hell
is it ... oh, yeah, it's broken, someone broke the glass ...
And Riggs is on his feet in the blink of an eye.
Murtaugh is at the window. Gun pointed.

**MURTAUGH**

Riggs!!!

reveals a crowd of people, milling back and forth, he has no idea where the sniper is, and suddenly BAM -- ! The wood blows out not two inches from his head and he ducks, and meanwhile -- back outside ... 

He's on the move. He jogs ... trots ... runs ... Noticing a lone man in black, striding quickly across the lawn, striding into the crowd ... toward the edge of the bluff ... Things happen fast now, pay attention, as -- The man turns, sees Riggs ... Riggs sees him ... and the man is none other than Mr. Joshua. Crew cut. Sunglasses. Moving fast.

diving out the window. Hits. Rolls, comes up. Screaming, waving at Riggs ... 

Gun out ... moving fast, shoving through the crowd, people screaming now, "Jesus, he's got a gun -- !" Running across the lawn. Murtaugh thirty yards behind, moving, hard and fast, both guns drawn, pushing/shoving, knocking people ass over teacups and meanwhile let us not forget --

moving at a dead run, now, gun out ... at the edge of the cliff. People all around him, confused, I mean Jesus, what the hell is all this shooting about, and Riggs can't get a clear shot ... He's sweeping the gun, back and forth, bodies crossing in front of him ... all the wrong bodies, Goddammit ...! Moving forward, shouting:

**RIGGS**

Lie down!!! Down!!!

Murtaugh, springing hell bent for leather -- and folks, grab your hats ... because just then, a BELL COBPA HELICOPTER crests the edge of the bluff.

An explosion of sound...
As it rises like an avenging angel ... Hovers, shattering the air with turbo-throb, sandblasting the hillside with a roto-wash of loose dirt, tables, chairs, everything that's not nailed down ...
Screaming, chaos, frenzy.
Three words that apply to this scene.

And in the midst of all this -- Joshua steps onto the chopper and is hauled inside.
No expression.
The total professional.
And then, my friends, it's bye-bye time. The CHOPPER ROARS like a behemoth, tilts -- slips over the side and plummets away ...

Slick. Very slick.
Except Martin Riggs it not impressed.

He's still running, you see ...
Dives flat at the edge of the cliff, nearly flings himself over the damn edge ...
GUN extended like it's part of his arm...
Finger flat on the trigger ...
Blowing SHOT after SHOT at the retreating chopper ...
BAM—BAM—BAM His face contorted in a rictus of animal concentration...

And he wings the chopper, even. POP spray of fiberglass, but no, sir, no cigar... cause the damn chopper flies away.

And Riggs dumps his magazine, stuffs in a new one ... and Jesus Christ he keeps FIRING.

As Murtaugh walks up beside him. Stares down.
Gun held loose at his side.

Riggs still FIRES, BAM—BAM—BAM doesn't know it yet ...
Until his MAGAZINE CLICKS empty.

He lies flat.
Stares.
People screaming, running away.
Murtaugh standing over him, staring down at this animal with a gun, who even now refuses to look away from the retreating chopper, whose gun even now continues to follow its course out over the sea.

Hands, clutching the barrel.
Finally, they relax.
Riggs shuts his eyes.
Murtaugh stares.

MURTAUGH
You through?

Riggs looks up at him. His eyes look like a demon's.

RIGGS
I haven't even started.

CUT TO:
Joshua and his pilot are cruising over the surf at breakneck speed, the rotor stirring tiny geysers of water. Joshua speaks into a radio microphone.

JOSHUA
Yes, sir ... Yes, sir, Mr. Lloyd is dead. I'm afraid, however, that another problem exists.

INTERCUT - THE GENERAL
In his van, speaking on mobile phone.

GENERAL
Define.

JOSHUA
Lloyd spoke to the cops, sir.

GENERAL
Are the cops dead?

JOSHUA
No, sir. I missed.

There is a significant pause. Joshua licks his lips. Then:

GENERAL
That's very disappointing. The police may know everything. The whole operation, yes?

JOSHUA
Yes. Awaiting orders, sir.

GENERAL
Joshua, I think it's time to turn up the heat.

EXT. VIEWSITE - NIGHT
A black Camaro is parked at the side of the road. The city twinkles beyond.

INT. CAR - SAME
Two teenagers, engaged in a first-rate makeout session. One of them is Roger Murtaugh's daughter Rianne. The other is MARK, he of the hilarious dimples. They are kissing when Rianne suddenly pulls away:

RIANNE
Mark, I gotta get home.
MARK
Would you quit worrying? Your mom thinks you're asleep and your dad's busy shooting crooks.

RIANNE
He said he'll shoot you if we have sex.

MARK
Some things are worth dying for.

He leans in and kisses her. Passion, horniness. Something. He runs a hand inside her sweater. She starts to resist. Gives in.

RIANNE
Wait.

She takes out her gum and sticks it to the steering wheel. Leans over to kiss him again

94A FACE comes INTO FRAME. Right outside the window. Crewcut. Shirt and tie. No less than Mr. Joshua himself, as we --

CUT TO:

95 EXT. THIRD STREET - NIGHT

Martin Riggs walks slowly down the boulevard. In one hand he carries a snapshot of Amanda Lloyd. Male prostitutes take one look at him and flee.

He stops to light a cigarette. As he does -- He notices a reflection in the silver lighter.

Two pinpoints of light. Moving. He throws away the cigarette. Spins, drawing his gun. HEADLIGHTS, as a car comes barreling out of the darkness. Bearing down on Riggs at fifty miles an hour. Riggs FIRES. The WINDSHIELD SPLINTERS. No dice. The car keeps coming. Riggs FIRES again, sprints for cover -- As a mercenary leans out of the car window with a pump SHOTGUN. Triggers THREE BLASTS at Riggs. The first two blow out chunks of scenery. The third takes Riggs in the chest. Blows him backward through a store window. GLASS SHATTERS. He hits the ground in a heap. The CAR SHRIEKS off into the night, LAYING RUBBER. The ECHO of gunfire slowly FADES on the wind...

96 INSIDE DARKENED STORE

Riggs lies crumpled in a pool of broken glass. Murtaugh charges from across the street. He throws himself down beside the dead Riggs. Rips open Riggs' shirt revealing -- A bulletproof vest. Riggs opens his eyes.
RIGGS
I'm pissed, Roger. Now I'm pissed.

96A EXT. STORE 96A

The cops exit and cross the street toward their car.

RIGGS
Roger. Quit looking so damn worried. I'm fine.

MURTAUGH
Two inches higher, they would've got your head.

RIGGS
Fuck that. Two inches to the left, they would've got my smokes.

He takes out a pack, lights one up.

RIGGS
Oh, by the way: Guy who shot me?

MURTAUGH
Yeah.

RIGGS
Same guy who shot Lloyd.

MURTAUGH
Jesus ... You sure?

RIGGS
I never forget an asshole.

MURTAUGH
(sighs)
So okay, ace: What do we do now?

RIGGS
Give up? Flee? Go far away?

MURTAUGH
Hilarious. What do we really do?

RIGGS
What else? We bury the fuckers. You know, we solve this, we could get famous, do shaving ads and shit.

MURTAUGH
Do goddamn Forest Lawn ads, we're not careful.

RIGGS
Heh. Don't be a killjoy. It's Friday night. Let's go kick ass.
MURTAUGH
You just got shot, man.

RIGGS
Exactly.

MURTAUGH
What do you mean, exactly?

RIGGS
Gives us the edge, Cochise.
(smiles)
They think I'm dead, Roger. I'm a corpse. And aren't they just gonna shit when I nail their butts ... ?

They look at each other. Suddenly the police RADIO SQUAWKS. Murtaugh answers it.

DISPATCHER (V.0.)
Four King sixty, meet four king ninety on tach two.

MURTAUGH
King sixty, roger.

He adjusts the frequency on the radio.

PATROL COP (V.0.)
Four king ninety, four king sixty. Got a homicide, Mulholland Drive.

MURTAUGH
Four king sixty, negative.
(beat)
Give it to Burke.

PATROL COP (V.0.)
Sorry, sixty. Captain says give it to you. Male Caucasian, age seventeen.

MURTAUGH
Swell. Did he have blond hair and big dimples?

There is a long pause. Then:

PATROL COP (V.0.)
How'd you know... ?

Suddenly, Murtaugh goes completely pale. So does Riggs. Murtaugh hits the gas ...

97 EXT. MURTAUGH HOME - NIGHT

Murtaugh's CAR SCREECHES to the curb. Hops the sidewalk, jolts to a stop. The two cops are out and running in a
dead heat toward the front door. Murtaugh flings open the door. Stops. On the carpet beneath the mail slot is a tiny envelope with SEASONS GREETINGS emblazoned across the front. A note is attached with a paper clip. One side reads DETECTIVE ROGER MURTAUGH. On the other side is a message in block capitals.

YOUR DAUGHTER LOOKS REALLY PRETTY NAKED

Murtaugh tears open the envelope, afraid to breathe. Inside is a Polaroid snapshot. The audience may get a glimpse of it, or they may not. Either way, the effect it has on Murtaugh is devastating. He drops the snapshot like a live snake. Backs away, stumbles into the wall. Shakes his head.

MURTAUGH
Bastards ... bastards ...

Riggs looks on, stunned. The TELEPHONE RINGS. RINGS again.

RIGGS
Roger.

Murtaugh looks up. Snaps out of it. Down the hall, his wife Trish moves to answer the phone.

MURTAUGH
Don't answer that!!

He rushes down the hall, scoops up the receiver:

MURTAUGH
Murtaugh.

He listens intently, a look of pure dread on his face. Hangs up slowly, stares straight ahead. On the table, a stuffed bear stares back impassively. Trish Murtaugh looks on, terrified.

MURTAUGH
They took my kid... Bastards took my kid ...

Beside him, Riggs' face contorts into a look of sheer, brutal hatred ... Get ready for World War Three.

McCaskey is seated next to a bank of telephones, smoking and reading a comic book. Behind him the fat cop we saw earlier is conducting his choir in a thoroughly hideous version of "Deck the Halls." The PHONE RINGS.

SINGING COPS
'Don we now our gay apparel..."
McCASKEY
McCaskey, Homicide -- just a
moment, please -- Hey, will you
guys for Chrissakes shut up?? ...
Yes, can I help you?

99  INTERCUT - McCASKEY AND MR. JOSHUA

Joshua is on the other end. Beside him the General
looks on intently.

JOSHUA
Hello, I'm calling from the
K.T.L.A. News department. We
heard that Sergeant ... um, Riggs,
is it ... ? had some trouble tonight,
and ...

McCASKEY
(interrupting)
Yes, Sergeant Riggs has been
killed. Shot through the chest
by unknown assailants.

JOSHUA
My God. I'm sorry.

McCASKEY
It's a bad day for all of us. And
what is your name, sir?

JOSHUA
Goodbye.

He hangs up. Turns to the General.

JOSHUA
Bingo. Riggs is out of the
picture.

GENERAL
(nods)
I want Murtaugh taken alive.

JOSHUA
He may not talk.

GENERAL
We have his little girl. He'll
talk.

100  OMITTED

101  INT. RIANNE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Trish Murtaugh looks like she could come apart at any
moment.
She walks around the bedroom, slowly.
Touching things.
Touching her daughter's possessions.

Murtaugh enters. They look at each other. He hands her the .22.

MURTAUGH
Take this. Until it's over, I don't want you to let it out of your sight.

His wife nods. Runs a hand through her hair. Shifts from one foot to the other.

MURTAUGH
They're not going to hurt her. If I do exactly what they say... they'll let her go.

(beat)
She's coming home.

A moment. Then:

TRISH
What about you ... ?

Murtaugh says nothing.

102 INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Riggs has his shirt off, and is carefully removing slivers of glass from his shoulder. Cigarette dangling from his lips.

He hears a noise
And spins, startled.

103 RIGGS' POV - SIX-YEAR-OLD CARRIE MURTAUGH

Adorable in a blue nightgown, Rickles the cat cradled lovingly in her arms.

Riggs relaxes.
Smiles.
Carrie walks over to him.

RIGGS
Hey, Missy.

CARRIE
I can't sleep.

RIGGS
Uh-oh. Not good.

He scoops her up.

RIGGS
Who's your friend?
CARRIE
Rickles the cat.

RIGGS
Huh. He is a cutie.

Carrie looks at him then.
And she does a peculiar thing.
Slowly, she reaches out ...
Riggs looking on...
And touches his back. Runs her tiny hand over the knife
scar beneath his shoulder.
Fascinated by it.

CARRIE
Ouch.

Riggs looks at her. Smiles, and whispers softly:

RIGGS
Yeah.

(beat)
Ouch...

And he suddenly hugs the little girl for all he's worth.
Closes his eyes tight.

In that moment, every single year catches up to Riggs,
and he looks, for a moment, incredibly old, and so very,
very tired ...

104 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Carrie is asleep on the couch, snuggled beneath a knitted
afghan. Riggs and Murtaugh stand across the room, con-
ferring in hushed tones.

RIGGS
You know they're going to kill
her.

MURTAUGH
Yes.

RIGGS
You want her back, you've got to
take her away from them.

MURTAUGH
I know.

RIGGS
Good. We do this my way.

(beat)
You shoot, you shoot to kill. Get
as many as you can. Don't miss.

MURTAUGH
I won't miss.
A pause. Riggs studies Murtaugh. Then:

    RIGGS
    We're gonna get bloody on this one.
    (beat)
    You're going to have to trust me.

Murtaugh stares at him for a moment. Then, he finally speaks ...

    MURTAUGH
    ... How... good are you... ?

RIGGS

    What?

    MURTAUGH
    Are you... only crazy ... or are you... as good as you say you are... ?

There is a pause. Then:

    RIGGS
    No one can touch me.

    MURTAUGH
    Good. Kill every fucking one of them. Okay ... ?

At which point, my friends, a light flickers on behind Riggs' eyes.

We see grim determination, sure ...
But we also sense something else, oddly enough: Anticipation.
Riggs is a machine ... and the machine is, well ... revving up. He looks at Murtaugh:

    RIGGS
    Get half. I'll kill the other half.

A moment passes between them. This will be the most devastating night of their lives. They will probably die.

A RINGING PHONE shatters the stillness.

    RIGGS
    Here we go.

105 OMITTED  105

106 INT. MARTIN RIGGS' TRAILER - DAY  106

The apartment is dark, illuminated only by a tiny lamp. Riggs crosses to the window, peers out through slatted blinds. On TELEVISION a group of carolers sings "TIDINGS
OF COMFORT AND JOY." Riggs looks at the wall calendar: December 22. The CLOCK TICKS. The REFRIGERATOR HUMS.

He goes to the closet. Opens it. A cloud of dust billows out. Reaches in, removes a weathered cardboard box. Sits in the center of the room, takes a shot of bourbon.

Opens the box. Inside is a set of desert fatigues. He takes them out. Underneath a wicked-looking hunting knife. He takes that, too. Holds it up near his face, and it positively sparkles in the dim light ...

TIME CUT:

107 ANOTHER ANGLE


Beretta .9 millimeter, riding the right-hand thigh. Scans his appearance in the mirror. Breathes: in, out ... in, out...


His face is craggy. Weathered. Covered with desert paint. Surely he was never married ... not this demon...

    RIGGS
    Forgive me.

There is a KNOCK at the door. Riggs spins. Lightning quick. Gun in hand.

    VOICE (O.S.)
    Me. Murtaugh.

    RIGGS
    Come in slow.

The door opens and Roger Murtaugh enters, carrying a briefcase. He looks briefly at Riggs' combat get-up. Shrugs. Sets the briefcase on the bed, opens it. It is filled with round upon round of ammunition.

    MURTAUGH
    Hollow points. Armor piercing.

    RIGGS
    (nods)
    You weren't followed?

    MURTAUGH
    No.

Riggs begins scooping up handfuls of ammo.
Murtaugh is hooking a wire in place under his collar.

MURTAUGH
Testing, one, two, three...

RIGGS
Fine.

He straps on his hunting knife.

RIGGS
It's twelve-thirty. Let's move.

MURTAUGH
Don't get too close. They'll spot you.

Riggs hoists a long-range sniper rifle. Infra-red scope.

RIGGS
Thousand yards okay ... ?

The desert floor shimmers with stored heat, bathed in relentless sunlight.

A lone car, plowing along toward the horizon. Looking lost and utterly alone beneath the clear December sky.

Driving. Relentlessly onward, his face locked in a mask of contained fury. Dust billows past the windows. Wind. He keeps driving, straining his eyes ahead, focusing through the hundred-degree shimmer... Noticing, finally a series of shapes ... dim mirages... silhouettes maybe, possibly men... possibly the men... The mirage resolves.

Mercs. Standing next to a black sedan. Murtaugh stiffens. Leans forward, punches the cigarette lighter, and as he does -- he whispers into his hidden microphone.

MURTAUGH
Split.

Murtaugh rolls to a halt and steps from his car.

Facing three armed mercs. Murtaugh simply stands there, reading the odds. Scanning...

MERC #1
Murtaugh?

MURTAUGH
Yes.

(beat)
I'm alone.

MERC #1
Hands up. Come with us.

MURTAUGH
Show me the girl.

MERC #1
She's not here.

MURTAUGH
Bullshit. Let me see her. Then I come quietly.

The Merc nods.

comes AT US from across the desert.

Inside, Rianne is gagged, helpless. She looks terrified. Next to her, Mr. Joshua hurls a cocked pistol. Merc #1 leans in:

MERC #1
He wants to see the girl.

Murtaugh waits. Sweating. Hands in pockets. And out comes Rianne, followed by the vicious Merc. He holds a knife squarely at her throat. Murtaugh's eyes fill with tears. Relief that she's alive.

MERC #1
Simple exchange. You come with us, the girl takes a walk.

MURTAUGH
Let her go now.
MERC #1
No. Take your hands out of your pockets.

MURTAUGH
(shrugs)
Sure thing, pal...

He slowly raises his hands. In his left hand, he clutches a shiny metal sphere. A grenade. Murtaugh's grip is the only thing keeping it dead. The Merc swears violently.

MURTAUGH
This fucker's alive.
(beat)
Let her go or we all die.

And that's when Mr. Joshua steps out of the car. Deadly calm. All heads turn. Crewcut- Mirrored sunglasses.

MR. JOSHUA
Take him.

MERC #1
But sir ...

MR. JOSHUA
He's bluffing, it's a dud. He wouldn't risk killing his daughter.

MURTAUGH
Don't push me.

MR. JOSHUA
Take him.

116 EXT. HILLTOP - MEANWHILE

Far away. The car and the surrounding figures are tiny. A lone soldier crouches. Riggs. The rifle is on his shoulder. His eye is glued to the scope.

117 INFRA-RED IMAGE SHOWS RIANNE AND HER CAPTOR

Riggs' concentration is absolutely perfect. Like a statue. He licks a finger. Raises it, testing the wind.

RIGGS
Come on... Come on...

118 BACK WITH MURTAUGH

As he and Joshua stare each other down. Tense. Tense. His hand clutches the grenade. Merc #1 pushes the knife into Rianne's throat.
MERC #1
Put the pin back in. Do it.

Murtaugh sweats. Mr. Joshua begins to walk forward, gun extended. Cool as ice. Another step. Smiling ...

119 ON HILLTOP

Riggs sits dead still, focusing through the sniper scope.

RIGGS
Come on... Move away from the girl ...

120 MURTAUGH

Joshua stops in front of Murtaugh. Cocks the gun.

MR. JOSHUA
Drop the fucking grenade.

MURTAUGH
I do and we die.

MR. JOSHUA
No. I don't think so.

He sights down the gun and pulls the trigger: All hell breaks loose. Here's what happens: BAM -- ! The bullet catches Murtaugh in the shoulder. He drops the grenade. It rolls, and Mercs dive for cover. The Merc holding Rianne takes a step back. Bingo.

121 ON HILL

Riggs grunts. FIRES.

122 BELOW

The Merc drops. Joshua's head snaps around. He stares off at the distance and hisses:

JOSHUA
Riggs ... !

Meanwhile, Murtaugh rolls, comes up, gun in hand. FIRES, BAM

MURTAUGH
Rianne, the car!

Rianne bolts. Meanwhile --

123 ON HILLTOP

Riggs swivels the barrel, half an inch. Grunts. FIRES.
The black sedan's WINDSHIELD SPLINTERS. The car rocks with the impact as the driver is killed instantly.

chooses that moment to EXPLODE, poof ... into a cloud of orange smoke. A shower of confetti.

JOSHUA
Dud! It's a dud!

is running for the car as Joshua swivels in her direction, lining up the UZI, FIRING a BURST -- Until a bullet from Riggs parts his hair, sends him diving to the sand, the Uzi sprouting flame -- As Rianne flings open the car door, screams -- at the blood-spattered corpse which rolls off the steering wheel. BULLETS BLAST the car. METAL POPS and BURSTS. She jumps in.

is flat on the sand, FIRING like crazy, shot after shot -- As Rianne floors the gas, the CAR PEELING out in a' storm of flying sand and dirt. Door open. One leg hanging out. Flows into an atmed merc. He flies up onto the hood, spins, still conscious, and takes aim through the windshield, right at her ...

Riggs swivels, lightning quick.

RIGGS
No.

Grunts. FIRES.

is blown off the car.

screams, the dead driver sprawled against one shoulder, her foot nailed to the gas pedal ... as the car leaps like a kicked dog and careens off into the desert.
GENERAL
You're not that fast, son.
(beat)
Drop the rifle.

He speaks into a walkie-talkie.

GENERAL
I got Riggs.

132 ON DESERT FLOOR

Murtaugh makes a break for it, FIRING blind -- Until the ground before him literally EXPLODES with GUNFIRE. The earth is chopped to tatters. Dirt flies. He stops. Puffing for breath. Raises his hands. As the smoke clears, Mr. Joshua approaches like a deinon through fog. He is flanked by two mercs with Uzis--

JOSHUA
A very nice try.
(speaks into walkie-talkie)
Kendo. Get the girl.

133 ON HILLTOP

Riggs stands, hands over head. The General studies him thoughtfully.

GENERAL
Martin Riggs. Your combat record is the stuff of legend.

RIGGS
So is yours. General Peter McAllister, commander of Shadow Company.

GENERAL
I see we've heard of each other.

RIGGS
Yeah. It'll almost be a shame when I kill you.

GENERAL
(laughs)
I don't think so, son.

134 DESERT FLOOR

Mr. Joshua says to Murtaugh:

MR. JOSHUA
You're about to have a fun evening.

MURTAUGH
Go spit.
Joshua slams him in the head with a karate blow. He falls.

135 EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

Rianne is driving to save her life. Screaming at the top of her lungs, the needle touching 90 as she struggles to shove the merc's dead body into the corner. Swerving. Screaming. At which point

The sand explodes in front of her.

She shrieks. A HOWL of noise, a veritable eruption of sand and dirt, and it's one of two things, it's either aliens from space, descending -- or it's a Bell Cobra helicopter.

Rianne swerves to a halt to avoid the DRONING CHOPPER, which hovers like a behemoth, ROTORS THROBBING, as Rianne stumbles from the car and collapses in a heap on the sand.

Lost, alone, her tears inaudible over the HIGH, CHURNING WHINE as we

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

136 INT. BASEMENT ROOM - NIGHT

Riggs is naked. He is manacled hand and foot. Chained in a bathtub full of water. Around him is a dingy concrete basement. Joshua steps forward. Behind him is KENDO, an Oriental mercenary. He is working on a mechanical device of some kind. Connecting wires. Riggs grunts.

JOSHUA

Well, well. Look who's back from the dead.

Riggs struggles against the manacles, slopping water.

JOSHUA

Please save your strength. I believe you'll need it.


JOSHUA

You're just in time for a lot of pain.

RIGGS

I'm thrilled.
JOSHUA
Oh, you will be. I daresay you'll be ... shocked.

Kendo snickers in the corner.

RIGGS
Who's the chin?

JOSHUA
Shhh. Don't make him mad.

RIGGS
My mistake. Who's the pleasant Oriental psychopath?

JOSHUA
His name is Kendo, and he has forgotten more about dispensing pain than you will ever know.

RIGGS
Terrific. Listen, guys, can we get some Mister Bubble in here ... 

JOSHUA
Please shut up.
   (studies Riggs)
My, my, look at all those scars.
   (beat)
See, Martin, we have a problem. Since we have Murtaugh, we really don't even need you. But I believe in being thorough.

Across the room, Kendo throws a switch. A mechanical HUMMING fills the room.

JOSHUA
Our problem -- and yours, too is that we have some merchandise to deliver. A rather large shipment, we're all very excited. It would be unfortunate, however, if we showed up with the goods and found ourselves surrounded by fifty cops.

RIGGS
That would be a shame.

JOSHUA
Indeed. So you see, Martin, it is essential that we find out how much the police know.

RIGGS
We don't know shit. You killed Lloyd before he could talk.
JOSHUA
I wish I could believe you. Unfortunately, I don't. So, if you'll be kind enough to tell us all you know, I will kill you quickly.

RIGGS
Such a deal, I should worry.

JOSHUA
Oh, indeed you should. See, Martin, you ------- talk to us ...

He gestures to Kendo, who approaches. He is carrying a very ominous device: a sponge, attached to a portable dry-cell battery casing ... Joshua frowns at Riggs.

JOSHUA
Do you vomit?

RIGGS
Sometimes.

Joshua nods. Sighs.

JOSHUA
Back before prison reform, the staff at Sing Sing invented a rather unusual form of punishment. It's know as the hummingbird treatment. Are you familiar?

RIGGS
Please, no tickling. I hate tickling.

JOSHUA
The 'patient' is chained naked in a bathtub full of water. A bath is then administered using a battery powered sponge. The pain is said to be so excruciating that after twenty minutes most men are either insane or dead.

Riggs is silent.

JOSHUA
I thought you'd like it. I can of course, kill you now. Simply tell me what you know.

RIGGS
Guess we're in for a long night. 'Cause I don't know scratch.

JOSHUA
We'll find out. Kendo ... ?
The Oriental moves forward. He brandishes the sponge/battery hookup. Dips it into a bucket of water. Riggs is sweating.

JOSHUA
Feel free to scream.

RIGGS
Haven't you guys... heard of yuletide cheer...?

Kendo hits Riggs with the sponge. Riggs screams. A high, lunatic scream.

Thrashes in the water, splashing Kendo, whipping from side to side as the room spirals back and forth out of focus. Kids, don't try this at home. Kendo removes the device. Riggs falls backward. Thumps against the tub. Sucking air. Moaning.

JOSHUA
My goodness. Now that was fun, wasn't it?

Riggs looks at him. Dripping hate.

RIGGS
I'm going to kill both of you.

JOSHUA
(laughs)
That's very funny.
(beat)
About the shipment...?

RIGGS
Fuck yourself.

Kendo dunks the battery. Run it down Riggs' stomach. He screams again, as we mercifully...

CUT TO:

137 OMITTED

138 INT. DINGY BACK ROOM - SAME

No windows. Hardwood floors. A single chair in the center of the room. Roger Murtaugh is strapped tightly to the chair. His face looks like something his wife makes for dinner. Black eyes. Swollen jaw. His shirt is off, exposing the gunshot wound in his arm. The General stands facing him, flanked by three mercs. They all wear holstered sidearms.

GENERAL
The shipment, Mr. Murtaugh?
MR. LARCH, a big redneck with no discernible compassion, steps forward. Pours a big handful of baking salt from a container. Packs it into Roger Murtaugh's gunshot wound. Murtaugh groans. Shouts. Struggles.

The General looks on without blinking.

MURTAUGH

That's it ... if you guys think I'm sending you a Christmas card you're nuts.

Larch cuffs him, hard.

GENERAL

(shakes his head)
This is going nowhere. Mr. Larch ... ?

Larch grins, leaves the room. A pause. Murtaugh sweats, glaring out from swollen eyelids. The General nods, smiles.

as he groans and collapse back into the tub. Splash. Moans feebly. Blood drips from his nose. Saliva drools from his limp mouth. He looks half-dead, probably because he is just that. Kendo pulls away the battery sponge, says to Joshua:

KENDO
He knows shit. We're safe.

JOSHUA
You're sure?

KENDO
Believe me, he'd have told us.

JOSHUA
Fine.
(clucks in disgust)
Big, bad soldier ... my ass.
(beat)
I'm going upstairs. Deal with him.
KENDO
Deal with him?

JOSHUA
Yeah.
(stops at
the door)
Fry his nuts.

He exits.

CUT TO:

140 INT. DINGY BACK ROOM - SAME TIME

The General leans over Murtaugh. Murtaugh sweats.

GENERAL
Anytime, Roger. Anytime.
(beat)
See, the thing of it is ... We know where you live.
(frowns)
In fact, Mr. Joshua has been known to exterminate entire families, when he gets in... one of his moods. Oh, speaking of that --

Larch re-enters the dingy back room. This time he’s got Murtaugh’s daughter Rianne. She is clad only in a T-shirt and bikini briefs.

RIANNE
Daddy ... please don't let them hurt me ... !

Murtaugh goes nuts. Struggles, wrenches, bangs the chair up and down against the floor. No use. He is completely helpless. Snarls with rage:

MURTAUGH
Bastards ... Untie me and I'll kill every one of you.

GENERAL
Precisely why we would never think of untying you.

Larch shoves Rianne into the corner. She lands in a heap. Murtaugh is sweating buckets. Eyes desperate. The General leans in close:

GENEPAL
If you know something, son, you better play ball, 'cause the stakes just went up ...
Kendo switches on the battery again. In the tub, Riggs' head lolls back and forth. Listless. Dead. His eyes refuse to focus. Kendo shows him the sponge.

**RIGGS**
(slurred)
No ... Please ...

**KENDO**
You die now, Sergeant Riggs.
Very slow.

Riggs does not respond. Stares into space. Kendo leans over the tub, reaches in -- And that's when we find out Riggs has been faking. His eyes focus. No longer hazed. He snaps his hand forward to the end of the chain. Grabs Kendo by the hair. In the blink of an eye, he slams the man's head down against the porcelain tub. Kendo's nose shatters. The Oriental topples over into the tub. The battery drops to the floor. Riggs is a fucking machine: he flips the chain around Kendo's neck and wrenches. Hard. He goes limp. Riggs is not through yet. He begins to heave and thrash, thrusting against the chains -- Maneuvering the corpse on top of him. Shifting it. Moving Kendo's pants pocket within reach. He reaches in. Slowly, carefully, brings out a shiny silver key ...

**142 INT. DINGY BACK ROOM -- SAME TIME**

A length of rope is pulled taut. Rianne's bound hands are stretched over her head. Larch hooks the rope around a peg set into the wall. She is helpless. Murtaugh is out of his mind. Struggling to break free.

**GENERAL**

**MURTAUGH**
Goddammit, I've told you everything!!!!

**GENERAL**
We'll soon know, won't we?

Larch approaches Rianne. She squirms.

**MURTAUGH**
(beat)
You touch her, you're dead.

**GENERAL**
Oh, son, spare me.
(beat)
It's over, Sergeant. No heroes around to save you ...
He picks up a baseball bat. Tosses it to Larch.

GENERAL
Mr. Larch... She's yours.

Rianne screams. Murtaugh shouts. Strains. The chair thumps up and down, creating an insane, staccato rhythm. The General laughs. Rianne shrieks. Harrowing. Terrible. A scene out of Hell. And then the Devil comes in and kicks the door off its hinges. Okay. Okay. Let's stop for a moment. First off, to describe fully the mayhem which Riggs now creates would not do it justice. Here, however, are a few pointers: He is not flashy. He is not Chuck Norris. Rather, he is like a sledgehammer hitting an egg. He does not knock people down. He does not injure them.

He simply kills them. The whole room. Everyone standing. Except for -- the General, who ducks out a side door and escapes ... Riggs' chain moves like a live thing. Snapping here. Striking there. Mercs try to draw their guns -- And suddenly their hands are shattered wrecks. One merc draws a bead on Rianne, almost gets off a shot, because Riggs is across the room. Without missing a beat -- Riggs throws the chain. It wraps the guy's neck and kills him instantly. Ouch ... He goes down, FIRING useless ROUNDS into the ceiling. Plaster rains. Riggs spins, dives. Scoops up the baseball bat. Comes up beside an armed merc -- Swings the bat with hurricane force. A sickening impact. The bat breaks in half. Riggs spins, combat-ready. Scans the room. No one left to kill. Using only the element of surprise, he has taken out an entire room in hand-to-hand combat. He steps in front of Murtaugh without missing a beat. Cuts him loose with a borrowed knife.

RIGGS
Work your circulation.

Crosses to Rianne, cuts her free. She collapses sobbing into his arms.

RIGGS
Sssshh- No time. Come on.

He scoops up handguns, throws them to Murtaugh. Takes for himself a pump shotgun, possibly the same one used against him earlier. Murtaugh stares dumbfounded at the body count.

RIGGS
They're all dead. Let's get out of here.
The three of them.

On the run, moving hard and fast. They scramble down the hallway, Riggs in the lead, as -- a merc ducks around the corner, sees them. Ducks back. Riggs FIRES through the wall, BLAM -- ! A corpse falls into view. They keep moving. Downstairs. A-round another corner. Moving, moving.

The three of them keep moving. Rushing headlong toward a sign marked EXIT. They may actually make it ... Or not. For at that moment, Mr. Joshua looms up behind them and tosses something in their direction. Ducks back out of sight. It's a live grenade. The grenade hits the floor. Clatters. Riggs stops instantly. He knows the sound. Spins. Dives. Scoops up the GRENADE and chucks it with all his might. It bounces downstairs and EXPLODES at the foot of the steps.

Joshua skids to a halt next to a sedan.

He slams the door and ROARS off down Hollywood Boulevard. The crowd parts like the Red Sea. People are screaming. And suddenly, the doors burst open -- As Riggs, Murtaugh and Rianne come skidding out onto the sidewalk in hot pursuit. Murtaugh shoves his daughter back as Joshua FIRES out the window of the car. BULLETS lash the pavement. The crowd shrieks. The CAR SCREECHES away.

A beat cop comes running up, and Murtaugh shoves Rianne in his direction. Flashes his badge.

MURTAUGH
Get her out of here.

Riggs unloading with the M-16 on three-shot mode, the muzzle flash blinding, the noise DEAFENING -- Until pedestrians swarm suddenly into the line of fire. Blocking them. Except Murtaugh won't give up. He runs after the car, shouting:

MURTAUGH
Out of the way. Move.

His GUN CLICKS empty. He tosses it aside. Pulls another from his waistband. The car. Far away. FIRES FOUR more SHOTS. Collapses in the street. Nearly unconscious.
Crawls forward after the car, blood streaming from his broken nose ... Going on sheer guts. Finally gives out. Slumps in a heap. Riggs kneels beside him as a police CAR ROARS up to them, flashers spinning. Riggs is a man possessed. We PAN-A-GLIDE with him as he runs forward. M-16 in one hand. Badge in the other.

RIGGS
Get an ambulance!!

He takes off after the Joshua's car. On foot. Someone better tell this guy to lighten up. The car is far ahead, racing onto a freeway on-ramp. Riggs runs. Sweat pours off him. Seeing the car on the ramp, he changes direction. Starts running an intercept course. Leaps out into the street -- Spins, as a TRUCK BLARES ut of nowhere, BRAKES SQUEALING, HORN SHRIEKING. Somersaults over the hood. Lands. Keeps moving. Barrels across the street. Faster now. Even faster than before. Feet pounding. Gun swinging. Dashing out onto the freeway overpass. Where, without stopping, he promptly jumps the guardrail. Drops through space ... And lands, thump -- ! Atop the big green freeway sign. Swings like an acrobat. Dangles from the sign, twenty feet above the ground. Levels the M-16 one-handed, switches it to full auto. Waits ...

Joshua's CAR comes SCREAMING through the underpass, doing eighty. Riggs unleashes the GUN. It BLAZES with cruel FIRE. STPAFES the back of the car. Sure enough, BLOWS out both TIRES -- Throwing the EHICLE into eadly SKID -- Slewing across the freeway -- STRIKING the GUARDRAIL at sixty-plus. It slides for a full hundred yards, sending up a shower of sparks. The back tires disintegrate in a trail of burning rubber. The CAR GRINDS to a halt. The door opens and Joshua rolls out. Riggs FIRES. Kicks up a cloud of cement near the merc. Joshua RETURNS FIRE.

Big chunks of the freeway SIGN BLOW OUT next to Riggs' head. He is showered with wooden debris.

Riggs lowers the gun. Lets go and drops twenty feet to the pavement. Lands, rolls, comes up. A CAR swerves around him. CRASHES into the guardrail. Riggs doesn't even look. Instead, he begins to walk. He is a fucking juggernaut.

Joshua turns, sees Riggs -- and stops.

JOSHUA
Okay, you bastard, let's see who's better.
They are separated by perhaps two hundred yards. Joshua snaps his rifle to his shoulder. Eyes glued to the scope. Riggs swings his own rifle into position -- and we've got the showdown at the O.K. Corral. A battle of wits. Each one scanning through the scope.

Looking for a clear shot, as CARS SWERVE around and between them. The crosshairs sweep the freeway. Perfect concentration. Riggs. Joshua. Two soldiers. And suddenly, the shot is there: Joshua sights in on Riggs' position. Only problem is, Riggs' rifle is pointed right at the CAMERA. He is sighted in on Joshua. Simultaneous. They FIRE at the exact same moment. TWO SHOTS. Two distinct RIFLE CRACKS. Riggs takes it in the shoulder. Blown backward. Joshua goes down, winged. Riggs. Joshua. Each looks like shit. They struggle to their feet ... And that's when a car backs up into Riggs at thirty miles an hour. Broadsides him. Sends him flying.

150 UP AHEAD

Joshua rushes up to a stalled car. Throws open the door. Yanks out the driver, hops behind the wheel. ROARS away.

CUT TO:

151 EXT. BUILDING - SAME TIME

An ambulance shudders to a halt and two ORDERLIES hop out. Uniformed COPS are struggling to hold back the crowd. One of the Orderlies rushes up.

ORDERLY
Where is he, Officer?

COP
Right over there.

He points -- and suddenly frowns: There is no one there. Murtaugh is gone. Nowhere to be seen.

CUT TO:

152 EXT. BACK ALLEY - SAME TIME

A sleek black VAN careens around the corner.

152A INT. VAN

A MERC is driving, foot glued to the pedal. THE GENERAL sits sweating in the back seat.

152B ANOTHER ANGLE

The headlights flash wildly as the car roars down the alley.
The General stares ahead, and suddenly ------- ...  
'Cause wouldn't you know it, there's ROGER MURTAUGH.  
Fifty yards away. Standing in the middle of the street.

153 ANOTHER ANGLE  

There is no reason for Murtaugh to be standing. He is a walking testament to man's ability to bloody himself. And he's pissed... The Merc sees him, snarls -- punches the gas. Murtaugh holds his ground. He can barely stand. And then he does a peculiar thing: He examines his hand. No question. A definite tremble. Scowls. Stretches. Cracks his neck.

Shifts from foot to foot, steadying himself. He has one shot. The numbers are falling, it's all coming down -- And he's ready. The van comes barreling in. Doing fifty. Now or never...

MURTAUGH  
No way you live. No way.

He cross-draws with lightning swiftness. BAM. The REPORT is DEAFENING. The WINDSHIELD promptly SHATTERS. And the Merc sprouts a neat third eye. Perfect shot. Dead center. The van swerves. Murtaugh steps out of the way. Deadly calm. As the van careens past -- He salutes the General. Watches, expressionless ... The CAR SLAMS into a telephone pole and rolls over. GRINDING METAL. An ERUPTION of GLASS. It continues to roll like some great beast, crumpling and folding like an accordion...

Comes to rest, upside down in a sea of glass ...

153A INT. VAN  
The General is pinned beneath a crumpled door-frame, struggling to break free, as FLAMES lick upward from the ruptured gas tank...

And then the General sees something which ruins his whole day.

The Merc's corpse, sprawled over the steering column...  
with a shiny metal GRENADE attached to his belt.  
Flames dance around the grenade.

153C ANOTHER ANGLE  
The General squirms, strains, yanks for all he's worth...  
Fingers reaching out for the grenade.  
Flames burning his outstretched hand.  
And it is, as they say, all she wrote.  

154 EXT. ROADWAY  

Murtaugh is walking like a zombie. Away from the VAN. Gun held loosely at his side. Suddenly -- It BLOWS sky high. A tower of fire. Blows Murtaugh flat. Knocks
him ass over teacups. ECHOES down the street. Turns night into day for one brief instant. And then -- Then something truly incredible happens. For the first time in nearly a century -- it begins to snow in Hollywood. Murtaugh looks up, a "What the hell ... ?" expression on his face. Sure enough --

155 HEROIN

is sifting down on the night air, ten million dollars' worth... A cloud over the entire' street. Swirling in the breeze.

156 MURTAUGH

gets slowly to his feet, checking for broken bones. If it wasn't busted already, apparently it's okay now. Time passes. A hand rests on his shoulder.

157 MARTIN RIGGS

Stands next to him. Cops swarm behind them. The heroin snow continues to fall. The wreck burns. Riggs looks at Murtaugh. Murtaugh looks at Riggs. The two most physically abused men in film history.

MURTAUGH

Well, shit.

RIGGS

Try not to breathe, you'll see pink elephants.

MURTAUGH

Joshua?

RIGGS

Got away.

MURTAUGH

We ... gotta find him.

RIGGS

No dice. First thing we gotta do is get you to a hospital.

MURTAUGH

Uh-huh  First thing we gotta do is check on my house.  (beat) I got a bad feeling...

He moves away. Riggs starts to follow. Goes to toss his cigarette in the gutter, and stops: There is a tiny, red mark at the tip of the filter: It is the cigarette. The very last one ... He stares at it, a sudden glimmer in his eye.

CUT TO:
The Christmas lights shed a happy glow. The lawn is still littered with toys. Two uniformed COPS are watching over the house, sitting in a police car across the street. One of them munches on a sandwich. The other is doing a crossword puzzle. A car pulls up next to them. The door opens -- out steps Mr. Joshua.

POLICE OFFICER  
Excuse me, sir, may I see some ID?

Joshua takes an UZI from beneath his coat. No hesitation. BLOWS them apart. Walks forward, gun smoking. Crosses the lawn to the front door. Kicks it to splinters.

A police CAR PEELS around the corner. Takes out a Salvation Army BUCKET, which POPS like a clay duck. Coins shower every which way.

Murtaugh is driving like a lunatic. Beside him, Riggs holds a handkerchief to his gunshot wound.

Joshua stalks down the hallway of Murtaugh's house. Stops in front of the bedroom door. Holy Jesus ... He kicks it open. SPAYS the interior with GUNFIRE. Shreds the mattress, dices the pillows. Trashes everything in sight: Star Wars posters. Stuffed animals. Stereo. Empties an entire clip of .9 millimeter slugs. Except the bed is empty. There is no one there. Joshua snarls. Turns.

Kicks open another door. TRIGGERS DESTRUCTION. Plaster and wood fill the air in a cloud. Room to room. Searching. Growing more and more enraged -- because there is no one here to kill. He is blowing the shit out of an empty Santa Monica bungalow. He bursts into the only room he hasn't visited. Living room. It too, is empty. There is a note, however. Taped to the Christmas tree: Big letters.

DEAR BADGUYS

NO ONE HERE BUT US COPS.
SORRY.

-- THE GOODGUYS

Joshua swears. Runs for the door. And a police CAR
drives through the front of the house. PLows into the living room, shearing boards in half, BURSTING WINDOWS, GRINDING to a halt in a sea of glass. Joshua spins, triggering the UZI. STRAFES the car. A withering FIRE.

Empties an entire clip at the front WINDSHIELD, dicing it to SMITHEREENS. Waves the gun like a WAND, STRAFING X patterns, FIRING all the while, completely EXTINGUISHING the car and all life within. Stops. Silence. Floating debris. Joshua lowers the gun. Breathing hard.

Crosses the room, his boots crunching through broken glass. Yanks on the driver's door. It falls loose with a metal clang.

A cop's nightstick has been jammed against the accelerator pedal. The car is empty.

Joshua spins, startled
Stares across the room
At MARTIN RIGGS, who sits calmly on the windowsill.

RIGGS
Ho, ho, ho.

He raises his gun and fires without blinking.
Blows the gun out of Joshua's hands.
Smiles a big shit-eating grin.

Joshua turns and dives through the hole in the wall
Lands outside, comes up running, but sorry, no dice because there stands Roger Murtaugh. Drawing a bead on Joshua's running figure.

MURTAUGH
Freeze, Joshua.

Joshua stops dead. Turns, growling low in his throat.
A fire hydrant, sheared off by the runaway car, sprays water high into the nighttime air. The wind blows.
Martin Riggs steps out of the house. Pointing the .38 Special like a finger of doom. Strolls toward Mr. Joshua... the gun is rock steady. Riggs' eyes meet Murtaugh's, and he speaks with deadly purpose:

RIGGS
I'll handle it.

He steps up to Joshua. Smiles. And then he does something very strange: he relaxes his grip on the gun -- And throws it away. Faces Joshua. Raises his arms, and carefully places them behind his head. When he speaks, his voice drips menace:
RIGGS
Come on, ace.

(beat)

Try me.

A moment. Then Joshua calmly plants himself in front of Riggs. Around them, water showers down in a gentle cloud. SIRENS APPROACH in the near distance. Joshua and Riggs. Two soldiers. Their eyes lock. And you better hang onto your popcorn, boys and girls, because it's about to get ugly.

JOSHUA
Don't mind if I do.

And so it begins. They start to circle.

Riggs and Joshua, perfect concentration, round and round and never, never once does their focus break, because, baby, these guys are pros -- And here's something funny: they aren't looking at each other's eyes at all. Rather -- They're watching each other's hands.

164 RIGGS

His fingers twitch. Flex. Wrist making slow, laborious-circles.

165 JOSHUA

Shifting from leg to leg, floating his balance.

166 MURTAUGH

looks on, sweating it out. He's not happy, he wants to end it ... And yet he waits.

167 RIGGS AND JOSHUA

All we see is their eyes, straining, focusing, scanning for an opening.

168 JOSHUA

Concentrate, Martin... Don't give me an opening... Wouldn't want to do that ... Riggs shifts. Blinks. And:

springs ... Foot coming out like a shot, Riggs jerking back, inches -- meanwhile, Riggs countermoves, spins, tries a back kick, no dice ... Joshua no longer there, where is he ... ? Shit -- ! Comes up, darts a punch.

CRACK! The sound of Riggs' rib breaking carries clearly. He grunts. Thrusts, inviting a countermove ... Joshua counts -- And Riggs snags his hand, picture-fucking-
perfect. Breaks one of Joshua's fingers. Ouch. Backs off. Joshua backs off. The two of them. Wounded, they circle. Round two ...

Meanwhile, is raising his gun, pointing it at Joshua.
Riggs' voice cuts like a knife:

RIGGS

No. Roger.

(beat)
No way.

Murtaugh lowers the gun. Stares, fascinated, at this contest between two consummate professionals. In for the kill. It is a dance of the forces. Riggs is on fire. Leaps, avoiding a shot to the knee, spins, slams the knuckles of his hand into Joshua's nose. Busts it. Joshua snarls, drops -- Catches Riggs' arm over one shoulder. And, ladies and gentlemen... Riggs has just fucked up. CRACK -- ! His arm breaks. He screams with pain. Screams with anger. Tosses three shots at Joshua. SNAP. SNAP. SNAP. RIBS, SPLINTERING. Joshua hissing with pain. Lets go. Back off (Riggs). Back off (Joshua). In pain, they circle. Round three ...

JOSHUA

That's it, Martin... your body wants to go into shock... but you won't let it, will you ... ?

RIGGS

... Give it up ... Your breathing's shot ...

JOSHUA

so's your left arm...

RIGGS

Life's tough that way ... Oh, by the way: Fuck you.

He launches himself at Joshua. Joshua strikes, scores a minor point, breaking Riggs' collarbone, except Riggs doesn't care, nosirree Bob... 'Cause he just hit paydirt: Joshua's knee. Boot-strikes, BAM -- ! Shearing the knee, maybe bursting the cap ... Joshua shrieks, but then again, so would you. And he promptly jack-knives his fist right into Riggs' broken arm. Three times. Riggs bellows. Refuses to quit.

Slams his head into Joshua's busted nose. Pop ...
Does it again. Joshua, hammering the broken arm. Pow. (Scream) Pow. (Scream) ... Until, son of a bitch... The pain is simply too intense... nothing human can withstand it, they fall away, staggering, wrenching to a shaky halt, facing one another, standoff ... Exhausted, limping, hardly able to speak...
Pulling up now, cops stumbling out, guns clearing their holsters as Murtaugh waves frantically, screams:

    MURTAUGH
    No guns. Let it go! Goddammit, let it go!!

spits, gazes straight at Joshua. Joshua stares back. Two soldiers. This close to collapsing. Until, breaking the silence -- comes Murtaugh's voice:

    MURTAUGH
    Martin.

    RIGGS
    Yeah.

    MURTAUGH
    The motherfucker.

A moment ... and then, my friends, Riggs does a peculiar thing: He smiles then. Damned if he doesn't. And rises up ... Standing. Standing straight. There is no way he should be able to do this. And then he speaks, and it's like the voice of doom, and all of a sudden we know that this guy is a fucking legend, we know why the V.C. enforcers whispered his name at night in the foxholes ... He is Riggs. And no one can touch him. No one.

    RIGGS
    Last chance. Walk away.

    JOSHUA
    Fuck yourself.

    RIGGS
    Fine. Die.

He steps forward. Stands. Joshua springs -- thunders his foot into Riggs' hip, separating the bone at the joint ... And Riggs doesn't blink. His hand comes out. Lightning quick.

There is a sick-sounding CRACK -- And Joshua is dead before he hits the ground. Riggs hovers over the corpse... breathing spastic, saliva dripping from his lips... takes a handkerchief, wipes his hand, and says:

    RIGGS
    You lose.

At which point, he collapses like a sack of grain.
is running forward, tears in his eyes by this time, falls to his knees, cradling Riggs in his arms, while the assembled cops look on in thoroughly stunned silence, what they have just seen is beyond their wildest imagining ... 

Riggs looks at Murtaugh. Murtaugh looks at Riggs.

**MURTAUGH**
Take it easy, Martin...

**RIGGS**
... Right. Easy. You bet...

**MURTAUGH**
Does it hurt...?

Riggs throws him a look.

**RIGGS**
What are you, an idiot?

**MURTAUGH**
Sorry.

**RIGGS**
S'all right.
(beat)
I got good news and bad news.

**MURTAUGH**
What's the good news?

**RIGGS**
... Good news is, I'm not dead...

**MURTAUGH**
What's the bad news?

Riggs grimaces in pain-

**RIGGS**
... Bad news is, I'm still alive...

He chuckles. Groans. Passes out. The water RAINS steadily down. The night wears on...

CUT TO:

**EXT. LONG BEACH BAR - DAY**

Christmas carolers sing outside at roadside. A big banner screams MERRY CHRISTMAS to passing cars. Christmas lights. Tinsel. Murtaugh and Riggs stand on the sidewalk, huddled against the chill. Riggs stands,
braced on one crutch. Arm in a sling. Their breath plumes out in front of them.

MURTAUGH
So.

RIGGS
So.

MURTAUGH
There are worse things than a psych pension.

RIGGS
(shrugs)
Probably.

MURTAUGH
Guess I won't be seeing you around.

RIGGS
Guess not.
(beat)
The Department thinks I'm wild.
I don't belong anymore. Not here.

MURTAUGH
Where do you belong?

RIGGS
Who knows ... ? Maybe I can get a job on a remake of Cobra.

MURTAUGH
My son would come see you.

RIGGS
He'd be the only one.

MURTAUGH
(a pause; then)
Riggs.

RIGGS
Yeah.

MURTAUGH
This ... is a bad old world, isn't it?

RIGGS
(sighs)
Yeah. Sometimes it really is.
MURTAUGH

Hell.

(beat)

I'm thinking of quitting.

RIGGS

Don't you dare.

Murtaugh looks at him.

RIGGS

You're too old to change now, Colchise.

MURTAUGH

Me? Old... ?

RIGGS

You just hang in there.

MURTAUGH

Yeah. You, too.

RIGGS

Guess I'll say goodbye.

MURTAUGH

Sure. Come over for dinner sometime.

RIGGS

No, thanks.

MURTAUGH

Don't blame you. I'm thinking of arresting my wife for cruelty to bacon.

(beat)

Merry Christmas, Martin.

RIGGS

Merry Christmas.

He walks off down the street. Murtaugh watches him go. Pause. Turns up his collar against the chill, takes a few steps ... And a man steps in front of him. The same Punk who Riggs beat the shit out of at the very beginning of the film.

PUNK

Hey, old man, got any money?

MURTAUGH
I'm fifty. That's not old, dickless.

175 EXT. CEMETERY - DUSK (SAME DAY)

RAIN pours down. Martin Riggs stands over a lone grave. There are dark hollows under his eyes. The wind tugs at his hair. The tombstone reads:

VICTORIA LYNN RIGGS
BORN: 1953
DIED: 1984

He reaches beneath his overcoat and removes a bright green Christmas wreath, which he places atop the grave. Kisses his fingertips. Presses them to the moist earth.

RIGGS
Merry Christmas.
(beat)
I love you.

The rains starts to fall. Riggs is oblivious.

176 EXT. MURTAUGH HOME - NIGHT

Carpenters are at work, patching and repairing. The Christmas lights still shine defiantly. A car pulls up.

CUT TO:

177 FRONT DOOR

As a hand knocks softly: The door opens -- and there stands young Rianne. Adorable. She looks up at the visitor... It is Martin Riggs.

RIANNE
Hi.

RIGGS
Hi.

He hands something to her. She takes it. The bottle of pills. It has a red ribbon tied around it.

RIGGS
Give that to your dad. It's a present. Tell him I won't be needing them anymore.

Rianne nods.

RIANNE
Okay. You wanna come in? We're building.
Riggs thinks it over. Shakes his head:

RIGGS
No, that's okay.
(beat)
You have a Merry Christmas,
Missy.

RIANNE
Okay.

Riggs turns to go. Rianne stops him:

RIANNE
They say you're the best.

Beat. He stops. Turns and looks at her.

RIANNE
Are you?

RIGGS
(big smile; wild wink)
No one can touch me.

Rianne blushes.

Riggs begins to walk away, into the rain...

Until Roger Murtaugh appears from inside the boat on the trailer hitch.

He stands on deck and looks down at Riggs.

Riggs stops. They stand there in the rain for a moment. Then Murtaugh looks him square in the eye and says:

MURTAUGH
Sucker, if you think I'm gonna cat the world's lousiest Christmas turkey all by my lonesome, you're nuts.

Riggs nods. A moment passes. Then:

RIGGS
I think your daughter kinda likes me.

MURTAUGH
You touch her, I'll kill you.

RIGGS
You'll try.

He smiles.

Murtaugh smiles.
The rain falls, as they enter the house together, and we

FADE OUT.

THE END