

THE CRAZIEST LIL PREGNANCY CHECKPOINT IN MISSOURI

1-Act Musical

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<< OR >>

Represented by:

CAST OF CHARACTERS

RUBY, 27ish, probably pregnant

SCOTT, 27ish, Missouri State Trooper

JAVIER, Missouri State Trooper

LOCH NESS MONSTER, nearsighted

SETTINGS

I-72/Routes 32 & 110, and hiway shoulder, nr Hannibal Missouri

State Police Substation, near rest stop

Rest Stop Food Court

Parking area outside substation

PRODUCTION NOTES

Time and place information goes here, along with anything else that will help the reader understand the script.

Production notes go here.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ACT I

SCENE 1

EXT - HIGHWAY I-72 NEAR HANNIBAL, MISSOURI.

RUBY drives, her face lined with worry and sadness. Intro electronica uptempo vamp/riff to upcoming song begins. SCOTT, a Missouri State Trooper, now follows behind her. Then his lights flash and siren wails, incorporated in the music.

SCOTT

"LICENSE INSURANCE REGISTRATION"

PULL OVER

PULL OVER ON THE SHOULDER

PULL OVER ON THE SHOULDER AND STAY IN THE VEHICLE

PULL OVER TO THE SHOULDER AND REMAIN IN THE VEHICLE

YOUR LICENSE

INSURANCE

& REGISTRATION

YOUR LICENSE, INSURANCE AND REGISTRATION

ARE YOU CARRYING POINTS? NO

THANK YOU, STAY IN THE VEHICLE

ARE YOU PREGNANT?

ARE YOU PREGNANT THAT YOU KNOW OF?

PREGNANT THAT YOU KNOW OF, ANY MORNING SICKNESS?

ARE U PREGNANT THAT YOU KNOW OF, SIGNS U ARE WITH CHILD?

HERE'S YOUR LICENSE

INSURANCE

& REGISTRATION

YOUR LICENSE, YOUR INSURANCE AND REGISTRATION

DO YOU HAVE ANY CRIMINAL HISTORY?

PLEASE STEP OUT OF THE VEHICLE

STEP OUT OF THE VEHICLE, IT'S FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION

WE RAN YOUR LICENSE

INSURANCE

& REGISTRATION

YOUR LICENSE, YOUR INSURANCE AND REGISTRATION

ON BEHALF OF THE STATE... OF MISSOURI

Ruby steps out of her vehicle, at Scott's request. She shakes her head, slowly. Next song begins, uptempo, electronica or rock.

RUBY

"TERMINATE ME"

IS IT A BUSTED TAILLIGHT OFFICER?
IS MY LICENSE PLATE OBSCURED?
AM I OVERDUE FOR INSPECTION?
AM I DRIVING WHILE OF COLOR?
WAS I FIVE MILES OVER THE SPEED LIMIT?
YOU'VE BEEN TAILING ME FOR AWHILE
DOES THE BURGUNDY HONDA INCRIMINATE ME?
ON WHAT DID YOU PROFILE
ME?
THIS TIME?
OH I WISH I'D BEEN DRINKING, I WISH I HAD WEED
BELIEVE ME

YOU STAND THERE WITH YOUR SERVICE WEAPON
READY TO JUDGE ME
INTIMIDATE ME
THE LAW MEANS READY TO KILL A HUMAN
HOPEFULLY JUSTIFIED, YOUR JOB IS TO HATE ME
HOW ABOUT YOU DRAW THAT WEAPON?
HOW ABOUT YOU USE YOUR WEAPON?
HOW ABOUT YOU... TERMINATE ME

I SCRAPED THE BUMPER STICKERS OFF
SAYING THINGS LIKE "COEXIST"
PRO-GOLDEN RULE MEANS I'M ANTIFA
IN A BLOOD-RED STATE LIKE THIS
ON WHAT CRITERIA DID YOU STOP ME?
DID I LOOK LIKE KNOCKED-UP TRASH?
THE REPTILIAN CRACKERS SAY THAT'S IMMORAL
UNLESS YR A MAN WITH CASH
AND PULL
BIG FRIENDS
ABORTION'S SAFE FOR THE MISTRESSES, OF THE POWERFUL
THE ONE PERCENT RULE

YOU STAND THERE WITH YOUR 9-MIL
READY TO JUDGE ME
INTIMIDATE ME
THE LAW MEANS READY TO KILL A HUMAN
HOPEFULLY JUSTIFIED, YOUR JOB IS TO HATE ME
HOW ABOUT YOU DRAW THAT WEAPON?
HOW ABOUT YOU USE YOUR WEAPON?
HOW ABOUT YOU... TERMINATE ME

HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE ME?
TO YOUR STATE POLICE STATION, OR
HOW ABOUT YOU... JUST WASTE ME
I'M ALREADY BORN SO IT'S OKAY... TO TERMINATE ME

SCENE 1 as a scene.

SCOTT

I need you to come to the State Police Substation with me.

RUBY

Are you going to cuff me?

SCOTT

I am not.

RUBY

Are you arresting me?

SCOTT

...No.

RUBY

What are you doing?

SCOTT

I am within rights to detain you - first of all, yes, our culture, represented by the State, does have a legitimate interest in the process of human reproduction. Secondly, you've indicated you could be a threat to yourself, and it's my job to serve and protect - life. Your life.

RUBY

I'm not suicidal. And that's my business too.

SCOTT

Ideations of suicide by cop is not just your business. Please come with me to the substation. My superiors know I've stopped you, how long we've been here, and I think you need time to relax, and not be driving.

RUBY

"Relax"!

Ruby holds her hands out to be cuffed. Scott puts them down to her side, guides her to his cruiser.

Scene transitions seamlessly into the INTERIOR MISSOURI STATE POLICE SUBSTATION adjacent to a rest stop. Scott escorts her to a chair, gently straps a large bib around her, and sits at a laptop.

SCOTT

I'm required to run this, by law. It's a formality.

Electronica track (125BPM?)
begins, very whirring and
mechanized. Ruby smiles,
cynically; looks at him, angrily.

RUBY

"HIGHWAY ULTRASOUND"

HIGHWAY ULTRASOUND...
HIGHWAY ULTRASOUND...
SUPERHIGHWAY ULTRASOUND!
YEAH!

HIGHWAY... ULTRA...
WHOA...
ULTRA... SONIC...
HIGHWAY ULTRASOUND

ULTRASONIC... HIGH... WAY... MAN
ULTRASONIC... HUNT!

HIGHWAY ULTRASOUND...
HIGHWAY ULTRASOUND...
SUPERHIGHWAY ULTRASOUND...
YEAH!

Song 3 minutes? Include 2 brief
instrumental parts for dance.
During song, Ruby sarcastically
celebrates the technology, eggs
Scott on, even gets him to
reluctantly harmonize. At the end
of tune, she goes from laughing to
crying.

SCENE 2

INT - STATE POLICE SUBSTATION

SCOTT

What...? Are you okay?

JAVIER, state trooper, slightly
higher in rank, enters, stepping
to his desk, sees the scene.

JAVIER

Life begins at conception. May I see that
pregnancy imaging report when it's ready?

SCOTT

Sure, Javier.

JAVIER

And if this woman is pregnant, seeking to leave the state to abort, you are placing her under arrest, correct?

SCOTT

Yes sir.

Ruby stops crying, eyes Javier with contempt.

JAVIER

When do you expect the report?

SCOTT

Popping out of the oven in just a minute.

Scott steps to the laptop/printer, does slight-of-hand crumpling a printout, fussing with paper, types some things. At the crumpling, Javier looks over at Scott. Scott prints out a second sheet, hides the first, replaces the crumpled paper with another.

JAVIER

Can I see the report, Scott?

SCOTT

Yeah... This... looks negative.

JAVIER

"Looks negative"? What the freak is the ambiguity? Either this woman in carrying inside her a human being, a citizen and ward of the State of Missouri, or she is not. Let me see.

Scott hands him the report.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

Why the *hell* is this on this shitty paper?? This doesn't print out well from this temperamental crappy printer! I told you guys that!! This is like... God damn it!! ... The printout you crumpled up, may I see that?

SCOTT

Here you go.

JAVIER

This is on that useless paper too. Damn this nonsense.

SCOTT

We ran out of the good paper apparently.

JAVIER

Fuck me. This is a Missouri State Police post and we're subject to the same printer & ink bullshit as the general public?! Are you kidding me??? I told Ness to get us up to speed on this stuff!

SCOTT

It's early days, we're just getting going.

JAVIER

Just look at the screen version.

SCOTT

It's set to reset if the printout doesn't execute.

JAVIER

Brilliant. Why??

SCOTT

You changed it to that, to protect the "privacy" of that gal a few weeks a-

JAVIER

Okay. I got it.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

(To Ruby)

I have a feeling you're pregnant, "Miss", and if you are, you are going to jail for attempted murder of this baby, and this child *will* get born, so help me God.

Javier circles Ruby.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

For the record, are you pregnant? And were you travelling to Illinois to obtain an abortion?

She looks at Scott.

RUBY

No, and no.

JAVIER

Why were you crossing state lines?

RUBY

To attend a workshop.

JAVIER

A pottery workshop?

RUBY

Real estate.

JAVIER

How empowering. Scott, I actually want to move ahead and arrest Miss Margolis, this report is so inconclusive, we've got probable cause, we're good to just proceed. Because we can.

SCOTT

Sir...

JAVIER

In the meantime, go out and buy the paper that works in this godforsaken printer, just take it out of petty cash, and we'll nail this down.

SCOTT

Sounds good sir. (He takes Javier aside.)
Javier... I... I had it in my head to take her to lunch, talk to her... and convince her to play ball...

JAVIER

...You're into her.

SCOTT

...On a certain level.

JAVIER

I knew... you were not, this happily married man. You seemed to refrain from judging me with that whatsername-

SCOTT

Emma?

JAVIER

Yeah, voluptuous Emma, couple weeks back. But I knew you saw my sin. Whatever. ...Get in there, Mack. Time the arrest in a way that works for your... process.

SCOTT

That would be nice. Thank you.

Scott steps to Ruby, unstraps her from the ultrasound chair, jacket & restraint. Javier can potentially overhear...

SCOTT (CONT'D)

So, yeah, I'd like to speak with you about your options here. There may be alternatives to an official arrest, at this time. I suggest we discuss it together slightly casually, over lunch, here at the food court, with your consent.

RUBY

Otherwise you arrest me. I... I'm not very hun-

SCOTT

The Louisiana Fried Chicken, original recipe,
is to die for.

RUBY

...Uh, okay, it's been a while since I've...
indulged, in that.

Scott helps her to her feet.

SCOTT

Come with me.

He escorts her thru the office.
Javier takes Scott aside.

JAVIER

Maybe you can bless her with another
crumbsnatcher in there, keep the first one
company - add to the Midwest caucasian economic
team... Prob'ly a lil brown liberal inside her,
the way these fornicating bitches roll.

SCOTT

"Anheuser-Busch, St Louis Missouri..." Yeah,
we'll see how it goes.

JAVIER

He he... Bon appetit. Officer.

Scott winks to Javier, turns in
Ruby's direction and loses his
smile. Scott leads Ruby out, and
to the...

SCENE 3

INT - FOOD COURT AT REST STOP

Scott leads Ruby thru colorful
many-choices state-of-the-art rest
stop FOOD COURT.

RUBY

This food court is beautiful.

SCOTT

Pretty new. We'll see if they keep it up.

RUBY

Harry Truman would be proud.

SCOTT

Especially if he were from Hannibal, like Mark Twain.

RUBY

Touche, Officer Mackenzie.

SCOTT

Scott. I'm sure Samuel Clemens would have clever things to say about this place too.

RUBY

Your pregnancy test-

SCOTT

It's a mess-

RUBY

So you did a personality test instead.

SCOTT

Ha ha. It's inconclusive, we are working the bugs out of the system, for real... And you haven't said yay or nay about the tests you have done.

RUBY

I'm inconclusive too.

SCOTT

Of course you are. (Beat) ...Do you want me to feel your tummy?

RUBY

(A breath) ...No, not right now, thank you.

SCOTT

"I WANT YOUR BABY"

I WANT YOUR BABY
I WANT YOUR BABY
I WANT YOUR BABY
I CAME OUT AND SAID IT, HEY

YES I WANT, THE GOOD DAYS
THE RISKS & MAYBE HEARTBREAKS
I WANT, THE MIRACLES
I BELIEVE I CAN PAY THE BILLS
THE LIFE THE DEATH
THE LIFE THE CRAP
WE PUT UP WITH
THE AMAZING HIGHS, UNFATHOMABLE DEPTHS
COULD BE WHAT WE GET

I WANT YOUR BABY
I WANT YOUR BABY

I WANT YOUR BABY
I CAME OUT AND SAID IT, HEY

I WANT TO HELP YOUR KID THRU SCHOOL
POSITIVE, EVEN IF UNCOOL
THE BOREDOM AND THE DRUDGERY
THE LAUGHS, THE HUMANITY
THE GIFTS EACH BREATH
TOUGHNESS KINDNESS
AND WITH OUR STRENGTH
THE SHOOTING STAR OF ANOTHER LIFE, WE GET
TO SEND...

THIS WORLD FEELS HEAVY ON OUR SHOULDERS [BRIDGE]
LIKE THIS BILLION-DOLLAR SUPERCOMPUTER SITTING UP THERE
SO SCARY SOMETIMES HOW THE WORLD IS MOVIN
BUT I SAY TO YOU
IT'S STILL PRETTY SPECIAL BEING HUMAN

I WANT YOUR BABY
I WANT YOUR BABY
I WANT YOUR BABY
I CAME OUT AND SAID IT, HEY

I WANT YOUR BABY

This time, he gets her to
harmonize a little.

RUBY
I don't think you want this baby.

SCOTT
If, it is a baby. I do.

RUBY
I think you want to optimize sexual
opportunity, but be a romantic nice guy, and
please women.

SCOTT
A man can be attracted to women, one woman, and
not cross the line - physically or emotionally.

RUBY
Oh. Like your man Officer Javier.

SCOTT
Senior Officer Gibbons is not my man. And I am
married.

RUBY
So? Alpha cops think they're rock stars.

SCOTT

My wife and I are trying. She has not conceived. ...These things don't mean I want to make love to you.

RUBY

You don't?

SCOTT

I do not apologize for wanting you. I do not apologize for wanting to encourage women to have their babies. And I do not apologize for having a good feeling about holding your kid!

RUBY

(Emotional) ...You prick.

SCOTT

Even if my wife and I get pregnant - if *she* gets pregnant - and has our child... I promise you, if you cannot care for this baby... **I will.**

A beat.

RUBY

...[You say that, and I guess you're feeling it... But...] The Louisiana Fried Chicken looks good, but I'm getting a craving for that Exotic Thai.

SCOTT

You got it. (Steps up.)

RUBY

The golden egg noodles combo please.

SCOTT

Comin' up. (Starts toward food place.) You're not gonna run off on me?

RUBY

I'm in your custody.

SCOTT

Not quite hardly.

SCENE 4

INT - FOOD COURT AT REST STOP - CONTINUED

He steps to food stand... Intro to ballad, including Food Court Ballet...

RUBY

"LIFE DEATH LOVE"

LIFE, DEATH
DEATH, LIFE
LOVE, ANGER, BOREDOM
LOVE WITHHELD, LIFE GIVEN
MAYBE SOME
KIND OF LOVE
ROLLS ON
BEYOND
LIFE, DEATH, LOVE

LIFE IS LIFE AND DEATH, OUR FRIENDS
MAY BE, THE CLOSEST WE
GET, TO UN-CONDITIONAL LOVE

YOU ARE YOU, IS THERE SUCH A THING AS WE?
YOU TELL ME, OUR BOUNDARY
ISN'T REAL, BUT STILL, RESPECT IT, LOVE

LIFE, DEATH
DEATH, LIFE
LOVE, ANGER, BOREDOM
LOVE WITHHELD, LIFE GIVEN
MAYBE SOME
KIND OF LOVE
ROLLS ON
BEYOND
LIFE, DEATH, LOVE

SEX
MONEY
COMMITMENT
PLAIN OL KINDNESS
YOU CLAIM, TO PROVIDE, AND TRANSCEND...
LAUGHTER
AND CARING
ARE YOU TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?
YOU MEET PEOPLE'S WILL TO POWER
WITH COMMON SENSE
SOME KIND OF TRUST... IN COSMIC JUSTICE

[BRIDGE]

LIFE, DEATH
DEATH, LIFE
LOVE, ANGER, BOREDOM
LOVE WITHHELD, LIFE GIVEN
MAYBE SOME
KIND OF LOVE
ROLLS ON
BEYOND
LIFE, DEATH, LOVE
AND STUFF...

As Scott returns with food during song, he joins her in harmony, and one or two modern dance sections. They return to seats.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Could you do me a favor... and... give my tummy a listen?

He does, gingerly, with hand, then ear. She lets him.

SCOTT

I, don't really hear anything.

RUBY

Oh.

SCOTT

But... This is weird, um... When I'm near a woman who's pregnant... I get this dizzy mellow feeling. Colleagues, social settings... I have *never* been wrong.

RUBY

I can believe that.

SCOTT

And...

RUBY

Yup.

He holds her hand.

SCOTT

...We should go back to the substation, & tie this up.

RUBY

Great.

SCOTT

Let's step out thru the parking area on the way. I need some fresh air.

RUBY

Yes, your honor. (Looks thru a window as they step.) Oh, you guys got my car here!

SCOTT

Yep. ...After you.

They step offstage. Brief sound of
PLASTIC BREAKING, offstage.

TRANSITION TO:

SCENE 5

INT - STATE POLICE SUBSTATION

As Ruby & Scott enter.

JAVIER

I've secured the arrest warrant, and I've teed
up a new & improved ultrasound test, just to
make sure we are not violating anybody's civil
rights.

SCOTT

That won't be necessary.

JAVIER

Oh really? And why is that?

SCOTT

I've been with pregnant women, Javier-

JAVIER

Not that head-swimming hypnotic bullshit!
Please!

SCOTT

It never fails.

JAVIER

...Alright... That's why you brought her in,
Scott! Maybe you have this amazing sixth
sense!

SCOTT

I don't detect pregnancies on the highway.

JAVIER

Yes! I have re-set the ultrasound app, and I
want this woman to face Missouri justice!
That's *my* sixth sense!

Now mostly out of Ruby's earshot.

SCOTT

Like your side dish Emma, whom you banged,
prompting you to de-fang the test in the first
place!

JAVIER

Game on, choirboy!

SCOTT

Will your idol, Taliban Senator Robb Crawley,
pardon your statutory rape in Emma's case?!

JAVIER

Yes!

SCOTT

I doubt it.

JAVIER

...We need - to imprison and/or execute, women -
everyone - who murders babies in the womb.

Scott takes Javier further aside.

SCOTT

I... am the sinner, now. ...I truly do not
believe Ruby was pregnant. ...I lusted for her,
and I went into a zone, abused my position of
power, and-

JAVIER

You had her... today.

SCOTT

I wish, I could say, no.

JAVIER

I congratulate and castigate you.

SCOTT

I feel like crap.

JAVIER

It's alright. I wish you would not go to the
negative place with me. ...Scott, I am not one
to mess with a man's source of supply, as long
as you respect my boundaries, and refrain from
stabbing me in the back.

SCOTT

I was, caught up, and I regret it.

JAVIER

I accept your apology. I direct you to handle
this woman - as you see fit.

They move back toward Ruby.

SCOTT

Yes sir.

JAVIER

Officer Mack, you have dedicated taxpayers' precious resources to apprehending someone for seemingly no substantive reason, in a line of pursuit that has borne no fruit. I am in a position to ask you to answer-

SCOTT

Her taillight was broken.

RUBY

What?

JAVIER

Really? I didn't notice that when Nussy brought in that hunk o' junk.

Scott lifts a window blind, points outdoors. They look.

SCOTT

Looks busted to me, just like when this citizen caught my eye earlier today.

Ruby looks at Scott.

JAVIER

Hmm... Okay... (To Ruby.) You will be held accountable to the laws of the pro-life State of Missouri, and the higher law.

RUBY

Of the Bible, as it is written?

JAVIER

Yes ma'am.

RUBY

King James version, or the original Aramaic?

JAVIER

The King.

SCOTT

Let's go check out that taillight.

RUBY

(Breaking from the showdown.) Yes, officer.

Scott leads Ruby out.

SCENE 6

EXT - PARKING AREA OUTSIDE SUBSTATION

They step between their cars,
shown wi chairs & lighting.

RUBY
He thinks you fucked me.

SCOTT
When it was the other way around.

RUBY
You're funny. Uh, Scott...

SCOTT
Ruby?

RUBY
Why in fact did you pull me over?

SCOTT
You were going thirteen miles over the speed
limit.

RUBY
I was very stressed.

SCOTT
I forgot to log that, in all this confusion.

RUBY
My taillight-

SCOTT
I will take care of it.

RUBY
Thank you, Scott, but - I got it.

SCOTT
Let me know if I can help.

RUBY
I will.

SCOTT
Best of luck at the real estate workshop.

RUBY
Or pottery.

They hug. He steps away, turns and
tosses her the carkey. She steps
in. Next song, Ruby 1st verse,
Scott 2nd, they join 3rd.

RUBY (CONT'D)

"110/61/72"

IT BREAKS MY HEART TO LEAVE THE LAND I'VE CALLED MY HOME
 BUT THERE'S LIVED AN EVIL HERE FOR AS LONG AS I HAVE KNOWN
 TRICKY DICK'S SOUTHERN STRATEGY, LBJ'S VIETNAM
 REAGAN-BUSH MARTIAL LAW FROM THE WHIP TO GUIDED BOMBS
 YOU... ARE THE EXACT
 MORAL EQUIVALENT THIS DAY
 OF HIDEKI TOJO'S DECEMBER 7 IJA
 AND YOU'RE GONNA PAY

TO GET AWAY FROM THE SLAVERS CHASING YOU...
 DRIVIN STATE ROUTE 110
 CROSS THE AVENUE OF THE SAINTS
 AND JUST CONTINUE
 TO I 72 110, 61, 72

IT'S GETTING HARD TO FORESEE PEACE WITH HONOR
 THE LOGIC OF ONCE-KNOWN FREEDOMS CRUSHED IS CIVIL WAR
 YOU GROUP THE ORANGE WARLOCK WITH VLAD THE INVADER
 HERR MUSK AND MOSCOW MITCH THEIR IMPERIAL MATCHMAKERS
 THEY CANNOT KEEP YOU
 FROM YOUR REALITY WITHIN
 I WANT YOUR LIFE TO BE FREELY CHOSEN
 A CALLING

TO GET AWAY FROM THE VIOLENCE CHASING YOU...
 DRIVE ON STATE ROUTE 110
 CROSS THE AVENUE OF THE SAINTS
 AND JUST CONTINUE
 TO I 72 110, 61, 72

IT BREAKS MY HEART TO SEE U DRIFT AWAY IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR
 SO MANY THINGS PULLING US APART AND DRAWING US NEAR
 I WON'T ATTEMPT TO CHANGE YOU INTO SOMEONE YOU CAN'T BE
 I'LL TRY TO DO MY BEST FOR THE HUMAN IN FRONT OF ME
 YOU HAVE NOT TAUGHT ME
 HOW TO LOVE AND STILL
 SOMETHING LARGER THAN MY OWN WILL
 THE HIGHWAY WILL TELL

TO GET AWAY FROM THE EVIL CHASING YOU...
 DRIVE ON STATE ROUTE 110
 CROSS THE AVENUE OF THE SAINTS
 AND JUST CONTINUE
 TO I 72 110, 61, 72

110... 61... I-72

RUBY DRIVES OFF, SCOTT GOES IN...

THE END