

Untitled Mallusionist Comedy

by
Jase Ricci and Robbie Pickering

FADE IN:

A single RED BALL sails up into the air. It completes its upward arch and lands in the hand of...

INT. GLITTER MAGIC SHOP - DAY

KIP GLITTER (40). His stern face and flattop belie the colorful novelties that surround him in his magic store.

TITLE CARD: YUMA, ARIZONA 1974

KIP
To be a great magician you must
learn one thing...

Kip expertly rolls the ball between his fingers as he talks to a pudgy, awkward kid with glasses, BOBBY (9).

KIP (CONT'D)
... magic belongs to the fans.
Forget that, and you bring shame on
the long line of Glitter magicians
going back to your Great Grandfather
Gunther Gleeter.

With a sleight of hand, the ball DISAPPEARS.

BOBBY
Where's the ball, daddy?

KIP
Check your pants, Bobby Glitter.

Bobby digs into his pants and... comes out with the red ball.

KIP (CONT'D)
Now practice until your hands are
raw with the bittersweet chafe only
a true magician can know.
(re: the ball)
Uh, ya might wanna wash that first.

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL FIELD - ANOTHER DAY

Bobby's in the outfield as he practices with the red ball.

CRACK. A baseball flies right past him. The crowd BOOS.

KIP (O.S.)
That's it, Bobby. Make me proud!

INT. ROLLER RINK - ANOTHER DAY

TEENAGERS race around, laughing. Not Bobby (15); all his focus is on the red ball. A BULLY shoves him into the boards.

BULLY

Stop playing with your balls, retard!

Bobby ignores everyone's LAUGHTER and grips the ball tighter.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL SEX ED CLASS - ANOTHER DAY

A TEACHER stands next to an anatomically correct mannequin.

TEACHER

And that is how venereal diseases are-
- BOBBY GLITTER! Put that ball away!

ALL EYES on Bobby. He slaps the ball down and removes his hand. To his - and everyone else's surprise- THE BALL'S GONE.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Wh-- where did it go?

BOBBY

... check your pants?

The puzzled teacher pats her pants, pulls out THE BALL.

BULLY

... that was ... awesome.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Bobby hurls SEVERAL BALLS in the air, making them disappear and reappear to the amazement of several students.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A CROWD OF KIDS surround Bobby, in a flashy sequined shirt. He stands before a statue of the school's mascot: a PUMA.

Bobby drapes a curtain over the stone cat and YANKS it away... The STATUE'S GONE. The kids go nuts.

HOT GIRL

What other tricks do you know?

INT. GREMLIN - NIGHT

Bobby and the HOT GIRL make out.

HOT GIRL

Oh, Bobby Glitter, I'm ready to
take it to the next step.

BOBBY

You already have, baby.

PULL BACK to see the girl is NOW TOPLESS.

EXT. PACKED HOUSE PARTY - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

DRUNKEN KID

HEY! Here comes Bobby Glitter!

Bobby, in a more flamboyant outfit struts onto the lawn - a far cry from the pudgy, awkward kid we first met.

He drapes a HUGE multicolored sheet over a TRANS AM and YANKS the sheet away with some DANCE MOVES... THE CAR IS GONE.

As the CROWD CHEERS, he sloppily makes out with TWO HOT GIRLS at once when he notices - ACROSS THE STREET... A disappointed Kip watches. He shakes his head and walks away.

BOBBY

Daddy! C'mon. I'm just having fun!

CROWD

BOBBY! BOBBY! BOBBY!

FADE TO:

INT. THE MANDALAY THEATRE - LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

HUGE CROWD

BOBBY! BOBBY! BOBBY!

CLOSE on Bobby (20s), sweat dripping down his brow. Gaze upon his purple sequined unitard, reflecting every shaft of light in the room. Behold as he LEVITATES IN MIDAIR onstage.

TITLE CARD - LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 1992

The lights dim and Bobby puts a finger to his lips.

BOBBY

Sssssshhhhhhhh...

The crowd hushes as he drapes his VELVET CAPE over his head. Suddenly, the cape falls to the ground and Bobby has DISAPPEARED. Silence from the audience.

LONE AUDIENCE MEMBER
Where'd you go, Bobby Glitter?!

BOBBY (O.S.)
I'm right. Here.

Bobby appears at the back of the auditorium, arms crossed. The crowd GOES APESHIT as he dances down the aisle, fire and sparks emanating from his jazz hands.

He FLIPS onstage as a pyrotechnic explosion erupts and - POW!

INT. BACKSTAGE HALLWAY - LATER

FOUR NAKED BUSTY BLONDES giggle past a SECURITY GUARD toward a dressing room. A disgusted Kip walks behind the girls, but--

SECURITY GUARD
Sorry, Pops. Closed party.

KIP
But I'm Bobby Glitter's father dammit!

INT. BOBBY'S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bobby's in a hot tub with more naked girls in the center of the CROWDED, SMOKE-FILLED PARTY ROOM. Bobby's manager, BAXTER TAMBLYN (40s), enters and exhales in exasperation.

BOBBY
Baxter! You know what this hot tub needs? MORE COCAINE, BABY!!!

Bobby spits a mouthful of water at Baxter. The girls laugh.

BAXTER
C'mon Bobby, you already dumped four kilos in there. Tomorrow's your live TV special. Bobby Glitter's gonna fly! No wires this time!

BOBBY
Relax. I nailed it in rehearsal!

BAXTER
Yeah Bobby, and I usually keep my mouth shut, but can't you slow down and play it safe this time? For me?

BOBBY

Fuck safe. I'm a magician! I don't just live on the edge. I AM the edge.

BAXTER

If you say so, Bobby. By the way, your dad's trying to get back here.

BOBBY

Fuck him, too! WOOOOO!!! NOW WHO WANTS MORE COCAINE WATER!?

SETH DESSTINY (18) wears a Criss Angel-esque outfit: head-scarf under a backwards baseball cap, acid-wash jeans and black nail polish. A prim girl, PENNY (19), is behind him.

SETH DESSTINY

Mr. Glitter... Uh, Mr. Glitter?

BOBBY

BAXTER? Who the shit is talking to me?

SETH DESSTINY

Seth Desstiny. I've been your roadie for like six months.

BOBBY

Destiny?

SETH DESSTINY

Desssstiny. Two 'S's'.

BOBBY

Classy name. QUEER ALERT!

Everyone around Bobby CRACKS up and high-fives him.

SETH DESSTINY

Huh, that gets funnier every time. Anyway, m- my girl Penny flew in all the way from Nebraska to meet you--

BOBBY

Riddle me this, Penny: What's a comely swan like you doing wasting time with a roadie?

SETH DESSTINY

Uh, actually, I'm an illusionist. Like you. Or I'd like to be, anyway.

BOBBY

Not with your backwards ball cap and Jordache jeans you're not.

(MORE)

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 Where's your razzle? Your pizzazz?
 Your sequins?

SETH DESSTINY
 I'm kinda goin' for something
 darker and a little more...serious.

BOBBY
 Serious. Right. Hey, Bax! Didn't
 you say we had something that Sucks-
 Dickstany here needs to do?

BAXTER
 Oh, yeah, Seth. Come with me.

Seth and Penny follow Baxter. Bobby grabs Penny.

BOBBY
 Tell me, chiquitita: You ever Fiero'd?

PENNY
 "Fiero'd?"

EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

BOBBY
 FIERO!!!

Bobby drives a T-top '92 Fiero with Penny on his lap and the
 busty girls in the other seat. Onlookers point, CHEER WILDLY.

PENNY
 Vegas sure is different than Nebraska.

BOBBY
 You bet it is. Watch this: Starla,
 Becky, make your tongues disappear!

The girls in the other seat smile and MAKE OUT.

PENNY
 But... they're both... girls.

BOBBY
 Oh, I've got so much to teach you.

INT. BOBBY'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Gauche. Leopard-print carpet. A trained leopard on a leash.
 The circular bed is a hydra of NAKED BODIES wiggling and
 squirming. Bobby and Penny are on top of the sex-pile.

PENNY

Oh, Bobby. I think... I love you.

BOBBY

I think I love you too, baby. Uncle
Bobby's gonna do right by you.

CUT TO: A SHADY CORNER OF THE ROOM - Seth watches and bites
his clenched fist, eyes tearing up with anger.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

Seth stalks up to a SHADY DRUG DEALER.

SHADY DRUG DEALER

Bobby G. send you for the usual?

SETH DESSTINY

No. This time I think he wants
something a bit more... potent.

INT. DRUG DEALER'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The dealer dangles a tiny vial full of brown powder.

SHADY DRUG DEALER

Quan Tao Ping. Translation: Happy Tiger
No More. Grown by leper monks in the
holy soil of Namche Bazaar. Just a
fingernail-full and you'll be able to
smell time. Any more than that, and you
may never come down.

Seth smiles.

EXT. THE SANDS HOTEL AND CASINO - NIGHT

A HUGE CROWD has gathered around the hotel.

TV ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

For those just tuning in, magic
sensation Bobby Glitter will actually
fly from the roof of the Sands Hotel
to the roof of MGM Grand. This will
cement Glitter's place in the
pantheon of legendary magicians.

INT. THE SANDS - GREEN ROOM - DAY

BLECH! Bobby is a heaving mess. He pukes into a flower pot.

BOBBY
Forget it! I'll do it tomorrow!

BAXTER
Bobby, this is everything we've
worked for! WHERE'S THAT COFFEE?!

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Seth smiles as he dumps the ENTIRE VIAL into a mug of coffee.

INT. GREEN ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Seth hands the mug to Baxter, who makes Bobby swill it down.

BAXTER
There ya' go. Down the hatch!

Seth smiles to himself. Bobby stares-- maybe a little
suspicious-- but finishes the coffee.

EXT. THE SANDS - ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

TV ANNOUNCER
Ladies and gentlemen, BOBBY GLITTER!

Bobby stumbles on a rooftop stage, surrounded by an AUDIENCE.

BOBBY
Hey, hey! Y'all feelin' the Glitter?!

BOBBY'S POV - It's like we're looking at the audience through
a kaleidoscope... reflected into a carnival mirror.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
What the--

He looks down at his hands, noticing the same effect.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
W-- what's with my eyes?

The audience is baffled. A CUTE KID looks up to Bobby, but in
Bobby's eyes, the boy becomes a RACCOON.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
HOLY SHIT! A RACCOON!

STAGEHAND (O.S.)
Mr. Glitter? Is something wrong?

BOBBY
Yeah! This kid's a fuckin'--

A trembling, sweating Bobby turns to the Stagehand to see a-

BOBBY (CONT'D)
-- RACCOON!

His eyes dart around. All of the stage hands are raccoons.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
... s-stay back...

RACCOON STAGEHAND
(whispering to his pal)
What's wrong with him?

BOBBY
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, RACCOON?!

Bobby turns to the audience to see that they are all now WOODLAND CREATURE-HUMAN HYBRIDS.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Oh... my... god...

The Audience starts booing.

EXT. THE SANDS - BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Seth Desstiny smiles broadly. And removes his jacket.

BAXTER
What the hell are you doing?

SETH DESSTINY
Fulfilling my...desstiny.

EXT. THE SANDS - ROOFTOP - SAME

Bobby tears through his clothes as he watches the Stage Hands/Raccoons descend on him.

BOBBY
WE'VE ANGERED MOTHER NATURE! SHE'S
RAISED AN ARMY TO EXACT HER REVENGE!

He runs to one of the television cameras and screams into it.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN! THE BEASTS
ARE EVERYWHERE!

A half-naked Bobby grabs a fire extinguisher.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I MUST KILL THEIR LEADER!

He charges straight at the raccoon child when--

WHAM! He is clotheslined by Desstiny and sent to the ground. Seth bends down over a whimpering and confused Bobby.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
You! You did this to me!

SETH DESSTINY
Yes I did. Now sleeep, douchebag.
Your time is done...

He pinches Bobby's neck, knocking him out, turns to the crowd-

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)
Fear not! There will be magic
tonight! I. Am. Seth Dessstiny.

The audience OOO'S as Seth mugs to the camera. Bobby is hauled off by some stage hands as Seth steps over him.

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)
You came here to see a mortal fly.
Well, let's... FLY!

Seth steps off the rooftop into MIDAIR. The CROWD GOES NUTS.

EXT. THE SANDS - BACKSTAGE - SAME

BAXTER
Bastard stole Bobby's trick...

EXT. THE SANDS - ROOFTOP - SAME

Seth flies gracefully through the air. WE PULL BACK and the screen becomes glassy like we're watching this on TV...

INT. DOCTOR OFFICE - WAITING ROOM DAY - DAY

A TELEVISION mounted on the wall shows the FLYING BROADCAST.

TITLE CARD: ANGEL FIRE, NEW MEXICO PRESENT DAY

BOBBY (40's) - dirty, unshaven, wearing the THICKEST GLASSES this side of Mr. Magoo - watches in motionless disdain.

The OTHER PEOPLE in the waiting room stare at Bobby on T.V. then at the real-life Bobby. Bobby ignores their SNICKERS.

TV NARRATOR (ON TELEVISION)
That was Seth Desstiny's first
televised appearance ten years ago.
The career-defining moment was also
the beginning of the end for one-
time magic sensation Bobby Glitter.

ON T.V.-- Seth Desstiny today, (30's) super-trendy, goth, in all black. He stares wide-eyed, diabolically to the camera.

TV NARRATOR (CONT'D)
Desstiny's making headlines again
with his "Mallusionist's Challenge"
which offers aspiring conjurers a
\$100,000 prize and a chance to
square off against Desstiny himself--

NURSE (O.S.)
Glitter. Robert. You're up!

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

The OLD DOCTOR stares perplexed at Bobby in silence.

DOCTOR
How does a man contract syphilis
four times in one year?

BOBBY
It was a good year, Doc.

RING. Bobby shrugs and answers his ancient cell phone.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Glitter Management... Alright, calm
down. I'll be there in ten minutes.

The doctor hands Bobby a VD PAMPHLET on his way out.

DOCTOR
Wait! Please, just, read this! And
for god sake, until the sores go
away, NO MORE SEX. You'll only spread-

SLAM. Bobby's gone.

EXT. UPPER-CLASS SUBURBAN HOME- DAY

Bobby's beat-up Fiero SCREECHES up and Bobby jumps out. An uptight mom, MRS. HUNTER, (30's) waits for him-- arms folded.

MRS. HUNTER
 Mr. Glitter, the so-called
 'magician' we booked through your
 company is an absolute disaster.

BOBBY
 Relax, Mrs. Hunter, Miguel's just a
 little new to the profession.

INT. UPPER-CLASS HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The "magician" MIGUEL (107), stands before a GROUP OF DISGUSTED EIGHT-YEAR OLDS. He drunkenly holds up a quarter.

MIGUEL
 And now, Miguel (burp)... will make
 this...penny disappear.

KID
 That's a quarter, dumbass.

As the kids BOO, Bobby pulls Miguel aside.

BOBBY
 What's your problem, Miguel? You
 want that case of Schnapps or not?

MIGUEL
 Crap, Bobby. I'm sorry. Hey. Why
 don't you do a couple tricks?

BOBBY
 We've been through this: Bobby
 Glitter can't do magic anymore.

The bratty kid, SOREN, pipes up.

SOREN (O.S.)
 You suck dick, Miguel! Do some
 street magic like Seth Desstiny.

Bobby cringes at the words *SETH DESSTINY* and turns to Soren.

BOBBY
 So you like Seth Desstiny, huh?

SOREN
 At least he can make shit disappear.

BOBBY

Well, I specialize in making people disappear. Upstanding people. People like your mommy and daddy.

SOREN

My - my mom and dad?

BOBBY

Oh yes. And you know what happens to little boys whose mommy and daddy disappear, don't you? They go to a magical place called a foster home, where new mommies beat them with tube socks stuffed with maaagical gin bottles. Would you like to go there for your birthday?

SOREN

... n... no...please...

BOBBY

Then let's get something straight. Anything Miguel does is magnificent. If he takes a dump on your cake I wanna hear you cheer and ask for seconds. Got that?

Soren nods, terrified. Bobby scruffs his head.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby and Mrs. Hunter watch the party from the doorway...

MRS. HUNTER

I owe you an apology. I haven't seen little Soren like this in years. He's so happy he's crying!

THE LIVING ROOM - Soren CLAPS VIGOROUSLY with tears streaming down his cheeks as Miguel makes him a SHITTY BALLOON ANIMAL.

She hands a Bobby a check.

BOBBY

I'll see Miguel gets this.

MRS. HUNTER

Y'know, when I was younger, I was quite a fan of yours. Though I - don't remember the glasses.

Bobby hangs his head, putting on his best "sad" act.

BOBBY

That was before the... accident.
When I still had my depth perception
and could perform my magic.

She puts her hand tenderly on his. Bobby curls a smile.

INT. FOOD PANTRY - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby GRINDS Mrs. Hunter from behind, his glasses fogged up, her face smushed into a box of Fruit Roll-Ups.

MR. HUNTER (O.S.)
Where's my Birthday Boy?

The door opens to reveal the woman's husband, MR. HUNTER.

EXT. YARD - DAY

MRS. HUNTER
RUN BOBBY!

Mrs. Hunter holds her husband back as Bobby hurdles over Soren and opens the door to his car.

BOBBY
Happy Birthday, kid. Oh, and...

He hands the kid the VD PAMPHLET.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
...might wanna give this to Mommy.

EXT. EXTENDED STAY MOTEL - LATER

Bobby's Fiero screeches into an empty spot in front.

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - LATER

He opens the door and-- CRACK. A FIST whacks Bobby in the eye. It knocks his glasses off and sends him to the floor.

FLEANCE
(French accent)
Where eez our money, Bubby?!

A scrawny guy, FLEANCE, wearing designer jeans and a flowery, silk shirt stands over Bobby.

Bobby grabs his BROKEN glasses. Another skinny guy with a pony tail and Gucci sunglasses giggles. This is LANCOME.

BOBBY

Fleance, you dick! You broke my glasses!

THUD! Fleance KICKS Bobby with pointy alligator boots.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Okay. Here. Take this as my first installment.

Bobby hands Fleance Miguel's check.

FLEANCE

A hundred dollars? And who is zis *Miguel*!?

Fleance crumples the check and YANKS Bobby up by his collar.

FLEANCE (CONT'D)

No one takes advantage of Le Cirque du Sommeil and lives to tell zee tale.

BOBBY

I didn't take advantage of you guys!

FLEANCE

Tell us why you took all zat money from us and have yet to book our spectacle of acrobatic delight in a single venue in zee States?

BOBBY

You're called Cirque du Sommeil. You're not fooling anyone! You guys aren't even French. You're from Quebec.

LANCOME

(shrugs)

Quebec is fairly exotic.

FLEANCE

Never mind zis nonsense-speak! Where eez our money, Bubby?

BOBBY

I spent it. On administrative shit.

FLEANCE

Bubby, do you sink we are fools? If
le Petit Gerard does not get his
ninety-five thousand back in zree
days, we will make you... disappear.

BOBBY

Disappear. Clever.

LANCOME

We sought of it while we were waiting.
(as he's walking out)
Mais oui, I almost forgot. You
received a call while you were out.

BOBBY

You answered my phone?!

LANCOME

It was a girl. From your dark past.

Lancome hands Bobby the note, but Bobby reaches "past" it.

LANCOME (CONT'D)

Alors! You really do have no depth
perception! Fleance, regard!

Lancome dangles the note in front of Bobby.

BOBBY

Ha. Ha. Just gimme the damn note?

Lancome finally takes pity on him and shoves it in his hand.

LANCOME

She did not give her name. She said
only zat you had... 'Fiero'd' before.

BOBBY

... Fiero'd?

Bobby stares at the slip of paper: 85 GILMORE STREET.

EXT. 85 GILMORE STREET - DAY

Bobby lights a menthol. We see that 85 Gilmore is a Hospital.

SECURITY GUARD

Sir, this is a non-smoking building.

BOBBY

Since when?

SECURITY GUARD
It's a *hospital*, sir.

A curly-haired PUDGY BOY (9) in a tight T-shirt and glasses plays with G.I.JOE FIGURES in the ash-tray sand. This kid's at the bottom of the dork food-chain... the porker who used to pull down his pants to pee in a urinal. You knew him once.

He MUMBLES and makes explosion sounds with his mouth.

PUDGY KID
Knowing is half the battle, Snow
Job. Let's find Cobra Commander...

Bobby stares in disgust as the tubby wonder digs into his fanny pack and pulls out two UNWRAPPED DONUT HOLES.

PUDGY KID (CONT'D)
Would you like a donut hole?

Bobby SLAPS them from the kid's hand and goes in the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - INFORMATION DESK - DAY

Bobby ambles up to a NURSE sitting at the desk.

BOBBY
'Scuse me...my name is Bobby--

NURSE
Oh yes, Mr. Glitter. Penny's been waiting for you. Room 309.

INT. ROOM 309 - MOMENTS LATER

Penny rises as Bobby enters. She's gaunt but still beautiful.

PENNY
B...Bobby?

BOBBY
Peggy?

PENNY
Penny.

BOBBY
Of course. You look beautiful.

PENNY
I'm sorry Bobby, but we don't have
much time.
(MORE)

PENNY (CONT'D)

I asked you here because I've got
some bad news.

(tearing up)

I've been infected with
macroglossia entritis, and it's
spread to my brain.

BOBBY

Wh - what's that?

PENNY

It's a rare virus. It causes an
internal rash, and in some cases...
it's fatal.

BOBBY

It causes an internal rash?

PENNY

Yes. Like hives.

BOBBY

In your brain?

PENNY

Uh-huh.

BOBBY

So - you have brain hives?

At the mention of it, Penny starts crying. Bobby runs a
consoling hand through her hair, then YANKS IT away.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Wait. Are brain hives contagious?

PENNY

No! (sniffle) Now listen, remember
you said you'd always be there for
me...well-- I really need you now.

Bobby puts a dirty finger over her lips-- hushing her.

BOBBY

Save your strength. Uncle Bobby
always keeps his word.

Bobby starts climbing on top of her.

PENNY

Wh - what are you doing?!

BOBBY

You wanna stand? Fine, but watch
all these tubes and gear.

PENNY

Christ, I don't want to screw you!

BOBBY

But, isn't that why you called me
here? For the Glitter send-off?

PENNY

I called you because we have a son!

Bobby jumps off her like she's radioactive.

BOBBY

I get it. You lure me down here
with the promise of sex--

PENNY

Who said anything about sex!? I'm
going into surgery and my odds
aren't good. There's a good chance
our son won't have a mom soon.

BOBBY

Well-- I've been hearing great things
about the foster care system.

PENNY

He's your child, Bobby! Doesn't
that mean anything to you?!

(off Bobby's shrug)

Fine. But you have to look that
sweet little kid in the eye and
tell him you don't want to take
care of him. Or are you too weak
for that?

BOBBY

Okay, okay! Just - where is he?

PENNY

Didn't you see him? I told him to
wait for you down at the lobby.

And then Bobby slowly realizes... and is horrified.

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

The pudgy wonder. Still playing in the ashtray. Still
mumbling to himself. Still wets the bed.

Bobby approaches as if he was a zoologist studying a new species of venomous snake.

BOBBY
Um... are you... St - Stevie?

STEVIE
Yes. You talked to Mommy? She said I was going to stay with you for a while, Daddy. Can I call you *Daddy*?

Bobby cringes at the word *Daddy*. This can't be happening.

BOBBY
Say Stevie - whaddya say we sit down and rap for a sec?

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby gets a pack of Twinkies out of the vending machine, brings it over to Stevie, who's sitting on a bench.

BOBBY
Want a Twinkie?

STEVIE
Oh no, Daddy. Twinkies contain cornstarch, and cornstarch is only for birthday parties and Halloween.

~Bobby looks at Stevie and crams a twinkie into his mouth.

BOBBY
Right. About this 'daddy' thing. See, most mommies and daddies stay together. But me and your mommy were different. We fell in love 10 years ago at a magical party called an 'orgy.' We loved each other so much that we made a little boy - you, Stevie.

STEVIE
Then what happened, Daddy?

BOBBY
Well, it's a long story, and it gets a little hazy in some parts. But it ends with daddy owing a bunch of Canadian aerialists 95,000 dollars.

STEVIE
What's a Canadian arrowlist, Daddy?

BOBBY

They're clowns who act like bookies.

STEVIE

What's a bookie?

BOBBY

It's like a boogie man for adults.
And that's why living with me right
now would be a real catastrofuck.

Silence. Stevie breaks out into a wide smile.

STEVIE

Mommy said you'd try to trick me.

BOBBY

No - I'm being serious, kid.

STEVIE

Sure, daddy, the *bookie man's* going
to get me. Right, Daddy?

BOBBY

Quit calling me - Look, I can't
deal with this right now. Good luck
and all that crap, but I gotta run.

Bobby gets up and makes it all the way to the door, but--

BURLY SECURITY GUARD (O.S.)

Excuse me, sir!

Bobby spins around to see a BURLY SECURITY GUARD.

BURLY SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

You can't leave your child unattended.

BOBBY

He's not my kid.

STEVIE

Yes I am, Daddy.

BOBBY

Okay. I'm technically responsible for
his birth. But he belongs to his Mom.
She's upstairs. With brain hives.

SECURITY GUARD

I suggest you take him there, then.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby rushes toward Penny's room with Stevie in tow.

NURSE

Excuse me. If you're looking for Penny, she's being prepped for surgery now.

BOBBY

Damnit! Already? Well, what am I supposed to do with-- Okay, look, I'll just leave the kid here.

Bobby hustles away from Stevie and toward the elevator.

NURSE

I'm sorry. The kid? MR. GLITTER?!!!

As Bobby gets to the elevator, its doors open. The Burly Guard steps off and glares at the unattended Stevie.

BOBBY

Shit.

INT. HOSPITAL PAYPHONE - NIGHT

Bobby is on the phone. Stevie (out of earshot) is playing with GI Joe's and eating donut holes by the vending machines.

BOBBY

Baxter, you gotta help me get rid of this kid!

INT. GLITTER MANAGEMENT'S SHITTY OFFICE - INTERCUT

BAXTER TAMBLYN - balder, fatter, than when we first met him - sits at his pressboard desk.

BAXTER

Calm down, Bobby. I just got a complaint from the Hunter's. They say you tried to pass off some wino as a magician. I mean - what happened to scouting us some new talent?

BOBBY

I can't scout anything with this kid up my ass! WHAT THE HELL AM I GONNA DO WITH HIM?!

Bobby looks down the hall. The GUARD is eyeing him intently.

BAXTER

I dunno, call the Department of Social Services. They take needy kids. I think they even pay you.

BOBBY

Huh. No shit?

INT. BOBBY'S FIERO - DAY

Bobby drives and tries to ignore Stevie.

STEVIE

Where're we going, daddy?

BOBBY

A magical, fun place called the DSS.

STEVIE

Ooh, okay. That sounds wondrous.
(looking around)

Daddy... do you see my Destro anywhere? I dropped him--

BOBBY

Kid, I don't even know what the fuck a *Destro* is. And can we please cut the *Daddy* shit?

STEVIE

Destro's an independent weapons dealer for the terrorist organization Cobra. Sworn enemies of GI Joe: Real American Hero.

Silence.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

I also like Oprah. Do you like Oprah?

BOBBY

Jesus.

STEVIE

She's a philanthropist.

BOBBY

Who- Wha- I mean, are you a fucking joke? Who the hell are you?

STEVIE

Wanna hear my all-time top three Oprah moments?

(MORE)

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Number three: Oprah sets her best friend Gayle up on a blind date with... Tom Selleck! Two: Oprah kisses Elmo and my all-time number one Oprah moment...

Stevie points as he relives Oprah's Pontiac giveaway.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
You get a car! You get a car! You get a car! You get a car!

INT. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES - DAY

Bobby sits with Stevie at the desk of **ANGLEY**, (45) fat, humorless social worker.

BOBBY
Look, I can see you're busy, so lemme just toss out a number. I was thinking... forty-five thousand?

Bobby coolly leans back in his seat. Stevie does the same.

ANGLEY
Stevie, why don't you go to the play area? There's Ho-Ho's back there too if you want a snack.

STEVIE
Ho-Ho's contain cornstarch and cornstarch is only for--

BOBBY
Damnit, Stevie! Just go.

Stevie waddles to the PLAY AREA where OTHER KIDS play.

ANGLEY
Mr. Glitter - I get delusional jerks like you coming in all the time. And every time I have to repeat - the Department of Social Services is not in the business of buying or selling children.

BOBBY
You're a shrewd operator, Mrs. Langley. Forty-one, five.

ANGLEY
I'm calling the police!

BOBBY

Okay, Jesus. Just take the kid, okay?
Just-- do you at least validate?

ANGLEY

Mr. Glitter, if you really believe
you're an unfit parent--

BOBBY

You want unfit? I haven't spoken to
my own father in ten years. And might
I also add that I have syphilis.

ANGLEY

(suppressing disgust)

Very well. It'll take us two
business days to process the
paperwork, at which point an agent--

BOBBY

Wait, so I'm stuck with the
mongoloid for two more days?

ANGLEY

Unless we see that you pose an
immediate threat to your child--
under which case you'd have to be
taken under police custody-- you're
going to have to wait until the
paperwork has been filed.

(beat)

It's two days. How bad can it be?

EXT. PANDA EXPRESS - PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

The Fiero pulls into an open spot.

STEVIE (O.S.)

...and that's why Cinnabuns are one
of Oprah's favorite things!

INT. BOBBY'S FIERO - CONTINUOUS

Bobby slams his head against the steering wheel.

STEVIE

Wanna hear what Gayle's doing for
spring break?

BOBBY

NO!

Stevie's eyes drift to the RED BALL hanging from the rearview.

STEVIE

Daddy, there's a red ball hanging
from the mirror.

BOBBY

Really?

STEVIE

Is it a special ball?

BOBBY

Yes.

STEVIE

Ooooh... can I bounce it?

BOBBY

Fine! But only if you shut up for
thirty seconds - that's all I ask.

STEVIE

Okay. Thirty. Go.

Stevie reaches up and starts playing with the ball. Then--

STEVIE (CONT'D)

Uh-oh, Daddy. I think I lost count.

And with that, Bobby exits the car and SLAMS the door.

INT. PANDA EXPRESS - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby's in line. Stevie catches up to him.

STEVIE

Thirty, Daddy. You forgot to wait
for me.

The SERVER stares at Stevie-- waiting to take his order.

BOBBY

You gonna tell her what you want?

STEVIE

I - I don't think I like this place.

BOBBY

It's Panda Express! Nobody likes
this place! Fuck - okay... fine.
Then what do you like?

INT. DUNKIN' DONUTS - MOMENTS LATER

A FAT SERVER stands behind the counter.

FAT SERVER
Welcome to Dunkin' Donuts, may I
take your order.

Stevie. Silent. Scared.

STEVIE
...can you order for me Daddy? I'm
not good in pressure situations.

BOBBY
You're not good in - Alright. Fuck.
Fine. How about a... cruller?

STEVIE
Do crullers have corn starch?

BOBBY
(to the Server)
You know what? Just give us a
dozen donut holes.

INT. DUNKIN DONUTS - TABLE - MOMENTS LATER

Stevie intently studies his donut holes.

STEVIE
I found a donut crumb that looks
like Storm Shadow, Daddy.

Bobby stares at his son in disbelief. Stevie's smile fades.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Uh oh...

BOBBY
What now?

STEVIE
I have to make.

BOBBY
Make what?

STEVIE
...a nuglet.

BOBBY

The fuck's a *nuglet*? A shit? You gotta take a shit? So do it. What do you want from me?

INT. DUNKIN DONUTS - FILTHY BATHROOM - SECONDS LATER

Stevie steps in and Bobby closes the door behind him.

STEVIE (INSIDE THE BATHROOM)
Make sure no one comes in and looks
at my dangle. Okay Daddy?

Bobby makes sure the coast is clear. Then quickly FLEES.

STEVIE (INSIDE THE BATHROOM) (CONT'D)
Okay? ... daddy...?

INT. FIERO - TRAVELLING - SAME

SCRREECH! Bobby rockets down the street in his Fiero. He catches his eyes in the rearview and there's a hint of guilt. He shrugs it off, but does double-take as he notices:

THE BALL'S NOT HANGING FROM HIS MIRROR.

INT. DUNKIN DONUTS - COUNTER - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby storms in and walks to the counter.

BOBBY
Hey, listen, that kid I was here
with... Did you see where went?

Bobby turns to see an angry MANAGER, arms crossed.

INT. DUNKIN DONUTS - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Stevie keeps his back to Bobby in the doorway.

STEVIE
The Donut Man said you left me.

BOBBY
Left you? No. Now come on, give me
the ball and let's get out of here.

Bobby reaches for it, but the kid yanks it away.

STEVIE

No. You'll leave me again.

BOBBY

Stevie, quit dicking around--

He snags the kid's clenched, chubby hand.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Open your hand, Stevie! Now!

Stevie slowly opens his hand... THE BALL HAS DISAPPEARED.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Stevie. Where's my ball?

STEVIE

I dunno....

BOBBY

Where is it Stevie?!

STEVIE

Ch- check your pants?

Bobby slowly digs in his pants and pulls out... THE BALL.

BOBBY

How. The. Hell. Did. You. Do. That?

STEVIE

I - I learned it.

BOBBY

Who taught it to you?

STEVIE

Y - you did, Daddy. On the video.

BOBBY

What video?

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Stevie pulls a dusty BETAMAX TAPE from his backpack: *BOBBY GLITTER-THE GLITTER MAN COMETH - GREATEST TRICKS 1984-1990*.

BOBBY

Where'd you get this?

STEVIE

Mommy's closet. She said I can't learn anymore tricks.

BOBBY

Wait, you're telling me you learned that ball trick just by watching this tape? Impossible, that's one of the hardest misdirection tricks there is.

STEVIE

Mister Lection? Who's Mr. Lection?

BOBBY

Misdirection. When you make someone look the other while you do a trick.

STEVIE

Like when I hid the ball from you.

BOBBY

Exactly. What other tricks do you know?

STEVIE

Some.

BOBBY

How many?

STEVIE

All of them.

BOBBY

Right. What about the one where I make the Trans-Am disappear?

STEVIE

That one's easy, Daddy.

BOBBY

Easy?! David Copperfield couldn't figure it out! How'd I do it?

STEVIE

Magic mans don't tell their secrets.

BOBBY

Goddammit-- I invented that trick!

STEVIE

Oh, would you do it, Daddy? I've always wanted to see you do a magic!

BOBBY

Tough shit. I don't do magic anymore.

(beat)

(MORE)

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Say Stevie, didn't you say Oprah
was on right now?

STEVIE
Tonight's an "On the Road With Oprah"
episode. She's going to feed puffins!

BOBBY
Wow, that sounds terrific. How
about you tell me about the Trans
Am trick, and we'll watch it
together? Like father and son.

STEVIE
Oh Daddy, that would be wondrous!

BOBBY
It would. But you have to tell me
the secret first.

Stevie thinks. Then leans in to Bobby's ear and whispers.
Bobby's eyes light up as if he's just seen the face of God.

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Bobby sits on the couch next to Stevie, both of them
illuminated by the television. Bobby is on the phone.

BAXTER'S ANSWERING MACHINE
This is Glitter Management LLC.
Leave a message at the beep. BEEP!

BOBBY
Bax, you cocksucker, clear our
schedule tomorrow. We're back!

He hangs up and puts his arm around Stevie as Oprah drones on
in the background.

STEVIE
Did I do good, Daddy?

BOBBY
Oh yeah, Stevie. Real good.

INT. GLITTER MANAGEMENT'S SHITTY OFFICE - INTERCUT

Baxter's at his desk, across from Stevie and Bobby. He's not
amused by the heavily-breathing piggy boy staring at him.

BOBBY
Ready to be amazed, Baxter?

Bobby puts the RED BALL in Stevie's hand.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Annnnnnnnd...go!

Bobby reaches for the ball, but this time, Stevie doesn't make it disappear. Bobby swipes it clean out of his hand.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
C'mon, Stevie. Show Uncle Baxter what you can do.
(hands the ball back)
Annnnnnnnd....WALA!!!

Bobby grabs it again. Stevie just sits there. Baxter sighs.

BAXTER
Stevie, why don't you wait outside while me and Daddy talk?

INT. BAXTER'S SHITTY WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Stevie sits down on a dirty chair. He pulls Destro and Snow Job out of his pockets and starts MUMBLING to them.

BAXTER (O.S.)
What the fuck's the matter with you?

INT. SHITTY OFFICE - SAME

BOBBY
That kid figured out every one of my tricks just by watching my greatest hits tape when he was six! Now, I know he's got some kind of people problem, but I could work with him.

BAXTER
Work with Miss Piggy? For what?

Bobby pulls a clipping out of his pocket and lays it on the desk: SETH DESSTINY CHALLENGE AT THE MGM GRANDE IN LAS VEGAS.

BAXTER (CONT'D)
Jesus. Desstiny again? C'mon, we all know - the guy humiliated you.

BOBBY
HUMILIATED ME?! That shit he put in my coffee fucked my eyesight!

BAXTER

I know, I know - and 'cause of that
you can't do magic anymore. Butcha
gotta let it go already! Move on.

BOBBY

Just hear me out-- I'll call in some
favors and get the kid a couple of
practice gigs on the way to Vegas.
All I need is cash to get there.

BAXTER

Do you have any idea the kinda talent
that competes at these things?!

Baxter tosses MAGIC WORLD MAGAZINE on the desk. On the cover:
a PORTLY MAGICIAN with a goatee and pointed eyebrows.

BAXTER (CONT'D)

That's Dante Inferno. Five time
mallusionist champion. He's what you
should be bringing me. Not some...
sausage-y... pre-teen Rain Man.

BOBBY

You're making a huge mistake, Bax.
We could be up to our necks in
cocaine-water again. Whaddya say?

BAXTER

You're fired.

BOBBY

Fi--?! You can't fire me. That's
my name up on the wall there!

BAXTER

Yeah... and it's my company.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT BAXTER'S SHITTY OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby huffs across the street and drags Stevie behind him.

STEVIE

Did mister cocksucker give you the
money, Daddy?

Bobby stops when he sees: A BEAT-UP '89 CHEVY BERETTA. He
reaches under the car. Groping for... THE MAGNETIC KEY.

BOBBY

Old, predictable Baxter.

EXT. SEEDY PART OF TOWN - DAY

Bobby and a group of STREET KIDS stand next to Baxter's car.

STREET KID #1
I dunno, we can give you two-fifty
for it.

BOBBY
Sold!

INT. BOBBY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Bobby hastily packs his suitcase. Stevie sits on the bed

STEVIE
Why are we packing, Daddy?

BOBBY
We're going to Las Vegas.

EXT. BOBBY'S DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby crams his ratty suitcase into the back of the Fiero.

STEVIE
What's in Las Vegas, Daddy?

BOBBY
A big magic contest.

STEVIE
Are you going to do magics, Daddy?
I always wanted to see that.

BOBBY
Even better. You're gonna do magic.

STEVIE
But, I don't wanna do magics.

BOBBY
"Don't wanna do magics?" You're a
Glitter fer chrissakes! I'd hate to
think what your great grandfather
Gunther Gleeter would say.

STEVIE
He did magics too?

BOBBY

Sure. All the Glitter men are
magicians. Me. Your grandfather--

STEVIE

I have a grandpappy and he does
magics? Where's he from? Fresno?

BOBBY

What? No, he lives in Arizona--
Look, let's not talk about my dad.

STEVIE

Why?

BOBBY

Because I don't ever talk about my
dad. Let's talk about Vegas.

STEVIE

...but if we go, we'll miss Oprah.

BOBBY

We won't miss Oprah. In fact--
Oprah'll be there. She's presenting
the grand prize to the winner.

STEVIE

Oprah! How wondrous! But wait...
Won't Mommy be mad if I do magics?

BOBBY

I wasn't gonna tell you this, but
Mommy told me her deepest wish would
be to see you do - magics - on
television. She said that she'd be
so proud that it might be her only
chance of beating those brain hives.

STEVIE

So if I don't do magics, Mommy
might... die?

BOBBY

Looks that way. But no pressure. If
you don't wanna do this, fuck it.
We'll go get some donut holes.

Bobby walks away when--

STEVIE

WAIT!

INT. HOSPITAL RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

Penny's in bed with a bandaged head. She slowly awakens.

PENNY
Whe-- Where's Stevie?

NURSE
Shh. Relax. He's safe with his Dad.

EXT. OPEN HIGHWAY - DAY

From high above, we see the Fiero speed down the empty road.

STEVIE (O.S.)
Mommy says if you don't buckle your seatbelt, you'll become a statistic.

INT. FIERO - SAME

Bobby smokes a menthol with closed windows.

BOBBY
Here's a statistic for you: Seatbelts are for fags. A seatbelt is a *restriction*. If you're gonna be a magician, you have to live on the edge. You have to feel free inside and out at all times. You've gotta grab life by the balls and squeeze the baby batter out of them. Trust me on this one, okay?

STEVIE
...Okay Daddy. I'll live on the edge.

Stevie nervously takes off his seatbelt.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
I feel scared, Daddy.

BOBBY
No you don't, stupid. You feel free. Now, let me hear you say it.

STEVIE
Say what?

BOBBY
I'm free! C'mon-- say it.

STEVIE
...I'm free.

BOBBY
SAY IT WITH BALLS. C'MON! I'M FREE!

Bobby pumps his fist in Stevie's laughing face.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I'M FREE!!! WOOOO!!!

STEVIE
I'm free! YAAAAAY!!! I'M FREE!!!!
(beat)
Daddy, there's a truck coming.

BOBBY
Don't sweat it. It's at least half a mile away.

BLEEEEEEPP! The horn JOLTS Bobby, who realizes the TRUCK IS MUCH CLOSER THAN HE THOUGHT.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
OH, SHIT!

He SLAMS the brakes. Stevie's head CRACKS against the dash.

STEVIE
AAAHOW!!!

Bobby gains control of the car. He turns to a reeling Stevie.

BOBBY
Crap, kid. Are you alright?! I'm sorry - it's my goddamn eyes!

Stevie takes his head out of his hands, looks up. Smiling.

STEVIE
Let's do it again, Daddy.

INT. BIG RED'S NIGHT CLUB - EVENING

Sleazy joint. An old rotary phone RINGS. The owner, BIG RED (60's female), yellow teeth and a CANCER COUGH answers it.

RED
Big Red's.

INT. REST STOP - EVENING - INTERCUT

Bobby's squeezed into a tiny phone booth. Stevie reads BROCHURES from a tourist stand in the background.

BOBBY

Red, you old cuntbag.

RED

Bobby Glitter. What's it been? Five years? Where the hell's my money?

BOBBY

I see you haven't lost your sense of humor. You still doing magic Sundays?

RED

Oh, no. Last time I let you pay me back by doing a show, you gave two of my waitresses gonorrhea.

BOBBY

Don't worry. I don't do magic anymore, but I'm managing this kid. He's gonna be the best.

A wary Red chain lights a cigarette.

RED

Awright. But if he sucks, I'm taking one a' your fingers.

BOBBY

There's that Big Red humor again.

INT. REST STOP - CONTINUOUS

Bobby hops out of the booth and rubs his hands together.

BOBBY

Good news, kid. We got you your first gig. Now let's find a motel.

STEVIE

Can we stay here, Daddy?

Stevie hands him one a brochure. Bobby looks at it.

BOBBY

You gotta be shitting me.

EXT. DINOMOTOR INN - NIGHT

Each bank of rooms is a different dilapidated STUCCO DINOSAUR.

BOBBY
You sure this is what you want?

Stevie's hypnotized. He can barely utter the word:

STEVIE
... stegosaurus...

INT. DINOMOTOR INN - OFFICE - NIGHT

A CLERK dressed in a cheesy Triceratops costume takes Bobby's cash and hands him a BRONTOSAURUS key. Stevie nudges Bobby.

BOBBY
Actually, can we... get a room in
the...Stegosaurus building? Please?

CLERK
Dude. They're all the same inside.

EXT. STEGOSAURUS BUILDING - NIGHT

Bobby lugs their bags as Stevie skips merrily behind him

INT. STEGOSAURUS SUITE

Stevie is already on the television, searching for Oprah.

STEVIE
I've never watched Oprah in a
Stegosaurus before, Daddy.

Bobby shuts off the TV.

BOBBY
We have a show tomorrow, Stevie.
That means you've gotta get used to
performing in front of real, live
people. And that's a shitload more
important than watching Oprah. Got
it? Good. Now let's get set up.

STEVIE
Set up for what?

BOBBY
Your people practice.

EXT. DINOMOTOR INN - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby pokes his head out of the room to see a short ECUADORIAN MAID in a T-Rex costume wheeling down the hall.

BOBBY
Pssst! Hey! Taco-saurus!

INT. STEGOSAURUS SUITE

The Maid sits in a chair while Bobby plays announcer.

BOBBY
And now, for your viewing pleasure,
the one, the only: STEVIE GLITTER!

The door slowly opens. Stevie nervously shuffles out wearing sequined pants. He stares at the floor, holding the red ball.

STEVIE
... rubber ball... red...
it...it...I cannot do this Daddy.

And Stevie runs back into the bathroom, SLAMS the door shut.

MAID
Que?

Bobby runs to the bathroom and ENTERS.

INT. BATHROOM - SECONDS LATER

BOBBY
What the hell's wrong with you?!

STEVIE
She's judging me.

BOBBY
Judging you?! She doesn't fucking understand English!

STEVIE
She's judging me in Spanish.

BOBBY
Look-- I used to get stage fright too. Then my dad taught me a trick.

STEVIE
Pappy taught you magics? That must've been wondrous!

BOBBY

Yeah. The fuck's with all this wondrous shit? What kind of nine year old says wondrous?

(before Stevie can answer)

Lemme guess: Oprah.

STEVIE

How'd you know?

BOBBY

Look, my dad taught me that when you get nervous onstage, you have to imagine you're someone else. When I was offstage, I was boring, old Bobby Glitter. But when I was out there doing magic, I became...

(jazz hands)

BOBBY GLITTER!

STEVIE

Ooh. Can I be Destro?

BOBBY

You can be whoever the fuck you want. That's the point.

STEVIE

But Destro wouldn't wear this.

BOBBY

Sure he would. They're his... leisure clothes.

STEVIE

Destro doesn't wear lesion clothes. Destro has a very specific uniform. How can I be Destro without the uniform, Daddy? How?

BOBBY

ALRIGHT! JESUS! I GOT IT!

INT. WAL-MART - HALLOWEEN SECTION - NIGHT

Bobby sifts through a mountain of costumes, exhausted.

STEVIE (O.S.)

I FOUND DESTRO!!!

Bobby looks up and Stevie emerges from under another huge pile of costumes with a Destro mask and outfit in his hands.

BOBBY

Magnificent. Let's get the fuck
outta here.

STEVIE

But Daddy. What about Storm Shadow?

BOBBY

Fuck him.

STEVIE

But Daddy - Destro never goes on a
mission without Storm Shadow.
They're partners.

Bobby stares at the kid and rolls his eyes.

INT. STEGOSAURUS SUITE - LATER

The Maid and the Indian Clerk are seated.

BOBBY (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, introducing
the spectacular... Stevie Glitter!

Stevie waddles out in a TIGHT VINYL DESTRO COSTUME that hugs
his fat folds. He wears his glasses over his mask.

STEVIE

...hi... this... is... a... this.

Stevie's eyes nervously dart across the room to reveal -

BOBBY - who's in an even tighter STORM SHADOW costume.

BOBBY

(mouthing)

You can do it, Stevie.

CLERK

I don't have time for this shit.

STEVIE

Wait! Wh - what's your name, sir?

CLERK

I'm just the desk clerk, okay?

STEVIE

Okay, Clark. M-- may I borrow your
watch, Clark?

The clerk grudgingly takes off his SEIKO WATCH. Stevie takes the watch and puts a HANDKERCHIEF on top of it.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
Clark, put your hand on top of my hand and let's count to three.

The clerk grudgingly puts his hand on top of Stevie's.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
One... Two... Three.

Stevie yanks the sheet away... but the WATCH IS STILL THERE.

CLERK
Jeez. Thank you for wasting my time. You've just made my life that much more miserable.

The clerk grabs his watch and starts to leave the room. Bobby motions for Stevie to 'keep going'... but he's frozen.

BOBBY
Hey! You sure that's your watch?

CLERK
Of course, I'm--

The clerk looks down to see he's holding a LADY'S WATCH.

CLERK (CONT'D)
What the-- whose watch is this?!

MAID
¡Ése es el mío!

The clerk and maid see that their watches have been SWITCHED.

CLERK
Wow! Kid, that was incredible!

They APPLAUD wildly and Bobby smiles ear to ear.

BOBBY
Now, for Stevie's next trick...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STEGOSAURUS SUITE - NIGHT

Bobby sits in bed studying a roadmap. He rolls the RED BALL in his fingers. He yells to Stevie who's in the bathroom.

BOBBY

After tomorrow night, we got five more joints to iron out the kinks before the regional qualifiers!

He makes the ball disappear in his hand, then reappear. His cell phone rings. Without looking at it, he answers.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

This is Bobby.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - INTERCUT

A groggy and recovering Penny is laid up in bed on the phone.

PENNY

Bobby? It's me.

Bobby perks up and makes sure Stevie can't hear him.

BOBBY

H-- hey. How are you?

PENNY

Not feeling too hot, but the surgery went well. When can you bring Stevie by the hospital?

BOBBY

Bring him by? Oh gosh. I'm not gonna be able to do that.

PENNY

Why not?

BOBBY

Um, because we're... at camp.
Yeah. We're at a camp.

PENNY

Camp? Stevie hates the outdoors.

BOBBY

Yeah, well... it's a...

Bobby looks at the TV where *Star Trek* is playing silently.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

...space camp.

PENNY

Space camp? Where?

BOBBY

In... Ohio?

PENNY

You're at space camp in Ohio?
Bobby, what is going on?

Stevie pops out of the restroom. Bobby jumps at the sight of the ungodly HEADGEAR fastened around his head.

BOBBY

Um... what was that? I can't hear
you. We're in the... anti-
gravity... thing, right now.

Bobby changes the channel to static and CRANKS UP THE VOLUME.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

DON'T WORRY! WE'LL CALL YOU LATER!

PENNY

Wait-- Bobby!

And CLICK. He hangs up. Penny looks at the phone, perplexed.

INT. MOTEL BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

BOBBY

The fuck is on your head?!

STEVIE

Ish my headgear. I wear it
Tueshdaysh and Thurshday nightsh.
Who wasch that on the phone?

BOBBY

Your mom.

STEVIE

MOMMY?! Ish she okay?!

BOBBY

Guess that depends on how we do at
the contest. Now, let's get some
shut eye. Big day tomorrow.

Stevie lays down on his makeshift floor-bed.

STEVIE

Are you going to tuck me in, Daddy?

BOBBY

Listen, I may be your Dad, but I
don't do the gay shit. Capeche?

STEVIE

Doesh that mean you're not going to
give me eshkimo kisses?

BOBBY

I'm not going to dignify that with
an answer.

Stevie fluffs his pillow. Bobby looks down at him.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I've got something for you. Catch.

Bobby tosses a videotape and hits Stevie smack in the face.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Sorry. Depth perception.

Stevie rubs his head and reads the tape's label: *Oprah 10/7.*

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I had that clerk tape it for you.

Stevie's eyes well with tears as he hugs the tape close.
Bobby TURNS OFF the light.

BOBBY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Goodnight Destro.

Stevie chuckles in the dark.

STEVIE (O.S.)

Goodnight Shtorm Shadow.

FADE TO:

EXT. BIG RED'S NIGHT CLUB - DUSK

The neon lights of this strip-mall club buzz in the cold air.

INT. BIG RED'S NIGHT CLUB - DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Stevie, wearing his Destro costume, stares in the mirror.

STEVIE

You're going to be out there,
right, Daddy?

BOBBY
Of course. Oh, and I should
probably mention... This is a
special kind of magic club.

INT. BIG RED'S NIGHT CLUB - BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

BOOBIES. A SPOTLIGHT shines on a FAT STRIPPER dancing.

Stevie stares at her with wide eyes. Bobby, in his Storm Shadow costume, is behind him.

STEVIE
That magician's twillies are showing!

RED (O.S.)
Let's hear it for Lady Nadine!

Red hops on stage as the stripper grabs her tips.

RED (CONT'D)
Now, as part of a tradition at Big
Red's, Sunday night is magic night!

There's a collective GROAN from the audience.

BOBBY
Knock 'em on their ass, kid.

Stevie smiles and pulls his mask down over his face.

INT. BIG RED'S NIGHT CLUB - MAIN STAGE - SAME

Bobby runs into the audience and stands at the bar. The BARTENDER has a bandaged hand.

BOBBY
What's with your hand, Clyde?

BARTENDER
Red's lost it. She got pissed at me
last week and hacked my finger clean
off. I thought she was just joking.
Worst mistake of my life.

Bobby's smile fades.

RED
Here he is: LITTLE STEVIE GLITTER!

Stevie waddles onstage as CHUCKLES slip from the audience.

HECKLER #1

Holy shit! That kid's got the
biggest rack I've seen all night!

STEVIE'S POV as he sees Bobby at the bar, giving him a thumbs up. Stevie nervously holds the red ball up to the audience.

STEVIE

This-- this is a ball.

HECKLER #2 (O.S.)

No shit, ya eat beast!

SCHILUCK! The spotlight shines on Stevie. HE CAN'T SEE BOBBY.

STEVIE

Uh... ball... it's a round... I...

Stevie DROPS THE BALL ON THE GROUND.

HECKLER #3

Show those tits or get off stage!

MORE LAUGHTER. Bobby feels Red's cold glare upon him.

STEVIE

Daddy... DADDY?! I can't see you!

BOBBY

Damnit, Stevie, I'm right here!

Someone throws a beer can on stage. Others do the same.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Turn off that damn spotlight!

Bobby jumps on stage as the JEERS continue.

INT. BIG RED'S NIGHT CLUB - BACKSTAGE

Bobby nervously shells out cash, putting it in Red's palm.

RED

And fifty more for stage damages.

BOBBY

Is that... it?

RED

No.

Bobby nervously closes his eyes.

RED (CONT'D)
 I also got some advice for you. Quit
 retard wrangling, get your eyes fixed
 and go back to work for yourself.

Bobby breathes a sigh of relief.

BOBBY
 Y'know - for a second, I thought you
 were really going to take my finger.

Bobby's chuckles subside when he sees that Red isn't smiling.

CUT TO:

EXT. BIG RED'S NIGHT - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

BOBBY
 MOTHERFUCKER!

Bobby, with a bloody, bandaged hand, storms out with Stevie.

STEVIE
 Are you okay, Daddy?

BOBBY
 THE FUCK DO YOU THINK?! THAT BITCH
 HACKED OFF THE TOP OF MY PINKIE!

STEVIE
 Where are we going?

BOBBY
 Home!

STEVIE
 What about the magic contest? What
 about meeting Oprah?

BOBBY
 WHAT ABOUT ME, HUH? LOOK AT ME!
 I'M A FUCKING FREAK!

STEVIE
 I - I'm sorry, Daddy. I'll give you
 my pinkie.

Bobby collects himself.

BOBBY
 Look, kid. This was all a mistake.
 This whole goddamn trip.

STEVIE

But I thought maybe... maybe we
could be partners someday, Daddy.

Bobby walks away.

BOBBY (O.S.)

MOTHERF--

INT. STEGOSAURUS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby opens the door to find a fat guy wearing eyeliner and pleather pants, lounging on the bed. This is--

BOBBY

Le Petit Gerard.

Lancome and Fleance close the door behind Bobby and Stevie.

LE PETITE GERARD

*Bon soir, Ro-bear, locating you has
been... tres difficile.*

THUD! Lancome CRACKS Bobby in the stomach.

SHLICK! Fleance draws a switchblade pokes it in Bobby's face.

LANCOME

Ziss is zee end of zee line, Bubby!

STEVIE

Daddy!

BOBBY

It's okay, Stevie. These are...
magician friends of mine. We're
just practicing a magic trick.

(to Gerard)

Can't we do this without the kid?

Gerard stares at the kid, and then nods to Fleance.

INT. STEGOSAURUS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

A nervous Stevie sits. Sounds of a BEATING in the background.

INT. STEGOSAURUS HOTEL ROOM - SAME

A bloodied and bruised Bobby is slumped against the wall.

BOBBY

Look guys, you really think doing
this is gonna get your money back?

LE PETITE GERARD

Sweet Bubby, this is no longer
about zee money.

Lancome pulls out a PISTOL. KNOCK. KNOCK.

He hides his gun as Stevie OPENS THE DOOR and waddles in...

STEVIE

I - I left my Snow Job in my bag.

BOBBY

Jesus, Stevie! Get out of here!

STEVIE

Are you guys still doing magics?

LANCOME

(chuckling)

Oui. We are performing *magics*.

STEVIE

Wanna see a trick... Mister?

BOBBY

Just get out of here, Stevie--

LE PETITE GERARD

Let zee child do his trick.

Stevie nervously smiles and fans a deck of cards.

STEVIE

Pick any card.

Lancome picks a SIX OF HEARTS.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

Now. I'm gonna - I'm gonna mix up
all the cards and find your card.

Stevie reshuffles, then pulls out... A JOKER.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

Is this your card, Mister?

FLEANCE

Monsieur Bubby, your child is an
even bigger imbecile zan you are.

STEVIE
I did it, Daddy. It worked.

LANCOME
Nothing worked! Zat was zee worst
card trick I've ever seen.

STEVIE
But... it wasn't a card trick.

LANCOME
No, mon enfant? Zen, what was it?

STEVIE
A Mister Lection.

Everyone's jaw drops when they see... STEVIE GLITTER WIELD
LANCOME'S PISTOL.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
RUN DADDY!!!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! Stevie SCREAMS as he waves the gun and
FIRES. A STRAY BULLET plugs Gerard in the foot.

LE PETITE GERARD
AAAHHOW! MON ORTEIL GRANDE!

Bobby grabs Stevie and sprints out the door.

EXT. STEGOSAURUS BUILDING - PARKING LOT - SECONDS LATER

Bobby and Stevie race to the Fiero. Bobby sees a Taurus with
a Canadian license plate: MAGIQUE!. He grabs the gun and
SHOOTS at the TIRES, but HITS the trunk.

BOBBY
STEVIE - HELP ME AIM THIS THING!

Stevie grabs Bobby's hand and aims the gun at the back tire.

STEVIE
NOW, DADDY!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! Bobby and Stevie obliterate the back tire.

INT. FIERO - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby floors the Fiero down the highway.

BOBBY
HOT SHIT, KID! THAT WAS AWESOME!

STEVIE

Are we still going home?

BOBBY

Shit no! You're a natural.

STEVIE

But what about what you said--

BOBBY

Look, I was just frustrated. We still got a lotta work to do before qualifiers, but I think I can teach you by then...

STEVIE

Teach me what, Daddy?

Bobby grins as ROCK MUSIC fades up on the soundtrack and we--

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO STORE - DAY

Bobby struts down the aisle, his arms filled with titles like "FLASHDANCE," "DIRTY DANCING" and "FOOTLOOSE"

Another tape catches his eye: "SPACE CAMP."

INT. MOTEL 6 ROOM - DAY

ON TV: "FOOTLOOSE" - Bacon is going balls-out in the warehouse.

BOBBY

There's more to being a magician than sleight of hand.

With tongue hanging out, Stevie's in front of the TV trying-- and failing-- to mimic the dance moves from FOOTLOOSE.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

A magician is a showman first. And showmanship is the art of seduction.

STEVIE

(panting)

What's...seduction...Daddy?

BOBBY

First and foremost, it is a dance.

INT. SLEAZY BIKER BAR - NIGHT

Stevie's onstage in front of a sparse audience. He awkwardly does high-kicking dance moves as a dove flies from his hand.

BOBBY (O.S. FROM AUDIENCE)
Now, jazz hands! That's it!

INT. SUPER EIGHT MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby sits on the bed feeding the dove perched in his hand.

BOBBY
In order to beat Seth Desstiny, you have to dress like you can beat Seth Desstiny. Now money's tight, so we're going to have to be creative.

INT. LAUNDROMAT - DAY

Bobby and Stevie walk down the row of LAUNDROMAT PATRONS, slyly snagging clothes from their baskets unnoticed.

MOMENTS LATER: They exit with a pile of clothes when--

OLD LADY (O.S.)
HEY! COME BACK WITH MY UNDERTHINGS!

Bobby and Stevie make a break for it.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Penny, looking much better, is on her feet. She's on the phone, and it's ringing on the other end. No answer...

INT. MOTEL 6 ROOM- SAME

Bobby ignores his ringing cell phone and continues to put rhinestones on a jacket with a bedazzling gun.

Stevie works out to FLASHDANCE, in parachute pants.

INT. OLD GYM - DAY

Stevie hits a HEAVY BAG with everything he's got. A picture of Seth Desstiny is taped to the bag.

BOBBY

You don't think Desstiny wants this
as much as you do!?! THINK AGAIN!

INT. REC ROOM - NIGHT

POW! A smoke bomb explodes. Stevie prances through the smoke in a GARISH RHINESTONE-COVERED COSTUME, the room full of people wearing dark glasses.

BOBBY

YOU'RE KILLIN' UP THERE, BOY!!!

Stevie nervously smiles as we reveal the sign behind him--
'LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOME FOR THE BLIND'

INT. FIERO - DAY

Bobby ties a bungee cord around the roof of the car.

BOBBY

There's not much time before
regionals, so these next few
lessons are going to be quick.

EXT. FIERO - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby drives the car slowly down the empty road in the rain.

BOBBY

AGILITY IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL
TOOLS IN THE MAGICIAN'S ARSENAL!

TRACK UP to see Stevie nervously standing on the roof of the car, holding onto the cord, trying to keep his balance.

STEVIE

Are y- you sure this is s- safe?

BOBBY

You think Seth Desstiny gives a
crap if you're safe or not?!

SCREECH! The Fiero accelerates out of frame.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A NURSE hands Penny a stack of mail. In the stack is a "postcard" for SPACE CAMP-- clearly cut from the video box.

Penny stares at it curiously as she flips it over. On the back it reads: "Wish you were here. Love, Bobby and Stevie."

INT. DAYS INN MOTEL ROOM - DAY

BOBBY (V.O.)

Remember, kid. You always have to be able to clear your mind. Block out every distraction.

Stevie CLOSES HIS EYES and matches his yelps to the television, where Michael Jackson's 'Captain EO' plays.

STEVIE

OW! OW! OW! OW!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

A BANNER reads: "DESSTINY MALLUSIONIST COMPETITION QUALIFIERS"

Stevie TWIRLS on stage in his costume. His hair is done up in a pompadour. An EXPLOSION rains PLAYING CARDS down on him. He catches one and turns it to a JUDGE on the panel.

STEVIE

Was this your card... Ma'am?

A kid in a top hat, ANOTHER CONTESTANT, knows it's over and throws his cane to the floor. The CROWD ERUPTS.

BOBBY

Oh yeah. He's ready for Vegas.

INT. SETH DESSTINY'S CANDLE-COVERED LIVING SPACE - DAY

Seth Desstiny sits in front of his plasma-screen T.V. watching a news report on Stevie with contempt.

ANCHORWOMAN (ON TELEVISION)
His name's Stevie Glitter, son of 80s
magic phenom, Bobby Glitter. Little
Stevie may not be the most polished
magician-- but he's comin' Vegas!

An androgynous acupuncturist, SHIDESHI, twists needles in Seth's temple.

SETH DESSTINY

...and so, Shideshi, the son has
risen from the ashes of the father.

INT. BAR - LATER

Stevie and Bobby sit at the bar. Bobby pounds a beer.

BOBBY

Congratulations, kid. You really rocked the cock back there.

(to Bartender)

Hey, Chuckles! Two beers.

The FAT FEMALE BARTENDER looks at Bobby like he's crazy.

STEVIE

LOOK! That's me rocking the cock!

A TV on the wall shows Stevie doing magic at the qualifier. One of the bar patrons turns up the volume as the bar hushes.

ANCHORWOMAN (ON TELEVISION)

...Stevie will compete with the big boys at the Seth Desstiny Challenge. It'll be an uphill battle for New Mexico's littlest wizard.

The bar patrons CHEER for the kid as Bobby hoists him up.

STEVIE

This is the happiest day of my life!

CLINK. The bartender puts TWO BEERS down in front of them.

BARTENDER

One beer never hurt anyone.

Stevie takes a swig of his beer. The patrons CHEER AGAIN.

BOBBY

Say, Stevie. Have you ever... Fiero'd?

INT. FIERO - NIGHT

Journey's "ANY WAY YOU WANT IT" BLASTS from the Fiero.

A drunk Bobby and Stevie and a COUPLE GIRLS FROM THE BAR sing along as they speed down the street.

BOBBY

This ain't just a song, kid! You beat Seth Desstiny in Vegas and anything you want is yours!

STEVIE

I WANT GI JOES!

BOBBY
YOU'LL GET ALL THE GI JOES YOU WANT!

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Bobby and Stevie sprint out of a convenience store. A CLERK chases them with a shotgun. Bobby pulls a stolen SIX PACK from under his shirt and Stevie pulls a FORTY from under his.

STEVIE
I WANT DONUT HOLES!

BOBBY
YOU GOT IT!

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL POOL - NIGHT

Bobby, Stevie and the girls swim in a pool and chug beer.

STEVIE
I WANNA MAKE NUGGETS IN THE WATER!

BOBBY
JUST LET ME HOP OUT FIRST!

CUT TO:

EXT. SEEDY ALLEY - NIGHT

Stevie and Bobby, huddled in a crowd watching a COCK FIGHT.

STEVIE
I WANNA GO TO OPRAH-LAND!

BOBBY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUCK THAT IS,
BUT I'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

Stevie crams donut holes into his mouth as he and his dad CHEER FOR THE WINNING ROOSTER.

STEVIE
DADDY! THE CIRCUS IS COMING! YAY!

BOBBY
WOOOOOOO! THE CIRCUS!!!
(beat)
Wait. The circus?

RED AND BLUE LIGHTS FLASH FROM THE STREET.

COCKMASTER (O.S.)
Vamonos!

The crowd disperses as COPS storm the alley.

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

A BURLY SHERRIFF slams a cell door on Bobby and Stevie.

SHERIFF
Public intoxication, endangering a minor, badgering the elderly, illegal gambling and impersonating a tollbooth operator. You're in a world of trouble, Bobby Glitter.

The Sheriff leans into the bars, and speaks in a low tone.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
But look, the boys at the station caught your kid's act. He's not bad. We don't wanna leave an-- emerging talent-- like him in the clink.

BOBBY
Thanks--

SHERIFF
Don't thank me yet, cochese. The kid's fine, but your eyes are more fucked than Dakota Fanning in Bangkok. I can't letcha drive outta here without some heavy-duty corrective lenses. So I'm afraid we're gonna hafta impound that pretty lil car of yours.

BOBBY
Not the Fiero!

SHERIFF
There anyone that you can call to come getcha?

Bobby hangs his head.

BOBBY

Nope. Nobody.

SHERIFF

Sure? No one around here you know?

BOBBY

I said no.

SHERIFF

Have it your way. But unless you get someone to come quick, you're gonna have to stay till we can get you a court date-- which'll take at least a week. So... get comfy.

The Sheriff walks away. Stevie stares at Bobby.

BOBBY

What?

STEVIE

If we stay, we'll miss the contest.

BOBBY

Yeah, I know.

Stevie still stares. Bobby sighs.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Goddammit.

INT. YUMA HEIGHTS NURSING HOME - ALL-PURPOSE ROOM - DAY

A GROUP OF SENIORS sit in a semi-circle and stare sullenly at KIP GLITTER (60's), grayer and paunchier. He makes a balloon animal to the groove of 'My Beautiful Balloon.'

KIP

Wa-lah! A giraffe!

He gives it to an almost-dead OLD WOMAN in an oxygen mask.

KIP (CONT'D)

Here you are, young lady.

Her eyes and mouth open wide and Kip smiles back at her.

NURSE

Sir, you're on her oxygen.

Kip looks down to see he's stepping on her oxygen tube. He moves his foot and the lady's sullen expression returns.

Kip answers his ringing cell phone.

KIP
The Astounding Kip Glitter.

INTERCUT THE CONVERSATION - Bobby's on the jail pay phone.

BOBBY
H-hey, Kip. It's... Bobby.

KIP
Bobby? Goodbye.

BOBBY
Don't hang up! I need help.

KIP
Tough.

BOBBY
It's not just me... it's your
grandson, too.

Momentary silence. Kip considers.

INT. KIP'S FORD TEMPO - TRAVELING

Kip drives, Stevie's next to him, and Bobby's in back. You can cut the tension with a knife.

KIP
So. Stevie...you do magic, do you?

BOBBY
Yeah, you should see him--

KIP
I was talking to the boy.

STEVIE
I rock the cock with Daddy. We're
going to the Seth Desstiny challenge.

Kip catches Bobby's eyes in the rearview.

KIP
Seth Desstiny, huh?

Bobby looks away. Kip notices Stevie's seatbelt is off.

KIP (CONT'D)
Don't forget to buckle your belt.

STEVIE

A seatbelt is a restriction. And
real magicians have to feel free
inside and out at all times.

KIP

That's the dumbest thing I've ever
heard.

INT. GLITTER MAGIC SHOP - LATER

The store is a dilapidated shell of what it used to be.

STEVIE

Can I use your restroom?

KIP

In the back, kiddo.

Stevie runs to the back. Bobby enters, lugging their bags.

KIP (CONT'D)

You can stay for one night, Bobby.
And only because of the kid.

Kip walks away, leaving Bobby alone in the doorway.

EXT. GLITTER MAGIC SHOP - DAY/NIGHT

The desert sun sets as night descends on the barren town.

STEVIE (V.O.)

Daddy, can I ask you a question?

INT. REAR APARTMENT - BOBBY'S OLD BEDROOM - NIGHT

Stevie's in one of the twin beds in his PJ's and headgear.

STEVIE

Do you think we'll ever hate each
other like you and pappy do?

BOBBY

It's not like I hate pappy. It's
just, y'know... people grow apart.

STEVIE

I jusht wanchoo to know that we're
not gonna grow apart. We might even
be partnersh one day, right?

BOBBY
Whatever you say. Get some sleep.
(re: Stevie's headgear)
Oh, wait. You're loose here.

Bobby tightens one of the headgear's wingnuts.

STEVIE
Thanksh, daddy.

INT. REAR APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kip falls asleep in his LaZ Boy. Bobby slips into the room...

BOBBY
Look. I know you went outta your way, and I hate asking for more--

KIP
Then don't.

BOBBY
It's just...the kid. He's the best I've ever seen. I need the car to get him to Vegas. I got a real shot at beating Desstiny.

Kip doesn't answer, just ignores him. Bobby turns away.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Well, good night, then. Kip.

CUT TO:

INT. BOBBY'S OLD BEDROOM - DAY

Bobby wakes up to see that the bed next to him is empty.

INT. GLITTER MAGIC SHOP - STORAGE GARAGE - DAY

Bobby searches through the wall-to-wall novelties.

BOBBY
Stevie?

STEVIE (O.S.)
Over here!

Stevie, wearing a SWAMI TURBAN, pops up from inside a van. The side of the van reads, "KIP GLITTER'S MAGIC BUS."

STEVIE (CONT'D)
This is wondrous. What is it?

BOBBY
Your Grandpa's magic van. For when
we used to go on the road.

Stevie hops out and points to a freestanding brick wall.

STEVIE
How about that?

BOBBY
That was a great trick that your
Grandpa and I used to do together.

INT. GLITTER MAGIC SHOP - SAME

Kip's stocking shelves but stops when he hears...

BOBBY (O.S.)
We made it look like he could walk
straight through a brick wall. We
were a great team.

Kip grins just a bit.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - SAME

STEVIE
Woah. What is that?

Stevie's gaze is drawn to a MASSIVE GUILLOTINE.

BOBBY
"King Louie's Revenge." It's another
two-person trick. Great Grandpa
Gleeter used to do it. They say it
was the best magical feat ever.

STEVIE
Can we do that trick together, Daddy?

BOBBY
You kidding? With my eyes like they
are, I'd get killed. Besides, it
broke a long time ago and nobody
knows how to fix it.

KIP (O.S.)
Bobby, I need your help out here.

Bobby turns to see Kip holding a couple of boxes.

INT. GLITTER MAGIC SHOP - DAY

Bobby stocks malt liquor into a cooler along the wall.

BOBBY

When did you get into the liquor business? And why'd you stop selling the novelty costumes and tricks?

KIP

'Cause showmanship is dead. People want bullshit street magic now. All you need for that is black nail polish and eyeliner. Fortunately, malt liquor and porn are recession-proof.

THE OTHER END OF THE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Kip hands porn DVD's to Bobby, who files them along the wall.

KIP

So, what's your angle with the kid?

Bobby looks up, offended.

BOBBY

No angle.

KIP

C'mon Bobby... the kid doesn't stand a chance in Vegas. Those guys'll chew him up and spit 'im out.

BOBBY

I have faith in my son, Kip. Not that you'd know anything about that.

KIP

If I wasn't helpin' you, you'd still be in jail right now.

BOBBY

You think bailing me out makes up for the last ten years?

KIP

What? You think I left you? Well, I think you're just too ashamed to admit you forgot the number one rule about magic-- it isn't about you, it's about the audience. And you can blame me for that, or Seth Desstiny. You can even blame your own eyes. But nothing's gonna change the fact that you blew it.

Bobby is silent. He knows it's true.

KIP (CONT'D)

Do whatcha want with yourself, but that kid trusts you. Break that trust and you'll regret it for the rest of your life. I know. I already lost a son.

Bobby looks at the ground, ashamed.

INT. BOBBY'S OLD BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Stevie intently scribbles SOMETHING on a sheet of paper. Bobby grabs his suitcase.

BOBBY

Come on, kid. Time to go.

INT./EXT. GLITTER MAGIC SHOP - APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby opens the door, drags Stevie out, still scribbling.

KIP (O.S.)

Bobby, wait!

Kip walks out and throws him some keys. Bobby catches them.

KIP (CONT'D)

It's a long way to Vegas.

Bobby throws the keys back.

BOBBY

No thanks. I don't need your help.

KIP

You may be pissed at me, Bobby - but don't take it out on the boy.

Bobby purses his lips, looks to Stevie.

EXT. GLITTER MAGIC SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby starts the car as Kip hugs Stevie outside.

STEVIE

Are you coming with us, Pappy?

KIP

Believe me, son, there's nothing I'd like to do more, but Bobby hasn't wanted me around for ten years, and I don't think he'd appreciate me tagging along now.

STEVIE

But you're not going to see *him*, Pappy. You're going to see me.

Kip scruffs Stevie's hair.

KIP

We'll see, okay?

STEVIE

Oh. Here, Pappy. I almost forgot...

Stevie hands Kip the SHEET OF PAPER that he was drawing on.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

I thought up how to fix your magical gi-la-team.

Kip looks up, amazed as Stevie hops in the car.

FADE TO:

EXT. DESERT ROAD - NIGHT

Slowly the familiar VEGAS SKYLINE grows from the horizon.

INT. KIP'S CAR - SAME

Bobby drives down the glowing strip. Stevie has his face pressed to the window glass.

INT. MGM GRAND - CONVENTION ROOM - NIGHT

Stevie's jaw drops when he sees... A SEA OF MAGICIANS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE. Bobby leads him to a registration desk, when a SHORT MAGICIAN approaches.

SHORT MAGICIAN

Holy shit! You're Bobby Glitter! I
saw you on T.V. when I was a kid.
You were awesome!

BOBBY

Yeah. Thanks very much.

SHORT MAGICIAN

That freakout you had in front of
everybody was hilarious!

Bobby looks down, embarrassed.

ANOTHER PERSON IN THE CROWD (O.S.)

OH MY GOD, IT'S HIM! IT'S DANTE!

A bloated man in a black-sequined shirt swaggers in. His
eyebrows are shaped into points. This is DANTE INFERNO.

STEVIE

Who... who's that?

SHORT MAGICIAN

Dante Inferno. Five-time mallusion
circuit champion. Legend has it
that he lived with a band of
Latvian gypsies only to rob them of
their black arts.

Stevie eyes Inferno and THE OLD LADY who follows him.

BOBBY

What's with the fossil?

SHORT MAGICIAN

That's Nana, his grandmother. She
does his every bidding.

Inferno stops when he sees Stevie.

INFERNO

You're going to trip in if you don't
lace your shoes properly, child.

STEVIE

But, my shoes are laced--

Stevie looks at his Kangaroos- HIS LACES ARE GONE.

INFERNO

Are they?

Stevie looks back up to see Inferno DANGLING THE LACES in his terrified face. Inferno chuckles and moves on.

INT. MGM GRAND - BALLROOM - LATER

MAGICIANS mingle amongst the hors d'oeuvres and open bar. Stevie crams his mouth with free shrimp.

BOBBY
Ease up on the shrimp, chief.
You're gonna get lockjaw.

SETH DESSTINY (BOOMING OVER THE P.A.)
FELLOW MALLUSIONISTS, I'M SETH
DESSTINY. WELCOME... TO MY FANTASY!

A CHORUS SINGS as Seth, in a BLUE ORB, descends to the floor.

BOBBY
You gotta be shittin' me.

Seth HIGH KICKS and the orb disappears. The CHORUS is replaced with GUITAR RIFFS as Seth levitates onto the stage.

SETH DESSTINY
Congratulations to all of you. To
the one of you I shall face in
battle, I wish you... good luck!

Seth SNAPS his fingers and is ENGULFED by A WALL OF FLAMES. The crowd's in awe, save Bobby. He turns to a nervous Stevie.

BOBBY
Wait here-- I gotta pinch a squirt.

INT. RESTROOM - SAME

Bobby's alone at the urinal, whistling while he pisses.

SETH DESSTINY (O.S.)
Greetings, Bobby.

He turns to see Seth, sidling up to the urinal beside him.

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)
I'm happy to see you can still
urinate without your glasses. I can
call a custodian to help you aim if
you'd like.

BOBBY

I'll manage. Great stunt out there.
Here's a trick for you: Why don't
you conjure yourself a breath mint?

SETH DESSTINY

Dear, Bobby. Haven't you heard? I run
the show now. I sell out the Bellagio.
I have the El Pollo Loco endorsement.

BOBBY

Whoopdie-shit.

SETH DESSTINY

And what have you been up to lately?
Spreading syphilis among the
housewives of suburbia?

(off Bobby's surprise)

Oh Bobby, you know there are no
secrets in the magic community.

INT. MGM GRAND - CONVENTION ROOM - SAME

INFERNO (O.S.)

Ahh, shrimp. Magicians of the sea.

Stevie turns to find Inferno and his Nana behind him.

INFERNO (CONT'D)

Well, well-- Little Steven Glitter.
We saw some of his impish devilry
on the Youtube. Didn't we, Nana?

Nana nods coldly. Inferno drinks in Stevie's fear.

INFERNO (CONT'D)

Your feeble attempts at *fata morgana*
may wow the rubes in Provo, but trust
me, they will fail here. By the limbs
of Osmodeus, they will fail.

Stevie's hands go limp and he drops his shrimp plate.

INT. RESTROOM - SAME

SETH DESSTINY

This contest is for the world's most
dangerous and revered malusionists.
There's no place for your jazz hands
and sequins here.

BOBBY

You're not worried, are you, Seth?

SETH DESSTINY

It's sad, really. You're too afraid to exact revenge yourself, so you hide behind that mongoloid kid of yours.

Bobby grabs Seth and pins him against the wall.

BOBBY

Contest or no contest, another word about Stevie and I'll break you in half.

CREAK. The door opens. The Short Magician walks in to see them against the wall, dicks hanging out of their pants.

SHORT MAGICIAN

Ummmm...I'll just come back later.

EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP

Time lapse - the sun sets over the strip, then morning and...

EXT. MGM GRAND - AFTERNOON

CROWDS file inside. A huge sign announces Desstiny's contest.

INT. MGM GRAND - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

FULL CAPACITY. ROCK MUSIC blasts as MULTI-COLORED SPOTLIGHTS wave around this THEATER-IN-THE-ROUND STYLE AUDITORIUM.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, before you stand twenty-four of the world's greatest mallusionists, all competing for the honor of facing the Master of Mystique himself, Seth Desstiny!

Stevie nervously gazes around the circle at his competition.

- A BREAKDANCING MAGICIAN wearing a red leather jacket.
- A MIME MAGICIAN who smugly leans on an imaginary mantle.
- A KABUKI MAGICIAN in long flowing robes.
- DANTE INFERO stares through Stevie with bloodlust.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - LATER

Bobby touches up Stevie's costume and notices he's trembling.

BOBBY

What's the matter?

STEVIE

I-- I'm scared, Daddy.

BOBBY

Relax - this first guy's a hack.
He's only here because there are
only two magicians in his whole
region and one of them is a
paraplegic.

STEVIE

It's not that, Daddy...it's...it's--

Stevie points to a MAGIC MAGAZINE. Inferno's on the cover.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

They say he steals people's souls.

BOBBY

Look at me, kid. You're the best
out there. Soon everybody is gonna
know it. Including Inferno. But you
gotta believe in yourself first.

STEVIE

Do you believe in me?

BOBBY

Shit yeah, partner.

STEVIE

Really Daddy, you mean it? We're
partners? Real partners?!

BOBBY

Partners, sure. Whatever.

Stevie shakes Bobby's hand excitedly.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Now let's go whoop some ass!

INT. MGM GRAND - AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

The SMALL CROWD CHEERS as a SIGN displaying the TOURNAMENT
BRACKET lowers from the ceiling. On the chart, we read...

FIRST ROUND: BOBBY GLITTER v. PABLO CHARADE

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
First up, Pablo Charade!!!

A single SPOTLIGHT shines down on a mime magician, PABLO CHARADE crouched into a child's pose. He rises to PLAYFUL MUSIC, mimes coughing, and pulls SILK SCARVES from his mouth.

Bobby leans in and whispers to Stevie.

BOBBY
What'd I tell ya'... total hack.

Pablo pounces to THE JUDGE'S TABLE and pulls scarves from a Female Judge's cleavage. He bows to THE BOOING audience.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Okay, kid. It's Glitter time.

CUT TO:

Stevie steps onto the stage. He smiles at the FEMALE JUDGE.

STEVIE
Miss - may I, um, borrow your ring?

She hands her wedding ring to a nervous Stevie. He grabs a BLOW TORCH and WELDER'S MASK, but something catches his eye:

INFERNO in the front row, Nana rubbing his shoulders.

INFERNO
(mouthing the words)
YOU WILL FAIL, CHILD!

A trembling Stevie proceeds to MELT the ring down to a lump.

STEVIE
Don't be-- af-- afraid. I have powers
to turn this ring back to normal.

He covers the lump with a hankie and again catches Inferno...

INFERNO
(mouthing the words)
OH, NO YOU DON'T.

Stevie YANKS THE HANKIE. The ring IS STILL A MELTED LUMP.

STEVIE
I'm - sorry. Let me... try again.

He covers the lump and pulls the hanky back... STILL MELTED.

INFERNO (O.S.)
Bravo, Merlin!

JUDGE #1
I think we've seen enough.

Stevie nervously looks back to Bobby in the corner.

BOBBY
YOU CAN DO IT PARTNER!

Stevie smiles a little, then covers the ring. He closes his eyes, sweat dripping from his brow, and YANKS back the hanky--
The RING IS BACK TO NORMAL.

Bobby breathes a SIGH of relief. The crowd politely applauds.

INFERNO
(to Nana, grumbling)
Lucky break...

Stevie rushes to a grinning Bobby and HUGS HIM.

IN A BOX SEAT -

Seth Desstiny and Shideshi look on, snickering.

SETH DESSTINY
Beginner's luck.

ROCK MUSIC fades up on the soundtrack as we--

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

ONSTAGE, the breakdancing magician, Devo, puts three sparkle-covered softballs under three plastic buckets.

TITLE: ROUND TWO - STEVIE GLITTER v. DEVO TOXIC

Using WICKED SPEED and dance moves, he SHUFFLES the buckets, then lifts all three to show they're all EMPTY. Devo moonwalks to Stevie and taunts him by doing THE ROBOT. Stevie is clearly intimidated, but Bobby rubs his shoulders.

BOBBY
Just like we practiced, buddy.

CUT TO:

Stevie lies in a box and nervously saws himself in half.

DEVO
Shit...that's easy!

Bobby gives Stevie the 'thumbs up' and Stevie's LEGS SEPARATE FROM HIS BODY and MOONWALK over to a stunned Devo.

STEVIE
(like Michael Jackson)
OW! OW! OW!

The CROWD GOES APESHIT. Devo knows he's been bested.

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Inferno conjures a FIREBALL and TORCHES his opponent's chair.

INT. BOBBY AND STEVIE'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Stevie uses a RED PENCIL to practice a card trick with Bobby when, on the TV--

REPORTER (ON TELEVISION)
You're the five-time champion of
the mallusion circuit, Mr. Inferno,
but there's a lot of underdog talk
about Little Stevie Glitter.
Anything you'd like to say to that?

INFERNO (ON TELEVISION)
I know you're watching, Stevie.
I'm gonna drink your blood and
bathe in your father's tears!

The reporter tries to take the mic, but Inferno won't let go.

INFERNO (CONT'D)
I'M COMING FOR YOU STEVIE
GLITTER!!! NO MERCY!!!

Bobby reaches for the TV to turn it off, but misses the knob. He misses again. Stevie grabs the remote and turns it off.

INT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

Two flamboyant magicians in matching white costumes, SALSA and SEBASTIAN levitate WHITE LEOPARDS through a fire ring.

TITLE: ROUND 3 - STEVIE GLITTER v. SALSA & SEBASTIAN

CUT TO:

Stevie's on stage holding a phone book up to the audience.

SEBASTIAN

Look Salsa, ze boy's calling Mommy
to pick him up from ze magic school!

Stevie tears out a PHONE BOOK PAGE, CRUMPLES it, and throws it through the fire ring. In mid-air, it turns into A WHITE DOVE. He does it again and again. The crowd goes nuts.

BOBBY

Welcome to magic school, boys!

EXT. MGM GRAND - REAR COURTYARD

JIAN RAN, the Kabuki Magician, stands next to two freestanding doors on the otherwise empty stage.

TITLE: ROUND 4 - STEVIE GLITTER v. JIAN RAN SHU - SEMIFINALS

He walks through one of the doors and DISAPPEARS.

Suddenly, the second door on the far side of the stage opens and he walks out of it-- out of thin air. The crowd CHEERS.

BOBBY

(to Stevie)

Showtime.

EXT. MGM GRAND - PARKING LOT - LATER

A crowd stands around a MINT-CONDITION TRANS AM.

Stevie pulls out a HUGE multi-colored sheet and drapes it over the car. He does some dance moves and YANKS the SHEET away to reveal THE CAR IS GONE.

SMART-ASS IN THE CROWD (O.S.)

Come on, kid! Your dad did that
trick years ago! It's old news.

BOBBY

Keep watching, asshole!

Stevie THROWS THE SHEET into the air over his head. As it gently drifts back down, it takes the shape of the TRANS AM.

Stevie pulls the sheet through the Trans-Am's sunroof to reveal that the car has REAPPEARED and he sits inside.

Not only does the CROWD CHEER, they start CHANTING...

CROWD
STE-VIE! STE-VIE! STE-VIE!

INT. KIP'S MAGIC SHOP - NIGHT

Kip is filled with pride as he watches his grandson in the car on TV. He turns to a PERVERT browsing the porn aisle.

KIP
Hey, look! That's my grandson.
THAT'S MY GRANDSON!

PERVERT
Huh. Then why aren't you there?

A look of realization washes over Kip's face.

PERVERT (CONT'D)
That's okay, man. My grandpa never
came to any of my baseball games and
I turned out okay.
(beat)
Say, you carry sheister porn?

INT. SETH DESSTINY'S GAUCHE LAIR - NIGHT

Shideshi gives Seth a massage as he watches Stevie on T.V.

SETH DESSTINY
The child and his father are making
a mockery of my competition.

SHIDESHI
Stevie shan't be our problem for
much longer, Lord Desstiny. He must
face Dante Inferno in the finals.

SETH DESSTINY
And if he beats Inferno? Then what?
Seth Desstiny plays a humiliating
round of patty cake with the sequin-
clad retarded son of his enemy in
front of the whole world? No,
Shideshi, the child cannot make it
to the finals.

Shideshi stares at the TV where Stevie happily hugs his dad.

SHIDESHI
Then it would appear that the road
to Stevie's ruination runs directly
through your old rival.

Seth fixes his stare on Bobby's happy face.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

A NURSE helps Penny walk down the hall, her IV in tow.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
His name is Stevie Glitter...

Her eyes move to a T.V. where Stevie performs magic.

PENNY
Oh... my... god...

ANCHORMAN (ON TELEVISION)
Little Stevie will face five-time
mallusionist champ Dante Inferno in
the finals. What a match that'll be!

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby holds Stevie upside-down over a bathtub full of water. Stevie again holds the RED PENCIL. He stabs at playing cards that float face down on the water's surface.

BOBBY
Come on, Stevie! You know which
card it is! Just stab it!

STEVIE
I don't like this trick. I'm
afraid of heights, Daddy.

BOBBY
You're like two feet off the ground.
Now, come on! You think you're gonna
beat Desstiny with that attitude?!

There's a knock at the door. It's a BELLHOP.

BELLHOP
Mr. Glitter? Seth Desstiny requests
your presence in his penthouse suite.

BOBBY
Speak of the douchebag.

INT. PENTHOUSE - EVENING

DING! The elevator door opens to reveal a room adorned with waterfalls, a circular bed and Seth in a silk kimono, lounges in the center of it all.

SETH DESSTINY
Aaaaahhh, Bobby Glitter.

BOBBY
Madam Butterfly.

SETH DESSTINY
Nice to see you've retained your sense of humor after all those years of humiliation.

BOBBY
I have a feeling those days are coming to the end. And you know it.

SETH DESSTINY
Oh?

BOBBY
That's why you invited me here. You're scared you'll look like an idiot when we win this thing.

SETH DESSTINY
Let's get something clear: Seth Desstiny fears nothing. But, I do have my image to think about. How will it look to the world when the Shaman of Shadows destroys the chubby little planetoid you call 'Stevie'?

BOBBY
If you want him out of this contest, you can forget it.

SETH DESSTINY
It's not Stevie that I want out, Bobby. It's you.

Seth rises and paces to a window overlooking the strip.

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)
It's no secret that you and your son share a special bond. Some might call it... love. He needs you out there. He is like the mighty Sampson and you are like... his... hair.
(turning)
(MORE)

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)
I'm prepared to offer you a fair
sum for your absence.

Shideshi CLICKS open a brief case full of cash. Bobby stares at it-- the slightest flicker of interest in his eye.

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)
Shall we say the prize money? One-
hundred thousand dollars?

BOBBY
Do you think you can buy me off--?

SETH DESSTINY
One-hundred and fifty thousand.

CLICK. Shideshi opens another case. Bobby won't look at it.

BOBBY
You're gonna have to do better than-

CLICK.

SETH DESSTINY
Two-hundred thousand.

Bobby can barely stand as he looks at all. That. Money.

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)
Think of all you'll be able to do
for little Stevie with \$200,000.

It takes all of Bobby's strength to say--

BOBBY
Sorry, no deal. Seeing you broken
and humiliated is going to make me
happier than money ever could.

He takes a last look at the cash and walks away.

SETH DESSTINY
Plan B, then.

Shideshi nods.

EXT. MGM GRAND - NIGHT

Excited magic-goers file into the auditorium entrance.

INT. MGM GRAND AUDITORIUM - BACK STAGE - NIGHT

We hear the MURMUR of people entering the auditorium outside. Shideshi skulks at the top of a TWO-STORY PLATFORM.

He sneaks to a WINCH and REMOVES A 4" BRACING PIN from it.

STAGEHAND (O.S.)
Twenty minutes to showtime.

Shideshi steals away into the darkness unseen.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Barely containing frustration, Bobby RAKES a comb through Stevie's hair.

STEVIE
Ouch! That hurts!

BOBBY
Sorry... Just a little...nervous.

Stevie slumps in his chair and fiddles with his Destro.

STEVIE
Yeah. Me too.

BOBBY
Don't worry kid. You'll be fine.
Just do like we practiced.

STEVIE
Is Mommy still going to be watching?

Bobby looks to the ground guiltily. A TEEN PAGE ducks in.

PAGE
Stevie Glitter? It's show time.

INT. MGM GRAND - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

It's packed. A light shines on Seth, standing center stage.

SETH DESSTINY
Ladies and gentlemen, we are down
to our final two mallusionists.
Each will be given the chance to
perform a single illusion. First
up... DANTE INFERO!

OMINOUS MUSIC plays. A spotlight illuminates Inferno.

INFERNO
Ready my swords, Nana!!

INT. MGM GRAND - MOMENTS LATER

Center Stage - Inferno holds FOUR RAZOR SHARP SWORDS.

INFERNO
You've seen this trick before. A
magician's assistant steps into a
box and allows his master to
puncture that box with several,
razor sharp swords.

He tosses a CANTALOUPE into the air and DEFTLY slices it in
two with one of the swords. The CROWD OOO's.

INFERNO (CONT'D)
I too will perform this trick but--

Inferno STABS clean through NANA with one of the swords.

INFERNO (CONT'D)
-- WITHOUT THE BOX!

The crowd GASPS. Nana cringes. Stevie watches intently.

INFERNO (CONT'D)
Relax, Nana. For the first cut is
always the deepest. Number two!

Inferno stabs her with another sword. And then another.

Nana looks like a human pincushion as she struts to center
stage. She opens her mouth and looks up. Inferno takes his
last sword and slides it DOWN HER THROAT.

Inferno turns to the crowd with raised arms.

INFERNO (CONT'D)
My Nana, ladies and gentlemen.
She's a real... cut-up.

Nana takes a gracious bow and the CROWD APPLAUDS.

SETH DESSTINY
DANTE INFERNO!

Bobby rises and pats Stevie on the back.

BOBBY
C'mon kid, we're up.

SETH DESSTINY
And now, Little Stevie Glitter.

Bobby and Stevie make their way to THE TWO-STORY HIGH PLATFORM being wheeled in at the other end of the stage.

As they pass Seth, he gently leans down and lays his hand on Little Stevie's shoulder, whispering in his ear:

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)
The pressure's on, Stevie.

BOBBY
Back off!

Bobby shoves Seth. The crowd GASPS. A STAGEHAND rushes in and breaks it up. Seth smugly raises his hands in surrender.

SETH DESSTINY
Whoa, take it easy, Bobby Glitter.

INT. MGM GRAND - TWO STORY PLATFORM - MOMENTS LATER

The PLATFORM overlooks an ABOVE-GROUND POOL below.

Stevie wears a HELMET and BUNGEE HARNESS and stares nervously down at the pool. A still-riled Bobby stands behind him.

BOBBY
Okay, kid, you all set?

STEVIE
Daddy... can't you stay here?

BOBBY
Don't do this to me, Stevie. We've practiced this thing a million times. You'll be fine.

STEVIE
B- but Daddy-- Maybe we could do this tomorrow. Maybe--

BOBBY
Maybe *shit* kid. I've worked way too hard to let up now.

Stevie trembles. Bobby hands him THE RED PENCIL.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Now come on. We're *partners*, right?

Stevie looks up at his Dad. Takes the pencil.

STEVIE
R- right.

INT. MGM GRAND - STAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby stands next to the pool and tests the water. A FAT JUDGE draws a JACK OF HEARTS from a deck of cards.

FAT JUDGE
What now, Mr. Glitter?

BOBBY
Toss 'em.

The FAT JUDGE puts the JACK OF HEARTS back and tosses the entire deck into the pool.

Bobby stares up at the trembling Stevie.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Come on, kid.

Stevie's legs move slightly-- but he can't jump. He mumbles.

STEVIE
...can't do it...

Suddenly, we hear Bobby's voice in his head...

BOBBY (V.O.)
Remember, kid. You always have to clear your mind. Block out every distraction.

The kid closes his eyes and everything falls SILENT as we...

CUT TO:

INT. FIERO - FLASHBACK

Bobby drives and Stevie clings to his seatbelt.

BOBBY (V.O.)
... if you're going to be a magician, you can't limit yourself. Real magicians have to feel free inside and out at all times.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - PRESENT

Stevie takes a deep breath.

STEVIE
Okay, Daddy. I'm free.

Bobby eyes catch Seth and Shideshi whispering backstage. SETH HOLDS THE 4" BRACING PIN.

Bobby looks up at the winch on the platform above him: THE RAIL IS WOBBLING SLIGHTLY. His eyes go wide.

BOBBY
Stevie! NO! WAIT! DON'T!

Too late. With eyes still closed, Stevie steps forward and-- DIVES OFF THE PLATFORM. In SLO-MO, his chubby little body falls toward the pool, the bungee cord trailing.

He hits the water as the cord stretches to its capacity.

Bobby watches with wide eyes for what feels like an eternity.

The cord snaps back up, bringing little STEVIE up along with it. The WINCH wobbles, but holds its place.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
THANK GOD!

The upside-down, bobbing and soaking Stevie slowly turns to the judges. His pencil is stuck through THE JACK OF HEARTS.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
YOU DID IT!

The CROWD's on their feet. Inferno and Nana scowl. Seth represses his rage and manages a grin.

CROWD
STE-VIE! STE-VIE! STE-VIE!

ANNOUNCER
Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a champion: LITTLE STEVIE GLITTER!

BOBBY
SETH DESSTINY HERE WE COME!

STEVIE
We did it, Daddy!

Bobby jogs to his son, but SNAP- the WINCH finally gives way.

STEVIE SCREAMS AND PLUMMETS face first into the pool's side

CUT TO:

EXT. VEGAS STRIP - MOMENTS LATER

An AMBULANCE streaks down the street.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby peeks out to see a DOCTOR coming out of Stevie's room.

BOBBY

How is he doing?!

DOCTOR

He suffered a minor concussion. He
should take it easy for a few weeks.

BOBBY

But - what about the show?

DOCTOR

What about it?

PENNY (O.S.)

Bobby?

Bobby turns to see Penny. Standing behind him.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Penny strokes Stevie's head. His little eyes flutter open.

STEVIE

Mommy...me and Daddy... magic...
wondrous.

PENNY

Shhhhh... it's gonna be alright...

INT. WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

SLAM! Penny storms out of Stevie's room to see Bobby sitting
in one of the waiting room chairs.

PENNY

How could you do this to our son?!

BOBBY

It wasn't me! That asshole Desstiny--

PENNY

Seth Desstiny didn't drag a nine-year-old boy across the country to compete in some stupid magic show.

BOBBY

It's not stupid. We got a real shot at kicking Desstiny's ass.

Penny scowls.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

...and winning a lot of money.

PENNY

Just curious - what were you planning on doing with that money?

BOBBY

I'm his manager, Penny!

PENNY

You're his father. And you're using him.

BOBBY

He wants to go on and win this thing as much as I do!

PENNY

And then what? He grows up and becomes just like you? You've already ruined my life Bobby - are you going to ruin his too?

Bobby hangs his head.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby enters quietly and sits beside Stevie.

STEVIE

D- Daddy... you missed it. Mommy was playing tricks on me. Sh-- she said Oprah wasn't going to be at the contest... but, that's a trick. Right, Daddy?... Right?

No answer. Stevie's eyes start to tear up.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
So...so you lied about Oprah?

BOBBY
(mumbling)
Yeah, kid. I did.

STEVIE
And... about me... making Mommy
better? That was a lie too?

Bobby can only nod, ashamed.

BOBBY
Everything was a lie.

STEVIE
So...we're not...partners.

BOBBY
Not that. I didn't lie about that.

Stevie puts SOMETHING in Bobby's hand and rolls over.

STEVIE
Partners don't lie to each other.

Reveal the SOMETHING in Bobby's hand is-- THE RED BALL.
Bobby looks at it mournfully. Then to his son, sniffling
quietly to himself in bed-- his back to Bobby.

BOBBY
Alright, then.

Bobby walks to the door, opens it.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
G - goodbye. Stevie.

No response. Bobby exits and SAD MUSIC fades up...

INT. MGM GRAND - BOBBY AND STEVIE'S ROOM - DUSK

Bobby packs as the TV plays in the background.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
The magic world was rocked today when
it was announced that Little Stevie
Glitter will not be competing against
Seth Desstiny tomorrow night...

INT. MGM GRAND - LOBBY

Kip is at the front desk, talking to the CONCIERGE.

CONCIERGE
Mr. Glitter checked out already.

KIP
Any idea where he was headed?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

Penny watches as Stevie sadly picks at his hospital food.

NEWS ANCHOR 2 (ON TELEVISION)
Desstiny has decided to go through
with the festivities anyway - putting
on a show in Little Stevie's honor--

CLICK. Stevie turns off the TV and returns to his dinner.

INT. HOTEL BAR - DAY

A drunk Bobby's slumped at the bar watching the news on TV.
He holds a bus ticket to ANGEL FIRE, NEW MEXICO.

KIP
Hey there, Bobby.

BOBBY
What are you doing here?

KIP
I-- I came to see my grandson.

BOBBY
You just missed him. He's gone.

KIP
Bobby, what did you do?

BOBBY
I did what was best for Stevie.
Congratulations. You were right.
He's better off without me.

KIP
No son is better off without his dad.
You know that better than anyone.

BOBBY
Too late now. He hates me.

KIP

It's never too late! You've made some stupid mistakes. The drugs, the money, the syphilis. But I made a mistake too: I gave up on you.

Bobby finally looks at his Dad.

KIP (CONT'D)

If you love your son, don't let him go. You got to show him you love him.

BOBBY

How the hell would I do that?

Bobby follows Kip's eyes to the TV where--

NEWS ANCHOR 2 (ON TELEVISION)

All proceeds from the festivities will go to a charity in Stevie's honor. What brought that about?

CUT TO a smiling Seth Desstiny on TV.

SETH DESSTINY (ON TELEVISION)

Stevie is truly a *special* boy.

INSERT footage of Stevie in SLOW MOTION, that makes him especially... *special*. CUE sappy music.

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)

A deadbeat stagefather and a mental disability that would otherwise make him useless to society. Yet, he came so far. Don't you worry, little Stevie. You're one of Desstiny's kids now.

Kip gives a steely look to Bobby.

KIP

I can think of one way.

BOBBY

Oh no, Dad. I can't do magic again. Look at my eyes for Christ's sake!

KIP

Magic comes from the heart, Bobby. How long are you going to hide behind excuses?

Kip grabs Bobby's hand.

INT. SETH DESSTINY'S LAIR - DAY

Seth and Shideshi are doing Yoga. Bobby bursts in the door.

SETH DESSTINY

Gosh, Bobby-- you look terrible.

BOBBY

You and me, Desstiny. I'm taking
Stevie's place in the challenge.

SETH DESSTINY

Look at yourself. We're not even
in the same league anymore.

Bobby gets right in Seth's face.

BOBBY

Seems to me that if you really ran
the show, you wouldn't be afraid of
a washed-up old man like me.

Seth's eyes narrow at Bobby.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SETH DESSTINY'S SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby bursts out of the room. Kip, who was waiting, catches up with him.

KIP

Well?

BOBBY

It's on. I just hope we know what
the hell we're doing.

INT. BOBBY'S HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Bobby and Kip walk into his room only to discover...

LE PETITE GERARD

Bobby. Funny how we keep running
into each other like zis.

Lancome and Fleance grab them.

BOBBY

Look... guys. I know you're mad--

LE PETITE GERARD
 Your child shot away my big toe!
 Now, I'm forced to wear a-- how-you-
 say-- prothetique!

KIP
 A prosthetic toe? Really?

LE PETITE GERARD
 Who's zee gastropod?

KIP
 I'm Bobby's father. Who are you?

LE PETITE GERARD
*Pardon, Je m'appelle Gerard and I'll
 be killing your son, maintenant.*

Lancome COCKS his pistol.

BOBBY
 Wait! Just - just hear me out. I
 know you want your money back. You
 just have to give me one more day.

LE PETITE GERARD
 One more day? Porquoi?

BOBBY
 I'm taking on Desstiny tonight.

LE PETITE GERARD
 Seth Desstiny?

BOBBY
 On national television. I'm doing
 magic again, Lou.

LE PETITE GERARD
 Bubby! Ziss cannot be true! I sought
 you say you never do magic again. I
 must tell you... Fleance was one of
 your most huge fans in zee old days.

FLEANCE
C'est vrai.

BOBBY
 Thanks. Means a lot, Fleance.

Gerard considers... and holds up a single finger.

LE PETITE GERARD

Un. You have *un* more day. Zen I
kill you. Both.

FADE TO:

EXT. LAS VEGAS - TIME LAPSE

Once again, night descends on the gilded city.

INT. BOBBY'S HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

It's a war room. Bobby and Kip study reams of Kip's old notes.

BOBBY

Relearning all these tricks is
gonna be tough.

KIP

Not as tough as relearning all of
them... blindfolded.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Penny kisses a sleeping Stevie.

INT. BOBBY'S HOTEL ROOM

Kip HURLS softballs at a blindfolded and sweaty Bobby who
struggles to make them disappear one by one.

NEWS ANCHOR (ON TELEVISION)

A surprising announcement from the
Seth Desstiny camp today. Magic
fans will be getting a Glitter-
Desstiny match-up after all.

Bobby misses a ball and it PLUGS him in the face.

KIP

You can no longer trust your eyes,
Bobby. You've gotta FEEL the magic!

INT. SETH DESSTINY'S GAUCHE HOME GYM

Seth sits in a mud bath as he watches TV.

NEWS ANCHOR

But it's Bobby Glitter who will face Desstiny. That's right. The eighties' footnote has challenged the Master of Mallusion to a no-holds-barred magic-off.

EXT. POOLSIDE - DUSK

A blindfolded Bobby walk across the surface of the water.

FEMALE NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Though no one expects much from the past-his-prime Glitter, magic fans anticipate an outrageous spectacle.

Bobby crosses to the other side and, exhausted, he collapses.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Bobby and Kip walk past the parked cars.

KIP

It's a good thing I came prepared.

REVEAL THE MAGIC BUS.

KIP (CONT'D)

Lemme ask you something: How do you feel about walking through walls?

Kip yanks open the back doors to reveal... THE BRICK WALL.

FADE TO:

EXT. MGM GRAND - AFTERNOON

The UNLV marching band stomps through the gilded streets of Vegas as throngs of people stream into the MGM Grand.

EXT. MGM GRAND - ROOFTOP

A stage with auditorium seating is set up on the rooftop.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, this evening, the world-renowned shock-illusionist Seth Desstiny will face off in a series of tricks against one-time magic sensation, Bobby Glitter.

INT. AIRPORT - GATE - SAME

Stevie and Penny sit on an otherwise empty airport bench. A mounted TV plays behind them...

TV COLOR COMMENTATOR (ON TELEVISION)
Let's hope this turns out better than
the last time we saw these two on TV.

Stevie slowly turns to the TV.

INT. BAXTER'S OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS

Baxter drinks coffee and watches TV.

ANNOUNCER (ON TELEVISION)
Ladies and gents, he's no stranger
to the Vegas magic scene. I'm sure
you all remember Mr. BOBBY GLITTER!

Baxter spits his coffee out.

BAXTER
JESUS! What in...

INT. SWEET LOU'S COMPOUND - DAY

Fleance, Lancome and Le Petite Gerard watch TV.

LE PETITE GERARD
... zee hell...

INT. AIRPORT - SAME

PENNY
... is he wearing?

INT. AUDITORIUM

We now see that Bobby is decked out in his three-sizes-too-small STORM SHADOW COSTUME. He endures the SNICKERS and GIGGLES from the audience and turns to a camera.

BOBBY
Kid, if you're watching...

INT. AIRPORT

Stevie watches as his Dad speaks to him.

BOBBY (ON TELEVISION)
This one's for you, partner!

Stevie can't help but smile. A tear forms in Penny's eye.

AIRLINE EMPLOYEE (O.S. OVER THE P.A.)
This is the final boarding call for
Flight 1057 service to Phoenix.

STEVIE
That's our plane, huh?

They sit in silence. Then-- Penny smiles at Stevie. And Stevie smiles back.

EXT. MGM GRAND - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Kip gives a nervous Bobby a comforting pat on the back. The LIGHTS GO OUT and SINISTER MUSIC BLASTS over the PA.

ANNOUNCER
And now, the Deacon of Darkness, the
Shaman of Shadow... SETH DESSTINY!

A spotlight shines on a BEAUTIFUL STAG hopping on the stage.

BLAM! A plume of smoke engulfs the deer. When the smoke dissipates, the deer is gone. In its place is SETH DESSTINY.

The CROWD GOES NUTS as Seth winks at a clearly nervous Bobby.

SETH DESSTINY
LET'S DO THIS!

A HAIR BAND SONG rises up on the soundtrack as we...

CUT TO:

Seth stands before a giant fish tank. Inside are...

SETH DESSTINY (CONT'D)
Deadly piranha - carnivore lords of
the deep!

Seth JUMPS in the pool and the fish ATTACK, feeding with such speed we can't even see through the vicious cavitation.

Suddenly, Seth emerges from the feeding frenzy, unscathed. The AUDIENCE APPLAUDS.

Seth grins smugly at Bobby.

KIP
Let's give 'em hell, kid.

CUT TO:

TWO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, one in a RED BIKINI and the other in a BLUE BIKINI, lounge on two deck chairs center stage.

BOBBY
Ladies, you look lovely in those bikinis, but you must be chilly.

Bobby does some SHOWY DANCE MOVES and accidentally ELBOWS one of the Bikini Girls in the face. The audience LAUGHS.

BIKINI GIRL
AAHOW! MY NOSE!

BOBBY
Sorry. Depth perception.

He turns to Kip with a nervous expression. Kip nods to him.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Come on, Bobby. You can do this.

A trembling Bobby covers the two girls a blanket, counts to three and-- yanks the blanket away: The WOMEN ARE GONE. The audience lets out a SURPRISED GASP.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Don't worry! I'd be an idiot to lose track of those two beauties.

Bobby replaces the blanket and again YANKS IT AWAY. The girls are back. But their bikinis have been SWITCHED.

The AUDIENCE CHEERS. Bobby sighs in relief.

KIP
ATTA BOY!

CUT TO:

A CASK of HYDROCHLORIC ACID is suspended between two columns.

SETH DESSTINY
Hydrochloric Acid! Nature's deadliest venom. It can eat through the hide of a rhino!

Suddenly THIRTY GALLONS OF ACID splashes down on him. As the steam from the acid clears, Seth is unharmed.

CUT TO:

An AUDIENCE MEMBER signs his name on a playing card and hands it to Bobby who immediately shuffles the card into a deck.

SHLICK. With a machete, Bobby cracks open a COCONUT. Inside, covered in coconut milk, is the AUTOGRAPHED CARD. The audience LOVES IT. Some are even on their feet.

CUT TO:

A crane lowers Seth-- in a straightjacket-- into a pit of fire. He frees himself in the nick of time.

CUT TO:

Bobby levitates knives around Kip. He's getting into it-- his dance moves STIR THE ALREADY EXCITED CROWD even more.

KIP
FEEL THE MAGIC, BOBBY!

CUT TO:

Seth lies on a bed of nails as a MUSCULAR MAN hits him in the stomach with a sledge hammer.

CUT TO:

A sweat-drenched Bobby pulls back his cape to reveal A MIGHTY FALCON. The FALCON flies above the amazed audience.

INT. SPEEDING TAXI - TRAVELING

Stevie and Penny listen to the taxi radio.

RADIO COMMENTATOR (ON RADIO)
Believe it or not, the judges have this competition scored dead even. Each mallusionist has one final trick to perform. Simply put: the better trick wins.

PENNY
(yelling to the traffic)
C'mon, people! MOVE!

EXT. MGM GRAND ROOF - SAME

Seth and Bobby stand on either side of the ring. Kip runs to Bobby and whispers in his ear.

KIP
They're wheeling the wall up now.

Kip puts his hand on Bobby's shoulder.

KIP (CONT'D)
Hey, Bobby-- I just want you to
know whatever happens today...

Bobby stares at his dad as he fumbles for words.

BOBBY
I know. Me too. Now let's kick some ass.

Bobby smiles. So does Kip.

ANNOUNCER
First up - SETH DESSTINY!

Seth steps forward and bows to the crowd.

SETH DESSTINY
I've chosen a very special illusion
for my finale. It's a trick I
created especially for tonight.

A spotlight illuminates... A BRICK WALL.

KIP
Sonuvabitch!

INT. SPEEDING TAXI - SAME

STEVIE
HE STOLE PAPPY'S TRICK!

EXT. MGM GRAND - ROOFTOP - SAME

BOBBY
That piece of shit!

Seth chuckles and winks at Bobby as he drapes a SHEET over the wall and walks behind it.

Silence. Then there's slight movement from behind the sheet. We begin to make out a head pushing through. A hand rips through the sheet... and Seth bursts from behind it.

The wall is still ROCK SOLID.

ANNOUNCER
Seth Desstiny! Ladies and gentlemen!

The CROWD GOES WILD. Seth smiles smugly at Bobby.

INT. ROOFTOP ENTRANCE - SAME

Stevie and Penny, out of breath-- arrive at the entrance, only to be stopped by a couple of BURLY SECURITY GUARDS.

SECURITY GUARD
Ticket, Ma'am?

PENNY
(catching her breath)
We don't have one. Please...his
Father...is about to go on.

He stands firm. Penny acts as if she's leaving, then--BAM! She knees the Guard in the nuts. Stevie rockets past him.

PENNY (CONT'D)
RUN STEVIE!!!

EXT. MGM GRAND - ROOFTOP

Bobby and Kip look to a gloating Seth.

BOBBY
What do we do now?

KIP
I think... we might be screwed.

STEVIE (O.S.)
DADDY!

Bobby stops in his tracks, looks into the audience.

BOBBY
St - Stevie? STEVIE?!

There he is, running through the crowd, a Guard on his heels. Penny runs behind him.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
STEVIE!!!

Bobby LEAPS off the stage and the crowd parts as he desperately makes his way to Stevie.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I'M COMING!!!

FROM ABOVE - We watch Bobby fight back fans as he pushes desperately through and finally reaches-- His son.

STEVIE
DADDY!

Stevie smiles and jumps into his Dad's arms.

STEVIE (CONT'D)
DADDY! I SAW YOU ON TV! I SAW YOU!

The crowd coos as Father and Son embrace.

BOBBY
Look, kid. I've never been good at this kind of thing, but, I want to say... I'm sorry. Sorry for a lot of things. Sorry for being such a... such a...

STEVIE
Cocksucker?

BOBBY
Well... I was gonna say jerk.

FROM THE STAGE - Kip looks on with pride. And claps.

The audience joins in. They clap and cheer louder than they did for Seth. Louder than they have before.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Come on, let's get out of here.

STEVIE
What about your trick?

BOBBY
Stevie, I don't give a shit if either of us ever does another trick again. We can go home and watch Oprah and play GI Joes. From now on, it's whatever you want.

Stevie smiles and looks on stage at Seth, scowling.

STEVIE
I think... I wanna beat Mr. Desstiny with you, Daddy.

Bobby looks to Penny, who nods. He looks back at Stevie.

BOBBY

I think that'd be wondrous, kid.

Bobby's eyes desperately scan the stage.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

There's just one problem. Desstiny
stole our trick.

KIP

He didn't steal every trick.

INT. GLITTER MAGIC BUS - MOMENTS LATER

Kip yanks a tarp off THE GUILLOTINE.

BOBBY

King Louie's Revenge? Are you crazy?

KIP

My grandson was on to something. I
think I got it working.

BOBBY

Think?! Dad, that's a real blade! We
couldn't've done this twenty years ago!

KIP

We aren't doing anything.

Kip and Bobby slowly turn to Stevie.

KIP (CONT'D)

You two are.

STEVIE

Don't be scared, Daddy.

Stevie takes his hand.

EXT. MGM GRANDE - PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

The GUILLOTINE stands in the center of the parking lot. The
crowd and cameras now surround it-- waiting.

STEVIE

Don't worry, Daddy. I'll help your eyes.

Bobby winks nervously at Stevie and then addresses the crowd.

BOBBY

Ladies and gentlemen, this is in
fact a real guillotine.

Bobby kneels behind the guillotine and carefully places his
neck on the stump directly beneath the razor sharp blade.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Escape isn't really my kind of thing,
but tonight's special. I have my
partner here-- Little Stevie Glitter.

Stevie glows as Bobby nods and Kip lowers a stockade over
Bobby's head, BLINDFOLDS him.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

In a moment, my son will pull this
release, which will leave me less
than a second to escape these binds
before the blade decapitates me.

(to Stevie, quiet)

Ready?

STEVIE

Yes, Daddy. Don't lose your head.

The CROWD CHUCKLES. Bobby nervously exhales as Stevie grabs
the THICK ROPE connected to the blade above.

BOBBY

Okay. On three. One... two...

Bobby grabs his son's free hand and squeezes tight just as...

BOBBY (CONT'D)

...THREE!

Stevie yanks the cord and the blade COMES DOWN.

STEVIE

NOW!

Bobby STRUGGLES against the shackles, but... SHLICK. Too
late. Bobby's head comes off and lands upright in a BASKET.

STEVIE (CONT'D)

DADDY, NO!

EVERYONE IS SPEECHLESS.

ANNOUNCER

JESUS CHRIST!

PENNY
SOMEONE CALL 911!

BOBBY (O.S.)
Screw 911. Anybody got an aspirin?

Bobby's DISEMBODIED HEAD smiles wide in the basket.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
'Cause I got one hell of a headache!

The AUDIENCE GOES WILD as Stevie, in on the trick, removes Bobby's blindfold and replaces his head on his shoulders.

ANNOUNCER
MR. BOBBY GLITTER!

Bobby hugs Stevie and Kip. The CROWD IS ON THEIR FEET.

SETH DESSTINY
Big friggin'...deal...

CROWD
GLITTER! GLITTER! GLITTER!

The Judges hand the Announcer their decision. SILENCE.

ANNOUNCER
Ladies and Gentlemen! We have a 2-1
split decision! Judge Flores gives
the match to... SETH DESSTINY!

The crowd politely applauds.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
Judge Rupert gives the match to...
BOBBY GLITTER!

The CROWD GOES WILD.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
And the deciding vote, Judge
Shideshi gives it to...
(reading card)
SETH DESSTINY!

Seth SCREAMS with arms up in victory. The crowd is muted.

LONE AUDIENCE MEMBER (O.S.)
Glitter!

SETH DESSTINY
DESSTINY!

ANOTHER MEMBER
GLITTER!

SETH DESSTINY
DESSTINY!

But it can't be stopped...

CROWD
GLIT-TER! GLIT-TER! GLIT-TER!

Seth runs offstage covering his ears. Bobby smiles at Stevie.

BOBBY
Hear that?! They're cheering for you!

STEVIE
NO DADDY! THEY'RE CHEERING FOR YOU!

KIP
They're cheering for both you
idiots! Now take a take a bow!

Bobby nods at Stevie.

BOBBY
Partners?

Stevie takes his Dad's hand.

STEVIE
Partners.

And they both bow like conquering heroes as we...

FADE TO BLACK:

TITLE CARD - LAS VEGAS, NINE MONTHS LATER

CROWD
GLITTER! GLITTER! GLITTER!

Sweat drips from Bobby's brow. PULL OUT to reveal we are in -

INT. THE MANDALAY THEATRE - LAS VEGAS

Bobby, wearing a garish version of his STORM SHADOW costume, LEVITATES in front of a cheering crowd.

He looks across to-- STEVIE, levitating right beside him, dressed in a sequined version of his Destro costume.

STEVIE
Are you ready, Daddy?

Bobby looks down to the LEFT WING OF THE STAGE where-- Kip waits with his arm around a smiling Penny.

KIP
That's my boy.

PENNY
Mine too.

Bobby turns to Stevie.

BOBBY
Whaddya say we rock the cock?

STEVIE
Okay, Daddy. One...

They both take off their capes in unison.

BOBBY
Two!

Stevie and Bobby drape the capes over their heads.

STEVIE AND BOBBY (O.S.)
THREE!

...and with that, they DISAPPEAR.

CUT TO BLACK.