

Caught Dead in the Valley

By Elizabeth Rodgers & Julie Foreman

OVER BLACK:

We hear HEAVY BREATHING, JUICY SQUISHES, and CLANKING METAL.

FADE IN:

INT. HOT DOG ON A STICK: LEMON CRUSHING STATION - DAY

CU of a half cut lemon. A metal juicer SMASHES down on top of it.

KATHY, a perky, hard-bodied 19 year old Valley girl version of Grace Kelly (with a fake tan), removes the flattened lemon from the juicer and throws it in a bin full of squashed lemons. Kathy and her best friend, JANEANE, a tall, athletic Valley girl with the beauty of a young Lauren Bacall, (and a perm), wear red, white, yellow and blue striped smocks and domed, hot dog hats.

They both place more lemons on the huge manual juicers and using all of their body weight, BOUNCE UP AND DOWN in unison as if they are JUMPING ON POGO STICKS. Their BOUNCING BREASTS are appreciated by all the MEN in the food court. Several men actually applaud. Janeane mutters:

JANEANE

I'm so sure.

Kathy focuses intensely on the task at hand. DEEP MALE TITTERS from off-screen:

RON (O.C.)

Excuse me, Miss, I'll squeeze your lemons for you.

A GROUP OF YOUNG MEN LAUGH from off-screen. Kathy looks up.

KATHY

Shut up, Ron!

JANEANE

Go AWAY! Mo-Ron.

Standing in front of them is RON FOSTER, a babe-aliases, overly-tattooed 24 year old. Behind him, another fit of GIGGLES arises from a posse of BEAVIS AND BUTTHEAD LOOK-A-LIKES.

RON

You're so not funny Janeane!

KATHY

Really, Ron. Go away!

RON
Come on, Kathy, you know you still
want me.

KATHY
Not even! You're like, so
immature!

A big "OOOOOHH" from the group behind Ron is interrupted by:
TOOT TOOT TOOOOOOOOOOOOT. Kathy and Janeane cringe.

ANDY, THE MANAGER, approaches, wearing the same uniform as
the girls. A shiny silver whistle dangles on a cord around
his neck, like a gym coach.

ANDY
Katheee? What is going on here?

KATHY
I've got it under control, Andy.

RON
Excuse me, sir, but your employee
here has got a major attitude.

The Buttheads GIGGLE en masse.

ANDY
(to Kathy)
You know corporate policy on having
friends visit during your shift.

KATHY
They are so not my friends!

ANDY
Isn't this your boyfriend?

KATHY
Not anymore.

Another big "OOOOOHH" from the group.

ANDY
I will not tolerate this
unprofessional attitude. Go make
wieners.

INT. WIENER DIPPING STATION - MOMENTS LATER

In perfect harmony, Kathy and Janeane perform a highly choreographed ritual: They DIP the wieners into the batter, let the excess batter DRIP off (but NOT onto the stick), and then SUBMERGE the wieners into boiling oil. They perform as if they are conducting a symphony, the wieners as batons.

Their thick VALLEY ACCENTS are barely comprehensible.

KATHY

Do me a favor?

JANEANE

Like what?

KATHY

Like, take Andy's whistle and shove it up his butt.

JANEANE

Eew! Gross! Don't even make me think about Andy's butt.

Ron appears from behind a pillar.

RON

Can I talk to you?

INT. FOOD COURT - MOMENTS LATER

Kathy and Ron stand on the other side of the pillar. He holds her hand. Janeane makes wieners in the background.

RON

I miss you, babe.

KATHY

You do?

RON

So, come by tonight.

Janeane leans over the counter.

JANEANE

We're watching "AI" and you know it.

RON

AI?

JANEANE
American Idol! Duh!

RON
I wasn't talking to you, J. (to
Kathy) Come over after, okay?

KATHY
Maybe.

RON
If you want to get stoned at the
dam after work, we'll be there.

JANEANE (O.C.)
Not likely!

CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS OVER:

EXT. SAN FERNANDO VALLEY - MONTAGE

OVER EURYTHMICS, "SWEET DREAMS (ARE MADE OF THIS)," Valley
heat RISES from the gridlocked 405 FREEWAY, distorting the
giant green SHERMAN OAKS GALLERIA lettering on the white
building.

A BANK OF AMERICA digital display reads 107°;

CASTLE MINIATURE GOLF;

Endless CAR DEALERSHIPS on Van Nuys Boulevard;

The SAN BERNADINO MOUNTAINS covered in a thick layer of smog;

INT. KATHY AND JANEANE'S CAR - LATER

Kathy drives a yellow Trans Am with the eagle decal proudly
displayed on the hood. The T-top is off. Janeane applies lip
gloss.

KATHY
I talked to my dad this morning.
The house in Tarzana is finito.

JANEANE
Sold?

KATHY

Yup. They have officially followed your parents to Las Vegas, the hottest place in the galaxy. No! The hottest place in the world! Which is bigger?

JANEANE

Galaxy. Duh.

KATHY

Do you realize that this means we're, like, grown ups?

JANEANE

Why? 'Cause we can't go home on the weekend?

KATHY

Yeah! It's a big deal, Janeane. I mean, like, what if there was a catastrophe?

JANEANE

A catastrophe? Like what? Like, a big zit on your back on prom night?

KATHY

Barf out! I'm so sure!

EXT. KATHY & JANEANE'S VALLEY APARTMENT - DUSK

Establishing shot: A fugly 1960's apartment building. "CASA FELIZ" is written in script across the tan stucco facade.

INT. KATHY & JANEANE'S APARTMENT - SAME

Kathy knocks on the bathroom door.

KATHY

The girls all bailed. They're going to Ron's.

JANEANE (O.C.)

Uccchhh. Gag me.

KATHY

Anyway, you've got five 'til Idol.

Kathy turns on the television in the living room. Suddenly, the bottles of nail polish begin to dance on the coffee table. Kathy stares for a moment and then realizes...IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE! Assuredly, she moves to the front door jamb and braces herself within the frame like a defensive linebacker.

EXT. VIEW OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY - SAME

The entire vista shakes from the earthquake.

EXT. SEPULVEDA DAM - SAME

A painted wood sign: "Los Angeles County Public Water Works - Sepulveda Dam - Authorized Personnel Only."

Small waves in the reservoir lap at and spill over the wall of the Sepulveda Dam. We follow the water going over the edge. We see CRACKS sprouting in the dam wall.

(Authors' Note: Please keep in mind our earlier explanation about the cheese factor in the special effects. Stylized, of course.)

Holding a huge bong, Ron and his posse, LAUGH AND SCREAM hysterically as they scramble back to their cars.

INT. KATHY & JANEANE'S APARTMENT - SAME

Janeane bursts out of the bathroom, hysterical, in nothing but a bra with giant shoulder pads pinned under the straps.

JANEANE

Ohmygod! Ohmygod! Ohmygod!

She grabs a framed poster of Roy Lichtenstein's comic-book-like "Drowning Girl," and then makes a break for the front door. Kathy blocks her way.

KATHY

Janeane stop! You can't go out there!!

JANEANE

I gotta get out. Move!! NOW!

She tries to wedge Kathy aside with the poster.

KATHY

Janeane!! CALM DOWN!!

JANEANE

We're going to DIE in here you
stupid Val!!

KATHY

You're the stupid Val! YOU'RE
NAKED!

Janeane stops. She didn't realize this. She puts the poster down, runs back to the hall closet and puts on a blazer. It covers nothing. She heads back to the door and picks up the poster. Kathy is still blocking the way.

JANEANE

DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU!

SMACK!!

Kathy slaps Janeane across the face. Just then, the earthquake stops. There is a pause. Janeane puts down the poster and starts to cry.

KATHY

Oh my god. I am so sorry.

JANEANE

I broke my nail.

KATHY

You were like, totally going to run
outside naked and... I'm so sorry.

JANEANE

But I have on a bla --

Janeane looks down and sees that she is essentially naked. She starts to laugh.

JANEANE (cont'd)

Oh my god.

KATHY

Do you hate me?

JANEANE

Not even. You saved me from
colossal embarrassment. Do you
hate me for being such a freak?

KATHY

Yes. Did you really think we were
going to die?

JANEANE

Um, maybe.

KATHY

And all you were going to save was that stupid comic book poster?

JANEANE

Like, you know zilch about art. It's a Lichtenstein.

KATHY

Isn't that a country?

JANEANE

Ha ha.

KATHY

What? Isn't it?

A special news bulletin flashes onto the television. TINA MONTOYA, a newscaster, appears on the screen:

TINA MONTOYA (ON THE TV)

We interrupt "American Idol" to bring you this special Fox News Bulletin. An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale apparently centered in the San Fernando Valley...

JANEANE

Of course! The Valley!

TINA MONTOYA (ON THE TV)

...the tremor was hardly felt here on the Westside, but we'll have up to the minute coverage on any possible aftershocks...

JANEANE

Aftershocks!!! We've got to get out of here!

KATHY

Where do you want to go?

JANEANE

I don't care. Anywhere!

CUT TO:

INT. RON'S PARENTS' LIVING ROOM - LATER

TEN GUYS sit on a sectional couch watching "American Chopper." They pass the bong, ignoring Kathy and THREE OTHER WOMEN who dot the landscape.

Ron VIDEO TAPES the group.

RON'S POV as he lands on Kathy.

RON
You are so foxy. I should video
tape you making lemonade.

Kathy smiles and rolls her eyes. Janeane yells from the patio.

JANEANE (O.C.)
Do that and DIE, Ron!

RON
The earthquake is over, airhead.
You can come inside.

Everyone LAUGHS. Janeane appears at the sliding glass door.

JANEANE
Can I speak with you, please?

RON
Someone needs a bong hit.

Kathy GIGGLES and gets up off the couch. She goes outside.

KATHY
What?

JANEANE
Why are we here?

KATHY
You wanted to get out of the --

JANEANE
I wanted to get out of the
apartment, not be held hostage by a
bunch of BuFu guys who do nothing
but watch lame TV shows, smoke pot
and treat us like furniture.

KATHY
They're not that bad.

From inside, Ron, now on the couch, yells out to Kathy.

RON
Hey Kath, grab me a brewski while
you're up, wouldja?

Kathy and Janeane see a BLOND GIRL laugh as she whispers coyly into Ron's ear.

RON (cont'd)
Make it two.

JANEANE
Heinous.

CUT TO:

INT. HOT DOG ON A STICK - NEXT DAY

Kathy and Janeane crush lemons to an even larger AUDIENCE OF MALE ADMIRERS. A VALLEY DUDE wearing a Radio Shack name tag yells out:

VALLEY DUDE
YEAH, BABY!

The girls defiantly STOP BOUNCING.

TOOT! TOOT! TOOT! TOOT! TOOT!

Andy comes up behind them.

ANDY
Is there a problem, ladies?

KATHY
Uh, no.

JANEANE
We're taking a break.

Andy looks at the long line of customers and then at the nearly full bin of lemons.

ANDY
Breaks are taken only AFTER tasks
are completed.

JANEANE
We know, it's just --

ANDY

And as crew chiefs, you know
lemonade is vital on such a hot
day.

KATHY

Yeah, okay, but --

ANDY

Keep squeezing!

Kathy and Janeane resume crushing lemons. Their audience
APPLAUDS. Janeane stops and looks at the men with fire and
brimstone in her eyes. She gasps.

JANEANE

Oh my god! Ron's video-taping us!

RON'S POV THROUGH VIDEO CAMERA:

Janeane climbs over the counter, mouthing the words "Mother
Fucker!" Kathy looks like a deer caught in the headlights as
Janeane runs towards Ron. She gets closer and closer until
her hand reaches for the lens and it topples over.

INT. FOOD COURT - SAME

Janeane pummels Ron as Andy BLOWS HIS WHISTLE maniacally.
Kathy tries to pull her off.

JANEANE

You stupid video geek!