

TROPIC AIR
An original TV Pilot
By
David Caprita & Chris Pauley

David Caprita
18701 Hatteras Street
Unit #5
Tarzana, CA, 91356
310 962 4690

INT. LIVING ROOM, POV CARY CARIBOU - DAY

Through two eye holes we see several 6 YEAR OLD BOYS and GIRLS running around with noisemakers clashing with pirate swords.

One of them rushes up to the eye holes.

BOY
Make me another one!

CARY CARIBOU
How 'bout a snake?

Several parents look concerned.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The kids surround CARY CARIBOU - a John Wayne Gacey in a caribou costume with a red bow tie and top hat. He hands a long balloon "puppet" to a small BOY who looks at it confused.

CARY CARIBOU
Ta daaa!

BOY
It looks like a penis.

CARY CARIBOU
No, son. THIS looks like a penis.

Cary reaches for the front of his costume.

A pretty INUIT WOMAN, SUSAN, 20's runs up from the back of the room.

SUSAN
HEY! Okay! Well, Cary's gotta to go back to the Junga-Junga forest to play with the silly squirrels!
(under her breath)
Jesus. Are you drunk?

CARY
Why don't you climb into this costume with me and find out?

EXT. EAGLE BAY, EAGLE RIVER ALASKA - DAY

A SMALL FOUR SEAT AIRPLANE rocks lazily next to a dock on it's PONTOONS. HAPPY BIRTHDAY signs and balloons line the walkway to a modest single story home.

INT. PLANE - DAY

DANNY RICHTER, sits in the pilot seat. Late twenties, handsome in an unkempt way, his hair hangs messily out from under his Alaska Sky Pilots baseball cap. The guy at the bar you'd like to have a drink with.

He shifts nervously in his seat.

DANNY
I'm doing the right thing right?
Right?

TOM STEVENSON, a world weary 30's, sits next to him. It's obvious the conversation has gotten old.

TOM
How long have you and Susan been
together?

DANNY
That's beside the point.

TOM
That's EXACTLY the point.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The door pops open and Cary stumbles outside. He mutters something under his breath. Susan follows behind him, red faced.

She carries all of his party games.

CHILDREN'S VOICES
BYE CARY! BYE!

CARY CARIBOU
Yeah! HEY! Okay, kids.

Cary leans against a tree. He looks as if he's about to hurl.

CARY CARIBOU (CONT'D)
Okay... Okay..

INT. PLANE

Danny and Tom stare at Cary.

DANNY
Crap, he's drunk, again.

TOM
10 bucks says he pukes.

DANNY

Twenty, says he forgets to take the mask off.

Cary doubles over and retches. Puke comes out the eye holes.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Yahtzee!

CHILDREN'S VOICES (O.S.)

EWXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX!!

DANNY

I'll take my payment in the form of a pitcher of Bear Paw, thank you.

TOM

C'MON, Cary!

DANNY

Oh yeah. He's a disgusting individual.

EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Susan runs over to Cary and slings an arm around his shoulder.

SUSAN

Remember Cary's motto, kids-
"Friends for now... friends forever"!

One of the PARENTS flips Susan off.

INT. PLANE - CONTINUOUS

Through the windscreen we see Cary sway on his feet as he makes his way to the plane.

DANNY

When did you know that Monica was the one for you?

Danny turns the ignition.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Clear!

The engine ROARS to life.

TOM

When she said "Tom, you asshole, I'm pregnant".

DANNY
Sounds like a title for a country
song.

TOM
Still not sure how it happened. We
haven't had sex since Nana kicked
the bucket.

DANNY
Her other grandmother died?

TOM
No. Same one.

DANNY
That was last August.

Tom deadpans a look.

EXT. PLANE

Cary stumbles and nearly falls off the dock but keeps his
balance.

CHILDREN
Whoooooooooo!

Cary continues on to the plane. Susan stumbles with the boxes
as she tries to keep up with him.

INT. PLANE - CONTINUOUS

TOM
Just a heads up. Marriage changes
women. Two weeks after Monica and I
were married, she cut her hair short
and started farting in her sleep.

CHILDREN (O.S.)
Whoooooooooo!

Danny's cell phone rings.

DANNY
Hold that thought.

TOM
Do I have to?

DANNY
(into the phone)
Yeah? Charlie! Hey! Wha- Yeah, what...
How're - it's been a while! What's
going on?

Danny blanches.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Oh. Yeah I - I'll call you back.

Tom notices the change.

TOM
Hey. Are you okay?

Through the wind-screen we see Susan running behind Cary, frantically waving her arms at Danny. She gives the finger across the throat sign.

DANNY
It's Red.

TOM
What's Red?

DANNY
Red - my, Dad. My Dad just died.

Cary staggers off the dock into the spinning propeller.

BAM! THWOK! THWOK! THWOK!

Pieces of Caribou stuffing and Cary SPLATTER across the windshield! His vomit-stained mask stares at a horrified Danny and Tom.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Close up of photo of Cary Caribou, smiling with his arm around a beaming Sarah Palin. It's surrounded by other celebrity photos on a wall of the viewing room: Cary with George Bush, Frank Sinatra, Donald Trump, etc. A huge crowd has gathered in the waiting areas of the home.

Danny and Tom stand before the open casket. An unctuous FUNERAL DIRECTOR, 40's, stands with them.

COFFIN:

A big Caribou head stares back at them. It's been stitched and stapled together... badly.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR
I was so sorry to hear about your father. We all look back on the time he spent here fondly.

DANNY
Thanks.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Will you be going to Florida for the services?

DANNY

Uh, yes. Sure.

The three of them stare uncomfortably at the mess inside the coffin.

TOM

They're burying Cary in his costume?

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Oh. Yes. His estate was adamant about that.

DANNY

Is he in there?

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

In spirit.

Susan walks up to the three of them. She's a coiled spring.

DANNY

Everything okay?

SUSAN

They used a pool net to scoop up the small parts. No, everything is definitely not okay.

A small girl walks up to Danny. She points at him and hisses.

GIRL

J'ACCUSE!!

SUSAN

See! Every kid under the age of six has it out for us!

(she calls after the girl)

Cary, wasn't a saint, you know?! He had his demons too, *sweetie!*

DANNY

Susan, what do you expect. She just witnessed her hero get pureed.

SUSAN

Yeah, I'm gonna be sick.

Susan hurries off.

TOM
Hold tight, amigo. I'll talk her off
the ledge.

DANNY
Make it snappy. I want to get out of
here and she's my ride.

Tom quickly walks after Susan. All eyes fall on Danny. He strolls around the viewing room. As he walks, conversation stops.

Danny nods to a couple of PARENTS who are comforting their children. They shake their heads at him in disgust.

INT. FUNERAL HOME, FRONT DOOR

Danny walks to the front door and looks out. Tom and Susan stand in front of the funeral home steps. He appears to have calmed her for the moment.

DANNY
Attaboy.

DANNY'S POV

Susan wipes tears from her eyes then nods and smiles at Tom. She gives him a hug.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Excellent.

Tom's hand slides down Susan's back to her butt.

DANNY (CONT'D)
...That's very friendly.

Susan pulls back from the hug slightly to look Tom in the eyes. Then PASSIONATELY KISSES him. Their hands climb all over each other as they kiss in a very hot, sloppy way.

Danny yanks the door open. Susan and Tom break apart and quickly try to get their act together.

TOM
I think she's feeling better.

INT. ALASKA DIVE BAR - DAY

Danny and Tom sit at a bar moments later. Tom eyes Danny nervously.

DANNY
Has this been going on long?

TOM
I'm telling you, bro -

DANNY
Tom. Don't talk to me like I'm an idiot.

TOM
I would never -

DANNY
How many times, Tom?

TOM
Danny.... Okay, three weekends ago, when you couldn't take Susan to Baker Village for that Valentines party -

DANNY
Valentines.

TOM
Whatever. The party with Cary and we weren't able to get out before the weather hit... and it was cold...

DANNY
So the Valentines Day job. That was it?

TOM
Yeah... Shit! And two other times before that but we were so drunk we didn't know what we were doing! So, really, it was once.

DANNY
Once for real. Two just screwing around?! Is that it?!

The BARTENDER, BOBBY approaches them.

BOBBY
Hey! Can you keep it down?

DANNY
That's what I want to know! Was that it or was there more?

TOM
Maybe it was more than that. Danny, please! Let me give you a metaphor.

DANNY
Here it comes.

TOM

There's this great quote in "Paradise Lost" -

DANNY

I swear, I'm gonna knock the stupid out of you!

TOM

-when Belial is arguing against fighting God for the Kingdom of Heaven.

DANNY

I'm guessing I'm Belial and you're God?

TOM

Bro, I love you like a brother and I'm sorry as hell this happened. I know you're under a lot of stress with your Dad passing away and all the baggage you guys had with each other -

DANNY

Stay on topic, dick head.

Danny gets up and tosses a bill on the bar.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Do me a favor.

TOM

Anything, Bro. Name it.

DANNY

Don't call me bro.

Danny heads for the door.

TOM

Where ya going?

DANNY

(over his shoulder)
Florida.

TOM

Now??

EXT. ALASKA PANORAMA - DAY

Breathtaking view of the Alaska mountains. A tiny, barely perceptible black speck among them approaches. It is a highwing J-Cub lost in this completely different landscape.

INT. J-CUB COCKPIT - DAY

Another day, another eight hundred miles. Behind Danny through the door-less opening, the Missouri landscape with the famous ST. LOUIS ARCH is in the distance.

EXT. NEW ORLEANS CITYSCAPE - SUNSET

A shadow of the J-Cub floats over the winding Mississippi. The Superdome glows in the sunset.

EXT. SOUTHWEST FLORIDA GULF SHORE - MORNING

The little plane buzzes over the WHITE BEACHES of Florida's Gulf Coast and toward the ocean of SAWGRASS of the everglades.

EXT. EVERGLADES - LATER

The plane descends toward a patch of concrete runway in the middle of the ocean of SAWGRASS. Miles beyond on the horizon, the hazy cityscape of Miami on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

INT. J-CUB COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

As Danny begins his descent, he spots ANOTHER PLANE in the distance towing a banner.

DANNY'S POV

The BANNER reads: "Wanda, will you MERRY me?"

INT. TROPIC AIR HANGAR - DAY

Sitting at a desk crowded with FLIGHT MAGAZINES, various ENGINE PARTS and EMPTY SODA CANS is CHARLIE MANKOWICZ, early 30's. He looks like he sleeps at his desk.

Charlie wrestles with a game controller, grunting in effort as the sound of WWII era fighters roar in the background.

CHARLIE
Gotcha, filthy Hun!

INT. NINA'S OFFICE

NINA, 60's, looks like she's logged thousands of hours in the air. A perennial cigarette dangles from her mouth.

She stands at the window of her office and looks at the plane Danny saw towing the misspelled banner.

NINA
Are you frigging kidding me?

CHARLIE (O.S.)
What's the problem?

NINA
Charlie, you don't know how to spell
"Marry Me"?

INT. HANGAR - CONTINUOUS

Nina walks out of her office and tosses the binoculars on Charlie's cluttered desk

CHARLIE
I've never been married.

NINA
This is what I get for letting Ileanna
type set her own banners.

Where the hell is Sal? He should be doing this for her.

CHARLIE
Dunno.

NINA
Tell Sal, that if he doesn't get his
ass in here in 30 minutes he can go
back to Egypt.

CHARLIE
He's from Dubai, Nina.

Charlie pauses his game as Nina exits back into her office.

NINA (O.S.)
Gonna sic a drone on his ass!

CHARLIE
(into two way radio)
Sal, I don't know where you are but
if you don't get here soon, Nina
says it's your ass.

Danny walks in with his FLIGHT GEAR hanging by his side. He walks up to Charlie's desk.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Can I help yo - HEY! DANNY! HEY!

DANNY
 Charlie, my man, how's this place
 treating you?

Charlie wraps his arms around Danny in a loving bear-hug.

CHARLIE
 Do you know the song "Everybody Hurts"
 by R.E.M.?

DANNY
 Yes.

CHARLIE
 Yeah... It cracks me up.

DANNY
 Okay.

Nina walks in. Her hard demeanor melts.

NINA
 Oh, damn. Here's trouble.

She walks over and gives Danny a hug and a kiss on his cheek.

DANNY
 Hi, Mom.

NINA
 Are you hungry? You must be starving!
 I've got some food for you.

DANNY
 Is it your gator gumbo?

NINA
 Made a new batch last night.

DANNY
 I'll pass.

CHARLIE
 Not if you eat her gumbo.

NINA
 A man cannot live on blubber alone.

She puts her arm around Danny.

NINA (CONT'D)
 Look at you!
 (MORE)

NINA (CONT'D)

You couldn't have come at a better time. Until Sal passes his flight test I'm down to one pilot now that Red's gone, and Charlie's been grounded.

DANNY

(to Charlie)

What'd you do?

INT. NINA'S OFFICE

Charlie and Danny follow Nina into her office.

NINA

He buzzed the governor's mansion in Tallahassee.

CHARLIE

He wouldn't answer any of my letters!

NINA

Maybe if you didn't write 'em in crayon.

(to Danny)

You have your log book?

Danny digs through his bag and hands his log book to Nina.

DANNY

It's a real page turner. You'll love the part where I threw up in a flight simulator.

A large BANG reverberates through the hangar.

CHARLIE

She's here.

INT. HANGAR

A buxom, fiery woman, ILEANNA 20's, bursts in. Charlie greets her with a high five that she ignores.

CHARLIE

Hey Ileanna. How's it hanging?

ILEANNA

Are you going to work today or do you plan to sit on your fat ass while we cover for you?

CHARLIE

Is this one of those times that want me to answer or don't want me to answer?

She grabs a mug, pours herself some coffee from a carafe next to Nina's office.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I wouldn't drink that.

She stares at him defiantly and gulps it down.

ILEANNA

Set up my other banner. Lets go.

NINA (O.S.)

You're towing the same one.

ILEANNA

What for? I already asked Wanda to marry Bill.

Ileanna walks into Nina's office.

INT. NINA'S OFFICE

NINA

We owe them a do over. You spelled the damn banner wrong.

ILEANNA

Sal is missing and El Bofo here is too busy fighting Nazis on the computers. This is what you get when you don't have a captain floating the boat.

NINA

We'll have a captain soon enough. In the meantime, we've got a new crewman to break in ASAP.

ILEANNA

Who would be stupid enough to hop on this sinking ship?

DANNY

I'm stupid enough.

NINA

Everyone, meet Tropic Air's new pilot. This is Danny.

DANNY
For now. New pilot for now.

NINA
What do you mean for now?

DANNY
I've gotta get home to Alaska.

NINA
I thought you were back.

DANNY
I am back. To visit. I'm here for you.

ILEANNA
And for the reading of the will?

DANNY
No! Well-yeah but I'm not here to stay. Can we discuss this later? I really need some sleep.

Enter FAISAL (SAL), 20's, student pilot and statistical know it- all looking like he had one too many drinks the night before.

NINA
Where the hell have you been?!

SAL
I was up all night studying.

NINA
What, flight patterns around the White House?

The phone rings again. Nina gestures to Sal to pick it up.

Ileanna turns on Charlie.

ILEANNA
So what d'you say? Are you going to do your job?

CHARLIE
Do you mean in general? Or, like, right now?

ILEANNA
Idiota.

Ileanna storms out.

Nina lights up a smoke from her smoke.

Sal hangs up the phone and walks in with a note.

SAL

I feel like I'm flying behind a crop duster in here.

NINA

This ain't California, pal.

SAL

What does that even mean? You can't smoke indoors in Florida either.

NINA

Go back to the desert if you don't like it.

SAL

I am not from the desert! I'm from a city with skyscrapers and cars and movie theaters!

NINA

You people are so emotional.

SAL

I like that. Being categorized as "you people". That was Wells Fargo, by the way. At least we people pay our bills.

He exits.

DANNY

What's going on?

EXT. HANGAR - DAY

Nina and Danny walk out of the tropic Air Office.

NINA

Tropic Air's going to hell. We're low on cash, customers and ever since my son-of-a-bitch ex-husband - Excuse me - your father passed, may he rest in peace, we've come to a standstill.

DANNY

Why didn't you tell me?

NINA

You're not the easiest person to get a hold of. Always out in the bush with that drunk clown. How is Mickey Moose by the way?

DANNY

Cary Caribou. He's been better.

NINA

Anyway, I'm glad you're here now. I missed you.

Danny and Nina walk up to a beat up hangar door. She slides it open revealing a lived in cot that looks like it was discarded from one of the local prisons.

NINA (CONT'D)

Home sweet home.

A dozen cockroaches scatter out of the way.

NINA (CONT'D)

It ain't much but it'll do when you need to sleep off a bender or a 4,000 mile flight from Alaska.

DANNY

Ohfuckin hellthat's nasty! C'mon! Can't I crash on your couch?

NINA

We don't say "crash" around here. Besides you're not staying here long right? Anyway your father spent plenty of nights on this very cot. You can suck it up for a week or two.

An uncomfortable silence between them.

DANNY

So how was the funeral? I'm sorry I missed it. Are you doing okay?

NINA

Well, those Navy flyboys do it right.

DANNY

Did they do the thing where they fly a formation over the coffin, everybody salutes?

NINA

Not exactly, just a bunch of donuts on golf carts in Mayday's parking lot.

DANNY

Mayday's? That shithole hasn't sunk into the Glades yet?

NINA

It's still there. Who knows? You might be the proud new owner of that dump.

DANNY

When's the reading of the will?

NINA

Two days.

Danny spies a large tarp covering something next to his living "arrangement".

DANNY

What do we have here?

NINA

Another one of Red's toys.

Nina pulls back the tarp to reveal a FIRE ENGINE RED '62 CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE. Danny falls in love instantly.

DANNY

And this is in the will too?

NINA

I guess we'll see. How 'bout instead of taking a nap, we go for a ride?

EXT. MAYDAY'S - EVENING

The corvette, with Danny behind the wheel tears into the parking lot of MAYDAY'S, an aluminum QUONSET HUT baking in the sun. A NEON ALLIGATOR with a big toothy grin waves from the roof. Underneath, a faded wooden SIGN: "MAYDAY'S! Aviators, Fishermen, Air boaters welcome".

INT. MAYDAY'S - EVENING

Danny and Nina walk into the low-lit establishment. Faded photos of pilots cover the walls. Danny walks up to one of them:

PHOTO:

A youthful RED smiles beneath a U.S.S. ORISKANY BASEBALL CAP standing next to GEORGE H. W. BUSH in front of Tropic Air.

Standing behind the bar flipping through the daily newspaper is MARIAH. A beautiful Miccosukee woman in her 30's.

Nina and Danny grab a seat at a table near the back of the bar. THREE MEN play a game of pool nearby. One with his back to them banks a shot to finish the game. His friends howl in admiration. He turns around, smiles and looks at Danny. It's Red! Danny does a double take. When he looks again, it's a complete stranger.

NINA

You ready to start towing banners?

DANNY

What? When?

NINA

Now.

DANNY

"Now", now?

NINA

Okay. I'll give you a break.
Tomorrow morning.

DANNY

Ma, I haven't pulled anything behind
an airplane since I got my license.

NINA

Me and your dad were so proud of
you.

DANNY

I was fifteen.

NINA

It's like riding a -

DANNY

Don't say it! It's not like riding
a bicycle. Not unless I'm ET escaping
from the Feds.

NINA

Fine. But it's easy. You'll see.
You ever drive your car around an
empty parking lot for three hours
with your foot off the pedal?

DANNY

All the time.

NINA

Same thing only more boring.

Mariah walks up to the table and slaps two menus down in front of them.

MARIAH

What do you want?

NINA

Get him a whiskey.

DANNY

No, that's all right, I'm -

MARIAH

What kind? We got Irish, Scotch,
Tennessee . .

NINA

You know what kind!

MARIAH

Fine. And you?

NINA

The usual.

MARIAH

Right. A big Dickel Dew.

The three men at the pool table turn around and stare.

NINA

Keep yer hat on, everybody. It's a
tumbler of George Dickel Tennessee
sippin' whiskey and Mountain Dew.
And some of your nachos. Preferably
with the salsa that don't taste like
snot?

MARIAH

I'll put a rush on it.

She leaves for the bar.

NINA

Oh sweetie?

Mariah turns back to Nina.

NINA (CONT'D)
I'd like my drink without spit in
it. Mm-kay?

Mariah stares, turns and exits.

DANNY
They're real friendly around here.

NINA
So, what's this about you not staying?
How long do I have you for?

DANNY
Well, I was supposed to be in a
wedding next week but that sort of
fell through.

NINA
Best man?

DANNY
Groom.

NINA
What? Jesus, Danny. I know you've
been busy - I don't expect you to
visit or anything but - shit.
When were you planning on telling
me?

DANNY
I'm sorry, Mom. It all happened really
fast and we weren't planning on making
a big thing out of it. Besides, the
wedding's off.

NINA
Was she screwing someone else?

Off of Danny's reaction.

NINA (CONT'D)
Yeah. That seems be going around.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
NINA!

Charlie runs through the bar to their table.

NINA
Charlie, what the hell you doing
here?

CHARLIE
NINA! INDIANS, NINA!

NINA
Who's at the office?

CHARLIE
I told you. Indians.

NINA
Christ.
(to Danny)
Tell Pochahontas to put the food on
my tab. I'll be back later.
(to Charlie)
C'mon, big bird.

Charlie leads her out of the bar as Mariah returns with the two drinks and a bottle of GEORGE DICKEL.

DANNY
Sorry about her. She can be a real charmer.

MARIAH
Can she? I must have missed that.

Mariah hands Danny one drink and then shoots the other one herself.

MARIAH (CONT'D)
So you know I didn't spit in it.

Danny takes his whiskey and downs it.

MARIAH (CONT'D)
I don't know you. I know just about everyone around here but I don't know you.

DANNY
I just got in town. I'll be working at Sawgrass for a little while.

She sits across from him.

MARIAH
Wait. I do know you. How do I know you?

DANNY
Dunno. My name's Danny.

MARIAH
Richter. You're Danny Richter?

DANNY

Yeah.

MARIAH

Red was your Dad.

DANNY

Do you read palms too?

Mariah hugs him tightly.

MARIAH

You're finally here. You made it.

The song "Cat's in the Cradle" begins to play on the jukebox.

MARIAH (CONT'D)

(to pool players)

Really? Who plays that in a bar?!

Mariah goes to the jukebox and hits a button. The song immediately changes to Sinatra in mid-song belting out "Fly Me to the Moon".

Mariah returns to the table, pours another drink for herself and Danny.

MARIAH (CONT'D)

To Red. He was one of the good ones.

They down their drinks and Mariah pours two more.

MARIAH (CONT'D)

So, what finally brings you down to our little slice of heaven, Danny.

DANNY

Family. And work. Well, Red's work.

MARIAH

Bullshit. You're hear for the will.

DANNY

That's not -

MARIAH

Right. So you fly banners too?

DANNY

I do now.

MARIAH

Red talked about you. A lot.

DANNY
I can only imagine.

MARIAH
He hoped that you'd come down here
for a visit sometime. Or call him.
When was the last time you called
Red?

DANNY
I'm not sure. It's been a while.

MARIAH
It was in November. You know how I
know? He was excited because you
said you'd make it down for the
holidays.

DANNY
Can I have some peanuts with this
guilt trip?

MARIAH
I guess if I abandoned my family I'd
hide behind sarcasm too.

DANNY
Easy. I just met you - I don't even
know your name and you're giving me
sass?

MARIAH
Sass? Sass?!

Mariah bursts out laughing.

DANNY
Sass. Attitude.

MARIAH
I know what sass is. I just haven't
heard anyone under the age of 70 use
it in a sentence.

DANNY
Okay. I get it. You and my Dad had
a father-daughter bonding whatever
that was missing in your life. Great.
But Red and me? Ours was a complicated
relationship.

MARIAH
My name's Mariah by the way.

She caps the whiskey.

MARIAH (CONT'D)
I was with Red when he died.

DANNY
Red died in his sleep.

MARIAH
So to speak.

The realization hits Danny.

DANNY
And I didn't think today could get
any weirder.

She downs her shot and leans forward, inches away from his
face.

MARIAH
Welcome to Tropic Air.

INT. NINA'S OFFICE

Nina and Charlie quickly walks past 2 MICCOSUKEE INDIANS -
ANNIE JASPER, 40's and FRANKLIN STEVENS, 60'S. They're
clearly not happy.

NINA
Now is not a good time, Annie.

ANNIE
You're on our land.

NINA
Who says?

Franklin holds up a DOCUMENT.

FRANKLIN
This.

NINA
And what is "This"?

ANNIE
Federal treaty.

NINA
Where the hell'd you get that?

ANNIE
Off the internet. Signed by President
Van Buren.

NINA
I'm pretty sure he didn't have
internet access.

ANNIE
This land belongs to the Miccosukees,
Nina and we're prepared to go to
court to prove it.

NINA
What do you want me to do about it?

ANNIE
Giving us residuals for use of the
runway would be a good start.

NINA
Fat chance. Isn't there a statute of
limitations? Van Buren was, what 50
Presidents ago?

SAL (O.S.)
After Jackson, before Harrison.

NINA
Shut up, Rainman. Go study.

She lights up a smoke.

NINA (CONT'D)
You want this money pit? Great. For
all I know Red may have bequeathed
it to you. We'll all find out in a
couple of days! In the meantime,
piss off.

ANNIE
How typical. Another white man
breaking his promise.

NINA
I didn't promise crap! But as a
consolation prize, how about a wagon-
load of blankets and whiskey?

ANNIE
Classy.

NINA
Next time you show up to threaten
me, bring your lawyer.

ANNIE
(re: Franklin)
He's my lawyer.

NINA

How!

ANNIE

Don't make us sue.

NINA

We don't use that word in here.

CHARLIE (O.S.)

They can't help it. They're the "Make-us-SUE-keees!

Sal does a drum roll on his desk.

Annie and Franklin turn to exit.

ANNIE

This isn't over.

INT. J-CUB

Danny sits at the controls, sweating in the tiny cockpit.

Nina sits in the tandem seat behind him.

DANNY

All right. Pilot in Command has the controls. That would be me.

NINA

Be sure to compensate for the extra weight. That would be me.

The dual seat Cub rolls slowly down the asphalt to the end of the runway. The plane lifts off and floats over the canal.

EXT. FIELD

Down on the grass beside the runway, Two men, JOHN, an acne scarred millennial and MARCUS, 40's with a proud beer gut set up a banner wire. It stretches across a field on two 7' poles.

They gaze at the approaching plane.

JOHN

Think he knows what he's doing?

MARCUS

He's Red's kid.

INT. J-CUB

Nina gazes over Danny's shoulder.

NINA
 Okay. Dive for the wire. Then, pull
 up before you dig up the ground with
 your prop.

EXT. J-CUB

The little Cub points its nose groundward.

DANNY'S POV,

John and Marcus stare nonchalantly up at the approaching
 missile.

The plane dives precariously close to the ground.

INT. J-CUB

Danny yanks back on the stick. The Cub jerks up toward the
 sky at a forty degree angle. The little engine roars. The
 hook dangling behind its tail swings right into the horizontal
 wire holding the banner. JERK! It yanks the banner into the
 air behind it.

EXT. J-CUB

The banner unfurls to read: "TONIGHT! FOUR FOR ONE AT THE
 AGOURA!"

INT. J-CUB

DANNY
 Like threading a needle!

NINA
 Yeah, real daredevil stuff.

DANNY
 Okay! Let's head to the beach and
 tell everyone where they can get
 wasted.

EXT. FT. LAUDERDALE BEACH - LATER

Danny and Nina enjoy the view as they fly eight hundred feet
 above sunbathers and party-ers.

Suddenly, a loud NOISE like a hammer banging on an anvil.

Danny automatically kicks into emergency mode.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 Okay! What do we got?

NINA
Stay focused. What's happening?

EXT. THE BEACH

WANDA, a large woman stuffed in a flowery one piece lies on a blanket while her man BOB rubs lotion on her back. Bob sees Danny's plane and banner approach in the distance.

BOB
Look, honey. One of those banner planes. Seems to be flying pretty low, doncha think?

INT. J-CUB

Danny cuts the throttle, sets his controls to glide speed.

NINA
Pull the lever and lose the banner!

Danny yanks the BANNER RELEASE.

EXT. BEACH

The plane clatters above Bob, Wanda and the rest of the beach goers.

BOB
What the hell?

The banner flutters toward Wanda and Bob.

WANDA
Oh my God!

BOB
Incoming!

INT. J-CUB

The beach rises toward them at break neck speed.

NINA
Watch your glide speed! Watch your glide speed!

DANNY
I've got it. Brace. Brace!

EXT. BEACH

Wanda looks directly above her. The banner completely envelops her under the huge word "Agoura". Several dozen people run for safety.

Danny's plane glides to a bumpy stop in the surf. Textbook landing.

Bob extracts a screaming Wanda from under the banner.

Bathers run toward the plane as Danny hops out and strolls toward a shocked Wanda and Bob. Sirens can be heard in the distance.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Four for one all day, folks!

INT. TROPIC AIR OFFICE -- LATER

On a TV SCREEN a CELL PHONE VIDEO of Danny's plane and the banner on Ft. Lauderdale Beach. Bottom screen title reads, "MESSAGE OF DEATH FROM THE SKY".

TV: ANNOUNCER /DRAKE

A dramatic scene when a banner plane's engine stalled this morning over Ft. Lauderdale Beach.

SAL

You see? That's what drives me crazy. The engine didn't stall! Wings stall! It was a perfect three point landing! These local news morons never know what they're talking about when it comes to aerodynamics!

DANNY

That's great, Sal. I'll write an email.

TV: ANNOUNCER /DRAKE

The plane is owned by Tropic Air. We go now live to Jaun Paradiso for the latest.

JUAN PARADISO, a ridiculously handsome news corespondent fills the screen.

JUAN PARADISO

Thanks, Drake. A scary situation to be sure. However, Ms. Karpinski is in stable condition and will remain at Palmetto Hospital overnight for observation. It looks like she's going to be fine.

TV: ANNOUNCER /DRAKE

Any chance she might not pull through?

Nina's hand snaps the TV off.

INT. TROPIC AIR OFFICE - DAY

Sal, Danny, Charlie and Nina stand in front of the darkened screen, mouths open. The phone rings. Sal Answers.

CHARLIE

I thought you looked great on TV.

DANNY

Small consolation.

CHARLIE

Seriously, you're like a funnier,
Janet Gaynor.

Sal hands Nina the phone.

SAL

Some guy from the NTSB.

NINA

Perfect.

(to Danny)

If this call is what I think it is,
you better get used to sticking
around. You ain't going anywhere

CHARLIE

Welcome to Tropic Air, Danny!

Charlie hugs Danny. And then begins to sob uncontrollably.

DANNY

Thanks, buddy.

The sobs grow louder.

DANNY (CONT'D)

It's okay, Charlie.

Charlie becomes hysterical.

DANNY (CONT'D)

That's it. Just let it out. I feel
you. Believe me. I feel you.

The end.