

UNCLE TITO - Scene 1 of 3

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EDDIE

Funny, guys, but see the tall, super model-y looking babe over at the buffet table? She's with me.

12-YEAR-OLD BOY #1

That's impressive. How does he do it? Does he tuck his balls under or tape 'em up real high?

The kids CRACK UP, then walk off.

EDDIE

Punks.

Eddie continues across the lobby and approaches a MEXICAN MAN, mid-40's, standing behind a podium near the front door.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Excuse me, could you tell me where I might find Uncle Tito?

MEXICAN MAN

May I ask who's inquiring?

EDDIE

My name's Eddie Cantrow. Tito's a friend of a friend, and I brought something for him.

MEXICAN MAN

Sorry. Uncle Tito no longer works here--he is in Hermasillo jail for 6 to 10 years.

(lowering voice)

He was running a cock fight--and I'm not talking roosters.

EDDIE

Oh, wow. What?

He SHOVES Eddie and STARTS TO LAUGH.

MEXICAN MAN

Screw off! I'm joking, man! I'm Uncle Tito!

Eddie takes a moment to regain his composure.

UNCLE TITO

You should've seen your face, man! So did you bring the present from Mac?

EDDIE

Yeah.

Eddie hands Tito the GIFT and Tito eagerly UNWRAPS IT. Eddie REACTS when he sees what it is.

HIS POV - it's a PORNO MOVIE called Remember the Tight Ones. The VHS box shows a MALE PORN STAR wearing a football helmet and rear-ending a GIRL holding a couple of pom-poms--a big red star covers the money shot.

UNCLE TITO
Oh Mamacita...

Eddie looks on nervously as Uncle Tito holds the tape high, examining it in the light.

Just then, an older American TOURIST MAN and a younger TOURIST WOMAN approach. (The Man resembles a well-groomed televangelist, 40's; the Woman is 30-ish and low-key, but unmistakably beautiful. They're both wearing t-shirts that say: HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BERYL AND BOO.)

TOURIST MAN
Pardon me, we were wondering
if...uh...

The Tourist Man trails off as he and the Woman NOTICE the VIDEOTAPE COVER. Thinking fast, Uncle Tito HANDS THE PACKAGE BACK TO EDDIE.

UNCLE TITO
Here is the adult sex-tape you
requested, Senor Cantrow. I will bill
it to your room. Would you like me to
send up anymore?

Uncle Tito shoots Eddie a scared, run-with-me look. Eddie looks sheepishly at the Woman who seems amazed, maybe even amused; the Tourist Man glares at Eddie.

EDDIE
(defeated)
No, I'm good.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY

Tito pushes a cart with Eddie and Lila's luggage down the hall. Lila walks a few paces behind the guys, holding a big TROPICAL DRINK and EATING SHRIMP OUT OF A NAPKIN IN HER HANDBAG.

UNCLE TITO
(aside, to Eddie)
Sorry about that, Senor. I could lose
my job if they knew that smut was
mine.

EDDIE
(annoyed)
I understand.

Lila catches up to them.

LILA
Eddie, you've gotta try one of these
Mind-erasers. I watched the guy pour
in four shots of Patron!

Eddie nods, unenthused.

TITO
Look at you! You're even more sexier
than Mac described.

LILA
Thank you.

TITO
I was talking to him.
(beat)
Screw off! I'm joking! You're very
hot.

Lila LAUGHS.

TITO (CONT'D)
Mac's a pal, so I want you to know,
I've totally set you guys up.

EDDIE
We really can't thank you enough.

TITO
How does ten percent off sound?

EDDIE
Ha! Screw off, man. You're joking!

Uncle Tito smiles.

UNCLE TITO
No, seriously, you get the full ten.

Eddie doesn't know what to say. He stares forward,
disturbed.

INT. HONEYMOON SUITE - DAY

This Honeymoon suite is staggeringly opulent. Eddie looks
around. Lila opens the french doors, revealing the ocean.

END

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START

EXT. HOTEL GROUNDS - LATE AFTERNOON

As Eddie's walking along one of the manicured paths, he sees Tito approaching carrying a tray of bar supplies and walking with a NOTICEABLE LIMP.

EDDIE

(edgy)

Well, good evening, Tito.

TITO

Oh, hey, Senor Eddie.

Tito tries to go past, but Eddie stops him.

EDDIE

Whoa, whoa, what's your rush? I notice you've got a little limp there, buddy? What happened?

TITO

Ah, long story. I won't bore you with it.

EDDIE

(pointed)

No, please, I've got time. Tell me.

TITO

Okay. After I dropped the food off at your room this morning, I placed my penis in your wife's hand and she slapped it away. Nailed me pretty good, too.

Eddie was expecting more of a cover-up and doesn't know how to respond.

EDDIE

Are you for real?

TITO

What?

EDDIE

Tito, I don't know what goes through your head. You crossed a serious line, man.

Tito looks at him, confused. Then he smiles.

TITO

Screw off! You're joking, right?

EDDIE

No, I'm not joking! What you did is outrageous!

Tito rubs his forehead, then slumps sheepishly.

TITO

(sincere)

Oh, wow...I apologize, Patron. I feel really bad. It's just that...well, you show up down here trying to bribe me with your porno tapes, then I see you run around with other women while you're on your honeymoon--I just figured anything goes with you.

Eddie thinks about this. The man has a point.

EDDIE

Whatever. Okay. I gotta go.

Eddie walks off feeling pretty creepy about himself.

TITO (O.S.)

(CALLING out)

Sorry for the misunderstanding, Senor!

Eddie gives a half-hearted wave and continues on.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIRANDA'S CASITA - A LITTLE LATER

Eddie is sitting on a bench, looking contemplative, when Miranda comes out of her casita. She looks as lovely as we've seen her.

MIRANDA

Oh, are you gonna walk me over?

EDDIE

Uh, yeah, yeah.

Eddie stands and tries to work up the courage to speak his mind.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Wow, you look...wow.

MIRANDA

Thanks.

Miranda seems a little out of sorts. Eddie takes a deep breath.

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MIRANDA

You're his wife?!

LILA

Uh-huh, we're on our honeymoon.

Lila's entire family looks on in shock.

MIRANDA

Honeymoon...?!

She stares at Eddie, choking with rage.

EDDIE

It's not how it sounds.

She turns and hurries away.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Miranda!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MANUEL'S CANTINA - A FEW DAYS LATER

This is the same cantina that Eddie and Miranda ate at. A run-down VW bug pulls up and Tito gets out. He looks all around. He walks past the cantina and goes around back to a little shack. He pushes the door. It CREAKS open.

INT. SHACK -- DAY

Tito ENTERS to find a disheveled Eddie laying in a hammock in his UNDERWEAR. He is PLAYING CHECKERS with a very, very old Mexican man, MANUEL. They pass a FLASK back and forth.

TITO

Senor Eddie...

EDDIE

Hey, Teeds.

TITO

Eddie, what are you doing--people are looking for you.

EDDIE

Manuel's a pal. He says I can stay forever.

TITO

You can't stay forever.

EDDIE

I'm learning to fish--

TITO

Mac and your father have been calling. And what about the American girl Miranda--what do I tell her?

EDDIE

Miranda?

Eddie sits up.

TITO

Yes, her family flew home, but she did not leave--she has been searching for you everywhere.

Eddie's face lights up.

EDDIE

She has?!

TITO

Screw off! I'm joking, man! That chick ran for the hills!

Tito HOWLS at this. Even Manuel SNICKERS. Eddie flops back in the hammock.

EDDIE

I'm stuck here, Tito. Lila stole my car, she burned my wallet and passport--I don't have a license, credit cards, nothing. I called the embassy, they said it would take at least a month to issue me new papers.

TITO

So why are you hiding here? The hotel has your credit card on file--they would let you stay.

EDDIE

No way. Lila's still around and that woman's dangerous. Listen to this.

Eddie flicks a button on his phone and passes it to Tito. Tito pulls the phone up to his ear.

FEMALE VOICE

(machine)

You have...356 messages.

The messages start:

LILA'S VOICE

Eddie? Eddie, don't hide. Don't hide from your soul mate. I can hold on all night...

(silence)

Here I am...holding on all night...

(Eddie fast forwards)

--Listen, you little FRUIT--!

(fast-forward)

--It was the pee, wasn't it? Can't you understand I was only trying to save your li--?

(fast-forward; little-girlish)

--here in bed all rosy and I weawy need my big stwong Eddie to stick it in--

(fast-forward)

I've got pills. They're blue. I'm going to take them--

(fast-forward; vicious)

--will find you while you're sleeping, and I'll take a claw hammer to your--

(fast-forward)

--soul-mates--

(fast-forward)

--uck--!

(fast-forward)

--ucker--!

(fast-forward)

--ocksu--!

(fast-forward)

--otherfu--!

(fast forward)

--Oh baby, I love you--!

(fast-forward; (inhuman howl)

--MMMMLLBBLLLUUUAAAAHHHHH--!

Eddie finally stops the tape. Tito looks almost awestruck.

TITO

Wow. That's one hot-blooded senora.

EDDIE

Yeah.

TITO

Senor Eddie, I have connections-- people who could lead you back across the border.

Eddie sits up, excited.

EDDIE

Really? You're not just screwing with me?

TITO

No, I could do it--but it's gonna cost you--they found our friggin' tunnel into California.

EDDIE

I don't have any money. I don't even have clothes.

TITO

You can wire me the money when you get home. I will lend you some of my own clothes.

Eddie jumps up excited.

EDDIE

You're a pal, Tito, I appreciate it. But I'm not going to California...I'm going to Mississippi.

END

Mountain's 'Mississippi Queen' starts to play as we show QUICK CUTS of:

--Eddie is wearing JEAN SHORTS and a WEATHERED HEDONISM II T-SHIRT as he and a GROUP OF MEXICANS wade across the Rio Grande while DOGS BARK O.S. and BORDER PATROL LIGHTS FLASH.

--An eighteen-wheeler pulls into a truck stop and parks. The DRIVER gets out and looks around nervously as he moves to the back of the truck. When he's sure the coast is clear, he opens the rear doors revealing a MASS OF HUMANITY.

Dozens of Mexicans pour out like a human waterfall, running in all directions. Sixty or seventy men, women, children come past before Eddie appears, the LONE GRINGO of the bunch.

Eddie staggers out, squinting, then runs for his life as POLICE CRUISERS CONVERGE ON THE SCENE.

--Eddie running beside a MOVING TRAIN at sunset. A group of HOBOS reach out for him. Eddie takes their hand and they pull him safely into AN OPEN BOX CAR.

--It's dark now and Eddie is inside the box car getting WORKED OVER by the three burly Hobos that pulled him onto the train. They PUNCH and KICK him until his body goes limp. Then they TOSS HIM OFF THE MOVING TRAIN.

DISSOLVE TO: