The Fisherman’s Wife

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THE FISHERMAN’S WIFE

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FADE IN

EXT. FISHING BOAT AND DOCK – SMALL FISHING VILLAGE – DAY

TITLE CREDITS

RAMON (19) is a relatively successful fisherman. He has a tiny boat but he brings in a healthy catch. He examines the catch and seems happy. He motors the fish to the dock. He unloads the fish into plastic containers and totes them to a small fish market and butcher shop. Several boys help bring the fish up to a market. Ramon gives each boy a small fish for their effort. The boys seem happy and run away. One boy brings the fish home to his mother, who greets him at the door. She takes the fish and waves to Ramon, thanking him.

EXT. FISH MARKET – SMALL FISHING VILLAGE – DAY

JAZZY (18) is Ramon’s wife and operates the tiny fish market. She sells the fish that her husband catches. The first thing we notice is her energy and her skill with a butcher knife. They fish simply open up when she looks at them. She works hard and fast and has an appealing smile for the customers. She is actually the ultimate sales lady.

We see her sell several of the fish. Her clients like the price and they like her. She smiles even more when she sees Ramon approaching from the dock with tubs of fish to sell. She maneuvers to create more space in their tiny refrigerator. By the time Ramon and the boys arrive with the fish, she has some space available. It is a hot summer day and Jazzy throws some ice, from a tiny kitchen (counter-size) ice maker, on the fish she has on display.

Ramon’s grandmother, GRACE (68) is there at the butcher shop. She has a chair that she rarely moves from. She has the beginnings of dementia. She is observing. RAMON hands over the fish and together they pack them away and display the rest.

Ramon and Jazzy have a humble butcher shop and a humble boat and a humble house in a tiny little fishing village on Luzon not far from Manila.

END TITLES
Ramon hugs his grandmother.

Ramon brings out a hand-cranked homemade ice cream machine. He pours in the cream, sugar, an egg, vanilla and berries. He mixes it all up and closes the lid. He pours in ice and rock salt in the outside compartment. He sits and turns the crank.

Jazzy deals with a customer.

CUSTOMER
Oh, you have so many nice fish.

JAZZY
Thank you. My husband is an excellent fisherman.

CUSTOMER
But you have so many.

CUSTOMER #2
I’ve heard the other villages are having problems.

JAZZY
I’ve heard that also. But not to worry.

CUSTOMER
That’s right; this village has three fishing boats.

They look out into the tiny cove and sure enough there are three small fishing boats. The two other fisherman are loading their catch onto small trucks.

CUSTOMER
Well okay. I won’t worry. I will take this one.

The customer pays and takes a fish.

JAZZY
Thank you and come back.
All the while she has been speaking to the client, Ramon has been turning the crank on the ice cream maker and watching Jazzy. When finished with the transaction, Jazzy looks at Ramon to.

JAZZY
Are you ready yet?

RAMON
It’s ready.

JAZZY
Well, let’s go.

RAMON
(to his grandmother)
You are okay to watch the shop?

GRACE
Yes, yes. You two newly weds run along.

JAZZY
We are going to get cleaned up for dinner. I’ll come close the shop when we are done.

Grace chuckles.

RAMON
Thanks, gran.

Ramon and Jazzy, with ice cream bucket in hand, run to their tiny home one block away.

INT. TINY HOME - DAY

Ramon and Jazzy strip down on the path to the shower. They are kissing and removing clothes the entire way. Clothes leave a trail from the door to the shower. They are in the shower kissing and cleaning. She takes an inferior soap and scrubs Ramon all the while kissing him and smiling. Ramon does the same.
They leave the shower for bed. They are rolling around in the bed and are about to make love, but Jazzy stops. She smells Ramon, so Ramon smells her in return. She jumps up and hand in hand they reenter the shower. They repeat the process.

They leave the shower and roll around in the bed. Tight shot on their faces.

    RAMON
    Are you ready?

Jazzy nods, yes.

    JAZZY
    Oh, oh. That tickles.

Jazzy wiggles around a bit.

    RAMON
    Just lie still for a second, I’ll be done in a minute.

    JAZZY
    But, it feels funny. And, it’s cold.

The camera pulls back and we see Ramon with a spoon eating ice cream off her stomach.

    JAZZY
    Well? Can I have a bite?

Ramon takes a spoonful and gives it to Jazzy.

    JAZZY
    Hey, that’s pretty good.

    RAMON
    Best batch yet.

    JAZZY
    I’m glad.

EXT. FISH MARKET - SMALL FISHING VILLAGE - DAY
Clients arrive and select fish. Grace doesn’t get up from her chair. She just points to the counter.

GRACE
Just put the money on the table and take the fish. I’m too old for this.

CUT TO minutes later...

Ramon rolls off of Jazzy. Both have a satisfied look on their faces. They stare up at the ceiling.

They get up and get in the shower again.

Jazzy dries herself off, dresses and goes to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

Ramon dries himself off, dresses and goes to the butcher shop. Grace is asleep in the chair. Ramon collects the money off the table. He throws the remaining fish in an ice chest and throws some ice in there as well.

He gently wakes his grandmother.

Ramon
Gran, it’s time for dinner.

Grace rises with difficulty; she seems to be arthritic. Ramon helps her up.

Grace exits and begins to walk to Ramon’s home.

Ramon closes and locks the shop.

Ramon returns to his home.

INT. KITCHEN - TINY HOME - DAY

When Ramon gets to his house. The table is set. Grace is sitting and Jazzy is at the stove. Ramon washes his hands at the kitchen sink. Ramon and Jazzy whisper while washing their hands...
RAMON
This afternoon was sure good.

JAZZY
Yes, it was.
(half beat)
What was that flavour?

RAMON
Churros Con Leche.

JAZZY
Very good.

RAMON
Thank you.

JAZZY
No, thank you!

Jazzy gives him a sexy wink and brings a gourmet meal to the table. Ramon follows her.

INT. KITCHEN TABLE - TINY HOME - DAY

Grace is already sitting at the table. She is exhausted.

Jazzy brings the platter to the table.

Ramon
And people say I married you for your cooking!

JAZZY
You did, didn’t you?

Ramon
Well there are a few other qualities.

JAZZY
Glad to hear it.

INT. FISHING BOAT - DAY
Ramon has caught many fish in his net and he brings them on board. He is motoring back to the dock and throws in a sport fishing line. He slowly trolls the boat and something big grabs the line and pulls. Ramon shuts off the engine and returns to the fishing pole.

Later...

Ramon has returned with something incredible—a fish so large he can’t get it out of the water. It is a 1000 lbs swordfish. It is lashed to the side of the boat. Slowly word is spread and soon everyone from the village is down at the dock.

A youth with an ancient and grainy video camera records nearly everything—dragging the fish out of the water, the hoisting and weighing it, the butchering it and then the meal the fish makes.

The other two fishermen come to look. They organize an effort to get the fish out of the water and on the deck. The entire village helps drag the fish out of the water. One FISHERMAN motions the others to just hang on. The village stand around looking at the fish.

Later, the fisherman returns with a scale not entirely suitable for recording a world record.

They hang the fish from the flag pole at the village school but it bends (ruins) the pole.

The one fisherman disappears again and returns with a truck with a large hoist on the back. He attaches the scale to the hoist and they lift the fish into the air. The fish about pulls the truck over backwards. The sound of the hoist motor straining to pull up the fish is key to the scene.

The scale is crude. The one fisherman gets a tall ladder and must stand on top of that to read the scale.

One fisherman
Over 1000 pounds. It is one notch over; lets call it. 1020 lbs.
SECOND FISHERMAN
It is a world’s record.

One fisherman
Maybe a record for the
Philippines. But I’m not sure
about the entire world.

SECOND FISHERMAN
But perhaps right?

FISH MONTAGE

A WOMAN in the village has a cell phone and a takes a photo of Ramon and the two other fishermen posing with the fish. She sends it to her cousin, who sends it to their cousin, who sends it to their cousin, who sends it to a journalist for a newspaper in Manila.

Before the fish is cut down, the photojournalist is on the scene. He takes some more photos of the fish. They drive the truck over to Ramon’s fish market, for scale. They take some more photos. The journalist climbs the ladder and photographs the scale. First the three fishermen, and then they take a photo of just Ramon with his fish.

The village lets down the fish and butchers it on the dock. The blood in the water draws what seems to be 100 of sharks.

The village has a feast. All the village get all they can store in their small refrigerators and ice chests. The two fishermen with trucks make phone calls; they pack the trucks full of swordfish and drive to their buyers.

The innards of the swordfish are pitched out to the village dogs and soon they have eaten so much they all lay down with their bellies stuffed. They actually look miserable.

The reporter documents everything and remains for the meal.

The village gathers for a real spread. There are tables out at the school and everyone brings the cooked fish back on platters.
The journalist and Jazzy are sitting next to each other at the table. Everyone is chatting. Ramon is still being congratulated. Ramon is on top of the world.

JOURNALIST
This will be in the Sunday morning newspaper.

JAZZY
Okay.

JOURNALIST
There will be other reporters, television maybe and radio. You might even have some tourists and bloggers who want to interview your husband. It’s good for tourism and to draw sport-fishermen to the islands.

JAZZY
I understand.

JOURNALIST
Running a business, I figured you would.

JAZZY
Okay, I see. I will go to Manila and get some new clothes.

JOURNALIST
It looks like you have a successful business.

JAZZY
It’s okay.

JOURNALIST
It’s going to get better after Sunday.
JAZZY
Oh, thank you. Ramon is a serious fisherman. He takes feeding this town seriously.

The journalist makes a note of Jazzy’s “serious” comments. It will end up in the story.

JOURNALIST
Well, he should get some recognition.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

The young person with the crude video camera uses the school’s internet to upload the video to Facebook.

EXT. FISH SHOP - VILLAGE - DAY

Ramon and his mother are at the butcher shop. Grace is in her chair. No one is coming by to buy fish (their refrigerators and ice chests are full of swordfish) but many in the village walk by smiling and waving. Many congratulate Ramon again.

Ramon notices at least five groups of tourists - both Filipino and foreigners - walking around the village. They are looking at the fishing boats at the dock. They examine the huge severed fish head; a dog is licking it but is still too stuffed to eat on it.

The tourists spend most of the time watching the sharks that are still swirling about under the dock.

They are at the school looking at the bent flagpole. They look at Ramon in the butcher shop and point.

VISITOR
You are the fisherman who caught the record swordfish?

RAMON
Yes. Hello, my name is Ramon.
VISITOR
Congratulations.

GRACE
This is my grandson, the world famous fisherman!

VISITOR
Well, wonderful. You should be very proud.

GRACE
Thank you.

INT. JEEPNEY TO MANILA - DAY

Jazzy is riding the Jeepney to town.

INT. MALL OF ASIA - MANILA - DAY

Jazzy picks out a new shirt and pants for Ramon. She is about to leave but she catches a smell in the air. She follows it around a corner or two. She finds the soap and cleaning aisle.

There are the Western made soaps – Dial, Dove, Irish Spring, Zest. She turns her back to the shelf and smells each through the packaging. Clearly, Jazzy’s olfactory system is highly developed.

At the bottom of the shelf, there is a fictional soap manufactured in the Philippines. The brand is “Real”.

Jazzy bends over picks it up and smells it. She prefers it. She reads the packaging and decides to purchase it.

EMPLOYEE
Can I help you?

JAZZY
Why is this brand at the bottom?

EMPLOYEE
The Western brands pay for the shelf space.
JAZZY
What?

EMPLOYEE
They pay to be here in the middle at eye level. The brands that can’t pay, we put at the bottom or at the very top.

Jazzy looks at the top shelf and the bottom shelf. She gives the store employee an uneasy look.

JAZZY
Thank you.

Jazzy reaches down and pulls up four more bars of “Real”.

INT. JEEPNEY TO VILLAGE - DAY

There are some uptight and worried people on the bus with Jazzy. Jazzy returns to the village with one of the bars of soap holding it on her chin. Her eyes are closed. She doesn’t know anything about “scent therapy” but has invented something near it. The wind is entering the window and blows over the soap. Pretty soon the entire bus is relaxed.

INT. FISH MARKET - BUTCHER SHOP - DAY

Grace is asleep in her chair. Some tourists walk buy but don’t stop.

INT. BATHROOM - TINY HOME - DAY

Jazzy is bathing the next-door neighbor’s kids. There is a BOY (6) and a GIRL (5). The children are grumpy.

GIRL
I know we don’t have a daddy, but why isn’t my mommy giving us a bath?

JAZZY
She is busy working in Manila.
GIRL  
I don’t want to have a bath here.

JAZZY  
Please, I don’t have time to wrestle with you.

GIRL  
Your soap smells funny.

The little girl points to the old soap.

GIRL  
It makes me smell like Mr. Ocampo.

JAZZY  
It does?

Jazzy thinks and smells the old soap. The little girl seems to have a point.

JAZZY  
Well, Mr. Ocampo drinks a lot of beer and that is what you smell.

GIRL  
I don’t want to smell like beer.

Jazzy has put the good new Real soap in the shower. She resists using the good soap on children. But the kids are just so cute and convincing.

JAZZY  
I have a surprise for you.

Jazzy gets up and opens the Real soap bar from the shower.

The little girl smells and she likes it. Jazzy begins to soup up the little girl.

The little boy wants to use the new soap also.
BOY
I don’t want to smell like beer either.

JAZZY
Good for you.

Jazzy soups him up too. The children are happy.

EXT. TINY HOME - DAY

The children’s mother has returned from Manila and is walking toward the village. Jazzy opens the door and the children run into their mother’s arms.

Ramon has been cranking on the ice cream maker again all the while staring at the house. He sees the children leaving. He takes the ice cream and walks toward the tiny house.

INT. TINY HOME - DAY

Ramon and Jazzy are in the shower again. They are using the new soap. Kissing and they leave the shower for the bed.

Ramon is eating ice cream off her stomach again, but…

They are interrupted by a tourist, who is knocking on the door. Ramon gets out of the bed and dresses. By the time he gets to the door, the tourists are now over at the butcher shop trying to talk to Grace. They are pointing to the boat down at the dock.

Jazzy gets dressed very slowly, thinking Ramon might return. Ramon looks worried about Grace talking to strangers.

RAMON
She doesn’t like to answer questions. And she especially doesn’t like to be woken up.

JAZZY
What?
Ramon dresses and exits the house and walks over to the butcher shop.

GRACE
He wants to know if you will take him out fishing.

TOURIST
Where you caught the big one.

RAMON
$100 dollars per day. All day or until you become tired.

TOURIST
Tomorrow?

RAMON
Tomorrow is Sunday.

The tourist hands Ramon an early edition of the Sunday newspaper.

TOURIST
Well, how about after church?

Jazzy arrives at the butcher shop with five bars of the old soap and puts them on the shelf with a sign “10 pesos”.

Several village women come by the shop to buy spices.

VILLAGE WOMEN
What spice is best for this?

The lady points to a fish for sale on the table.

JAZZY
Hawaiian ladyfish?
(half beat)
Try this.

Jazzy hands the ladies a container of her home made mix off the shelf.
What’s in it?

JAZZY
Basil, rosemary, parsley, sea salt, black pepper, sage, thyme, marjoram, oregano, celery salt, and garlic powder.

Oh, okay. That sounds wonderful.

They make the transaction.

Thank you.

Your husband, he’ll love it.

On the front page of the features section is a large photo and the headline reads, “Serious Fisherman Lands 1,000 lbs.”

It is a feature article with information about the catch, the village, and Ramon. There are subheadings in the article, “The Catch”, “the village”, “the feast”, “butcher shop” and about “Ramon” and his boat “The San Pedro”.

On the map in the article, the name of the tiny village is “Patrona Por El Mar”.

Jazzy walks up the road to the highway and catches a bus again to town. She has with her a $100 bill and a bar of soap. She again places the bar of soap on her chin and lets the wind through the window diffuse the smell throughout the bus.

EXT. ROAD TO MANILA – MORNING
A millionaire, VIRGILIO REAL (68) is standing by his luxury car, which has broken down. He has called a tow truck and it is being hooked up. Real waves to the Jeepney and the bus stops. He gets on the bus with the common people. He isn’t happy and is already sweating through his suit. Real sits miserable until he smells the soap. He looks around and notices Jazzy meditating with the bar of soap on her chin. Real smiles confidently; it’s his product.

Real takes a cell phone shot of Jazzy and the soap. It is actually a great publicity shot. It is clearly on a jeepney. It is hot; people are wearing summer clothing and we can assume that they are smelly.

A woman interrupts Jazzy. Real is near enough to hear the conversation.

WOMAN
Excuse me; can you tell me what I’m smelling?

JAZZY
Oh, well I’m sorry. It’s soap. Is it disturbing you?

WOMAN
No, no. It is very nice.

JAZZY
It relaxes me on these trips. I don’t like the bus and I think a nice smell transports me away. You know what I mean?

WOMAN
I will have to try that. Can you tell me what soap it is?

JAZZY
Certainly it is ‘Real’. I highly recommend it. My husband is a fisherman and I bath him in this and then he smells like ‘Leonardo DiCaprio” if you know what I mean.
WOMAN
The soap is that good?

JAZZY
It’s that good.

REAL
Excuse me. Young lady how would you like to go on television and tell the viewers what you just told this woman?

JAZZY
Why?

REAL
Because I’m the manufacturer of Real soap.

JAZZY
But why me?

REAL
I like you. And what you said is what I like to hear on the television and it's real and... You are better, more real, than those anorexic actresses we usually hire.

JAZZY
Well, what are you saying?

REAL
How about next Friday you come to my offices?

Real gives her a business card.

REAL
We’ll pay you $300 for one commercial. Cash.

Jazzy looks at the card and seriously considers the $300.
REAL
Really, I’m not that clever but I can see that the ultimate endorsement would be from a fisherman's wife.

JAZZY
I don’t think I can do it. I’m not a professional.

REAL
That dear, only helps your case.

JAZZY
I’d like to say you're wasting your time and $300.

REAL
I'd like you to try.

JAZZY
Well, maybe I could give it a try.

REAL
Wonderful.

They pass a high-rise building in Manila.

REAL
Here, here. This is my building. Can you please let me off?

The Jeepney driver stops the bus.

Real exits the bus.

INT. BATHROOM - TINY HOME - DAY

Jazzy is in her bathtub with bubble covering her nakedness.

There in the tub she is posing in front of the mirror. She is practicing her lines.
Jazzy
Hi my name is Jazzy and I'm gonna be a big television star.

Jazzy is probably the most humble woman in the Philippine Islands and says this line with a fake or bogus satirical tongue-in-cheek and she shakes her head and scoffs; as if to say 'no it probably won't happen'.

Ramon comes home from work but isn’t heard.

Ramon pauses outside the bathroom, holding the ice cream and listening.

Jazzy
Hello. My name is Jazzy and naturally I’m wearing nothing under all these bubbles. Really.

She is far too sexy (out of character) and something near Marylyn Monroe. It’s over done. It doesn't come across to Jazzy as the right approach she thinks contemplates.

Ramon knocks and enters the bathroom.

Ramon
Oh, you have a bath today.

Jazzy
We have a bath; come on get in.

Ramon strips and climbs into the tub. Ramon feels around under the bubbles. Jazzy smiles and giggles at his touch.

Ramon
Hey you really are wearing nothing on under here.

Later...

INT. BEDROOM - TINY HOME - NIGHT

The television is on.

Ramon and Jazzy have just had great sex.
RAMON
I want to tell you what an excellent wife you are.

JAZZY
Thank you.

RAMON
An ideal wife. We have a great life and you are always cheerful even when I’m not.

JAZZY
And never a harsh word is spoken, by either of us.

RAMON
I’m particularly happy.

JAZZY
I appreciate you saying that.

RAMON
And, do you know I am a great fisherman?

JAZZY
And how do you know this?

RAMON
They’ve been trying to catch that monster fish for years and I am the one that caught him.

JAZZY
I know.

Long beat.

JAZZY
I had an interesting conversation on the jeepney today.
RAMON
Who with?

JAZZY
A millionaire soap manufacturer.

RAMON
Really what about?

JAZZY
About making a soap commercial.

RAMON
Who?

Ramon is sceptical; he's a typical man.

JAZZY
Me, of course.

RAMON
Why?

JAZZY
He seemed sincere.

RAMON
Are you going to?

JAZZY
Probably not.
(half beat)
Oh, I might take the $300 and just make the one commercial.

Ramon pauses to think.

RAMON
$300? That’s ridiculous.

JAZZY
It will probably never work out there are much prettier girls.
RAMON
They’re all too skinny, if you ask me.

Something occurs to Ramon and he climbs on top of Jazzy again.

Later... the television is still on.

Ramon is drifting off to sleep. Jazzy is watching the television when one of the soap commercials come on.

On TV, there is a very sexy MODEL in a bathtub and the idea of the commercial is to sell soap using sex. The model is covered in suds.

MODEL
I’m really thinking of getting out of this tub.

The model sits up a bit (and a few suds fall off) and she contemplates.

MODEL
No. I think I’ll stay a while.

JAZZY
I’m not going to make that commercial; do we need the money?

RAMON
You can if you want.

JAZZY
I’m just not comfortable with the sexy approach.

RAMON
I thought the idea of her getting out of the tub was pretty good. If I were them, I’d stick with the model and not upset our happy home.
Jazzy looks like she might want to make the commercial. Ramon however is oblivious.

JAZZY
I might want to do it.

RAMON
Okay. Honey. Good night.

INT. BEDROOM - TINY HOME - DAY

Ramon is down at the butcher shop.

Jazzy is out of the tub, clothed and standing in front of the mirror. The mirror has been moved from the bathroom into the bedroom.

She tries another approach in the mirror this time it is more realistic and far improved.

JAZZY
Hello. My name is Jazzy and I’d like to tell you something that happened in my home the other day.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIOS - MANILA - DAY

Jazzy can’t remember or mispronounces the dumb lines they give her so she will just ad-lib the commercial.

JAZZY
Hello, I’m not your ordinary fisherman’s wife. I’m…
(half beat)
Oh I forget.

DIRECTOR
Cut. Try it again.

JAZZY
Hello, Hello, I’m not your ordinary fisherman’s wife. And I can tell you in no…

Awkward beat...
JAZZY
I can tell you in no certain...

DIRECTOR
Cut, cut. Give her the script again.

Jazzy reads it again.

JAZZY
I can’t do this.

DIRECTOR
Okay we are done here. That’s a wrap.

The crew moves to pack.

JAZZY
I don’t mean that.
(half beat)
I can do the commercial, but just can’t do this.

DIRECTOR
What exactly can you do?

JAZZY
Well I can just tell you want happened.

Long beat.

DIRECTOR
Okay, let’s try.

She hands the script to the director who wads it up and pitches it aside.

Jazzy isn’t smooth like the professional actresses; the crew laughs at her. But the commercial is recorded. We will see it later on TV.

INT. MEETING – ADVERTISING AGENCY – DAY
There are four advertising executives in a meeting room. The television and DVD player is set up. They have been reviewing Jazzy’s commercial. We see the last three seconds of Jazzy’s commercial, just the part were she is waving goodbye.

EXECUTIVE #1
The old man has lost his marbles.

EXECUTIVE #2
The company is in financial trouble and he is going for the rural customers.

EXECUTIVE #3
He should know the money is in the cities.

EXECUTIVE #2
This girl is far too country.

EXECUTIVE #4
I saw him yesterday and his point of view is that rural people are doing the work and getting dirty.

EXECUTIVE #3
He feels that the urban dwellers aren’t dirty? They have the money.

EXECUTIVE #4
No, he just said the rural people are doing ‘the’ work and I think that implies they need the soap.

EXECUTIVE #1
Okay, I see. I don’t think it’s going to work.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Again satisfying sex, all around. Ramon and Jazzy are lying in bed. Beside the bed is an empty ice cream canister. Ramon is half asleep when Jazzy’s commercial comes on.
Jazzy eyes get big and she glances at Ramon. Ramon sits up in bed like a rocket. His jaw drops and he doesn’t move until the commercial is over.

JAZZY
(on television)
Hello my name is Jazzy and I'm just a simple fisherman's wife.
I’d like to tell you what happened the other night but I can't they won't let me say. I can tell you that those fish can be really smelly and well ... my husband and I we don’t get into bed until we've had a long and very soapy bath. I feel a bit embarrassed but I thought there... I’ll just tell you and get it over. This is the best soap I have ever come across and I told my friend that it makes Ramon smell like Leonardo DiCaprio; so I know the people who make it and they make a good product.
(half beat)
Oh, I forgot to say you can also shower with the soap and we know that works okay too. Bye. We know it's good for that, bye.

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

After the commercial airs the villagers are all out on the street and casually walking by Ramon and Jazzy’s small home. The lights are out but the TV is on inside; people are trying not to eavesdrop or be peeping toms but the curiosity seems to be killing them. They walk three or four times casually by the home hoping to see or hear or see something.

INT. MEETING - ADVERTISING AGENCY - DAY

The millionaire is in the office of the chief ad executive.
REAL
You heard me. You know exactly what I said. I want that fisherman’s wife.

AD MAN #1
But we already have a commitment with the actresses in bikinis 34 more spots at $3000 each.

REAL
Tell those actresses they're washed up.
(beat)
And don’t tell me no; you are afraid to cut them off for fear they will cut you off.

AD MAN #1
Sir.

REAL
I run a soap company, not a brothel for your personal amusement.

AD MAN #1
Sir, I think you're being a little premature.

REAL
Can’t you read?

Real pulls out a copy of the Manila Business Journal and reads...

REAL
The experts said, ‘This new commercial is a realistic appeal to the people that actually get their hands dirty.’
(half beat)
That’s exactly what I want.
(half beat)
And they said, ‘We are elated the company is changing their sales approach. It appears that sex doesn’t really sell soap anymore.’ That’s what they said.

(half beat)
You hear that? This Jazzy girl from the village is my new model.

INT. SCHOOL – VILLAGE – DAY

A construction crew has taken down the bent flag pole. The entire village is watching – women with small children, old men, school children. Everyone stops and watches.

A huge flag pole has gone up in it’s place. A concrete truck is pouring a foundation. The flag is hoisted and it is one of the really big Philippine flags.

OLD TIMER #1
Jazzy said it cost $300.

GRACE
Yes and it can be seen from Manila.

OLD TIMER #1
Thirty miles away?

GRACE
It’s so big; it’s a navigational aid for ships at sea.

OLD TIMER #1
But only in the day.

The construction crew unload some powerful lights that will eliminate the flag at night.

Ramon is at sea and returning to the village, he can see the huge flag like a beacon on the horizon.

INT. MEETING – ADVERTISING AGENCY – DAY

The execs are having a meeting without their client, Real.
AD MAN #2
Well gentleman do we hire her?

AD MAN #3
Well, it's difficult to make a
snap appraisal until we've seen
the sales figures.

AD MAN #4
Test marketing, her potential.

AD MAN #5
I'll have to go along with that;
until he can make some experiments
until there is some test
marketing.

Ad man #1 enters the room and sits with the other
executives.

AD MAN #1
Well, I advised against hiring
her, but we have to hire her.

AD MAN #2
Is she blackmailing you?

AD MAN #1
No.

AD MAN #3
Then why?

AD MAN #1
Because the old man said so...
(half beat)
That's right; one year 52
commercials $3000 each

There is a long beat.

AD MAN #3
What am I going to tell MaryAnn?
AD MAN #2
Cynthia isn’t going to like this.

AD MAN #1
The question is how long do you think you can string them along without a commercial and money.

Long beat as the ad men are thinking about life without floozy actresses.

AD MAN #1
It’s going to be dry around here for at least a year. But what is the alternative?

AD MAN #2
We lose the client.

AD MAN #3
Well, now that I think about it I'm inclined to go along with the old man; she has a new and honest approach the product

AD MAN #4
Yes I agree.

AD MAN #1
And you think she has a honest approach, yes?

AD MAN #4
Yes.

AD MAN #5
I'll go along with that.

AD MAN #2
What do you think?

AD MAN #1
Oh, I quite agree with everything; good thinking.
Jazzy enters the room.

AD MAN #1
We were just talking about you.

AD MAN #2
You did great.

JAZZY
Well I was so nervous. I wish I could stick with your original script but I get in front of all the cameras and I just can't remember anything. I have to pretty much tell the story my way. Is that okay?

AD MAN #1
Is that okay? Mr. Real said that's exactly what he wants and you are delightful. And you're hired. But...

JAZZY
But?

AD MAN #1
But there is a party. You are invited. In fact you're the guest of honour.

JAZZY
I don't know about a party; my husband is expecting me at home so maybe I should just go home.

AD MAN #1
He will be perfectly welcome to join us.

JAZZY
Really, Raymon can come to the party?

(half beat)
So that's very nice; maybe I can call him and he can come.
(half beat)
Can I phone Ramen from here?

Grace answers the phone.

JAZZY
Hello, Grace. Is Raymond home?

GRACE
He is out fishing.

JAZZY
When he comes in please tell him that he needs to be at the Makati Shangri-La hotel at
(to the executives)
What time?

GRACE
9 p.m.

JAZZY
9 p.m.

GRACE
Okay, I will tell him.

Grace doesn’t write it down and of course she can’t remember.

INT. TINY HOME - AFTERNOON

Later, when Ramon comes home and Jazzy is not at home, Ramon he gets on the phone and calls the advertising agency.

A machine picks up the phone.

MACHINE
Hello.

RAMON
I’m looking for my wife.
MACHINE
We are closed right now.
(half beat)
But, want to see the commercial of the cute new soap girl? She's gonna wink at everyone the same as she always does. Make sure to watch ever Tuesday at 7 p.m.

RAMON
Tuesdays?

MACHINE
Make sure you watch.

RAMON
Thanks, I'll do that.

INT. HOTEL BALL ROOM - NIGHT

Real’s wife is there at the party and befriends Jazzy.

REAL’S WIFE
You must be really proud of yourself. Frankly, I’d be frightened to death if I had to stand in front the camera.

JAZZY
Believe me I was. I didn't know what else to say so I just rattled on.

REAL’S WIFE
Well, you're rattling on really made the commercial. What they wrote for you is crap, so don't worry about that just rattle on. You speak so naturally and honestly about your husband...

Leonardo?
Jazzy dances. She dances with and charms all the right people.

MILLIONAIRE
How would you like to be our spokesperson as well?

JAZZY
Oh, I don’t know. What do you sell?

MILLIONAIRE
Compost.

JAZZY
I can’t sell people dirt.

MILLIONAIRE
I think you can sell anything.

JAZZY
Oh, I don’t know.
(half beat)
Can’t you make something nice like spices? Or knives? Something I know about?

MILLIONAIRE
You need to talk to Mr. Absgen the man dancing with the young girl. Now, Mr. Aoki, he imports knives. He’s the one standing at the bar.
(half beat)
But think about compost will you?

JAZZY
Yes, I can help you next year. Right now I’m selling soap.
Jazzy goes to the bar, speaks with Aoki and she drinks water. Aoki is showing the bartender how to properly cut lemons and limes.

AD MAN #1
I'm glad you like our new approach.

REAL’S WIFE
Yes, you think it can save the company?

AD MAN #1
Well, she is charismatic.

Jazzy stops dancing.

AD MAN #1
Where is Ramon?

JAZZY
Well, he should be along in a minute.

AD MAN #1
You want to dance?

Jazzy is having the time of her life being introduced to the rich and powerful. The rich and charming people are there and they adore her.

INT. TINY HOME - NIGHT

Ramon and his grandmother eat the food in the refrigerator. Remember they are accustomed to fresh gourmet dishes from Jazzy.

RAMON
It’s not all that fresh.

GRACE
Of course not, its been in the refrigerator for three days.
Ramon puts the fork down and goes to the window. He doesn’t finish the meal. He looks outside, and down the road toward Manila. He sees the brightly eliminated flag. He goes to bed worried.

At 3:30 he wakes up and goes into his grandmothers bedroom. He wakes her up.

GRACE
What are you doing here?

RAMON
Jazzy isn’t home yet. It’s 3:30.

GRACE
You aren’t supposed to be here. You are supposed to be with Jazzy.

RAMON
Where?

GRACE
Some swanky hotel in Manila.

RAMON
Why didn’t you tell me?

GRACE
I did, didn’t I?

The phone rings. Ramon answers.

JAZZY
Ramon where are you?
(half beat)
Oh, never mind you are home. You were supposed to be at this party.

RAMON
At 3:30 in the morning?

JAZZY
It’s 3:30?
(half beat)
I’ve been talking to these people for over 6 hours?
  (half beat)
Oh, my. I’m terribly sorry.
  (half beat)
I’m sorry honey. I lost track of time.
  (half beat)
They gave me a car and driver for the night. I’ll be home right away.

Jazzy’s car and driver are waiting in front of the hotel.

There are two delivery trucks parked unloading cases of spices and kitchen knives on the sidewalk.

Jazzy leaves the party. Young men load the car with the cases and they hardly all fit in the trunk. Several of the cases must sit in the passenger seat and even in the back seat beside Jazzy.

  DRIVER
What are these?

  JAZZY
Mr. Aoki gave me a few cases of kitchen knives.

She points to a case or two.

  JAZZY
And those are spices. All kinds from around the world. From Mr. Absgen.

She has the car totally over-loaded and driver bring her home.

We get a glance at his GPS and he is taking her to the wrong village.

  INT. CAR – VILLAGE OF PEÑAFRANCIA – NIGHT

Jazzy is in the back of the car asleep. The driver stops.
 DRIVER
Okay, we are here.

Jazzy wakes up.

 DRIVER
Which one is your house?

 JAZZY
This isn’t my village. Where are we?

 DRIVER
Peñafrancia.

 JAZZY
I don’t live in Peñafrancia. I live in Patrona by the Sea.

Long beat.

 DRIVER
I’m terribly sorry.

 JAZZY
This is very embarrassing.

 DRIVER
They told me Peñafrancia.

 JAZZY
I won’t tell anyone if you don’t.

The driver punches the correct city into the GPS and they are off again.

INT. TINY HOME – VERY EARLY MORNING

Jesse has been out all night. It is 6:30 AM when she arrives.
DRIVER
This can’t be your village. They said it was... There is a huge flag.

JAZZY
Oh, they finally put it up.

DRIVER
But they said you live in a tiny fishing village.

JAZZY
We are a progressive fishing village and besides the fishermen, they foolishly bent the old flag pole.

Jazzy has opened the butcher shop door and the driver unloads the cases of knives and spices.

Ramon's face is tired but he was up all night and is leaving when Jazzy finally returns.

RAMON
Where have you been?

JAZZY
I met some people. I have new spices and new knives to sell in the shop. Free. A gift.

RAMON
What happened?

JAZZY
The driver went to the wrong village.

RAMON
What?

JAZZY
On the other side of the island?
RAMON
I’m going to have a word with him.

JAZZY
It was my fault dear, I told him the wrong village.

RAMON
I didn’t sleep, well.

JAZZY
Oh dear, are you okay?

RAMON
If I can just catch some fish, I’ll be better. Do you mind?

JAZZY
No, no. I’m sorry.

The sun is just rising and Ramon goes out to his boat.

INT. BUTCHER SHOP - DAY

Jazzy is watching the neighbor’s children again. They are running and playing inside and outside of the shop. Grace is beginning to be annoyed.

Jazzy has organized her new spices and knives. The merchandise in her store has really been upgraded. Jazzy is reading the newspaper-classified ads section, looking for a larger refrigerator.

An executive from the advertising agency arrives at the fish market. He takes a few photos with his phone.

AD MAN
You don’t mind if I take a few photos for Mr. Real do you?

JAZZY
No.
AD MAN
Jazzy, would you consider being the television spokesperson for our Real soap? I have a contract for you to sign.

JAZZY
That's not very funny?

AD MAN
Well I thought it might be, but the 5000 or so people who emailed and phoned said they like the new approach.

JAZZY
You are joking?

AD MAN
Mr. Real is changing his approach (the sexy is out) and he wants reality. He told me to come out here and take some photos of you here at the fish market. And to negotiate a contract.

JAZZY
No, your crew laughed at my commercial and I'm not going to go through that again.

AD MAN
It was a great commercial.

JAZZY
I told you I'm never going on television again I made a fool of myself.

AD MAN
We are continuing to air it.

JAZZY
Look, you can just take your $300 and forget about it
AD MAN
Oh, it's more than $300.

JAZZY
more than $500?

AD MAN
Oh it's more than $500.

JAZZY
Well what is it?

AD MAN
It’s six times that, per week.

JAZZY
How much?

AD MAN
It's $3000 per week for 52 weeks

JAZZY
How much is 52 x 3,000?

AD MAN
One-year contract 52 TV commercials, $180,000 and extra for magazines, internet and radio spots. We have some book ideas and will hire a ghostwriter.

(half beat)
The beautiful actresses who never had their hands dirty are out and you are in.

JAZZY
How does that work?

AD MAN
Well, they’re fired.

JAZZY
No, the ghostwriter. How does that work?
The neighbor’s kids are running and screaming. Jazzy is trying to think. Grace is trying to sleep. Her instinct is to calm the kids and then deal with the advertising man.

Jazzy
Hey kids, come sit down with me for a minute.

They stop running and screaming. Grace relaxes a bit.

Jazzy
Which spice smells the best?

Jazzy opens three bottles and the children smell. They calm down for a few seconds.

Jazzy
Hang on a minute; I’m thinking.

There is a long beat. The advertising executive isn’t in a rush. He is respectful and waits for Jazzy to make up her mind.

Boy
Where do babies come from?

Jazzy
The newspaper.

Girl
Why don’t you have one?

Jazzy
No money. Look here is one for $1800 and another (a smaller one) for $1200.

Jazzy shows them the refrigerator ads that she has circled in the newspaper. Of course the kids can’t read.

Boy
Get the smaller one.
GIRL
But you’re not married.

JAZZY
Yes, I am. My husband is Ramon.

Ramon is on his boat which has just arrived. There is something strange in the village. He looks to the left and the right. He picks up his catch and starts toward the butcher shop. He notices everyone in the village is at the school. They are watching a work crew paint the school building.

Old timer speaks to Ramon as he passes by.

OLD TIMER
That building hasn’t been painted since 1950.

From Jazzy’s POV, Ramon is a block or more down the street bringing up fish from his boat.

JAZZY
Here he is now. Go see what he’s caught.

The kids run to Ramon.

GIRL
Why don’t you give Jazzy some money so she can buy a baby?

RAMON
Uh... okay. I’m trying but I don’t have any money right now.

BOY
Jazzy is talking to a man about money. He's a tall man from Manila and drives a big car. See him there in his fancy suit.

Ramon is a little bit jealous and his concern level increases.
Ramon looks at the butcher shop from a distance and notices that there are far too many people hanging around. Fish don’t seem being sold, but people are just standing around hoping to hear the conversation.

GIRL
Maybe he will give her some money to buy a baby.

BOY
Come on, lets go see if he gives her the money.

The kids run back to the butcher shop.

BOY
Ramon is coming and he says he doesn’t have any money for you, so no baby.

GIRL
Please take this man’s money and buy a baby.

Jazzy is about to take the offer but Ramon arrives. Ramon puts the fish down on the table and looks suspiciously at the advertising man.

JAZZY
Did you just tell me that's $180,000 per year?

AD MAN
That’s right.

JAZZY
For one commercial a week?

AD MAN
Once a week, on Fridays.

RAMON
Well, you did tell him no, didn't you?
JAZZY
(to the ad man)
I’m sorry, I don’t think I can.

Ramon walks away content into the house but Kathy and the executive continue with the negotiation.

AD MAN
Well there are a lot of people working in the factory who need to continue.

JAZZY
Are you telling me the soap factory is going to close?

AD MAN
We need to sell a lot of soap to avoid closures.
(beat)
I'm sorry there's nothing more I can say.
(half beat)
Good luck.

JAZZY
Okay I'll do it.

The ad man quickly produces a contract. Jazzy signs confident she is doing the right thing. Only afterwards does she look toward the house and worry about Ramon’s reaction.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jazzy is trying to explain why she took the job.

JAZZY
Well he offered me a job and I turned him down. I asked him to leave and he just kept coming at me with reasons, but I just couldn't say no to $180,000 per year.
RAMON
That's ridiculous.

Jazzy gets an idea in her head.

RAMON
Jazzy, what are you thinking?

JAZZY
I'm thinking about a shower.

Ramon enters the shower with her.

They are kissing and soaping and loving.

JAZZY
You know if I get pregnant, this entire thing will be over.

RAMON
You think?

JAZZY
I can't believe they're going to pay $180,000 to a pregnant woman.

RAMON
You are right; they won't pay a pregnant woman.

JAZZY
Who says I'm going to be pregnant?

RAMON
Well, I do.

Ramon takes her out of the shower, they never seem to towel off first. The camera is on Jazzy's face.

RAMON
(talking with his mouth full)
Our bank account is healthy. We have a boat, a house and a small
business. There's no reason for you to work in Manila.

JAZZY
Do you have to talk while you are doing that?

Camera pulls back and Ramon is talking and eating ice cream off her stomach again. He is talkative. Clearly it is erotic to Jazzy and this is something like having a conversation while having sex. In each line Jazzy delivers, she is out of breath. Ramon’s speech is like someone talking while eating ice cream. He IS eating ice cream.

JAZZY
Ramon, you're just like every other man.

RAMON
What? No romance? We do it this way every time.

JAZZY
No, its not the ice cream.

RAMON
What then?

JAZZY
It’s the power. You men always have to have the power. The control.

RAMON
Will you're right about that.

JAZZY
Do you remember what you said to me when we were kids?

RAMON
No, I don't.
JAZZY
You said we would be partners and that you would never stand in my way.
(half beat)
Well?

Just as they finish the ice cream. Ramon is less talkative. He crawls up her so they are face to face. And we see his face and chin covered with milky melted ice cream.

All we can see is that they are face to face. No telling what is going on off camera.

JAZZY
Oh, that’s...

Later, Ramon and Jazzy are lying in bed, content and looking at the ceiling. The conversation continues.

JAZZY
Don't be a hypocrite.

RAMON
You have outside interests that I don't get in the way. You have a my mother; you take care of my mother and I never interfere with that.

Jazzy is mad but contains it.

RAMON
And you go to the school and help with the tutoring; have I ever said a word?

Jazzy contemplates expressing her anger but resists.

RAMON
And you take care of the neighbour’s kids when she has to go to work. I never get in the way.
JAZZY
Yes I have these things and I have the shop and my spices and it's not very fulfilling frankly.

RAMON
Well I didn't realize that my wife lacked fulfillment.

JAZZY
I would like the $180,000.

RAMON
You always told me how your marriage to me was enough.

JAZZY
You know I would never consciously go out looking for work but this just landed in my lap.

RAMON
Selling soap will make you happy?

JAZZY
Honey it's only once a week and I won't let anything interfere with my wifely duties I promise.

They kiss and make up. She crawls on top of him.

EXT. TYPICAL VILLAGE HOUSE - NIGHT

The camera moves through the village. There are 12 houses in the village and 5 television sets we see through windows. In front of each of the five TV sets are the village people. When Jazzy’s soap commercial comes on, their eyes are glued to the screen.

COMMERCIAL SUCCESS MONTAGE

Television commercials saturate the airways. A high-rise condominium building a successful couple (upwardly mobile) enjoy the commercials. In a small village, about twenty
people (low income) crowd around a TV and they notice Jazzy.

Internet banners have Jazzy’s photo. School children must be scolded for using the internet to view the Real Soap web page.

Jazzy is seen on billboards. A young male (student driver) is looking at the billboard, when he crashes his car into the car in front of him. The car in front of the student driver has slowed to get an eye of Jazzy.

Radio commercials. People in Manila are stuck in a traffic jam, but the commercials make them chuckle. Ramon is out on his fishing boat. He is working hard to bring in only a few fish. The commercial comes on his radio and he was already flustered at the lack of fish, this is only more demoralizing.

Jazzy has a new book out, “The Jazzy Way to Clean” – by Jazzy. It is marketed as “the ultimate guide to housework and cleaning”. Jazzy really appears to really love the book signings.

Soap is flying off the bottom shelf. When it is restocked it is at eye level. The stores bring in cases and cases of the soap.

When Mr. Real and Jazzy walk through the factor on a tour, the employees applaud them (or perhaps her).

END COMMERCIAL SUCCESS MONTAGE

INT. BATHTUB – VILLAGE – NIGHT

There is a kid in the bathroom. He doesn’t want to get into the tub but his mother insists.

    BOY
    But I don’t want to take a bath now. You said every other day.

    MOTHER
    Well the rules have changed, now you take a bath every night. If
you argue with me, I will tell
Jazzy. She lives right down the
street you know. S

The boy reluctantly gets into the tub.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Ramon comes home from fishing. A truck is installing a huge
walk-in freezer behind the tiny butcher shop. The freezer
is huge. The new freezer is almost as big as the entire
shop.

The entire village is gathered around the back of his fish
shop. Ramon stops in awe at the size. Down the street there
are several electric service trucks stringing new wire
along the poles. The entire electric system for the city is
being redone. New transformers and new meters.

There is a video crew shooting inside Ramon’s tiny home.

Children outside are playing near the dock.

KID
Ramon, Jazzy is all dressed up and
pretty smelling.

RAMON
I haven’t seen her for weeks.
Where is she?

KID
Up at your house.

Ramon walks with a few fish to the shop, he puts them out
on the table.

INT. TINY HOME - DAY

He eagerly, anticipating sex, rushes to their home.

He takes half his clothes off and barges into the room. He
trips over an electric cord, which pulls over a light. The
light cracks him over the head.
He is lying on the floor, shirtless and with a large knot on his head. The film crew looks at Ramon like he’s an idiot.

Jazzy is all dressed up fancy. She rushes to him. Jesse kisses him on the face and where the light hit his head.

JAZZY
Oh, honey! Are you okay?

RAMON
I’m fine. I’m fine.
(half beat)
What are you doing?

JAZZY
Well I thought I’ve been gone so much and the drive into Manila takes so long, I thought we would shot this commercial here.
(half beat)
Did you make some ice cream?

RAMON
Oh, uh. No. I just got here.

JAZZY
I was thinking maybe we could... you know.

RAMON
With all these people around?

JAZZY
Gentlemen, can we have a minute?

The crew leaves and waits outside the house.

RAMON
So this is your idea darling?

JAZZY
I did it for us; I did it for you.
RAMON
How thoughtful darling.

JAZZY
They wanted to do this in the studio, but I thought it was a good idea to do it here.
(half beat)
You know so we could ‘see’ each other.

RAMON
What about those guys?

JAZZY
I’ll tell them to wait.

RAMON
Outside? Waiting for us to ‘see’ each other.
(half beat)
Listening in.
(half beat)
No, thank you.

Ramon gets up to leave.

JAZZY
Hurry back, I’d like to see you when they’re gone.

RAMON
Okay, I’m going to go fishing and try to cool off. I’ll be back in two hours.

JAZZY
Wonderful.

Ramon leaves.

RAMON
(to the crew)
You have two hours and no more.
INT. BUTCHER SHOP - DAY

Grace is asleep. Ramon goes to the butcher shop, opens the refrigerator and mixes some ice cream. He loads the machine with ice and rock salt. He takes it to his boat.

At the butcher shop he finds a magazine with Jazzy on the cover. It is a women’s magazine. He flips through it, but take it with him to the boat.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Ramon is on the boat; he is idling the engine out to sea but the wheel is turned slightly. Eventually, the boat will move in a circle or arch.

Ramon is cranking the ice cream maker at a slow pace, but he looks at the magazine. The cranking becomes more energetic.

He isn’t watching where he is going in the boat. We cut to and from his tiny GPS. It shows he’ll eventually crash back into the island.

DAYDREAM SEQUENCE

Ramon imagines himself eating ice cream off Jazzy’s belly.

DAYDREAM SEQUENCE ENDS

Ramon’s fishing boat beaches itself in the soft sand. The tide is receding and he is stuck.

Ramon sits eating the ice cream and flipping through the magazine.

Inside the magazine is an interview with Jazzy about the baby. There is a spread of four or five pages of photos. She’s conservatively dressed but is morphing from advertising star to fashion model.

MAGAZINE
A candied interview with the Island’s newest television personalities.
Ramon reads to himself. But he notices a particularly appealing response Jazzy has made in the interview.

CUT TO: JAZZY’S INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESS - DAY

JAZZY
You can’t buy happiness, happiness is born.

INTERVIEWER
What exactly does that mean?

JAZZY
It means Ramon and I are going to have a child.

The interviewer sits up; he is thinking he has a breaking story.

INTERVIEWER
Oh, you are pregnant now?

JAZZY
No, but we will be.

RETURN TO: RAMON’S TINY BOAT - DAY

Ramon’s boat is beached but he seems content and happy at becoming a father. Ramon throws out a fishing line and waits.

INT. TINY HOME - DAY

Jazzy is worried pacing about the house.

EXT. SMALL FISHING BOAT - NIGHT

A coast guard boat arrives. They shine a spot light on Ramon and his boat.

COAST GUARD
Are you okay?
RAMON
Yes. I just beached it.

COAST GUARD
Strange way of catching fish. Do you want us to pull you off?

Ramon looks down at the sand and he is seriously beached and the tide is at it’s lowest point.

RAMON
No, I don’t think you can.

COAST GUARD
Will you just wait until high tide?

RAMON
Yes.

COAST GUARD
That won’t be until in the morning.

RAMON
I don’t argue with nature.
(half beat)
Can you call my wife and tell her I won’t be home?

COAST GUARD
Sure. You are the one married to Jazzy, the soap girl on television?

They chuckle a bit.

RAMON
Yes.

They laugh harder. And begin to motor away.

RAMON
Hey what are you guys doing out here anyway?
COAST GUARD
Someone said they saw a Chinese submarine. Big joke huh?

INT. TINY HOME – DAY

Jazzy tosses and turns in the bed. She can’t sleep.

JAZZY
This bed is too big.

She gets up and looks out the window. Nothing but a giant eliminated Philippines flag.

JAZZY
Oh, were are you Ramon?

She doesn't realize he's grounded. Finally, she is exhausted and falls asleep just as the sun is coming up.

The phone rings. It wakes Jazzy up and she looks miserable without sleep. Grace answers the phone.

GRACE
Who?
(half beat)
The coastguard?
(half beat)
What do you want?

INT. SOUP CORPORATION HEADQUARTERS – DAY

A junior executive has just finished with a presentation. His charts and graphs are still up. Mr. Real turns to the advertising executives in the room.

REAL
I told you it would work.

AD MAN
Yes, sir.

REAL
Sales figures are up 20 percent.
AD MAN
That’s wonderful.

Real turns to some of his soap company executives.

REAL
We are expanding. I want more products.
  (half beat)
I want detergent.
  (half beat)
I want car soap.
  (half beat)
Boat soap.
  (half beat)
I want more commercials.
  (half beat)
Let's buy television ads on the news. Politics is a particularly dirty business’ maybe soap will sell.

INT. TINY HOME - NIGHT

Jazzy isn’t home. Ramon lays in bed eating ice cream out of a bowl. He is depressed and disillusioned.

Finally Jazzy comes home. She notices an empty ice cream bowl on the bed stand.

JAZZY
I’m sorry, honey. We had a commercial to shot and they kept doing it over and over. I’m exhausted.

Jazzy crawls into the bed. She snuggles up to Ramon. Ramon is cold to her, so she goes to sleep.

Later Ramon changes his mind but Jazzy is asleep. He nudges her but she is sound asleep and clearly exhausted.

INT. BUTCHER SHOP - DAY
A delivery truck brings a much larger refrigerator for inside the butcher shop. The butcher shop is remodeled and painted. New roof and new floor tiles.

EXT. VILLAGE – DAY

A construction crew is digging a new sewer and drainage system for the village. The previous trenches and pipes are enlarged and upgraded.

INT. DOCTOR’S OFFICE – DAY

Jazzy has a doctor’s appointment to learn of the pregnancy.

JAZZY
Well, my husband and I haven’t done anything since I began making these commercials.

The doctor looks in dismay.

JAZZY
Well, it’s not that we haven’t wanted to you know.
(half beat)
Oh, poor Ramon.
(half beat)
It’s just that we can’t seem to be free at the same time.

DOCTOR
And when did you start making your commercials?

JAZZY
Two months ago?

DOCTOR
That is about right.

JAZZY
I’m pregnant?

DOCTOR
About two months along.
The doctor gives her the good news and she has tears and joy. She catches a jeepney home.

But before she can get home, it is already out on the media and Ramon must learn from the radio.

Jazzy is rushing home and tries to call but when she gets through to Ramon’s mother, she also knows from the radio.

JAZZY
Grace, can you put Ramon on the phone.

GRACE
He went fishing. He knows you are pregnant.

JAZZY
How does he know?

GRACE
The radio.

EXT. FISHING BOAT - DAY

Ramon is doing a lot of work but harvests few fish.

RADIO
In celebrity news today, we have just heard the Island’s favorite soap sales girl, Jazzy, is pregnant and expecting a child in 7 months. Congratulations to a really terrific lady.

INT. REAL SOAP HEADQUARTERS - DAY

There is an important meeting. Jazzy, Real and the executives are sitting around a table. The advertising executives are in a stew. Only Real is happy.

AD MAN #1
Jazzy.
AD MAN #2
Jazzy, you’re pregnant?

REAL
Congratulations.

JAZZY
Thank you, sir.

REAL
Boy or girl.

JAZZY
I don’t know yet.

AD MAN #3
It’s too early, sir.

The advertising agents experts are shaking their heads pessimistically.

AD MAN #1
This ruins her economic viability.

AD MAN #2
Maybe we can film the commercials from the waist up.

AD MAN #3
You can still tell.

AD MAN #1
Are you sure?

AD MAN #2
There is always print media and radio.

AD MAN #1
No, no. The magic will be gone.

(half beat)
Once a woman isn’t sexually available her worth in marketing is just shot.
AD MAN #3
She never was ‘sexually available’.

AD MAN #1
The pubic didn’t know that.

AD MAN #2
Well they will figure it out pretty quick.

Ad man #2 makes a gesture to his own imaginary baby-bump.

Jazzy has been sitting there taking this sexist abuse. She looks like a student called into the principal’s office. She is very humble she just sits and she pretends to respect their opinion. Real keeps looking at her for a reaction, but she doesn’t respond.

REAL
You men are paid far too much money. You are used to dealing with the models. The professional models they get pregnant and the show is over. Jazzy gets pregnant and the people will love her even more.

AD MAN #2
Why is that boss?

REAL
Because she’s real. She makes mistakes. She mispronounces words. She’s nervous on camera. (to Jazzy) Who wouldn’t be honey.

INT. JEEPNEY HOME – DAY

Later when she is on the jeepney, she smiles thinking about it (the pregnancy). She smiles and laughs; it is contagious. Even though it is a very hot day, one by one the people on the jeepney laugh also and she brightens everyone's day.
This is the core of Jazzy she is humble but at the same time very optimistic cheerful. She has a great charisma.

SECOND SOAP POPULARITY MONTAGE

However, improbable the urban population loves it and they love Jazzy. The company uses her for shampoo, kitchen and bathroom cleaners. The company expands to car and boat soap.

We see a chart in the meeting room. It shows since the pregnancy, Jazzy’s popularity (sales) have doubled.

There are more TV commercials, magazine and internet ads. All the ads clearly show her pregnancy.

There is even a memo to a magazine company technician “Rush” and we see a technician photo-shopping her a larger baby-bump. She is really 5 months along but the ads make her appear 7 month along.

Nearly every housewife is demanding to become pregnant and we see the women pointing fingers at their husbands. First the women are pointing at their chest in an accusatory way. Then they smile and point their finger down at his belt.

The press follows Jazzy around.

Nearly every housewife is acting lovey dovey to their husbands. We see them in the showers soaping and washing down their husbands before they drag them off to bed.

They are marketing a book with Jazzy’s photo on the cover, “Nine Months in a Fishing Village: How To Best Nurture A Filipino Baby Before They’re Born – By Jazzy” It is marketed as, “a healthy guide to nutrition, exercise and spiritual maternity care.”

Jazzy’s clearly ‘showing’ as she enters a bookstore for a signing. The women applaud her arrival and line up for books.

END SECOND SOAP POPULARITY MONTAGE
INT. TINY HOME – NIGHT

Ramon is home in bed watching the news on television. Again he is depressed eating ice cream from a bowl.

NEWS READER
Doctors are reporting a spike in the conception rate, and an expected a baby boom as a result. Some hospitals will double the size of their maternity wards before the babies arrive. Some guess this is the result of the huge ad campaign by the Real Soap company, which (by the way) yesterday announced it will begin selling diapers and baby-wipes.

(half beat)
Also, Jazzy has apparently has penning a second book, “Nine Months in a Fishing Village” The books outlines a way urban mothers can reject their big city customs and raise their baby in more healthy, natural and rural way.

UNT. BREAKFAST TABLE – TINY HOME – MORNING

He kisses her hand.

RAMON
I’d like to apologize for my behavior this last few weeks have been less than a loving husband

JAZZY
I haven't given you much of a chance to be ever since that first commercial.

RAMON
I would like to make it up to you do you have any plans for tonight?
JAZZY
I was just waiting for a call from my husband.

RAMON
Will you forgive me for being a sexist pig.

JAZZY
Of course.

RAMON
What about for refusing to realize that you have a nice career.

RAMON
Oh darling that is not a problem. We just have to readjust our lives.

Something occurs to Ramon. Long beat.

RAMON
Just leave that to me. I'll just have to readjust my life.

JAZZY
You'd readjust your life for me, sweetheart?

RAMON
Sure.

JAZZY
Oh, that’s good news honey; I have to get to town and finish so I can come home early.
(half beat)
You saw the electric ice cream maker I bought you?

RAMON
I saw it.

EXT. BUTCHER SHOP - VILLAGE - AFTERNOON
Ramon waits on the boat until Jazzy is at the shop. He takes a few fish and he puts it out on the table for sale. He keeps the largest and nicest fish for himself and he talks to the single mother next door. Jazzy watches him from a distance. He looks nervous and shifts his weight from side to side. He speaks to the other woman for a very long time, just long enough to make Jazzy jealous, which I the idea.

EXT. VILLAGE DRUNK’S HOME - MORNING

Ramon goes around to the trash of the village alcoholic and lifts his empty bottles out.

EXT. TRASH CONTAINER - TINY HOME - MORNING

Ramon takes them over and throws them his trash bin. Jazzy might not notice them, inside the trash container so Ramon removes two or three and throws them on ground carelessly.

Ramon pours some booze on his cloths and uses it as after shave lotion. He sits pretending to sleep on the porch.

EXT. TRASH CONTAINER - TINY HOME - DAY

Later, Jazzy brings from garbage out to the container. Ramon is pretending to sleep.

She thinks she smells something funny and pauses.

JAZZY

Oh, Ramon. You didn’t start drinking did you?

She thinks and then dismisses the idea. Then she continues to the trash.

Ramon is peeking out for her reaction thought barely open eyes. Jazzy notices the bottles and looks at the boats. She looks at her watch and she looks at Ramon pretending to sleep. She looks cross but says nothing.
Returning past Ramon, Jazzy smells the air. She definitely smells the booze. She contemplated telling at him and walking him, but resists.

INT. TABLE - TINY HOME - DUSK

Grace, Jazzy and Ramon are just finishing their meal.

Jazzy gets up from the table feels faint and then sits back down.

RAMON
Honey are you okay?

She has tears in her eyes.

JAZZY
I’m just exhausted. I don’t know if these commercials are worth it. I mean the baby. We don’t ever have time for each other.

Ramon has hope she will quite the television job. But she gets up from the table and moves toward the bedroom.

JAZZY
Oh, I need to sleep.

RAMON
Honey, it is only 7:30.

JAZZY
I know, but if I’m going to do this I need to sleep.

Jazzy walks to bed zombie like. She lays down without taking her clothes off and is asleep within a few seconds.

INT. BEDROOM - TINY HOME - NIGHT

Later, Ramen is in bed watching television; Jazzy is exhausted and still asleep. The television is barely audible. Ramon is switching channels there is all this bad reality television. Ramon stops on the news.
JAZZY
This is our new detergent commercial. I’m going to read the package. It’s good for cars and boats but I wouldn't know about cars because I don't own one. I travel into Manila on a jeepney just like almost everyone else and trust me some of those jeepneys could use a little soap and water. But I don't have a car if I did have a car I would use this soap. We do have a boat and I’m going to have Ramon clean it from aft to stern just as soon as he gets a chance.

(to crew)
Guys, I need a box of this to take home okay?

(to camera)
And I'll report back how it works

Raymond looks at her long hair shimmering in the moonlight he looks at her long tan legs. She is sleeping soundly. Ramon reaches over and it about to caress her. But Ramon turns the television off and goes to sleep as well.

INT. REAL MANSION - NIGHT

Mr. Real is watching on television as the commercial ends.

REAL
Good girl.

He turns off the TV and dials a phone number.

REAL
This is the boss. Were you watching the commercial?
(beat)
Get her a car, a convertible.
(half beat)
By Friday; we have a commercial to make.
(half beat)
And by next week her husband needs a new boat.

(half beat)
You don’t have to get permission I want it to be a surprise.

(half beat)
Now get over there and get them a car and a boat.

(half beat)
One more thing. And she’s getting along in her pregnancy. I want a house. A house suitable to shot commercials.

(beat)
Because, I don’t want her driving 8 months pregnant into Manila to shot commercials.

(half beat)
We’ll shot them out there. Build a house.

EXT. CAR WASH - MANILA - DAY

The company shoots a commercial of her cleaning a car - a convertible. They drive it through the mud and throw dirt on it. Then have Jazzy clean one percent of it and film the close-ups. Then a body double with a fake baby bump cleans the remainder.

JAZZY
Are we done?

Jazzy looks around for a Jeepney.

AD MAN
You aren’t going to take the car?

JAZZY
It’s not my car.

AD MAN
They didn’t tell you?

(half beat)
It’s your car.
JAZZY
They gave it to me?

AD MAN
Yes. You will look good in it.

Jazzy gets in, clearly afraid and reluctant. But she engages the transmission and hits the breaks and the car jumps. She doesn’t know how to drive. She drives around the parking lot until she get the hang of it. She drives it home very slowly and very carefully. A boy on a bicycle passes her on the highway.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The company comes to the village to shot a commercial on the Ramon’s boat. Ramon looks in the refrigerator and it is almost empty of fish. He take the remaining fish out and puts them on the table. He sits and watches.

Jazzy is on his boat with a cameraman and a director. She does her part and walks over to the butcher shop.

JAZZY
(to Ramon)
Okay, they are ready for you.

RAMON
I need to be out fishing. This is all the fish there is.

JAZZY
There aren’t any more?

RAMON
No and people will be expecting dinner.

JAZZY
Just do this little thing for me please.

By the time Ramon walks over the boat, the director has changed his mind.
You know I’ve changed my mind. I’m sorry.

I’ve been waiting over there all day. I could have been working.

Oh, I’m sorry. It’s not you. We need a bigger boat.

And the director picks up his cell phone and walks off.

Can we get an bigger more boat out here?

EXT. TINY BOAT - DAY

Ramon takes his small boat out and fishes the reminder of the day.

EXT. FISH MARKET - MANILA - DAY

Jazzy drive up in her nice new car, and pops the trunk. She loads and trunk with fish and ice.

EXT. VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

Ramon returns and he brings home few fish.

Jazzy returns about the same time. We see water (melted ice) dripping from the trunk. She opens the trunk. She and Ramon unload the fish onto the table and they put away extra in the walk-in freezer.

EXT. VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

Jazzy is cleaning her kitchen and Ramon and Grace are minding the store. There is only a single fish on the table and someone just buys it. Other families arrive and must leave empty handed. They go to a small grocer and buy canned beans instead.

GRACE
I’m no expert but I do sit here everyday.
RAMON
What are you taking about gran?

GRACE
Ramon, you are putting these people in jeopardy.
   (half beat)
Everytime you come in there are fewer and fewer fish.

RAMON
Gran.

GRACE
You will lose the boat.
   (half beat)
And there is talk in the village; they are becoming worried they will have to eat sprouts and pandesal.
   (half beat)
Come on grandson, that isn’t any way to live.
   (half beat)
We are islands and we eat fish from the sea.

RAMON
I know I fish legally every day.

GRACE
Well to make things worse for the village the other two fishermen have moved their boats down the coast, for more productive waters and other village.

RAMON
They weren’t selling their catch here anyway.

GRACE
If they saw their neighbours starving. They might if need arose.
RAMON
They won’t now, I guess.

GRACE
Nope they are gone.

RAMON
You are all this village has left.

GRACE
Now get your act together. This town will starve to death if you fall down.

EXT. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – DAY

Jazzy and Ramon stand in line for the driver’s test and licensing procedure. The inspector has been rejecting applicants; any mistake earns you a dismissal. He is clearly hated by those rejected. He sees Jazzy and asked her only questions.

INSPECTOR
I love your commercials. And you are right the soap makes my wife smell like Leonardo DiCaprio.

The inspector is nervous and has lost control of his voice. He is shaking just to be near Jazzy.

INSPECTOR
Oh, this is the car from the commercial.
    (half beat)
Do you know how to drive?
    (half beat)
Where did you learn?

JAZZY
In the parking lot.

INSPECTOR
You just drove around when it was empty.
(half beat)
Good way to learn.
(quietly)
You don’t really need all this.
Your probably a terrific driver.

He completes the form and gives her the drivers license.

JAZZY
This is my husband.

Long beat. The inspector looks at Ramon sternly.

INSPECTOR
Okay, move over.

Jazzy gets up out of the car. Ramon moves over to the drivers seat. The inspector gets in the passenger seat.

INSPECTOR
Once around the block.

The inspector and Ramon get to the other side of the block out of sight.

INSPECTOR
Stop the car.
(half beat)
You’re Jazzy’s husband.

RAMON
Yes.

INSPECTOR
How long have you been married.

RAMON
9 months.

INSPECTOR
Have you ever hit her?

RAMON
No.
INSPECTOR
Did you ever make her cry?

The instructor puts his hand on his pistol.

RAMON
Uh, no.

INSPECTOR
Let me tell you something. If I ever hear any trouble you make for her. I’m going to come find you. She a national icon. And not just me, I have friends in every police force and you will not be able to hide.

(half beat)
Do you understand me?

RAMON
Yes, sir.

INSPECTOR
Make sure she is always buckled up.

(half beat)
Now drive back and I will give you your license.

They reach were Jazzy is waiting. The inspector gives Ramon the driver’s license and gets out. Jazzy is excited and gets in. She kisses Ramon on the cheek. Ramon is in something of a trance, traumatized by the experience.

JAZZY
I’m so proud of you.

Jazzy kisses him passionately.

At the same time Ramon sees the inspector starring at him and tapping the handle of his pistol. It is more warning.

INSPECTOR
(to Ramon)
Remember what I said!
(to Jazzy)
Drive safely.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The villages in a very good mood and very celebrating.

There are mothers in awe speaking to their children.

MOM #1
It is forty feet long.

MOM #2
We’ll have all the fish we will need.

Ramon and Jazzy drive up in the new car, but everyone quickly waves and return looking at the new boat at the dock. It is bright shiny and new. At lease twice the size of Ramon’s previous boat.

JAZZY
What is such a big deal?

RAMON
There is new competition.

Jazzy sees one of the advertising executives in the crowd around admiring the boat.

JAZZY
Some how I don’t think so.

Ramon is in a daze. He just sits in his car looking at his old boat.

Jazzy gets out of the car and approaches ad man.

JAZZY
Is this what I think it is?

AD MAN
It’s your new boat.
JAZZY
Oh, no!

AD MAN
What's the matter? It's compliments of the Real corporation; one large book fishing boat.
(half beat)
Your husband doesn't know about this?

JAZZY
I don't know about this.

AD MAN
I thought you would want to surprise him; didn't anyone tell you?

JAZZY
No.

AD MAN
Well, who would object to someone giving you a free

JAZZY
No you don't understand, every since that night in the resturant he objects to everything I get, money, complements, cars, a new boat.

AD MAN
Oh my!

JAZZY
Yes. My marriage is over!

AD MAN
Oh my!

Long beat.
Jazzy calms down.

JAZZY
It’s too new. They won’t like it. Real soap is for humble people that get their hands dirty. Does that look like a dirty boat.

AD MAN
Oh, I see. No it doesn’t.

Raman says nothing, but he is enraged.

Raymond comes out and is further depressed. He pretends not to be when Jazzy makes eye contact with him.

EXT. VILLAGE – MORNING

The next morning, Ramon is woken up by hammering and work crews out on the new boat.

Jazzy and Grace are sitting in the shade of the empty butcher shop, watching the workers on the new boat.

Ramon stops by the butcher shop on the way to his boat.

RAMON
What going on?

JAZZY
Well they bought a bigger boat but it's' new and you know the rural thing. They are trying to age it with chemicals.

RAMON
What are those machines?

JAZZY
Sun lamps.

RAMON
For what?
JAZZY
To fade the paint.

Ramon looks at the sun and it seems bright enough.

RAMON
You mean if the fisherman has money for a new boat, people will complain about the price of the fish.

JAZZY
Exactly.

RAMON
Can I take my small and very old boat out fishing?

JAZZY
I’m sure you can but you better ask.

RAMON
Why should I ask, it’s my boat?

JAZZY
Honey, I love you but please ask.

Ramon approaches the director who is supervising the work on the larger boat. From a distance, Grace and Jazzy watch the director without looking at Ramon gesture he should leave.

Ramon gets in his boat and goes to sea.

EXT. VILLAGE DOCK - AFTERNOON

When Ramon returns from the sea, there is a crowd of maybe 20 people on the dock. They look hungry.

What did you catch?

How much did you catch?
Ramon picks up a rubber tub of fish. There are three medium size fish. The people grab at the fish. They wrestle for it and run off to Jazzy who takes their money.

The people that didn’t get a fish look hatefully at Ramon.

    RAMON
    I’m sorry.
    (half beat)
    It’s just a run of bad luck.
    (half beat)
    I’ve always caught fish here. My father and his father all provided for this village.

    VILLAGER #1
    Chinese.

    VILLAGER #2
    It’s not your fault.

    VILLAGER #1
    It’s the Chinese. Haven’t you heard that noise at night. They have a submarine out there pinging with their sonar, chasing out fish away.

    VILLAGER #2
    Our food.

    VILLAGER #3
    I’m sick of brussel sprouts and pandesal.

    VILLAGER #1
    I’m telling you there is a submarine out there.

    RAMON
    Well I don’t think so. Maybe a shark.
VILLAGER #1
Sonny boy, you ever seen a shark with an active sonar driving fish out of an area?

VILLAGER #2
They said when they are done with the big boat they are leaving it for you.

VILLAGER #3
Maybe you can catch fish in that?

VILLAGER #1
Hell, he can’t catch fish enough to fill that small boat of his. What’s he need with a big new boat.

VILLAGER #2
Come on, lets go talk to Jazzy about this.

Ramon puts the empty rubber tub back on the boat.

INT. TABLE - TINY HOME - NIGHT

Jazzy serves brussel sprouts and pandesal for dinner.

Ramon eats in silence.

Jazzy tries to liven up the room with conversation.

JAZZY
Can you image how much soap they must be selling to purposefully age a brand new boat?

RAMON
Why can’t they use a new boat?

JAZZY
This is the way they explained it to me. You are supposed to be sympathetic, you and me both. And
fishermen can’t have a nice new 
boat or it will look to the viewer 
like he makes too much money. 
(half beat) 
Old is good. 

RAMON 
What is big? 

JAZZY 
Big is big. 

RAMON 
What was wrong with my boat? 

JAZZY 
I don’t know. 

RAMON 
They just had money to burn. 

JAZZY 
Honey we are in the wrong 
business. You breaking your back 
for a few fish. 

Ramon doesn’t take that comment well. 

JAZZY 
Oh, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to 
say that. I know your job is 
important. This meal is plenty 
evidence of that. 

RAMON 
Oh, I don’t know it’s not so bad. 

JAZZY 
Well just wait until its all we 
have. You won’t so much appreciate 
it then. 

Grace gets up an leaves the room.
RAMON
Where did the boat come from?

JAZZY
Please don't shout.

RAMON
I don’t know I was shouting.

JAZZY
I thought you'd be happy it was a surprise.

RAMON
Yes but don't you think I should be consulted before you spend $50,000 on the boat with out money?

JAZZY
Oh that's what it is?
    (half beat)
I didn't spend the any of our money our money.

RAMON
So now it’s your money?

JAZZY
No. I didn’t say that.

RAMON
Let me tell you this is still our house and our shop and its going to have our child and when we get a new boat it will be with our money and what is our money our money is what I earn fishing.

JAZZY
And what I earn is not ours?

RAMON
It's yours you mean?
JAZZY
I'm not allowed to participate in this household with my money?
(half beat)
Whatever happened to my rights as a female?

RAMON
Whatever happened to my rights as a man?
(half beat)
How many fish have you sold this week?

JAZZY
I can ask you the same question how many fish did you catch?

RAMON
Now you have really done it. You have compared bringing home fish to creating a commercial.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The argument moves to the bedroom.

JAZZY
What are you doing?

RAMON
I'm filing this bag with my clothes.
(half beat)
I'm going to go sleep on ‘our’ boat the small one until you give up this asinine career and go back to being a wife.

JAZZY
Really?
RAMON
I'm the kind of husband who likes to see his wife

JAZZY
Is this an ultimatum? (half beat)
Yes well if you want to see me then look on the cover!

Jazzy throws a magazine into the bag.

JAZZY
You might need me if you get tired of kissing soap. If you do, you can come see me at our boat.

Ramon finishes packing his things and sleeps on the small boat.

EXT. BOAT DOCK - NIGHT

There are cases of soap on the dock by his small boat. Evidently there's gonna be a commercial the next day and Ramon pushes them off into the ocean.

INT/EXT. SMALL FISHING BOAT - NIGHT

Ping!

Ramon is suddenly awake. He listens. He puts a cup to the side of the boat and puts his ear to that. He hears nothing but the surf. He gets up and run onto the dock. He runs to the end of the dock. He look out into the night and the sea. He catches just a glimpse of something out of the corner of his eye. It might be a periscope and it might have been a shark’s fin. By the time he turns, whatever it was, it submerged.

A priest appears on the dock. Which is odd because there isn’t a catholic church for 20 miles. The priest is dressed in a 18th Century cassock.

PRIEST
What do you think it was?
The priest is straining his eyes as well.

RAMON
A shark.

PRIEST
Or a submarine?

You should sleep and go back home in the morning. I’m going to stand her and see if it comes back.

Ramon goes to back to bed. And he listens. The director can put a very faint sonar ping in the audio, if they want just for kicks.

EXT. VILLAGE - MORNING

Ramon is awoken by screaming children.

KID #1
Snow!

KID #2
It’s snow.

KID #1
I’m going to build a snowman!

One kid lays down in the suds and makes a snow angel.

They run down to the beach, which is covered with a foot of suds. We see the children playing in the suds. Every wave create more suds.

INT. TINY HOME - MORNING

Ramon does return to his tiny house and Jazzy.

Jazzy pretends to be reading the books she wrote on prenatal care. It’s upside down.

Ramon carefully returns his clothes to the closet.

Jezzy is peeking around the books at him. Their eyes meet.
RAMON
Forgive me?

JAZZY
Of course.

She get up and runs to him and kisses him.

They are about to get in the shower but there is a knock on the door.

The man walks into their front room and stands there calling out.

AD MAN
Jazzy?
(half beat)
Jazzy?
(half beat)
They are ready for you?

JAZZY
Oh, honey I’m sorry.
(half beat)
I’ll tell them to wait.

RAMON
You know I’m not going to rush.

JAZZY
Later when you have time, then we will... ‘have time’?

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

The workers are leaving the village and get a round of applause. It’s pretty clear the village is hungry; they are under the illusion the alterations done to the boat are to attract fish.

Old timers are sitting around acting like they know what is going on.
OLD TIMER #1
The workers have made our new fishing boat faster and stronger.

OLD TIMER #4
It now has refrigeration and an ice machine.

OLD TIMER #2
Those bright colors were frightening the fish away.

OLD TIMER #3
Now, there is also some special fish finding electronics on it.

OLD TIMER #1
When will the filming be done, so Ramon can take it out.

OLD TIMER #2
I don’t know but I’m getting hungry?

In the background, they are laying the foundation for a new house. Ramon is oblivious to it, he is seriously a distracted person. He can’t find fish and he can’t find his wife half the time.

EXT. LARGE FISHING BOAT - VILLAGE - MORNING

Jazzy and Ramon exits their home and walk to the new boat. They board it along with the director and camera operator and they begin filming a commercial.

AD MAN
Okay, Ramon thank you.

RAMON
I’m done?

Ramon begins to leave.
AD MAN
Oh, Jazzy just a few more with just you.

Ramon returns to his small boat.

EXT. SMALL FISHING BOAT - DAY
Ramon fishes as best as he can.
He catches very little.

INT. BUTCHER SHOP - VILLAGE - MORNING
Ramon brings a tub of fish. But now many.
Jazzy throws him the keys to the new boat.

JAZZY
And I didn’t spend our money or my money as you call it on it. The company.

Ramon apologizes.

RAMON
I’m sorry.

JAZZY
It’s okay.

RAMON
You mean that they just gave us the boat?

RAMON
I didn’t spend a dime.

RAMON
Oh, I’m sorry. I’ve been a fool about the whole ‘your money’ - ‘our money’ thing.

INT. STUDIO - DAY
Jazzy is again shooting a commercial.

JAZZY
What will this be for?

AD MAN
Another magazine cover.
(half beat)
Don’t worry you are getting paid extra.

JAZZY
Okay.
(half beat)
But I need to go home soon. Our shop is being not being managed well and you’re not... Can we just get done?

INT. BUTCHER SHOP/FISH MARKET – DAY

Ramon's mother is sleeping and the customers just know to leave the money on the table where the fish was resting.

Several women from the village approach.

WOMAN
Grace?
(half beat)
Grace?

GRACE
What do you want?

WOMAN
We want to feed our family a fancy dinner. It’s my daugher’s conformation. And I want to ask you about your spices?

GRACE
I don’t know anything about spices. Ask Jazzy.
Grace returns to sleep.
The women buy a fish but no spices.

EXT. VILLAGE — DAY
Grace is sleeping. Ramon arrives at the fishing market

RAMON
Where is Jazzy?
Grace is too tired to answer but points to the house.

Ramon smiles and begins mixing his ice cream. He puts it in the makers and begins to crank enthusiastically.

Jazzy arrives all dressed up; she is leaving. She kisses him but Ramon’s cranking slows to a snails pace.

JAZZY
Oh, honey. You’re making ice cream.
(half beat)
Why don’t you use the new electric one I bought you?

Ramon glances over at the box; he shrugs his shoulders.

JAZZY
That’s very sweet.
(half beat)
But I can’t right now.
(half beat)
I have to make a commercial. It’s just bad timing, that’s all. Will you save me some for later? Just put it in the freezer, for when I get home?
Ramon nods, yes.

Jazzy looks at the nearly empty table and in the refrigerator and notices the shortage of fish.

JAZZY
Honey did you ever try fishing at night? You know your new boat has lights and you just shine them out and the fish come jump in your boat.

Ramon is despondent.

JAZZY
I read that sometimes fish are attracted to light.

RAMON
I’ll try it.

JAZZY
Okay, honey. I love you.

Jazzy gets in her car and drives toward Manila.

Ramon continues to crank, but very slowly.

EXT. TINY HOUSE - NIGHT

Later, Jazzy comes home but it is very late. She looks in bed and Ramon is not there. She looks out at the dock, the large boat is missing. She knows Ramon is out fishing. Jazzy climbs into bed and sleeps.

EXT. LARGE FISHING BOAT - NIGHT

Ramon is out on the ocean in the dark he has lights set up. He sits robotically eating ice cream waiting for the fish. He finishes his ice cream and puts the nets out.

INT. BREAKFAST TABLE - TINY HOME - Morning
I’m sorry honey, I’m not making excuses but the hair, the costume, the stage and they shoot it over and over and over and over again.

JAZZY
Sweetheart it’s not always this hectic.

Ramon doesn’t respond. He knows it’s not true. He simply eats.

INT. CAR TO MANILA - DAY

Ramon drives Jazzy into town, to the cathedral. At every stoplight the people all stare at Jazzy. Ramon is aware. Jazzy is unaware.

INT. MANILA CATHEDRAL - DAY

There are many babies being blessed or baptized. Ramon looks at each and everyone closely. Jazzy only looks at the alter and perhaps at the statue of Mary and the baby Jesus.

Another man and his pregnant wife kneel before the priest.

PRIEST
The Lord of life, brings every creature into being and rules and sustains the life of each one of us. These parents to be are partners in God’s love and seek his blessing because they already cherish the child they have conceived and because they await the hour of their child’s birth in faith and hope.

Jazzy and Ramon wait for their turn at the alter, but three women come up to and want her autograph. Jazzy hesitates there is a long beat.

The priests are about to scold everyone for being to loud but they see that it's Jazzy. They motion for her and Ramon to approach.
EXT. MANILA CATHEDRAL - DAY

Later, they are leaving the church and the women approach her for autographs. Outside, Jazzy is polite to everyone and signs the autographs.

WOMAN
Pardon me, are you anyone?

JAZZY
This is my husband, Ramon.

WOMAN #2
We're gonna be watching you on television; don't forget to wave.

JAZZY
(to Ramon)
I'm sorry.

RAMON
Don't be sorry I'm not that sensitive.

Another autograph seeker comes by and says...

WOMAN #3
It's Jazzy the soap girl. You are so much prettier on television I didn't recognize you.

Well that is it. Raymond barks the tires leaving the parking lot.

RAMON
I take it back; I am sensitive.

INT. KITCHEN - NEW LARGE HOME - DAY

The company has finished building a Jazzy a new home. She is inside shooting infomercials.
JAZZY
Look, I’m nine months pregnant and I just let the soap do the work. I wipe with the miracle soap and the scrubbing chemical reaction means I don’t have to do the any real work. It’s real scouring action.

INT. TINY HOME - DAY

When she is done with the infomercial, she returns to Ramon in the tiny home. He is lying in the bed clinically depressed.

Jazzy tries to become frisky but Ramon is defeated and turns down her offer of sex.

Ramon just stares off at the opposite wall. He is nearly catatonic. The audience has noticed Ramon’s worsening mental state for a long time, but this is a big shocker for Jazzy. The entire film he has given her at least some response, but now she gets nothing. It hits her like a ton of bricks.

JAZZY
What is the matter?
(half beat)
Would some ice cream help?
(half beat)
I can go make some. Don’t worry, just lay back and let me do the work.

RAMON
You can’t crank that machine, you’re 9 months pregnant.

JAZZY
I can too. That doesn’t matter.
(half beat)
I have an electric one, remember and it works just as well.

Ramon is silent.
JAZZY
Is it the ice cream, because if it is I’ll get up and make some.

RAMON
No. It’s not the ice cream.

JAZZY
Well, what is it?
(half beat)
The fish?

Ramon is silent.

JAZZY
The fish will come back. These things happen.
(half beat)
Ramon, you can’t give up.
(half beat)
Come on; let’s take the new boat out to fish.
(half beat)
Okay we’ll take the old boat out, just you and I, like in the old days.

He lays in bed, defeated.

She lays beside him, tears in her eyes, holding him. They are both ruined. Ramon because of a number of factors; Jazzy is ruined because Ramon is finished.

EXT. TINY HOME - DAY

Suddenly there is a commotion outside and the children are screaming and are excited.

She gets up and goes to the window. Outside the villagers and children are escorting an Australian surfer to the house.

CHILDREN
He has spotted a school of tuna.
Ramon can hear the children. He sits up.

**SURFER**
I’m a surfer from Australia ma’mee. Beautiful beach. I love it but I was out on the beach and I noticed something strange - these dolphins and tuna. I would like to know who the owners of your two fishing boats are?

Ramon gets up out of bed and walks to the front door.

The village is excited and cheer when Ramon emerges from the house. Ramon looks like he has a hangover from a week long drunk.

He starts down the stairs and trips. He hits the bottom stair and breaks his leg.

The villagers, who had just been cheering, are destroyed.

An ambulance arrives and Ramon is taken to the hospital.

Jazzy is about to get in the ambulance with Ramon, but she stops and looks at the village. The villagers are deathly silent. It means no fish for them.

Jazzy looks at Ramon.

**RAMON**
Get the fish.

Jazzy is nine months pregnant and has been shooting a commercial all morning. She is exhausted.

**RAMON**
You haven’t been to town in months and the people are hungry.

The villagers are perfectly silent. They are hungry but will not interfere with her choice.

But the surfer wants to know about the fish.
SURFER
These people are hungry; who will
operate the boat?

Here is Jazzy’s dilemma. Jazzy looks at her husband who
gestures for her and the surfer to go to the boat.

She looks at the surfer.

She looks out into the cove at the birds circling the
school of tuna. Dolphins seem to have herded the tuna into
the cove.

The ambulance leaves.

Jazzy and the surfer take to the big boat and they drive
out to the tuna. They are about to drop the nets when Jazzy
goes into labor.

The surfer half panics. He calls the hospital with his
cell.

INT. HOSPITAL – DAY

The doctor has just finished with Ramon’s leg and there is
now a plaster cast on it.

NURSE
Doctor, his wife has gone into
labor.

RAMON
She’s out on the boat?

NURSE
Yes. How did you know?

RAMON
Oh, doctor.
(half beat)
This is bad really bad.

DOCTOR
No, not necessarily.
(half beat)
You stay here, and I’ll drive out there. By the time I get there she will be back on land, right?

RAMON
No, I better come with you. We might have to sail out and get them.

The doc quickly wraps his leg cast in cellophane. Ramon hobbles into action.

INT. CAR – HOSPITAL TO THE VILLAGE – DAY

Ramon and the doctor ride at beak-neck speed back to the village.

INT. VILLAGE – DAY

They see the large boat has not returned. They look out to sea and it is floating around out in the cove.

Ramon hobbles over to his small boat. The doctor follows with his medical bag.

EXT. LARGE BOAT – DAY

The doctor and Ramon arrive just in time and surfer is lost and doesn’t know what to do.

The doctor and Jazzy go down into the cabin and shut the door.

Ramon and the surfer just stand and wait. Ramon is clearly worried out of his mind.

Long awkward beat.

The surfer tries to pass the time with idle chatter.

SURFER
So how long you two been married, mate?
Long beat.

SURFER
So how long you had this boat?

Ramon ignores him for the most part. He might have slipped into his catatonic state.

It looks like perhaps he will lose the tuna catch but also the baby and wife.

The women’s magazine (maternity issue) with Jazzy on the front is still on the boat. Ramon looks at it and might come out of his trance.

SURFER
This happen around here all the time?
(half beat)
Cause if it does you are one wealthy man.
(half beat)
I think the dolphins are helping you out.

The dolphins continue to herd and bottle up the tuna in the cove.

Finally, a dolphin comes to the side of the boat and speaks - whistles and burst-pulsed sounds.

We think Ramon is in a state of shock, but he responds to the dolphin...

RAMON
It’s a girl.

The surfer is trying to figure that out. The surfer looks at Ramon and then at the dolphin.

SURFER
You’ll speak to the dolphin but you are unresponsive to me? What is about all this about the
The Philippines everyone is so friendly?

The dolphin speaks again – whistles, burst-pulsed sounds and a click train.

Ramon comes out of his trance and looks at the tuna churning up the water. The dolphins are herding them into a tight ball to be harvested.

Ramon answers the dolphin...

RAMON
(to the dolphin)
Sure enough. You are right.
(to the surfer)
We should get busy.

Ramon shuffles about the deck in fisherman mode. Ramon hobbles around the boat working and giving the surfer instructions.

They bring in a huge catch; in fact, it almost over loads the boat.

They are up to there waist in tuna on the big boat.

The fill up the small boat tied beside them as well.

The baby girl is born.

When the doctor emerges from below with a healthy baby, he opens the door and tuna flood into the cabin.

DOCTOR
It’s a healthy baby girl.

Ramon is elated.

EXT. VILLAGE – DAY

When the boat reaches shore the people are waiting they see the tuna (and/or the baby) and they begin cheering and dancing. Everyone in the village is delighted. The surfer ties the boat to the dock.
Ramon thinks the crowd is applauding Jazzy and his new daughter, which is fine with him.

The doctor and the baby and Jazzy walk on the dock.

Ramon’s mother is there with a cart so Jazzy doesn’t have to walk.

They walk off the dock and up toward Ramon’s tiny house. Ramon notices the people don’t follow Jazzy and the baby.

They don’t turn away from the tuna catch. They are applauding him.

The surfer gets off the boat and is congratulated.

Ramon is greeted as a hero. Ramon is validated and all his problems seem to be over.

SURFER
Congratulations, mate.

RAMON
I’m a father.

SURFER
Oh, yes. Yes.

RAMON
I’m very proud.

SURFER
You’ll be a good dad.

Ramon gestures for the people to help themselves to the fish and they do. Everyone one grabs a tuna or two and they dance up toward their homes.

They will be feasting tonight.

SURFER
You are just gonna let them take the fish?
RAMON
Yes, of course, I have a new daughter and they are hungry.

Ramon notices they are almost to the tiny home. Ramon shouts to the doctor, Jazzy and his mother...

RAMON
Use the big house.

Ramon points to the big house. The doctor, Jazzy and Grace turn toward the new big house.

FADE OUT