

ACT I

INT. OFFICE -DOWNTOWN BROWNSVILLE

LIAM, the often unpredictable editor of *The Brownsville Gazette*, is sitting on his desk as the "dynamic" reporting team of ROWAN, IAN, and SOPHIE, sit in chairs grouped together in front of LIAM. The space feels claustrophobic. IAN stares straight ahead, but not really at LIAM; ROWAN is looking at LIAM in bubbly anticipation; and SOPHIE is extremely focused on editing something on her Macbook.

LIAM

(deadpan)

Sorry there's no more coffee...I drank it all.

The reporters give a subtle nod or shrug, as if to say, "it ain't the first time."

LIAM

Alrighty, straight to it. In light of recent events, it's time for one of you to take up the top writer's mantle, and I want to hear some titillating stories from my *crack* team. Up for it?

IAN

Crack team?

ROWAN

Yep! Yep! Yep!

SOPHIE

(not looking up)

Depends on what you mean by "titillating."

LIAM

Good. Well, Holly, our number one newshound, had a lead, but she lost her shot at fleshing it out...

ROWAN

Liam...she died!

LIAM

And such a damn shame too.

IAN

That's she's dead, or that she died choking on a pez?

SOPHIE

(Still not looking up)

It was her Pink Panther
Dispenser...Did you know Santa Claus
has been the highest selling dispenser
since 1955?

IAN

I had a stormtrooper pez dispenser,
and all I wanted to do was rip his
freaking helmet off to see who was
underneath.

A beat. Then SOPHIE, LIAM, and IAN laugh.

ROWAN

You guys..???

LIAM

Sorry...Rest her soul...Now, you'll
cook this one at the same time, but
submit separate meals. We all know
Holly's would have been front page...

ROWAN

She was like my mom.

LIAM

But she didn't finish. So, now it's
time you loyal hack and hackettes--

ROWAN

Derogatory.

LIAM

Gah...fine, loyal...news-writer-
people--

ROWAN

Better.

LIAM

...got to have your bits and pieces
all over the front page for all of
Brownsville to see.

SOPHIE looks up, quizzically.

LIAM

On this not so auspicious moment in
time, the BBCC--

IAN
 (with a self-righteous grin)
 You mean BBC.

SOPHIE
 (still not looking up)
 "Brownsville Beanie Baby Collectors
 Club."

LIAM
 Thanks, Sophie.

SOPHIE
 (looks up quickly with a quick
 smile)
 You bet.

LIAM
 ...the...the club has raised some
 local eyebrows because of a supposed
 secret. Holly, persistent lady dick
 that she was, poked around and
 discovered the tasty nugget...

SOPHIE closes her laptop and is all ears.

IAN
 What did little miss Holly perfect pen
 find out?

LIAM
 Anyone know...
 (reading a piece of paper)
 Tilda Anderson?

ROWAN
 Oh, she is soooo lovely..very kind,
 very...

IAN
 Old...and gross...

ROWAN
 Your gross, Ian!

IAN
 (Without a beat)
 She's like...90 or something.

SOPHIE
 94. And she's a hoarder... and she's--

LIAM
 (straight in)
 Dead.

All three reporters stare at LIAM for a beat. Then at the same time... (can be improvised)

ROWAN	IAN
Oh, no, oh...goodness...	Sucks. Well, she was...old...

SOPHIE
 That's too bad. People liked her...

LIAM
 Yeah, yeah, sad, but...the old bat gave a bunch of cat-turd-crusted knick knacks to a local charity...

ROWAN
 Cat-turd-crusted??!

IAN
 Totally nasty.

LIAM
 And within old Tilda's Antiques Roadshow, was a very rare, very expensive--

SOPHIE
 Beanie Baby. I knew it!

IAN
 How would you know that?

ROWAN
 (gasp)
 That explains the....

IAN
 Explains the what??!

LIAM
 You are all going to visit this Beating Babies club--

ROWAN
 Beanie Baby club!

LIAM

Right. You're all going to visit them at the community center in two hours. Write your stories, submit on deadline day, and I'll choose which one goes to print.

The REPORTERS begin to gather their things and get up.

LIAM

Someone has to replace that frame?
(gestures with head)

Camera pans and then dollies in, revealing a framed picture of a woman. There is a cheap plaque underneath that reads: "Holly Winkler - Top Writer"...taped on or near the plaque, is a piece a paper with "RIP" written in marker.

FADE OUT TO

TITLE SCREEN: "IS THIS BROWNSVILLE?"

EXT. A COMMUNITY CENTER

INT. A COMMUNITY CENTER

ROWAN, IAN, and SOPHIE have just walked through the door into the community center where a meeting for the Brownsville Beanie Baby Collectors Club is taking place. The camera is mainly focused on ROWAN during this sequence in the film.