

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. STANLEY PARK -- LOST LAGOON -- NIGHT

Fog hangs over the Lost Lagoon. Deeper in the WOODS, the mist sits thickly in the trees.

Beyond, in the woods, a naked MAN runs.

MAN  
(screams)  
Help me! Help me! Somebody help me!

He continues through the woods, crazed and SCREAMING.

EXT. HASTINGS PARK RACETRACK -- NIGHT

Bettors stand in line for the betting wickets, mill around staring at the tote boards. The P.A. echoes through the night mist. Colourfully silked JOCKEYED HORSES are led onto the track from the paddock.

ANNOUNCER (V/O)  
...Almost time for the next race. It's approximately 15  
minutes away. There are no changes.

INT. HASTINGS PARK RACETRACK -- BETTING WICKETS – MOMENTS LATER

DA VINCI places a bet.

EXT. HASTINGS PARK RACETRACK – MOMENTS LATER

A JOCKEY leads a horse through the CROWD. LLOYD MANNING, the local billionaire entrepreneur, sits in his private box. The SINGHS, Sikh horse breeders and West Coast lumber barons, also sit in a box.

INT. HASTINGS PARK RACETRACK -- BETTING WICKETS – MOMENTS LATER

Da Vinci starts away from the wicket. RICHARD NORTON, a well-connected lawyer, approaches.

NORTON  
Mr. Mayor.

DA VINCI  
Richard.

They move along together.

NORTON  
Mr. Mayor. I just wanted to say congratulations and  
good luck.

ROGER WOO, an international real estate and casino owner, joins them.

DA VINCI

Thank you.

NORTON

I want to grab a minute of your time to introduce you to a friend of mine. He's with the Breeder's Association. They contributed to your campaign.

Da Vinci and Woo shake hands.

DA VINCI

Oh, yeah? Thanks very much.

NORTON

Roger Woo, Dominic Da Vinci.

EXT. HASTINGS PARK RACETRACK – CONTINUOUS

The men step outside.

WOO

We're all really looking forward to working with you to try and save the track here from going under.

They continue along.

DA VINCI

Oh, we'll have to see how that goes.

WOO

We're hoping you can get some slot machines in here, increase attendance, put some more money in the purses, save a lot of jobs.

DA VINCI

Well, like I say, we're going to have to see how things develop, but I'm pretty confident.

WOO

I'd like you to meet someone. He's got a casino licence.

CLOSE ON Manning, watching the men O/S.

WOO (O/S)

They'd love to be involved in that.

DA VINCI (O/S)

I'd love to, but another time.

Da Vinci, Norton, and Woo continue along.

DA VINCI (CONT'D)

I've got to get down to the winner's circle. I'm dressing the winner of the first race. Please call my office, okay, Richard?

They stop.

NORTON

I'll be in touch.

Da Vinci moves off.

On Manning.

ANNOUNCER (V/O)

Your attention please...

He watches Da Vinci as he moves down the stairs.

MANNING

Mr. Mayor.

DA VINCI

How you doing, Lloyd?

Da Vinci continues down the stairs. Manning smiles, shaking his head.

EXT. STANLEY PARK -- LOST LAGOON – NIGHT

THREE YOUNG MEN masked in silhouette and shadow, drag a body into the shallow depths of the creek that feeds the lagoon. They move back into the woods.

A BUGLE PLAYS "FIRST CALL."

EXT. HASTINGS PARK RACETRACK – NIGHT

Bettors and spectators mill about.

ANNOUNCER (V/O)

The horses are now on the track for the 50th annual running of the Vancouver Handicap. Decorating the winner of this race will be our newly elected Mayor.

JOCKEYS warm up their horses on the track. We find Da Vinci outside the Winners Circle with RITA MAH and SAM BERGER, Chiefs of Staff for the Mayor

ANNOUNCER (V/O CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, decorating the winner of tonight's race, let's give a warm Hastings welcome...

Da Vinci waves to the CROWD.

ANNOUNCER (V/O CONT'D)  
.to the new Mayor Elect of Vancouver, Dominic Da Vinci.

The crowd APPLAUDS. DON GLENN approaches.

GLENN  
Mr. Mayor. Lloyd Manning wants to say hello.

DA VINCI  
Sure.

Berger and Rita lead Da Vinci away.

BERGER  
Uh, no. Lloyd Manning? Don't promise him anything, not even a meeting. He's going to try to corner you.

DA VINCI  
Okay, so no promises.

BERGER  
No promises.

RITA  
And say hello to the Singhs and the Woos on your way back up. Lumber, real estate.

DA VINCI  
Okay.

They move off.

Jockeys ride their horses to the gate.

ANNOUNCER (V/O)  
The horses have now reached the starting gate. It's post time.

Manning watches from his box.

DA VINCI (O/S)  
Hey, Lloyd.

Da Vinci approaches.

MANNING  
Hey. Dominic.

DA VINCI  
You sent for me?

MANNING  
Yeah.

They shake hands.

DA VINCI  
How you doing? Who's this?

Da Vinci brushes past TWO ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMEN, TRACY and SUZETTE

MANNING  
Suzette and Tracy.

DA VINCI  
Oh, nice to meet you. You look great.

Glenn sits nearby.

MANNING  
You know Glenn.

DA VINCI  
How you doing? Don't listen to him, because he  
won't know anything. How you doing?

MANNING  
Good.

DA VINCI  
Is everything okay?

They step away from the box.

MANNING  
We're having some problems. We're having some  
problems, you know. I know that you really screwed  
me, and I want to set things straight.

DA VINCI  
What kind of problems are you having?

MANNING  
Well--

DA VINCI  
(interrupts)  
How could I screw you? I just got elected.

MANNING  
Well, the thing...

The horses break out of the starting gate. Tracy and Suzette jump up. The ANNOUNCER overlaps the following.

On Manning and Da Vinci.