

Sparkles and The Company
An original screenplay written by
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Based on an idea by David Nunner

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FADE IN:

EXT. BOURBON ST. - NEW ORLEANS LA - AFTERNOON

REVELERS (mixed ages), dip in and out of seedy bars, while bottle cap dancers try to hustle a few bucks on the liquor splashed grungy street. The air is visible as the relentless August sun consumes the French Quarter. We hear a cacophony of music as it weaves it's way around the street corners.

From the street POV we see through the window of an old shotgun style house converted into an emporium. Sparkles Ya Ya Shop signs blink with eye piercing radiance. Inside we see SPARKLES (45), a diminutive man teeming with plasmatic electricity. Part time Drag Queen, part time closet Bounty Hunter. He's no stranger to the ink parlor and carries a pixie-like air about him. Sparkles tidies up a rack of extravagant boas and assorted fetish inspired nighties.

A young woman LIZA (18-maybe), wearing frisbee sized sunglasses ambles up to the shop and enters. She looks as though she's just dragged herself out of bed. A bed that provides her income and sleep.

INT. SPARKLES YA YA SHOP

SPARKLES
Well hello darling. Rough night?

LIZA
Ugh.

Liza approaches Sparkles and removes her sunglasses. We see two ebony eyes that could use a good steak on them.

SPARKLES
Oh baby, come here and give
Sparkles some lovin.

Sparkles embraces Liza with compassion.

LIZA
Why does he do this to me? I make
him a "G" just about every night.

SPARKLES
You want me to sick The Company on
him?

As Sparkles ends the sentence in walks THE COMPANY (40). That's right, 'The Company'. He's the polar opposite of Sparkles in appearance and demeanor.

Full time Bounty Hunter who slithers amongst the night owls and urine laden streets of the French Quarter like a desperate viper. A nonchalant look from his eyes to yours is causes certain discomfort. He usually speaks on point.

THE COMPANY

You.

Sparkles and Liza step back in fear. They avert their eyes from The Company and clutch each other. The Company inches closer to the frightened duo.

THE COMPANY (CONT'D)

Both.

SPARKLES

Easy down bayou beast. You're scaring the poor girl.

The Company relents and grins in a menacing manner. He places his large hand into his back pocket, retrieves a photo, and displays it.

CLOSE ON photo. We see a mug shot of Danny Cates.

LIZA

That's him!

The Company steps closer to Liza.

THE COMPANY

You know?

Sparkles races in front of Liza to shield her from the beast.

SPARKLES

Look at her. He did that to her.

The Company shows no reaction as he glances at Liza's eyes.

THE COMPANY

Court....no show.

Sparkles darts behind the counter past the cash register and disappears. He emerges a moment later clad in this "Sparkles" business suit. Robin egg colored leotards, an "S" emblem that would make Superman proud, and a pink cape. Attached to his waistband is a satchel full of magical POOF.

SPARKLES

I'm all yours big boy. Take me and do what you want.

THE COMPANY
You remember?

SPARKLES
Remember what?

THE COMPANY
Us. Partners.

SPARKLES
Oh! The Company and Sparkles. I'm
mean Sparkles and Company.

THE COMPANY
Business only, me..you.

Sparkles tilts his head in disbelief. It's the first time
he's heard The Company say more than three words in a row.

SPARKLES
Too bad. I'd like to roll you like
a honey bun sweet roll and apply
some special icing.

Sparkles, in a frenzy of excitement, prances around his shop
knocking merchandise off the shelves. Liza appears to enjoy
Sparkles' performance until she looks at The Company.

THE COMPANY
Stop.

The Company undresses Liza with his menacing gaze.

LIZA
I'll set him up. I know just where
he is every day. Same time.

THE COMPANY
Where?

LIZA
I never give anything up for free.

SPARKLES
What's he worth to you?

THE COMPANY
Fifty.

SPARKLES
Fifty dollars? Get out of my store.

THE COMPANY
Fifty thousand.

Sparkles jumps on The Company's back as he attempts to leave.

SPARKLES
Wait! My knee pads! Wait!

The Company whips around his manly frame and sends Sparkles crashing into a kiosk of bootleg perfume bottles.

LIZA
We'll take half. Deal?

THE COMPANY
We'll?

Liza hurries over and helps Sparkles disengage from the kiosk and brings him to his feet.

SPARKLES
You heard the girl, bitch. Twenty five K or you go away. (Snap of the fingers)

The Company's eyes penetrate into the thoughts of Liza and Sparkles. Liza flips him the bird and Sparkles giggles.

THE COMPANY
Deal. (beat) Where?

Sparkles extends his hands out as he winks at The Company.

SPARKLES
Put some lovin on my tips.

The Company pulls out a stack of singles from his pants, crumples a few and plunks em down into Sparkles' hand.

SPARKLES (CONT'D)
I'm not feelin the love yet.

The Company reluctantly pulls out a stack of hundies from his other pocket, peels several and slaps it down hard into Sparkles' hand. Sparkles crashes to the ground and the money flutters around the store.

LIZA
Jackpot! Meet us at the Krazy Korner at midnight.

SPARKLES

Not tonight! I have a performance.
I'm Cher tonight. You know,
'Cherokee People' Cher.

The Company flares his nostrils and scratches his toes on the floor as if he's about to charge. Liza tries to contain her laughter from Sparkles' admission.

SPARKLES (CONT'D)

Twenty five grand or "I got you
babe". Fuck Cher. I'll call out.

The Company mauls the exit door handle and mumbles.

THE COMPANY

Krazy Korner. Midnight.

The Company disappears into the party out on Bourbon Street.

Sparkles and Liza hold each other and hop around like pogo stick artists. Their lips nearly touch.

SPARKLES

We're rich! Tutti Frutti, we're
rich! You go, girlfriend.

LIZA

After we bag him I'm gettin off my
back and on the next train to L.A.

SPARKLES

Whatever you want, sister.

As the camera pulls away we hear Jelly Roll Morton music in the b.g.

EXT. BOURBON ST. - NEW ORLEANS LA - CONTINUOUS

Across the street from Sparkles' Ya Ya Shop we see DANNY CATES (50), drenched in sweat, holding a French Quarter "hand grenade". He pulls the pin and hurls it at the storefront's window.

CRASH - SPLATTER The window now soiled with green liquid.

We see Sparkles exit the store and quickly mop up the sludge from the sidewalk. He stops and admires his work. He checks it from several angles to make sure it's spotless.

Looking unsatisfied, he gathers a handful of POOF and tosses it over the sidewalk.

SPARKLES

People can lick it now! Poof poof
glitter litter, poof poof gone!

Sparkles displays his patented stance and reenters the store.

INT. KRAZY KORNER BAR - MIDNIGHT

The Crawfish Pot local band methodically beats out a rhythmic tune. The lead singer belts out words in French as he spoons the zydeco board strapped over his shoulders.

Liza, Sparkles, and The Company lean in on a small table set in the corner. Each have their favorite beverage in hand. Liza and Sparkles have their backs to the dance floor.

THE COMPANY

Now what?

SPARKLES

Money talks, Sunshine.

LIZA

Cough it up.

The Company digs into his pocket for the cash then stops. He looks past Sparkles with goo goo eyes.

THE COMPANY

I'm in love.

SPARKLES

I knew you'd come around. I've been
waiting for some rodeo with you.

The Company gazes his eyes over Sparkles' head. Sparkles hops out of his chair and straddles The Company, who in turn tosses him away like an empty gum wrapper. Sparkles sits back down in disappointment.

THE COMPANY

Not with you asshole, *her*.

LIZA

Oh my God. I didn't know you could
speak in a full sentence.

THE COMPANY

Ain't she purty.

Liza and Sparkles snap their heads towards the dance floor. Pulsating to the beat is BUSTY NOCKERS (40), an 'old money' plantation heiress. Dressed to the nines in jungle fever pants with a painted on satin-laced brassiere.

LIZA

Damn! She's got some hips workin'.

SPARKLES

Oh stop. She ain't got nothing I ain't got.

THE COMPANY

She sure does. She can read minds. And palms, and faces. She's also a thief.

SPARKLES

Damn right. That tarot card reader bitch stole my money.

The Company fixes his hair and cleans the sweat from his brow with a cocktail napkin.

THE COMPANY

She stole my heart...

LIZA

I can see why. Now, about the other half of the money.

The Company stands tall, clears his throat, and begins to walk towards Busty.

SPARKLES

Wait a minute. What about our B.J.?

LIZA

I didn't know you-

THE COMPANY

Bounty job, Liza. I've got bigger mountains to climb. Know what I mean?

Sparkles gives a sigh and shakes his head as The Company heads towards Busty.

SPARKLES

That sucks. What could have been-

Liza finishes Sparkles' sentence.

LIZA

His will be ours. You and I will bring in Cates while the beast satisfies his hunger.

SPARKLES

You know the story about him don't you? He was said to have been born *in* the bayou, not on it.

LIZA

Is that where that song came from?

SPARKLES

Never mind. Let's bring in Cates. I'm in full uniform and at full attention!

Sparkles strikes his famous pose and the two exit the bar.

EXT. FRENCH QUARTER STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Liza paces down St. Peter Street leading the way for Sparkles.

SPARKLES

Not so fast, my hose might run. Hey! Where we going?

LIZA

The Dungeon.

SPARKLES

Oh, I like. Yum yum.

INT. KRAZY CORNER BAR - CONTINUOUS

Busty and The Company sway to the slow Cajun melody. His enormous arms stationed around Busty's midsection from behind. Busty's face exhibits complete bliss.

BUSTY

How do you know Sparkles?

THE COMPANY

Were in the same line of work. Collections.

BUSTY

What? Dollar bills as an imposter?

THE COMPANY

Do I look like an imposter? I'm the real deal.

BUSTY

Real deal what?

THE COMPANY

Bounty hunter. I collect humans.

BUSTY

Wow, a real man. Not some two bit player like the rest of them. I like your company.

THE COMPANY

No, you don't understand. I *am The Company*.

Busty breaks away from The Company and whispers in his ear.

BUSTY

(whispering)

You treat me right and we're in business. (wink-wink)

EXT. PAT OBRIEN'S OUTSIDE PATIO - CONTINUOUS

The flaming water fountain commands respect from the Patrons (mixed ages) gathered around.

Liza escorts Sparkles through the crowd.

SPARKLES

Slow down. I think I lost a heel.

LIZA

Cates will be gone soon if we don't hurry and he will be pissed!

SPARKLES

Why are we in *here* then?

Liza leads the duo into a trap door located at the back of the patio.

SPARKLES (CONT'D)

This is kinky.

LIZA

This is where our man is.

INT. THE DUNGEON SECRET STAIRWELL

Liza gives Sparkles the "tread lightly" sign with her arms. Sparkles straightens up and holds his wand with pride.

Through the cracks of the door we see Danny Cates waiting. He paces back and forth puffing on a Camel no filter.

SPARKLES

I'll bust through and glitterize him.

LIZA

Glitter? He'll kick your ass.

SPARKLES

Oh no he won't. Sparkles does the ass kickin.

INT. THE DUNGEON BACK ROOM

The door bursts open and in skips Sparkles. Liza cowers in fear near the door jamb.

SPARKLES

Hands behind your back.

DANNY CATES

Aren't you the mime on the corner of Iberville and Royal?

SPARKLES

Hell no. I'm the Queen of Bourbon!

DANNY CATES

Get the fuck out of here.

Liza edges in and is now visible to Cates.

SPARKLES

I can handle this.

DANNY CATES

I've been waiting, you whore. Where's my money?

LIZA

I'm done with you. Glitterize him!

Sparkles reaches into his satchel and pulls out his empty hand. He nervously digs deeper into the pouch for POOF.

SPARKLES

Shit! I forgot to reload!

Cates bolts after Sparkles and sends him flying like Peter Pan across the room into a brick wall. Liza comes to his aid. Cates grabs Liza by her hair-

INT. NOCKERS PLANTATION - BUSTY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

We see an elaborate bedroom the size of a gymnasium. Antique furniture delicately situated beneath turn of the century paintings. Old sepia photos adorn the walls in the shape of a family tree.

The summer sun filters through the gold lined tapestry. In the b.g. we hear championship caliber race horses enjoying a friendly game of nose tag.

The Company and Busty lay side by side on a double king bed.

BUSTY

Did you really wrestle four alligators at once?

THE COMPANY

Yup. Broke one's back. Snapped the jaws of two others and the last one I just suffocated.

BUSTY

You get bit?

THE COMPANY

Not with these fast hands.

BUSTY

I know all about those hands. I like. Come closer and give me a lil' lagniappe.

INT. SPARKLES YA YA SHOP - CONTINUOUS

In the back room we see Sparkles lying on his makeshift bed. A bag of ice on his head, right arm and left foot.

EXT. DAISY DUKES RESTAURANT SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Liza lays motionless in the fetal position. It appears she's been beaten to within an inch of her life.

A group of morning revelers toss coins at her feet in sympathy.

We see a pair of glistening black dress shoes approach and stop by Liza's head. Danny Cates is attached to the shoes.

DANNY CATES
Up, bitch!

Liza struggles to her feet and is taken away by Cates.

EXT. NOCKERS PLANTATION

BUSTY
Did I say something wrong?

THE COMPANY
No. I mean. You said lagniappe.

BUSTY
So?

THE COMPANY
It reminded me I have a little something extra *I* gotta do.

The Company enters his SUV and guns it down the winding path.

EXT. ST. ANN ST. - CONTINUOUS

Cates pulls Liza down the street. She wears a metal-studded dog collar with a leather leash.

DANNY CATES
You know what I do to girls like you?

LIZA
I heard. Let me go and I'll get you double what I owe you.

Cates stops on a dime.

DANNY CATES
Double?

LIZA
Double. Meet me at Sparkles Ya Ya Shop at six.

DANNY CATES

What is it with you and Mr. Sugar-britches?

LIZA

I'm not your pet. Take this thing off of me.

Cates relents and releases Liza from his custody.

DANNY CATES

Six it is, bitch. Money or you're gator bait.

Liza high-tails it towards the mighty Mississippi.

INT. SPARKLES YA YA SHOP - BACK ROOM - LATER

Sparkles, Liza, and The Company sit around the back room on the makeshift bed.

THE COMPANY

You sure he'll be here?

LIZA

Positive.

Sparkles darts out of the room only to return in an instant. He's dressed in his patented uniform.

THE COMPANY

Why do you look like an Easter egg?

SPARKLES

It's my work clothes.

Sparkles nervously checks his satchel.

SPARKLES (CONT'D)

And I'm fully loaded.

In the b.g. we hear the chimes of the door to the shop.

LIZA

He's right on time. Go get em.

The Company heads for the front of the store. Sparkles peers around the corner to watch the takedown.

INT. SPARKLES YA YA SHOP - FRONT

Busty Nockers runs in and falls into The Company's arms.

BUSTY
I've been all over the Quarter
looking for you.

THE COMPANY
False alarm. It's Busty.

At that statement Busty backhands The Company across the face. The Company drops to the ground like a ton of bricks. Sparkles races in with his hand in his satchel.

SPARKLES
Why you trippin' lady-girl?

BUSTY
Oh my God! What did I do?

In the b.g. we hear the chimes of the door once again.

Cates walks in with a billyclub in one hand and brass knuckles in the other.

SPARKLES
Oh Liza! We have company.

DANNY CATES
Where's the whore and where's my
cash.

Busty continues to try and bring The Company back to consciousness.

Liza enters quickly from the back room and stops abruptly. Cates smacks the Billyclub against the brass knuckles as Liza surveys the scene with disappointment.

LIZA
Oh shit! Get em' Sparkles.

Sparkles pulls out a handful of POOF and tosses it into Cates' eyes.

SPARKLES
Jalapeno *and* Tabasco, punk-ass.
You've been Glitterized!

Cates moans in agony and falls to the floor. His moans increase and he cries out like the coward he is.

The Company finally awakes and pounces on Cates.

EXT. JACKSON SQUARE - NEXT DAY

Busty sits at her Tarot table reading The Company's hand. Sparkles and Liza divvy up a pile of cash. In a poignant moment we see Busty and The Company embrace at the exact time Sparkles and Liza embrace. Liza pulls away with tears in her eyes.

SPARKLES

Where you going?

Liza stops and takes a good long look at her surroundings. We see the mule carriages lined up on Decatur St. We see clowns and mimes entertaining a crowd of Onlookers (mixed ages). We here an ensemble of street musicians carry on with "When The Saints Go Marching In".

We see a CLOSE ON the statue of Andrew Jackson. The musicians song fades and we hear the hustle and bustle of tourists.

Liza takes a deep breath and exhales.

LIZA

L.A. can wait.

The End.

Credits roll.

