

UP, UP, AND AWAY

Draft #3  
(Including the final 15-second scene)

by

Scott & Paula Merrow

Act 2

FADE IN:

EXT. BLUE SKY - DAY

An azure sky filled with puffy clouds.

*Psssst.* A short burst of rushing air. (O.C.)

A few moments later, a bright red round-ish object pops upward into the field of view. A helium balloon.

*Psssst.* Moments later, a green balloon joins the red one.

*Psssst.* Then a blue balloon.

WIDER SHOT...

EXT. AN OPEN FIELD - DAY

Hundreds of balloons tied to a folding lawn chair, lifting it a few feet in the air, a taut rope straining to hold it down.

A man, ANTONIO DE SALUDA (40s), fills the balloons with a *psssst* from a tall green tank, then ties them to the chair.

A few feet away there's a panel van parked in the field. A colorful logo on the side reads: *Tony's Party Supplies*.

There's a styrofoam cooler on the ground beside the chair. Resting against it are a BB gun and a set of hedge trimmers.

*Psssst.* He adds another balloon to the gaggle.

Suddenly, a distant motor sound -- a pick-up truck careening across the field. It pulls up next to the van, stops, and a man gets out. STEVE RUSICA (40s).

STEVE

Geez, Tony, I don't believe it.  
You're actually gonna do it.

TONY

Why not? What's there to lose?

STEVE

Yeah. Good point.

He gestures toward the cooler and the other things.

STEVE

So, what's all this stuff?

TONY

The cooler's got food and water,  
the hedge trimmers are to cut the  
rope, and the BB gun is to shoot  
out the balloons when the blast  
wave passes and I'm ready to land.

Steve chuckles...

STEVE

Beautiful. Wish I'd thought of it.

He looks at his watch.

STEVE

How many more of those balloons you  
need? You're runnin' outta time.

TONY

I've got enough already. I'm just  
adding a few more for insurance.

STEVE

Oh. Insurance. Yeah, good idea.

He reaches behind his back and pulls a gun out of his belt.  
With no hesitation he shoots Tony in the gut. Tony crumples  
to the ground.

Steve grabs the equipment, and with some difficulty he climbs  
into the chair, the cooler in his lap, the BB gun, his own  
gun, and the trimmers atop the cooler.

With both hands he struggles to reach the rope with the hedge  
trimmers. After a few snips he cuts the rope. The chair  
lurches violently upward, climbing rapidly.

Steve quickly grabs the arms of the chair for stability, but  
everything spills from his lap onto the ground.

Steve's gun lands beside Tony.

In obvious pain, Tony struggles to grasp the gun. He points  
it skyward, aims, and fires a shot. BAM!

A moment later, Steve's body lands beside him with a THUD.

EXT. BLUE SKY - DAY

An azure sky filled with puffy clouds.

After a moment, hundreds of colorful balloons attached to an  
empty lawn chair drift by and disappear into the distance.

EXT. THE SAME OPEN FIELD - LATER

The sky is a violent red. The wind roars.

Tony and Steve's bodies have been blown against the truck, one piled on the other.

A faint clattering sound (O.C.) grows steadily louder. After a moment, the source of the sound appears -- it's the lawn chair, pinwheeling across the field. It's bent and twisted.

It's dragging hundreds of strings behind it, a popped balloon at the end of each string.

The chair crashes into the men's bodies and comes to rest atop them, just as...

The ground begins to shake.

The screen goes white.

THE END