

Title: THE WEEPING VIRGINS OF OGALLALA

Logline: Married “mystery shoppers”, eager to land a big contract, agree to investigate a faith-based phenomenon in a small Texas town for a wealthy but eccentric client.

Texas based “mystery shoppers” NYCE NIGHTLONG, once a baseball prospect, and petite wife ALLIE, eager to see their firm land the national account for the Dime A Dozen chain, are summoned to the palatial mansion of Dime A Dozen heiress KATIE. The eccentric 80 year old praises the job done by Nyce and Allie covertly evaluating her Houston stores...but, before handing over the lucrative national account, wants a further test of their abilities. Claiming she’s haunted by this, Katie reveals she woke at 3 a.m. when her TV seemed to turn on by itself to a broadcast about the “Weeping Virgins” phenomenon...which involves two 3 foot high plaster Madonnas found in the playground area of a sporting goods store run by STEVE SAXON in the small Texas town of Ogallala. Skeptical about claims that the statues weep, which has resulted in a shrine being erected by believers and has transfixed Katie, Nyce and Allie agree to look into it. With their brainy misfit 9 year old son CONNOR and the kid’s pet hamster MR. BUDDHA, Nyce and Allie drive to the small town. Along the way, Nyce is jolted when a MAN IN CAMO GEAR rushes across the road in pursuit of a turkey.

Nyce and Allie reach the sporting goods store as Steve conducts a pep rally for the Red Shockers college football team in an attempt to break a losing streak begun when the statues made their mysterious appearance. Unable to view the statues as Steve’s crusty MAINTENANCE MAN has closed the shrine, Allie remarks she’d cry too if she were a virgin stuck in Ogallala. Tipped off that his new guests are mystery shoppers, motel manager DISH outdoes himself trying to please Nyce and Allie. Having a beer, Nyce listens as camo clad LYMON (“turkeys are my passion”) claims he was the guy chasing the turkey. When Nyce and Connor leave for some covert observations at the shrine, a nauseous Allie realizes she’s pregnant. Nyce’s attempt to give Connor batting tips ends when the kid gets beamed. Treating Connor’s black eye, Steve recognizes former prospect Nyce and learns Allie was the driver who caused his career ending injury; remembering how a drunken Nyce stumbled into a street as she drove off from a bad date, Allie wonders if this was predestined as Katie claims. Nyce scoffs when a HISPANIC WOMAN claims to be the same Lymon from before and is sure this is a crackpot ploy of Katie’s. To keep Mr. Buddha quiet during the wee hours, Nyce gives the hamster beer; Connor wails in the morning over the deceased pet. Ready to put Mr. Buddha into a funeral pyre at the shrine, Nyce is jolted as the hungover pet revives and flees. Getting a tattoo of the Weeping Virgins, Katie wants Nyce to buy the statues for installation at her mansion. Top ranked archer Steve, flummoxed when he accidentally plunks his maintenance man in the shoulder, refuses to sell the statues as he fears karmic retribution; Nyce rolls his eyes as a BLACK MAN claims to be the same turkey loving Lymon from before. High on pain pills, the maintenance man confesses to Nyce that the Weeping Virgins, rather than miraculously appearing, simply fell off a truck and that he recovered them. Tenderly assuring Allie he’s thrilled about the pregnancy, Nyce learns that Katie has died.

Though he was ready to buy substitute statues to deceive the eccentric heiress, Nyce makes a U-turn on leaving Ogallala and returns to the sporting goods store. Telling Connor of the importance of keeping your word, Nyce calmly steals the statues without

any opposition from the faithful. Stashing the statues in self storage, the Nightlong family attends Katie's joyous New Orleans style funeral. Returning to the storage unit at the same time Steve celebrates as the Shocker losing streak ends, Nyce and Allie are amazed to see the statues are gone...and that Mr. Buddha waits for Connor. The Dime A Dozen contract goes to Nyce and Allie. Later, as a visibly pregnant Allie trains new mystery shoppers, Nyce coaches at Little League as Connor hits a homer. The ball lands on a hilltop at the feet of the two statues, both of which seem to be smiling...