

NEBRASKA

Written by
Robert W. Nelson

10/15/2012

THIS MATERIAL IS THE PROPERTY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND IS INTENDED AND RESTRICTED SOLELY FOR PARAMOUNT PICTURES PERSONNEL. DISTRIBUTION OR DISCLOSURE OF THIS MATERIAL TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS IS PROHIBITED. THE SALE, DISPLAY, COPYING OR REPRODUCTION OF THIS MATERIAL FOR ANY REASON IN ANY FORM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DIGITAL OR NEW MEDIA, IS ALSO PROHIBITED.

1 **EXT. BILLINGS, MONTANA - LAUREL ROAD - DAY** 1

A MAN in his 70s walks along a narrow stretch of grass separating a busy road from a railroad yard.

The man walks purposefully, despite the hesitant gait and clouded eyes of a longtime alcoholic.

2 **EXT. NEAR INTERSTATE 90 - DAY** 2

Now a bit dazed and slowed by fatigue, the man walks past a sign reading BILLINGS CITY LIMITS.

A state patrol cruiser pulls up in front of him, and a TROOPER gets out.

3 **EXT. DAVID'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY** 3

A modest structure set against a bluff.

4 **INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - DAY** 4

DAVID GRANT - 40 - sits in a recliner in a sparsely-furnished living room. He watches TV and drinks from a plastic bottle of Mountain Dew. The doorbell rings.

He gets up and opens the door. It's his recent ex-girlfriend NOËL with two suitcases.

 DAVID
 Hi.

 NOËL
 Hi.

 DAVID
 Wow. Are you moving back in?

 NOËL
 No, these are yours. I'm just
 returning them.

 DAVID
 Right. Thanks. Do you want to
 come in?

She thinks a moment before stepping inside and maintains a polite distance. She notices a droopy plant.

NOËL

David, you're supposed to water
that plant. It's a plant.

David goes to the kitchen to fill a container with water.

DAVID

I'd like you to change your mind.

NOËL

What does that mean?

DAVID

You know what it means. I want you
to move back in.

NOËL

I just moved out.

DAVID

So two years, and we're back to
dating.

NOËL

I don't know yet. We'll see in a
while.

DAVID

Are we still having sex?

NOËL

What do you think?

DAVID

I think we are.

NOËL

And then what?

DAVID

Usually I fall asleep.

Not in the mood for a joke --

NOËL

I've got to go.

DAVID

Are you saying we can't be together
again unless we get married?

NOËL

Get married, break up, I don't
know. Let's do both. Let's just
do something.

*

The phone rings. David and Noël wait in silence as the
machine eventually picks up.

KATE (ON PHONE)

Pick up or call me back right now.
It's your father -- he's gone
crazy.

DAVID

Oh, shit.

He runs to pick up the phone. Noël starts for the door.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Hi, Mom. I'm here.

KATE (ON PHONE)

David, it's your mother.

DAVID

That's why I said, "Hi, Mom."

KATE (ON PHONE)

I don't know what I'm going to do
with him. I'm going to put him in
a goddamned nursing home is what
I'm going to do. I'm too old for
this.

*

As Kate continues, David waves a weak goodbye to Noël.

5

INT. MONTANA SHERIFF STATION - DAY

5

*

WOODY GRANT sits on a folding chair in a cinder-block office.
A SHERIFF leads David inside.

*

DAVID

There's the man of the hour.

WOODY

The what?

DAVID

The man of the hour.

WOODY

I don't know.

In addition to general confusion, Woody is deaf in one ear.

DAVID

So you told the sheriff you were
walking to... Nebraska?

*

WOODY

That's right. To get my million
dollars.

DAVID

What million dollars?

WOODY

I won a million dollars.

He pulls a crinkled letter from his jacket pocket, which he
unfolds and labors to read.

WOODY (CONT'D)

"We are now authorized to pay one
million dollars to Mr. Woodrow T.
Grant of Billings, Montana."

DAVID

Let me see.

Woody hands David the letter.

WOODY

Your mother won't take me.

DAVID

(reading)

Mega Sweepstakes Marketing. Dad,
this is a total come-on. It's one
of the oldest gimmicks in the book.
I didn't even know they did this
anymore.

WOODY

They can't say it if it's not true.

DAVID

They're just trying to sell you
magazine subscriptions.

WOODY

It says I won.

DAVID

So let's mail it in. I'll help
you.

*

WOODY

I don't trust the mail with a million dollars.

6 **EXT. WOODY AND KATE'S HOUSE - DAY**

6

A modest home.

Woody and David get out of David's car. David pulls a very full laundry basket from his back seat.

They go inside the kitchen door.

7 **INT. WOODY AND KATE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

7

KATE GRANT awaits them wearing a faded floral housecoat. The house has a tired, 70s-era décor. David puts his basket in the laundry room at one end of the kitchen.

KATE

You dumb cluck. You pretty near gave me a heart attack!

WOODY

Now just cool your jets.

KATE

This is the second time he's tried to sneak out. I never knew the son-of-a-bitch even wanted to be a millionaire. He should have thought about that years ago and worked for it.

DAVID

What would you do with a million dollars anyway, Dad?

WOODY

Buy a new truck.

DAVID

You can't drive.

WOODY

I'll get my license back.

DAVID

Tell me when you do so I can stay off the road.

*

WOODY

I need an air compressor too.

KATE

Are you still harping on that?

*

WOODY

Ed Pegram still has mine.

KATE

That's because he's a thief.

WOODY

He's not a thief. I lent it to him.

DAVID

Who's Ed Pegram?

WOODY

Guy I knew back in Hawthorne.

DAVID

When did he borrow it?

WOODY

Seventy-four.

DAVID

That's almost forty years. He lives two states away. I'd say he stole it.

WOODY

That's why I need a new one.

Woody heads down the hallway.

KATE

Where you off to now?

WOODY

Lyin' down.

KATE

He even sleeps with that stupid letter. He's memorized it word for word. I didn't think he could memorize anything anymore.

DAVID

(opening the refrigerator)
Hey, what's with this casserole?

KATE

It's lasagna. It's still good.
Take it. And take some bananas. I
bought a whole lot of them
yesterday. Your father makes me so
nervous. You know what I'd do with
a million dollars -- I'd put him in
a home.

8

INT. HOME THEATERS PLUS! - DAY

8

David works with a YOUNG COUPLE inside a soundproof DEMO
ROOM. David and the man headbang to a rock anthem. The
woman looks bored.

Soon David leads them back into the showroom.

DAVID

Like I say, you basically just test-
drove a Cadillac or Rolls Royce or
whatever. Wasn't that awesome?

MAN

Totally.

DAVID

But that's not to say I can't set
you up with a whole lot more
reasonable speakers that'll still
blow your mind if you're worried
the Wilsons are going to set you
back too much. The way they design
speakers anymore, you can't make a
mistake.

*

The woman tugs on her boyfriend's arm.

MAN

Great. I think, uh, I think we
just need to discuss this and get
back to you.

DAVID

Here's my card. Give me a call
anytime if you have any more
questions.

MAN

Thanks a lot.

DAVID

Excellent, Mark, Janice. Pleasure.

JANICE

Juh-neece.

DAVID

Juh-neece. Sorry.

David watches them go. They won't be back.

OTHER EMPLOYEE

David, your mother's on line one.

9

EXT. WOODY AND KATE'S HOUSE - DAY

9

David gets out of his car and finds his mother near the garage.

DAVID

Where'd they find him this time?

KATE

Way the hell out on King Avenue by the Albertson's. I can't take it anymore. Ross is in there trying to talk some sense into him.

David goes into the --

10

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

10

-- where David's brother ROSS watches Woody work on the engine of a very old Ford pickup. Ross has a sportcoat, tie, and perfect haircut.

ROSS

Hi, Dave.

DAVID

Ross. What's going on, Dad?

WOODY

Talk to Ma and Ross. They seem to know it all.

DAVID

I'm asking you.

*

WOODY

Can't get her to turn over.

DAVID

That's because it's been sitting there for ten years.

WOODY

I'll get her runnin'.

ROSS

He still thinks he's going to
Lincoln to get his money.

WOODY

Gotta get there by the 5th.

*

ROSS

Hey Dad, how come you didn't think
of fixing the truck first or take a
bus? Why'd you just start walking?

*

Woody looks up a moment, thinks about that, then gets back to
work. David leads his brother out of the garage.

DAVID

Don't pull his chain like that.
The poor guy doesn't know what's
going on half the time.

ROSS

I cut the solenoid wire and stuck
it back in. That'll slow him down.
And Mom's right -- it's time to
think about a home. She can't
handle him anymore. It's not fair
to her.

*

DAVID

He doesn't need a nursing home. He
just...the guy just needs something
to live for. That's all this is
about.

ROSS

Yeah, and it's pathetic. Seems
like drinking always gave him more
than enough to live for until now.

DAVID

Go easy on the man, okay? He'll
probably forget all about this in a
day or two.

ROSS

And then it'll be some other
demented crap, like the infomercial
stuff last year. Mom and I are
looking at reality, and you'd
better start too.

*

(MORE)

ROSS (CONT'D)
 A home would be in his best
 interest -- which, let's face it --
 is more than he ever thought about
 with us. He never gave a shit
 about you or me.

They peek inside the garage. Woody remains focused.

DAVID
 I saw you anchoring the other
 night. Nice job.

ROSS
 Thanks.

DAVID
 First time in the chair, right?

ROSS
 Kelly Ann Castillo called in sick,
 so I got to fill in, yeah. And
 apparently I didn't stink up the
 place too much, so...

DAVID
 Tom Brokaw. The new Tom Brokaw of
 Billings.

ROSS
 I don't know about Tom Brokaw
 exactly, but you know, yeah, it's
 looking pretty good. I've paid my
 dues. Plus, looks like Kelly Ann's
 got some kind of bad infection.

Then from inside the garage --

KATE
 You put that heap of shit on the
 road, I swear to God I'll call the
 police!

11 INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - DAY

11

David sits in his recliner drinking beer and watching a
 documentary about Tiger Woods.

TV NARRATOR
*When Earl Woods died, friends say a
 piece of Tiger died with him.*

TIGER WOODS (ON TV)
*My dad has always taught me these
 words: care and share...*

David notices the time and switches the channel.

ROSS (ON TV)
*Billings Chamber of Commerce
 director Dee Pomerantz says a new
 convention center could bring in
 upwards of five million dollars to
 the Magic City. But opponents, led
 by Councilman Reilly Tilden, claim
 the plan is a "Pie in the Big Sky
 idea" that will cost taxpayers more
 than it's worth. The Council is
 expected to debate the proposal in
 Monday's session. Coming up next,
 is it time to pull out that old
 umbrella? Debbie Ontiveros has
 your soggy work week forecast.
 Then in Sports, Carter brings us
 the story of a Hardin snowmobiler
 who may have lost his legs, but not
 his will to compete. That and more
 coming up after the break. Stay
 with us.*

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

DAVID
 Ross.

*

The phone rings. David looks at the caller ID, drops his head and answers with dread.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Hello.

KATE (ON PHONE)
 David, it's your mother.

12

EXT. DOWNTOWN BILLINGS - DAY

12

Woody walks down the sidewalk toward the BUS STATION. David pulls up alongside him in his car and rolls down the window.

DAVID
 Dad. Dad!

WOODY
 Leave me alone.

David guns the car ahead of Woody, stops and gets out.

DAVID

Come on. Let me take you home.

WOODY

I'm going to Lincoln if it's the
last thing I do. I don't care what
you people think.

DAVID

Listen to me. You didn't win
anything. It's a complete scam.
So you've got to stop this, okay?

Woody looks at David as though maybe his son is finally
making sense. Then he starts walking again.

WOODY
I'm running out of time.

*

DAVID
You don't even have a suitcase.

WOODY
I'm not stayin' there.

*

DAVID
I can't let you go.

WOODY
It's none of your business.

DAVID
Yes, it is. I'm your son.

WOODY
Then why don't you take me?

DAVID
I can't just drop everything and
drive to Lincoln, Nebraska.

WOODY
What else you got goin' on?

David blinks as he absorbs this. Even a broken clock is
right twice a day.

13

INT. WOODY AND KATE'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

13

As David puts an old suitcase of his father's into the trunk
of his car, Kate lays into him.

KATE
What the hell are you doing?
There's no money!

*

DAVID
I realize that.

Woody sits in the passenger seat, seemingly oblivious to the
discussion.

KATE
Have you lost your marbles too?
Get your father out of your car
this goddamned instant. You need
to help *me*.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm the one who does all the work around here. Your father just sits there. Look at him. He's useless. His mother spoiled him.

DAVID

We'll just be gone a couple of days. Don't worry. We'll be back before you know it. Why don't you just enjoy the time alone? You always complain about having him around.

KATE

What about your job?

David gets in the car.

DAVID

I told them I was sick.

KATE

Sick in the head. I'm going to tell Ross to call you. He'll back me up.

DAVID

Sounds great. Bye, Mom.

David drives away.

KATE

You're just like your father, stubborn as a mule! Couple of lunatics!

14 **EXT. INTERSTATE 90 - DAY**

14

David's Subaru heads southeast toward Wyoming.

*

15 **INT. DAVID'S CAR - DAY**

15

David and Woody drive in silence for a while before --

WOODY

When you get tired, you let me know, and I'll drive.

DAVID

You can't drive.

WOODY

Why not?

DAVID

Because your license was suspended
for drinking.

WOODY

I don't drink.

DAVID

Is that right?

WOODY

Just a beer now and then.

DAVID

That's true. One continuous fifty-
year beer.

WOODY

(pointing)

I can sure as hell drive better
than that moron.

MONTAGE --

-- The car continues on Interstate 90 amid the wide-open
spaces of Montana.

-- WELCOME TO WYOMING

-- A freight train travels alongside the highway. Woody
stares at it like a little kid. David casts glances at his
father.

16

EXT. BUFFALO LAKE STOP GAS STATION - DAY

16

While filling up the car, David stares into space taking
mental stock of his strange situation. Once he replaces the
nozzle, he turns to find his father.

David's eyes follow the direction of the passenger door left
open, and he spots a SALOON.

DAVID

Oh, shit.

17

INT. BUFFALO LAKE STOP SALOON - DAY

17

David finds Woody seated comfortably amid a gaggle of
weathered afternoon DRINKERS.

DAVID
Jesus Christ, Dad, what are you
doing here?

WOODY
I was thirsty.

DAVID
Good to see you're not drinking.

WOODY
Beer ain't drinking.
(downing the rest of his
Coors)
Let's go.

*

18 **DRIVING MONTAGE --**

18

-- The car passes through shifting landscapes and impressive,
big cloudy skies.

-- WELCOME TO SOUTH DAKOTA: FOREVER WEST

-- A crew of BIKERS swarms and passes the car.

-- The car passes billboards, one advertising MOUNT RUSHMORE.

*

19 **INT. DAVID'S CAR - DAY**

19

David smiles.

DAVID
Hey, Dad.

WOODY
Yeah?

DAVID
How about we go see Mount Rushmore?

WOODY
We don't have time for that.

*

DAVID
It's just a half hour off the
interstate. We're right here.

WOODY
It's just a bunch of rocks.

20

EXT. HIGHWAY NEAR MOUNT RUSHMORE - DAY

20

David and Woody have stopped their car at a PULL-OFF offering a good if slightly distant view of the presidents.

DAVID

So what do you think, Dad?

WOODY

Doesn't look finished to me.

DAVID

How do you mean?

WOODY

Looks like somebody got bored doin' it. Washington's the only one with any clothes, and they're just sort of roughed in. Lincoln doesn't even have an ear.

*
*

David takes a look -- his dad's got a point. Woody turns away.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Okay, now we seen it.

21

EXT. RAPID CITY MOTEL - NIGHT

21

Establishing.

22

INT. RAPID CITY MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

22

Dark. The door cracks open, and someone sneaks in before banging into a table and crashing to the floor.

DAVID

Dad?

David turns on the light, jumps out of bed, and finds Woody face down and motionless.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Oh, Jesus.

He rolls Woody over and sees that he's bleeding from a nasty gash above the eye. David runs to the bathroom and returns with a towel.

WOODY

I'm all right.

David presses the towel onto Woody's forehead.

DAVID
You've been drinking.

WOODY
No, I haven't. I'm fine. Go back
to bed.

23

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

23

David watches a DOCTOR finish dressing Woody's wound.

DOCTOR
All righty, that ought to do it.
Give me a sec.

The doctor walks out of the office.

NURSE (O.S.)
Who you got in there?

DOCTOR (O.S.)
Just an old drunk who cut his head.

WOODY
Where's my teeth?

DAVID
You lost your teeth?

Woody answers with a grin -- he is missing four upper front
teeth.

*
*

DAVID (CONT'D)
Did you leave them at the motel?

*

WOODY
No.

DAVID
The tavern?

WOODY
I wasn't in no tavern.

DAVID
Did you leave them at the place
where they serve alcohol that you
don't call a tavern?

WOODY

Must have been when I fell by the
tracks.

*

The doctor returns, speaks to David.

DOCTOR

Considering it's a pretty bad head
wound, his age, and history of
drinking, I think we should keep
him in the hospital a day or so for
observation.

WOODY

I don't drink.

DAVID

You hear that, Dad? We won't be
making Lincoln by Friday.

WOODY

We got till Monday.

DAVID

We're going to take you back home.

WOODY

I'm not going home.

DAVID

I can't wait until Monday. That
means I wouldn't be back at work
till Wednesday.

WOODY

Sellin' record players.
(to doctor)
I won a million dollars.

DOCTOR

Congratulations. That'll just
about cover one day in the
hospital.

*

David offers a weak courtesy laugh.

Woody lies in bed like a corpse -- eyes closed, mouth slack.
The TV is on. David enters, shakes his father awake.

DAVID

I looked, but I couldn't find your
teeth anywhere.

WOODY

They're by the tracks.

DAVID

You have to be more specific than railroad tracks that run from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Listen, Mom talked to Uncle Ray and Aunt Martha. They're going to put us up in Hawthorne over the weekend.

*

WOODY

I don't want to go to Hawthorne. Why can't we just go direct to Lincoln?

*

DAVID

Because there's no sense going to Lincoln over the weekend. I'll get you there Monday morning. Anyway, Aunt Martha said she'd invite all your brothers over and have a little get-together on Sunday. Mom's coming down on the bus, maybe Ross and Marcie too. It'll be nice.

*

*

*

WOODY

I don't want to go to Hawthorne.

*

25

EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS - EARLY MORNING

25

*

Overcast.

David and Woody search the ground along tracks separating a tavern from a small commercial area, including a motel.

DAVID

Do you remember where you fell?

They keep looking. David brightens and picks something up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Okay, Dad, I found it. Here it is.

(running over)

Oh, wait. This isn't yours.

*

*

Woody nods and keeps looking.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I was kidding. Here.

*

Woody takes the teeth and brushes off them off.

*

WOODY

This ain't mine.

DAVID

I was putting you on. It's yours.

WOODY

No, it's not.

DAVID

Whose else is it going to be? See if it fits.

WOODY

These ain't my teeth.

*

DAVID

They have to be.

WOODY

I should know my own teeth.

David looks at his father in disbelief and starts looking again.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Of course they're my teeth. Don't be a moron.

Woody inserts his teeth and grins.

WOODY (CONT'D)
Come on. Let's go.

26 **DRIVING MONTAGE --**

26

-- David's car passes a massive windmill farm.

-- David and Woody pass a faded, pocked sign reading
"Nebraska, The Good Life. Home of Arbor Day."

-- Other TBD.

27 **INT./EXT. DAVID'S CAR - DAY**

27

A farm report is on the radio as David and Woody reach a
RURAL CROSSROADS.

FARM REPORT (ON RADIO)
Barrows and gilts are 94 higher,
averaging 74.99...

WOODY
Say, turn up here.

DAVID
No, we should stay on 20.

WOODY
I want to show you something.

Woody directs David to turn onto a gravel COUNTRY ROAD.

*

A28 **EXT. RURAL INTERSECTION - DAY**

A28

*

David's Subaru turns now from the gravel road back onto a
PAVED COUNTRY ROAD.

*

*

28 **EXT. LYONS, NEBRASKA ROAD - DAY**

28

*

INSIDE THE CAR --

David is curious as Woody directs him down a desolate road.

*

WOODY
There it is. Pull in there.

29

EXT. ABANDONED MOTEL - DAY

29

David pulls into the driveway. They get out.

WOODY

They used to have a big sign with a
great big cowboy on it. Must have
been thirty foot tall.

David looks at the motel. Trees grow out of the windows.

WOODY (CONT'D)

When I was a boy, my brothers and I
always wanted to come by and see
the big cowboy. Real big cowboy.

DAVID

Is that him?

David points to a rusted sign for the RUSTLER ROOST lying
amid tall weeds. The big cowboy with the buckshot-pummeled
face is no more than ten feet tall.

WOODY

Seemed bigger then.

MONTAGE --

TBD.

30 **EXT. HAWTHORNE, NEBRASKA - DAY** 30

David's car drives slowly into the business district, a wide
street with head-in parking spots filled mainly with pickup
trucks. The buildings -- many boarded up -- pre-date 1960,
with some clearly over a century old.

31 **INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS** 31

Woody twists around to take it all in.

32 **EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - DAY** 32

David stops at an old two-story house with junk cars out
front. AUNT MARTHA, a lively 70, comes out to greet them.

AUNT MARTHA

Well, hello there, boys.

DAVID

Hi, Aunt Martha.

She hugs them both.

WOODY

Martha.

AUNT MARTHA

Look at you, Davey. You couldn't
have been more than 15 last time we
saw you.

*
*

DAVID

That's what I was saying to Dad.
Long time.

AUNT MARTHA

Well, what have you got to say for
yourself, Woody?

WOODY

Nothin'.

AUNT MARTHA

What'd you do to your head?

WOODY

Fell.

*

AUNT MARTHA

You Grant brothers sure are men of
few words.

33

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S TV ROOM - DAY

33

*

Aunt Martha leads Woody and David through the house. Seated
in front of the TV are Woody's older brother RAY and David's
twin layabout cousins BART and COLE, too old to be living at
home.

*
*

AUNT MARTHA

Look who I found hanging around out
front, Ray. Your little brother
Woody.

UNCLE RAY

I can see that. What's up, Woody?

WOODY

Nothing. How about you?

UNCLE RAY

Not much.

DAVID

Hi, Uncle Ray.

Ray nods as if not entirely sure he knows who David is. All
stare at each other a few seconds in silence.

AUNT MARTHA

You boys remember your cousin David.

DAVID

(shaking hands)

Hey, Bart. Cole.

BART AND COLE

Hi. Hey.

DAVID

Man, it's been a long time since we all met as kids. What're you guys up to?

*

COLE

Not much.

AUNT MARTHA

This economy has just tore up Hawthorne, Davey. Things are hard for young men.

DAVID

Yeah, I'm in the home theater and electronics business myself. Rough time, I'll tell you that.

UNCLE RAY

Cole here did some jail.

AUNT MARTHA

Don't bring that up.

COLE

Bitch lied through her teeth.

AUNT MARTHA

I will not allow that kind of language in my house.

COLE

Sorry, Mom.

AUNT MARTHA

(to Woody and David)

Now, boys, you sit down. You must be starving. I made sandwiches.

Woody and David sit as Martha heads to the kitchen.

*

BART

So how long'd it take you to get here?

DAVID

I don't know. We got sort of waylaid in Rapid City. That's where Dad had his little accident.

BART

But how long total?

DAVID

Oh, couple of days, I guess.

BART

From Billings? How far's that?

DAVID

Probably about 750 miles.

COLE

It took you two days to drive 750 miles? What are you driving, a dump truck or something?

DAVID

It's a Subaru. Outback.

*

BART

Hell, I drove up from Dallas one time. That's 850 miles. I done that in eight hours.

DAVID

That's over 100 miles an hour.

COLE

Bart was movin'.

AUNT MARTHA

Here you go, boys. Dig in.

BART

Shit, two days from Montana. Sombitch must have been drivin' in reverse.

*

AUNT MARTHA (O.S.)

Boys, language!

*

34

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S DINING ROOM - DAY

34 *

The reunited family sit silently in the parlor. Then --

AUNT MARTHA

Ray's foot's been's bothering him,
ain't that right?

UNCLE RAY

It's okay. It just hurts.

David notices that Woody's been staring off into space.

DAVID

Did you get that, Dad? Dad?

WOODY

What?

DAVID

Uncle Ray's foot hurts.

WOODY

I know.

DAVID

(to Ray)

Everything else good, though?

UNCLE RAY

Not really.

David takes a sip of the off-brand soda in his hand.

AUNT MARTHA

Kate says they got Ross on the news
out there. Says he's doing real
good.

DAVID

Yep. Yeah, he's doing great.

AUNT MARTHA

Good for him. He was always quite
a go-getter, wasn't he?

DAVID

Yep.

BART

Two goddamn days from Billings!

Bart and Cole laugh.

35 **EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY**

35

As Woody walks David along the storefronts of his early life, he betrays not a shred of nostalgia.

WOODY
Rottle's Clothing used to be here.
(an antiques store)
That was the bank.

DAVID
Must've changed a lot since your day.

Woody doesn't answer. They continue to walk in silence as David tries to imagine Woody's impressions.

Eventually Woody leads David across the street to --

36 **EXT. SERVICE STATION - CONTINUOUS**

36

Woody pokes his head into the service bay, where two MEXICAN MECHANICS work on a car.

WOODY
I used to own this garage.

DAVID
Own it? I thought the air compressor guy did.

WOODY
Ed Pegram.

DAVID
Yeah, I thought he owned it.

WOODY
We were partners.

DAVID
Huh. What happened?

WOODY
I sold it to him.

DAVID
For how much?

WOODY
Eight hundred.

*

DAVID

You sold him half of a business for
eight hundred dollars?

WOODY

That was a lot of money back then.

BIG MECHANIC

You need something?

DAVID

My dad here used to own this place.

BIG MECHANIC

Oh yeah?

Woody and David enter. Woody steps to the car they're
working on and peers under the hood.

WOODY

So what you fellas have going on
here?

SMALL MECHANIC

Oh, we just replacing the
transmission cooler lines.

WOODY

Do you know Ed Pegram?

BIG MECHANIC

Who?

*

WOODY

Ed Pegram. Used to own this place
too.

They look at each other and shake their heads.

WOODY (CONT'D)

(to Small Mechanic)

Glasses! You're using the wrong
wrench.

*

DAVID

Come on, Dad. Let's get going.
(to the mechanics)
Good talking to you.

The mechanics stare after David and Woody as they walk away.

WOODY

That moron was using the wrong
wrench.

37 **EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY**

37

They continue their stroll until happening upon the SODBUSTER BAR. Woody stops.

WOODY

Let's see if there's anyone I know.

38 **INT. SODBUSTER SALOON - DAY**

38

Inside, Woody makes a perfunctory scan for familiar faces, but it's practically empty. *

DAVID

Pretty quiet in here.

David starts toward the door, but with automatic reflex Woody takes a seat at the bar. David reluctantly follows -- what the hell?

A perky, earthy FEMALE BARTENDER comes over.

BARTENDER

Hi, boys. What can I get you today?

WOODY

Beer.

BARTENDER

What kind of beer you want?

WOODY

Anything's fine. Coors if you got it.

DAVID

I'll have a Mountain Dew.

BARTENDER

Fresh out of Coors. Don't come in till Monday. *

WOODY

Bud then. *

BARTENDER

Bud and a Dew. *

WOODY

Tom Varnik still own this place? *

BARTENDER

Never heard of him. Must be before
my time.

WOODY

(to David)

I used to know everybody in here.

*

DAVID

Is this where you had your first drink?

WOODY

No, Dad used to let me sip his beer.

DAVID

So I guess you kept up that fine family tradition with Ross and me.

*

WOODY

You liked it, as I recall.

DAVID

I was like six.

WOODY

A sip of beer isn't going to kill you when you're only six. I thought you drank. Come on, have a beer with your old man.

*

DAVID

I've been trying to give it up.

WOODY

What for?

DAVID

I was starting to... It just wasn't helping.

WOODY

I suppose now you're okay.

The bartender sets the drinks down.

DAVID

Say, could I have a beer too?

BARTENDER

You betcha.

DAVID

Going to drink with my dad.

LATER - AT A BOOTH - DUSK

*

Empty bottles on the table, dimmer light from outside, and more PATRONS in the bar suggest time has passed.

*

Woody is about the same, but David is a little drunk. He finishes a beer and has another on deck.

DAVID

Did you and Mom used to come here?

*

WOODY

Sure.

DAVID

I didn't tell you that Noël and I broke up.

WOODY

How's that?

DAVID

Noël -- you know, the girl I've been living with for the past two years. She moved out. We broke up.

WOODY

(no idea)

Oh.

DAVID

Maybe I should have asked her to get married, I don't know. I just... I just never felt sure, you know what I mean? How are you supposed to know when you're sure? Were you sure?

WOODY

How's that?

DAVID

How did you and Mom end up getting married?

WOODY

She wanted to.

DAVID

You didn't?

WOODY
I figured what the hell.

DAVID
Were you ever sorry you married
her?

WOODY
All the time.

David sips his beer, eager to take this in.

WOODY (CONT'D)
It could have been worse.

DAVID
You must have been in love. At
least at first.

WOODY
Never came up.

DAVID
Did you ever talk about having kids
-- how many you wanted, stuff like
that?

WOODY
Nope.

DAVID
Then why did you have us?

WOODY
I wanted to screw, and your
mother's Catholic, so you figure it
out.

DAVID
So you and Mom never actually
talked about whether you wanted
kids or not?

WOODY
I figured if we kept on screwin',
we'd end up with a couple of you.

David tries to keep from flinching.

DAVID
Did you ever think about leaving
her?

*

*

*

*

*

*

WOODY

I'd just end up with somebody else
who give me shit all the time.

*
*

DAVID

I'd say she's put up with your
drinking all these years.

WOODY

I don't drink that much.

DAVID

You're an alcoholic.

WOODY

Bullshit.

DAVID

What do you mean, bullshit? I knew
you had a problem when I was eight.
I used to watch you hide your booze
in the garage.

*
*
*

WOODY

You stole it. I figured it was
you. You cost me a lot of money

*
*

DAVID

Yeah, I poured it out. I was sick
of seeing you drunk all the time.

WOODY

You'd never catch your brother
sneaking around like that. I
served my country, I pay my taxes.
It's my right to do whatever the
goddamn hell I want.

*

DAVID

So I guess you do drink.

WOODY

A little.

DAVID

A lot.

WOODY

All right, so I like to drink,
goddammit! So what? You do what
you want, and so do I. You'd drink
too if you were married to your
mother.

*
*
*

(MORE)

WOODY (CONT'D)

It ain't your job to tell me what
to do, you little cocksucker!

Woody gets up and leaves the bar. David blinks a few times
at the outburst, slaps money on the table and runs out.

39

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - TWILIGHT

39

David catches up to Woody, striding down the sidewalk.

DAVID

Dad?

WOODY

What?

Neither knows what to say for a moment, and they look away
from each other.

DAVID

Shall I take you back to Ray and
Martha's?

WOODY

I don't know.

They look down the street, where the only light is the
flashing sign for the BLINKER TAVERN.

Woody starts toward the blinking light. David follows.

40

INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

40

They enter this bar, much more active than the Sodbuster.
Woody spots none other than ED PEGRAM sitting with a couple
of BUDDIES and heads over.

WOODY

Say, don't you owe me a couple of
bucks?

It takes Ed a couple of seconds to believe his eyes.

ED PEGRAM

Christ almighty, it's Woody Grant!
How the hell are you? Didn't think
I'd ever see you back in Hawthorne.
Fellas, this is my old buddy Woody.
Slide over, will you? Let's make
room.

*
*

Ed's about 65 and is big and rough-looking. Woody takes a seat, leaving David standing awkwardly.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ, Woody. How the hell
you been?

WOODY
Pretty good.

ED PEGRAM
Yeah, me too. Can't complain.
Boy, long time, Woody. Long time.

WOODY
Yeah.

DAVID
Hi, I'm David. Woody's son. How
are you, Ed?

ED PEGRAM
Davey? No shit. Last time I seen
you, you was just a little shaver.
How you doing there, guy? I used
to give you candy bars at the
garage when you was only about this
high.

DAVID
Thank you. And apparently my Dad
used to give you air compressors.

ED PEGRAM
How's that?

DAVID
Nothing. Dad, I'm going to the
bathroom.
(leaning over to whisper)
For God's sake, don't say anything
about the money.

*

Woody nods.

41 **INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT**

41

As David goes about his business, he hears cheering.

42 **INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT**

42

David emerges from the bathroom to a boisterous tavern.

ED PEGRAM
 Goddamn, Woody Grant's a
 millionaire! Who would've thought
 it? This round's on Woody! Hee
 ha!

Woody beams. David stares in disbelief.

43 **EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

43

David's Suzuki arrives outside and parks.

Woody is apparently so drunk that David has to go around and pull him out of the passenger side before guiding him by the shoulders into the house.

DAVID
 Come on, Dad. That's it.

WOODY
 Did you see the look on their
 faces?

DAVID
 Yes, I saw.

WOODY
 I said, did you see the look on
 those fellas' faces?

They go inside and close the door behind them.

A44 **INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT**

A44

*

David lies awake on the trundle bed while Woody snores away
 on the bed above.

*

*

44 **MONTAGE --**

44

Of Hawthorne and its environs awakening to a new day --
 images of rural beauty and small-town decay.

45 **INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY**

45

Hungover, David and Woody enter to find Ray, Bart and Cole
 seated at the table while Aunt Martha cooks breakfast.

AUNT MARTHA
 Morning, boys. Slept in a little
 late, didn't you?

DAVID

Morning.

As they sit --

AUNT MARTHA

Hungry?

DAVID

Yeah, but it'd be great if you have
some coffee.

*

He stops short as he notices that his uncle and cousins are
staring at Woody and him with goofy grins.

*

UNCLE RAY

Got a call from Lowell Meyerson
this morning.

AUNT MARTHA

And Mary Jurak. Woody here's the
talk of the town.

DAVID

Is that right?

AUNT MARTHA

Why didn't you tell us you was
rich, Woody?

WOODY

David said not to.

DAVID

He's not rich.

UNCLE RAY

You could have told us the real
reason you were coming through
town.

*

AUNT MARTHA

We're just tickled for you.

BART

You got it on you?

COLE

Yeah, I'd like to see what a
million bucks looks like.

DAVID

It's not, see, it's not like that
really.

COLE

What's it like then, really?

WOODY

We have to go to Lincoln to get it.

*

BART

Goddamn, you won the Powerball?

COLE

Show us the ticket.

Woody starts to reach into his pocket, but David stops him.

DAVID

Honestly, he didn't win anything.

WOODY

I didn't win anything.

UNCLE RAY

I don't blame you, Woody. I wouldn't broadcast it either, not till I had it in the bank. Don't want to attract buzzards neither.

COLE

Hey, Bart and me'll drive you.

*

BART

Sure, we could get you to Lincoln in an hour.

*

DAVID

Lincoln's over 200 miles.

BART

Okay, hour and a half. What would it take you?

UNCLE RAY

Must be nice winning that kind of scratch. We're real proud of you. And I know Ma and Pa would've been real proud too.

*

COLE

Shit yeah, must be nice.

David looks at his withered, unshaven father.

DAVID

Is it nice, Dad?

WOODY
Is what nice?

DAVID
Winning all that money.

Woody takes in all the faces looking at him.

WOODY
Yeah, it's pretty nice.

MONTAGE --

-- Hawthorne's lone stoplight blinks and blinks. *

-- Wind rustles through the weeping willow trees at the Hawthorne cemetery.

46 **EXT. HAWTHORNE BUS DEPOT - DAY**

46

It's not much of a depot -- just a bench outside a post office. David sits waiting with Woody.

BERNIE BOWEN ambles up.

BERNIE BOWEN
Hey there, Woody. Remember me?

Woody doesn't look too sure.

BERNIE BOWEN (CONT'D)
Bernie Bowen. How you doing?

WOODY
Pretty good.

BERNIE BOWEN
That's what I hear! Everybody's sayin' how Woody Grant's a millionaire. Why, that's the most exciting news around here for ages.

WOODY
It's no big deal.

BERNIE BOWEN

No big deal? Sheesh, there's a guy
living the life of Reilly -- a
million here, a million there.
Why, the newspaper's going to do a
big write-up on you!

*

WOODY

I'll get my picture in the paper?

BERNIE BOWEN

You bet you will!

*

David is beginning to realize that there's little use trying
to stop this train.

A BUS turns onto the street and approaches the curb.

DAVID

Dad, here's the bus.

BERNIE BOWEN

Okay, well, good seein' you there,
Woody. We're all real happy for
you and real pleased you thought to
stop back home and share the big
news.

WOODY

Thanks, Bernie.

BERNIE BOWEN

Watch your wallet!

MOMENTS LATER --

Kate gets off the bus and examines Woody's bandaged forehead.

KATE

You both look like hell.

WOODY

I'm fine.

KATE

Like hell you are. You look like
an old drunk. You're lucky you're
not dead.

WOODY

I haven't been drinking.

KATE

That's what you said on our first date.

(to David)

And you, have you gone bananas?
Almost getting your father killed
over some cockamamie pot of gold.

As the bus departs, David takes his mother's elbow and leads her a few steps away from Woody.

DAVID

Listen, go easy, okay? You and I
both know it's not about the money.
It's about...you know, how much
longer is he going to be around --
at least semi-coherently? What's
the harm in letting him have his
little fantasy for a couple more
days?

KATE

You and Ross always fretting over
your father. What about me? How
about taking me out to see my
sister in Eau Claire? Your father
doesn't even know what the hell's
going on around him half the time.

(turning)

Do you, Woody?

WOODY

Do I what?

KATE

Know what's going on around you.

Woody's unsure how to answer -- he looks at her, looks around the depot area, then back at her.

KATE (CONT'D)

(to David)

You watch it, or that's what you're
going to turn into. Now take me to
the cemetery. I want to pay my
respects.

DAVID

Martha said she'd have lunch ready.

KATE

Martha can wait.

Kate marches away. David thinks better of arguing.

47

EXT. HAWTHORNE CEMETERY - DAY

47

Flowers in hand, Kate offers a running commentary as she leads Woody and David slowly past the headstones.

KATE

That's Woody's mother Sara. She hated me because she wanted him to marry someone who'd milk the cows, but I said I ain't fiddlin' with no cow titties. I'm a city girl. The good lord did not do Sara any favors in the looks department. More a man's face than a woman's, really. I was pretty, so she resented me. You knew your mother was ugly, right, Woody?

*

*

Woody looks at Kate, then stares at his mother's grave.

DAVID

How did she die?

KATE

Saw herself in the mirror one day! No, cancer.

(moving on)

And there's the old Swede Tolf. A good man, your grandpa. Never said much. That farm just ruined him.

(to Woody)

You're lucky I took you away from there.

*

Woody nods slightly as he looks at his father's leaf-covered grave.

*

KATE (CONT'D)

That's Woody's brother David. You were named after him. He died of scarlet fever when he was only two. Woody slept in the same bed with him but never got it.

David contemplates the sight of his own name on a headstone.

KATE (CONT'D)

Here's Woody's little sister Rose. She was only nineteen when she got killed in a car wreck near Wausa.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

What a whore. I liked Rose, but my
God, she was a slut.

*

DAVID

Mom, come on.

KATE

I'm just telling the truth. She
was screwing guys in back of the
Hawthorne Creamery when she was
only...

(a whisper)

...fifteen.

DAVID

Where's your family?

KATE

They're over at the Catholic
cemetery. We'll go there later.
Catholics wouldn't be caught dead
around all these damn Lutherans.
Now there's Delmer, Woody's cousin.
He was a drunk. One time we were
wrestlin' and he felt me up.
Grabbed a handful of boob, and
Woody was right there and didn't
have a clue, did you, Woody?

*

DAVID

Jesus, Mom.

KATE

My goodness, I didn't know Keith
White was here. When did he die?
Keith White. He wanted in my pants
too, but oh, he was so boring.

*

Hearing enough, Woody and David head toward the car. Kate
remains at Keith's grave and pulls her dress up.

KATE (CONT'D)

See what you could've had, Keith,
if you hadn't talked about wheat
all the time?

Kate and Martha talk while Ray and Woody sit silent.

KATE

Peggy got knocked up again? At her age? That old cow must be fifty.

AUNT MARTHA

She just looks fifty. That's what pig farming will do to you.

49

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S PORCH - DAY

49

David sits with his cousins Cole and Bart. No one speaks for a moment. Then --

BART

You got any other cars?

DAVID

No, just that one.

BART

What's the engine?

DAVID

It's, uh, a four-cylinder.

BART

Yeah, but what size?

DAVID

I don't really know.

COLE

What's your brother drive?

DAVID

Who, Ross?

COLE

Yeah, what's he drive?

DAVID

He has a Kia Sedona, and Marcie's got a Nissan Pathfinder. She carts the kids around a lot.

*

BART

So you all got Jap cars?

DAVID

Actually, Kia is Korean.

*

*

This clarification is met with a hostile, blank stare. *

Just then a HIGH SCHOOL KID with a camera pulls up on a bicycle.

HIGH SCHOOL KID
Hey, is this where I can find Mr.
Woody Grant?

COLE
Who wants to know?

HIGH SCHOOL KID
I was sent by Mrs. Nagy over at the
Hawthorne Republican to take his
picture. *

COLE
Come on in. He's right inside.

HIGH SCHOOL KID
And they want him to be sure to
come by the office for an
interview.

BART
(opening the screen door)
Hey, Uncle Woody!

50 **EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S FRONT YARD - DAY** 50

CLOSE ON WOODY
looking directly into the camera with a grin on his face. *

THE HIGH SCHOOL KID
focuses and shoots as the other Grants watch from the porch. *

DAVID
looks concerned. *

51 **EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY** 51

David parks his car and heads inside of the --

52 **INT. CEDAR COUNTY RECORD - CONTINUOUS** 52

It's a small office. Except for a few computers, it could be
1960. An older woman -- PEG NAGY -- types at a desk.

DAVID
Excuse me. Mrs. Nagy?

PEG NAGY

Yes?

DAVID

I'm David Grant, Woody's son.

PEG NAGY

Well, I'm very pleased to meet you.
Your father is certainly quite the
celebrity around here. Did Parker
show up to take his picture?

*

DAVID

That's what I came to tell you
about. Dad didn't win any lottery
or sweepstakes or anything. He's a
little confused about something he
got in the mail, and it's gotten
way out of hand.

*

*

PEG NAGY

So he didn't win a million dollars?

DAVID

No, ma'am.

PEG NAGY

Just goes to show you some things
never change. He was always a
little confused.

DAVID

You know my dad?

PEG NAGY

It's all ancient history, of
course, and I don't want to speak
out of turn, but Woody and I used
to go together.

DAVID

You were his girlfriend?

PEG NAGY

That's right.

DAVID

What happened?

PEG NAGY

Your mother is what happened. How
is Kate?

DAVID

Fine. She's here too.

PEG NAGY
You tell her Peg Bender says hello.

DAVID
She won't slap me, will she?

PEG NAGY
Why would she? She won.

David looks at her. She smiles wistfully.

PEG NAGY (CONT'D)
Water under the bridge. Don't get me wrong, I married a wonderful man -- we ran this paper together until he died -- had three children, eight grandchildren. I've got no complaints.

DAVID
Was he drinking back then?

PEG NAGY
Of course he was. It happens early around here. There isn't much else to do. Nowadays, of course, it's not just booze but all that other stuff. For Woody it got bad after Korea. He had a hard time over there.

DAVID
I thought he was just a mechanic.

PEG NAGY
Oh, he was, for the army planes. But he was shot down while being transferred. You knew that, right?

David looks at her with a puzzled expression.

LATER --

Peg leafs through a bound newspaper archive from the 1950s.

PEG NAGY (CONT'D)
Here it is. Woody, Verne, and Albert.

A HEADLINE reads "Grant Boys Return from the Fight" above photos of 20-year-old Woody and two of his brothers.

DAVID
They look like kids.

PEG NAGY

Your dad was never much of a talker, and when he came back he hardly said a word. But always very kind. People took advantage of him. He couldn't turn down a favor.

*

DAVID

Well, now that everyone thinks he's a millionaire, he's a big hero around here.

PEG NAGY

I'm sorry I can't print that he is, but I won't print that he isn't either. I'll just do a little story on him and Kate stopping through town.

*

DAVID

Hard to imagine you and my mother fighting over the same man.

PEG NAGY

I knew I didn't have a chance anyway.

DAVID

Yeah?

PEG NAGY

I wouldn't let him round the bases.

David takes in this woman, wonders for a moment what he'd be like if this woman had been his mother.

53 **EXT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT**

53

Establishing. It's Karaoke night.

54 **INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT**

54

David and his parents sit at a table reading their menus. Someone's singing at the little stage near the salad bar in the other room.

KATE

What're you having, old man?

WOODY

Meat loaf.

KATE

You been staring at the menu for ten minutes. Where does it say meat loaf?

WOODY

They should have meat loaf.

KATE

Well, they don't, so pick something else.

The WAITRESS appears.

WAITRESS

Are we ready to order?

KATE

I knew it.

DAVID

Dad, do you know what you want?

WOODY

Do you have meat loaf?

Kate rolls her eyes.

WAITRESS

No, I'm sorry, we don't. That's only on the lunch buffet.

*
*

WOODY

Chicken then.

WAITRESS

Did you want the fried chicken, or the flame-broiled chicken breast?

WOODY

Fried.

KATE

He'll have the flame-broiled.

WAITRESS

And you, ma'am?

KATE

I was thinking of having the roast beef, but now I'm not sure. What do you recommend? What's good here?

WAITRESS

Well, it's all good, but I'm real partial to the tilapia.

KATE

No, I want the roast beef.

DAVID

I'll have the tilapia.

WAITRESS

Don't forget to help yourselves to the soup-and-salad bar.

She leaves. Just then -- a new VOICE starts singing.

KATE

Oh my God, that's Ed Pegram singing.

They look over and see Ed. He's not great, but not bad.

DAVID

Maybe we should go ask for the compressor.

WOODY

He'll give it back.

KATE

He always had a nice voice. It was the only nice thing about that bastard.

WOODY

He's all right.

KATE

All right? Did you know he was always trying to get in my bloomers?

DAVID

Jesus, Mom, was the whole town trying to seduce you?

KATE

These boys grow up staring at the rear ends of cows and pigs. It's only natural that a real woman's going to get them chafing their pants.

DAVID

Mom, please don't talk about that kind of stuff right before we eat.

KATE

(softening)

Oh, you were always such a sensitive boy. And such a beautiful boy. Why, when you were a baby, people used to stop me on the street and tell me how beautiful you were. A lot of them thought you were a girl. Isn't that right, Woody -- people used to stop me on the street to say how beautiful David was?

WOODY

I dunno.

Ed Pegram pauses singing to make an announcement.

ED PEGRAM

Hey, everybody, we've got a celebrity here -- my old friend and the rich man you've all been hearing about -- Woody Grant. Woody, take a bow!

The other diners applaud. Woody looks confused.

DAVID

Stand up, Dad.

WOODY

What?

KATE

Don't encourage this nonsense.

DAVID

Dad, stand up. It's for you.

KATE

Just do it and get it over with.

Woody stands and realizes the growing applause is for him. He turns to look at everyone, enjoying this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

ED PEGRAM

Roslyn, you'll be getting a big tip from that table tonight!

KATE

Okay, you ham, that's enough.

She tugs him back down into the booth.

ED PEGRAM

And Kate, I guess that makes you a millionairess! Why don't you take a bow too, Katesy-Kate?

Kate rolls her eyes before getting up and going through the motions. At first polite, she soon allows herself to bask.

55

INT. STEAKHOUSE BATHROOM - NIGHT

55

David is washing his hands when Ed Pegram enters.

ED PEGRAM

Hey there, little Davey. I was hoping to run into you.

DAVID

Yeah, big Ed. What can I do for you?

ED PEGRAM

I want you to know I think the world of Woody. Always a good man.

*

DAVID

Thank you.

ED PEGRAM

Heart of gold. No secret, though, Woody drank quite a bit when we had the garage. Messed up a lot of jobs and let a lot of money walk. He was older than me, kind of like a big brother, Korea vet, the whole nine yards. I wanted to show him some respect, and I loaned him a ton of dough I never saw again. So seeing as how he's come into some cash lately, some no-foolin'-around cash he didn't even have to work for, seems to me it'd only be fair to settle up.

*

DAVID

You want your \$800 back?

ED PEGRAM

Woody owes me a lot more than that.

DAVID

I'm sorry to break it to you, but my dad didn't actually win anything. It's all a big misunderstanding. You know Woody. You can understand that.

ED PEGRAM

Right, so you're all headed to Lincoln to visit the roller-skating museum. Look, Davey, I really don't want to bring a lawyer in on this.

DAVID

Lawyer? What's the statute of limitations on bullshit?

Ed lays an arm on David's shoulder.

ED PEGRAM

I'm a man with a real strong sense of right and wrong. And if Woody hit it rich and I don't see any of it, well, that's wrong. And I will make it right.

DAVID

Are you threatening my family?

Ed withdraws his arm and grins.

ED PEGRAM

Threatening? No, that would be wrong. Hey, I'm the victim here. Just food for thought. Now, if you'll excuse me, I got to take a leak real bad. You know beer -- you just rent the stuff.

Ed takes a stand at the ice-filled urinal. David leaves.

56

INT. STEAKHOUSE LOUNGE - NIGHT

56

David returns to find his parents finishing a conversation with old friends DALE AND KATHY SLAATED.

DALE

Great to see you again, Woody. We're real happy for you. Buy a boat and go fishin' -- that's what I'd do.

WOODY
I just might.

KATE
David, you probably don't remember
Kathy and Dale Slaasted.

DAVID
Hi, how are you?

KATHY
Oh, David Grant, I never would have
recognized you in a million years,
how you've grown. You were such a
beautiful little boy.

KATE
I keep telling him.
(to David)
You see?

KATHY
Like a little prince made out of
porcelain.

DAVID
Thank you.

KATHY
Okay now. You all take care.
Enjoy spending the loot.

The Slaasteds leave. David sits.

DAVID
I just had an interesting
conversation with Ed Pegram in the
men's room.

KATE
What did he want?

DAVID
Some of Dad's money.

KATE
Lord almighty, that man's brain
keeps getting smaller, and his
balls keep getting bigger.

WOODY
I can lend him a couple of bucks if
he's hard up.

KATE
Like hell you will.

57 **EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

57

Establishing.

58 **INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT**

58

David wakes up, needing a moment to realize where he is - on a trundle bed beneath the bed where his parents lie asleep.

He sits up and watches them, wondering who these people assigned to be his parents really are, and how absurd it is for a 40-year-old man to be sleeping next to his parents.

He lies back down and closes his eyes.

*

THE NEXT MORNING --

Hair disheveled and face unshaven, Woody, looks into camera.

WOODY
Wake up. Hey you, wake up. Wake
up now.

*

David groggily comes to, coughing.

DAVID
What's up, Dad? What's wrong?

WOODY
Are we going to Lincoln today?

DAVID
Tomorrow.

WOODY
Why not today?

DAVID
Today's Sunday. Lincoln's closed.
And all your brothers are coming
over today, remember?

*

WOODY
Some of them are dead.

DAVID
The dead ones won't be here.

WOODY

Oh. But goddammit, if I don't get
to that money, they'll give it to
somebody else!

*
*

David crawls out of bed.

DAVID

Say, Dad, do you remember a gal you
used to go out with named Peg
Bender?

WOODY

When?

DAVID

Last week. What do you mean when?
Years ago, before you were married.
Peg Bender.

WOODY

I don't know. Why?

Woody looks at the ground, then turns to leave.

WOODY (CONT'D)

That was a long time ago. What're
you bringing that up for?

59 **INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY**

59

A pro football game is on TV.

David sits among Woody and five of his BROTHERS -- Ray,
VERNE, CARL, CECIL, and ALBERT, all in their 60s and 70s.

A couple of other male COUSINS are there too -- one named
RANDY -- but no Cole and Bart.

60 **INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY**

60

The kitchen is abuzz as the Grant wives prepare supper --
Kate, Aunt Martha, AUNT BETTY and AUNT FLO. Maybe there's
another middle-aged DAUGHTER OR TWO.

AUNT BETTY

I didn't see your boys out there,
Martha. Where are Cole and Bart?

AUNT MARTHA

Oh, they're out volunteering today.
Picking up trash out by the
highway.

AUNT BETTY

That's nice.

AUNT MARTHA

They'll be back for supper.

KATE

It's community service. On account
of Cole's rape.

AUNT MARTHA

Sex assault. Not rape.

KATE

What's the difference?

AUNT MARTHA

There's a big difference. Cole can
explain it better than I can. And
Bart doesn't have to be there.
He's volunteering.

AUNT FLO

Oh, that's nice.

61

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

61

The men continue sipping their beers in front of the TV.

UNCLE RAY

Verne, you still drive that Chevy?

UNCLE VERNE

The what?

UNCLE RAY

The Chevy. That Impala you used to
have.

UNCLE VERNE

I never had an Impala.

UNCLE RAY

Hell, I don't know what it was
then.

Silence as they watch an incomplete pass.

UNCLE VERNE
I had a Buick.

UNCLE RAY
That's what it was. You still
driving that?

UNCLE VERNE
I haven't had that for years.

UNCLE RAY
I thought you still had it.

David blinks in disbelief at this conversation.

UNCLE CECIL
That was a '78, wasn't it?

UNCLE VERNE
'79.

UNCLE CECIL
'79. Those were good cars.

UNCLE VERNE
It was okay.

UNCLE RAY
They don't make 'em like that
anymore. Those cars'll run
forever. Whatever happened to it?

UNCLE VERNE
Stopped runnin'.

UNCLE RAY
Well, they'll do that.

A knock on the front door.

UNCLE RAY (CONT'D)
Come in.

David's brother Ross enters.

ROSS
Hey, everybody.

WOODY
Hi, Ross.

The other uncles and cousins chime in with grunted hellos,
although no one gets up. Ross turns his attention to the TV.

DAVID

How about Marcie and the kids?

ROSS

Dance recital. Who's playing?

COUSIN RANDY

Philadelphia-Miami.

*

DAVID

How long did it take you to drive?

All turn their heads to Ross, waiting for the answer.

62

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY

62

It continues.

AUNT MARTHA

Sharon's kids are always in trouble. And she's gotten really big -- she's gotta be at least -- no offense, Betty -- how much does your Beverly weigh?

AUNT BETTY

About one-ninety.

AUNT MARTHA

Well, I guess she's around that, but you know she has a much smaller frame so it really shows up on her.

KATE

You're not serious.

AUNT MARTHA

Oh, I'm serious, you should see her. She is fat.

63

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S DINING ROOM - DAY

63

The extended family eat elbow-to-elbow around the table. Cole and Bart have returned.

COUSIN RANDY

So Uncle Woody, you talk to the newspaper yet?

WOODY

Not yet, but they had a kid come by and take my picture.

DAVID

I went by the office, gave 'em the
lowdown.

AUNT FLO

What's it like being a millionaire,
Woody?

WOODY

It's okay.

AUNT FLO

A million dollars. Can you beat
that?

UNCLE VERNE

Let's all raise a glass to Woody
and Kate here.

*

They unceremoniously clink their glasses and beers together
and resume eating. Ross looks at Kate, who rolls her eyes,
helpless to fight the tide.

ROSS

Not trying to be a spoil-sport
here, but you all know this is
bull, right? My dad didn't win
anything.

COLE

Nice try, Ross.

BART

We're way beyond that.

KATE

(almost contrite)
Ross is right. He didn't.

AUNT BETTY

Trying to keep it quiet so
everybody don't come looking for a
handout, huh, Kate? Good for you.

*

UNCLE CECIL

No, that's right. Woody's not a
millionaire yet. Let's all
remember that. But tomorrow's a
different story.

AUNT FLO

What's the first thing you're going to do with the money? The very first thing.

WOODY

Get a truck. And a compressor.

UNCLE VERNE

What the hell you want with a compressor?

WOODY

I need it to paint.

AUNT BETTY

Are you still working, Woody?

WOODY

No.

DAVID

He just needs to replace the compressor Ed Pegram stole.

UNCLE CECIL

Why don't you just get it back from him while you're here in town?

ROSS

You think he still has it?

AUNT MARTHA

That fool never gets rid of nothing. He's got a barn full of junk.

ROSS

David. Let's go get it.

DAVID

Dad, you want to get your old compressor back?

WOODY

I don't care.

KATE

You boys will do no such thing. Get yourselves shot for an old piece of garbage. Am I the only sane one in this family?

DAVID

But hey, Ross, I was thinking we could take a drive later to see Dad's old house, the old Grant house.

ROSS

Is it still there?

UNCLE RAY

Dan Conway farms the place, but he never tore it down. It's still sittin' there.

KATE

Why would you want to waste your time seeing that? Must be filled with rats.

DAVID

Dad, would you like to take a drive later to see the old homestead?

WOODY

The what?

ROSS

David and I want to see where you grew up.

WOODY

What for?

64

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - DAY

64

The relatives sit on the porch. Albert sits in a chair near the street. Ross and David wander out onto the front yard.

ROSS

What's Uncle Albert doing?

DAVID

Watching cars go by.

They look -- there are no cars.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Remember when they came up to visit when we were kids, and he'd take a chair out in the front yard every evening to watch the road?

Aunt Betty approaches with son RANDY. Behind them Bart and Cole amble down the porch stairs but for the moment maintain a respectful distance.

AUNT BETTY

It sure is good to see you boys again. We really can't let so much time pass again.

DAVID

Yeah.

ROSS

Thanks, Aunt Betty. Great to see you too.

AUNT BETTY

You know, there's something that's hard to bring up, but we think it deserves mentioning.

DAVID

What's that?

Aunt Betty seems uncomfortable, so Randy takes the lead.

COUSIN RANDY

You may not know it, but Uncle Woody used to have a lot of money problems, and family members would help him out from time to time. So in light of his good fortune, well, we thought your family might want to make things right.

*

*

DAVID

(glancing at Ross)

I've been hearing that a lot lately.

BART

You know, Cole's and my folks wouldn't never say nothin' if it was just for them. But they're gonna need in on this deal too.

ROSS

Are you saying you want money from us?

COUSIN RANDY

We just figured that seein' how the family helped Woody out and all, kind of kept him on his feet...

AUNT BETTY

Verne and I loaned Woody quite a bit, and it wasn't like we was rich. But he was my brother-in-law, and we couldn't bear to see your family suffer.

ROSS

Aunt Betty, guys, look. Honestly, for real. Woody didn't win anything. It's a total sham.

BART

You're a damn liar!

*

COLE

Don't feed us any of your bullshit, Ross.

ROSS

You wanna go?

COLE

Let's do it!

Ross and Cole make at each other like roosters, pushing and shoving. All the other relatives look, even Uncle Albert, now twisting around in his chair.

ROSS

Just watch the face, okay? I'm on TV.

KATE

(rushing over)

What's going on? Have you boys lost your minds?

DAVID

Aunt Betty and her henchmen here are asking for reparations.

KATE

For what?

*

ROSS

They're after Dad's "winnings." They say he owes them money.

BART

See? There *is* money.

KATE

Owes them money? What on Earth are you talking about, Betty?

AUNT BETTY

Now, Kate, you know we used to help you and Woody out when he was drinking up everything he earned.

KATE

You know as well as I do it was the other way around. You were always having him work on your cars for free, getting free gas --

COUSIN RANDY

Aunt Kate, we're not asking for much. Just a token.

KATE

I kept records. The money you gave him didn't come close to what you owed. He couldn't say no to anybody, and it ruined him.

AUNT BETTY

I think you're having a senior moment here, Kate. Where do you think all that money come from when you got a bee in your bonnet to move to Billings and open a salon?

KATE

From my folks when they croaked, that's where! I can't believe the nerve of you people. Usually a person has to die before the vultures start circling.

COUSIN RANDY

Calm down, Aunt Katie. We didn't mean nothin' by it. We was just doing you a courtesy before we talk to Woody direct.

KATE

Don't you dare think about asking that poor man for money.

BART

He ain't poor. He's rich.

KATE

Even if he was, he wouldn't give you a blessed penny. I'd put my foot down.

COLE

Maybe it ain't up to you, Aunt Kate.

KATE

That's enough! You listen real good! You can all just...

(leaning in)

...go fuck yourselves!

*

A stunned silence.

KATE (CONT'D)

(to Ross and David)

Boys, get your dad.

65

EXT. ABANDONED FARMHOUSE - DAY

65

The late afternoon is overcast and windy.

Ross's car moves slowly up a dirt driveway toward a dilapidated two-story house on the verge of collapse. All the windows are gone or broken. Weeds and bushes grow tall around it.

David, Kate and Ross get out. Last to emerge is Woody, who remains next to the car looking at where he grew up.

They walk up the porch steps and, amid lots of flies, force open the door.

66

INT. ABANDONED FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

66

The inside is a wreck. Still, the floors are solid.

DAVID

What do you think, old man?

WOODY

Looks about the same.

KATE

That's true. This is about how your mother kept it.

*

WOODY

My dad built it.

DAVID
Really? You mean by himself?

WOODY
Yeah. Before I was born. His
brothers helped.

*
*

Woody walks to a bedroom and peers in from the doorway.

WOODY (CONT'D)
This was my room.

KATE
That's where Woody's brother David
died.

DAVID
(to Ross)
Scarlet fever. Dad slept with him
in the same bed.
(to Woody)
Do you remember that, Dad?

WOODY
I was there.

*

ROSS
How old were you?

WOODY
Seven.

ROSS
Why'd they let him sleep with you?

WOODY
They didn't know what it was.

DAVID
You were lucky you never got it.

WOODY
I guess.

Woody tests the wooden stairway, then walks --

UPSTAIRS -

The others follow. The roof has holes, and the patchy
floorboards are warped. Woody enters --

A BEDROOM -

WOODY (CONT'D)

This was my parents' room. I'd get
whipped if they found me in here.

(taking it in)

Guess nobody's going to whip me
now.

*

He goes to a wall opens a closet and peers inside.

WOODY (CONT'D)

My dad built all of this.

KATE

Tolf was good with his hands, all
right. I wish our home was built
half as good.

*

*

Woody walks to a window and points outside.

WOODY

The barn's still standing.

67

EXT. ABANDONED FARMHOUSE - DAY

67

Woody stands alone at the edge of a field, lost in thought.
David approaches but stops just behind Woody, allowing his
father a moment. Then --

DAVID

Seen enough?

WOODY

I suppose. It's just a bunch of
old wood and some weeds.

Neither moves.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Over there's where I found the hail
adjuster's knife.

DAVID

The what?

WOODY

The hail adjuster come out after a
storm. Cecil and me and my dad
went over there with him and he cut
off some oats to check 'em for hail
damage. But they were too damaged.
Said he wouldn't pay.

*

DAVID

Why not?

WOODY

Said it must've been something
besides hail done that, but he just
didn't want to pay.

*
*

DAVID

How could he get away with that?

WOODY

Oh, they was all cheap, lyin'
bastards. So when we started back,
I saw his knife there, and I picked
it up and took it to him. My dad
was ready to kill me. Said the
moron didn't deserve to have his
knife back.

They look out across the field of corn stubble.

DAVID

Did you ever want to farm like your
dad?

WOODY

I don't remember. It doesn't
matter.

DAVID

What happened when your parents
died? Did you kids sell the place?

WOODY

Wasn't ours.

DAVID

Whose was it?

WOODY

Some banker owned it. We just
rented.

DAVID

Your dad built a house on land he
didn't own?

WOODY

We had to sleep somewhere.

DAVID

If you could do it all over, would
you have stayed out here and
farmed?

Woody suddenly sets out toward the car.

WOODY

Can't do it all over. Can't do
none of it over.

*

68

INT. ROSS'S CAR - RURAL ROAD - DAY

68

Ross and David sit up front. Headed back to town, they drive
past more farms.

KATE

There's the O'Hare farm. She's
dead. He's in a nursing home in
Valentine. One of their little
brats still lives there. Oh, and
that's Ed Pegram's place on the
right.

*

Ross hits the brakes.

KATE (CONT'D)

What're you doing?

Once the car stops, he and David look at the house and at
each other.

DAVID

Let's do it.

ROSS

We're right here.

KATE

What are you boys up to now?

ROSS

We're just going to talk to him.

*

KATE

You're asking for trouble.

DAVID

Hey, Dad, don't you want to see if
he still has your compressor?

Woody twists his head around, trying to figure out what's
going on. Ross reverses and then heads up the driveway.

69 **EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY**

69

The car stops. Ross and David emerge and walk up to the front door. David knocks.

Moments later they walk to the BARN. Woody and Kate watch from the backseat.

KATE
What in the hell are they doing?
(yelling out the window)
Will you two knock off this
foolishness?

David opens the barn door, and the two of them go inside. Moments later they come out lugging a rusty old air compressor.

Ross opens the back of the car. They put the compressor inside, jump in the car, and Ross speeds away.

70 **INT. ROSS'S CAR - RURAL ROAD - DAY**

70

Beaming and out of breath, David turns around to Woody.

DAVID
Dad, you finally got your
compressor back.

WOODY
That's not my compressor.

DAVID
Sure it is.

WOODY
Mine didn't look anything like
that.

DAVID
It has to be yours. It's an old
compressor we found in Ed Pegram's
barn.

WOODY
That wasn't Ed's barn.

ROSS
What are you talking about?

WOODY
That's the Westendorf place.

KATE

Oh, that's right.

Ross slows the car.

KATE (CONT'D)

Right, the Pegrams live closer to town. I got confused. Ed and his wife Dorothy. God, what a pig she was.

*
*

DAVID

Anything you want to say about the Westendorfs?

KATE

No, they're good folks.

Releasing a loud exhale, Ross looks at David and starts turning the car around.

KATE (CONT'D)

They had some tough times. Lost a child. Almost went broke, but they worked hard and saved the farm. Salt of the earth, the Westendorfs. They really didn't deserve you boys doing that to them.

*

DAVID

(to Woody)

Why didn't you tell us that wasn't Ed's house?

WOODY

I didn't know what the hell you were doing.

ROSS

Have you ever seen us steal machinery before?

*

WOODY

I never know what you boys are up to.

ROSS

Why didn't you say it wasn't yours?

*

WOODY

I thought you wanted it.

ROSS

Why would we want an old
compressor?

WOODY

That's what I couldn't figure out.

71

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

71

Back in the driveway, David and Ross return the compressor
into the barn.

*
*

Meanwhile, another CAR comes up the driveway. GEORGE AND
JEAN WESTENDORF get out and approach Ross's car to find Woody
and Kate in the back seat.

KATE

Hi, George. Hi, Jean. Remember
us? Kate and Woody Grant?

GEORGE WESTENDORF

Oh, sure. How you doin'?

*

KATE

Just fine. We were passing by, so
we thought we'd stop in. Haven't
been in Hawthorne for a long time.

JEAN WESTENDORF

What are you doing in the back
seat?

KATE

Oh, we just thought we'd rest back
here until you showed up.

JEAN WESTENDORF

Would you like to come in?

KATE

Sorry, but we just have time to say
hi and get going.

GEORGE WESTENDORF

Hi there, Woody. How's it goin'?

*

WOODY

Fine. How're you, George?

GEORGE WESTENDORF

Getting by. You still up there in
Montana?

WOODY

Yep.

GEORGE WESTENDORF

Billings, isn't it?

WOODY

That's right.

JEAN WESTENDORF

Still doing hair out there, Kate?

KATE

No, I let that go.

They all stare at one another.

GEORGE WESTENDORF

(slapping the car)

Well, good to see you folks.

KATE

I'd better get up front and drive
us back to town.

*

She gets out, says goodbye to the Westendorfs, and climbs in
the front seat.72 **INT. SMALL BARN - CONTINUOUS**

72

Through cracks in the door, Ross and David watch the
Westendorfs head inside the house as Kate sloppily maneuvers
the car down the driveway.

*

73 **EXT. WESTENDORF FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

73

Just as the Westendorfs close their door, Ross and David come
sprinting out of the barn.74 **EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY**

74

The car rolls slowly down the gravel road. Ross and David
burst out of the bushes. The car stops, and the boys climb
inside.75 **INT. ROSS'S CAR - RURAL ROAD - DAY**

75

Ross sits next to Kate up front, David in the back with
Woody.

*

*

DAVID

You were right, Mom. The
Westendorfs look like real nice
people.

KATE

I tried to tell you. What do you
want to do now, bust into a silo
and steal some corn?

76 **EXT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT**

76

Establishing.

77 **INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT**

77

David and Woody sit across from each other in a booth. Woody
finishes a beer, David a Mountain Dew.

WOODY

What time we gettin' on the road
tomorrow?

*

DAVID

I think eight sounds about right.

Woody nods.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You want another beer?

WOODY

I suppose.

Suddenly a slightly drunk Ed Pegram shoves David over and
takes a seat.

ED PEGRAM

Hey there, Davey-boy, make room.
How's it going, cowboy?

DAVID

It was going fine.

ED PEGRAM

Woody.

WOODY

Ed.

ED PEGRAM

Well, enough of this chit-chat.
Time to get down to business.
Woody, I tried to tell your boy
here you wouldn't mind using some
of your winnings to even the score
with your old pal Ed.

Woody pulls out his wallet.

WOODY

How much do you need? I got a
twenty.

ED PEGRAM

A twenty? Oh, no, no, no, no. I
was thinkin' more along the lines
of, say, ten grand. *

DAVID

Give him ten grand, Dad.

WOODY

I don't got it yet.

ED PEGRAM

Woody, I always thought we was
friends. Remember, I was the one
who convinced you to stay with
Kate.

Huh?

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, Davey. Your old man was
thinking of getting a divorce
because he was screwing some half-
breed from the reservation.
Thought he was in love. Ain't that
right, Woody? *

Woody stares at the table.

DAVID

When was this?

ED PEGRAM

After Ross was born. Before you.
Hell, if it wasn't for me, you
probably wouldn't be here. Back
then divorce was a sin. Now I
guess it's okay. God must have
changed his mind or something.

(MORE)

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)
Although I didn't really blame you,
Woody, considering Kate's such a
bitch.

David glares at Ed as though he could hit him.

DAVID
Get the hell away from us.

*

ED PEGRAM
I want that money.

DAVID
Move.

ED PEGRAM
Okay, little Davey. Have it your
way. But this is the last time
Eddie-boy plays nice.

Ed gets up and strolls out of the tavern as though making a
little show of it. David looks at Woody, who continues to
stare at the table.

78 **EXT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT**

78

Woody and David leave the tavern and head to the car.

Suddenly TWO MEN WEARING HOODS run up from behind, grab Woody
and David and shove them to the ground. One of the men
reaches into Woody's jacket and grabs the sweepstakes
envelope before they run off into the dark.

DAVID
Are you all right?

WOODY
They took my letter.

David climbs to his feet to help his father.

79 **EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

79

David guides an unsteady Woody toward the house.

DAVID
Hold on a second. Don't move.

David goes over and puts his hand on the hood of Cole and
Bart's pick-up. Then he looks up at the light in their
bedroom.

80

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

80

David knocks on a Cole's door. Bart opens it. Cole watches pornography on his computer -- we can hear it.

BART
Oh, hey, David.

DAVID
Where is it?

BART
Where's what?

DAVID
Just give it back.

COLE
Don't know what you're talking
about, buddy. Bart, do you know?

BART
Course not.

DAVID
Where is it?

Finally --

COLE
We don't got it.

BART
Shut the hell up, Cole.

*

COLE
We tossed it when we saw how bogus
it was. Millionaire. What a joke.
You people are pathetic.

David nods slowly, turns and shuts the door behind him.

BART (O.S.)
Fuck him.

COLE (O.S.)
Lying to us like we're a bunch of
idiots.

*

81

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S LIVING ROOM AND DINING ROOM - NIGHT

81

David wanders through the first floor looking for his father.

*

*

DAVID

Dad? Dad?

*
*

Finally David turns on the light inside the --

*

A82

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

A82

*

-- where he finds that Woody has been sitting in the dark at the kitchen table, utterly dejected, drinking a glass of milk.

*
*
*

DAVID

I won't mention any of this to Mom or Ross. We'll just tell them you came to your senses, and we'll head back home. Sound good? It's okay - at least we've had a little change of scenery. I'm happy we got this time together. Aren't you?

*

*

Woody doesn't move.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

(off Woody's silence)

You know they weren't going to give you that money, right?

Woody can't respond, can't move. David looks at him, lets out a long sigh.

*

DAVID (CONT'D)

Maybe they dropped it. Should we go have a look?

Woody stands up, grabs his coat, and heads for the door.

*

82 **EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - NIGHT**

82

David and Woody search along the street and sidewalk.

DAVID

I think it was easier to find your teeth.

He watches his father, tireless at his task.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Come on, let's take a break.

83 **INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT**

83

As David and Woody enter, Ed Pegram is standing by the bar reading the sweepstakes letter out loud for the benefit of other patrons.

ED PEGRAM

"Congratulations, Woodrow T. Grant. You may have won one million dollars."

Big laughter.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)
 "Just imagine what you could do
 with one million dollars, Woodrow."
 We know what the son of a bitch
 would do -- buy a truck!

More laughter. Woody remains impassive, but we can see humiliation in his eyes.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)
 "All you need to do to collect your
 prize is return this letter to our
 office, along with your winning
 prize number and a list of the
 magazine subscriptions you'd like
 to --

The room has grown silent. Ed looks up and joins the others staring at Woody and David.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)
 Oh, hey, Woody, I was just lookin'
 for you. Somebody found your
 precious sweepstakes notice out on
 the street.

Woody slowly approaches to retrieve the letter.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)
 You should take better care of
 that, buddy. Wouldn't want to lose
 it again.

Woody carefully folds the letter and puts it back in his pocket. Then he walks slowly toward the door as David goes up to Ed.

After a few moments of staring at Ed, David turns away. Then he stops, doubles back, and PUNCHES Ed in the face as hard as he can.

Ed falls onto a stool and hugs it as he falls to the floor. David walks out.

As they walk toward David's car, Woody seems dizzy.

DAVID
 Are you okay?

WOODY
 Yeah.

Woody starts walking again but soon stumbles, reaching out to David for support. *

DAVID

Dad, what's the matter?

WOODY

Just a little dizzy.

DAVID

We'd better get you to a doctor.

WOODY

Just get me back to the house.
We're going to Lincoln in the morning.

DAVID

No, we aren't.

WOODY

Yes, we are.

DAVID

No, this does it. This is where it stops.

WOODY

You promised.

DAVID

Your head's busted open, and now you can barely stand up.

WOODY

I'm still going.

DAVID

Goddammit! You didn't win! Can't you get that through your head? You did not win anything! And we're not driving all the way to Lincoln over a stupid fantasy! It's my own damn fault for bringing you this far!

Woody slumps against a building, looks away.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You've got enough money to get by.
You can't drive. What's the point?

WOODY

I want a truck.

DAVID
Why do you need a truck so bad?

WOODY
Just to have it. I always wanted a
brand new truck.

DAVID
What about the rest of the money?
You don't need a million dollars
for a damn pickup truck.

Woody is still turned away.

WOODY
That money's for you boys. I
wanted to leave you something.

DAVID
We're fine, Dad. We don't need it.

WOODY
I just want to leave you something.

David approaches his father.

DAVID
You know if there was any chance
you won, I'd take you. You know
that, right?

WOODY
I guess.

DAVID
I wouldn't lie to you.

WOODY
I know.

DAVID
The only reason I agreed to take
you to Lincoln was to get out of
Billings for a while and maybe have
some time with you. And to get you
to shut up.

WOODY
All right.

DAVID
All right what?

WOODY
I'll shut up.

DAVID
What about Lincoln?

A short pause before --

WOODY
We don't have to go.

David sees that Woody is shaking.

DAVID
Let's get you to a doctor.

WOODY
I ain't going to another goddamn
hospital.

A85 **INT. DAVID'S CAR - NIGHT**

A85 *

Woody is collapsed against the passenger window as David
rushes him to --

*
*

NORFOLK --

*

-- where a sign announces this town of 25,000 people.

*

85 **INT. NORFOLK HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

85

Woody is propped up on pillows, an IV in his arm. Kate and
Ross sit watching him sleep.

David is in the hall finishing a conversation with a DOCTOR,
then enters.

DAVID
They can keep him here until
tomorrow afternoon or so. Then I
guess we'll just start driving
home. Probably see you Tuesday
night.

ROSS
Okay. Thanks, David. Mom and I
will get an early start tomorrow
morning. I got to get back.

DAVID
Yeah.

KATE

And I'm going to have to listen to him harp about losing out on his fortune for the rest of his life. Or my life. He's going to bury me at this rate.

DAVID

You guys go ahead and get some sleep. I'll stay with him tonight.

Ross and Kate stand up. Kate approaches the bed, straightens Woody's wild hair, and kisses his cheek.

KATE
You big idiot.

Ross and Kate leave.

David sits in the big hospital chair and presses the TV remote at Woody's bedside.

DISSOLVE TO:

86 **INT. NORFOLK HOSPITAL ROOM - EARLY MORNING** 86

David wakes up and sees that Woody's bed is empty.

87 **INT. DAVID'S CAR - OUTSKIRTS OF NORFOLK - EARLY MORNING** 87

Overcast.

Through David's windshield, we drive a short while before finding Woody -- hospital gown flapping beneath his jacket -- *
up ahead walking on the shoulder of a road.

88 **EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF NORFOLK - CONTINUOUS** 88

Woody walks along the shoulder, just like how we found him at the beginning of the film.

David's car passes Woody, pulls over and comes to a stop. David gets out and looks at his father.

DAVID
All right. Let's go to Lincoln.

Woody walks to the passenger side and gets in.

89 **INT. DAVID'S CAR - DAY** 89

David drives while Woody sleeps.

LATER --

Woody rubs the sweepstakes letter slowly between his fingers.

90 **EXT. ROADSIDE CONVENIENCE STORE/GAS STATION - DAY** 90

A crude SIGN outside reads LEECHES AND CRAWLERS.

91 INT. DAVID'S CAR - DAY 91

92 EXT. LINCOLN - DAY 92

93 EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - DAY 93

*
*

94 INT. MID-PLAINS MARKETING - DAY 94

*

Woody extracts the tattered sacred document from his pocket and hands it over. She looks at it and types quickly on her computer.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry, but your number wasn't
one of the winning numbers.

David looks at Woody, who doesn't seem to understand.

DAVID

Looks like you didn't win.

*

WOODY

But it says I won.

RECEPTIONIST

It says you won if your number is
the winning number. I'm afraid it
isn't.

Woody looks at her blankly.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, sir. I hope you didn't
have to come too far.

DAVID

Montana.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh, my.

DAVID

Well, Dad, I guess that's it.

RECEPTIONIST

I can give you a free gift, like a
hat or a seat cushion.

DAVID

Do you want a hat or a seat
cushion?

WOODY

What?

DAVID

Do you want a hat or a seat
cushion?

WOODY

A hat.

DAVID

He'll take the hat.

The receptionist slides her chair out, goes to the corner behind her desk, and retrieves a hat out of one of two large boxes. The hat reads, "Prize Winner!"

Woody puts it on, turns and walks out.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Does this happen a lot?

RECEPTIONIST
Every once in a while. Usually older people like your father. Does he have Alzheimer's or some other dementia?

DAVID
He just believes stuff that people tell him.

RECEPTIONIST
Oh, that's too bad.

DAVID
Yeah.

95 **EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - DAY**

95

David gets in the driver's seat of his car and finds Woody, hat on, eyes closed, head tipped back. He looks dead.

DAVID
Dad? Dad?

WOODY
I'm here.

DAVID
We're going back to Billings, okay?

WOODY
Okay.

Woody nods. David has a thought.

DAVID
We might make a couple quick stops first.

96 **EXT. USED CAR LOT - DAY**

96 *

David negotiates with a SALESMAN while Woody, wearing his new hat, waits outside. *

David eventually comes out.

*

DAVID

Okay, Dad, we're all set. Help me
get our stuff out of the car.

*

LATER --

David finishes putting their belongings inside the bed of a
PICKUP TRUCK.

WOODY

I don't understand what happened to
your car.

DAVID

They made me a real good offer for
it.

WOODY

Wasn't much of a car.

DAVID

Yeah, this truck's a real step up.
Only five years old. Practically
brand new. Oh, I hope you don't
mind -- I put your name on the
title.

*

*

After a few seconds --

WOODY

The truck's in my name, you say?

*

DAVID

But you're going to have to let me
drive it.

WOODY

You work something out with those
prize people?

*

David takes a long look at his father, wondering how to
respond.

*

DAVID

Yeah. They were willing to go as
far as a truck.

This is a smaller Sears that specializes in appliances.

98 INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY 98

99 EXT. HIGHWAY EXIT - DAY 99

*

100 **EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY** 100

101 **INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY** 101

*

102 EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY 102

David gets out and opens the passenger door for Woody. Woody walks around to the driver's side.

103 **INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY**

103

Woody gets comfortable and sets the mirrors before shifting the transmission into Drive.

He takes his foot off the brake, and the truck starts to move.

104 **EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY**

104

As the pickup cruises slowly down Main Street, Bernie Bowen from the bus station spots Woody and gives a big thumbs-up.

BERNIE BOWEN

Hey there, Woody! Looking good!

WOODY

(to David)

Get down.

DAVID

What?

WOODY

I said get down.

DAVID

Okay.

David obeys and ducks below the dashboard.

MOMENTS LATER --

Ed Pegram comes out of the Blinker Tavern, sporting a black eye. He watches Woody pass.

MOMENTS LATER --

Peg Nagy comes out of the Cedar County Record office, keys in hand to lock up. She looks over, and Woody and she lock eyes for a moment.

105 **EXT. HAWTHORNE - DAY**

105

Now beyond the business district, Woody passes a tiny house where an old man sits out front watching the traffic -- why, it's Uncle Albert. He lights up and waves.

WOODY

So long, Albert.

UNCLE ALBERT

So long, Woody.

David pops back up as the truck continues down the street and *
toward the setting sun. But before they continue on home, *
Woody stops the truck, and he and David exchange places. *

THE END