NEBRASKA

Written by
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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.

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.

A modest structure set against a bluff.

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.

INT. MONTANA SHERIFF STATION - DAY

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.

EXT. WOODY AND KATE’S HOUSE – DAY

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.

INT. WOODY AND KATE’S KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS

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.

INT. HOME THEATERS PLUS! - DAY

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.

EXT. WOODY AND KATE’S HOUSE - DAY

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 --

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

-- 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!

INT. DAVID’S APARTMENT - DAY

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.

EXT. DOWNTOWN BILLINGS - DAY

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.

WOOODY
I’m not stayin’ there.

* DAVID
I can’t let you go.

WOOODY
It’s none of your business.

DAVID
Yes, it is. I’m your son.

WOOODY
Then why don’t you take me?

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

WOOODY
What else you got goin’ on?

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

INT. WOODY AND KATE’S DRIVEWAY — DAY

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!

EXT. INTERSTATE 90 - DAY

David’s Subaru heads southeast toward Wyoming.

INT. DAVID’S CAR - DAY

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.

EXT. BUFFALO LAKE STOP GAS STATION - DAY

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.

INT. BUFFALO LAKE STOP SALOON - DAY

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.

DRIVING MONTAGE --
-- 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. *

INT. DAVID’S CAR - DAY
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.
EXT. HIGHWAY NEAR MOUNT RUSHMORE - DAY

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.

EXT. RAPID CITY MOTEL - NIGHT

Establishing.

INT. RAPID CITY MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

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.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

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.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

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.

EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS – EARLY MORNING

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.

DRIVING MONTAGE --

-- 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.

INT./EXT. DAVID’S CAR – DAY

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.

EXT. RURAL INTERSECTION – DAY

David’s Subaru turns now from the gravel road back onto a paved country road.

EXT. LYONS, NEBRASKA ROAD – DAY

INSIDE THE CAR --

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

WOODY
There it is. Pull in there.
EXT. ABANDONED MOTEL – DAY

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.

EXT. HAWTHORNE, NEBRASKA - DAY

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.

INT. DAVID’S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Woody twists around to take it all in.

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA’S HOUSE - DAY

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.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S TV ROOM - DAY

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!
INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S DINING ROOM - DAY

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.
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 --

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.
EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

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

WOODY
Let’s see if there’s anyone I know.

INT. SODBUSTER SALOON - DAY

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

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - TWILIGHT

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.

INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

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

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.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT
As David goes about his business, he hears cheering.

INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT
David emerges from the bathroom to a boisterous tavern.
Goddamn, Woody Grant’s a millionaire! Who would’ve thought it? This round’s on Woody! Hee ha!

Woody beams. David stares in disbelief.

**EXT. RAY AND MARTHA’S HOUSE - NIGHT**

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.

**INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT**

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

**MONTAGE --**

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

**INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S KITCHEN - DAY**

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.

EXT. HAWTHORNE BUS DEPOT - DAY

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.
EXT. HAWTHORNE CEMETERY - DAY

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 wrastlin’ 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?

INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S KITCHEN – DAY

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.

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA’S PORCH – DAY
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!

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA’S FRONT YARD - DAY

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.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

David parks his car and heads inside of the --

INT. CEDAR COUNTY RECORD - CONTINUOUS

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.

EXT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT
Establishing. It’s Karaoke night.

INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT
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.

INT. STEAKHOUSE BATHROOM – NIGHT

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.

INT. STEAKHOUSE LOUNGE - NIGHT

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

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.

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA’S HOUSE - NIGHT  
Establishing.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT  
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?

INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S LIVING ROOM – DAY

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.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S KITCHEN – DAY

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.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S LIVING ROOM – DAY

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.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S KITCHEN – DAY

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.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S DINING ROOM – DAY

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?

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA’S HOUSE – DAY

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.

EXT. ABANDONED FARMHOUSE - DAY

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.

INT. ABANDONED FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

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.

EXT. ABANDONED FARMHOUSE – DAY

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.

INT. ROSS’S CAR - RURAL ROAD - DAY
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.
EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

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.

INT. ROSS’S CAR - RURAL ROAD - DAY

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.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

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.

INT. SMALL BARN – CONTINUOUS

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

EXT. WESTENDORF FARMHOUSE – CONTINUOUS

Just as the Westendorfs close their door, Ross and David come sprinting out of the barn.

EXT. RURAL ROAD – DAY

The car rolls slowly down the gravel road. Ross and David burst out of the bushes. The car stops, and the boys climb inside.

INT. ROSS’S CAR – RURAL ROAD – DAY

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?

EXT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

Establishing.

INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

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)
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.

EXT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

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.

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA’S HOUSE - NIGHT

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.
INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S HOUSE UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

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.

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

David wanders through the first floor looking for his father.
DAVID

Dad?  Dad?

Finally David turns on the light inside the --

INT. RAY AND MARTHA’S KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS

-- 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.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - NIGHT

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.

INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

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.
“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.

“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.

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.

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.

Are you okay?

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.

INT. DAVID’S CAR - NIGHT

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

NORFOLK --

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

INT. NORFOLK HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

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:

INT. NORFOLK HOSPITAL ROOM - EARLY MORNING
David wakes up and sees that Woody’s bed is empty.

INT. DAVID’S CAR - OUTSKIRTS OF NORFOLK - EARLY MORNING
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.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF NORFOLK - CONTINUOUS
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.

INT. DAVID’S CAR - DAY
David drives while Woody sleeps.

LATER --
Woody rubs the sweepstakes letter slowly between his fingers.

EXT. ROADSIDE CONVENIENCE STORE/GAS STATION - DAY
A crude SIGN outside reads LEECHES AND CRAWLERS.
David exits the store and hands Woody a tall-boy of beer in a paper bag.

**INT. DAVID’S CAR – DAY**

Our heros pass a sign reading “LINCOLN CITY LIMITS” and exchange a look of satisfaction.

**EXT. LINCOLN – DAY**

The STATE CAPITOL BUILDING towers in the distance as the car crosses a viaduct into Lincoln.

LATER --

The car makes its way through busy DOWNTOWN LINCOLN.

**EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK – DAY**

David stops the car in the lot of a low-rent industrial park of what seem like oversized garages.

They get out and stand looking at their long-sought destination -- “Mid-Plains Marketing Promotions.”

David notices that Woody still has his hospital gown on, and he helps him take it off.

**INT. MID-PLAINS MARKETING – DAY**

They enter the no-nonsense front office and find a middle-aged RECEPTIONIST. An open door beyond her looks into a small warehouse/work area.

**RECEPTIONIST**

Hi. Can I help you?

**DAVID**

My father is here to collect his million dollars.

**RECEPTIONIST**

Excuse me?

**DAVID**

Show her your letter, Dad.

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.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - DAY

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.

EXT. USED CAR LOT - DAY

David negotiates with a SALEWMAN 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.

EXT. SEARS HOMETOWN STORE – DAY

This is a smaller Sears that specializes in appliances.
Woody watches as David and a CLERK hoist a box containing a NEW AIR COMPRESSOR into the back of the truck.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

As David drives, Woody plays with all the new knobs and buttons on the dashboard.

EXT. HIGHWAY EXIT - DAY

David pulls off the highway and curiously heads back toward HAWTHORNE.

WOODY
What’re we going back to Hawthorne for?

DAVID
Just got one last quick thing to do.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

It’s the late afternoon, and the sun is low. David brings the truck to a stop at the top of Main Street.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

David turns to his father.

DAVID
Your turn to drive.

WOODY
You said I couldn’t.

DAVID
Just drive it down Locust Street. It’s only a couple of blocks. There’s no traffic.

Woody looks out the windshield at his old town, then back at David.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

David gets out and opens the passenger door for Woody. Woody walks around to the driver’s side.
INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

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.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

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.

EXT. HAWTHORNE - DAY

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