

Stripped, Bear

A screenplay

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SCENE 1: EXT - CHUCK'S STRIP CLUB PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

SCENE 2: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SCENE 3: EXT - CHUCK'S STRIP CLUB PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

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AGO

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SCENE 46: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY - SUNRISE

SCENE 47: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SCENE 48: EXT: FAMILY HOUSE / FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

SCENE 49: EXT - SIDE OF THE ROAD WITH LONNIE'S DODGE - CONTINUOUS

SCENE 50: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SCENE 51: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SCENE 52: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - THREE MONTHS BEFORE SCENE 1 -
AFTERNOON

SCENE 53: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

SCENE 1: EXT - CHUCK'S STRIP CLUB PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Eddie walks up to pay phone with a beer bottle in hand, takes a swig, and dials.

SCENE 2: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

We see the inside of a house that obviously doesn't belong to the man who is sleeping on the couch, JULES. The phone rings but it is not picked up. The answering machine picks up, and we hear EDDIE's voice as JULES wakes himself up to listen to the message.

EDDIE (OUTGOING MESSAGE)
Hey there. You've found us. Now, be a pal, and leave a message.

SFX: BEEP!

CUT TO:

SCENE 3: EXT - CHUCK'S STRIP CLUB PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

EDDIE sips his beer and begins to talk to the machine.

EDDIE
Yeah...It's me. Look. I don't know why, I figure I might head back...I don't know... Look, Is anybody there? If you're there, just pick up... alright

CUT TO:

SCENE 4: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JULES Listens as LONNIE, a never was beauty queen and ex-stripper walks in carrying suitcases.

EDDIE (V.O.)
I been thinking about forgiveness... and... I don't know... I don't think I can. I just...Look. I'm coming back. It's, it's my house, and I'm coming back home..

(MORE)

EDDIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I suppose the two of you oughta' figured out what it is your gonna' do by now, so I'll expect you'll both be gone by the time I get there... ought'a be a few more hours, five at least, rate I'm goin'...so If you're still there... if you're there, pick up...

JULES goes to the fridge to get a beer, opens and begins to drink.

JULES

Hey.

LONNIE

Whatever...

JULES

What's going on?

EDDIE (V.O.)

Hello?... Pick up if you're around... Don't leave me talkin' here like an idiot... Are you there?... Alright... Anybody?... Good. Good.

JULES

Where you goin'?

No answer

JULES (CONT'D)

You gonna pick that up?

LONNIE

No. You?

JULES

No.

CUT TO:

SCENE 5: EXT - CHUCK'S STRIP CLUB PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

EDDIE

Shoulda left you in Memphis. Shoulda' never stopped in Memphis... I'm tired of being the sugar pimp... or whatever... Just, just don't be there when I get back. Please..

EDDIE hangs up the phone and walks toward his truck on the other side of the parking lot.

CUT TO:

SCENE 6: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JULES
Sugar pimp?

LONNIE
Sugar daddy.

JULES
You leaving?

LONNIE
Yeah.

JULES
Why?

LONNIE
He's been gone six days.

JULES
Yeah.

LONNIE
Ain't you?

JULES
What?

LONNIE
Leaving.

JULES
No. Definitely not... This is my home. I was raised here. I got rights to it... No, I don't see that happenin' at all.

LONNIE
House isn't yours. You just live here, that's all. You're like a, you're a cockroach.

JULES
What the hell are you talkin' about?

LONNIE

It's Eddie's house. And, Eddie wants us... I mean, Jesus... You know?.. have some respect, Jules.

JULES

What?

LONNIE

It's his house. You owe him that. Don't you think?

JULES

That's a, that's just a technicality or somethin'. This is *our* house.

LONNIE

Not anymore.

JULES

It's the *Family* house... Maybe you don't get that... Fuckin' will... I was born and raised in this house.

LONNIE

So?

JULES

This oughta' be my house. Hell, I lived here longer than him.

LONNIE

Bet you'd never say that to his face.

JULES

I would... I will. I'm the big brother here! Don't forget that. Alright...

LONNIE

I'll try...

JULES

He thinks he can just kick me out. I got things to say about that.

LONNIE

Haven't yet.

JULES

Well--

LONNIE

Funeral was three months ago.

JULES

I know that. Don't you think I know-

LONNIE

Signed the papers the next day.

JULES

He's coming back. Didn't you hear him? I'll tell him then.

LONNIE

This house is more mine than it is yours.

JULES

Bullshit.

LONNIE

Legally, I mean.

JULES

Well, there's legal, and there's what's right.

LONNIE

Yeah, and we ain't done neither.

JULES

That wrong don't make this right.

Pause... No answer...

JULES (CONT'D)

Does it?

LONNIE starts gathering the rest of her stuff that isn't already packed, gathers it all up during the following.

LONNIE

Look, tell him I'm sorry.

JULES

No. Hell no. You do it. You tell him.

LONNIE

I'm takin' the Dodge.

LONNIE heads for the door. Jules gets in the way.

LONNIE (CONT'D)

I'm takin' the Dodge. It's mine. I'm takin' it.

JULES

Fuckin', hell...that's my...No. You're not.

JULES makes a move as if he's going to slap LONNIE. She flinches, and he catches himself.

JULES
That's my car.

LONNIE
Call the cops, then.

Pause... silence...

LONNIE (CONT'D)
Got my name on the damn title.

Pause...

JULES
That's fucked up, Lonnie.

LONNIE
If you say so.

JULES
You know we got a verbal contract.
That means something.

LONNIE
All your *payments* were verbal.

JULES
I gave you two hundred dollars.
Gimme that back, and we're even.

LONNIE
That wasn't for the car. That was
towards the four hundred, now two.

JULES
What 400?

LONNIE
I've loaned you 398 dollars over
the last three months.

JULES
What?

LONNIE
Give me *that* back. Then, we'll call
it even.

JULES
Three hundred and ninety eight
dollars?

JULES (CONT'D)

Fuck it.

LONNIE

I thought so.

LONNIE goes back to getting her shit together.

JULES

Well, where you goin' then?

LONNIE

Home.

JULES

This *is* home. You *got* a husband.
You *got* a home.

LONNIE

Not anymore, I don't.

JULES

Sure you do. Marriage is
somethin'... it means more than
just... I don't know... I mean,
Lonnie, C'mon...

LONNIE

I'm headed back to Memphis.

JULES

Oh yeah?

LONNIE

Yeah.

JULES

When'd you decide that? Just now?

LONNIE

Maybe.

JULES

Goin' back to your mom's?

LONNIE

Yeah. I called her. She ain't
happy, but...

JULES

Quitter...

LONNIE

...It's what he wants.... You heard
him.

JULES

...What about your marriage? Your husband? Your vows? That don't mean nothin' to you?

LONNIE

Whatta you care?

JULES

Just sayin'... He's my brother.

LONNIE

Yeah. It does mean something to me, believe it or not. But, I can't fix this.

JULES

Well, I mean... What about us, then?

LONNIE

You're makin' it real tough for me to be the dumb one, here.

JULES

C'mon. Can't we be real about this?

LONNIE

Real?

JULES

Yeah, let's--

LONNIE

This situation is fucked, like really really fucked, Junior. Alright? That's about as real as it gets, Jules.

JULES

Look, all I'm saying is, let's make the most of this... You know? Us? That's all. That's all I'm sayin'.

LONNIE

There ain't no, "us," alright.

JULES

There *is* an us. Whether you want to admit--

LONNIE

It oughta' make you sick to say that.

JULES

Oh, yeah?

LONNIE

Yeah. Makes me wanna rip out your tongue when you say that.

JULES

Jesus... Where you gettin' this shit?

LONNIE

"Us," never was. Never will be.

JULES

Look, whether you want to admit it or acknowledge it or whatever, what happened between the two of us... Something happened.

LONNIE

You're a mistake.

JULES

Oh, yeah?

LONNIE

Yeah.

JULES

Alright, then.

LONNIE

You gotta' know that. You're just a really bad mistake.

JULES

Look, I don't know. There was, you know, that night...you know... there was something there.

LONNIE

There was nothing, Jules...There was nothing!

JULES

I don't know about that.

LONNIE

Nothing. Trust me.

JULES

Why you keep coming back, then?

LONNIE

What?

JULES

Why'd you comin' back for more?
Eddie seen us... Eddie left six
days ago. And for six days, you've
been with *me*, Lonnie.

Pause...

JULES (CONT'D)

Why'd you do that, Lonnie?

LONNIE

Boredom.

JULES

That what you really think?

LONNIE

No, I wasn't bored... Guilt, I
guess. I just... I'm still not
sure... Just... Nothing. You and I
are, we're nothing, Jules.

JULES

OK, we're nothing, then.

LONNIE

Good.

JULES

I was gonna ask you take me with
you.

LONNIE

You know that ain't gonna' happen.

JULES

You want me to leave? Take me with
you.

LONNIE

Why? Why would I do that, Jules?
Jesus, are you serious? Why would
you ask that? What the fuck is
goin' on in that fucking head of
yours?

JULES

I got nothin' left here, Lonnie.

Pause

JULES (CONT'D)

C'mon, Lonnie. I got nothin' here.

LONNIE
That's not my fault.

LONNIE heads for the door with her bags and other stuff in her arms.

JULES
It's not? Did we do that alone?
Cause I sure thought I saw you
there.

JULES opens the door for LONNIE

LONNIE
Yes. I made a bad, a stupid, stupid
choice, with you, Jules. And I'm
paying for it.

CUT TO:

SCENE 7: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

JULES
Where're you goin'?

LONNIE
I'm leaving. It's what he wants.

JULES
Great. Me, too. Let's go.

LONNIE
Jules, stop. Just...just stop,
alright.

JULES
What?

LONNIE
Why would I take you with me?

JULES
Why wouldn't you?

LONNIE almost explodes with an answer, then, suprisingly, thinks better of it, starts to walk away, stops...

LONNIE
Do you love me?

JULES
What the hell kind of question is
that?

LONNIE
Yes or no, Jules.

JULES
You love *me*?

LONNIE
No.

JULES
Then, why'd you ask me?

LONNIE
I don't even know, Jules. Just,
curious, I guess. Just askin'.

LONNIE walks up to JULES, kisses him, starts to pull away, but is pulled back in by JULES for a longer, more passionate kiss. LONNIE drops her bags.

LONNIE (CONT'D)
Good-bye, Jules.

LONNIE picks her stuff back up and heads for the Dodge.

JULES
What the hell was that?

CUT TO:

SCENE 8: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY / DODGE - CONTINUOUS

LONNIE opens the back door and throws her stuff in, then gets in the car.

LONNIE
Whatta' you mean?

JULES
Whatta' I mean? The kiss. That's
what.

LONNIE
You're the one pulled me in. I was
just tryin' to say goodbye.

JULES
What the hell's wrong with you?

LONNIE
I wish I knew.

JULES
Didn't you feel that?

LONNIE

No.

JULES

What the hell'd you kiss me for?

LONNIE

To say goodbye.

SCENE 8A: INT - DODGE - CONTINUOUS

JULES reaches into the car and slaps LONNIE in the face. SILENCE, as they each stare each other down for a moment.

JULES

I'm sorry.

LONNIE

I bet.

LONNIE starts the car, begins to pull out.

JULES

Seriously, I'm sorry. Look...Don't. That's just, that's not how I wanted this to go.

LONNIE

You can't always get what you want, Jules.

JULES

I know that.

LONNIE

You don't deserve it.

JULES

Don't you think we deserve *each other*?

LONNIE

Yes, we do.

As LONNIE drives off. Jules yells after her

JULES

Fine! You weren't good enough for neither of us!

CUT TO:

SCENE 9: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

JULES

You don't deserve my brother! You know that? You don't deserve him. Whore!

JULES heads back inside, we see the door is still open. The Dodge fades from ear-shot, then comes back just before it disappears. JULES hears this, and he comes back outside. LONNIE comes back into view, stops, and yells out to Jules.

LONNIE

Tell him I'm sorry. Tell him I love him.

JULES

What about me?

LONNIE

Go to hell.

LONNIE drives off in the Dodge, as JULES stares off.

THIS MIGHT BE A NICE TIME FOR MUSIC AND SUCH, AS THE FOLLOWING IS SORT OF A MONTAGE.

CUT TO:

SCENE 10: EXT - CHUCK'S STRIP CLUB PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

EDDIE Finishes his beer, throws the bottle to the ground, and gets in the truck, closing the door.

CUT TO:

SCENE 11: INT - DODGE - CONTINUOUS

LONNIE is on the road. She is fiddling with the radio, obviously frustrated, angry even, though seemingly not yet emotionally affected.

CUT TO:

SCENE 12: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JULES on the couch with beer.

JULES

Cheers.

SCENE 13: INT - EDDIE'S TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

EDDIE is on the road, rifling through CD's all seemingly unfamiliar to him. Turns on the radio. He finds a memory, and we follow it.

SCENE 14: EXT - LULU'S TRUCK STOP - AFTER BAR HOURS - SIX MONTHS AGO

Establishing shot, truck stop outside Memphis. We see that is empty, save for LONNIE out in the parking lot, smoking a cigarette, and EDDIE, who is at the table, and, of course, the waitress and owner, LULU, who is at the table with EDDIE, delivering his meal.

SCENE 15: INT - LULU'S TRUCK STOP - CONTINUOUS

We are at the table with EDDIE who is much cleaner looking, wearing a flannel shirt. LULU stands by.

LULU
That gonna' be all for you, hon?

EDDIE
I could use a little more coffee.
She's still out there smokin'. She
might want a soda or somethin', I
guess. You might ask her.

LULU
Still with Lonnie, then?

EDDIE
You know Lonnie?

LULU
Since forever ago.

EDDIE
Oh, yeah? Since forever?

LULU
Me and her mom was friends. I'm
sorry. I don't mean to pry. I just
noticed you comin' in with her
before is all.

EDDIE
Sure.

LULU
I'm just lookin' after her is all.
When I can.

EDDIE

Good to know there's someone. I guess.

LULU

You know much about that little girl?

EDDIE

Enough to know she prob'ly won't eat much, and that I prob'ly don't care about the rest.

LULU

Alright, then...

EDDIE smiles.

EDDIE

Alright.

LULU

She's had a tough run with her mamma dyin' and her daddy never bein' around to begin with. And I suppose you know where she works, then.

EDDIE

I suppose I do.

LULU

None of my business, I just... Well, you don't seem like the type.

EDDIE

We never do...

LONNIE, still outside smoking, is wearing the designated after hours clothes for a stripper: sweats, sneakers and a scrunchie. She is also wearing EDDIE's Carhardt jacket. She gives EDDIE a wink, tosses her cigarette...

CUT TO:

SCENE 16: INT - LULU'S TRUCK STOP - LONNIE'S POV - CONTINUOUS

EDDIE gives a wink in return.

We are in LONNIE's POV.

We hear LULU, again, faintly, as she says, "I'll get you that coffee..."

We follow LONNIE inside the store and over to the table. She sits and stares at EDDIE as he tears into his chicken fried steak. He is conscious of this, and affected by it, but trying hard not to let it show.

EDDIE
What?

LONNIE
What?

EDDIE
Nothin'. You alright?

LONNIE
Yeah. Sure I am.

EDDIE goes back to eating, and LONNIE goes back to staring. Both are so focused on each other that they don't notice LULU approaching with the coffee. She tops off EDDIE's mug.

LULU
You need anything darlin'?

LONNIE
Nah, I'll just have some Sprite.

LULU
You sure?

LONNIE
Yeah. Maybe a couple cherries. If you got 'em.

LULU
Sure. How you doin' these days Lonnie?

LONNIE
I'm alright, I guess. You?

LULU
Just tryin' to keep afloat. Not a lot of traffic anymore.

LONNIE
Sorry to hear that, Lulu.

LULU
Thanks for sayin' that. I sure miss your mamma, Lon.

LONNIE
Me too.

LULU
I'll go get you that Sprite.

LONNIE
Thanks, Lulu.

LONNIE goes back to staring at EDDIE, who goes back to eating.

EDDIE
You never seen a man eat?

LONNIE
Not like that.

EDDIE
Well, you never seen a man hungry,
then.

LONNIE
Really, I've never seen anything
like it.

EDDIE
Just chicken fried steak.

LONNIE
You're amazing.

EDDIE
Stop it.

LULU drops off the sprite.

LONNIE
No. It's sexy.

EDDIE
Stop.

LONNIE
(Genuine)
I mean it. It is.

EDDIE
Don't you ever get hungry?

LONNIE
Sure I do. Everybody gets hungry.

EDDIE
Well. I'm really hungry. That's
all.

LONNIE
The cow's already dead, you know.
He ain't goin' nowhere.

EDDIE
Yeah, but he's gettin' colder. And
I ain't gettin' any less hungry.

LONNIE
Suppose you're right.

EDDIE
How come you ain't eatin' nothin'.

LONNIE
I ate a little.

EDDIE
You ate some crackers.

LONNIE
I ate before I went in.

EDDIE
To work?

LONNIE
Yeah.

EDDIE
What time'd you go in?

LONNIE
'Bout six.

EDDIE
Six?

LONNIE
Yeah.

EDDIE
That's goin' on nine hours ago.

LONNIE
Yeah, but that was dinner. Girl's
gotta keep a schedule, you know.
Breakfast comes soon enough.

EDDIE
I guess. See, six a clock, I was
pullin' out of St. Louis. No time
for dinner. Got to Memphis, dropped
my weight and ran into you, again.

LONNIE
You mean you weren't lookin' for
me?

EDDIE
Oh, I was. Course I was. Only
reason I go there.

LONNIE
That's not true.

EDDIE
Isn't it?

LONNIE
Must've had a reason to go there
before you knew me.

EDDIE
I suppose I did. I did. But, those
were different days.

LONNIE
Alright, then.

EDDIE
Alright.

Pause...

LONNIE
I'm glad you found me.

Pause...

CUT TO:

**SCENE 17: EXT - SIDE OF THE ROAD - A FEW MINUTES AFTER SCENE
NINE.**

We see the Dodge cruise off to the side of the road, and
LONNIE inside.

LONNIE
Shit!

She hits the steering wheel, tries to start the Dodge back up
a couple times.

LONNIE (CONT'D)
Fuck! Fuck! *Fuck* you Jules!

Pause...

Fuck you both...

SCENE 18: INT - DODGE - CONTINUOUS

The glove box opens, we see LONNIE's hand grab an old pack of smokes and a lighter.

SCENE 19: EXT - SIDE OF THE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

LONNIE gets out of the car with her purse and lights a cigarette, flips off the car and begins walking back the way she came, as the hazard lights flash in the distance. She finds a memory, and we follow her...

SCENE 20: INT - LULU'S TRUCK STOP - THE OTHER HALF OF THE PAUSE FROM THE END OF SCENE 16.

LONNIE
I missed you.

Pause...

EDDIE
Lonnie?

LONNIE
What?

Pause...

What is it?

EDDIE
You like it here, Lonnie?

LONNIE
This truck stop?

EDDIE
Memphis. Do you like Memphis.

LONNIE
Not really. Why? You like Memphis?

EDDIE
I don't know. I'm never really *in* Memphis. I just drive through...around it, mostly.

LONNIE
Me neither. I'm either takin' my clothes off at the club or takin' 'em off to get in bed. Or, I'm hangin' out with you at truck stops till dawn, "waitin' for the load."

EDDIE
You don't have to stay out with me.
The load's gonna' be a few more
hours, yet.

LONNIE
I'll stay. I like it.

EDDIE
What if you didn't?

LONNIE
Didn't what?

Pause

LONNIE (CONT'D)
What?

EDDIE
Why don't you come with me?

LONNIE
What about my job?

EDDIE
You need it?

LONNIE
I gotta pay my bills.

EDDIE
What bills?

LONNIE
Rent, clothes, shoes...

EDDIE
I can take care of that.

LONNIE
What if I didn't let you?

EDDIE
What if you did?

LONNIE
I got a car.

EDDIE
You could sell it.

LONNIE

I'm not selling the Dodge. It's the only thing I own. Only thing I got that's mine.

EDDIE

Alright. What else, then?

LONNIE

I like music. I buy a lot of CD's I guess.

EDDIE

I like music, too.

LONNIE

I don't know, Eddie. We only see each other twice a month.

EDDIE

Not if you come with me.

LONNIE

But I haven't even known you that long.

EDDIE

We been meetin' up for a year, now.

LONNIE

A couple of hours every month don't make up a year. We made a month out of the year, at most. I can't let you pay my rent.

EDDIE

Why not?

LONNIE

Because. That's why.

EDDIE

Now, I know you can do better than that.

LONNIE

I don't need a sugar daddy.

EDDIE

You don't need that job.

LONNIE

I like that job.

EDDIE

Do you?

Pause

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Come with me to South Carolina. We can clean out my place...not much in it... then we'll do St. Louis and be back here in a couple weeks. Then, if you like, maybe I can stay with you.

EDDIE

LONNIE

If you don't, I was thinkin' about finding a new place, anyhow. You mean, you'd stay here?

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Might go back to Arkansas, I guess. That's where my people are. Brother's there too.

LONNIE

You wanna' stay with me?

EDDIE

Maybe. When I'm in town. That way, I'm not just payin' your rent like some kind of sugar pimp or whatever.

LONNIE

Sugar daddy.

EDDIE

Whatever.

LONNIE

Are you asking to move in with me?

EDDIE

I'm really askin' you to run away with me, but yeah, I guess movin' in's part of the deal, now.

LONNIE

Well?

EDDIE

What?

LONNIE

You gonna ask me?

EDDIE
Didn't I?

LONNIE
Did you?

EDDIE
Well, whatta' you think?

LONNIE
Well, alright.

EDDIE
Yeah?

LONNIE
Yeah. Sure. Let's do it.

Pause...

EDDIE
What's wrong?

LONNIE
Nothing.

EDDIE
You're thinking about something.

LONNIE
Why don't we just go, Eddie?

EDDIE
Where?

LONNIE
Wherever.

EDDIE
Wherever? Where's that?

LONNIE
Doesn't matter. You asked If I
liked it here, and I said I don't.
And, now, you've got me quittin' my
job, which is really the only thing
keepin' me on the delta. So, why
bother comin' back?

EDDIE
Can't stay on the road all the
time.

LONNIE

Why not? I'll just ride with you. I can pump gas and I read a map OK. That way, I'm earning my keep.

EDDIE

Don't you need a place to stay? What about a home?

LONNIE

Home's where the heart is. Right?

EDDIE

Chuckle

I guess.

LONNIE

What?

EDDIE

Nothin' Just... I guess you're right.

LONNIE

Guess I am. So, when we hittin' the road?

EDDIE

Lonnie?

LONNIE

Yeah?... What? What's with the serious?

EDDIE

Lonnie, if you come with me, it ain't just a fling. We're gonna' have to be together.

LONNIE

Well, I'm leaving my apartment. And, I'm leaving my job. So, I hope it ain't a fling.

EDDIE

I'm not lookin' to just fool around anymore.

LONNIE

Neither am I.

EDDIE

I want somethin' real. You know.

LONNIE

Sure.

EDDIE

I want Pickett fences, some bottom land. Something solid. I been screwin' around, Lonnie. And, I don't want to be like my brother, alone, living at home, just no sense of purpose, you know... And, I chose you, I guess. I don't know why. Don't seem to make too much sense, why you chose me or I chose you...don't make *no* sense, really... but you just, you stare right through me with those... eyes of yours. It's like I love you or something.

KISS

LONNIE

You wanna' get married?

EDDIE

Do you?

LONNIE

I asked you first.

EDDIE

Yeah. I do, actually.

Pause

LONNIE

Cool.

EDDIE

Cool.

LONNIE

Yeah.

Pause

EDDIE

You wanna have a family? Like babies?

LONNIE

I guess so. That's what people get married for. Isn't it?

EDDIE
That's what they tell me.

KISS...

SCENE 21: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - A FEW HOURS AFTER SCENE 12 - AFTERNOON

Jules is lying on the couch, drinking beer, flipping through channels. He finishes what turns out to be his final beer, which carries him to a memory, and we follow it.

SCENE 22: INT - LIQUOR STORE - DAY - SIX DAYS BEFORE SCENE 1

JESSE, a scraggly dude who looks older but not as smart as JULES, weighing in at a buck and a quarter, is behind the counter, selling JULES a sixer.

JESSE
So, you gonna' swing by tonight?

JULES
I might. Brother's still out'a town. Got my sister-in-law hangin' out all day. Might have to keep her company.

JESSE
Hell, she's cute. Bring her along.

JULES
I don't know if that's her kinda' thing.

JESSE
We just got some killer buds in from California. You gotta try this shit.

JULES
Again, not her thing.

JESSE
She don't have to smoke to hang out, does she?

JULES
Does she?

JESSE
I don't think so.

JULES
I'll see what I can do.

CUT TO:

SCENE 23: EXT - LIQUOR STORE PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

LONNIE pulls up in the Dodge, gets out, enters the Liquor store.

CUT TO:

SCENE 24: INT - LIQUOR STORE - CONTINUOUS

JULES
Hey Lonnie.

JESSE
Hey Lonnie.

LONNIE
Hey Jesse. You ready?

JULES
Yeah. Later bro.

Jules makes his way to the door.

JESSE
Don't forget! Buds the size of your head, man!

JULES and LONNIE exit the store.

SCENE 25: EXT - LIQUOR STORE PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

LONNIE
What was that all about?

JULES
Nothing.

LONNIE and JULES get into the MAZDA. LONNIE drives.

CUT TO:

SCENE 26: EXT - LOADING DOCK - SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER - SEVERAL HOURS AWAY

GERALD, another trucker, comes out.

GERALD

What's up you crazy som'bitch!
Let's go to the boats!

EDDIE

Boats? You don't want your load?

GERALD

Sure I do.

EDDIE

Well, mine's goin' the other way,
buddy.

GERALD

Our loads are going nowhere,
partner.

EDDIE

What're you tryin' to tell me here,
Ger?

GERALD

Well, I guess they don't have a
load for us, Eddie.

EDDIE

What?

GERALD

Harlon says they got nothin' for
us. Guess we can wait until
tomorrow, or we can take the week.
He says he's got another load
comin' in can take that one out.

EDDIE

We still get paid?

GERALD

I guess so.

EDDIE

Well, I'm goin' home, then...
Jesus, man. I thought I was gettin'
laid off or somethin'.

GERALD

You wanna stop off at the boats or
what?

EDDIE

Nah, I better not. Gotta get back,
man. Another time, maybe.

GERALD
Right on. See you in Memphis?

EDDIE
Maybe. I hope so, buddy.

GERALD
Well, you say hi to that lady a
yours for me.

EDDIE
I will.

GERALD
Tell her we miss havin' someone to
keep the lot-lizards away.

Laughs

EDDIE
I'll do that. Good luck, buddy.

CUT TO:

SCENE 27: INT - DODGE - MINUTES AFTER SCENE 25

JULES
Hey Lonnie?

LONNIE
Hey Jules.

JULES
You wanna sell me the car?

LONNIE
This car? The Dodge?

JULES
Yeah.

LONNIE
No.

JULES
I'll give you 200 dollars. Cash.

LONNIE
Where'd you get 200 dollars?

JULES
A loan.

LONNIE
You got it from Eddie, didn't you?

JULES
No, I got it from my parents. So?

LONNIE
What?

JULES
You gonna sell me the car?

LONNIE
No.

JULES
Why not?

LONNIE
This is my car. Besides, how you gonna' pay the rest. You need to get a job.

JULES
How am I gonna' get a job without a car?

LONNIE
Why don't you get a job first?

JULES
Why don't you get a job?

LONNIE
Wouldn't help you none.

JULES
Might give you something to do.

LONNIE
Who's gonna' do your laundry?

JULES
Sell me this car, Lonnie.

LONNIE
What am I gonna' drive?

JULES
You never drive.

LONNIE
Sometimes I do. I drove today. I'm driving now.

JULES
I'll give you that one.

LONNIE
I do. Sometimes. While you're out.

JULES
I'm never out. I'm unemployed.

LONNIE
When you sleep till noon.

JULES
I don't sleep till noon.

LONNIE
You're right. Two-thrity.

JULES
Bitch.

LONNIE
Asshole.

They share a smile.

CUT TO:

**SCENE 28: INT - EDDIE'S TRUCK - AN HOUR AFTER SCENE 26 -
SUNSET**

EDDIE rifles through some cd's, LONNIE's stuff, and picks one to listen to that is obviously not his type of music but reminds him of her.

SCENE 29: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - MINUTES AFTER SCENE 27

The Dodge pulls in.

JULES and LONNIE get out of the car. JULES opens one of the beers from his sixer.

LONNIE
You got the day off today?

JULES
Guess you could say that.

LONNIE
I thought you had a job?

JULES

Nah, that was training. Some sales thing. They tricked me.

LONNIE

They tricked you?

JULES

The ad said something about drinking beer and having fun, party atmosphere...I don't know. Should have known better. Whatta' you been doin' all day?

LONNIE

Foldin' laundry. Watchin' TV. Tryin' to keep busy.

JULES

Well, you knew what you were gettin' into. You married a trucker.

LONNIE

I thought I knew.

JULES

Beer?

LONNIE

Sure.

JULES opens a beer for LONNIE, hands it to her. They start to walk off into the surrounding pasture.

LONNIE (CONT'D)

Thanks.

JULES

Why'd you stop goin' with him?

LONNIE

Kinda' boring. You know? I liked the landscapes and stuff at first. It's all real pretty and everything, but that gets old. There's a lotta' sitting involved. Not much different, here, I guess. Just more lonely.

JULES

Oh...

LONNIE
Did your laundry, by the way. You
need new socks.

JULES
I'm doing just fine, thank you.

LONNIE
Nothing to be embarrassed about.
Just socks.

JULES
I'm not embarrassed.

LONNIE
Yes you are.

Pause...

JULES
You gonna sell me the car, or what?

LONNIE
You just don't quit.

JULES
Don't know how.

LONNIE
Neither does your brother.

JULES
Oh yeah?

CUT TO:

**SCENE 30: EXT: STRIP CLUB PARKING LOT OUTSIDE MEMPHIS - AT
LEAST A YEAR AGO.**

While the voice over remains in real time with scene 29, we
see EDDIE pull up to the strip club, get out of the truck and
approach the door.

LONNIE (V.O.)
Thought he was a stalker or
something, at first.

JULES (V.O.)
Eddie?

SCENE 31: INT - STRIP CLUB OUTSIDE MEMPHIS - CONTINUOUS

During the following, still a continuous voice over from LONNIE and JULES, we see EDDIE entering the club. He sits, orders a drink. HE sees LONNIE on her way up to the stage.

LONNIE (V.O.)

Yeah. Then I noticed he was never looking at any of the other girls.

JULES (V.O.)

Sounds like a stalker to me.

LONNIE (V.O.)

It's hard to explain. It was different. It was a stare, but it wasn't scary or nothin'.

JULES (V.O.)

Like he knew something you didn't.

LONNIE (V.O.)

Yeah. Like he was fixated or somethin'.

JULES (V.O.)

I could see that.

LONNIE (V.O.)

What're you sayin'?

No more voice over. We're in the scene, now.

We see CHUCK, the owner, grab LONNIE'S ass. He is intimidating, and he certainly takes advantage of the women, but he's no tyrant. We can see why LONNIE might call him a "nice guy," but we should also see why this isn't a thorough assessment of the man.

EDDIE takes a drink and his eyes are glued to LONNIE as she gyrates in a manner akin to a 12 year old who might think she wants to be an exotic dancer when she fails to grow up or is forced to grow up too fast.

CUT TO:

SCENE 32: EXT - PASTURE / FAMILY HOUSE - AN HOUR AFTER SCENE 29 - SUNSET

LONNIE and JULES are returning to the house after a walk that killed the remaining four beers. Lonnie stops. So does Jules.

LONNIE hugs JULES.

JULES
What was that?

LONNIE
Nothin'?

JULES
Nothin'?

LONNIE
Nothing. I just, I miss hugs.
That's all.

JULES
OK.

LONNIE
Don't you?

JULES
I guess.

Both return to their prior positions, as if nothing happened.
They go into the house.

**SCENE 33: EXT: ON THE ROAD A FEW MILES FROM THE FAMILY HOUSE -
CONTINUOUS**

EDDIE pulls into town.

CUT TO:

**SCENE 34: INT - FAMILY HOUSE / PORCH - A FEW MINUTES AFTER
SCENE 32**

LONNIE is doing the laundry. JULES is sitting on the couch.
There is an awkward silence and a 400 lb. Gorilla in the
room.

LONNIE
So, you want that car?

JULES
Yeah.

LONNIE
Two-thousand.

JULES
Fifteen hundred.

LONNIE
Two.

JULES

Alright, but two hundred doesn't seem like a very good deal for you. But I do happen to have--

LONNIE

Two thousand.

JULES

Eighteen.

LONNIE

Nineteen fifty. And that doesn't include the money you owe me. I'm keeping track.

JULES

I bet you are. Nineteen. And, I gotta get some new socks first.

LONNIE

Deal.

LONNIE kisses JULES on the mouth.

JULES

What the hell was that?

LONNIE just stares into JULES. Then kisses him again.

JULES sets his beer down, picks Lonnie up, then carries her inside.

SCENE 35: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JULES throws LONNIE down on the first available couch and straddles her. They attack each other. Both fall off of the couch. We see the fear in their eyes but also the absolute determination.

LONNIE begins to take off her shirt and JULES grabs her before she can finish. LONNIE reaches for JULES' pants, unbuckles them, throws him to the floor, pulling the pants off, as JULES kicks his shoes off and pulls off his T-shirt.

JULES

Are you sure--

LONNIE

Fuck me.

JULES

I--

LONNIE

Shut up. Now. Please.

SHE grabs HIM by the face and kisses hard, then pulls him in.

JULES

OK.

CUT TO:

SCENE 36: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - TWENTY MINUTES LATER

EDDIE walks up to the house, goes to the door with roses from a gas station in hand. He enters.

CUT TO:

SCENE 37: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Eddie enters, sees LONNIE and JULES on the floor, naked. They are startled by the door, but know they are caught. EDDIE never leaves the doorway. He just stares for a moment. Nobody dares to speak. EDDIE turns and leaves.

LONNIE

Eddie! Wait!

JULES

Let him go.

LONNIE

Fuck you, Jules.

LONNIE is up, gathering her clothes, as JULES stays on the floor and finds a cigarette to light.

CUT TO:

SCENE 38: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - SEVERAL HOURS AFTER SCENE 13

EDDIE is outside the house, back from his six-day journey. It has been raining for a while, and continues. EDDIE makes his way into the house.

SCENE 39: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

EDDIE comes in and sees the vacant and disheveled house. He takes a seat on the couch, sees beer on the floor, picks it up, opens one.

CUT TO:

SCENE 39: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - TWO HOURS LATER.

Same shot of the couch, now empty.

The door is still open, but there are clothes strewn everywhere, and by the door, a pile of JULES's belongings, alarm clock, hats, shirts, etc.

JULES enters, taking an inventory of the things strewn about. He walks around either looking for or looking to avoid Eddie. Probably both.

He spots EDDIE through a bay window out on the pond, night-fishing under a lantern. Perhaps it is raining. He grabs one of his ball caps off of the floor and heads down to the pond.

SCENE 40: EXT - POND - CONTINUOUS

JULES

Hey

No answer

Hey. You wanna talk or somethin'?

EDDIE

No. You get my message?

JULES

Yeah. You alright?

EDDIE

I told you not to be here.

JULES

I wasn't.

EDDIE

Yeah, now you're back. Welcome back Jules!

JULES

I think we need to talk.

EDDIE

Let's agree to disagree.

JULES
C'mon, Eddie.

EDDIE
What? Isn't that all your stuff up there?

JULES
Yeah, I saw what you did. I got eyes.

EDDIE
Doesn't that speak to you?

JULES
Well...whatta you want me to do, then?

EDDIE
I don't know. Shit, grab a beer!

JULES
C'mon, Eddie.

EDDIE
No. Why not! Let's talk about...
Why not talk about our recent sexual conquests, *brother*.

Much to EDDIE's surprise, JULES grabs a beer, opens it.

JULES
I got rights here. This is my house, too.

EDDIE
Your name on the deed? Cause I really thought they just left it to me.

JULES
That don't make this right.

EDDIE
Why do you figure they did that Jules?

JULES
You know.

EDDIE
Do you?

JULES
Yeah.

EDDIE

Tell me.

JULES

'Cause you're the good son, Mr. Prodigal, himself. Guess I'm just the fat fuckin' calf.

EDDIE

I'm the only one they trusted, Jules.

JULES

Because you happened to have a job--

EDDIE

I always happen to have a job, Jules, and you almost always happen to not have one.

JULES

I'm the one lived here, Eddie.

EDDIE

I don't know if I'd call what you do, "livin'".

JULES

This is my home, Eddie.

EDDIE

Not anymore.

JULES

Look, I know why you're pissed. I can get a hold of that one, but I, It's my house, too... And, I ain't leavin'.

EDDIE

This ain't your house, Jules.

JULES

Ought'a be. I'm the oldest. Right?

EDDIE

Do you want to fight? Do you want me to hit you? 'Cause I will hit you Jules. I want to hit you, Jules.

JULES

Look, don't, man. Please. I'm sorry, man. I am.

EDDIE
Sorry doesn't fix this.

JULES
Don't do this, Eddie.

EDDIE
You did this. Not me. It's done
been did, brother.

JULES
Then, what the hell'd you call for?

EDDIE
You were here?

JULES
Yeah, so was she.

EDDIE
And, now, she's gone. You, however,
are not. At least she's got ears.

JULES
Why'd you call if you didn't want
to talk?

EDDIE
Why didn't you pick up? Why'd you
leave me squealin' on like some
fuckin' idiot?

JULES
I don't know. She was still here. I
was dealing with that, man.

EDDIE
So she's gone , then? Why didn't
you go with her?

JULES
She's headed back to Memphis, with
her mom. I tried to go with her.

Pause...

JULES (CONT'D)
Messed up a couple of my ball caps,
fucked up, but I guess I kinda'
deserve that. This one's good
though...

JULES looks to EDDIE for a response...nothing...

JULES (CONT'D)

Look, I know this is tough, but we're brothers. Let's, just, let's keep that in mind, alright. You don't wanna be the one to bring back the bear.

EDDIE

Just go.

JULES

Don't bring the bear, Eddie.

EDDIE

Stop talking! Just stop.

JULES

It's a family tradition.. It's what we've always done. We bring out the bear. That's what Mom called it....Mom and aunt Tracey, cousin Deeno, Paps there, for a minute, but they got back in touch...."The Bear," it keeps us away. It's why we stop talking. You know, all them people we didn't see four or five years. It's why we spent Christmas at home most the time. You knew that, though. But that's what mom called it. "The Bear." You knew that.

EDDIE

No. Not really.

JULES

I thought you knew, man. You never heard of the bear?

Silence

JULES (CONT'D)

That what you want?

EDDIE

No. It's not what I want.

JULES

Well, me neither, man.

Pause

JULES (CONT'D)

Well, uh, lets try to keep that from happeninn' man.

Pause

JULES (CONT'D)

Where'd you go, man? She was waiting for you. She didn't want me, man. You didn't call. I tried to call your cell. I didn't know where you were. So, she just...Where were you, man?

EDDIE

Just drivin'. 'Til I got sick of it. Then, I stopped. I watched some free cable. Tried to figure it all out. How this happened, what I can do about it, and then I just decided to... Just decided to come on back.

JULES

That's kinda what I figured you were doin'. I guess I figured that much. Like a Zen journey or something.

EDDIE

Somethin'. Just, somethin' wasn't right. I shoulda' seen it. I'm glad she's gone, though.

JULES

Said to tell you she was sorry. Told me to go to hell.

EDDIE

Good.

JULES

I'm sorry about this whole... You know, look, it's just a bad situation, man.

EDDIE

Stop. Now! Shut up! You're not allowed to say, "I'm sorry," anymore!

JULES

Don't you think we need some closure, here? Something?

EDDIE

Sure. Let's do closure. Sit down.

JULES

I mean it. I'm tryin' to be real, here, Eddie.

EDDIE
So am I. Sit down.

Pause

EDDIE (CONT'D)
Sit. Down.

JULES
Alright.

EDDIE begins, not once looking at JULES.

EDDIE
You're my big brother. I've known
you longer. You took up for me. You
looked out. Thanks for that. But,
you did, you fucked her.

JULES
Can't we just, like, move past
this?

EDDIE
No.

JULES
I just thought that with your past,
you know, you might be a little
more--

EDDIE
I fucked a wife or two that didn't
belong to me. You're right about
that. And, guess what? I got my ass
beat, proper. I deserved it. Wasn't
right, what I done, then. Deserved
more than I got. So do you, man.
You deserve a ripe good ass
kickin'. Don't ever forget that.
But, I ain't touchin' you. That
don't make me a saint or nothin'.
Just, I'm lettin' you know is all.

JULES
Shit.

EDDIE
I guess I kinda... even though this
don't make it right... I guess I
kinda' deserved what you did.

JULES
Nah-

EDDIE

Because I've done it. You know? I was that guy. Now, I know how them other dudes felt. But, I can't forgive you for that, Jules.

JULES

You think them dudes ever forgave you?

EDDIE

None of them dudes...No, they didn't. I hope they didn't.... None of them was my brother, Jules. Neither are you.

JULES

Don't say that.

EDDIE

That was your choice. I chose a life, man.

JULES

Don't do this. Brothers don't do this.

EDDIE

Yes, *I* do. *I* made a choice. I'm *making* a choice. And, if this is not "what brothers do," that's fine with me. I'm OK with that. You got anything you want to say?

JULES

Well, I'm sorry, man.

EDDIE

I know you are. Goodbye Jules.

JULES

I'm just gonna' ask you one more time, as your brother, man. Don't bring the bear.

EDDIE

You brought the bear. You are the bear, Jules.

JULES

You're all I got left, man.

EDDIE

You've got nothing, then. You and Lonnie were all I had, after mom and dad died. Now--

JULES

Jesus! I'm trying here! What do you want from me?

EDDIE now acknowledges JULES directly, urgently.

EDDIE

I want you to be a better person, Jules. But, you're not. You're just not. Fuck. You know? You're you, man. Nothing is going to change that. And, maybe I baited the bear when I let you do me like you did with mom and dad. Maybe one of us should have made you stand with your own pair. I'm sorry for that. I am, even though it wasn't my place. That was their job, man. They should've been parents. You were supposed to be doing that for me. You're my big brother, Jules! You're the oldest.

EDDIE puts a wad of cash in JULES's pocket.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

There's some taxi money. Or whatever.

JULES

Eddie, I-

EDDIE

Julius, brother, I love you, man. I do. But you have to go. It's the only way... For both of us. You know that, right?

SILENCE. JULES looks up at EDDIE. EDDIE hugs him. They stay in an embrace for a moment, until JULES begins to speak.

JULES

I--

EDDIE

You got a place you can go?

JULES

I'll find one. Man, I'm really--

EDDIE
I know. Goodbye Jules.

JULES grabs the pile of stuff by the door, EXITS. EDDIE closes the door behind him and returns to couch...BEAT. EDDIE sees the ball cap that JULES has left behind, picks it up, puts it on. Opens a beer.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
Cheers.

Chugs the entire beer.

CUT TO:

SCENE 41: EXT - SIDE OF A ROAD - A FEW HOURS BEFORE SCENE 40

LONNIE is trying to hitchhike, but getting no luck. It starts to rain.

LONNIE
You gotta' be shittin' me.

CUT TO:

SCENE 42: INT - JESSE'S CAR, THE WOODS- AN HOUR OR SO AFTER SCENE 40

JESSE and JULES are in the car. Jules has a mound of stuff on his lap.

JULES
Thanks for doin' this, man.

JESSE
Glad to have you, buddy. Sorry to see you down like this man.

JULES
I'm alright.

JESSE
Well, you look rough, buddy.

JULES
Self-inflicted.

JESSE
Well, you're welcome to hang out long as you need to. I'm tired of smoking alone anyhow.

JULES
Thanks, man.

JESSE
No problem. Hope you and your
brother patch things up, man.

JULES
I doubt that.

JESSE
Aw, man. Yall's brothers, man.
Brothers fight, and brothers make
up. It's what we do.

JULES
I guess so.

JESSE
Hell, I broke my brother's nose one
time. He liked to not talk to me
for a solid month, man.

JULES
Yeah.

JESSE
It'll be alright, buddy. You wanna'
smoke this joint?

JULES
Sure.

CUT TO:

SCENE 43: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - 30 MINUTES LATER

EDDIE is back on the couch, asleep, wearing JULES's hat.
There is a knock at the door. EDDIE does not wake up.

CUT TO:

SCENE 44: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

LONNIE is the one knocking out on the porch, drenched.

LONNIE
Jules? You there? Open the door! I
left my key! C'mon Jules!

CUT TO:

SCENE 45: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

LONNIE (O.C.)
Open the goddamn door, Jules! I'm serious! It's me. It's Fuckin' Lonnie! Open the door! Damn it, it's freezing out here!

While this is going on, Eddie wakes and ambles over to the door, opening it to reveal LONNIE, soaked to the bone. SHE stands in the doorway, but doesn't enter.

EDDIE
Jules ain't here, Lonnie.

LONNIE
Good! God damn son of a bitch left the Dodge with no gas in it.

Pause

LONNIE (CONT'D)
Got seven miles down the road, not even to the highway... You got a towel or somethin'?

EDDIE
Yeah. Hang on.

EDDIE gets a towel from the mess.

LONNIE
Look, I'm really--

EDDIE
Please don't.

LONNIE
OK.

EDDIE hands LONNIE the towel.

LONNIE (CONT'D)
Didn't see your truck.

EDDIE
You know I can't park the truck down here.

LONNIE
Oh.

EDDIE
So, where you headed?

LONNIE

I don't know. I need to get a ride
for some gas. Can I come in?

EDDIE

I can call you a cab.

LONNIE

Couldn't you just give me a ride?
I've only got enough left for the
trip.

EDDIE

I could, but I just, I don't think
I oughta'.

LONNIE

Yeah. I guess not. Guess you're
right.

Pause, as she towels off.

EDDIE

I'll pay for the cab.

LONNIE

So, Jules left, then?

EDDIE

Yeah. Earlier.

LONNIE

I hoped he would.

EDDIE

He says you're headed back to
Memphis.

LONNIE

Yeah. Don't have any choice,
really.

EDDIE

He says you're goin' back to your
mom?

LONNIE

Yeah.

EDDIE

That what you told him?

LONNIE

Yeah. That's what I said. I guess
so.

EDDIE
Your mom's still dead, right?

LONNIE
Yeah.

EDDIE
So, where you really headed? Back
to Chuck's?

LONNIE
Memphis.

EDDIE
Back to the club?

LONNIE
Yeah... Guess I'll just go back,
then. Guess I'll just do that.

EDDIE
I thought you were done strippin'.

LONNIE
I don't know how to do anything
else. It's all I know.

EDDIE
Guess you're right.

LONNIE
Can you really see me as a
secretary?

EDDIE
Guess you made that bed, then.

LONNIE
Made that bed with you.

EDDIE
I didn't make you leave Memphis.

LONNIE
I know.

EDDIE
Well, I guess I'll call that cab
for you.

LONNIE
OK

EDDIE
Alright, then.

EDDIE moves to pick up the phone. LONNIE crosses the threshold.

LONNIE
Eddie?

EDDIE
Yeah

LONNIE
You think I... I mean, maybe--

EDDIE
No, I don't think so, Lonnie.

LONNIE
It's just, I got no place to go but the club. At least you've got family.

EDDIE
Not anymore, I don't. It's just me.

LONNIE
I thought you wanted a family.

EDDIE
I did. I guess I did. But, I don't think I know how.

LONNIE
To have a family?

EDDIE
To love.

LONNIE
No, you were fine. You were decent.

EDDIE
I left you alone too long. I did. I thought we'd be just like my folks. My dad'd go off on trips, and she'd stay with us. Now I'm guessin' she might not have liked it that much. I don't know how to do this, Lon. And, I'm gettin' too old to learn, I guess.

LONNIE
We don't have to stay together. Just till I get my feet on the ground.

EDDIE

I need to be alone. And, you don't have to go back to the club. You can go anywhere you want. Anywhere but here.

LONNIE

You don't deserve to be alone. You're a good man, Eddie. You are.

EDDIE

That may be, but I can't make this work. I don't know how.

LONNIE

Do you still love me?

EDDIE

Of course I do, Lonnie. Of course I do.

LONNIE

Well...

EDDIE

I just can't stand to look at you, anymore. That's all. I just can't be with you.

LONNIE

Well...

EDDIE

I'm sorry, Lon. I am. We just ain't meant to be.

EDDIE picks up the phone

LONNIE

OK...OK...

LONNIE walks out the door...but peers in as EDDIE talks.

EDDIE

Yeah...Hello?...Yeah... I need a cab... Now. Yeah... One-twenty, west sixth. She's waiting outside.

EDDIE hangs up.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Lonnie?

LONNIE comes back in.

LONNIE
Yeah?

EDDIE
Here...

Hands LONNIE a small wad of cash

EDDIE (CONT'D)
It's all I got left. Gave the rest
to Jules. That should get you to
the gas station and back, there's a
tank out there. You can keep it.

LONNIE
Thank you.

EDDIE
I'm sorry, Lonnie. I really am.

LONNIE
Me too.

EDDIE
I know.

LONNIE
I--

EDDIE
Goodbye.

LONNIE exits, EDDIE sits on the couch, opens a beer
To us.

EDDIE starts to chug the beer, but can't do it, chokes
himself, and spits it out.

CUT TO:

SCENE 46: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY - SUNRISE

JESSE drops JULES off in the driveway.

JESSE
You sure you don't want me to wait?

JULES
Yeah. Thanks.

JESSE
Alright. Give me a call if you need
anything.

JESSE drives off.

JULES sneaks around the house looking in the living room window. He sees EDDIE asleep on the couch. He tries the door. It is unlocked. He enters.

CUT TO:

SCENE 47: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JULES makes his way in, quietly, and searches for the hat, finds it is still on EDDIE's head, so he does his best to steal it without waking him, but fails.

EDDIE
What the fuck?!

JULES
It's me! It's Jules! Just came to grab the rest of my stuff. I'll be gone shortly.

EDDIE
Who drove you?

JULES
Jesse.

EDDIE
That where you're stayin'? Jesse's?

JULES
Yeah. For now.

EDDIE
What you got left here?

JULES
Just my hat.

EDDIE
My hat, now.

JULES
You are not getting that hat.

EDDIE
This your favorite?

JULES
No.

EDDIE
Don't lie!

JULES tackles EDDIE, grabs the hat, they roll. Jules ends up on top. Goes to swing at EDDIE, who flinches. JULES stops short, pulling the punch, and grabs his hat, then gets up

JULES
Stay down! I just wanted the hat.
Sorry about that. I am. Stay
down...

EDDIE
You're a waste. You know that?

JULES
Yeah, I do.

EDDIE gets up. JULES turns to go out the door, EDDIE goes after him, tackling him through the door...

CUT TO:

SCENE 48: EXT: FAMILY HOUSE / FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

...and to the ground, takes the hat off JULES and throws it. EDDIE swings and catches JULES in the jaw. JULES Head-butts EDDIE, sending him back on his ass. They are both covered in mud, now and both exhausted. JULES gets up and marks his distance, then walks over to grab the hat, puts it on. EDDIE is nursing his forehead. JULES is stretching his jaw

JULES
That one hurt.

EDDIE
Good.

JULES
I get you with that head-but?

EDDIE
Yeah.

JULES
Sorry, man... Got me, too...

EDDIE
Good.

JULES
This is my hat. Can't let you take
the hat. You already took the
house. She took the car. I got no
place to live. I got no people
left. All I got is this hat.

EDDIE
It's your favorite.

JULES
Yeah, dad bought it. It was his.

EDDIE
I know.

JULES
You can't have it.

EDDIE
I know.

JULES
It's mine.

EDDIE
I know.

JULES
Can I go, now?

EDDIE
Sure. Yeah. Go.

EDDIE begins throwing random, mostly harmless lawn ornaments, rocks, dirt, etc. that happens to be in arm's reach, at him. JULES turns back around, attempts to block a few items, keeps level headed.

JULES
Do you want me to leave or not?

EDDIE
Yeah. Go!

Throws a lawn-gnome

JULES
A lawn-gnome? What are you doing?

EDDIE
Throwing shit.

Throws something else.

JULES
Stop.

EDDIE
No.

Throws another lawn gnome, that whizzes by JULES's head.

JULES
Hey, that's mom's! Cut that shit
out!

EDDIE
Fuck off!

HE throws another one. JULES runs, tackles EDDIE .

EDDIE (CONT'D)
Yes! It's all I've been waiting
for. Come on, brother! Swing! Hit
me in the fucking face, Jules! Hit
me!

JULES
No!

EDDIE
Hit me!

JULES
No. I'm not gonna' do that,
brother.

EDDIE
Do it!

JULES
We're brothers, man.

EDDIE
Not anymore! Now we're bears! I am
an ape fucking king bear! Swing at
me!

JULES
No.

EDDIE tries to run at JULES and tackle him several times,
each time being sloughed off to one side or the other by a
frustrated and bewildered JULES.

EDDIE
Swing! You fucking pussy! You
fucking faggot! Hit me!

JULES
Just, stop, man. Alright, this
ain't you, Eddie. This ain't you,
man. Just, just stop, man.

He doesn't. He gets back up, runs at him again, two, three
more times before collapsing on the floor.

JULES (CONT'D)

I ain't gonna' hit you, man. We're brothers. Alright? If I fight you, then I know... I'm not gonna' fight you.

EDDIE

Pussy.

JULES

Whatever, man. I'm gonna' go ahead and git. Just stay right there. Alright? Just let me go. I love you brother, and I'm sorry I made you like this. I am. You need somethin', you just, you let me know, alright. But I gotta' go, brother. I gotta go.

EDDIE gets up, walks toward the front door, as JULES watches.

JULES (CONT'D)

There you go. Get some rest, brother.

EDDIE

I been sleeping for six days.

JULES

Shit, I been sleepin' for six years, man.

There is a long silence...

JULES (CONT'D)

Get some rest, man. I'm gonna go.

EDDIE

Alright.

JULES begins walking off into the sunrise, as EDDIE goes into the house.

FADE TO:

SCENE 49: EXT - SIDE OF THE ROAD WITH LONNIE'S DODGE - CONTINUOUS

We see LONNIE putting the gas into the car, getting in, and driving off into the sunrise.

CUT TO:

SCENE 50: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JESSE pulls along side JULES who is walking on the side of the road. HE gets into the car with JESSE. They drive off into the sunrise.

CUT TO:

SCENE 51: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

EDDIE is asleep on the couch, as the curtains fill with light.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 52: EXT - FAMILY HOUSE - THREE MONTHS BEFORE SCENE 1 - AFTERNOON

EDDIE and LONNIE approach the house in LONNIE's Dodge.

CUT TO:

SCENE 53: INT - FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JULES is asleep on the couch. He hears a car pull up. Looks out and sees the car. He immediately begins attempting to pick up the place as best he can. The car door slams. JULES runs to the door to greet EDDIE. Opens the door.

EDDIE
Hey brother!

Pause...

JULES
Wow!

EDDIE
Wow, what? Get the hell over here!

They hug.

JULES
It's good to see you.

EDDIE
You, too.

They break the embrace, stare.

JULES
You look good. Healthy.

EDDIE

Fuck you.

JULES

So, married, huh?

EDDIE

Yeah.

JULES

Well, shit...What, like three months ago?

EDDIE

Yeah.

JULES

Damn...Well, you didn't call. I would have come if you called.

EDDIE

We didn't call anybody. She wanted to keep things hushed, I guess, didn't want to jinx it, she said.

JULES

Right on. I get that, I guess.

Pause

JULES (CONT'D)

Where's the wife?

EDDIE

Song on the radio. She wanted to finish it.

Pause

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Wish you could've been there, though. I really do.

JULES

Me too, man.

Pause

JULES (CONT'D)

So, you likin' truckin' any better than college?

EDDIE

Yeah. It's alright. Where you workin' these days?

JULES

Well, I was doin' cleanup at the hotel, but I quit that when mom and dad--

EDDIE

You still thinkin' about mechanics training, mechanic school, whatever?

JULES

Nah, I been thinkin' about hotel management, lately.

EDDIE

Hotel management?

JULES

Yeah. I've been in the business, now, so I figure, "why not?" There's always gonna' be new hotels.

EDDIE

I guess so. They ever figure out who cut mom and dad off?

JULES

Witnesses said something about a blue sedan, said they saw the truck brake, swerve, jack-knife, and tumble. Nobody got a plate number or anything, though.

EDDIE

Oh.

JULES

They say if you don't find 'em in the first week, you can pretty much forget about it.

LONNIE makes her way in the door with a pair of matching suitcases.

EDDIE

Oh, hell, let me get those, honey.

JULES

I can get 'em, if you want.

EDDIE

Nah, I got it, brother.

LONNIE
I got 'em. Thank you both.

EDDIE
Jules, this is Lonnie.

JULES
Hello, Lonnie.

LONNIE
Hello, brother-in-law.

JULES
Jules.

LONNIE
Fair enough. I thought you were the
older brother.

EDDIE
He is. Four years. You're 30, now.
Right?

JULES
It's true.

LONNIE
I'm real sorry about your folks,
Jules.

JULES
Thanks. It's kinda' weird bein' ...
I'm glad ya'll are here.

EDDIE
So are we.

LONNIE
I know things are rough for the
both of you, but I'm glad we're
doing this. Time for a fresh start.
Don't you think?

Pause

EDDIE
Hey, Lon, why don't you take the
suitcases back?

LONNIE
Where?

EDDIE
My room. Back there. It's the one
all the way down to the left.

JULES

No, actually, shit, I took that one when I moved back. You're in my old room. That's just down and across the hall...

LONNIE exits to put the suitcases away.

EDDIE

You weren't in there last time I was here.

JULES

That was two years ago, buddy.

EDDIE

Damn...I been gone that long?

JULES

Yeah.

EDDIE

Damn...you been livin' here that long?

JULES

Yeah, I guess so. Damn. Guess it was fate keeping me here, you know? To look after the house. Beer?

EDDIE

Sure.

They open beers.

JULES

Cheers.

EDDIE

To us.

They drink.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Did you read that copy of the will I sent you?

JULES

Figured I'd wait 'till after the funeral.

EDDIE

Jules, you know they made me the executor. Right?

JULES

Yeah. Sure. Makes sense, I guess. You were always the smart one.

EDDIE

Well, Jules, they left me the house.

JULES

Oh, yeah?

EDDIE

Yeah.

JULES

Well, ain't that somethin'?

EDDIE

Look, you can stay here as long as you want. But, me and Lonnie figured we'd move down here.

JULES

Really now?

EDDIE

I thought you'd have read the will by now. She don't really like Memphis, and if I'm gonna' be paying the mortgage on a house, I figured I might as well be living in it.

JULES

What about your job?

EDDIE

I drive trucks, man. I figure I can do that from anywhere.

JULES

What about your wife. She go with you?

EDDIE

Most of the time.

JULES

What's she do?

EDDIE
Just keeps me company, mostly.

JULES
Oh? What'd she used to do?

EDDIE
I found her at this strip-club
right outside of Memphis.

JULES
She's a stripper? Nice!

EDDIE
Look, man, this house thing... You
cool?

JULES
Yeah. Yeah. I'm cool.

EDDIE
If we sell it on down the road, we
can split the money up. We just
wanted to make sure that the bank
wouldn't own it.

JULES
I get it, man. It's alright.

Pause

JULES (CONT'D)
So, you married a stripper...

EDDIE
Sure did.

JULES
Nice work, little brother.

EDDIE
Learned from the best.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END