

Sunrise Moon
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FADE IN:

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EXT. ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS -- NIGHT

An establishing shot of a half-moon rising over the green forest of the Adirondack Mountains.

EXT. - PARKING LOT OF RYAN'S CANOE TRIPS -- NIGHT

Two teenagers, DAVID NOLES and HANK EISEN (aka CHUNKY) sit crouched in the bushes outside of a large corrugated metal shed. There is a single lit bulb over the hangar-type door.

HANK

We really shouldn't be doing this.

DAVID

Shut up. You're gonna get us all caught.

HANK

I mean it. I'm not going down for this.

DAVID

(teeth clenched)

I said SHUT UP.

The two boys return to their silent watch.

Hank, sweats profusely and pants like a rabid dog.

David scans the parking lot like a hungry predator.

Suddenly the light over the door goes out and they hear the unmistakable HOOT of a human being trying to sound like an owl.

DAVID

That's it. Let's go.

HANK

Aw, shit.

The two boys quickly make their way across the parking lot over to the garage door. David slides the door open and pushes Hank into the darkness.

HANK

Don't push.

DAVID

Get in and shut up. Damn, you complain more than a girl.

Once inside David turns on his flashlight and begins searching among the racks of canoes.

HANK

Aw man. I don't see any.

DAVID

They're here, relax.

David walks to the back of the shed and finds what he's looking for. A HUGE inflatable raft.

HANK

Where are you?

DAVID

Over here, stupid. Where do you think the light is coming from? Here, grab this end.

HANK

That thing is huge. We're gonna need help.

DAVID

You're gonna need medical help if you don't stop whining.

The boys half-drag, half-carry the raft into the parking lot. They stop for a moment and David lets out a low WHISTLE. In the distance, the BRAKE LIGHTS of a pickup truck come on twice.

HANK

There he is. Let's go.

DAVID

Hold on a sec. We still need the paddles.

They place the raft on the ground and retreat back into the garage. Moments later they emerge with their arms filled with paddles and life preservers. They dump the items into the raft and proceed to carry it across the parking lot to the truck. They HEAVE the raft into the back of the truck. David freezes in his tracks when he hears the unmistakable HOOT of a real owl.

HANK

That's a screech owl, you coward.

HANK

Let's get the hell out of here.

DAVID

Where the hell is Jamie?

We see JAMIE SIMS' (17) feet sticking out from the driver's door. He is under the dashboard.

JAMIE

Shit.

HANK

What's the matter?

JAMIE

The truck stalled. I can't get it restarted.

HANK

Get out of the way, you idiot.

Hank pulls Jamie from the truck and slides under the dashboard. Seconds later the truck ROARS to life.

HANK

I'm sure glad that we're not robbing banks. We'd all be in prison by now.

Hank slides to the middle of the front seat, while Jamie gets behind the wheel. David goes to the back of the truck, SLAMS the hatch closed, and the gets in the passenger side.

DAVID

Did you shut the garage door?

HANK

Me? That wasn't my responsibility.

DAVID

Do I have to remember everything?

JAMIE

Oh forget it. By the time they notice that anything is missing we'll be twenty miles down river.

HANK

Can we go now?

Jamie shifts the truck into gear and the truck lurches forward, spitting gravel as it goes.

EXT. - CAMPGROUND -- LATER

David and Hank DRAG the raft into the camping area. They are wearing their backpacks and are clearly exhausted. There is a fire burning, but there is no one around.

DAVID

Where the hell are these guys?

HANK

Oh, they're probably hiding out in the woods, waiting to sneak up on us.

DAVID

Yeah well, they're the ones who are going to be surprised.

HANK

Don't blame me. You were the one that was supposed to be in charge.

DAVID

Me?

HANK

Yeah. You.

DAVID

I thought you were the smart one.

GERALD FISCHER (aka FISH, 18, with long, light brown hair and a peach fuzz mustache) rises from a pile of leaves slightly to the left of the fire and partially hidden in the shadows. Fish is a good four or five inches taller than the rest of the boys.

FISH

What the hell happened?

David is startled and jumps back.

DAVID

Jesus! Man.

HANK

(laughing)

Looks like he scared you after all.

ROBERT FISCHER, (Bobby, 17, shorter, stockier than Gerald) Gerald's younger brother, DROPS down from his perch in a tree above the other boys. Hank JUMPS the proverbial mile.

HANK

Holy Shit!

DAVID
 (taunting)
 Looks like he scared YOU after all.

HANK
 Shut up.

BOBBY
 What did you guys do? Where's Jamie?
 Did he get caught?

HANK
 Nah, he's ditching the truck.

FISH
 So what happened? Did everything go
 ok?

DAVID
 Well, almost everything.

FISH
 What the hell does that mean?

DAVID
 See for yourself.

David overturns the raft and its contents spill out. There are seven paddles and only three life jackets.

DAVID
 The math genius forgot how to count
 at the most crucial point of his
 life.

HANK
 You told me to "pick that shit up".
 That was all the shit.

BOBBY
 Terrific.

DAVID
 Didn't it dawn on you to maybe look
 if we had everything?

HANK
 The only thing that I was worried
 about was getting out of there without
 shitting my pants.

Bobby begins SNIFFING the air near Hank.

BOBBY
 My guess is, that didn't work out
 too well either.

Jamie comes trudging into camp breathing heavily.

DAVID

How the hell did you get here so quick?

JAMIE

I ran.

HANK

You ran? It must be four miles.

JAMIE

Probably closer to five.

HANK

Jeez. We've only been here a few minutes. How the hell did you manage to...

JAMIE

Well, first of all, I'm not carrying a 60 pound raft.

DAVID

More like 80.

JAMIE

Secondly, I'm a great athlete, and you two are clods.

DAVID

Well, I was at a disadvantage.

David points his thumb towards Hank.

Hank smirks.

JAMIE

And most importantly, I took a shortcut up the mountain.

BOBBY

How the hell did you see without a flashlight?

JAMIE

Don't you know? I'm part wolf. I can see in the dark.

Fish, unpacking his backpack, pulls out a roll of TOILET PAPER and FIRES it at Jamie.

FISH

Here, god knows you'll need it cause you're so full of shit.

DAVID

What are we gonna do about this crap?

BOBBY

Well, you can take the extra paddles and shove them up your asses and use them to steer.

FISH

We'll figure it out. Here.

Fish reaches into his backpack and pulls out a SIX-PACK and tosses one to each of the boys. Jamie downs his, tosses the can into the fire and calls for another one.

HANK

Well, I'm wearing one. I can't swim too well.

DAVID

You can't count too well either.

FISH

Well, I don't need one, but my brother gets one.

DAVID

Awww. Always looking out for his baby brother.

BOBBY

I'm not his baby brother. We're the same friggin age.

HANK

Yeah. Eleven months apart. Irish twins. Mama liked being pregnant so much, she did it twice in one year.

Bobby's eyes grow wide with anger and he CHARGES at Hank to tackle him. Hank deftly steps out of the way and Bobby lands face first in the dirt.

JAMIE

Wow Chunky. I didn't know you could move like that. Maybe we should call you Twinkle Toes.

Bobby dusts himself off.

BOBBY

You're gonna be calling him deceased if he opens his mouth like that again.

FISH

Well that leaves you two clowns. Who gets it?

DAVID

Well, since I actually did the work,
I should get it.

JAMIE

Well, since you actually fucked it
up, I should get it.

DAVID

I didn't fuck it up. He did.

HANK

Don't look at me. I got my vest.

Hank puts his vest on and sits on a log.

JAMIE

Or, we could just fight for it.

DAVID

Well that would be no good. You'd
get a beating and you'd still have
no life vest.

FISH

Come on you guys, just choose.

JAMIE

All right. I got odds.

DAVID

No. I got odds. You got evens.

JAMIE

Ok. Once, twice, three shoot!

The two boys pump their fists 3 times and the each of them
puts down 2 fingers.

DAVID

FUCK!

JAMIE

Evens. Mine. Gimme that.

Jamie grabs the vest and sits by the fire.

FISH

All right, lets turn in, we got a
long day ahead of us.

JAMIE

Awww dad, can't we stay up a little
while longer?

EXT. CAMPGROUND -- LATER

Fish, Bobby and Chunky are asleep in their sleeping bags around the fire. David and Jamie are sitting on a log, stoking the fire. Each is smoking a cigarette. There is a pile of beer cans at their feet.

JAMIE

Look at those three snoring away.
What candy-asses.

DAVID

Yeah, well while they're making
breakfast, we'll probably be hungover
and puking.

JAMIE

Well, at least we won't have to do
the chores.

DAVID

Are you psyched about school?

Jamie looks down at the fire and shrugs his shoulders.

JAMIE

Ah, I'm not sure.

DAVID

You're not sure? Man, I'd give
anything to be in your shoes. I bet
your mom is excited.

JAMIE

She's just happy that I'm going to
college. I'm a little worried about
leaving her alone.

DAVID

She'll be ok.

David POKES the fire with a stick. A huge plume of sparks
flies up.

DAVID

You know, your dad would have been
real proud of you.

JAMIE

Yeah. I'm sure.

DAVID

Come on, a baseball scholarship to
Stanford? That's a lot to be proud
of.

JAMIE

Yeah, I'm sure that if he knew, he'd be down at the bar telling everyone over and over and over again. It'd be a real good cause for a celebration.

DAVID

Do you think he knows?

JAMIE

Can we talk about something else?

DAVID

Ok, ok.

David tosses the stick into the fire.

DAVID

What about Diana?

JAMIE

What about her?

DAVID

I don't know. What did she say when you told her?

JAMIE

I didn't.

DAVID

You didn't tell her?

JAMIE

No. I think Chunky did. He couldn't keep a secret if you paid him.

DAVID

So what did she say?

JAMIE

I haven't spoken to her.

DAVID

You haven't spoken to her since you found out?

JAMIE

I haven't spoken to her since SHE found out. Look, she's not my girlfriend, she likes that clown from Dayhill, what's his name?

DAVID

Anthony Bach?

JAMIE

Yeah. Him.

DAVID

Look, she likes you. She just likes the attention that he gives her. It's obvious that she rather be with you, but your just too damn stubborn.

JAMIE

You know, you're really not helping the mood tonight. I'm turning in.

Jamie drains his beer and tosses the can into the fire. He picks up his sleeping bag, unrolls it and lays down near the fire.

DAVID

Ok, good-night.

JAMIE

Good-night.

Jamie and David settle into their sleeping bags as the sounds of the woods take over.

JAMIE

Hey.

DAVID

What?

JAMIE

I really don't need the vest. You can have it if you want it.

DAVID

(laughs)

Nah, that's ok. You won it fair and square. Goodnite.

JAMIE

Goodnite.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- MORNING

Jamie, Bobby, David and Chunky are asleep around the fire. Gerald steps into view and a sinister smile creases his face. He pulls a pack of firecrackers from his pocket, lights the fuse with his cigarette and tosses them onto the ground. Seconds later they EXPLODE and chaos fills the campsite.

DAVID

Jesus. What the hell was that?

JAMIE

Are you crazy?

JAMIE
What's wrong with you?

FISH
(cackling)
Rise and shine girls.

CHUNKY
Are you trying to give me a heart
attack?

DAVID
That wasn't very smart Fish. Someone
could hear that and come nosing
around.

FISH
Who's gonna hear it? We're in the
middle of nowhere.

JAMIE
Sound travels out here moron. Smarten
up.

BOBBY
Hey, it was just a gag. Lighten up.

JAMIE
It was a dumb gag.

CHUNKY
Ok, ok. Let's calm down. No need to
kill each other.

DAVID
Yeah, lower your voices. My head is
killing me.

FISH glances at the pile of empty beer cans.

FISH
Oh, I wonder why.

BOBBY
What's for breakfast? I'm starving.

CHUNKY
I have two boxes of pop tarts, 10
granola bars, and a can of bacon.

DAVID
A can of bacon?

CHUNKY
Yeah, its in preservatives.

DAVID
Oh Jesus. I think I'm gonna be sick.

David walks away.

JAMIE
Beer and bacon. Fire up the grill!

EXT. RIVERSIDE -- LATER

The boys load their gear into the boat and cast off. David and Hank are on the left side, while Bobby and Jamie are on the right. Fish sits in the back, steering the boat.

JAMIE
Why does dad get to sit in the back and stay dry while I get soaked all day?

BOBBY
Because he's the strongest and it's his job to steer.

JAMIE
What are you? A hand puppet? You answer all the freakin questions.

DAVID
Just shut up and paddle.

The boys cruise down a long stretch of calm water before hitting their first rapid. It's a small set of waves, but they take on some water and Chunky nearly falls into the water, but David grabs him by the back of his vest and props him up.

BOBBY
Careful Chunky. We don't want to lose you on the first rapid.

FISH
Yeah, try and stick around for a while.

David moves up behind Chunky and speaks directly to him.

DAVID
Listen, try and keep your weight towards the inside of the boat. If you feel yourself leaning to the left, just pick your paddle out of the water and lean forward. Use the paddle for balance, as if it's an extension of your body.

HANK
Ok, thanks.

DAVID

And whatever you do, don't lose that
paddle.

JAMIE

Why not? We got two more.

David and Hank both give Jamie a dirty look.

EXT. ON THE RIVER -- LATER

The boys come out of one set of rapids and hit a stretch of
calm water. They begin to flow into a turn from which they
can't see the other side.

FISH

Ok, be careful. I can't see what's
up ahead.

CHUNKY

That's ok, bring it on. We're ready.

BOBBY

Don't be so cocky, fat boy.

FISH

Ok, I can see whitewater. Stay to
the left. Jamie, paddle hard.
Harder.

JAMIE

Aye, Aye captain.

The boys try to keep the boat on the left side of the river,
but the current brings them to the right.

A wave hits from the left side causing Hank to lose his
balance. David tries to grab him, but he can't hold on.

Hank falls into the river.

HANK

Help me.

DAVID

Swim Chunky, swim. Use your arms.

Hank is floundering on his back and can't seem to right
himself. He's flailing away madly. The other boys are all
paying attention to Hank and not paddling or watching the
river.

JAMIE

(screaming)

Stretch your paddle! Use your paddle!

Hank and the boat hit the next rapid at the same time and both are propelled forward. Hank disappears below the waves for a second, but comes up immediately.

HANK
(screaming, choking)
David! David, I can't breathe.

DAVID
Aw, shit.

David dives into the water without thinking. He goes below the surface but comes up a few feet from Hank.

David uses his paddle to push Hank towards the shore, but in the process pushes himself back towards the middle of the river.

Meanwhile, the boat has become unstable since all of the weight is to one side. The boat starts to lean to the right.

FISH
Jamie, shift over, shift over.

Jamie tries to move to the left, but its too late. A wave hits the left side and capsizes the boat dumping the other three boys into the water. Fish immediately grabs his brother by the back of his vest and sidestrokes his way across the river, fighting against the tide.

Jamie drifts towards the right side and smashes into a large bolder near the shore. He is dazed, but unhurt.

Hank and David are still a quite a ways from the shore. They are both holding opposite ends of the same paddle. Hank manages to crash into a rock in the shallow part of the water. He lets go of the paddle and crawls up onto the rock. David makes a desperate attempt to get to the left shore.

DAVID
Jamie. Help me!

Jamie hears his name and snaps out of his stupor. He pulls himself up to see David floundering in the water. He begins to follow the river along the shore, but he is slipping and sliding the whole time.

David manages to crash into a large boulder, back first. With his right hand, he desperately clings to the rock, but he can't get a grip.

JAMIE
David, hold on. Hold on!

Jamie is running down the shoreline trying to find a place to cross, but there is too much rough water.

Meanwhile, Fish pulls the vest off of his brother, and attempts to put it on as he too is racing down the other shoreline.

Both Hank and Bobby are on the shore, too exhausted to move.

Jamie runs out onto a rock that is just slightly below David. He lays out across the rock and tries to stretch towards David, but he is well short.

Fish almost catches up to David as he runs in the shallow part of the water near the shoreline. He stumbles and dives headfirst into the river. When he comes up he is only a few feet from David, but he is caught in a current that sends him smashing into the same boulder, chest first. Fish is able to wrap his body around the rock and tries to stretch his arms to reach David. He can't. David, too tired to hold on, loses his grip and slides back into the rapids.

DAVID

JAAMIEEEE.

JAMIE

Oh Jesus, no. David. DAVID!

Fish and Jamie watch in horror as David slips below the surface. Jamie jumps up again and runs down river, but he runs out of shoreline as the slopes of the river become too steep.

JAMIE

DAVID! DAVID!

David disappears as Jamie watches helplessly.

INT. SHERIFF'S STATION -- NIGHT

The four boys are sitting in the sherriff's station in various stages of shock.

Hank is sitting by himself wrapped in a blanket.

Jamie is crouched in a corner with his back to the wall, his eyes glazed over.

Gerald and Bobby are being consoled by their parents, Mr. and Mrs Fischer (40's). Bobby is crying audibly.

SHERIFF JEROME HALTON, (50's, graying, with a middle-aged paunch hanging over his belt) enters from the back room with a clipboard in his hand.

SHERIFF

I'm going to need someone to explain to me exactly what happened here today. Where did you boys get the raft?

HANK

We... we...

SHERIFF

Speak up, boy.

MR. FISCHER

Sheriff, haven't they been through enough today? Can't this wait?

SHERIFF

No sir. It can't wait. I have a boy missing on that river and I need to find out what happened.

JAMIE

(dazed)

We only had three vests. I had one, Bobby had one, and Hank had one. I was gonna give him mine, but he didn't want it.

BOBBY

(sobbing)

Bullshit. You weren't gonna give him nothing.

JAMIE

No, last night, I offered it to him. He said it was ok.

BOBBY

Bullshit!

MRS. FISCHER

Bobby! Be quiet. Don't say that.

HANK

He saved me. He saved my life.

The door to the sheriff's office opens and a DEPUTY escorts DAVID'S PARENTS into the room.

MRS. NOLES

My God, where is David?

SHERIFF

Ma'am. Please calm down. We're doing everything we can.

MRS. NOLES

Calm down? Where is my son?

SHERIFF

Mrs. Noles. Mr Noles. It seems that there was an accident on the river today and your son is missing.

MR. COLES

What do you mean, missing? What the hell have you boys done?

MR. FISCHER

Now wait a second Jack.

MR. COLES

No, you wait a second.

SHERIFF

Everyone, please. I know this is hard, but lets try and calm down.

The phone RINGS. A deputy answers. He finishes the call and whispers to the sheriff. The sheriff hangs his head.

SHERIFF

Mr. and Mrs. Coles. I'm terribly sorry, but we believe they found your sons' body about two miles downriver.

MRS. NOLES

Ohmigod. NO!

MR. COLES

His body? He's dead? Are you sure?

SHERRIFF

We're gonna need to you to identify him. My deputy will take you there.

All of the boys starting weeping audibly except Jamie, who stares vacantly at the ceiling.

EXT. CEMETERY -- DAY

The day is as gray and dreary. A collection of family and friends stand beside the gravesite as a priest reads the eulogy. Jamie stands off by himself. He is wearing an ill-fitting blue suit with the tie loosened and his collar unbuttoned. DIANA MORROW, (17, dark hair, attractive), breaks away from the crowd and walks over to Jamie.

DIANA

Jamie? Are you ok?

JAMIE

This isn't real. This isn't happening.

DIANA

Jamie. I... I don't know what to say.

JAMIE
Don't say anything.

DIANA
I'm sorry. I really am.

PRIEST
Heavenly father, we ask you to embrace
the soul of David Noles and to fill
the void that his untimely passing
has left in the hearts of his friends
and family. We ask this in Jesus'
name. Amen.

The crowd responds, AMEN.

JAMIE
I can't take this. I'm outta here.

DIANA
Where are you going?

JAMIE
I don't know. I gotta go.

DIANA
I'm coming with you.

JAMIE
No. You better stay here. I need
to be alone.

Jamie walks away as the crowd begins to disperse.

INT. COURTROOM -- DAY

Hank and Jamie stand at the defense table in anticipation of
the judges' orders. Each boy has his own lawyer. In the
front row of the gallery are Fish, Bobby, Hank's parents,
Diana and Jamie's mother SUZANNE, (50's).

JUDGE
Mr. Eisen. You have been found guilty
of larceny and vandalism. In light
of your age, I'm sentencing you to a
six month sentence, suspended. To
be served in full if you should run
afoul of the law. You are released
into the custody of your parents.

Hank sits down and buries his face in his hands.

JUDGE
Mr. Eisen, please remain standing.

Hank stands up again.

JUDGE

Mr. Simms. You have been found guilty of grand theft auto, grand larceny, vandalism and destruction of private property. I'm sentencing you to 18 months in a facility to be determined by the department of corrections. This case is adjourned.

Judge bangs gavel.

MRS. SIMS

No! Please, your honor. He's a good boy. Please don't take him away.

Judge bangs gavel.

MRS. SIMS

You don't understand. He's got a scholarship... to Stanford. He's going to play baseball. Please don't ruin his future.

CUT TO:

Two court officers stand at the back wall of the courtroom. They speak in hushed tones.

COURT OFFICER

He's got no future now.

CUT TO:

Jamie turns around and hugs his mother. She wraps her arms around him, unwilling to let go.

JUDGE

Mrs. Sims. Please control yourself. Bailiff, please remove Mr. Sims.

The court officer comes over to lead Jamie away. Jamie continues to hold onto his mother. The second officer comes over to assist, but Jamie begins to put up a fight.

JUDGE

Please Mr. Sims. Don't make this harder for everyone.

Jamie pushes one officer away.

The second officer comes up from behind and forces him onto the table.

Screaming and pandemonium fill the court room.

The court officers wrestle with Jamie until they can put the cuffs on him. In the struggle, a gold chain is torn from Jamie's neck. It falls to the floor. As they lead him away, one of the lawyers picks it up and attempts to hand it to Jamie's mother, but Diana puts her hand out and takes it instead.

MRS. SIMS

Jamie!

JAMIE

Mama! Don't let them take me. Mama!

Mr. and Mrs. Eisen come over to console Mrs. Sims and lead her away as the court officers haul Jamie out of the room.

FADE OUT:

INT. LIVINGROOM -- DAY

An UNKNOWN MAN (30's) enters a small, dank apartment. He drops a stack of mail onto a desk and walks into the kitchen area. Seconds later, he comes back and shuffles through the mail. We never see his face, only his hands. He stops at a white envelope and opens it. He reads the letter, then tosses it towards a wastebasket, but it hits the floor instead. He leaves the room and we hear the sound of a shower being turned on as we focus on the letter.

INSERT CARD:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE 20th REUNION of NEW ROCHELLE HIGH SCHOOL'S GRADUATING CLASS of 1982.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF NEW ROCHELLE HIGH -- NIGHT

A yellow crescent moon hangs over the facade of the high school.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF NEW ROCHELLE HIGH -- CONTINUOUS

Guests are arriving and heading into the gym. Across the front of the Gym is a huge BANNER that reads WELCOME HOME CLASS of 82.

A SOLITARY FIGURE sits in a black pickup truck facing the school.

From the outside, we see the glow of the cigarette. The figure makes no movements to leave.

INT. GYM OF NEW ROCHELLE HIGH -- MOMENTS LATER

The GYM is decorated in complete 80's motif with Miami Vice and Pat Benetar posters pasted on the walls. The gym is fairly crowded and most of the people are on the dance floor, except for 5 or 6 men who are standing at the bar.

BOBBY, (37, graying) and some unknown faces are listening to GERALD (Fish 38, tall and handsome, with a full mustache) who is holding court. The gang is now 20 years older. Their middle-aged lives are starting to show.

GERALD

So this gorilla escapes from the zoo and climbs up to the roof of this apartment building. The cops call Acme Gorilla removal, and a half hour later this guy pulls up in a van. He opens up the back door and pulls out a pair of handcuffs, a shotgun and vicious german shepherd. The cop says, "what's all that for"? The guy tells him, "I'm gonna go up on the roof and put the handcuffs on the gorilla and throw him off the roof. When he lands, the dog will bite him in the crotch so he doesn't run away. The cop asks, what's the shotgun for? And the guy hands the shotgun to the cop and says, "If by chance the gorilla throws ME off the roof.... SHOOT that fucking dog."

Laughs all around. HENRY EISEN (HANK, 37, balding), comes walking up.

HANK

Which one did I miss? The one about the boat full of lesbians?

BOBBY

Nah, it was the gorilla one.

HANK

Ohh. That one is actually pretty good.

BOBBY

Where's the wife, doc?

HANK

Powder room. I think there was one eyelash that she didn't load up with mascara.

Fish is still holding court.

GERALD

So I see this gorgeous woman on the metro-north the other day and I said, I don't mean to be rude, but would you sleep with me for a million dollars?" She looks me over and she says, "Yeah, I would."

GERALD

So I say, would you blow me for 5 bucks?" And she screams, "NO! What do you think I am?" And I said, "Lady, we've already established what you are, now we're just negotiating".

The fellas all look away uncomfortably. DIANA (Late 30's, still beautiful, but with tired eyes) is standing behind Gerald.

GERALD

What? That was funny. What's wrong with you guys?

DIANA

Normally, I would be offended by a joke like that, but coming from you...

GERALD

Oh, now I get it, the feminista was standing behind me.

DIANA

Still the charmer, I see.

GERALD

As always.

Diana offers her cheek to Fish and he kisses her.

HANK

Diana, you look ravishing.

DIANA

Thank you, Chunky. Always the gentlemen.

Hank kisses Diana on the cheek.

BOBBY

I'd like to ravish her.

DIANA

Always the foul mouthed little brother.

BOBBY

Oh, come on. You love the attention.

DIANA

Attention? Yes. Harassment. No.

FISH

Have you heard from your friend? Is he gonna show up tonight?

DIANA

I don't know. I sent an invitation to his last address, but I never got a response. His mother said she didn't know if he'd be coming home.

HANK

Jamie? Where is he living? I haven't seen him in a dog's age.

DIANA

Last I heard, he was in California.

HANK

Doing what?

DIANA

Beats me. Hey, where's your wife, I need to speak to her.

HANK

I think she's putting on a few more pounds of makeup.

EXT. PARKING LOT OF NEW ROCHELLE HIGH -- LATER

The entire gang stumbles out of the gym and heads towards their cars. Diana stops and looks towards the mysterious black pickup truck, but she continues towards her car.

INT. - SEABREEZE INN -- LATER

Fish and the gang are sitting at a table in an empty bar.

FISH

You know what we should do this year?

HANK

I'm afraid to ask.

FISH

We should leave the wives at home and go camping.

BOBBY

Notice how the guy who just got divorced wants to leave his wife at home.

HANK

How terribly convenient. Can't we just go to Hawaii, or something?

FISH

We went to Hawaii two years ago.

HANK

No, *YOU* went to Hawaii two years ago. My wife got sick, remember.

FISH

Well, you should take her. You'll have a great time.

HANK

There is no way that my wife is gonna let me gonna running off to the woods. I'm lucky she let me come out with you guys tonight. On second thought, I don't even want to go running off in the woods.

FISH

Come on. We haven't done it in years. It would be great.

BOBBY

It might actually be fun.

DIANA

I think it's a great idea.

FISH

Er... you realize that we were only talking about the men.

DIANA

Oh come on, you neanderthal. How come you guys never let the women go?

BOBBY

Well, because we don't want to hear you and Melissa complain all weekend.

DIANA

I would NOT complain.

FISH

Are you kidding me? All we need is for you to see one snake and you'd have a heart attack.

DIANA

There are snakes out there?

FISH

Yeah.

DIANA

Ok... Forget it.

HANK
That was simple.

FISH
So what do you say? Are you in?

HANK
I'll have to think about it.

BOBBY
Think about goin? Or think of an
excuse to tell your wife?

HANK
Well, both.

EXT. OUTSIDE DIANA'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Diana pulls her car up to the front of her house and goes inside. The black pickup truck arrives moments later and pulls to the opposite side of the street.

A curtain in Diana's house is drawn back. Seconds later, Diana emerges from the house and marches across the street to the pickup truck.

DIANA
You just gonna sit there and stare
at the house?

Diana gets into the truck and hugs Jamie.

INT. INSIDE JAMIE'S TRUCK -- CONTINUOUS

DIANA
How long have you been here?

JAMIE
I just pulled up a few minutes ago.

DIANA
No, I saw you pull up. I meant how
long have you been following me?

JAMIE
(laughs)
Well, I saw you leave the bar and
take Fish home, so I just wanted to
see where you were going.

DIANA
Did you think I was going home with
him?

JAMIE
I'm not sure what I thought.

DIANA

He was just drunk, I wanted to make sure he got home alright.

JAMIE

Looked like he wanted more than a ride home.

DIANA

I think he's just feeling lonely. He just got divorced.

JAMIE

Seems to be a lot of that going on in this town.

DIANA

Is that a reference to me?

Jamie looks away.

DIANA

Hey, I got married, and I got divorced. It happens. It's not like I was getting offers from anyone else.

JAMIE

You don't seem too surprised to see me.

DIANA

Well, I spoke to your mother. She hinted that you might be around, so I'm not that surprised.

JAMIE

Did you tell them?

DIANA

Tell them what?

JAMIE

That I was here.

DIANA

No.

JAMIE

Good. I'm hungry. Let's get something to eat.

DIANA

Come inside. I'll make you breakfast.

JAMIE

Nah, there's a truckstop just down the road a few miles. Let's ride over there.

DIANA

You'd rather eat at that greasy diner than have me cook for you?

JAMIE

I'm sure that you are a good cook. I just rather go to the truckstop.

DIANA

Mr. Sims, you're one strange boy. Let me go get my coat.

Diana climbs out of the truck and heads back towards the house.

JAMIE

Hey.

DIANA

What?

JAMIE

You look great.

Diana slumps her shoulders and opens her arms as if to say, "are you kidding me?" Jamie just smiles and starts the truck.

INT. TRUCKSTOP DINER -- MORNING

Jamie and Diana sit in a booth of a greasy spoon diner. Jamie is hunkered over a mound of food, while Diana nurses a cup of coffee.

DIANA

This is some nice place you've taken me to. Is this where you take all of your dates?

JAMIE

(to waitress)

Miss? Can I have some more coffee please?

DIANA

So are you going to tell me where you've been for the last two decades?

JAMIE

It hasn't been two decades. Besides, you know where I've been.

DIANA

Ah yes, I seem to remember you blowing through town once or twice in the last ten years. And of course, there were your postcards. They were very helpful in keeping tabs on you. Did you ever think about maybe, making a phone call?

JAMIE

Pass the ketchup.

DIANA

Come on Jamie. I'm trying to talk to you.

Jamie puts his fork down and looks directly at Diana.

JAMIE

Ok. I've been in San Diego for the last two years or so. Before that I was in Phoenix for about five years. Before that was, er, Chicago. I moved around a lot.

DIANA

I'll say. When were you in Mexico?

JAMIE

Wow. I forgot about Mexico. That was about 10, 12 years ago. I wasn't there very long. Couldn't handle the dysentery.

DIANA

Long enough to send a post card.

JAMIE

Well, at least I thought of you.

DIANA

I must have sent you ten letters when you were inside. You never responded once. Not once.

JAMIE

Twelve.

DIANA

What?

JAMIE

It was twelve letters.

DIANA

Well, at least I know that you got them.

JAMIE

Look, when you're inside, you don't really want to think about how well people are doing on the outside. And I really wasn't about to tell you what was going on in my life. "Dear Diana, having a great time. I only got into six fights today. The wounds from the cigarette burns are healing up nicely. Wish you were here." Cut me some slack, ok?

There is a long moment of uncomfortable silence.

JAMIE

I'm sorry.

DIANA

No, I'm sorry. I should have been a little more considerate. So what made you decide to come back?

JAMIE

The reunion.

DIANA

Then why didn't you come inside?

Jamie speaks with his mouth full as he continues to shove food down his throat.

JAMIE

When I got there, I realize how much I hated high school.

DIANA

So you sat in your car for six hours?
(beat)
Wipe your mouth, you got something there.

Diana hands Jamie a napkin, but he simply uses his hand.

JAMIE

I wanted to go at first, but I knew that Fish was going to be an asshole, Hank was going to ask too many questions, and...

DIANA

And what?

JAMIE

And I wasn't too sure how you were going to react to seeing me.

DIANA

So you waited until five in the morning?

JAMIE

Well, it took a while to make up my mind.

DIANA

I'll say.

JAMIE

Smart-ass.

DIANA

They were all asking about you.

JAMIE

I'm sure.

DIANA

No, really. They were.

JAMIE

Like who?

DIANA

Fish, Bobby, Hank, everyone. You should go see Hank. I think he'd really like that.

JAMIE

We'll see.

DIANA

You should.

JAMIE

I said, we'll see.

(to waitress)

Excuse me, can I have a piece of that apple pie, heated, with a scoop of ice cream on the side. And some more coffee. Thanks.

DIANA

Don't they have food in San Diego?

JAMIE

I'm hungry.

DIANA

I can see that.

EXT. IN JAMIE'S TRUCK, OUTSIDE OF DIANA'S HOUSE -- LATER

DIANA
Where are you staying?

JAMIE
At a friend's house.

DIANA
Who? What friend?

JAMIE
Don't worry about it.

DIANA
Don't worry about it? You're not
going to sleep in this truck. Come
inside. I have an extra room.

JAMIE
Don't worry about me. I'll be fine.

He kisses her on the forehead.

DIANA
You're one of the most stubborn people
I've ever met.

JAMIE
I know. Now go inside.

DIANA
Are you going to call Hank?

JAMIE
Yes.

DIANA
You promise?

JAMIE
I said Yes.

DIANA
Are you going to call me?

Jamie fiddles with the gear shift.

JAMIE
Yeah.

DIANA
Promise?
(puts hands up)
I know, I know. You said yeah. Ok.
Good night.

Diana gets out of the car and heads up the stairs. She stops for a moment, looks back and waves. Jamie starts his truck, but watches until she enters the house.

INT. OFFICE OF DR. HANK EISEN -- DAY

Jamie enters the outer office of an immaculately clean dentist's office. A pretty, RECEPTIONIST (20's), sits behind the desk.

RECEPTIONIST

Good afternoon sir. May I help you?

JAMIE

Hi. I was wondering if I could see Dr. Eisen?

RECEPTIONIST

Is this an emergency, or just a checkup?

JAMIE

Excuse me?

RECEPTIONIST

Is this a dental emergency?

JAMIE

No, not at all. Chunky and I are old friends. I just wanted to say hello to him.

RECEPTIONIST

Chunky?

JAMIE

Sorry, Dr. Eisen.

RECEPTIONIST

(giggling)

Do you really call him Chunky?

JAMIE

Please don't tell him that I told you that.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh, don't worry. I'll keep that a secret. Until the time is right.

JAMIE

Do you think that I could see him for a few minutes?

RECPTIONIST

Well, he's in with a patient. It's a root canal, so he'll be a while. Probably an hour.

JAMIE

What about if you just called him out for a few minutes.

RECPTIONIST

If you were having a root canal, would you want your dentist having a reunion while you were sitting in the chair?

JAMIE

No, I guess not.

RECPTIONIST

Well, you can wait, or you can leave a message. What did you say your name was?

JAMIE

Jamie Sims. But don't tell him that I'm here. I'd like it to be a surprise.

RECPTIONIST

Take a seat Mr. Sims.

JAMIE

Thanks.

INT. OFFICE OF DR. HANK EISEN -- LATER

Several minutes pass by before Hank emerges from the side room.

HANK

Jenna, do you have Mrs. Reed's x-rays?

RECPTIONIST

I'll get them Doctor. By the way, there is a gentleman here, who needs to speak with you.

HANK

Is he in any pain?

RECPTIONIST

Well, he is uncomfortable. I think you'll need to see him for yourself.

HANK

Jenna, I really don't have time...

Hank walks into the waiting room and stops in his tracks when he sees Jamie.

HANK

Jesus? Jamie. Is that you?

JAMIE

I got this problem with my wisdom teeth.

HANK

You can't have wisdom teeth, you're not smart enough. C'mere.

Hank goes to hug Jamie, but Jamie stops him. Hank's lab coat has drops of blood on it.

JAMIE

Easy there. You look more like a butcher than a dentist.

HANK

Jeez, you look good. How the hell are you? When did you get in?

JAMIE

Come on, my mother didn't ask me this many questions.

HANK

Ok, listen, I've got to get back to this patient. Let's get together for dinner. How long are you going to be in town?

JAMIE

I'm not really sure.

HANK

Oh, come on. I haven't seen you in a hundred years. Meet me tonight. At Muffins. 8 O'clock.

JAMIE

Just you, ok?

HANK

Well, I don't think my wife will let me out by myself, so she's going to have to come along.

JAMIE

All right. Bring her along. I'd love to meet her.

INT. MUFFINS RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Jamie, wearing a black leather jacket and white dress shirt, walks into the restaurant and spies Hank and his wife MELISSA, (40's, plump, attractive) sitting at a table. He hesitates before going over to the table.

HANK

Hey. You made it. I was getting worried that you wouldn't show.

JAMIE

Ah, just a little car trouble.

HANK

Jamie, I'd like you to meet my wife, Melissa.

MELISSA

Hi Jamie.

JAMIE

Hi Melissa, it's nice to meet you.
(to Hank)
You've done all right for yourself on all accounts, haven't you Doc?

Hank grabs his wife's hand and smiles.

HANK

Yeah, I have been lucky.

MELISSA

It's very nice to meet you. I've heard a lot about you.

JAMIE

Really? I'm almost afraid to ask.

Jamie pulls up a chair and sits down.

MELISSA

No. Don't worry. It's all been good. Hank has always spoken about you in glowing terms.

JAMIE

Glowing huh? I'm not sure I like the sound of that. So how did you guys meet?

HANK

Mel was a patient of mine. She needed an emergency root canal.

JAMIE

Really? So I guess it was love...

HANK

At first bite? Yes we've heard that one before.

MELISSA

How long are you in town for?

JAMIE

I'm not sure yet. Just taking it day by day for now.

HANK

So give us the scoop, man. Where you been? What'cha been up to?

JAMIE

Well, I've been out west mostly. San Diego for the past couple of years.

Hank looks behind Jamie as someone approaches.

JAMIE

Why do I get the feeling that I shouldn't turn around.

GERALD

You should never keep your back to the door, my friend. I thought I taught you that.

Gerald and Bobby walk up to the table. Jamie is slightly uncomfortable, but he tries to hide it.

JAMIE

Well, well, well. If it isn't the Brothers Grimm.

BOBBY

Look at what the wind blew in. Didn't they stop you at the town line?

JAMIE

I came in through the back door.

Jamie gets up and exchanges uncomfortable hugs with Gerald and Bobby.

GERALD

So what have you been up to kid? What brings you to town?

BOBBY

Yeah, you should have gotten here Saturday. The reunion was a blast.

HANK

How would you know? You were too bombed to remember anything.

BOBBY

Gerald told me. He said I had a great time.

Gerald and Bobby pull up chairs and sit down.

INT. SEABREEZE INN -- LATER

HANK

(to Melissa)

Excuse me my dear, I have to visit the boys room.

JAMIE

I'll join you.

Jamie and Hank get up and leave.

INT. MEN'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

JAMIE

What the hell were you thinking man? I told you not to tell anyone.

HANK

Come on Jamie. I had to tell them. You've known them for 30 years.

JAMIE

Yeah I know, and they haven't grown up at all in those 30 years. It's like a frat party with them.

HANK

Jeez, lighten up. What's with you?

JAMIE

I don't know. I'm sorry. I'm not used to all this attention.

HANK

What attention? It's just some old friends having a few drinks.

JAMIE

Ok. But no more surprises.

HANK

Well, Diana said she might meet us later.

Jamie rolls his eyes and exits the bathroom

INT. SEABREEZE INN -- CONTINUOUS

Hank and Jamie return to the table where they see that Melissa is fuming.

GERALD

Chunk, I think I let the cat out of the bag. I slipped about the camping trip.

JAMIE

What camping trip?

MELISSA

Yes, Hank. What camping trip?

HANK

Er. Well. I...

BOBBY

The fellas were planning a camping trip. Why don't you come with us Jamie?

MELISSA

When were you planning on telling me about this?

HANK

Well, I...

MELISSA

I suppose that you were just going to leave me in the dark?

JAMIE

What the hell is this all about?

MELISSA

It seems that Hank likes to keep things secret.

HANK

(to melissa)

No, that's not it at all.

(To Jamie)

Every year, we've been taking a trip together. Usually three or four couples. Usually to someplace nice and quiet. Last year we went on a cruise. Fish here, decided that since he's no longer part of a couple, that the boys should go on a camping trip.

(to Melissa)

I suggested Hawaii.

MELISSA

I like that idea much better.

BOBBY

Come on Mel. You guys can go to Hawaii anytime. There aren't too many opportunities for us to do this. Especially with Jamie here.

JAMIE

Whoa! Who said anything about me?

HANK

Wait a second. I haven't decided anything.

(to Melissa)

That's why I didn't mention it.

GERALD

So what do you say kid? You in?

JAMIE

I just got here. I'm not sure how long I'll be staying.

MELISSA

And just when are you planning on going?

All three speak at the same time.

BOBBY

Two weeks.

GERALD

Three weeks.

HANK

4th of July.

JAMIE

Well, its good to see that you're all in agreement.

GERALD

Well, what do you say boys?

HANK

Well, if Melissa agrees and if Jamie goes, then I'll go.

GERALD

Good. How bout it Jamie? A nice peaceful weekend in the woods?

MELISSA

Wait a second.

MELISSA

I didn't decide anything.

BOBBY

Just think Mel. This is the perfect bargaining chip. Not only will he have to take you to Hawaii, but you'll be able to get pedicures TWICE a week.

GERALD

And a new dining room set.

BOBBY

And the Tiffany lamp.

GERALD

And...

Melissa is beaming.

HANK

Ok. Thank you, Abbott and Costello. You've done enough for one evening.
(To Jamie)
What do you think?

GERALD

Come on kid. It will be great. Just like old times.

JAMIE

Yeah. That's what worries me.

EXT. OUTSIDE DIANA'S HOUSE -- EVENING

Jamie's truck pulls up in front of Diana's house. He sits in the car for a moment staring at the house before he decides to get out.

EXT. DIANA'S PORCH -- CONTINUOUS

Jamie walks up and rings the doorbell. He is wearing a white dress shirt, black jeans, a black leather jacket, and hideously scuffed cowboy boots. He looks rather handsome, except for the boots. When Diana opens the door, she notices the boots immediately.

DIANA

Hi.

Jamie looks down.

JAMIE

Sorry. There are the only shoes that I brought with me. It was either these or sneakers.

DIANA
Do you own any other shoes?

JAMIE
Uh...no.

DIANA
I didn't think so.

JAMIE
You look beautiful.

DIANA
Oh please. I look like a fat, old woman.

JAMIE
You look neither fat, nor old. What can't women just accept a compliment? Why must they always shoot it down?

DIANA
We're trying to see if you're sincere. And we're waiting for that second compliment too.

JAMIE
Oh... nice shoes.

DIANA
There you go. Come in.

Diana walks into the house and Jamie follows.

INT. DIANA'S LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Jamie looks around at Diana's apartment. There are several paintings on the walls, and the entire room is a burst of color. Jamie is clearly uncomfortable as he doesn't sit down.

DIANA
Sit down. Relax.

JAMIE
I'm ok. I'm just looking at the paintings.

Diana walks into the kitchen.

DIANA (O.S.)
You like them?

JAMIE
Yeah. They're great. Especially this one.

Jamie stares at a portrait of a older woman. As he gets closer, he realizes that it's Diana, only much older.

JAMIE

Hey... that's you isn't it? Did you paint this?

Diana comes back with a beer and hands it to Jamie.

DIANA

Do you like it?

JAMIE

Did you do that? Did you paint it?

DIANA

Yeah. I did.

JAMIE

Wow. I never knew you had talent like this, I mean... this is great.

DIANA

It's my grandmother. Or at least its how I see her. I never met her. I've only seen pictures.

JAMIE

How long have you been painting?

DIANA

Since high school.

JAMIE

Really? How come I never knew?

DIANA

There was a lot you didn't know. A lot you still don't know.

JAMIE

Yeah. I can see that.

INT. RESTAURANT -- LATER

Jamie and Diana sit over a nice quiet dinner in a nearly empty restaurant.

DIANA

He's was great, at first. He was polite, courteous, sensitive. Everything a woman wants in a man.

JAMIE

Everything that I'm not?

DIANA

Are you gonna let me finish?

JAMIE

Sorry. Go on.

DIANA

He had a great job. He was a partner in a contracting business. He was handsome, intelligent, even my mother loved him.

JAMIE

Wow.

DIANA

Yeah, that's pretty amazing in itself.

JAMIE

But?

DIANA

(sighs)

But, I guess... deep down, I didn't really love him. He was the man of every woman's dreams, and I married him, but there was always something missing. I married an idea, not a person. And when he told me that he wasn't interested in having children... two years after we were married, mind you, that's when I started to lose interest. And then soon enough he did too, and he wound up having an affair with this waitress from Yonkers,

JAMIE

Jeez.

DIANA

Oh, it's not as bad as you would think. I mean, I was angry, but I wasn't terribly hurt. In a way, I was relieved. It gave me an excuse to divorce him. But then he married her, and six months later... she got pregnant.

(beat)

That hurt.

JAMIE

Yeah, but the last thing anyone should be doing is having children in a loveless marriage. Trust me, I know.

DIANA

What? Your parents? They loved each other, no?

JAMIE

Yeah, for about five minutes. Once my old man lost his job, things went downhill from there.

DIANA

I remember.

JAMIE

Yeah. Me too.

DIANA

I can't really imagine what it would have been like without both my parents.

Jamie looks down at his food.

DIANA

I'm sorry. I didn't mean it like that.

JAMIE

I know. It's not your fault.

DIANA

I mean, hell, it could have been a lot worse, think about the Noles'. Those poor people got old overnight.

JAMIE

Where are they? Do they still live in town?

DIANA

No. They stayed for about two years, then they moved up north. To Catskill, I think. My mother still talks to Mrs. Noles once in a while. Poor thing, she was never the same.

Jamie starts to speak, but then he lets the thought drift away. Diana realizes that she's touched a nerve and tries to change the subject.

DIANA

So have you decided how long you're going to stay? I'm thinking about buying this flower shop down by the shore. This old couple owns it, and they're moving to Florida and they want to sell the business.

DIANA

Maybe if you stayed, you could help me fix up the building.

JAMIE

I'm an iron worker, not a carpenter.

DIANA

I know, but I just thought that...

JAMIE

Diana, It's ok.

DIANA

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to bring up David. It just kinda came up.

Jamie shakes his head in acknowledgment.

DIANA

I'm sorry. I feel like I ruined the evening. I just wanted to change the subject.

JAMIE

It's ok. You didn't ruin anything. I'm really glad that you're having dinner with me.

DIANA

Are you sure?

JAMIE

Yes, I'm sure. I knew it was going to come up. If I was worried about it, I wouldn't have come back here. Hell, everything in this town reminds me of him. It's inevitable.

DIANA

I know.

JAMIE

And stop saying "I'm sorry".

DIANA

Ok.

At that moment, a waiter appears with their dinner.

DIANA

Great timing. Saved by the dinner bell.

INT. AT THE BAR -- NIGHT

Jamie and Diana are standing at the restaurant bar. Its quite late, there are few patrons in the bar, and a lonely piano plays in the background. Diana is feeling a bit tipsy. Jamie seems to have himself under control.

DIANA

I want to live near the ocean, so I can watch the sunrise over the water.

JAMIE

You do live near the ocean. It's about 20 minutes away.

DIANA

No silly. I mean ON the ocean. Like a beach house. With a private beach. Besides, that's not the ocean. That's just a bay. It's totally different. So tell me about California, what's living there like? When you go to the beach, do you sit backwards?

JAMIE

Backwards?

DIANA

Yeah, backwards? The sun rises in the east, so if you set up your chair to face the sun, you'll have your back to the water all day.

JAMIE

I never really noticed. I didn't spend a whole lot of time at the beach.

DIANA

(teasing)

Then what the hell good are you? I need this information and you're the only one I know that lived in California.

JAMIE

Well, why don't you go there and find out.

DIANA

Will you take me?

JAMIE

I wasn't really planning on going back anytime soon.

DIANA
So change you plans.

Jamie smiles and laughs softly.

JAMIE
Let's get out of here.

DIANA
Where are we going?

JAMIE
I don't know. Let's go for a drive.

Diana hops off of her stool and picks up her bag.

DIANA
Ok, I'm ready.

They head for the door.

EXT. JAMIE'S TRUCK -- NIGHT

Jamie drives in silence while Diana sleeps in the passenger seat, curled up in a tiny ball.

EXT. CONEY ISLAND -- MORNING

Jamie parks his truck on an empty street in Coney Island next to the Cyclone. The street is quiet and only a stray dog moves in the distance. Diana is asleep in the passenger seat. Jamie sits silently for a moment before brushing the hair from Diana's face, gently rousing her.

DIANA
Where are we?

JAMIE
Coney Island.

Diana rolls slightly to her left, not opening her eyes.

DIANA
No really. Where are we?

JAMIE
We're in Coney Island. Smell the air.

Diana opens her eyes with a start. She sits up and looks around in amazement.

DIANA
You drove all the way down here?
What for?

JAMIE

You said you wanted to go to the ocean. Well, we're here.

DIANA

I said I wanted to live by the ocean. I meant Tahiti, or Jamaica, or Malibu.

JAMIE

Well, you've made it to the next best thing. The Irish Riveria. Come on, let's walk on the boardwalk.

DIANA

Are you kidding?

Jamie shoots her a look and offers a gentle smile.

DIANA

No, I guess you're not kidding. You don't kid much, do you?

JAMIE

On occasion. But no, I'm not kidding. Let's go for a walk.

EXT. BOARDWALK -- MOMENTS LATER

Jamie and Diana walk the boardwalk with the Cyclone in the background.

JAMIE

You ever been down here?

DIANA

I don't think so. You?

JAMIE

My dad brought me down here a couple of times. He grew up around here, so every once in a while we would come down, have a few hot dogs, ride the Cyclone, and then throw up in the car on the way home.

DIANA

Sounds exciting.

JAMIE

Well, it was...at the time. Except for the puking part.

Diana stops, looks out at the water and then smiles.

DIANA

Lets go in.

JAMIE

Go in what?

DIANA

The water silly.

JAMIE

Er... no.

DIANA

Come on... it will be fun.

Diana kicks off her shoes and runs out onto the sand.

JAMIE

Wait a second. WAIT A SECOND!

Diana turns and laughs, and then takes off towards the water. Jamie shakes his head and then begins to remove his boots.

EXT. BEACH -- CONTINUOUS

Diana is at waters edge, rolling up her pants leg. Jamie is walking slowly towards the water.

JAMIE

Hey. What the hell are you doing?

DIANA

I'm putting my toes into the water.
Come on.

Jamie stops about 20 feet from the shoreline. He has an apprehensive look on his face.

DIANA

Are you coming in, or what?

Jamie shakes his head, no. Diana turns and wades up to her knees. The water flows around her and she almost loses her balance.

JAMIE

Be careful.

Diana turns and laughs at him. She runs her hand across the top of the water, attempting to splash him, but her efforts are futile. He's too far away.

DIANA

Come here, you chicken. Just get
your feet wet.

JAMIE

Nah, it looks cold.

DIANA
Its beautiful.

Diana takes another step out, the water surges up over her pants cuff. She stumbles again, but regains her balance. A worried look comes over Jamie. He drops his boots and takes a reluctant step towards the water.

JAMIE
Come on diana, Get out of there.
There could be a strong undertow.

Diana stops and looks back at Jamie. She fakes a dive into the water, but then sees how uncomfortable that Jamie is and starts to walk back towards him.

DIANA
Whats up with you? Why don't you
come in?

JAMIE
I'm not a big fan of the ocean.

DIANA
Then why did you bring me here.

JAMIE
Cause you said you liked the ocean.
I didn't realize that you were going
to go swimming.

DIANA
You came here just for me?

Jamie nods his head, yes.

DIANA
Would you do anything for me?

JAMIE
I'm not going in the water, if that's
what your going to ask.

Diana comes out of the water and walks over to Jamie.

DIANA
Would you move back home if I asked
you?

Jamie looks away for a second, then back at Diana.

JAMIE
That's asking a lot... I don't know.

Diana walks up to Jamie and kisses him, its not a open-mouthed hollywood kiss, but a tender moment between old friends. Their lips hold for a long moment, then part.

DIANA

I had a really nice time tonight.
Will you take me home? I'm really
tired.

JAMIE

Can't we go for breakfast?

DIANA

Do you ever stop eating?

JAMIE

Yeah, when I'm full.

EXT. IN JAMIE'S TRUCK, OUTSIDE OF DIANA'S HOUSE -- DAY

Jamie pulls the truck up in front of Diana's house.

DIANA

Are you going camping with those
guys?

JAMIE

I'm not sure. The idea of three
days in the woods with those two
stooges doesn't really excite me.

DIANA

Hank will be really disappointed if
you don't show.

JAMIE

Life is full of disappointments.

DIANA

Must you always be so callous?

JAMIE

I'm sorry. I'm just tired. I'll
probably go, if only to make Hank
happy.

DIANA

You promise?

JAMIE

(laughing)
No. I don't promise.

INT. HANK'S LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Hank is on the phone.

HANK

Really? You're gonna come?... Aw
Jamie that's great. Don't worry.
We're gonna have a blast.

HANK

You'll see. I'll call you later.
Ok. Bye.

Hank hangs up the phone.

HANK

MEL!

EXT. PARKING LOT OF CAMPGROUND -- MORNING

Bobby, Gerald and Hank are unloading a van filled with camping gear. Hank has far more gear than he can possibly carry.

BOBBY

Where the hell are you going? The
Yukon?

HANK

I brought everything I need. I wanted
to make sure that I don't forget
anything.

GERALD

Dude, you're not going to be able to
carry all that, and I'm not carrying
it for you.

HANK

No, don't worry. I'll get it all.

Hank looks around at his gear.

HANK

Do you think you could stash this
frying pan?

GERALD

What did I just tell you?

Bobby walks over, grabs the frying pan and ties it to the back of Hank's pack. He picks up his extra pair of boots and tosses them in the van.

BOBBY

Let's go.

GERALD

Where the hell is Jamie?

BOBBY

I knew he wouldn't show. The guy is
a flake. He's probably halfway to
Idaho by now.

HANK

No, he's gonna be here.

HANK

I talked to him yesterday. He'll be here. I think we should wait for him.

GERALD

If we wait any longer, we're gonna lose the good site. Let's get moving. He'll just have to catch up.

Gerald and Bobby hoist their packs and start moving. Hank waits for a moment and then follows. The frying pan on his backpack CLANGS with every step.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- EVENING

The sun is starting to set over the Adirondack mountains. Hank and Gerald are busy setting up camp, while Bobby wanders down to the lake for a quick swim. Bobby climbs up on a large rock and leaps into the lake. When he surfaces, he notices Jamie standing by the shoreline. Jamie is staring off into the distance, not paying attention to Bobby.

BOBBY

Hey, when did you get here?

JAMIE

A little while ago.

BOBBY

We weren't sure if you were gonna make it. Did you go into camp yet?

Jamie shakes his head no.

BOBBY

Where's your gear?

Jamie points to a small pack that is resting against a tree stump.

BOBBY

That's not a whole lot of gear. You sure you got everything?

JAMIE

I travel light.

BOBBY

Jump in man. The water is great.

Jamie shakes his head, no. He then licks his fingers and puts out the head of his cigarette. Rather than toss the butt away, he puts it in the top pocket of his jacket.

JAMIE

I'm gonna head into camp.

BOBBY

Ok, I'll catch up in a minute.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- NIGHT

The four boys sitting around the campsite nursing beers and swapping stories. Hank is sitting in a small folding stool, while Fish and Bobby are perched on cut logs. Jamie is sitting Indian style in the dirt.

GERALD

So what type of work you been doing?

JAMIE

Various things. Mostly iron work.

HANK

Really? You actually work up high?
On those skinny little beams?

JAMIE

Yeah. It's not that dangerous. Not
as bad as it looks. Most of the
buildings that I worked on weren't
that tall. The bridges were a bitch
though.

GERALD

Ever have any close calls?

JAMIE

Me? No. I did see a guy fall 40
stories once. He was just a puddle
when he hit the ground.

HANK

Jesus.

JAMIE

So what's with you guys? Anyone
have kids?

HANK

Not yet.

BOBBY

I'm not married.

HANK

Yet.

FISH

Hell, if he don't get her to an altar
soon, she's gonna kill him.

BOBBY

No.

BOBBY

I'm just waiting until the time is right.

JAMIE

How long have you been waiting?

Fish and Hank respond simultaneously.

HANK AND FISH

Four years.

JAMIE

(laughing)

Yeah, well... you can never be too sure about these things.

BOBBY

See, that's what I said. You never know what kinda skeletons are gonna pop out of the closet.

JAMIE

(to Fish)

What about you? No kids?

Fish looks away and shakes his head no.

JAMIE

Sorry, did I hit a sore spot?

FISH

Yeah. Kinda.

JAMIE

Sorry man.

FISH

It's ok.

The boys sit in silence for a moment.

FISH

Donna was six months pregnant when she lost the baby. Things kinda went sideways after that.

JAMIE

Sorry bro.

BOBBY

What about you? Any little Jamie's running around the countryside?

JAMIE

Not to my knowledge.

HANK

No one special? Never wanted to settle down?

JAMIE

Settle down? No, not really. There was one girl that I was in love with for a long time. An girl that I met in Wyoming. Indian girl, a full-blooded Sioux.

BOBBY

A squaw?

Jamie shoots a angry look at Bobby.

JAMIE

Don't use that word. It's rude.

BOBBY

Sorry, I was just trying to be funny.

JAMIE

Tust me. It ain't funny.

BOBBY

Sorry.

HANK

So, what happened?

JAMIE

I don't know. Life happens. We were living together and things were great for a while, but pretty soon... hell, I don't even remember what happened. Work ran out and I wanted to go to California and she didn't, and that was pretty much that.

The boys fall silent once again.

BOBBY

Hey. Remember the time that we snuck into the girls lockerroom and we broke into that closet next to the office.

HANK

The one where they kept all those boxes of chocolates.

JAMIE

I remember. You got so excited watching the girls in the shower that you slipped off the ladder and smashed your head into the locker.

FISH

Yeah, and what's her name, Mrs. Crabbass.

JAMIE

Mrs. Kantras.

FISH

Yeah, Crabbass, she comes whipping around the corner and runs right smack into David, and he's got chocolate all over his face...

JAMIE

And a hard-on in his pants.

FISH

And he's says... I didn't do it...

The boys fall out cackling at the memory.

HANK

Mrs Noles was horrified that her precious son was caught in the girls lockerroom. She grounded him for about a month.

BOBBY

Jeez, that kid was always into something. I don't think he ever did one thing that he didn't get caught.

JAMIE

Yeah, he was something special.

The boys fall silent again. This time the silence is deafening. It goes on for so long that it becomes painful for the boys.

FISH

Well, I think I'm gonna call it a night.

BOBBY

Yeah, me too.
(to Hank)
You turning in?

HANK

I'm gonna finish my cigar and talk to Jamie for a while.

BOBBY

Alright. See you in the morning.

HANK

Goodnite.

BOBBY

Later Jamie.

JAMIE

G'nite kid.

BOBBY

I ain't a kid.

JAMIE

You'll always be younger than me...
punk.

Bobby shoots Jamie a dirty look, then smiles.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- LATER

Hank and Jamie sit side by side watching the fire as it burns down to just coals. There is a pile of empty bottles next to them.

HANK

I'm gonna turn in, you coming?

JAMIE

Go ahead. I'm gonna sit up for a while.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- MORNING

Hank wakes up just before dawn and exits the large 6-man tent. He walks over to the campfire and notices that Jamie's bedroll is next to the fire. There is smoke coming from a small fire and the coffee pot is sitting on the grill. Hank walks over to a bush to relieve himself when he notices Jamie standing in a clearing a hundred feet away. Hank quietly moves towards Jamie.

Jamie is standing with his back towards camp. He is dressed in jeans with no shirt or footwear. For several moments he is motionless. Hank watches in awe.

Jamie then slowly raises his hands above his head and clasps his fingers. From Hanks POV we see a jailhouse tattoo on Jamie's shoulder with the letter D.J.N. 5/20/82. There are also several ugly scars on Jamie's back. Jamie then begins to move through a series of Tai chi/Karate type exercises. Jamie does this for several minutes until Hank takes a step and breaks a small branch on the ground. Jamie hears this and stops. He puts on his shirt and walks back towards Hank.

HANK

Morning.

JAMIE

You're up early.

HANK

I could say the same thing about you.

JAMIE

I like this time of the day.

HANK

What were you doing? I thought you were praying for a minute, then you started dancing.

JAMIE

(perturbed)

You could say that it was a prayer.

HANK

Where the hell did you learn to move like that?

JAMIE

Just something that I picked up along the way.

Jamie heads back towards the campsite.

HANK

Did you sleep out here?

JAMIE

Yep.

HANK

How come? Wasn't it cold?

JAMIE

You're full of questions this morning, Aren't you?

HANK

Sorry, it just seems odd.

JAMIE

I didn't want to wake you guys when I got up, so I slept out here.

HANK

Do you always get up this early?

JAMIE

I wanted to see the moon.

HANK

The what?

JAMIE

The moon. It's a sunrise moon today.

HANK

What the hell is that?

JAMIE

Well, one or two days a month, the moon comes up just before sunrise and stays out for a few hours.

HANK

What are you, an astronaut?

JAMIE

Hardly.

Jamie shakes his head and begins to roll up his sleep bag.

HANK

So what's your sudden interest in the moon?

JAMIE

It's not sudden.

HANK

Well, what is it then?

JAMIE

Must you ask so many god damn questions?

HANK

Jeez. Sorry. We can talk about root canals if you like?

Jamie laughs and then looks up at the moon which is just barely hanging over the horizon.

JAMIE

When you're on the inside... You need a place to go, so I went to the moon, so to speak. You can't really go for late night walks, so I had to figure out when the moon was going to be out in the daytime. 40 months gives you plenty of time to figure that out.

HANK

40 months? I thought you got 18.

JAMIE

Yeah well, it was supposed to be 18, but things changed along the way.

HANK

Your mom said that you got out and moved to the west coast. She never said anything about 40 months. Hell, that's over 3 years.

JAMIE

I know.

HANK

What the hell happened?

Jamie starts to speak when Bobby exits his tent.

BOBBY

Any coffee?

JAMIE

There is some water in the pot. You might have to put a flame under it. The instant is in my bag.

BOBBY

Instant?

JAMIE

You were expecting Starbucks?

BOBBY

Man, you guys sounded like two women out here. What the hell could be so interesting at this hour?

Jamie and Hank speak at the same time.

JAMIE

Women.

HANK

Baseball.

Bobby makes a face, and then goes about his business.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- LATER

The boys are awake, dressed and ready for the day. Gerald is tending to some type of climbing gear that he has removed from his pack.

HANK

What's that crap?

GERALD

It's called a spring-lock. Its for climbing.

HANK
Climbing what?

GERALD
Rocks.

HANK
Rocks?

GERALD
Yeah, I thought we'd try to scale
Giant Ledge. Its about two miles
from here.

HANK
Oh, you did, did you?

GERALD
Yeah, its not that high. Its an
amateur climb.

HANK
Well, have a nice time.

GERALD
You're not gonna come with us?

HANK
No, of course not. I'm not climbing
any mountain? I barely made it up
the trail.

GERALD
Oh come on. Its not that hard. It
will be a breeze.

BOBBY
Come on Chunky. It will help you
get some of that weight off.

HANK
I'm perfectly happy the way I am,
thank you.

GERALD
(to Jamie)
What about you?

Jamie is laying in the grass with his head on his bedroll.

JAMIE
No thanks.

GERALD
You gonna wimp out too?

JAMIE

I'm not wimping out of anything. I never planned on going climbing in the first place. Besides, I climb a hundred feet of steel every day. It's not a big thrill for me.

GERALD

This ain't no man-made structure. This is one of god's natural wonders. Come on man, live a little.

Jamie and Hank ignore Gerald's badgering.

GERALD

At least take the walk over there. It's a short hike. What the hell else are you gonna do?

HANK

I was gonna try my hand at fishing.

BOBBY

Ah... that's not gonna happen. I left your pole back in the truck. Sorry bout that.

HANK

You idiot.

BOBBY

You had too much crap. You wouldn't have been able to carry it.

JAMIE

Come on Hank, We'll walk over there with them. Watch them break their necks.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- LATER

The boys have packed up their gear for a day hike, and are ready to move out. Hank is struggling with his gear.

HANK

Where the hell are we going anyway?

GERALD

We're going to Sherman's Bluff, over near Giant Ledge.

HANK

What's Giant Ledge?

BOBBY

It's a ledge. Its really big.

HANK

Smart ass.

Hank pulls his pack on, but some of his gear falls out of the top.

HANK

Ah shit.

BOBBY

What the hell are you bringing with you now? You're only going for an afternoon hike.

HANK

I know, but I like to be prepared.

BOBBY

Always the boy scout, huh?

GERALD

He never was a boy scout.

HANK

I was too.

GERALD

You were a Cub scout. For about six weeks.

HANK

Yeah, but I learned a lot.

Laughs all around.

Jamie comes over and pulls Hank's pack off his back. He begins pulling items out of his pack and then places them back properly.

JAMIE

Yeah well, it looks like you never learned how to pack your gear.

Jamie pulls out a first aid kit and looks at it.

HANK

Hey, you never know.

Jamie puts the kit in the bottom of the pack. He pulls out a plastic bag with two CANS of Chunky soup inside. Jamie shows it to him.

HANK

If it gets cold, and you get hungry, you'll thank me.

Jamie puts the cans in the bottom of the pack and then pulls out a book. It's a copy of Jack London's "Call of the Wild." Jamie looks up with an "Are you kidding" expression.

HANK

It's my favorite book, it might come in handy.

Jamie tosses the book on the floor near Hank's tent and then pulls out another book. A "Field Guide to Wilderness Survival". Jamie leafs thru the book for a moment, then packs it away without looking at Hank for an explanation. He then puts a towel, a pair of gloves and a swiss army knife into the top pouch.

JAMIE

Go get my canteen outta my pack, will ya?

Hank walks to the other side of camp. When he comes back with the canteen, Jamie picks up the pack and places it on Hank's shoulders.

JAMIE

There, that should be better.

HANK

Thanks. Where are the other two clowns?

Jamie looks up to see that Bobby and Fish have already started walking and are several hundred yards down the trail.

JAMIE

Come on, lets go.

Hank and Jamie start on their way, with Jamie following Hank. Other than the canteen and the knife on Jamie's belt, he carries no extra gear.

EXT. ON THE TRAIL -- LATER

We see Jamie and Hank walking along the trail. Hank is sweating profusely and stops to drink from his canteen. Jamie seems unaffected and merely smiles at Hank's plight.

HANK

(huffing and puffing)
How... much...longer?

JAMIE

I'm not sure. I don't know where the hell they are taking us.

HANK

Jeez. How far have we walked?

JAMIE
(laughing)
About a half mile.

HANK
Half mile? Are you kidding? Its
got to be 2, 3 miles at least.

Hank looks at Jamie, hoping for confirmation. Jamie merely shakes his head, no.

HANK
Mile and a half?

Jamie shakes his head again.

HANK
Three quarters?

Jamie laughs, and continues to shake his head.

HANK
Are you sure?

JAMIE
Yeah. I'm sure. Come here for a
sec.

Hank takes a step, and his pack shifts uncomfortably on his shoulders. He nearly loses his balance.

HANK
Jesus.

Jamie steps behind Hank and pulls his pack off of his shoulders. He places the pack against a tree, then he takes his water bottle and pours some water down the back of Hank's neck. Hank oohs and ahhs like an orgasmic porn queen.

HANK
Oh baby. That feels good. Do me
some more.

JAMIE
Gimme a break, will ya?

Jamie takes a sip and then grabs Hank's pack and slings it onto his own shoulders. He hands his water bottle to Hank.

JAMIE
Here, hold this. Fill it up at the
next creek.

HANK
You didn't have to do that. I could
have made it.

Jamie shoots a look at Hank.

HANK
Well, thanks.

JAMIE
Don't mention it.

HANK
I won't if you won't.

Jamie laughs and starts walking up the trail.

EXT. ROCK CLIFF -- DAY

Hank and Jamie make it to the base of the rock wall. Fish and Bobby are already set up and are preparing to begin to climb the wall.

BOBBY
It's about time you guys got here.
I was afraid that you might have
turned back.

FISH
I was afraid that you guys might
have died on the trail.

JAMIE
I was afraid that you guys might
have grown up a little, but I guess
I was worried about nothing.

BOBBY
(taunting)
Are you guys coming with us? Are
you men enough to try?

FISH
Come on Sims. What about you?

JAMIE
No thanks. I'm gonna stay here with
Hank.

BOBBY
And do what? Talk about teeth?

Jamie pulls the pack off and opens up the pouch. He pulls two cans of beer from the pack and a plastic bag which contains cigars.

JAMIE
I think I'll just sit here toss back
a few brews, smoke a cigar and watch
the clouds roll by.

HANK

Jesus. When the hell did you put them in there? No wonder my pack was so damm heavy.

JAMIE

Oh relax, it's only 12 ounces... times 4.

Jamie pulls out another two cans.

FISH

Jamie. I'm surprised. You usually like a good challenge. I thought that you'd jump at the chance to beat me to the top.

JAMIE

Oh? Now it's a race too?

FISH

Well, no. I was just saying.

JAMIE

Go ahead. We'll just watch.

FISH

Well fellas. Suit yourselves. We're going up. See you in a few hours.

Jamie props the pack up against a tree and rests up against it as he watches Bobby and Fish start their climb.

EXT. BOTTOM OF ROCK CLIFF -- LATER

Thirty minutes have passed. Jamie is now laid out in the dirt with his head on a small log, while Hank sits up against the pack that Jamie previously rested on.

JAMIE

Hey guys. How's it goin'?

CUT TO:

Bobby and Fish resting on a ledge, no more than 20 feet off the ground.

BOBBY

Go fuck yourself Jamie.

FISH

It's easy to criticize while sitting on your ass.

CUT TO:

Jamie sitting up on his elbows, a smile running from ear to ear.

JAMIE

Oh, I wasn't criticizing. I was being sincere. How's it goin'?

FISH

Go fuck yourself.

BOBBY

Anytime you feel up to the challenge, come up and join us.

JAMIE

From what I can tell, you two aren't really up to the challenge either.

FISH

If you feel like showing us how it's done, please feel free...

Jamie stands up and dusts himself off and jogs towards the wall. With the deftness of a cat, he leaps up and grabs the first ledge and pulls himself up.

Jamie inches his way along the ledge until he reaches a large vertical crevice. He wedges himself in the crevice and with his back against one wall, and his hands and feet against the other, he begins to "walk" up the wall.

At the second ledge he pulls himself up and is right next to Bobby and Gerald.

Jamie is out of breath, but smiles with satisfaction.

CUT TO:

Hank stares up at Jamie in disbelief.

HANK

Holy Shit.

CUT TO:

Fish and Bobby look at each other in amazement.

FISH

Wow.

BOBBY

Beginners luck.

Jamie laughs and shakes his head.

JAMIE

Ok Sir Edmund, where to now?

BOBBY

Who the hell is Sir Edmund?

FISH

Forget it.

(To Jamie)

Are you really up for this? You've got no gear, you're wearing sneakers.

JAMIE

Am I up for this? What took you 20 minutes, took me 3. If I had started when you did, I'd be done by now.

FISH

Oh come on. Don't get carried away.

JAMIE

Ok, I won't.

Jamie puts his foot into a small nook, and begins to push himself up. Gerald begins to scale the rock from another route.

BOBBY

Be careful there. The rock looks like it might crumble.

FISH

Don't worry. It'll hold.

Fish begins his ascent and climbs rapidly up to the next ledge. He is bordering on reckless.

Jamie, still exhausted from his first climb, struggles as he climbs, but makes progress. Jamie's foot slips on some loose rock and sends a cascade of pebbles down onto Bobby.

BOBBY

Watch it Asshole. That's why they shouldn't let amateurs climb.

JAMIE

Oh, and you're the expert, I assume.

EXT. ROCK WALL -- LATER

Gerald has passed Jamie and is slowly but steadily making his way to the top, but the path that he has chosen has left him with few options to move upward. The next handhold is slightly above his reach and he is obviously getting tired. He stops for a moment to ponder his next move.

JAMIE

I wouldn't go that way Fish. That's a tough move.

FISH

Oh sure, you just want me to come down so you can beat me. Right?

JAMIE

Come on man. This isn't a race.

FISH

Oh really?

JAMIE

Why does everything have to be a competition with you?

Fish stops for a moment, and then moves back to a more stable position. He realizes that what Jamie says is true.

BOBBY

Watch it there Gerald, the rocks are loose.

CUT TO:

Hank is at the base of the rock, looking up at the trio. Fish is the highest, some 50 or 60 feet up. Hank is muttering to himself.

HANK

Fish, why must you always be such an asshole?

CUT TO:

Gerald on the ledge. He takes a deep breath, and then starts to push himself from his toes, towards the next handhold.

He jumps... and grabs the extending rock with his right hand.

He gets a good grip and begins to pull himself up, while his feet search for a new foothold. He gets himself into a resting position and looks over and smiles at Jamie who nods and smiles back.

Suddenly, the rock below Gerald's foot gives way, and he begins to lose his balance. He has a good handhold, but his feet are dangling.

CUT TO:

Jamie rushes towards Gerald.

Bobby inches his way higher. His fingers claw at the bare rock. His fingertips are scraped and raw.

JAMIE

Hang on Fish. I'll be there in a minute. Don't move.

Panic is written all over Gerald's face.

His feet swing frantically trying to find a new foothold.

Jamie is now above Fish and moving to his right. For a moment, Fish seems to find a foothold and he begins to relax and breathe. Jamie is no more than 10 feet away, when Gerald's handhold comes loose and..

He falls.

At first he slides down the face of the rock for 10 to 15 feet, then his foot hits a small ledge and that pushes him away. Gerald flails at the air as he falls past Bobby and lands on the ground with a sickening THUD.

Gerald's left foot comes down first, catching the full force of his weight and snapping underneath him. He SCREAMS in agony as he lands.

Hank, startled for a moment, races over to Fish as Bobby and Jamie scramble down the face of the rock wall together.

EXT. BOTTOM OF ROCK CLIFF -- CONTINUOUS

Gerald lies at the bottom of the cliff. His left leg is mangled underneath him. The fall has knocked him into a semi-conscious state. Hank is the first to reach him.

HANK

Oh Jesus. Fish, can you hear me?
Fish?

Gerald does not respond. Hank scrambles for his pack and pulls out a canteen. He races back to Fish and begins to sprinkle water onto his face hoping to rouse him. As he does this, Bobby reaches the ground, followed moments later by Jamie.

BOBBY

Is he ok? Is he dead?

HANK

No, but he's hurt pretty bad.

Hank gently rolls Gerald onto his back and places the pack under his head. Gerald MOANS as Hank moves him. Hank then takes his pulse.

HANK

His heart rate is down. He might be going into shock.

BOBBY

What do we do?

JAMIE

Whatever we do, we can't move him.

HANK

Jamie's right. Moving him would be the worst thing.

Gerald's left leg is underneath his right one. Hank lifts his right leg and moves it off of the broken one. He gently tries to straighten his left leg, but Gerald SCREAMS in pain.

BOBBY

What the hell are you doing?

HANK

I'm trying to straighten the leg, that way the blood can flow into it. If the blood gets cut off, he could lose the leg.

Gerald starts to stir.

FISH

Bobby? Bobby?

BOBBY

I'm here, bro.

FISH

Take me home. I want to go home.

BOBBY

We're gonna take you home bud. We'll get you home.

Hank leans over and pours a tiny bit of water onto Gerald's lips. Gerald laps it up with his tongue. Jamie pulls Bobby and Hank off to the side.

JAMIE

What do we do?

BOBBY

Can we carry him out of here?

HANK

No way. We can't move him. That's out of the question.

Bobby is starting to panic.

BOBBY

Then what the hell do we do?

JAMIE

First of all, we all need to calm down.

BOBBY

Calm down? You calm down. That's my brother laying there.

JAMIE

I know, but screaming isn't going to help.

HANK

You two need to go for help. Leave all of your stuff here, and head down to the nearest town and call for help. Maybe the rangers can get in here.

BOBBY

Get in here how? Parachute?

HANK

I don't know how. But they'll know. They do rescues all the time.

BOBBY

No way. I'm not leaving my brother.

HANK

Listen to me. You guys are in the best shape. You can make the trek. I won't last, you know that. I'm the one who has a medical background. I'll watch after him, keep him alive. You guys get help.

JAMIE

He's right.

BOBBY

Jamie, you go.

JAMIE

Bobby, listen...

BOBBY

(screaming)
I'm not leaving!

HANK

Bobby. It's the only way. Fill these canteens, and then just take one with you. Leave the rest with me. Head back down to camp, grab a flashlight and then head for the car.

BOBBY

Back to camp? That's an hour in the other direction.

HANK

Listen. It's almost 1:30. You have five, maybe six hours of light left. You're gonna need a flashlight to navigate through the woods. If you guys get lost without a light, we'll all be fucked.

JAMIE

He's right. Come on, fill the canteens and we'll get out of here.

Jamie goes about filling the canteens as Hank begins to collect firewood. Bobby leans down and whispers to his brother.

BOBBY

Gerald. Gerald.

Gerald opens his eyes.

BOBBY

How are you doing?

GERALD

I can't feel my leg.

BOBBY

Me and Jamie are gonna take off and find help. I promise we'll be back.

GERALD

Ok. Hurry.

Bobby leans down and kisses Gerald on the forehead. He walks back over to Jamie.

BOBBY

Let's go.

EXT. WOODS -- LATER

Jamie and Bobby are rambling through the woods, almost jogging. Bobby stumbles for a moment, then regains his balance. He continues to run ahead of Jamie.

JAMIE

Hey, be careful there. Slow down.

BOBBY

We can't slow down. My brother needs help.

Jamie tries to maintain a safe pace, but Bobby is running ahead. Jamie hurries to keep up.

JAMIE

Slow down, man. You're gonna kill yourself.

Bobby doesn't respond. He just keeps running. Moments later Bobby stumbles again. This time he is running too fast and he is unable to regain his balance.

Bobby falls face first onto the path.

Jamie catches up to him and pulls him to his feet. Bobby's hands are scratched, his pants are torn at the knee, and his face is bruised.

JAMIE

Are you alright? Jesus. I told you to slow down.

BOBBY

My brother is dying back there.

JAMIE

He's not dying. He's injured, and we're going to get help. But we won't be able to get any help if one of us gets hurt too.

Bobby nods his head and continues down the path. Midway down the hill, he stops in his tracks.

JAMIE

What's the matter?

Bobby looks to his left, and then to his right.

BOBBY

We need to be going in that direction. That's the quickest way down.

JAMIE

Bad move. We don't know what's down there. We need to head back to camp and get a flashlight. We can't be moving around in the dark. The sun will be down soon and there is no moon tonight.

BOBBY

How the hell do you know that?

JAMIE

Trust me.

BOBBY

We can't keep going that way. It's another half-hour out of the way.

JAMIE

Bobby, listen to me. We need to go back to camp, and then head down. Its the best way.

BOBBY

You can go that way. I'm taking the shortcut.

JAMIE

You can't just cut through the woods. We don't have a map or a compass. We don't know what's in that direction.

Bobby doesn't listen to Jamie. He heads off down the hill.

JAMIE

Bobby. Bobby! Listen to me. Going that way is a mistake.

Bobby disappears down the hill. Jamie stands silent for a moment, then follows Bobby

EXT. BOTTOM OF ROCK CLIFF -- EVENING

The sun is starting it's descent over the mountains. Gerald appears to be resting comfortably with his head propped up on a knapsack and a jacket covering him. Hank is scurrying about the woods trying to make a camp. He drops several rocks near Gerald, startling him.

GERALD

Chunky? What are you doing?

HANK

I'm making a small fireplace. We're gonna need to keep you warm.

GERALD

How long do you think it will be before they get back?

HANK

I'm not sure, Fish. Soon, I hope.

EXT. BOTTOM OF ROCK CLIFF -- NIGHT

The sun is almost down. Hank has built a fire pit next to Gerald and there is a fire burning in it. Hank has covered Gerald's legs with leaves and pine boughs to help keep him warm. Gerald is lying with his eyes open. From off-screen we hear a ruckus and Hank breathing heavily. Hank walks into the picture dragging a long rotten log. He places it parallel to Gerald on the opposite side of the fire.

GERALD

What the hell are you doing now?

HANK

Be quiet, will ya?

GERALD

Come on. What are you doing?

HANK

I'm using this log as a kind of a shield. The heat from the fire will get reflected back to you.

GERALD

Are you kidding? You think that's gonna work?

HANK

I don't know. That's what the book says.

GERALD

What book?

Hank reaches into his pack pulls out the book. It's the Field Guide to Wilderness Survival.

HANK

This one. I've been reading it for weeks.

GERALD

Great. I'm a guinea pig for a Boy Scout merit badge.

HANK

We don't have much choice do we?

EXT. RIVERSIDE -- EVENING

Night has fallen. Jamie and Bobby are tramping through the woods with branches hitting them in the face every five feet.

JAMIE

Jesus. What the hell were we thinking? There is no way we can get through this.

BOBBY

It's too late to turn back now. We've just got to keep going.

JAMIE

Go where? We don't know where the hell we are.

BOBBY

Listen.

Jamie and Bobby fall silent for a moment. In the background, the sound of rushing water can be heard.

BOBBY

Hear that? It's the river. All we have to do is get to the river and that will lead us back to town.

JAMIE

Are you fucking kidding me? How are we supposed to navigate a river in the dark?

BOBBY

We don't have to navigate it. We just have to follow it. Come on.

EXT. RIVERSIDE -- NIGHT

Jamie and Bobby emerge from the trees and come out next to the river.

JAMIE

Now what?

Bobby casts a cautious eye up and down the river. The water doesn't appear to be deep, but it's moving fairly quickly.

BOBBY

This side is too steep. I think we should cross and make our way down on the other side.

JAMIE

Cross in the dark? Are you kidding?

BOBBY

No. I'm not. Let's go.

Bobby steps into the river and the water rushes up over his feet.

He takes a few cautious steps out in knee deep water, then stumbles as he steps off a small ledge into waist deep water.

Carefully he trudges to the other side. When he steps out, he calls over to Jamie.

BOBBY

Come on man, let's go.

Jamie just stares at the water.

BOBBY

Jamie. JAMIE!

EXT. FLASHBACK:RIVERSIDE -- DAY

For a moment, we flashback to the day that David drowned. We see David getting caught in the rapids, with only his head and one arm sticking out of the water. We hear his voice instead of Bobby.

DAVID

Jamie!

Jamie snaps back to reality. He sees Bobby across the river and he charges in. When he gets to the unseen ledge, he too stumbles and wades out into the current. He begins to move downstream. A look of horror comes across Bobby's face.

BOBBY

Jamie. Jamie. Swim to shore. Swim to me.

Jamie seems entranced. He's not responding. Bobby heads back into the water to try and catch up with Jamie.

FADE OUT:

EXT. CAMPSITE -- EVENING

GERALD

Chunky? Are you there?

HANK

I'm here.

GERALD

I'm cold.

HANK

Here. I'll put my coat over you, that should help a little bit.

Hank removes his coat and places over Gerald. Hank then begins to feed the fire.

GERALD

Chunky?

HANK

Try and keep quiet.

GERALD

I'm sorry for all the times I bothered you. I was just messing around. I didn't mean it.

HANK

Shut up.

GERALD

I mean it. I'm sorry. You're a good guy. I should have treated you better when we were kids.

HANK

Well, you can start treating me better when we get back.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

We come down to the riverside. All is quiet. There is no sign or sound of Bobby and Jamie.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- MORNING

All is quiet in the woods. From a distance we can hear a dull, muted rhythmic sound. As it grows louder, we realize that it is the sound of helicopter blades.

SHOOTING FROM THE HELICOPTER. We see the forest as the helicopter flies close to the tops of the trees searching for the missing men. From over the next hill, we can see a plume of thin white smoke rising from the trees. As we move over the hill and into the valley, we see that there are actually three plumes of smoke, one thicker than the other two. As the helicopter passes over the smoke, we change P.O.V

CUT TO:

SHOOTING FROM THE CAMPSITE. We see Hank tending to the fire. He's putting a fresh branch with live pine needles on the fire. This immediately creates a large amount of smoke. As we move away, we see that Hank has actually built THREE FIRE PITS and has spent the entire night tending to the fires. As the sound of the helicopter grows louder, Hank begins to run about the campsite, excitedly. He runs past Gerald who stirs awake as he too hears the helicopter. Hank picks up a pile of fresh leaves and runs and dumps them onto the second fire. This too creates a volume of smoke. As the helicopter ROARS overhead, Hank begins jumping up and down and screaming. The SOUND of the BLADES drowns out any sound that Hank makes. The helicopter roars past the camp site and out of view. For a moment the sound of the helicopter grows quieter.

CUT TO:

SHOOTING FROM AFAR, we see that the helicopter flies past the plumes of smoke, then banks on its side and slowly makes its way back to the site.

CUT TO:

SHOOTING FROM THE GROUND. The helicopter comes back into view. It slowly moves over the campsite, hovers from a moment, and then flies 100 yards to the north where the forest is less dense. From a hovering position no more than 100 feet off the ground and no more than 40 feet over the tops of the trees, a door on the helicopter slides open and a metal wire BASKET comes out the side door attached to a steel cable. Within seconds the basket comes crashing down to the forest floor.

Seconds later a rope comes flying out the door and a RANGER comes out of the door rappelling down the rope. The moment he hits the ground, a second RANGER comes down the rope. Hank runs over to where the rangers are. Hank arrives as they are detaching the basket.

HANK

Hey!

The 1st Ranger sees Hank and nods his head as acknowledgement.

Hank points in the direction of where Gerald is. The Ranger nods his head again.

HANK

Where's Jamie?

The Ranger looks at Hank but does not respond. The sound of the copter is too loud.

HANK

Jamie? Bobby? Where are they?

The Ranger shrugs his shoulders and shakes his head. He grabs the front of the basket as his partner grabs the back and they head towards Gerald.

EXT. CAMPSITE -- MOMENTS LATER

The three men reach Gerald, and the rangers immediately begin administering medical attention.

RANGER #1

What's his name?

HANK

Fish. I mean, Gerald. His name is Gerald.

RANGER #1

Gerald. Gerald. Can you hear me?

Without opening his eyes, Gerald nods his head. The second ranger begins taking his pulse and blood pressure. The first ranger pulls a back board from the stretcher and places it next to Gerald.

RANGER #2

Gerald. We need to place this board under you so we can transport you to the hospital.

Gerald nods.

RANGER #2

When I count to three, we are going to roll you to the right and slide the board under you, ok?

Gerald nods again.

RANGER #2

(To ranger 1)

Ready? Ok Gerald, 1...2...3!

The rangers roll Gerald over and slide the board under. Gerald winces in pain.

HANK

Be careful.

RANGER #1

Sir. We need to get him out of here as soon as possible. How long has he been here?

HANK

I... er... since yesterday afternoon.

The crackle of a walkie-talkie interrupts. A seemingly unintelligible VOICE comes over the airwaves. The ranger responds.

RANGER #1

We have a white male, mid thirties, possible broken fibula and tibia. He's semi-conscious, he responds fairly well and his vitals are stable. He does exhibit some signs of shock.

The radio CRACKLES again.

RANGER #1

Roger, we'll be there in 15 minutes.

The radio goes silent as the helicopter flies back overhead and heads north.

RANGER #1

We're going to put him in the basket and head about a half-mile north. They'll pick us up there.

HANK
Is there a clearing there?

RANGER #1
No sir.

HANK
Then how will they land?

RANGER #1
They won't sir. We'll pick up the basket by cable. Then we'll put a harness around you and haul you up.

HANK
I can't do that.

RANGER #1
It's either that, or walk back down sir.

Hank looks up, then around at the forest.

RANGER #2
We're wasting time. Let's go.

The rangers place Gerald in the basket and then strap him in. They pick up the basket and get ready to hike to the clearing.

RANGER #1
Sir?

Hank looks around, unsure what to do. He grabs the rest of the gear that is lying around the site and begins to walk behind the rangers.

HANK
How the hell did you find us so quick?

The second ranger nods his head to the left.

RANGER #2
The fires sir. The pilot saw them right away. Good job, sir.

HANK
Thanks.

The three men head north.

EXT. CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

The two Rangers arrive in the clearing. Almost immediately, the helicopter arrives and hovers in the clearing about 50 feet off the ground. The two rangers hook Gerald up to the cable that descends from the helicopter.

As they are starting to hoist him up, Hank arrives, completely out of breath. Within seconds, Gerald is up in the air and lifted into the cabin of the helicopter. Seconds later the cable comes back with a harness attached.

RANGER #1

Sir. It's your turn.

Hank looks at the harness, then up at the copter. He is paralyzed with fear.

HANK

Are you sure that this will hold me?

RANGER #1

Yes sir. I've seen it lift injured horses without a problem, sir.

HANK

What if I start to slip through?

RANGER #1

Sir, we have got to go. Now!

Hank relents and slips his upper body into the harness. The Ranger gives the thumbs up and Hank is hoisted into the air. He SCREAMS the entire ride up. The ranger in the copter pulls him in, unhooks him, and tosses the harness back out the door. The pilot turns back and gives Hank a wave. Within seconds, Ranger #2 is back inside the copter. He gives the pilot the thumbs up and the copter lifts up and then takes off for home. (The entire conversation is screamed.)

HANK

Hey. What about the other guy?

RANGER #2

He stays behind. He's got to put out those fires. He'll hike down and someone will pick him up.

HANK

WHAT? Hell if I had known that, I would have stayed behind.

RANGER #2

We know sir. That's why we didn't tell you.

HANK

What happened to Bobby and Jamie?

RANGER #2

Who?

HANK

My friends? What happened to them?

RANGER #2

I don't have that information sir.

The Ranger tends to Gerald as a worried look comes over Hank's face.

INT. HOSPITAL -- DAY

Hank and Bobby are standing at Gerald's bedside. Gerald is lying with his leg in traction. He's just coming out of the anesthesia.

BOBBY

He's waking up.

GERALD

Jesus. My head is killing me. What the fuck?

HANK

Relax. They have you all doped up.

GERALD

Where's Jamie?

Gerald's eyes grow wide. He tries to sit up.

GERALD

What happened to Jamie?

HANK

Relax, everything is going to be ok.

GERALD

Bobby, is Jamie ok?

JAMIE (O.S.)

Yeah, he's ok.

Jamie walks into the hospital room. He's got a bandage over his right eye and a piece of tape across his nose. Both of his eyes are black and he's walking with a cane.

GERALD

Jesus. You look terrible.

JAMIE

You're always ready with those compliments, aren't you?

GERALD

What the hell happened? Are you ok?

JAMIE

I got to know one of those rocks, up close and personal.

JAMIE

Sort of like a bug on a windshield.

BOBBY

You did good out there in that river.
That was no picnic.

HANK

We're all proud of you.

JAMIE

Proud of me? I almost didn't make
it.

(to Fish)

How's the leg?

GERALD

I can't tell. It's numb right now.
But evidently it's pretty mashed up.
If it wasn't for Chunky here, You'd
probably be at my funeral right now.

HANK

Please. Dr. Eisen. I worked really
hard in dental school to get rid of
that damn name.

(to Jamie)

And by the way, thanks for telling
my assistant.

JAMIE

Sorry. It just slipped.

GERALD

Listen, you guys don't have to stay
here. Why don't you take off, let me
get some rest.

BOBBY

You need anything?

GERALD

Yeah. A cigar and a shot of scotch.

HANK

Forget it.

GERALD

Well, then I don't need anything.

BOBBY

All right, we'll leave you alone.
Feel better bro. I'll be back
tomorrow.

HANK

Take care Fish.

HANK

I'll bring you some candy and
magazines tomorrow.

GERALD

Thanks, chun... Hank.

(beat)

Jamie. Wait a second. I want to talk
to you.

JAMIE

Go ahead. I'll catch up to you guys.

Bobby and Hank leave.

GERALD

So how are you feeling? How's your
nose?

JAMIE

I'll be alright. How bout you?

GERALD

Listen. I just wanted to thank you
personally. I know how much it must
have took to cross that river.

JAMIE

Did Bobby tell you that I almost
choked?

GERALD

No. He told me that you dove right
in.

JAMIE

(laughs)
Bullshit.

GERALD

No. What I really wanted to tell you
is...

Gerald looks out the window for a moment.

GERALD

Well, I just wanted you to know that
it wasn't your fault.

JAMIE

It was an accident. You slipped.

GERALD

No, that's not what I meant. I meant
David. I know that you blame yourself.
It wasn't your fault.

Jamie looks at the floor.

JAMIE

I should have given him the vest.

GERALD

He wouldn't have taken it.

JAMIE

I should've made him wear it.

GERALD

Jamie. It wouldn't have mattered. It wasn't like he couldn't swim. The current was too strong.

JAMIE

I don't know about that.

GERALD

Well, I know. I was there.

JAMIE

So was I.

GERALD

I know. And now it's time that you left there and let it go.

JAMIE

Listen, why don't you save your psychobabble for someone

GERALD

Jamie! Shut up. It wasn't your fault.

Jamie breathes a huge sigh.

JAMIE

Thanks.

GERALD

I mean it. Now go catch up to those guys.

JAMIE

Thanks Fish.

GERALD

Jamie.

Jamie stops in the doorway.

GERALD

Please bring me a cigar?

JAMIE
 (laughs)
 We'll see.

EXT. CEMETERY -- DAY

A thick mist hangs low to the ground. A SOLITARY FIGURE walks slowly among the gravestones.

CUT TO:

THE GRAVESTONE

The stone reads David James Noles 1965-1982.

Jamie walks up to the grave and pauses before kneeling down at the side of the stone. He runs his fingers over the engraving, then stands back up. Diana walks up behind him.

DIANA
 Hey.

JAMIE
 Hey.

DIANA
 How come you wanted to meet me?

JAMIE
 I'm hungry. I thought we could have breakfast.

DIANA
 I meant, how come you wanted to meet me here?

JAMIE
 I...I haven't been here since the funeral.

He stares at the ground for a moment.

JAMIE
 It looks so small. Wasn't he taller than that?

DIANA
 What's the matter Jamie? What's bothering you?

JAMIE
 I don't know.

Diana steps close. She caresses his cheek.

DIANA
 Yes, you do. Tell me.

JAMIE

All this time, all these years...
the only thing I ever wonder... was
he was mad at me?

DIANA

Mad?

JAMIE

Yeah. Is he pissed that I didn't do
more to save him?

DIANA

Jamie. Don't do this to yourself.
You've been doing it for 20 years.
Let it go.

JAMIE

You can't just let it go. It's not
that easy.

DIANA

No. I don't think he's mad. I think
he knows that you did everything you
possibly could have done.

They stand in silence for a moment.

DIANA

Here.

Diana stretches out her hand to give something to Jamie.

JAMIE

What is it?

DIANA

Just take it.

Jamie opens his palm and Diana places the 4-leaf clover
medallion in it.

JAMIE

You've had this all this time?

Diana nods her head.

JAMIE

Wow.

Jamie starts to hand it back to her.

JAMIE

You should keep it.

DIANA

I want you to have it. It's yours.

JAMIE
I tell you what...

Jamie takes the medallion and places it on the top of the gravestone.

JAMIE
Why don't we just leave it here and go get some breakfast.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD OF NEW ROCHELLE HIGH -- AFTERNOON

Jamie and Hank sit in the stands watching the New Rochelle High baseball team. Jamie is transfixed with the action on the field while Hank does most of the speaking.

HANK
Well, Fish seems to be getting along ok since he got out of the hospital. He's getting around on crutches, but they say that the leg is pretty damaged. He may be in that cast for six months.

JAMIE
Uh huh...

HANK
I think he has to go back in for more surgery in a few weeks. They want to put a pin in the lower leg.

JAMIE
Hmmm...

Hank realizes that Jamie isn't paying attention.

HANK
Bobby admitted that he and Fish are lovers.

JAMIE
Uh huh....

HANK
And I sold your truck to a midget for six dollars.

JAMIE
Wha? I'm sorry. What did you say?

HANK
You asshole. You haven't heard a word I said.

JAMIE

I'm sorry man. I was paying attention to the game.

HANK

You really miss this, don't you?

JAMIE

Look at this. This coach is an idiot. He's gonna walk this guy with two out to load the bases, but meanwhile, this kid couldn't hit a beach-ball with a tennis racket. McNamara would never have done that. Where did they get this guy from?

HANK

From Westchester, I think.

JAMIE

Well, he sucks.

HANK

Well, if you're so smart, why don't you apply for the job?

JAMIE

Ha, that's a joke.

HANK

I'm serious. Apply as pitching coach or something.

JAMIE

Are you kidding? They hated me when I was a student, you think they are gonna let me teach their kids?

HANK

I don't know, but I do know that you love the game, and they need a coach. Everything else is a waste of breath.

Jamie looks out at the field, then back at Hank.

JAMIE

You're serious, aren't you?

HANK

Yes, I am.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD OF NEW ROCHELLE HIGH -- NIGHT

Darkness hangs over the empty baseball field. A tiny sliver of moon rises above the distant tree-line providing the only light.

A DARK FIGURE walks across the field and onto the pitchers mound. He carries an old leather glove, and a canvas bag filled with baseballs.

We see Jamie, as he reaches into the bag, pulls out a baseball and stands tall on the mound. He goes into a pitchers wind-up and fires the baseball into the green rubber backstop that hangs behind the plate. The pitch ends with a resounding WHUMP!

Seconds later he repeats the process. WHUMP!

WHUMP!

After twenty pitches, Jamie grabs the bag and head to the backstop to retrieve the baseballs. As he heads back to the mound we hear the faint BUZZ of electricity, followed by a FLASH of brilliant light as the overhead lights in the outfield come on.

Jamie stops in his tracks, stunned.

A BOOMING voice comes over the loudspeakers. It is Hank trying to sound like a radio announcer.

HANK (O.S.)

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.
Welcome to New Rochelle Park, where
the aging star Jamie Sims is trying
desperately to find the fountain of
youth.

Diana and Melissa sit in the stands and cheer. Bobby walks up behind them pushing Gerald who sits in a wheelchair.

GERALD

Come on Sims, you're done. Hang it
up.

Jamie spins and faces his audience. He is clearly embarrassed.

Diana and Melissa start to chant.

GIRLS

Jam-ee, Jam-ee, Jam-ee.

Bobby walks out onto the field carrying a baseball bat.

BOBBY

Come on Sims. Let's see what you got
left.

JAMIE

What the hell are you guys doing
here?

HANK (O.S.)

The grounds-keeper told us that some weirdo was out here pitching in the dark two nights last week. This town has only one weirdo like that.

JAMIE

This town has a LOT of weirdos.

BOBBY

Come on Sims. I always wanted a piece of you. Now's my chance.

JAMIE

Get out of there before you get hurt.

GERALD

What's the matter boy? You scared of my brother?

The girls start chanting again.

Jamie smiles and heads to the top of the mound.

Jamie winds up and fires a pitch that is two feet outside. Bobby just looks at it.

BOBBY

Come on chump. Can't you do better than that?

Jamie winds up and fires a pitch at Bobby. Bobby ducks and sprawls in the dirt. Jamie laughs.

The girls begin to BOO and HISS.

GERALD

We want a pitcher, not a belly-itcher.

Everyone stops and looks at Gerald. Gerald shrugs his shoulders.

Jamie winds again and fires a pitch right down the plate. Bobby takes a mighty swing, and just barely gets a piece of it, fouling the ball straight back.

BOBBY

That's what I'm talking about.

Jamie fires another one with the same result.

Jamie fires three more pitches. Bobby manages to barely make contact each time.

BOBBY

Jeez Sims. You ain't shit.

BOBBY

I haven't swung a bat in years and
I'm all over you.

JAMIE

All over me?

BOBBY

Yeah. Is that all you got?

Jamie starts his windup again, but sends a slow curve to the plate. Bobby misses badly.

BOBBY

SHIT!

Jamie winds up and does the same thing again. Bobby misses again. Bobby mutters as Jamie smiles.

Jamie winds up and does it again. Bobby is starting to get frustrated.

BOBBY

Ok, ok. Go back to the fastball. I
was doing ok with that.

JAMIE

Fastball? I haven't thrown a fastball
yet.

Jamie winds up and fires the ball at the plate. Bobby barely reacts as the ball WIZZES by him.

HANK (O.S.)

Holy Shit! I mean, wow folks, that
was fast.

Gerald and the girls are laughing on the side.

GERALD

Come on Bobby. You're supposed to be
upholding the family name. Sims,
you're just lucky that I'm
incapacitated.

JAMIE

Yeah, that's what I figured you'd
say.

Jamie winds up again and fires at the plate. Bobby is so late on the swing that the ball is by him before he starts to swing.

BOBBY

SHIT.

Hank laughs into the microphone.

BOBBY

Shut the hell up fat boy.

MELISSA

Hey, that's my husband. And he's not fat. He's plump.

Everyone laughs.

JAMIE

Ok boy. I'll give you one chance.
Make the most of it.

Jamie winds and throws a meatball over the heart of the plate. Bobby swings and hits a lazy blooper onto the outfield grass. He throws his hands in the air and begins to trot around the bases in victory.

Jamie walks over to the fence. Hank emerges from behind the stands to join the gang.

Bobby continues his trip around the bases, pumping his fist as he goes.

HANK

Seems like you still have some life left in that arm, boy.

JAMIE

I'll pay the price tomorrow.
(to Gerald)
How's the leg?

GERALD

Not bad. How bout you? How's that bump on your head?

JAMIE

No brain damage.

HANK

Yeah, nothing up there to damage.

Everyone laughs.

JAMIE

Hey, does anyone know where I might be able to find a room for rent? Or maybe a studio?

Everyone stops for a moment. The silence is deadly.

DIANA

You're staying?

HANK

You got the job?

Jamie looks down at his feet, and paws at the dirt.

JAMIE

Apparently, there is an opening for assistant coach on the team. There's no pay, so I still have to find a real job.

A big swell of excitement from the group. Hank WHOOPS loudly.

Diana rushes from the stands and kisses Jamie on the lips. Jamie steps back for a moment, embarrassed. Jamie then relents and kisses Diana back.

Bobby walks up and pats Jamie on the back.

BOBBY

Welcome home, bro.

GERALD

Yeah, let's go get a drink and celebrate.

JAMIE

I'd love to, but first...

Jamie slaps Bobby in the chest with the glove.

JAMIE

It's my turn.

Bobby starts to stutter in protest.

Jamie walks towards the plate to retrieve the bat.

BOBBY

Wait a sec, my shoulder is still sore from falling down in that river. I don't think that...

DIANA

Come on Bobby. You've got more excuses than a virgin on prom night.

Everyone stops and looks at Diana. Diana simply shrugs.

Bobby relents and heads to the mound. The girls head back into the stands and begins chanting again.

GIRLS

Jam-ee. Jam-ee.

Bobby winds up and sends a pitch towards the plate. Jamie swings and sends a rocket into the outfield.

The gang roars in approval.

Bobby sends another pitch towards the plate and then has to hit the deck and the ball comes flying back over the mound.

The gang roars even louder.

We pan back as Jamie sends another pitch into the outfield.

We continue to pull back until all we see is the sliver of moon hanging over the field and hear the sounds of the game being played below.

FADE TO BLACK.