

Nebraska
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EXT. BUSY ROAD - BILLINGS, MONTANA - DAY

A MAN in his 70s walks along an unsightly stretch of road on the outskirts of town. He passes a Sam's Club and a discount mattress store.

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

EXT. INTERSTATE 90 - DAY

The old man now walks on the median of a highway. Cars whoosh by in both directions.

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

EXT. DAVID'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

A modest structure.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - DAY

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

He gets up and opens the door to find his recent ex-girlfriend NOEL with two suitcases.

DAVID
Hi.

NOEL
Hi.

DAVID
Wow. Are you moving back in?

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

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

She thinks a moment, then steps inside, maintaining a polite distance from David.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'd like you to change your mind.

NOEL
What does that mean?

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

NOEL
I just moved out.

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

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

DAVID
Are we still having sex?

NOEL
What do you think?

DAVID
I think we are.

NOEL
And then what?

DAVID
Usually I fall asleep.

Not in the mood for a joke

NOEL
I've got to go.

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

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

The phone rings. David and Noel wait as the phone rings and
the machine eventually picks up.

KATE (ON PHONE)
 Pick up or call me back right away.
 It's your father -- there's an
 emergency.

DAVID
 Oh, shit.

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

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Hey, Morn. I'm here.

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

DAVID
 That's why I said, "Hey, Morn."

KATE (ON PHONE)
 Don't get cute with me. It's your
 father. I don't know what I'm
 going to do with him. I'm going to
 put him in a goddamned nursing home
 is what I'm going to do. I don't
 need this shit.

INT. MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL STATION - DAY

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

DAVID
 There's the man of the hour.

WOODY
 The what?

DAVID
 The man of the hour.

WOODY
 I don't know.

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

DAVID
 So you told the state troopers you
 were walking to... Nebraska?

WOODY
That's right. To get my million
dollars.

DAVID
What million dollars?

WOODY
I won a million dollars.

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

WOODY (CONT'D)
"We are now authorized to pay one
million dollars to Mr. Woodrow T.
Grant of Billings, Montana."

DAVID
Let me see.

Woody hands David the letter.

WOODY
Your mother won't take me.

DAVID
(reading)
Mega Sweepstakes Marketing. Dad,
this is a total come-on. It's a
gimmick.

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

DAVID
They're just trying to sell you
magazine subscriptions.

WOODY
It says I won.

DAVID
So mail it in. I'll help you.

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

EXT. WOODY AND KATE'S HOUSE - DAY

A small ranch-style home.

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

They go inside.

INT. WOODY AND KATE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

KATE GRANT awaits them wearing a faded floral housecoat. The house has a tired, 60s-era decor. David puts his basket in the laundry room at the far side of the kitchen.

KATE
(to Woody)
You dumb cluck. You pretty near
gave me a heart attack!

WOODY
Now just cool your jets.

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

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

WOODY
Buy a new truck.

DAVID
You can't drive.

WOODY
I'd get my license back.

DAVID
Tell me when you do so I'll know to
stay off the road.

WOODY
I need an air compressor too.

KATE
My God, are you still harping on
that?

WOODY
Ed Pegram still has mine.

KATE

That's because he's a thief.

WOODY

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

DAVID

Who's Ed Pegram?

WOODY

Guy I knew back in Hawthorne.

DAVID

When did he borrow it?

WOODY

Seventy-four.

DAVID

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

Woody thinks about this.

WOODY

That's why I need a new one.

Woody heads down the hallway.

KATE

Where you off to now?

WOODY

Lyin' down.

KATE

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

DAVID

(opening the refrigerator)

Hey, what's with this casserole?

KATE

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

INT. HOME THEATERS PLUS! - DAY

David is working with a YOUNG COUPLE inside a soundproof demo room. David and the MAN headbang to an unheard rock anthem. The woman looks bored.

Soon David leads them back into the showroom.

DAVID

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

MAN

Totally.

DAVID

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

The woman tugs on her boyfriend's arm.

MAN

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

DAVID

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

MAN

Thanks a lot.

DAVID

Excellent, Mark, Janice. Pleasure.

JANICE

Juh-neece.

DAVID

Juh-neece. Sorry.

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

OTHER EMPLOYEE

David, your mother's on line one.

EXT. WOODY AND KATE'S HOUSE - DAY

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

DAVID
Where'd they find him this time?

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

David goes into the --

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

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

ROSS
Hi, Dave.

DAVID
Ross. What's going on, Dad?

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

DAVID
I'm asking you.

WOODY
Can't get her to turn over.

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

WOODY
I'll get her runnin'.

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

WOODY
Yu betcha. Gotta get there by the
19th.

ROSS

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

Woody looks up a moment, thinking about that, then gets back
to work.

David leads his brother out of the garage.

DAVID

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

ROSS

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

DAVID

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

ROSS

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

DAVID

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

ROSS

And then it'll be some other
demented crap, like all that
infomercial stuff last year. Mom
and ■ are
just looking at reality, and you'd
better start too. A home
would be in his best interest --
which, let's face it -- is more
than he ever thought about with us.
He never gave a shit about you or
me.

They peek inside the garage. Woody remains focused on his
task.

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

ROSS
Thanks.

DAVID
First time in the chair, right?

ROSS
Kelly Ann Castillo called in sick,
so I got to fill in, yeah.
Apparently I didn't screw it up too
much, so....

DAVID
Torn Brokaw. The new Torn Brokaw of
Billings.

ROSS
I don't know about Torn Brokaw
exactly, but you know, yeah, it's
looking pretty good. I've paid my
dues.

Then from inside the garage

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

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - DAY

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

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

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

David notices the time and switches the channel.

ROSS (ON TV) Billings
Chamber of Commerce director Dee
Pomerantz says a new convention
center could bring in upwards of
five million dollars to the Magic
City...

DAVID
Shut the fuck up, Ross.

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

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

EXT. DOWNTOWN BILLINGS - DAY

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

DAVID
Dad. Dad!

WOODY
Leave me alone.

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

DAVID
Come on. Let me take you home.

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

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

Woody stops and looks at David as though maybe he's finally
getting through to him. Then Woody starts walking again.

WOODY
I'm running out of time. I got a
bus to catch.

DAVID
You don't even have a suitcase.

WOODY
I'm not stayin' there.

DAVID
I can't let you go.

WOODY
It's none of your business.

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

WOODY
Then why don't you take me?

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

WOODY
What else do you have goin' on?

David blinks, then smiles faintly. For once, his father is right.

INT. DAVID'S CAR - DAY

As David drives --

KATE (ON PHONE)
What in the hell are you doing?

DAVID
Taking Dad to Lincoln to get his
money.

KATE (ON PHONE)
There is no money!

DAVID
I realize that.

KATE (ON PHONE)
Have you lost your marbles too?
Get back here this goddamned
instant. You need to help me. I'm
the one who does all the work
around here. Your father just sits
there. He's useless. His mother
spoiled him.

DAVID
We'll just be gone a couple of days. Don't worry. We'll be back before you know it. Why don't you just try to enjoy this time alone?

KATE (ON PHONE)
What about your job?

DAVID
I told them I was sick.

KATE (ON PHONE)
Sick in the head. I'm going to tell Ross and have him call you, talk some sense into you.

DAVID
Sounds great. Bye, Mom. Dad says hi.

KATE (ON PHONE)
You tell that lunatic --

David hangs up.

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

DAVID
You can't drive.

WOODY
Why not?

DAVID
Because your license was suspended for drinking.

WOODY
I don't drink.

DAVID
Is that right?

WOODY
Just a beer now and then.

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

WOODY
(pointing)
I can sure as hell drive better
than that moron.

MONTAGE

The car heads east on Interstate 90.

A freight train travels alongside the highway. Woody stares at it.

-- The car passes weathered billboards, one announcing the South Dakota border, another advertising Mount Rushmore.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

David exits the bathroom and returns to the car to find it empty.

DAVID
Oh, shit.

INT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

David quickly searches through the GIFT STORE AREA and the CAFE before finally finding Woody at --

INT. TRUCK STOP LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

-- where Woody drinks a Coors at the bar.

DAVID
Jesus Christ, Dad, I thought you
ran away.

WOODY
What?

DAVID
I thought you might have set out
walking again.

WOODY
I was thirsty.

DAVID
Good to see you're not drinking.

WOODY
Beer ain't drinking.
(downing the rest)
Okay, let's get moving.

EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE PARKING LOT - DAY

David looks for a space in the crowded lot of the Visitors Center.

WOODY
Damn it to hell, we don't have time
for this.

DAVID
We're right here. And we have to
spend the night somewhere.

WOODY
It's just some rocks.
(pointing)
Park over there.

DAVID
That's handicapped parking.

WOODY
I said park there. I fought for
this country, and I'm half-deaf on
account of it. They gave me one of
them deals that goes on the mirror.

DAVID
Where is it?

WOODY
You put it on the mirror.

DAVID
Do you have it right now, is what
I'm asking.

WOODY
I don't know. Your mother takes it
usually.

MOMENTS LATER --

David's car is parked in the handicapped spot with a note on the windshield: "My father is handicapped. Please do not ticket."

EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE VISITORS CENTER - DAY

We follow Woody and David as they make their way wordlessly toward the viewing area and other visitors gazing in wonder.

DAVID
Wow. Dad. There it is.

The camera swings over to get a glimpse of MOUNT RUSHMORE.

WOODY
Okay. Now we seen it.

He turns around and heads back toward the parking lot. David takes a quick picture with his cellphone before following.

EXT. RAPID CITY MOTEL - NIGHT

Establishing.

INT. RAPID CITY MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Dark.

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

DAVID
Dad?

David turns on the light and jumps out of bed to find Woody face down.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Oh, Jesus.

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

WOODY
I'm all right.

David presses the towel onto Woody's forehead.

DAVID
You've been drinking.

WOODY
I'm fine. Go back to bed.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

David watches a DOCTOR dress Woody's wound.

DOCTOR
That ought to do her. All righty.
Give me a sec.

The doctor takes his chart and walks out of the office.

WOODY
Where's my teeth?

DAVID
You lost your teeth?

WOODY
Yeah.

DAVID
Did you leave them at the motel?

WOODY
No.

DAVID
The tavern?

WOODY
I wasn't in no tavern.

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

WOODY
Must have been when I fell by the
railroad tracks.

The doctor returns, speaks to David.

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

WOODY
I don't drink.

DAVID

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

WOODY

We got till Monday.

DAVID

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

WOODY

Selling record players.

(to doctor)

I won a million dollars.

DOCTOR Congratulations.

That'll just about cover a day in the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Woody lies in bed like a corpse -- eyes closed, toothless mouth slack. The TV is on.

David enters, shakes his father awake.

DAVID

So Mom talked to Uncle Ray and Aunt Martha. They're going to put us up in Hawthorne over the weekend.

WOODY

Why can't we just go to Lincoln?

DAVID

Because there's no sense in going to Lincoln over the weekend. Don't worry -- I'll get you there Monday morning. Aunt Martha said she'd invite all your brothers over and have a little get-together on Sunday. Mom's coming down on the bus, maybe Ross and Marcie too.

WOODY

I don't want to go to Hawthorne.

After a silence, they turn to the TV showing a women's softball game.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Turn it.

David finds Woody's bedside remote, then looks to WOODY'S OBESE ROOMMATE, a seemingly comatose man revealed only now.

DAVID

Excuse me. Are you watching this?
Sir? Are you watching the TV?

EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS - EARLY MORNING

Overcast.

David and Woody walk along tracks separating a TAVERN from a small commercial area, including a motel.

DAVID

Do you remember where you fell?

They keep searching. Then David brightens and picks up FALSE TEETH.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Okay, Dad, I found them. Here they are.

Woody walks over.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Oh, wait. These aren't yours.

Woody nods and keeps looking.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I was kidding. Here.

Woody takes them and opens his mouth.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Wipe them off first.

Woody brushes off the teeth and looks at them.

WOODY

These aren't mine.

DAVID

I was putting you on. They're yours.

WOODY

No, they're not.

DAVID
Sure they are. See if they fit.

Woody puts in the teeth. He looks uncomfortable and pops them back out.

WOODY
They ain't my teeth.

DAVID
They have to be.

WOODY
I should know my own teeth.

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

WOODY (CONT'D)
Of course they're my teeth. Don't be a moron.

Woody inserts his teeth and grns like a skull.

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

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

David's car passes a massive windmill farm.

EXT. ROSEBUD INDIAN RESERVATION - DAY

The car goes by.

EXT. HIGHWAY ENTERING NEBRASKA - DAY

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

INT./EXT. DAVID'S CAR- DAY

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

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

WOODY
74.99. That's high. Say, turn up
here.

DAVID
No, we should stay on 20.

WOODY
I want to show you something.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY

INSIDE THE CAR --

David is curious as Woody directs him down a desolate road.
Thick dust kicks up behind them.

WOODY
There it is. Pull'n there.

David pulls into the driveway to a LONG-ABANDONED MOTEL.
Woody gets out. David follows.

WOODY (CONT'D)
They used to have a sign with a
great big cowboy on it. Must have
been thirty foot tall.

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

WOODY (CONT'D)
When I was a boy, we always wanted
to come by and see the big cowboy.
Real big cowboy.

DAVID
Is that him?

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

WOODY
Seemed bigger then.

MONTAGE

TBD.

EXT. HAWTHORNE, NEBRASKA (POP 1730) - DAY

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

INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Woody twists around to take it all in.

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - DAY

David stops at an old two-story house with junk cars out front. AUNT MARTHA, a lively 75, comes out to greet them.

AUNT MARTHA
Well, hello there, boys.

DAVID
Hi, Aunt Martha.

She hugs them both.

WOODY
Martha.

AUNT MARTHA
Look at you, Davey. You couldn't have been more than 15 last time you were here.

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

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

WOODY
Nothing.

AUNT MARTHA
What'd you do to your head?

WOODY
Took a fall.

AUNT MARTHA
You Grant brothers sure are men of few words.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Aunt Martha leads Woody and David through a side door into the kitchen. Seated around the table are Woody's older brother RAY and David's twin layabout cousins BART and COLE, too old to be living at home.

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

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

WOODY
Nothing. How about you?

UNCLE RAY
Not much.

DAVID
Hi, Uncle Ray.

Ray nods as if not entirely sure he knows who David is.

AUNT MARTHA
You boys remember your cousin David.

DAVID
(shaking hands)
Hey, Bart. Cole.

BART AND COLE
Hi. Hey.

DAVID
Man, you guys were like ten last time we saw each other. What're you guys up to?

COLE
Not much.

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

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

UNCLE RAY
Cole here did some jail.

AUNT MARTHA
Don't bring that up.

COLE
Bitch lied through her teeth.

AUNT MARTHA
I will not allow that kind of
language in my house.
(to Woody and David)
Now, boys, you sit down. You must
be starving. I made sandwiches.

Woody and David sit as Martha opens the refrigerator.

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

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

COLE
But how long to drive total?

DAVID
Oh, couple of days, I guess.

COLE
From Billings? How far's that?

DAVID
Probably about 750 miles.

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

DAVID
It's a Suzuki.

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

DAVID
That's over 100 miles an hour.

COLE
Bart was movin'.

AUNT MARTHA
Here you go, boys. Dig in.

BART
Shit, two days from Montana.
Pucker must have been going in
reverse.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The family sit in silence in the austere parlor.

BART
Two goddamn days from Billings!
Can you beat that?

COLE
Jap car. Rice grinder.

When the laughter subsides --

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

UNCLE RAY
It's okay. It just hurts.

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

DAVID
Did you get that, Dad? Dad?

WOODY
What?

DAVID
Uncle Ray's foot hurts.

WOODY
I know.

DAVID
(to Ray)
Everything else good, though?

UNCLE RAY
Not really.

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

AUNT MARTHA

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

DAVID

Yep. Yeah, he's doing great.

AUNT MARTHA

Good for him. He was always so gifted.

DAVID

Yep.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE MAIN STREET - DAY

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

WOODY

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

DAVID

Must have changed a lot since your day.

Woody doesn't answer. He leads David across the street to --

EXT. SERVICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

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

WOODY

I used to own this garage.

DAVID

Own it? I thought the air compressor guy did.

WOODY

Ed Pegram.

DAVID

Yeah, I thought he owned it.

WOODY

We both did.

DAVID
What happened to your part?

WOODY
I sold it to him.

DAVID
For how much?

WOODY
Eight hundred dollars.

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

WOODY
That was a lot of money back then.

BIG MECHANIC
You need something?

DAVID
My dad here used to own this place.

BIG MECHANIC
Oh yeah?

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

WOODY
So what you fellas have going on
here?

SMALL MECHANIC
Oh, we just replacing the
transmission cooler lines.

WOODY
Do you know Ed Pegram?

SMALL MECHANIC
Who?

WOODY
Ed Pegram. Used to own this place
too.

They look at each other and shake their heads.

WOODY (CONT'D)
(to Small Mechanic)
You know, you're using the wrong
wrench.

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

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

WOODY
That moron was using the wrong
wrench.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

Now they walk by the SODBUSTER SALOON. Woody stops.

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

INT. SODBUSTER SALOON - DAY

Inside, Woody makes a perfunctory scan for familiar faces, then takes a seat at the bar. A perky, earthy FEMALE BARTENDER comes over.

BARTENDER
Hi, boys. What can I get you
today?

WOODY
Beer.

BARTENDER
What kind of beer you want?

WOODY
Anything's fine. Coors, if you got
it.

DAVID
I'll have a Mountain Dew.

BARTENDER
Coors and a Dew.

WOODY
Tom Varnik still own this place?

BARTENDER

Never heard of him. Must be before my time.

WOODY

(to David)

I used to know everyone in here.

DAVID

Is this where you had your first drink?

WOODY

No, Dad used to let me sip his beer.

DAVID

Oh, so I guess you kept up that fine family tradition with Ross and me.

WOODY

You liked it, as I recall.

DAVID

I was like six.

WOODY

A sip of beer isn't going to kill you when you're six. I thought you drank. Come on, have a beer. Be somebody.

DAVID

I've been trying to give it up.

WOODY

What for?

DAVID

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

WOODY

I suppose now you're okay.

The bartender sets the drinks down.

DAVID

Say, could I have a beer too?

BARTENDER

You betcha.

DAVID
Gonna drink with my dad.

LATER AT A BOOTH

David is drunk. He finishes a beer and has another on deck.
Woody seems unaffected.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Is this why you drink? So you can
feel like this?

WOODY
I don't feel anything.

DAVID
I didn't tell you that Noel moved
out.

WOODY
Who?

DAVID
Noel. You know, the girl I've been
living with for the past two years.

WOODY
Oh.

DAVID
Maybe I should have asked her to
get married. I don't know. I
just... was never sure, you know
what I mean? How do you know when
you're sure? I mean, like, how the
hell did you and Mom ever end up
getting married?

WOODY
She wanted to.

DAVID
You didn't?

WOODY
I figured what the hell.

DAVID
Were you ever sorry you married
her?

WOODY
All the time.

David sips his beer.

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

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

WOODY
We never talked about it.

DAVID
Did you talk about having kids?

WOODY
No.

DAVID
Then why did you have us?

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

DAVID
So you never actually thought about
whether you wanted kids or not?

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

DAVID
Did you ever think about leaving
her?

WOODY
I'd just end up with someone else
who gave me shit all the time.

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

WOODY
I don't drink that much.

DAVID
You're an alcoholic.

WOODY
Bullshit.

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

WOODY
You stole it too. I knew it was
you.

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

WOODY
You cost me a lot of money. You'd
never see you brother sneaking
around like that. I served my
country, I pay my taxes. It's my
right to do whatever the goddamn
hell I want.

DAVID
So I guess you do drink.

WOODY
A little.

DAVID
A lot.

WOODY
So I like to drink! So what? You
do what you want, and so do I! It
ain't your job to tell me what to
do, you little cocksucker!

Woody gets up and leaves the bar. David slaps money down.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - NIGHT

David catches up to Woody, striding down the sidewalk.

DAVID
Dad?

WOODY
What?

They look away from each other, lit dimly by the flashing
sign for the nearby BLINKER TAVERN.

DAVID
Do you really want to go back to
Ray and Martha's right now?

Woody heads toward the blinking light.

INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

They enter. Woody spots none other than ED PEGRAM sitting with some BUDDIES. David follows Woody over.

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

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

ED PEGRAM
Christ almighty,. it's Woody Grant!
How the hell are you? Fellas, this
is my old buddy Woody. Slide over,
will you?

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

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

WOODY
Pretty good.

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

WOODY
Yeah.

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

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

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

ED PEGRAM
How's that?

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

Woody nods.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

As David goes about his business, he hears cheering.

INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

David emerges from the bathroom to a boisterous, celebratory
tavern.

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

Woody beams. David stares in disbelief.

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

David's Suzuki arrives outside and parks.

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

DAVID
Come on, Dad. That's it.

WOODY
Did you see the look on their
faces?

DAVID
Yes, I saw.

WOODY
I said, did you see the look on
their faces?

They go inside and close the door behind them.

MONTAGE --

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

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY

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

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

DAVID
Morning.

As they sit --

AUNT MARTHA
Hungry?

DAVID
Yeah, but it'd be great if you have
some coff--

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

UNCLE RAY
Got a call from Don Jurak this
morning.

AUNT MARTHA
And from Peg Nagy over at the Cedar
County Record. They want to do a
big write-up on you, Woody.

UNCLE RAY
Yeah, say, you're the talk of the
town.

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

WOODY

David said not to. They going put my picture in the paper?

UNCLE RAY

Yeah, you could have told us the real reason you were coming through. We're just tickled for you.

BART

You got it on you?

COLE

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

DAVID

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

COLE

What's it like then really?

WOODY

We have to go get it.

DAVID

See, it's not exactly

WOODY

In Lincoln.

BART

Goddamn, you won the Powerball?

COLE

Show us the ticket.

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

WOODY

Nah, I didn't win anything.

UNCLE RAY

Hell, I don't blame you, Woody. I wouldn't broadcast it either. Not till I had the money in the bank.

COLE

Hey, Bart and me'll drive you to Lincoln.

BART
Sure, we could get you there in an hour.

DAVID
Lincoln's over 200 miles.

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

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

COLE
Shit yeah, must be nice.

David looks at his withered, unshaven father.

DAVID
Is it nice, Dad?

WOODY
Is what nice?

DAVID
Winning all that money.

Woody takes in all the faces looking at him.

WOODY
Yeah, it's pretty nice.

MONTAGE

Hawthorne's lone stoplight blinks and blinks.

An elderly BARBER chews a toothpick in front of his shop.

A MEXICAN FAMILY enters the Family Dollar store.

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

EXT. HAWTHORNE BUS DEPOT - DAY

It's not much of a depot, really just a bench outside a drugstore. David sits waiting with Woody. BERNIE BOWEN ambles up.

BERNIE BOWEN
Hey there, Woody. Remember me?

Woody doesn't look too sure.

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

WOODY
Pretty good.

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

WOODY
It's no big deal.

BERNIE BOWEN
No big deal? Sheesh, there's a guy living the life of Reilly. Million here, million there.

A GREYHOUND BUS makes a wide turn into the small lot.

DAVID
Dad, here's the bus.

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

MOMENTS LATER

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

KATE
You both look like hell.

WOODY
I'm fine.

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

WOODY
I haven't been drinking.

KATE

That's what you said on our first date.

(to David)

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

David takes his mother's elbow and leads her a few steps away.

DAVID

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

KATE

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

(turning)

Do you, Woody?

WOODY

Do I what?

KATE

Know what's go ng on around you.

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

KATE (CONT'D)

(to David)

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

DAVID

Martha said she'd have lunch ready.

Kate marches away. David thinks better of arguing.

EXT. HAWTHORNE CEMETERY - DAY

They walk slowly past headstones. Kate carries a bouquet of carnations.

KATE
That's Woody's mom Sara. She hated me because she wanted him to marry someone who'd milk the cows, but I said I ain't fiddlin' with no cow titties. I'm a city girl.

She drops two flowers on Sara's plot.

KATE (CONT'D)
The good lord did not do Sara any favors in the looks department. More a man's face than a woman's, really. I was pretty, so she resented me. You knew your mother was plain, right, Woody?

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

DAVID
How did she die?

KATE
Saw herself in the mirror one day!
No, cancer.
(moving on)
And there's the old Swede Olie. A good man, your grandpa. Never said much. That farm just ruined him.
(to Woody)
You're lucky I took you away from there.

Woody nods slightly as he looks at his father's leaf-covered grave. Kate drops another flower and takes a few more steps.

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

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

KATE (CONT'D)
Here's Woody's little sister Rose. She was only nineteen when she got killed in a car wreck near Wausa.
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

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

DAVID

Mom, come on.

KATE

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

DAVID

Where's your family?

KATE

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

DAVID

Jesus, Mom.

KATE

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

Woody follows David back toward the car. Kate looks at Keith's grave and pulls her dress up.

KATE (CONT'D)

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

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Kate and Martha talk while Ray and Woody sit silent.

KATE

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

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

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S PORCH - DAY

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

BART
You got any other cars?

DAVID
No, just that one.

BART
What's the engine?

DAVID
It's, uh, a four-cylinder.

BART
Yeah, but what size?

DAVID
I don't really know.

COLE
What's your brother drive?

DAVID
Who, Ross?

COLE
Yeah, what's he drive?

DAVID
Oh, he has an Isuzu Trooper, and
Marcie's got a Nissan Pathfinder.
She's always carting the kids
around.

BART
So you all got Jap cars?

DAVID
Say what you will, but they're
pretty highly rated. Ross used to
report on consumer products. Had
his own segment twice a week.

Just then a car pulls up, and a pimply HIGH SCHOOL KID
emerges with a camera.

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

COLE
 Who wants to know?

HIGH SCHOOL KID
 I was sent by Mrs. Nagy over at the
 Cedar County Record to take his
 picture.

COLE
 Come on in. He's right inside.

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

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

As the cousins let the kid inside the house, David runs
 toward his car.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

David parks his car and heads inside of the --

INT. CEDAR COUNTY RECORD - CONTINUOUS

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

DAVID
 Excuse me. Mrs. Nagy? I'm David
 Grant, Woody's son.

PEG NAGY
 Pleased to meet you. He's
 certainly the celebrity around
 here. Did Parker show up to take
 his picture?

DAVID
 Yeah, see, that's what I came to
 tell you about. Dad didn't really
 win any lottery or anything.
 (MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D) He's a little confused about something he got in the mail, and it's gotten out of hand.

PEG NAGY
So he didn't win a million dollars?
You sure?

DAVID
I'm sure.

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

DAVID
You know my dad?

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

DAVID
You mean you were Woody's girlfriend?

PEG NAGY
That's right.

DAVID
What happened?

PEG NAGY
Your mother is what happened. How is Kate?

DAVID
Fine. She's here too.

PEG NAGY
You tell her Peg Bender says hello.

DAVID
She won't slap me, will she?

PEG NAGY
Why would she? After all, she won.

David looks at her. She smiles wistfully.

PEG NAGY (CONT'D)
 Water under the bridge. Don't get me wrong, I married a wonderful man, had three children, eight grandchildren. I've got no complaints.

DAVID
 Was he drinking back then, by any chance?

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

DAVID
 I thought he was just a mechanic.

PEG NAGY
 Oh, he was. For the army planes. But he was shot down. You knew that, right?

DAVID
 Not really.

LATER --

Mrs. Nagy leafing through a bound newspaper archive from the early 1960s.

PEG NAGY
 Here it is. Woody, Verne, and Albert.

A HEADLINE reads "Grant Boys Return from the Fight" above photos of 21-year-old Woody and two of his brothers.

DAVID
 They look like kids.

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

DAVID

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

PEG NAGY

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

DAVID

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

PEG NAGY

I knew I didn't have a chance anyway.

DAVID

Why's that?

PEG NAGY

I wouldn't let him round the bases.

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

EXT. STEAKHOUSE BY THE HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Establishing. It's Karaoke night.

INT. STEAKHOUSE LOUNGE - NIGHT

David and his parents sit at a booth looking over their menus. Someone's singing at the little stage in the corner.

KATE

What're you having, old man?

WOODY

Meat loaf.

KATE

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

WOODY

They should have meat loaf.

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

The WAITRESS appears.

WAITRESS
Are we ready to order?

KATE
Oh, God, I knew it.

DAVID
Dad, do you know what you want?

WOODY
Do you have meat loaf?

Kate rolls her eyes.

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

WOODY
Chicken then.

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

WOODY
Fried.

KATE
Get the flame-broiled.
(to waitress)
He'll have the flame-broiled.

WAITRESS
And you, ma'am?

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

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

KATE
No, I want the roast beef.

DAVID
I'll have the tilapia.

Just then -- a new VOICE starts singing.

KATE
Oh, my God, that's Ed Pegram
singing.

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

She exits. They watch Ed. He's not bad -- not great, but
not bad.

DAVID
Maybe we should go ask for the
compressor.

WOODY
He'll give it back.

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

WOODY
Ah, he's all right.

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

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

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

DAVID
Mom, please don't talk about you
making boys uchafe their pants"
right before we eat.

KATE

Oh, you were always such a sensitive boy. And such a beautiful boy.

She reaches out to stroke his face.

KATE (CONT'D)

When you were a baby, people used to stop me on the street and tell me how beautiful you were -- so beautiful many people thought you were a girl. Isn't that right, Woody, that people used to stop me on the street and say how beautiful David was?

WOODY

I dunno.

Ed Pogram pauses singing to make an announcement.

ED PEGRAM

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

The other diners applaud. Woody looks confused.

DAVID

Stand up, Dad.

WOODY

What?

KATE

Don't encourage this nonsense.

DAVID

Dad, stand up. It's for you.

KATE

Just do it and get it over with.

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

ED PEGRAM

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

KATE

Okay, you ham, that's enough.

She tugs him back down into the booth.

ED PEGRAM

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

Kate thinks a moment before getting up and having her moment.
At first just polite, she soon allows herself to bask.

INT. STEAKHOUSE BATHROOM - NIGHT

David is washing his hands when Ed Pegram enters.

ED PEGRAM

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

DAVID

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

ED PEGRAM

I want you to know I think the
world of Woody. He's always been a
wonderful man.

DAVID

Thank you.

ED PEGRAM

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

DAVID

You want your \$800 back?

ED PEGRAM

Woody owes me a lot more than that.

DAVID

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

ED PEGRAM

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

DAVID

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

Ed lays an arm on David's shoulder.

ED PEGRAM

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

DAVID

Are you threatening my family?

Ed withdraws his arm and grins.

ED PEGRAM Threatening?

No, that would be wrong.

Hey, I'm the victim here.

Just food for thought. Now, if you'll excuse me, I got to take a leak real bad. You know, beer -- you just rent the stuff.

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

INT. STEAKHOUSE LOUNGE - NIGHT

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

DALE

Great to see you again, Woody. We're real happy for you.

(MORE)

DALE (CONT'D)

Buy a boat and go fishin' -- that's what I'd do.

WOODY

I just might.

KATE

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

DAVID

Hi, how are you?

KATHY

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

KATE

I keep telling him.

KATHY

Like a little prince made out of porcelain.

DAVID

Thank you.

KATHY

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

The Slaasteds leave. David sits.

DAVID

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

KATE

What did he want?

DAVID

Some of Dad's money.

KATE

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

WOODY

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

KATE
Like hell you will.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S SPARE BEDROOM - NIGHT

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

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

He lies back down and closes his eyes.

THE NEXT MORNING --

Woody -- hair wildly disheveled, face unshaven -- looks into camera.

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

David groggily comes to, coughing.

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

WOODY
Are we going to Lincoln today?

DAVID
Tomorrow.

WOODY
Why not today?

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

WOODY
Some of them are dead.

DAVID
The dead ones won't be here.

WOODY
Oh. But goddammit, if I don't get
to the money, they'll give it
someone else!

David's crawls out of bed.

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

WOODY
When?

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

WOODY
I don't know. Why?

Woody looks at the ground, then turns to leave.

WOODY (CONT'D)
That was a long time ago. What're
you bringing that up for?

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

A pro football game is on TV.

David sits watching among Woody and five of his brothers --
Ray, VERNE, CARL, CECIL, and ALBERT. A couple of other male
COUSINS are there too, but Cole and Bart are missing.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen is abuzz as the Grant wives prepare supper --
Kate, Aunt Martha, AUNT BETTY and AUNT FLO.

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

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

AUNT BETTY
That's nice.

AUNT MARTHA
They'll be back for supper.

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

AUNT MARTHA
Sex assault. Not rape.

KATE
What's the difference?

AUNT MARTHA
There's a big difference. Cole can
explain it better than I can. But
Bart don't have to be there. He's
volunteering.

AUNT FLO
Oh, that's nice.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

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

UNCLE RAY
Verne, you still drive that Chevy?

UNCLE VERNE
The what?

UNCLE RAY
The Chevy. That Impala you used to
have.

UNCLE VERNE
I never had an Impala.

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

Silence as they watch an incomplete pass.

UNCLE VERNE
I had a Buick.

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

UNCLE VERNE
I haven't had that for years.

UNCLE RAY
I thought you still had it.

David blinks in disbelief at this conversation.

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

UNCLE VERNE
,79.

UNCLE CECIL
'79. Those were good cars.

UNCLE VERNE
It was okay.

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

UNCLE VERNE
Stopped runnin'.

UNCLE RAY
Well, they'll do that.

A knock on the front door.

UNCLE RAY (CONT'D)
Come in.

David's brother Ross enters.

ROSS
Hey, everybody.

WOODY
Hi, Ross.

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

DAVID
How about Marcie and the kids?

ROSS
Dance recital. Who's playing?

COUSIN RANDY
Philadelphia and Miami.

DAVID
How long did it take you to drive?

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

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S DINING ROOM - DAY

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

COUSIN RANDY
So Uncle Woody, you talk to the newspaper yet?

WOODY
No, but they had a kid come by and take my picture.

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

AUNT FLO
What's it like being a millionaire, Woody?

WOODY
It's all right.

AUNT FLO
A million dollars. Can you beat that?

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

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

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

COLE
Nice try.

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

AUNT BETTY Trying to
keep it quiet so everybody
doesn't come after you
for a handout, huh? Good thinking.

UNCLE RAY
He's not a millionaire yet. Let's
all remember that. But tomorrow's
a different story.

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

AUNT BETTY
I'd buy a camper.

ROSS
I'm telling you there is no money.

DAVID
He's getting a truck.

WOODY
And a compressor.

UNCLE RAY
What the hell you want with a
compressor?

WOODY
I need it to paint.

AUNT BETTY
Are you still working up there,
Woody?

WOODY
No.

DAVID
He just needs to replace the
compressor Ed Pegram stole from him
years back.

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

ROSS
You think he still has it?

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

ROSS
David, we should go get it.

DAVID
Dad, you want to get your
compressor back?

WOODY
I don't care.

KATE
You boys will do no such thing.
Get yourselves shot for an old
piece of garbage.

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

ROSS
The old Grant farmhouse? Is it
still there?

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

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

DAVID
Dad, would you like to take a drive
later to see your old house?

WOODY
The old shack? What for?

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - DAY

The relatives sit on the porch. Albert sits in a chair near
the street.

ROSS
What's Uncle Albert doing?

DAVID
Watching cars go by.

They look -- there are no cars on this quiet small-town street.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Remember when they came up to visit when we were kids and he'd take a chair out in the front yard every night to watch the road?

Aunt Betty approaches, flanked by Cole, Bart and Cousin Randy.

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

ROSS AND DAVID
Yeah.

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

DAVID
What's that?

Aunt Betty seems uncomfortable, so her son takes the lead.

COUSIN RANDY
You may not know it, but Woody used to have a lot of money problems, and family members would help him out from time to time.

DAVID
(exchanging looks with Ross)
I've been hearing that a lot lately.

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

ROSS

Are you saying you want money from Woody?

COUSIN RANDY

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

AUNT BETTY

Albert and I loaned Woody quite a bit, and it wasn't like we were rich.

ROSS

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

BART

You're a fucking liar!

COLE

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

ROSS

You wanna go?

COLE

Let's do it!

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

ROSS

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

KATE

(rushing over)

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

DAVID

Aunt Betty and her henchmen here are looking for a handout.

KATE

What?

ROSS

They want Dad's winnings. They say he owes them money.

BAAT

See? There *is* money.

KATE

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

AUNT BETTY

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

KATE

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

COUSIN RANDY

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

COLE

Some recognition.

KATE

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

AUNT BETTY

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

KATE

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

COUSIN RANDY

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

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

BAAT
He ain't poor. He's rich.

KATE
Even if he was, he wouldn't give
you a blessed penny. I'd forbid
it.

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

KATE
That's enough! You listen real
good. You can all just...
(leaning in)
...go fuck yourselves!
(to Ross and David)
Boys, get your dad.

EXT. ABANDONED FARMHOUSE - DAY

Ross's car moves slowly up a dirt driveway toward a
dilapidated two-story house. The late afternoon is overcast
and windy.

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

DAVID
What do you think, old man?

WOODY
Looks about the same.

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

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

INT. ABANDONED FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The inside is stripped but for the peeling wallpaper. Still,
the floors are solid.

ROSS
Looks in pretty good shape,
considering.

WOODY
My dad built it.

DAVID
Really? You mean by himself?

WOODY
Yeah. Before I was born.

Woody walks to a downstairs bedroom and looks at it from the doorway.

WOODY (CONT'D)
This was my room.

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

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

WOODY
Sure. I was there.

ROSS
How old were you?

WOODY
Seven.

ROSS
Why'd they let him sleep with you?

WOODY
They didn't know what it was.

DAVID
You were lucky you never got it.

WOODY
I guess.

Woody tests the wooden stairway, then walks --

UPSTAIRS

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

A BEDROOM

WOODY (CONT'D)
This my parents' room. I'd get
whipped if they found me in here.
(taking it in)
Guess nobody's going to whip me
now.

He goes to a wall, flips a light switch up and down, opens a closet and peers inside.

WOODY (CONT'D)
My dad built all of this.

KATE
Olie was good with his hands, all
right. I wish our home was built
half as good as this one.

Woody walks to a window and points outside.

WOODY
The barn's still standing.

EXT. ABANDONED FARMHOUSE - DAY

Woody stands by himself at the edge of a field, lost in thought. David approaches, stands beside him.

DAVID
Seen enough?

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

Neither moves.

WOODY (CONT'D)
Over there's where I found the hail
adjuster's knife.

DAVID
What's that?

WOODY
The hail adjuster came out after a
storm.

(MORE)

WOODY (CONT'D)

Cecil and me and my dad went over there with him and he cut off some oats to check them for hail damage. But they were too damaged. Said he wouldn't pay.

DAVID

Why not?

WOODY

He said it must've been something besides hail to do that, but he just didn't want to pay.

DAVID

How could he get away with that?

WOODY

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

David is quietly taken aback by this anecdote.

DAVID

Did you ever want to farm?

WOODY

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

DAVID

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

WOODY

Wasn't ours.

DAVID

Whose was it?

WOODY

Some banker owned it. We just rented.

DAVID

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

WOODY
We had to sleep somewhere.

Woody sets out toward the car.

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

WOODY
(not turning around)
Can't do it all over. Can't do
none of it over.

Before following his father, David picks up a rock and throws
it at the house, shattering one of the few remaining windows.

INT. ROSS'S CAR - RURAL ROAD - DAY

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

KATE
There's the O'Hare farm. She's
dead. He's in a nursing home in
Valentine. One of their little
brats still lives there. That's Ed
Pegram's place on the left.

Ross hits the brakes and starts backing up.

KATE (CONT'D)
Ross, what're you doing?

Ross stops. He and David look at the house and at each
other.

DAVID
Let's do it.

ROSS
What the hell? We're right here.

KATE
What are you boys up to now?

DAVID
We're just going to talk to him.

KATE
You're asking for trouble.

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

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

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Ross parks, and he and David get out and walk to the front door. David knocks.

Moments later they head toward BARN as Woody and Kate watch from the backseat.

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

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

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

INT. ROSS'S CAR - RURAL ROAD

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

DAVID
Dad, you finally got your
compressor back.

WOODY
That's not my compressor.

DAVID
Sure it is.

Woody turns around to take a quick look at it.

WOODY
Mine doesn't look anything like
that.

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

WOODY
That wasn't Ed's barn.

ROSS
What are you talking about?

WOODY
That's the Westendorf place.

KATE
Oh, that's right.

Ross slows the car.

KATE {CONT'D}
Right, the Pegrams live over on
Locust. I got confused. Ed and
his wife Dorothy. God, what a pig
she is.

DAVID
Anything you want to say about the
Westendorfs?

KATE
No, they're good folks.

Ross looks at David and starts turning around.

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

DAVID
(to Woody)
Why didn't you tell us that wasn't
Ed's house?

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

DAVID
Have you ever seen us steal
machinery before?

WOODY
I never know what you boys are up
to.

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

WOODY
I thought you wanted it.

ROSS
Why would we want an old
compressor?

WOODY
That's what I couldn't figure out.

EXT. WESTENDORF FARMHOUSE - DAY

David and Ross lug the compressor back into the barn.
Meanwhile, another CAR comes up the driveway and stops.

GEORGE AND JEAN WESTENDORF get out.

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

GEORGE WESTENDORF
Oh, sure. How are you doing?

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

JEAN WESTENDORF
What are you doing in the back
seat?

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

JEAN WESTENDORF
Would you like to come in?

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

GEORGE WESTENDORF
Hey there, Woody. How's it going?

WOODY
Fine. How're you, George?

GEORGE WESTENDORF
Getting by. You still up there in
Montana?

WOODY
Yep.

GEORGE WESTENDORF
Billings, isn't it?

WOODY
That's right.

JEAN WESTENDORF
Still doing hair out there, Kate?

KATE
No, I let that go.

They all stare at one another.

GEORGE WESTENDORF
(slapping the car)
Well, good to see you folks.

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

She gets out, says goodbye to the Westendorfs, and climbs in
the front seat.

INT. SMALL BARN - CONTINUOUS

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

EXT. WESTENDORF FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

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

EXT. RURAL ROAD - CONTINUOUS

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

INT. ROSS'S CAR - RURAL ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Kate now sits between her boys.

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

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

MONTAGE

TBD

EXT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

Establishing.

INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

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

WOODY
What time we getting' on the road
tomorrow?

DAVID
I think nine sounds about right.

Woody nods.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You want another beer?

WOODY
I suppose.

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

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

DAVID
It was going fine.

ED PEGRAM

Woody.

WOODY

Ed.

ED PEGRAM

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

Woody pulls out his wallet.

WOODY

How much do you need? I got a
twenty.

ED PEGRAM

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

DAVID

Give him ten grand, Dad.

WOODY

I don't got it yet.

ED PEGRAM

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

Huh?

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)

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

Woody stares at the table.

DAVID

When was this?

ED PEGRAM

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

David glares at Ed as though he could hit him.

DAVID

Get the fuck away from us.

ED PEGRAM

I want that money.

DAVID

Move.

ED PEGRAM

Okay, little Davey. Have it your
way. But this is the last time Ed
plays nice.

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

EXT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

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

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

DAVID

Are you all right?

WOODY

They took my letter.

As David climbs to his feet to help his father, a truck
squeals away on the next street.

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

David guides an unsteady Woody toward the house.

DAVID
Hold on a second. Don't move.

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

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

David knocks on a Cole's door. Bart opens it. Cole watches pornography on a little TV.

BART
Oh, hey, David.

DAVID
Where is it?

BART
Where's what?

DAVID
Just give it back.

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

BART
Course not.

DAVID
Where is it?

Finally

COLE
We don't got it.

BART
Shut the fuck up, Cole.

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

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

BART (O.S.)
Fuck him.

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

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

David finds Woody seated at the kitchen table, utterly
dejected.

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

Woody doesn't move.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What's the matter?
(off Woody's silence)
You know they weren't going to give
you that money, right?

Woody can't respond, can't move. David looks at his father a
long moment.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Maybe they dropped it. Should we
go have a look?

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

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - NIGHT

David and Woody search along the street and sidewalk.

DAVID
I think it was easier to find your
teeth.

He watches his father, tireless at his task.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Come on, let's take a break.

INT. BLINKER TAVERN - NIGHT

As David and Woody enter, Ed Pegrum is standing by the bar reading the sweepstakes letter out loud.

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

Big laughter.

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

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

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

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

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

Woody slowly crosses the tavern to retrieve the letter.

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

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

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

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

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - NIGHT

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

DAVID
Are you okay?

WOODY
Yeah.

Woody starts walking again, but after a few steps stumbles, reaching out to David for support.

DAVID
Dad, what's the matter?

WOODY
Just a little dizzy.

DAVID
We'd better get you to a doctor.

WOODY
Just take me back to the house.
We're going to Lincoln tomorrow morning.

DAVID
No, we aren't.

WOODY
Yes, we are.

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

WOODY
You promised me.

DAVID
You're head's busted open, and now you can barely stand up.

WOODY
I'm still going.

DAVID
Goddamrnit! You didn't win! Can't you get that through your head? You did not win anything! We're not driving all the way to Lincoln over this fantasy of yours!

Woody slumps against a building, looks away.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It's my fault for letting it go this far. You've got enough money to get by. You can't drive. What's the point?

WOODY

I want a truck.

DAVID

Why?

WOODY

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

DAVID

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

His head still turned away

WOODY

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

DAVID

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

WOODY

I just wanted to leave you something.

David sits down next to Woody.

DAVID

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

WOODY

I guess.

DAVID

The only reason I agreed to take you to Lincoln was that I felt sorry for you. And to get you to shut up.

WOODY

All right.

DAVID
All right what?

WOODY
I'll shut up.

DAVID
What about Lincoln?

A long pause before --

WOODY
We don't have to go.

Now David notices that Woody is shaking.

DAVID
Let's get you to a doctor.

WOODY
I ain't going to another goddamn
hospital.

INT. NORFOLK HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

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

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

DAVID
They can keep him here until
tomorrow afternoon. So at least
the deadline will have passed.
Then I guess we'll just start
driving home. Probably see you
Tuesday night.

ROSS
Okay. Thanks, David. Mom and I
have to get a super-early start
tomorrow morning. I got to get
back.

DAVID
Yeah.

KATE
And I'm going to have to listen to
him harp about losing out on his
fortune for the rest of his life.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)
Or my life. He's going to bury me
at this rate.

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

Ross and Kate stand up. Kate approaches the bed and kisses
his cheek.

KATE
You big idiot.

Ross and Kate leave. David takes a comb from the bedside
table and smooths Woody's wild hair back into place.

Then David takes a seat in the big chair to one side and
points the remote at the TV.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NORFOLK HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

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

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

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

Soon David's car pulls up. David gets out and stands there
looking at his father.

DAVID
All right.

Woody walks around to the passenger side and gets in.

MONTAGE --

David drives while Woody sleeps.

Woody rubs the sweepstakes letter slowly between his
fingers.

-- At a CONVENIENCE STORE David comes out and hands Woody a
tall-boy of beer in a paper bag.

-- The STATE CAPITOL BUILDING towers in the distance as the
car nears Lincoln.

-- The car drives through busy DOWNTOWN LINCOLN with all its students and Husker logos.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - DAY

David parks the car outside a low-rent industrial park housed in what seem like oversized garages.

They get out and stand looking at their long-sought destination. A sign reads, "Mid-Plains Marketing."

INT. MID-PLAINS MARKETING - DAY

They enter the no-nonsense front office and find a middle-aged RECEPTIONIST.

RECEPTIONIST
Hi. Can I help you?

DAVID
My father is here to collect his
million dollars.

RECEPTIONIST
I'm sorry?

DAVID
Show her your letter, Dad.

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

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

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

DAVID
Looks like you didn't win.

RECEPTIONIST
I'm sorry, sir.

WOODY
But it says I won.

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

(MORE)

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
(turning the computer
around)
See?

Woody looks at it and back at his letter.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, sir. I hope you didn't
have to come too far.

DAVID
Montana.

RECEPTIONIST
Oh, my.

DAVID
Well, Dad, I guess that's it.

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

DAVID
Do you want a hat or a seat
cushion?

WOODY
What?

DAVID
Do you want a hat or a seat
cushion?

WOODY
A hat.

DAVID
He'll take the hat.

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

Woody puts it on, turns and walks out.

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

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

DAVID
He just believes stuff that people
tell him.

RECEPTIONIST
Oh, that's too bad.

DAVID
Yeah.

INT. DAVID'S CAR - DAY

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

DAVID
Dad? Dad?

WOODY (opens
his eyes)
I'm here.

DAVID
We're going, okay?

Woody nods. David has a thought.

EXT. USED CAR DEALERSHIP - DAY

David negotiates with a SALESMAN and a FINANCING MANAGER as Woody waits watching the traffic.

David shakes hands with the men and comes outside.

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

LATER

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

WOODY
I don't understand what happened to
your car.

DAVID
They made me a real good offer for
it.

WOODY
Wasn't much of a car.

DAVID
Yeah, this truck's a real step up.
Only two years old. Practically
brand new. I put the title in your
name too. But you're going to have
to let me drive it.

WOODY
This truck's in my name, you say?

David nods. Woody still wears his new hat.

WOODY (CONT'D) What
do you know? You work
something out with those prize
people?

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

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

EXT. SEARS - DAY

The pickup pulls into the parking lot.

EXT. SEARS - DAY

Woody watches as David and a CLERK hoist a box containing a
new air compressor into the back of the truck.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

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

EXT. HIGHWAY EXIT - DAY

David pulls off the highway and heads toward HAWTHORNE.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

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

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

David turns to his father.

DAVID
Your turn to drive.

WOODY
You said I couldn't.

DAVID
Just drive it a few blocks down
Main Street. There's no traffic.

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

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - CONTINUOUS

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

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

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

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

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

WOODY
(to David)
Get down.

DAVID
What?

WOODY
I said get down.

David obeys and ducks below the dashboard.

A little farther along, Ed Pegram comes out of a bar, sporting a black eye. He watches Woody pass.

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

MOMENTS LATER --

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

WOODY (CONT'D)
So long, Albert.

UNCLE ALBERT
So long, Woody.

David pops back up as the truck continues on down the street and past a sign reading, "Thanks for visiting Hawthorne, a great place to call home."

THE END