



SDCA01046

NEBRASKA

by

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FADE IN:

INT. MAILING PLANT - DAY

Thousands of envelopes shoot from sorting machines, speed down conveyors and into trays. Workers hustle them into bins stenciled "Mega Sweepstakes Marketing - Lincoln, Nebraska."

EXT. NEBRASKA HIGHWAY - DAY

A U.S. Postal Service semi rolls along the flat, golden farmland of Nebraska and disappears toward the horizon.

INT. POST OFFICE FACILITY - DAY

A postal worker quickly files the sweepstakes notices into plastic tubs, one of them marked "Billings, Montana."

EXT. MAILBOX - DAY

The hands of an older man open the mailbox and clutch the three pieces of mail. The first two are bills, the third is the sweepstakes envelope that announces "CONGRATULATIONS WOODROW T. GRANT! YOU HAVE WON ONE MILLION DOLLARS!"

INT. DAVID GRANT'S LIVING ROOM - BILLINGS, MONTANA - MORNING

DAVID GRANT, nearing forty, dressed in casual office attire, slumps in a Sears recliner in his dead quiet house. The room is neat and unadorned, like David. The phone rings three times before he picks it up to hear his mother, KATE.

DAVID

Hello?

KATE (O.S.)

It's just your mother.

David jumps up, grabs his jacket, turns off the lights.

DAVID

I was just on my way over.

KATE (O.S.)

I know, but I had some news I thought you'd want to hear.

DAVID

Is Dad okay?

KATE (O.S.)

He's asleep so I guess so. It's about the Ramseys.

DAVID

Who?

KATE (O.S.)

They used to live on Third -- the house with god-awful purple trim.

DAVID

I don't remember them.

KATE (O.S.)

Little Kyle was in the retarded class.

David opens the front door.

DAVID

Doesn't ring a bell. I'm leaving.

KATE (O.S.)

I'll call you in the car.

INT./EXT. CAR - BILLINGS STREET - DAY

David drives an older Subaru station wagon as he talks on his hands-free cell phone.

KATE (O.S.)

So you don't remember Kyle's cousin who visited in the summer?

DAVID

No.

KATE (O.S.)

His name was Todd.

DAVID

No. What about him?

KATE (O.S.)

Well -- he died.

David hits the brakes a little too hard at a stop sign.

DAVID

He died?

KATE (O.S.)

A couple of days ago.

David steps on the gas.

DAVID
Sorry to hear that.

KATE (O.S.)
Mrs. Lewis told me. He had a
butcher shop.

DAVID
Huh. Had Kyle been sick?

KATE (O.S.)
...You mean Todd?

DAVID
Right, Todd.

KATE (O.S.)
Mrs. Lewis didn't say.

DAVID
Oh.

KATE (O.S.)
All she said was he was hit by a
bus.

DAVID
Oh.

KATE (O.S.)
Sorry to call with such bad news.

DAVID
No, I'm glad you did.

David turns off the street into a driveway.

KATE (O.S.)
I thought you'd want to know.

DAVID
Yeah. I'm in your driveway.

KATE (O.S.)
Oh, did I tell you about --

DAVID
I'll be right in, Mom.

KATE (O.S.)
Okay.

EXT. WOODY AND KATE GRANT'S HOUSE - DAY

David tries the door to the small rambler but it's locked. He knocks. His mother opens the door, security chain still on, and peers out.

DAVID

I told you I was right here.

KATE

Just wanted to be sure.

INT. WOODY AND KATE GRANT'S LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Kate unhooks the chain and he enters. The house is 1960's decor, tired and dark. Kate is in her sixties with gray, slightly unkempt hair, and wears a faded floral bath robe.

DAVID

Dad still in bed?

KATE

Yeah. Want some bacon?

DAVID

No thanks.

Kate heads to the kitchen, just a few feet away, open to the living room. She looks through the cupboards as she talks.

KATE

I've got Ding Dongs -- Tang --
Cap'n Crunch.

DAVID

When was the last time he tried to
sneak out?

KATE

Last night. He's driving me nuts.

DAVID

Where's the sweepstakes letter?

KATE

He sleeps with it. He's memorized
it word for word.

David sits down at the kitchen table.

DAVID

I didn't think he could memorize
anything anymore.

David's father, WOODY, appears at the head of the hallway. He's seventy, with the clouded eyes and hesitant walk of a long-time functioning alcoholic.

Woody sits next to David and pulls a letter from his pocket. It's rumpled and obviously been handled many times.

WOODY

Did I show you this?

DAVID

I've seen it.

WOODY

I won a million dollars.

DAVID

I told you that's just a gimmick.

WOODY

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

Woody leans over until his face is almost on the paper.

WOODY (CONT'D)

"We are now authorized to pay \$1 million to Mr. Woodrow T. Grant."

DAVID

If you won.

WOODY

It says I won.

DAVID

Then send it in.

WOODY

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

KATE

I can't take this anymore.

WOODY

They need it by July eighteenth.

DAVID

That's in a week. How were you planning to get to Lincoln?

WOODY

The bus must go there.

KATE

I never even knew the poor son-of-a-bitch wanted to be a millionaire.

David takes the letter from Woody and looks it over.

DAVID

What would you do with the money?

WOODY

Buy a new truck.

DAVID

You can't drive.

WOODY

I'll get my license back.

DAVID

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

WOODY

I need a compressor. Ed Pegram still has mine.

DAVID

That's because he's a thief.

WOODY

He's not a thief.

KATE

Ed Pegram is a no-good bastard. I've got Egg Beaters.

DAVID

When did he borrow it?

WOODY

Sixty-eight.

DAVID

That's over thirty years. He lives two states away. I think he stole it.

Woody thinks about it. David looks at his watch.

WOODY

That's why I need a new one, then.

KATE

Jesus, let's just put him on a bus to Lincoln.

David stands up.

DAVID

I've got to go. I'll talk to you about this later.

Kate holds up a box.

KATE

Take some Better Cheddars.

INT. BOSS'S OFFICE - DAY

David sits awkwardly in a low chair looking up at his BOSS across the desk. She's in her late twenties.

BOSS

Okay, attendance and punctuality.

David looks off in disgust.

BOSS (CONT'D)

Good on both so I gave you a three.

DAVID

But I haven't missed a day and I've never been late.

BOSS

That's good. That's why you got a three.

DAVID

Shouldn't that be a five?

BOSS

A five means there's no room for improvement, and I believe we can always improve.

DAVID

Are you saying you want me to come in early?

BOSS

David, a three is above average.

DAVID

Isn't three right in the middle of one to five?

BOSS

No, because I don't give fives.

DAVID

Then why have fives?

BOSS

There has to be some top number.

DAVID

How about a four then?

BOSS

Okay. Good point. You get a four.

EXT. WOODY AND KATE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

David pulls his car in and jumps out. He runs around an SUV and down the driveway. His mother comes out of the garage.

DAVID

Is he still in there?

KATE

The old man's crazy. Ross is trying to talk some sense into him.

David hurries into the old wooden garage, where his dad is working on the engine of a '54 Ford pickup.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

David's older brother ROSS stands next to Woody with his arms folded. He's athletic looking and dressed like an insurance salesman. Ross nods hello and rolls his eyes.

DAVID

What's going on, Dad?

WOODY

Can't get it to turn over.

DAVID

I'm not surprised. It hasn't started in five years.

WOODY

I'll get it runnin'.

DAVID
Going anywhere in particular?

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

DAVID
Dad, I've got to get back to work.

WOODY
Get back to work then. I ain't
stoppin' you.

Ross takes David outside. Kate stays to berate Woody.

EXT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Ross pulls a pair of wire cutters from his pocket.

ROSS
I cut the solenoid wire and stuck
it back in. That'll slow him down.

DAVID
What are we going to do with him?

ROSS
Maybe we should just let him go.

DAVID
Let him take a slightly inebriated
drive across the Midwest?

ROSS
He did it for forty years.

They both look back at Woody and Kate.

DAVID
Did you hear retarded little Kyle
Ramsey's cousin Todd died?

ROSS
The butcher? Sure.

DAVID
How did you know?

ROSS
Mom called at six this morning.

They start back into the garage.

KATE

You put that heap on the road and I
swear to God I'll call the police!

INT. SEMINAR ROOM - DAY

A CONSULTANT leads David and ten other employees through some
touchy-feely activities around a conference table.

CONSULTANT

Okay, this is a trust exercise. I
want you to hold hands with your
coworkers next to you.

The people next to David reach out but he pulls his hands
back.

CONSULTANT (CONT'D)

David, go ahead and hold hands.

DAVID

I don't think so.

CONSULTANT

Is there a problem?

DAVID

Lots of them, actually. I could
write them all down if you want.

CONSULTANT

Like what?

DAVID

Like it's stupid and I would feel
silly.

CONSULTANT

Everyone else is doing it. Do you
think they look stupid and silly?

David looks at his coworkers holding hands.

DAVID

Yes -- yes they do. But it could
just be me.

He looks around the table again.

DAVID (CONT'D)

No, they do.

CONSULTANT
It won't hurt to try.

David slowly reveals his hands as his neighbors reach out. He puts his hands on the table in front of him, pushes back his chair, and walks out. The consultant looks around the table as the others stop holding hands and look embarrassed.

INT. DAVID'S KITCHEN - DAY

David makes a snack as a knock is heard at the door. He opens it to see his girlfriend NOEL holding two suitcases.

NOEL
Hello, sweetie.

David appears surprised but happy.

DAVID
Noel -- you're moving back in?

NOEL
These are your suitcases I borrowed to move out. I'm returning them.

DAVID
Ah, sure.

Noel takes the suitcases down the hall to the bedroom.

NOEL
So how's your dad?

DAVID
Not too good.

NOEL
Poor Woody.

DAVID
Poor Woody? He brought it on himself.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Noel enters and puts the cases in the closet.

NOEL
I know, but still.

DAVID (O.S.)
Yeah, I see what you mean.

Noel glances wistfully around the room.

NOEL

So what are you going to do?

INT. KITCHEN

DAVID

Ross thinks we should -- put him in a home.

David sits at the table. Noel comes back in and starts rubbing his shoulders.

NOEL

Is that what you think?

DAVID

I don't know.

NOEL

How was the rest of your day?

DAVID

I got four stars for good attendance and then they wanted us to hold hands at a seminar.

NOEL

Holding hands at work. It just keeps getting worse, doesn't it?

DAVID

Tomorrow it's oral sex. God I hope I don't get Mrs. Tuttle.

NOEL

No matter who it is, you'd better get five stars on that.

Noel sits in his lap.

DAVID

So when are you moving back in?

NOEL

I just moved out.

DAVID

Two years and we're back to dating. Are we still having sex?

NOEL
What do you think?

DAVID
I think we are.

NOEL
Really? And then what?

DAVID
Usually I fall asleep.

Noel stares at him. She stands up.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Are you saying if we have sex again
we have to get married?

NOEL
Get married, break up. Hell, let's
do both. Just do something.

Noel leans over and kisses him.

NOEL (CONT'D)
My parents are taking me to dinner.

She heads for the door but stops at the window.

NOEL (CONT'D)
That looks like your dad.

David moves beside her and looks out. He sees Woody walking
down the sidewalk with his head down.

DAVID
Yeah, that's my dad.

NOEL
Where's he going?

DAVID
Nebraska.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

David runs down the sidewalk.

DAVID
Dad! Hold on.

Woody turns his head to look at him but keeps moving. David
catches up and walks beside him.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Where you headed?

WOODY
To get my money.

DAVID
Come on, I'll take you home.

Woody keeps walking.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Dad, you've got to stop this.

Woody doesn't stop. David grabs his arm.

DAVID (CONT'D)
God damn it, stop!

Woody stops.

WOODY
I have to get to Lincoln.

DAVID
You don't even have a suitcase.

WOODY
I'm not staying 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 take you to Lincoln.

WOODY
Why not?

David glances over Woody's shoulder into the distance. Noel drives by them and waves.

David watches her car fade away and looks back at his father.

INT./EXT. DAVID'S SUBARU - MONTANA HIGHWAY - DAY

David drives while Woody sleeps. The cell phone rings.

DAVID

Hello?

ROSS (O.S.)

What the hell are you doing?

DAVID

Taking Dad to get his money.

ROSS (O.S.)

And what happens when you get there?

DAVID

I'm guessing they call security.

ROSS (O.S.)

Great plan. Don't you have a job?

DAVID

I'm sick.

ROSS (O.S.)

Yes you are.

Woody grunts and opens his eyes.

DAVID

Say hello to Dad, he just woke up.

ROSS (O.S.)

Woody, you didn't win a million dollars!

WOODY

Who's that?

DAVID

Your other son. Ross.

WOODY

Oh -- shit.

ROSS (O.S.)

What was that?

DAVID

He said 'shit.'

ROSS (O.S.)
Oh. Okay. Well have fun.

DAVID
We will. Say goodbye, Dad.

Woody gives a dismissive wave of the arm.

WOODY
I don't want to talk.

DAVID
Dad says goodbye.

ROSS (O.S.)
Yeah, I heard him.

The phone clicks off. Woody looks depressed.

DAVID
What's the matter?

WOODY
I don't see why I can't drive.

DAVID
Because your license was suspended
for drinking.

WOODY
I don't drink.

DAVID
Dad, I know you drink.

WOODY
Just one beer now and then.

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

David hits the brake and swerves to avoid another driver.

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

INT. RAPID CITY MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

David sleeps as the door creaks open and Woody sneaks in, stumbles into a table and hits the floor. David jumps up and turns on the light to find Woody face down, not moving.

DAVID

Dad?

David rolls Woody over to see that he's bleeding from a gash above the eye. David runs to the bathroom to get a towel.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Here.

David presses the towel against Woody's forehead.

WOODY

I'm all right.

David holds the towel for a few moments.

DAVID

Let me take a look.

He takes the towel off and blood comes spurting out.

WOODY

I'm fine. Go back to bed.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

A DOCTOR works silently putting a dressing over the cut on Woody's forehead as David watches.

DOCTOR

That should do it.

The doctor goes in the next room, leaving the door ajar.

NURSE (O.S.)

What have you got in there?

DOCTOR (O.S.)

Oh, he's just an old drunk.

David glances at his father, who looks straight ahead. Woody puts his hand up to his mouth.

WOODY

Where's my teeth?

DAVID

You lost your teeth?

Woody checks again.

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 but
you don't call a tavern?

WOODY
No. Musta been when I fell by the
railroad tracks.

The doctor enters and ignores Woody, talking to David.

DOCTOR
Considering the blood he lost, his
age, and history of drinking, we
should keep him in the hospital a
couple of days for observation.

WOODY
I don't drink.

DAVID
We won't be making Lincoln by
Friday.

WOODY
I got until Monday.

DAVID
We should get you back home.

WOODY
I'm not going home.

DAVID
I've got to go to work. If I still
have a job.

WOODY
I'm going to Lincoln.

David notices the doctor is getting restless.

DAVID
All right, we'll go on Monday.

WOODY
(to the doctor)
I won a million dollars.

DOCTOR
Congratulations. That should about
cover two days in the hospital.

He laughs at his own joke. David and Woody stare at him.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NEXT DAY

Woody, wearing a bandage on his forehead, has difficulty
eating his lunch without teeth. David enters and sits down.

WOODY
I can't eat this.

DAVID
Maybe I was looking for your teeth
in the wrong place.

WOODY
They're by the tracks.

DAVID
You have to be more specific than
railroad tracks that run from the
Atlantic to the Pacific.

WOODY
I'm tired of Jell-o.

DAVID
Ray said he'll put us up for the
weekend.

WOODY
I don't want to go to Hawthorne.

DAVID
When was the last time you were
back home?

WOODY
I don't know.

DAVID

Martha's getting a family reunion
together on Sunday. All your
brothers are coming over.

Woody stares at his food.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Mom's coming Saturday on the bus.
It's going to be a big party.

A HOSPITAL NURSE comes in to take the tray, pausing as she
looks at the food Woody left.

HOSPITAL NURSE

What's the matter, not hungry?

WOODY

I wanted mashed potatoes.

HOSPITAL NURSE

Oh, that's right. I'm sorry,
honey, I'll go get you some.

The nurse winks at David as she leaves.

WOODY

She's not the sharpest knife in the
drawer, is she?

They both stare at a basketball game on the TV.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Isn't there anything else on?

DAVID

What do you want to watch?

WOODY

I don't care.

David picks up the remote and changes the TV to 'Matlock.'

DAVID

Matlock?

WOODY

No.

David flips again, stopping on professional wrestling.

DAVID

Wrestling?

WOODY

No.

David flips past local news, 'Divorce Court', a soap opera.

WOODY (CONT'D)

What was that?

David flips back to 'Divorce Court.'

WOODY (CONT'D)

Leave it there.

EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS - MORNING

David and Woody walk along railroad tracks near a crossing.

DAVID

Do you remember where you fell?

WOODY

No.

They search the gravel near the tracks a while before David finds the false teeth.

DAVID

Here they are.

Woody reaches for them. David pulls the teeth back and examines them.

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 starts to put them in his mouth.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Dad, hey, wipe them off first.

Woody wipes the teeth and then stops to look at them.

WOODY

These aren't mine.

DAVID

I was putting you on. They're your teeth.

WOODY
No they're not.

DAVID
See if they fit.

Woody puts the teeth in. 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 Woody in disbelief and starts looking again.

WOODY (CONT'D)
Of course they're my teeth, you moron.

Woody pops the teeth back in and grins. He starts walking away, leaving David staring behind him.

WOODY (CONT'D)
Come on, let's go.

INT./EXT. CAR - HIGHWAY - DAY

David drives as Woody holds his false teeth in his hand and cleans them with his shirt. They pass a sign that reads 'Nebraska - the good life.'

EXT. TOWN OF HAWTHORNE, NEBRASKA - DAY

David pulls off the highway and into the commercial district.

A sign reads 'Welcome to Hawthorne, Nebraska - For a day, or a lifetime. Population 1730'

They drive down Main Street, a wide road with head-in parking filled mainly with pickup trucks. The buildings all pre-date 1960. Woody twists around as he takes it all in.

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - DAY

The car pulls up to an old two-story house with junk cars out front. They get out and look around as Woody's sister-in-law, AUNT MARTHA, comes out to greet them.

AUNT MARTHA
Well hello there, boys.

DAVID
Hi, Martha.

She gives them each a hug.

AUNT MARTHA
(to Woody)
Ray's in the house. He didn't want
to get up. What have you got to
say for yourself, Woody?

WOODY
Nothin'.

AUNT MARTHA
So what'd you do to your head?

WOODY
Ah, I fell down.

AUNT MARTHA
You Grant brothers sure are men of
few words.
(to David)
Your cousins are here.

DAVID
Oh, great.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY

They enter a side door into the kitchen. Seated around the
table is Woody's older brother RAY and Ray's grubby, too old
to still be living at home sons, BART and RALPH.

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

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

WOODY
Nothing. How about you?

UNCLE RAY
Not much.

They all eye each other in silence a few seconds.

AUNT MARTHA

You boys remember your cousin
David.

DAVID

Hi Bart. Ralph.

The cousins stare at him.

BART

How long'd it take you to drive
here?

DAVID

Oh, I don't know. We were waylaid
for a while.

The cousins stare, not understanding.

RALPH

But how long to drive it?

DAVID

Couple of days, I guess.

RALPH

From Billings? How far's that?

DAVID

About 750 miles.

BART

It took ya two days to drive 750
miles?

DAVID

About that.

RALPH

Jesus Christ, what da ya, drivin' a
dump truck or somethin'?

BART

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

DAVID

That's over 100 miles an hour.

RALPH

Yeah, Bart was movin'.

David nods and looks around the room.

AUNT MARTHA
You boys hungry?

DAVID
Sure.

AUNT MARTHA
I made some sandwiches.

BART
Shit, two days from Montana. Musta
been goin' in god damn reverse.

Bart and Ralph share a derisive laugh.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - LATER - DAY

They all eat sandwiches around the table. Nobody speaks for
a few moments.

BART
Two god damn days from Billings!
Ha ha ha ha.

RALPH
Ha ha ha ha. Shit.

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

UNCLE RAY
It's okay. It just hurts.

David looks out the window as two horses and riders pass on
the street.

DAVID
Where do those horses come from?

AUNT MARTHA
There's a stable behind the
neighbor's. They let them cut
through their property.

UNCLE RAY
I wouldn't let 'em cut through my
yard.

AUNT MARTHA
Why not?

UNCLE RAY

What if they fall and get hurt?
They can sue you.

AUNT MARTHA

They're not going to sue you.

UNCLE RAY

Damn right, 'cause I wouldn't let
'em ride on my property.

AUNT MARTHA

Well if we ever have a place they
want to ride horses through I'll
tell them to go right ahead.

UNCLE RAY

The hell you will!

AUNT MARTHA

The hell I won't!

DAVID

Are you thinking of moving?

UNCLE RAY

No. Why?

AUNT MARTHA

Oh he just likes to be ornery.

UNCLE RAY

We're not letting horses ride
through our property and that's the
end of it! Period!

AUNT MARTHA

And I say we are! Period yourself,
you old fool!

RALPH

Whoo! You tell him, Mom! Ha ha.

Bart joins in laughing.

DAVID

(to Woody)

Let's take a walk downtown.

EXT. HAWTHORNE STREET - DAY

David and Woody walk past a service station. Woody stops to
look and heads toward the garage.

DAVID

Dad, what are you doing?

EXT. SERVICE STATION - SERVICE BAY - CONTINUOUS

Woody walks just outside the service bay, where TWO MECHANICS work on a car. They look up at Woody and back at the engine. David walks up to Woody with a questioning look.

WOODY

I used to own this place.

DAVID

I thought you worked here for Ed.

WOODY

Yeah.

DAVID

Didn't he own it?

WOODY

We both did.

DAVID

What happened to your part?

WOODY

I sold it to him.

DAVID

For how much?

WOODY

Five hundred dollars.

David stares in disbelief.

DAVID

Five hundred?

WOODY

That was a lot of money back then.

DAVID

Not really.

BIG MECHANIC

You need something?

DAVID

My dad used to own this station.

SMALL MECHANIC

That right?

The Small Mechanic glances at Woody and back at the car. Woody steps closer and peers under the hood.

WOODY

Do you know Ed Pegram?

SMALL MECHANIC

Can't say as I do.

WOODY

He owned it with me.

SMALL MECHANIC

Oh?

(to other mechanic)

Let's pull the plugs.

BIG MECHANIC

Okay.

He tries to move around the car but Woody is in his way.

BIG MECHANIC (CONT'D)

Uh, excuse me there, buddy.

Woody steps back and watches as he starts working. The Big Mechanic's hand slips and hits the engine.

BIG MECHANIC (CONT'D)

God damn it! Son-of-a-bitch!

SMALL MECHANIC

Are you okay?

The Big Mechanic spins around and heads for the workbench to get a towel for his bloody hand, running into Woody. He puts a hand on Woody's shoulder and guides him out of the way.

BIG MECHANIC

Shit that hurts.

WOODY

You're using the wrong wrench.

The Big Mechanic stops and glares.

BIG MECHANIC

What did you say?

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

The mechanics stare after David and Woody as they walk toward the street.

WOODY
The moron was using the wrong wrench.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

David and Woody walk down Main Street.

WOODY
The five and dime's gone.
Woody points out an antiques store.

WOODY (CONT'D)
That used to be the bank.
As they pass a tavern Woody stops.

WOODY (CONT'D)
Let's see if there's anyone I know.

INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

They enter and Woody looks around for familiar faces without success. They sit in a booth and the WAITRESS comes over.

WAITRESS
What can I get you?

WOODY
Beer.

DAVID
I'll have a Coke.

WAITRESS
Beer and Coke.

WOODY
Does Tom Varnik still own this place?

WAITRESS
Never heard of him. Must be before my time.

She leaves and they watch the people in the bar.

WOODY

I used to know everyone in here.

DAVID

Is this where you had your first drink?

WOODY

Nah. Dad let me sip his beer.

DAVID

That's right, you kept up that family tradition with me.

WOODY

You liked it.

DAVID

I was six.

WOODY

Ah hell, a sip of beer isn't gonna kill you when you're six.

DAVID

Yeah, that's what all the child rearing manuals say.

WOODY

I thought you drank.

DAVID

I gave it up.

WOODY

What for?

DAVID

I was starting to -- it just wasn't helping.

WOODY

So I suppose now you're okay.

David thinks about it.

DAVID

Not really.

They wait in silence a few moments until the waitress returns with their order.

WAITRESS

There you go.

DAVID

Thanks. Could I get a beer, too?

WAITRESS

You bet.

DAVID

Gonna drink with my dad.

INT. TAVERN - TWO HOURS LATER

Woody is about the same, but David is drunk.

DAVID

Is this why you drink? So you can feel like this?

WOODY

I don't feel anything.

David looks around the room and back at Woody.

DAVID

Did you and Mom used to come here?

WOODY

Sure.

DAVID

How the hell did the two of you ever get together?

WOODY

What?

DAVID

How did you and Mom end up getting married?

WOODY

She wanted to.

DAVID

And you didn't?

WOODY

I figured what the hell.

DAVID

Were you ever sorry you did?

WOODY

Oh, sure.

David sips his beer, taking this in.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Your mom's all right. It coulda been worse.

DAVID

You've been married forty-five years.

WOODY

That's a long time.

DAVID

But you must have been in love.

WOODY

We didn't talk about it.

DAVID

Did you talk about having kids?

WOODY

No.

DAVID

Then why did you have us?

WOODY

I wanted to have sex. And your ma's Catholic, so figure it out.

DAVID

So we weren't planned?

WOODY

Well I figured we'd end up with a couple of ya if we kept screwing.

David flinches, almost spitting out his beer.

DAVID

Oooh.

He takes another quick drink.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Did you ever think of leaving Mom?

WOODY

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

DAVID

She did put up with your drinking.

WOODY

I don't drink that much.

DAVID

You're an alcoholic.

WOODY

Bullshit.

DAVID

I used to watch you hide your
bottles in the garage. I knew you
had a problem when I was eight.

WOODY

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

DAVID

That's right. I poured it out.

WOODY

You cost me a lot of money.

DAVID

Yeah, you always went right out and
bought some more.

WOODY

Why shouldn't I?

DAVID

So I guess you do drink.

WOODY

A little.

DAVID

A lot.

WOODY

Everybody does.

DAVID

Not like you do.

Woody's voice rises as he pushes himself to the edge of the booth.

WOODY

All right, I like to drink, god
damn it! So what? You do what you
want and so do I!

Woody gets up and walks out the door. David throws money on the table and runs after him.

EXT. HAWTHORNE STREET - NIGHT

David catches up with Woody walking down the sidewalk.

DAVID

Dad.

WOODY

What?

They look awkwardly away from each other.

DAVID

Do you want to go back to Ray's?

WOODY

I don't know.

DAVID

What else is there to do in this
town?

They look down the street, where the only light is a sign for another tavern. Woody starts walking toward it. David reluctantly follows.

INT. OTHER TAVERN - NIGHT

They enter the other tavern and look around. Woody spots ED PEGRAM and goes over to the table where the big, rough-looking 65-year-old is drinking with a couple of buddies.

WOODY

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

ED PEGRAM

Christ almighty it's my old buddy
Woody! Guys, this is Woody Grant.
Move over for him.

WOODY
That's my son David.

ED PEGRAM
Oh sure, little Davey. How you
doin', partner?

WOODY
You remember Ed Pegram?

David gives a fake smile to the compressor thief.

DAVID
So you're Ed Pegram?

ED PEGRAM
Remember, I gave you candy bars at
the garage when you was only four.

DAVID
Thank you.

ED PEGRAM
Ah, it was nothin'. Anything for
Woody's boy.

DAVID
And my dad used to give you
compressors.

ED PEGRAM
What's that?

DAVID
Nothing. I'll be right back.

David leans over to whisper to his father.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Remember, don't say anything about
the money.

Woody nods.

INT. OTHER TAVERN - NIGHT

David returns from the bathroom to a boisterous tavern.

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

The tavern celebrates as Woody beams.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - NEXT MORNING

David and Woody enter the kitchen, where Ray, Bart and Ralph sit at the table as Martha cooks. David obviously hurts from the night of drinking.

AUNT MARTHA

Good morning, boys. Slept in a little late, didn't ya?

DAVID

Morning.

David and Woody sit down.

AUNT MARTHA

Are you hungry?

DAVID

Sure, I'll have some --

David pauses as he looks at his cousins and uncle, who are eyeing David and Woody with goofy grins.

DAVID (CONT'D)

-- yeah, I'm hungry.

UNCLE RAY

Gotta call from Ben Walz this morning.

AUNT MARTHA

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

DAVID

Is that right?

AUNT MARTHA

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

WOODY

David said not to.

DAVID

He's not rich.

AUNT MARTHA

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

BART
Ya got it on you?

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

Woody starts to reach in his pocket but David stops him.

DAVID
Sorry to disappoint you, but
there's no million dollars.

UNCLE RAY
Uh huh.

WOODY
We're going to get it.

BART
Get what?

WOODY
The money.

DAVID
He doesn't know what he's saying.

WOODY
In Lincoln.

RALPH
God damn, you won the Powerball?

BART
Let's see the ticket.

Woody looks at David.

WOODY
Nah, I didn't win anything.

RALPH
Hell, I don't blame ya, I wouldn't
broadcast it either. Not 'til I
had it in the bank.

BART
Hey, Ralph and me'll drive you
there.

RALPH

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

DAVID

Listen, Woody didn't -- Lincoln's over 200 miles.

BART

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

David lets them feel superior.

DAVID

I don't know, six?

BART

Six hours! To Lincoln!

Bart and Ralph laugh uncontrollably.

RALPH

Wait Bart, maybe he means six days!

BART

Hell, I wouldn't be surprised in that old rice grinder of yours!

They continue to laugh.

EXT. DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE STREET - DAY

As David and Woody walk through town, David realizes that SEVERAL PEOPLE are staring and pointing. A man named BERNIE steps in front of them.

BERNIE

Woody! Remember me?

Woody doesn't look too sure.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

Bernie Bowen. How are you doin'?

WOODY

All right.

BERNIE

That's what I hear! Everybody's sayin' how Woody Grant's a millionaire. It's the most exciting news around here in ages.

WOODY
Ah it's no big deal.

BERNIE
The Cedar County News is going to
write you up.

WOODY
I'll get my picture in the paper?

BERNIE
Sure will, I'm guessin'.

DAVID
Dad, Mom's bus is due in.

BERNIE
Okay Woody, I'll see you later.
Watch your wallet!

EXT. BUS DEPOT - DAY

David's mother Kate and his girlfriend Noel get off the bus.

KATE
My god you both look like hell.

DAVID
(to Noel)
What are you doing here?

NOEL
Your mom said Woody was hurt.

KATE
I knew you'd want her to come.

DAVID
Dad's fine. He just hit his head.
See, look at him.

They all stare at Woody, with the bandage on his forehead,
still looking very much out of it.

NOEL
I'll just go back to Billings,
then.

She turns as if to board the bus.

DAVID
Well, since you're already here --

Noel spins back around.

NOEL

All right, you talked me into it.

Noel and David hug and kiss.

KATE

I thought this would also be a chance for Noel to meet the family.

DAVID

I'm sure you did.

Kate gives Woody a good looking over.

KATE

Look at you, you old drunk.

WOODY

I haven't been drinkin'.

KATE

You're lucky you're not dead. Speaking of which, I want to go to the cemetery and pay my respects to our poor deceased relatives.

DAVID

Martha said she'd have lunch ready.

KATE

Lunch will wait. The dead folks deserve some company for a while.

DAVID

(to Noel)

Want to see my dead relatives? You may not notice much difference between them and the live ones at the reunion.

KATE

David! That's terrible! That's your family!

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

They walk slowly past the headstones as Kate gives a running commentary.

KATE

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

Kate bends down and puts a few flowers from a bunch she's carrying on Sara's grave.

KATE (CONT'D)

Yeah, she was born pissed but you couldn't really blame her because God didn't make her much to look at, kinda gave her more of a man's face than a woman's, really.

Kate gets back up and leans on David.

KATE (CONT'D)

You've seen photos of your grandma, David, not a pretty woman. I was cute so she resented me. Woody, you knew your mom was ugly, right?

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

NOEL

How did she die?

KATE

Saw herself in the mirror one day! Ha ha! No, she died of cancer. And there's the old Swede Olie. A good man, your grandpa. Never said much. That farm just ruined him.

Kate tugs on Woody's arm.

KATE (CONT'D)

You're lucky I took you away from there.

She points out another gravestone.

KATE (CONT'D)

There's Woody's brother, David -- you were named after him -- he died of yellow fever when he was only two. Woody slept in the same bed with him and never got it.

Kate moves on as David pauses to ponder his namesake.

DAVID

(to Noel)

I don't like seeing that name on a headstone.

KATE

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

(she shakes her head)

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

DAVID

Mom --

KATE

I'm just telling the truth here, David. She was doing guys in the chicken coop when she was fifteen.

DAVID

We should head back.

NOEL

Hey, I'd like to hear some more about the relatives.

KATE

That's Del, Woody's cousin. He had a crush on me when Woody and I were dating. One time he felt me up while we were wrestlin'. Grabbed a handful of boob and Woody was right there and didn't have a clue, did you?

Woody looks uninterested.

KATE (CONT'D)

And there's your Uncle Stu, which is a good name for him because he was a lousy drunk that one.

DAVID

Mom --

KATE

Okay. Oh, my god! I didn't know Keith White was over here. He wanted in my pants, too, but oh he was so boring.

The other three have started back for the car.

DAVID

Mom!

KATE

I'm coming.

She looks at Keith's grave and pulls up her dress to show a little more leg.

KATE (CONT'D)

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

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Martha and Kate talk excitedly while Ray and Woody sit in silence.

KATE

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

AUNT MARTHA

Nah, she just looks fifty. That's
what pig farming will do to you.

EXT. PORCH - RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - DAY

David and Noel are alone on the porch swing.

NOEL

Your mom is in rare form.

DAVID

I don't know why she called you.
Dad's doing all right.

NOEL

She wants us to get married.

DAVID

Yeah, she likes you for some
reason.

NOEL

She thinks I have good hips for
making babies.

DAVID

She said that?

NOEL

She is worried about my tits --
she's not sure they're big enough,
but she'll buy us a breast pump if
we need one.

DAVID

Oh god.

NOEL

She said when you were a baby she
couldn't get you off her breasts.
You always seemed to be thirsty.

DAVID

I'm in hell.

NOEL

Yeah, sounds like you could suck
away for hours.

DAVID

You're making this up.

NOEL

Ask anyone on the bus, they could
all hear. She said you breast fed
way past the normal age --

DAVID

All right --

NOEL

-- until you were about seventeen.

DAVID

I was twelve.

NOEL

Hard to believe Kate's a Catholic
girl with that mouth of hers.

DAVID

You know you're bunking with her
tonight.

NOEL

Good, by tomorrow morning you will
have no secrets.

The phone rings. Noel starts the seat swinging. Martha
opens the screen door, covering the phone with her hand.

AUNT MARTHA

The paper wants to interview Woody.
Do you want to talk to them?

INT. NEWSPAPER OFFICE - DAY

David and Noel enter the small office. Except for a few computers it could be 1950. The only person there is EMILY BENDER, 68, who is typing with her back to them.

DAVID

Excuse me, Mrs. Bender?

MRS. BENDER

David Grant?

DAVID

Yes. This is my friend, Noel.

NOEL

Hi.

MRS. BENDER

Hello. Where's Woody?

DAVID

Dad didn't win the lottery.

MRS. BENDER

Oh?

DAVID

He's a little confused. To be honest, he's an alcoholic.

MRS. BENDER

Yes, I know.

DAVID

You know my father?

MRS. BENDER

Sure. I went out with him.

David and Noel look at each other.

NOEL

You were Woody's girlfriend?

MRS. BENDER

Well, sort of.

NOEL

What happened? I'm sorry, that's not my --

MRS. BENDER

It's all right. David's mother is what happened. How is Kate?

DAVID

Uh, fine.

MRS. BENDER

Tell her Emily said hello.

DAVID

She won't slap me, will she?

MRS. BENDER

Why? After all she won didn't she?

DAVID

She won what?

MRS. BENDER

Woody.

DAVID

Woody is what the winner got?

MRS. BENDER

Sure. Your dad was quite a catch.

NOEL

Women were fighting over Woody?

MRS. BENDER

Well, two of us were. Although it wasn't much of a fight. Kate knew what she wanted.

DAVID

A cat fight over my dad.

MRS. BENDER

Well, almost. Kate did try to hit me with a milking can once.

NOEL

What was Kate doing with a milking can?

MRS. BENDER

We were all in the barn and Woody asked who wanted to help milk. I said I would and he went to get another pail. After he left Kate told me to beat it or else, that she was going to milk the cows.

NOEL

She threatened you?

MRS. BENDER

Yes, and when I refused to go she picked up a milk can and chased me through the barn, and just as I made it to the door the can hit up against the wall beside me.

David and Noel look at each other.

NOEL

Your mom must have really had the hots for Woody.

MRS. BENDER

I shouldn't have mentioned it.

NOEL

Did he already have a drinking problem?

MRS. BENDER

Oh sure. It happens around here. People start early because there's not much else to do. For Woody it really got bad after the war. He had a hard time in Korea.

DAVID

I thought his platoon was just doing policing operations.

MRS. BENDER

Oh lordy, no. He was shot down in two different planes.

DAVID

My dad was shot down?

She gets up and motions to them.

MRS. BENDER

Come with me.

INT. NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES - DAY

Mrs. Bender opens a bound archive of the newspaper from the 1950s. She stops at the headline 'Grant Boys Return From the Fight' above a picture of Woody and two brothers in uniform.

MRS. BENDER

There's Woody and two of his brothers.

NOEL

Oh my god look how young they were.

MRS. BENDER

They were heroes. But something happened to them over there, especially your dad. He seemed lost after that.

DAVID

Mom says everyone took advantage of him at the garage.

MRS. BENDER

Not everyone, but enough. Woody's really a sweet man. He couldn't turn down a favor to anyone.

NOEL

You thought Woody was sweet?

MRS. BENDER

He was then.

DAVID

Now that everyone thinks he's a millionaire he's a hero again.

MRS. BENDER

Well, I'm sorry I can't print that he is, but I won't print that he isn't, either.

DAVID

Thank you.

Mrs. Bender starts walking them to the door.

NOEL

It's really hard to imagine you and Kate fighting over the same man.

MRS. BENDER
Well, I knew I didn't have a
chance, anyway.

NOEL
Why not?

MRS. BENDER
I wouldn't let him round the bases.

NOEL
Really. But he couldn't have had
any better luck with...

Mrs. Bender grins and shrugs.

NOEL (CONT'D)
David! Can you believe that? Ha!

DAVID
Not my mother.

NOEL
Kate Grant! What a tease!

MRS. BENDER
Now I didn't say anything.

DAVID
I guess we should get back before
the stud and the slut start to
worry about us.

NOEL
Nice to meet you. And to hear
about Woody and Kate.

MRS. BENDER
It was my pleasure.

DAVID AND NOEL
Bye.

They leave and Mrs. Bender watches them through the window.

MRS. BENDER
That'll teach that bitch to throw a
milk can at me.

INT. RESTAURANT LOUNGE - NIGHT

David, Noel, Woody and Kate sit in a booth waiting to order.
A COUNTRY WESTERN BAND plays on a small stage.

KATE

What are you having, old man?

WOODY

Meat loaf.

KATE

You've stared at the menu for ten minutes. Where do you see meat loaf?

WOODY

They should have meat loaf.

KATE

Well they don't so pick something else before --

The LOUNGE WAITRESS appears.

LOUNGE WAITRESS

Are we ready to order?

KATE

Oh god I knew it.

DAVID

Dad, you know what you want?

WOODY

Chicken then.

DAVID

He'll have chicken then. We'll both have the steak then. Mom?

Kate picks up the menu and starts looking through it again.

KATE

I was thinking of having the roast beef but now I'm not sure.

They all watch her.

KATE (CONT'D)

Hmmm, let's see. Maybe the chicken. Is it broiled?

LOUNGE WAITRESS

Fried.

KATE

Oh, really. Huh. Interesting.
Okay, what the hell.

Kate hands the waitress her menu and looks at the stage, where Ed Pegram has joined the band and started to sing.

KATE (CONT'D)

Oh my god, that's Ed Pegram singing.

NOEL

Who's Ed Pegram?

DAVID

He owned the garage with my dad.

KATE

And stole money from him.

DAVID

And his compressor.

WOODY

He'll give it back.

They watch Ed sing for a while.

NOEL

He's not bad.

KATE

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

WOODY

Ah, he's all right.

KATE

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

DAVID

Jesus, Mom, was this whole town trying to get in your pants?

The waitress stares at them as she puts water on the table.

KATE

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

DAVID

Mom, never say 'chafe their pants'
right before I eat.

KATE

You were always such a sensitive
boy. Isn't that right, Noel?

NOEL

Yeah, he's always been shy about
references to bulging sex organs.

KATE

Isn't that the truth.

The music stops and Ed Pegram steps to the edge of the stage.

ED PEGRAM

Look, we've got a celebrity here.
My old friend and the rich man
you've been hearing about, Woody
Grant! Woody, take a bow!

The other diners applaud, but Woody, who hadn't been
listening, looks confused.

NOEL

Woody, stand up.

WOODY

What?

DAVID

Stand up, Dad.

WOODY

Why?

KATE

Just do it.

Woody stands and realizes they're applauding him. He turns
around to look at everyone, obviously starting to enjoy it.

ED PEGRAM

Norma, you should be getting a big
tip from that table tonight.

Kate starts tugging on Woody.

KATE

Okay, you ham, that's enough.

WOODY

Huh?

Kate pulls him down into the booth.

INT. RESTAURANT LOUNGE - NIGHT - LATER

David pays at the cash register as Ed Pegram passes by. Ed puts his arm around David's shoulder.

ED PEGRAM

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

DAVID

Yeah Big Ed, what can I do for you?

Ed Pegram pulls him to the side and lowers his voice.

ED PEGRAM

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

DAVID

Okay.

ED PEGRAM

But I would like to talk with you about some money Woody's been owing me for many years.

DAVID

What money would that be?

ED PEGRAM

You see, Woody drank quite a bit when we had the garage. He messed up a lot of jobs and let a lot of money walk. And I loaned him a ton of dough I never saw again. So seein' how he's come into some cash it would only be fair to settle up.

DAVID

You want the \$500 back?

ED PEGRAM

Woody owes me a lot more than that.

DAVID

It doesn't matter because he didn't win anything.

ED PEGRAM

Right, you're headed to Lincoln to visit the roller skating museum. Listen David, I really don't want to bring my lawyer in on this.

DAVID

Lawyer? What is the statute of limitations on imaginary crimes?

ED PEGRAM

All right, buddy. But there are other ways.

DAVID

What are you talking about?

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, that's wrong. And I will make it right.

DAVID

Are you threatening us?

ED PEGRAM

Threatening? No, that would be wrong.

Ed suddenly grins and cheerfully slaps David on the back.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)

I just wanted you to think about it.

Ed gives him a wink and starts back toward the stage.

DAVID

Ed.

David gives the cashier some change, takes a candy bar from the counter and throws it to Ed.

DAVID (CONT'D)

That's a partial repayment on those candy bars you gave me.

David walks back to the table, where Woody and Kate's old friends DALE and KATHY are saying goodbye.

DALE

It was great to see you again,
Woody. Buy a boat and go fishin',
that's what I would do.

He shakes Woody's hand.

KATHY

You all take care. Enjoy spending
the loot.

KATE

We will. Bye.

Dale and Kathy leave as David throws tip money on the table.

DAVID

Okay, we can go.

KATE

What did Ed Pegrum want?

David looks at his father.

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 give him a couple bucks if
he's hard up.

KATE

Like hell you will.

They all look at the stage, where Ed Pegrum has started
singing another song.

KATE (CONT'D)

You have to admit it though, that
ass can sing.

INT. DAVID AND WOODY'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

David wakes up and takes a second to realize where he is.

DAVID

Dad, you awake?

His father doesn't respond. David keeps raising his voice.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Dad -- Dad -- Woody!

WOODY

I'm awake.

DAVID

Time to get up.

Woody sits up in bed, feeling his beard, his hair askew.

WOODY

When are we going to Lincoln?

DAVID

Tomorrow.

WOODY

Why not today?

DAVID

Today's Sunday. They're not open.

WOODY

If I don't get the money they'll
give it to someone else!

INT. BART AND RALPH'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cousin Bart has a glass up to the wall, listening.

INT. DAVID AND WOODY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

David and Woody start getting dressed.

DAVID

Okay, I'll get you there, but
today's the big reunion. All your
brothers are coming.

WOODY

Some of them are dead.

DAVID

Well not the dead ones. Just the
living ones. Say, do you remember
going out with a girl named Emily?

WOODY

When?

DAVID

Last week. What do you mean,
'when?' Before you were married.

WOODY

I don't know. Why?

DAVID

No reason.

They both go to the window and look out on the town of Hawthorne.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It's a beautiful day.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen is FULL OF WOMEN talking as they prepare dinner. Noel sits in the middle, observing. Between the kitchen and the living room is a swinging door, which is closed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

In the living room, Woody and five of his brothers, Ray, VERNE, CARL, CECIL, and ALBERT, all in their sixties and seventies, are seated around the living room, with David in the middle of them. No one speaks for several seconds.

KITCHEN

AUNT BETTY and AUNT FLO join the conversation.

AUNT MARTHA

But Ray says he wouldn't let the horses cut through our yard. 'They could sue you, you dumb broad.'

KATE

I'd be afraid of them biting me. They're nasty animals.

AUNT BETTY

I'd think you'd bite the horse first, Kate!

Laughter. Aunt Martha works on the turkey.

AUNT MARTHA

Who wants the stuffing up the butt?

AUNT FLO
Is that another thing you and Ray
have been arguing about?

Some laugh while others gasp.

AUNT MARTHA
Florence! My god, have you been
drinking already?

Loud laughter.

LIVING ROOM

The men sit in silence for a few seconds.

UNCLE RAY
Verne, you still drive that Chevy?

UNCLE VERNE
The what?

UNCLE RAY
The Chevy.

UNCLE VERNE
Chevy?

UNCLE RAY
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.

UNCLE VERNE
I had a Buick.

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

UNCLE VERNE
What?

UNCLE RAY
You still driving that?

WOODY

The Buick.

UNCLE VERNE

I haven't had that for years.

UNCLE RAY

I thought you still had it.

UNCLE VERNE

No.

Silence.

UNCLE RAY

That was a seventy-eight wasn't it?

UNCLE VERNE

Seventy-nine.

UNCLE RAY

Seventy-nine. Those were good cars.

UNCLE VERNE

It was okay.

UNCLE RAY

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

UNCLE VERNE

Stopped runnin'.

UNCLE RAY

Stopped, huh?

UNCLE VERNE

Yeah.

UNCLE RAY

Well, they'll do that.

Silence.

UNCLE RAY (CONT'D)

David here drives a Japanese car.

UNCLE CARL

A what?

UNCLE RAY
One of those Japanese cars.

UNCLE CARL
What's that?

DAVID
A Subaru. Legacy.

UNCLE CARL
Oh.

DAVID
Do you want to see it?

UNCLE CARL
No.

KITCHEN

KATE
Sharon's kids are always in trouble. And she's gotten really big -- no offense, Betty -- I mean much bigger than you, she's gotta be at least -- what do you weigh?

AUNT BETTY
Two-thirty-five. 235

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

AUNT MARTHA
Kate!

KATE
No, I'm serious, you should see her. She is fat.

They continue to talk as Noel gets up, walks over to the swinging door to the living room and steps through it.

LIVING ROOM

Noel stands by the door and watches the men sit in silence.

She opens the swinging door and listens to all the women talking at once.

Noel closes the door, walks over to the couch and sits down between Woody and David.

NOEL
How's it going in here?

DAVID
Good. Verne got rid of the Chevy.

NOEL
Oh. Good.

UNCLE RAY
Buick.

DAVID
I mean Buick.

NOEL
Ah. Why?

DAVID
It quit running.

NOEL
Oh. Well, that will happen.

DAVID
That's what Ray said.

Ray nods. Silence.

NOEL
I like your house, Ray. It's very comfortable.

UNCLE RAY
Oh?

Pause.

UNCLE CARL
(to Noel)
What do you drive?

NOEL
What?

UNCLE CARL
What kind of car do you drive?

NOEL
A Honda.

UNCLE CARL
So you both got Jap cars.

NOEL
Uh, yeah -- I guess we do.

Silence.

The front door opens and David's brother Ross enters, with his wife CINDY and TWO BOYS, ages five and three. The room is transformed as the kids run around screaming.

CINDY
We shouldn't have just come barging
in like that.

She looks at the silent uncles, some staring at the floor.

CINDY (CONT'D)
Look, they're praying before
dinner.

ROSS
I don't think so. Hey, David, Dad.
Hi Noel.

NOEL
Hi.

ROSS
Hello, Ray, fellas.

UNCLE RAY
Ross, good to see ya. Hey, look at
those kids.

ROSS
Boys come say hello to your uncles.

The boys suddenly become very shy and reluctantly come over, using their parents for cover.

ROSS (CONT'D)
See, that's daddy's Uncle Ray,
Uncle Carl, Uncle Albert, Uncle
Verne, and Uncle Cecil. And your
Uncle David and...Aunt Noel. And
there's Grandpa Woody.

The boys go over to Woody and David and crawl on them.

WOODY
Hey there you. What's going on?

The children laugh and stare at the uncles, who stare back.

UNCLE RAY
(to the youngest boy)
Hey partner, come give Ray a big
handshake.

The boy looks at Ray's outstretched hand and starts bawling.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

The adult table starts to eat. Joining them is COUSIN RANDY,
Flo's son, a big, aggressive man about David's age.

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

WOODY
No.

DAVID
I told them there's no story.

AUNT BETTY
Trying to keep it quiet so
everybody doesn't come after Woody
for a handout, huh? Ha ha.

DAVID
Yeah, that's it.

NOEL
Emily at the paper said hello,
Kate.

Kate looks like she's just been slapped.

KATE
I don't know any Emily.

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

WOODY
It's okay.

COUSIN RANDY
What are you going to do with all
that money?

WOODY

Get a truck. And a compressor.

UNCLE RAY

What the hell do you want with a compressor?

WOODY

I need it to paint.

AUNT FLO

Are you still working, Woody?

WOODY

No.

DAVID

He wants to replace the compressor that Ed Pegram took.

COUSIN RANDY

Why don't you go get it back from him?

ROSS

You think he still has it?

COUSIN RANDY

That fool never gets rid of nothin'. He's got a barn full of junk.

ROSS

We should get it, David.

DAVID

Dad, you want to go get your compressor?

WOODY

I don't care.

KATE

You boys will do no such thing. You'll get yourself shot for an old piece of garbage.

DAVID

You want to get yourself shot for an old piece of garbage, Dad?

WOODY

Whatever you want.

KATE

Am I the only sane one in this family?

ROSS

Mom, we're just kidding.

KATE

Well it's not funny.

They eat in silence for a moment.

NOEL

I want to go see your dad's old house.

DAVID

The old farmhouse? Is that still standing, Ray?

RAY

Sure. Dan Conway farms the place but he never tore it down.

KATE

Why would you want to see that? It must be filled with rats.

NOEL

It's family history.

DAVID

Dad, how about taking a drive later to see the old homestead?

WOODY

The what?

DAVID

Noel wants to see where you grew up.

WOODY

That old shack? What for?

DAVID

She loves old shacks.

WOODY

Now?

Woody puts his fork down.

DAVID

Later this afternoon.

Woody picks up his fork and starts eating again.

WOODY

I don't care.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

David enters with some dishes. Martha frosts a cake while looking out the window at Ralph and Bart, who are revving the whining engine of an old truck. David watches with her.

DAVID

The boys are still the same.

AUNT MARTHA

The boys. Ha! I can't believe those two are my own.

DAVID

Karen's doing well though, out in California?

AUNT MARTHA

Oh sure. See, I'm not a complete failure as a mother.

DAVID

Bart and Ralph aren't that bad.

AUNT MARTHA

Oh yes they are. I just wish to god they'd grow up and move out.

DAVID

You'd miss them.

AUNT MARTHA

No. I've been dreaming of that day for many years. Ever since they turned thirty.

She puts down the frosting knife.

AUNT MARTHA (CONT'D)

There. Can I get you anything?

Noel enters with some more dishes.

AUNT MARTHA (CONT'D)
(to David)
How about a beer?

She opens the refrigerator. David thinks about it. Noel looks surprised that he's thinking about it.

DAVID
No thanks.

AUNT MARTHA
Well come on and have some cake.

Aunt Martha leaves and Noel kisses David on the cheek.

DAVID
What's that for?

NOEL
You are amazing.

DAVID
I am?

NOEL
Considering where you came from,
you're a miracle of science.

DAVID
Does that mean you'll cut me some
slack?

NOEL
Mmmm, no, because as sad as it all
is, it's not really my problem.

They look out at Bart and Ralph working on the truck, arguing and cursing each other.

NOEL (CONT'D)
Yep, I'm surprised you're even able
to put your pants on without help.

DAVID
I'm actually better at taking them
off.

NOEL
Well, sometimes you get caught in
the zipper, but I see now that's
just a genetic defect.

He pulls her close. She kisses him and they look out at Ralph and Bart, yelling and shoving each other.

EXT. FRONT YARD - RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - DAY

David, Noel, Ross, and Cindy watch the kids play on the lawn. Other relatives are scattered around the yard. Near the road Uncle Albert sits in a chair watching traffic.

NOEL

What's Albert doing?

DAVID

He's watching cars go by.

NOEL

Why?

DAVID

I think he's trying to pick up chicks.

ROSS

Even when we were kids, when he'd visit he'd take a chair out in the front yard and watch the road every evening.

DAVID

Yeah, remember how pissed he was when we moved to that cul-de-sac?

Aunt Flo, her son Randy, Ralph and Bart approach and sit down near the group.

AUNT FLO

I see Albert's got his spot picked out for the evening parade.

ROSS

He's ready for the show.

COUSIN RANDY

Crazy old nut.

They all watch the boys play for a moment.

AUNT FLO

Look at those kids go.

COUSIN RANDY

Say, there's somethin' that's kinda hard to bring up, but we think it needs mentioning.

Randy pauses and takes on a concerned look.

COUSIN RANDY (CONT'D)

You may not know it, but in his early days Woody had money problems and family members would help him out from time to time.

He pauses again for a reaction as they all stare.

COUSIN RANDY (CONT'D)

So in light of his good fortune we thought your family might want to make things right.

David and Ross glance at each other.

DAVID

I've been hearing that a lot lately.

ROSS

Are you saying you want money from Woody?

COUSIN RANDY

We just figured that seein' how the family helped Woody out, and all. Now Mom isn't one to say anything --

AUNT FLO

But I did loan Woody quite a lot, and it wasn't like we were rich. But he was my brother-in-law and we knew your family was hurting.

DAVID

Flo, Woody didn't win anything.

RALPH

That's a lie!

David stiffens. Uncle Albert turns from watching traffic to look at them.

ROSS

How the hell do you know?

BART

Don't bullshit us. We know all about it.

Kate walks over to see what prompted the raised voices.

KATE

What's going on?

ROSS

Flo and her henchmen here are asking for reparations.

KATE

What?

DAVID

They say Dad owes them money.

KATE

Owes them money? What are you talking about, Flo?

AUNT FLO

Now Kate, you know we used to help Woody out when he'd been drinking.

KATE

You can't be serious. It was the other way around. You were always having him work on your cars for nothing, getting free gas --

COUSIN RANDY

Aunt Kate, I don't think you realize --

AUNT FLO

Kate, we're not asking for much --

KATE

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

Uncle Albert gets up, turns his chair around, and sits down to watch. Aunt Flo is embarrassed at the sudden attention.

AUNT FLO

Kate, you don't know the whole story.

KATE

I can't believe the nerve of you.
Usually a person has to die before
the vultures start circling.

COUSIN RANDY

We thought we were doing you a
courtesy, before we talk to Woody.

KATE

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

COUSIN RALPH

He ain't poor, he's rich.

KATE

Even if he was we wouldn't give you
a blessed penny.

COUSIN RANDY

Maybe it's not up to you.

KATE

That's enough! You can all just --
(she leans in to whisper)
Go fuck yourselves!

Complete silence.

KATE (CONT'D)

Now boys, let's get your dad and go
see the old farm.

She tries to act nonchalant as they get up and walk away.

CINDY

You go ahead, Ross, it's about time
for the boys' nap.

DAVID

(whispering to his mother)
I've heard you use every word
except that one, Mom.

KATE

I promised God I would never say
it. You have to take me to
confession, I'll be saying 'Hail
Marys' the rest of my life.

EXT. OLD ABANDONED FARMHOUSE - DAY

The car moves slowly up an overgrown dirt driveway to a dilapidated two-story farmhouse. The building has vines growing on it and the windows are missing.

David stops the car by the front porch and he, Kate, Noel, and Ross get out. Last to emerge is Woody, who stands by the car and looks at the house.

WOODY

Looks about the same.

KATE

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

They walk up the front porch steps and David opens the door.

DAVID

Hello, anybody home?

INT. OLD FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

David enters and the rest follow. The inside is stripped, but there's still some wallpaper and the floors are solid.

ROSS

This looks in pretty good shape, considering.

WOODY

My dad built it.

NOEL

Really? By himself?

WOODY

Yep. Before I was born.

NOEL

Who owns it now?

KATE

The Conways next door. Kenny lived here a while, but nobody after that. You boys remember him?

DAVID AND ROSS

No.

KATE

Did I tell you that he died?

DAVID AND ROSS

Uh, no.

KATE

Brain tumor. He'd moved to town by then. He didn't die here.

She walks over to a bedroom.

KATE (CONT'D)

But Woody's brother David did. Right here in this bedroom.

NOEL

Where Woody slept with him in the same bed.

DAVID

You remember that, Dad?

WOODY

Sure, I was there.

ROSS

How old were you?

WOODY

Seven.

NOEL

Why did they let him sleep with you?

WOODY

They didn't know what it was.

NOEL

But you never got sick. How lucky.

WOODY

Yeah, I guess.

Woody tests the wooden stairway, then walks upstairs as the others follow. The roof has holes and the floorboards are warped from the weather. Woody enters the first room.

WOODY (CONT'D)

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

He looks around the room, which is completely stripped.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Guess nobody's going to whip me now.

Woody walks around, flips a light switch, runs his hand down a two-by-four exposed stud in the wall.

WOODY (CONT'D)

My dad built all of this.

He opens the door to a small closet and looks in.

KATE

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

Woody goes to the window and points to an old, leaning barn.

WOODY

The barn's still standing.

NOEL

So you never milked a cow, Kate?

KATE

Hell no.

WOODY

But you --

KATE

Never! That's for homely country girls with no prospects.

NOEL

Where was the chicken coop?

WOODY

Over there by the tree.

KATE

That's where Rose made men out of half of Cedar County. It wouldn't have happened if Woody's folks had given the kids some religion.

DAVID

But they were Lutherans.

KATE

Lutherans, hah! They think they can fool God by prayin' on Sunday and screwin' around the rest of the week.

NOEL

Not like you good Catholic girls.

KATE

Damn right.

Kate turns and starts out of the room.

KATE (CONT'D)

We Catholic girls saved it for marriage. Sometimes for years after that.

David and Noel exchange knowing looks.

EXT. OLD FARMHOUSE - DAY - LATER

Woody stands by himself at the edge of the field. David walks up beside him and looks out for a moment.

DAVID

Seen enough?

WOODY

I guess. It's just a bunch of old wood and some weeds, anyway.

DAVID

How much did your father farm?

WOODY

Hundred acres. He plowed and Mom milked.

DAVID

You wanted to farm, didn't you?

WOODY

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

DAVID

What happened when your parents died? Did you kids sell it?

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
was renting?

WOODY
Sure. Where else would we sleep?

Woody turns and heads for the car as David thinks about that.

INT./EXT. CAR - RURAL ROAD - DAY

They drive past more farms, headed back to town. David and
Ross are in front, Noel sits between Woody and Kate in back.

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

David steps on the brake. He backs up to the driveway.

NOEL
David, what are you doing?

David stares at the house.

ROSS
Do it, David.

KATE
What are you boys up to?

NOEL
David, just keep going.

DAVID
I'll just go talk to him.

NOEL
You're asking for trouble.

DAVID
Want to see if he still has your
compressor, Dad?

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

NOEL

David! What has gotten into you?

DAVID

It's my dad's compressor.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

David parks and he and Ross get out and walk to the door. David knocks but there's no answer. They walk over to a small barn nearby as the three in the car watch.

KATE

What are they doing?

David opens the barn door and goes in, followed by Ross. Woody looks around, confused.

NOEL

I don't believe this.

Moments later David and Ross run out carrying a rusty old compressor.

ROSS

Pop the back!

Noel pulls the lever for the back door of the station wagon. The boys put the compressor in, jump in the car, and David speeds down the driveway and onto the road.

INT. CAR - RURAL ROAD - DAY

David smiles as he drives.

NOEL

I don't know who you are.

DAVID

You're the one who told me to start doing something.

NOEL

I didn't think you'd go from watching the Discovery Channel all day to looting barns.

DAVID

It's not looting if you're taking back what they stole.

NOEL

Uh huh. Are you proud of yourself?

DAVID

Yeah, a little bit.

He turns toward the back seat.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Dad, you finally got your compressor back.

WOODY

That's not my compressor.

DAVID

Sure it is.

Woody turns to look at it.

WOODY

Mine doesn't look anything like that.

DAVID

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

WOODY

That wasn't Ed's barn.

DAVID

What do you mean?

WOODY

That's the Westendorf place.

KATE

Oh, that's right.

David hits the brakes and turns to look at his mother.

KATE (CONT'D)

Yeah, the Pegrams live on Pond Road. I got confused. Ed and his wife Dorothy. God what a pig she was.

David stares at her.

DAVID

Anything you want to say about the Westendorfs?

KATE
No, they were good folks.

She pauses and shakes her head.

KATE (CONT'D)
They had some tough times. Lost a child. Almost went broke. But they worked hard and saved the farm.

David stares.

KATE (CONT'D)
Salt of the earth, the Westendorfs. They really didn't deserve you doing that to them, David.

David turns to Woody.

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

WOODY
I didn't know what you were doing.

DAVID
Have you ever seen us steal machinery before?

WOODY
Hell, I never know what you boys are up to.

ROSS
Why didn't you say it wasn't your compressor?

WOODY
I thought you wanted it.

DAVID
Why would we want it?

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

David looks at Ross and Noel and steps on the gas.

EXT. WESTENDORF FARMHOUSE - DAY

David pulls the car up to the barn and he and Ross grab the compressor and run in.

A car comes up the drive and parks by David's car. An old couple, GEORGE and ALICE WESTENDORF, get out and walk over as Kate rolls down her window.

KATE

Hi, George, Alice, remember us --
Kate and Woody Grant?

GEORGE

Oh, sure, how are you doing?

KATE

Good. We were passing by so we
thought we'd stop. This is Noel.

NOEL

Hi.

ALICE

What are you all doing in the back
seat?

NOEL

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

ALICE

Oh. Would you like to come in?

KATE

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

George leans in to look at Woody.

GEORGE

Hey there, Woody, how's it going?

WOODY

Good.

They all look at each other.

GEORGE

Where you all living now?

WOODY

Billings.

GEORGE
That's right. So you're still up
there in Montana, are you?

WOODY
Yeah.

GEORGE
Well, good to see you.

George starts toward the small barn.

KATE
Noel, you'd better get back in
front and drive us to town.

Noel climbs into the driver's seat.

ALICE
Okay. Thanks for stopping by.

KATE
Good to see you. Bye.

NOEL
Bye.

ALICE
Bye.

Noel starts the car and heads back down the driveway.

INT. SMALL BARN - CONTINUOUS

David and Ross watch through holes in the door. As George approaches they look around, see a back door, and run for it. They go out the door just as George comes in the front. George looks around as if he heard something.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

The car rolls slowly down the road as David and Ross come running out of the bushes and jump in.

INT./EXT. CAR - RURAL ROAD - CONTINUOUS

They ride in silence for a few moments. David, now driving, looks over at Noel, who stares back.

DAVID
You were right Mom, the Westendorfs
looked like nice people.

KATE
I tried to tell you.

DAVID
Yes, you sure did.

NOEL
Now what? Want to bust into a silo
and steal some corn?

DAVID
Does anybody want to stop in town?

KATE
Not me.

ROSS
I can't. Cindy wants to head back
home tonight.

WOODY
I'm thirsty.

David looks at Woody in the rear view mirror.

DAVID
Tell you what, Ross, why don't you
take the car back to the house and
we'll walk back in a bit.
(to Noel)
You want to come?

NOEL
I'll keep your mom company, make
sure she doesn't hurt anybody back
at the house. You're not packing
heat, are you, Kate?

KATE
No, not since the incident.

The men nod as Noel looks around, unsure if she wants to ask.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

David and Woody sit across from each other in a booth. Woody
drinks a beer while David has Coke.

DAVID
You want another beer?

WOODY
I suppose.

David is rudely shoved over by a drunk Ed Pegram.

ED PEGRAM

Hey there Davey boy, make room for
Eddie boy.

He slaps David on the back.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)

How's it goin', cowboy?

DAVID

It was going fine.

ED PEGRAM

Well, enough chit chat, time to get
down to business.

DAVID

We were just leaving.

ED PEGRAM

Woody, I tried to tell your son
here you wouldn't mind using some
of your winnings to even the score
with your old pal Ed.

Woody pulls his wallet out.

WOODY

How much you need? I've got a
twenty.

ED PEGRAM

A twenty? Oh, no no no no. I
figure ten grand ought to do it.

DAVID

Give him ten grand, Dad.

WOODY

I don't got it yet.

ED PEGRAM

Woody, I always thought we was
friends.

Woody looks at Ed.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)

Remember, I was the one who
convinced you to stay with Kate.

David turns to look at Ed.

DAVID
What are you talking about?

ED PEGRAM
Woody was thinking of getting a divorce and goin' back to his old girlfriend. Weren't you Woody?

Woody stares down at the table.

DAVID
When was this?

ED PEGRAM
After Ross was born. Before you.

David looks at his father.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)
Hell, if it wasn't for me son, you probably wouldn't be here. Ha ha.

Ed leans in on David.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)
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 Woody for thinking about it, considering Kate was such a bitch.

David glares at Ed as if he's going to hit him.

DAVID
Get the hell away from us.

ED PEGRAM
I want that money.

DAVID
Move.

ED PEGRAM
Okay, little Davey. But this is the last time I ask so nicely.

Ed gets up and storms out of the tavern. David looks at Woody, who avoids his stare. The waitress stops by.

WAITRESS
Another round?

WOODY
Yeah.

EXT. SIDEWALK - OUTSIDE OF TAVERN - NIGHT

David and Woody leave the tavern and head up the street.
David stops and looks around. He starts walking again.

Two men wearing hoods and masks run up from behind, hit David on the head and shove Woody to the ground. One of the men reaches into the inside pocket of Woody's jacket and grabs the sweepstakes envelope. The two run off in the dark.

David slowly rolls over and looks at his father, who is sprawled on his back on the sidewalk.

DAVID
Are you all right?

WOODY
They took my letter.

David stumbles to his feet and hears a truck shriek to a start on the next street. He starts to run in that direction but stops to go back and help Woody.

EXT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

David guides Woody up the driveway. He pauses.

DAVID
Hold on a second.

David goes over to Ralph and Bart's pickup and puts his hand on the hood. He looks up at the light in their bedroom.

INT. RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

David knocks on Ralph and Bart's door. Ralph opens it.

RALPH
Oh, hey, David.

DAVID
Ralph. Is Bart here?

Ralph opens the door to reveal Bart on the bed watching TV.

BART
So what's going on?

DAVID
Not much.

BART
Yeah, same here.

INT. BART AND RALPH'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

David steps in the room. They all watch 'Cops' for a moment.

DAVID
You guys ever think of moving out?

RALPH
Nope.

BART
Why would we?

DAVID
I don't know. To keep from going
to jail, I suppose.

BART
What do you mean?

DAVID
You know god damn well what I mean.

The brothers look at each other and down at the floor.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'll give you one hour to leave.

BART
Oh yeah?

DAVID
Yeah. And stay gone, or else..

RALPH
Wow, you sure talk tough.

DAVID
Martha doesn't deserve you two.

RALPH
You don't scare me.

DAVID
Where's the letter?

BART
We don't got it.

RALPH
Shut up, Bart.

BART
We tossed it when we saw how bogus
it was. Millionaire! What a joke.

DAVID
Get out.

RALPH
Where are we supposed to go?

DAVID
I hear Yankton's nice. What's
that, about thirty miles? That's
only about a ten minute drive for
guys like you.

David slams the door as he leaves.

INT. DAVID AND WOODY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

David enters to see Woody sitting on the edge of the bed.

DAVID
I didn't mention anything about it
to Mom and Noel, so don't bring it
up. In the morning we'll just tell
them you came to your senses and
we're heading back home.

Woody stares straight ahead.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What's the matter?

WOODY
I can't sleep.

DAVID
You know they weren't going to give
you that money.

WOODY
They might have.

Woody lowers his head. David takes his pants off and gets in
bed, turning his face to the wall and his back to Woody. He
listens for Woody to get in bed, but Woody doesn't move.

DAVID

Maybe they dropped it. Do you want
to go have a look?

Woody immediately puts on his coat and heads out the door
without stopping to wait for David.

EXT. HAWTHORNE STREET - NIGHT

David and Woody search along the street and sidewalk.

DAVID

I think it was easier trying to
find your teeth.

David looks hopelessly up and down the street.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Come on, let's take a break.

They head back to the tavern.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

As they enter, Ed Pegrum is standing by the bar, reading the
sweepstakes letter.

ED PEGRAM

'Congratulations Woodrow T. Grant -
you have won one million dollars!'

Laughter erupts in the tavern.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)

'Imagine what you could do with one
million dollars, Woodrow!' Well we
know what Woody would do -- buy a
truck!

More laughter. Woody starts walking toward Ed and is beside
him as Ed finishes reading.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)

'All you need to do to collect your
prize is return this letter to our
Lincoln office, along with your
winning prize number --'

The room has grown silent. Ed looks around and sees Woody
next to him.

ED PEGRAM (CONT'D)
Oh, hey, Woody, I was lookin' for
ya. I found your sweepstakes
notice. Congratulations.

Ed hands him the letter, which Woody takes and stares at.

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 in his pocket.
He walks through the crowd and out the door.

David moves within a few feet of Ed. They stare at each
other. David turns and walks a few steps. He stops, doubles
back and walks straight up to Ed, who swings at David. David
ducks, stands up, and hits Ed in the face as hard as he can.

Ed hits the bar and slides over onto a stool. He hugs the
stool as they both tumble to the floor. Ed doesn't get up.
David stares at the silent crowd and walks out.

EXT. HAWTHORNE STREET - NIGHT

David and Woody walk in silence. Woody suddenly looks dizzy.

DAVID
Are you okay?

Woody tries to recover.

WOODY
Yeah.

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

DAVID
What's the matter?

WOODY
I'm dizzy.

DAVID
We'd better get you to a doctor.

WOODY
Just take me back to the room.

DAVID
We're going to the hospital.

WOODY
There's no hospital.

DAVID
Where's the nearest one?

WOODY
Norfolk.

DAVID
Then we're going to Norfolk.

WOODY
But I'm going to Lincoln tomorrow.

DAVID
No you're not.

WOODY
Yes I am.

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

WOODY
But you promised me.

DAVID
Look, your head's busted open and now you can barely stand up.

WOODY
I don't care, I'm still going.

DAVID
We're not driving all the way to Lincoln over this fantasy of yours! I never should have brought you this far.

WOODY
I'll get somebody else to take me.

DAVID
God damn it! You didn't win! Why can't you understand that?

Woody sits down against a building. They avoid looking at each other a few moments. David sits down next to him.

DAVID (CONT'D)

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

WOODY

I want a truck just to have it.

DAVID

Just to have it sit there.

WOODY

I always wanted a brand new truck.

DAVID

What do you want with the rest of the money, then?

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 want to leave you something.

David looks at his father.

DAVID

You know if there was any chance you won I would take you.

Woody looks straight ahead.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You know that.

WOODY

I guess.

DAVID

I wouldn't lie to you.

WOODY

I know.

DAVID

The only reason I agreed to take you to Lincoln was to get out of Billings for a while. And to get you to shut up.

WOODY

All right.

DAVID

All right, what?

WOODY

I'll shut up.

DAVID

What about Lincoln?

WOODY

We don't have to go.

David sees that Woody is shaking.

DAVID

Let's get you to a doctor.

WOODY

I'm not going to another god damn hospital!

INT. NORFOLK HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Woody is propped up against the pillows in his hospital bed with a food tray in front of him. He's asleep.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

David is talking to DR. MILLER.

DR. MILLER

He just got a little shook up. If you want to take him home in the morning that would be fine.

DAVID

Actually, can we keep him here until later in the afternoon?

DR. MILLER

I guess it wouldn't hurt. The insurance covers the room for the whole day, so be our guest.

Dr. Miller pats his shoulder and leaves.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David enters the room, takes the food tray off Woody's bed and pulls the covers up.

Woody opens his eyes. David takes a comb and smooths Woody's wild hair back into place. Woody closes his eyes.

David goes over to Woody's coat and takes out the sweepstakes notice. He looks at Woody sleeping, then puts it back.

The other bed is empty. David gets on it, grabs the TV remote, and points it at the TV.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NEXT MORNING

David wakes up, rolls over, and sees Woody's empty bed. On the chair is Woody's hospital gown.

EXT./INT. CAR - DOWNTOWN NORFOLK - DAY

David drives slowly along the streets looking for his father.

He goes to the highway and sees Woody walking along the road.

David pulls onto the highway shoulder in front of Woody.

EXT. HIGHWAY SHOULDER - CONTINUOUS

David gets out and stands there. Woody reaches the car and stops. David looks at his father and at the cars going by.

DAVID

All right, let's go to Lincoln.

Woody walks around and gets in the passenger side.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

David gets in the car, glances at Woody, who stares straight ahead. David pulls out his cell phone and dials.

DAVID

Noel? Don't bring Mom, I'm taking Dad to Lincoln. Yeah. Just get it over with. Tell Mom he'll be okay.

WOODY

I thought we were going.

DAVID

I love you.

WOODY

Jesus Christ.

DAVID

I'm sorry.

WOODY
Here, I'll drive.

DAVID
I gotta go. Love you.

David starts the car and pulls out.

EXT./INT. CAR - HIGHWAY - DAY

David and Woody drive in silence.

Woody sleeps.

David and Woody eat fast food in the car.

Road sign: Lincoln 100 miles.

Woody looks at his sweepstakes letter.

At a convenience store, David comes out with a bag containing a liquor bottle and hands it to Woody.

Road sign: 'Welcome to Lincoln, Capital of Nebraska'

EXT. LINCOLN OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

They pull up in front of an office building, get out of the car and head up the steps.

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION - DAY

They enter an office marked 'Mega Sweepstakes Marketing' and approach the receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST
May I help you?

DAVID
My father is here to collect his million dollars.

RECEPTIONIST
I'm sorry?

DAVID
Show her your letter, Dad.

Woody hands her the tattered sweepstakes notification letter. The receptionist looks at it and types on her computer.

RECEPTIONIST
Just one second, please.

She waits for a screen to appear.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

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 really sorry.

WOODY

But it says I won.

RECEPTIONIST

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

She turns the computer screen. Woody looks at it and back at
his letter.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

I'm really really sorry. I hope
you didn't come 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

We'll take a hat.

RECEPTIONIST

Sure.

She opens a cabinet behind her and gives him a hat that reads 'Sweepstakes Winner!' Woody reads the words and puts it on. He looks at David for a few moments, turns and walks toward the door. David watches him, then yells out.

DAVID

Dad! Dad!

Woody turns around. David motions to a bench.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Sit down for a second.

Woody sits down.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Could I talk to whoever runs this place?

RECEPTIONIST

Just a second.

She picks up the phone and calls.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Mr. Lamprey? Yes, a Mr. Grant would like to see you.

She hangs up.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

He'll be right out.

They wait a few moments.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry.

DAVID

Has this happened before?

RECEPTIONIST

A few times. Usually older people like your father. Does -- does he have Alzheimer's?

DAVID

No. He just believes stuff that people tell him.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh, that's too bad.

DAVID

Yeah.

MR. LAMPREY arrives.

MR. LAMPREY

I'm Mr. Lamprey.

DAVID

Hi, I'm David Grant, son of Woodrow T. Grant, sweepstakes winner.

He points to his father sitting on the bench.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Can we talk?

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Mr. Lamprey sits behind his desk with David opposite him, looking up from a low-seated chair.

MR. LAMPREY

Mr. Grant, you know I can't give you a million dollars.

DAVID

My lawyer says the letter is flagrantly deceptive and we would win against you in court.

MR. LAMPREY

Let's be honest. Of the millions of mailings we put out, every once in a while someone like your father gets confused. They threaten to sue and nothing ever comes of it.

DAVID

That's why my lawyer thinks this
would make a great test case.
Maybe even a class action suit.

MR. LAMPREY

Once he does his homework he'll do
like most people and drop it.

David gets up and starts pacing.

DAVID

Most? What about the others?

MR. LAMPREY

We don't discuss litigation.

DAVID

You settle with them.

MR. LAMPREY

Like I said --

DAVID

That's what my lawyer thought. He
doesn't want me to do that.

Mr. Lamprey picks up the telephone.

MR. LAMPREY

Let me just make a call --

DAVID

If you call or leave this office
all deals are off.

MR. LAMPREY

And just what 'deals' are those?

DAVID

We want a brand new pickup truck
that you will buy for us today.

MR. LAMPREY

Uh huh.

DAVID

A new compressor.

MR. LAMPREY

Uh huh. A what?

DAVID

And you will have my car returned
to Hawthorne by tonight.

MR. LAMPREY

Why can't you drive it?

DAVID

I'll be driving the truck.

MR. LAMPREY

What about your dad?

DAVID

He can't drive.

MR. LAMPREY

He can't drive but he wants a
truck?

DAVID

I know, it doesn't make sense. But
what are you going to do with these
crazy old people these days?

Mr. Lamprey sits back in his chair and sizes David up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

And you have ten seconds to decide
or I call the lawyer and there will
be no settlement, I swear to god.
Ten -- nine --

MR. LAMPREY

I'm afraid it's impossible.

DAVID

Eight -- seven -- six --

MR. LAMPREY

I can't just give you a truck.

DAVID

I bet you can.

David starts counting slower.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Five -- four --

MR. LAMPREY

How much is one of those
compressors?

DAVID
Not much. Maybe 500.

MR. LAMPREY
500 -- dollars?

DAVID
Yes sir. Three --

MR. LAMPREY
I'll get you a compressor and take care of your car, but no truck.

DAVID
Why would I need you to drive my car back if you don't get me a truck?

MR. LAMPREY
Sorry, I hadn't thought it out.

David stares at him.

DAVID
Dad has to have the truck or I promise you I'll put the name Mega Sweepstakes Marketing on every front page in America.

MR. LAMPREY
Compressor. No truck.

DAVID
Truck.

MR. LAMPREY
Can't do it.

DAVID
Where was I?

MR. LAMPREY
Six.

DAVID
Nice try. Two --

MR. LAMPREY
No truck.

DAVID
One --

MR. LAMPREY
There is absolutely no way --

David leans across the desk...

DAVID
Zer --

MR. LAMPREY
Okay.

David looks surprised.

DAVID
Okay?

MR. LAMPREY
Compressor. Car. Truck. That's
it.

DAVID
Well. All right.

David shakes Mr. Lamprey's hand.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Can I borrow your phone?

Mr. Lamprey glares at him as David dials.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Won't take but a second...
(into phone)
Hi honey. Just called to say Dad's
fine.

NOEL (O.S.)
That's nice.

DAVID
Is Mom with you?

NOEL (O.S.)
She's right here.

KATE (O.S.)
David, where are you?

DAVID
Lincoln. We reached a settlement.
Mr. Lamprey will tell you all about
it. By the way, didn't you know a
Lamprey in Crofton?

David hands the phone to Mr. Lamprey.

MR. LAMPREY

Hel --

KATE (O.S.)

You're thinking of Junior Landers.
He married Pat Lewis but he cheated
on her with a waitress with loose
panties at the Four Corners Cafe.

MR. LAMPREY

Hello?

KATE (O.S.)

Who the hell is this?

Mr. Lamprey looks helplessly at David.

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION - DAY

David and Mr. Lamprey approach Woody on the bench.

DAVID

Dad, this is Mr. Lamprey.

MR. LAMPREY

Mr. Grant, I'm sorry for the
confusion.

Mr. Lamprey pauses as he notices Woody's cap.

MR. LAMPREY (CONT'D)

However, for your inconvenience, I
would like to buy you a truck.

Woody looks at David and back at Mr. Lamprey.

WOODY

Well I guess that's okay.

MR. LAMPREY

We'll also get you a compressor.

WOODY

That's good because Ed borrowed
mine.

DAVID

Stole it.

WOODY

That's true. He stole it.

Mr. Lamprey looks at David.

MR. LAMPREY
Yes, that's what I heard.

WOODY
Okay, let's go.

Woody stands and walks out the door, leaving them behind.

INT./EXT. NEW PICKUP TRUCK - HIGHWAY - DAY

David drives a new pickup with a compressor in back. Woody plays with the knobs and buttons. The windshield wipers go on and off, the antenna up and down, the seat back and forth.

David turns off onto a dirt road and puts the truck in park.

DAVID
Your turn to drive.

WOODY
You said I couldn't.

DAVID
You can drive down this road.

David gets out and walks to the passenger side as his father slides over. Woody gets comfortable and sets the mirrors. Woody slides the transmission into drive and moves very slowly down the road. He looks at David and grins.

DAVID (CONT'D)
It'll go faster.

WOODY
This is good enough.

David relaxes and sits back. Woody gets distracted playing with the lights and the truck starts rolling off the road.

DAVID
Dad!

The truck hits the only tree for hundreds of yards.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You hit a tree!

David leaps out of the truck.

DAVID (CONT'D)
How in the hell did you manage to
hit the only tree for miles?

He looks back in at Woody, who is slumped against the wheel.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Dad.

No answer.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Dad?

He jumps in the truck next to his father.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Dad!

Woody slowly lifts his head and looks at him.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

WOODY
Of course I'm okay. We was only
going ten. Don't be a moron!

David, relieved, slumps on the seat.

DAVID
You're right. Nothing like
crashing in an airplane, is it?

WOODY
How the hell should I know?

DAVID
You put a dent in the bumper.

WOODY
That's what bumpers are for.

DAVID
Good point. Move over, I'll drive.

David walks around the truck. He stops to take in the Nebraska landscape, looks at Woody sitting in the truck, drinking from his bottle. David gets in, makes a U-turn and heads back up to the highway.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - RAY AND MARTHA'S HOUSE - NEXT MORNING

Relatives gather to say goodbye to David and Woody in the new truck, Noel and Kate in David's car. Woody's brothers press up against the truck.

THE BROTHERS

What size engine does this thing got? -- Radar don't work on these you know -- What route you taking back? -- You should come visit more often -- Bloomfield ain't that far -
- Suppose I'll get on up to Billings one of these days --

IN THE CAR

NOEL

Now they talk.

KATE

Yep, can't get a word out of them, you go to leave and they won't shut up. You'll see. They'll soon be your relatives too, right?

Noel smiles.

KATE (CONT'D)

Right?

NOEL

I've already got relatives like that.

KATE

I don't know anything about your family. You'll have to tell me all about them on the way home.

Noel nods.

IN THE TRUCK

DAVID

Ready to go home?

WOODY

Let's go.

DAVID

(to relatives)
Bye.

The truck and car roll down the driveway and turn out onto the street. They pass Uncle Albert in his chair and wave.

EXT. STREET - DOWNTOWN HAWTHORNE - DAY

They pass the service station, where the two mechanics stop to admire the fancy new truck.

On Main Street, Ed Pegram walks down the sidewalk with a black eye. He sees the new truck and stops to look, then realizes who it is. David waves at him. Ed watches them pass and sees the compressor in the back of the truck.

Emily Bender is just coming out of the newspaper office. As the truck goes by Emily and Woody look at each other. In the car behind them Kate casually looks at Emily, turns to face forward, and realizing who it is, spins around to look again.

They roll down the street, leaving the business district behind. They pass a sign that reads: 'Thanks for visiting Hawthorne. Please come again.'

They continue on, home to Montana.

FADE TO BLACK.