

01
R U M B L E F I S H : screenplay,

From the novel

by

S. E. Hinton

Screenplay

by

S. E. Hinton

and

Francis Ford Coppola

FIRST DRAFT

May 4, 1982

HOT WEATHER FILMS

1006A N. Quaker St.

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74150

(918) 583-3470

Copyright 1982. Hot Weather Films.

R U M B L E F I S H

This story takes place a couple of years ago, anywhere there had once been gangs.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Rusty-James -- 17, big for his age, the toughest guy in his neighborhood. Has dark red hair and dark brown eyes. Likes to fight, steal and beat up people. Not smart. The only thing that scares him is being by himself. Wants to be like the Motorcycle Boy.

Motorcycle Boy -- 21, Rusty-James' older brother. Looks older than his age. Is color blind, partly deaf, has dark red hair, and dark brown eyes. Known as the toughest and coolest guy in the neighborhood. Is crazy about motorcycles. Very intelligent, likes to read books. Doesn't use drugs or alcohol, likes control. Rarely smiles. Sleeps all day; a night person. Stopped being a little kid when he was five. Likes to watch people. Has the ability to do anything but finds nothing he wants to do.

Steve Hays -- 16, but acts 40. Rusty-James' best friend. Has dark blond hair and brown eyes; wears eyeglasses. Reminds Rusty-James of a rabbit. Total opposite in personality from Rusty-James. Smart, likes school, worries what his parents think.

Rusty-James' Father -- middle-sized and middle-aged, blond hair, light blue eyes. A former lawyer, now on welfare and an alcoholic. Started drinking when his wife left him. The kind of person nobody ever notices. Never argues with his children, or talks with Rusty-James. Drinks all day, comes home and reads and drinks at night. Rusty-James doesn't really respect or like him, although they get along okay.

Patty -- 16, Rusty-James' girlfriend. Blond dyed hair. Tough, cool, but sweet. Knows how to swear. Goes to an all-girls Catholic school. Very jealous of other girls. The kind of girl who had boyfriends when she was nine.

Cassandra -- a substitute teacher, infatuated with the Motorcycle Boy. College-educated, from a good family. Walks around barefoot and doesn't wear any make-up. Always carries a cat. Tries to talk like the Motorcycle Boy. Uses heroin. Rusty-James doesn't like her, think she's crazy.

Biff Wilcox -- 16, husky, pug-ugly face, wiry blond hair. The toughest kid in another neighborhood.

Smokey Bennet -- has funny, colorless eyes. Tough and smarter than Rusty-James. A funny kind of tension exists between him and Rusty-James. He would have been the number one tough cat in the neighborhood if it wasn't for Rusty-James.

B. J. Jackson -- fat, but tough.

Midget -- black guy. Tall, and skinny, which is why they call him Midget.

Coach Ryan -- basketball coach at school. Always trying to be Rusty-James' friend. Tries to talk like one of the guys.

FADE IN:

1 EXT- BENNY'S - DAY: INTO BENNY'S 1

A SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD in a black leather jacket enters the pool hall.

2 INT - BENNY'S - DAY: BIFF'S GONNA KILL YOU 2

MEDIUM CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES

Part-time high school student and the toughest kid in the neighborhood. He plays the game with a lot of force.

TITLES SEQUENCE: "RUMBLE FISH" -- credit titles.

CLOSE ON THE BALLS
hitting off each other.

CLOSE ON THE CLOCK AT BENNY'S
always beating time.

CLOSE ON STEVE
a friend; more of the studious type -- wears glasses. He's not playing.

NEW VIEW ON SMOKEY BENNET
somewhat hacked off because he is losing, and already owes money. He clearly will always be the second man to Rusty-James. He starts counting out money as Rusty-James continues.

CLOSE VIEW
on Smokey's hands as he counts out fifteen dollars deliberately. B. J. JACKSON'S mouth hangs open, as he and some other guys watch.

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
about to take a pivotal shot. MIDGET enters behind him. He's a little older, black, kind of a messenger.

MIDGET
Biff is lookin' for you,
Rusty-James.

Rusty-James misses his shot.

RUSTY-JAMES
I ain't hidin'.

He stands there, leaning on his cue.

MEDIUM CLOSE ON MIDGET

MIDGET
He says he's gonna kill you.

2 CONTD: 2

VIEW ON SMOKEY
putting his money away.

VIEW ON STEVE
He takes out a small notebook, and begins scribbling.

RUSTY-JAMES
Sayin' ain't doin'.

SMOKEY
Biff is a mean cat, Rusty-James.

RUSTY-JAMES
Get your money out!
(continuing)
He ain't so tough. What's he
shook about, anyway?

MIDGET
Somethin' you said to Anita at
school.

RUSTY-JAMES
Shit, I didn't say nothin' but
the truth.

STEVE
What did you say to her?

RUSTY-JAMES
I said she had a tight pussy.
I meant it as a compliment.

B. J. and Smokey agree it's the truth.

RUSTY-JAMES
Hell, now why does he have to
go and get shook over somethin'
like that?

MIDGET
You guys. Always fightin' and
screwin' -- just like honkies.

Rusty-James moves over to the counter.

VIEW ALONG THE COUNTER.

RUSTY-JAMES
Hey, Benny, get me a chocolate
milk.

BENNY is making a sandwich.

2 CONTD:

2

RUSTY-JAMES

So what's he doin' about it?
Killin' me, I mean.

He sits down in a booth and Midget comes back from the black side of the room.

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES

His friends arrange themselves court-like in order of importance.

MIDGET

He wants you to meet him in the vacant lot behind the pet store.

RUSTY-JAMES

All right. I guess he's comin' alone, huh?

SMOKEY

I wouldn't count on it.

RUSTY-JAMES

(to Smokey)

Listen, Smokey, if there were still gangs around here, I'd be president, not you. You'd be second lieutenant or somethin'. Now if he's bringin' friends, I'm bringin' friends.

STEVE

Yeah, but you know how that's gonna turn out. Everybody'll end up gettin' into it. You bring people, he brings people ...

RUSTY-JAMES

You think I'm goin' to that empty lot by myself, you're nuts.

STEVE

But ...

SMOKEY

Butt out -- what the hell are you doin' in here anyway?

RUSTY-JAMES

Lay off -- Steve goes where I go.

SMOKEY

Okay, then let's get down to the business at hand.

RUSTY-JAMES
 Lookit, me an' Biff'll settle this
 thing ourselves. You guys'll just
 be an audience, huh?

STEVE
 You know it ain't gonna end up like
 that.

B. J.
 Anyway, when the Motorcycle Boy
 gets back ...

Rusty-James jumps up and slams his fist down on the table so
 hard, the table in the next booth rattles and Benny stops
 whistling and making his sandwich. Everybody else sits there
 holding their breath.

RUSTY-JAMES
 (voice shaking)
 The Motorcycle Boy ain't back.
 I don't know when he's comin'
 back, if he's comin' back. So
 if you wanna wait around the
 rest of your life to see what
 he says, okay. But I'm gonna
 stomp Biff Wilcox's guts tonight,
 and I think I oughta have some
 friends there.

SMOKEY
 We'll be there. But let's try an'
 keep it between you two, okay?

Rusty-James can't say anything because he is too mad. He
 walks out and slams the door behind him.

3 EXT - BENNY'S/STREETS - DAY: NO SMOKES FROM STEVE 3

MEDIUM VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
 walking.

He hears FOOTSTEPS behind him.

STEVE
 What's the matter with you?

RUSTY-JAMES
 Give me a cigarette.

STEVE
 You know I don't have any
 cigarettes.

3

CONTD

3

RUSTY-JAMES
Yeah. I forgot.

He hunts around and finds one in his shirt pocket.

STEVE
What's wrong?

RUSTY-JAMES
Nothin's wrong.

Steve takes out his notebook again, holds the pencil and looks up at Rusty-James.

STEVE
Is it maybe the Motorcycle Boy
being gone?

RUSTY-JAMES
Don't start up on me. And quit
writin' things down.

STEVE
It's a habit I got into.

RUSTY-JAMES
Well, break it.

STEVE
Slow down, willya? You're running
my legs off.

4

EXT - THE BRIDGE - DAY: LOOK AT RIVER

4

MEDIUM VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES and STEVE stop and look down at the water. Rusty-James throws his cigarette butt into the river.

HIS POV - THE RIVER

Trash is floating by their reflections.

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES AND STEVE
The clouds moving fast above them.

STEVE
The Motorcycle Boy always used to
look down from this bridge.

RUSTY-JAMES
Yeah.

4 CONTD:

4

 STEVE
You've been acting funny ever since
he left.

 RUSTY-JAMES
He's been gone before.

 STEVE
Not for this long.

 RUSTY-JAMES
Two weeks. That ain't long.

 STEVE
Maybe he's gone for good.

 RUSTY-JAMES
Shut up, wilya?

He's tired and closes his eyes.

 STEVE
You have to face the fact that
the Motorcycle Boy may be gone
for good.

 RUSTY-JAMES
 (tiredly)
I don't have to face nothin'.

He sighs and stares down at the river. Then he slaps the railing and starts off, Steve following.

5 EXT - PATTY'S HOUSE - NIGHT: AT PATTY'S DOOR

5

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

LIGHT falls on his face as the door is opened.

 PATTY O.S.
I'm not supposed to have company
when Mother's out.

She stands there blocking the doorway.

 RUSTY-JAMES
Since when?

 PATTY
Since a long time ago.

6
CONTD:

6

Patty settles down in Rusty-James' arms.

PATTY

Okay.

They start making out -- her sister remarks:

DONNA

You're not supposed to do that in front of me.

RUSTY-JAMES

Shut up or I'll knock your block off. Here's a dollar -- disappear.

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES

leaning over to Patty, kissing her.

VIEW ON PATTY

cuddling expectantly. Some passionate making out. Donna walks out, hiding her face behind her book.

DONNA

I'm gonna describe everything you're doing.

DISSOLVE:

7
INT - PATTY'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT: WAKE UP AT PATTY'S

7

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
asleep.

PATTY

Rusty-James.

He jumps.

RUSTY-JAMES

Was I asleep?

The room is dark, except for the black-and-white glare from the TV.

RUSTY-JAMES

Is it morning or night?

PATTY

Night. Boy, you've been great company.

RUSTY-JAMES

What time is it?

7
CONTD:

7

PATTY
Seven-thirty.

RUSTY-JAMES
Hell,
(getting up)
I'm supposed to fight Biff Wilcox
at eight. You got anything to
drink around here?

He goes into the kitchen and hunts through the refrigerator;
finds a can of beer and gulps it down.

PATTY
Now Mama'll think I drank it.
Thanks a lot.

She sounds like she is going to cry.

RUSTY-JAMES
What's the matter, honey?

PATTY
You said you were going to quit
fighting all the time.

RUSTY-JAMES
Since when?

PATTY
Since you beat up Skip Handley.
You promised me you wouldn't be
fighting all the time.

RUSTY-JAMES
Oh, yeah. Well, this ain't all
the time. This is just once.

CLOSE OVER SHOULDER ON PATTY

PATTY
You always say that.

RUSTY-JAMES
Aw, honey -- you'll see.

PATTY
You're always tryin' to be like
your brother ... but I like you
better.

7
CONTD:

7

CLOSE OVER SHOULDER ON RUSTY-JAMES

RUSTY-JAMES
My brother's the best.

PATTY
So who cares?

She is crying, tenderly. He backs her up against the wall and hugs her a while.

RUSTY-JAMES
Love you, babe.

PATTY
I wish you wouldn't fight all the time.

She stops crying.

RUSTY-JAMES
Well, what about you? You took after Judy McGee with a busted pop bottle not too long ago.

PATTY
She was flirting with you.

RUSTY-JAMES
Ain't my fault.

He grabs his jacket on the way to the door. He stops and gives her a long kiss.

RUSTY-JAMES
You look like a dandelion with your hair messed up.

PATTY
Be careful. I love you.

EXT - PATTY'S HOUSE - NIGHT: JUMP OFF PORCH 8

MEDIUM VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
as he waves good-bye and jumps off the porch.

EXT - STREETS/BENNY'S - NIGHT: ENTER BENNY'S BEFORE FIGHT

RUSTY-JAMES walks past Benny's -- looks in, sees his friends and enters. 9

INT - BENNY'S - NIGHT: COUNT GUYS IN BENNY'S 10

There are more people there than had been in the afternoon.

10 CONTD:

SMOKEY
We just about gave up on you.

RUSTY-JAMES
Better watch out or I'll take
you on for a warm-up.

CLOSE ON SMOKEY
backing down.

SMOKEY
Where were you?

RUSTY-JAMES
I went to see Patty -- what's it
to you?

SMOKEY
Nothin', Rusty-James -- nothin'.

Rusty-James counts the guys -- he looks around for Steve.

SMOKEY
You're not expecting Steve, are ya?
Why do you put up with that wimp
anyway?

RUSTY-JAMES
I've known him since Kindergarten.
What's it to you, anyway?

SMOKEY
You got a bad habit of getting
attached to people, man.

RUSTY-JAMES
Ok. Split up and meet me there,
or we'll have the cops on our tail.

Rusty-James leaves with Smokey and B. J.

EXT - BENNY'S/STREETS - NIGHT: WALK TO THE FIGHT

11

MOVING VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES
I love fights. I get really
high on fights.

B. J.
Slow down. You'd better be
savin' your energy.

1
1
CONTD:

11

RUSTY-JAMES

If you wasn't so fat you could keep up.

B. J.

Don't start that stuff again.

RUSTY-JAMES

Man, this is just like the old days, ain't it?

SMOKEY

I wouldn't know.

RUSTY-JAMES

Yeah, that's right. It was all over before you got into it.

SMOKEY

Hell, that gang stuff was out of style when you was ten years old, Rusty-James.

RUSTY-JAMES

Eleven. I can remember it. I was in the "Little Warriors" -- that was the Peewee branch of the "Packers". Man, a gang really meant somethin' back then.

SMOKEY

Meant gettin' sent to the hospital once a week.

RUSTY-JAMES

You're almost talkin' chicken, Smokey.

SMOKEY

I'm almost talkin' sense. That's my job around here.

Rusty-James gives him a dirty look.

SMOKEY

Lookit, I'm goin', ain't I? If you think this is gonna turn out to be a rumble, you're crazy. You and Biff are gonna go at it and the rest of us is gonna watch. I doubt too many's gonna show up for that much.

11 CONTD:

11

RUSTY-JAMES
(hyper, only
(half listening)
Sure.

12 EXT - PET STORE - NIGHT: PAST THE PET STORE

12

A display of aquariums in the window.

THEN they turn up into the alley.

13 EXT - THE ALLEY - NIGHT: HOLE IN FENCE

13

They finally crawl through a hole in the back fence and come out into the vacant lot.

14 EXT - VACANT LOT - NIGHT: KNIFE FIGHT

14

It leads down to the river.

The lot is damp and it stinks. Further down, a bunch of plants and factories dump their garbage into the water.

RUSTY-JAMES' POV

Only FOUR OF THE GUYS who were in Benny's are there waiting. B. J. looks around.

B. J.
(sarcastic)
I thought Steve was gonna be here.

RUSTY-JAMES
So, maybe he's late.

NEW VIEW

BIFF O.S.
Rusty-James!

It is Biff, coming across the lot to Rusty-James.

RUSTY-JAMES
I'm here!

BIFF
Not for long, you punk.

Biff is eighteen, but not any bigger than Rusty-James; husky; his arms hang off his shoulders like an ape's. He has a pug-ugly face and wiry blond hair. He is dancing around.

SMOKEY
(behind Rusty-James)
Be careful, man, he's been
poppin' pills.

Rusty-James registers a look of disgust.

RUSTY-JAMES
I hate fighting hopped up
people. They can't tell if
you kill 'em.

CLOSE-UP ON BIFF

He looks high. The light from the street lamp is bouncing off his eyes in a way that makes him look crazy.

RUSTY-JAMES
I hear you're lookin' for me.
Here I am. Come on, take a
swing at me.

BIFF
Take a swing at you?

CLOSE UP ON BIFF'S HAND
as it goes to his back pocket and comes out flashing silver.

BIFF
I'm gonna cut you to ribbons.

Biff's FRIENDS are cheering and screaming and Rusty-James' friends are grumbling.

RUSTY-JAMES
Oh, shit. Anybody lend me a
blade? Who said this was gonna
be a knife fight?

SOMEBODY
Here's a bike chain.

Rusty-James holds back his hand for it, never taking his eyes off Biff.

Just as Rusty-James expects, Biff tries to make the most of that moment, lunging at Rusty-James. Rusty-James is quick enough, grabs the chain, dodges the knife, and sticks out his foot to trip Biff.

Rusty-James sucks in his gut and wraps the chain around Biff's neck, jerking him to the ground. All he wants to do is to get the knife away from Biff. He'll kill him later.

CONTD:

Rusty-James jumps on top of Biff, and catches his arm as he swings the knife at Rusty-James. They wrestle for what seems like hours for that knife. Rusty-James takes a risk worth taking and tries to hold Biff's knife hand with one arm, and uses the other to smash his face. It works. Biff loosens his hold on the knife long enough for Rusty-James to get it away from him.

The knife falls a few feet away from them, far enough away that Rusty-James doesn't bother trying to reach for it. If he had gotten a hold of it, he'd have killed Biff. He's pounding Biff's brains out. If Biff would give up that damned knife he might stand a chance; he is older than Rusty-James, and just as tough. But Biff didn't go there to fight fair, so instead of fighting back, he just keeps trying to get away and crawl over to the knife.

Gradually Rusty-James starts to calm down, the red tinge of everything goes away, and he can HEAR everyone screaming and yelling.

Rusty-James looks at Biff. Biff's whole face is bloody and swollen.

RUSTY-JAMES

You give?

Rusty-James sits back on Biff's gut and waits. He doesn't trust Biff as far as he can throw him. Biff doesn't say anything, just lays there breathing heavily, watching Rusty-James out of the one eye that isn't swollen shut.

Everybody is quiet - tensed - ready, like a dog pack about to be set loose. One word from Biff would do it.

Rusty-James glances over to Smokey. He is ready. His gang would fight, even if they weren't crazy about the idea.

Suddenly, the SOUND of a motorcycle that is somehow familiar, stops everything. WE HEAR a smooth voice.

MOTORCYCLE BOY O.S.

What's this? I thought we signed a treaty?

The Motorcycle Boy is back. People clear a path for him. Everybody is quiet.

Rusty-James gets to his feet. Biff rolls over and lays a few feet away from Rusty-James, swearing.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

I thought we'd stopped this cowboys and Indians crap.

Rusty-James hears Biff dragging himself to his feet, but doesn't pay any attention. Usually he's not that stupid, but he can't take his eyes off the Motorcycle Boy. He'd thought the Motorcycle Boy was gone for good.

RUSTY-JAMES

Hey ...

B. J.

(screaming)

Look out!

Rusty-James whips around, and feels the knife slide down his side, cold. It was meant to split him open from throat to gut, but he moved just in time. It doesn't hurt -- at first.

Biff stands a few feet away from Rusty-James, laughing like a maniac. He is wiping the blood off the blade on his already-splattered T-shirt. His voice is thick and funny-sounding because of his swollen nose.

BIFF

You are one dead cat, Rusty-James.

He isn't dancing around anymore, and WE can tell by the way he moves that he is hurting. But at least he's on his feet and Rusty-James won't be much longer.

Rusty-James is cold, and everything looks watery around the edges. He's been knife cut before, he knows what it feels like to be bleeding bad.

The Motorcycle Boy steps out, grabs Biff's wrist and snaps it backwards. We HEAR it crack, like a matchstick. It is broken, sure enough.

The Motorcycle Boy picks up Biff's switchblade, and looks at the blood running over the handle. Everybody is frozen.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

I think,
(thoughtfully)
that the show is over.

Biff holds his wrist with his other arm. He is swearing, but softly, under his breath. The others are leaving, breaking up into twos and threes, edging away, leaving quieter than we'll ever see people leave a battleground.

STEVE is there beside Rusty-James.

14 CONTD:

14

 RUSTY-JAMES
Not me. It was Biff who was gonna
get killed.

Rusty-James can feel the Motorcycle Boy laughing. But then,
he never expected to fool him.

15 EXT - STREETS - NIGHT: LEAN ON STEVE

15

RUSTY-JAMES tries not to lean on STEVE too much. SMOKEY walks
along with them until they come to his block. Rusty-James has
convinced him he isn't going to drop dead.

 RUSTY-JAMES
Where ya been?

 MOTORCYCLE BOY
California.

 RUSTY-JAMES
 (amazed)
No kiddin'? The ocean and
everything? How was it?

 MOTORCYCLE BOY
Kid, I never got past the river.

Rusty-James doesn't understand what he means.

The Motorcycle Boy moves on. We PAN with him revealing
PATTERSON, a cop.

 PATTERSON
You. What's going on?

 RUSTY-JAMES
We're takin' a walk. Night air's
good for you.

 PATTERSON
Little late for you, isn't it,
Steve? Better get on home.

 STEVE
Yessir.

 PATTERSON
I'd watch the company you keep.
 (looking after the
 Motorcycle Boy)
I heard he'd left for good.

 RUSTY-JAMES
Must have missed you too much.

16 EXT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: JIMMY LOCK 16

The MOTORCYCLE BOY, STEVE and RUSTY-JAMES climb up the wooden stairs that go up the outside of the dry cleaners to their apartment. Steve eases Rusty-James onto the platform railing. Rusty-James hangs over the railing.

RUSTY-JAMES
I ain't got my key.

The Motorcycle Boy jimmys the lock and they go on in.

17 INT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: PERFECT TESTS 17

MOTORCYCLE BOY
You better lay down.

There is a mattress and a cot to lay down on. RUSTY-JAMES lays down on the cot.

STEVE
Boy, are you bleeding!

Rusty-James sits up and pulls off his sweatshirt, soggy with blood. He throws it over into the corner with the other dirty clothes and inspects his wound. He is gashed down from the side, deep over his ribs. It is a bad cut.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Where's the old man?

He is going through bottles in the sink. He finds one with some wine still in it.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Take a swallow.

Rusty-James knows what is coming. He braces himself for the pain.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Lay down and hang on.

RUSTY-JAMES
The old man ain't home yet.

Rusty-James lays down on his good side and grabs hold of the head of the cot.

The Motorcycle Boy pours the rest of the wine over the cut. It hurts like hell. Rusty-James holds his breath and counts until he is sure he can open his mouth without yelling.

Poor Steve is white.

17 CONTD:

17

 STEVE
 (whispering)
 God, that must hurt.

 RUSTY-JAMES
 Ain't all that bad.

His voice comes out hoarse and funny.

 STEVE
 He oughta go to a doctor.

The Motorcycle Boy sits down against the wall. He has an expressionless face. He stares at Steve till the poor kid wiggles.

 MOTORCYCLE BOY
 He's been hurt worse than this.

 STEVE
 But it could get infected.

 RUSTY-JAMES
 And they'd have to cut my side off.

Rusty-James shouldn't have teased him. He was only trying to help.

The Motorcycle Boy just sits and stares and stays quiet.

 STEVE
 (to Rusty-James)
 He looks different.

Rusty-James looks at the Motorcycle Boy, trying to figure out what is different. The Motorcycle Boy doesn't seem to notice.

 STEVE
 The tan.

 RUSTY-JAMES
 Yeah, well, I guess you get tan
 in California.

 MOTORCYCLE BOY
 You remember when I got expelled
 from school?

 RUSTY-JAMES
 Yeah. Your Senior year.

 MOTORCYCLE BOY
 You know why?

17

CONTD:

17

Rusty-James shakes his head.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Perfect tests.

You can always feel the laughter around him, just under the surface, but this time it comes to the top and he grins, in a flash, like lightning, far off.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
I handed in perfect semester tests.

He shakes his head.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Man, I can understand that. A tough district school like that, they got enough to put up with.

RUSTY-JAMES
(surprised)
But that ain't fair.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
(without bitterness)
When the hell did you start expecting anything to be fair?
(pause)
Be back in a while.

He exits.

STEVE
He looks so old, I forget he's just twenty-one.

RUSTY-JAMES
That's pretty old.

STEVE
Yeah, but he looks really old, like twenty-five or something.

RUSTY-JAMES
Steve, bring me the old man's shavin' mirror. It's over there by the sink.

When Steve hands it to Rusty-James, Rusty-James studies the way he looks.

17

CONTD:

17

TWO SHOT -- RUSTY-JAMES AND STEVE

RUSTY-JAMES
We look just like each other.

STEVE
Who?

RUSTY-JAMES
Me an' the Motorcycle Boy.

STEVE
Naw.

RUSTY-JAMES
Yeah, we do. Well, what's the difference?

STEVE
Well, the Motorcycle Boy ... I don't know. You can never tell what he's thinking. But you can tell exactly what you're thinking.

RUSTY-JAMES
(looking in the mirror)
No kiddin'?

It has to be something more than that.

STEVE
Rusty-James, I gotta go home. If they find out I'm gone, I'm gonna get killed, man. Killed.

RUSTY-JAMES
Aw, stick around awhile. You know I can't stand bein' alone.

Rusty-James is very scared to be by himself.

RUSTY-JAMES
Just for a little bit. The old man oughta be back pretty soon.

STEVE
(finally)
Okay.

He sits down where the Motorcycle Boy had been sitting. After a while Rusty-James dozes off.

17 CONTD:
MOVE CLOSE TO RUSTY-JAMES
as he dreams.

17

 RUSTY-JAMES O.S.
My brother is the coolest person
in the whole world. Everyone
thinks so.

18 EXT - STREET - DAY: DREAM MOTORCYCLE BOY FIGHTING

18

VIEW ON THE MOTORCYCLE BOY
in a fight.

VIEW ON GIRLS' FACES
looking after him.

 RUSTY-JAMES O.S.
Anyone would follow him ...

VIEW ON THE MOTORCYCLE BOY
stealing a motorcycle; kicking it over. ROARS off, leaving
our VIEW on a CLOSE UP OF RUSTY-JAMES.

 RUSTY-JAMES O.S.
... and I'm going to be just like
him.

19 INT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: KNIFE WOUND

19

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES' KNIFE WOUND

He winces in pain.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

20 INT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: GLAD YOU'RE HOME

20

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
looking up.

 RUSTY-JAMES
I never thought you'd go clear
to the ocean.

HIS POV:

The MOTORCYCLE BOY is reading a book.

ANOTHER POV:

His FATHER is snoring away on the mattress.

20 CONTD:

20

RUSTY-JAMES
 (feverishly)
 I'm glad you're home.
 (pause)
 I thought you was gone for good.

We HEAR chimes. It is 12 o'clock.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
 Not me.

He doesn't look up from his page.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
 I got homesick.

21 EXT/INT - SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY: MEET JEANNIE MARTIN/
STEVE'S MOTHER 21

MOVING VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
 entering the office, obviously not feeling too well -- he is
 bleeding off and on.

CLOSE ON SCHOOL CLOCK
 pendulum swinging.

The CLERK hands him a late pass.

It is a typical school day. Rusty-James is surprised to see a
 white-faced STEVE hurrying toward the desk, escorted by
 JEANNIE MARTIN. Steve walks right past him, and into his
 counselor's office.

RUSTY-JAMES
 Hey.

JEANNIE
 His mother had a stroke or
 something.

MEDIUM VIEW

After a moment, Steve exits the office, his COUNSELOR walking
 with him. Steve has been crying.

STEVE
 Jesus ...

RUSTY-JAMES
 Did your mother die?

STEVE
 What a helluva thing to say.

RUSTY-JAMES
I was just asking.

STEVE
She's had a stroke -- she's not
goin' to die ...

Steve exits, as the counselor rushes to drive him to the hospital.

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES
looking.

VIEW ON JEANNIE MARTIN
not looking too thrilled to talk to Rusty-James.

RUSTY-JAMES
It ain't gonna kill you to give
me the time of day.

22 INT - SCHOOL BASEMENT - DAY: PLAY POKER

22

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES, B. J. AND SMOKEY

Rusty-James has just lost two dollars.

RUSTY-JAMES
You guys must cheat. I can't
have rotten luck all the time.

B. J.
(grinning)
Naw, you're just a lousy poker
player, Rusty-James.

RUSTY-JAMES
I ain't either.

B. J.
Yeah, you are. Everytime you get
a good hand, we can tell it.
Everytime you get a bad hand, we
can tell. You ain't gonna earn
your livin' gamblin', man.

RUSTY-JAMES
Don't give me that. Them cards
was marked.
(teasing, knowing
they weren't
marked)

INT - SCHOOL GYM - DAY: QUICK FIVE BUCKS

23

MEDIUM VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES just stands there watching the PLAYERS at basketball practice.

COACH RYAN approaches Rusty-James.

COACH RYAN
Why aren't you practicing basketball?

RUSTY-JAMES
I don't feel like it.

COACH RYAN
Yeah. I've had days like that.

Coach Ryan looks eager to talk to Rusty-James, trying to be friends. He lets him get away with murder like Rusty-James was a big shot and being friends with him was like owning a vicious dog.

COACH RYAN
(looking around,
making sure nobody
can hear)
Rusty-James, want to earn a quick
five bucks?

Rusty-James just looks at him.

COACH RYAN
Price has been giving me a lot of
trouble these days.

RUSTY-JAMES
Yeah. A real wise-ass.

COACH RYAN
I'll give you five bucks to beat
him up.

RUSTY-JAMES
I can't fight for a while.

Rusty-James jerks up his gym shirt to show him the scar from the knife cut on his side.

COACH RYAN
Hey, man! You been to the nurse?

RUSTY-JAMES
(pulling his shirt
back down)
Nope. Ain't gonna either.

23 CONTD:

23

COACH KEAN
Well, let me know when you're
healed up.

RUSTY-JAMES
Sure thing.

Rusty-James goes back to watching practice.

24 INT - ENGLISH CLASS - DAY: ENGLISH CLASS

24

MEDIUM VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES is sitting in class, contented. Listening to the
TEACHER reading the CLASS a story, not knowing whether the
class is listening or not. Rusty-James is always in ~~these~~
classes.

25 INT - MATH CLASS - DAY: MATH WITH STEVE

25

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES AND STEVE
working on business math.

CLOSE ON SCHOOL CLOCK
ticking on.

Rusty-James just sits there, not listening, thinking of Patty.

26

VIEW ON PATTY
undressing for him.

INT TO:

27 EXT - PATTY'S HOUSE - DAY: MOTHER'S CAR AT PATTY'S

27

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
walking by Patty's house. Her mother's CAR is still there.

28 INT - BENNY'S - DAY: PLAY POOL ALONE

28

CLOSE ON CLOCK AT BENNY'S
Time moves on.

MEDIUM VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES shoots a game of pool by himself. There are other
PEOPLE there, but nobody else playing pool. Occasionally,
someone wants to see his knife cut.

NEW VIEW

STEVE comes by after an hour. He is not in a mood for hang
around Benny's so Rusty-James leaves with him.

548E

29

EXT - BENNY'S/STREETS - DAY: NEED SOME MONEY

29

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES AND STEVE

RUSTY-JAMES
How's your old lady?

STEVE
(after some time,
he has a funny white
look on his face)
Real sick. She's in the hospital.

RUSTY-JAMES
It wasn't you sneakin' out that
did it?

Steve looks at Rusty-James like he is off his rocker.

STEVE
No, it wasn't that.

RUSTY-JAMES
Coach Ryan asked me to beat up a
guy ... for fifty dollars .. I'm
really thinkin' about it.

Steve's mind is somewhere else.

STEVE
Yeah?

RUSTY-JAMES
I really need some money.

STEVE
Well, what about your allowance?

RUSTY-JAMES
You mean what I get out of the
old man before he drinks it up?

30

EXT - APARTMENTS/STREETS - DAY: RIP OFF MAGS

30

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES AND STEVE

The clouds are moving.

Rusty-James spots a set of real cool simulated mags on a late-
model CHEVY, sitting in front of an apartment house. Nobody
is around and he sees a quick way to make twenty bucks which
will last him a good long while.

He works on the hubcaps, has three off and is working on the
fourth one.

STEVE
What are you doing?

Rusty-James hands the three hubcaps to Steve and works a little harder on the fourth.

RUSTY-JAMES
(getting nervous)
Shut up. Don't just stand there like an idiot.

STEVE
You know I don't steal things.

RUSTY-JAMES
You know I do.

Finally it comes off.

NEW VIEW

Just then THREE GUYS come shooting out of an apartment house hollering at Rusty-James and Steve.

Rusty-James takes two running steps, sees Steve just standing there.

RUSTY-JAMES
Move it!

31 EXT - STREETS - DAY: RUN WITH MAGS

31

MOVING VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES AND STEVE
being chased by the THREE GUYS.

About two blocks later, Steve realizes he is still carrying the hubcaps and throws them down, like a dummy. That does not stop the guys chasing them.

MOVING VIEW ON THE GUYS
swearing at Rusty-James and Steve. One stops to get the hubcaps.

PUSHING VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

He figures one won't do him any good and throws his away a block later. That stops another one.

MOVING VIEW ON THE THIRD GUY
fast, coming after them.

32 EXT - ALLEYWAY - DAY: RUN THROUGH ALLEY

32

STEVE is keeping up better than RUSTY-JAMES thought he would, but Rusty-James' side is killing him.

33 EXT - FENCE - DAY: CUT ACROSS FENCE

33

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
as he turns down an alley and cuts across a fence. STEVE follows with a desperate look on his face that makes Rusty-James almost want to laugh.

VIEW BEHIND THEM

The fence slows down the GUY who is chasing them, but it doesn't stop him. He is out for blood.

34 EXT/INT - APARTMENT HOUSE/ROOF - DAY: ROOF JUMPS

34

RUSTY-JAMES runs into an apartment house, shoots up the stairs, goes to the top and runs out onto the roof. It is a good-sized jump to the next roof, but he makes it easy. He is tearing off across it for the next one, when he notices STEVE isn't with him .

VIEW ON STEVE
stopped at the gap between the roofs. He is almost doubled over from trying to catch his breath.

MEDIUM VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES

Come on.

Rusty-James isn't sure they have lost the guy.

STEVE

I can't make it.

RUSTY-JAMES

Yeah, you can. Come on.

Steve just shakes his head.

RUSTY-JAMES

If that guy catches ya, you'll wish you jumped off this building.

NEW VIEW

Steve jumps the edge. (SPECIAL EFFECTS)

Steve looks back at the door, then down at the alley, backs up a few feet and jumps. He doesn't know how to do it right at all but he makes it, landing across his belly on the ledge.

He is so surprised he made it that he forgets to hang on and just slips down. Rusty-James catches his wrist. Steve hangs there hollering his head off.

RUSTY-JAMES
If you don't shut up, I'll drop
you.

(not threatening
him, just telling
the truth)

Rusty-James keeps trying to haul Steve up, but it isn't easy.
He is hurting pretty bad from his wound.

RUSTY-JAMES
And don't look at me like a
rabbit, neither. I ain't
kiddin', Steve, I'm hurtin'.

Steve is trying to get a toehold on the wall. Finally, he
climbs and claws his way on up. They just sit there trying to
breathe again. Rusty-James keeps listening for the guy who
was chasing them. Finally, he figures they have lost him.

CLOSE TWO SHOT ON RUSTY-JAMES AND STEVE

RUSTY-JAMES
I guess we didn't need to do that.
He ain't comin' up here.

Rusty-James doesn't notice till then that Steve is shaking
pretty bad.

STEVE
We didn't need to do that, huh?

Steve swears at Rusty-James who just sits there and tries not
to laugh. His wound is open again and his shirt is
bloodstained.

RUSTY-JAMES
You shouldn'ta throwed them
hubcaps away. I coulda got
twenty bucks for 'em.

STEVE
(like he was really
telling Rusty-James
something new)
You were stealing them.

RUSTY-JAMES
So what? They stole 'em from
somebody else.

He starts to answer him, then thinks, why bother?

STEVE
I don't know.

RUSTY-JAMES
I can't ever remember mine --
so I don't know what it feels
like.

(pause)
C'mon, man, don't -- Jesus, I
never cried in my life.

They part and each heads home in a different direction.

38 EXT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: CASSANDRA 38

MEDIUM VIEW - UP THE STAIRCASE
on RUSTY-JAMES as he literally runs into CASSANDRA on the way
up the stairs.

CASSANDRA
Hi.

Rusty-James waits for her to move over so he can go on up the
stairs, but she doesn't. He just looks at her, doesn't try to
pretend he likes her.

RUSTY-JAMES
Well, move it.

CASSANDRA
Charming child.

RUSTY-JAMES
Eat shit.

Cassandra doesn't even flinch.

CASSANDRA
What's your problem?

RUSTY-JAMES
I don't like substitute teachers
in the building.

CASSANDRA
I didn't move here to be near you.

RUSTY-JAMES
He don't like you. Any more than
he liked any of the rest of them.

CASSANDRA
He doesn't like me now, period.

(CONTD)

38

She holds out her arms.

RUSTY-JAMES POV;

Cassandra's arms are covered with tracks.

NEW VIEW ON THE TWO

See? CASSANDRA

Rusty-James is surprised for a second, then disgusted.

RUSTY-JAMES
Me and him, we never do dope.
Dope ruined the gangs. If I
caught my girlfriend doin' that
shit, I'd break her arm.

CASSANDRA
He's done almost that much for
me. I'm not hooked. I just
thought it might help. I thought
he was gone for good.

RUSTY-JAMES
You call that love.

He looks away from her and spits over the railing. She takes
the hint and goes down the stairs.

INT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: FATHER & SONS 39

RUSTY-JAMES finds the MOTORCYCLE BOY in the apartment, sitting
on the mattress against the wall.

RUSTY-JAMES
Is there anything to eat in
the house?

The Motorcycle Boy doesn't hear. Rusty-James is used to that.

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
as he finds some crackers, sardines and milk. He also finds a
bottle of sneaky pete and finishes it off.

After he eats and drinks, he takes off his shirt and washes
out his knife cut again.

MEDIUM VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES
Hey, don't go anywhere till
the old man gets home, okay?

CONTD:

The Motorcycle Boy drags his eyes off the wall, and looks at Rusty-James slowly without changing his expression.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Poor kid, looks like you're all messed up all the time, one way or another.

RUSTY-JAMES
I'm okay.

Rusty-James is a little surprised that the Motorcycle Boy is worried about him. But that doesn't mean anything.

WE HEAR the TICKING of the clock.

Rusty-James' FATHER comes in.

FATHER
Both of you are home?

He isn't as drunk as usual.

RUSTY-JAMES
Hey, I need some money.

FATHER
(to the Motorcycle Boy)
I haven't seen you for quite some time.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
I was home last night.

FATHER
Indeed. I didn't notice.

RUSTY-JAMES
I need some money.

Rusty-James' father looks at him thoughtfully. Rusty-James and the Motorcycle Boy don't look anything like him.

FATHER
Rusty-James, are you ill?

RUSTY-JAMES
Got cut up in a knife fight.

FATHER
Really?

He moves over to take a look.

FATHER

What strange lives you two lead.

RUSTY-JAMES

It ain't so strange. At least
I ain't a lawyer on welfare.

The old man gives Rusty-James a ten-dollar bill.

FATHER

And how about you? Did you
have a nice trip?

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Yeah. Went to California.

FATHER

How was California?

MOTORCYCLE BOY

It was one laugh after another.
Even better than here, as
amusing as this place is.

RUSTY-JAMES

C'mon, don't get goin' on one of
those three-hour discussions.

The Motorcycle Boy looks straight through the old man, seeing
something Rusty-James can't see.

Their Father stares at the Motorcycle Boy like he is seeing a
ghost.

FATHER

You are exactly like your
Mother.

(settling down
with a book
and a bottle)

Russel-James, please be more
careful in the future.

The Motorcycle Boy is quiet for a long time.

RUSTY-JAMES

She said she wasn't hooked.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

(surprised)

Who?

RUSTY-JAMES

Cassandra.

39

CONTD:

39

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Oh, yeah. Well, I believe her.

RUSTY-JAMES

You do?

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Sure. You know what happened to people who didn't believe Cassandra.

Rusty-James doesn't.

FATHER

The Greeks got 'em.

RUSTY-JAMES

What the hell do Greeks have to do with anything? You don't like her anymore, though, huh?

The Motorcycle Boy doesn't answer him. He just gets up and leaves.

Rusty-James goes to sleep right away.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

40 INT/EXT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: LAKE PICK-UP 40

SMOKEY and his cousin JAMES arrive around midnight. RUSTY-JAMES leaves with them in James' car for the lake.

41 EXT - EMPTY LAKE COTTAGE - NIGHT: BREAK INTO COTTAGE 41

The car pulls up at somebody else's vacation cottage --SMOKEY, JAMES, three FRISKY GIRLS and RUSTY-JAMES break in and turn on the lights.

42 INT - EMPTY LAKE COTTAGE - NIGHT: PLAY MONOPOLY 42

Drinking and playing monopoly.

RUSTY-JAMES

Smokey, sometimes you come up with some great ideas.

SMOKEY

That's what I'm here for.

43 INT - COTTAGE ROOM - NIGHT: NECKING ON BUNKS 43
NEW VIEW

A COUPLE necks on the bunks upstairs.

44 EXT - THE LAKE - NIGHT: SKINNY DIPPING 44
VIEW BY THE LAKE

SMOKEY
Are you all healed up yet?

RUSTY-JAMES
No problem -- I can't fight
but I can still fuck.

The GIRLS are swimming nude. They have a bonfire. RUSTY-JAMES is into some hot necking with DEBBIE, the least pretty of the three, but with the best figure.

45 INT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - MORNING: HOME AFTER PARTY 45

RUSTY-JAMES gets home early in the morning. His FATHER wakes up.

FATHER
Russell-James, I heard a rumor going around that a policeman was determined to get one of you. Is it you or your brother?

RUSTY-JAMES
Both of us, but mostly him.

46 INT - SCHOOL OFFICE - DAY: NO LATE PASS 46

RUSTY-JAMES gets to the school about one o'clock. He checks in at the office and lets them know he is there.

RUSTY-JAMES
(to CLERK)
I was sick this morning but I'm okay now.

It is obvious the clerk doesn't believe him.

CLERK
Mr. Harrigan wants you in his office.

Rusty-James is surprised. He was expecting to be given a pass back to class.

47 INT - COUNSELING OFFICE - DAY: HARRIGAN SHUFFLE

47

VIEW ON MR. HARRIGAN
at his desk, shuffling through some papers.

MEDIUM VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES enters the office.

MR. HARRIGAN

Rusty, you have been here to
see me before.

RUSTY-JAMES

(irritated - he
can't stand people
calling him
just Rusty)

Don't call me Rusty. Makes me
feel like I'm not wearin' my
pants.

MR. HARRIGAN

Too many times. We have
decided that we can no longer
tolerate your kind of behavior.
Fighting, swearing, smoking,
sassing the teachers, cutting
classes, drunk at school ...
We have arranged for you to be
transferred to Cleveland. I'm
sure you have friends there.

RUSTY-JAMES

Yeah -- some. Biff Wilcox.

MR. HARRIGAN

Who?

RUSTY-JAMES

Look, I done lots of things
worse than cutting school for
half a day. Why now?

MR. HARRIGAN

Rusty, they are equipped to
handle your kind at Cleveland.

RUSTY-JAMES

Yeah? They got bars on the
windows and bullet-proof vests?

Mr. Harrigan just looks at Rusty-James.

7
CONTD:

47

MR. HARRIGAN

Don't you think it's time you gave some serious thought to your life?

RUSTY-JAMES

Look, I got to worry about if the old man is gonna drink up his check before I get part, and I got a cop itchin' to blow my brains out and now you're sendin' me to Biff Wilcox's turf. I don't have much time for serious thinkin' about my life.

MR. HARRIGAN

You start at Cleveland next Monday, Rusty. You are suspended until then.

He rattles his papers to show that the time is up.

RUSTY-JAMES

Suspend the hell out of me. What do I care? The only reason I'm here at this fuckin' school is because my friends are here. You think I give a shit -- you suspend me? I fuckin' quit, man.

8
INT - SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY: COACH RYAN IS SORRY

48

VIEW ON RUSTY JAMES leaving Mr. Harrigan's office, angry. He runs into COACH RYAN.

COACH RYAN

(really looks kind of sorry)

Rusty-James, man, I'm sorry. I told them you were a good kid. I told them you never gave me any trouble.

RUSTY-JAMES

Lied through your teeth, huh?

COACH RYAN

But it didn't do any good. I couldn't talk them out of it.

RUSTY-JAMES

Don't worry about it.

48 CONTD:

48

Coach Ryan looks at Rusty-James like he has been sentenced to death.

COACH RYAN
Kid, don't go getting into trouble, okay?

Rusty-James looks at him like he is nuts.

COACH RYAN
I mean trouble you can't handle.

RUSTY-JAMES
Sure,
(pause)
man.

49 EXT/INT - BENNY'S DAY: EMPTY BENNY'S

49

Nobody is in Benny's besides BENNY. RUSTY-JAMES is there --he doesn't like shooting pool without an audience.

RUSTY-JAMES
Jeez, this place is dead during school hours, huh?

50 EXT/INT - EDDIE & JOE'S BAR - DAY: THROWN OUT OF JOE'S

50

RUSTY-JAMES goes down the street and over a couple of blocks to Eddie & Joe's Bar. A couple of GUYS who used to be in the Packers are hanging out there. As soon as he enters, JOE - or EDDIE - throws him out.

51 EXT/INT - WESTON McCauley's - DAY: JUNKIES AT WESTON'S

51

RUSTY-JAMES tries WESTON McCAULEY'S place. He is there. Some OTHER PEOPLE are also there -spacey, nervous and dopey, doing horse.

WESTON
What are you doin' here? Your brother kills junkies, you know that.

RUSTY-JAMES
That's just a rumor. He never told me nothin' like that.

WESTON
He never tells you anything.

RUSTY-JAMES
You used to be his Second Lieutenant. You used to be his friend.

51 CONTD:

51

WESTON

That guy has no friends. Beat
it, straight guy.

52 EXT - BUS STOP - DAY: PATTY SAYS FUCK OFF

52

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

waiting at the bus stop, smoking a cigarette and fooling
around, smarting off to PEOPLE passing by.

VIEW ON PATTY AND RUSTY-JAMES

as she hops off the bus, swinging on by Rusty-James like she
doesn't even see him.

RUSTY-JAMES

Hey.

Rusty-James drops his cigarette and runs a couple of steps
after her.

RUSTY-JAMES

What's up?

She stops sharply and glares at him.

She tells him what he can do.

Rusty-James is getting mad.

PATTY

I heard all about your little
party.

Rusty-James looks blank.

PATTY

Up at the lake. Marsha Kirk
was there. She told me all
about it.

RUSTY-JAMES

So what? What does that have
to do with anything?

PATTY

Do you really think you can
treat me like that? Fuck off,
asshole.

52

CONTD:

52

RUSTY-JAMES
Where'd you learn to talk like that?

PATTY
Goin' with you for five months.

RUSTY-JAMES
What does a dumb party have to do with anything?

Patty is so mad she can't even speak for a second.

PATTY
(finally)
Just get lost.

Her eyes are shooting sparks.

PATTY
I don't want to ever see your face again.

RUSTY-JAMES
Don't worry, you won't have to, bitch.

Rusty-James adds a few comments of his own. He almost slaps her, but hesitates. Patty turns and walks off defiantly.

RUSTY-JAMES' POV:

Patty goes stalking on down the street, her hair bouncing on her shoulders, her head up, a tough, sweet little chick.

53 EXT - STREETS/DRUGSTORE - DAY: SEE THE MOTORCYCLE BOY IN DRUGSTORE 53

MOVING VIEW OF RUSTY-JAMES walking around for a while. He can't think of anything to do, or any place to go.

RUSTY-JAMES POV:

He spots the MOTORCYCLE BOY in the drugstore reading a magazine, and he goes in.

54 INT - DRUGSTORE - DAY: PHOTO IN MAGAZINE 54

MEDIUM VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES
You got a cigarette?

The MOTORCYCLE BOY hands him one.

RUSTY-JAMES
Let's do somethin' tonight, okay?
Let's go over to the strip, across
the bridge, okay?

Rusty-James stands there and looks at the magazines for a little bit.

RUSTY-JAMES
Hey, what you reading?

MOTORCYCLE BOY
There's a picture of me in
this magazine.

The Motorcycle Boy shows him the picture.

INSERT: It is a picture of the Motorcycle Boy. He is leaning back against a beat-up cycle. It makes him look like a wild animal out of the woods. It is a good picture.

MEDIUM VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES
Hey, what magazine is this?

He looks at the cover. It is one of those big national magazines, one that goes all over the country.

RUSTY-JAMES
Is there anything about you
in here?

He looks through the magazine again.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
No. Some famous photographer
took my picture out in
California. I'd forgotten
about it.

Rusty-James looks at the other photographs. They are mostly of people. They all look like paintings.

RUSTY-JAMES
Wow, wait till I tell everybody.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Don't, Rusty-James. I'd rather
you didn't tell anybody. God
knows it's gonna get around soon
enough.

1 WFD:

54

The Motorcycle Boy seems strained.

RUSTY-JAMES

Sure.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

It's a burden to be Robin Hood and the Pied Piper. I'd just as soon stay a neighborhood novelty, if it's all the same to you.

RUSTY-JAMES

All right.

Rusty-James knows what he means about being the Pied Piper to some people. Even the people who hate him would admit that.

RUSTY-JAMES

Hey, I get it. The Pied Piper. Man, those guys would have followed you anywhere. Hell, most of them still would.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

It would be nice if I could think of somewhere to go.

EXT - DRUGSTORE - DAY: PATTERSON WATCHES DRUGSTORE

55

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES AND THE MOTORCYCLE BOY leaving the drugstore.

Rusty-James sees PATTERSON across the street watching them. He stares back at him. There is a large street clock behind him. The Motorcycle Boy doesn't see Patterson.

RUSTY-JAMES

That is really a good picture of you.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Yes, it is.

He is smiling, but not happy. He never smiles much. It's frightening when he does.

Patterson motions Rusty-James over.

RUSTY-JAMES

You goin' to work me over with your aight stick again?

55

PATTERSON
(ignores question)
Why'd he come back?

RUSTY-JAMES
He lives here, man.

Patterson stares down the street after the Motorcycle Boy and Rusty-James move on.

56

EXT - STREETS - DAY: COME WITH US STEVE

56

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES AND STEVE walking.

STEVE
... just me and my father
living in the house ...

RUSTY-JAMES
Come on, come with us. It'll
be fun.

STEVE
Okay, I'll tell my father I'm
going to the movies.

Steve has been acting peculiar lately. Ever since his mother went into the hospital he's had a funny kind of empty recklessness to him.

57

INT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - DUSK: CHERRY VODKA

57

MEDIUM VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES, THE MOTORCYCLE BOY AND STEVE

Steve meets Rusty-James and the Motorcycle Boy at their place. Rusty-James has never gone to his home. His parents don't even know he knows Rusty-James.

Rusty-James is pouring a half a bottle of cherry vodka into a bottle of sneaky pete to take with them.

Steve takes out his notebook, and starts feverishly writing.

RUSTY-JAMES
What's with that, anyway?

STEVE
It's my feelings and ideas.
I write everything down --
that way, I remember it.

RUSTY-JAMES
So what'd you just write --
is it about me?

STEVE
No -- it's how I feel, ever
since my mother went to the
hospital.

RUSTY-JAMES
Like how?

STEVE
...reckless, I guess.

RUSTY-JAMES
Here, take a swig of this.

Steve does.

8 EXT - DOWNTOWN STREETS - DUSK: WALK TO BRIDGE 58

MOVING VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES, STEVE AND THE MOTORCYCLE BOY

The dark clouds are racing by.

9 EXT - BRIDGE - NIGHT: STOP AT BRIDGE 59

They are going downtown that night, across the bridge, to
where the lights are.

There isn't much space for walking. You are supposed to drive
across. They stop in the middle so that the MOTORCYCLE BOY
can look at the river awhile. He's been doing that ever since
RUSTY-JAMES can remember. He really likes that old river.

CLOSE ON THE MOTORCYCLE BOY
Rusty-James and Steve in the bg.

Rusty-James hands Steve the bottle, and to his surprise Steve
takes a drink. He never drinks. Rusty-James has been trying
to get him to for years, and had just about given up on it.
Steve gags, looks at Rusty-James for a second, then swallows
it. He wipes his eyes.

STEVE
That stuff tastes awful.

RUSTY-JAMES
Don't worry about the taste. It'll
get you there.

STEVE

Remind me to chew gum before I go home, okay? My father will kill me if he knows I've been drinking.

RUSTY-JAMES

Sure.

The Motorcycle Boy is ready to move on again and they trot along behind him. He covers a lot of ground with one stride.

It is going to be a good night. Rusty-James can tell.

The Motorcycle Boy is basically a night person. He comes home in the morning and sleeps past one or two, and really just gets awake good around four.

MOVING VIEW -- ON THE THREE

The Motorcycle Boy is hearing pretty good, too, and doesn't seem to mind them going with him. He didn't used to like Rusty-James following him around. Now it seems like he barely notices they are there.

STEVE

Why do you drink so much?

Something is bugging Steve. He always is kind of nervous and bothered, but Rusty-James can't believe he'd ever try to pick a fight with him.

STEVE

You can't stand your father drinking all the time, so why do you? Do you want to end up like that?

RUSTY-JAMES

Aw, I don't drink that much. Man, this is gonna be a good night. I love it over here. I wish we lived here.

EXT - THE STRIP - NIGHT: COLOR BLIND

RUSTY-JAMES is over into the city, on the strip, where there are lots of people and noise and lights and we can feel energy coming off things, even buildings. Rusty-James is damned if Steve is going to mess it up for him.

10
CONTD:

-49-

69

MOVING VIEW

He swings himself around a light pole and almost knocks STEVE into the street.

STEVE
(muttering)
Calm down.

Steve takes another swallow from the bottle.

STEVE
(to the Motorcycle Boy)
Hey, you want a drink?

RUSTY-JAMES
You know he don't drink. Just sometimes.

STEVE
That makes a hell of a lot of sense.
(to the Motorcycle Boy)
Why don't you?

MOTORCYCLE BOY
I like control.

Steve has never talked to the Motorcycle Boy. That wine has really made him brave.

RUSTY-JAMES
Everything over here is so cool. The lights, I mean. I hate it on our block. There ain't any colors. Hey.
(to the Motorcycle Boy)
You can't see the colors, can ya?

MOVING CLOSE ON THE MOTORCYCLE BOY
looking.

STEVE
And you're deaf too -- Rusty-James told me. What's it look like to you?

THE MOTORCYCLE BOY'S POV:

The lights -- the strip.

NEW MOVING VIEW

He looks at Rusty-James with an effort, like he is trying to remember who Rusty-James is.

5/4/82

MOTORCYCLE BOY

(finally)

Black-and-white TV, I guess.
That's it... with the sound low.

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES, THE MOTORCYCLE BOY AND STEVE

Then Rusty-James tries to get rid of the thought of Patty.

RUSTY-JAMES

That's too bad.

STEVE

I thought color-blind people
just couldn't see red or green.
I read somewhere where they
couldn't see red or green or
brown or something. I read that.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

So did I. But we can't be
everything we read.

RUSTY-JAMES

(to Steve)

It don't bother him none. 'Cept
when he's cycle-ridin' he tends
to go through red lights.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Sometimes it seems to me like I
can remember colors, way back
when I was a little kid. That
was a long time ago. I stopped
bein' a little kid when I was five.

RUSTY-JAMES

Yeah? I wonder when I'm gonna
stop bein' a little kid.

The Motorcycle Boy looks at Rusty-James with that look he
gives to almost everybody else.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Not ever.

Rusty-James really thinks that is funny, and he laughs, but
Steve glares at him.

STEVE

What's that supposed to be, a
prophecy or a curse?

60 CONTD:

-81-

The Motorcycle Boy doesn't hear him, and Rusty-James is glad. He doesn't want Steve to get his teeth knocked out. 60

RUSTY-JAMES
Hey, let's go to a movie.

There are some good ones right there on the strip. They are passing the advertising posters.

STEVE
That sounds like a great idea.
Let me have the bottle.

Rusty-James hands it to Steve. He is getting happier everytime he takes a drink.

61 EXT - MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT: GET MOVIE TICKETS 61

MEDIUM VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES, THE MOTORCYCLE BOY AND STEVE

STEVE
Too bad. You have to be eighteen to get into this movie. That is too bad, since it really looks interesting.

He is studying some of the scenes they have on the advertising posters.

NEW VIEW

The Motorcycle Boy goes to the TICKET SELLER, buys three tickets, comes back and hands them each one. Steve stares at him, openmouthed.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Well, let's go.

They walk in.

62 INT - MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT: SKIN FLICK 62

MEDIUM VIEW ON THE THREE OF THEM

STEVE
(loudly)
Was that guy blind or something?

In the movie-house dark Rusty-James can HEAR people turn around to look at them.

RUSTY-JAMES
Shut up.

8/4/82

Rusty-James has to wait so his eyes can get used to the dark. It doesn't take long. The Motorcycle Boy has already found them seats right in the middle.

62

RUSTY-JAMES

(to Steve)

I got in here before, and the place was raided. That was a blast. You shoulda seen the movie they were playin' that night. It was somethin' else.

CLOSE ON STEVE

Rusty-James is going to tell him about the movie, but he interrupts.

STEVE

Raided? Police raid?

He is quiet for a little while.

STEVE

Rusty-James, if you're arrested or something, can you refuse bail? I mean, can't you stay in jail if you'd rather do that than go home?

RUSTY-JAMES

What are you talkin' about?

STEVE

If my father had to come to the jailhouse and get me, I'd rather stay there. I mean it. I'd rather stay in jail.

RUSTY-JAMES

Aw, relax. Nothin's gonna happen.

He lights up a cigarette and puts his feet up on the back of the chair in front of him. He can't help it if someone is sitting there.

RUSTY-JAMES' POV:

The PERSON in the seat turns around and gives him a dirty look.

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

Rusty-James looks back at him like there is nothing he'd rather do than bash his face in.

CONTD:

MEDIUM VIEW

The person moves over two seats.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
That was pretty good. Did you
ever think of becoming a
chameleon?

RUSTY-JAMES
(kind of proud
of himself)
I don't know them. Where's their
turf?

Steve chokes on a laugh.

THEIR POV:

The very beginning of the movie is just some people talking.
It isn't too long before they get to the good stuff.

VIEW ON THE THREE OF THEM

Steve isn't looking at the screen anymore. The Motorcycle Boy
never watches movies. He watches people in the audience.
Rusty-James has been to movies before with him, so it doesn't
bother him, but now Steve is looking at the people, to
see what is so interesting.

RUSTY-JAMES' POV:

There isn't anything interesting, just some OLD MEN, some
COLLEGE KIDS, some PEOPLE who have drifted in off the streets,
and what looks like some RICH KIDS from the suburbs, slumming.
It is the usual people.

MEDIUM VIEW

Rusty-James knows that is one of the Motorcycle Boy's weird
habits, but he hates for Steve to miss parts of the movie,
especially since he is sure Steve hasn't been to a skin flick
before.

RUSTY-JAMES
(prking Steve in the ribs)
You're missin' out on somethin',
kid.

Steve looks at the screen and he freezes. It is Rusty-James'
turn to laugh.

STEVE
(in a strangled voice)
Are they faking that?

RUSTY-JAMES
I doubt it. Would you?

STEVE
You mean,
(his voice
rising slightly)
that people film that?

RUSTY-JAMES
Naw, this is live from Madison
Square Garden. Sure, they film
it.

Steve sits there for a few minutes more, then jumps up hurriedly.

STEVE
I gotta go to the john. I'll
be right back.

RUSTY-JAMES
Steve!

Rusty-James hollers at him but he is gone. After about ten minutes Rusty-James knows Steve isn't coming back.

RUSTY-JAMES
(to the Motorcycle Boy)
Come on.

EXT - MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT: SHOOK UP AFTER MOVIE

Outside it is almost as dark as in the movie theatre, until they get used to the lights. RUSTY-JAMES finds STEVE plastered up against a wall, a sick look on his face.

RUSTY-JAMES
Well, what happened?

STEVE
Nothing. I don't know. A guy
just asked me if I liked the
movie. What's scary about that?

It is like he is talking to himself.

RUSTY-JAMES
I was gonna tell you.

He takes the wine bottle out of his black leather jacket.

63 CONTD:

63

RUSTY-JAMES
You never go to the john in those places. I mean, never.

Steve gives him a startled look.

STEVE
So it was scary? I didn't just make it up -- I mean, is there really something to be scared of?

RUSTY-JAMES
Yep.

Steve looks like he is going to throw up. Another drink perks him up some.

STEVE
I didn't mean to make you guys miss the movie.

RUSTY-JAMES
We ain't missin' nothin'. I seen better.

64 EXT - THE STRIP - NIGHT: THE MOTORCYCLE BOY TELLS ABOUT MOTHER

64

MOVING VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES, THE MOTORCYCLE BOY AND STEVE

They go down the block. The Motorcycle Boy turns to walk backwards a few steps.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Sin City. Adults only.

NEW VIEW

They go bopping on down the street. The street is jammed with cruising cars. WE can HEAR music blasting out of almost every bar. There are LOTS OF PEOPLE.

RUSTY-JAMES
Everything is so cool ...

Rusty-James waves his cigarette at the noise. He can't explain how he feels. Jivey, juiced up, just alive.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
I saw the old lady when I was out in California.

Rusty-James almost loses his balance and falls off the curb. Steve grabs ahold of his jacket to steady him or maybe himself. He is swaying a little, too.

84

RUSTY-JAMES
Yeah? She's in California?
How'd you know that?

MOTORCYCLE BOY
I saw her on television.

For a second Rusty-James looks around, trying to make sure everything is real, that he isn't dreaming or flipped out.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Yeah, I was sitting in a comfortable bar, having a cold beer, minding my own business, watching one of those award shows. When the camera went over the audience, I saw her. I thought I could find her if I went to California, and I did... Now I know ...

It is hard for Rusty-James to understand what he means. Their mother -- he can't remember her.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
...now I know why the old man always says 'You are exactly like your mother.'

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES, THE MOTORCYCLE BOY AND STEVE

RUSTY-JAMES
Yeah? I must look like her too, huh?

The Motorcycle Boy ignores him.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
... she's living with a movie producer, or was then. She was planning on moving in with an artist who lived in a tree house up in the mountains so she may be there now.

RUSTY-JAMES
She glad to see you?

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Oh, yeah. It was one of the funniest things she'd ever heard of. She wanted me to stay out there with her. California was very funny. Even better than here.

RUSTY-JAMES
California's nice, huh?

He hears himself asking. It doesn't seem like him talking.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
California is like a beautiful wild kid on heroin, high as a kite and thinking she's on top of the world, not knowing she's dying, not believing it even if you show her the marks.

He smiles again.

RUSTY-JAMES
She say anything about me?

He goes deaf again, and doesn't hear.

RUSTY-JAMES
(to Steve)
He never told me about her.

65 EXT - STREETS - NIGHT: OLDER HOOKER

RUSTY-JAMES
The lights, I mean, and all the people. I like lots of people. I wonder -- how come? Maybe because I don't like bein' by myself. I mean, man, I can't stand it. Makes me feel tight, like I'm bein' choked all over.

Neither STEVE nor the MOTORCYCLE BOY says anything.

An OLDER HOOKER makes a pass at Rusty-James, who ignores her. The Motorcycle Boy watches, thoughtfully.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
(suddenly)
When you were two years old, and I was six, Mother decided to leave. She took me with her. The old man went on a three-day drunk when he
(MORE)

MOTORCYCLE BOY (contd)
found out. He's told me that was the first time he ever got drunk. I imagined he liked it. Anyway, he left you alone in the house for those three days. We didn't live where we do now. It was a very large house. She abandoned me eventually, and they took me back to the old man. He'd sobered up enough to go home. I suppose you developed your fear of being alone then.

What he is saying doesn't make sense to Rusty-James. Trying to understand it is like trying to see through fog.

RUSTY-JAMES

You ...

(pause)

... you never told me that.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

I didn't think it would do you any good to find out.

RUSTY-JAMES

You told me now.

Something nags at the back of his mind, like a memory.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

So I have.

The Motorcycle Boy stops to admire a cycle parked on the street. He looks it over very carefully. Rusty-James stands there fidgeting on the sidewalk, zipping the zipper of his jacket up and down. This is a habit he has.

EXT - THE STRIP - NIGHT: THE MOTORCYCLE BOY SLIPS THRU CROWD

66

FAST MOVING VIEW

The MOTORCYCLE BOY is ahead of them, slipping through the crowd easily, nobody touching him.

NEW VIEW

STEVE and RUSTY-JAMES push and shove at people, getting sworn at, occasionally punched.

66 CONTD:

66

RUSTY-JAMES
I never bugged him about it.
Hell, how was I to know he could
remember anything about being
six?

67

EXT - THE STRIP/STORE FRONTS - NIGHT: SLAM A DRUNK

67

MOVING VIEW

AN OLD DRUNK GUY who reminds RUSTY-JAMES of his father is creeping along in front of them. Rusty-James can't stand for him to be blocking the way like that. It makes him mad, and he slams his fist into the drunk's back and shoves him into the wall.

NEW VIEW ON STEVE

STEVE
Hey. Don't do that.

Rusty-James stares at him, almost blind from being so mad.

RUSTY-JAMES
Steve, don't bug me.

STEVE
All right. Just don't go
pounding on people.

Rusty-James is afraid that if he hits him or something he'll go home, and he doesn't want to be left with the MOTORCYCLE BOY by himself.

RUSTY-JAMES
Okay. You'd think it'd cross his
mind to tell me he saw her when he
went to California. I woulda told
him, if it was me. That is somethin'
he shoulda told me.

The Motorcycle Boy stops to talk to SOMEBODY. Rusty-James doesn't know who and doesn't care.

RUSTY-JAMES
(to the Motorcycle Boy)
What is the matter with you?

Rusty-James doesn't see why he has to go around messing everything up. He feels like the whole world is messed up.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

67 Steve laughs crazy-like. They stop to pass the bottle back and forth. Steve leans on a glass store window. 67

I'm dizzy. STEVE
dizzy? Am I supposed to be

Yeah. RUSTY-JAMES

He is trying to shake his bad mood. So what if the Motorcycle Boy saw their Mother? Big deal.

RUSTY-JAMES
What the hell.
(straightening)
Come on.

68 EXT - THE STRIP - NIGHT: NIGHTOWN MONTAGE

68

RUSTY-JAMES starts clowning around, trying to pick up GIRLS, trying to start fights, just giving PEOPLE trouble in general. It is a lot of fun.

NEW VIEW

STEVE is scared, giggling, or throwing up.

NEW VIEW

The MOTORCYCLE BOY is watching Rusty-James -- amused but not interested.

MEDIUM VIEW

Steve sits down in a doorway and bawls about his mother. Rusty-James feels bad for him and pats him on the head.

69 EXT - APARTMENT - NIGHT: FIND PARTY

69

They find a party. SOMEBODY leans out of a window and yells.

SOMEBODY
Come on up, there's a party.

70 INT - APARTMENT - NIGHT: APARTMENT PARTY

70

There is more booze there, MUSIC and GIRLS. RUSTY-JAMES finds STEVE in a corner making out with a CUTE LITTLE CHICK about thirteen years old.

RUSTY-JAMES
Way to go, man.

70 CONTD:

Steve looks at him dazedly.

70

STEVE
Is this real? Is this real?

He seems terrified when he realizes he isn't dreaming.

It does seem like a dream even if they aren't drinking so much.

71 EXT - THE STRIP - NIGHT: ON STRIP AFTER PARTY

71

RUSTY-JAMES, the MOTORCYCLE BOY and STEVE are back on the streets, and the lights and the noise and the PEOPLE are more and more and more. Everything is throbbing with NOISE and MUSIC and energy.

RUSTY-JAMES
Everything is so bright.
(looking at the
Motorcycle Boy)
It's too bad you can't see what
it's like.

72 INT - POOL HALL - NIGHT: BLACK POOL

72

RUSTY-JAMES and STEVE are watching the MOTORCYCLE BOY play pool. Rusty-James doesn't know exactly where they are or how they got there, but he knows how long they've been there. The place is smoky and dark and full of BLACK PEOPLE.

This doesn't bother him, and it doesn't seem to bother Steve either. He and Steve are sitting in a booth. The table is scarred and the plastic coverings on the seats are ripped and leaking cotton junk. Steve is adding to the carving on the table.

INSERT

He is writing a word Rusty-James didn't even know he knew.

RUSTY-JAMES' POV:

A BLACK GUY is playing pool with the Motorcycle Boy.

BLACK GUY
My, my, my. Ain't he fine?

The Motorcycle Boy is winning. He walks around the table, measuring his shot. In the dim smoky light he looks like a painting.

RUSTY-JAMES
Yeah. And I'm gonna be just
like him.

The black guy pauses and looks Rusty-James over.

BLACK GUY
No, you ain't, baby. That cat
is a prince, man. He is royalty
in exile. You ain't never gonna
look like that.

RUSTY-JAMES
(muttering)
Whadda ya know? I might.

Rusty-James is tired.

STEVE
Pass me the wine.

RUSTY-JAMES
There ain't any more.

STEVE
That is the most depressing
thing I have ever heard.

The Motorcycle Boy wins the game and they start in on another.

STEVE
(grumbling)
Isn't there anything he can't
do?

MOTORCYCLE BOY
You want to hear about Cassandra?

RUSTY-JAMES
I know about Cassandra. She's
this weirdo school teacher who's
got the hots for you and thinks
she's some kind of intellectual
or something.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
No, the Cassandra that has to do
with Greeks.

RUSTY-JAMES
 Oh, shit. Yeah. Well, am I
 gonna like this? Tell it so I
 can understand it, okay?

The black guys around the pool table gather, as though they
 know the story.

There is an old pendulum clock.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
 Sure. This Trojan guy, Paris,
 was hanging out with the Greek
 King Meneleus, and stole his
 old lady, right? So he takes
 her home to Troy with the Greek
 guys hot on his trail. They
 fought it out for ten years.
 Greeks won.

RUSTY-JAMES
 One fuckin' long time to fight
 for one piece of ass, man. So
 what about Cassandra?

MOTORCYCLE BOY
 Cassandra was Paris' sister. This
 god, Apollo, he really liked her for
 awhile, and gave her the gift of
 prophecy. Then he got ticked off
 and made it so, okay, she could
 foretell the future, but nobody'd
 believe her. So when she started
 in about this big rumble comin' up
 with the Greeks, everybody thought
 she was crazy. They found out too
 late she wasn't.

RUSTY-JAMES
 Well, the other one's crazy. Really,
 she is, man. And a dooper now.

(pause)

So, what happend to her? Get killed
 in the war?

MOTORCYCLE BOY
 I believe she survived and was taken
 home by Meneleus as a prize of war.
 But he never believed her either.

RUSTY-JAMES
 You know some fuckin' weird
 shit, man.

STEVE
 "Wah! Peekin' shit ..."

END VIEW

Steve drops his head on the table and holds on to the edges, like he is trying to keep from spinning around. Rusty-James opens them, the Motorcycle Day is gone. When he looks isn't a particularly cool place to be, if the Motorcycle Day isn't there.

RUSTY-JAMES
 Come on.
 (shaking Steve)
 Let's go.

INT - POOL HALL - NIGHT: WHERE ARE WE

STEVE staggers out with RUSTY-JAMES. It is dark. Really dark. There aren't any lights or people and very little noise. That is kind of spooky, like things whispering around in the dark.

Suddenly, Rusty-James stops.

RUSTY-JAMES
 Listen.

STEVE
 (listening)

What?

He HEAR very distinctly the sound of a motorcycle revving up, and away.

STEVE
 I'm gonna be sick again.

RUSTY-JAMES
 Naw you ain't. You haven't drunk enough to puke more than twice.

STEVE
 Whatever you say.

The night air is sobering him up some. He looks around.

STEVE
 Where are we? Where's the living legend?

73

RUSTY-JAMES
He took off. Didn't you hear?
Hell, where'd everybody go?

74 EXT - STREETS - NIGHT: MIDDLE OF STREET

74

MOVING VIEW

RUSTY-JAMES and STEVE start moving down the street. Rusty-James isn't sure about where they are, but it seems like they ought to be going toward the river. Rusty-James has a good sense of direction.

STEVE

(after a few
minutes)

How come we're walking down the
middle of the street?

RUSTY-JAMES

Safer.

Rusty-James keeps thinking he sees something moving, out of the corner of his eye, but every time he turns around, it is just a shadow laying black against a doorway or an alley. He starts through the alleys, looking for shortcuts.

75 EXT - THE ALLEY - NIGHT: INTEGRATED MUGGING

75

MOVING TWO SHOT

STEVE

(whispering)

I thought we were sticking
to the streets.

RUSTY-JAMES

I'm in a hurry.

STEVE

Well, if you're scared, I
guess I should be terrified.

RUSTY-JAMES

I ain't scared. Bein' in a
hurry don't mean you're scared.
I don't like creepy empty places.
That ain't bein' scared.

STEVE

(mumbling)

Same thing.

75 CONTD:

75

Rusty-James 'doesn't want to stop and argue with him.

STEVE
Hey, slow it down, willya?

Rusty-James doesn't just slow down. He stops.

TWO LIVE SHADOWS step out of the dark ones to block the alley. One is WHITE. One is BLACK. The BLACK GUY has something in his hand that looks like a tire tool. Actually, it is a relief to see them. Rusty-James is almost glad to see anybody.

STEVE
(sing-song)
Oh, God, we're dead.

He is absolutely frozen.

VIEW ON THE MUGGER - A WHITE GUY

WHITE GUY
You got any bread?

CLOSE VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

RUSTY-JAMES
Like you're not gonna bash us
if we've got bread?

BLACK GUY
Sure, that's it.

STEVE
(muttering)
Progressive country, integrated
mugging.

Rusty-James sees that Steve does have some guts.

CLOSER VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

He blinks.

76

76 INT - PATTY'S HOUSE - DAY: DREAM PATTY

MEDIUM VIEW ON PATTY

She is crying at the news of Rusty-James' death.

77

77 EXT - THE ALLEY - NIGHT: LIFTING TIRE TOOL

CLOSE VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
looking.

5/4/82

17 CONTD: 77

VIEW ON THE BLACK MUGGER
lifting the tire tool.

18 INT - BENNY'S - NIGHT: DREAM BENNY'S 78

All the GUYS stop playing pool, and turn, and nod their heads
at the news that Rusty-James bought it. BENNY racks the
score.

CLOSE ON BENNY'S CLOCK
Time running out.

19 EXT - THE ALLEY - NIGHT: STEVE REALLY FRIGHTENED 79

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES

VIEW ON STEVE
really getting frightened.

80 INT - ARTIST'S TREE HOUSE - DAY: DREAM MOTHER 80

His MOTHER, the ARTIST in the bg. She is reading the letter,
detached at the news.

81 INT - BENNY'S - NIGHT: DREAM POOL SHOT 81

CLOSE ON A POOL SHOT.

82 EXT - THE ALLEY - NIGHT: CURSING MUGGER 82

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

POV ON THE WHITE MUGGER
cursing him.

83 EXT - CEMETERY - DAY: DREAM FUNERAL 83

COACH RYAN is there -- and Rusty-James' FATHER.

FATHER
What a strange way to die.

The Father looks at his watch.

INSERT:
An antique watch. The seconds are ticking.

84 EXT - THE ALLEY - NIGHT: RUSTY-JAMES IS HURT 84

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES

84
CONTD:

84

RUSTY-JAMES
Fuck off.

A funny thing happens to Rusty-James. He turns around and looks at Steve for a second, like he is thinking of running. Then the black guy clips him across the head with a splitting blow. Rusty-James is so slow -- like it is the booze.

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES' ASTRAL BODY

THEN he is floating around up in the air above the alley, looking down at all three of them. It is a weird feeling, just floating up there, not feeling a thing, like watching a movie.

Steve just stands there like a steer waiting to be slaughtered, and the white guy acts like he is bored out of his mind, and the black guy casually glances across to Steve.

BLACK GUY
Killed him. Better get this one too.

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

And then Rusty-James sees his body, laying there on the alley floor. It isn't a bit like seeing himself in a mirror.

All of a sudden it seems like he bobs a little higher, and he knows he has to get back to his body, where he belongs. He wants back there like he's never wanted anything.

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

And then he is back, because his head is hurting worse than anything has ever hurt him before, and the place smells like a toilet. He can't move and he keeps thinking he has to get up or they'll kill Steve but he can't even open his eyes.

He HEARS all kinds of NOISES, swearing and thumps like people are being clubbed to death:

VERY VIOLENT -- the MOTORCYCLE BOY rushes the black guy, wrestling the tire tool away from him, slamming him across the back with it. He turns just in time to tackle the white guy, yanks him up and slugs him several times, kicking him as he tries to crawl away.

STEVE O.S.
They killed him!

Even though Rusty-James is glad Steve is still alive, he wishes Steve wouldn't yell. Noises are going right through his head like knives.

The MOTORCYCLE BOY pulls him up, and he is half sitting, half leaning against him.

MOTORCYCLE BOY O.S.

He ain't dead.

It is the Motorcycle Boy. Rusty-James would know his voice anywhere. He has a funny voice for somebody as big as He is - kind of toneless, light and cold.

MOTORCYCLE BOY O.S.

He ain't dead.

He repeats, sounding more surprised that he is glad about it than anything else. Like it has never occurred to him that he loves Rusty-James.

He settles back, Rusty-James against his shoulder, and we HEAR the sound of a match being struck. He is smoking a cigarette, and Rusty-James wants one himself, but he still can't move. A harsh, breathing kind of sound keeps rasping in his ears, until the Motorcycle Boy speaks:

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Will you stop crying?

STEVE

Will you go to hell?

Everything is quiet, except for street NOISES somewhere, the sound of rats scratching around and alley cats fighting a block over.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

(after a long silence)

Interesting situation, isn't it?

Steve doesn't say anything.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Although I suppose it's as good a place as any. You know, there are actually people who will ride motorcycles in packs. Fuckin' unbelievable.

STEVE

(finally crying out)

Shut up, willya?

He sounds worse, more scared than when he thought he and Rusty-James were going to be killed.

STEVE

I don't want to hear it.

Maybe Steve understands the words. But Rusty-James understands something behind the words. For some reason or other the Motorcycle Boy is alone, more alone than Rusty-James would ever be, or could even imagine being. He is living in a glass bubble and watching the world from it. It is almost like being alone, hearing him, and Rusty-James tries to shake off the feeling. Rusty-James moves his head and the pain knocks him out.

OPTICAL:

EXT - THE ALLEY - DAWN: GANGS WERE SOMETHING

The MOTORCYCLE BOY is still talking when RUSTY-JAMES comes to again. Nothing is changed; they are still in the alley, only morning is coming on. Rusty-James is so cold. He never gets cold. He is cold, frozen stiff, unable to move, trying to hear the Motorcycle Boy's empty voice.

Rusty-James tries to say something, but it comes out in a grunt that sounds like a kicked dog.

STEVE

Rusty-James, you still alive?

RUSTY-JAMES

Yeah.

Rusty-James is hurting. He'd rather be knifed twenty times than hurt like this. He sits up straight and leans back against the wall, watching things go in and out of focus.

TWO SHOT

The Motorcycle Boy sits beside him. They each have on a white T-shirt and black leather jacket and blue jeans. Rusty-James is wearing tennis shoes, the Motorcycle Boy is wearing boots.

RUSTY-JAMES

What happened to those guys that jumped us?

STEVE

He clobbered them. Bashed one of them really good. The other took off.

RUSTY-JAMES
Way to go, man.

Rusty-James' head is hurting him until he can't see straight.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
(politely)
Thank you.

STEVE
You have to go to the hospital
this time. I mean it.

RUSTY-JAMES
Shoot. Back when the rumbles
was going on --

STEVE
(screaming at
Rusty-James)
Will you shut up about that!

He doesn't care if the noise knocks Rusty-James out.

STEVE
The rumbles! The gang! That
garbage! It wasn't anything.
It wasn't anything like you think
it was. It was just a bunch of
punks killing each other!

RUSTY-JAMES
(whispering)
You don't know nothin' about it.

Rusty-James doesn't have the strength to do anything else.

Steve turns to the Motorcycle Boy.

STEVE
You tell him! Tell him it wasn't
anything!

MOTORCYCLE BOY
It wasn't anything.

STEVE
See?
(triumphantly)
See?

RUSTY-JAMES
You were president. You must
have thought it was something.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

It was fun, at first. Then it got to be a big bore. People think I ended the rumbles. They were going to end, anyway. Too many people doing dope.

STEVE

Don't say it was fun. It wasn't fun. You can't say it was fun.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

I was speaking from personal experience. Most of them didn't think it was fun. Most of them were terrified when we had a fight. Blind terror in a fight can pass for courage.

RUSTY-JAMES

(whispering)

It was something.

Rusty-James feels so tired and sick and sore that he almost wishes he was dead.

RUSTY-JAMES

There was something about it, I remember.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

A lot of them felt that way apparently.

STEVE

(to Rusty-James)

Yeah. You are just stupid enough to have enjoyed it.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Well, remember, loyalty is his only vice.

After about five minutes of silence, the Motorcycle Boy speaks up again.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Apparently, it is essential to some people to belong -- anywhere.

STEVE

(wildly)

I wonder why somebody hasn't taken a rifle and blown your head off.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Even the most primitive societies
have an innate respect for the
insane.

RUSTY-JAMES

(dully)

I want to go home.

The Motorcycle Boy helps him stand up. He sways back and forth for a second.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Cheer up, kid. Gangs will come back, once they get the dope off the streets. People will persist in joining things. You'll see the gangs come back. If you live that long.

They pass an empty shopping cart -- the Motorcycle Boy drops Rusty-James into it and pushes him home. Steve trails along.

DISSOLVE:

INT - FREE CLINIC WAITING ROOM - DAY: WAIT AT CLINIC 86

MEDIUM VIEW

It is a free clinic -- RUSTY-JAMES doesn't have to pay anything or even give his right name. It is crowded with OLD PEOPLE and lots of whining KIDS and their MOTHERS. Rusty-James has been there before, when the old man had a fit of D.T.'s.

CLOSE ON CLINIC CLOCK
"Donate Blood".

INT - FREE CLINIC EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY: SEE THE DOCTOR 87

After an hour or so, RUSTY-JAMES gets to see a DOCTOR. He is just a kid. Rusty-James can't believe he is a real doctor. He thought they had to go to school forever.

RUSTY-JAMES

I bumped my head.

DOCTOR

I guess you did.

He washes off the side of Rusty-James' head with this junk that smells awful and burns like hell. Then he sticks a thermometer in Rusty-James' mouth and listens to his heart awhile.

RUSTY-JAMES
I need some pain pills, huh,
Doc?

DOCTOR
You're running a slight fever.
I want you to go over to the
hospital and get some X-rays.
You "bumped your head" pretty
hard.

He grins at Rusty-James like he knows Rusty-James got it in a
fight somewhere, like he has seen so much of the same thing he
knows that lecturing Rusty-James isn't going to do any good.

RUSTY-JAMES
Nope.

DOCTOR
Nope what?

RUSTY-JAMES
I ain't goin' to the hospital.
Just give me somethin' to make
it quit hurtin'.

And just as he says that, he has to grab onto the table to
keep from falling off.

The doctor straightens him up.

DOCTOR
(serious-like)
You are going to the hospital,
kiddo.

The doctor leaves the room for a minute to get some papers,
and Rusty-James gets out of there pretty quick.

88 INT - DRUGSTORE - DAY: SWIPE ASPIRIN 88

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES
swiping a bottle of aspirins.

89 EXT - STEVE'S HOUSE - DAY: STOP AT STEVE'S 89

RUSTY-JAMES goes by Steve's house on the way home. He knows
where Steve lives even though he's never been there. His
father is at work, though, and his mother is in the hospital,
so it's safe enough.

STEVE sees him coming up the sidewalk because he is holding
the screen door open when Rusty-James gets up the steps.

RUSTY-JAMES
Holy shit! What happened to you?

STEVE
(flatly)
I was supposed to be home at ten o'clock last night. I got in at six this morning.

RUSTY-JAMES
Your father did that? I've come out of gang fights lookin' better than that.

STEVE
Come on in.

INT - STEVE'S HOUSE - DAY: COUNT ME OUT

RUSTY-JAMES has never been in Steve's house before. It is real nice, with furniture and carpets and stuff sitting on the shelves. It is nicer than Patty's house, but then, she has that little kid sister. Rusty-James sits down on a sofa, hoping he isn't messing anything up. You'd think it would have gotten sloppy, with his mother in the hospital for so long.

RUSTY-JAMES
Your father did that to you?

STEVE
Don't tell anybody, huh? I'm gonna say I got it last night, across the river.

RUSTY-JAMES
Okay.

STEVE
He didn't mean to hit me so much. He's been worried about Mom. I didn't need to worry him, too. I just didn't think about that.

RUSTY-JAMES
Who would, man?

STEVE
What really set him off was that orange junk all over my shirt. I guess that girl was wearing a lot of make-up. I don't remember her being orange.

CONTD:

They sit there without saying anything for a long time.

OVER SHOULDER ON RUSTY-JAMES

STEVE
What'd you come over for,
Rusty-James?

RUSTY-JAMES
Steve, I think we'd better follow
the Motorcycle Boy around for a
while.

STEVE
Why?

RUSTY-JAMES
Well, somethin's happening with
him. Haven't you noticed it?

STEVE
Count me out.

RUSTY-JAMES
You gotta help me.

OVER SHOULDER ON STEVE

STEVE
I won't help you.

RUSTY-JAMES
Just follow him around for a
little bit. He won't go
across the river again.

STEVE
No.

OVER SHOULDER ON RUSTY-JAMES

RUSTY-JAMES
He just went last night because
I asked him to. He'll stick
around here. We won't get into
any trouble again.

STEVE
I have to go to school.

RUSTY-JAMES
So meet me after school.

STEVE

You don't need me there.

RUSTY-JAMES

Yeah, I do.

STEVE

Ask B. J. or Smokey.

RUSTY-JAMES

Oh, they don't know anything.
I mean, they think the Motoreyele
Boy's cool and everything, but
they don't know him like me and
you do.

CLOSE ON STEVE

STEVE

You mean they don't know he's
nuts?

Rusty-James jumps up, grabs him by his shirt front and slams
him back against the wall.

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES

RUSTY-JAMES

(shouting)

You don't ever say that!

Rusty-James knocks him back against the wall so he'll
remember.

RUSTY-JAMES

You hear me?

STEVE

Yes.

Rusty-James lets him go. Then all of a sudden Rusty-James
can't see, and the pain is like an awful noise in his head.
He sort of falls against the wall, trying to get his breath
and his vision.

OPTICAL:

When his eyes clear up, he sees Steve standing there, worried-
looking. Steve's lips are moving, but Rusty-James can't hear
anything. Then his hearing comes back.

STEVE

... all right?

90 CONTD:

-78-

Rusty-James sits down and drops his head into his hands. For
a second his throat swells up on the inside. 90

91 EXT - STREET - DAY: DAYDREAM PATTY

VIEW ON PATTY

walking away from the street. She looks back, crying. 91

92 INT - STEVE'S HOUSE - DAY: LIKE A PINBALL MACHINE

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES
close to crying. 92

RUSTY-JAMES

Steve, I never asked you for
nothin'. I never let anybody
punch you around, and I never
bummed money off you. I'm
askin' you now.

STEVE

Don't. 'Cause I won't do it.

Rusty-James can't talk. If he tried to talk he'd be crying.

STEVE

Rusty-James.

CLOSE ON STEVE

STEVE

I've tried to help you.

Rusty-James wonders what Steve is talking about.

STEVE

You're just like a ball in a
pinball machine. Getting slammed
back and forth; and you never
think about anything, about where
you're going or how you're going
to get there. I got to think for
myself, I can't keep on thinking
for you, too.

RUSTY-JAMES

Yeah I do. I want to be like the
Motorcycle Boy. You don't like
him, do you, Steve? Then why do
you think he's cool?

3/4/82

STEVE
 (slowly)
 Well, he is the only person I have
 ever met who is like somebody out of
 a book. To look like that, and be
 good at everything and all that.

TWO SHOT OF RUSTY-JAMES AND STEVE

That strikes Rusty-James as funny. He laughs and gets up to leave. He isn't going to pester Steve anymore. Steve walks with him to the door.

STEVE
 You better go to a doctor.

RUSTY-JAMES
 I been.

STEVE
 You better let go of the
 Motorcycle Boy. If you're
 around him very long you won't
 believe in anything.

RUSTY-JAMES
 I been around him all my life.
 And I believe everything.

STEVE
 You would.

Steve sort of grins at Rusty-James. He takes out his notebook and writes something.

RUSTY-JAMES
 Bye.

STEVE
 (really sincerely)
 Rusty-James, I'm sorry.

RUSTY-JAMES
 Sure.

INT - BENNY'S - DAY: WAITING IN BENNY'S

MUSIC UP.

RUSTY-JAMES spends most of the day in Benny's. He can see most of the street from the front booth. If the Motorcycle Boy goes by, he'll see him.

93 CONTD: 93
 POV: OUT THE WINDOW
 an empty street. We HEAR the sound of a motorcycle, starting
 up.
 CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES
 looking up. Then sitting back.
 CLOSE ON THE POOL TABLE
 a break.

DISSOLVE:

94 INT - PET STORE - DAY: WAITING FISH 94
 CLOSE ON THE SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH

DISSOLVE:

95 INT - BENNY'S - DAY: BENNY'S CLOCK 95
 CLOSE ON THE CLOCK

DISSOLVE:

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES
 looking, waiting.

DISSOLVE:

96 INT - DRUGSTORE - DAY: RUSTY-JAMES LOOKS AT PHOTO 96
 INSERT -- THE MAGAZINE PICTURE OF THE MOTORCYCLE BOY
 VIEW LOOSENS -- RUSTY-JAMES
 looking at the picture in the magazine.

DISSOLVE:

97 INT - PET STORE - DAY: WAITING FISH AGAIN 97
 INSERT -- THE FIGHTING FISH

DISSOLVE:

98 INT - BENNY'S - DAY: PATTY & SMOKEY AT BENNY'S 98
 CLOSE ON
 the clock at Benny's

DISSOLVE:

CLOSE ON A POOL SHOT

DISSOLVE:

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES

waiting. School is out -- PEOPLE come in. He gets a big audience telling everybody about the wild night they had.

PATTY comes in. She hardly ever comes to Benny's, usually just on her mother's day off.

RUSTY-JAMES

You lookin' for me?

PATTY

(cooly)

Nope.

She buys a Coke from BENNY and sits down in a booth, looking around like she is looking for somebody. And it isn't Rusty-James.

NEW VIEW

Pretty soon SMOKEY BENNET comes in and slides into the booth next to her. Both of them sit there like Rusty-James is supposed to pin a medal on them. Everybody becomes quiet, expecting Rusty-James to toss Smokey through the front window and slap Patty's teeth out. Rusty-James thinks about it.

RUSTY-JAMES

Smokey, you want to step outside with me?

SMOKEY

I ain't gonna fight you, Rusty-James.

RUSTY-JAMES

What makes you think I want to fight? Just step outside a minute so we can talk.

SMOKEY

It wouldn't be fair, now. You ain't in any condition to fight.

RUSTY-JAMES

I said I didn't want to fight. Talk - get it? Speak. Communicate.

Smokey looks at Patty, puzzled. But she is looking at Rusty-James. She still loves him, Rusty-James can tell. She'd never say so, any more than he'd tell her he still loves her.

SMOKEY

All right.

Dramatic clouds moving across the sky.

99

SMOKEY BENNET follows RUSTY-JAMES outside, and as the door closes behind them we can HEAR everybody yapping at once. A couple of GUYS are standing on the booth seats, making sure they don't miss anything.

Rusty-James and Smokey walk across the street and sit down on a stoop.

MEDIUM VIEW -- RUSTY-JAMES AND SMOKEY

Smokey lights a cigarette and offers Rusty-James one. He is still a little tense, like he thinks Rusty-James is going to jump him any second.

RUSTY-JAMES

Smokey, tell me somethin'. The other night, when we went to the lake with your cousin and those girls were there - did you plan for it to get back to Patty? That Patty would break up with me and you'd move in and maybe take over while I was still done in from that knife fight?

SMOKEY

Well, I guess I did. I kind of thought about it.

RUSTY-JAMES

I wouldn't of been able to think of somethin' like that.

SMOKEY

I know. Rusty-James, if there was still gangs around here, I'd be president, not you. You'd be Second Lieutenant. See, you might make it a while on the Motorcycle Boy's rep, but you ain't got his brains. You have to be smart to run things.

Rusty-James just sighs. He wonders where his temper is. He has a mean temper. He just doesn't seem to be able to find it anywhere.

SMOKEY

Nothin' personal, Rusty-James, but nobody'd follow you into a gang fight. You'd get people killed. Nobody wants to get killed.

RUSTY-JAMES
I guess that's true. Do you
really like Patty?

SMOKEY
Yeah, even if she wasn't your
chick, I'd still like her.

RUSTY-JAMES
Okay.

He waves at Benny's pool hall.

RUSTY-JAMES
It's all yours, man.

Smokey goes back into Benny's. He is the number one tough cat now. If Rusty-James wants to keep his rep he'd have to fight him, whether he is in any shape to or not. Smokey is counting on that. Everything is changed.

CLOSE VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

Rusty-James sits there awhile. B. J. JACKSON comes by and sees him, and sits down. Rusty-James is glad to see him. He doesn't know everything is changed. Rusty-James can still talk to him like always. Once he goes into Benny's it will be Smokey he'll listen to.

Rusty-James gets up and leaves.

100

EXT - SCHOOL - DAY: CASSANDRA AT SCHOOL

100

RUSTY-JAMES wanders around, ends up outside the school.
CASSANDRA comes out; she has been teaching.

RUSTY-JAMES
What are you doin' here?

CASSANDRA
Did you think I'd throw myself
off the bridge, or O.D. on a roof
or something? Life does go on,
child, if you let it.

RUSTY-JAMES
You're always talkin' crazy, you
dingbat chick.

CASSANDRA
Let go quick and it won't hurt,
I promise ...
(pause)
Ah, but you don't believe me.

Rusty-James moves on.

RUSTY-JAMES meets MIDGET.

101

RUSTY-JAMES
You seen the Motorcycle Boy
around?

MIDGET
Yeah, he's in the pet store.

RUSTY-JAMES
Pet store? What's he doin' in
there?

Midget shrugs.

MIDGET
Lookin' at the fish, as far as
I could tell. I heard he
messed up a couple of guys
across the river last night.

RUSTY-JAMES
Yeah, he stomped these two
creeps that jumped me an' Steve.
Almost killed them.

MIDGET
I heard that. He better be
careful, Rusty-James. You know
that cop Patterson is just
lookin' for an excuse to get him.

RUSTY-JAMES
He's been after the both of us
for years.

MIDGET
You know, Patterson has the rep
of a good cop, I mean, the Motorcycle
Boy is his only bad point. He's
never gone out of his way to hassle
the rest of us.

RUSTY-JAMES
He beat me up once. And got me
thrown into Juvenile Hall for a
weekend. Anyway, he's never done
so much as say a word to the
Motorcycle Boy. He'll never get
anything on him.

MIDGET
Come on, let's go to Benny's
and get a Coke.

101 CONTD:

101

RUSTY-JAMES
Naw, I'm never goin' there again.

Midget gets up and starts across the street.

MIDGET
Come on, Rusty-James.

Rusty-James shakes his head and watches Midget disappear into Benny's. Rusty-James doesn't care if he ever goes in there again.

VIEW INSIDE BENNY'S

Midget being told the news.

102 INT - PET STORE - DAY: RUMBLE FISH

102

RUSTY-JAMES finds the MOTORCYCLE BOY at the pet store. He is up at the counter, looking at the fish. They are some new fish, not regular goldfish. Rusty-James has never seen fish like them before.

MOVE IN ON FISH TANK -- COLOR

One is purple, one is blue with long red fins and a red tail, one is solid red and one is bright yellow. They all have long fins and tails.

RUSTY-JAMES
Hey, what's up?

The Motorcycle Boy doesn't even look up. Rusty-James pretends to be interested in the fish.

RUSTY-JAMES O.S.
How come they each have a bowl to themselves?

MOTORCYCLE BOY O.S.
Rumble fish. They'd kill each other if they could.

Rusty-James looks at MR. DOBSON behind the counter. He looks worried. Rusty-James wonders how long the Motorcycle Boy has been in there, to scare Mr. Dobson that much.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
That's right. Siamese fighting fish. They try to kill each other. If you leaned a mirror against the bowl they'd kill themselves fighting their own reflection.

RUSTY-JAMES
That's really neat.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Wonder if they'd act that way in
the river.

RUSTY-JAMES
Nice colors.

MOTORCYCLE BOY
Yeah? That makes me kind of
sorry I can't see colors.

It is the first time Rusty-James has heard him say he is sorry
about anything.

BLACK AND WHITE

OPTICAL:

103 INT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: WAITING IS HARDER 103

The MOTORCYCLE BOY is reading a book. RUSTY-JAMES is smoking
and waiting.

RUSTY-JAMES
You remember the last rumble?
When we beat up that Tiber Street
Tiger and he crawled back home
and we kept waiting for the streets
to explode?

The Motorcycle Boy ignores him and keeps on reading.

RUSTY-JAMES
Bill Braden died that night, and
some guy got me with a kitchen
knife. You know somethin' though?
Waitin' was harder than fightin'.
(pause)
I feel like I'm waitin'. Hey, let's
go boppin' around again tonight.
I can get some more wine. We can
get some c'icks and have a really
nice time, huh?

The Motorcycle Boy goes deaf again and doesn't hear Rusty-
James.

104 EXT - PET STORE - NIGHT: CLOSING PET STORE 104

The MOTORCYCLE BOY stands outside, watching MR. DOBSON close
up, until the shades are pulled down over the windows and the
door.

4 CONTD:

-89-

And when the Motorcycle Boy finally leaves the place, RUSTY-JAMES follows him the best he can, even though the Motorcycle Boy doesn't see him anymore. It seems like the only thing he has left to do. They go home. 104

5 INT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: WAITING AGAIN 105
MEDIUM VIEW

The MOTORCYCLE BOY sits on the mattress and reads a book. RUSTY-JAMES sits next to him and smokes one cigarette after another. He doesn't know what he is waiting for.

EXT - STREETS - NIGHT: DREAM RUMBLE 106

DREAM

FIVE GUYS are slowly circling the MOTORCYCLE BOY in the streetlight. MORE come, menacing, and closing in on the Motorcycle Boy.

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES
frightened, running around the edges of the streets, looking for the Packers, or some friends. Finally, he screams and runs headlong into the street, and together with the Motorcycle Boy beats the other guys down, violently.

INT - PET STORE - DAY: INSERT FISH 107

INSERT:
CLOSE ON THE FISH

INT - RUSTY-JAMES' APARTMENT - NIGHT: YOUR MOTHER'S NOT CRAZY

It is much harder to wait than to fight. 108

Water dripping, time elapsing.

FATHER

Both home again?

The old man comes in the door. He likes to stop in and change his shirt before he goes out to the bars for the night. It doesn't matter that the one he changes into is usually as dirty as the one he takes off. It is just something he likes to do.

RUSTY-JAMES

I want to ask you somethin'.

FATHER

Yes?

3/4/82

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES

108

RUSTY-JAMES

Was - is - our mother nuts?

The old man stops right where he is and stares at Rusty-James, amazed. Rusty-James has never asked him a thing about her.

FATHER

No. Whatever gave you that idea?

RUSTY-JAMES

Well, she left, didn't she?

The old man smiles slowly.

FATHER

Our marriage was a classic example of a preacher marrying an atheist, thinking to make a convert, and instead ending up doubting his own faith.

RUSTY-JAMES

Don't give me that. You was never a preacher.

FATHER

I am a practitioner of the law.

He goes for a drink.

RUSTY-JAMES

Say yes or no, will ya?

FATHER

You don't suppose a woman would have to be nuts to leave me, do you?

He just stands there, smiling at Rusty-James, looking through him like the Motorcycle Boy does. It is the first time Rusty-James has ever seen any resemblance between them.

FATHER

I married her, thinking to set a precedent. She married me for fun. Rusty-James, every now and then a person comes along who has a different view of the world than does the usual person.

(MORE)

FATHER (contd)
That does not make him crazy. An acute perception does not make you crazy. However, sometimes it drives you crazy.

RUSTY-JAMES
Talk normal. You know I don't understand that garbage.

FATHER
(distinctly)
Your mother is not crazy. Neither, contrary to popular belief, is your brother. He is merely miscast in a play. He was born in the wrong era, on the wrong side of the river, with the ability to do anything and finding nothing he wants to do.

Rusty-James looks at the Motorcycle Boy to see what he thinks. He hasn't heard a word of it.

RUSTY-JAMES
I think that I'm gonna look just like him when I get older. Whadda ya think?

His father looks at him for a long moment, longer than he's ever looked at Rusty-James. But still, it is like he is seeing somebody else's kid, not seeing anybody that has anything to do with him.

FATHER
(full of pity)
You better pray to God not. You poor child. You poor baby.

OPTICAL:

09 EXT - PET STORE - NIGHT: BREAK INTO PET STORE

109

COLOR

The MOTORCYCLE BOY violently breaks into the pet store. RUSTY-JAMES is with him.

RUSTY-JAMES
(desperately)
Look, you need some money? I'll get you some money.

VIEW ON THE MOTORCYCLE BOY
smashing things.

109

Rusty-James knows he doesn't need any money. He just can't think of any other reason for what he is doing.

RUSTY-JAMES
Anyway ...

He keeps on talking, saying anything so he can't feel the deadly silence.

RUSTY-JAMES
... if you want money, liquor stores are the best bet.

He stands there, zipping his jacket zipper up and down, wiping the sweat off his hands on his jeans, watching the Motorcycle Boy jimmy the lock of the back door, waiting for something terrible to happen.

RUSTY-JAMES
Listen, everybody saw you hangin' around here today, like you was casing the place. And a million people musta seen you comin' here. Will you listen to me!

His voice cracks upwards.

The Motorcycle Boy has the lock on the back door jimmied and he goes on in.

110 INT - PET STORE - NIGHT: LET OUT ANIMALS

110

MEDIUM VIEW

The MOTORCYCLE BOY turns on the light in the stockroom.

RUSTY-JAMES
(nearly screaming)
What are you doin'? You want the whole neighborhood to know?

VIEW ON THE MOTORCYCLE BOY

He stands there for a second in the bright glare of the light. He looks calm, his face as still as a statue.

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES

110

He makes one move to stop the Motorcycle Boy but changes his mind, and after that he just leans against the counter and watches. His knees are shaking so bad he can barely stand up. He is so scared he drops his head down on the counter and cries for the first time he can remember.

VIEW ON THE MOTORCYCLE BOY
letting out all the animals.

RUSTY-JAMES

(panicking)

What are you doin'?!

MOTORCYCLE BOY

(confronting him

directly for

the first time)

What are you doin', followin' me around like a damn dog -- what do you want outta me, anyway?

RUSTY-JAMES

(confused)

What ... uh, listen, I'll get you some money, okay? Let's get outta here.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

I don't need any money. I asked you -- what do you want? Really. Tell me.

RUSTY-JAMES

(understanding)

I want you to see me when you look at me. I want you to tell me stuff without draggin' in Greeks and shit! You and the old man, you think I'm a dummy 'cause I don't know the big words -- always leavin' me out. I ain't dumb. Me and you, we coulda run this side of town, if you'd a given me a chance.

The Motorcycle Boy keeps on letting out the animals.

Rusty-James grabs him and turns him around, then backs off.

RUSTY-JAMES

I just want you to see me, man. I'm here.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

I have seen you. Why do you think I'm doing this?

RUSTY-JAMES

Why can't you even just talk to me? You talk to that damn space-cadet, Cassandra.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Leave her outta this. What we had, we had. You know nothin' about it.

WE HEAR SIRENS in the distance.

RUSTY-JAMES

(more frightened)

Okay, okay. Let's get outta here. You and me, we can ...

MOTORCYCLE BOY

It's too late, kid. You and me, we can't --

He picks up the bowls with the Siamese fighting fish and starts for the front door.

MOTORCYCLE BOY

You want a legend, you got it.

111 EXT - PET STORE - NIGHT: ON WAY TO RIVER 111

MOVING VIEW

The MOTORCYCLE BOY is on his way to the river with the Siamese fighting fish.

112 INT - PET STORE - NIGHT: HEAR SIREN 112

RUSTY-JAMES hears the siren. He is wiping his eyes and trying to quit shaking. He runs for the door.

113 EXT - PET STORE - NIGHT: DEAD FISH 113

There seem to be thousands of RED FLASHING LIGHTS in the street. Doors are slamming and PEOPLE are shouting. RUSTY-JAMES starts for the bridge when WE HEAR the shots.

ANGLE BY THE RIVER

Rusty-James is at a dead run at the first shot, and almost to the river by the second. So he is there when they turn the MOTORCYCLE BOY over, and he is smiling.

CLOSE ON THE LITTLE RUMBLE FISH
flipping and dying around him, still too far from the river.

PAN TO THE CORNER

PATTERSON puts his gun away. He takes out his old pocket watch. It chimes the hour -- twelve o'clock.

VIEW ON RUSTY-JAMES

being thrown up against the police car and frisked. He stares straight ahead at the flashing light. He is scared to think about what is wrong with it, but he knows. It is grey. It is supposed to be flashing red and white and it is grey. He looks all around. There aren't any colors anywhere. Everything is black and white and grey. It is as quiet as a graveyard.

He stares around wildly at the growing CROWD, the police cars, wondering why it is all so silent. It doesn't look quiet. It looks like TV with the sound off.

Rusty-James breaks through the crowd to stare at the Motoreyele Boy's body. He kneels next to him and starts to pick up the fish. Two POLICEMEN yank him up.

RUSTY-JAMES

Put the fish in the river, willya?
They're gonna die if you don't put
'em in the river!

(to nearby
policeman)

Can you hear me?

Rusty-James can't hear his own voice. He tries screaming and still can't hear it. He is that alone. He is in a glass bubble and everyone else is outside it and he'll be alone like that for the rest of his life.

BACK TO COLOR

Then a pain slices through his head and the colors are back. The noise is deafening and he is shaking because he is still alone.

POLICEMAN

Better get this kid to a
hospital. I think he's in
shock or something.

PATTERSON O.S.

Shock, hell.

Rusty-James recognizes the voice.

113 CONTD:

113

PATTERSON O.S.
He's probably on dope or something.

Patterson shoves him back toward the police car window.

OVER RUSTY-JAMES' SHOULDER
onto reflection.

Rusty-James sees his own reflection. He looks hypnotized, then he smashes it and slashes his wrists with the glass.

POLICEMAN
Now we'll have to take him to the hospital anyway.

ANGLE ON THE MOTORCYCLE BOY

A crowd is beginning to grow around his body. People are whispering.

THE CAMERA RISES TO A HIGH ANGLE -- THE BODY OF THE MOTORCYCLE BOY

The crowd and commotion builds. WE can HEAR what they are talking about. "Do you remember the time he ..." "He was the one who ..." "I always knew he was crazy..."

CLOSE ON RUSTY-JAMES
calm now, hearing the whispers.

In the distance, we hear the sound of a motoreyele.

SOMEBODY O.S.
I never thought they'd get him.

TABLEAU

VIEW ON THE CROWD
around the Motorcycle Boy's body as the police car drives off with Rusty-James.

FADE OUT:

THE END