

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

~~BIG COUNTRY~~

Written by
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1 EXT. NORTH WOODS - LAKE - AFTERNOON 1

A pristine lake deep in the North Woods. It's late afternoon. Loons call. An eagle soars over the water.

MAIN TITLES BEGIN. We hear Chet's VOICE OVER. His speech has the quality and tone of documentary narration.

CHET (V.O.)

Countless millions of Americans,
for years upon years...

2 EXT. LAKE - WATER'S EDGE 2

A deer drinks.

CHET (V.O.)

... have sought refuge from the
harsh detachment and sterile
serenity of modern life...

3 EXT. WOODS - TREE 3

A squirrel is sitting on a branch.

CHET (V.O.)

... in the honest embrace of the
forest.

4 EXT. MARSH 4

A goose and her goslings paddle through the reeds.

CHET (V.O.)

They return again and again to
refresh their weary souls, restore
their battered faith.

5 EXT. FOREST - TREES 5

A stand of virgin pine.

CHET (V.O.)

Renew... the ties that bind. To
marvel at the wonders of nature...

6 EXT. FOREST - TREE

6

A woodpecker beats against a pine.

CHET (V.O.)
... and enjoy the boundless
rewards...

7 EXT. PERK'S PINE LOG RESORT - WIDE - ESTABLISH - DAY 7

A quiet, little resort made up of a dozen quaint log lodges, a modest beach and boat dock, a raft, some fishing boats, an office, bar and game room and lots of stately pines between two of which is the Ripley family's station wagon.

8 INT. CAR

8

We meet the Ripley's. Behind the wheel is the father, CHET. He's in his late-thirties. He wears his hair in a straight business cut. Beside him is his wife, CONNIE. She's in her late-thirties. Attractive, strong and independent. In the back seat are their children. BEN, 8, and BUCK, 13. Ben is precocious, impish and somewhat detached from the normal interest of a boy his age. Buck is handsome, quiet and controlled. Chet is finishing his grand speech.

CHET (V.O.)
... of the pure and simple style
of life that prevails in the Big
Country.

Chet takes a moment to enjoy his speech. The rest of the family sits unimpressed and unmoved.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

Chet's speech rings a bell. He thinks for a moment, then looks at Ben.

BEN AND BUCK

They exchange looks. The speech is familiar to Ben as well.

INT. CAR - FRONT SEAT

Buck leans forward in the seat, between Connie and Chet.

(CONTINUED)

BUCK

Dad? You read that off the brochure that came with the fishing poles.

Chet clears his throat to cover his embarrassment at getting caught quoting a brochure.

CHET

So what if I did? It doesn't matter where it came from, it's true and we're going to experience every bit of it.

CONNIE

If we're going to experience every bit of it, shouldn't we get out of the car?

CHET

Absolutely. Let's go!

All four family members swing their doors open.

EXT. STATION WAGON - FRONT ANGLE/OVERHEAD ANGLE

All four station wagon doors open simultaneously --
WEAM! -- into pine trees.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He looks at Connie with a big grin.

CHET

Whoa! Trees in the parking lot!
What a place! Nature everywhere
you park!

INT. RESORT OFFICE - DAY

It's a small, knotty pine room with a desk, stuffed chairs, rag rugs and a fireplace over which hangs a moosehead. The fur on the moose's nose is long gone from thirty years of petting by guests and their children. A small restaurant is off to one side, a bar with a couple of old lushes nailed to the bar. Chet opens the door and peeks in. He walks in. He's overcome by a wave of nostalgia.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

CHET
Oh, for God's sake. Just like I
remember it. Oooh. The moose.

He looks at the moosehead.

CLOSEUP - MOOSE

The nose is badly worn from people rubbing it and the
eyes are crossed.

11 EXT. OFFICE - DAY

11

Connie and the boys are outside the office, looking
around.

BEN
This is going to be a living hell.

CONNIE
Watch your mouth.

BUCK
What happened to us going to
California?

CONNIE
Dad decided on Lake Potowoto...

BEN
... minimac.

BUCK
I know, but why?

CONNIE
He has his reasons and I don't
think it's your place to question
his decisions.

BEN
This is an extension of the
working father guilt syndrome
thing. Right?

CONNIE
I don't think there's anything
wrong with us spending a week
together at a nice lake resort.

BUCK
Did you want to come here?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

CONNIE

Of course not. I wanted to go to California like any other normal person would.

12 INT. OFFICE - DAY

12

Chet is standing before the mounted moosehead. He raises his right hand and lifts his little finger, closes his eyes and with the other hand rubs the moose's nose. He recites a brief North Woods incantation.

CHET

Ahnaweeo, anasaugatuck, Bring this little boy a bundle of luck.

INT. BAR - DAY

Adjacent to the office. A couple of REGULARS look over their shoulders as they hear Chet CHANTING.

THEIR P.O.V.

Chet's in the lobby with his raised hand, chanting Indian jibberish, rubbing the moose's nose.

TWO-SHOT - REGULARS

They trade curious looks.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Chet fishes into his pocket for a penny. He holds the penny in one hand, his hand is on the moose's nose.

CHET

Winna-laka-missee, bunkachu-go, To praise the great Indian Chief a new penny I throw.

He tosses the penny over his shoulder.

INT. BAR - DAY

The penny lands in the bowl of complimentary cheddar cheese fish.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Chet turns to see where the penny landed. He sees the regulars looking at him. He feels slightly embarrassed.

CHET

I used to do this with my dad when I was a kid. Didn't you used to do this... with... your dad? No? If you'll excuse me, I have to check in. Thanks. And sorry. Keep the change.

He offers a limp smile and strolls to the desk.

CHET

(continuing)

Hello?

There's no response. Chet peeks back into the bar.

CHET

(continuing)

I love the woods.

He smiles again. Connie and the boys enter the office.

CHET

(continuing)

Well? Is this a real North Woods lodge? Huh? Boys? Isn't this rugged? Check out the shotgun lamp over there.

Chet points out, Buck and Ben look.

THEIR P.O.V.

A shotgun that's been made into a lamp. It's standing on end with a light bulb screwed into the barrel and a small shade on the bulb.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Chet's very proud. Buck and Ben are not terribly impressed. Chet leans over the lobby counter.

CHET

Hello?

13 INT. OFFICE - BACKROOM - DAY

13

A middle-aged man and a middle-aged woman are asleep in the stuffed chairs in a small office behind the front desk. WALLY and JUANITA MOBERT. They're snoring gently. He's in bermuda shorts, an "I'VE BEEN TO DULUTH" t-shirt, black knee socks, leather sandals and a Milwaukee Brewer's cap, Juanita is wearing a sundress, peds, cheap jogging shoes and a Budweiser visor.

CHET (O.S.)

Hello?

14 INT. OFFICE - DAY

14

Chet leans over the desk peeking into the backroom. He can't see Wally and Juanita.

CHET

Anybody home?

He turns back to Connie.

CHET

(continuing)

Can you imagine an unattended motel office in Chicago? No way. This is good, old-fashioned North Woods trust.

He looks down on the desk.

CLOSEUP - DESK

A little plastic powderhorn lays on a hand-printed sign that reads: "FOR PROMPT SERVICE, BLOW ME." The first three words are on one line. "BLOW ME" is below and in italics.

CHET

He picks up the horn and looks at it distastefully. He wipes it on his sleeve and shrugs.

CHET

Neat little touch, huh?

CONNIE

(unimpressed)

Charming.

Chet puts the horn to his lips and blows it softly.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

No sound. He looks at the end of the little horn to see if it's clogged. He fills his lungs and blows with all his might. Still no sound. He puts it to his lips again and blows a third time. Suddenly, a huge, mangy, mixed-breed German Shepherd with a snout covered with porcupine quills and burrs leaps up from behind the desk and barks an inch from Chet's face.

15 INT. BACKROOM - WALLY AND JUANITA - DAY

15

They're blasted from their slumber.

WALLY

Ho!

JUANITA

Hup!

They look around. Get their bearings, realize someone's at the desk. In unison, they rock back and forward, back and forward and up and out of the chairs.

16 INT. OFFICE - THE FAMILY - DAY

16

They waddle out of the backroom.

WALLY

Howdy, folks. Don't mind Wormer.
She don't care for people.

(yells to the
dog)

Shut the frig up!

Wormer stops in mid-bark. Wally pulls the dog down and it retreats back to its position under the counter.

WALLY

(continuing)

Now, what can I do you folks for?

HIS P.O.V.

The Ripley's are paralyzed with fear. Frozen expressions of horror.

17 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

17

A Mercedes station wagon speeds along the highway.

The family admires a beautiful log cabin. Chet pulls up behind them and gets out of the wagon. Connie's impressed. Even Buck and Ben are pleased. Wally and Juanita flank the family. They love the cabin.

WALLY

You city dwelling fools are damn lucky to have this place. It just come available this morning.

CHET

(proud)

This is a dream come true.

JUANITA

Yep. We call it the Loon's Nest.

WALLY

(to Ben)

You ever seen a loon, noodlehead?

BEN

We have one in our family.

CLOSEUP - CHET

Smiling.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Connie steps in front of Ben to quiet him.

JUANITA

We had a fishing party in there up till yesterday. They caught their limit and blew. It's all redecorated inside. Wally and me sunk over 300 bucks into it, not counting what we spent in lysol. Beautiful. Nothing within a hundred miles compares. Not even the Holiday Inn.

Chet puts his arm around Connie and gives her a little hug.

WALLY

I think Juanita here owes me a liverwurst sandwich and a glass of buttermilk.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

JUANITA

You folks enjoy your stay.

CHET

In a place like this, how could we not?

WALLY

You could get the shits from the well water.

19 EXT. SECONDARY HIGHWAY - DAY

19

The Mercedes we saw earlier flies down the two-lane, blows its horn and whips around a slow-moving car.

20 INT. CABIN - DAY

20

The front door opens and Chet sweeps his arm. A grand introduction to the interior. Connie and the boys stare. Chet looks. His big smile fades.

CHET'S P.O.V.

The cabin is dirty and cluttered. The remains of a pizza and beer blast from the previous party is quietly molding on the tables. Newspapers, magazines, fishing gear, buckets, cans, trash bags, dust, cobwebs and rubbish. The building itself is beautiful in its own right but is obviously uncared for. It needs a good cleaning. The furnishings are straight, standard cottage sofas and chairs. Except for a large oil portrait of JFK, Elvis Presley and Vince Lombardi wearing halos.

CLOSEUP - CHET

Looks for the bright side.

CHET

Just think how much we're going to have to appreciate when we get back home!

A lame laugh.

21 EXT. LODGE - DAY

21

The Mercedes station wagon flies through the trees and grinds to a stop outside the lodge.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

CLOSEUP - DRIVER'S DOOR

It opens and we RISE to reveal pastel slacks, a yellow polo shirt with a man's hand sporting a diamond pinky ring, a gold Rolex planted on his lower belly and sleek sunglasses. The dark glasses are slowly and dramatically removed and we meet ROMAN CRAIG.

ROMAN

What a gas! Chet's gonna shit plutonium pellets! What a solid surprise!

22 INT. CAR

22

We meet his family. His attractive and chic wife, KATE, his twin nine-year-old daughters, CARA and MARA. Kate's in an expensive blouse and skirt. Cara and Mara are in sundresses embroidered with their names. Strange, withdrawn children.

ROMAN

I'll go find out where Chet's bivouacked the family.

KATE

This is very unfair, Roman.

ROMAN

What the hell are you talking about? We're family for crying out loud. Listen, how many times have we invited Chet and Connie to the Islands with us? A billion?

KATE

This is a little different. We weren't invited.

ROMAN

They'll be tickled to death to see us. What the hell is there to do up here? Fish?

KATE

I just hate to impose.

ROMAN

Impose? Don't you want to be with your sister? When was the last time you saw her?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

KATE

We talked last week. And she said she was looking forward to getting away from everything and everyone. I want to see her. I don't want to impose on her.

ROMAN

Hey, if you can't impose on your family, who the hell can you impose on?

23 INT. CABIN KITCHEN - DAY (LATER)

23

Connie's cleaning the stovetop. The kitchen has been cleaned. Chet walks in, freshly showered. He walks up behind Connie and kisses her neck.

CHET

What're you doing? Get your bathing suit on and let's go to the lake.

CONNIE

You go ahead. I can't relax in filth.

Chet turns her around and wraps her in his arms.

CHET

We'll all pitch in and clean the place tonight.

He gives her a kiss.

CLOSEUP - CHET'S HANDS

He's unzipping Connie's skirt.

CHET AND CONNIE

His persuasion isn't working. Chet is undaunted.

CONNIE

We can't even use the bathroom until someone finds the toilet seat.

CHET

Buck found it on the sunporch. You have no further excuses.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

CLOSEUP - CONNIE'S REAR END

Her skirt drops to her ankles.

CONNIE AND CHET

Connie struggles against his embrace.

CONNIE

Chet!

CHET

The kids are outside.

CONNIE

I don't care.

Chet drops the shoulder straps on her top.

CHET

Ooops!

Connie's top slips down to her waist. Chet goes for her bra.

CONNIE

Stop it!

CHET

What? I'm helping you get into your bathing suit.

CONNIE

I'll go to the bedroom, thank you.

CHET

There's no need for that. This is the North Woods. You can walk around naked as a bear and not worry about running into anybody.

24 INT. CABIN DOOR - DAY

24

The door opens and we see Roman and Kate. Kate's jaw drops in embarrassment. Roman smiles.

THEIR P.O.V.

Connie and Chet embracing.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Her skirt's at her ankles, her blouse is at her waist
and her bra's hanging on Chet's finger.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

One of the great moments in his life.

ROMAN

Anybody home?

CLOSEUP - CONNIE AND CHET

Holding their kiss. Eyes open in horror. Turn slowly.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He has his Video-8 to his eye and is taping the moment.

25 EXT. BEACH - DAY

25

Buck and Ben are standing at the water's edge.

BEN

I think Dad's over-reacting to the
involved father deal. I don't
know anybody who sees their dad
all that much.

BUCK

You know, if he'd get wise to the
fact that we love him just the way
he is, it'd save us all a lot of
trouble.

BEN

Do you really care if he's a vast
reservoir of North Woods lore?

BUCK

No.

BEN

You don't think he's going to make
us sit on the porch and whittle,
do you?

Wally comes toddling down the bluff to the beach.

(CONTINUED)

WALLY

Howdy, sports! See Monster Mouth yet?

Buck and Ben look at him like he's crazy. Wally cups his hand to his brow and looks out across the water.

WALLY

(continuing)

He's out there alright.

BUCK

Who's Monster Mouth?

WALLY

Fish, son. Muskellunge. Related to your pikes and pickerels, only bigger and meaner than both you boys put together.

The boys are skeptical.

WALLY

(continuing)

He's been out there for years. Nobody's caught him yet. Too smart. Plenty of you city dweller types go out there aiming to haul him in. And plenty of you die in his jaws. Brutal, old, bloodthirsty peckerhead, he is.

(sneaks a look
to see if he's
scaring the boys)

So, if you fellas go out there in God's pool, you make sure you take a parent or guardian along. And if they've got a weapon, remind them to bring it. I don't need to be cleaning guts up off the beach. I got plenty of other things to do.

Ben and Buck look out across the water.

WALLY

(continuing)

By the way, don't you boneheads do no diving off the dock. I don't need no lawsuits.

He winks and heads up the bluff. Buck and Ben look out across the lake.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

BUCK
That was bullshit.

BEN
Absolutely.

They look out at the lake for a moment. They feel strange sensations. They look at each other.

BEN
(continuing)
Do you sense the presence of an alien life form?

BUCK
Now that you mention, I do.
They slowly turn and look down the dock.

THEIR P.O.V.

The twins stand shoulder-to-shoulder at the end of the dock.

CLOSEUP - TWINS

Blank, spooky, frozen expressions.

26 EXT. SUN PORCH - DAY - LATER

26

Chet and Roman are sitting on the porch, sipping cocktails from juice glasses.

CHET
I still can't picture you enjoying a vacation in the woods.

ROMAN
Me either. But Katie wanted to be with Connie. You know, you guys pimp us every time we invite you to the Islands. I can't resist Katie when she begs for something.

Roman stirs his drink with his baby finger. His pinkie ring clinks against the glass. He looks at Chet with a smile.

ROMAN
(continuing)
You really dig this shit, don't you?

(CONTINUED)

Chet gives Roman a weary look.

ROMAN

(continuing)

The woods. Hunting, fishing, camping, boating, mosquitoes, gnats, raccoons, stuffed fish, pine trees, cabins that smell like piss...

Chet nods. He ignores the insulting tone.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Sand in your bed, cleaning perch, listening to bugs rubbing their legs together.

(looks at his glass)

Drinking Tanqueray out of a Jabba the Hut glass. Horseshoes, paper plates, calamine lotion, ticks, chiggers, mildew, poison oak, ivy and summack, lake weeds that wrap around your ankles when you swim...

CHET

(interrupts)

What happened to the European trip?

ROMAN

Katie wanted to do this. She was worried about the terrorism thing. Personally, I think it's a lot hipper to get blown-up in the Rome airport than it is to die of boredom in the woods. But rule number one, I run my home democratically, and Kate and the girls wanted to come up here to spend time with Connie and the boys, so here we are. I have to eat about six grand in deposits but what the hell, we're all here together and that's what matters.

CHET

(hoping against hope)

Six grand's a lot of money to throw away. Maybe you should reconsider.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

ROMAN

Forget it. Money grows on trees.

CHET

I wish.

ROMAN

As far as I'm concerned, it does, but we'll get into that later. The point is, money grows on trees, good family relationships don't. Six grand is a small price to pay to see our two families together, right?

CHET

(reluctantly)

Right.

ROMAN

You bet. So, anyway, you're an intelligent man, you make a good living, you got some options, why the heck would you want to come up to this plant-infested no-man's land and live like a barbarian for a week?

Chet looks at Roman. He's stunned that Roman can so easily trash his vacation in one sentence. Roman is unaware that he's insulting Chet. He sincerely believes he's just speaking truth.

27 EXT. LAKE - DOCK - TWINS - DAY .

27

They're standing at the end of the dock staring out into the lake.

THEIR P.O.V.

The still water is suddenly disturbed as a mammoth fish leaps from the water and splashes down.

CLOSEUP - TWINS

Their eyes are wide in terror. They scream.

28 EXT. PORCH - DAY

28

Roman and Chet continue their conversation.

(CONTINUED)

CHET

You gotta admit that this is some kind of country.

Chet smiles fondly as he looks out on the lake and the surrounding forest. An unexpected moment of appreciation and sensitivity from Roman.

ROMAN

You know what I see when I look out there?

THEIR P.O.V.

The most beautiful forest imaginable.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He sweeps his hand across the landscape.

ROMAN

I see the underdeveloped resources of Northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. I see a syndicated development consortium exploiting a good billion and a half dollars in forest products. Lumber, pulp, animal skins, exotic game meats, rare mushrooms, medicinal fungi, firewood. I see clearing out the prime timber, the pelts, the ducks and whatever other miscellaneous salables are out there. A paper mill and if the metals are there, a mining operation. A green belt between condos on the lake and a waste management facility, focusing on the newest rage in toxic waste, medical refuse. Infected bandages, body parts, IV tubing, contaminated glassware, entrails, syringes, blood fluids, low-grade radioactive waste. All safely contained for centuries. What do you see?

CHET

(after a pause)

Just trees, Roman. Just trees.

(CONTINUED)

ROMAN

Well, no one ever accused you of having the grand vision and maybe that's for the best, huh? While the ambitious scramble for wealth and power, the Chet Ripley's of the world are able to just casually stroll along life's path. That's a compliment because the rest of us are probably going to have strokes and die long before you.

CHET

Yeah, probably. That's what I'm hoping.

(standing)

I'm gonna stroll down life's path to the barbecue and start the hot dogs.

ROMAN

Hot dogs? No relatives of mine are going to settle for hot dogs as long as they're sharing my cabin.

29 CLOSEUP - BARBECUE GRILL

29

Lobster tails are roasting on the grill.

EXT. CABIN

Roman's tending the tails. Chet's sitting in a patio chair, stewing.

ROMAN

Did I tell you what we did last week in the Euro-currency futures market?

CHET

Probably.

ROMAN

I thought I might have mentioned how a couple of weeks ago I bought a Deutchmark contract, sat on it a week, and sold it, taking a 300% profit?

(CONTINUED)

He glances over his shoulder to see if Chet's impressed.

CHET

Easy money is money easily lost.

ROMAN

Look what I pull down a year versus what you pull down. Do you think I work any harder than you? I doubt it. You're drawing a check from a company that's cleaning up on your sweat. You're a new age slave, Chet.

CHET

I'm in the auto parts business. I've been in it for fifteen years. They've done well by me and I've done well by them.

ROMAN

You don't think the chairman of your company would sell the goddamn works if he had the chance? Auto parts is a hot business.

CHET

They're always going to need a regional manager no matter who owns the company.

ROMAN

I can't believe how dangerously old fashioned your thinking is. Companies are valuable if they can be bought and sold. If they aren't well-run, guys like me and my partner who think they can do it better, put together a financing package, pick up the company, liquidate the assets, slim the operation down and sell it to the next guy. Don't you see? If your company is a house on the market, you're the water heater. I'm an independently wealthy man who uses his brains and drive to benefit himself. You're a water heater sitting in a damp, dark basement being bought and sold without any say in the matter.

(CONTINUED)

29

CONTINUED: (2)

29

Roman's argument, while flawed, is passionate and impressive.
Chet has little to come back with.

CHET

Three hundred percent profit?

ROMAN

Not every time. Sometimes it's as
little as 200% and sometimes more.
But you take the good with the bad.
And you should have your piece, too.

Connie and Kate come out of the house with cocktails. They're
laughing and having a fine time.

CONNIE

How're those tails?

She looks over the grill. Roman gives her a peck on the cheek.

ROMAN

These are killers. Twenty-eight
bucks a pound.

CONNIE

Oh, my God. Chet? Twenty-eight
dollars a pound! We haven't had
lobster in an age. Not since our
anniversary, anyway.

CHET

You never ask for it.

ROMAN

And the gourmet here wanted to eat
hotdogs. You know they make those
things out of lips and assholes.

CHET

I'm old-fashioned. I like assholes.

ROMAN

And I like lips.

(leans over and kisses Connie again)
Mmmn! If I could market the taste of these
lips, I'd make another million.

30 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

30

The family's eating dinner at the kitchen table. As people chew, we hear the SOUND of crunching sand. The house is infested with mosquitoes.

ROMAN

I thought maybe we'd run into town tomorrow and pick up a ski boat. Sound good, guys? Uncle Roman'll blow some coin for a kick-ass drag boat?

Ben and Buck brighten. Buck slaps an insect on his leg.

CHET

I'm renting a pontoon boat.

ROMAN

Pontoon boat? What the hell do you want with a pontoon boat?

CHET

You go on lake cruises. It has a big deck, a canopy, we can anchor it and swim, we can bring the barbecue. Tour the lake in comfort.

He slaps his neck.

(CONTINUED)

ROMAN

Do you guys want to tour the lake comfortably or would you rather skim the waves with Uncle Roman in a jet boat?

BEN

Jet boat! Sorry, Dad.

ROMAN

Atta boy! Benny's my man! You want to put this to a vote, Chester?

Roman slaps his arm.

CHET

If you want a ski boat, you get a ski boat. Buck and I are getting a pontoon boat. Right, Buck?

BUCK

That sounds kind of boring.

KATE

Are you guys going to argue or are you going to enjoy yourselves?

She slaps her cheek.

ROMAN

I'm enjoying. Chet's arguing.

CONNIE

How about if the kids go out and catch fireflies and we play cards?

She slaps her upper arm.

ROMAN

Cara? Mara? You little dolls want to go out and catch fireflies?

The twins look at Roman.

KATE

They don't like bugs.

ROMAN

What kid doesn't like bugs?

(to the twins)

They're cute. Their butts light up.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

The twins run from the table, clamber up the stairs and scream. Kate glares at Roman.

ROMAN

(continuing)

What? It's true.

(shifts gears)

To hell with fireflies. To hell
with cards! Let's jump in the
wagon and hit the town!

31 EXT. SMALL RESORT TOWN - NIGHT

31

The streets are bright with the neon lights of tourist traps. The sidewalks are clogged with sunburned white trash, sleazy locals and suburban families. Chet's wagon cruises slowly down the street and pulls into an open space. The two families clamber out.

CHET

Hey!

Buck and Ben stop in mid-stride.

BUCK

What?

CHET

Where're you going?

ROMAN

They're fine, Chester. Have a
ball, guys. And, Buck? If it
comes up, safe sex.

Buck stares at Roman. Chet glares. Chet takes the boys to one side for a fatherly lecture.

ROMAN

(continuing;
to the twins)

You want to go with the boys?

The twins cling to Kate in fear.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Why not?

KATE

(sharply)

They don't want to, Roman.
They're fine with us.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

ROMAN

You want to stay with Daddy?

The twins pull Kate back.

ROMAN

(continuing;
to Kate)You deal with it. I try to please
them and they freak out.

KATE

Maybe if you didn't force your
affection on them.

Roman pulls Kate aside.

ROMAN

(lowers his voice)

Maybe if you didn't criticize me
in front of them.

KATE

I'm sorry.

ROMAN

It's been a long road getting them
this far. I'm trying my best.
Okay?

KATE

Okay.

ROMAN

Everything's gonna be fine.

He turns back to Chet and Connie with a big grin.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Shall we?

Connie, Kate and the girls head down the street. Roman
hangs back a moment with Chet.

CHET

Everything all right?

ROMAN

(to Chet)

Oh, yeah. No big deal. The girls
are just a little tired.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

ROMAN (CONT'D)

I'm sure you've been through
that. Yeah, we're solid. Come
on. Let's go get gassed.

32 INT. RESORT ARCADE - NIGHT

32

It's like any other teen dive only dirtier and louder. Speed metal is BLASTING. Cigarette smoke hangs in the air. People are shouting. The place is jammed to the walls. Scummy locals and slumming tourist kids. Clumsy mating rituals, prancing and posing, fighting, arguing, laughing. Buck and Ben walk in.

CLOSEUP - BEN AND BUCK

This is their kind of place. A scruffy ten-year-old boy with a cigarette dangling from his lips walks by with his arm draped over the shoulders of a cute, ten-year-old tourist girl. Ben looks at Buck.

BEN

They build 'em young up here.
(The women are loose)

CLOSEUP - POOL TABLE

A cue ball. A beat and it's OUT OF FRAME. We MOVE UP to...

CLOSEUP - GIRL

A heart stopper. Boyish, tough, pink lips, deep, wild tan, ripped t-shirt, indian bead and string bracelets, chipped blue nail polish. Her name is CAMMIE. She smiles at the result of her shot.

INT. ARCADE - NIGHT

At an adjacent table, Ben and Buck are playing. Ben, after great consideration and study, scratches. Buck crosses to the other side of the table and sets up his shot. Cammie crosses her table and sets up for her next shot.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

His tongue sticks out of his mouth as he focuses on the ball. He draws the cue back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

She eyes her shot.

CLOSEUP - BUCK'S CUE

It's heading for Cammie's rear end.

CLOSEUP CAMMIE'S BOTTOM

Cut-off jeans. The butt of the cue COMES INTO FRAME, inadvertently targeted for Cammie.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

slowly draws the cue back.

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

Her eye open wide in alarm. She looks down.

HER POV

Buck's cue has gone right between her legs.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

He jerks the cue back and forth a half a dozen times as he prepares to shoot.

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

She turns sharply.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

The force of Cammie's turn rips the cue from Buck's grip and it flies across the room. He shoots upright and turns.

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

facing Buck, mad as hell. She jams her cue up under his chin.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

CAMMIE

Watch it, runt!

CLOSEUP - BUCK

He startled. His head's thrown back by the threat of the cue under his chin. He has no idea of what he's done.

BUCK

Watch what?

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

She removes the cue from under his chin and turns away.

BUCK AND BEN

Buck's love-struck. He's motionless.

BEN

You gave her a world class goose with your pool cue, Buck.

BUCK

She's so cute.

BEN

Violent, but, yeah, cute. You got chalk on your neck.

Buck wipes the chalk off his chin, not taking his eyes off Cammie as she exits the arcade.

33 INT. BAR - NIGHT

33

Roman and Chet are at the bar. Roman's boasting about his fishing exploits.

ROMAN

I know muskie's the big deal fish up here, but you come with me to the Norfolk Canyon off the coast of Virginia and hook into a 1,000 pound blue marlin and you'll know what fishing's all about.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

CHET

Let me apologize for my brother-in-law. He gets a few cocktails in him and he turns into an expert on everything.

ROMAN

Was that a shot?

CHET

No, that was the truth.

ROMAN

That was a shot.
(to the bartender)
Speaking of shots...

Roman throws back a shot of bourbon.

HERM

(to Chet)

This guys' a riot! Everybody loves him, right?

Chet smiles grimly.

ROMAN

By the way, Herm, Maxima's now offering it's Hawaii Silver monofilament in high capacity service spools.

HERM

Is that a fact?

ROMAN

They claim it offers superior abrasion resistance and knot strength. If I'm going for a premium IGFA class monofilament, I'm always gonna go, Maxima. by the way, Herm, who's handling your investments?

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED

33

A MAN sits down at the bar next to Chet. He's thin and frail, coal black hair with a streak of pure white running from forehead to neck. His name's REG GRAEBEL.

CHET

How's it goin'?

REG

(stutters)

It ain't, um, um, um it ain't, um,
it ain't, you know, um, raining.
That's um, you know, um, n-n-n, um,
good.

CHET

True. Are you in the tourist
business?

REG

I'm in the ah, ah, biz, um, ness
of, um, not, uh, you know, ah, um,

CHET

Insurance?

REG

Um, of, um...

CHET

Food service?

REG

Of um, not, um, not, um, dying.

Chet doesn't understand. He looks at Roman and Herm.

HERM

You fella's met Reg?

Roman reaches out his hand.

ROMAN

Roman Craig, pleased to meet you.

Reg takes his hand and gives it a firm shake.

HERM

This is Chester Ripley.

CHET

(corrects him)

Chet.

He shakes with Reg.

(CONTINUED)

ROMAN

That's a hell of a hairdo you got there, Reg. Sort of a neo-skunk thing, huh?

Chet grimaces at Roman's frankness.

HERM

His hair turned white from lightning hitting him.

Chet and Roman look at each other.

HERM

He's been struck by lightning... how many times is it now, Reg?

REG

Uh, uh, six...

ROMAN

I was hit once.

CHET

Six times?!

REG

Um, six and um, six, um, sixty um and sixty um six times, um, in the...

(taps his head)

Um, head.

Chet and Roman stare at him in disbelief.

CHET

That's gotta hurt.

HERM

You'll never meet a guy more tuned into the barometric pressure than Reg. He can sense a storm hours before it hits.

Reg smiles.

HERM

He's a little nervous lately because it's coming time for us to get whalloped by one of them storms we're famous for up here. About every six or seven years, a big front rolls down from Canada and we get creamed. That's always a bad time for Reg. You see him running like hell for home, you head for cover. Right, Reg?

Reg nods.

(CONTINUED)

33

CONTINUED

33

ROMAN

You work outdoors? You a lineman, you
work on a boat? Steeplejack? Roofer?
You gotta be in some line of outdoor work
to get hit by lightning that many times.

HERM

Yeah. Reg is an electrician.

34

INT. BAR BOOTH - NIGHT

34

Connie and Kate are talking over wine.

KATE

I'm really sorry about this.

(CONTINUED)

CONNIE

Don't be silly.

KATE

It was Roman's idea. You know how he idolizes Chet.

Connie is surprised to hear that.

KATE

(continuing)

It's true. He admires the simplicity of Chet's life.

Kate's unaware that she inadvertently insulted Chet.

CONNIE

I don't think Chet's simple.

KATE

I'm not explaining myself very well. What I really want to say is, thank you. This is very important to Roman and me. I miss you, Conn.

(pause)

It's so lonely being wealthy.

CONNIE

(chilly)

I wouldn't know about that.

KATE

I mean it. It is lonely. He works terrible hours, he travels. There've been times when we'll go a month without going to bed together.

CONNIE

A month?

KATE

Sometimes I think that if he keeps up the hours he's working, the only way I'll get any pleasure is by leaning against the washer during the spin cycle.

CONNIE

(after a pause)

Does that work?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

KATE
(referring to
her blouse)
Have you ever seen whiter whites?

35 INT. TAVERN - BAR - NIGHT

35

Roman slides off the bar stool.

ROMAN
You pay for the drinks, I have to
go to the john and introduce Mr.
Thick Dick to Mr. Urinal Cake.
I'll be right back.

He exits. Chet watches him go. He turns back to the
bar.

HERM
(watching Roman)
Not too many guys come in here and
buy drinks for the house like he
does. Hell of a generous guy.

CHET
Yeah. How much do I owe you?

HERM
Sixty-two, fifty.

36 INT. BAR RESTROOMS - NIGHT

36

Roman's on a payphone outside the johns.

ROMAN
Burt? Roman. How're you doing?
Good enough. Listen, I'm up in
the woods so I wasn't in the
office this afternoon. What's the
word on the loan?
(disappointed)
I have a very big deal going down,
and I need that money. You're the
banker, I'm the customer. What am
I suppose to do?
(pause)
You gotta come through. It could
be good for all of us.

Chet crosses by. Roman covers the phone.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

ROMAN

(continuing)

Don't bother going in there. It's all blocked up. Use the ladies' room. I'll stand guard.

Chet hesitates for a moment. Roman reassures him that it's all right. He goes into the ladies' room

ROMAN

(continuing)

See what you can do, Burt. I'm counting on you. All right, we'll talk later.

He hangs up the phone. He waits a beat, hits the phone and recovers his change from the return slot. He goes into the men's room.

37 EXT. CITY PARK - NIGHT

37

A tiny patch of green in the middle of the gaudy little town. A dozen oak trees, some park benches, a flagpole and a war memorial consisting of a graffiti-covered cannon and a completely defiled plaque. It's the nightly hangout for locals and tourist kids.

EXT. PARK - CAMMIE - NIGHT

She's sitting against a tree. She reaches into her t-shirt and comes up with a pack of Marlboros. She fires one up and takes a deep draw. She looks up with a blank expression.

EXT. PARK - BUCK AND CAMMIE - NIGHT

Buck stands before her.

BUCK

You didn't give me much of a chance to apologize.

She doesn't respond.

BUCK

(continuing)

You mind if I sit down?

CAMMIE

I don't own the park.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

Buck sits down in front of her.

BUCK

I just got here. I'm from...

CAMMIE

Chicago.

BUCK

(surprised)

How'd you know?

CAMMIE

You're too thin to be from
Milwaukee, your teeth are too good
to be from Minnesota, you have a
brain so you're not from Canada
and you've got a human haircut so
you're not from Iowa or Nebraska.

Buck's impressed.

CAMMIE

(continuing)

It's no big trick. You live all
your life in this monkey shit town
it becomes second nature.

BUCK

I guess I've met my first local,
huh?

CAMMIE

You don't have any idea how local
I am. It's gross, really. A
world tour for me is a weekend in
Green Bay.

BUCK

It's really a beautiful town.

Buck looks down the street.

HIS POV

The squalid little town with its blaring neon and
station wagon traffic. It's anything but beautiful.

BUCK AND CAMMIE

He turns back from looking at the town. Cammie's
looking away.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

BUCK

It's...

CAMMIE

It's a hole in the earth. Look,
why don't you save your breath?
I'm not a whore, okay?

She stands up. Buck is dumbfounded. He stands up.
She heads off across the park and disappears into the
dark. Buck is left baffled and embarrassed. He looks
around at the people who've watched the conversation.

BUCK

What'd I do?

38 OMITTED

38

39 EXT. CABIN - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT

39

40 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

40

Chet's building a fire in the fireplace. Buck, Ben and
the twins are watching. Connie, Kate and Roman are
playing Monopoly at the table.

CHET

You kids want to hear a bear
story?

The kids shake their heads. Chet doesn't see.

CHET

(continuing)

Mom and I honeymooned up here. At
this very same lake.

ROMAN

Big spender.

Chet flashes Roman a cold look.

CHET

We were staying at my uncle's
cabin. And one night we heard a
terrible racket out by the trash
cans...

Chet's very much into his story. He walks over and
turns off a lamp, to add to the effect of the story.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

ROMAN

Heh! We're playing here, Chet!

Kate silences him with her hand.

KATE

Shh. Listen.

Connie smiles as she remembers the incident.

CHET

I got out of bed and I looked out
the window and you know what I
saw? The biggest, baddest bear in
the North Woods.

The twins' eyes open wide in fear.

BEN

I'm sure, Dad.

CONNIE

It's true, Ben.

Chet turns off the kitchen light. He walks back to the fireplace.

CHET

She stood about six feet tall...

A40 FLASHBACK - CLOSEUP - BEAR

A40

The real bear.

CHET (V.O.)

Big white teeth...

The bear curls its lips back to reveal its teeth.

CHET (V.O.)

(continuing)

... fangs, stained pink from
whatever it was she killed before
she got to our cabin.

B40 CLOSEUP - CHET - PRESENT

B40

He continues the story.

(CONTINUED)

B40 CONTINUED:

B40

CHET

Paws as big around as a catcher's mitt with black claws like knife blades.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Buck and Ben look at each other. If it's a bullshit story, it's a good one.

CHET

It was a terrible sight. It wasn't like a scary movie.

C40 FLASHBACK - CLOSEUP - BEAR

C40

at the window.

CHET (V.O.)

It was real and all that separated me from her...

D40 FLASHBACK - CLOSEUP - CHET

D40

on the other side of the window, in terror. Long, hippie hair and a tie-dyed t-shirt.

CHET (V.O.)

... was a pane of window glass!

E40 INT. CABIN - NIGHT - PRESENT

E40

The twins are trembling. As Chet talks, he jams the fireplace full of newspaper and kindling. He soaks the kindling and the logs with barbeque starter fluid. He's so taken with his story, he doesn't realize how much kindling paper he's stuffed into the fireplace or how much fluid he's squirting. He uses squirts to dramatize points in the story.

CONNIE

Chet? Maybe you shouldn't talk about it. You might give the kids nightmares.

CHET

Oh, come on, hon. It's a great story.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

E40 CONTINUED:

E40

CHET (CONT'D)

Anyway, I saw her and you know what? She saw me, too. And she was hungry. Hungry for blood. Human blood. Once they get the taste of it, they crave it, they need, they want it and they will do anything to get it. She had become a maneater!

The kids sit back in alarm.

CHET

(continuing)

Our eyes locked, my heart was pounding...

(slaps his fist
into his open palm)

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!

(pause; then
loud and fast)

I ran into the living room and grabbed my uncle's shotgun off the mantle. I turned and saw her face in that window. Her breath fogging the glass. Suddenly! She let out a roar that rattled the pots and pans, shivered the walls and rattled the floorboards! I knew then that it was either her or it was Mom and I. So I took aim and I fired... Kerblamm!

The kids jump at the noise.

BEN

You wasted her?

CHET

No, Benny. A shotgun couldn't kill a monster like that.

BEN

What happened?

CHET

The buckshot shaved the hair clean off the top of her head. She ran off and never came back. Every now and then...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

E40 CONTINUED: (2)

E40

CHET (CONT'D)

...we'd hear from my uncle and he'd tell us about the bald-headed killer bear that was haunting the area. The Bald-Headed Bear of Clare Country.

F40 FLASHBACK - CLOSEUP - BEAR - NIGHT

F40

angry, wild and bald.

G40 INT. CABIN - NIGHT - PRESENT

G40

Chet fishes a pack of matches out of his pocket.

BEN

Is she still around?

CONNIE

No, honey. This happened fifteen years ago.

CHET

She may still be out there. Crazy and blood-thirsty as ever. So, when you go to bed tonight, don't look out your window! Boo!

The kids and Roman shriek with fright. Chet chuckles. He strikes a match and tosses it in the fireplace.

41 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

41

There's a flash inside. A column of fire erupts from the chimney and shoots thirty feet in the air.

41A INT. CABIN. NIGHT (AFTER THE BEAR STORY)

41A

Roman's outside Ben's room, listening at the door.

CHET (OC)

There's nothing to be afraid of,
Ben. That wasn't a true story.
My father told it to me and I'm
sure his father told it him. And
I told it to you.

BEN (OC)

Are you sure that bear's not still
around?

CHET (OC)

Positive.

CU. ROMAN

He's noting the tenderness in the conversation.

41B INT. TWIN'S ROOM

41B

The twins are in bed. Roman slips into the room. He crosses
nervously to the bed.

ROMAN

(stiff, uncomfortable)

Good evening.

He sits on the edge of the bed.

ROMAN

How's it going.

Of course, no response.

ROMAN

As your father, I felt it incumbent
upon me to set the record straight
with regards to the validity of the
tale which Uncle Chet shared with us
this evening.

He gives the kids an uncomfortable smile.

(continued)

ROMAN

I know that a terrifying story like that coming from the mouth of a recognized authority figure is traumatizing because I had a similar experience with my Uncle Roy and a story he told about a family that went to the woods and was attacked by a band of escaped Army psychiatric patients who'd been subjected to vicious, violent, hellish behavior modification experiments. They escaped the metal boxes that they lived in and went off into the woods and slaughtered and ate this family before they were recaptured. Now, that story gave me nightmares not to be believed and I don't want Uncle Chet's bear story to upset you in the same way. So I'm here to say there isn't a bear like that, none of what Uncle Chet said actually happened and that even if there were a bear out there, I'm in the house prepared to protect you. I love you and nothing will happen to you. At the absolute worst, and I'm not saying this'll happen but in a worst case scenerio, maybe a bear gets in the house but believe me, he'll go for the cookies and sweets before he goes for you and anyone else in the cabin. So, we're not going to think about bears or anything else unpleasant. We're going to close our eyes and dream about nice things. Okay? Super. Sleep tight.

He gets up and exits. The twins are frozen with fear.

41C INT. HALLWAY

41C

Roman backs out of the room, closing the door softly. Chet comes out of the Ben's room. He closes the door. Both men turn at the same time. See each other, jump back and yelp. Embarrassed they turn it into hacking coughs.

ROMAN

The butts. Gotta give 'em up.

CHET

Allergies.

ROMAN

Yeah, it's bad.

CHET

Good night.

(continued)

ROMAN

Yep.

They march manly and tall to their respective rooms.
 A beat and the twins and Ben bolt from their rooms
 screaming, running for their parents.

41D INT. CABIN. NIGHT

41D

Everyone's asleep. Roman's sitting in the living room,
 smoking a cigarette, thinking. The only light is that coming
 from outside security lights.

CU. ROMAN

Deeply troubled. Worried thought. The bravado and confidence
 he has in the day is gone with the night. The bullshit is
 gone and all that remains is trouble and concern.

42 OMITTED
 and
 43

42
 and
 43

44 EXT. CABIN - KITCHEN DOOR - NIGHT

44

A family of RACCOONS waddles up to the cabin. Their
 chirps are translated in subtitles.

MOTHER RACCOON

New people on the Loon's Nest.

(CONTINUED)

BABY RACCOON
Illinois plates.

MOTHER RACCOON
If they're from Chicago, we'll be
eating good.

EXT. CABIN PORCH - NIGHT

The garbage cans. The mother raccoon climbs up on the
can and knocks it over.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

The raccoons tear into the garbage bags.

MOTHER RACCOON
Lobster tails!

BABY RACCOON
A shitload of raw hotdogs!

MOTHER RACCOON
Watch your mouth.

BABY RACCOON
Excuse me.

45 EXT. LAKE - MORNING

45

Placid and peaceful. The sun rising on the still
water.

46 INT. KIDS' BEDROOM - BOYS - DAY

46

splayed out on their sleeping bags.

47 INT. KIDS' ROOM - TWINS - DAY

47

In their monogrammed pajamas, clutching blankets,
sucking each other's thumbs.

48 INT. ROMAN'S ROOM - DAY

48

He's asleep on top of Kate.

Connie's sleeping. Chet's not in bed.

Chet's in his p.j.'s and robe with a cup of coffee. He's standing in the midst of the carnage of the raccoon attack. Wally waddles past, walking Wormer.

WALLY

If you don't put a rock on top of the cans, the raccoons are gonna get your refuse every time, you city dwelling potato head.

Roman's standing at the sink. He has a portable cellular phone. The base unit is on the toilet tank. The handpiece is cradled between his shoulder and his jaw. Kate's in the shower.

ROMAN

Is Jerry Asmuth in? This is Roman Craig. Yeah, I can hold but not too long, I'm up in God's Country and my signal's weak.

As he waits on the phone, he trims his nose hair.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Honey? Chet's kids look at him like he's Zeus. Mine look at me like I'm a rack of yard tools at Sears.

INT. CABIN HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM - DAY

The twins are looking in the bathroom.

THEIR POV

Their father is in his undershorts, trimming his nose, talking on the phone.

ROMAN

Why can't they connect me?

(CONTINUED)

INT. BATHROOM - SHOWER - DAY

Kate's washing her hair.

KATE

Maybe if you spent a little less
time on your work and a little
more time with us, things would be
different.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Roman covers the phone.

ROMAN

Honey? Put a cork in it for a
minute, I'm talking business.

(to the phone)

Jerry? Roman. I'll save us both
a lot of trouble and cut right to
the chase. I have an investment
opportunity you won't believe. Do
you have three minutes and twenty-
five grand?

(pause)

Jerry?

He looks at the phone to see if he's lost the signal.
He sighs with defeat. Kate pokes her head out of the
shower.

KATE

Did you hear what I said?

ROMAN

I lost the signal... Damn phones.

KATE

Maybe he hung up on you.

ROMAN

Why would our minister hang up on
me?

52 EXT. BOAT YARD - DAY - LATER

52

A small boat yard specializing in sales and rentals of
ski and fishing boats.

(CONTINUED)

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Chet, Roman and the boys are in a small office with a grubby man in his fifties. He's the OWNER. Roman's going over the rental papers.

OWNER

She's brand new this season. I don't want you neglecting her.

ROMAN

Insult me one more time and I'll take my business elsewhere.

Roman slides the papers to Chet.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Agreement looks kosher, Chet, sign it, pay the man and let's go skiing.

CHET

I'm paying for it?

ROMAN

You said you were renting a boat.

CHET

I wanted to rent a pontoon boat.

ROMAN

They don't have one.

CHET

So, why do I have to pay for a boat I don't want?

Roman takes the papers from Chet.

ROMAN

You kids want it, okay. I'll be more than happy to pay for this boat.

He takes out his wallet.

ROMAN

(continuing)

My kids are too young to ski but if you want me to rent your kids a boat, fine.

(CONTINUED)

CHET

Wait a minute. I'll split it with you.

ROMAN

That's what I love about you, Ripley. You only go half-way. Have you ever gone the whole distance on anything.

CHET

Yes, I have. I said I'd split it with you, so, let's split it.

He pulls out his wallet and yanks his credit card out. He hands it over to the owner.

ROMAN

Personally, I think splitting costs is cheap and petty. I'd rather pay the whole damn thing myself than get into counting pennies with you all week.

CHET

Don't worry about it. I'll pay for it.

ROMAN

I'll be more than happy to cover it.

CHET

I said I'll pay for it.

ROMAN

Fine. Let me give you a hundred bucks so you won't gripe if I want to take the boat out by myself.

CHET

No.

ROMAN

I insist.

CHET

I said, no.

ROMAN

Please.

CHET

All right.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: (3)

52

Roman's shocked that Chet has accepted.

ROMAN

Again, we're dealing with peanuts.
What the hell's a hundred bucks?
Do we really want to nitpick? No.
I'll be out front.

(to the boys)

Come on, guys.

He shepherds the boys outside, leaving Chet to wonder if he's been taken.

53 EXT. BOAT YARD - DAY

53

An 18 foot cigarette boat. A nasty, dangerous-looking speed boat. Bright red with orange flames and garish hot rod lettering on the side -- SUCK MY WAKE.

CHET AND ROMAN

Roman's delighted. Chet's unsure.

ROMAN

We'll be scraping bugs off our
teeth with this baby, huh?

(to Buck and Ben)

Come on, we'll hit the guy up for
a free tank of gas.

He heads for the boat. Ben follows. Buck hangs back with Chet.

BUCK

Dad?

CHET

That's too much boat.

BUCK

Dad?

CHET

Yeah?

BUCK

Would you mind if I hung around
town? I'll walk back when I'm
done.

(CONTINUED)

CHET

Don't you want to ride in the boat?

BUCK

I kind of want to hang around. It's been a couple of days since I hung around anywhere.

CHET

You have to promise me that when you get back, we'll spend a little time together. That's the whole point of the trip. You and me. And Ben. Us. The guys. The woods. Men. Bonded, tight, close and manly.

BUCK

Dad?

CHET

Yeah?

BUCK

Can I go?

CHET

Yeah, sure. Maybe you can meet some guys in town. Bring 'em back and I'll take 'em for a spin in the boat.

BUCK

Sure, Dad.

Buck starts to walk away.

CHET

You got money?

Buck nods and heads down the road. Chet walks over to the boat. Roman's been watching Chet and Buck.

ROMAN

That's a shame.

CHET

What's that?

ROMAN

I knew you were alienating the kid with all that crap about fathers and sons.

Connie and Kate are in their bathing suits, sitting in beach chairs playing Scrabble.

CONNIE

Gee, the twins have been awfully quiet. Are they having a good time?

KATE

I'm sure they are. They've always kept pretty much to themselves.

55 OMITTED
thru
67

55
thru
67

68 EXT. BEACH - WATER - DAY

68

The twins are knee deep in the water, staring out into the lake.

UNDERWATER VIEW

We see their little ankles and calves from a fish's point of view.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Connie and Kate turn their attention from the twins back to their game.

KATE

Roman says they'll talk when they have something to say.

CONNIE

Obviously you've discussed it with your pediatrician.

KATE

He says not to worry.

Kate changes the subject.

KATE

(continuing)

I wonder what's keeping Chet and Roman?

(CONTINUED)

CONNIE

Does Roman know anything about boats?

KATE

Not as much as he thinks he does.

(to the twins)

Come on, you 'fraidy cats! You can swim!

She turns back to the game. Behind her we see a mammoth fish leap out of the water. Monster Mouth.

EXT. WATER - TWINS - DAY

They look at each other in terror. They scream.

EXT. CITY BOAT LAUNCH - DAY

Chet backs the boat down the launch. He stops and gets out of the car. Roman and Ben get out.

ROMAN

What's the problem?

CHET

I want to make sure I'm doing this right.

ROMAN

You back it in until it floats. It's not that hard.

Chet climbs into the boat.

CHET

You back 'er in, I'll start 'er up.

Roman gets in the wagon and starts backing up. He eases the boat slowly into the water.

CHET

(continuing)

Keep it coming!

ROMAN

How far into the water do you want me to drive the car?

(CONTINUED)

CHET

Don't worry about it! It's paved
all the way in.

ROMAN

It's no sweat off my back. It's
your car.

Roman continues backing up. The boat takes to the
water and floats.

CHET

Ho! Take 'er up!

Roman pulls the car forward. The trailer comes up out
of the water.

70 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY

70

Chet starts the engine. It takes a couple of tries and
then catches.

71 EXT. BOAT LAUNCH - DAY

71

Roman pulls all the way up to the top and gets out of
the car.

ROMAN

Got it?

72 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY

72

Chet waves his arm. He's revving the engine.

73 EXT. BOAT LAUNCH - DAY

73

Roman cups his hand and yells to Chet.

ROMAN

You're in neutral!

74 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY

74

Chet waves Roman away. He turns around in the seat and
watches behind him. He guns the engine, and puts it in
gear. The boat leaps forward and grinds up the boat
launch. It rolls on its side with the engine howling
and the prop spinning.

50.

75 EXT. TOWN - SAME TIME - DAY 75

Buck's walking the streets of the town. He's aimlessly cruising. He checks out every girl that passes. He's looking for Cammie.

76 EXT. DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT - DAY 76

Cammie's in a perky uniform carrying a tray. She sets it on the window of a family sedan. She collects the due and returns to the restaurant.

77 EXT. ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE RESTAURANT - DAY 77

Buck's across the street. He's spotted Cammie. He darts across the street.

78 INT. RESTAURANT 78

A BUZZER goes off. The cook yells to Cammie.

COOK
Cammie! Stall six!

79 EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY 79

Cammie comes out counting her tips. Her head's ducked.

EXT. STALL NUMBER SIX - DAY

Buck's standing in the stall, pretending he's holding a steering wheel. Cammie walks to the stall and looks up, expecting a car. Buck smiles at her.

She plants her hands on her hips. She can't help but smile.

BUCK
What's good?

CAMMIE
Where do I put the tray?

BUCK
From the way you talked to me last night, you can probably think of a couple of good places.

CAMMIE
I'm sorry about that.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CAMMIE

I was in kind of a bad mood. But that doesn't mean that I didn't mean what I said. For the most part, it's true.

BUCK

You don't know that it's true of me.

CAMMIE

It's a safe assumption.

BUCK

I just borrowed this car and I have to get it back. How late do you work?

CAMMIE

Five.

BUCK

Where'll you be tonight?

CAMMIE

Around.

BUCK

Can I see you?

Cammie doesn't want to answer. She doesn't want to get involved. But she does want to see him.

CAMMIE

If you can find me.

80 EXT. LAKE - DOCK - DAY

80

Chet and Ben are on the dock with the water skis. Chet's fully clothed. Ben's in his swim trunks and life belt.

BEN

Dad? I'll figure it out.

CHET

Are you so experienced that you can't take a few pointers from someone who knows?

Ben sighs.

81 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAM

81

Roman, Connie, Kate and the twins are in the boat.
It's idling. They're looking back at the dock.

82 EXT. DOCK - DAY

82

Chet's in the skis on the dock.

CHET

You bend your knees so you absorb
the shock of the waves. Right?
Your knees are your shock
absorbers.

Ben nods wearily.

CHET

(continuing)

You keep your weight back. Right?
And if you get in trouble, let go
of the rope.

BEN

Yep.

83 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY

83

No one knows what Chet's doing.

84 EXT. DOCK - DAY

84

Chet continues his lesson.

CHET

Any questions?

BEN

What if I get tired?

CHET

And you want to stop?

Buck nods.

CHET

(continuing)

Your stop signal is the same as
your start signal.

BEN

What's that?

(CONTINUED)

CHET

Just raise your hand, and
remember, when in doubt, let go of
the rope.

BEN

Thanks, Dad. Here, hold this.

Chet takes rope.

CHET

Alright. A lot of people get in
trouble if they don't let go of
the rope.

Chet raises his arm to swat a fly.

85 EXT. DOCK - DAY

85

Chet drops to his ass and flies off the dock.

BEN

Let go of the rope!

86 EXT. LAKE - END OF THE DOCK - DAY

86

Chet flies OVER CAMERA.

87 EXT. LAKE - DAY

87

He splashes down and is ripped across the lake.

88 EXT. DOCK - FROM THE END OF THE SHORE - DAM

88

A smoking strip runs from Ben to the end of the dock.

89 EXT. LAKE - DAY

89

The boat roars past. Chet follows, holding his shred-
ded ass.

90 EXT. BOAT - DAY

90

Everyone cheers him on.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's scared to death.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED: 90

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He cuts the boat hard to the left.

91 EXT. LAKE - DAY 91

Chet jumps the wake and slingshots alongside the boat.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's holding on for his life.

92 EXT. LAKE - DAY 92

The boat cuts back around. Chet jumps the wake again and switches sides on the boat.

93 EXT. BOAT - ROMAN - DAY 93

wind slapping his face.

ROMAN

He's doing great!

(blows his HORN)

What a maniac! No one told me he
could be a pro!

He cuts left again.

CLOSEUP - CHET

Horror.

HIS POV

He's heading for another boat. It veers out of the way at the last moment.

94 EXT. LAKE - DAY 94

Chet hits the other boat's wake and sails into the air. He nearly loses it as he touches down. His ass slaps the water.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's screaming at the top of his voice.

(CONTINUED)

CHET

Stop! Stop!

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He turns back.

CONNIE

Look at him! He's laughing! It's
nice to see him relaxed for a
change!

ROMAN

Look how much fun he's having, and
he wanted a pontoon boat.

CHET'S POV

He edges closer to the shore. He's dangerously close
to the docks.

CLOSEUP - CHET

Every nerve in his body is tingling.

95 EXT. LAKE - DAY

95

The boat makes a hard turn. Chet jumps the wake again
and loses one of his skis.

96 EXT. SWAMP - DAY

96

Deep in the reed. We hear the BOAT approach. Sud-
denly, Chet rips through the reeds. Chet's screams
overwhelm the sound of the engine as he streaks past.

SKI'S POV

Through the reeds and the stumps and the lilypads and
the slime.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He closes his eyes, consigned to death.

97 EXT. LAKE - DAY

97

The boat executes another sharp turn and comes away
from the shore. Chet flies out of the reeds.

98 EXT. CHET'S DOCK - DAY

98

The boat sails past, turns and slingshots Chet into the shore. He releases the tow and glides into the shallows.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He sinks to his knees. He's catatonic.

99 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY

99

Everyone applauds him. Roman gives him a heartfelt salute.

100 EXT. ANOTHER BOAT

100

The occupants join the applause.

101 EXT. SHORE - DAY

101

People gathered along the shore applaud.

CLOSEUP - CHET

still staring. Not quite convinced he's alive.

102 EXT. SHORE - DAY

102

Ben charges into the water.

BEN

Dad! That was incredible!

Chet falls forward into the water.

102A

102A EXT. CABIN

Roman has docked the boat and is putting away the ski gear. He's examining a water ski. He notes that the back of the ski is curved up. He looks at the second ski. Same thing. He stows the skis under the porch and turns to see Wally and the twins.

WALLY

I got a couple things to gnaw over with you, Roman. First, somebody got the water patrol all cheesed off, hot rodding on water skis all over the lake.

ROMAN

That was my brother-in-law and I apologize on his behalf.

WALLY

And B. I found your youngsters inside the mine perimeter.

ROMAN

What mine?

WALLY

Got an old mica mine on the other side of the property. Alot of bore holes, sink holes, pits, caves, hollows, you know. The war shut the facility down and it never reopened. The state don't want to fill the holes, the Feds don't give a crap and they throw up barbed wire and leave it. There could be dynamite, blasting caps, poison water, you never know what's left behind in a mine. I do 'cause I had a cousin worked there. Kids get in there and yell into them holes and hear the voices echo and I won't tell what teenagers do in there but I don't need the grief of some kid buying a trip north on a cloud.

ROMAN

Girls? Off limits on the mine shafts, huh?
(to Wally)

Thanks.

WALLY

And you'll talk to Ripley?

ROMAN

Done.

Wally exits. Roman looks at the twins.

ROMAN

Why don't you two head inside
and take a nap.

The twins stare at him.

ROMAN

You still take naps don't you?

They shake their heads, no.

ROMAN

I guess I gotta catch on my
videotapes of you guys.

103 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

103

Chet pulls his suitcase out from under the bed. He opens it. It's nearly full. He's so angry, he's unaware that he's unpacking instead of packing. Connie comes in.

CONNIE

Chet?

(see that
he's packing)

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

CHET

I'm not taking any more of Roman's crap. If you like him, you stay with him. I'm through.

CONNIE

What's happened that's gotten you so crazy?

CHET

How about Roman dragging me all over the goddamn lake in my clothes? Have you seen my ass?

CONNIE

Not recently.

CHET

Well, I'll be picking splinters from it until the day I die!

CONNIE

What about the kids?

CHET

The kids? I think his kids are spooky. I'm waiting for them to rotate their heads and vomit pea soup.

CONNIE

I mean our kids.

Chet shoves a shirt in a drawer.

CHET

Honey, he's driving me nuts. We came up here to be together and have a little fun. Who invited him, anyway?

CONNIE

Maybe if Roman's family was more like ours, he'd want to spend his time with them alone. We're lucky. Why don't you try to be a little more compassionate towards him?

CHET

Honey, he's an asshole.

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED: (2)

103

CONNIE

You know it, I know it, he
probably knows it. Come on.
You're a big man and a nice man.
You're above this.

She kisses him.

CHET

You always do this to me.

CONNIE

I know.

(kisses him again)
I'm glad you lost your temper.

CHET

Yeah?

CONNIE

Yeah. You finally unpacked your
suitcase.

She gives him another kiss and exits, leaving Chet with
an empty suitcase. He's not quite certain how it got
that way.

103A

EXT. LODGE AREA. DUSK.

103A

The two families are crossing the grounds to the lodge.
Chet leads the way. Roman carries the rumaki.

CHET

The man is 109 years old today and I
think the least we can do is drop by
and wish him a happy birthday.

ROMAN

We got a shot to see a female Elvis
impersonator in White Water and you
want to wish happy birthday to a man
you never met?

CHET

If you want to go to White Water, go
ahead. I'm more interested in paying
my respects to a man who's had the
courage to last on this earth 109 years.

(to the kids)

He's the oldest man in Canada. Isn't
that something?

There's no response from the kids.

CHET

We'll dance, we'll have a drink and
we'll party down with the real people.

ROMAN

Personally I'd rather see a 46 inch
bust singing "Love Me Tender".

They walk into the lodge.

104

EXT. LODGE- EVENING.

104

Cars are parked everywhere. People are entering the
lodge. MUSIC is playing.

105

INT. LODGE- NIGHT.

105

A large knotty pine ballroom. A bar at one end, a
local DeeJay at the other. Jammed with locals in their
best duds.

106

OMITTED

106

107

INT. LODGE. LATER.

107

Chet and Connie are slow dancing.

CHET

Do you remember where you first
heard this song?

CONNIE

No.

CHET

Oh, come on. In college. My dorm
room. Parent's night.

CONNIE

That was Leader of the Pack.

CHET

I don't think so.

CONNIE

A girl remembers what song was playing
the moment she lost her virginity.

CHET

Then where do I remember this song from?
I have the sweetest memory of it.

CONNIE

Kate's wedding reception.

CHET

That's right. The band was playing it
when the bartender slugged Roman for
robbing his tips.

He gives Connie a squeeze and smiles from ear to ear.

CHET

I love this song.

ROMAN AND KATE

They're dancing, having similar memories about the song.

ROMAN

I put in a twenty and took back
fifteen in change.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED:

107

KATE

It doesn't matter anymore, Roman.

ROMAN

Everytime I hear this song, I think
of that goddamn bartender slandering me.

KATE

He didn't slander you, he chipped
your tooth.

ROMAN

And I never sued him. I could have
won big, too. That money invested
at ten percent over twenty years...

108 INT. LODGE. OLD MAN

108

The twins are standing in front of the old man.
Staring at him. Buck and Ben come up behind them.

BUCK

Happy Birthday, sir.

There's no response.

BEN

He's probably hard of hearing.

BUCK

(louder)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

No response.

109 INT. LODGE. WIDE

109

The song ends. There's a round of applause
and another tune begins.

Roman is offering his rumaki around the room.

INT. BAR- CHET AND WALLY

Chet's nursing a drink.

CHET

(to Wally)

What's the bear dump situation?

(CONTINUED)

WALLY

We got a good one. One of the best in the state, actually.

Roman comes over and joins them.

ROMAN

These hicks are gobbling up my rumaki like there's no tomorrow.

CHET

Hicks?

ROMAN

What do you want me to call them? German industrialists? I say hick with affection.

CHET

I was just talking to Wally here about the bear dump. What do you say we run the kids over there?

Roman stares at Chet like he's lost his mind.

ROMAN

What the hell for? To watch bears eat rubbish? That sounds about as amusing as stirring roofing tar with your pecker.

CHET

The kids always seem to like it.

ROMAN

If they don't know about it, they'll never miss it. Unless you shot your mouth off already.

Chet doesn't respond.

ROMAN

(to the bartender)

Room charge to Ripley.

Chet gives him a look. He reaches into his pocket and pays cash for the drinks.

An up-tempo tune begins (LAND OF A THOUSAND DANCES).

ROMAN

(to Kate)

You wanna give it a whirl?

(CONTINUED)

KATE

It's too fast for me and these shoes.

ROMAN

How 'bout you, Con. Wanna ride old
Uncle Roman's knee? It's a joke,
Chester.

(to Connie)

Come on.

He takes her hand, leads her out on the dance floor.
Chet doesn't like it. Kate looks at him and smiles.

INT. LODGE DANCE FLOOR- ROMAN AND CONNIE

dancing.

INT. LODGE BAR.

Kate and Chet watch the dancing from the bar.

KATE

You hate him, don't you?

CHET

Me? No. Not at all. What would
make you think a thing like that?

KATE

He thinks you do.

CHET

Well, that's his problem.

KATE

He's only trying to do right.

INT. LODGE DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Roman and Connie are dancing.

INT. LODGE - KATE AND CHET

They're continuing their conversation.

KATE

He really likes you, Chet. I
know that sounds odd, but it's
true.

CHET

What's he like about me, Kate?
He knocks everything I do.

KATE

I don't know. He says he likes you.

CHET

I can't think of one thing about
me that Roman could possibly like.

KATE

He talks a lot about your income.

110

INT. LODGE DANCE FLOOR

110

Roman and Connie are ripping up the place.

111

INT. LODGE. OLD MAN.

111

The kids are still trying to talk to the old man.

BUCK

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Chet walks up. He puts his hand on the old man's shoulder.

CHET

Sir, my sincerest congratulations.
(to the kids)
Did you wish Mr. Tompkins a happy
birthday?

BUCK

About six hundred times. He must be
deaf or something.

CHET

I'll tell you what, I'd like to get
a snapshot of you guys with Mr.
Tompkins.

(to the old man)

Would you mind, sir?

There's no response.

INT. LODGE. BAR

Wally and Juanita are at the bar. Wally sees Chet
talking to the old man. He pokes Juanita. She looks.

THEIR POV

Chet has the kids positioned around the old man. He's
putting the twins on his lap.

WALLY AND JUANITA

Wally's worried. He leaves the bar to join Chet.

KATE

She's at the other end of the bar. She's watching the
dance floor. A tinge of sadness on her face.

HER POV DANCE FLOOR

(CONTINUED)

111

CONTINUED:

111

Roman and Connie are having a ball.

112

INT. LODGE- CHET

112

He's fiddling with his camera. Wally walks up to him.

CHET

Go easy on him, girls. He's old.

(to Wally)

Hey, Wally. You look sharp in your suit and tie.

WALLY

The pants are running up the butt something fierce but I'll get by. Listen, Chet, I don't like them youngsters crawling all over Mr. Tompkins like that. He ain't a jungle gym.

CHET

They're being real gentle. They're sweet kids. This is marvelous what you're doing here for the old guy.

WALLY

Yeah, but I don't want them kids messing him up.

CHET

Buck? You and Ben squeeze in real close there.

OLD MAN

The twins are resting on his knees. Buck and Ben are bending down, almost cheek to cheek with the old geezer.

BUCK

Dad! Hurry up!

CHET AND WALLY

Wally's very nervous about the photo. Chet's having trouble framing the picture properly.

CHET

Hold your horses, Buck.

WALLY

Ripley, hurry up with your picture and get them kids away from Bill.

(CONTINUED)

CHET
He doesn't mind.

WALLY
No, but I do.

CHET
Why do you mind?

WALLY
Because I got a big party
going on here and I'm doing real
good with the bar sales and the
boys from the newspaper are here
covering it and there's lots of good
publicity.

CHET
What does that have to do with me
taking a picture?

WALLY
Me and Bill got a secret that would
spoil everything if word of it got
out.

CHET
Excuse me. Buck! Get in a little
closer. Girls! Closer.

OLD MAN AND KIDS:

Chet lines up the shot.

CHET
Girls! Give him a little kiss!

WALLY
You don't want them to do that,
Chet.

CHET
Aw, it's fine. It's cute. What old
man doesn't like a kiss from a little
girl?

WALLY
A dead one.

CHET
Huh?

WALLY
Bill died in the car on the way
over here.

(CONTINUED)

112	CONTINUED:	112
	Chet freezes. The music ends.	
113	OMITTED	113
114	OMITTED	114
115	INT. LODGE DANCE FLOOR	115

Roman and Connie end the dance with Roman's knee jammed between Connie's legs. She dismounts him as if his leg were a saddle.

ROMAN

How the heck did that happen?

He laughs and puts his arm around Connie.

ROMAN

You're the greatest, Con.

Chet and Kate have missed the end of the dance. Ben and the twins have joined them.

BEN

Dad, can we go? If one more old lady kisses me, I'm gonna puke.

Roman and Connie return.

ROMAN

That was a good workout.

CONNIE

I'm exhausted.

CHET

Connie? I think we're ready to head for the dump.

CONNIE

Don't let the kids get out of the car.

CHET

You're sure you don't want to come along?

Roman puts his arms around both women.

ROMAN

We'll keep your seat warm.

Connie throws Chet a kiss. He sighs and exits.

116 EXT. BEAR DUMP - NIGHT

116

Half a dozen scraggly bears are rummaging through a heap of fresh trash. A semi-circle of parked cars rims the dump. The bears go about their filthy foraging in the light of a dozen sets of car headlights.

117 INT. CHET'S WAGON - CHET

117

Chet's at the wheel.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

117

CHET

Will you look at the size of those
huge guys? I'll bet you're
scared, huh?

Chet looks over and sees Ben trying to dial in a RADIO
station. He looks over the seat. The twins are sound
asleep in the back.

CHET

He breathes an annoyed sigh.

CHET

Come on, kids, look at the bears.
Geez, we drove all the way out
here.

Ben looks up.

BEN

They're great, Dad.

He goes back to the radio. Chet drums his fingers on
the steering wheel. He gets an idea.

CHET

Benny? Look in the glove
compartment and see if there are
any candy bars left.

Ben groans and looks in the glove compartment. He
pulls out a wrinkled paper bag (travel food) and looks
inside. He hands it to Chet. He reaches inside and
pulls out a Zagnut.

CHET

(continuing)

Watch this, guys.

Chet opens the car door.

BEN

Dad!

CHET

It's all right, watch.

118 EXT. CAR - NIGHT

118

Chet gets out of the car.

119 EXT. DUMP - BEARS 119
They look around at Chet.

120 EXT. CAR 120
Chet opens the candy bar and tosses it to the bears.

121 EXT. DUMP - BEARS 121
The bears fight over the candy bar.

122 EXT. CAR 122
Chet opens another candy bar and lays it on the hood of the car right below the windshield.

BEN

Dad!

Chet jumps in the car as the bears approach the car.

123 INT. CAR 123
Chet slams the door and looks over at Ben.

CHET

We'll get a good look at these guys now.

They all lean forward as one of the bears tongues the candy bar off the front of the hood.

CHET

(continuing)

Is this exciting or what? Look at the size of those teeth.

A bear lumbers up on the hood.

CHET

(continuing)

Oh, no! The paint! No!

Chet knocks on the glass with his knuckle in a pointless attempt to get the bear off the hood. Another climbs up.

CHET

(continuing)

Get off there! Go on! Shoo!

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED:

123

Ben leans back as the bears ignore Chet and come closer.

HIS POV

One bear tongues up the candy bar below the windshield. Then it looks in the window. The other bear joins him.

124 INT. CAR - CHET AND BEN

124

They're terrified. Out the side windows, more bears have appeared.

THEIR POV

The bears are clawing the windshield, trying to get the candy bar. It draws a paw back and pounds the windshield.

125 INT. CAR

125

Chet quickly starts the engine.

CHET

Seen enough?

BEN

Yep.

CHET

Good.

Chet starts the car.

126 EXT. DUMP

126

Chet slowly backs out of the semi-circle with two bears on his hood, and one on the roof and several more on either side.

127 INT. ANOTHER CAR

127

Another family of bear-watchers is looking at Chet's car with the bear on the hood.

THEIR POV

Chet gives them a smile as he backs out of the circle. As if he doesn't have bears all over his car.

128 EXT. DUMP

128

Chet puts the car forward and pull ahead. The bears are still on the hood. The car is scratched and the windows streaked with bear slobber.

129 INT. CAR

129

Chet's trying to look around the bears as he pulls forward.

BEN

Dad? I think it's illegal to drive with a bear on your hood.

130 EXT. DUMP

130

Chet's car is driving in a big, wide circle with the irate bears on the car and others walking alongside.

131 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT - LATER

131

The station wagon approaches and passes. We see the bear that was on the roof is still there.

132 INT. CAR

132

Chet's frinning.

CHET

Was that a thrill and a half?

He sneaks a glance at Ben, to see if he approved.

BEN

It was reckless and insane, Dad.

CHET

Only for a moment.

BEN

Is this something you'd rather not have Uncle Roman know about?

CHET

Probably. Only because he's a little yellow inside, you know. He talks big but it was a good thing he didn't come tonight. He would have been scared to death.

BEN

He was a fighter pilot, wasn't he?

CHET

Nobody every actually saw him fly.

(changes the subject)

Hey! Did you hear that noise?

BEN

What noise?

CHET

That big thump!

BEN

I didn't hear anything.

Chet glances back at the twins.

CHET

You know what? I'll bet one of those bears jumped on the back of the car!

Ben rolls his eyes.

133 EXT. TOWN - CARNIVAL - NIGHT

133

Buck's wandering through the crowds at the carnival in town. He's searching for Cammie.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

He's worried he won't find her. He looks around. No Cammie anywhere.

134 INT. LODGE - NIGHT

134

Roman, Kate, Connie, Wally and Juanita are bombed. They're singing a slurry, acappella version of "It's Only Make Believe." The party's over.

135 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

135

The station wagon pulls in through the trees. Once again, Chet gets the car stuck. He has to back up and try again.

136 EXT. LODGE - NIGHT

136

Roman, Connie and Kate stumble out of the lodge.

ROMAN

Hey! Hey! It's Chester and the
Auto Parts Bears!

All three laugh.

137 EXT. CAR - NIGHT

137

Chet's standing at the scratched and dirty car, watching the drunken trio stagger through the trees.

CHET

Come on out, guys.

The kids pile out. Chet closes the door and walks to the cabin. We see that the bear is still on the car roof.

138 INT. CABIN - SUN PORCH - NIGHT

138

Chet's sitting at the table, playing solitaire. The women are in the bedrooms cackling with laughter as they get the kids ready for bed. Roman's in the bathroom. He stumbles out of the bathroom and weaves to the porch and slumps down in a chair.

ROMAN

Run over any bears?

Chet stares at him.

ROMAN

(continuing;
turns serious)

Let me discuss something with you. Seriously. Let's set aside the clowning around and the bear jokes and talk serious. We go back quite a ways, don't we?

CHET

A little too far for my tastes.

ROMAN

Come on, you don't mean that. We're very tight for in-laws, aren't we? I'm very proud of the relationship we have. Anyway, pal, while the girls are inside, I wanted to run a few things by you. Money.

(CONTINUED)

CHET

I don't want to talk about money
with you, Roman.

ROMAN

It's important, Chet.

CHET

Not to me.

ROMAN

Well, it is to me and I need to
talk about something with you...
Something that will pull you down
some coin.

He drops the subject as Kate and Connie stumble out.

ROMAN

(continuing;
to Chet)

Later.

CONNIE

Chet, honey? How are the bears?

CHET

Just fine.

KATE

Chet? Are you mad that we didn't
go with you?

CHET

No. We had a good time.

Connie looks at Roman and Kate.

CONNIE

We should have gone.

Roman and Kate break up.

CONNIE

(continuing;
to Chet)

What'd you do?

Chet sets the cards aside. He brightens at their
interest.

CHET

It was great.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHET (CONT'D)

You know those candy bars we brought to eat in the car? I put a couple on the hood. And the bear came right up and ate them.

ROMAN

(mocking him)

No!

CHET

He sure did.

ROMAN

Were you scared?

CHET

I'm not finished. The damn bear liked the candy bars so much...

ROMAN

What kind?

CHET

Zagnut.

ROMAN

Ooo! They're good. Would you put one on the hood for me?

CONNIE

I don't want candy bars. I want real food.

KATE

Roman?

ROMAN

I've got some Gulf shrimp in the frig.

CHET

One of them was right up on the windshield.

(makes a fist)

He drew his big, old paw back and...

They get up and leave Chet with his story untold.

Chet walks to the end of the dock. We hear the CACKLING of Kate, Connie and Roman fading in the distance. Chet leans against a piling and stares out across the lake. He feels a complete failure.

140 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

140

Buck walks up the road from the lodge.

141 EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

141

Chet's looking out across the water.

BUCK (O.S.)

Dad?

Chet turns. Buck walks down the dock to Chet.

BUCK

(continuing)

What're you doing?

CHET

Just enjoying the night air.

BUCK

Oh.

CHET

How was your night?

BUCK

It was okay.

CHET

You don't want to elaborate?

BUCK

Not particularly.

CHET

You want to go out in the boat?

BUCK

In the dark?

CHET

We'll take the rowboat and just go out and look at the stars. Sound like fun?

BUCK

Not really.

142 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

142

The bear that rode back with Chet is sniffing around the station wagon. He still wants the candy bar.

143 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

143

Kate staggers to the stairs. Connie fumbles to her room.

KATE

Roman? Take the trash out before you come to bed. I don't want to wake up with the place smelling like shrimp.

ROMAN

Chet'll do it. He likes doing that sort of thing.

KATE

Just do it.

Roman staggers into the kitchen.

144 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

144

The bear is up on his hind legs, trying to get his paw through the vent window.

145 EXT. PORCH - NIGHT

145

Roman walks out with a trash bag. He lifts a rock off the top of one of the garbage cans and dumps the trash inside. He puts the lid back on and turns as he hears the bear.

ROMAN

Chet?

HIS POV

The bear standing at Chet's car. His shape looks vaguely human. To Roman's blurred and futzed senses, it looks like Chet. Unsteady, IN AND OUT OF FOCUS.

146 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

146

Roman stumbles down the porch.

ROMAN

Let's talk, huh?

147 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

147

The rowboat's sitting out in the lake. We hear Chet and Buck.

(CONTINUED)

147 CONTINUED:

147

CHET

Beautiful sky. We don't have this
kind of sky at home.

BUCK

Yeah, we do, we just can't see
it. The buildings are hiding it.

148 EXT. BOAT - NIGHT

148

Buck and Chet are sitting at opposite ends of the boat,
heads looking back at the stars. A big flashlight is
resting upright on the middle bench seat of the row-
boat. It throws a shaft of light into the sky.

CHET

Someday maybe you'll be bringing
your kids up here.

BUCK

Maybe.

The conversation dies. Buck has something on his mind.

BUCK

(continuing)

Dad?

CHET

Yeah?

BUCK

I'm kind of wrestling with a
concept and maybe you can help me
out.

CHET

I'll do my best.

BUCK

What do you do when you find
something that you really sort of
love and you know you have to
leave in a week?

CHET

Is it a living thing?

BUCK

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CHET

First of all you have to take care of it. You have to make sure you poke enough holes in the lid of the jar you have it in. I had this same conversation with Ben and the toad he found. Then you have to feed it flies or bugs or worms or whatever it eats. And you have to give it water and clean the jar from time to time.

BUCK

My question was more about what do you do when you have to leave.

CHET

You have to let it out of the jar. You can't take it home, if that's the next question. It wouldn't be fair. Everything has its place and your creature's place is here.

BUCK

I really like her, Dad.

CHET

Sure you do, and that's alright, but... It's a her?

BUCK

Yeah.

CHET

Don't you have to look in their rear ends with a magnifying glass?

BUCK

What?!

CHET

How do you tell the sex of a frog?

BUCK

She's not a frog, Dad. She's a girl.

Chet freezes.

CHET

You met a girl?

(CONTINUED)

BUCK

Yeah.

CHET

Why'd you let me go on about jars
and bugs and air holes?

BUCK

I understood what you were getting
at.

CHET

Oh. Well, it still applies. Not
the bugs and worms but how you
have to deal with a person you
meet on a trip. She can't come
home with you and you can't stay
here. It's easy to get your heart
broken and to break hers if you're
realistic about the situation and
honest with each other.

BUCK

Maybe.

CHET

You think about it and come to
your own conclusions. You have my
two cents but the decision's
yours.

BUCK

Thanks, Dad.

CHET

No problem.

Chet leans back and smiles at Buck. Buck smiles.
Feels slightly embarrassed.

BUCK

What?

CHET

One day you're little Bucky with
the G.I. Joe's and the next you're
with girls.

BUCK

This shouldn't be a surprise to
you, Dad, this has been happening
to people for a million years.

(CONTINUED)

CHET

I know, but it hasn't been happening to me and you for a million years. I want to give you something.

BUCK

Dad, please do not kiss me in a boat under a full moon.

CHET

Forget the kiss. I want to give you my ring.

BUCK

Why?

CHET

Because my dad gave it to me and now you're grown up and I want to give it to you.

Chet removes a ring from his finger. He hands it to Buck. He examines it.

CHET

(continuing)

We'll get it resized when we get back home.

BUCK

What about Ben?

CHET

I'll give him something when he's old enough.

BUCK

Us coming up to the woods is like your father bringing you up to the woods. That makes sense, I guess.

He hands the ring back to Chet.

Chet leans forward to take it. The boat rocks with the sudden shift in weight distribution. Chet falls to his knees.

CLOSEUP - BUCK'S HAND

The ring flies out of Buck's hand.

(CONTINUED)

148 CONTINUED: (4)

148

CLOSEUP - WATER

The ring splashes down in the water.

EXT. BOAT

Chet grabs the flashlight and shines it in the water.

CHET

Shoot!

149 OMITTED
thru
153149
thru
153

A154 UNDERWATER

A154

The ring sinks.

B154 CLOSEUP - CHET

B154

looking over the side of the boat. Yet another defeat.

154 EXT. WOODS - CLOSEUP - BEAR - NIGHT

154

A male black bear.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

Drunk, slurry.

EXT. WOODS - BEAR AND ROMAN - NIGHT

They're sitting on a fallen tree. Roman's talking to the bear thinking it's Chet. Roman's winded.

ROMAN

You move pretty good for a guy who
doesn't work out.

The bear GRUNTS.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Bless you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Anyway, getting back to what I was saying on the porch before, in my opinion, you're a little too conservative with your cash.

The bear SNORTS.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Have you been eating raw hot dogs again? Your breath could seduce a swarm of flies off a manure pile.

He reaches into his pocket for his Binaca spray.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Open up.

CLOSEUP - BEAR

It opens its mouth as Roman's hand comes INTO FRAME with the mouthwash spray. A couple of short blasts in the mouth.

EXT. WOODS - ROMAN AND THE BEAR - NIGHT

Roman puts the Binaca back.

ROMAN

If you give me twenty-five grand, in six months I'll have a hundred for you. Sound good?

(sniffs)

You're taking this wilderness thing a bit far, aren't you? I can't imagine Connie going to bed with you smelling like you do.

The bear GROWLS.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Don't get your nipples in a twist, I'm just pointing something out. If you want to smell like a goddam bear, it's fine with me.

(continues)

There's an immediate opportunity coming up and if we're going to move, we have to move fast. What do you say?

(CONTINUED)

154 CONTINUED: (2)

154

The bear knocks Roman to the ground. He picks himself up.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Hey! What's the big idea? If you don't want to invest, just tell me, don't go smacking me when I'm not looking! You just cool off, pal. I'm going back to the cabin. I suggest you do the same. We'll talk when you learn to channel your aggression a little better.

He storms off. The bear watches him go.

155 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

155

Buck and Ben are in bed. There's a KNOCK on the window. Buck sits up. There's another KNOCK. He climbs out of bed and walks cautiously to the window. Another KNOCK. He nervously takes the drape in his hand and yanks it open. It's Cammie. Buck's startled. He yanks the drape shut. He looks at himself in his underwear. He grabs his pants and throws them on.

156 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

156

Buck climbs out his window. Cammie helps him.

BUCK

What are you doing here?

CAMMIE

You didn't find me.

BUCK

I couldn't.

There's an uncomfortable pause in the conversation.

BUCK

(continuing)

So what should we do?

157 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - NIGHT

157

The rowboat's afloat in the middle of the lake. Bobbing gently.

158 INT. BOAT - NIGHT

158

Cammie and Buck are in the boat.

CAMMIE

When do you go back to Chicago?

BUCK

Four days.

CAMMIE

You know, I've never had a boyfriend for longer than two weeks. That's why I was such a dick to you the first night. And that's why I don't understand what I'm doing with you here.

BUCK

I've never really had a girlfriend. Honest. I've dated girls, but I've never had one I'd call a girlfriend.

CAMMIE

What would you call me?

Buck looks at her and smiles.

BUCK

Girlfriend.

CAMMIE

And you're leaving in four days. See what I mean?

BUCK

Yeah.

CAMMIE

Well? So what's it mean?

BUCK

Life is tough?

Cammie leans forward and kisses Buck.

159 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

159

Lights off. Everyone's asleep.

160 EXT. PORCH - NIGHT

160

The Raccoons return to the back porch and the garbage cans. Once again, their CHIRPS are translated.

(CONTINUED)

160 CONTINUED:

160

MOTHER RACCOON

Look at that. A rock on top of the can. The oldest trick in the book.

BABY RACCOON

Mom? Do I have to be a raccoon when I grow up. I hate working nights.

MOTHER RACCOON

Don't be ridiculous. Your father worked nights -- before he got hit by that truck. Your grandfather worked nights, and you'll work nights. You're nocturnal, and that's final. Now, get up there, and knock that rock off!

161 OMITTED
thru
163

161
thru
163

164 EXT. GO-CART TRACK - DAY

164

A scummy go-cart track and driving range. MUSIC COMES UP.

EXT. TRACK - BUCK

He's in a go-cart flying around a turn.

EXT. TRACK - BEN

He's right on Buck's tail.

EXT. TRACK - CHET

He's racing with the boys.

165 EXT. DRIVING RANGE - ROMAN - DAY

165

He tees up a ball and drives.

166 EXT. TRACK - DAY

166

Chet, Ben and Buck zipping around a turn. Chet takes the lead.

167 EXT. DRIVING RANGE - ROMAN - DAY

167

He tees up another ball. Takes a swing. A massive slice. The ball sails the sideline fence.

168 EXT. TRACK - FINISH LINE - DAY

168

The carts coming into the home stretch, heading for the finish.

EXT. TRACK - CHET

He edges past Buck to take the lead. He looks over his shoulder as he passes him. He looks back. A look of shock.

HIS POV

Roman's golf ball hits the track and takes a hard bounce INTO CAMERA.

CLOSEUP - CHET

grabs his face after being struck by the ball.

EXT. TRACK

Chet's go-cart flies across the finish line and drills into the wall of trees surrounding the track.

169 EXT. WOODS - RIDING TRAIL - DAY

169

Roman, Buck, Ben, Connie, Kate and the twins cross on horseback. Beautiful forest trail. Calm, old trail horses.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Chet's alone on the trail. His horse refuses to move. Chet looks up ahead.

HIS POV

The other riders disappear around a bend.

(CONTINUED)

169 CONTINUED:

169

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Chet slaps his horse on the rump.

CLOSEUP - HORSE

It turns and tries to bite Chet.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He rears back to avoid a bite. He climbs down off the horse.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Chet tries to pull the horse down the trail. It resists completely. Chet yanks and pulls. The horse nips at him. He threatens to punch the horse. It nips again. Chet's furious. He walks over to a sapling and pulls a branch off.

CLOSEUP - HORSE

looks back over his shoulder.

HIS POV

Chet approaches with the branch.

CLOSEUP - HORSE

turns back and takes off.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Chet's left on the trail with the branch in his hand.

170 EXT. STABLE - DAY

170

Roman, Connie, Kate and the twins, Buck and Ben are sitting outside the barn sipping soft drinks. They're waiting for Chet. Roman sees him and points.

THEIR POV

Chet staggers out of the forest covered with burrs, soaked with sweat, streaked with dirt.

171 INT. DRIVE-IN - CAMMIE - DAY

171

She's sitting on a stool picking at her sneakers.
She's dejected and sad. A BUZZER goes off. She groans
and slides off the stool.

172 EXT. DRIVE-IN - DOOR - DAY

172

Cammie comes out and stops.

EXT. DRIVE-IN - BUCK AND CAMMIE

Buck's at the door waiting for her.

BUCK

What time are you off?

CAMMIE

Nine.

BUCK

I'll meet you at ten.

CAMMIE

Where?

BUCK

I don't know. I'm not from around
here.

CAMMIE

The bait shop.

BUCK

I'll buy you some worms.

CAMMIE

You won't ditch me?

BUCK

Why would I ditch you?

CAMMIE

I'm just waiting for it to happen.

BUCK

If I ditch you, you have my
permission never to speak to me as
long as the both of us shall live.

Cammie kisses him.

BUCK

(continuing)

Thanks.

173 EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

173

Paul Bunyon's Cupboard. A seedy tourist trap with a giant Paul Bunyon and Babe his blue ox standing guard over the parking lot.

174 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

174

Loud, bright and North Woods garish. The motif is Paul Bunyon and everything in the place is over-sized. Big tables and chairs, six inch tall salt and pepper shakers, foot long forks and knives. Waitresses in excess of six feet tall, basketball player busboys, a seven foot tall bartender.

175 INT. RESTAURANT - CHET'S TABLE - NIGHT

175

Chet, Connie, Ben, Buck, Kate, Roman and the twins are at a huge table. The adults look like children with their feet dangling above the floor, the children look like infants. A towering WAITRESS is taking their orders.

CHET

I'll have the Royal Canadian Mounted Barley Noodle Beef Soup to start, the Bucket of Salad and the Medley of Perch.

WAITRESS

Alrighty.

ROMAN

(refers to menu)
Miss? What's the Old '96er?

WAITRESS

That is our world famous Paul Bunyon's Blue Ox steak. It is a 96 ounce prime, aged beef steak. And if you or any member of your party orders the Old '96er and finishes, everybody eats for free.

ROMAN

(to Chet)
Wanna go for it?

CHET

We're fine, thanks.

She leaves the table with a spunky smile.

(CONTINUED)

ALTERNATIVE DIALOGUE

WAITRESS

(to Chet)

Grapefruit or tomato juice?

CHET

Neither, thank you.

WAITRESS

It comes with dinner.

CHET

No thank you.

WAITRESS

It's very good for you.

CHET

No thank you.

WAITRESS

Tomato?

CHET

I don't care for...

WAITRESS

I'll bring it and if you don't
like it, you don't have to drink
it. Just try a little.

Connie intercedes to avoid an argument.

CONNIE

He'll have the tomato juice.

(CONTINUED)

175 CONTINUED: (2)

175

CHET
(to Roman)
You're sure you brought your
wallet?

ROMAN
(appealing to the
women)
There he goes again.
(pulls out his
wallet)
Accusing me. I don't know how
much more of this character
assassination I can take.

CONNIE
Chet?

CHET
I'm just checking, honey.

ROMAN
I have never once in my life
questioned your integrity, Chet.
And it cuts me pretty deep that
you question mine.

Chet feels bad.

CHET
Sorry.

ROMAN
I hope so, Chester. I'm hurt.
He puts his arm around Kate.

ROMAN
(continuing;
I think we're all hurt.
(to the twins)
Girls? Are you hurt?
They look at Roman and SHRIEK.

ROMAN
(continuing;
to Chet)
From the mouths of babes, Chester.

176 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

176

The Raccoons waddle up the porch steps. They stop.

(CONTINUED)

176 CONTINUED:

THEIR POV

The garbage cans are gone.

RACCOONS

puzzled. More translation.

BABY RACCOON

Where're the garbage cans?!

MOTHER RACCOON

He probably put them in the cabin.

BABY RACCOON

Garbage in the cabin?

MOTHER RACCOON

They're not the cleanest species
on the face of the earth, you
know. It's not a problem. We'll
just have to break in.

BABY RACCOON

Can we do that?

MOTHER RACCOON

Why do you think we have these
wonderfully articulated fingers?
To scratch our asses?

177 INT. RESTAURANT - FAMILY - NIGHT

177

Dinner is over. The check has come. Chet's looking at
it. He happily hands it across the table to Roman.

CHET

Your treat, right?

ROMAN

Absolutely, Chet.

He takes out his wallet. The Waitress cruises by.
Roman hands her his American Express card.

WAITRESS

We don't take credit cards.

Roman looks across at Chet.

(CONTINUED)

177 CONTINUED:

177

CHET

Looks like you'll have to pay
cash.

ROMAN

(worried)

I don't have any cash.

CHET

Don't look at me. I didn't bring
my wallet. There's no way I'm
getting stuck with your treat.

ROMAN

I never stuck you with anything in
my life.

CONNIE

Chet wouldn't let me bring my
purse.

CLOSEUP - WAITRESS

She eyes the proceedings with annoyed suspicion.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He's truly worried.

ROMAN

Chet? We can't pay the bill.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He shrugs. He's delighted.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He looks up at the Waitress.

ROMAN

I wonder if you'd let me run home
and get some cash.

CLOSEUP - WAITRESS

A cold stare. A long pause. She turns back and calls.

WAITRESS

Jimbo?

178 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

178

The biggest, meanest, baddest man in the world, JIMBO, steps out the swinging door to the kitchen. He's wearing a bloody meat apron. He's holding a cleaver.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

turns and looks. The blood drains from his face as he sees Jimbo.

CLOSEUP - CHET

His smugness turns to fright as he looks at the beast in the kitchen door.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He turns back to Chet.

ROMAN

Chet? I have an idea.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He doesn't know what Roman's getting at.

179 INT. RESTAURANT - MEAT LOCKER - NIGHT

179

A heavy refrigerator door. A sign reads... "HOME OF THE OLD '96ER." The door slowly opens on a room filled with icy mist. The mist clears to reveal, with great drama, a single, massive steak hanging from a hook in the center of the locker.

180 OMITTED

180

181 CLOSEUP - GRILL

181

The giant four inch slab of meat slams down on the hot grill. The grill shudders under the impact.

182 CLOSEUP - BUCK

182

He's worried about the time. He looks at his watch.

INSERT - WATCH

It reads 8:45.

183 CLOSEUP - CLOCK

183

It reads 8:45.

EXT. DOCK - BAIT SHOP

Cammie's sitting on a cooler on the porch. She looks up at the rusting beer company clock.

184 CLOSEUP - THE OLD '96ER

184

Hot off the grill, bubbling and CRACKLING and massive.

185 INT. RESTAURANT - TABLE - CHET

185

The Old '96er is sitting before him. A crowd is gathered around the table. Chet is stunned by the size of the steak. He looks at Connie as if he's going to be put to death. He looks at the kids. Buck gives him the thumbs-up. Roman opens a packet of Sweet 'N Low into his coffee. Chet picks up his knife and fork. He takes a deep breath and makes the initial cut into the steak. The crowd leans forward as Chet brings the first bite to his mouth. He opens and consumes. The war has begun.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's chewing the bite, slowly and with some effort.

186 INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

186

Chet has his jacket off, sleeves rolled up. The crowd hasn't diminished but has relaxed.

CLOSEUP - STEAK

It's half-finished.

CLOSEUP - CHET

weary, tired and certainly full. He brings a bite to his mouth. He holds it before his open mouth. A long beat.

CLOSEUP - JIMBO

He smiles thinking Chet's had it.

(CONTINUED)

186 CONTINUED:

186

CLOSEUP - CHET

He puts the bite in his mouth and continues.

187 EXT. DOCK/BAIT SHOP

187

Cammie's still waiting. She looks at her watch again.

188 INT. RESTAURANT

188

Chet's sitting back in his chair. Roman is rubbing his bulging belly.

ROMAN

Don't give up, big guy.

Chet groans. Roman puts his head to Chet's belly and listens.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He's disturbed to hear what appears to be SCREAMS.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

looks at his watch.

INSERT - WATCH

It reads 9:32.

INT. RESTAURANT - CHET AND ROMAN - NIGHT

Roman attempts to bolster Chet with a key fact.

ROMAN

If you fail, we still owe the dinner tab plus \$141.50 for the steak. I have a feeling if this Jimbo guy gets stiffed on the bill and his big steak, he'll beat up the wives and rape us.

Chet leans forward, falls on his elbows. He grabs his knife and fork.

(CONTINUED)

188 CONTINUED:

188

CLOSEUP - CONNIE

She's afraid Chet might split open.

CLOSEUP - STEAK PLATE

All that remains is a one-inch square bite and a ribbon of fat. The fork spears the last bite.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's nearly catatonic. Sweating like a Coke bottle in Nevada in August. Roman brings the fork up to his mouth.

ROMAN

Open up, pal! Come on. Here comes the airplane! Open the airport! It's a nice little Lear jet with the Chairman of the Federal Reserve on board. Open wide.

Chet looks up at Roman with bloodshot eyes. His mouth drops open. Roman puts the piece in his mouth. And closes it.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

As Chet chews, Roman walks over to Jimbo.

ROMAN

I think that does it.

JIMBO

He's not done yet.

ROMAN

He may take a while on that last bite but it'll go down.

JIMBO

That ain't the last bite.

ROMAN

Sure it is. All that's left on the plate is a bunch of fat.

Jimbo smiles. Roman leans back in alarm. His eyes shift to Chet.

189 EXT. RESTAURANT - LATER

189

The door flies open and Chet staggers out to the applause of the other diners. The family comes out behind Chet. The kids are wearing big lumberjack hats. Chet's wearing a T-shirt... "I ATE A '96ER." He wanders to the car and leans against it. He sucks in the night air. Connie comforts him. Roman slaps him on the back.

ROMAN

I was just talking to Jimbo and here's the kicker, Chet. They don't take credit cards but they do take personal checks. I could have written a check for the whole thing.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He looks up at Roman. He wants to kill. He curls his lip and snarls.

190 EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

190

Cammie's given up on Buck. She sighs and slides off the cooler.

CAMMIE

Never again will I do this to myself. They get what they want and they're gone.

191 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (LATER)

191

Roman's car pulls up in front of the cabin. Buck gets out and runs to the dock. Roman gets out. Connie, Kate and the twins get out. Chet's door opens and his legs drop out. He bellows in pain.

192 EXT. DOCK/BAIT SHOP - NIGHT

192

Buck runs down to the dock. He stops as he sees Cammie's gone.

BUCK

Shit!

193 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

193

It's dark. The back door opens. Roman's helping Chet in the door. He flips on the light.

(CONTINUED)

193 CONTINUED:

193

ROMAN

Holy Jesus!

THEIR POV

The Raccoons have broken into the house and torn the garbage bags open. There's rubbish all over the kitchen.

A194 INT. BUCK'S ROOM - NIGHT

A194

He's laying in bed feeling miserable about missing Cammie.

194 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

194

It's dark. Lights out.

195 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM

195

Something's flying around the room. A furious FLUTTER-ING noise.

196 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

196

Connie and Chet in bed. There's a SCREAM from the next room. Chet leaps out of bed, slams into the nightstand, howls with pain and grabs his foot.

197 INT. LIVING ROOM

197

Kate bursts out of the bedroom. Roman flies out after her.

ROMAN

What's the matter?!

KATE

It touched me!

ROMAN

Twenty years it's been touching you and you never freaked out!

KATE

Not you! A thing!

(CONTINUED)

197 CONTINUED:

197

Chet stumbles into the room. The kids stumble out.
Connie flips on the lights.

ROMAN

What thing?

KATE

(screams)

That thing!

CLOSEUP - BAT

flies INTO CAMERA.

198 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

198

Everybody scrambles out of the cabin, screaming and
shivering with fear and revulsion. Once safely outside
they calm down.

ROMAN

Jesus, Marie. It's a little tiny
flying mouse. It's not a grizzly
bear.

KATE

I'm not going back in there until
you get it out.

A199 OMITTED

A199

&

&

199

199

200 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

200

Roman and Chet peek in the door. They listen care-
fully, determine that it's safe and scamper across the
living room to Roman's room. They slam the door shut.
They rummage around in the room.

201 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

201

The families wait outside.

KATE

Bats carry rabies, don't they?

CONNIE

Among other things.

204 CONTINUED:

204

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Roman smacks Chet in the head. A clean, hard blow that knocks Chet off his feet. The basket goes flying.

205 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

205

Roman emerges from the cabin with the stunned bat laying on his racket. He pulls off the pantyhose.
(APPLAUSE)

ROMAN

Killer forehand!

Roman comes down off the porch. He flips the bat in the air and whacks it into the woods. He holds his arms open. Kate hugs him.

CONNIE

Where's Chet?

ROMAN

He doesn't have the stomach for this sort of thing. He's probably in the bathroom wrenching.

206 INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - NIGHT

206

Chet's standing at the mirror staring at his face and the red wicker pattern on his cheek. He reaches in his mouth and wiggles a loose tooth. Buck pokes his head in the door.

BUCK

Dad? You can come out now, it's okay. Uncle Roman creamed the bat.

Chet stares at him.

BUCK

(continuing)

It's alright, Dad. It scared the crap out of me, too.

He exits. Chet turns back to the mirror. Once again done in and humiliated by Roman.

207 OMITTED
thru
211

207
thru
211

202 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

202

The bedroom door opens and Chet walks out followed by Roman. They are wearing bed sheets with slits torn in the middle. Makeshift ponchos. Chet has a wicker waste basket over his head with a slat torn for his eyes. Roman's wearing pantyhose over his head. Socks on their hands. They're armed with tennis rackets.

CHET

You go to one end, I'll go to the other.

ROMAN

Check.

They cautiously separate and take positions at either side of the room. They search for the bat.

CHET

Where is he?

ROMAN

Hiding. Turn off the light.

CHET

Why?

ROMAN

They're nocturnal. Maybe he thinks it's daytime.

Chet turns off the overhead light. The room falls dark.

203 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

203

The family watches from outside.

CONNIE

What's going on?

ROMAN (O.S.)

He's playing hard-to-get.

CHET (O.S.)

There he is!

The SWISH of a tennis racket and the CRASH of glass.

CHET (O.S.)

(continuing)

You get him?

206 INT. CABIN. BATHROOM

206

Chet's standing at the mirror staring at his face and the red wicker pattern on his cheek. He reaches in his mouth and wiggles a loose tooth. Buck pokes his head in the door.

BUCK

Dad? You can come out now, it's okay. Uncle Roman creamed the bat.

Chet stares at him.

BUCK

It's alright, Dad. It scared the crap out of me, too.

He exits. Chet turns back to the mirror. Once again done in and humiliated by Roman.

207 EXT. CABIN. NIGHT.

207

A light goes on. We HEAR Chet inside.

CHET

Let's go! Move it out! It's five a.m. Fishing boat's shoving off in fifteen minutes. Rise and shine. Up and at 'em.

208 EXT. DOCK

208

Chet leads the drowsy parade down the dock to the boat.

ROMAN

How are the fish supposed to see the bait in the dark, Chet?

CHET

They smell it. Boy, you don't know your ass from a anchor when it comes to fishing, do you?

209 EXT. LAKE. NIGHT

209

It's pitch dark.

CHET

Alright! Bait your hooks!

BUCK

I can't see anything!

204 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

204

Roman picks up a broken lamp.

ROMAN
Clicked the lamp.

CHET
There he is!

Chet takes a mighty swing. Misses. Roman takes a
swat. Misses. Chet swings. He clears the kitchen
table. CRASH!

ROMAN
Hit?

CHET
Miss!

Roman winds up and swings. Smacks the coffee table.
The ashtray SHATTERS!

ROMAN
Shit!

Chet winds up and swings. Misses. The bat FLUTTERS
back to Roman. He swings, misses, swings again,
misses.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Come on, you bastard!

His swings are bringing him closer to Chet. He swings.
Chet shrieks and ducks.

CHET
Watch it! Get back on your side!

Chet steps back. Roman swings. Chet screams.

CHET
(continuing)
He's on my face! Jesus! Shit!
He's on my face!

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He grits his teeth and winds up.

ROMAN
Hold still!

(CONTINUED)

BEN
Dad? I'm having anxiety.

ROMAN
These are the biggest worms I've
ever encountered.

CHET
Those aren't worms. They're
leeches.

ROMAN
Jesus God!

We HEAR ROMAN GAG.

BUCK
I'm not touching leeches, Dad.

CHET
For Pete's sake! They don't
bite.

BEN
No, they suck blood!

CHET
Quit being so squeamish! Do you
hear Cara or Mara complaining?

ROMAN
Cara and Mara didn't come.

BEN
Dad? Will you do mine?

CHET
Ow! Watch the hooks! Ben!

BUCK
That's my hook, Dad.

CHET
Where's Ben's hook? OW! Where's
the flashlight?

ROMAN
You owe me big for this one, Chet.

CHET
Where's the flashlight?

SPLASH!

ROMAN

Maybe it's lonely for your ring.
(laughs)
Sorry, Chet.

CHET

I'm sure you are, Roman. Come
on, you guys. Give me a leech.
(pause)
Oh, God!

BUCK

You alright, Dad?

CHET

No problem. Everybody have a
leech?

ALL

Yes. Yep. Right...

CHET

On the count of three, insert
your hooks. One, two...three!

A beat and a four way gag.

FADE DOWN

FADE UP

210 EXT. BEACH - MARINA. MORNING.

210

A large group of bathers are gathered on the beach.
They're staring incredulously at some sight on the
shoreline.

THEIR POV.

Chet's rowboat is washed up on the beach. Chet, Roman,
Buck and Ben are sound asleep, snoring, covered with
leeches. It starts to rain. The group wakes up.

211 EXT. MARINA DOCK - RAIN

211

The men are unloading the gear. The kids clamber out of
the boat and head down the dock. Roman jumps out and
ties off the boat. Chet climbs up on the dock.

CHET

It being dark when we went out has nothing whatsoever to do with Wally not having the sense to tie his anchor to the line. I've never heard of such a thing. How was I to know that when I threw the anchor over, it wasn't tied to anything? Well, for his stupidity, he's out an anchor. I'll be damned if I buy him a new one.

Roman glares at him.

CHET

(continuing)

Why don't you go inside and have Kate look at that leech bite on your leg. I'll get this stuff. You relax a bit. We have a big afternoon ahead of us.

ROMAN

If we weren't related by marriage, Chet, I'd sue your dumb ass. I have a wife and kids who depend on me for support.

CHET

Roman, it was an accident. Nothing happened. We woke up on a beach.

ROMAN

What if we'd drifted the other way? Over the dam and we're dead.

CHET

I'm sorry.

ROMAN

You better get with the program, pal. Your wilderness fun is going over like a gangbang at the Vatican.

He storms down the dock. Chet hangs back feeling smaller and less significant than ever.

212 EXT. CABIN. MORNING - RAIN

212

It's dark and overcast. There's a CLAP OF THUNDER.

212 EXT. CABIN - MORNING

212

It's dark and overcast. There's a clap of THUNDER.
It's raining.

213 INT. CABIN - DAY (RAIN)

213

The family's sitting around the living room and kitchen, reading papers, drinking coffee. Ben's trying to get a station on the TV. Chet comes out of the bedroom.

CHET

Who wants to go over to Route
Twelve and see Hitler's shoes?

There's no response.

CONNIE

Honey, it's pouring rain.

CHET

It'll break up.

ROMAN

Forecast calls for rain today,
tonight and tomorrow.

CHET

I repeat, who wants to go over to
Route Twelve and see Adolf
Hitler's actual shoes? The ones
he wore during the bombing of
London. It's a bit of exciting
history.

No response. Not even from the kids.

CHET

(continuing)

A whole roomful of sticks in the
mud. The most evil man in modern
time and not one of you cares.

He walks into the room with disgust and grabs a section
of newspaper. He sits down and opens it.

214 EXT. CABIN - DAY - LATER

214

The rain continues.

215 INT. CABIN - CLOSEUP - CARDS - DAY

215

Connie's dealing herself solitaire.

(CONTINUED)

215 CONTINUED: 215

CLOSEUP - CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Kate's working a crossword puzzle.

CLOSEUP - FINGERS

The bored fingers drum on the arm of a chair.

216 OMITTED 216

217 INT. CABIN - DAY 217

Everybody's in the same position as before, except slumped down a bit further. Even more lax and bored.

CHET

Anybody want to go to the lodge
and get drunk and/or play video
games?

Roman sighs and gets up. He walks into his room.

218 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 218

Roman dials a number on the cellular phone. He waits as it rings.

219 EXT. LODGE - DAY 219

Chet, Connie, Kate, Buck, Ben and the twins are huddled at the door of the lodge. They're covering themselves from the rain with newspaper and umbrellas.

EXT. LODGE - DAY

A sign on the door reads, "GONE TO THE DOCTOR. BE BACK LATER."

Buck is around the corner on a pay phone. He calls the drive-in.

A220 INT. DRIVE-IN - DAY A220

The cook answers the phone. Cammie refuses Buck's call.

220 INT. CABIN - ROMAN'S BEDROOM - DAY

220

Roman's talking on the cellular phone.

ROMAN

Hello? Jerry? Roman. What's the word?

(pause)

Don't tell me that, Jerry. This is serious.

Roman's deeply disappointed. He sighs. A great look of worry passes over his face.

ROMAN

(continuing)

In other words, you can't help me? No way? Then I'm screwed. Thanks for nothing.

He disconnects the call. It's difficult to vent your anger on a cellular phone hang up. Roman squeezes the "END" button mightily.

A221 EXT. CABIN - DAY

A221

The rain comes down. Lightning flashes.

221 INT. CABIN

221

The family's back in the living room. Nothing's any different than before except everyone's hair is wet.

ROMAN

Kate, you were right. We should have gone to Europe.

CHET

He glances angrily at Roman.

ROMAN

He flips playing cards on the table.

ROMAN

This is the worst.

He gets up and walks into the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

221 CONTINUED:

221

CHET

He watches Roman walk into the kitchen.

CHET

Nobody forced you to come up,
Roman.

Roman ignores Chet, further stoking Chet's temper.

CHET

(continuing)

In fact, I don't recall anybody
inviting you.

ROMAN

He's at the refrigerator. He looks back at Chet. He's
every bit as cranky as Chet.

ROMAN

And what's that supposed to mean,
Chet?

CONNIE

She looks at Roman. Her temper's as short as everyone
else's.

CONNIE

You know damn well what he means.

Kate shoots Connie an angry look.

KATE

(to Roman)

I think they're trying to say that
we're not welcome.

Roman walks back into the living room.

ROMAN

Now it comes out. Interesting,
huh, Katie?

KATE

Very.

ROMAN

We come up here, throw aside our
own plans, come up here to help
these dead asses learn how to
enjoy themselves...

(CONTINUED)

221 CONTINUED: (2)

221

CHET

You gotta be kidding!

ROMAN

Chester, you wouldn't know a good time if it walked up to you and yanked three times on your pecker.

BUCK AND BEN

They look at each other with surprise.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The parents glare angrily at each other.

CHET

You've got a lot of nerve, you know that, Roman?

ROMAN

It's served me well, Chester. I'm the one with the Mercedes.

CHET

Is it paid for?

ROMAN

Jealous, Chester?

CHET

You call me Chester one more time, Roman, you'll go home with a dent in your forehead.

KATE

(to Chet)

Ha! That'll be the day.

CHET

You want one to match his, Kate?

Buck intervenes.

BUCK

Dad? Take it easy, okay?

ROMAN

Thanks, Bucky.

(CONTINUED)

221 CONTINUED: (3)

221

BUCK

(to Roman)

Bite the Big One, Uncle Roman.

Buck sits down.

CONNIE

Don't talk to adults that way,
Buck.

ROMAN

It's rude.

CONNIE

Blow it out your ass, Roman!

KATE

Roman, why don't we just get outta
here?

ROMAN

Good idea.

They head for the bedroom.

CHET

(yells at the door)

Don't steal any of our stuff!

The bedroom door opens and Kate looks out.

KATE

What stuff is there to steal?!

CONNIE

We got stuff.

KATE

You're a louse!

CONNIE

Go find yourself a spin cycle!

Kate slams the door closed. Chet puts his arm around
Connie. She's sputtering with anger.

CHET

Calm down, hon.

BEN

Dad?

(CONTINUED)

221 CONTINUED: (4)

221

CHET

Yeah?

BEN

Does this mean we won't get a
Christmas present from Uncle
Roman?

BUCK

Blow it out your ass, Ben.

CONNIE

Nobody's blowing anything out
their ass!

Connie feels badly that the kids are seeing such an
ugly family event.

CONNIE

(continuing)

What's happening tonight doesn't
mean that Daddy and I don't love
Uncle Roman and Aunt Kate. It
just means...

CHET

I'd like to blow Roman out my ass.

CONNIE

I don't want to hear anymore about
anyone blowing anything out their
ass!

BEN

You may as well blow the whole
family out your ass while you're
at it, Dad!

She looks to Chet for help.

CHET

What Mom means... what we both
mean...

BEN

Uncle Roman and Aunt Kate are
incredible buttheads.

Connie and Chet look at each other. There's no point
in lying.

CONNIE

Exactly.

105A.

221B

221B Kate and Roman come back out of the bedroom.

ROMAN

One more thing you son of a
bitch! About five years ago you
borrowed my slide projector...

CHET

I gave it back.

ROMAN

Oh, really?

CONNIE

It didn't work.

CHET

Sounds like Roman!

ROMAN

How'd you like a bloody nose?

CHET

I dare you.

Roman draws his fists. Chet draws his.

Roman and Chet circle each other.

CHET

I'm ready, you bastard!

CONNIE

Chet! Stop it!

(to Kate)

Kate, if you have any sense,
you'll get the hell out of here
right now!

Kate pushes Connie into the kitchen.

KATE

You know, Connie, Mom was right.
You are impossible to get along
with.

CONNIE

Take that back!

KATE

I will not!

Connie draws her fists.

C.U. - Fist into camera.

221C

EXT. CABIN PORCH - LATER

221C

Chet's holding a handkerchief filled with ice against Connie's forehead.

CHET

She's got a mean jab, huh?

CONNIE

She's always been a dirty fighter.

Roman and Kate walk out loaded with luggage.

CHET

Well, you finally caught the hint, huh? You're leaving.

ROMAN

You wanna check our bags?

CHET

I don't care to embarrass you.

KATE

(to Connie)

Well, thank you for ruining our vacation.

CONNIE.

Thank you.

Kate and the twins hurry through the rain to the car. Roman holds back for a moment and glowers at Chet.

ROMAN

Since this may be the last time I have the pleasure of your company, there's something I want to say. Something I've always wanted to say.

(pause)

At Kate and my wedding reception, you and your brother were in the men's room. You weren't smart enough to look under the stalls for feet. But anyway, I heard you.

Chet swallows nervously as he tries to remember what he said. Tears gather in Roman's eyes.

ROMAN

(continuing)

You said to your brother that I was a slick, slimy hustler. I'll never forget it.

(continued)

He takes a deep breath and exits.

CONNIE AND CHET

She looks at Chet. He feels terrible.

BEN AND BUCK

They're standing in the door. They feel almost as bad.

EXT. CABIN PORCH

Chet sighs. He doesn't know what to do. He looks at Connie apologetically. She understands and pats him on the back.

ROMAN

He's standing stock still in the rain. He turns.

ROMAN

Chet? You were right. You were dead on. I am slimy. I am a hustler. The Mercedes is on a lease I can't pay, I'm losing the house. I'm broke.

CHET AND CONNIE

They're stunned.

omit 222-229

230 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT

230

Roman and Chet are drinking and talking.

ROMAN

I was the world's worst commodities trader. I lost my ass. And my sister's ass. Chet, I'm a loser. It's all show. My whole life's been for show. All flash, no substance.

Chet looks away from Roman to the fireplace. He feels embarrassed for Roman and knows how painful it is for him to make this admission.

ROMAN

(continuing)

I'm a phony, Chet. From my fifteen dollar counterfeit Bally slip-ons to...

CHET

Well, jeez, Roman, I mean you've got some problems, sure, but you've got Kate.

(continued)

Roman looks around at Chet with a bitter smirk. 230 (contd)

ROMAN

Oh, yeah?

230A

230A INT. BEDROOM

Kate and Connie are having a similar heart-to-heart.

KATE

Roman and I haven't had sex in nine years. He literally makes me sick to my stomach. I've seen doctors...

Connie bows her head.

KATE

(continuing)

We may as well be divorced.

CONNIE

You put up a pretty good front, Kate. Are you sure...

KATE

That's it. It's a front. It's the only thing that keeps us from clawing each other's eyes out.

CONNIE

You honestly don't like him?

KATE

Do you?

CONNIE

Well...

Kate toys with the ice cubes in her tumbler.

KATE

You know why I married Roman?

CONNIE

You were pregnant?

KATE

He told you?

230B INT. LODGE. BAR

230B

Reg is at the bar nursing a bar. A sudden feeling of dread overtakes him. His eyes open wide in fear. A storm's coming. He bolts off his bar stool.

230C EXT. LODGE

230C

Reg burst out of the lodge and heads for the hills.

230D

230D INT. CABIN. LIVING ROOM

The front door blows open. A flash of lightning and a CLAP OF THUNDER. Roman and Chet leap from their seats. Chet rushes the door. Another flash of lightning and a LOUDER CLAP OF THUNDER. Chet slams the door shut and the cabin falls dark.

230E

230E INT. BEDROOM

Connie and Kate are in the dark.

CONNIE

What happened?

230F

230F INT. LIVING ROOM

It's dark. Connie and Kate scramble down the stairs followed by Buck and Ben. Chet is rummaging around in the kitchen.

CHET

Where's the flashlight?

BUCK

What happened to the lights?!

CONNIE

Chet?

ROMAN

We lost power.

CHET

I told you kids not to fool around with the flashlight.

ROMAN

You dropped the flashlight in the lake.

CHET

That was the big one. I had another.

BEN

The last I saw the little one, you were using it to make monster faces.

Ben's right. Chet quickly moves to protect his dignity.

(continued)

230F (contd)

CHET

Don't be ridiculous. Obviously
someone's lost it and now when we
need it, it's gone. Damn it!

Roman flicks his Tiffany lighter. It doesn't ignite.

ROMAN

Son of a bitch! \$110 for a lighter
and it doesn't work.

Chet flicks his Bic.

CHET

79c

(to Connie)

Do we have any candles?

CONNIE

Did I bring any? Probably. I
always pack candles when we travel.

Chet glares at her. Another flash of lightning and the
accompanying CLAP OF THUNDER. Chet's lighter goes out.
It's completely dark. A beat and the lighter sparks. A
fire follows and by the light of it we see that Chet has set
fire to a rolled sheet of newspaper. He crosses to the
fireplace, lights a stick of kindling off the paper and
tosses it in the fireplace. Roman's on the phone.

ROMAN

Phone's dead.

Connie's at the window.

CONNIE

I don't see any lights anywhere.

BEN

In all likelihood lightning hit a
sub-station.

CHET

It's alright. We'll get a nice fire
going here.

ROMAN

It's raining to beat all hell
out there.

CHET

I guess we're in one of the storms
this place is famous for. It's sort
of exciting, isn't it? We're getting
a taste of real wilderness now. Devoid
of any modern conveniences, at the mercy
of the elements.

(continued)

230F (cont'd)

A drop of water lands on his shoulder. He looks up.
Another drop. Then another.

CU. KATE

She's looking around the room. A sense of doom on her face.

KATE

Where are the girls? Roman?

CU. ROMAN

A flash of fear.

CU. CONNIE

Looks to Chet. Worried.

CU. CHET

The pioneer smile fades.

INT. ROOM

Kate dashes for the stairs.

KATE

Cara! Mara!

Roman follows here.

230G

230G INT. BEDROOM

Kate throws the door open.

HER POV

The window is open. The curtains are blowing. Rain
is spilling in.

CU. KATE

She screams.

OMIT 231,232, 233

Kate's on the porch, looking. Roman, Chet and Connie follow 233A
233A her out.

ROMAN

Cara! Mara!

KATE

Girls!

CHET

Maybe they ran over to the lodge.

ROMAN

CARA! MARA!

He runs down off the porch.

233B INT. LODGE

233B

Roman and Chet look in the lodge. Roman's hopeful expression fades.

CHET

Let's look down at the lake. Maybe they're looking for frogs of something.

ROMAN

Or something?

CHET

It's alright, Roman. It hasn't even been ten minutes. Nothing's wrong.

Roman exits. Chet follows.

233C EXT. MINE SHAFT

233C

The twins are at the mouth of the shaft.

233D EXT. LAKE

233D

No girls.

ROMAN AND CHET

At the shore. Roman's getting terribly worried.

CHET

We'll spread out and check the woods.

ROMAN

CARA! MARA! Damn it!

He turns and heads back to the house.

233E EXT. MINE SHAFT

233E

Cara and Mara are at the mouth of the shaft, looking in. They shine the flashlight into the shaft. They go forward to have a look.

CU. FEET

The soft earth gives way and the girls tumble into the shaft.

(continued)

233E INT. SHAFT

233E (contd)

The girls fly down the wet, muddy tunnel, screaming.

233F

233F INT. CAVERN

The shaft opens into a dark, dank cavern. The girls splash down. The flashlight goes flying.

INT. CAVERN. FLOOR

The flashlight they were carrying splashes down the wet floor. The beam comes to rest on a stack of boxes.

CU. BOXES

Stacked cartons of dynamite. The cartons are waxy and moist with nitro. Blasting caps are scattered on the floor. Broken cases have spilled sticks of dynamite.

33G EXT. WOODS

233G

Chet and Roman march through the woods, calling for the girls.

CHET

CARA! MARA!

ROMAN

CARA! MARA!

233H

233H EXT. CABIN. PORCH

Kate and Connie are calling from the porch.

233J

233J INT. CAVE. SHAFT

Rain water is spilling down the shaft.

233K

233K INT. CAVE. CARA AND MARA

They are sitting atop the dynamite boxes to avoid the water filling the cavern. They're frightened, clinging to each other.

CU. BOX

Dynamite. Water level rising.

233L EXT. WOODS

233L

Chet and Roman are charging through the woods. Roman leads, Chet follows.

233M CU. WATER

Flowing rapidly down the shaft.

CU. CARA AND MARA

Terrified. Wet and muddy and cold.

233N

233N EXT. MINE PERIMETER

Roman and Chet reach the mine perimeter. Roman steps on the barbed wire, holding it down for Chet. He steps over it, then gives Roman a hand.

EXT. MINE. SHAFT

Roman and Chet call for the girls.

ROMAN

CARA! MARA!

233P

233P CU. CARA AND MARA

They hear Roman. They look up. A longing for their father that we've yet to see.

233Q EXT. WOODS

233Q

Chet and Roman continue to call for the girls.

CHET

GIRLS!

Chet looks around behind him and spots the shaft. He pokes Roman and points. They approach.

233R

233R INT. CAVE. CARA AND MARA

They make a move to get down off the box. It's unstable.

CU. BOX

Oozes with the shifting weight.

233S EXT. MINE SHAFT

233S

Roman and Chet look into the hole.

ROMAN

CARA! MARA!

Chet grabs his arm.

CHET

Listen!

They listen and hear the faint cries of the girls. Roman looks at Chet with horror.

CHET

They're down there. GIRLS! This Uncle Chet! Are you alright?

ROMAN

They won't answer for Christ's sake. You gotta go down there.

CHET

Roman. I can't fit down there.

ROMAN

I'm claustrophobic. What if I lose it?

CHET

You won't lose it.

ROMAN

What if I blow it? What do we do? I gotta call somebody. We gotta get help.

Chet grabs Roman firmly.

CHET

Roman. You'll do it. They're your children.

ROMAN

That's why I'm afraid.

CHET

And that's why you can do it. Goddamn it, be a father, Roman! For once be their father.

Roman takes a deep, troubled breath. He's a nervous mess.

CHET

You got alot of strength and you can find more. You only think you're no good. I don't think so, and nobody else does either.

(pause)

Get down there with the girls, I'll go get some rope and a light.

ROMAN

Alright.

(continued)

233S (contd)

CHET
YOU GUYS HANG ON! YOUR DAD'S COMING!

He lowers himself into the shaft.

CHET
Got it?

Roman nods.

CHET
Let fly.

Roman scoots down the shaft.

CHET
I'm on my way!

Chet takes off.

233T

233T INT. CAVE

Roman splashes down in the cavern.

233U

233U EXT. WOODS

Chet hauls ass through the woods.

233V

233V INT. CAVE

Roman wades over to the girls. They reach out for him.

CARA
Daddy!

MARA
Daddy!

CU. ROMAN

He rushes to them and grabs them. The first time he's ever held them with genuine, connected emotion. They cling to him.

234 OMIT

234A EXT. CABIN

234A

Chet barrels through the brush for the cabin.

234B EXT. PORCH

Kate leaps back to Connie.

234B

KATE
It's a bear!

234B (contd)

CONNIE

It's Chet!

Chet whips around the front of the cabin and leaps up on the porch.

CHET

It's alright! We found them. Sit tight. I'm getting a rope and a light and I'm going back.

CONNIE

What happened?

KATE

Where are they?

CHET

It's okay. Relax, Roman and I have the situation well in hand.

(pause)

Roman's great!

He turns and charges down the steps and is gone.

234C INT. CAVE

234C

Roman has broken his embrace with the girls.

ROMAN

CHET!

He waits.

ROMAN

CHET?

(to the girls)

Uncle Chet went to get a rope and a light.

234D INT. TOOL SHED

234D

Chet's in the shed ripping through the mess of equipment, tools and debris. He's rushed, nervous and furious.

CHET

GODDAMN, WALLY! ALL THIS SHIT!

234E INT. CAVE

234E

Roman's examining the boxes.

(continued)

234E (contd)

ROMAN

Holy hell in a whore house! This is dynamite! Old, wet, wild, unpredictable, unstable, ready to blow...

(realizes what he's saying)

It's fine, girls. No sweat. The worst case, it'll smell bad.

(yells)

RIPLEY!

234F

234F INT. SHED

Chet's knee deep in worthless rubbish.

234G

234G INT. CAVE

Roman's examining a blasting cap.

ROMAN

Blasting caps...

He looks to the mouth of the shaft.

HIS POV

The water's spilling down.

CU. ROMAN

He's scared. It's time to vacate.

INT. CAVE

Roman reassures his grip on the girls.

ROMAN

Okay, it's cold and wet and I don't want you catching cold so, we're gonna go. Okay?

They girls nods.

ROMAN

You hold on to me as tight as you can, okay? Promise?

The girls nods and affirm their hold on him.

ROMAN

Okay? Let's go.

He carries them through the water. As he CLEARS FRAME. A massive figure rises behind him. We recognize it as the BEAR FROM CHET'S STORY. BALD, OLD AND UGLY.

234H

234H INT. SHED

Chet's in a full-blown tantrum. Flinging rubbish and everywhere. He uncovers an old Coleman lamp. Looks at it, sets it aside.

CHET

We got big time jeopardy and this son of a bitch can't organize his tool shed!

He sets the lamp aside and continues rummaging for a rope.

234J INT. CAVE

234J

Roman has reached the mouth of the shaft. He looks and thinks for a moment.

ROMAN

I'm gonna get down on my stomach and we're gonna crawl up. You guys hold on as tight as you can.

He kneels into the rush of water and repositions the girls on his back. He looks for something to grab a hold of. He reaches out and grabs a fragment of broken timber. He pulls himself and the girls forward. Holds himself for a beat and reaches for another timber and pulls himself up another short distance.

CU. BEAR

Watching.

234K INT. TOOL SHED. CHET

234K

He flings a bunch of Christmas decorations aside. A thought suddenly occurs to him.

CHET

Boat! Rope! Yo!

He bashes his way through the rubbish and out of the shed.

234L EXT. WALLY'S CABIN

234L

A light goes on.

EXT. WINDOW

Wally's head appears in the window.

WALLY

(to Juanita [oc])

Bears! Go unplug my gun!

234M INT. CAVE

234M

Roman continues to pull himself up the shaft, slowly and with enormous effort. He nearly loses his grip, regains it, loses it and slides back, catching himself quickly and starting anew.

234N EXT. WOODS

234N

Chet flies through the woods.

CHET

Ouch! Jesus! Raspberry bushes! Goddamn!
Ouch! Shit!

234P INT. CAVE

234P

Roman plows on. He's exhausted but moving with undiminished purpose. He's moving faster as the beams nearer the opening are closer together and unbroken.

234Q EXT. BOAT

234Q

Chet stumbles into the boat, nearly upends it, catches his balance and scoops up a length of rope. He turns and steadies himself to jump out of the boat onto the dock. He gets into the rocking rhythm of the boat, picks his moment and jumps. His forward momentum pushes the boat back and lands on his belly on the dock. The boat continues to move back leaving Chet with half his body on the boat, half on the dock. He tries to pull the boat back with his feet. It eases back and he flips himself off the dock, back into the boat.

234R EXT. CAVE

234R

Roman emerges from the mouth of the cave. He pulls the girls off his back and onto the level ground. Then he pulls himself out of the shaft and rolls over on his back, exhausted. But smiling. The girls reach down and try to help him up.

ROMAN

We did it, huh?

CARA

Yep!

MARA

Can we do that again tomorrow?

Roman laughs.

(continued)

ROMAN

234R (cont'd)

Not a chance. We'll do something else.
Let's get back to the house. Mom's
probably scared to death.

CARA

Where's Uncle Chet?

234S

234S EXT. SHORE

The boat grinds up onto the beach. All the way. Chet leaps
out onto dry ground and takes off into the woods.

234T EXT. WOODS

234T

Roman carries the girls through the woods.

ROMAN

We're going to keep talking and
opening up, aren't we?

CARA

Oh, yeah. We were just afraid.

ROMAN

Of what?

MARA

That you might get mad.

ROMAN

I wouldn't get mad.

234U

234U EXT. WOODS

Wally and Juanita are tiptoeing through the woods.

WALLY

There's something moving out there!

JUANTIA

Yep! Bear!

234V

234V EXT. WOODS

Chet's hauls ass back through the woods with the rope and
the light.

CHET

235 OMIT

Ouch! Goddamn! Shit! Ouch!

235A EXT. CABIN

235A

Roman with the girls in his arms comes around the cabin to
the porch. Kate runs down from the porch to meet them.

235A (contd)

Connie follows at a respectable distance. Kate grabs the girls from Roman, sets them down and embraces both of them.

CARA

Daddy saved us!

MARA

And he never said any bad words doing it, either!

Kate looks up at Roman proudly. He smiles, as proud of himself as she is of him.

ROMAN

When I learn a lesson, I learn it big and full-blown.

235B EXT. MINE PERIMETER

235B

Chet's trying to get over the barbed wire. He's nearly made it, swings his leg ever so carefully over the wire, plants a foot firmly on the other side. Brings the other leg over and plants it. Takes a step, catches his pant leg and goes down on his face.

235C INT. SHED

235C

Wally and Juanita looking at the mess in the shed.

WALLY

Bear!

235D INT. MINE SHAFT

235D

The bear wades through the water to the mouth of the shaft.

235E EXT. MINE SHAFT

235E

Chet leans into the hole.

CHET

I'M BACK!

235F CU. BEAR

235F

Looks up the shaft.

235G CU. CHET

235G

Cups his hand to his mouth.

CHET

I'M GOING TO THROW THE ROPE DOWN!
I'VE MADE A LOOP AT THE END PUT
IT AROUND ONE OF THE GIRLS.

(continued)

EXT. MINE SHAFT

235G (contd)

Chet tosses the looped rope down the shaft.

235H

235H CU. BEAR

The rope lands on it's head.

235J

235J CU. CHET

He pulls the rope in.

235K

235K CU. BEAR

The slack is taken up, leaving the bear with the loop around it's neck.

235L

235L EXT. MINE SHAFT

Chet leans into the shaft.

CHET

ROMAN! I'M GONNA PULL THE ROPE TIGHT.
YOU TELL ME WHEN, OKAY?

We HEAR A GRUNT FROM BELOW. Chet takes it as a signal that Roman's gotten the message. He gives yank on the rope.

235M

235M CU. BEAR

The rope is pulled tight around it's neck and it's pulled forward, off it's feet.

235N

235N EXT. MINE SHAFT

Chet tugs the rope.

CHET

ALRIGHT! I'M PULLING!

He pulls on the rope. It barely moves.

CHET

Shit! They're all coming up at once.

He turns around and lays the rope across his shoulder. He leans into the task.

235P

235P INT. SHAFT

The bear jerks up the shaft. It's struggling to get free of the rope around it's neck.

235Q EXT. MINE SHAFT

Chet's barely able to pull the weight. He eases over to a tree and gets around. He continues to pull, now heading for the mouth of the shaft, using the tree.

235R

235R INT. SHAFT

The bear is being pulled up the shaft.

235S

235S CU. CHET

He's grunting and sweating and pulling with all his might.

235T

235T INT. CABIN

Kate and Connie are drying the kids off. It's warm, joyous reunion.

ROMAN

Your Uncle Chet wanted us to have memories. We got some memories, huh? Was that an adventure? Huh?

CONNIE

Where is Chet?

ROMAN

He's out there being a pretty guy. I feel like the last slice of bread on the loaf compared to him. He's waiting out there so I could come back looking like a hero. Well, you know the truth? He's the hero. He's the brains behind the operation.

235U CU. BEAR

235U

Being pulled up the shaft.

235V CU. CHET

235V

Straining for all he's worth.

EXT. MOUTH OF THE SHAFT

Chet reaches the shaft as the bear emerges. One last tug and the full length of the bear pops out of the shaft. Chet drops to his knees, exhausted. His chest heaves mightily.

CHET

God, bless! I did it! Oh, I'm dying but we...

He looks up.

(continued)

HIS POV

The big, black, shiny nose of the bear. The very angry bear.

CU. CHET

A look of confusion. His eyes shift, up.

CU. BEAR

CAMERA PANS UP TO THE BALD HEAD.

CU. CHET

He stares in disbelief.

CHET

I died and I'm in my own story.
Or...

236 OMIT

236A EXT. WOOD

236A

We HEAR A BELLOW. A beat and Chet tears past. A split second behind him, the bear charges through.

EXT. WOODS. WIDE

The silhouette of Chet hauling through the brush with the bear nipping at his heels.

CHET

OUCH! DAMN! SHIT!

BEAR

OOO! OOO!

236B INT. CABIN

236B

Kate and Connie are finished drying off the girls.

ROMAN

Why don't you guys run up and get your jams on. I'm gonna throw on a package of dogs for your uncle.

KATE

I'll do it, you go change.

ROMAN

I want to be here when Chet comes back. I owe him big for this one.

123

236C

236C EXT. WOODS. CHET

He's moving like he never thought possible. Arms pumping, eyes wild with fear, sweating pouring off his face and body.

236D EXT. CABIN

236D

Chet wheels around the cabin and leaps up on the porch. The bear's a beat behind.

236E INT. CABIN

236E

Chet bursts into the cabin. He slams the door behind him and leans back against it.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The kids are on the stairs. Connie and Kate in the kitchen. Roman's at the fireplace. They're stunned by the entrance.

INT. CABIN. DOOR

Chet screams.

CHET

Bear!

No sooner are the words out of his mouth than the door is torn off it's hinges. Chet topples forward and the bear charges into the cabin.

CU. ROMAN

Horror. He ducks.

CU. KATE AND CONNIE

They scream.

CU. TWINS

They shriek and charge up the stairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The bear crashes into the table and splinters it.

CU. ROMAN

He dashes for the stairs to block the bear from the stairs.

(continued)

ROMAN
(to the girls)

RUN!

(to the women)

DUCK!

(to the bear)

KISS MY ASS, YOU BERRY EATING, TURD
FLINGER!

He dashes for the stairs. The bear lunges at him.

CHET

He stands up, pushing the door back in place. A beat and he goes down again as Wally charges in with his shotgun lamp. He trains it on the bear.

WALLY

FREEZE!

CU. BEAR

It looks back at Wally.

CU. CHET

Wallys on the door, on top of Chet.

CHET

GET OFF ME!

CU. WALLY

He looks down. He steps down off the door.

CU. BEAR

He takes a step toward Wally.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Chet stands up.

CHET
You're a real asshole, Wally.

WALLY
Out the way, Ripley!

CHET
(pushing the lamp away)
Get that out of my face!

(continued)

CU. ROMAN

He tries to distract the bear.

CU. BEAR

It looks back at Roman.

CU. CHET AND WALLY

He doesn't know what's going on. Wally has the lamp on the bear.

CHET

What the hell is going on...

(turns to see the bear)

Whoa!

(to Wally)

SHOOT, YOU MORON!

CU. BEAR

The bear turns to Chet.

CU. WALLY AND CHET

Wally lowers the gun.

WALLY

It's illegal to use a shotgun
on bear, Ripley.

CHET

That's a goddamn lamp!

He rips the lamp from Wally's hands, tears the shade off,
aims it at the bear. Wally covers his ears.

CU. ROMAN

He hits the desk.

CU. BEAR

It rises on it's back legs.

CU. CHET

Takes aim and squeezes the trigger. There's a loud fizzle
and a puff of smoke. Chet lowers the gun.

CU. BEAR

He turns to Roman.

(continued)

CU. ROMAN

He covers his head, expecting to lose it.

CU. BEAR

He drops onto Roman.

CU. CHET

He looks into the barrel of the gun. It's still fizzling. He turns it back to the bear and tries to open it.

CU. SHOTGUN BARREL

The gun fires.

CU. BEAR'S ASS

Fur goes flying.

CU. BEAR

WHOA!

INT. LIVING ROOM

The bear turns and charges the door. Chet and Wally leap out of the way.

236F EXT. CABIN

236F

The bear charges down the porch and into the woods.

236G INT. LIVING ROOM

236G

The aftermath. Wally, Chet, Roman, Connie and Kate rise up.

WALLY

You gave her a bald ass to go
with her bald head, Ripley!

Chet looks at the gun.

ROMAN

That was great, Chet! I wish I
had my videocamera.

CHET

Did one shell go or...

236H EXT. CABIN

236H

BLAM!

(continued)

ROMAN (OC)

236H (con-

Two.

236J EXT. MINE SHAFT

236J

Chet's lamp is at the mouth of the shaft.

CU. LAMP

Kerosine is leaking out and running down the shaft. It ignites.

236K INT. SHAFT

236K

The flame follows the stream of kerosine into the shaft.

236L EXT. SHAFT

236L

A beat and an subterranean explosion. A ball of flame blows out of the shaft.

236M INT. CABIN

236M

The rumble is felt in the cabin.

ROMAN

Dynamite!

236N EXT. LAKE. OVERHEAD

236N

A massive bubble rises from the lake.

EXT. LAKE. SURFACE

It erupts, sending a shaft of water, weeds and fish into the night sky.

236P EXT. CABIN

236P

A shower of perch, bass, weeds, crappie and water down on the cabin. It's raining fish.

INT. CHET'S JEEP

LOOKING OUT THE WINDSHIELD. A gigantic fish, Monster Mouth lands on the hood of Chet's Jeep with a WHAP!

OMIT Scenes 237-269

270 EXT. CABIN - NEXT DAY

270

The cars are loaded and packed. It's time to shove off. The two families come out of the cabin. Chet locks up the door.

CHET

Alright! Let's roll.

Cammie comes up the road. Buck crosses to her.

ROMAN

Well, I'm gonna miss this place,
Chet.

Chet looks at him like he's crazy.

CARA

Uncle Chet?

CHET

Yeah, honey?

CARA

I had a really good time.

CHET

I'm glad you liked it.

BEN

Isn't it fascinating how a trauma
can restructure a person's life?

CHET

That's enough, Ben.

MARA

Thanks, Uncle Chet.

CHET

Don't forget to thank your daddy.

271 EXT. CABIN - DAY

271

Buck's lonely and dejected. Everything's gone to hell for him. He looks at the lake.

BUCK

He curls his lip at the beautiful scene.

BUCK

If you're out there, I just want you to know I don't blame you for hating me.

CAMMIE (O.S.)

City boys always talk to themselves?

Buck stops cold. He turns.

HIS POV

Cammie steps out from behind a tree.

CAMMIE

Or are you crazy?

BUCK

He's shocked to see Cammie. He smiles.

BUCK

I must be crazy.

CAMMIE

She smiles and walks toward him.

CAMMIE

That's your guilty mind at work. Whenever you go out in the woods, you're gonna see me behind every tree. I'll haunt you the rest of your life and possibly a large portion of your afterlife.

BUCK

He walks toward her.

(CONTINUED)

271 CONTINUED:

271

BUCK

I'm really sorry. I was trapped.

Cammie and Buck come together.

CAMMIE

I want you to go back to Chicago a
crazed, lovesick maniac and not be
able to look at another girl
without comparing her to me.

BUCK

And?

CAMMIE

We'll never see each other again.
But we'll stay a little bit in
love with each other the rest of
our lives. I'll have a little
piece of you in my heart forever.

BUCK

And I'll have a little piece of
you.

She kisses him.

272 EXT. CABIN - CHET'S CAR

272

Roman helps Chet tie down the luggage on the roof rack.

EXT. CABIN - ROAD

Wally and Juanita waddle up the road.

WALLY

Skipping on your bill, Ripley?

CHET AND ROMAN

Chet smiles.

CHET

Wouldn't think of it.

Wally and Juanita walk up.

WALLY

Just tickling your gonadial
spheres a little, Ripley.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WALLY (CONT'D)

I spoke with the conservation department a few minutes ago and they said the bear's doing alright. She lost most of the hair off her ass. She's bald on both ends now but she'll be alright.

CHET

I can't say that I'm happy.

WALLY

What're you carping about? The cabin she tore up belongs to me.

JUANITA

And my good lamp's all blown up.

ROMAN

How the hell did you know we had a bear in the cabin?

WALLY

She come by my place first. I thought it was Juanita gone nuts wearing her fur coat out to empty the rubbish. So, I just tracked her over here.

(pause)

Anywho, we sure want to thank you and Roman here for turning over the fish to us. It's gonna look swell hanging in the lodge.

ROMAN

Our mutual pleasure, Wally.

WALLY

I went in and scooped his guts out so he wouldn't stink so bad on the ride over to the fish stuffer. And funny damn thing, when 'Nita split open his belly to see what he had for lunch...

JUANITA

Eleven perch and a Pepsi can.

WALLY

Yeah. We figure you were entitled to any valuables the thing was carrying.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

272 CONTINUED: (2)

272

WALLY (CONT'D)

A lot of times that brand of fish'll be attracted to something shiney.

A thought occurs to Chet. He has an inkling of what it might be.

WALLY

(continuing)

We've found 'em carrying a watch...

JUANITA

... A belt buckle...

WALLY

... Earrings.

Chet looks at Roman. He smiles.

CHET

Wally? A few nights back I dropped my father's ring in the lake.

WALLY

Sorry to hear that, Ripley. Maybe what I got in my hand'll make you feel a little better.

Chet takes Wally's hand.

CHET

I have a funny feeling I know what it is.

CLOSEUP - HANDS

Wally's hand opens. Lying in his palm is a quarter.

273 BUCK AND CAMMIE

273

He kisses her cheek and backs away. He gives her a little wave. She returns it.

274 EXT. CABIN - CARS - DAY

274

The twins are in the Mercedes. Kate and Chet embrace. Roman and Connie. Ben gets in the back of the wagon.

(CONTINUED)

274 CONTINUED:

274

Wally and Juanita get their hands in on the farewells. Connie and Kate embrace. Chet and Roman shake hands.

CHET

I want to spot you the money you need to keep the house and get back on your feet.

ROMAN

I can't take your money, Chet. But I appreciate the offer.

CHET

I insist.

ROMAN

Chet, listen to me. I don't borrow from relatives. Not now, not ever. Okay? Let me learn my lesson.

He pats Chet on the back.

ROMAN

(continuing)

Race you home!

He and Kate hurry to their car. He guns the ENGINE and fishtails down the dirt road. Chet is baffled by it all.

CHET

Race me home?

He looks at Connie.

CONNIE

It's just until he gets on his feet. I think you should be proud of him not wanting to take your loan.

CHET

Connie...

CONNIE

We have plenty of room.
(hopeful smile)
If he beats us, he'll take the good spot in the garage.

She gets in the car. Buck walks up. Chet gives him a big smile.

(CONTINUED)

274 CONTINUED: (2)

274

Dad? BUCK

Yeah? CHET

Buck holds out his hand.

BUCK
To the memories.

Chet smiles. He slaps Buck's hand. FREEZE AND FADE.

END TITLES OVER ROMAN'S VIDEO-8 FOOTAGE OF THE TRIP.

THE END