

THE JACKET

by

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JUNE 19, 1999

"You can imprison my body but you can not imprison my mind"

Nelson Mandela

On the day of his release after 26 years of
Political Incarceration, from a South African Prison

"IN A DARK PLACE" - A STILL IMAGE of the undernourished, beaten and weathered face of WILLIAM STARKS. CUT TO:

Another STILL IMAGE - We now see his pained eyes. Then a series of STILL IMAGES that create a strobing effect as our CAMERA reaches 24 Frames. Starks looks toward CAMERA to speak. IS SOMEONE THERE? We see Shadows...But can't tell if STARKS is Speaking to Anyone...YET.

WILLIAM STARKS

I was 28 years old the first time I died...

SILENCE as CAMERA moves tighter on Starks' face. We begin to hear a single faint HEARTBEAT. - SILENCE - HEARTBEAT (Fainter.) FADE TO BLACK:

FADE UP QUICKLY ON THE B&W T.V. IMAGE of WALTER CRONKITE.

WALTER CRONKITE (Real footage)

...A unit of the "11th Light Brigade" was ambushed in a small Vietnamese Village. There is a report of one American casualty. Hold on, this is not yet confirmed...

The T.V. reception is cut off and all we see is white snow. The screen is now just WHITE. TITLE CARD: **THE JACKET** WE HEAR:

VOICE #1

They can confirm. Starks, William. Born Georgia. No family. How old? I got it, 28. Tag him. Ship him to Trippler...They can figure out where to send him.

VOICE #2

Throw me his sheet...He won't need it.

THE WHITE SCREEN IS SUDDENLY REMOVED. IT WAS A WHITE SHEET THAT COVERED STARKS' FACE. His eyes are open. We are in Starks P.O.V..HE IS ALIVE. Everyone thinks he's dead but he is ALIVE. One single faint heartbeat.

HAND HELD CAMERA - STARKS. Hospital chaos surrounds him. So frenzied. Almost knocking over the CAMERA. The bottom of the screen READS:

"AMERICAN HOSPITAL - SAIGON - VIETNAM - EARLY MARCH 1968"

Back in Starks' not moving P.O.V. Through slow-motions He/We SEE: Voice 1 & 2 are TWO INTERNS. Through Starks eyes we see the chaos of this hospital. Dozens of doctors tend to wounded soldiers. The dead Starks is rolled into a corner. We briefly see a piece of skull missing. The slowness of his P.O.V begins to SPEED UP TO REAL TIME.

The LOUD SOUNDS of the hospital surround him. STARKS CAN'T MOVE. He can't tell anyone that he is ALIVE. He tries to close his eyes when he sees intermittent images of the T.V. report on the ambush of the small Vietnamese Village. One single TEAR emerges from his left eye.

B&W T.V. - CAPTAIN ROBERT MEDLLEY SPEAKS TO REPORTERS - REAL FOOTAGE

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY (Babyface/Age 23)

...As we entered the village there were no women or children visible. These are very religious people...It was Sunday. I knew immediately we were being ambushed. I ordered a full retreat...V.C. Snipers started firing from everywhere. Corporal Starks ran ahead to help a fallen soldier. He got him to safety. Then the Corporal took a bullet to the head...our prayers...

T.V. IS TURNED OFF -- BACK IN 35MM COLOR - BACK IN THE HOSPITAL - A nurse has turned the T.V. off. She walks by STARKS. She sees the tear run down his cheek. Starks' eyes seem to move. The Nurse stares at him. Starks' eyes blink. THE NURSE STARTS YELLING.

NURSE(Frantic)

Code blue! Corporal Starks, HE IS ALIVE! Doctor!

DOCTOR (Rushed)

He is TAGGED. Worry about the soldiers that are alive.

NURSE (Cuts Dr. off)

He's not dead! His eyes blinked! Code blue! STAT! Get the crash cart. Please just look...Damn it!

DOCTOR (He looks)

Oh my fuckin' God. Get me 50cc of Ephedrine, stat! Get him into pre-op...(To Starks) You'll be all right, son... Where's the ephedrine?! We're losing him!

Dr. is handed a hypodermic needle and plunges it into Starks chest. Starks tries to talk as he begins to pass out. (DIE?)

STARKS (smothered by oxygen mask)

No...please...no...don't...save...

STARKS P.O.V. - All images BLUR and we race through a spectrum of LIGHT. Colors. SPIRALING out of control. Hospital is gone we are in:

A TUNNEL - A SERIES OF STILL PHOTOS SURROUND STARKS. It is his LIFE. He sees himself being born. The CAMERA merges into this image. It comes to life then the CAMERA backs out. We barely hear hospital noise.

BACK IN THE TUNNEL - Starks tries to focus. The hundreds of images of his life immerse him. Now he merges into an image of himself, age 8, in the backseat of his parents' car. DAD & MOM drive as they all sing. A TRAIN is heard then seen in the distance. SUDDENLY the whole SCREEN VIBRATES. All the still images of his life merge into one life force that engulf Starks. The SCREEN VIBRATES US BACK TO:

SAIGON AMERICAN HOSPITAL - 1968 - HAND HELD CAMERA - The vibration was: The Doctor as he removes a DEFIBRILLATOR from Starks' chest.

DOCTOR (Pounding on Starks' chest)
Hang on, son! Dammit. 1, 2, 3, Clear.

The defibrillator zaps Starks again. The SCREEN VIBRATES.

BACK IN THE TUNNEL - We race at an incredible speed past all of Starks' Life Images/Photos (catching glimpses as he grows up.) He crashes through them into an incredible WHITENESS. At the end of the tunnel he sees a BEAUTIFUL WOMAN in a sun dress. He tries but can't reach her.

WOMAN (Angelic)
Billy..."Go home"..."Go home"...

Just as he is about to reach her, the WHITENESS is gone. The woman is gone. WE HEAR: A HEARTBEAT - Starks now falls into a dark void. Landing in what seems to be water. Starks is drowning when a BLACK MAN'S ARM (with a noticable SCAR - a series of lines with an ARC on top) reaches and pulls him to safety. WE HEAR A VOICE:

MAN'S VOICE
You're alive, son...You've been in a controlled coma. It was touch and go. But you're alive, William, can you hear me?

INT. AMERICAN HOSPITAL - PHILIPPINES - 3 WEEKS LATER - 35mm COLOR
Starks is just now waking up. He mumbles incoherently about the woman he saw. A Major, a Lieutenant and the Doctor stand over him. Bandages cover Starks head. I.V.'s and tubes stick out of his neck. Starks feels for something around his neck. What he's looking for is

not there. Starks only catches glimpses of the following: This scene is fast paced. Starks is drugged and very disoriented.

MAJOR (Man who was talking)
You should consider yourself a "Hero." A
real hero...Sergeant...

STARKS (Feeling his neck)
Necklace? I need my mom's ring! (Begins
to cry.) Where's my necklace? The ring!

MAJOR
Sergeant, you have been through a difficult
time...Apology accepted...The Lt. will
retrieve your necklace right now.

LIEUTENANT (Indignant)
You have heard that we have been calling
you Sergeant? You have been promoted.

STARKS (still disoriented)
No thank you, sir...there was a woman...she
saved...me...where is...she...

The Lieutenant returns and hands Starks his NECKLACE, it has a WEDDING RING attached that sits next to his dog tags. Starks struggles to put it around his neck. The Doctor tries to stop Starks. Too many tubes and I.V.'s to get the necklace around his neck.

DOCTOR
The Woman was a Nurse...Be careful of The I.V...
That's your pain medication. It helps...

STARKS (Feels his Head)
...I don't want to sleep...wasn't a Nurse...
My head... What is that?...What...Why?...

MAJOR (Carefully asks)
William, do you know what happened out there?

Starks is silent. We hear the Dr. explain Starks' pain..But WE SEE:

EXT. VIETNAM VILLAGE
Tight shot on Starks being
held by someone. A bullet
hits the side of his head.
QUICK CUT TO BLACKNES

DOCTOR
That's a metal plate we placed
there to protect your brain...
It's worked before and should
be fine in your case. The

STARKS' P.O.V. as the CAMERA
begins to slowly fall to the ground.

pain will go away. Have a
cigarette, it will calm you.

BACK TO THE HOSPITAL - CLOSE ON STARKS SMOKING. EYES CLOSED.

STARKS (Rocking back and forth)
Please leave me alone....I don't...want...

EXT. VIETNAM VILLAGE - SLOW MOTION

The CAMERA continues and in
Starks' P.O.V. crashes to the
ground. Through blood in the
Foreground we see the village
burn. And what appears to be
Women and Children screaming.
Grenade smoke obscures image.

DOCTOR (V.O.)

Son, you have shrapnel 3cm
from your temporal lobe. There
shouldn't be any significant
neurological effects. That
sniper was very good. You don't
seem to understand how lucky
you are to be alive.

BACK AT HOSPITAL - CLOSE ON STARKS - HE HALF SMILES

STARKS (Mumbles to himself)
Lucky...Am I? I could have stopped it.

MAJOR
Stopped what, Sergeant?

STARKS (Explodes)
I won't be your hero! (Laughs) No
significant neurological effects? What's
that mean!...My life?...Touch and go...

MAJOR
It's very disorienting out there...Do you
know who shot you, Sergeant?

STARKS
Why are you asking me that? The News
Report. Some V.C. sniper, I don't
remember! It sure wasn't Friendly Fire.
I don't know and stop calling me
Sergeant. I don't want your promotion...
I want to go home, sir.

LIEUTENANT (Holding Starks' records)
You have no family. The Army is your
family. You are going to receive the Purple
Heart. You are 10 years in, don't be stupid.
Do another 10 and get your full pension. We

can station you anywhere. (Silence from Starks) William, you have no home...

STARKS (Stoic)

You're right. I have no home. I just don't want to be here anymore.

SMASH CUT TO:

35mm COLOR - THE SCREEN IS INTERMITTENTLY OBSCURED BY A TRAIN. It clears and we see STARKS STARING at the train as it passes.

EXT GEORGIA BACK ROAD - RAILROAD CROSSING - DAY

Starks walks up to the now empty tracks. We have seen this railroad crossing before, driving with his family in Starks' near death experience (the Tunnel.) Starks kneels down and touches the hot rail. Time has passed. Starks' hair is much longer. He looks like a hippie. From his pocket he takes out his Purple Heart and his Dog Tags. We hear another train coming. Starks places his military hardware on the rail and then stands in the middle of the tracks staring at the train. The Engineer BLASTS HIS HORN for Starks to get off the tracks. STARKS SCREAMS AT THE TRAIN. We only hear the train as Starks continues to scream. Engineer blasts the horn again. 100 yards away 75, 50, 40, 30, 20, 10....Starks leaps off the tracks and rolls to safety.

ANGLE - FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRAIN - From ground level we see Starks stare as the TRAIN SMASHES over his Purple Heart and Dog Tags. He smiles. The train clears. Starks rises and dusts himself off. He looks up and sees a broken down PICK UP TRUCK with it's hood up about 1/4 mile up the road. Starks picks up his knapsack, slings it over his shoulder and heads towards the broken down Pick Up. MUSIC START - "LODI" - CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL: "Just about a year ago, I set out on the road seekin' my fame and fortune lookin' for a pot of gold."

ANGLE - LONG LENS - THROUGH HEAT WAVES - STARKS WALKS TOWARDS US. We realize that the song is coming from the Pick-Up's radio.

ANGLE - Starks, now at the truck, looks in the back of the crew cab. He sees hundreds of empty collected and sorted soda bottles (penny per bottle). Some very beaten up toys. A very poor person owns this truck. Steam billows out from the engine. The person under the hood is obscured. CAMERA DOLLIES from opposite side of truck as Starks walks toward the front hood. CAMERA passes by the passenger window of the cab and stops on the dirty face of a sad and very bored & dirty 4 YEAR OLD GIRL. Starks re-enters the frame and waves at this girl who glances up and a smile slightly emerges.

STARKS (Leans towards girl)
Hi...What's your name? (Silence)

SUDDENLY a rifle enters frame and it is put to Starks' head. He slowly turns his head and sees the person holding the rifle. The little girls MOTHER. Dirt poor, white trash and holding a rifle.

MOTHER (Thick Southern accent)
She ain't supposed to talk to no strangers...

STARKS (Calm)
Good advice...That's a good song...on your radio...At least you know your battery's working all right.

The mother, wearing a torn and probably her only dress, doesn't answer. Her hands are covered with grease. The girl stares at Starks.

STARKS (Smiling & trying)
...I mean if the radio works...
it can't be your...

CREEDENCE
*Rode in on the Greyhound,
I'll be walkin out if I go.*

MOTHER (Cuts him off)
What, are you a mechanic or somethin'?

STARKS
Nope...I know a little ...I can take a look.

MOTHER
No...you can just leave ...'fore I shoot ya'.

STARKS
You actually have to pull back that hammer there, if you want to shoot...(She cocks the hammer.) Me ...Yeah you got it. I'll be going now...(He walks) "Oh Lord I'm stuck in Lodi again."

LONG LENS - STARKS STOPS WALKING - HIS BACK STILL TO THE MOTHER

MOTHER
Keep a movin' ya' hippie...I will shoot...

STARKS (Slowly raises hands)
Ma'am... I do believe you would. I just glanced over here at your engine and I can fix it for you ...

MOTHER

You tryin' to suicide yerself back there or
do you just like trains? (Starks laughs) I
can fix it myself... MOVE!

STARKS (Hands over head)

How about we make a deal...Your little girl is
about to keel over from heat exhaustion.. I
can fix your truck...You can be on your way.
(Silence) I'm not a hippie. I just don't own
a razor right now...And I don't like trains.

MOTHER

In the third place, what kind of deal ya
think I want from some hippie pervert?
In the second place, I don't hear no
deal in that talk...

STARKS

The deal is if I don't fix your
truck...You can shoot me....

MOTHER (Cut's him off)

In the first place, I can do that now and
save us both some time.

STARKS (Laughs)

Good point..Your radiator hose is undone and we,
I mean I have to clamp it back on...That's it..

MOTHER

What's your all deal if you do fix it?

STARKS

You give me a ride up to the next town.
(She stares) I sit in the back with the
bottles... Maybe you can redeem me too...

LITTLE GIRL (leans out the window)

Mister...My names Jackie...

STARKS

Well nice to meet you Jackie.
My names William Starks. But
you can call me Billy...Or you
can ignore me like your mom.

MOTHER (To girl)

Told ya' not to talk to no strang.

JACKIE(to mom)

You talked to em'...I'm hot..

STARKS (Under the hood)
 Jackie, can you ask your mom if she has
 any wire or anything that I can use to
 tie this radiator hose with?

JACKIE (also thick accent)
 Mommy, Billy wants...

MOTHER (Cuts her off)
 I have nothin' ...you said you could fix it.

STARKS
 All right...I'll figure something out.
 Can you turn the radio up? Please...

MOTHER (Same time)
 Nope.

JACKIE (SAME TIME)
 My mommy says no...

STARKS (Trying to be friendly)
 Okay... you know a lot of people think...

MOTHER
 If yer' gonna tell a story, work and do it...

Starks goes through his knapsack. Nothing. He takes off one of his
 shoelaces and ties the radiator hose. SNAP. The shoelace breaks.

STARKS
 Okay, where was I? Yeah, right. People
 think that this band's...You know,
 Creedance, is from round here...

MOTHER (To Starks)
 Nobody's from round here

STARKS
 I am ...I was anyways.

MOTHER
 You ain't got no accent...

STARKS (Yells over another passing train)
 I lost it!

Starks looks at Jackie who starts crying. Her mother is getting mad at
 her. Starks takes his necklace off, puts his mom's wedding ring on his
 pinkie. Jackie stares at him, stops crying. Starks uses his necklace t

tie the radiator hose. AND IT HOLDS. Starks takes a canteen from his knapsack and POURS WATER INTO THE RADIATOR.

STARKS (Walks to driver's seat)
We can try to start it in a minute... Here
give the rest of the water to Jackie.

MOTHER
Jackie don't drink so fast.

STARKS
Creedance...Everybody thinks they're from
the South. They're from Berkeley...

MOTHER
You are a stinkin' hippie...

STARKS (Tries ignition, Rrrr, Rrrrr)
Nah...just don't got that razor, ma'am. (car
starts.) All right...I just need to hit the
accelerator and prime it a little. It
should hold 'till you get a proper clamp...

The Mother walks around to start putting away some tools she had in
the front. She disappears behind the still raised hood.

JACKIE (Wide-eyed)
Can I see the ring?

STARKS
What ring?

JACKIE (Excited)
Gold one...The one on your baby finger. Pretty.
That "real gold"? I never seen "real gold"...

STARKS
Yeah it's "real gold"...It's my Mom's. It's
all I have of her...Be careful, Jackie...

Starks hands it to her. Jackie squeals with delight and hugs him.
SUDDENLY the hood comes crashing down revealing Jackie's Mother. She
stares at Starks and boy is she angry. She picks up and raises her
gun at Starks. Starks backs away and pleads his innocence. The
Mother gets behind the wheel of the pick-up truck and speeds away.
Starks looks as the pick-up gets farther away. Jackie looks at him
out the rear window. SHE STILL HOLDS HIS MOTHER'S RING IN HER HAND.

JACKIE WAVES TO HIM. Then the Pick-Up is gone turning a corner. Jackie HIDES THE RING quickly in her sock without her mother seeing. We hear the song end and a radio news report of a HURRICANE WARNING: The TONE of a National Weather Service Warning Is heard as we see:

Starks walks the lonely highway - Dark clouds circle and form above him. He touches his ring finger.

STARKS (Singing)

I'd catch the next train back to where I
live. Oh Lord, I'm stuck in Lodi again...

EXT - GEORGIA BACKROADS - 9PM - LIGHTNING FILLS THE SKY.

LONG LENS - Starks appears over a crest, walks towards us, thumb out trying to hitch a ride. No takers. Silhouetted against the threatening sky, Starks unsuccessfully tries to light a cigarette. Then he holds his canteen out filling it with rain water. LIGHTNING. Then it disappears and so does Starks into the BLACKNESS

"IN A DARK PLACE" - SAME AS FIRST SCENE - IS SOMEONE THERE?

STARKS (To Camera)

You know you can't close your eyes when
your life passes before you.

FADE TO BLACK

HEAD LIGHTS APPEAR over the crest, illuminating Starks (Soaked to the bone) who throws his knapsack over his shoulder and sticks out his thumb. A finned Dodge Sedan stops beside him. Instead of throwing open the car door, the driver (TENNY) opens the window a crack.

TENNY (Roughly same age as Starks)

You know how to drive?

STARKS

You bet.

TENNY

Get in.

Tenny throws open the driver's door and slides over into the passenger seat. Starks (long hair and scruffy beard) runs around the car and jumps in behind the wheel, throwing his wet bag in the back seat.

INT. DODGE SEDAN - GEORGIA HIGHWAY - NIGHT -9:03PM - 1968

STARKS

Thanks. I've been stuck on this road all day. Nobody would stop...

TENNY (Stares him down)

Course nobody stops for ya... Look at that hair... We don't go for that hippie shit down here... and stay to the speed limit. I don't want no speed maniac... I've been drivin' three days straight...I'm gonna get some shut-eye.

STARKS

I'm not a hippie I just don't have a razor. I'm William Starks...Billy...

Awkward silence as Starks waits for a handshake or a name. Nothing but a stare. Starks awkwardly moves his unreceived hand to the radio. Music comes in, Tenny turns it off.

TENNY (Finally)

...My friends call me Tenny...Good night.

Starks looks in the back seat and notices 3 SUITCASES.

STARKS (Alright, he tries)

You from 'round here?...Tenny...

TENNY

Close enough...My FRIENDS call me Tenny...

STARKS

...Just the suitcases...You travelin' to...

Lightning Illuminates the sky and HAIL begins to hit the windshield. Starks drives slowly and carefully, having to wipe an area on the windshield with his hand so that he can see.

TENNY (Cuts him off)

Comin' home...I'm pure fuckin' Confederate Southern Baptist...I'm tired and I'm mean... I could be fuckin' deranged so just drive the car and try to be a little more silent in the talkin' department and we will get along just fine. You want jokes, stories, a good listner. Ya'll got in the wrong car. Don't take it personally. Just

Southern Hospitality, HIPPIE. That's right, you just need a barber...(Closes eyes, then opens them.) You a REAL hippie... Never seen one cept on T.V.

STARKS

I tried it for a few days ...I failed..

TENNY (Laughs)

Hang on, if you fail at droppin out where the hell does that leave ya?

STARKS (Smiles)

Hitchhiking in a hail storm in Georgia.

Tenny closes his eyes. Starks is just happy for the ride. He doesn't need a friend...yet. Thunder. Lightning cracks across the sky filling the screen. DISSOLVE TO:

EXT GEORGIA ROAD - 2 AM- SIGN READS: "HUNTER ARMY BASE 5 MILES" - LOOKING STRAIGHT THROUGH FRONT WINDSHIELD - As the wipers clear the rain from the windshield we catch a glimpse inside. Tenny is fast asleep as Starks drives, then YAWNS. Rain obscures the image.

CAMERA INSIDE CAR - Starks is nodding off. VERY TIRED, he shakes his head. Wake up. He sticks his head out the now rolled down window. Cold air and rain help him stay awake, for a moment. But then he starts to fall asleep. LOUD HAIL hits the car. Eyes open, then close.

ANGLE - From high above we see the Sedan start to swerve. CLOSE UP - STARKS' EYES POP OPEN - Road sign:"3 miles. Food available." STARKS P.O.V. WE INTERMITTENTLY GO TO BLACK as Starks fights off sleep (eyes opening and closing.) BLACKNESS - Blurred trees pass - BLACKNESS - White line fever - BLACKNESS - Starks head out window. Very quickly blinking - Then Starks closes his eyes. He's asleep. CUT TO:

B&W FLOATING ABOVE BURNING VIETNAM VILLAGE - STARKS IS SHOT - BY WHO?

REAR VIEW MIRROR Starks' eyes pop open. He slaps his face. HE SEES:

QUICK CUT - Jackie the 4 year old holding Starks mother's ring.

SIDE VIEW MIRROR - Starks' eyes close and his head nods. WE HEAR: "Happy birthday Billy, Happy Birthday to you." SMASH CUT TO:

STARKS' FLASHBACK - HOME MOVIE - BIRTHDAY PARTY for Starks, age 5, on Christmas Day. Dad is a military man, Mom is beautiful.

A 40'S SEDAN DRIVES DOWN A HIGHWAY - Starks now 8, sings inside the car with his parents. SEPIA TONE HOME MOVIE - Same image we saw earlier when Starks was dying in the tunnel in Vietnam. The Sedan passes a road sign "Georgia." Train in the distance. The family sings a driving song. We see this in SILENCE. WE HEAR: "Take me to the pilot, take me to the chamber."

THE SEDAN CONTINUES, the family sings. Not being able to see beyond the railroad crossing which is blocked by buildings. The Sedan is STRUCK ON THE DRIVERS SIDE BY A TRAIN. Starks, sitting in the back seat, is thrown from the car. He watches in horror as his parents' Sedan is crushed by the train. He looks up, transfixed on the image. HOME MOVIE RIPS. Music "Through a glass eye your throne is the one danger zone take me to the pilot of your soul"

STARKS CRIES AT HIS PARENTS' FUNERAL - SLOWED IMAGERY - Starks is given the folded American flag by his father's Commanding Officer, he is given his mother's WEDDING RING. He puts it on a necklace. He will always wear this necklace. He is also given his FATHER'S WATCH.

SERIES OF STILL PHOTOS - STARKS ENLISTING in Army at 18 yrs. of age. Having a good time smoking with his company, his new family. HE RE-UPS AT 22 YRS. Not wanting to go home. He is a HARDENED SOLDIER. STILL PHOTOS creating a strobe effect. Starks, happier times with Captain Medlley , and Co. In the jungle, on leave, smoking... Etc.

Starks doesn't hear Tenny yelling "WATCH THE ROAD". HE WAKES. TOO LATE. The car does 3 - 360 degree spins and ends up on the side of the road against an old wooden fence. No apparent damage.

35MM COLOR - INT. CAR - TENNY AND STARKS WIDE AWAKE. STARTLED.

STARKS

You all right. I'm sorry. No damage to the car... We're cool...I'm sorry...

Starks holds the side of his head. PAIN. No neurological effects?

TENNY (Panicked)

The fuck?...When was the last time you slept?

STARKS (Can't even open eyes)

Don't know...been awhile...I...

Starks is in so much pain he can't talk. Tenny reaches into the back seat. He opens one of his suitcases and pulls out some aspirin and a bottle of Southern Comfort. He hands them to Starks who immediately

takes them. Tenny switches places with Starks, almost throwing him in the passenger seat. Starks puts his head up against the cool window.

TENNY

I should just leave ya' here...but then I'd probably need you. You hungry? I am.

Starks moans as Tenny pulls out into the highway. We see that the spin out has left some slight damage: LEFT TAIL LIGHT BROKEN.

INT - 24 HOUR DINER - HUNTER ARMY BASE; HINESVILLE, GA.

We see a military vehicle wipe past the screen revealing our duo. CAMERA PUSHES IN THROUGH WINDOW, Starks looking much better having eaten everything in sight. Tenny glances outside he sees a group of BABY FACED RECRUITS Tenny quickly gestures for the check as he sees the recruits walking to the door. He wants out quick, he pulls out a wad of money and leaves it for the Deliverence-esque waitress. He hurries Starks out of the Diner past the bathrooms which read MEN, WOMEN, NEGROES GO OUTSIDE.

TENNY (Making small talk)

Billy, ever done time?...

Starks pays no attention to Tenny. He sees the recruits and TENSES.

STARKS (Finally looks to Tenny)

Time?...I've never been in prison...You?

TENNY

Nope...Always managed to keep my hands clean...Like we're gonna do right now...

SOUTHERN PRIVATE #1

Hey Hippie Boy...Who gave you permission to eat at our diner?...

TENNY (To the group)

Friend, we're leavin'...Don't want any trouble...I'm sorry if we offended...

SOUTHERN PRIVATE #2 (Cuts Tenny off)

I ain't got a problem wit you.....You can go... But I got to get permission from my Sergeant for yer' long haired mute faggot protester to leave...Sarge?

The Sergeant shakes his head "NO". He watches his platoon block Starks/Tenny's way to the car as it starts to rain and hail again.

STARKS (Sighs)
What do you want from me?

SOUTHERN PRIVATE #3
An apology, and you spit shine my
Sergeant's shoes clean...With you hair.

TENNY (To Sergeant)
How 'bout I give you some money?

STARKS (Trying to be respectful)
Thank you Tenny but I do owe an apology for
entering their diner. Sir, I apologize.

Starks has ignored the cleaning of the shoes and walks to the Dodge.
Private #2 grabs him from behind. The young soldiers pull their guns
but Starks' 10 years of INSTINCT has taken over now. QUICK CUT TO:

B&W TRAINING FILM - STARKS AGE 18 - BASIC TRAINING
Learns how to disarm a man...using only pressure points.

BACK TO SCENE AT DINER - Starks has disabled the closest Private
using the above technique. At the same moment he unholsters the
Private's gun and calmly points it at his head.

TENNY
...Let 'em go...Starks, please...We ain't
fighters...just talkers is all...

STARKS (His eyes don't blink)
Everyone, go on inside. I will leave your
Private unharmed, Sir...Again, I apologize.

They reach the car. Starks, still holding the Private at gunpoint.

STARKS (Motions Tenny away)
I'll drive ...That's our deal... Now
Private walk back inside... I'll throw
your firearm into those bushes...(Pause)
Have you seen any action yet?

PRIVATE #1
I will. Fighting for my country. For YOU.

STARKS

I know you won't listen to me . I'm just
some long haired Hippie. Do your time then
get out...You have no idea...

The silent Private sheepishly walks back into the diner. Starks drives
away, throwing the firearm into the bushes, his hands tremble.

TENNY (A new found respect)

Hey Starks, you been to Nam?

STARKS (Stoic)

No.

TENNY

You sure did handle yourself purty well...You
know, we're gonna win that war. Don't care
What all the Liberals say...Cuz of our
Niggers... I'm tellin' truth. Them gooks
sneak up on em' at night can't see em' less
they smile... Gooks ain't got a chance
against "Our Niggers"...I might just go help
'em... Give me a couple days, I'll get them
Commies wrapped up...

STARKS (Looks to Tenny)

Tenny, you're a damn pacifist. (Laughs) I
won't tell anybody...Don't worry.

TENNY (Smiles)

Thanks, Makes up fer your drivin' abilities...

Starks takes some deep breaths...Calming himself. Finally, Starks
laughs. All the tension is gone. This is the most at ease we have
seen Starks. Tenny turns on the radio. Starks now turns it off.

STARKS

Why don't you get some shut eye...

TENNY (Turns radio back on)

Why doncha call me "Tenny".

ANGLE WIDE SHOT - THE DODGE SILHOUETTED BY HIGHWAY.

TENNY

Told ya I might need you. Ya' know...we get

ya' cleaned up...I might be able to hook
ya' up some work I got comin' my way..

STARKS

That would be mighty kind of you...Tenny.

TENNY

This is your lucky night Starks, you got
a ride all the way to your future...

STARKS (Smiles)

My luck is changing...(Playing) Far out...

TENNY (Playing back)

Far out...Hippie.

WE HEAR: The radio try to tune in a station as we FADE TO BLACK.

LIGHTNING ILLUMINATES THE SKY, they drive by swamp marshland. The
radio is static again. Tenny cracks a joke about the static being a
Jimi Hendrix song. Starks laughs. They are becoming friends.

ANGLE - AN ALLIGATOR SCURRIES OFF THE ROAD AND SUBMERGES IN SWAMP.
Finally we hear music. SIMULTANEOUSLY the two excitedly speak.

STARKS (O.S.)

...Turn it up...I love this song...

TENNY (O.S.)

Now this is good music.

CUT INSIDE THE CAR AS THE SONG THEY BOTH LIKE STARTS - 3:05AM

THE MONKEES

Cheer up sleepy Jean Oh what can it mean to a...

Starks and Tenny excitedly sing at the top of their lungs.

STARKS, TENNY & THE MONKEES

...Daydream believer and a Homecoming Queen.

ANGLE - CAMERA IN BACK SEAT - THE DUO ARE SINGING, LAUGHING AND
HAVING A BALL. Starks and Tenny don't notice a HIGHWAY PATROL
CRUISER that they pass. It is partially hidden behind a billboard
that reads: "GEORGIA THE BULLDOG STATE". Someone has painted
"FREEDOM " Across the word bulldog. Even though our duo doesn't see
the Patrolman's cruiser our CAMERA does. From inside we pan off
Starks still singing and move in towards the highway patrol car.

INT. HIGHWAY PATROL CAR. 3:07a.m.
The Cop follows the Dodge with his
eyes and we see what he sees. THE
BROKEN AND BURNT OUT TAILLIGHT

STARKS AND TENNY (O.S.)
*...You know how happy I can
be. Our good times started and
end without all I want to spend.*

CAMERA INSIDE THE HIGHWAY PATROL CAR. It chases after our Sedan
which keeps driving down the road. Highway Patrol Cruiser closes in.
The RED LIGHT turns on and the SIREN starts screaming.

STARKS TENNY & THE MONKEES
Daydream believer and a Homecoming Queen...

INT. DODGE SEDAN - 3:08 a.m. - REARVIEW MIRROR - STARKS EYES REGISTER
ON THE FLASHING LIGHTS. Tenny turns and sees the Highway Patrol car.

TENNY
Ah fuck...You ain't speeding...

Starks turns down the radio and begins to slow down. The Dodge passes
the charred remains of a fire bombed church, its cross still smoking.

STARKS (Hopeful)
Look. Maybe he's going to the fire...

TENNY (Matter of fact)
No he ain't, gotta be the Diner boys called.

Starks turns onto the dirt shoulder. Patrolman walks to the driver's
window, oblivious to the burning cross less than 200 yards away.

TENNY (Calm)
Let me handle this...might be kin...

The crew-cutted Patrolman coolly eyes Starks' long hair, hears the
MUSIC. Not a favorable impression. Tenny turns off the radio.

TENNY (Sunny smile)
Mornin', Officer. Is there any problem?

PATROLMAN
You know your left taillight is out?

TENNY (Relieved)
No, I sure didn't. I just had the car
checked out too. A good mechanic is hard...

PATROLMAN (To Starks)
Can I see your Driver's License.

Starks fumbles with his wallet and hands his liscence to the Patrolman.
The Patrolman's brow furrows as he studies Starks license.

PATROLMAN (Laughs)

Lookie here, yer' from San Francisco...
Born on Christmas...Kinda ironic.

STARKS (Not comfortable with authority)

Not really my choice. And San Fransisco, I
just got the license there...Sir I'm not
from... Actually, I was born around here...

PATROLMAN (Ignores him)

Quite down son... So you got no real business
being down here then? You with them Civil
Rights people? Can I see your registration?

STARKS

..It's Tenny's car...I'm just driving.
(To Tenny) You got the registration?

TENNY

Yeah.. Sure... Officer my family's down
the road a piece... 'bout twenty miles.

PATROLMAN (To Starks)

Why you drivin' "Tenny's" car?

TENNY (Answers for Starks)

...I been drivin' 3 days straight back from
some work in Mobile, an' got real tired...
Tryin' to get back an see my folks ya
know?...Just trying to be safe is all...

PATROLMAN (To Starks)

Were ya'll hitchin? (To Tenny) And let
him answer this time, "Tenny"...

STARKS

Sir... I'll pay any fine...Really. Tenny
was just trying to help me out.

PATROLMAN

Let me see that registration anyway...

TENNY (Rummaging glove compartment)

I know it's someplace. (Looks in visor)

Must be in one of my suitcases...

PATROLMAN (Looks in back seat)
Why doncha' find it...I'm gonna go call in
yer' friend's license...See if anyone's
lookin' for him...

The Patrolman strolls back to his car. Tenny reaches over into the back seat opening suitcases. He seems relieved.

TENNY (From back seat)
He doesn't know anything 'bout the diner...
those boy's probably too embarrassed to make a
call, I think we're all right if you don't
have any warrants...

ANGLE - STARKS IMAGE IN SIDE MIRROR. BURNING CROSS IN B.G.

STARKS (Stares at burning cross)
I should be clean... I guess you were right
about that fire not being of any interest.

TENNY (From back seat)
Where the hell did I put that thing?...
Don't be so nervous, Hippie. Probably just
get a fix-it ticket. I'll tell ya' a joke.
How's that? (Starks nods) Little boy asks
his Daddy what's the difference between
theory and reality? So the Daddy tells the
little boy to go an' ask his momma if she'd
have sex wit a stranger for a million
bucks... Little boy comes running back.
"Momma said yup." Now go ask yer' sister
the same thing. Little boy comes running
back. "Sis said does a bear shit in da
woods." So Daddy says there's the
difference... In theory we're sittin on a
couple million bucks but in reality son,
we're just living with a couple whores.

STARKS (Laughs, mood lighter)
I've always wondered about that difference...

ANGLE - HIGHWAY PATROL CAR - IT STARTS TO RAIN AGAIN
From outside, the windshield wipers clear the rain. We see the
Patrolman on his radio calling in Starks' info. Rain obscures the
image and we see the reflection of the Dodge in the windshield.

TENNY (O.S.)
 ...I found it ...Thank God

CAMERA In the front seat of Sedan, Starks in foreground. CAMERA sees the Patrolman walking back towards the Dodge. Tenny pops into frame, registration in hand which he hands to a relieved Starks.

CLOSE UP - STARKS - REGISTRATION IN HAND READS: "RICHARD JOHNSON"

STARKS (Confused)
 Richard Johnson...Is your real name?

TENNY (Puts gun to Starks ribs)
 No, Richard Johnson is the poor bastard I
 STOLE the FUCKIN' car from. In THEORY,
 Starks you're alive right now. But in
 REALITY, you're as good as dead.

HAND HELD BEHIND THE PATROLMAN WE SEE STARKS INSIDE THE DODGE:
 He can't make a move. Tenny's gun has the upper hand. Starks looks,
 the Patrolman is at the back of the Dodge. He laughs to himself as he
 looks at Starks' Licence. Not really paying attention.

PATROLMAN (Sarcastic laughter)
 Christmas boy...Ya'al got a Purple
 Heart...How bout that registration?

TENNY (Answers happily)
 You bet officer... Aim to please...

Tenny takes the gun out of Starks' ribs and points it right past Starks' face and BLASTS away at the Patrolman. The Patrolman is HIT AND FALLS BACK trying to scramble to his cruiser. Tenny fires at him again, shattering the side windows. Patrolman crawls away. Starks uses this moment to dive out the shattered window, cutting himself. Tenny fires at him. Starks is on the ground and under the Dodge quickly. He avoids Tenny's shots as he counts them to himself. Tenny opens the passenger door, scrambles outside grabbing suitcases. DISAPPEARS UP A HILL. The Patrolman is bleeding profusely as he is almost to his cruiser. From under the Dodge Starks looks around frantically "No Tenny". Knowing the weapon and that Tenny has spent his ammo. Starks gets up and cautiously walks to help the fallen Patrolman.

STARKS (Hands up)
 Officer...I'm not armed! Let me help you...

The Patrolman FIRES, hitting Starks in the side. Starks goes sprawling across the wet highway. The Police Cruiser's lights continue to flash red. Over the Police Cruiser radio we hear: Fanatic static: Starks, his whole side soaked in blood, somewhere summons strength and gets up. The cop points his gun at Starks, ready to fire again. Starks hobbles to the side of the road and leaps over the edge. We have no idea if it's a 10 ft. drop or a 200 ft. cliff. IT'S TOO DARK TO TELL. The Police radio continues to CRACKLE LOUDLY calling the Patrolman who has passed out. Tenny, in the Hills opposite side of the road that Starks leapt from, wipes the empty .45 clean with his shirt and THROWS it towards the crime scene. The Cruiser's lights continue to flash... Illuminating the ground where we see Starks' driver's license. Tenny's gun SKIDS TO A STOP NEXT TO THE BLOODY LICENSE. We CRANE straight up seeing the whole bloody scene. Is the Patrolman dead? DISSOLVE TO:

NEXT MORNING - STARKS - EYES SLOWLY OPEN - DISORIENTED - SUNRISE - STARKS REMEMBERS - From above him he hears voices and police radios. Starks hurries, silhouetted by the large sun ball that is halfway over the horizon. He is shaken, bruised and his shirt soaked with blood from the gun shot wound. Shredding his shirt he makes a tourniquet. He looks up toward the voices, growing both in volume and numbers. The road is about 50 feet above him. He extricates himself from the marshland. Adrenaline racing, he begins to crawl/pull himself with fierce determination up the hill. He looks up. He sees the glow of red lights of many police cruisers. He wants to get up the hill and see if they CAUGHT TENNY. He wants to see Tenny in handcuffs.

EXT - ABOVE GEORGIA ROAD - TAPED OFF CRIME SCENE- DAWN

Dozens of cops. Photo flashes go off (both police and newspaper.)

SHERIFF (Yelling out)

I want this STARKS... 25 fuckin' years I
been Sheriff... never had to tell a
Patrolman's wife she was a widow...Damn!

CLICK - B&W STILL PHOTO - DEAD PATROLMAN outlined IN CHALK.
CLICK - B&W STILL PHOTO - SHELL CASINGS AND THE TRAIL OF BLOOD.
CLICK- B&W STILL PHOTO - STARKS' KNAPSACK AND CONTENTS.
CLICK- B&W STILL PHOTO - BACK SEAT OF CAR EMPTY NO TENNY. SUITCASES.
CLICK- B&W STILL PHOTO - DETECTIVES AND THE SHERIFF GATHERED AROUND THE PATROLMAN'S DEAD BODY. In this photo the Sheriff is seen REACHING HIS HAND TOWARD THE STILL CAMERA as if to stop it.
CUT TO 35mm COLOR - The Sheriff as if it were a CONTINUOUS MOTION from the still photo grabs the camera from Frank, the newspaper photographer, and SMASHES it to the ground.

SHERIFF (Yelling)

Frank...I don't want to see none of yer'
graphic pictures in the paper. Have the
decency to wait 'till he's covered!

CAMERA moves along the bloody ground and the trail of evidence. GUN
& STARKS' LICENSE. Nothing on Tenny. NO TRACE THAT TENNY EXISTED.

FRANK (O.S.)

Sorry, Sheriff...Just a big story
...Might get picked up national...

SHERIFF (O.S.)

We got a cop killer somewhere
...I know it's a big story...

THE PATROLMAN'S FACE IS BEING COVERED AS THE BODY BAG IS ZIPPED.
RACK FOCUS TO: Starks as he appears crawling over the hill.
LONG LENS - AS STARKS PULLS HIMSELF UP TO HIS FEET

BULLHORN (From Patrol car)

...BEHIND YOU...White male... Sheriff!

STARKS (Excitedly)

Tenny...Did you get Tenny?...Is the cop
alright?... Is he alive...Where's Tenny?...

STARKS IS TACKLED AND THROWN TO THE GROUND HE IS HANDCUFFED ROUGHLY.
He struggles to talk. No one listens. STARKS IS A "COP KILLER".
CAMERA moves down towards the scene as Starks tries to protect
himself. The Police continue the beating. Starks doesn't understand.

STARKS

No ...No...No...I didn't kill anyone... It
was Tenny... Tenny...teennnnyyyy.....

No trace or evidence that there is a Tenny. Starks is gagged and hog
tied. Semiconscious. CAMERA moves into his face, terror in his eyes.

CLICK- B&W STILL PHOTO - SAME EXACT IMAGE OF STARKS.

WE HEAR:

JUDGE (V.O.)

...You are hereby sentenced to be taken to The
Jessup Federal Correctional Institute... and
there be put to DEATH BY ELECTROCUTION...

CLOSE UP: The JUDGE pronouncing STARKS' DEATH SENTENCE.

JUDGE

Mr. Starks... I hope GOD has compassion for
your soul because I certainly do not...

PACKED COURTROOM - STARKS IS LED OUT THROUGH THE MASSES OF GAWKERS, HATERS AND JOURNALISTS. HE CLOSSES HIS EYES: "CLICK" - "CLICK". Still Newspaper image reads: "FORMER 'WAR HERO,' PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT TURNED COP-KILLER RECEIVES DEATH PENALTY." SMASH CUT TO:

ON A BLOOD SPLATTERED FLOOR, the same STILL IMAGE NEWSPAPER lands and we are back in 35MM COLOR.

BECKER (Re: Newspaper)

There's your toilet paper...You a God fearin man Starks? Are you!?

INT. STARKS' CELL - DAY - A MERE 102 DEGREES

We are in Starks' NEW HOME, his tiny blood-splattered CELL. The newspaper was thrown by BECKER, Captain of the Guards. Starks is weak.

STARKS (Can't lift his head)

God? Used to be...noooo

BECKER (Cuts him off)

God and you better re-connect. Clean up the blood...The last man decided to check out early. Give me that watch. Now! (Becker rips it off) I'm doin' ya'll a favor. Forget time.

HIS FATHERS WATCH GONE. STARKS COVERS HIS EARS AS BECKER SLAMS THE CELL DOOR. Starks lays on the ground and the room SPINS. WE HEAR MUSIC:

The following SCENES are quickly paced. - To give an impression of how an innocent man - now incarcerated - would feel as he endured his FIRST DAY IN HELL.

CREEDANCE

*Was ridin' along the highway
rollin' up the countryside.
Thinkin' I'm the devils
heatwave. What can burn in
your crazy mind?...*

INT. PENITENTIARY - BECKER SUPERVISES CLERK HANDING OUT SUPPLIES

BECKER

You'll shrink to fit the clothes...The sheet's that big case ya'll decide to hang yourself...we'll have plenty left over to cover ya'...That's some pretty hair, Starks.

EXT. PENITENTIARY - 113 DEGREES - Starks is manacled (Chain gang) to a well seasoned, amped convict, RUDEL. Starks' ankle bleeds. All prisoners are now handed "Shit buckets". All prisoners are seen

having their hair buzzed - Not Starks. Sweat pours from Starks. Becker yanks him down hard by the hair, shakes his head "NO."
"Sweet Hitch-hiker, won't you ride on my fast machine?"

IT IS HOT AS FUCK HERE. PRISONERS ARE FORCED TO WEAR "PINK DYED UNIFORMS. All new prisoners are lined up outside. They watch prison guards walk by handing out little cups that contain pills. Most of the men know the drill and dry swallow them without question.

RUDEL (Whispering quickly)
 It ain't a bad buzz... Just take um' they don't fuck wit' you...What's your rap?... (No answer) Don't ignore me...That would be a mistake...

STARKS (Turns to Ruddel)
 If I told you I was innocent you'd tell me everyone in here was. So I won't waste your time... don't waste mine.

Guard #1 SUDDENLY THROWS A CHAIN around Starks' neck and yanks hard, pulling his head way back. Starks struggles in pain while Guard #2 drops the pills in his mouth, then pours water down his throat. The chain is tightened. Starks relaxes so as not to pass out. Ruddel laughs. Starks finally passes out. Over this image WE HEAR:

MAN'S VOICE
 If I can save one soul...I have done my job... A fine young man like William Starks. A purple heart...A good heart? A war hero has strayed from God's flock...

INT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY - "CHURCH" - WARDEN (Mans voice) AT PULPIT

WARDEN GRIES, always in a clean white suit, leads his regular morning sermon. 3 rows of empty chairs separate 10 rows of white prisoners, including Starks, from 30 rows of black prisoners.

WARDEN GRIES
 ...The Lord has instructed me to deal with one of the most important areas of the truth that the Lord has dealt with me about... SALVATION.

ANGLE - STARKS, FEELING SOMEONE LOOKING AT HIM, TURNS AND SEES:
 ANGLE - An intimidating "BLACK MAN" STARES THROUGH STARKS.
 ANGLE - STARKS IS SUDDENLY HIT HARD IN THE ARM WITH BECKER'S CHAIN. Becker points to the Warden with his chain. Starks obeys and looks.

WARDEN GRIES

It is God's will that I save Mr. Starks...

EXT. PENITENTIARY PIT - MORNING - 7 am - 102 DEGREES

A large septic hole in the ground. Starks watches in the early morning blinding light as all the men, black and white, file past the great pit with their Segregated buckets. They empty them.

WARDEN GRIES (V.O.)

The Representative of the highest Spiritual
Authority is to be a ...humble but robust
and honest Laborer... John 5:19. Amen.

EXT. RAILROAD WORK SITE - NOON - 112 DEGREES

Starks is part of a 5 man white "chain gang". He bangs in the spikes with a large rock along side the others. He is the only one with long hair (which right now is quite the detriment in this fucking heat). A WHISTLE is blown - WATER BREAK - Each man sits. Starks is yanked down by his chain gang (he is a little slow). The men sip water from their tin cups. Starks GULPS his down. Ruddel shakes his head "NO" - WHISTLE - BACK TO WORK. LONG LENS we shoot down the railroad tracks.

LOCK OFF CAMERA DISSOLVE TO:

SAME EXACT ANGLE AS LOCKED OFF CAMERA - WE SEE HEAT WAVES

EXT. RAILROAD WORK SITE - 3 hours later - 107 DEGREES

Starks is only being held up by his inner strength and the fact that 4 men are chained to him. WHISTLE - WATER BREAK - The men again sip their water from their tin cups. Starks has none left.

STARKS (Respectfully to Becker)

Excuse me, Sir. I have no water...

BECKER

One cup, one day.

STARKS (Weakly)

Didn't know had to ration...My first...Please...

He is hit across the back of the kneecaps with a chain by Becker. He goes down. His face hitting a hot rail which singes his skin. Becker puts his finger to his lips, "Shush." He turns, leaving Starks to try and get up by himself.

Becker does not see the "BLACK MAN" lift Starks off the rail. Starks only sees the "Black Man's" ARM at first. His arm seems to have THE SAME EXACT SCAR (except it is missing the top arc)...as the arm that saved Starks from drowning in his NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE (At Vietnam hospital). Starks is transfixed by the scars on his arm (is it real or hallucination.) Starks can only open his mouth, but he can't speak.

BECKER (Turns and yells)
BOY!...Get back....Mackenzie get the fuck
back to yer' side... Now!...Listen you
Ignorant coon... You are goin' to the
"Control Unit!"...Yer' choice if you go
there alive...

Becker puts a gun to MACKENZIE'S head. Mackenzie, not scared of Becker or guns, hands Starks some of his water which Starks gratefully accepts. Before he can get more than a sip Becker kicks the cup out of his hand. Mackenzie is clearly "The Prison Madman." He is heavily chained alone... Ankles...Hands...Neck...etc.

BECKER (Condescending)
Cop killer you want some of that RETARD
Nigger's water?...You thirsty?...Mackenzie
...spit in that cop killer's mouth...BOY YOU
HEARD ME. Starks, open yer' mouth and you
can save the coon a beatin'.

Starks looks to Mackenzie, NODS, then SLOWLY opens his mouth.

SILHOUETTED, MACKENZIE LETS A LITTLE SPIT DRIP INTO STARKS' MOUTH

ANGLE - THE 3 GUARDS BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF MACKENZIE ANYWAY - He is completley SILENT. He closes his eyes and is dragged off. SUDDENLY the sky erupts with LIGHTNING. Starks' chain gang quickly grab him and half carry/drag him into the nearby swamp. They leap in the water to safety, as do all the other chain gang groups around them. In the swamp Starks drinks this muddy filthy water avoiding bugs and leeches. He refocuses and watches the Guards and Mackenzie disappear down stairs.

RUDEL (Whispers)
...Look straight down... you can be taken
away for reckless eye ballin'...

LIGHTNING cracks again. Everyone goes under the water. CLOSE UP - STARKS SUBMERGES AND DISAPPEAR FROM CAMERA. OVER THIS IMAGE WE HEAR:

PUBLIC DEFENDER (V.O.)

Ya' see there were about 100 navy men out to sea fer' about a year... No female companionship, if ya' catch my meanin'. They'd hook into memories of females like a butcher hopkin' into meat...

INT. PENITENTIARY - VISITING ROOM - NEXT DAY 103 DEGREES

Starks' Public Defender, Mr. Birch (sweating profusely), is speaking to Starks whose skin is beet red and peeling, Starks sits on the prisoner side of the visiting area, behind wire mesh. Guards watch this conversation. One brings Mr. Birch some refreshing Lemonade and ice.

PUBLIC DEFENDER (Wiping his forehead)

So one day this Navy boy who is real hard up is told by his Sergeant... see that barrel over there... An' he did see it ...Well it's got a big knot hole in it... An all ya' got to do is take your "Willy" out and put it in that hole...An' yer' problems will be solved... So this youngster does jus' that an enjoys one of the finest Blow Jobs of his young life... He goes back 1,2,3,4,5,6, days in a row... Sometimes havin' to wait in line... But it's worth it...On that 7th day however he wakes and runs to that barrel, sticks his "Willy" in. Nothing. He looks at the Sergeant an' asks what's wrong... His Sergeant answers... Today son...It's yer' day in the barrel... (the Guards laugh.) Boy it's hot...Ya' know the humidity's the real killer.

STARKS (Confused)

How does this affect me... I get appeals...

PUBLIC DEFENDER (Rubs ice on brow)

Mr. Starks yer' case is my day in the barrel. You are gonna die...There's nothin' I can do 'bout that.

Starks slams his fist into the wire mesh sending the tall glass of lemonade flying at Public Defender Birch. WE HEAR: Jimi Hendrix's "The Star Spangled Banner." GUARDS RESTRAIN STARKS.

STARKS (Yells out thru gag)

I want a new Attorney!

INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - CLOSE ON WARDEN HOLDING BIBLE - 72 DEGREES

WARDEN GRIES (Nice white suit)
 Legal Aid...That is your right. But you'll
 get over it...3 things are necessary for the
 Salvation of a man. Know what he ought to
 believe. Know what he ought to desire. Know
 what he ought to do... Respond Starks.

Trustee ungags Starks, who is leaning toward a fan for relief.
 Immediately, pills are thrown down his throat. Starks starts to ask...

WARDEN GRIES (Cuts him off)
 ...The great state of Georgia deemed you
 to be Psychotic...We gotta control that
 fer' ya...And my, well God's, point, I
 suspected that would go over yer' head.

STARKS (Slowed speech)
 Where did you take the black man?... (No
 answer) Name...Mac...ken...zie...

INT. PENITENTIARY MORGUE - NIGHT OR DAY ITS TOO DARK TO TELL WHICH

Deep in the belly of the prison. Dark stone walls. Cadaver drawers
 line one wall. KEYS CLANG. A steel door is pushed open. WE HEAR:

WARDEN GRIES (Voice Over)
 Ahh...the MUTE, it is natural for a man or even
 a Nigger to indulge in the illusions of hope.

Harsh light splashes across the wet floor, startling the rats licking
 dried blood off burial slabs. Becker yanks open a cadaver drawer.

WARDEN'S OFFICE - STARKS' POV - CAMERA RAMPS, SPEED CHANGES CONTINUALLY

STARKS (Drugs overcoming him)
 isss he alive?

WARDEN GRIES
 Alive is subjective. I'd rather enlighten
 you about segregation. I quote, "Jacob
 separated the lambs and all the "Black" in
 the flock. I go about blackened but not by
 the sun. I am a brother of Jackals.
 Therefore be careful lest the light in you

be darkness. Genesis 30: 38-42. A little
"Book of Job" thrown in as well.

STARKS (Nodding off)
I don't know if GOD meant people, Sir...

WARDEN GRIES (Mater of fact)
I DO. Now, to your girlish hair... I know it
is hot, well the humidity...but leavin' your
hair that way will make it easier for everyone
to know who took the life of a officer...

INT. -STARKS CELL -NIGHT-92 DEGREES - "STAR SPANGLED BANNER" ENDS.

STARKS ASLEEP in his bunk. The cell door is thrown open. MACKENZIE
IS THROWN in by Becker. Starks leaps from his bunk. Mackenzie is
ALIVE and CRAZED. Eyes burning fierce, darting, as he stands buck
naked staring at Starks. Face bubbled in sweat. "A CHILLING SIGHT."
Starks backs into a corner. "What the fuck." Guards laugh.

BECKER
Say hello to yer' roommate...Welcome to a
little "Jacket Withdrawal". Good luck.

Mackenzie throws his body uncontrollably about the cell, almost
convulsing. Outside the bars, Becker leads the Guards laughter.
Mackenzie sees and moves to Starks. He throws him against the wall.
Mackenzie wraps his arms around himself. He is demanding something from
Starks. He wraps his arms around himself again and screams. NO SOUND.

STARKS (Eyes wide with terror)
No...I'm a friend, William ...Billy...

Inexplicably, Mackenzie lunges at the laughing Guards, pulling one of
them into the bars by his own chain. Mackenzie then lifts the hapless
Guard by the throat into the air and proceeds to choke him. WHISTLES
BLOW - SIRENS SCREAM. The Guards beat Mackenzie with their chains but
it has the same effect as flies buzzing about a bull's head. Becker
puts his gun to Mackenzie's head. Mackenzie doesn't notice. Becker
pulls back the hammer.

STARKS QUICKLY TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND GETS IN MACKENZIE'S FACE.
He pushes the gun away from Mackenzie's temple and grabs his face.

BECKER (Gun to Starks' head)
Starks, back down. Stay out of it! I'll bury
you...It's just a little extra paperwork.

STARKS (Speaks quickly but calmly)
 Mackenzie...have you ever seen the beach?...I
 haven't (Lying) It's supposed to be real
 blue... Have you been there? To a beach?

Mackenzie slowly smiles, having heard Starks. He drops the Guard. Becker holsters his gun. At that moment a powerful firehose knocks Mackenzie and Starks back and sprawling. Becker jokes, "there's yer' damn beach" as he leaves. He shakes his head at Starks and laughs. Leaving this crazy, slow, silent man alone with Starks. Mackenzie, still naked curls up in a ball and sleeps. Starks sighs and watches. He is alone with a man that has given him water and has thrown him around the cell. A scary fucking thought. What have they done to this man? Starks won't SLEEP.

INT. STARKS' CELL- LATER THAT NIGHT - 102 DEGREES

Starks very carefully helps Mackenzie into his "Prison Pinks." For a moment, Mackenzie is calm. Then suddenly he paces the tiny cell like a caged beast, "Jacket withdrawal." Starks backs away, then Mackenzie starts to WHISTLE - Softly, "Mantra-like".
"Sitting on the dock of the Bay, wasting time..."

STARKS (Whispering to self)
 Left my home in Georgia, headed for the
 Frisco Bay...

FADE TO BLACK: The "Otis Redding" version takes over.

FULL SCREEN - WE SEE SCRAWLED ON A WHITE NAPKIN - "WHAT'S THE JACKET?" The napkin is violently grabbed away. RACK FOCUS. WE SEE Mackenzie sitting alone. He eats alone, chained to a table.

INT. MESS HALL - MORNING - 103 DEGREES

We see that Ruddel was the one who grabbed the napkin. Starks sits next to him. He wrote the question. NO TALKING signs are seen. Segregated lines for food. Starks eats quietly when Ruddel slides a napkin back on the table: "HOPE YOU NEVER FIND OUT."
 Ruddel quickly balls up the napkin and drops it. Suddenly we hear FIVE QUICK TAPS with a fork. Ruddel quickly looks to another inmate who holds up four fingers. Then with his spoon he taps three times. WE SEE Ruddel write on a napkin (homemade pencil: small piece of lead tied to a twig with twine.) NAPKIN READS: "5 packs/4pm/Wed." Starks looks over. This is the prison "MORSE CODE." Another inmate walks by and drops a napkin. Ruddel quickly looks. "Friday night 7pm/8 packs." TAP, TAP, TAP. Fingers - Tap - Napkins dropped to Ruddel.

(One by a Guard) Ruddel hides the napkin from Starks. This sequence builds so quickly, Starks just closes his eyes and listens. Palming the pencil, Ruddel quickly deciphers every code and keeps a log on his one napkin as a door is opened. Ruddel panics. He sticks the pencil in his shoe and then rips and swallows the napkin.

STARKS (Forgetting about not talking)
What's the bet? Can I get in on it?

BECKER (Answers from behind)
They're betting on when Mackenzie kills ya'll. Fiber's good for you Ruddel... Unfortunately, you're gonna have to reconstruct yer' figures.

STARKS (Controlled anger)
No, I GOT IT. That guy, 5 packs, 4pm Wednesday. Kitchen helper. Friday 7 at night. (Points) 10 packs, lunch Tuesday...

BECKER (Laughing, he cuts him off)
You picked up on the CODE pretty quick. Good memory, Purple Heart. Now pick up and move to the Nigger side and no talking.

STARKS (Walking tall)
I got more. (Points) Him, Saturday 10 packs 9pm. One of your Guards has 3 packs tonight between 10 and 11. 3 packs. Not much faith..

Everyone stares silently as Starks rambles off all the bets. Becker pushes him down to the floor. STARKS YELLS TO THE ROOM:

STARKS
I'll put 20 cartons on never! Mackenzie, you Becker, NOTHING WILL KILL me in this fucking place...I will not DIE!

EXT. PENITENTIARY RAILROAD WORK SITE - 1 p.m. - 114 DEGREES

Starks is now chained to Mackenzie (in his own world.) Together they are building the railroad. They bang in "RAILROAD TIES" with ROCKS. There is a single tree Starks is near. Looking at it, he runs his finger along a CROSS THAT IS CARVED INTO THE TREE.

STARKS (Whispers/ventriliquist like)
How long you been in here?

Mackenzie doesn't answer - Does he even hear Starks? A WHISTLE BLOWS- Everyone stares, waiting for Mackenzie to snap and kill Starks as they take their water break. The guards hand Mackenzie a tin cup. None for Starks. They do however give Starks pills. Mackenzie swallows his. Starks is reluctant, but swallows the medication. Starks' mouth is opened by the Guard. Pills are all gone. WHISTLE - Back to work.

CLOSE-UP - STARKS - HIDING HIMSELF BEHIND MACKENZIE. He sticks his fingers down his throat and induces vomiting. The pills and the morning gruel come up. Starks grounds the pills into the dirt.

CLOSE UP - Mackenzie smiles at Starks - we see that half of his tounge has been cut off. Mackenzie reaches into his mouth and takes out his pills from A HOLE where he is missing a tooth. Mackenzie drops his pills to the ground and steps on them. Starks is SWEATING like a Pig.

STARKS (Tries to Smile)

Beats vomiting. I need a hiding place. Too fuckin' hot...What's The Jacket?

Starks is visably starting to suffer from the HEAT getting dizzy. At the mention of THE JACKET, Mackenzie, pushes Starks to he ground. Pushing his forearm to Starks throat. He slowly shakes his head "NO". The other inmates stare. Now is the time. We hear banging (the code) on the rails. Starks, on the Groun LMS 2 ROCKS.

WORKSITE GUARD (Holding chain)

Get up..."Nigger", Ya'll want to kill him, fine. Not on my watch. No talkin' Starks...

STARKS P.O.V. - LOOKING STRAIGHT UP Heat stroke setting in. Things spin and blur as Starks sees Mackenzie gets off him and goes back to work. Starks closes his eyes. . He rolls over on his stomach and begins to SUCK A LITTLE MOISTURE FROM THE DIRT. QUICK CUT TO:

B&W TRAINING FILM - STARKS AGE 18 - BASIC TRAINING. This time Starks is alone - Survival mission - Sips water from ground. - Rubs 2 rocks together - SHARPENING - Making a KNIFE.

BACK TO SCENE AT - RAILROAD WORKSITE - 115 DEGREES Starks, barely coherent - SLICES off his hair with a SHARPENED ROCK. LIGHTNING - Everyone runs to the swamp, DIVING IN . Mackenzie drags/carries Starks. The swamp water is a blessing. It helps revive Starks. One five man chain gang of Black prisoners are the farthest away from the swamp. One man has his ankle shackle stuck to a railroad tie. The chain gang panics, yelling for HELP:

WORKSITE GUARD #1 (To chain gang)
Cut his damn leg off if yer' so scared...

ANGLE - STARKS REAPPEARS INTO FRAME FROM UNDERWATER IN SWAMP. His hair is much shorter. He is close to normal again, heat stroke having passed. WHISTLE BLOWS. "Back to work! No More Lightning." Prisoners file out of the swamp. Starks is confused by Mackenzies mood swings.

STARKS (Summons Courage)
Your arm...where did you get those scars?...

Mackenzie rubs Starks very bad hair cut...Then smiles.

LIGHTNING - CAMERA is on the Black chain gang that was stuck to the rail ties. ONE MAN IN THE CHAIN GANG IS STRUCK BY THE LIGHTNING-CRACK - IT SURGES THROUGH ALL FIVE MEN WHO DIE INSTANTLY - VIBRATING TO DEATH. - WHISTLE - "Back to work." WE FADE TO BLACK. BLACKNESS IS REMOVED BY FULL SCREEN OF THE NAPKIN STARKS WROTE ON:
"WHAT'S THE JACKET?"

A FLASHLIGHT moves from the napkin to Starks (eyes closed.) He is naked and frightened. Becker holds the napkin then rips it.

BECKER (DEADLY SERIOUS)
You wanna know?! LOOK at that fuckin' thing... Starks look AT IT! Nice haircut, worth it? Open yer' eyes damn it! LOOK!

INT. PENITENTIARY MORGUE - "THE CONTROL UNIT" - NIGHT - 48 DEGREES

HE SEES IT! THE JACKET. It hangs from a hook on the wall. We finally see it. It's a medieval - looking strait-jacket with a mask designed to encase the whole body from head to foot. Made of coarse canvas and leather straps, its sole purpose is to slowly STRANGLE THE LIFE OUT OF A MAN. The Jacket is stained with the SWEAT, BLOOD AND TEARS of countless victims. The JACKET is spread out on a MORGUE BURIAL SLAB. The Guards carry the freezing and naked Starks over and lay him on the slab. Starks is not giving in. He begins, deep breathing, closes his eyes, limbs go loose, "military training". Starks is trussed inside the Jacket and clamped in by the final METAL CLAMPS, but no amount of military preparation could save anyone from the pain. The claustrophobia. The METAL mask is CLAMPED over his face, STIFLING HIS BREATHING. A CADAVER DRAWER is slid open. Starks is laid inside. This drawer is 6 feet long, 2 feet wide and 18 inches tall. Becker holds a KEY that makes a loud CLANGING sound.

BECKER
Sweat dreams, ya'll want your Purple Heart...

CAMERA IS ON THE DRAWER IN STARKS' P.O.V. We hear Starks continue his breaths. Becker SLAMS THE DRAWER into the wall, literally entombing Starks and the CAMERA Alive. Silence.... Deep breath...Starks seems calm...For now. Becker takes his key and LOCKS the drawer...LOUD CLANG that seems to reverberate all the way through Starks and the metal plate in his head....CLANG - THEN SILENCE - BLACKNESS. Starks' breathing starts to intensify...We hear his heartbeat start to race... Breath... THUMP - Becker stares waiting. BREATH... BREATH... BLACKNESS... LOUDER HEARTBEAT. ANGLE FROM OUTSIDE - CAMERA MOVES IN AT THE MORGUE DRAWER We hear whining. Starks can't THINK OR HE 'S THINKING TOO MUCH...no...no... no... BLACKNESS - STARKS LOSES IT AND CAN'T HOLD BACK. HE FINALLY SCREAMS....SCREAMS....MUFFLED SCREAMS. Becker smiles.

STARKS (O.S.)

NOOOOOOOOOO! ! ! ! !

FADE UP FROM BLACK ON: STARKS - The whites of his eyes are all that we see. He's LOSING IT! . HYPERVENTILATING...

INT. STARKS' CADAVER DRAWER - 31 DEGREES - CAMERA IN DRAWER WITH STARKS Starks lies in the darkness, his HEART POUNDING, thumping in his head. LOUDER AND LOUDER. His face bubbles sweat. He feels like his heart is going to BURST ANY MINUTE. This is the only sound we hear. From 16 to 200 BEATS PER MINUTE. THUMP... THUMP... THUMP...FROM OUTSIDE we see Starks' drawer. TIME PASSES: Back Inside now we watch Starks go slowly MAD WITH PANIC. THUMP...THUMP... Starks' eyes dart about him. Something's there A RAT appears in his eye hole, looking for something moist to eat. Starks PUPILS and his EAR LOBES are his only body parts exposed. The rat chews on his ear. Starks struggles violently to shake the rats off. But he is immobilized. He can't move. He can't speak. HIS ENTIRE BODY IS STRANGLED. Blood drips into Starks' ear from the rat bite. He cries and closes his eyes: THUMP... THUMP... THUMP... Starks tries singing. We hear this in INTERIOR MONOLOGUE:

STARKS (V.O.)

Left home in Georgia, headed for the 'Frisco
Bay 'cause I got nothing to live for...live
for nothings...my way.....my way...(SCREAMS)
Nooooo...Ahhhhh!!!! (breath)Help me...

Starks is now eerily silent. No movement. No sound. Time passes. 200 beats per minute now has turned into a VERY FAINT IF THERE AT ALL HEARTBEAT. STARKS' P.O.V.- His eyes close. BLACKNESS

THE BLACK SCREEN tries to recede from the bottom up. (Starks trying to open eyes) When the screen is finally full, WE SEE A GRAVEYARD. Then the screen begins to FLICKER. Various Angles of Graveyard. WE HEAR:

DEEP BREATHS and then soft CRYING ... Then SILENCE. COMPLETE UTTER
DEADLY SILENCE...BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM...HE CRIES SMASH CUT TO:

STARKS IN THE TUNNEL - CAMERA turns and merges into a STILL IMAGE of
his own BIRTH. Image comes to life and the newborn Starks CRIES.
Music fades up: "Knockin' on Heaven's Door"- Bob Dylan version "Ma,
take this badge off me I can't use it anymore" STARKS/CAMERA HURTLING
through the TUNNEL. Starks sees a fork in the tunnel. He sees his
childhood, with his PARENTS. He wants to be there. He reaches trying
to merge into this image. He can't break through. He is repelled back
out of the tunnel. Starks P.O.V. changes..SMASH CUT TO:

A BLACK VOID Starks sees himself in THE JACKET, He moves around himself.

BOB DYLAN

CLANG: The Jacket sheds from
Starks body. Now NAKED Starks'
SUNBURNED BLISTERING SKIN
begins to PEEL OFF.

*It's getting dark too dark to
see. Feel like I'm knockin'
on heavens door...Knock, knock
knockin' on heaven's door...*

Sound: CLANG - We see his face looking down at himself as his EXPOSED
MUSCLE TISSUE VIBRATES. Starks watches himself and opens his mouth to
scream but only SILENCE comes out. He slams his EYES SHUT. Sound -
CLANG - CLANG. SMASH CUT TO BLACKNESS: The music DISSOLVES from Bob
Dylan's version to Guns N Roses version of "Knockin' on Heavens Door".

FADE UP FROM BLACK: STARKS' POV
PRESENT DAY. A Huge Modern City
completely empty. CAMERA
FROM ABOVE we see Starks
running in the middle of a
street surrounded by Towering
Skyscrapers. CAMERA pulls away.
HE IS THERE, THEN HE IS GONE.

GUNS AND ROSES

*Mamma put my guns in the
ground I can't shoot them
anymore that cold black cloud
is comin' down Feels like I'm
knockin' on Heaven's door.
Knock, knock, knockin' on
Heaven's door.*

CLANG - CLANG - CLANG

SMASH CUT TO:

POV of BLACKNESS is suddenly turned into a BLINDING WHITE PAINFUL
LIGHT. As the CADAVER DRAWER IS YANKED OPEN, The loud CLANG CLANG
was the key being inserted and unlocking the drawer.

INT. MORGUE STARKS P.O.V. - Light is too bright for Starks to see -

PRISON DOCTOR (Matter of fact)

Pulse 16 beats per, temp just a hair under
95. Do you know who you are? Starks?!
Open your eyes! (To guards) Where's Becker?

STARKS EYES OPEN - They dart back and forth wildly - He doesn't answer the Dr. Does he know who he is? The Jacket is unstrapped. A mirror placed at Starks' mouth, shows A LITTLE BREATH. CAMERA looks down at Starks: He is drenched in sweat. Suddenly, Starks begins to violently go into a SEIZURE - It slows to just twitching . The Guards pick up Starks' frail body and lay it on the scale as Starks mouths, "Tenny." Becker enters. Nonchalant as hell. Just doing their jobs.

PRISON DOCTOR (To Becker)

Hey, Was it sold out? What did she want to see?

BECKER (Cut's him off)

"Planet of the Apes"...She wants to go opening fuckin' weekend of course it's sold out... How long has the "war hero" been in?

PRISON DOCTOR

26 hours... In a "psychosis"... It'll go away... He weighed 167 (To guard) Now?

GUARD #2 (Holding Starks on scale)

138...

PRISON DOCTOR

Dehydration... Do you want to kill him?

"Natural causes"... up to you...Becker...

EXT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY - REALITY - SAME TIME - 101 DEGREES

We see a prison bus arriving, the bus door opens as the new chained inmate exits. A dust storm kicks up OBSCURING OUR VIEW OF THE NEXT INMATE. Who is it? Over this WE HEAR Starks pleading silently "Please...no, no, noooo..." CUT BACK TO:

Becker, having made his decision, THE MASK is strapped over Starks face and he is SLAMMED BACK IN. INTO COMPLETE DARKNESS. We hear one single HEARTBEAT then a PING sound. The screen begins to FLICKER - THROUGH STARKS' FLICKERING P.O.V.: He sees Blurring Trace Image of Becker and the Dr. but he's inside the drawer. In BLACKNESS. - Ping. FLICKER - Starks sees Blurring Trace Images of the Vietnam Hospital (beginning of movie). The Major talks...Starks only hears PING.

OUTSIDE DRAWER - DISSOLVE TO DIFFERENT ANGLE OUTSIDE THE DRAWER STARKS' P.O.V. - WATER DRIPS INTO THE DRAWER. PING, PING, PING... ANGLE - STARKS SLAMS HIS EYES SHUT. - Tries a muffled scream so he won't hear the ping - driving him "CRAZY". WATER - PING on his eye. STARKS' EYES - He can't hold on - Through the slits of the mask his eye roll back into his head. He is trying not to DIE. Faint HEARTBEAT.

FLICKERING IMAGE - Steel bars slammed on him by Becker: HALLUCINATION.
 FLICKERING IMAGE - CAMERA floats above Tenny - laughing as Starks is
 arrested at original crime scene...We hear Starks weak cries...
 REAL IMAGE BACK IN DRAWER - We hear Starks interior dialogue as he
 breaks into insane laughter...Starks chest moves up. A BREATH.

SILENCE...- Ping. NO SCREAMS...Nothing...No chest movement. DEAD?

BLACKNESS - and again the screen recedes up from the bottom to top:
 CAMERA outside the drawer - we pull back and see a healthy Starks
 looking at the drawer - WE EXPERIENCE FLOATING AWAY from the dying
 body in the Jacket. Into a black void. An EXPLOSION OF LIGHT engulfs
 Starks...HE IS GONE... SMASH CUT TO:

THE TUNNEL - STILL IMAGES OF HIS LIFE SURROUND HIM...He looks but
 can't stand still...Starks starts to be pulled past his life. THE
 IMAGE TRAVEL FASTER. BLURRING BY US. BUILDING TO A FRENZY. STARKS 13
 yrs. old on first date. 14yrs. old, 15, 16... He reaches trying to
 stop himself - HE CAN'T. The still images intertwine at times with
 8mm home movies. 35mm color and B&W - he races by the imagery then
 merges thru them.. Building to such a frenzy...Exploding thru the
 spectrum of colors, then finally a WHITE PIERCING LIGHT - He screams
 "NO" "NO" "NO" WE HEAR:

MANS VOICE

What the fuck did you say Corporal Starks?

Starks and CAMERA come out of the WHITE LIGHT INTO A WHITE FOG.
 Revealing: A Burning Village...Shots ring out. SMASH CUT TO:

B&W T.V. IMAGE - Continuation of eariler footage in film, that brought
 the TEAR to Starks eye...When they thought he was dead in Vietnam.

WALTER CRONKITE (Real footage)

...A report of one American casuality. Hold on
 this is not yet confirmed. General Westmoreland
 credited Charlie Company with killing 78
 Communist Guerrillas, who led the ambush.

FADE UP FROM BLACK ON: There are NO GUERRILLAS. Only villagers,
 mostly women and children, that have been herded into a DEEP HOLE.
 Ready for Execution. Thru this jumbled sequence, in Starks mind, as
 he dies we find out what happened in Vietnam. We hear the MAN'S VOICE

FADE UP FROM BLACK ON: Captain Medlley (we saw on T.V. earlier in film)

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY (Laughing)

Starks?...Are you going to shoot me?

FADE UP FROM BLACK ON: STARKS POINTING HIS WEAPON. AT MEDLLEY.

STARKS (matter of fact)
It's over...Captain...SIR! This is insanity.

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY
Insanity is such a personal thing. Pulling a
firearm on your Commanding Officer...Insanity?

BACK IN THE CADAVER DRAWER - STARKS - NO MOVEMENT

FADE UP FROM BLACK ON: In a "DARK PLACE" STARKS SEES HIMSELF SPEAK.

STARKS (Is Someone There?)
We are most likely to remember that we
would like to forget...

BLACKNESS is removed by an EXPLOSION - HAND HELD REALITY
Starks FIREING HIS HAND GUN INTO THE AIR AND SCREAMING! SOUND ECHOS

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY
Corporal! Shoot me you coward motherfucker!
Not the sky...I'm right here! Your fucking
hands are shaking. Shoot me or I will shoot a
GOOK...

FOLLOWING PART OF SCENE IS A SERIES OF RAPID FIRE JUMP CUTS

A VIETNAMESE MOTHER SCREAMS - SHE PICKS UP HER BABY.

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY, A MANICAL LAUGH -HE POINTS HIS GUN AT A VIETNAMESE MAN

STARKS
This is wrong...

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY
I decide what is wrong, not you...

STARKS PUTS HIS GUN TO MEDLLEY'S HEAD AND COCKS THE HAMMER...

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY (Smiles)
How does it feel Starks? Billy...

MEDLLEY POINTS HIS GUN AT STARKS' HEAD - HE COCKS HIS HAMMER.
STARKS STARES NOT BACKING DOWN - MEDLLEY MOVES HIS GUN BACK TO
VIETNAMESE MAN - GUN ON STARKS - GUN ON MAN - HE CONTINUES THIS.

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY (Cool as ice)
 I'm losing my patience, come on we're
 friends, Billy... Just follow orders...
 Please...Do your job...

IMAGE FREEZES-THEN MEDLLEY SWINGS HIS GUN AT THE VIETNAMESE MAN BLACKNES
 WE HEAR A LOUD SOUND - "BLAT" IMAGE QUICKLY FLICKERS back to 35mm COLOR

STARKS
 We've been together for 2 years...You're a good
 leader..It's not in you to kill children...

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY
 I see your point...

Suddenly Medlley spins and SHOOTs THE VIETNAMESE MOTHER. Dead. The 2
 year old girl she was cradling hits the ground and crawls away through
 her mother's blood. Starks screams and smashes Medlley on the side of
 the head with his gun, an insane fury. The American Privates wrestle
 Starks off their Commanding Officer. A bloody Medlley slowly rises. THE
 IMAGE FREEZES TO A 3D EFFECT - CAMERA moving around the scene.

SMASH CUT TO:

B&W FOOTAGE - STARKS RECIVES HIS PURPLE HEART - FROM THE GENERAL

GENERAL WESTMORLAND
 Every G.I. should be proud. A job well done...

FLICKER BACK TO VIETNAM - THRU SMOKE - To reveal CAPTAIN MEDLLEY uses
 his gun as a bong. Barrel in his mouth. He lights the Marijuana
 which sits next to a bullet in the open chamber. Deep inhale.
 Starks is in handcuffs... UNDER ARREST. Capt. Medlley's scalp is
 being stiched by a medic. He exhales the smoke, closes the chamber
 and calmly SHOOTs THE NOW STANDING, CUFFED STARKS...

SAME EXACT SHOT AS IN BEGINNING OF THE FILM. Starks struck in the
 side of the head. He falls to the ground. BLACKNESS - Is removed we
 are back in: SAIGON AMERICAN HOSPITAL.

MAJOR
 The X-Rays show that the bullet near your
 brain is one of ours...Starks it is important
 for me to know if you know who....

STARKS (cut's him off)
 Just put it in the books as "Friendly Fire"...

BACK IN STARKS' P.O.V. - AT VIETNAM - In slow motion, CAMERA HITS the ground. Intermittent blackness inter-cut with more of the small Village images as Starks BEGINS TO DIE IN VIETNAM. BLACKNESS. The serenity of the black screen is ripped away. HAND HELD CHAOS. Starks is rushed toward a medevac helicopter. Blood seeps through his head which is heavily bandaged as a medic gives him C.P.R.. SMASH CUT IN STYLE FROM HAND HELD REALITY TO ETHEREAL FLOATING IMAGE.

CAMERA drifts far away from this image, past dead bodies, American soldiers burning the village. The CAMERA settles on the back of an American soldier standing and just looking at this. CAMERA moves around to reveal that this is STARKS (no wounds) watching himself being treated and loaded onto the helicopter by a medic. He is still cuffed. SMASH BACK TO HAND HELD REALITY STYLE - INCLUDING SOUND FX

MEDIC #1

No fuckin' pulse. He's gone. You still want him cuffed Private?

BACK TO ETHEREAL SLOWER STYLE - NO SOUND FX - Through smoke and flames CAMERA/STARKS float over the scene. The carnage is intermittent through the fog of death. 504 dead. We see:- A couple of Vietnamese women still alive smearing blood all over themselves and crawling under dead bodies to hide. We hear Starks voice "Stay still they won't see you..." They seem to hear this and remain still...They will live... White smoke billows toward CAMERA ENGULFING IT.

FLICKER - SMOKE BECOMES -THE CLOUDS - WE FLY THROUGH THEM. When we come out we see Starks our P.O.V. FLOATING OVER TRAIN TRACKS (Where his parents died) - FLICKER - Starks holds his gun at Capt. Medlley's head. Starks pulls the trigger. NOTHING - No bullets...Starks yells out - He sees him MOM.She FLICKERS AWAY -HE FLOATS BACK OVER THE SAIGON HOSPITAL

STARKS SEES HIS LIFE BEING SAVED - STARKS SEES THE MAJOR & DR.

STARKS (Sees himself)

...I want to go home...

THE SCREEN COMES CRASHING DOWN TO BLACK

WE HEAR:

CHILD'S VOICE (Frightened voice)

Daddy? I'm scared. Where are you, Daddy?
I should have shot him...Daddy...Am I dead?

A HAND IS HELD OUT - FLICKERING IMAGE - The hand belongs to a man in A MARINE uniform. It's STARKS' FATHER. The child is Starks.

STARKS' FATHER (Grabs the child's hand)
 Billy. Come on, let's "Go Home". There's
 nothing to be afraid of. I'm here now...

STARKS IS VIOENTLEY RIPPED AWAY from his fathers hand. INTO A VOID and
 as if HIS LIFE WERE A JIGSAW PUZZLE - Pieces fly about him Surrounding
 him - His life Post Vietnam. HIS SEARCH - HIS JOURNEY...

A SIT IN DEMONSTRATION outside Induction Center in OAKLAND. CAMERA
 swings to Riot police who discharge tear gas canisters. Police lift a
 man. We see: IT IS STARKS with LONGER HAIR AND BEARD. THIS PUZZLE
 PIECE FALLS FROM THE SCREEN...LEAVING A BLACK HOLE... WE HEAR:
 Joni Mitchell "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you
 got till it's gone." PUZZLE PIECES INTERTWINE THEN THE SCREEN COMES
 TOGETHER QUICKLY LIKE A JIGSAW PUZZLE - STARKS JOURNEY CONTINUES

Naked bodies, painted faces, open drug use. Hundreds fill GOLDEN GATE
 PARK. JONI MITCHELL SINGS ON THE STAGE. CAMERA swings through the park
 and again WE SEE STARKS. Flowers painted on his face.

QUICK JUMP CUTS - IN-PUZZLE FORM	JONI MITCHELL (On stage)
A WOMAN AND STARKS MAKE LOVE.	<i>They paved paradise</i>
SHE HOLD A TAB OF ACID.	<i>and put up a parking lot...</i>

WOMEN
 ...You will glow in the dark...

STARKS (Puts acid under his tounge)
 Nothing to lose...

As Starks slowly kisses the woman's body, the drug overcomes him. He
 suddenly is STANDING BESIDE HIMSELF and the woman.
 The standing Starks has MERGED with the Starks that is making love.
 Starks cups her breast. He feels the smoothness. His hand goes
 through her skin. His hand and her breast becoming one. He licks
 her body moving up to her face - PORES - They move. SUDDENLY he sees
 that her beautiful face has now become DISTORTED AND VICIOUS. She
 holds his PURPLE HEART and his DOG TAGS.

WOMAN (Screaming)
 You are a killer!... Don't touch me!

STARKS (Trying to speak)
 ...don't....um...please...me. forgive...me

STARKS P.O.V. OF WOMAN - He sees only streaks as she runs. He shuts
 his eyes, BLACKNESS WE HEAR "One day we will have to stand..." ANOTHER
 PUZZLE PIECE COMES TO LIFE-STARKS JOURNEY CONTINUES...HE IS SEARCHING...

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. (Into microphone)
 ...before the God of history and we will
 talk in terms of things we've done...

CAMERA pushes past a crying woman to reveal: STARKS, in awe of Dr. King. He is almost in TEARS. A MELEE erupts with White Protesters. STARKS/CAMERA is knocked down and falls to the ground. Obscuring Starks/our view...

A VERY QUICK MONTAGE - Building to a frenzy as the puzzle pieces fly by Starks -

VIETNAM HE IS SHOT - DEFIBRILATOR SAVES HIM - GOLDEN GATE PARK (acid)-
 HE PUTS HIS DOG TAGS/PURPLE HEART ON TRAIN TRACKS - TENNY SINGING
 WITH HIM IN THE CAR - HIGHWAY PATROLMAN DEAD - STARKS IN THE JACKET -
 NO MOVEMENT - BLACKNESS BLACKNESS...WE HEAR SOUND: A loud train.
 The SCREEN RECEDES UP Starks alone on a road. From above, our CAMERA
 rushes at Starks it seems to float right into him.
 STARKS P.O.V. - Train coming at him. He dives safely out of the way.

ANGLE- HAND HELD REALITY - Starks looks at the train (very modern
 AMTRAK). He looks at the tracks then up to a tree. He walks to it.
 THE SAME TREE WITH SAME CROSS CARVED IN IT at Jessup worksite. THIS
 REAL IMAGE FLICKERS AWAY TO THE NEW DREAMLIKE IMAGE OF: THE WOMAN/ANGEL
 He saw in the beginning of film. SHE FLICKERS AWAY. SMASH CUT TO:

35mm COLOR - THE SCREEN IS INTERMITTENTLY OBSCURED BY A TRAIN. It
 clears and we see STARKS STARING at the train as it passes.
 (Same exact shot as beginning of the film, when he sees pick-up truck)

EXT. GEORGIA ROAD - RAILROAD CROSSING - HAND HELD REALITY - PRESENT

Starks walks next to the railroad tracks that are completely finished.
 (The tracks he built.) He has his thumb out and is HITCHHIKING. The
 ROAD IS WIDER with MODERN YELLOW LINES ON IT. Modern trucks and cars
 speed by him. ROADSIGN READS - "ATLANTA 79 MILES." He sees his thumb
 out and quickly puts it in his pocket as a car (1999 Ford Mustang)
 comes to a stop next to him. The passenger window electronically goes
 down as the FEMALE DRIVER pushes a button. STARKS IS AMAZED. Modern
 music comes from the radio as the window goes down revealing the car
 is a MESS computers, electronics, notepads, newspaper everywhere.
 Starks stares at the button, then the window, then back to the button.

FEMALE DRIVER (Speaks quickly)
 Look, I gotta lot of work to
 do...If you can drive, ya'll
 got a ride.

PEARL JAM (from car radio)
 Son, she said have I got a
 little story for you. What
 you thought was your Daddy...

STARKS

How did you do that? (She looks confused) Get the window down without cranking it?...

FEMALE DRIVER (Not comfortable)

Watch the window go up without cranking it..
Yer' makin' me a little nervous...I go on
Instinct, and I got a bad one 'bout you.

The WINDOW starts up. Starks is dumbfounded... The Female Driver looks familiar...Who is she?...Starks is puzzled - CLANG - Then he sees it. HIS MOTHER'S RING ON A NECKLACE AROUND HER NECK - CLANG - Window all the way up. All we see is Starks' reflection in the window as he yells. We continue to hear: CLANG- STARKS' EYES - REALIZATION - THIS IS THE WOMAN IN HIS EARLIER DREAMS/EXPERIENCE - HIS ANGEL?.

STARKS (Yells)

Stop! No!...Please... It's you!!... Please
come back...noooo...noooo...

CLANG - The car drives away. Music "Oh I, oh, I'm still Alive. Hey I, I, oh, I'm still Alive." CLANG - The car drives away and Starks is YANKED from the road. YANKED into Blackness. YANKED out of the Cadaver Drawer. YANKED out of the Jacket.

STARKS (weak)

noooo...noooo...it wasss...herrr.....

INT. STARKS' CELL - MORNING - STARKS SCREAMING "NO! NO! NO!"

Starks, extremely claustrophobic now, refuses to enter the tiny cell. Becker shoves him inside. Starks starts BANGING his head against the wall. Mackenzie watches. Becker Smiles as he sees Jacket withdrawls.

STARKS (Talking to self)

Help me... I don't want to SEE! I can't
remember anything, I think I was dead...
I saw things...I can't remember! ..Help
me! God! Please help me!

Starks stops cold and looks as Mackenzie WHISTLES softly. -
"Knock...Knocking on heaven's door..." STARTLED BACK TO REALITY.

STARKS (Blood drips from eye)

I REMEMBER that. How do you know! What do
you know?! They're going to kill me! Tell
me!(crys) I...My skin came off?...Tell

me!...It felt like 1,000 needles stabbing me...then there was NO PAIN... Do you understand me? Please... Understand ...Mackenzie...

Mackenzie just stares thru Starks. And SHAKES... Mackenzie picks up a BIBLE that was left on Starks' bunk and THROWS IT AGAINST THE WALL. Starks slumps to the floor. THIS MAN CAN'T HELP HIM.

LOUD WHISTLE - CELL DOORS ARE CRANKED OPEN. "Everybody out!!"

EXT. EXERCISE YARD - "THE DOG RUN" - DAY - 115 DEGREES

The INMATES hang around in "spots" or cliques. The Whites with their own, Blacks with theirs. Mackenzie hangs out with himself pitching horseshoes. He throws Ringer after Ringer. Starks is alone sitting in the only sliver of shade he can find, staring at Mackenzie. A quick wind storm kicks up, sending DUST everywhere. Starks closes his eyes and shakes the dust out of them. When he opens and REFOCUSES, HE DOES A DOUBLE TAKE. He sees the OBSCURED PRISONER FROM EARLIER having just arrived OFF THE BUS. It's TENNY. Tenny is clearly very popular with most of the guards and inmates alike. This is not his first stint here. Starks, still weak, MOVES QUICKLY towards Tenny. Ruddel sees where Starks is headed and intercepts him.

RUDDEL (Without looking at Starks)
Don't look at me...Stay away from him.
Whatever shit goes down, drugs, sex, he
handles...He's protected! Stay away!!!

STARKS IGNORES RUDDEL, walks right up to Tenny and STARES AT HIM.
Starks is shocked that Tenny doesn't seem to know him. Then Finally.

TENNY (Breaks into sunny smile)
Hippie! I didn't recognize you with yer'
new haircut...How the hell ya' been? I own
this here "Dog Run." Ya'll need anything?

STARKS (Calm)
Tell them it was you...You killed him...

TENNY (Cuts him off)
Now why would I want to go an' do that fer'?
Then I'd have to tell 'em bout the drugs in the
suitcase...Hey ya'll want me to hook you up? I
read about yer case. Tough break...I would
have tried an insanity defense, personally.

Purple heart? I asked ya'al if you'd been to
Nam. I don't take kindly to liars...

Starks SNAPS and goes after Tenny SCREAMING that Tenny is the REAL KILLER! Nobody cares. THEY ALL THINK STARKS IS CRAZY. Tenny knocks Starks to the ground, pulling out a "SHIV" (homemade knife.) He puts it to Starks' throat. Tenny's Friends surround them so the guards can't see, if they cared. Starks is very still and can't consider making a move. He's still too weak, outnumbered and smarter.

TENNY (Performs for his crowd)
What the hell kinda balls ya got on you?
...I been nice to ya'll...Now the way I
got it figured ya'll are tellin' me to
confess to somethin' bout a killin'...I
ain't never takin' no life...I will admit
I have broken quite a few of them there
10 Commandments...Number 8 is kinda why
I'm back in here...Little parole
violation, seem to have a problem with
that one...But I am dismayed at yer'
suggestion that I would break Commandment
number 6...Thall shall not murder. That
one sends ya'll to hell...(Whispers)
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!...

Tenny pushes the shiv harder against Starks' neck. Suddenly, with great force MACKENZIE GRABS Tenny's arm and throws him away. In doing so, he has been CUT BY THE SHIV. He bleeds but doesn't notice or care. One of Tenny's punks hides the shiv. WHISTLES FINALLY BLOW. Mackenzie walks back to the horseshoe pit and throws a ringer. Starks follows him. Becker is seen in the distance being debriefed..

STARKS (To Mackenzie)
You don't like me...Why did you save me?

Mackenzie's Answer: He throws another RINGER. Starks tries to bond. He tries to take a horseshoe from Mackenzie who stops him with his POWERFUL ARM. Starks, in pain, sees Mackenzie's CUT has begun to CLOT. It will leave a SCAR. THE TOP ARC on his arm. The SCAR IS COMPLETE. STARKS STARES at the Scar. (Is he HALLUCINATING from the heat?) He doesn't see Becker and 5 Guards approach. Mackenzie sees Becker and moves QUICKLY to him.

Mackenzie and Becker meet half way. Mackenzie quickly starts to WRAP HIS ARMS AROUND HIMSELF. He points to himself and throws a punch.

PAGES 48 & 49 MISSING FROM THIS COPY.

Mackenzie LEAPS and goes at Starks. He throws him like a rag doll. Starks scurries away. He is able to get the upper hand, using PRESSURE POINTS. Mackenzie is strong. Tap - Tap - Tap is heard.

STARKS (Yelling to prison)
You want to fucking kill me! Everybodys waiting...Just tell me what time so I can win the fucking pool...

The Pressure Points have worked. Mackenzie is semi-paralyzed. Starks is speechless as Mackenzie quickly recovers and starts, putting everything back in his "Hidden Place." Cell doors are cranking open.

SMASH CUT TO:

CLOSE UP ON A B&W T.V. - IMAGES OF COPS BEATING BLACK PEACE MARCHER. N.Y. CITY CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY "HARRIS WOFFORD " (he was JFK's civil rights aide) is seen arguing in court. "Def" - "Civil Rights cases" 35MM CAMERA pulls out of T.V.

We ARE IN THE:

INT. PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION OFFICES - 72 DEGREES.

The Secretaries are complaining about the civil rights crap.

RACK FOCUS REVEAL Starks standing against the bars. Secretary #1 fixes her hair and takes charge. Feeling safety because of the bars.

STARKS (Calm)
I have to see the Warden. Please ma'am...

SECRETARY (Pushes alarm)
Call Captain Becker...Now! Inmate you ain't supposed to be here... This is an off limits zone to YOU! You want to see the Warden, take the pencil and write your name on the list. No exceptions... Where's BECKER?!
Get him in here now!

Under the bars she slides a clipboard with a pencil attached. Starks notices Tenny's name has been inserted on the top of the list: Approval for a visit from Tenny's mother. "Lillian Tennyson, Mother. Merston, Georgia 555-1609." Starks mouths this info to himself, MEMORIZING, as Becker and Guards from behind SMASH him up against the bars. Becker and Starks yell over each other at the same time.

STARKS (Yelling)
Please, I have to see the Warden. According to the Constitution of the United States of America Ammendment #6, I have the right to COUNSEL!

BECKER (Yelling)
Mr. Starks you have used up yer Incident Quota...Yes sir, Mr. Starks, and according to that same Constitution, I have the right to BEAR ARMS!

Becker pulls his pistol out and points it at Starks who REACTS QUICKLY... Kicking the GUN from Becker's hand...Starks leaps to the ground and RIPS THE PENCIL from the clipboard. Before the Guards can get their guns, Starks PUTS THE PENCIL RIGHT TO BECKER'S EYEBALL.

ON THE B&W T.V. STORY FROM CAPE CANAVERAL - APOLLO 6 LAUNCH. STARKS WATCHES waiting for Beckers move. T-MINUS 40 SECONDS 39 -38.

BECKER

Starks, rethink this...Don't be ignorant.
(silence) Alright get the Warden...

STARKS

Good choice... You can still see 20/20.
Becker...You know the definition of Nigger?
"Ignorance." Ain't that an irony. Aint...I
never said ain't before I got here...YOU'RE
FUCKING UP MY VOCABULARY.

WARDEN GRIES (Arrives in clean white suit)

Your EYE is the lamp of yer' body. When
yer' EYE is sound...

STARKS (finishing sentence)

...Your whole body is full of light...
but when it's not sound, your body's
full of darkness... Luke 11:34.

WARDEN GRIES (Claps hands)

Impressive Mr. Starks... ONE CHANCE. Drop
the pencil... go to your work detail.

STARKS

I can't do that Warden. Tenny is the
man who killed the Patrolman...I didn't
kill anyone...Please just listen...
Tenny already tried to kill me... I'm
sorry, Warden. I had no choice.

WARDEN GRIES

Now you do. Mr. Starks, you served our
country well...There is hope. We can
talk about Mr. Tennyson... Let Captain
Becker go. I will forgive.

B&W T.V. - APOLLO 6 COUNTDOWN T-MINUS 15 SECONDS.

STARKS (Rambling)

I can't...I need an Attorney... Please..
I don't want to do this... I know I'm
going in the Jacket. Please.

WARDEN GRIES

Jacket?...You mean the "Control Unit"? Let him
go and you might not have to be sent there...

STARKS (Deep breath)

I don't believe you...

WARDEN GRIES (Sighs)

You're right...I will not lie...You will
go to the CONTROL UNIT...Today is March
26th. You'll be out by the 28th...You
have my word...Now my Guards will point
their guns at y'all an' they will shoot
you. I don't want that. Captain Becker
might sadly lose an' eye...(notices T.V.)

B&W T.V. - APOLLO 6 LAUNCH T-MINUS 9 SECONDS - 8 SECONDS - 7 SECONDS...

WARDEN GRIES (Matches Apollo countdown)

6, 5...March 28th... Starks...ain't that
far...2... Decision time...

The Guards BEGIN TO PULL THEIR TRIGGERS. T-MINUS 1...Starks drops the
pencil and falls to the ground. He is smothered by Guards.
He wanted to go in the Jacket? He smiles. LOUD EXPLOSION FROM:
APOLLO 6 - Blasts off successfully. CAMERA moves in on IMAGE.

WARDEN GRIES

Son, I gave you a chance.

STARKS (Sincerely)

Yes, I think you did, Warden...

FADE TO BLACK

THE BLACK SCREEN READS:

The Control Unit - March 26th 1968.
STARKS POV - The mask is strapped
over his face.

WARDEN GRIES (V.O.)

Either he is in a journey or
preadventures he sleepeth and
must be awakened.

STARKS REFLECTION IN THE 1999 MUSTANG PASSENGER WINDOW. It is
electronically lowered revealing the Female Driver (with his MOM'S RING
around her neck.) SHE IS THE SAME WOMAN FROM STARKS' MIND. Same
train, same tree, same road, SAME WOMAN...She says the same thing.

EXT. GEORGIA ROAD - FLOATING CAMERA -PRESENT DAY - 1999

FEMALE DRIVER (Speaks quickly)
Look, I gotta lot of work to do...If you can
drive, ya'll got a ride.

STARKS (Has learned his lesson)
Yes, ma'am, that would surely be appreciated.

SCREEN SLAMS DOWN TO BLACKNESS. WE ARE in the Cadaver Drawer.
DISSOLVE TO: TIGHT ON STARKS' FEET. WE MOVE INTO BLACKNESS.
DISSOLVE - From one part of Starks' body to another. (CAMERA is
inside the Jacket.) DISSOLVE feet to hands. DISSOLVE hands to legs.
DISSOLVE FINALLY TO HEART. One single HEARTBEAT then SILENCE.
FLICKERING IMAGES of Starks' body. DISSOLVE to Starks' face: We see
Starks' face draining of life, turning deathly white until his entire
body looks like a corpse. Unsettling. "THE LITTLE DEATH." WE HEAR:

FEMALE DRIVER (O.S.)
You gonna get in or just stare into space?

BLACKNESS IS REMOVED by a FLICKERING IMAGE. CLOSE UP Starks staring at
window button. He quickly gets in her car. He has controlled it. For
now? Dressed simply in jeans and flannel shirt. He fits in. He
belongs here? This time the film style feels REAL. HAND HELD REALITY?

FEMALE DRIVER
What are ya' lookin' fer'? I go on...

STARKS (Finishes her sentence)
Instinct...So do I...Just looking. I haven't
seen the inside of this years (Sees Mustang
logo)... Mustang...

FEMALE DRIVER
I love it...Got stuck fer' high insurance
rates they call it a sports car... Sports
car my ass...It's high performance...

"Wow" Starks is pulling it off. Everything he answers is measured.
He is going with it. He looks at THE RING. He flashes to the IMAGE
OF THE 4 YEAR OLD JACKIE. Then back to present day Jackie. She
speaks quickly and has no problem saying what's on her mind. She is
an original and ENDEARING. She is always writing notes for her job.

STARKS
High performance?...That's a beautiful ring...

FEMALE DRIVER

Thanks ...This rings got a long story...

STARKS (sings/talks)

I got time... "It's on my side..."

FEMALE DRIVER (Sings)

("Yes it is!")...The "Stones" kick ass...Saw their "Steel Wheels Tour" few years back... Little silly lookin' though... 50 year old men runnin' around playin' Rock 'n' Roll... I like their old songs better...

STARKS (50 years old?)

Me too...50 years old yeah...that's old... You're a tough one aren't you?

FEMALE DRIVER

I picked you up didn't I...Don't fuck with me I take kick-boxing...Ahhh...I won't hurt ya'... You gonna start driving? You're kinda the quite, shy type huh?

Starks, having never driven anything with power (brakes, steering, etc.), JERKS the car forward. Near miss with another car. Road sign reads: ATLANTA 79 MILES. Jackie's pen goes flying from her notepad.

STARKS

Not really shy...I just kinda like to observe... Sorry about the driving, it's been...I'm used to older cars...

FEMALE DRIVER (Cuts him off)

...Did you just pass the written exam?...Observe, sounds kinky like a voyeur... That's cool... You ain't a pervert are ya'? Mama always told me never to talk to strangers...Here I am still rebelling I pick up a stranger to drive... He can't drive...(Sarcastic) You want me to drive?

STARKS (shakes head "No")

I'm Billy Starks (pause) Now I'm not a stranger...(Beat. Takes a chance.) Jackie...

FEMALE DRIVER

You are good at observing...

IS IT HER?

STARKS (starts driving)
Why do you say that?

FEMALE DRIVER
In the 3rd place, you figured you could impress me...Some destiny thing. In the 2nd place, you didn't think I would figure out that you saw my license plate... And in the 1st place, that's how you got my name.

YES IT IS HER.

STARKS (Staring at her)
You caught me...Do you believe in destiny?

JACKIE (rolls her eyes)
Don't push it. My ex thought it was cute to go with the ol' vanity plate. "Jackie 1"... Cute girl like me can't afford fer' every stranger to know my name. Eyes on road.

STARKS (Finally looks to road)
You don't leave much room for a compliment...

JACKIE
You tryin' to say I ain't cute...

STARKS
No ma'am. You are certainly cute...

JACKIE
Good I wouldn't want to kick yer Ass.. Billy..

STARKS
Kick- Boxing...Right?

JACKIE
Right? We gotta understandin'?

STARKS
About you bein' cute...Yes ma'am.

JACKIE
Good.

STARKS
Good.

THE CAR DRIVES/JERKS DOWN HWY. We see "JACKIE 1" vanity plate. Cars honk. The Mustang pulls over. Jackie and Starks switch places.

A CELL PHONE RINGS. Starks looks strangely at it. It seems to HURT him. The Image FLICKERS. Starks shakes his head and reaches over and looks at Jackie's pad that contains a News Story. Next to it are a stack of newspapers. HE STARTS READING HER WORK (Article)

JACKIE (Answers phone)
It's done! Bye Ed. (HANGS UP)

STARKS (Now passenger)
You are a reporter? Far out.

JACKIE (Now driver)
Your first clue was reading my story? I'm sorry...Wait... Did ya'll say "Far Out"?... Nevermind...I'm late on a DEADLINE... That's why I needed you to drive...Gotta put the tag on it. (Starks confused.) Finish the story.

STARKS
Are you in trouble?

JACKIE
With you in my car, I'm not sure...With Ed no... He has a crush on me...(Smiles)... Be Careful...Keep the pages in order...

Headline reads - "DATE SET FOR CLASS ACTION SUIT...STATE OF GEORGIA VS. TOBACCO COMPANIES by Jackie Doering..Georgia seeks damages in excess of 1.5 Billion..." Starks hasn't noticed the Newspaper is dated 3-19-1999.

STARKS (reading story)
This is your story? 1.5 Billion dollars!
(Reading paper) They hid and shredded confidential documents... They knew it caused cancer in rats in 1970... They lied...This is Amazing...Do you see this?...

JACKIE (Dumbfounded)
I wrote it.

STARKS (Trying to recover)
I know...You're good. This is a great piece of investigative...

JACKIE (Laughs and cuts him off)
Reporting? Yeah, it's great if you're the
1st state to take on the tobacco industry,
not the 41st...

STARKS
Oh, I haven't really followed any of the
news lately... Did you know that they used
to give you cigarettes to calm you down
...They said it wasn't addictive? They ...

JACKIE (cuts him off)
What part of "I wrote it" don't you
understand? All I did was download all the
case files from the other state's cases,
rearrange some words...DONE. My mama's
proud, first front page byline.

STARKS (See's date on front page)
March 19, 1999...(Stunned by date) Your
Mom's alive...That's good...

JACKIE (To phone)
Ring, damnit, ring...

STARKS
WHAT RING?

JACKIE
Calm down. Waiting on a lead, Probably won't
pan out. I had my SHOT... A story that was
gonna put me on the map... No...It would have
made me the Mapmaker

The CELL PHONE RINGS again. Jackie leaps for it. Starks grasps what
rang but this time the SOUND REALLY HURTS HIM - HE IS LOSING CONTROL.
He faintly hears Jackie on the phone. The sound FADES down. The
screen FADES down to BLACKNESS.

INT. - PENITENTIARY MORGUE - SAME TIME - ANGLE - THE CADAVER DRAWER.
Then inside we float over Starks lifeless body. A TWITCH.
FLICKERING IMAGE - Starks locked in his cell - Losing control of the
"little death" "The Safe Place". He sees himself on the hill where
Tenny killed the cop. However, this time, it's DAYTIME. He tries to
yell "NO" but no sound comes out as Tenny fires, killing the cop. He
floats above the scene. Tenny and the cop frozen in time. A 3D EFFECT.
IMAGE FREEZES - The SCREEN becomes a PUZZLE - The pieces begin to FALL.

FLICKERING IMAGE - Now the CAMERA FLOATS about his cell . Suddenly, a jam jar filled with lighter fluid and corked with a flaming rag is thrown into the cell by Tenny. It smashes on the floor - EXPLODING INTO FLAMES! Starks SCREAMS - NO SOUND - His hands fly up to protect himself... 3D EFFECT - He is again watching this outside his body.

BACK IN THE CADAVER DRAWER. Starks twitches - We hear: No HEARTBEAT No BREATH. Then we here a cell phone "Ring."

STARKS P.O.V. - HIS EYES OPEN - JACKIE COMES TOGETHER LIKE A PUZZLE. Back to a REAL IMAGE. She is talking on the cell phone. Sound fades up. She holds the phone ear to shoulder. (She is **YELLING** into phone) One hand a cup of coffee. The other finishing her story. She steers with her knees. She sees Starks and hangs up the phone.

STARKS (Disoriented)

Why are you yelling at me?

JACKIE

I'm not, unless your real name is Ed... Do you want me to yell at you? You jus' fell asleep... Last 20 miles snoring away...

STARKS(Realizing time crunch?)

I don't know how much time I have. Tell me your story...I want to know more about you. (Jackie's confused.) The one that was going to put you on the map.

JACKIE (Stares and shakes head)

Hypothetically speakin', let's say yer' interested... I'll ramble through it...I ramble you know...I drink a lot of coffee. All right, ya' know when Dexter King said James Earl Ray didn't assassinate Martin Luther King...I mean you got the son of the man killed demanding a new trial for Ray. So Ed...The editor with the crush... Wants someone with more experience to do the piece... I had a hard time with that one... It was my turn...so I show up an hour before the assigned writer...Bluffin' my cute ass off... Dexter, he loves me...Ed hates me, but fuck him he would have done the same thing...So now Dexter King...The Reverend's Son! wants "me" to do the interview with Ray... The EXCLUSIVE... for print anyway...

20/20, 60 Minutes, etc. get all the big exposure...Put a camera in someone's face an' all they want to do is talk, talk, talk... Are you listening? Or just asking me about this so you can have me. Get that thought quickly out of your head.

STARKS (Stunned)
Martin Luther King is dead?

She SLAMS ON THE BRAKES skidding to a stop on the shoulder of the highway - Cars honk horns - It's very LOUD IN STARKS MIND. Slight SACREEN FLICKER. He shakes his head and the flicker away.

JACKIE
Get out!...This was the most important story of my life..And yer' makin' fun of it.. Out!

STARKS (He has recovered)
No, I'm sorry...That was just a bad joke.
Tell me the rest please.. please...

She shakes her head. NO. He lifts her head, SHE starts to talk.

JACKIE (Through sniffles)
...I had the interview... the exclusive with Ray...It was all mine... an' that bastard... Ray...He goes an dies on me...Now I'm stuck with stories like that Tabloid Tobacco crap that I'm late on....

STARKS
Pull over. Finish your story...I'll drive...I'll help you.

JACKIE (Laughs)
You don't look like ya' could help yourself.
You're about to pass out...I'm not letting you drive.

A LOUD HEARTBEAT - Starks stares at Jackie (her voice fading) then he sees a GLIMPSE: Doctor (with a stethoscope on Starks' heart stands next to Becker) THE SCREEN THIS TIME FLICKERS BETWEEN JACKIE AND DOCTOR. (Starks' slowed down P.O.V.)

BECKER

My mama always made me Finish every bite of food on my plate, Warden said the 28th. It's only noon...Still early, let'em have fun...

Becker pushes drawer back in. THE SCREEN SLAMS BACK TO:

EXT. 1999 ROADSIDE - Starks, energized, feels he needs to move fast. Starks gets out of the passenger side and walks over to the drivers side. Jackie LOCKS the door Frantically and quickly..

STARKS

What are you locking ?...It's a convertible (It is)...Move over. Look, I was in the Army... I'm well trained in any type of situation...So lets make this easy. Move over. I'm gonna give you a story...

Jackie tries to drive away. Starks dives in and pulls up the emergency brake. CAR STOPS. Starks does get behind the wheel. Starts driving, he is smoother: Jackie instinctively writes notes on her pad.

JACKIE

Did they teach you that move in the Army?
This is kidnapping...

STARKS

That's your story...How many reporters get kidnapped and then get to write about it...

JACKIE

I liked ya' better when you were quiet, shy
an' jus' observing...

STARKS (Pulling into traffic)

You know stopping like that isn't good for your brake pads.

JACKIE

And yanking up the emergency brake is...
What are you a mechanic or somethin'?...

STARKS (Same line he said to her mother)

Nope... I know a little...And I can drive.
...See, I'm getting the hang of it.

JACKIE

Why are you smiling? What are you doing???
Oh my God, yer' serious... I knew this would
happen. I knew it. Pick up a hitchhiker.
Probably a serial killer. I'm going to be
raped, mutilated, murdered.

STARKS

Raped?

JACKIE

Just mutilated and murdered, right?

STARKS

I'm not going to hurt you.

JACKIE

Then why are you kidnapping me?

STARKS

I'm... I'm just borrowing you. I need to
find out what happened to my father...

JACKIE (Makes note)

There's medication for people like ya'.

STARKS

I don't like their medication. That's maybe
why I'm here...

JACKIE (Answering cell phone)

Listen Ed that tobacco story is gonna have
to wait...I'm workin on a better one...I'm
bein' kidnapped by a psychopath an' I'm
gonna write it up.. yup.. um...

STARKS (Not looking at road)

He likes the story doesn't he?

JACKIE

He hung up on me. Do I seem angry to you?

STARKS (Driving better)

I think so... What's that? (Points)

JACKIE (What the fuck?)

Phone?..

STARKS

I know it's a phone.. It's portable...
There's no cord.

JACKIE (Cuts him off)

It's new. It's digital...Free minutes
on weekends. Anything else?

STARKS (Trying to be charismatic)

A good attorney...Ha...When I woke up...
I saw you talking, I thought you were a
little crazy...

JACKIE (Sarcastic)

You thought I was a little crazy...Yeah that
makes sense...You know crazy people are the
last to know...

CLANG - FLICKER - STARKS STOPS THE CAR - SOUND/IMAGE FLICKERING AWAY.
Jackie's voice starts to fade...With all his strength he hands her
the keys. CAMERA pushes into TIGHT CLOSE UP. He looks to Jackie.

STARKS (weakly to Jackie)

noooo...don't leave me...please Jackie...

Starks' eyes close. BLACK - CLANG - Then looking down at car.
CAMERA moves off. We see ATLANTA skyline (same image from Starks'
first Jacket experience.) CAMERA moves back over the car.
Clouds block our view. Will Jackie push him out? WE HEAR:

MAN'S VOICE

...I'm Harris Wofford...I will be taking
on your case. Don't worry. It's "pro
bono". That means...

INT. PENITENTIARY ATTORNEY/INMATE VISITING ROOM - 101 DEGREES

The same Civil Rights Attorney HARRIS WOFFORD (from the B&W TV News
story) sits across from a beaten and weathered Starks. The effects of
the jacket are very apparent in 1968 "Jacket withdrawal." FLICKER TO
IMAGE OF JACKIE DRIVING IN 1999. Starks shudders, not knowing where
he is. He stares down at the table drawing circles with his fingers.
Crazy? Starks looking down, finishes Wofford's "pro-bono" sentence.

STARKS

...free, free...nooo...put me back...In
Jacket...please..where's jackie..."Safe Place"

HARRIS WOFFORD (Playing along)
 Jackie's fine...Jesus It's fucking hot in here... I'll cut to the chase. I saw the write up about your so called trial and subsequent conviction in the Atlanta Constitution... There's a certain irony.

STARKS (Still looks down)
 She's driving...Your not... from south. No accent...The humidity is the real killer...

HARRIS WOFFORD (HOT, removes sportscoat)
 That's correct Mr. Starks. I'm from New York. Our time is limited. I am a strong advocate against the death penalty. I read the briefs and transcripts of your case with great trepidation. I spoke to the people at the diner...No one saw you... The Private you say you spoke to was killed in action...

STARKS (Shudders)
 I didn't kill him...The guy who killed the patrolman is right here. I didn't kill anyone...Tenny killed him.

HARRIS WOFFORD
 That's Irrelevant... I don't care if you have killed or not... My job is to keep you alive ...How did you burn your hands?

Starks doesn't hear him. But we see: Starks hands are burned!

STARKS
 Nooo...You don't understand. I... can find out what happened...to me!

HARRIS WOFFORD (New approach)
 What's that you're drawing with your finger Mr. Starks?

STARKS (Still drawing imaginary ring)
 Ring...(Finally looks up) It was her...
 JACKIE...Tenny is going to kill me... I NEED
 THE JACKET...

"Times up...Mr. ACLU." Becker begins removing Starks.

HARRIS WOFFORD (Loudly after him)
 Do you want my Jacket? Nobody will kill
 you...My job is to prevent that. What is
 going on in here is wrong... Mr. Starks.
 Have faith. The 8th Amendment states
 "nor cruel or unusual punishment
 inglicted" and that...

B&W - NEWS FOOTAGE - HARRIS WOFFORD - PRESS CONFERENCE.

HARRIS WOFFORD
 ...is being totally disregarded. The
 abolishment of the Georgia Chain Gang is a
 farce...Mr. William Starks does not have the
 mental capacity to understand the danger he
 is in. Mr. Starks was a war hero and now he
 is barely COHERENT... I want to know why? I
 am preparing a motion to have Mr. Starks
 transfered to another facility. I need to
 get him out of that prison.

INT. STARKS/MAC CELL - THAT NIGHT - 101 DEGREES - BACK TO 35MM COLOR

STARKS THROWS HIMSELF AROUND THE CELL - QUICK CUTS OF JACKET EXPERIENCE.
 JACKIE DRIVING - THE RING - CELL PHONE - THE TREE - MODERN ROAD - 1999

STARKS (Remembers)
 I have to go back....They'll kill me...
 "Natural causes". The Jacket is the "safe
 place". I think I can find out what happens
 TO ME...Jackie, we were driving. The train
 ... The tree...(cries) What was it? WAS I
 DEAD? It was 1999...Am I ALIVE?

Mackenzie seems to be sleeping. Sitting up, with his eyes closed
 ...Shakes his head "NO" and POINTS.
 STARKS FINALLY SEES - His palms are burned! Cell doors slam open.
 Starks stares at his hands. Mackenzie "Falls Out" in unison.

BECKER
 Not ya' Starks...Yer' Attorney requests
 we keep you in "keep lock"...today...

INT. STARKS/MACKENZIE CELL - NOON NEXT DAY MARCH 29, 1968 - 103 DEGREES

CAMERA moves in through bars to reveal Starks thinking with his back
 to the entrance of his cell, he doesn't see A JAM JAR, FILLED WITH

LIGHTER FLUID AND A RAG STUFFED INTO IT LAND AND EXPLODE NEAR HIM. He watches his nightmare come true. He sees Tenny walk away singing "Daydream Believer etc..." to himself. Starks grabs his mattress and rolls as the cell burns and SMOKE OBSCURES IMAGE. Starks alive?

INT. STARKS/MACKENZIE CELL - 12:15 P.M. - FIRE EXTINGUISHED BY GUARDS

WARDEN GRIES

Son...Yer' lucky to be alive. It was jus' obviously not yer' time... Who did this to ya'll. I'll see they're punished.

SLOW MOTION - Tenny is among the cons to see if Starks will stool.

STARKS (Stands tall)

I have to be honest, I was smoking in bed. I know what that means...

Starks turns and walks toward the "Control Unit" before the Warden can say it. OVER THIS IMAGE WE HEAR:

HARRIS WOFFORD (Standing at podium)

Your honor, there is reasonable cause to believe that Mr. Starks may presentley be suffering from a mental defect...

INT. FIFTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS - GEORGIA - 1968

Harris Wofford is arguing his case to the panel of Judges. Judge Elbert Tuttle is the Chief Judge. Late 60's, gruff and Southern.

HARRIS WOFFORD

...He was unable to understand at the time the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him...With all due respect, you honor...Mr. Starks' Attorney was incompetent...

JUDGE TUTTLE (Interrupting him)

Mr. Wofford... Help me out here a little ...On one hand we got ya' want us to throw out the conviction due to Mr. Starks' attorney's incompetency. On the other hand the 8th Amendment... Cruel and unusual etc., etc....And if I had a third hand are you tryin' to say that you wish a new trial... To establish a Defense of Insanity?... Mr. Wofford, pick one an' go wit' it.

HARRIS WOFFORD

What's my best shot...Your Honor?

JUDGE TUTTLE

Ferget cruel an' unusual...Jessup's a fine Institution.. Next, I happen to be aquatinted with Mr. Starks' original attorney...Quite competent... So...

HARRIS WOFFORD

Let's go with insanity...

STARKS (V.O.)

I've been called worse...

INT. SKYSCRAPER - DOWNTOWN ATLANTA - 9:01 P.M. 1999 - PRESENT DAY

"ATLANTA JOURNAL & CONSTITUTION". Through the windows we see this massive city at night, lights everywhere. Starks is at the window in awe. A hyper Jackie runs two desks down where she quickly gives her story (late) to a co-worker (HARVE) who just laughs. Starks notices an **OLD PHOTO OF JACKIE (AGE 5)** and her mother. HE POCKETS IT without her seeing then he looks through a stack of newspapers.

JACKIE (To Starks)

Called worse than what?

STARKS (Devouring info)

Insane...

JACKIE

Well we know you're not the best kidnapper I've ever seen. Hell, I could have just left you on the highway or called the cops every time you've fallen asleep. There's something about you ...What the hell am I doing?...INSTINCT...Jackie, you'll figure it out. Stop talkin' to yourself JACKIE. (She shakes her head) Billy, find the October 29 paper last year. Page 7, column 5, metro section. I did a piece on sleep disorders. Not that I keep track of my work... They have centers for people like you...Why do you keep reading everything in sight?

STARKS (His back to her)

I'm just catching up on some news. Did you find it? Wofford told me this paper did a

big story on it. Please, I have to find out what happened to my father. I want to see him...Is he safe, is he Alive...Is he...I NEVER met him.

JACKIE (Looking at computer)
I just logged on. It's going to take a little while to run a search...I'm not a computer geek. I like the power of ink. Look I don't mind...Well... Helping you and I understand your need to find yer' dad...I...kinda have my...Nevermind...

STARKS (Closes his eyes)
I can't do it alone..Thank you for helping and for not running out on me...What were You going to say...before Nevermind?

JACKIE (Changes subject)
Nothing on your dad...Let me try Tennyson.

INT. TENNYS CELL AT JESSUP - 9PM - 1968 - 96 DEGREES
Tenny plays cards with Becker thru the BARS.

TIGHT ON A COMPUTER SCREEN - THE INTERNET - NAMES RACE BY.
Starks reflection is seen as the name FRANK TENNYSON appears. Starks REFLECTION BEGINS TO FADE. He touches his face. Is this real?

1999 - ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION -9:19 P.M.

WE HEAR:

STARKS
Why didn't you leave me on the highway?

JACKIE (Turns to Starks)
Have you heard of the military's "Don't ask, Don't tell" policy?

STARKS (Double meaning)
Kind of...

JACKIE (Yells across the room)
Hey, Harve, you got a minute?..(To Starks)
Computer geek. Be...Just...Try to..Let me...
Just be quiet..I'm running out of crushes...He has nothing invested in you. Like I do.(She LAUGHS)

STARKS (Looks right at her)
I could tell you the truth...But...

JACKIE (Smiles)

...You feel the same lack of trust in our relationship... (Looks back at computer)
Holy shit I did it... FRANK TENNYSON. What a rap sheet... He got out of Jessup 3 years ago... He did 27 years for 2nd Degree Murder. ...Not on parole. He did his full term. There's no address listed. If HE'S ALIVE, he's 66 and a free man. (to the arriving Harve) Harve, congratulate me. I got a result from a computer... This is Billy we're trying to find his fath....

STARKS (Cut's her off)

You got all that from a computer... I saw one once at Basic. It kept breaking trying to add numbers. WAIT. What about my father! You can FIND HIM now...

HARVE (40ish, bored...but has a crush)
A NAME and Date of Birth would....

STARKS (Excited, stares at computer)
William Levon Starks, 12/25/1939

JACKIE (Letting Harve at the computer)
Like the song? (No answer) Christmas. I like that. (No answer) Basic training, Billy? Did you go to the Persian Gulf?

STARKS (Without thinking)
No... I went home after Nam...

JACKIE
Billy, you're stressed and tired... You're too young, you couldn't have been...

HARVE (Excited)
I saw Capt. Medlley once. Hell of a speaker.

STARKS (Covering)
I meant my father was in Vietnam... (Hits him) What ... Where did you see Medlley?

HARVE
He gives lectures... bout his days in Vietnam... Good storyteller, you really felt

like you were there. He got fucked though...
 Takin' the fall... Convicted, for what...
 Defending our country? He was just a
 scapegoat. Damn Liberal Hippie protesters.

STARKS

Good Storyteller?! We (Stops himself) He
 butchered those people...It could have been
 stopped. He SHOT m...(Beat)one of his own men..

HARVE

Son, you don't know nuthin' bout what yer
 saying. Jackie, I'm helping you...keep
 him quiet...Here...Look at this pamphlet.
 Can you believe they want that "nigger"
 Colin Powell to run for President...
 Republicans ... My party...

JACKIE (Cutting him off)

Colin Powell is an AFRICAN-AMERICAN, Harve.
 (Backs Starks up.) Listen to me Billy. Not
 Harve. Let him find your dad. Look at me.
 You asked me WHY. Why I didn't dump you on the
 highway. (Beat.) When I was real young, a man
 did my momma and me a favor. We really needed
 help. I never forgot that and you look like
 you really need a favor, Billy. And your
 kidnapping piece didn't really pan out. I
 still need a story...Smile Billy...

Starks is calming down. He sees a color TV and stares at a commercial.
 A GATORADE "If I could be like Mike." WE HEAR Harve stun Starks.

HARVE

Here we go... It's downloading. William
 Levon Starks. Ooh. 1st Degree Murder.
 Killed a Patrolman. Rare. Only 3 since.
 And Jackie, I like Michael Jordan...

JACKIE (Moving to computer)

Harve, who doesn't? Billy, you didn't tell....

STARKS (Hopeful)

My Dad didn't do it... Where is he now

HARVE

Dead...

ON STARKS' SHOCKED FACE: We hear Judge Tuttle speaking to Wofford:

JUDGE TUTTLE (V.O.)

I don't see any evidence that Mr. Starks' life is in danger...

INT. FIFTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS - GEORGIA - 1968

HARRIS WOFFORD (mid speech)

Judge Tuttle...At first I took this case for the "Bigger Cause"... I was already down here, and here's a great case and Byline. "A war hero mistreated, tortured, etc...." But I have met this young man and what he has become is not RIGHT. I've talked to all the witnesses that could corroborate his story... They all deny he was ever at the diner...But I believe him...In a war that I abhor, Mr. Starks fought for our country. Now I need to fight for him. He rambles about a "Safe Place" In the very least, I request a 72 hour examination and transfer to a hospital facility... A "Safe Place".

JUDGE TUTTLE

Is Mr. Starks experiencing psychosis or any hallucinatory episodes?...

STARKS (V.O. Yelling)

DEAD!...What do you mean, dead? How? When? Where...He can't be dead...

TIGHT: WE SEE STARKS' REFLECTION COME BACK AS THE COMPUTER DOWNLOADS.

HARVE

WOW! Your daddy was a Sergeant. He's part of the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

STARKS (Touches face again)

That's wrong...He was not a Sergeant. He retired a Corporal.

ON THE COMPUTER we see: "The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall." Starks stares at his name on the screen, listed as a SERGEANT. Jackie, as always, makes NOTES IN HER NOTEBOOK. She **SENSES** something. She looks at Starks, who is holding back tears. She stares at him...What's Wrong.

STARKS (doesn't see Jackie taking NOTES)
My father didn't kill anyone. He can't be
dead. How did he die? How?...

HARVE (Punching keys, rapid fire)
Has to be he was EXECUTED. He got the Death
Penalty...I can't find anything after his
Psychiatric stay... Paranoid Schizophrenic,
Bi-polar, the works...

STARKS (Really confused)
There was no psychiatric stay. He was SANE...
What's going on? It's all wrong!

JACKIE (Compassionate)
Billy...you never met your father...Harve, it
couldn't be the Death Penalty. Supreme Court
overturned that...the last man excuted was...

HARVE (Punches keys on computer)
It was... A man named Mackenzie... In 68...
Last Execution in Georgia till the 90's.
All I'm gettin' on Starks is 9:03...

STARKS (Frantic)
What do you mean 9:03? Morning, night... That
all you got from downloading? I don't care
about The Supreme Court or (deep breath)
Mackenzie...He was fucking CRAZY and was a
killer (Pause) WHEN DID MY FATHER DIE!? WHAT
DAY?! WHAT DATE? How do I save...9:03 doesn't
help me at all...

HARVE (Cold)
News is always happening. This stuff's so
old.. We run out of room on the hard drives.
Keep the highlights...Hit DELETE...Sorry.

JACKIE (Steps to Starks)
Billy, we'll get the information...We'll go
down to Jessup...Look at their records. We can
find Him. (Beat) Harve...Can you try 1 more
browser at least THE YEAR would help...Thanks.
I'll be right back.

STARKS
NO! Where are you going?

JACKIE (Whispers to Starks)
 Cat box...Ladies room...I'm Trustin'
 you...You Trust me...

Starks stares at Jackie. Will she escape? He looks at all of the downloaded info on himself and Tenny. His heart races. Harve startles H.

HARVE
 What's yer' SECRET?

STARKS (Sweating)
 I...I Don't have A Secret...I just never met my Dad..

HARVE
 No...Jackie, she never let's ANYONE get close
 to Her...How'd ya' do it?

STARKS (Relieved)
 Kidnap, Rape and Murder..(IT ALL HITS HIM)
 MURDER...Tenny killed me...He kills me...

JUDGE TUTTLE (V.O.)
 Ya'll got two more minutes...To convince me
 Mr. Starks is in jeopardy of any kind.

INT. FIFTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS - GEORGIA - 1968

HARRIS WOFFORD (Last shot)
 Chief Tuttle, you are a religious man...So I
 believe that you will seriously look at the
 prospect that the legal use of Mental
 Disability as a defense can be traced back
 to the Bible...

JUDGE TUTTLE
 If ya'll can convince me of that Counselor...
 you'll get a 72 hour hold...

JACKIE (V.O.)
 Stop worrying. We will be at Jessup before
 any body's there... We have time.

EXT. MCDONALDS DRIVE THROUGH 20 MILES FROM ATLANTA - 6 A.M. - 1999

Jackie is in driver's seat. They are being handed food through the window. STARKS JUST READS NEWSPAPER AFTER NEWSPAPER.

JACKIE (Paying with a \$20)
 (Pause) You're broke, right?..You really
 like readin', don't ya'? Those are all old
 by-lines. Here you want news...Watch this.

Starks looks up from the paper, STARES IN WONDERMENT. As Jackie
 hands him a small handheld 3 inch TV. He puts on the head phones and
 changes channel after channel. CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, FOX News all
 covering a shooting at a high school. Starks P.O.V. - FLICKERING
 IMAGES OF T.V. - PRISON - VIETNAM. He closes his eyes, shaking away
 his visions. Jackie pulls away eating french fries.

STARKS (Snaps out of it)
 You got too much change back. (Jackie's
 confused.) The total was \$11.32. She gave
 you back \$9.68...That's a dollar too much.
 (Embarrassed.) I have this photographic
 memory...sort of...Sorry.

JACKIE (Backs up and gives \$1 back)
 Where are ya' from?

STARKS
 We don't even know what year he died...San
 Francisco... Near Berk...

JACKIE (Cuts him off)
 Ah ha...That explains it. Yer' a Hippie...

STARKS (Cringes and devours food)
 Is that still bad?

JACKIE (Half disgusted, half impressed)
 It's "chic". Every trend cycles back. You a tad
 hungry there Billy? (Starks nods) Hey, you know
 Creedence..The Band? They're from Berkeley.
 Everyone thinks they're from 'round here...

STARKS (Creedence reference hits him)
 I've heard that before... What was the
 song you were playing earlier? Something
 about being "Alive."

JACKIE
 "Alive." Pearl Jam? I wasn't playing that.
 Wasn't playing anything, Billy. How did you
 know Mackenzie WAS CRAZY? That was 1968...

Ignoring her, Starks pushes "PLAY" on her CD player. Music starts:
PEARL JAM - "ALIVE": "Son, she said, have I got a little story for you"

JACKIE (She SKIDS the car to a stop)
Get out! How the fuck did you know that?!

As the car skidded to a halt the case for the Pearl Jam CD slid under Starks' feet. He picks it up, shows it to her and begins to speak but:

JACKIE (Won't let him talk)
You figure that's a good pick up line...
Fuckin' wit my head...I've had enough...You in
Viet Nam...Knowing my Name...Mackenzie...You
fallin' asleep. Why do you care about Tennyson?
What aren't you telling me? Are You A Stalker?

STARKS
I Don't think so..A Stalker?. Your cute, I'm
funny...A little, maybe, groovy?

JACKIE
Your Hippies is showing and you're not that
funny...I understand the theory of dropping
out but your supposed to drop back in
eventually. If your not going to tell me
the TRUTH, I'm NOT going to help you.

STARKS
You told me when you were 4 years old...

JACKIE (Cuts him off)
Shuush...I know what I told you. I am not
CRAZY. I'm not done ranting ... I thought you
were harmless. Real thin little guy...Looked
kinda pathetic. I was never scared of you.
That's another reason I didn't leave you on
the highway. But I still can at anytime.

STARKS (Smiling)
Can we get going again. We have to go, I'll
tell you the TRUTH... please...Forgive me?

JACKIE (40, 50, 60 miles an hour)
NO! I didn't tell you you could talk
yet...Did I...(Starks smiles) Don't smile
Tell me the truth...

STARKS (70, 80, 90 miles an hour)
You don't need to go that fast...

110 MPH. MUSIC "You're still alive she said. Oh and do I deserve to be, Is that the question? And if so Who answers..."

LONG LENS - CAR DRIVES TOWARD JESSUP - 1999 -SMASH CUT TO: 1968

HARRIS WOFFORD (Continuing)
...I believe the first plea for an insanity defense comes from Christ's own words "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do."

1999 - EXT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY - 7:50 A.M.

CAMERA shoots through WOODEN CROSSES. Starks and Jackie walk through, looking at names in silence. Then finally, he turns Jackie to him.

STARKS (BLURTS OUT)
A long time ago you were 4 years old...I fixed your Mom's pick-up truck..and I gave you that ring..It belonged to my mother. I am that man that did you the FAVOR you never forgot.

JACKIE (Stunned)
"Real gold"... My God..."Real gold."

STARKS
Yes, real gold. That man was me. I mean I am the man that was in prison here.. I was in Vietnam...I did not kill that patrolman... Please. I don't know how much time I have... I don't know how or why I am here and the ONLY MAN that I think can explain anything to me CAN'T TALK...Mackenzie...I know it sounds crazy. Please believe me.

JACKIE (Shaking her head)
NO, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! You are crazy.
I am running away now. Leave me alone!

STARKS (Yells)
I can't...Jackie Please stop...I've seen you in my mind... You saved my life!

Jackie trips and lands near a grave with a CROSS in the foreground. She looks up at it and yells for Starks, who is running after her.

INT. FIFTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS - GEORGIA - 1968

JUDGE TUTTLE

It is the order of this Court to immediately remove William Starks from Jessup Correctional Institute and to have him transferred to the nearest State Hospital for 72 hours to examine his mental capacity.

EXT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY - GRAVEYARD - 7:59 A.M. - 1999

Starks has arrived at Jackie who is staring at the cross. Starks sees if she is all right then looks up to what she is transfixed by.

The CROSS reads: **WILLIAM LEVON STARKS**

BORN DECEMBER 25, 1939 DIED APRIL 4, 1968

CLANG-CLANG-CLANG-CLANG - We see Jackie hold Starks. FLICKERING IMAGES - The images are a combination of Starks holding Jackie - His grave - The 4 year old Jackie with ring- Speeding and intertwined. THE SCREEN SLAMS DOWN FROM TOP TO BOTTOM - HE IS GONE - BLACKNESS.

THE CADAVER DRAWER IS YANKED OPEN. STARKS IS IN THE STRAIGHT-JACKET. His eyes pop open. He cries. No one hears it. No Jackie.

HARRIS WOFFORD (V.O.)

...Mr. Starks they can't hurt you... The three days will give me time to try and re-open your case... Insanity Defense...

EXT. JESSUP - STARKS PUT ON TRANSPORT BUS - DAY - 112 DEGREES

STARKS (His gag is removed)

WHAT'S THE DATE! WHAT'S THE DATE!

HARRIS WOFFORD (Softly)

It's March 31, 1968.... Do you know where you are? Who you are? William...Billy?

STARKS

I'm not Insane! The COMPUTER was right. I don't want to go to the HOSPITAL. I have RIGHTS..I want to stay here. I don't want your help! I have to stay here! And save my life!

HARRIS WOFFORD

Mr. Starks, what you're saying doesn't make sense... You don't want to stay here.

STARKS (Crazed look)
Tenny's gonna kill me on the 4th...the 4th
of April! It's A Thursday If You CARE!

HARRIS WOFFORD (Plays along)
Then you'll be safe... Tenny can't get
you there. No one can... You need help...

STARKS (Cuts him off)
If you want to help me get back in the
Jacket! If you want me to be insane, fine
... I'm nuts ... Please, I have to find
Tenny and get him to tell me HOW HE KILLS
ME! He might still be alive!!!

Starks kicks, trying to get away. He sounds and looks really insane.
Harris motions. Starks is gagged and put on the bus. It drives away.

B&W TV NEWS FOOTAGE - HARRIS WOFFORD - PRESS CONFERENCE

HARRIS WOFFORD
It is devastating to me to see Mr. Starks
completely delusional... To realize that HE is
safer in a mental facility...Than at Jessup.

SCREEN READS: GEORGIA STATE HOSPITAL - PHSYCIATRIC WARD - MARCH 31,
1968 - 61 HOURS TO GO. If any place is actually going to make Starks
insane, it is here. Men rant about the Bible. Vietnam vets, some
that are paraplegic are grim reminder to Starks. STARKS' P.O.V.

MAN (pops into Starks view)
They are going to kill you...

2nd MAN
...I'm A TRAVELER...

Starks leaps back, knocking over trays. There is a brain dead patient
kept alive by tubes and a ventilator. A disgusted ORDERLY moves his
legs (exercising him.) *"They should just pull the plug."* Starks yells
"Maybe this man is living better than you." DISSOLVE from STARKS'
P.O.V. TO CLOSE UP OF STARKS. TO STARKS ALONE IN HIS ROOM(WITH BARS).

58 MORE HOURS TO GO CAMERA moves into the corner where Starks paces
his cell/room. He RIPS off the blankets and soaks them in the toilet.
He wraps himself tightly in the wet blankets. Wedging himself under
the steel bunk. Trying to cut off his circulation. To deaden his body
as if he was in the JACKET. His face and limbs pale and swell. The pain
is excruciating but he endures it. He tries to put himself in the
"Jacket". But it's no use. "Jackie" He scbs but no tears are left.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST OFFICE - NEXT DAY - APRIL 1ST, 1968 - 48 HOURS TO GO

Starks with a State DOCTOR. With no sleep, Starks stares at the Dr. He really looks INSANE. His hair has been buzz cut, revealing the scars from his wounds. The Dr. lights a cigarette waiting for Starks to speak.

STARKS

You don't want to smoke that..It will Kill You.

DR. LORENSEN (Condescending)

Mr. Starks. I've read up on all the tests. It's perfectly safe to smoke...

STARKS (Cuts him off)

They're lying. It is addictive and it does cause cancer. (Dr. takes a note.) What are you writing about me. PARANOID? Schizophrenic, Bi-polar. (That's exactly what he wrote.) But INTUITIVE...If you don't quit smoking stay away from HMO's... Look, I'm just trying to help you... Write whatever you need to... So no matter what I tell you, I'll go back to Jessup in 46 hours, right? Can I get back any earlier with good behavior?

DR. LORENSEN (Staring at Starks)

Your behavior is irrelevant. Unfortunately, I can't stop your return ... 46 hours is all I have left. (Starks smiles) Honestly, I wish I had more time with you. Why do you want to go back to Jessup?

STARKS (Cuts him off)

Why is everything IRRELEVANT in Georgia?

DR. LORENSEN

You were born on Christmas...How do you feel about that?

STARKS (Laughs)

Feel? That's page one in school isn't it... My Birthday...I got screwed out of presents...Can I bum a smoke?

DR. LORENSEN (Hands him cig)

I'm confused. Smoking will kill me but not you ..

STARKS

Oh no. It will kill me...but I'm going to die anyway...

DR. LORENSEN

We all die...

STARKS (Lighting Cigarette)

And we all put our pants on one leg at a time...But I'm dying in 3 days..April 4th at 9:03. I'm just not sure if it's day or night...

DR. LORENSEN

April 4th? Why do you think this?

STARKS

I don't think, I know..Found out on the internet ..A geek told me..Not the kind that bites off chicken heads..NOW, a geek is good. But that's irrelevant. (Laughs) You can find anybody on the internet. Wanna know about the future?

DR. LORENSEN

If you want to tell me. I'll listen...

STARKS (Playful impatience)

They got machines that give money from walls and portable phones fer' yer' car with free weekend minutes. And the women they kick - box. Oh, I would invest in the stock market if you have a little cash.

DR. LORENSEN

Are you having fun William?...

STARKS (Explodes)

No. I'm fucking not! You want to know what's going to happen? ...Martin Luther King is going to be killed on April 4th and so am I...I know who kills me! Frank Tennyson, Tenny to friends...And I can't save my life wasting time here with you!... By the way, the man James Earl Ray...they are going to arrest for assassinating King didn't do it!. There's a 1973 Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Report. Just ask his son Dexter in a few years!Can I please get out of here?...

DR. LORENSEN (Makes notes)
Do you dream about Vietnam?...

STARKS (As if punched in the stomach)
There's nothing you can say that will fix that. (Softly) I should have shot him. (Stands and yells) I don't want to talk about it! Why don't you understand... I AM GOING TO DIE! I have to get out of here! I have to find out if it's morning or night!

DR. LORENSEN (Getting a little scared)
So we know you are going to die but I have to ask that you sit.

STARKS (Cuts him off)
Stop...patronizing me! Why do I have to sit?...Are you gonna restrain me? (Gets idea) Do you have a straight-jacket?

DR. LORENSEN
Yes, but I hope we don't need...

Starks goes nuts throwing and BREAKING UP THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE. The Doctor yells into the phone for Help. Calling the P.A.T. team.

STARKS (Helping Dr.)
BRING THE P.A.T. TEAM NOW! Do you know that a Black man named Powell might be President! 30 fucking years and you know the difference in race relations? Do you know!!! No you don't! I do... The big difference is that they now call black people African/Americans instead of "Niggers" ... I have seen the future and it ain't changed! It's worse. Don't you understand!... I fit in there... With Jackie. Where's the STRAIT JACKET?!

P.A.T Team arrives and begins putting Starks into a STRAIT-JACKET.

STARKS (Tries helping them)
Course you got some token black sports hero's that do a lot of T.V. Commercials... for shoes mostly...Put my arm in it first. Haven't you boys ever done this? I have to find Tenny!

Starks is tied up. This is what he wanted. But he doesn't want what is next. A SYRINGE is plunged into him. He screams "Nooooo".

DR. LORENSEN

It's not dangerous...It will just help you sleep...(To other Dr.) Schizophrenia, Bi-polar...with Paranoia..He sees the future and he's...Fixated on a person named Tenny ... He's really gone...

STARKS (Groggy)

Nooo...don't want sleep...I need to diiiieee....

He passes out. BLACK SCREEN DISSOLVES FROM 2ND TO: "APRIL 3RD, 1968
ELECTROSHOCK THERAPY - BIT IN MOUTH, CAN'T SCREAM OR CRY. WE HEAR:

STARKS (V.O.)

BECKER! I'm back Becker...Becker...Come out, come out where ever you are...

VIEW OF EMPTY PRISON TIER. Starks enters frame, back to his cell. His 72 hours are up. He looks MORE CRAZED THAN EVER. Is he gone?

INT. STARKS/MACKENZIE CELL - 2 A.M. - April 3RD, 1968 - 99 DEGREES
Mackenzie looks shocked at Starks' appearance. Starks screams for Becker. He doesn't see Mac as he is slammed shut into his cell.

STARKS (Crazed look in his eyes)

When did you get here?...Why can't you go back and fix the past? (Mac is silent)WHY CAN'T YOU? I've reexperienced my past...My life. It felt the same...The same sensations. But I can't go THERE. I can only go to Jackie! WHY! You know something, You've done it! Haven't you? IT'S REAL. You're free.-God damit tell me something!

Mackenzie pulls from his "HIDDEN PLACE" an old yellowed piece of paper. For the first time he shows Starks something from his life. The small piece of paper reads: *"I once dreamt I was butterfly. When I awoke I was a man. Or was I a butterfly dreaming I was a man."*

STARKS

Did you write that? Can you write about the Jacket?!...(Shakes Head) Of course you can't...

Mackenzie silently laughs and shakes his head "No"!

STARKS

Look at my hands... That's not a dream...
LOOK! I HAVE to get back to save my
life... What do I have to lose?

Mackenzie points to Starks. That's what he has to lose.

STARKS

That's what I'm doing I think. What am I?...
Without her? I can do anything...Except get
back in the fucking Jacket!

A FRUSTRATED STARKS SCREAMS. He throws all items that aren't nailed down out of the cell. Guard #4 appears with the firehose knocking Starks back. He is becoming the prison madman. Mackenzie curls up as Starks paces and starts to count. TIME WASTING.

FADE TO BLACK: THE SCREEN READS "6A.M. APRIL 3RD, 1968" WE HEAR:

BECKER (V.O.)

...Wake up... It's time... Mackenzie...

INT. STARKS/MACKENZIE CELL - 6:01 A.M. - APRIL 3RD, 1968

Becker, 3 Guards and a PRISON CHAPLAIN are in the cell as Starks wakes up, leaning against the bars...He jumps up and is thrown down as Mackenzie is taken out of the cell. CELL DOOR SLAMS ON STARKS. Mac looks back to Starks. Starks watches Mackenzie for the last time.

STARKS (Rocking back and forth)

BECKER! Come back... Captain Becker come
restrain thou...I'm ready to go back to "The
Control Unit"...Put me in the fucking Jacket!

A MIRROR is held out by Ruddel we see STARKS' REFLECTION in the mirror.

STARKS (Resigned)

Ruddel...1969 bet the Jets and Mets.

ANGLE - The MIRROR and STARKS REFLECTION are SHATTERED by a CHAIN.

BECKER (With chain)

Starks playin' crazy ain't gonna help
ya'll beat the chair.

STARKS (Laughs)

Insanity. Becker, I hadn't even thought of
that... Where are you going Becker. Don't
leave, please... Put me in the Jacket!

BECKER (Not turning back)
 Can't, you got RIGHTS...Wofford's got the
 Warden a little scared...He don't want all
 those Kennedy boys coming around. He's
 reconsidering any more "Control Unit" at all.

STARKS (Screams as Becker ignores)
 No! Fuck my lawyer. I don't want my RIGHTS..

Alone, STARKS PACES. He won't be punished. NO JACKET.

EXT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY YARD - THE DOG RUN - NOON - APRIL 3RD, 1968.
 Starks, crazed look in his eye, pitches shoes (ringers). He sees Tenny
 emerge with his friends. Starks like a caged animal storms for him.

STARKS (Yelling & walking)
 Why? Why?... Why didn't you just drive by?
 Why did you pick me up!? Why?

BECKER (Appearing on steps)
 Starks...Back down...Fighting Tenny, still No
 Jacket! And you look outnumbered...I might
 not get there in time to help you...

TENNY (Yells to Starks)
 I'll get back to ya' on that question, hippie...

IGNIGHTED Starks spins and runs...But not at Tenny... Quick as
 lightning. STARKS SLUGS BECKER IN THE FACE. Starks is tackled
 beaten then lifted by the hair. Seeing a SILLHOUETTED WARDEN GRIES.

WARDEN GRIES
 I went home to pray about the Control Unit...
 It is the nature and desire of a man...

STARKS (Cuts him off)
 I don't really have the time, Warden... Just
 tell me what's God's bottom line?

WARDEN GRIES
 Take him to the Control Unit!...

STARKS (Staring Tenny down)
 I'm coming for you Tenny...You ain't gonna
 get me... You better be Alive...I'm coming.

INT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY MORGUE - 1:40 P.M. - APRIL 3RD, 1968

STARKS

Come on! HURRY IT UP. I haven't got all day. Hey, Becker, the Planet of the Ape's is EARTH. Sorry to ruin it for you. TIGHTER!

Becker slams Starks' drawer into the stone wall. BLACKNESS. TOTAL SILENCE. STARKS' P.O.V. HE/CAMERA lift out of the BLACKNESS. WE ARE BACK IN 1999. (The BLACKNESS this time was Starks waking up, his face in the grass of the JESSUP PENITENTIARY CEMETERY. STARKS/CAMERA frantically look around. NOBODY. A dust storm obscures the image. EXT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY - GRAVEYARD - SUNSET - 1999

STARKS (Looking)

Jackie!...Jackie!...

He sees, in the distance, the 1999 version of "The Dog Run" and the Inmates (Still segregated) Not wanting to be seen, he runs full tilt to where Jackie's Mustang was parked around the corner and HE SEES: ANGLE - JACKIE'S MUSTANG IS BEING HOOKED UP TO A TOW TRUCK

STARKS (Losing strength)

Wait... NO!... What are you doing?

The TOW TRUCK DRIVER sees Starks running at him. CAMERA from above sees a winded Starks arrive almost collapsing. He can't speak.

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

Hooking up a car...Ya'll Billy? (Starks nods/grunts) Ya'll right? (Starks nods) She said you'd be back... described you purty well too... didn't say nothin' bout yer' face being all beat... Just breathe... You ain't lookin well...Tex, jus' slow down...

Starks rises, His face - Dried blood and bruised. He can finally speak.

STARKS (Breathing heavily)

Where is she?...Why you takin' her car?... She was really here? WAS SHE?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

Saw her myself, pretty little thing. She says her car broke down but she wanted us to leave it here fer' you... Road ain't prison property so we can wait 72 hours...She

prepaid wit' her credit card... Stop pacing
... Ya'll got good timing.

STARKS (Impatient)
Maybe... What's wrong with the car?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER
I jus' hook 'em up don' fix 'em, here's the
keys lady said you knew somethin' bout cars.

STARKS (Grabs keys)
Do you know where she is?... Do you?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER (Shrugs)
Left a note fer' ya' in the glove box.

Starks LEAPS in the car. He finds the NOTE. READING THE NOTE: WE
HEAR IT IN JACKIE'S VOICE OVER AS WE SEE THE FOLLOWING:

JACKIE NOTE(V.O)
Dear Billy... I was with you,
then I watched you disappear...
I think, fade away, like a photo.
I was with you, then I woke up
Looking at your grave. What
Happened? Now I'm questioning
my own sanity... Do you exist
in reality or in my mind? I
researched everything you said
at my office... You kept talking
about your father, your parents
died in 1951, I'm sorry. If you
are reading this. You know how to
fix the car... There's "Evian" in
the backseat. I looked everywhere
for you. I stayed as long as
I could. I know the story of
William Starks in 1968... I
don't know the story of William
Starks in 1999. Billy, take my
car and drive. Here's where I'll
be for the next few days and
directions... If your real, please
hurry... If you don't exist and
I was just hallucinating... Take
your time... Love??? JACKIE
P.S. I had to get a new story in.

EXT. DIRTROAD. OUTSIDE JESSUP
While we hear Jackie's letter
we Starks look through the
back seat. "What the hell
is Evian?" He tosses make-up,
CD cases, newspapers aside..
He sees a bottle of water and
takes a drink, then he sees
the label "Evian". Smiling
to himself, he goes to the
radiator (empty) and pours 3
bottles in. (like he did
with canteen when she was 4)
The car starts. The Tow Truck
Driver is gone. Starks is
about to leave... But he has
to look back at the "Dog Run".
He's too far away to tell if
the old man supervising is
Becker... He looks to his
OWN GRAVE. He has to go.
NOW. He jumps in the car
and tears down the dirt road.
Dust from car obscures image -
Car re-appears driving at us.
Then it quickly stops. Starks
sees a - NEWSPAPER - JACKIES
NEW STORY. He picks it up.

CLOSE-UP STARKS Looks like he has been hit in the stomach. He reads:
 "BEHIND THE FRIENDLY FIRE OF THE PURPLE HEART" By Jackie Doering
 THE CAMREA PUSHES INTO AND PANS THE ATLANTA JOURNAL HEADLINE & STORY
 Capt. Robert Medlley convicted for the death of 22 people and sentenced
 to life at Leavonworth for the Vietnamese Village MASSACRE in early
 March 1968, when confronted by one of his men, Corporal Willam Starks,
 to stop the butchering of innocence at the village. Medlleys answer: to
 "shoot one of his own men". Medlley's original sentence was overturned
 by Nixon and he spent 3 years under house arrest. He now makes 6
 figures a year telling tales on the lecture circuit...I have met Willam
 Starks, maybe he should have turned Medlley in...But he had no one to
 turn to, his own commanding officer shot him. He is kind and gentle...
 LONG LENS -Starks puts the newspaper down and we see he quietly weeps

QUICK INTERCUTS - THE NEWSPAPER PHOTOS AND STARKS DRIVING.

PHOTOS - Starks and Medlley - Westmoreland gives Starks Purple Heart.

CAMERA pulls away towards the clouds - STARKS DRIVES. Clouds OBSCURE.

DOCUMENTED "Friendly fire" report - Hospital records - **American Bullet.**

CLOSE UP STARKS - He needs to find Jackie. Find out if she's real.
 The car flys down the highway. CAMERA moves the B&W PHOTO of Starks..
 WE HEAR A SCREECH:

35MM COLOR - MUSTANG SCREECHING OFF AN OFFRAMP. 9PM APRIL 3RD 1999.

Starks now drives thru a small town, RUNDOWN houses. poverty. He
 sees a bunch of skinheads (KKK) as they spill out of a building and
 mill around over refreshments. He looks at Jackie's note and stops
 the car. He races toward a OLD WEATHERED HOUSE, and Starks and
 CAMERA burst thru the door. Jackie is working on her computer.

STARKS

When I was shot...I died I saw a woman... It
 was YOU. All I remember is "go home". Does
 that mean anything to you? I don't have a
 home. You are REAL aren't you?

JACKIE

Yes. I grew up here... Snipesville,
 population 509. Haven't been home in years.

STARKS (Holding newspaper)

Your story... Why?

JACKIE (Tries to be calm)
 I'm a reporter...It was all true. You kept
 SLIPPING up on you story bout' your dad.
 When I found out about him dying...It was YOU.
 Ed threatened to fire me. I used my last
 crush to sneak it by him. Circulation on the
 stands went thru the roof... I got my "MAP"
 story. (She begins to hit him) Where did you
 go! You just dissapeared. I'm driven by
 LOGIC... I take notes! Help me! What are
 you? I exist...Do you? Are you real? Are you?!

STARKS
 I don't know... But if I am...We need to...

JACKIE (Cut's him off)
 I found eighteen F. Tennyson's in Georgia...
 7 In Bacon County... 3 In...

STARKS (Remembers clipboard)
 He has a mother. She lives in...in Mershon.
 Her name's Lillian. She was on the visiting
 list March 26th... 1968. (Pause) 555-1609

JACKIE (Dials phone)
 Photographic memory pretty handy Mr. Starks.
 Mershon is 'bout 200 miles away. We have to
 go back thru Atlanta. (Re: phone) Come on
 answer. Hi is there a Lillian there? Alright
 How about Frank? (turns to Starks) Lillians
 dead... It was a little boy not supposed to
 talk to strangers. He hung up. My hunch,
 Franks living in his mama's house.
 Let's go. Start the clock.

BLACK SCREEN "APRIL 3RD, 1968 - 8:59P.M. :57:58:59:" The clock is running

EXT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY YARD - "THE DOG RUN" - 6P.M. "APRIL 3RD, 1968"
 CAMERA floats toward Tenny, selling drugs to some Inmates. SUDDENLY
 TENNY SHIVERS AND FALLS. CAMERA floats past him and over the
 barbwire. In a trembling voice WE HEAR:

JACKIE (V.O.)
 Billy...Are you...(Pause) God?

EXT. SNIPESVILLE - SITTING IN MUSTANG - APRIL 3RD, 1999 9:01: 02 P.M.

JACKIE

I believe you...I can't, but I have to. It's not a movie...Re-incarnation, No, you're YOU ... I know the Book of Revelations ...I'm comin' back soon. (Pause)... Are you God?

STARKS

...I hope not...

Jackie sighs. Driving to Mereshon and TENNY. The radio comes on as she starts the car. "Got till it's gone" - a mix of RAP, Janet Jackson and a sample of Joni Mitchell's song "Big Yellow Taxi." *Have a feelin' now believin' that you were the one I was meant to be with oh how'd I let you get away Got till it's gone*".

STARKS (Panics)

We don't know if he is Alive? Do we?

JACKIE (Remains strong)

He should be. Listen, to the song, "you don't know what you have till it's gone" Nothing's gone yet... Let's just go there as quickly as we can and talk about your... (pause) nice buzz cut...That's "chic", too.

STARKS (Points to KKK house)

I finally fit in. (Laughs) with the Klan. (pause) Did my generation change anything?

JACKIE

Hippies just became what they were protesting against... (Pause) Your face... (looks at notepad) Did Becker do that?

Starks nods "YES". The car is now on the highway. Starks recognizes the familiar song. But not the version he's heard. Q-Tip: "Let me just fuck with it for a minute, That you don't know what yo' got till it's gone."

STARKS (Smiles)

I saw Joni Mitchell at Golden Gate Park, That's called stealing...

JACKIE (Smiles)

"Sampling" not stealing and that wasn't the Klan, It's called a Militia...Now...

STARKS (Laughs)

"Militia"... The army sold me with that WORD. "The whole body of physically fit male civilians eligible by law for millitary service" Websters dictionary, 3rd definition (Beat) Then they shot... NO, killed me I was drowning, dying... But I didn't want to be saved...Then...I saw YOU in that dress. I was so scared but you gave me calm. You were a dream I never wanted to wake up from...

JACKIE

"I once dreamt I was a butterfly, when I awoke I was a man or was I a butterfly dreaming I was a man."

STARKS (Startled)

Where did you hear that?

JACKIE

I read it in a book. A collection of quotes.

STARKS (Cut's her off)

Who wrote it? What was it called?!

JACKIE

I don't remember Billy, Me...notes. You... memory, remember? Let's get Tenny.

He nods the Mustang drives towards ATLANTA Starks smiles. WE HEAR:

PRISON DOCTOR (VO)

Yer just suffering from a little heat stroke.

INT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY - TENNY'S CELL - 1968

The Dr. checks Tenny who is drenched in sweat, laying in his bunk. We hear a mixture of singing, yelling and chanting from outside. A guard enters, whispers to the Dr. who leaves, Tenny alone.

TENNY (Delirium)

Don't leave... forget the "Nigger".
Something's happening to me...HELP!

CAMERA PUSHES OUT TENNY'S CELL WINDOW TO REVEAL:

A CELEBRATION & PROTEST OF AN EXECUTION - A cross burns as the KKK, led by James R. Venable, start a celebratory rally. A group of black men and women (including Black Panther FRED HAMPTON) have their own peaceful rally going. They sing "Amazing Grace." Suddenly a confrontation between a few members from both sides erupts. Local police break it up as the CAMERA settles on the innocent, scared face of a 16 year old black girl. **"I once was lost, but now am found."**

INT. JACKIE'S MUSTANG PULLING OFF ATLANTA FREEWAY- 1999 - 10:59 PM

Starks looks worried as they drive by an old burned down Church and into a crowded part of DOWNTOWN ATLANTA. (Near her office building)

JACKIE

Sometimes, when I'm on the road, I get thoughts.

STARKS

Thoughts? Why are you getting off the road?

JACKIE (Ignores his question)

You know, fantasies. I'm drivin' along. I pick up a good lookin' guy. We hit it off. Of course, it's just a fantasy.

STARKS (Smiles)

We don't have time...But thanks...Why are we...

JACKIE (Getting out of car)

It's a Freeway not a road...I'll be right back... Just stay in the car...Read. Skip the '80's, greed and Republicans. My research on you is there if you want to look... (looks back at him) Billy, I did the story for YOU.

Jackie runs to a CROWDED BANK ATM MACHINE. Starks gets it. Deep breath. Taps finger. Waiting. Jackie is third in line. Starks picks up the 3 in. TV attached to a VCR. He hits play. JACKIES RESEARCH - B&W TV IMAGE we hear "BLAT" THE SAME "BLAT" WE HEARD in his 1st JACKET experience.

DAN RATHER (On 3 inch T.V.)

Blat? What's that?

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY (laughs)

Well if you ever heard an AR-14 fired in the jungle, It's BLAT...The V.C. started running. That's it. If they run. Blat.

DAN RATHER

You'll kill them? What about capture?

CAPTAIN MEDLLEY

There is no capture, they shot Corporal Starks.

35MM COLOR - Starks tosses the T.V... He didn't want to see that. - BEEP - He looks to the DIGITAL CLOCK in the mustang. "BEEP" as it turns over to 11:00PM. BEEP - The sound is loud and hurts him. Starks looks for Jackie... She is somewhere in a crowd. He opens the door and HE CAN'T SEE HER. Panicked Starks RUNS trying to find Jackie.

EXT. STREETS FILLED WITH PEOPLE - DOWNTOWN ATLANTA - "11:01 P.M. - 1999"

HELICOPTER ANGLE - CAMERA Spins and moves in on a frantic Starks (same exact type of shot that was in Starks' first Jacket trip - when he was alone in the middle of the modern city.) Now he looks frantically for Jackie. Help...STARKS' P.O.V.-100's of SKYSCRAPERS. SMASH CUT TO: HARSH HAND HELD REALITY - We race thru the crowded street with Starks as he desperately asks anyone if they've seen her. VERY LOUD, DISORIENTING. He runs by ATM's, hundreds of people: Without Jackie, MODERN ATLANTA is throwing him off. BADLY. He runs by an electronics store blaring music from "Boomboxes". Here the ironic thing is: The music is remade versions of old 60's songs, either sampled rap music or straight remakes. For example The Beastie Boys remaking:

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

DISSOLVE TO: Starks running.
DISSOLVE TO: Near miss with a car.
DISSOLVE TO: Asking for help, NO.
DISSOLVE TO: Starks called a skinhead.
DISSOLVE TO: Someone points.
DISSOLVE TO: Police cruiser follows him.
DISSOLVE TO: Starks falls on the sidewalk

*There's a lady who's sure
all that glitters is gold
and she's buying a stair-
way to heaven. When she
gets there she knows with
a word she can get what
she came for.*

STARKS POV - THE PUZZLE EFFECT - He sees: A group, including a cop, star over the thin, sickly looking Starks. PUZZLE PIECES FALL FROM SCREEN. HEIGHTENED REALITY IMAGE SLOWS DOWN - All sounds hurt. Jackie runs thru the crowd as he begins to blackout. Jackie helps the semi-conscious Starks into the car. THE PUZZLE STARTS TO FILL ITSELF AS HE SEES JACKIE. SCREEN TRIES TO RECEDE/FLICKER - INSTEAD A 3D EFFECT. HE SEES:

INT. - MORGUE - Dr. checks Starks HEARTBEAT with stethoscope - 1968

STARKS (V.O.)

3 Beats per minute... I'm really weak, I don't know if I can make... It...

INT JACKIES MUSTANG - DRIVING - APRIL 3RD 11:02 :19:20:21 PM 1999

"ooh it makes me wonder"

JACKIE (covering her worry).

We'll make it. You were out. Just a couple minutes. You look a little pale. That's it. You're alright. Do you want to rest?

SILENCE - Starks is staring at the newspaper story with all the accompanying research. More then pale he looks tired and beaten.

STARKS (Finally speaks)

I fucked up. I should have shot Medlley. Something, anything. Maybe it would have been different... But I ran from myself(laughes) Then they gave me medals, "a war hero". They tried to buy me, congratulate me. But nobody ever tried to forgive me. (tears) Thank you for trying to forgive me.

JACKIE (She holds back tears).

OKAY. CHANGE OF SUBJECT... I think the whole world is crazy... you know what I think the cause is? You'll never guess... Guess...

STARKS (Wipes own tears)

... All right. How about a generation with the greatest technological advances... Everything at your fingertips... That seems to be the laziest and least educated generation of our time... I did peace, love, protests... Now kids kill each other at the same schools I did sit-ins at. At least my generation cared about change... This generation can't count change...

JACKIE (Little worried)

You in a better mood now that you got that out? Your colors better... In your face.

STARKS (Head very heavy)

A little... Hey, maybe I'm already dead and...

JACKIE(Cut's him off)

I'm heaven. Now that's a good pick up line. (Looks ahead) NOT NOW. We don't have time!

LOUD SCREECH. The car FISHTAILS, Starks looks up and he sees:
 ANGLE FROM ABOVE - The 4 lane highway is GRIDLOCKED. Smoke billows from ahead. Starks impatiently GETS OUT OF THE CAR and begins to walk and see what happened. Jackie honks her horn at Starks who sees 2 DRIVERS involved in a traffic accident, YELLING. The Police arrive, play peacemakers. Starks gets back in the Mustang.
 STARKS' P.O.V. - The police have waved them by the accident. They are back on their way. ATLANTA dissapearing in the background.

STARKS (Shaking his head)
 Everybody used to be mad at "The Man"...If you were mad, it was "The Man"...I don't know, I never met "Him"... Now everybody just seems mad at each other... Did we win... The war?

JACKIE (less worried)
 Depends who you talk to. We became a lot more efficient at war... Particularly the ones on cable. 3 days and we win.

STARKS
 When I came back ..I didn't want anything...But everybody was mad at me.

JACKIE (Smiles)
 Maybe you were "The Man"...

Starks laughs. BLACK SCREEN READS: APRIL 3RD, 1999 11:29 :58:59PM.

INT. JESSUP - ISOLATION/PADDED CELL - 11:30 P.M. "1968"
 Mackenzie's oblivious to all. His head is being shaved. Silent.

"CLICK" - SEPIA TONE STILL PHOTO - Jackie, age 4, with her mother.
 CAMERA moves into Jackie's smiling face. Starks' ring is on a necklace on her neck. We are back in 1999

JACKIE
 Thief, you stole my picture... (Pause) I had to tell my mama ...I found that ring, your ring, in a river...You want it back?

STARKS
 No, it's yours . You want your picture back?

Jackie smiles and shakes her head "NO" - ROAD SIGN - "MERSHON 121 MILES"

JACKIE

Do you know Mackenzie was the youngest man
at the time ever incarcerated for murder...
He was tried as an adult when he was 13...
Trial lasted only 1 day. Good ol' boy
southern justice...

STARKS

...For killing his wife...He knows SOMETHING
about the "Jacket"...But he can't...

JACKIE (Cut's him off)

He didn't kill his wife...He killed 2 men
that raped her when she was pregnant with
his child. Her name was LEONA... She died
giving birth to his daughter...Teresa...

Starks is taken ABACK. He was WRONG. That's why Mackenzie cried
when looking at HIS PICTURE "Flicker" - CLANG - "Flicker"
ROAD SIGN "MERSHON 119 MILES." - CLANG Starks panics. Jackie
panics. Starks tries to regain composure for her - CLANG - Jackie
drives not knowing what is happening...She stares, she can't speak -
Starks grabs his head. STARKS' POV - Jackie is disappearing.
"And she's buying a stairway to heaven"

STARKS (trying to be calm)

Just keep driving... Wait for me...
please...(weaker) Just get us thereee
...Jackie... Why? Why?

INT. JESSUP PENITENTIARY MORGUE. - 11:45 P.M. 1968

Becker oversees Guard #4 who takes Starks from the JACKET...
Unshackling the mask. Expecting Starks to be comatose if not dead.
They are STARTLED when STARKS SITS UP QUICKLY AND YELLS.

STARKS

Why the hell do you people keep taking me
out! Leave me alone! We were 118 miles away!

PRISON DOCTOR (Thrown for a loop)

Sit down...You won't be able to walk...

Starks WALKS right over to Becker, who quickly points his gun.

STARKS (Doesn't care about gun)

Put the gun down Becker, put me back in now!

BECKER (To Dr.)

How is he walking? Shouldn't he be dead?

STARKS (Lays on Cadaver Drawer)

"Natural causes" Becker. Not yet. WAIT.
You can help me. Are you going to take me
out in the morning or night tomorrow? Quick,
A.M. or P.M. Stop laughing and answer...
Becker! Why the fuck did you take me out?!

BECKER

...Yer' Nigger...

STARKS (Starts strapping Jacket himself)

You're no use to me...You fucking redneck
pig put me back in and I won't hurt you!
(Smiles) Please. Restrain me.

BECKER

Changed my mind. You are crazy, Starks.
Funny too. I'll put you back and strap
you in myself. Promise. But yer Nigger..

STARKS

African-American is more P.C...Ya'll.

BECKER

Whatever you say Starks. He's gonna fry in
about ten minutes and yer' his last request.

STARKS

Why does he want to see me...

STARKS TAKES OFF THE JACKET -A MANS GOING TO DIE -HE KNOWS -NO REPRIEVE

INT. JESSUP ISOLATION/PADDED CELL - "11:55 P.M. APRIL 3, 1968"

Starks (chained heavily) ENTERS. Mackenzie doesn't see him. He is
shaking his head, trying to drown out the prison chaplain.

PRISON CHAPLAIN

...Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...

STARKS (To Chaplain)

Please, I don't think he wants to hear that.

WARDEN GRIES (To room)

Let them be... Mackenzie. Salvation may
await. You only have two minutes left.

Mackenzie smiles as the Chaplin leaves. He looks to Starks and rubs his stomach. He is excited. He got a good meal. With his chained hands, he MIMICS a fork and knife.

STARKS (Smiles/laughs)

Steak...You better have gotten potatoes with that...(Awkward beat as Mac's mood changes)
Pretty nice haircut...Little drafty though...

Mackenzie blows some air. A smile, It's worked for a moment. Then he starts to SHAKE. He points downward. Then to the door where the Chaplin left. He shakes. Then can't hold back he cries as he points downward again. What do you say to a man, A friend? Who's going to die?

STARKS

You're not going to hell...Mac, They raped LEONA...Your baby girl was inside her...You threw the bible, REMEMBER? The Preacher's wrong. They don't know God..."His sins which are many are forgiven for he is loved much". Look at me Mac..I love you..You are forgiven

For the FIRST TIME. Mackenzie tries to form words. No sound. But it is clear what he is saying as we read his lips. **"DON'T WANT TO DIE"**.

STARKS

You don't have to!...Mac, you can escape...

Mackenzie shakes his chains. NO. he shakes his chains harder as WE HEAR The Death Team coming back to take Mackenzie away.

STARKS (Stares right at him)

You can escape death! (convincing self) You don't need the Jacket...You're going to see a LIGHT ...It will scare you...Race to it...Right before they hit the switch...That light, it's white and it will BLIND you...YOU HAVE TO RUN TO IT!...Go right through that light! Close your eyes and jump through it! DO IT! Leona's there... The beach and Otis are there... that's the "SAFE PLACE"... If I'm wrong, isn't it better to die in laughter than to live in tears?. They're coming you have to believe me! YOUR MIND can do it. I think you've known all along... You're scared. I'm scared too... Go through that LIGHT, the Butterfly

dreaming he's a man. Look at me dammit! Mac,
 How would I know about your baby. TERESA.
 I've been there. Believe me. Leona wrote
 that Butterfly note. Please, try. I hope you
 can understand me. Float like the smoke...
 You showed me... That's the Dock of the Bay
 I can be there if you need it!...LOOK FOR ME!

PRISON GUARD #2 (enters cell)
 Cookin' time. Let's go...

WARDEN GRIES
 I call the righteous but sinners to
 repentance. Ye who do earnestly repent. (etc.)

STARKS (Tries to hug him)
 I'm not crazy, I heard you whistle...Just
 laugh at them... Mac, just laugh.

BECKER GRABS STARKS AWAY AS MACKENZIE IS AT THE DEATH CHAMBER DOOR.

STARKS (Yells to Mac)
 Mac you know what else? They want a black
 man to be President in the future...

Mackenzie rolls his eyes and a slight SMILE crosses his lips. One
 last moment of FUN... Then sadness as...

THE DEATH CHAMBER DOOR CLOSSES BEHIND MACKENZIE. HE'S GONE.
 Does he believe Starks?

BLACKNESS - Screen reads: "April 4th 12:00:01:02:03 A.M.
 The BLACKNESS is removed as DARK CURTAIN is raised revealing:
 THE ELECTRIC CHAIR - CAMERA pulls back and we are now viewing over the
 Victim's Family. - Mackenzie is placed in the chair, clearly
 frightened. TIGHT ON: straps being tightened. Mackenzie takes a deep
 breath. He CRYs, for himself, Leona, his Baby and the Men he killed.
 TIGHT ON: EEG pads being applied to Mackenzie. One pad slips off.

DOCTOR (Whispers to Warden)
 He's gotta metal plate...probably born with
 his skull fused closed...Probably why he's
 ignorant... Shouldn't be a problem... he
 might go quick or it could take a little
 longer for him to expire... 50/50.

The Warden NODS to the VICTIM'S FAMILY, Then signals the Guards.
 The FINAL LEATHER STRAPS are placed. MAC is CLAMPED INTO THE CHAIR.

The EXECUTIONER GRIPS THE SWITCH. Mackenzie, SHAKES then closes his frightened eyes. All eyes fall on the Warden. HE NODS... We hear... "A LITTLE LAUGH." It comes from:

CLOSE UP: MACKENZIE - No tears. He now WHISTLES "*Now I'm just gonna sit on the dock of the Bay, watching the tide roll away.*" Eyes opened.

INT. STARKS/MACKENZIE CELL - "April 4TH, 1968 12:05:33:34:35 A.M."

Starks, eyes closed, is being forced to SEWS RIPS in "The Jacket". Fixing his SALVATION or his DEATH. Starks now hears it: WHISTLING

INT. DEATH CHAMBER - "APRIL 4TH, 1968 12:05:36:37:38 A.M."

Mackenzie's eyes seem to DRIFT AWAY almost a SERENE FEELING. The Executioner pulls the switches. 2000 volts of electricity hit Mackenzie. His whole body jerks upright... REACTION of those witnessing Mackenzie fry to death. Mackenzie's body slumps in the chair. The Doctor listens for a heartbeat. Mackenzie is dead. The Chaplain anoints him. SILENCE. Then we FADE UP AND HEAR: "Otis Redding" finishes his classic song. "Whistling the ending."

THE TIERS OF CELLS - The prison is strangely quiet. The silence is almost eerie. BLACK or WHITE - A MAN has just been executed. WE HEAR:

STARKS (V.O.)

Tenny.....Oh, Tenny...

STARKS' P.O.V. - SLOWED DOWN AS CAMERA PASSES "TENNY'S CELL".

STARKS (Crazed look in his eyes)

...I'm only 50 miles away. Maybe closer.
I'll be right there! You won't kill me
before I figure it out...I'm going to be
there... morning or night.

TENNY (Backs up)

You are certifiable. Really INSANE, Hippie.

STARKS (Right to Tenny)

Maybe... but I'm not giving up... The
chase is fun, ain't it... Tenny. Given
the choice between being YOU right now or
crazy...I gotta say insanity's the winner
40 miles...I might already be there ...
I'll see you Tenny...

INT. MORGUE - Starks sees his arms as they are CINCHED - PAINFULLY

STARKS

Becker, we're not sure about a prior life or an afterlife... All we have is this fucker right now and I'm going to milk it.

"PHOTO OF JACKIE AGE 4" falls onto the slab. HOW DID THE PHOTO TRAVEL WITH HIM? Becker rips it up. Starks sadly looks on. CLOSE UP: Starks sees the mask approaching, ready to SMOTHER the life from him. The HORRIFIC MASK covers CAMERA - Through the eye slits WE SEE: The CAMERA is slammed in to the Cadaver Drawer. The SCREEN READS: "April 4th 2:36: 01:02:03 A.M. 1999" WE HEAR:

JACKIE (V.O.)

Does it hurt when you come back like that?

INT. MUSTANG/PARKED IN THE WOODS - APRIL 4TH 2:36: 07:08:09 1999
STARKS' P.O.V. - Jackie looking at him, She works on a LAPTOP.

STARKS (Coming to)

...Not anymore. I couldn't find out morning or night. It has to be in the morning... I'm going to be working. The Guards will just turn their backs..He'll just kill me..IT HAS TO BE THE MORNING. (Thinks) Where are we?

She points, Starks follows her lead - HE SEES IT:
OVER A MAILBOX THAT READS "TENNYSON", a dilapidated Farmhouse/Shack - POVERTY. Starks starts out of the car. A calm Jackie calls to him.

JACKIE

Billy, he's not home yet.

STARKS

How do you know?!... Is he Alive?

JACKIE (Shows her note pad)

I think so...The tire tracks are fresh... "R" rating, left front is almost flat. 3 inches wider. The truck can't go far...I looked in the window. Somebody lives in there it's a mess. There are 3 30-60 Rifles missing from a rack. (Beat) Breakfast. Believe me.

STARKS

Let's find him...I don't want to die before I...

JACKIE (Trying to be calm)
You won't. We can't find anything in those woods in the dark. We might not make it back in time. I grew up here, I know these people. He will be back at dawn. He's gotta cook what he catches... We wait.

STARKS (Laughs)
Tennys' the only one that can save me... Tell me how he killed me and he's in the woods. All right, we wait. He'll be back.

JACKIE (She nods & smiles)
We have a little time to kill.

STARKS
Can you use a different word...

JACKIE
Joke...I'm cute and funny. Your Attorney, Harris Wofford...Pretty famous guy you got working on your case...He was very INFLUENTIAL in limiting the time an inmate could spend in Solitary Confinement...He arranged for a minimum of one hour of exercise...

STARKS (Cuts her off)
Just leave me in the Jacket Harris. HE'S NOT MY LAWYER!...Sorry... Do you believe in happy endings?

JACKIE
I might if I knew when it ended. Do you want to know about Mackenzie's daughter?

STARKS
I don't know...Do I?

JACKIE
You know about Martin Luther King...

STARKS
If you could...would you...would you save him?

JACKIE
...Maybe. (Thinks)...No...He died for a reason.

STARKS

What reason? Nothing's changed... I could throw a stone and hit some guy wearing a white hood over his head anywhere around here having refreshments. Nothing's changed.

JACKIE (Cuts him off)

You're wrong...Look at me!...Then you see the reason...I'm the CHANGE. (Beat) Teresa Mackenzie... It's there...If you want...

Starks looks at her. He gets it. Jackie hands a printed page to Starks who stares up, then folds it WITHOUT LOOKING and puts it in his pocket. Starks thinks, looks to the shack, then kisses Jackie.

THE BLACK SCREEN READS:

April 4th 4:30 19:20 21:22AM
1999/68

FADE UP FROM BLACKNESS: INT.

JESSUP - "Tenny's Cell" 1968

He paces his cell having an anxiety attack. He sticks his mattress and pulls out a syringe.

He plunges it into a vein.

PEARL JAM (Bootleg version)
...So bye, bye Miss American
Pie. Drove my chevy to the
Levy but the Levy was dry.
Them good old boys were
drinkin' whisky and Rye,
singin' this will be the day

DISSOLVE THROUGH:

THE BLACK SCREEN READS: APRIL 4th 5:30: 58:59 5:31 A.M. 1999/1968

STARKS

I have to go in. Maybe find something, anything ... We can go through a window.

CLOSE UP: STARKS AT THE DOOR - He peers thru a window and tries to climb

JACKIE

Just open the door...

He does. It just pushes open. No locks. They share a smile.

JACKIE

I know my southern's showing... Just Don't ask me what grits are. I have no idea. Breaking and entering... we can go to jail...

Starks smiles and enters looks around for anything. Finds nothing.

STARKS (semi-laugh)

What the hell am I looking for? I'm losing it! (breath) All right, I believe you...

Nothings gone yet...He'll be back soon. We just hide and wait and talk. Ok, you said something about my name and a song...

JACKIE (Looks away)
It's kinda before and after your time...
Billy, (starts to cry). I'm not going to see you again. Am I?

STARKS (Tries to comfort)
That might not...(Can't finish speaking.)

JACKIE (Finishes for him)
See, you can't even say it...You saw me one day for 10 minutes...MAYBE? (Silence) You don't know me. Everybody had families. FATHERS ...I didn't. That's why I helped you...At First...Now I (can't say it)I grew up like this...(points to junk) Ashamed. Mama said daddy would be back and we would have a house with a "WHITE PICKET FENCE"...He never came home. Mama said he was a nobody. I blamed her...I hated her...I got good fuckin' grades and pulled myself out of the "white trash"... We started getting money when I was five. Mama never would tell me where it came from.. When I was 18, I went down to the Social Security office and they told me the checks came from my daddy's pension...He was SOMEBODY.

STARKS
In your office that's what NEVERMIND was...(Beat) Your mom had to have reasons...

JACKIE (Stares / cried out)
My first day at High School, so nervous. Mama bought me new shoes, the wrong color. Purple. I screamed at her... they didn't match my dress... My only dress... She just kept apologizing... When I went to school, I was called to the Principal's Office... (Pause) They told me my mother had an accident at work... She...was dead. I know I told you she was alive... I was running I... I never got a chance to tell her how much I loved her. How much I knew SHE LOVED ME. That I was sorry ... She died on me.

She finally cries. Starks wraps his arms around her. 2 lone souls.

HAND HELD TIME PASSES WE DISSOLVE THROUGH: THE BLACK SCREEN READS:
 "April 4th, 1999 6:19 :58:59 6:20 A.M.." They hide waiting for Tenny.

STARKS (Huddled in a corner) .
 I was already dead before I got put into
 that Jacket...Now I'm alive because of
 you. I've had no emotions for so long
 that I don't know what love is...But if I
 ever figure it out...it has to be you.

JACKIE (Looks at him)
 Thank you...I now know the REAL reason why
 I'm helping you... I have to... You're the
 white picket fence...

They hold each other - CAMERA SPEED SLOWS DOWN - A timeless moment...
 Starks wipes her tears. Jackie kisses his bruised face. THEY MAKE
 LOVE. - First this is SHOT IN HAND HELD REALITY - THEN DISSOLVE TO:

MUSIC: "Levon wears his war wound like a crown"
 CAMERA SPEED SLOWS DOWN - DISSOLVE TO: SILHOUETTED Jackie and Starks.

DISSOLVE TO:
 CAMERA SPEED SLOWS DOWN EVEN MORE - DISSOLVE TO: CLOSE UPS: Jackie and
 Starks moves over to. WE HEAR: "CLANG - CLANG - CLANG" and DISSOLVE TO:
 CAMERA SPEED SLOWS DOWN TO A SINGLE STILL IMAGE of their lovemaking.

MUSIC: "He was a pauper to pawn..." DISSOLVE TO:
 FLICKERING IMAGE OF VARIOUS STILL PHOTOS as they make love - "CLANG"
 WE HEAR: Starks, "MOANS... IN PAIN." SMASH CUT TO:
 CAMERA RAMPS to full speed as. It is pulled out of the cadaver drawer.

"1968 8:01 A.M." JESSUP - The SUN RISES over the GUARD TOWER.
 FLICKERING IMAGE - Starks ASLEEP with Jackie in Tenny's shack. SCREEN
 SLAMS DOWN TO STARKS' P.O.V. THROUGH SLITS OF HIS MASK. STARKS/CAMERA
 SEE Becker JERKS him from the Cadaver Drawer.

BECKER (Holding Court papers)
 Wake up!...Starks...Mr. Wofford convinced...

STARKS (Cuts him off)
 ONE HOUR OF EXERCISE. I know, Jackie told
 me...I don't have time!

BECKER
 Can't help ya...Straight from the 5th circuit

CAMERA SHOTS THROUGH CROSSES MOVING OVER THE GROUND - We reveal Starks deep in a 6 foot hole that he has dug. Sheer will power drives the stoic Starks as he climbs out of the hole. Nearly passing out he crawls over to MACKENZIES BODY. HIS EXERCISE He has been forced to dig his grave. With all of the inner strength he has left he carries his FRIEND and puts him into the grave. He begins to cover him with dirt. The prison population watches Starks finish... When done he falls down from exhaustion. Tenny over to him. Starks tries to stand. Tenny grabs the shovel & HITS HIM HARD IN THE RIBS.

TENNY

You wanted to see me in the mornin'...
Here I am... Hippy... How ya'll doing?

STARKS(Through pain. Eyes fierce.)

Doing fine. Kill me now while you still have
the chance, do it Tenny. I'm in your house.

Tenny hits him again in the ribs. This is the RIGHT DAY. It's too early. Is Starks going to die now at the hands of Tenny?

MUSIC: "When the N.Y. Times said God was dead"

STARKS/CAMERA fall to the ground. BLACKNESS: WE HEAR A FRANTIC JACKIE: FLICKER - We see by land marks (rocks, trees etc.) Starks is laying on the spot where he and Jackie saw his own grave. BLACKNESS

We DISSOLVE THROUGH

BLACK SCREEN READS: "April 4th
9:02 :45 :46 AM"

JACKIE (V.O.)

Oh...My God! WAKE UP! BILLY
WAKE UP! Please...

STARKS/CAMERA open eyes - A BLINDING LIGHT. We barely see a silhouetted Jackie as she shakes Starks..

JACKIE (Crying)

It's 9:02. I sorry. Billy, don't die! Please

Starks puts his finger to her lips to quiet her. 9:02 :50. He holds her. Their last moment together? They stare at each other. Is this the end? 9:02 :55 Starks closes his eyes and looks skyward.

STARKS

I'm not ready...Please.

9:02 :59 - Jackie expects him to DIE. Starks expects to DIE.

JACKIE (Finnaly says it)

I love you...

CAMERA MOVES, BLINDED BY THE SUN FROM HOLES IN TENNY'S SHACK - 9:03
:00:01:02. CAMERA KEEPS MOVING REVEALING: STARKS IS ALIVE. He falls
to his knees, now realizing he is in pain. He feels his blood.
"They called him Levon and they called him a good man"

JACKIE (Sees blood seeping through his shirt)
They hurt you...You're bleeding to death.
I was just so tired. I'm so sorry...

STARKS (Grabs her)
Jackie, I'm ALIVE. Look at me. They can't
hurt me anymore...Are you okay?

JACKIE (Wipes tears)
Yeah. (Beat) It's past 9, he should be back.

WE HEAR THE SOUND OF A RIFLE HAMMER BEING COCKED. Standing above them
are filthy twin 6 year old boys. Hunting rifles pointed at our couple.

JACKIE (Deep breath)
... From hunting... Hey there... That's a
real nice gun...Is yer' daddy home?

KIDS (Standing above with gun)
Papa's dead...

JACKIE (Sees Starks slump)
Ya'll got a grampa? (Hopeing she's right)
We're real old friends of your Grampa Tenny
and we want this to be a big surprise.. So..

MAN'S VOICE
They ain't supposed to talk to strangers and
Tenny ain't got no friends like ya'll...

IT'S TENNY. Sitting on a couch (held up by milk cartons.) In his
60's. Tenny doesn't recognize Starks. Tenny has a rifle in his lap.
Sitting next to him is a string of dead rabbits and rodents. Starks
plays it cool HE'S ALIVE. Jackie SIGHS WITH RELIEF. He was hunting.

TENNY (Age 60)
Man can't even hunt without people breaking
in his home...no more.

JACKIE (Tries to charm)
Sorry bout that, Hi. We're looking for
Frank Tennyson? I'm with the Atlanta Journal

Constitution...We're hoping Mr. Tennyson can
can give us some information on someone...

TENNY (playing that it's not him)
He don't know nobody. He don't want no
subscription. And he don't believe ya'll.

STARKS (Knows it's him)
You know WILLIAM STARKS.

TENNY (Startled / calms himself)
Ya'll look like him...You his kid?

JACKIE
Yes he is. We're doing a story on him... I
can pay you for your time.

TENNY
Yes you can.(to kids) Boys go the hell outside.

TIGHT ON: Money being laid on a table. "84, 85, 86 dollars." There
are three homemade chairs. Jackie tries to ask **if she can sit ?**

TENNY (Age 60 won't let her ask)
You're already sittin', floors just fine
...Must not be that big of a story all you
can afford is 86 dollars... Ya'll got any
change? What happened to yer ribs son?

Jackie throws Starks a look to stay calm. Blood starts to seep from
his shirt where Tenny HIT HIM WITH THE SHOVEL. Starks stares then
smiles at Tenny who fiddles with change that Jackie gives him.

JACKIE (Charming)
A little mishap... Looks worse then it
is... Frank , I'll shoot you straight
(pause) Billy never knew his father...

TENNY (age 60) (A little more relaxed)
Neither did I really... You always talk
fer' Billy? That's ok. A lot of men "do
time"... I was always one that just stayed
to myself... Unlike yer' daddy... Billy?

JACKIE (Jumps right in)
Frank, Can you put the gun down? (nothing)
Alright, do you know how Billy's daddy died?

TENNY (age 60) (still holds gun)
 Starks had a lot of mental problems. Diagnosed
 ...Personally I think it was a lot of
 experimenting with "hippie" drugs Just catches
 up wit' ya'...He just snapped when he got out.

STARKS (trying hard)
 Got out of where?

TENNY (age 60) (Laughs)
 Billy talked. Got outta prison, yer'
 daddy just went mad and kilt' himself.
 Must of been a hell of a mishap... You
 better hurry wit' a question... before
 Billy bleeds all over my floor. And it's
 Mr Tennyson ...Ma'am.

STARKS (1,2,3, explodes)
 I thought it was "Tenny" to friends and I'll
 take the LAST-QUESTION! How did you kill me?!
 I know it is TONIGHT! How?! HOW! Another
 fire bomb? A shiv? TELL ME TENNY! 9:03!
 TELL ME! Put the gun down or point it at me!

TENNY (Plays with trigger)
 I don't know what the hell yer' talking
 about... Or what the hell yer' daddy told
 ya'...But ya'll want the gun on you... Aim.

STARKS (finishes for him)
 To please. I told you I'd be coming for you.
 Tenny. Remember. I warned you. Don't start
 with the Mental Problem angle. (Laughs) Maybe
 now you're right... (Serious) But not then.
 I was SANE. Shoot me! Coward. "Daydream
 believer and a Homecoming Queen." It's a
 classic song, huh?

TENNY (backing up)
 I can shoot you...It's all legal Trespassing.
 Self defense...No repercussions...

STARKS (Calm as can be)
 Stop showing off your jailhouse legal
 skills and SHOOT ME! I'll take the GUN
 from you...Jackie, get out of here,
 please. This is between me and "Tenny."

Starks is just a few feet away from Tenny when he squeezes the trigger. Starks doesn't see Jackie, who runs to him trying to pull him away. "BANG." Jackie IS HIT in the shoulder. She crumbles to the ground. Starks screams and bulldozes Tenny to the floor. In the struggle, Tenny gets off one more shot. The BULLET GOES THROUGH Starks' left hand. Starks doesn't feel pain as he rips the gun from Tenny's hand and puts it right against Tenny's head.

JACKIE (Grabs shoulder)
Billy, NO I'm all right. The bullet went
right through...

TENNY (Trying anything)
Yer' daddy...He was a good...

STARKS (Cuts him off)
Man, Yes he was . In "theory" you met him.
In "reality," YOU MET ME.

Tenny's EYES WIDEN IN STARTLED RECOGNITION. But it's been 30 years.

TENNY
Hippie?? It can't be. You...you're dead.

STARKS (Cold as ice)
No kidding. You murdered me... How?

TENNY (Pleading)
No! Starks killed himself. Buried him in the
Prison Cemetery. I saw the body! He was crazy.

STARKS
If I'm crazy, then you're part of my
madness. Now you're going to pay for
killing me. And that Highway Patrolman!

TENNY (Pleading)
I did my time for killing the Patrolman...

STARKS (About to pull the trigger)
Liar!! You did your time for killing me...
Tell the truth!... And I won't kill you...

TENNY
I did 27 years for the Cop...I confessed!

STARKS (Starts shaking)
Wrong answer!... I gave you a chance!

JACKIE (Pleads)
Billy...No...You need him...Please.

TENNY (Starts whimpering)
You can't kill me in front of my grandkids
... Please... Take me outside. Please.

Starks looks to the GRANDKIDS. They are peeking around a corner.
SCARED. Starks fights back tears. His past is catching up with him.
CLANG - CLANG - CLANG. Starks begins to panic. He looks to the
Grandkids - CLANG - He takes a deep breath. His finger tightens on
the trigger. FLICKERING IMAGE. He sees The Vietnam Village -
FLICKERING IMAGE - Image is Gone. - CLANG - CLANG Starks is too weak
to even say ...noooo.....nooo...

SLOW MOTION - The GUN DROPS from his hand, hitting the ground. Jackie
and Tenny fade from view as we hear: SOUND OF THE CADAVER DRAWER.

1968 - STARKS YANKED BY BECKER into the blinding light. Dr. checks
Starks' eyes and neck pulse. Nothing. BLOOD SEEPS OUT OF THE JACKET
where Starks was shot in the hand by Tenny. Starks P.O.V. Becker
FLICKERING away. He is in 1968 but he is now able to see 1999. What
he wants and NEEDS TO SEE.

FLICKERING IMAGE.1999. TENNY RUNS out the door. Jackie gets the gun.
Starks sees a frantic Tenny realize he has no keys. Tenny hides under
an old beat up pick-up.

STARKS (Eyes closed to Becker)
Becker...I can see...20/20...I see him...

Becker slams the CAMERA/DRAWER back in. We see a hint of a smile
from Starks. A MOMENT OF BLACKNESS. THEN HE'S BACK IN TENNY'S SHACK
- Jackie is scared as Starks tries to take the gun away from her.

JACKIE (Pleading)
Please..You're not a killer..I'll live! NO!

STARKS
He shot you! He deserves to die!

Starks, in a desperate frenzy to get at Tenny, grabs Jackie and BODILY
THROWS HER out of the way. She lands hard on the floor. SMASH CUT TO:

1968 TENNY HIDING under his bunk. He SHAKES not knowing what is happening to him... He PLEADS to the air. Cell doors are SLAMMED OPEN.

TENNY (To guard)
I'm sick...Please leave me alone...

1999 - TENNY'S SHACK - SAME - Starks, moves to Jackie on the floor.

STARKS (crying)
I'm sorry... I WILL LET HIM GO...

JACKIE (Softly)
No, you can't...If you don't get him...

STARKS (Says it for her)
...I will die for you...

JACKIE (She stands)
No! ...You won't...

EXT. TENNY'S SHACK - "APRIL 4th 1999 10:00 :01 :02 :03 a.m."
Tenny is hiding under the pick-up. He SHAKES not knowing what is happening to him. He PLEADS to the air...CAMERA floats above and away from them. Starks, gun in hand, shields Jackie.

JACKIE (V.O.)
How do you know?

STARKS (Smiling)
I saw him. 30 years doesn't, can't change
that man...He's a coward...Tenny, come out...

The CAMERA lowers and sees Tenny hiding under the pick-up. Starks appears on the other side and, with his bloody hand, grabs the older, frail Tenny out from underneath. Starks throws Tenny in the driver's seat of Jackie's car. Starks has the gun pointed at Tenny. Jackie tries to get into the passenger seat, Starks stops her.

STARKS (Softly)
No, you can't go... It isn't a dream...I
would have died but you saved me, I believe
that with every fiber of my being... Now I
have to save me... I LOVE YOU...More than my
life...Please understand.

JACKIE
I want to go with you!...I have to...

STARKS (He stops her)
 I don't know what's going to happen...Don't
 worry, I hold the keys...(In one hand.)

In the other hand, Starks has the gun. He SHOOTs OUT THE TAILLIGHT.

JACKIE (Manages a slight smile)
 I'm never going to see you again...

STARKS
 Probably...

He pulls her NECKLACE from under her shirt and holds HER RING (HIS RING) in his palm. His hand bleeds. The IMAGE BEGINS TO FLICKER. Starks, with all of his power, holds Jackie's hand and their ring - CLANG - CLANG - CLANG - CLANG - Starks yells - CLANG - CLANG -

STARKS (To Jackie)
 Into your hands I commit myself...

1968 - INT. PRISON MORGUE - SAME - The WARDEN and Dr. unstrap Starks from THE JACKET. He lies on the burial slab like a corpse.

WARDEN GRIES (To Doctor)
 Save him... Where is Captain Becker?...

The Dr. pounds on Starks' chest, trying to get the heart beating again.

1999 - The sound of the Doctor's POUNDING FISTS ECHOES in Starks' head, growing louder and louder, pulling him back.

STARKS
 NO! NO! NO!!!

In desperation, STARKS KISSES JACKIE. FLICKERING IMAGE. LIKE A BATTLE BETWEEN THE TWO TIMES 1968 AND 1999 - STARKS HOLDS JACKIE.

1968 - We see Starks' chest lift with ONE BREATH. Warden Gries trying to save Starks has Starks' body removed from the Jacket.

1999 - IT HAS WORKED. The POUNDING in Starks' head SUBSIDES. He is NOT YANKED BACK. JACKIE AND STARKS HAVE WON THE BATTLE. Starks lets go of Jackie - He goes to the passenger door.

STARKS (Looks back to Jackie)
 "I once dreamt I was a butterfly, when
 I awoke I was a man..."

JACKIE (Smiles as he gets in car)
I still can't remember who wrote that...

STARKS (One last look)
It doesn't matter. Thank you Jackie (turns away) Ok Tenny, one more chance. How do I die?

TENNY
I'm tellin' you the truth...I confessed to killing the Patrolman...You got out and Starks killed himself. Yourself.

STARKS (Put's gun to tenny's head)
DRIVE!...

TENNY (A wry smile)
You ain't gonna kill me...It ain't in you.

Starks pulls the gun back.. Tenny laughs. Suddenly, Starks SHOOTS Tenny's right foot. The accelerator is floored as Tenny screams and the car screeches away. Dust flies everywhere. SMASH CUT TO:

1968 - INT. JESSUP MESS HALL - SAME

Tenny tries to eat. CAMERA moves down below the table. We see Tenny's foot. Blood starts to run onto the Prison floor.

1999 - JACKIE'S MUSTANG FLIES DOWN A HIGHWAY.

STARKS CAN'T LOOK BACK. The dust clears. The CAMERA shoots through the back window revealing Jackie, who stands alone. This time it's Jackie who sees Starks drive off as she stands alone on the road. Jackie watches Starks disappear, probably for the last time.

TENNY
Where?...My fuckin' foot...hurts...

STARKS (Turns on radio)
It should hurt. I shot it...Just drive! Faster!

TENNY (Through gritted teeth)
Because you looked so INNOCENT...Naive.

STARKS
What are you talking about?

TENNY (Still trying)

You asked me in the "dog run" why I picked you up hitchin'.. I figured you looked so innocent you were a perfect cover. If I got pulled over.

Starks wraps his hand with a towel. Tenny turns the radio dial. THE DOORS - BREAK ON THROUGH: *"You know the day destroys the night..."*

TENNY (Trying to charm)

101.7 Oldies (silence) Do you have a plan? Or is this just Revenge or Justice

STARKS (Won't be charmed, again)

What's the difference. I had A PLAN, you could of saved me. All you had to do was tell me the truth...Now I know where we're going...and I'm not going alone.

1968 - STARKS' LIFELESS BODY is put on a gurney and led away.

1999 - EXT. HIGHWAY - 11:30A.M. The SAME HIGHWAY that Tenny and Starks drove 30 years ago. LIGHTNING. Starks laughs. Then SHUDERS.

THE DOORS

Night divides the day. Tried to run, tried to hide. Break on through to the other side

1968 - PRISON HOSPITAL A DEFIBRILLATOR HELD BY THE PRISON DOCTOR TRIES TO ZAP STARKS BACK TO LIFE. HIGHWAY DIVIDER LINE flashing past. CAMERA tilts up, we see **"Broken taillight."** WE ARE BACK TO:
1999 - 2-LANE HIGHWAY - TENNY DRIVES - STARKS SHIVERS

Music: The Doors 68 version **DISSOLVES** into PEARL JAMS 1999 version:
"We chased our pleasures here, dug our treasures there."

TENNY

You're looking a little pale...Where does this leave us?..

STARKS (Cut's him off)

Drivin' a road in Georgia..You remember..but this time you are driving..Everything cycles back...

TENNY

Even though you can't kill me, think about it...Please I'm already dying...

STARKS (Laughs)

You've just lost your manipulation skills...

Out of frustration, Starks JAMS HIS FOOT DOWN OVER TENNY'S FOOT on the accelerator. The car tears down the highway 80, 90, 100 MPH.

TENNY (Screams in pain)
...You're gonna get us killed...

STARKS (Calmly)
I'm already dead...

STARKS' WHOLE BODY SHUDDERS.

1968- STARKS' P.O.V. - DEFIBRILLATOR VIBRATES through his body...He begins to see the Prison Doctor and Warden Gries... Then HIS/CAMERA'S eyes close. Music: THE DOORS - *"Break on through to the other side."*

1999 - A POLICE CRUISER PULLS OUT FROM BEHIND A BILLBOARD - Sees BROKEN TAILLIGHT Music: PEARL JAM - *"Break on through...Break on through."*

TENNY (Sees cop)
Starks, we got cops, we gotta stop... You ain't looking too good.

STARKS (He's looking pale)
We aren't stopping yet!. Faster!. Faster!
And you aren't looking so well either...

1968 - JESSUP - "THE DOG RUN" - TENNY PASSES OUT.

1999 - HELICOPTER ANGLE - LOOKING STRAIGHT DOWN

Jackie's car is surrounded by Highway Patrol cars. Cops in position, guns drawn. Starks and Tenny sit in the Mustang in the parking lot of the SAME DINER. A big difference between the two eras (Media coverage/Police, SWAT Everywhere.) WE CUT INSIDE THE CAR.

STARKS (Laughing)
...It hasn't fucking changed... The Diner hasn't changed...Look inside. I think that's the same waitress...

It might be the same Waitress. The signs seem the same. A few BABY FACED SOLDIERS stare out the window at the Mustang. CAMERA moves to the T.V. in the BG in the DINER which has the Mustang news report on.

TENNY (O.S.)
We're causing quite a stir...Little different than 30 years ago...You'd have

had a lot of witnesses, we wouldn't be in this mess. Smile Starks, you're on TV

ANGLE - NEWS HELICOPTERS FILL THE SKY - EXCESS MEDIA COVERAGE

STARKS (Looks up)
What the fuck do they want?!...This is just YOU AND ME... Always has been.

TENNY
It wasn't personal...Just salvation.

STARKS
That word comes up a lot...Come on Tenny.
What does it mean!

TENNY
You can execute me in front of a million people an' find out. You gotta do something. I ain't gonna just sit here... I'm the innocent bystander this time...

STARKS
You haven't ever been innocent. Now you want sympathy?

TENNY
If you want to give it, and believe me I AM DYING... Fucked with some needles in the joint... They got this new disease, it's a bitch...You gonna pass out...Hippie?

STARKS (trying to keep awake)
IT'S JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME. Please! Tell them the truth! Do something ...Please

Tenny suddenly jams on the accelerator...The car LEAPS over the same hillside Starks leapt over years ago. It tumbles over and over. Starks is thrown clear of the car. CAMERA looks down on him. **The Music:** BECOMES A DOORS/PEARL JAM DUET - "The gate is straight, deep and wide."

1968 - Starks is unconscious - CAMERA moves over him. We see Tenny awake handcuffed to a bed. He is coming out of his skin. A Prison Nurse gives TENNY A SHOT to sedate him. A curtain closes around him.

WARDEN GRIES (To Prison Doctor)
Is He Alive?

PRISON DOCTOR

Yes, he is.....He's fighting for it...

1999 - STARKS COMES TO, GETS UP AND STARTS WALKING. Still clenching the gun, he limps over to Tenny as he crawls out from under the Mustang wreck. Starks beats Tenny over the face with the gun.

STARKS

Confess! Someone has to know the truth!

1968 - Tenny's face begins to bleed...To bruise... He doesn't know what the hell is happening to him... He is alone, surrounded by the curtain...He tries to yell...But his voice betrays him.

TENNY (Whispers)

Help me. Somebody help me...heelllp meee...

1999 - A SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS - B&W HELICOPTER ANGLE - GROUND ANGLES - 35MM JUMP CUTS - CLOSER - CLOSER TO: Starks trying to force a CONFESSION OUT OF TENNY. The State Troopers jump out of their cars with their revolvers and shotguns drawn. They position themselves all over the embankment, their weapons all pointed at Starks. Starks is moments from being BLASTED into oblivion...**Music: DUET** - "Break on through to the other side. Starks jams the GUN INTO TENNY'S BLOODY FOREHEAD, execution-style, and squeezes the trigger...

TENNY (Yells to cops)

Help me!, help me! Starks do it...Please do it...I ain't lying...

STARKS

Tell them it was you! Tell them it was you!

Starks falls to his knees. He is not a killer...HE CAN'T DO IT. He looks to Tenny. He does look sick. Was he telling the truth? SUDDENLY the State Troopers fire their weapons at Starks in a ROARING BLAZE... FLICKERING IMAGE - THE SCREEN VIBRATES. STARKS' BODY JERKING PAINFULLY AWAKE BY THE DEFIBRILLATOR. DOORS/PEARL JAM DUET - "Break on through..."

1968 - STARKS COMES TO LIFE, coughing and sputtering he sees: Prison Doctor removes the defibrillator from his chest.

WARDEN GRIES

Starks, can you hear me? Tennyson confessed to killing the Patrolman... "Now my heart is no longer troubled"... You're a FREE MAN...

STARKS' P.O.V. - His eyes leave the Warden and settle on Tenny.
Tenny is being led away... Starks closes his eyes. FADE TO BLACK:

THE SCREEN READS: "APRIL 4TH 1968 1:12 P.M.

We see the following images as Starks is released from the Prison.

STARKS IN HIS CELL. He removes a brick. "Mackenzie's Hidden Place."
All that is left are the photo of Mackenzie and Leona (pregnant), a
book of matches...and a LETTER. Starks doesn't open it.

STARKS BEING RELEASED. He takes his only belonging-his FATHER'S WATCH.
Harris Wofford is with him, we hear their conversation.

EXT. JESSUP: 1968 Starks walks
away from the Prison.

HARRIS WOFFORD (V.O.)
...You're a free man..Mr. Starks.
I don't know what has been
done to you here...I assure you
that I will not let this go...
(pause) Mr. Starks, you need
to go to a hospital...you are
hurt... I'll take you myself.
Please. Take my help...

INT. JESSUP - OFFICE Feet dangle -
CAMERA moves up. Becker has hung
himself.

INT. CAR - STARKS IS PASSENGER -
The car stops, Starks gets out.
WOFFORD is the driver.

STARKS (Leans back to Wofford)
Mr. Wofford...Thank you, you've been a good
lawyer..and your work will be appreciated
one day. But I know what I need..

EXT. SNIPESVILLE - JACKIE'S CHILDHOOD HOME - APRIL 9TH 3:00 P.M. 1968

Outside Jackie's home, it now looks lived in. A well kept house but
no white picket fence. Starks, for the first time since being
released from Jessup SMILES. He quickly limps up to the door...TO
SEE JACKIE...Through a screen door he makes out the silhouette of a
woman walk by. Excitedly, he knocks. Trying to get her attention.

STARKS (Excited)
Jackie... Jackie....

WOMAN'S VOICE
Jackie, you come here, come back here.

Starks looks at the door in anticipation. But instead of a woman, a
little FOUR YEAR OLD GIRL pushes angrily out the door. He sees THEIR
RING around her neck. THE REALIZATION HITS HIM HARD. Jackie is 4
years old...The love of his life is just a mere child. Still
suffering the effects of "The Jacket." Starks didn't know what he
would find here. Jackie runs by Starks and disappears into the yard.
Jackie's Mother (the Silhouetted Woman) comes out the door, is

startled by Starks. He looks much different (less hair, thinner) than when they first met.

JACKIE'S MOTHER (Doesn't recognize him)
Mr. can I help you? We know each other?

STARKS (Cuts her off)
I had a friend that lived here. Sorry.. They must have moved. I didn't mean to scare.

JACKIE'S MOTHER (cuts him off)
You didn't scare me...Hope you find your friend.

He walks away. As he comes around the corner, Starks sees 4 year old Jackie hiding in a bush. She is crying. Starks speaks to the bush.

STARKS (Kneels down)
I know you're not supposed to talk to strangers... But it's okay to listen...Your mother loves you...And one day you'll know that...You take care of yourself Jackie... That's a pretty ring around your neck.

JACKIE AGE 4 (Determined)
It's mine!...Gold ..."Real gold" How'd you know my name? Mister.

STARKS (Begins to walk)
Just a good guess... (remembers) Hey, purples a good color. Too.

JACKIE AGE 4 (Yells from her bush)
No it ain't. Where you going?

STARKS (Looks down road)
I don't know yet.

JACKIE
Don't you have no friends or a mama or daddy?

STARKS
They're all gone... Goodbye Jackie.

JACKIE
Purple ain't that bad I guess...

Jackie runs from her hiding place. A great sympathy and affection between the two, despite their ages. They sense they are soul-mates ...and always will be throughout time. Jackie runs up and gives him a hug. It touches Starks deeply and sadly. OVER THIS IMAGE WE HEAR:

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. (Mid speech V.O.)
 ...And I've looked over and I've seen the
 promised land...

B&W T.V. NEWSCAST - His last speech. Pull out of B&W T.V. to reveal.

INT. BLACK PANTHER'S MEETING ROOM - ATLANTA - APRIL 4TH 5 P.M. 1968
 We see Starks, the only white face, enter quickly. The room (aprox 50) stop and the MEN led by Fred Hampton (From Macs execution) run to Starks and throw him against the wall, they have guns.

STARKS
 Mr. Hampton I'm no threat...Please I'm just
 looking for Teresa...

FRED HAMPTON (Looks around room)
 Don't seem like any of the sisters want to
 talk. What the hell's the matter with you
 coming in here. Bleeding and bruised.
 Obviously you got your own problems, you
 leave now... We don't create anymore.

STARKS (Being ushered out)
 TERESA, *"I once dreamt I was a butterfly
 when I awoke I was a man or was I a
 butterfly dreaming I was a man"*

A YOUNG BLACK GIRL(age 16)stands. It's TERESA(same girl from execution)

TERESA
 Put him down... My mother...

STARKS
 LEONA. Teresa ,You're father was my friend.

TERESA
 He is dead...

Starks, walks and hands her THE LETTER that he got from Macs "hiding place". We hear for the first time Mackenzies' voice. -It is ELOQUENT

MACKENZIES VOICE

Dear Teresa... I am your father. But you probably already know that...I'm sorry I never had the chance to meet you or raise you...That is my biggest regret. I would have tried to instill in you the proper values and morals in the same way that your mother did with me... You would have been in good hands. You were always in my heart...Please know that I love you. I had to do what I did... I hope you can understand. I hope god can too... This is Billy, he is a friend of mine. A good man. Trust him...And tell him that I know what a premonition and a hallucination both are. I hope he was right about that "SAFE PLACE"... You take care... All my love...Your Daddy.

Teresa is Shocked. Starks is STUNNED by Mackenzies letter. MACKENZIE UNDERSTOD ALL ALONG. There is still tension in the room.

STARKS (Speaks Quickly)

Dr. King is going to die tonight...At 6:01, 2nd floor balcony, Lorraine Hotel. He's going to have catfish that he shares with his friends, they eat it off his plate...and you're not going to believe me!

TERESA (Scared)

You're right. I'm not believing you... Unless you are going to kill him.....

STARKS (Cuts her off)

Damnit, I'm not going to kill him...But someone is...And I CAN'T SAVE HIM. He has to die...But Teresa YOU DON'T HAVE TO DIE...And you will if you go. I am not the threat to you or Dr. King...Just listen please. You are going to want to go to Memphis tomorrow ... There will be a riot... many riots. You can't go...As much as you feel you have to... DON'T GO! For your daddy, please... There's no reason for you to listen to me but there's also no reason for you not to...

FRED HAMPTON (Stepping in)

Why should she believe you? Why shouldn't I just beat you right now?! Fuckin' comin'

here sayin' Dr. Kings gonna die and Teresa's gonna die...

"CLICK" - B&W PHOTO OF MACKENZIE WITH A PREGNANT LEONA AT THE BEACH. Starks holds Mackenzie Family Photo. He hands it to her. Hampton stops

TERESA (Cries softly)
Is that my daddy?...I've never seen him...

STARKS (Holding Mackenzie's matches)
Yes. I think He was the best friend I have ever had...and maybe the smartest...If he knew you were a part of this cause... He'd smile and it would light up this room... But you can't go to Memphis... There will be other ways that you can contribute. You're daddy saw beyond black and white...you have to do the same...Please don't go to Memphis.

TERESA (Firmly to Starks)
It is time for you to leave.

STARKS (Holds Mac's matches)
You're right. It is MY TIME to leave...

TERESA (Firmly)
Thank you for the letter...But I don't believe you...You have to go before you get hurt...What are those matches?

STARKS
The matches are mine...The picture's yours...Good luck, Teresa Mackenzie...

She walks away. We hear a NEWS REPORT TAKE OVER THE SOUNDTRACK.

EXT MOTEL ATLANTA 1968 - CAMERA from street level floats to an open window and enters through blowing curtains into a cheap Motel 6 room. The T.V. is on and the CAMERA settles on the CBS report. Then CAMERA Pans to see Starks sitting naked on the motel bed. He fiddles with Mackenzie's matches, as he watches the news report.

WALTER CRONKITE (VO)
It's 8:58. Dr. Martin Luther King, the Apostle of non-violence, has been shot to death in Memphis, Tennessee. At 6:01pm Dr. King had just finished eating Catfish when he walked out onto the balcony of his 2nd floor hotel room...

SUDDENLY, his attention is diverted to the window. A BUTTERFLY has landed on the window sill. Starks moves to it. The butterfly FLOATS AWAY. Starks stares at it as it disappears. He looks down to the street. Cars drive by. BUT STARKS IS STUCK IN 1968. He throws Mackenzie's matches out the window. - What is Starks' true reality?... Is he sane or a madman? Starks STARES at his FATHERS WATCH -WAITING..

Starks shuts off the T.V. and opens the closet door. We see a crude, homemade STRAIT-JACKET hanging in the motel closet. He begins to put on the Straight-Jacket and he SHUTS THE DOOR ON 1968 FOREVER. On the closet door there is a calendar with today's date circled. APRIL 4TH 1968 - THE DATE ON STARKS' GRAVE MARKER. There is also a letter addressed "To whom it may concern." WE HEAR STARKS' V.O.:

"I am writing this note, I have a little time to kill. Dr. Lorensen at Georgia State Hospital If he wants to know how I knew about Dr. King even a stopped clock is right twice a day. If anyone thinks I was involved, please don't waste your time. I WASN'T... What I am doing now in this closet, don't try to understand. It will be chalked up to just another Vietnam Vet having gone over the edge...Burn out...Put it down as 'Friendly fire'. I will not try to explain other than to say maybe everyone was right...I was insane. Remember Hamlet...But maybe not...Please BURY MY BODY at the cemetery at Jessup and mark my time of death as 9:03 p.m.. THIS IS IMPORTANT. As for my pension...Please send it anonymously to the family of Jackie Doering... Snipesville, Ga., pop. 509... When years later she tracks it down and asks where the money came from please tell her that it was from her father...As for my involvement at The **Massacre** at the Vietnamese Village, please investigate Capt. Medlley...For what it's worth, there was no ambush and I should have told the truth then...I can't run anymore. Better late than never. My time has come...I have to leave now...9:03 p.m.

Sincerely,

Corporal William Levon Starks

I don't want the promotion...I don't deserve it.

A BLACK SCREEN READS "9:02: 58:59 9:03:00 9:03....P.M." THE TIME HAS STOPPED. STARKS' PROPHECY IS FULFILLED. AN EXPLOSION OF LIGHT - We race through a tunnel again. The STILL IMAGES of STARKS' LIFE. But this time they take the appearance of STAINED GLASS. We see Starks as he looks at these, now able to smile. The good and the bad. As the bright light at the end of the tunnel takes over. Starks crashes through the last stained glass type image - HIS GRAVESITE - then there is a SERENE DARKNESS. STARKS/CAMERA entering the unknown. We hear: thunder & cars. IS HE DEAD OR ALIVE?

STARKS' P.O.V. - Eyes open. Staring straight up to the sky. Black storm clouds swirl above. We see lightning crack across the skyline. STARKS/CAMERA get up...We see A MODERN HIGHWAY...A train passes in the foreground, obscuring Starks from our view.

LONG LENS - Starks APPEARS OVER A CREST, walking alongside the highway. His thumb is out...He is HITCHHIKING. Cars drive by him...No one will stop...It begins to rain. His father's watch is on his wrist. The time is stuck at 9:03...THE SECOND HAND BEGINS TO MOVE.

INT. CAR - DRIVING ON THE SAME HIGHWAY - A FEMALE DRIVER drives. In the distance, she sees a LONE HITCHHIKER silhouetted against the threatening sky. The rain pours down. She turns on the wipers. She slows the car to a stop in front of the hitchhiker.

ANGLE - HAND HELD - WALKING ALONG WITH STARKS. Finally, a car stops. IT IS A MUSTANG. The electronic window rolls down. We see Starks' REFLECTION DISAPPEAR AS JACKIE IS REVEALED - DOES SHE KNOW HIM? Her face is expressionless. Starks looks at her neck. But a shirt covers her jewelry....where the ring would be...

JACKIE

You want a ride?

Starks nods "YES". As Starks enters the car. We still don't know if Jackie knows him...Was it all a dream?

OUTSIDE THE CAR - Wipers stop. THE RAIN OBSCURES THEIR IMAGE. WE HEAR:

JACKIE

Sometimes when I'm on the road, I get thoughts...

STARKS

Thoughts?

JACKIE

You know, fantasies...

INSIDE THE CAR - She takes out of her pocket a necklace with their ring on it...Starks puts it around her neck. We hear the car radio. We ALMOST HEAR their dialogue.

JACKIE (V.O.)
Where you headed?

STARKS (V.O.)
... Home...

GREEN DAY (From Radio)
Another turning point a fork
stuck in the road. Time
grabs you by the wrist and
directs you where to go.

DISSOLVE TO: Jackie and Starks drive into the night. LIGHTNING.

DISSOLVE TO: Further down road
 IMAGES BEGIN TO SLOW DOWN TO:
 STILL IMAGE: Their car drives
 down the road.
 STILL IMAGE: Their car on the
 crest of a hill.
 STILL IMAGE: Their car is GONE.

GREEN DAY
*It's not a question but a
 lesson learned in time. It's
 something unpredictable but
 in the end it's right. I
 hope you had the time of your
 life.*

"For The First Time The Image Comes Together Like A Complete Puzzle"

FADE TO BLACK - TITLE CARD READS

Teresa Mackenzie did not go to MEMPHIS that next day...She is Alive and working as a Civil Rights Attorney in New York...She is currently working with Dexter King on the investigation into the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. On August 26, 1998 Attorney General Janet Reno reopened the case...Teresa is also a published author...Her most recent work - a book of quotes. Entitled, "Butterfly". Harris Wofford became a U.S. Senator representing the State of Pennsylvania. The only meeting between JFK and Martin Luther King took place in his office in spring 1963. Now retired, he continues to work in the Civil Rights field...It is still legal to keep a man in solitary confinement 23 hours per day.

STILL IMAGE of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall where we see Starks now listed as "Corporal William Levon Starks."

THE END

"So take the photographs and still frames in your mind. For what it's worth, it was worth all the while. It's something unpredictable and in the end it's right...I hope you had the time of your life..."