

Groomsmen
by
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INT. AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE - 1997

SHAWN WALKER, 14, CARL JENNINGS, 13, and his younger brother, MIKE JENNINGS, 12, are waiting in line for the go-karts. They enter the track and get in three different go-karts.

TRACK ATTENDANT

Okay, boys and girls. Wait for the green light and put the pedal to the metal.

SHAWN

You ready, Carl?

*

CARL

Are you?

The light turns from Red to yellow.

Shawn and Carl take off, leaving Mike in the dust.

Mike takes off but is too far behind to catch up. As he rounds a turn, Shawn and Carl, driving the wrong way, pass Mike and the other drivers. Mike laughs and makes a U-turn, following behind Shawn and Carl.

Other racers pull over, unwilling to drive while the boys drive carelessly.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Shawn, Carl, and Mike are escorted out of the course by a SECURITY GUARD. They laugh and walk away.

SECURITY GUARD

Don't come back!

EXT. SHAWN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE - 2000

Shawn and Carl light bottle rockets in the back yard. Carl snaps the head off a bottle rocket and lights it as Shawn lights another one.

Carl tosses the rocket on the ground and steps back.

Shawn dances frantically to avoid the rocket head as it ignites and zips around at his feet.

When the smoke settles, Carl's laughter is all that is heard.

Shawn tackles Carl to the ground.

INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE - 2002

While Shawn, Carl, and Mike are playing a three player video game, Carl and Mike's mother, ALLISON JENNINGS, 42, places a bowl of tortilla chips on the coffee table for them. She leaves the room and they continue playing.

As Carl starts to win the game, Mike slaps him in the crotch. When Carl rolls on the floor in pain Mike kills his character, taking his brother out of the game. Shawn continues his game as Carl attacks Mike.

INT. DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE - 2003

Carl is in bed with CHRISTY, a beautiful college girl.

CHRISTY

Oh my, God. It feels so good.

CARL

I know.

CHRISTY

I want you to cum.

CARL

I will if you stop talking.

EXT. DORM ROOM

Shawn is walking up the hall when he hears moaning from inside the girls room.

He knocks on the door.

INT. DORM ROOM

Carl's head is now under the sheet, his head between her legs
Christy's smiling, her hands tightly grasping the pillow
case.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

She stops to listen.

CHRISTY

Carl.

CARL

(muffled)

Yeah?

CHRISTY

Someone's knocking.

CARL

(still muffled)

Wait a minute.

Carl remains under the sheets..

CHRISTY

I'm serious Carl. Someone's
knocking on the door.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

SHAWN (O.S.)

Christy? You in there?

CARL

I know that voice.

CHRISTY

(to door)

I'll be there in a minute, Shawn.

CARL

(hisses)

Shawn?

CHRISTY

Shawn Walker.

(a beat)

My boyfriend?

Carl's horrified.

CARL

Shit!

EXT. DORM ROOM

Shawn hears a guys voice in the dorm room.

SHAWN

Who's in there with you?

CHRISTY (O.S.)

That's the...um...television.

SHAWN

Come on, babe. Open the door.

INT. DORM ROOM

Carl wraps his clothes in his arms and opens the window.

CHRISTY

Hide under the bed.

CARL

Fuck...that.

CHRISTY

You're going out the window?

Carl climbs onto the ledge and tosses his clothes out.

CARL

I'm not going the other way.

SHAWN (O.S.)

I know that's not the television.
Open up the door!

CHRISTY

What do I do?

CARL

Stall him!

Christy walks over to the door and slowly opens it.

Carl lets go of the ledge when Shawn bursts in the room.

SHAWN

Where is he?

CHRISTY

Who? There's no one in here.

The cold air blows against Shawn's face from an open window.

Shawn rushes to the open window.

SHAWN

Son of a bitch!

Carl is already half way across the courtyard, running through the crowd of students in only his boxers.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - AFTERNOON

A student leads an open house through the college campus.

STUDENT

This is the courtyard that leads up to the library. The library was founded in...

Carl runs through the group, still half naked and cradling his clothes in his hands.

The crowd of people all stare in awe as Carl disappears behind a building.

STUDENT

...in 1904...

FADE OUT.

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE - PRESENT DAY

A small group of people are gathered in front of an altar inside the chapel of a catholic church. Mike, Shawn, and Mike's step-brother, KEITH SAUNDERS, 21 stand together, conversing.

Mike's boyish good looks have been well maintained through the years, his carefully groomed brown hair gives way to his tanned skin and blue eyes.

Shawn is now an intimidating six foot something man in his late twenties. The stubble on his face blends into his jet black hair.

Keith, on the other hand, is a timid young man of small stature. There is nothing threatening at all about his demeanor.

MIKE

So, Keith. Whatever happened with ERICA?

KEITH

We broke up.

MIKE

That sucks.

SHAWN

Yeah, it does. So, which one of the bride's maids are you going to hook up with?

KEITH

Shawn, we're in a church.

SHAWN

Then which one of these girls are you going to procreate with?

KEITH

(smiles)

You're messed up.

MIKE

All joking aside. If you want to bring another guest to the wedding, feel free to do so. We already have two seats reserved for you and your date.

KEITH

Thanks, Mike. I appreciate it.

Mike's father, ROBERT JENNINGS, 54, and step-mother, ANDREA JENNINGS, 52, sit in the front pew, checking their watches.

ANDREA

Where's your son?

ROBERT

He'll be here.

ANDREA

This is ridiculous.

A beautiful, blonde, twenty-something, girl approaches Mike. Her arms are crossed but, even through the angry expression on her face, we can tell she is a warm and loving person. She is AMBER CRESSE, Mike's fiancée.

AMBER

Are you sure you weren't supposed to wake up Carl? He's holding up our rehearsal.

MIKE

He told me he was going to set his alarm.

Her bride's maids, ALEXIS and JUDY, both 23, shake their heads in disbelief as they converse with the maid of honor, MARIA, 22.

ALEXIS

I heard he's a complete asshole.

JUDY

I did, too. Apparently, when they were kids, he hog tied Mike, taped his mouth shut, and left him in the basement. No one knew where Mike was for about nine hours. What kind of person would do that to his own brother?

MARIA

Carl would.

Robert places his hand on Mike's shoulder.

ROBERT

Michael, call your brother. There's absolutely no excuse for this.

Mike nods and leaves the chapel.

EXT. CHURCH - MORNING

Mike stands outside the church. He dials a number into his cell phone.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Carl, now in his late twenties, lie face down on a bed in a dark room. A GIRL lie in bed next to him.

A cell phone rings loudly from somewhere in the room.

Carl swats at the night stand, knocking a bottle to the floor. He finds the phone under his pillow.

INTERCUT:

CARL
Hello?

MIKE
Where the hell are you?

CARL
I was sleeping, Cock. What do you want?

MIKE
I'd like for my best man to be here for my wedding rehearsal.

CARL
Is that today?

Carl hasn't moved from his position. It's obvious he's completely uninterested in leaving the bed.

MIKE
Just get here quickly.

CARL
Give me about a half hour and I'll be there.

MIKE
It was supposed to start fifteen minutes ago. Hurry the hell up.

Mike flips the phone shut and walks back into the church.

INT. BEDROOM

Carl slowly sits on the side of his bed. Although he is handsome, his morose expression makes it obvious that he is an unhappy man who only lives one day at a time.

The girl stirs in her sleep.

Carl looks back at her in confusion. He lightly shoves her.

CARL
Hey. Wake up.

GIRL
 (mumbles)
 What?

CARL
 Who the hell are you?

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

Mike, Shawn, and Keith stand in a row in front of the altar as Amber, Maria, Judy, and Alexis stand across from them.

FATHER BROWN, 67, stands at the altar. They are all waiting for Carl.

Father Brown looks at his watch.

FATHER BROWN
 Shall we begin?

MIKE
 (disappointed)
 We might as well.

SHAWN
 (whispers to Mike)
 Where's Carl?

MIKE
 He's on his way. He got caught in traffic.

FATHER BROWN
 Ladies and Gentlemen, we are gathered here today to witness the holy union of Michael Jennings and Amber Cresse...

The front door to the chapel bursts open with a loud slam. Carl is rushing up the aisle towards the altar.

CARL
 I'm okay, everybody. Got lost on the way here.

AMBER
 (to Mike)
 You're kidding me.

Robert approaches Carl in the aisle.

ROBERT

I can't believe that you're late
for your brother's wedding
rehearsal.

CARL

I was busy.

ROBERT

Sleeping. Yes, I know. What do you
think your mother would say to you
right now?

CARL

Nothing. She's dead. If you want I
can go ask her best friend.

Robert looks back at Andrea sitting in the pews. He looks
back at Carl.

The two stand in silence until Carl walks around his father.

Carl pushes himself between Mike and Shawn.

SHAWN

I thought you were stuck in
traffic.

CARL

Don't talk to me.

Everyone stares at Carl in disbelief.

SHAWN

(whispers)

You okay, Bro? You smell like crap.

CARL

Told you not to talk to me.

SHAWN

That's really mature, Carl.

Carl burps loud enough for it to echo throughout the chapel.

Mike turns to Carl. Everyone in the Bridal party is
disgusted.

CARL

How's that for mature? Now leave me
alone. I'm here for my brother, not
to talk to you.

SHAWN
What the hell is your problem?

CARL
I'm warning you, Shawn. Back...off.

Shawn places his hand on Carl's shoulder.

SHAWN
You need to--

Carl unexpectedly turns around and shoves Shawn, who then stumbles into the front pew.

CARL
(to self)
Shit.

Carl follows after as Shawn pulls a bible from the back of the pew.

CARL
Shawn, I didn't mean to--

Carl reaches to Shawn to help him up just as Shawn turns and swings at Carl's head, bible in hand. The shock of the bible slapping Carl across the face, knocks him out.

EXT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

Carl lie unconscious on a bench outside the church. Keith sits next to Carl's head as he awakens.

CARL
(rubs his head)
What happened?

KEITH
You and Shawn got into a fight in the middle of Mike and Amber's wedding rehearsal.

CARL
Why the hell are you here?

KEITH
Mike told me to baby-sit.

CARL
Where's Mike?

KEITH

You know, you're becoming more and more of an asshole every year.

CARL

Whatever, Fag.

Carl stands up from the bench. He stretches his neck as he walks away.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Mike and Amber stand in the dining room, her eyes red from crying.

MIKE

What do you want me to do, Babe? We were all raised together since we were little kids.

AMBER

I don't care what you do. I just don't want two people who hate each other to be in our wedding.

MIKE

That's not an option babe.

AMBER

Then Carl's presence at our wedding shouldn't be an option. I mean, your brother is the most disrespectful person I've ever met.

MIKE

You don't seem to get it. Since we were little kids, we were all going to be the groomsmen at each other's weddings.

AMBER

Well I doubt they're going to ask the other one to be at their wedding.

MIKE

I'm not kicking them out of the wedding. I'll ask them not to talk to each other.

AMBER

We've spent so much time and money on this wedding. I want it to be perfect.

MIKE

Well my perfect wedding includes having the two closest people in my life at the altar next to me.

AMBER

Fine. You figure out what to do. I swear, though. If they aren't at least civil with one another in two days, there won't be a wedding.

MIKE

They'll be completely civil, Amber. Okay?

AMBER

Doubt it.

He pecks her on the lips.

MIKE

You'll see...

He kisses her again.

MIKE

We'll have the perfect wedding.

And again.

MIKE

And you'll see a side of Carl that you've never seen before. Okay?

One last kiss.

Amber nods.

MIKE

I promise that I'll give you the wedding of your dreams. Let's just pretend today was a bad dream. Please?

AMBER

Can we at least have Carl stay somewhere else? He has the guest room smelling like a bar.

MIKE
That's fine. As long as you let me
keep him in the wedding.

AMBER
(smiles)
You win, Babe.

Carl walks into the house and slams the door behind him.

AMBER
Hi, Carl. Have a nice nap?

Carl gets a glass from a kitchen cabinet, pours water from
the sink, and chugs it empty.

CARL
Yeah. Had a nice walk, too. Thanks
for asking. I'd recommend you try
it once in a while. You might lose
a few pounds.

AMBER
Doesn't look like it worked for
you.

MIKE
That's enough.

CARL
I just walked three miles, okay,
Mike?

MIKE
Where the hell was Keith?

CARL
You left me at the fucking church.

MIKE
I also told Keith to give you a
ride home.

CARL
I don't want that idiot anywhere
near me.

AMBER
Who was that girl you brought home
last night?

CARL
I don't know. Why?

AMBER
 (to Mike)
See?

 MIKE
 Carl, can I talk to you outside?

Mike walks out the front door of the house.

EXT. MIKE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Mike turns to talk to Carl.

 MIKE
 Listen, man...

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE

Carl still stands in the house, glass in hand.

 MIKE (O.S.)
 Carl!

 CARL
 Fine, I'm coming!

EXT. MIKE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Carl steps out from the house and closes the door behind him.

 MIKE
 I don't think it's a good idea for
 you to stay here this weekend.

 CARL
 What did I do?

 MIKE
 Aside from assaulting Shawn in our
 church? Nothing.

 CARL
 Shawn hit me in the head, Mike.

 MIKE
 Yeah, after you started a fight
 with him.
 (a beat)
 You also brought some girl home
 last night and left her here
 without anyone else around.

CARL
You used to be cool, Bro. What
happened?

MIKE
I grew up.

CARL
Mike--

MIKE
Just do me a favor and get your ass
to the pool hall tonight at nine.

Mike walks back into the house and shuts the door behind him.

Carl stands alone on the empty front porch.

The door opens again.

CARL
(smiles)
I knew you'd come around.

Mike tosses Carl's duffle bag at him from inside the house.

He closes the door on Carl again.

Carl's smile fades.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

Carl walks down a sunny street in a quiet neighborhood. His
duffle bag bounces against his leg with each step

EXT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - DAY

Carl approaches the front gate to his father's house. He
enters the yard and walks up to the front door.

It's locked.

Carl follows a walkway wrapping around the house until he
gets to the back door. He reaches to the top of the door
frame and pulls down a key.

INT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - DAY

Carl walks through the empty house.

CARL
Hello?

Nothing.

CARL
Anyone home?

Still nothing.

Carl tosses his duffle bag onto the couch in the living room.

A framed picture of him, Mike, and their parents catches his attention from atop the entertainment center.

Carl lifts the picture from it's place, runs his thumb across his mother's face, and is about smile when...

...Robert and Keith enter the living room through the front door.

Robert sees the framed picture in Carl's hand.

ROBERT
Hi, Son.

CARL
Hey, Pop...
(to Keith)
..Fag.

ROBERT
Everything okay?

Carl gently places the picture on the entertainment center.

CARL
Mike kicked me out of his house so
I thought I'd stay here for the
weekend.

Robert and Carl stand in silence for a lengthy moment.

ROBERT
Keith, set Carl up in the den.

CARL
I was hoping I could just stay in
my old room.

ROBERT
Your old room is being used as our
gym right now, Carl.

CARL
It's what?

Carl walks up the hallway and opens the door to his old room.

INT. CARL'S ROOM

The bedroom door opens and we see Carl standing at the threshold of the door.

His room is packed with a weight bench, tread mill, and a stair master.

CARL
What the hell is all this?

ROBERT
I turned this room into a gym for Andrea and myself. It's only been...oh...six years since you've stayed here.

INT. HALLWAY

Carl shuts the door to his old room.

CARL
What about Mike's old room?

KEITH
You mean my room.

CARL
Make him sleep in the den.

KEITH
Why the hell am I going to--

CARL
Shh, Keith. The men are talking.

KEITH
You can't tell me--

CARL
Oh, my God, Keith. Shut the hell up!

Keith storms down the hallway, walks into his room, and slams the door shut behind him.

ROBERT

Cut it out.

CARL

This used to be my room, Dad. Ever since you married that bitch that Mom called a friend--

ROBERT

Son, I swear. If you start up with that again, you won't be welcome in my house. I've gone through too much to relive all this.

CARL

Fuck it. I'll take the den.

INT. MR. JENNINGS' HOUSE - DAY

Andrea enters the house, shopping bags in hand as Carl and Robert walk into the living room together.

She forces a smile on her face when she sees Carl.

ANDREA

Oh, hi, Carl.

Carl walks past her, completely ignoring her.

ANDREA

What's going on?

ROBERT

Carl's going to be staying here for the weekend.

ANDREA

(sarcasm)

Wonderful.

INT. JENNINGS' DEN - MOMENTS LATER

Carl sits on the world's most uncomfortable futon. He lays across the cushion, examining the room.

Carl watches as a mosquito lands on his arm. It penetrates his skin and begins his meal.

Photos from when Robert and Allison first met line the wall. They continue with pictures of Robert, Allison, and Andrea in their college years.

The mosquito is growing more full with every sip as Carl keeps still, allowing it to drink.

The years continue up to Mike's college graduations.

Carl then looks at his father's study to see a family picture of his father, Andrea, and Keith sitting in a frame on Robert's desk.

He looks at the mosquito on his arm and slaps it dead. It is the only joy he's had all day.

Carl takes a deep breath.

CARL
(to self)
Welcome home, Carl.

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT

Mike and Keith sit together at a bar inside a noisy pool hall. Mike holds a beer and Keith sips a Chocotini.

Shawn enters the hall, spots Mike and approaches the bar.

MIKE
Hey, Buddy.

SHAWN
Hey, Mike. Listen, I'm so sorry about earlier. I feel horrible.

MIKE
I know, man. I want to talk about that when Carl get's here.

SHAWN
He's coming here, too?

MIKE
Yeah but he's not going to do anything.

Shawn's cell phone rings in his pocket. He pulls it out, checks the caller ID, and pockets it again.

Mike stares at Shawn's phone as if it were the most beautiful girl in the world.

MIKE
Nice phone. How much did that run you?

SHAWN

Four hundred dollars.

MIKE

Jesus, Dude.

SHAWN

Yeah. It's worth every penny. I pretty much run my entire business through this phone.

(a beat)

Speaking of which, where are you working these days?

MIKE

Well, after mom died, I invested some of the money from the inheritance into a friend's internet business and it just took off. I pretty much just work from home.

SHAWN

What about you, Keith?

KEITH

I'm a manager at a private resort.

MIKE

He's in charge of the towel boys.

KEITH

It's just while I'm in college. I'm supposed to get promoted in a few weeks.

SHAWN

How the hell can you afford that BMW I've seen you driving around?

MIKE

I bought that for him from a used car lot last year. He's slowly paying me back.

A beautiful black haired girl serves drinks behind the bar. Small strands of her tied back hair bounce in front of her deep blue eyes. Her tight, low-cut shirt shows all of her perfect curves.

She spots Shawn.

BARTENDER

What can I get you, Babe?

SHAWN

How about a date? I'm only in town for two days and need someone to show me around.

She smiles at him.

BARTENDER

Do you have any idea how many guys say that to me?

SHAWN

Do you have any idea how many girls I say that to?

BARTENDER

Probably a lot.

SHAWN

You're actually the first. There's just something about you that makes it impossible to look away from you.

(extends his hand)

Shawn.

BARTENDER

(smiles)

NATALIE.

NATALIE

It's very nice to meet you.

SHAWN

It's wonderful to meet you.

(lengthy beat)

Good God, you're beautiful.

MIKE

I'm sorry Nat. He's been like this as long as I've known him. He was actually raised in this town.

NATALIE

It's okay. I think he's cute.

Natalie hands Shawn a beer and places four shots on the bar.

MIKE

What's this?

NATALIE

It's on the house. Congrats with the soon-to-be wedding, sweetie.

They all take the shot.

SHAWN

That was good. What was it?

NATALIE

I just made it the other night. I call it dark ecstasy.

She winks at Shawn and tends to more customers.

Mike and Keith stare at Shawn.

KEITH

I don't fucking believe it. She never even gives me the time of day.

SHAWN

That's because you're not me. How's that manly chocotini treating ya?

Mike and Shawn laugh as Keith hesitantly sips his drink.

MIKE

So, how does it feel to be back in Jacksonville Beach? Did you miss it?

SHAWN

A little bit but I like it better in LA.

KEITH

Where are you staying?

SHAWN

I'm staying at the Sea Turtle Inn. I couldn't find any other hotels that had any vacancy so, instead, I'm paying four hundred bucks a night.

MIKE

Jesus.

SHAWN

I know. Too bad my mom and dad moved away. Otherwise I'd just stay with them.

Carl enters the hall, duffle bag in hand, and sees Shawn sitting with Keith and Mike.

CARL
(to self)
Fuck me.

Carl walks over to the bar and sits next to Keith.

MIKE
Hey, big brother.

Mike notices the duffle bag.

MIKE
Thought you were staying with Dad.

CARL
Decided not to.

MIKE
Why not?

CARL
What did you drag us all here for?

MIKE
Well, Amber wants me to take you
and Shawn out of the wedding.

SHAWN
Why would she want me out of the
wedding? I didn't do anything.

MIKE
Because of your fight earlier.
(a beat)
It's not just you. It's both of
you. She's afraid that you're going
to start a fight with him and
you're both going to get into a
brawl at our wedding.

KEITH
Yeah, Carl. You have this anger
issue, you know?

Carl leans in towards Keith.

CARL
Keith, as long as I've known you, I
never liked you. Don't think that
you can say anything you want just
because your slut of a mother
married my Dad. Now, for the last
time, shut...the fuck...up.

Intimidated, Keith sits back. Carl stares at him until Keith's eyes are looking only at his drink.

CARL
(to Mike)
I'm sorry, Mike. You were saying?

MIKE
How about we talk about this over pool?

CARL
Whatever. Just rack the balls.

INT. POOL HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Mike, Carl, Shawn, and Keith are conversing over the pool table.

Keith racks the balls up.

SHAWN
So, how are we playing this?

MIKE
Let's do teams. Me and Carl against you and Keith.

KEITH
I'll break.

CARL
Where the hell did you get your pool hall etiquette? Mike's the groom. Let him break.

Mike bends down, steadies the pool cue, takes aim, and...

SHAWN
Wait a minute, Mike. Let's make this game fun.

MIKE
Fun, how?

SHAWN
Let's throw some money on the table.

MIKE
Do you even carry cash?

SHAWN

Does it matter? I always win.

A smile slowly forms across Mike's face.

MIKE

I got it.

SHAWN

Shoot, Kid.

MIKE

If you win, I'll pay for your entire weekend. Hotel stay, rental car, all of it.

SHAWN

Okay. What if you win?

MIKE

Each of you has to do one favor for me this weekend, no matter what it is. Okay?

(turns to Carl and Keith)

All three of you.

CARL

That doesn't work if you only beat Shawn. He's always sucked at Pool. If you want that, then you have to play each of us.

MIKE

Carl, Shawn's team is ranked number nine in the nation in pool. If I lose, I'll pay for Shawn's hotel room, let Carl stay at my house, and, well, Keith, you pretty much owe me your life so I'll just call it square and wipe the slate clean.

(a beat)

Deal?

SHAWN

Okay.

KEITH

Sounds good to me.

CARL

Let's get this over with. I'm tired.

MIKE

And, don't forget how we always did this. If you make a bet, you are to respect the person you lost to enough to follow through with it. There's no backing out.

CARL

Just rack the balls, you girly bastard.

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT

Mike racks the balls and places the cue ball on the table. He turns to Shawn.

MIKE

Why don't you shoot first, Shawn?

SHAWN

No dice. Like the shithead said, you're the groom. You get to break.

MIKE

Alright then.

QUICK IMAGES:

Mike breaks the rack, sinking most of the striped balls on the table. He fails to sink the five and Shawn steps up to the table.

Shawn is a tough rival as he sinks most of the solids. He aims to sink the one ball into the side pocket but fails to do so.

Mike sinks the last striped ball. He aims for the eight but the eight banks off the corner into a perfect line up should Shawn sink the one.

Shawn easily sinks the one into the side pocket. He takes a look at the table for the best angle in which to hit the ball.

He finds an angle he's happy with.

SHAWN

Thanks for paying the hotel bill,
Bitch.

Shawn takes the shot and sinks the eight ball.

Shawn loses the game as the cue ball banks off the side and into one of the corner pockets.

MIKE

So, this is what all three of you are going to do for me this weekend.

(to Carl)

Carl, I love you to death but you're not staying at my house this weekend. Instead, you're going to stay with Shawn. Wherever he goes, you go.

Carl's eyes grow wide.

CARL

It sounded like you said something retarded. Could you repeat that?

MIKE

You're staying with Shawn this weekend. Wherever he goes, you go. No if's, and's, or but's. You two are attached at the hip until after the very last guest at the reception has left.

Carl turns away, drinks his beer, and sits down. His face is red with anger.

CARL

The hell I am.

SHAWN

That's not right, Mike.

MIKE

Shawn, you're my new errand boy.

SHAWN

Mike, I'm not--

MIKE

Your job is to do anything either myself or anyone else including Amber, the bride's maids, my dad, or even the priest needs you to do for them tomorrow to help the reception go off without a hitch.

(to Keith)

You're the referee.

What? KEITH What? SHAWN

CARL
This is bullshit, Mike.

SHAWN
Yeah, you never said anything about
any of this.

MIKE
Listen, it's been six years since
either of you has said a word to
one another. I'm sick of it.

SHAWN
What if we don't go through with
it?

MIKE
It's simple, guys. You either abide
by the bet or I'll make sure I have
groomsmen to stand in for all three
of you at the wedding.

CARL
Mike, you know I'd do anything for
you. But this is--

MIKE
Then do this for me.

Carl slams his beer down, grabs his duffle bag, and walks
towards the front door.

MIKE
Carl, you owe me!

Carl nears the exit.

MIKE
My wedding rehearsal was ruined
because of the two of you!

Carl stops at the door. He turns to look at Mike.

MIKE
If you walk out of that door,
you're out of the wedding.

Carl takes a deep breath and hesitantly walks back to the
table.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Shawn drives his rental car through the streets of Jacksonville Beach. Carl sits in the passenger seat, cradling his duffle bag.

The silence between the two is deafening.

Shawn turns on the radio.

A love song plays.

Carl turns off the radio.

Shawn turns it back on.

Carl turns it off again.

SHAWN
(hesitant)
So...nice night.

Silence.

CARL
Shut up.

SHAWN
(a beat)
Been a long time since I've seen
you.

Silence.

Shawn waits for an answer.

SHAWN
Listen, we might as well try to--

CARL
Fine, we'll listen to the goddamned
radio.

Carl turns the radio back on.

The love song plays again.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Carl stares out the window. The reflections of the world and the people in it pass across the window, right in front of Carl's face. The lyrics to the song seem to reach through to Carl if only for this moment.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT

The Sea Turtle Inn towers over every local business in Neptune Beach.

Shawn and Carl pull into a parking spot.

INT. SEA TURTLE INN - MOMENTS LATER

Shawn and Carl are walking up a long hallway.

Carl carries his duffel bag on his back.

Shawn inserts his electronic key into the scanner on the door to room 824. He opens the door, enters the room, and turns the light on.

Carl looks around in hesitation before entering the room.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Shawn flops into a cushioned bedside chair as Carl enters the room and looks around.

CARL

Holy shit.

The room is massive with a balcony overlooking the ocean.

SHAWN

It's fourth of July weekend in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. This is seriously the only thing that I could find.

Shawn's cell phone rings in his pocket. He pulls it out and checks it.

Shawn walks out to the back balcony overlooking the ocean as Carl lay across the bed.

SHAWN

Hello?

KEITH (V.O.)

Hey, Shawn.

SHAWN

What's up, Keith?

KEITH (V.O.)

What room are you guys in again?

SHAWN
824, why?

KEITH (V.O.)
I just need to know what room I'm
supposed to go to. I'll be there in
a second.

Click.

SHAWN
Hello? Keith?

Shawn checks his phone then closes it. He goes back into the hotel room.

SHAWN
This is going to be a long weekend.

CARL
Already is.

Someone knocks at the door.

Carl stays in bed, looking at Shawn.

CARL
Aren't you going to get that?

SHAWN
Son of a bitch.

Shawn looks in the eye hole.

Shawn steps back, takes a deep breath, and opens the door.

SHAWN
What are you doing here?

KEITH
Mike told me to check on you two.

CARL
Are you serious?

KEITH
He thinks you're going to kill each
other.

CARL
Jesus Christ. I shoved him. *He's*
the one that slapped me across the
face with a bible.

SHAWN

How long are you going to bitch about that? If it'll make you shut up, I'll let you hit me with one.

CARL

Show me the bible.

SHAWN

Do I look like a priest? I don't have a bible on me.

KEITH

Actually, most hotels keep a bible in the night stand.

Shawn stares at Keith for a moment in silent disbelief.

SHAWN

(sarcasm)

Thanks, Keith. You're a great referee.

Carl searches the night stand and finds a bible.

CARL

Get over here, fat ass.

SHAWN

I was kidding. I'm not going to let you hit me in the face with a bible.

CARL

What are you, a Pussy?

SHAWN

If you mean by not letting you hit me in the face with the holy bible, then, yes, I'm a Pussy.

CARL

Hey. If you're afraid of a little tap on the face...

SHAWN

I'm not afraid of getting hit.

CARL

Then get over here and take it like a man.

SHAWN
(hesitant)
Fine.

Carl stands up from the bed and readies himself with the bible as Shawn walks over and assumes his position.

SHAWN
Just make it quick.

Shawn stands at arms length in front of Carl, waiting.

Nothing.

The two stand in silence for a moment at great length. Carl holds the bible as if he were about to swing a baseball bat.

Nothing.

SHAWN
Listen, Carl. If you're going to do
it then--

Carl swings the bible with all his strength against the side of Shawn's head, knocking him to the floor.

Shawn slowly gets to his knees. He's pressing his hand firmly against his face.

KEITH
(laughs)
Holy shit!

Carl laughs hysterically.

CARL
(explosive)
That was the coolest thing I've
ever fucking done!

INT. MIKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Amber lay in bed, flipping through an information catalog of Hawaii as Mike strips down to his boxers and climbs in bed.

He kisses her neck, making her giggle into submission.

They kiss passionately for a moment.

AMBER
I can't believe that, in less than
two days, we're going to be
married.

MIKE

I know. It's amazing how fast time goes by. I mean, I've already known you...how long now?

Amber slaps him with the catalog.

AMBER

(laughs)
You asshole.

MIKE

I'm kidding, Babe. I'm really looking forward to the wedding.

AMBER

Me, too.
(a beat)
Do you think that Carl could ever really be role model material?

MIKE

What do you mean?

AMBER

I mean, do you think it'll be safe to have someone like him in our children's lives?

MIKE

You know what I love most about Carl? He's always been there for me.

Mike grows solemn.

MIKE

Even after Mom died, Carl never stopped being there for me.
(pause)
He's even willing to put up with Shawn's presence just so he can be my best man.

AMBER

And what about Shawn?

MIKE

Trust me, Babe. When we have kids, Shawn and Carl are going to be more protective over them than anyone.

Mike's cell phone vibrates on his night stand.

He answers it.

MIKE
They're going to work everything
out. Okay?
(into phone)
Hello?

A beat.

MIKE
Hey, Keith.

Another beat.

MIKE
He did what?

Another beat.

MIKE
Alright. Get some sleep and I'll
see you later.

Mike hangs up the phone as Amber lays in suspense.

AMBER
What happened?

MIKE
Shawn let Carl hit him with a
bible.

AMBER
Great role models.

MIKE
Good night, Babe.

She gives him one last good night kiss.

AMBER
Good night.

A lengthy moment of silence goes by.

MIKE
They can teach our kids how to hog
tie Keith.

AMBER
Shut up, Mike.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Shawn sits in the hotel room chair. He's in a lot of pain, pressing his hand firmly against the big red mark on his face where he was hit.

Carl sits on the floor with his back against the mattress, thumbing through the bible.

Keith is laying on the bed, watching baseball on TV.

The only sound in the room is that of the baseball game.

KEITH

You okay, Shawn?

SHAWN

I'll live.

(pause)

By the way, Carl. That shit really does hurt. Now I know why you kept bitching.

Carl is still flipping through the pages of the bible.

CARL

Whatever.

KEITH

You need me to get some ice?

SHAWN

Yeah.

Keith gets up and walks to the door.

SHAWN

Take your time.

Keith leaves the room.

CARL

This sucks. Stuck in a hotel room with you.

SHAWN

Then let's go do something.

CARL

Listen. I told Mike that I'll hang around you for the weekend. This doesn't mean I have to act like I'm your friend.

SHAWN

Okay. I guess I get why you're still angry with me after the last few years. If it makes you feel--

CARL

Don't care, cockfish.

SHAWN

Fine. Stay here. I'll go out.

Shawn slams the door when he leaves the room.

Carl sits on the floor. He rolls his eyes and gets up.

He grabs a set of keys, a phone, and wallet from the night stand.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Shawn and Carl share another uncomfortable silence as they listen to another love song on the radio.

CARL

This music sucks.

SHAWN

Just sit there and shut up.

(pause)

Does Keith have a key to the room?

CARL

Do I look like I give a shit?

Carl shrugs off the brief argument and pulls a set of keys from his pocket.

SHAWN

What are those?

CARL

Keys to Keith's BMW.

Carl pulls Keith's cell phone from his pocket. He thumbs through the contact information on his cell.

SHAWN

His phone, too?

Carl innocently at Shawn. He pockets the phone.

Carl finally pulls a wallet out of his front pocket. He goes through it, pocketing the cash and credit cards.

Shawn does a double take when he sees the wallet.

SHAWN
Really, Carl? Are you that much of
an asshole?

CARL
Are you really stupid enough to ask
that question?

Shawn rolls his eyes and continues driving.

SHAWN
Touché.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Keith approaches the hotel room with a small bucket of ice.
He tries to turn the doorknob when he realizes it's locked.
He knocks.

KEITH
Shawn?
(pause)
Carl?

Nothing.

KEITH
You guys in there?

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT

Shawn and Carl enter the pool hall and look around. Carl
spots two barely legal girls sitting together in a booth.

SHAWN
I'll buy the first round. You
still...

Shawn turns around to talk to Carl but to find that he is
walking towards the girls.

SHAWN
...like Bud?

CARL
Hello, Ladies...

Shawn turns his attention from Carl to the bar.

Natalie is nowhere to be found. Instead, there is an older man serving drinks.

Shawn pulls out a stool at the bar and sits down.

SHAWN

Excuse me. Is Natalie still here?

BARTENDER

She actually just got off work about fifteen minutes ago.

SHAWN

That sucks. Then I guess I'll just have a draft beer.

The bartender pours a beer and hands it to Shawn.

NATALIE (O.S.)

It's okay, GRANT. I'll put it on my tab.

Natalie leans against the bar counter next to Shawn.

SHAWN

Grant, here, just told me that you were off.

NATALIE

Forgot my keys.

SHAWN

Lucky me.

NATALIE

Yeah. I lose them all the time.

Natalie sits next to Shawn and gets a good look at his face.

NATALIE

Oh my, God. What happened?

She examines the red area on his face.

SHAWN

Got smacked in the face with the holy bible.

NATALIE

What?

SHAWN

Don't ask.

NATALIE
Does it hurt?

SHAWN
Little bit.

Natalie leans in and kisses him on the cheek.

NATALIE
How does it feel now?

SHAWN
Still hurts like a bitch.

INT. POOL HALL

Carl sits at the table with the two barely legal girls.

GIRL #1
So, do you get to travel a lot?

CARL
All the time. With film making,
it's rare to stay inside the United
States.

GIRL #2
Where else have you gone?

CARL
Well...the last film was shot in...

Carl looks around the pool hall for assistance with his lie.

He spots a framed poster of Galway, Ireland.

CARL
...Galway.

GIRL #1
Where's that?

CARL
You've never heard of Galway?
Galway, Ireland.
(a beat)
How about we go back to my hotel,
grab my car, and I'll take you out
for a night on the town. I can tell
you all about Ireland and all the
other countries I visited.

GIRL #1
I don't know.

CARL
It's not a big deal if you don't want to. I just thought that, maybe you'd like to meet someone that's actually been all over the world and could even find a few small roles in a movie or two.

The girls talk amongst themselves for a moment.

He looks at his watch.

CARL
You know, I don't think it's a good idea after all. I have a casting call in Orlando tomorrow afternoon. I should probably be leaving. I'll see you girls if I see you.

Carl stands up from the table.

GIRL #2
We can give you a ride. You might be a little late to the casting call tomorrow.

The smile on Carl's face could stretch for days.

CARL
I think I can get away with being a few minutes late.

Carl gets up and escorts the girls out of the pool hall with him. He holds the door open, checking out their rears as they walk out in front of him. He lets the door slam behind him as he leaves with them.

INT. POOL HALL

Shawn takes a sip from his beer. He looks around at the nearly empty pool hall.

NATALIE
You want to play?

SHAWN
I already lost once tonight.

NATALIE
I'll go easy on you.

SHAWN
 (sips beer)
 One game.

INT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT

Keith is still outside the hotel room. He's now leaning against the wall next to the door.

A group of girls, dressed for a night on the town, walk past him. Keith tries to look suave as he holds a dripping bucket of melting ice.

KEITH
 (nods)
 Ladies.

The girls laugh and walk past.

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT

QUICK CUTS

* Shawn and Natalie playing pool. She breaks and sinks six balls.

SHAWN
 Nice. Thank God we're not playing for clothes.

NATALIE
 Not yet, Honey.

* They're both shooting Jägerbombs.

* Natalie leans on the corner of the pool table that Shawn is attempting to sink the eight ball in. She pulls down her shirt to better show off her cleavage.

NATALIE
 Having a hard time focusing?

Shawn sinks the shot.

SHAWN
 I think your chest is good luck. I usually suck at Pool.

NATALIE
 I'm glad you like the girls.

SHAWN

Oh...I do.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT

A silver car pulls up next to Keith's BMW.

INT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT

Keith is passed out on a bench across the hall from the room.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT

Carl and the girls get out of the silver car and into Keith's.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT

Carl takes off in Keith's car, tires squealing like a banshee out of the parking lot.

The girls shriek in the excitement.

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT

Natalie and Shawn are sitting together at a raised table by the bar.

They are both drinking draft beers with a pitcher sitting between them.

NATALIE

That really sucks.

SHAWN

Yeah, tell me about it.

NATALIE

Why did you two stop being friends?

SHAWN

Carl's mom was an amazing woman. See, I met Carl shortly after my mom left and his mom made sure that I felt like I was part of the family.

(drinks from mug)

Carl and I were juniors in college when she died.

He was so focused on her death that he flunked all his classes and dropped out. I did the best I could to help him through everything but it was too much for me.

NATALIE
So, what happened?

SHAWN
I moved out to LA and stopped talking to him.

NATALIE
You have to miss your friendship with him though.

SHAWN
I do...to an extent.

Shawn notices Carl is gone.

SHAWN
Where'd he go, anyway?

NATALIE
Left with two blondes about an hour ago.

SHAWN
Why didn't you tell me?

NATALIE
We can find our own things to do for fun, can't we?

She leans in and kisses Shawn on the lips.

Natalie leans back and seductively looks at Shawn.

He simply smiles.

INT. NATALIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shawn and Natalie enter the house, arms wrapped around each other, and lips locked together like two teens after prom.

NATALIE
You can't stay here tonight. Okay?

SHAWN
Okay.

They continue making out.

NATALIE
Oh my God. You're so hard.

SHAWN
So are you.

Natalie stops.

NATALIE
What?

SHAWN
(embarrassed)
Huh?

Shawn stands motionless.

NATALIE
You're too cute.

She smiles and removes her shirt.

He removes his shirt and pants.

NATALIE
That was fast.

SHAWN
What can I say? I put out.

INT. NATALIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shawn lays on Natalie's bed as she unhooks her bra.

She tosses her bra on him.

She climbs on top of him and continues to make out some more.

NATALIE
You ever take pictures when you
have sex?

Natalie has a mischievous smile on her face.

SHAWN
I can honestly say that I've never
done that.

NATALIE
That's so sad.

Natalie opens a drawer in her night stand, pulls out a digital camera, and smiles at Shawn.

NATALIE
Say cheese, cutie.

The quick flashes from the digital camera is the only thing that lights the pitch black room.

Natalie giggles in the darkness of the room.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - LATER

Shawn walks up the hallway to the room. Keith is still sleeping on the bench across from the room.

The bucket of water that once had ice in it sits next to him.

Shawn takes the bucket of water and pours it on Keith. He jolts out of his slumber.

He looks around to find Shawn towering over him.

KEITH
What the fuck, Shawn?

SHAWN
Wake up.

Keith sits up. His shirt and pants are soaked.

KEITH
Where the hell were you?

SHAWN
Getting laid. Let's go.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Shawn and Keith enter the room.

Keith goes into the bathroom as Shawn starts to take off his shirt and pants. His pants fall to the floor with a thump.

Shawn lifts up his pants and rummages through his pockets and finds Natalie's digital camera.

He shifts through his pockets to find his cell phone. It's gone.

SHAWN
Shit.

KEITH

What?

SHAWN

I left my phone at Natalie's house.

Shawn sets the camera on the entertainment center and lays in bed as Keith enters the room.

KEITH

What's with the camera?

SHAWN

Me and Natalie had a little fun with it.

KEITH

Well, while you were making a porn with Natalie, I was sleeping on the bench.

SHAWN

Yeah, I know.

KEITH

Whatever.

Keith picks up the camera.

SHAWN

Keith, if you turn that camera on, I'm going to rip your cock off and take your ass' virginity.

Keith puts the camera down and climbs in bed.

SHAWN

Good night, Bro.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - LATER

Carl pulls into a parking spot a few spaces down from the girl's car.

They are laughing as they all exit the car.

GIRL #1

Thanks for the night out, Carl.

GIRL #2

Yeah, I hope you're not late for your casting call in Orlando tomorrow.

CARL
I think I'll be okay.

Carl places one hand on each of the girls hips.
Each girl hugs him and kisses him on the cheek.

GIRL #2
Good night.

CARL
Bye, Ladies.

GIRL #1
Bye.

The girls walk away, a smile on each face, checking Carl out.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

All the lights in the room are off as Keith and Shawn lay in bed.

Keith is wide awake as Shawn loudly snores next to him.

Keith picks up the remote and turns on the television. He flips through the channels.

The camera sits on the entertainment center, staring at him.

Keith sits on the edge of the bed, makes sure Shawn is asleep, turns on the camera, and flips through the pictures.

*Natalie posing in lingerie.

*Natalie taking off the lingerie.

*Natalie topless.

*Natalie lying on her back on the bed.

Keith takes one last look at Shawn before going into the bathroom with the camera.

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM

Keith flips to the picture of Natalie posing topless.

He sets the camera on the back of the toilet, lifts the seat, and starts to pleasure himself.

EXT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Carl is rushing up the hallway to the room. It's obvious he has to urinate as he bursts through the door.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Carl tosses his stolen possessions as well as his own on the night stand.

He's dancing strangely as he pulls his wallet from his back pocket.

Carl walks to the bathroom and opens the door to see...

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM

Keith is still pleasuring himself as Carl slams the door open.

KEITH
(shrieks)
It's occupied!

CARL
Oh--

Carl and Keith stare at one another for a moment before Carl collapses to the floor in laughter.

CARL
Were you just...?

KEITH
Shut the fucking door, asshole!

Keith is trying to pull his pants up in a feeble attempt to hide what he was doing.

He slips on the tile floor, knocking the camera into the toilet bowl.

KEITH
Shit!

Keith hastily reaches into the toilet bowl to retrieve the camera.

Carl's laughter is all that is heard as we...

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL BREAKFAST AREA - MORNING

Shawn, Carl, and Keith sit across from one another at a table next to the continental breakfast line.

Carl can barely hold back the laughter as Shawn glares at Keith.

Keith looks only at his hands resting on the table.

SHAWN

I really don't know how I'm going to explain this to Natalie.

(a beat)

"Sorry about the camera. Keith took it into the bathroom to jack off to the pictures of you and me having sex and knocked the camera into the toilet. Don't worry though. There wasn't anything in the toilet except water and jizz."

KEITH

If it makes you feel any better, it was only water. Carl walked in before I could...you know.

SHAWN

Yes, Keith. That makes me feel so much better.

KEITH

Sorry.

Carl giggles girlishly at the situation. He's enjoying the show.

SHAWN

Now I have to replace the camera so Natalie doesn't know what happened. You better find some way to make it the hell up to me.

Shawn stares at Keith. He's not at all amused.

KEITH

You guys are running errands today to help set up for the reception tomorrow, right?

SHAWN

No shit.

KEITH

I'll run the errands to set up for the bachelor party tonight. How about you buy the camera and memory card for the camera.

(a beat)

That way, Natalie won't even know anything happened and neither you or Carl would have spent a dime on the bachelor's party.

SHAWN

Do you know how to throw a bachelor party?

KEITH

I used to throw parties all the time back in college. I'm sure it's not that different. I just have to buy porn, booze, and hire a stripper to shake her ass for a few hours. I mean, we already have the hotel room.

Carl and Shawn share a surprised expression.

SHAWN

I'm impressed. You should get started then. Go get everything we need. The games, the music, booze, and the dancer. If you need me, call Carl's cell.

Keith leaves the table.

SHAWN

Let's go.

CARL

I'm not going anywhere.

SHAWN

Yes, you are.

CARL

No, I'm not.

Shawn stands up from the table, pockets the camera, and stares at Carl.

SHAWN

Yes, Carl, you are. You're coming with me if I have to drag your ass out of here.

CARL
You're taking this bet thing kind
of seriously, aren't you?

SHAWN
Let's go.

Carl downs the last of his coffee and follows Shawn.

EXT. HOTEL - MORNING

Keith walks to the parking spot where he left his car the night before.

It's gone.

KEITH
Where the hell's my car?

Keith hits the panic alarm on his key chain and listens as his car alarm sounds from the opposite side of the parking lot.

He walks to his car and unlocks the doors.

INT. KEITH'S CAR

Keith sits in his driver's seat. He starts the car as an object on the passenger floor catches his attention.

A used condom occupies the front passenger floor, surrounded by white stains.

Something else on the floor also catches his attention.

Keith grimaces as he reaches over and pulls a pair of women's panties up from between the center console and the seat.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Carl and Shawn enter the room.

Shawn places his luggage on the bed, changes out of his clothes, and into a new outfit.

He watches as Carl rummages through his duffle bag. He pulls a wrinkled tuxedo from the bag and hangs it up.

Shawn's face is vacant of expression.

SHAWN

Is *that* your tuxedo for tomorrow?

CARL

Yeah, so?

SHAWN

It looks like you stole it from a homeless person.

CARL

That's completely asinine. Why would a homeless person be wearing a tux?

SHAWN

I don't know but you can't wear that looking the way it does.

CARL

I didn't have time to take it to the cleaners.

SHAWN

I saw a One Hour Dry Cleaner up the road a little bit.

CARL

Yeah?

SHAWN

It might have good rates.

CARL

Oh, cool. How much does it cost for them to have you to blow it out your ass?

Shawn ignores the insult and finishes dressing himself.

Carl puts on a pair of jeans and grabs a shirt from his bag. He tosses the tux in a bag with a huff.

CARL

Fine. Take me there and I'll have it dry cleaned.

Shawn makes sure he has the camera and his wallet before leaving the hotel room.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - DAY

The Florida sun shines down on Mike and Robert as they sit on the front porch, drinking iced tea.

ROBERT

So, are you ready for tomorrow?

MIKE

I think so.

(sips tea)

Amber and I have already been together for seven years now.

ROBERT

You know, marriage is a life altering step for any man.

(a beat)

Your brother still holds my getting remarried against me.

MIKE

That's because you married mom's best friend and now, a kid Carl couldn't stand when we were growing up, is our step-brother. Truth be told, I still kind of hold it against you, too. I'm just able to deal with it better than Carl.

ROBERT

You know that I never meant to do anything to disrespect your mother, don't you?

MIKE

I know, Dad. You're just going to have to give Carl more time. He still doesn't even want to believe that I'm getting married to Amber.

ROBERT

Do you think this whole thing with him and Shawn's going to work out the way you want it to?

MIKE

I'm pretty sure they'll come through for me. They always do.

(a beat)

I just miss the way life was back when mom was still around.

Robert puts his arm around Mike's shoulder.

ROBERT

I do, too, Son. More than anything.

They each sip their tea.

ROBERT

But, what if they can't get along?

MIKE

Then I'm fucked.

EXT. DRY CLEANERS - DAY

Shawn and Carl pull up to a one hour dry cleaners.

Carl gets out of the car, reaches into the back seat, and pulls out the balled up tux in the air tight plastic bag.

INT. DRY CLEANERS

A small brass bell mounted at the top of the front door jingles as Carl and Shawn enter the small shop.

A small ASIAN MAN appears from behind the counter.

ASIAN MAN

Hello, Gentlemen. Welcome. My name is CHAN. How can I help...

Chan gets a good look at the red mark across Shawn's and Carl's faces.

CHAN

What happened to you two?

CARL

We called Godzilla a pussy.

(a beat)

Need my tux dry cleaned and pressed.

Chan grumbles in Japanese at the insult as Carl flops the plastic bag on the counter and rips the bag open.

Chan stands behind the counter, puzzled.

Carl dumps the beaten tux out of the bag and watches Chan examine it.

CHAN

Did you steal this tux from a homeless man?

SHAWN

See?

CARL

How long will it take?

CHAN

Well, the sign on the building says
"Chan's One Hour Dry Cleaner".

(examines tux)

Give me five hours for this.

CARL

Five hours? Just toss it in there
and dry clean the goddamned thing.

CHAN

Have you seen this tux? You'll be
lucky if it's done by this time
tomorrow.

CARL

Listen, Chang...

CHAN

It's Chan, asshole.

CARL

Asshole? Aren't you people supposed
to be polite?

CHAN

Excuse me?

SHAWN

I'm sorry. What my friend means to
say is that five hours will be
fine.

Chan nods as Carl and Shawn leave.

EXT. DRY CLEANERS

The door closes behind Carl and Shawn as they stand outside
the cleaners.

SHAWN

Is there something that makes you
want to fight or argue with
everyone around you?

Carl shrugs.

Shawn shakes his head as they get back into his car and pull out of the parking lot.

INT. CAR - DAY

The guys are driving with the windows down and sitting in silence.

CARL
So, what do you do out in Los Angeles?

Shawn's caught off guard.

SHAWN
Oh, well, I work as a script analyst.

CARL
No kidding.

SHAWN
Yeah. I've been working for Kimandon Productions for about--

CARL
I don't really care.

A beat.

CARL
I'm a plumber.

SHAWN
Oh. That's good. How do you like it?

CARL
Hate it.

SHAWN
That's good.

The two share yet another awkward silence.

Carl starts searching his pockets.

CARL
Shit.

SHAWN
What?

CARL
I left my pot in my tux.

SHAWN
Why would there be pot in your tux?

CARL
I wore it two nights ago when I was
with this girl at a bar.

SHAWN
Why the hell would you wear a tux
to a bar?

CARL
I don't have to explain myself to
you.

SHAWN
I'm not going back, Carl. I have
too much on my list today.

CARL
That old bastard's going to smoke
it. I know it.

INT. DRY CLEANERS - DAY

Chan prepares the tux to be cleaned. A strange fragrance catches his attention and he starts searching the pockets. He pulls out a sandwich bag filled with marijuana.

He starts to toss it in the overflowing trash can but there is no space for it. He places it in his pocket for the time being and finishes his preparation.

INT. SHAWN'S CAR - DAY

Shawn splits his attention between the road and Carl.

SHAWN
So, where are you living these
days?

CARL
Why do you care?

SHAWN
Because I do.

A beat.

CARL
(defeated)
I live in Orlando.

SHAWN
Why not back in Jacksonville Beach?

CARL
Just drive.

Carl looks out his window and Shawn looks back at the road.

EXT. REGENCY SQUARE MALL - DAY

The Regency Square Mall basks in the afternoon sunlight. The shadows from trees dance against the building as patrons steadily enter and exit the mall.

INT. CAMERA STORE

Carl and Shawn enter Glass Eye Camera Store in the Regency Square Mall.

A SALESMAN stocks one of the shelves.

SHAWN
I need to replace this camera with one identical to it. Both the camera and memory card.

SALESMAN
Okay. Let's see what we have here.

Shawn hands the camera to the salesman as a little water trickles onto his hand from inside the camera.

SALESMAN
Oh, did you drop it in a puddle?

SHAWN
Not exactly.

CARL
It fell into the toilet after I caught my step-brother jacking off to nude pictures on it last night.

SALESMAN
Okay, well, that's disgusting. Thanks for placing the camera directly in my bare hand without fair warning.

The salesman places the camera on the counter. He sanitizes his hand, looks at the model number, and looks it up the computer.

SALESMAN

You're in luck. We have one of these left in the back. Let me go get it for you.

He exits to the back store room for a moment.

SHAWN

So, here's the story. I deleted the pictures on this camera and you never walked in on Keith spanking it to them last night. Got that?

CARL

Whatever makes you feel like less of a piece of shit.

The salesman emerges from the back with a box in his hands.

SALESMAN

This is the only one we have in stock for that model. This baby's beautiful.

SHAWN

I'll take it. How much is it?

SALESMAN

That's going to come to three hundred-eighty five dollars.

SHAWN

Of course it will.

Shawn pulls his credit card from his wallet and hands it to the salesman.

EXT. CAMERA STORE

Shawn and Carl walk out of the store. Shawn's examining the new camera. He notices a waste basket near the mall exit.

Shawn pulls the old camera from his pocket and tosses it in the trash.

INT. NAIL SALON - DAY

Amber, Judy, Maria, and Alexis are sitting together in a busy nail salon.

Amber and Judy receive pedicures as Maria and Alexis are given manicures.

They're laughing as Alexis finishes a joke.

ALEXIS

So, I walk in and he's completely naked and wants me to role play like I'm not supposed to know him.

MARIA

What happened?

ALEXIS

I asked him why the hell he'd be naked in my bedroom if I didn't know him.

(laughs)

And he gets so mad that I killed the mood that he got in bed and pouted until he went to sleep.

JUDY

I swear to God. Men are bigger girls than we are. I mean, I don't need sex. Don't get me wrong, I like it but I don't need it. My ex-boyfriend was like a damned nympho. Every night he wanted it but the second I said no, he'd try to give me a guilt trip.

The girls laugh as Maria focuses her attention on Amber.

MARIA

So, how's Mike in bed?

AMBER

Mike?

MARIA

Yeah, the guy you're marrying.

AMBER

(sarcasm)

He's the best I've ever had.

MARIA

(laughs)
I'm serious.

AMBER

We've been so busy with the wedding lately. We haven't really had a lot of time to be intimate.

(pause)

Then this whole thing with Carl is just...crazy.

ALEXIS

I meant to ask you about that.

JUDY

Yeah, what's been going on between Carl and Shawn? Are they going to be in the wedding?

AMBER

All I know is that Mike met Carl and Shawn at the pool hall last night and made some stupid bet with them.

ALEXIS

What bet?

AMBER

First off, Shawn's been playing pool for years, right?

MARIE

Yeah?

AMBER

Well, Mike bet them that, if Shawn beat Mike, they could do anything they wanted. But, if Shawn lost, then he has to do anything we need him to do for the wedding and Carl has to go wherever he goes.

MARIA

Bullshit.

ALEXIS

Did they win?

AMBER

No. Shawn lost.

MARIA
So, what was Keith's end of the
bargain?

AMBER
He's everyone's bitch.

The girls laugh.

AMBER
I'm serious. I'll call Shawn.

Amber calls Shawn's cell phone. It rings until it goes to voicemail.

AMBER
That's odd. Let me try Carl.

Amber calls Carl's cell phone.

JUDY
(smiles)
Let me talk to him.

Amber hands Judy the phone.

EXT. REGENCY SQUARE MALL - DAY

Carl and Shawn are walking through the mall parking lot.

His phone rings.

Carl checks the caller ID.

CARL
It's the bitch. You take it.

SHAWN
What?

Carl tosses the phone to Shawn without saying another word.

Shawn catches it and answers.

INTERCUT:

SHAWN
Hello?

JUDY
Hey, it's Judy.

SHAWN

Oh, hey. What's up, beautiful?

JUDY

Amber's not able to talk right now
but she wanted me to ask you guys
for a favor.

SHAWN

Oh, okay.

The girls smile and laugh as they watch Judy converse with
Shawn over the phone.

JUDY

The bride's maids dresses are
waiting to be picked up at the
Bridal Boutique.

SHAWN

Check. Anything else?

JUDY

I need you to pick up the party
favors for the bachelorette party
tonight from The Love Nest.

SHAWN

Can't wait.

The girls laugh.

SHAWN

Alright. Give me a little while but
I'll get all that done for her.

JUDY

Thanks, Shawn. Bye.

Judy hangs the phone up as the girls all laugh together.

EXT. REGENCY SQUARE MALL - DAY

Shawn sits in the driver seat of the car. He hands the phone
to Carl and cranks up the ignition.

CARL

So, should I ask what the favors
are?

Shawn glares at Carl then looks behind him as he backs out.

EXT. VIXEN'S BAR - DAY

Keith pulls up into Vixen's empty parking lot.

The dilapidated building appears abandoned as Keith looks around for any sign of life outside.

There is none. Even the weeds in the flower beds cling for life.

INT. VIXENS BAR

Keith enters the bar to find the bouncer reading a magazine at his station.

A single girl dances on the stage with no crowd shouting or whistling at her and an old man drinks by himself at the bar.

Keith approaches the bouncer.

He's reading a gardening magazine.

KEITH

It's too bad that magazine didn't help the flower bed outside, right?

Keith laughs.

The bouncer looks up from his magazine and stands up.

He's a tall, large framed African-American man with a no nonsense expression on his face.

BOUNCER

What do you want, White Boy?

Keith stops laughing.

KEITH

I need to borrow a dancer for two hours tonight for my brother's bachelor party. I'm prepared to pay two hundred and fifty dollars for services rendered.

BOUNCER

My White Devil Brother, this is not blockbuster video. You are not renting a movie for the night. You are at a high class gentlemen's club.

KEITH

But, I--

BOUNCER

You don't just come in here, point at a girl, and say, "I wanna borrow her!"

(a beat)

You enter this building and ask politely to talk with the manager of this establishment. Then you ask him which girl he can spare for the time allotted. Ya dig?

KEITH

I dig.

BOUNCER

Let's try this again.

The bouncer holds the door open for Keith to exit the building.

Keith starts to walk out but stops.

KEITH

What's the manager's name?

BOUNCER

You'll be asking for Bruno.

Still puzzled, Keith walks out and lets the door shut. The Bouncer opens his magazine.

Keith enters the building again.

KEITH

Excuse me.

BOUNCER

Yes, Sir. How may I be of assistance?

KEITH

I'm looking to speak with Bruno.

BOUNCER

You're talking to him.

Keith looks at Bruno.

At length:

KEITH

Bruno, I'd like to speak with you about hiring one of your dancers for two hours tonight for a bachelor party I'm throwing for my older brother.

BRUNO

And, how much are you looking to spend?

KEITH

Two hundred and fifty dollars?

BRUNO

Sounds to me like you're shopping for quality.

Keith nods.

BRUNO

Do you have the cash on you right now?

Keith nods again.

BRUNO

Well, I don't do business unless I see the cash first hand.

Keith opens his wallet, pulls a wad of money from it and lays it on Bruno's table.

Bruno counts the money.

BRUNO

(smiles)

My Ivory brother. Please, follow me.

Keith follows Bruno through the bar to the base of a stage. Bruno pulls out a chair for Keith and motions for him to sit down.

Keith sits.

BRUNO

I'll call her out here right now so you two can get acquainted.

(turns to bar)

AMPUTATIA! Get your sexy little white ass out here!

KEITH
Amputatia?

A girl pops her head up from behind the bar.

She's beautiful beyond any description any words of any language could use.

Her long, platinum blonde hair falls down to the base of her spine and her face is perfectly sculpted. Everything symmetrical.

AMPUTATIA
I'm coming, Bruno.

She sits down and rolls from behind the bar.

Keith watches as she emerges from around the corner.

She sits in a wheelchair, prosthetic leg resting in her lap.

She's a left, below the knee amputee.

She stops next to Keith, and, as polite as a girl raised in a family of class, offers her hand to Keith.

AMPUTATIA
Hi, I'm Amputatia. Pleasure to meet you.

KEITH
(scoffs)
Are you serious?

Keith stands up from his seat.

BRUNO
What?

KEITH
I want my money back. I don't want a stripper in a wheel chair!

BRUNO
(reserved)
Listen here, honkie. Strippers take their clothes off. Amputatia's an exotic dancer. She's never shown her goods. If you want to come in here with your yuppie attitude, then do us all a favor and go somewhere else.
(a beat)

Now, if you want to be open minded
and not so opinionated, then,
please, let Amputatia show you why
she's the pride and joy of Vixens.

Keith takes a moment to think about his options but sits back
in the chair.

KEITH
(to Amputatia)
I'm sorry. I just got caught off
guard.

AMPUTATIA
Whatever. I get it all the time.

KEITH
You shouldn't. I think you're
beautiful.

AMPUTATIA
Uh huh. Bruno, hit the music.

BRUNO
As you wish, Babe.

Bruno cues the DJ.

The music is playing throughout the club as Amputatia
attaches her prosthetic leg and climbs on Keith.

Her dance is as perfect as she is. She gives Keith the kind
of lap dance that could make a gentlemen's club nationally
known.

The song ends as does the dance.

Bruno, the DJ, and the old man at the bar applaud
simultaneously.

BRUNO
Her name's Amputatia, ladies and
gentlemen!

Keith sits in a daze, his eyes locked with Amputatia.

AMPUTATIA
(confident)
So?

KEITH
That was amazing.

INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - AFTERNOON

Carl and Shawn enter the dress store.

Shawn approaches a young, heavy set CASHIER, behind the customer service counter. She's reading a magazine.

SHAWN

Hi. I'm here to pick up a few dresses for the Jennings and Cresse wedding.

CASHIER

That's good for you. Give me a minute.

She takes a bite of a doughnut and turns the page.

At length:

SHAWN

Miss?

CASHIER

(mocks)

Sir?

Shawn waits patiently.

CARL

(to Shawn)

Let me take care of this.

Carl reaches across the counter and snatches the magazine from the cashier.

CASHIER

Who do you--

CARL

My name is Carl Jennings. My brother, Mike, is getting married tomorrow and we need the dresses ASAP. So, as hard as it may be for you to stop shoving food in your mouth, I'm going to have to insist that you waddle your Miss Piggy look alike ass into the back and retrieve the dresses. Only then, will I give you back this magazine and let you continue eating your fat ass to death.

(a beat)

Otherwise, you can get the manager
and I can report your rude and
unprofessional behavior.

CASHIER
(choked up)
I'll...
(clears throat)
...I'll get your dresses.

CARL
Atta girl.

SHAWN
That was fucked up.

CARL
So?

SHAWN
Thanks...I guess.

CARL
No problem.

INT. VIXENS BAR - DAY

Keith and Amputatia sit across from one another. Keith drinks
a beer as Amputatia drinks a soda.

KEITH
How did you get into this kind of
work?

AMPUTATIA
After the amputation, I couldn't
work as a lifeguard anymore. One
day, I ran into Bruno at a grocery
store where I was trying to load up
my car. He helped me and asked if I
ever thought of doing this. Two
weeks later I was working here.

KEITH
Do you miss going to the beach?

AMPUTATIA
I can still go to the beach and do
everything I used to.
(a beat)
I miss being a lifeguard though. So
much more than anything.

She wipes the tears welling in her eyes and forces a smile.

AMPUTATIA

So, do you live around here?

KEITH

I've lived here my whole life. My step-brother, Mike, is getting married tomorrow and I'm one of the groomsmen.

(beat)

Actually, Mike told me that I can still bring a guest. That is, if you'd like to be my date.

AMPUTATIA

(smiles)

I'd like that.

Keith loses himself in Amputatia's eyes.

KEITH

Shit!

AMPUTATIA

Is everything okay?

Keith pulls his cell phone from his pocket and leaves the bar.

Amputatia sits in her chair. She sips from her drink.

EXT. VIXENS BAR - AFTERNOON

Keith dials a number in his cell phone.

INT. SHAWN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Shawn and Carl are driving down a busy road, the bridal dresses hanging in the back seat.

SHAWN

So, you don't feel bad at all for the girl back at the bridal shop?

CARL

Why would I?

SHAWN

Just the way you spoke to her? How don't you feel bad about that?

CARL
'Cause I'm a damned sexy manbeast.

Carl's phone rings. He pulls the phone out and answers it.

INTERCUT:

CARL
What do you want, Fag?

KEITH
I found a dancer for tonight.

CARL
Okay. So?

KEITH
So, where are we doing the party?

CARL
That's your job, Bitch.

KEITH
Listen, just answer the question.
Are we throwing it at the hotel?

CARL
Sure. Sounds good.

KEITH
There's just one thing you guys
should know about her.

CARL
What?

KEITH
She's an amputee.

Carl sits in shock for a moment.

CARL
An amputee?

KEITH
Yeah.

CARL
Like, she's missing a tit?

KEITH
No, Jackass. She's missing a leg.

Carl breaks into a loud obnoxious laughter.

He stops laughing for a moment for a deep breath.

KEITH

Hello?

Carl starts laughing again.

Keith listens as Carl's laughter fills the receiver.

KEITH

Are you done yet?

CARL

So, Keith.

(chuckles)

Can she dance for Mike or is she just going to spin around in her wheelchair?

KEITH

That's fucked up, Man.

SHAWN

What's going on?

CARL

Keith found a dancer for tonight.

SHAWN

Okay...

CARL

She only has one leg.

SHAWN

(chuckles)

What?

Shawn breaks into a shared laughter with Carl.

KEITH

Are you both laughing now?

(a beat)

You guys are fucked up! Amputatia's a sweet girl.

Carl stops laughing.

CARL

Did you just say "Amputatia"?

Carl puts the phone on speaker.

KEITH

You better not be a dick when you meet her.

CARL

Yeah? And why's that?

KEITH

Because she's my date to the wedding tomorrow.

Carl and Shawn burst into a duet of deafening laughter.

Carl hangs up.

Keith flips his phone shut.

KEITH

(to self)

Fucking assholes.

He walks back into Vixens.

INT. THE LOVE NEST - AFTERNOON

Carl enters the store to see Shawn standing at the register waiting for the clerk.

Carl smiles as he walks over to a wall covered with dildos.

A husky guy with a beard steps behind the counter. The name tag on his shirt says FRANK.

FRANK

Can I help you?

SHAWN

I'm picking up an order for the Cresse Bachelorette Party.

Frank looks around behind the counter.

FRANK

There's nothing here with the name Cresse on it. Is there another name?

SHAWN

Amber?

He searches again.

FRANK

Nope. Do you know what's in it?

SHAWN

No, I don't. Is there anything back there at all that's in either a box or a package?

FRANK

There's this.

Frank pulls a paper bag from behind the counter and sits it on the counter top.

FRANK

It just says Bachelorette Party. *

SHAWN

Then that's it.

FRANK

What if there's another Bachelorette Party somewhere?

Shawn examines the bag. He sees ALEXIS written on the bag.

SHAWN

It says Alexis on it. That's the name of one of the bride's maids.

FRANK

There could be an Alexis getting married this weekend.

SHAWN

Tell you what. I'm going to take that risk and give you the money for that bag. If Alexis comes in here and has a problem with that, have her call me.

(a beat)

How much is the bag?

FRANK

Let me check off everything first.

SHAWN

Fine. Just, please, hurry. I'm in a rush.

Shawn watches as a beautiful young girl walks from the other side of the store and stands in line behind him.

Frank pulls an inventory check list from under the register.

FRANK
Okay, let's do this.

He opens the bag and pulls out numerous sex toys, games, and novelties.

FRANK
We have one man sized dildo straw.

SHAWN
(surprised)
A what?

He checks off a box on a list of objects in the package.

FRANK
One pair of edible panties.

Another check.

FRANK
One pin the penis on the man game.

Another check.

Shawn stands, humiliated as the girl behind him simply chuckles at the situation.

SHAWN
Okay, Frank. Can you just not say everything so loud as you check it off? Everyone in the store can already see everything scattered across the counter.

FRANK
There is nothing to be embarrassed about. Sex is a beautiful part of nature.

Shawn hides his face in his hand as Frank continues.

FRANK
One edible testicle.
(a beat)
Oh, I'm sorry. Four edible testicles. I guess someone likes as many balls in their mouth as possible, huh?

SHAWN
Someone actually took the time to make edible testicles?

FRANK
Oh, yeah. They're delicious.

Shawn stares at Frank, void of any expression.

FRANK
(a beat)
So I hear.

Frank, checks another box, laughing silently as he does it.

FRANK
One "I Love Sucking Cock" truckers
hat.

Another Check.

FRANK
And, last but not least, four penis
lollypops.

Final check.

FRANK
It's going to come to seventy-eight
dollars and sixty-three cents. Cash
or credit?

Shawn glares at Frank as he pulls cash from his wallet.

Frank breaks Shawn's hundred and gives him change.

SHAWN
Thanks.

Shawn heads for the door.

He sees Carl looking at random things on the wall.

SHAWN
Let's go.

CARL
I'll be right out.

Shawn exits the store.

INT. SHAWN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Shawn sits in the driver's seat, tosses in the back, and
listens to the radio while he waits for Carl.

The girl that was in line behind him exits the store. She laughs as she makes eye contact with Shawn.

Shawn waves with an embarrassed smile on his face.

SHAWN
 (to self)
 Okay. That was just about the most humiliating thing I've ever had to do.

Shawn sits for a lengthy moment, waiting for Carl.

Carl emerges from the store wearing a hat that says "I LOVE SEX" with a life sized penis pop hanging from his mouth.

Carl gets in the car.

Shawn stares at him for another lengthy moment.

CARL
 (pop in mouth)
 What?

SHAWN
 Are you sucking on a candy penis?

CARL
 What about it?

SHAWN
 It's a little gay, isn't it?

CARL
 It's not gay. It's candy.

Shawn rolls his eyes, puts the car in gear, and backs out of the spot.

EXT. CROWDED CITY STREET - AFTERNOON

The afternoon sunlight stretches the shadow from Shawn's car across three lanes of traffic as he drives down a busy roadway.

INT. SHAWN'S CAR

Shawn sits in the driver's seat, gripping the wheel.

Carl rides shotgun, still wearing the hat, sucking on the last of the penis pop.

He finishes the last of the candy pop, rolls down the window, and tosses the stick out.

CARL
So, what's in the girl's bag?

SHAWN
Nothing.

CARL
Oh, come on. What's in it?

SHAWN
Leave it alone.

CARL
Well if you won't tell me I'm just going to take a look.

Carl pulls the paper bag from the back seat and rummages through it.

Shawn comes to a stop at a traffic light.

Carl pulls the trucker hat from the bag.

CARL
Oh, look. You bought me a new hat.

He takes his hat off, puts the new hat on, and continues searching the bag.

CARL
(laughs)
What the fuck?

He pulls the dildo straw from the bag.

He holds it up to examine it.

SHAWN
That's a...man sized...dildo straw.

CARL
Check this out.

Carl takes the lid off a fountain soda sitting in the cup holder, places the bottom of the shaft in the cup, and sucks up the soda through the tip.

Shawn laughs hysterically as Carl sucks on the dildo.

CARL

This isn't that bad. If jizz tasted
this good, I'd suck cocks all day
long.

An elderly couple pulls up next to Carl's window.

INT. ELDERLY COUPLE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

The elderly man watches as Carl sucks on the dildo straw.

The cup he's drinking from is hidden so only the top of the
straw can be seen.

His wife is looking out her window when the man taps her
shoulder to get her attention.

ELDERLY MAN

MARTHA! Would you look at that?

MARTHA

What, EARL?

Martha looks over at Carl sucking on the straw.

MARTHA

Oh, my.

A large smile comes across her face.

INT. SHAWN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Carl looks out his window, dildo in mouth, to see the elderly
couple staring back at him. The "I LOVE SUCKING COCK" hat is
on his head and the dildo straw is pressing against the
inside of his cheek.

Shawn notices the old couple staring at Carl. He rolls the
tinted window up so they can't see him.

SHAWN

I have no idea why I ever hung out
with you when I was a kid.

EXT. CROWDED CITY STREET - AFTERNOON

The light finally turns green. Shawn hits the gas and takes
an exit ramp onto a highway.

CARL

Where to now?

SHAWN
To get your tux.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - AFTERNOON

Shawn is down the block from Chan's One Hour Dry Cleaner.
Chan's building is consumed by a monstrous fire.

INT. SHAWN'S CAR

Shawn struggles to look down the street.

SHAWN
What happened here?

A fire truck further up the road is fighting the fire.

CARL
Fuck! Now I don't have a tux for
tomorrow!

SHAWN
Let's go see if any of the suits
were pulled out before the fire got
out of control.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - AFTERNOON

Shawn parks his car in an empty spot in front of a house.

EXT. CHAN'S ONE HOUR DRY CLEANER - AFTERNOON

Thick smoke pours from the windows and doorways to the
cleaners.

Chan is face down on the hood of a Squad Car.

Shawn and Carl stand across the street from the business as
Chan spots them from the squad car.

Chan struggles to get the attention of the officer searching
him.

CHAN
(panics)
Him! That's the man that left the
pot in his tux. I told you it
wasn't mine! I just forgot to throw
it away!

OFFICER

Okay, Sir.

The officer ignores Chan as he places him in the back of the squad car.

Chan is still in a panic.

CHAN

I'm telling you it's him!

The officer shuts the door.

SHAWN

We need to--

Shawn turns to talk to Carl but finds that he is already half way down the block, walking, as innocently as possibly, back to the car.

Shawn turns his attention back to the squad car.

Chan sits, helpless, in the back seat. He twists around and makes eye contact with Shawn.

SHAWN

(mouths)

I'm so sorry.

Chan starts mouthing obscenities from the back seat of the squad car.

INT. SHAWN'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Carl is sitting in the passenger seat. He doesn't say a word as Shawn enters the car, sitting in his driver's seat.

Shawn stares down the street at the blazing fire.

Carl, catching his breath, looks at Shawn with a smile that could last for years stretched across his face.

SHAWN

So, that man's business burns down
and he gets arrested most likely
for being caught with the bag of
pot that you left in your jacket
pocket.

Shawn looks over at Carl.

SHAWN

You're the reason that innocent man
is going to jail.

Carl's smile fades away.

CARL

What do you want me to say?

SHAWN

As long as I've known you, you've
always been the first one to haul
ass the second you fuck something
up. If you can't get away with it,
then you always drag someone down
with you.

CARL

I haul ass? What about you, you
piece of shit? You left after my
mom died.

Shawn opens his mouth to say something. He says nothing.

CARL

Yeah. Exactly. You're all talk
until someone calls you out.

SHAWN

This is the exact fucking reason
that I stopped talking to--

CARL

Just drive the fucking car.

Shawn starts the car and slams the gas, screeching away from
the curb and down the street.

INT. SHAWN'S CAR - EVENING

Carl dials a number and holds the cell phone to his ear as he
looks out his window.

INT. MR. JENNINGS' HOUSE - EVENING

Mike sits at the dining room table with Robert and Andrea.
They're in the middle of dinner when Mike's cell phone goes
off.

INTERCUT:

MIKE
 Sorry, Guys.
 (into phone)
 Hello?

CARL
 Hey.

MIKE
 What's up, Carl?

Shawn is talking to Maria, Amber, and Judy at the front porch of Mike's house. He hands them the bag and dresses.

Judy smiles and shuts the door behind her as Shawn walks to the street where he parked.

CARL
 (into phone)
 I need to know where the tuxedo store was that you ordered the tux. I dropped mine off at the one hour cleaner's this morning and...well...it kind of burnt down.

MIKE
 It what?

Shawn enters the car.

CARL
 Burnt to the ground.

MIKE
 You've got to be fucking kidding me.
 (a beat)
 Alright. I'll meet you at the Sea Turtle Inn in about twenty minutes.

CARL
 Okay. Bye.

Carl flips the phone shut.

SHAWN
 What did he say?

CARL
 Drive to the hotel.

SHAWN
 Fine.

INT. ROBERT'S HOUSE

Mike excuses himself from the table.

MIKE

Sorry, Dad. I have a little wedding emergency with Carl and Shawn.

ANDREA

What happened now? Was it Carl again?

MIKE

Andrea, please. I'll see you guys tomorrow.

Mike leaves the house as Robert and Andrea sit at the dining room table in silence.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Mike enters the hotel room as Carl and Shawn sit on the bed watching the television.

MIKE

Come on. We'll take my car to the store.

Mike tosses Carl the keys.

MIKE

You're driving.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - EVENING

Mike, Shawn, and Carl approach the car. Mike opens the passenger door and Shawn climbs in the back.

MIKE

I guess this is good. I mean, it gets the three of us together without Keith for a few minutes.

CARL

Whatever you say.

EXT. MIKE'S CAR - EVENING

Carl drives Mike's car down a busy road in heavy traffic.

INT. MIKE'S CAR - EVENING

The silence in the car is familiar to Carl and Shawn. No one has anything to say to the other.

Carl is keeping his on the road.

MIKE

So, how was your day together,
Guys?

SHAWN

It wasn't--

CARL

It sucked. I can't wait for the
wedding to be over so I don't have
to see this prick again.

SHAWN

I'm really sick of all your
complaining. That's all you ever
do.

CARL

You know what I'm getting sick and
tired of? You.

SHAWN

Okay. It's been six years. Why the
hell are you still pissed?

Carl turns his attention from the road to the back seat.

CARL

You know why!

MIKE

(nervous)
Watch the road, Carl.

SHAWN

I really don't! You don't like to
communicate! You just act like an
asshole!

MIKE

Carl! Watch the road or let me
drive the fucking car!

CARL

I'm the asshole? I'm not the one
who abandons their friends when
they're going through a hard time!

SHAWN

I never abandoned you! You turned your life upside down and tried to drag me with you! Remember what I--

MIKE

Carl, look out!

Carl turns his attention back to the road to see a dog run across the four lane highway.

Carl whips the wheel around in a panic to avoid hitting the dog.

EXT. MIKE'S CAR - EVENING

The car flips upsidedown.

INT. MIKE'S CAR - EVENING

Shawn, Carl, and Mike are tossed around as the car flips.

EXT. MIKE'S CAR - EVENING

The car comes to a screeching halt next to a building.

Traffic comes to a sudden halt. People from various different vehicles exit their cars to check on the wreckage.

The silence one again sweeps throughout the car.

Mike and Carl groan in pain.

MIKE

(in pain)

Carl...you okay?

CARL

I'm alright. You?

MIKE

My arm hurts.

Carl looks at Mike's arm.

Mike's sleeve is ripped and a bone is sticking out.

CARL

Oh, fuck.

MIKE
What?

CARL
There's a thing sticking out of
your thing!

MIKE
There's a what?

Mike feels his arm and finds the bone protruding from his
forearm.

MIKE
Oh, my God. My arm's broken!

CARL
Help is on it's way.

MIKE
No one called for help!

CARL
I know. That's just what people say
when someone's badly injured, isn't
it?

MIKE
Call for--

CARL
Wait.

Mike is in severe pain but stops yelling so he can hear what
Carl hears.

MIKE
What?

CARL
There's no noise coming from the
back seat.

Carl struggles to look behind him.

CARL
Shawn?

MIKE
Shawn, you okay?

Mike and Carl groan as they look in the back seat at Shawn.

He lies sprawled, in a awkward position, across the roof of the back seat.

He's motionless and covered in blood.

Carl struggles with his seat belt. It finally unlatches and Carl climbs to the back seat.

CARL
Shawn?

Carl takes a close look at Shawn's lifeless body.

Carl places two fingers on his neck to check his pulse.

MIKE
(wincing)
Is he alright?

CARL
He's alive.

A PEDESTRIAN peers into the car.

PEDESTRIAN
Are you boys alright?

CARL
Do we look alright? Go get a
fucking ambulance!

PEDESTRIAN
Hang in there boys.

The pedestrian hurries away from the car.

EXT. MIKE'S CAR - NIGHT

A crowd of pedestrians and patrons of local businesses gather around the crash as the fire department removes the doors from Mike's car.

Carl is the first to be removed. He sits in the back of an Ambulance.

Mike is removed but is taken to a different ambulance on a stretcher.

MIKE
Carl?

CARL
Mike!

Carl attempts to get up but is restrained by a PARAMEDIC working on him.

PARAMEDIC
He's gonna be alright. Just try to
relax.

Shawn is removed and loaded onto Carl's Ambulance.

The back doors of the ambulance slam shut as it takes off, speeding down the road.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Carl sits on the bench in the ambulance, staring down at Shawn. He's unconscious and badly beaten from the accident.

FLASHBACK

INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - NIGHT

Mike, Carl, and Shawn sit at the dining room table with Robert and Allison.

They laugh at little jokes and enjoy each others company.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

It's pouring rain as a crowd of people dressed in black sit in folding chairs under a tent next to Allison's casket.

In this crowd is Mike, Robert, Amber, Andrea, and Keith.

Mike is distraught with emotion, Robert and Amber's hands on each shoulder.

Shawn stands next to Carl away from the tent, drenched from the rain. Carl's face is vacant of emotion.

Tears stream down Shawn's damp face. He places his hand on Carl's shoulder.

CARL (V.O.)
Fuck you!

EXT. SHAWN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Carl and Shawn are arguing loudly enough to attract attention from the neighbors.

CARL
So then, what? You're just going to
leave?

SHAWN
I have to, Man. I can't stay in
this town anymore.

Shawn holds out a card.

SHAWN
This is my number. If you need to
talk, give me a call.

Carl takes the card and looks at it.

Carl crumbles the card and throws it at Shawn.

CARL
Twenty years, you piece of shit!
You've been my best friend for
twenty fucking years!

SHAWN
I know you're mad. I expected it.
But you have to understand where
I'm coming from.

CARL
Just leave.

SHAWN
Carl, I--

CARL
Shawn, I swear to God that, if you
say one more word, I'll knock your
fucking teeth in.

Carl gets into a car, pulls out of the driveway, and speeds
like a demon down the road.

END FLASHBACK

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Shawn's eyes are shut. Half his face is swollen and covered
in dried blood.

Carl shows no emotion except for a tear that falls from his
eye.

He takes Shawn's hand and holds it tightly in his.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Amber, Alexis, Maria, and Judy sit in front of the coffee table. They're playing with one of the games and drinking when Amber's cell phone rings.

 AMBER
 (into phone)
 Hello?

Panic sweeps across Amber's face.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Carl sits in a chair, staring at the floor in the hallway. Aside from a few minor bumps and bruises, he's no worse for the wear.

 KEITH (O.S.)
 Carl!

Carl's eyes don't leave the floor.

 CARL
 What do you want?

 KEITH
 Where are they?

 CARL
 Go home, Keith. I'll let you know
 when everything settles down.

 KEITH
 They're my friends, too, Carl.

 CARL
 Fuck off.

 KEITH
 I'm not the reason your mom died.
 Neither is my mom so I think you
 can stop being such a fucking prick
 to me now.

Carl gets up from his chair and walks away.

 KEITH
 Don't turn your back on me!

Keith rushes Carl, turns him around, and slams him into a wall.

KEITH

I've had it with you! You think that the whole world owes you something.

(a beat)

But if you think that I'm going to put up with you treating me or my mom like shit then you're out of your fucking mind.

Keith and Carl stare at one another for a moment.

CARL

I...don't--

MIKE (O.S.)

Keith!

Keith looks up the hall to see Mike standing in the hallway, his arm wrapped in a cast and supported with a sling.

MIKE

Help me get some coffee.

Keith turns his attention back to Carl.

KEITH

(breathes deeply)

Yeah. Okay.

MIKE

(to Carl)

You okay?

CARL

I'm alright.

MIKE

Want some coffee?

CARL

No, I'm good.

MIKE

I'll be back in a few minutes. Shawn's in that room but I think he'd like it if you sat with him.

Carl watches as Mike and Keith walk down the hall.

CARL

Hey, Keith.

Keith looks back at Carl.

CARL
(hesitant)
I'm sorry.

Keith nods and continues down the hall.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

A NURSE is checking Shawn's chart when Carl enters the room.

CARL
Is he alright?

NURSE
He'll be alright. We just have him
on observation for the night.

CARL
He's my best friend.

NURSE
Well, from all that the gentleman
who was just in here told me,
you're both lucky to have a friend
like him.

CARL
Is it okay if I sit in here with
him?

NURSE
I don't see why not.

Carl sits in an empty chair next to Shawn's bed.

Shawn appears unconscious as the nurse starts to exit the
room.

CARL
Can I ask you a question?

NURSE
Yes?

Carl stands up from his chair and approaches the Nurse.

CARL
I read that, when someone's in a
coma...um...they can hear
everything you say to them.

NURSE
Sir, he's just--

CARL
Is that true?

The nurse looks at the bed to see Shawn's eyes wide open.
She fights back a smile as he motions for her to play along.

NURSE
Yes, it's true. I'd say now is the
time to tell him all your deepest
feelings towards him.

CARL
Thank you.

The Nurse leaves the room and closes the door behind her.
Shawn closes his eyes again and pretends to be asleep.
Carl turns back to face Shawn, takes a deep breath, and sits
next his bed.

CARL
I'm so sorry for everything I did
to you, Shawn.

Shawn is badly bruised. His lip is split open and stitches
keep a deep gash on the bridge of his nose closed.

CARL
I missed you so much over the last
few years.
(chin quivering)
I miss my best friend.

Shawn listens to everything. He's fighting back a smile the
whole time.

CARL
(weeps)
I'm sorry for always bad-mouthing
you.
(sniffles)
And I'm sorry for sleeping with
Christy back in college. I know you
never forgave me for that. Just,
please, don't die.

Carl rests his face and hands on Shawn's chest. He's crying
hysterically.

MIKE (O.S.)
That was you?

Carl looks up to see Mike standing in the doorway. He's holding one cup of coffee but Keith holds two.

Carl wipes his face and notices the coffee.

CARL
I said I didn't want coffee.

MIKE
It's not for you. It's for Shawn.

CARL
But Shawn's--

Shawn pops up from his pillow and holds his hand out for the cup.

SHAWN
Thanks, Mike.
(to Carl)
That was a very touching apology.
(a beat)
Up until the part where you
admitted to sleeping with Christy.

CARL
Shawn...I thought you were...

SHAWN
(groans)
I'm not mad. We're all alive and
I'm grateful. Just do me a favor
and wait outside for a few minutes.

Embarrassed, Carl stands up and exits the hospital room.

MIKE
How you feeling?

SHAWN
Like shit.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Carl closes the door behind him as Amber, Robert, Andrea, and the bride's maids rush up the hallway.

Amber's face is flush, her eyes red from crying.

AMBER
Are you happy now, Carl?

CARL
Amber, wait.

AMBER
You put Shawn and Mike in the hospital and showed us all how angry you are. You destroyed our wedding rehearsal and now you almost killed your brother and your friend.

Carl struggles to restrain himself.

CARL
It was an accident.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Amber's raised voice catches Mike and Shawn's attention from inside the hospital room.

SHAWN
What's going on out there?

MIKE
I don't know.

AMBER (O.S.)
I'm not going to do this with you.
Not tonight.

MIKE
I'll be right back.

Mike walks to the door.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Carl is still restraining himself as Amber continues to yell at him.

AMBER
If you really cared about Mike or Shawn at all, you'd leave.

Carl pauses for a moment, unsure as to what to do.

He looks at the small crowd in the hallway.

He looks back at Amber.

CARL
Fine. I'm gone.

Carl walks towards the exit as Mike enters the hallway.

MIKE
(to Amber)
What was all that about?

Amber's speechless.

Mike watches as Carl walks down the hall.

MIKE
Carl!

Carl slams the door open and leaves the ward.

Mike turns his attention to Amber.

MIKE
Well?

AMBER
I didn't mean for it to come out
like that.

Everyone stands in silence in the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Shawn lays in bed watching the news. VERONICA HAIL, 34, reads a news bulletin about the fire at Chan's One Hour Cleaner.

VERONICA (V.O.)
Earlier today, the Neptune Beach
Fire Department responded to an
emergency call at Chan's One Hour
Cleaner's in Neptune Beach. During
the investigation, authorities
discovered the cause of the fire to
be a careless act by the owner.
(pause)
56-year-old, Chan Yung, has been
placed under arrest for possession
of narcotics. A drug test conducted
on Mr. Yung early this evening
showed a high level of THC in his
bloodstream.

Shawn watches the news report in disbelief.

Mike enters the room.

MIKE
Anything good on TV?

SHAWN
Um...no.

VERONICA
The Neptune Police Department
stated that Mr. Yung was smoking
dangerously close to highly
flammable chemicals when--

Shawn turns the TV off.

SHAWN
So, what's going on?

Amber and the rest of the group enter the room after Mike.
Shawn looks around at his friends crowding around his bed.

SHAWN
Where's Carl?

AMBER
I told him how I felt about him
being in the wedding.

SHAWN
So, where is he?

ROBERT
He left.

SHAWN
Then I need to go get him.

Shawn stands up. Pain shoots up his leg, causing him to turn around to lean against the bed for support. His hospital gown opens as he bends over, showing his rear to everyone in the room.

MIKE
Shawn, stay here and I'll go find
Carl.

Shawn stands up and faces Mike.

SHAWN
Let me find him. I already know
where he's going.

MIKE

Okay.
(to Keith)
Keith, go with him.

SHAWN

No, it's okay.

MIKE

You're not driving anywhere.

SHAWN

You guys can go back to the hotel.
I'll be alright.

Mike takes a deep breath.

MIKE

You sure about this?

SHAWN

Positive.
(to Amber)
Can I have your keys?

Amber pulls her keys from her purse.

AMBER

I feel like this is my fault.

Amber gives Shawn her keys.

She wraps her arms around him.

He winces in pain from the pressure.

AMBER

Oh, I'm sorry.

Amber leaves the room and closes the door as Shawn changes into his clothes.

INT. AMBER'S CAR - NIGHT

Shawn is driving down an empty street.

He sees a sign at the end of a driveway. It reads "ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY."

He turns up the driveway.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Tears run down Carl's face as he sits in front of a grave.

The grave reads, "ALLISON JENNINGS 1961-2003."

He watches as Amber's car stops on the road next to the grave.

He takes a deep breath but is surprised when Shawn steps out of the car.

SHAWN

Everyone's looking for you.

CARL

Go away, Shawn.

SHAWN

Stop acting like yourself for a minute and just talk to me.

CARL

You always act like you know what's best for me. You always like to pretend you're my dad.

SHAWN

Have you ever listened to yourself?

A lengthy beat passes as Carl stands in silence. He evaluates himself as he listens to Shawn's words.

SHAWN

You never let me be your friend. I was always the one keeping your ass in check. I was always protecting you. I might as well be your fucking father.

CARL

You have no idea what I've been through.

SHAWN

I know exactly what you've been through. You lost your mom.

CARL

You don't know what that's like.

SHAWN

I don't know what it's like? My mom abandoned me when I was two!

My drunk prick dad was the reason I
always hung out with you, Mike and
your parents! Don't you ever say
that to me again!

Carl stands in silence, staring back at Shawn.

SHAWN

You think I didn't lose your mom,
too? Fuck you!

Shawn looks deep into Carl's eyes.

SHAWN

My mom walked out on me, then I
lost Allison. I lost both my
parents and then I lost your mom.

CARL

(shoves Shawn)
And then you left me!

CARL

Mike had Amber, my dad had Andrea,
and all I had was you.

(pause)

You left me here to fucking rot!

His words leave Shawn speechless.

Shawn approaches Carl.

SHAWN

I'm sorry, Carl. But I couldn't
watch you hurt yourself the way you
were.

Shawn wraps his arms around Carl.

SHAWN

I'm sorry.

Carl collapses in exhaustion. Shawn slowly lowers them to the
ground where they lean against Allison's grave.

They sit for a lengthy beat as Carl composes himself.

CARL

So, what do we do now?

SHAWN

We go back to the hotel, wake up early in the morning to get you a tux, and support your little brother as he gets married to Amber.

They climb to their feet.

CARL

I mean you and me.

SHAWN

It's in the past, Bro.

CARL

And, as far as Christy goes...

SHAWN

Are you happy with the way things turned out tonight because I can still kick your ass if you want me to.

CARL

...sorry.

SHAWN

It's fine. Now shut up.

Shawn and Carl walk over to Amber's car.

CARL

But I didn't know she was your girlfriend until you came knocking and--

SHAWN

Carl, shut the hell up!

EXT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

The sun beams down on the church, casting a twenty foot shadow of the crucifix across the sidewalk.

The sign on the church reads "SATURDAY, JULY 4TH: CELEBRATE THE HOLY WEDLOCK OF MICHAEL JENNINGS AND AMBER CRESSE"

Organ music is heard as people enter the church in an orderly fashion.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Various people are whispering amongst themselves as the organist plays "Ave Maria."

Father Brown and the rest of the congregation gaze in curiosity at Mike, Carl, and Shawn.

Keith smiles at the crowd of people as Shawn, badly bruised and beaten stands next to him. His face is still swollen from the car accident. A square red mark covers the side of his head where Carl hit him with a bible.

Shawn waves at Natalie, sitting two pews away. She smiles back at him and shakes her head.

Carl stands next to Shawn. Tiny cuts speckle his face and hands. He, too, has a red mark on his face from where Shawn slapped him with a bible the day before.

Mike stands next to Carl. His arm in a sling and small scrapes and cuts on his face and hands.

Alexis, Maria, and Judy stand across from the guys.

Judy's in awe as she watches Shawn rest his hand on Carl's shoulder.

Carl reaches up and hold's Shawn's hand in his.

Judy get's Alexis' attention. She watches the moment between Carl and Shawn. Alexis taps Maria on the shoulder.

Maria looks at Carl and Shawn.

MARIA
(whispers)
That's so sweet.

Judy smiles as the organist starts playing "Here Comes The Bride."

The bride's maids, Groomsmen, and Mike keep an eye on the chapel door.

The chapel door opens, revealing Amber standing, her arm wrapped in her father's, wearing a beautiful flowing white dress.

Her face is full of emotion as she and her father walk up the aisle to the altar.

Mike holds his good hand out to help Amber up the steps.

Amber's father hesitates but let's go of her arm, tears in his eyes as he does it.

MR. CRESSE
(to Mike)
You better take care of my
daughter.

Mike smiles.

MIKE
Considering what I've gone through
to give her this wedding, you have
nothing to worry about.

Mr. Cresse smiles back at Mike and taps his hand on Mike's face.

MR. CRESSE
She's lucky to have you.

Amber hugs and kisses her father.

He sits in the front pews, the tears still in his eyes, as Mrs. Cresse consoles him.

Amber looks into Mike's eyes.

AMBER
(whispers)
I love you.

MIKE
(whispers)
I love you, too.

Shawn smiles as he leans in towards Carl.

SHAWN
(whispers)
I love you, Carl.

Carl can't help but smile.

CARL
Fag.

Carl realizes that he said that louder than he meant to.

Everyone at the altar pause as they look at Carl.

CARL

Oh.
 (a beat)
 Sorry.

Father Brown clears his throat as the music stops.

FATHER BROWN

Dearly Beloved, we are gathered
 here today to witness the holy
 union of these two young souls.

Throughout Father Brown's sermon, various people react to the wedding with joy and praise.

FATHER BROWN

Michael Anthony Jennings...

Mr. Jennings holds Andrea's hand in his.

FATHER BROWN

...and Amber Cynthia Cresse...

Mr. and Mrs. Cresse hold one another.

The sermon continues as we...

FADE TO:

INT. BANQUET HALL - EVENING

Mike and Amber sit at the head table.

Carl stands by the DJ's station, talking with the DJ.

He smiles and walks to his seat at the bridal table.

Shawn and Keith sit next to Carl's seat at Mike's side and the bride's maids sit next to Amber.

Mike holds Amber's hand and leans in to Carl.

MIKE

I'm really happy you and Shawn are
 friends again.

CARL

Yeah. Me, too.
 (a beat)
 Listen, I'm really sorry that we
 weren't able to throw you the
 bachelor party we wanted to. We'll
 throw one for you sometime this--

MIKE

It's enough for me to have my big brothers here to have my back at my wedding. I don't think I've ever really said it before but, I love you, Bro.

CARL

Me, too, Mike.

Static from the DJ's microphone fills the surrounding audio system.

DJ

Ladies and Gentlemen, please quiet down and listen as the best man and maid of honor give their toasts.

The DJ runs up to the table and hands Carl the microphone.

Carl stands up from his seat, looks around the room, and takes a deep breath.

All eyes are on him.

CARL

I'm not known for being sensitive but today I witnessed two people kiss for the first time in their marriage. I realized that, for the first time in my life, I'm going to have a sister.

Carl turns to face Amber.

CARL

A beautiful, loving woman without whom, my brother would have never made it through our mother's death.

Carl's and Amber's eyes both grow misty as Carl holds his glass in a toast.

CARL

Amber, I've been horrible to you for such a long time. I just wanted to let you know that I love you.

Tears fall from Amber's eyes.

CARL

I couldn't be more thrilled to welcome you into my family.
(holds up his glass)

This is to a long life of happiness
for the both of you. I love you
guys.

Amber wipes the tears from her eyes as she takes a sip of her
champaign.

Mike stands up and wraps his good arm around Carl.

MIKE
(whispers)
That was the gayest thing I've ever
heard...thank you.

CARL
You're welcome.

Mike and Carl laugh as Carl hands the microphone over to
Maria.

Maria starts her toast as Carl and Mike sit down.

Keith smiles and waves to someone in the crowd.

Mike, Amber, Shawn, and Carl struggle to see the phantom
guest at the wedding.

CARL
Is it Amputatia?

KEITH
Shut up, Carl.

AMBER
Did he say...Amputatia?

Shawn and Carl choke back more laughter as Keith, smiling,
gets up to meet a beautiful blonde girl walking towards the
table.

AMPUTATIA
Hi, Keith.

She smiles back and embraces him.

KEITH
Hi, Ampu--

AMPUTATIA
It's VIKKI when I'm not working.

KEITH
Vikki. Beautiful name.

She smiles and kisses Keith passionately.

Shawn watches and nudges Carl.

Keith approaches the table with Vikki's arm wrapped in his.

CARL
You must be--

KEITH
Vikki, Carl. Her name is Vikki.

CARL
From how Keith described you, I
thought you'd have one leg.

Vikki pulls her dress up to her knee to reveal her left
prosthetic leg.

VIKKI
From how Keith described you, I
thought you'd be attractive.

CARL
(impressed)
Well played.
(to Keith)
She's a keeper.

Carl stands up from his chair and pulls it out for Vikki to
sit down.

She sits in the chair and Keith sits next to her.

CARL
You look amazing.

VIKKI
Thank you.

Carl walks over to the bar and orders a beer.

INT. BANQUET HALL - EVENING

The DJ gets on stage and adjusts his microphone.

DJ
Okay, everybody. Let's get this
show on the road with the bride and
groom's first dance. Would Mike and
Amber please come out to the dance
floor?

Mike and Amber stand from their seats and walk, hand in hand, to the center of the dance floor.

AMBER

How does your arm feel?

MIKE

Like someone hit it with a sledge hammer. Do I look stupid?

AMBER

Nah. I think you look cute.

They kiss.

MIKE

I think the cast brings out my blue eyes.

AMBER

(smiles)

Yeah. Plus, the sling really gets me hot.

MIKE

Yeah, love you, too.

They kiss again.

DJ

Okay, people. There's love in the air and it's going to be a beautiful evening so I think there's only one song that can suit this mood. You might have heard of it. It's a little song by my main man, Eric Clapton called "Wonderful Tonight."

The DJ plays the song and Mike and Amber start to dance.

MIKE

So, aside from Shawn, Carl, and myself looking like we just crawled out of a plane wreck, are you happy with how the wedding turned out?

AMBER

(smiles)

It couldn't be more perfect.

They kiss again and dance through the song until the rest of the guests gather on the dance floor.

INT. BANQUET HALL

Shawn approaches Carl at the bar.

SHAWN
 Can I have a draft bud?
 (to Carl)
 It was a nice toast, Bro.

CARL
 Thanks.

Shawn drinks his beer and turns to face the bride and groom on the dance floor.

SHAWN
 Don't worry about the whole Christy thing. I want to wipe the slate clean. Okay?

Carl and Shawn tap their plastic beer cups together. Shawn places his arm around Carl's shoulder.

Amber looks over to see Carl resting under Shawn's arm. *

AMBER
 You think they're gay?

MIKE
 Of course. Everyone does.

AMBER
 How long do you think the truce will last?

MIKE
 Long enough to finish the reception...I hope.

INT. BANQUET HALL

Shawn and Carl walk to a wall sized glass window facing the beach. They stare at the sunset over the water.

SHAWN
 I guess I kind of miss living here.
 (laughs)
 Remember when we were kids and we would always act like we were drowning to mess with the lifeguards?

CARL

(laughs)

Yeah. What about when we would drive down the road and I'd throw up fake blood every time we stopped in front of kids walking to school?

SHAWN

Those were the days.

CARL

I never needed anyone else to have a good time. You're the only person that I really ever looked forward to hanging out with.

Shawn notices Natalie standing behind him in the reflection in the glass.

SHAWN

Speak for yourself, Fag.

Carl stands by himself, watching Shawn and Natalie walk into the crowded banquet hall.

CARL

(to self)

Okay. It's gonna be like that?

Shawn and Natalie walk towards two empty chairs at a guest table.

SHAWN

Hi.

NATALIE

Hi.

Shawn stares at her for a moment.

NATALIE

What's wrong?

SHAWN

(stunned)

You look beautiful.

NATALIE

(smiles)

You don't.

SHAWN

I think I pull off the "I got the
shit beat out of me" look quite
well.

NATALIE

That you do.
(a beat)
Keith told me about the accident.
You alright?

SHAWN

I'll survive. I have something for
you.

He pulls the new camera from his pocket.

Natalie examines it to find there are no pictures on it.

NATALIE

You deleted the pictures?

SHAWN

I didn't want anyone to see the
same show I did.

NATALIE

I appreciate that.
(a beat)
Thank you.

SHAWN

You're welcome.

She smiles at him, looking deep into his blue eyes. She's
lost for a moment but snaps out of it.

NATALIE

I actually have something for you,
too.

Natalie pulls Shawn's cell phone from her purse.

SHAWN

Thank, God. I was so worried about
it. You have no idea how much this
phone cost me.

NATALIE

Well, I hope you don't mind, but I
took some new pictures with your
phone's camera.

Shawn looks at the pictures on his phone. He jumps when he sees the pictures she's taken.

She laughs as he quickly flips the phone shut. He smiles at her.

NATALIE

I wish you didn't have to leave tomorrow.

SHAWN

I think I can find a reason to stay for a few more days.

She leans in to kiss him.

Robert and Andrea dance together when she notices Carl approaching.

ANDREA

Oh, God. What does he want?

They stop dancing.

Robert turns to see Carl standing next to him.

CARL

(to Andrea)

I just wanted to say I'm sorry. I know I've been an asshole to you over the years. I think I was too focused on being angry with you that I didn't realize how happy you were making my father.

ANDREA

It's okay.

Carl turns to Robert.

ROBERT

Thank you, Carl.

CARL

I'm so sick and tired of being pissed off. I just...

Robert tightly embraces Carl in his arms.

ROBERT

I love you, too, Son.

INT. BANQUET HALL

Natalie takes a picture of her and Shawn with the new camera.

They look at the picture and smile as someone stands, looming over them.

CARL (O.S.)

Oh, good. You gave her the camera
you bought for her at the store
yesterday.

Shawn's eyes grow wide with horror. He desperately shakes his head.

Carl has a massive grin across his face.

NATALIE

Excuse me?
(to Shawn)
What does he mean?

She looks back at Shawn. He stops shaking his head before she catches him.

SHAWN

He's kidding.

CARL

I thought you told her.
(to Natalie)
I walked in on Keith jacking off to
the nude pictures you and Shawn
took Friday night.

NATALIE

You said that you deleted the
pictures.

SHAWN

No...I mean...um...

CARL

Yep. Pants down, whaling away on
himself into the toilet with your
camera sitting on top of the tank.
He panicked when he saw me, knocked
your camera into the toilet, and
Shawn and I picked up a new one for
you yesterday.

Shawn buries his face in his hands.

SHAWN

Carl, you're such a Prick.

CARL

Ah, well. Mike and Amber got married. Let's enjoy the night.

(a beat)

I know I will.

Carl walks back to the bridal table.

Natalie stares back at Shawn. She's disgusted.

NATALIE

I don't know what to say to you right now.

SHAWN

Listen, Natalie. I am so sorry about the camera. I didn't want you to feel--

NATALIE

Exposed?

SHAWN

Yeah.

Natalie keeps her glare focused on Shawn.

At length:

NATALIE

Just give me your phone so I can delete the pictures before anyone else sees them, too.

Carl stands next to the bridal table. He watches as Shawn hands Natalie his cell phone.

SHAWN

Just be careful. It's a four hundred dollar--

Natalie drops the phone in Shawn's beer.

SHAWN

--phone.

NATALIE

They're deleted and now we're even.

Natalie stands up from her seat and walks away.

Shawn shakes his head. He looks at Carl who smiles and holds his beer up in a mocking toast.

Carl exits the banquet hall.

Shawn sits for a moment as he watches Carl through the wall sized glass windows.

Carl walks out to the back patio. He stands next to the lawn chairs, lights a cigarette, and enjoys the evening breeze.

Shawn's face turns beet red as he stands up from his seat and walks to the door Carl just walked out of.

Mike and Amber are dancing as Shawn walks past them in a hurry.

Mike stops Shawn.

MIKE

Where are you going?

SHAWN

I need to have a word with your brother.

MIKE

Shawn...

SHAWN

I'm just going to tell him he got a little out of line.

Mike looks at Amber for approval.

AMBER

(to Mike)

Let him go.

(to Shawn)

Behave.

Shawn kisses Amber on the cheek.

SHAWN

Welcome to the family, Sis.

Mike and Amber watch as Shawn exits the hall and approaches Carl outside.

They can't hear Shawn and Carl's conversation but watch as Shawn says something to Carl.

Carl says something back, playfully shoves Shawn with a laugh, and walks towards the ocean.

Shawn looks back at Mike and Amber. He smiles and waves before picking up a lawn chair and smashing it against Carl's back.

Carl falls to the ground. He and Shawn engage in a fist fight while most guests in the hall dance to the music.

The remaining guests are now spectators to the fight ensuing outside.

AMBER

Shouldn't you stop them?

MIKE

This is how they've always been,
Babe. They'll work it out.

Amber watches the fight. Mike turns her attention from the fight to him by gently turning her head.

He kisses her passionately as the first fireworks of the holiday are launched over the ocean. This is just the beginning of their lives together.

The music plays as Carl and Shawn are brutally beating one another on the beach.

Happiness fills the banquet hall and fireworks light the night sky as we...

FADE TO BLACK.