

loopy aussie

11/11/2008

INT. DERRY LIVING ROOM – EVENING

JACK DERRY waits by the window with nervous anticipation. Jack is about 11 years old, white, scraggly, with light brown hair that hangs down around his freckled cheeks. An old green station wagon with brown, wooden paneling pulls up the driveway.

JACK
Jenny's home! Jenny's home!

EDDIE (O.S.)
Well, don't just sit there! Give
the little lady a hand son!

Eddie Derry, comes out of the kitchen a bloody mess, holding a giant cut of steak. Eddie's a large brute, mid-thirties, tan, bazooka-arms, and a gruff Australian accent.

EXT. SIDEWALK – EVENING

Jack jumps out of the screen door, and sprints up the walk.

JACK (CONT'D)
Here Jenny, I'll help ya.

Jenny's a cute little girl, about 7 years old, brunette pony tail, sad brown eyes and freckles just like Jack's. She drags a heavy grey suitcase up the walk. Jack meets her halfway and takes the heavy load.

Caroline Derry exits the station wagon, early thirties, brunette, tee-shirt and ripped jeans. Caroline lingers near the car, arms crossed, and eyes wet with tears.

CAROLINE
Get your sister settled in Jack!

JACK
I will!

CAROLINE
And tell your father I need to
speak with him!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM – EVENING

Jack helps his sister unpack the suitcase.

JACK
How was camp, Jenny?

JENNY
Okay.

JACK
Did you have fun?

Jenny pauses a moment, shrugs, and then goes back to the suitcase. Jack creases his forehead.

JACK (CONT'D)
I'll be back in a second, okay?

JENNY
Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jack observes his mom and dad through the window. The two talk heatedly near the station wagon. Eddie goes berserk, punching the mailbox right off the post. We move in on the crumpled mailbox, with the letters "DERRY" smashed in.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY – NIGHT

Jack reaches for a brass doorknob slowly and eases the door open. We spy into Eddie and Caroline's bedroom. We find Eddie sitting on the bed next to a telephone. Eddie chugs whiskey straight from the bottle as Caroline paces the room. All at once the phone rings. Eddie answers.

EDDIE
Hello? Yea? Well, what'd the

little prick say? Damn it Charlie,
not good enough! I wanna speak
with your boy! Hello? Charlie?!

Eddie throws the phone across the room.

EDDIE
(TO CAROLINE)
This ain't done!

CAROLINE
Eddie, your probation!

EDDIE
Fuck the probation!

Jack jumps with fright at his father's words. He lurches
for the door, but accidentally slams it shut in fright!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT

Eddie and Caroline turn to the door at once.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
Jack, is that you?!

No response.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
I swear, that boy!

All of a sudden a swell of relief comes over Eddie's face,
the cogs turn in his brain.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM – DAY

JACK sits at his desk writing. All at once, the classroom
door bursts open and the school principal shuffles in. The
principal addresses Mrs. McLaughlin, Jack's teacher.

PRINCIPAL
Mrs. McLaughlin, Jack will have an

early release from school today.
Family emergency.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL – DAY

JACK walks outside and scans the parking lot. A horn beeps in the far corner. Jack spots Eddie in his truck.

INT. FORD PICKUP – DAY

As Jack opens the passenger door, an empty beer can falls to the ground. He picks it up and tosses it on the footrest with the other empties.

Eddie drives the two off in silence. We come through a bad part of town where Eddie pulls up to a side street and shuts the truck off. PSSSCCHHTTT! Eddie opens a fresh beer. Jack looks up at his dad in silent wonder.

LATER a giant yellow school bus turns up the street and makes a stop. Eddie perks up. A group of children hop off the bus, goofing off and fighting with one another.

EDDIE

You see that boy there, Jack? The one with the bright red hair?

Jack looks him over. At closer glance we find the boy to be the bully of the group. A big brawny kid, twice Jack's size. Jack bites his lip.

JACK

Yea, pop?

EDDIE

I want you to get out of this car and whoop his ass. You hear me son?! You get out of this car, and don't you dare come back until I say so. Well? Go get him boy!

Jack's eyes grow as big as saucer plates. He slides out of the truck timidly, and looks back to his father one last time for reassurance. Eddie waves him on.

EXT. BUS STOP – DAY

Jack walks towards the group of boys. He picks up the pace to a jog. He runs faster and faster, churning the cold, dry air like a locomotive. He tightens his fists into tiny balls of iron, approaching closer and closer. Just a couple strides out from the bunch, he calls out,

JACK
Hey, Red!

Red turns a second too late. Jack lands a hard, cheap blow, splitting Red's nose in half! Red falls to the ground and Jack lays in to him, punching until his fists are a goopy, red mess.

The children scatter. The school bus driver wobbles down from the bus, but too late. Jack is ruthless, brutal – a beast like his old man; stomping Red to a bloody pulp.

A whistle rings out across the street. Jack turns and sees Eddie waving him back. Jack sprints back to his father. Eddie peels out.

CUT TO:

INT. TRUCK – EVENING

LATER, Eddie drives the two home and pulls into the driveway. Jack starts to exit the truck but Eddie grabs his shirt, holding him back.

EDDIE
I just wanna say you did real good Jack. Real good. You're growing up boy. You might not understand everything now, but in time you will. I'm proud of you Jackie. Come on, let's see what mom and the little lady are up to.

FADE OUT