

Screenplay

CAME AND WENT

A short story about a struggling adult, re-telling the rough times of his childhood.

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INT. AN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING - NIGHT-TIME

About a dozen people are circled around sitting in chairs. A red-headed averagely built man in his early 30's has a cup of coffee in his hand. He is sitting down, with lower class clothing on.

DAVID

Hi everyone, my name is David.

Everyone in the meeting replies.

EVERYONE

Hi, David.

DAVID

I have been sober for 8 and a half months and counting.

They all clap for him.

DAVID

Aw, come on, stop. Stop, you're too nice.

They all smile and stop clapping.

DAVID

Yeah, but seriously. It's been hard and long, but luckily I have pulled off a long and hard run. I have been drinking about two Coca-Cola sodas a day as a substitute for that, ha ha. So, I'm happy that I can sacrifice my sleep for sobriety.

AA MENTOR

When did you start drinking?

DAVID

Oh, that's a story.

EXT. A BACKYARD POOL - DAY-TIME - SUBURBAN TOWN

\*Flashback to David's childhood.

A young and tough-looking brown haired teen is running towards the pool at full speed. He is wearing gray sweatpants and he is shirtless. He jumps into the pool by twisting sideways and jumping head-first into the deep end. The water splashes loudly.

RUSTY

The water is too cold! You forgot to put the heater on!

David is sitting on the porch bouncing a tennis ball.

DAVID

It's been broken for about a month. Tell Connor to fix it.

RUSTY

I haven't seen Connor get off his ass since June.

DAVID

Well then stop complaining.

RUSTY

What did you say?

DAVID

It's like 90 degrees out. There's no need for the heater.

A red-haired teenage girl comes slowly walking out of the porch door.

SANDY

Rusty, what did you do with the TV Remote? I looked for it for like-

RUSTY

For like what? Two minutes? Keep looking for it, it's probably somewhere on the floor. You're eyes are so big, I'm surprised you don't have 20/20 vision by now.

SANDY

You're a damn comedian. Maybe if your eyes were my size, then you would realize how disgusting you look.

(CONTINUED)

RUSTY  
Look who's talking!

DAVID  
Enough, you two!

RUSTY  
Stay out of it, Dave. I'm teaching  
this bitch a few manners.

DAVID  
Don't talk like that Rus!

SANDY  
Wait 'til Tonny hears what you  
said.

RUSTY  
He won't because you won't tell  
him. Or else I'll make sure you  
can't see through your eyes again,  
you stupid little-

DAVID  
Shut up, Rus! You're drunk.

Rusty splashes water all over David, and his clothes are  
immediately wet.

DAVID  
Are you kidding, me? Stop!

RUSTY  
Or what?

Rusty grab a water-gun from the pool and starts spraying  
David. David gets up and runs away.

DAVID  
You asshole!

INT. THE ALCOHOLIC'S ANONYMOUS MEETING

\*Back to present time.

DAVID (V.O.)  
That's how life with Rusty was for  
awhile. He didn't care what the  
consequences to anything were,  
because he always found a way to  
weasel out of them.

EXT. THE BACKYARD POOL

\*Flashback of the same day, that was previously shown.

DAVID  
Can you do a front flip?

RUSTY  
A front flip? I can do a front  
flip. I do my special twist-flip  
every time I get into the pool.

DAVID  
That's different, and you never do  
it off of the diving board.

RUSTY  
So what? It's all the same to me. I  
can o a damn front flip.

DAVID  
Yeah, right.

RUSTY  
I bet you \$1.00 that I can do a  
front flip off the diving board.

SANDY  
I bet \$2.00 that you can't do a  
front flip off of the diving board.

RUSTY  
Look at Ace Rothstein upping the  
stakes.

SANDY  
Ha, ha. Just do it.

Rusty gets out of the pool and runs over to the diving  
board. On his way to the diving board he pierces his foot on  
a splinter.

RUSTY  
Ah, damn!

DAVID  
What is it?

Rusty falls to the ground, while holding his foot. He is in  
excruciating pain.

(CONTINUED)

SANDY

For Christ's sake! He's obviously faking it because he can't do a front flip!

DAVID

Let me see.

David runs over to Rusty and examines his foot.

DAVID

Is it bad?

RUSTY

It hurts liek a bitch.

SANDY

C'mon just get on with it.

RUSTY

Shut, up I'm starting to bleed.

DAVID

Sandy, come here he's really hurt.

SANDY

Mr. Tough guy can't handle killing a spider or getting a splinter.

RUSTY

Shut, up.

DAVID

Good thing it wasn't a *rusty* nail. Get it?

RUSTY

Ha, ha you're not funny.

DAVID

I'm just trying to lighten the mood.

SANDY

Let me see.

Sandy runs over and looks at his splinter.

SANDY

It's real, but if you forfeit then I still get \$2.00 from you.

RUSTY

Hell no! I can do a front flip.

SANDY

And I can skydive. You can't prove  
crap until you actually do it.  
You've got no balls, Rusty.

RUSTY

Fine, I'll do it! I can do it!  
Jesus!

DAVID

Are you sure? You're hurt. Sandy  
I'll give you the two bucks.

RUSTY

You ain't got two bucks. If you do  
then. you're still not giving her  
shit. I'll do a front flip off of  
the diving board.

SANDY

It's about damn time.

Rusty grabs the splinter on his foot.

DAVID

Oh...

RUSTY

Do you see it?

DAVID

Yeah.

RUSTY

Take it out of my foot, and then I  
can put a little more pressure on  
it, I think.

SANDY

Want me to call 911?

RUSTY

Shut up, Sandy.

DAVID

OK, ready? Three, two, one.

David pulls out the splinter and places it on the side crate  
behind him. The splinter was about five inches long.

(CONTINUED)

RUSTY  
Ah, damn that stings like a bitch!

SANDY  
OK. You're big moment.

Rusty gets up with the aid of David.

RUSTY  
We're only betting \$2.00?

SANDY  
Unless you want to give me more.

RUSTY  
That's not the way things will go.  
Actually, let's make it \$2.00 and a  
shot of Vodka. No, even better. A  
beer.

SANDY  
Deal.

RUSTY  
No. Vodka and the beer!

SANDY  
Deal. I sure will be hungover  
tomorrow, after I win this thing.

DAVID  
Tonny says that you're too young to  
be drinking.

RUSTY  
Did Tonny have a beer in his hand  
when he told you that?

DAVID  
Yeah, probably.

RUSTY  
Then, that's like a barber telling  
someone to go bald. OK, let me  
prove this botch wrong.

SANDY  
I'm right here. I can hear you.

RUSTY  
Just shut up. My foot hurts like  
hell, now let me get this over  
with.

(CONTINUED)

Rusty walks over to the diving board and carefully steps on it. He walks to the end of the diving board.

RUSTY  
OK, ready?

DAVID  
Yeah, we're ready.

SANDY  
Go.

RUSTY  
I'm trying to get some footing with only one foot.

SANDY  
Oh, Jesus just do it.

DAVID  
Be careful...

Rusty jumps off of the board and does a front flip. He splashes loudly into the pool and lands it imperfectly; but well enough. He floats up.

DAVID  
Wow, he did it!

SANDY  
Are you kidding me? You call that a front flip?!

RUSTY  
It was a flip that I fronted, so it was a god damn front flip! Now show me the money.

SANDY  
That wasn't a front flip!

RUSTY  
Yes it was! No pay up. And get me the booze.

INT. THE ALCOHOLIC'S ANONYMOUS MEETING

\*Back to present time.

DAVID  
She ended up giving him \$2.00 and the alcohol. He offered me some but  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)  
of course I said no. I wasn't  
hooked on it yet.

GROUP TEACHER  
You said that there was a person  
named Tonny. Who is that?

DAVID  
Tonny is my older brother. He was  
30 years old at the time. Now he  
should be about 52. Damn.

GROUP LEADER  
I take it, you haven't seen him in  
awhile?

DAVID  
It's been a pretty long time, but I  
remember him like I just saw him  
yesterday.

GROUP TEACHER  
Was there anybody else in your  
family?

DAVID  
Yes. I had one more brother. His  
name was Aaron. He was never  
around, and he never talked. Nobody  
really cared for him, that much. It  
is sad to hear myself saying that  
many years later. For example:

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY-TIME

\*Flashback to the school-year.

DAVID (V.O.)  
The pool bet was near the end of  
the school year. This was the last  
day of school.

Rusty and David are walking out of school with their  
back-packs. They are the only two out there, since they have  
been sticking around there for awhile.

DAVID  
How hard did you hit him?

(CONTINUED)

RUSTY  
Pretty friggin' hard.

DAVID  
What did the principal say?

RUSTY  
He said that he would expel me, but there's only two more days of school left this year, so to hell with it. I won't show up for the rest of the year.

Rusty walks past a garbage can and drops his backpack in the garbage can.

DAVID  
We could still use your backpack for next year. And your binders.

RUSTY  
Whatever. I won't be in school next year. My life won't go anywhere with education or school-work.

DAVID  
Are you sure?

RUSTY  
I've been sure.

They walk away and then they see Aaron about fifty feet in front of them.

DAVID  
Is that Aaron?

RUSTY  
Yeah, it is.

DAVID  
Maybe we should say hi to him.

RUSTY  
We haven't gotten a word out of him, since kindergarten.

DAVID  
Well, I will try alone then.

David runs toward Aaron.

DAVID

Hey, Aaron!

Aaron looks back at David running and he looks at him weirdly. Aaron has brown hair, he is short, and he has freckles all over his face.

DAVID

Hey. I haven't seen you in awhile.

AARON

Yeah.

DAVID

Are you excited that Summer's coming?

AARON

Summer. Three months of boredom.

Rusty is behind them when he hears that.

RUSTY

Three months of boredom. That might be the most depressing thing I have ever heard in my life. You know that we have a pool, beer, and a grill. That's good enough for me.

AARON

Well you're easy to please.

RUSTY

So, what? That's a good thing. Hey, how about we all go to a 711 and have a Coke Slurpee? What do you say?

AARON

I don't like Slurpee's.

RUSTY

Of course you don't.

DAVID

What *do* you like?

AARON

Sushi.

RUSTY

I'm pretty sure they don't sell sushi at 711. Besides, you've only had sushi once.

AARON

I like sushi.

DAVID

Just come to 711 with us so we can all have some time together. It will only be like thirty minutes.

AARON

I'm fine. I just want to get home.

RUSTY

You don't have a choice. Who knows, maybe you'll like 711. You'll have a good time. Trust me.

AARON

I *do* have a choice.

DAVID

I mean, is it really that bad that you have to spend half an hour drinking a Slurpee with your family?

INT. THE ALCOHOLIC'S ANONYMOUS MEETING

\*Back to present time.

DAVID

Apparently, it was. He went home while Rusty and I went to 711 and drank our Slurpees.

AA MEMBER

What made Aaron feel this way?

DAVID

I never found out. He just was like that. He added some more negativity to our household. Speaking of which, our house was the next big problem we have.

AA MENTOR

How?

## INT. THE DINNER TABLE - NIGHT-TIME - THE HOUSE

Aaron, Rusty, Sandy, and David are sitting at the long dinner table. They have low-class food on their table. Lettuce, rice, and beans. Tonny walks down the steps with a piece of paper. He slaps it down on the table. Tonny is a buff, shaggy brown-haired dude with a thin jaw-line. He looks like a tough man.

TONNY

One month.

They all look up.

DAVID

What?

TONNY

We have one month to pack our shit and leave, or make enough money to pay off this place. The people in this family that are old enough to work, will work, and David and I will do the rest of the work.

SANDY

We're being litigated?!

AARON

Oh, no.

TONNY

We aren't spending anymore money on booze.

RUSTY

What?!

TONNY

Be quiet Rus. I'm still talking. I've been working my ass off at the car shop, while you four have been doing nothing. We will be doing two things. Making money...and saving money. Keep your leftover's tonight, and save your school supplies.

Rusty and David look at each other discreetly.

TONNY

What's going on with you two?

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

What?

TONNY

You just looked at each other pretty weirdly. What happened?

RUSTY

Nothing.

Immediately after Tonny heard Rusty's response he slams his hand on the table and hits a plate. The plate flings across the table.

TONNY

Don't you dare lie to me, Rus.

RUSTY

Fine.

TONNY

What happened?

RUSTY

I threw out my backpack and binders today after school.

TONNY

Of course you did. Because that's exactly what we need. Why do you keep disappointing me Rusty? Why?

RUSTY

I didn't know we needed the money?

TONNY

You didn't know that we needed the money? For Christ's sake look at this place. The TV has about a dozen channels on it.

SANDY

I haven't been able to find the remote for awhile. That's because I hid it. It uses too much electricity.

RUSTY

What?! That's no fair!

TONNY

Shut, up Rus! Who pays the taxes, the mortgage, the water bill.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TONNY (cont'd)

That's another thing. The pool will become public.

DAVID

What do you mean by making it public?

TONNY

People will pay us so they can play in the pool. I took a long walk yesterday after work, and I realized that we were the only people in the neighborhood with a pool. We are also the poorest. So we make some dough, and they can have their fun.

DAVID

That's not a bad idea. Summer is almost here.

TONNY

Well, unless you want to live homeless during summer, then this stuff has to work. Aaron, Sandy, and Rusty; you will go into town and look for jobs. David, you and I will clean up the house and clean the pool so customers can swim in a clean pool.

AARON

We have school tomorrow.

TONNY

You're skipping school tomorrow and the day after it. You'll get a head start on all of the free jobs, and be ahead of other kids your age that want to find jobs. Then it's summer so who gives a crap about...What are you learning now? Geometry?

RUSTY

I wouldn't even know.

TONNY

Whatever. Lastly, we'll have a garage sale in a few days and sell as much unused junk as we can.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

And we can overprice them, too.

TONNY

That's my little bro.

DAVID

When's dad coming home?

INT. THE ALCOHOLIC'S ANONYMOUS MEETING

\*Back to present time.

DAVID

My dad was in the army. I personally thought that it was pointless, because you don't make exactly six figures in the army, and it separates the family some more. Not to mention he's risking his life every day while we are going bankrupt.

AA MEMBER

I can't even imagine.

DAVID

Part of me just thinks that he wanted to feel what power was like while keeping himself busy.

A tear flows down David's face.

DAVID

My dad wasn't around much when it came to spending time with the family. When he was out of the country, we worried about him. When he was home, he acted like he didn't know us. We just needed any of the money he had. Anyways, like I was saying. We got jobs the next few days. Rusty had an easy time getting a job. If I had an ounce of his self-confidence, then I could have probably been something today. Instead I drank away my problems. That was further down the road, though.

EXT. SIDEWALK - URBAN TOWN - DAY-TIME

Rusty looks at a flyer and sees that there is a burger restaurant that says "HELP WANTED". Rusty looks at the name of the restaurant; "Seeds and Sliders". He walks inside. There is an uptight looking heavy man that is barking orders at his staff at the register. He has black hair and a thick jaw-line; and he is always wearing a frown.

MANAGER

Happy new year Sasha.

SASHA (EMPLOYEE)

What?

MANAGER

Because it's taking you about a year to get \$2.50 of change back to the man. C'mon you're holding the whole place up!

Sasha is a skinny young African-American girl with part of her hair dyed pink.

SASHA

I'm sorry.

MANAGER

I'm sorry, what?

SASHA

I'm sorry Boss.

MANAGER

Bingo! I'm going to the back and getting more condiments were running low. Can you manage while I'm gone?

SASHA

Yes, boss.

He leaves to the kitchen area and there is about four other people making hamburgers and fries.

INT. A CONVENIENCE STORE - SAME TIME

Sandy is talking to an Indian man that owns the convenience store. They all seem happy.

(CONTINUED)

SANDY

Yeah, I'm pretty good with numbers and I will have a smile on my face the whole way through.

INDIAN MAN

That's just what I need. My daughter usually works here but ever since she lime disease in both of her legs, we've had to put her in a wheelchair.

SANDY

Oh, that's terrible.

INDIAN MAN

Eh. That's life. She is taking it very well.

SANDY

That's good. I would love to meet her one day. She would really help me because my family is in a tough spot right now.

INDIAN MAN

Oh, well then you'll fit right in. You're hired Sandy.

Sandy smiles and cheers.

SANDY

Thank you so much Mr. Shakur! I won't disapprove you.

INDIAN MAN

Won't *what* me?

SANDY

I mean.... disappoint you, ha ha! That's what I meant.

INDIAN MAN

Whatever. I'm sure you will be good here, and now I can spend some more time with my daughter, Nahum.

SANDY

I am happy that we are all happy, ha ha.

EXT. THE BACKYARD POOL- LATER THAT DAY

David and Tonny are cleaning out the pool. David is scrubbing the diving board, while Tonny is getting leaves and insects out of the water with a long pool cleaner.

DAVID

Is this good enough?

TONNY

What did dad always say, David?

DAVID

I don't know. What did he say?

TONNY

When you think you're done scrubbing, scrub some more.

DAVID

OK.

Aaron opens the fence and walks in the backyard. Tonny and David both look at him. Aaron starts walking inside.

TONNY

Hey, where are you going?!

Aaron stops walking and turns around.

TONNY

So what's the problem, it's smack in the middle of the day and you are still home.

DAVID

Maybe he got a job. Did you get the job Aaron.

AARON

I couldn't find a place that was hiring.

TONNY

Sorry son, but I'm allergic to bull-shit and I'm about to sneeze after that comment. I gave you a list of a dozen places that are hiring, and you're back here wasting time.

(CONTINUED)

AARON

I can make a lemonade stand tomorrow.

TONNY

If you are going to do anything, it will be done today. Every day counts in our situation. I'm sorry am I unaware of something; or are you inferring that you have been working twelve hours a day to provide for four needy children?! And not to mention the fact that we are struggling to pay the mortgage on top of that!

AARON

A lemonade stand is easy to make and you get a lot of money.

TONNY

A lot of money!? First you have to buy the lemons, then use the water, set up a station all for less than \$50 a day? I don't think so.

AARON

We'll have enough money is Sandy and Rusty get a job.

TONNY

Like hell we will!

Aaron turns around and starts walking toward the door.

TONNY

Where the hell are you going?! Get back here, now.

AARON

I have enough money anyways.

TONNY

You have enough money anyways? What the hell does that mean?!

DAVID

Everybody calm down.

TONNY

Stay out of this David!

Aaron opens the slider door, and then Tonny walks toward him. David runs over to the both of them.

(CONTINUED)

TONNY

Get back here, Aaron. David you can put down the sponges because we are done for the day; Aaron is doing the rest of the pool today.

DAVID

Everybody stop!

Aaron is about to step inside until Tonny grabs his arm.

AARON

Let go of me Tonny.

TONNY

Don't talk back to me!

AARON

Let go!

Aaron slaps Tonny's hand and he rips Aaron's shirt. David and Tonny are appalled by Aaron raising his voice for the first time. Aaron storms inside the house.

TONNY

What the hell is that ones problem?

DAVID

We should apologize.

TONNY

For what? He didn't get a job and he back-talked to top it off.

DAVID

I know, but that's just how he is.

INT. THE ALCOHOLIC'S ANONYMOUS MEETING

\*Back to present time.

DAVID

That was said a lot back in my family. Not much drama happened after that moment with Aaron, because part of me wants to believe that he felt bad for Aaron.

AA MENTOR

Did you ever figure out why he was like that?

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

I never figured out why anyone in my family was either damaged-

CU OF RUSTY WORKING AT THE BURGER JOINT.

DAVID

Or Silent-

CU OF AARON LOOKING AT HIS CEILING IN HIS ROOM.

DAVID

Lost-

CU OF SANDY WORKING AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE.

DAVID

Or even caring.

CU OF TONNY COUNTING THE MONEY.

DAVID

All I can say is that we had the best ensemble of personalities and skills. Rusty, made minimum wage at the burger place, Sandy made a little more than that at the convenience store and in 28 days the public pool made a disappointing \$300. With the inconvenience of having to constantly re-fill the water, the water bill subtracted about \$20 from that so around %280. Plus Tonny did the graveyard shift at the car shop.

AA MENTOR

That isn't that bad David.

DAVID

Tonny did the math for that; as a drop-out and a low-class piece of white trash he was most likely wrong.

AA MENTOR

We could do the math right now if you want.

DAVID

There's no need. Eventually we found out what he was doing with the money that he forgot to count.

(CONTINUED)

AA MENTOR

What was he doing?

DAVID

Buying booze. And a lot; not your average six-pack of Coronas. He was buying cans and bottles of vodka, shot glasses, and beer.

AA MENTOR

And that's how it all started?

DAVID

Well there's a story to go along with my first time consuming the devil in the form of a liquid. We were by the pool at night watching Rusty clean out the pool when low and behold Tonny had grabbed a beer from the fridge. He had always told me that it was leftover beer from the time before we had to start saving money, but we all knew that when he came home late from the graveyard shift; he was really just buying more drinks for the way home. He never drank and drove though.

EXT. THE BACKYARD POOL - NIGHT-TIME- 29 DAYS LATER

DAVID (V.O.)

It was our last day before paying the tax collectors and we were celebrating. Tonny had grabbed a bottle of vodka from the fridge. He forgot to take the price tag off of it, so we knew he had bought it earlier that day.

Tonny puts down a shot glass on the table.

TONNY

Let me tell you. We did all right for a couple of bums. We made just enough cash to live another month here. And let me tell you; we did good. Maybe we can even save up for a new TV. That one's the size of a mini-fridge.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

What's the point of saving just enough money, and then wasting it on buying a new TV? We could use that money to get ahead of our mortgage.

TONNY

We'll keep the pool business going until late September and then Sandy and Rusty will use their summer jobs money, and then we will take it by year from then.

Rusty opens the slider door and runs out in a hurry. He is very drunk.

RUSTY

Dan- I mean David hold my beer while I do my twist spin, spin twist thing I do.

Rusty tosses the bottle at David and he catches it.

DAVID

Oh, OK.

Rusty runs to the pool and does a spin and then twists and dives into the pool. David looks at the beer. Tonny walks away and lays down on a beach chair. He puts a towel over his face.

RUSTY

Ain't No Sunshine when she's gone!  
Only darkness everyday...Ain't no  
Sunshine- Ow I think there's a rock  
on the pool floor.

David looks at the beer and examines it. He immediately starts chugging it down and then choking and coughing it up. He spits some of it out and then takes another sip. He likes it.

RUSTY

I said hold it, don't drink it!

Rusty runs out of the pool and approaches David. He snatches the beer bottle out of his hand and then takes a few chugs of it.

RUSTY

Good shit, isn't it? Ha, ha.

Rusty goes inside the house dripping wet.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM - RUSTY WALKS INSIDE.

Sandy is on the couch sleeping.

SANDY

Rusty, you're dripping all over the floor!

RUSTY

Ain't no sunshine, sunshine when I'm gone, she's gone!

Rusty walks into the next room drunk and loud. He knocks down a few things.

DAVID (V.O.)

When Tonny or Rusty was drunk, it was really bad. Trust me.

EXT. THE BACKYARD POOL - A FEW DAYS LATER - DAY-TIME

People are paying Tonny to use their pool. There is about a dozen people in the backyard.

DAVID (V.O.)

We had the most people at our pool that day. Lots of new faces.

\*Back to the flashback.

A younger woman and a younger child approaches Aaron.

WOMAN

Do you have a bathroom? My son really needs to go to the bathroom and it's either in an actual bathroom or in the pool.

AARON

We don't let people inside the house. Sorry, it's our policy.

WOMAN

Policy? What are you talking about?

AARON

Rules are rules. Talk to my older brother Tonny if you want to see if you can bend the rules, OK?

(CONTINUED)

WOMAN

Whatever.

Tonny looks at Aaron and quickly walks over to him.

TONNY

What's going on over here?

WOMAN

My son needs to go to the bathroom.

TONNY

Oh, well our policy-

WOMAN

I know your damn policy!

TONNY

Forget this, please leave now!

WOMAN

Jesus H. Christ, fine! We are going now. Let's go Jake.

They both grab their things and walk away.

TONNY

It's fine; don't worry it's just an unsatisfied customer.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM - LATER THAT DAY - NIGHT-TIME

Tonny comes up to David's room and looks at him from the doorway.

TONNY

David I just wanted to let you know that I love you.

DAVID

OK...

TONNY

And I found that Corona under your bed. Don't let this stuff ruin your life. It's already ruined mine.

DAVID

I love you too.

INT. THE ALCOHOLIC'S ANONYMOUS MEETING

\*Back to present time.

DAVID (V.O.)

We had people like her occasionally  
but business and life went well.  
Until one day we were screwed...

EXT. THE SIDEWALK - DAY-TIME - THE NEXT DAY

Rusty and David are walking down the street. They have  
Slurpees in their hands.

DAVID

I'm not joking Rusty, Batman would  
outsmart Green Lantern and The  
Flash. Speed can't beat brains.  
Brains beats speed.

RUSTY

OK, well then Green Lantern will  
finish the job if Green Lantern  
can't do the job one on one.

DAVID

Either way it's going to result in  
Batman beating the both of them.

A man walks up to the both of them. He approaches them from  
the car shop.

CAR SHOP WORKER

You're Tonny's brothers right?

RUSTY

Yeah we are. Who wants to know?

CAR SHOP WORKER

Well, about a month ago your  
brother left his watch here. So now  
I am here to give it back to you.

The Car Shop Worker takes a watch out from his pocket. He  
hands it to David and David takes it.

DAVID

Why did he forget it a month ago?  
And why are you giving it to us  
now?

(CONTINUED)

CAR SHOP WORKER  
You don't know? He didn't tell you?

RUSTY  
Tell us. Now!

CAR SHOP WORKER  
Tonny beat a co-worker with a crowbar and broke one of his legs and two fingers. He was having an affair with Tonny's girlfriend. Or at least one of them.

DAVID  
Is this true?

RUSTY  
You've got to be kidding me? This might ruin our whole future, David!

CAR SHOP WORKER  
Last I heard he was losing the court case pretty badly. The guy he beat up, his name is Nathan. He pressed charges. His final session in the court is tomorrow.

RUSTY  
We don't have a lawyer!

DAVID  
The country hires one for us, Rusty.

RUSTY  
For free?!

DAVID  
Yeah, for free.

RUSTY  
That's awesome. This country is finally doing something right.

CAR SHOP WORKER  
Tonny was instantly fired, obviously.

DAVID  
He has been unemployed for a month!?

(CONTINUED)

CAR SHOP WORKER

Yes. He hasn't told you, yet?

RUSTY

David, let's go. Thank you for letting us know and thanks for the watch.

DAVID

What's your name?

CAR SHOP WORKER

Paul.

DAVID

Thanks Paul.

David and Rusty both turn around and runs backward on the sidewalk. There is a garbage can on a few feet away from them and they both throw their Slurpees into it while running.

INT. THE HOUSE - A HALF HOUR LATER

Rusty slams open the door and David follows behind him. Tonny and Sandy are talking in the living room.

TONNY

Take it easy killer!

RUSTY

You lying bastard!

Rusty takes a beer bottle from the kitchen island and he throws it at Tonny. It hits Tonny in the right shoulder.

TONNY

Stop this!

David holds back Rusty.

DAVID

Let's talk this out! Braking things won't make this go away!

RUSTY

I'm gonna kill you!

TONNY

What did you say to me?!

(CONTINUED)

SANDY  
Rusty stop it!

David struggles to hold him back.

RUSTY  
You are going to jail for what you  
did!

Aaron comes running down the stairs and witnesses the  
dispute.

AARON  
Everybody stop!

They all stop screaming and they stop like stone and look at  
Aaron in shock.

DAVID  
Tell them what you did.

TONNY  
Who told you this?

DAVID  
Paul at The Car Shop. He said-

TONNY  
Let me tell my side of the story.

SANDY  
What story? What's going on?

AARON  
Tell us, Tonny.

TONNY  
OK. I lost my job a month ago.

SANDY  
What!?! How could this happen!?

RUSTY  
Some guy was having an affair with  
his girlfriend so he beat him half  
to death with a crowbar.

TONNY  
Rusty, shut up!

AARON  
You said that we were ahead of the  
game. That we were doing well. But  
instead you have been buying booze.

(CONTINUED)

TONNY

Whoa, whoa, everybody let me talk.

RUSTY

You're done talking. And you are losing the court case.

SANDY

You've been in court?

DAVID

You could have told us Tonny. We are family. You shot us in the back while taking the bullet yourself.

TONNY

This was all for you guys! You don't know what I have done for you. What I have had to do to get you where you are!

SANDY

Where we are? Where are we, because I have not a damn clue. We are going to be put inside a foster home and then separated for the rest of our lives because of what you did.

DAVID

Who is this girl anyways?

TONNY

That doesn't concern you guys.

RUSTY

Yes it does, if we are going to be separated because of her.

TONNY

Her name is Jennifer. She broke up with me a week ago. She said that I was too controlling.

RUSTY

Where is this Jennifer. I'll borrow that crowbar for you and give her a piece of my mind.

TONNY

Rusty stop talking right now!

(CONTINUED)

AARON

We have to leave town.

SANDY

What?

TONNY

That is not an option.

AARON

So going to prison is? Tonny you will be gone for as long as three years for this! We can't survive without you.

TONNY

We'll be flat broke either way.

DAVID

At least you will have a roof over your head.

TONNY

Don't you even take what I did for you all for granted. I busted my ass and this is the thanks I get?!

They all have a moment of silence due to a big realization. Tonny is right.

TONNY

Sure I spent a little too much on alcohol. And yes I had a girlfriend that I took out to dinner maybe a few too many times. I never took you guys out to dinner did I?

DAVID

It doesn't matter. You were perfect for us.

RUSTY

Don't be too hard on yourself Tonny.

TONNY

I might not see you for a few more years all because of one stupid action. I will have Uncle Randy take care of you. He has a big house and doesn't have a broad last I heard from him. There is \$2,000 under the kitchen sink. It's in plastic zip-lock bags.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

That is enough to help us for a little while.

INT. THE ALCOHOLIC'S ANONYMOUS MEETING

\*Back to present time.

DAVID

And it was. We had enough for the future but the near future was the hardest day of my life. It was the next day.

INT. THE COURT ROOM - DAY-TIME - THE NEXT DAY

The whole family is in the court room along with Uncle Randy. Tonny has a decent suit on.

JUDGE

Thomas Griffin Junior I hereby sentence you to 18 months in the state prison.

The Judge hits the wood.

DAVID

That's not that bad.

Tonny turns around and looks at the rest of the family. He gives each child a hug and a kiss and then he hugs his brother Randy.

TONNY

Take care of each other. I will be out soon enough. I love you all.

The Bailiff handcuffs him and walks him outside of the courtroom.

DAVID (V.O.)

I cried like hell when I saw Tonny being taken away from us. We were about to go broke and Uncle Randy hardly knew us. The happy thing with it is that we had each other. Each other and beer. Too much beer.

**SIX MONTHS LATER...**

EXT. OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE - NOON

Rusty is walking down the sidewalk alone. Without a shirt on. He walks toward the house and sees the "For Sale" sign has "Sold" written on it. He walks into the house.

INT. RUSTY'S ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Rusty looks under his bed and sees a tall glass of Vodka.

RUSTY  
I didn't forget about you.

Rusty grabs the bottle.

EXT. THE BACKYARD POOL - DAY-TIME - A HALF HOUR LATER

The bottle is almost empty. Rusty is drunk and singing loudly.

RUSTY  
Hey Mr. Tambourine Man play a song  
for me, I'm not sleepy and there is  
no place I'm going to! Hey Mr.  
Tambourine Man play a song for me,  
in your jingle jangle morning I'll  
come following you.

Rusty walks by the pool and then starts running. He tries to do his twist flip and then screws it up. He lands on his head and hits the pool floor hard in the shallow end. He floats up to the surface face down.

INT. THE ALCOHOLIC'S ANONYMOUS MEETING

Almost everybody is crying in the meeting.

DAVID  
Alcohol took my brother and has  
dragged me down to hell with him.  
He died within a minute after  
braking his neck in the shallow  
end. We forgot to cover the pool  
after leaving.

David sheds a few more tears.

DAVID  
Tonny was released temporarily for  
his funeral. It was a short reunion  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (cont'd)

for us and then we waited another year to see him again. He had short hair. I held a new record for the most tears when I was crying at his funeral. I visit Rusty's grave once a month at least. We had something special.

AA MEMBER

Have you (\*sniff) ever seen any of them again?

DAVID

I haven't seen Aaron since after he left high school and moved to Wisconsin with some girl. Nobody liked them except each other. He had a child I think, but I don't know. I keep in touch with Sandy from time to time by calling her. I spoke to her in March for her birthday. She doesn't have a husband or kids. Who would want to marry poor little Sandy; the princess of the Griffin's. She is writing her second book. Apparently the first one was a best-seller. I haven't seen Tonny in about fifteen years. He is in an apartment in New York but I haven't seen him in awhile. We should catch up soon.

AA MENTOR

You and Tonny- or Thomas should get together. Family can't be separated for that long.

DAVID

You're right. But I think my childhood just came and went like Rusty's life. I guess people un-intentionally let their life come and go and don't leave any mark on the Earth.

AA MENTOR

If you don't mind me asking, what are you doing to leave your mark on the Earth?

There is a long moment of silence in thinking.

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Honestly... I don't know yet.

AA MENTOR

Anyways, that was a beautiful story. Your life has been tough.

DAVID

Thank you all for listening to it.

David looks at the clock and it reads 9:14.

DAVID

Looks like we went overtime ha ha.

Everybody looks around and is still recovering emotionally from the story.

DAVID

I won't need to be here next week.  
I don't think I will be drinking a beer again.

David gets up, cracks a quick smile and then leaves. He walks out of the door while wiping his tears.

EXT. THE STREET AT NIGHT - URBAN LOCATION

David walks down the street toward the buildings and lights.

**FADE TO BLACK.**

THE END