

EVEN YOUR ODDS ARE UNEVEN

Written by

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EXT. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX -- DAY

SUPER: MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 1992

We see MAXINE CANDY (16) sprinting -- her fine, graceful face charged with determination and her legs glistening in swift strides.

Perched alone atop the empty stands, HUCK CODE (17) watches Maxine sprint while he smokes a joint. She shuffles to a stop and climbs the stands to join him. She takes the joint from him, hits it, and hands it back.

HUCK

You shouldn't compromise your lungs.

MAXINE

You shouldn't bring drugs onto school property, but we all flirt with disaster. What brings you out so early on a Saturday?

HUCK

I like watching you run. I told myself I'd get over here to watch you when I found out you train early in the mornings from your sister.

MAXINE

Maybe I want to be alone.

HUCK

Maybe you do. Didn't come into my accounting. Do you want me to go?

MAXINE

That depends. Are you stalking me?

HUCK

Absolutely.

MAXINE

Good. I'm in need of some good stalking. Some girls get creeped out by it, but it's a total boost to my self-esteem.

HUCK

Happy to oblige. You still coming to my party?

MAXINE

You mean the party your parents said you couldn't have while they were away visiting your grandfather in Oregon? The one you're having anyway?

HUCK

That would be the one.

MAXINE

You don't think your brother is gonna be a problem?

HUCK

Casey's decided to go to Oregon with them.

MAXINE

Look at **your** luck. You'll have to let me borrow some sometime.

HUCK

We might be able to work something out if I can have a kiss.

Maxine's eyes widen.

MAXINE

I'm a good girl. I don't make out with stoners.

HUCK

No one else has to know unless **you** tell them.

MAXINE

Meaning your lips are sealed? Let's see if that's true.

Maxine plants a kiss on Huck's lips. She makes a face.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Oh, yuck. Right? Too much slobber?

HUCK

Not enough tongue.

Maxine laughs and slaps Huck's arm. She hits the joint again.

MAXINE

Control yourself.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE -- DAY

CASEY CODE (20) looms behind a cash register as Maxine enters the store.

MAXINE

Hey, Casey.

CASEY

Hey, Maxine. How's the speed?

MAXINE

(Opening the drink cooler)
Progressing slowly.

CASEY

What? With the amount of time you put in training?

MAXINE

What can I tell you? The gods of running don't smile on me.

CASEY

(Quietly)
I smile at you. On you. All around you.

Maxine looks up from the sports drink label she was reading.

MAXINE

What did you say?

CASEY

I was just saying you shouldn't be so hard on yourself.

Maxine slams her sports drink on the counter before him.

MAXINE

Oh, I'm not. See, while I'm not at all humble, I'm very considerate of those who prefer I show humility. I can always go back to telling myself how great I am when I'm alone in the shower.

Casey is giving Maxine her change. He lets his gaze linger on her. She is wearing the same open, friendly smile she came in with.

CASEY

Alone in the shower?

MAXINE
I'm just talking.

Maxine's smile weakens with uncertainty as she tries to interpret the meaning behind Casey's stare.

CASEY
Huck told me he saw you running last weekend at the track.

MAXINE
He did. When do you leave with your parents to Oregon?

CASEY
They leave tonight. But I'm not going. I only told Huck that so he would think he was in the clear to have his stupid party tomorrow.

MAXINE
Why don't you come? It would be fun to see you there.

CASEY
You planned on coming? I didn't know that.

MAXINE
At first I wasn't sure, but I got to thinking that since I've been training so hard lately, maybe going to a party would be a good way to relax and let off some steam.

CASEY
Also a good way to get drunk and get pinched for underage drinking. You're 16, right?

MAXINE
Yeah.

Maxine smiles but says nothing, keeping whatever thoughts she had about his statement tucked behind it.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
Well, hopefully I'll see you there, Casey. If not, I'm sure I'll see you somewhere.

Maxine exits the store.

INT. PENITENTIARY RELEASE AREA -- DAY

SUPER: 13 YEARS LATER

HUCK CODE (30) steps up to the window separating him from a CORRECTIONS OFFICER. The CO slides forward a paper bag containing Huck's property.

CO

Back off into the big bad world
with you, huh Code?

HUCK

Yeah. Any words of encouragement
for me?

CO

Yeah. Next time you fuck yourself
like I know you will, try not to do
it before your next birthday, and
try not to do it as thoroughly as
you did before if possible.

HUCK

No more fucking myself for sure.
Your wife's gonna be doing that for
me.

The CO shows his teeth somewhere between a smile and a snarl.

CO

Saving one for when you knew it
wouldn't cost you I see.

HUCK

That's right, fuck face. That's
another one I saved. Calling you a
fuck face to your fucking face,
fuck face.

Huck smiles like a movie star for cameras on the red carpet.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK -- DAY

Huck sits in the passenger seat of his brother CASEY CODE's (33) truck as they drive down the interstate. Whereas Huck is still as slim as he was in high school, he notices Casey has grown stocky in build.

HUCK

Damn, you got jacked. I'm the one who's supposed to have been working out in the joint and coming out looking jacked.

CASEY

Sorry?

HUCK

No, you look good. I always meant to get around to getting in better shape.

CASEY

Did something stop you?

HUCK

Other commitments I made, things I promised myself I'd do. Like learning to play chess, practicing yoga and meditation. I read the entire Webster's dictionary from front to back.

CASEY

Well, while you were away at the resort, lifting weights was all I could find the free time to do to better myself.

HUCK

Resort. That's cute.

Huck takes in the view outside the passenger window while pondering something.

HUCK (CONT'D)

I gotta be honest with you.

CASEY

He said with a sincerity which sparked no suspicion at all. Do you think you're ready for that, little brother?

HUCK

Lower your expectations, it's not a deathbed confession. I just wanted to say, seriously, when Mom told me you got me a spot on that construction job I about lost my shit. Really, I can't thank you enough.

CASEY

You can thank me enough and you can thank me too much. You've just skidded past enough. I'm glad your shit didn't get lost.

HUCK

Still allergic to gratitude and compliments, huh?

Casey snorts out a laugh of disgust.

CASEY

No, Huck, just not so easily swept away by your charms as others in your life have been.

HUCK

My compliments to you on that then.

CASEY

Thanks.

HUCK

I won't let you down, Casey.

CASEY

Don't start that making promises shit with me either, Huck.

Huck's smile fails and he switches course.

HUCK

Maxine still working The Holler Club with you?

CASEY

Maxine's a mother now. She's at home tending to her children like God intended.

HUCK

She knew how to talk to customers.

CASEY

Yeah, and the men knew how to talk back. I had my fill of it no matter how harmless she said they all were.

HUCK

You don't think you made more of it than there probably was?

CASEY

I love you, Huck, but you're not the first guy whose judgment is gonna sway me in relationship matters. I listen to God.

HUCK

Good. I listen to God too.

CASEY

Are you about to get blasphemous?

HUCK

No, not unless you want me to. Why?

CASEY

Because I can't imagine God would have much to say which would be of interest to you. Or were you about to tell me you read the Bible from front to back after finishing the dictionary?

HUCK

Oh, my jaded big brother, you're wrong about me and God. If you think about it, I'd be a most useful soul for God. A pliable piece of clay. He'd mould me, and as co-creator of my own reality, I'd play the role staged for me.

CASEY

I'm thinking about it and it sounds like you think I don't know what blasphemy sounds like coming out of your mouth. You forget, I got stoned with you a couple times.

HUCK

I forget getting stoned with people I got stoned with hundreds of times, so don't feel bad.

CASEY

Which reminds me, I advise you to watch it with the weed smoking while you're staying in Mom's basement. And don't tell me finding a weed connection *isn't* one of the first things on your agenda because I know you. Silly yourself up to your heart's content once you get your own place.

Huck gives Casey a perplexed look.

HUCK
Silly myself up?

INT. DELORES CODE'S HOUSE -- FRONT ROOM -- DAY

Huck and Casey walk into their mother's house. DELORES (50) strides up to Huck and gives him a solemn hug.

DELORES
Welcome home, son. I hope it's okay
I ordered Chinese takeout for
dinner. I wasn't feeling up to
fixing anything else.

HUCK
It's fine, Mom.

Huck spies an open vodka bottle on the kitchen table by a full glass. Delores goes to hug Casey but cuts it short.

DELORES
I was just on my way to visit the
bathroom, but you boys sit down,
get yourselves something to drink
or whatever. Food should be here
soon.

Delores goes to the bathroom. Casey stands by the door and nudges Huck.

CASEY
Tell Mom I had to go. I got some
things I need to take care of.

HUCK
Sounds like something you could
have told her yourself two seconds
ago. Has she been drinking like
this every day?

CASEY
If she hasn't, it must only be on
the days I come over. If I don't
see you at your party tonight at
the strip club, I'll see you at the
house for dinner tomorrow. See if
you can't hide the bottle from Mom
before you bring her over. Maxine
doesn't like her lit up around the
kids. Neither do I.

Casey leaves the house. Huck smiles as his mother comes out of the bathroom.

DELORES
Where's Casey?

HUCK
Said he had something better to do than to waste his time spending it with us. Can you believe that?

DELORES
Yes, but I know he'd never say it out loud. Sit down and tell me about prison. I've never been.

INT. KITCHEN -- DAY

Huck strolls into the kitchen to retrieve a beer from the refrigerator. He talks along the way.

HUCK
Oh, you know. Lots of shivving. Lots of forcible sodomy, occasionally involving multiple rapists. Movie night.

Huck takes a seat across the kitchen table from Delores. He grips his Michelob bottle with both arms stretched on the table and gives his mother a look of easy affection.

DELORES
Beer is all you want?

HUCK
You trying to share your vodka, Delores?

Delores pushes her glass to Huck before standing and retrieving another from a cabinet. Huck takes a sip from the glass as Delores fills the empty one.

DELORES
I put a lot of thought into what I would say to you when you got out, Huck. But maybe you want to talk first?

HUCK
I missed you.

DELORES

Yeah, sorry I didn't visit you more often. I started worrying I'd run out of things to say.

HUCK

Oh, you know I'd do most of the talking anyway.

DELORES

And I didn't like seeing you locked up.

HUCK

I didn't like *seeing* you see me locked up.

Delores' eyes well up with tears briefly. She looks down, clears her throat, and takes another drink.

DELORES

You gonna be okay now you think?

HUCK

I'm no good at making those kinds of predictions. I'm not gonna lose sleep worrying about it right away, I can tell you that. I start the job Casey got me next week. I'll bring in some money and take things one day at a time.

DELORES

Your father was like that. The world could be falling in burning chunks all around him and he kept his peace.

HUCK

Until he died peacefully of a peaceful aneurysm one morning.

DELORES

Don't be cute. If you've got something to say, say it.

HUCK

I don't know what I'm saying. All I know is he died at fifty-three and I feel like I just came back from the dead.

DELORES
(Chuckling)
So maybe **do** lose some fucking sleep
and worry about it. You got an
argument going on in your head,
Huck?

HUCK
I'll sort things out. I promise.

Huck smiles at his mother. He abandons his chair.

HUCK (CONT'D)
I better take it easy on the vodka.
I don't want to be too wasted for
my party tonight. You coming?

DELORES
What do you think? Whose idea was
it to have the party in a strip
club anyway?

HUCK
Not suitable for a guy who just got
out of the joint?

DELORES
Maybe, but not for a fifty-year-old
widowed grandmother.

HUCK
I stink that I'll get a shower.

Huck's face freezes with a realization.

HUCK (CONT'D)
Shit, I left my stuff in Casey's
truck.

DELORES
You can take my car over to his
place and get it.

HUCK
I haven't got my driver's license
reinstated yet though, Mom.

DELORES
Well if you make it a point not to
get pulled over by the police on
your first day out, it shouldn't
matter. And tell Maxine I'd like my
pie dish back. And I'd like it
clean this time.

EXT. CASEY'S FRONT YARD -- DAY

MAXINE CODE (29) stoops in her bikini, pulling weeds from her flower bed, her head down under a sun hat and on her work when Huck pulls Delores' Hyundai up to the curb.

The sound of Huck shutting the car door alerts Maxine to his presence. He stands by the car as she looks up.

HUCK

Hello, Maxine.

MAXINE

Huck Code. Among the living free.

HUCK

You can't be the woman my brother says bore him two kids over the last four years. Not put together like that.

Maxine's hands glide up to her hips as she rises.

MAXINE

Do you really think it's wise to make hitting on your sister-in-law your first order of business upon getting out of prison?

HUCK

It was actually my third order of business after a refreshing civilian shower and finding some weed, but your husband ducked out of Mom's with my clothes and toiletries in his truck.

MAXINE

Casey hasn't been home yet. Do you want me to call him on his cell?

HUCK

No, don't bug him. It's not an emergency.

Maxine walks over and puts one hand on Huck's shoulder, eyeing his body up and down to approximate what might fit him.

MAXINE

You and he are about the same build. Except he's denser. Not in the dumb way.

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Why don't I go in and get some of
his clothes for you to borrow?

Huck studies Maxine with an increasing interest he barely
conceals.

HUCK

Why'd you have to be wearing a
bikini the first time I saw you
again?

MAXINE

Sorry, were you praying for God to
give me fat rolls and stretch
marks? And if so, did you consider
maybe God likes me more than He
likes you?

HUCK

I was just talking to Casey about
Him on our way to Mom's. Oh, which
reminds me, she said she wants her
pie dish back. Clean this time.

MAXINE

That woman loves to create
problems. Nobody told her she's got
to bake a pie to bring over here
once a week.

HUCK

I'm betting Casey doesn't tell her
to stop. I mean, he's *got* to be the
only one eating them. Just look at
you.

Huck shakes his head at her.

MAXINE

Hey, look, I know you're probably
antsy after having been locked up a
while....

HUCK

More horny than antsy really.

MAXINE

Antsy. Horny. Either way we're not
fifteen and we're not behind my
Uncle Aitch's tool shed.

HUCK

I was fifteen. You were **fourteen**.
It was August and you were just
home from Myrtle Beach with your
hair all sun-bleached, and you
didn't turn fifteen until October,
Libra girl.

Maxine gets stuck smiling at Huck for a moment.

MAXINE

You remember a lot of details for
an event that didn't amount to
much.

HUCK

I couldn't imagine the I'll-show-
you-mine-if-you'll-show-me-yours
ritual of youth going more
perfectly than it did with you.

MAXINE

Then your imagination is lacking.
And not everyone counts doing
perverted crap a ritual of youth.
By the way, did studying all that
zodiac stuff ever get you any
action? I always wondered.

HUCK

I only ever used my knowledge for
good.

MAXINE

The states of West Virginia and
Maryland said different if I
remember right.

HUCK

You do. They did. You really
thought what we did was perverted?

MAXINE

No, I thought it was exciting. From
my perspective now, as a grown
woman, I think it was perverted.

HUCK

I feel sorry for you then.

MAXINE

That's sweet, but unnecessary.

Maxine's children, a boy and a girl, DAVY (3) and JULIE (5) emerge from the house. They wander over to where Huck is standing and stare up at him.

JULIE

Mommy, who is that man?

MAXINE

He's your father's brother, Huck.
Which makes him your Uncle Huck.
Say hello to Uncle Huck, Julie.

JULIE

Hello, Uncle Huck. It's nice to
meet you.

HUCK

(To Julie)

Well aren't you a stunner in your
mama's mold? It's nice to meet you
too.

Huck kneels to stroke Julie's hair and shake Davy's hand.

MAXINE

(To Huck)

And that's Davy, the one I almost
had a hernia delivering.

HUCK

He's solid all right.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM -- DAY

Huck stands in the doorway watching Maxine rifle through a
pile of Casey's clothes on the bed.

HUCK

You know how I used to like horsing
around with you. You seem to have
gotten a little uptight if you
don't mind my saying.

MAXINE

Would it matter if I minded? Never
has in the past.

HUCK

What happened between us?

MAXINE

You spent most of your twenties
locked up, Huck. Now you're
starting your thirties with nothing
to show for the time you lost. Yet
you seem strangely relaxed. Like in
a delusional way, if you don't mind
my saying.

HUCK

No time spent learning goes to
waste.

MAXINE

How conveniently zen of you.

HUCK

It's got nothing to do with
convenience.

MAXINE

Well, you be sure to fill me in
later on whatever profound insights
your being incarcerated freed up
the universe to impart.

Maxine flings some of Casey's clothes in Huck's direction and
he fumbles to catch them all.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Right now, I have to get back to my
gardening. Enjoy your civilian
shower.

EXT. GENTLEMEN'S CLUB PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Maxine squeezes her steering wheel apprehensively as she
slips her car into an empty space. She cuts the engine but
doesn't immediately get out.

She casts a doubtful look in the direction of the club
entrance.

INT. GENTLEMEN'S CLUB -- NIGHT (LATER)

Maxine is poised with a drink at the bar. She watches naked
women lap dance for patrons while two others strip on
adjacent stages. KURT (36) makes his way over to her.

MAXINE

Hey there, Kurt.

KURT

Maxine. I thought that was you.
What are you doing out? I mean
who's watching your kids?

MAXINE

Christ almighty, Kurt, I know
you're a cop and all, but can't a
woman have a drink out one night
without getting interrogated?

KURT

Not if she's my wife.

MAXINE

Well last I checked, I'm **not**
Charlotte.

KURT

And I couldn't very well call
myself Casey's friend if I turned a
blind eye to his woman's public
doings, could I?

MAXINE

What you choose to call or not call
yourself hasn't suddenly started
mattering to me, Kurt. Sorry. As
for my doings, Casey said he didn't
feel like coming to his brother's
welcome home party but didn't mind
watching the kids if I wanted to
get out. And I felt like scoping
some pussy, so I came.

KURT

Girl, you always been crazy.

MAXINE

How is your wife anyway?

KURT

Why? You wanna scope **her** pussy?

MAXINE

Why? You wanna watch?

Maxine's initial, sociable vibe towards Kurt fades and she turns her attention away from him. He seats himself beside her at the bar anyway.

KURT

I am surprised to see you here for another reason though.

Maxine doesn't divert her gaze away from one of the dancers.

MAXINE

You were always too easily surprised, Kurt, but okay. What's the reason?

KURT

It's not like it's a secret to anyone who grew up with you that you and Huck Code were close.

MAXINE

How perceptive of you. Did me showing up for his party give it away?

Maxine catches sight of Huck easing into the club with a few other men.

KURT

You know what I mean. I wasn't the only one that wondered how you ended up marrying his brother.

MAXINE

It's not complicated. I was unemployed, he gave me a job as his bartender, and then one night he got me pregnant.

KURT

If Huck hadn't gone away for selling coke, he'd be your baby's father.

MAXINE

Is that your math on it? Is calculating outcomes that *didn't* transpire a useful or lucrative skill?

KURT

You don't have to be all bitchy with me about it. I'm just calling out what I see.

Maxine swings her hand around and peels down every finger but her middle one.

MAXINE

You see that?

KURT

And to think of all the times I've pulled you over for speeding and let you off with a warning.

MAXINE

Until it was clear it wasn't getting you anywhere *near* closer to getting in my pants. Tell me, how many of the women you pulled over caught the clap from you before you gave it to Charlotte?

Kurt, rattled by this, stands and walks off. Huck takes the vacated stool soon thereafter. Maxine doesn't thaw from her encounter with Kurt right away though.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I suppose you expect me to buy you a drink now.

HUCK

I suppose you expect me to surgically remove the stick from your ass, but unfortunately I'm not taking new patients at this time. Is Casey not coming?

MAXINE

No.

Huck waits for an elaboration that doesn't materialize.

HUCK

You look good, Maxine. Have I already told you that today?

MAXINE

Gee I can't remember. Was that *your* drool making your t-shirt stick to you when I was in my bikini earlier today?

HUCK

You told me to fill you in on whatever profound insights my being incarcerated freed up the universe to impart to me, or something to that effect.

MAXINE

I just told Kurt there I came here to scope out pussy. I tell people a lot of things. Do you want that drink or not?

HUCK

Set up two shots of Jager for us.

MAXINE

God, you still drink that stuff?

HUCK

Well, I sort of stopped for six years. Then I got out of prison.

Maxine begins gesturing to get the bartender's attention.

HUCK (CONT'D)

Because I don't know if you know this, but they don't have Jager in prison. At least not at the one I was serving time.

Maxine laughs.

MAXINE

Yes, I get it, I get it. Please miss me with any more of your earnest nonsense.

The bartender sets up the shots and Huck and Maxine throw them back. Huck shivers a little as he looks Maxine's way.

HUCK

Another?

A comely lass, ASHLEY WEBBER (23) prances up to wrap the party garland on her neck over Huck's. She nestles her body close to his, her beer bottle raised high above her head. Maxine checks Huck's reaction.

ASHLEY

What's a girl gotta do around here to get her a kiss from the birthday boy?

Huck gives Ashley a peck on the cheek but his eyes stay on Maxine.

HUCK

Actually my birthday's in February.

ASHLEY

No! I mean a **real** kiss. The kind that made Huck Code a legend around these parts with the ladies.

Maxine laughs.

MAXINE

Yeah, Huck. Show this poor girl what all the fuss is about.

HUCK

(To Ashley)

I don't know, Ashley. I mean, it might be strange considering I dated your mother once.

MAXINE

Is "dated" really the verb that that most accurately describes what you did to her mother?

Before Huck can voice any further reservations, Ashley takes him by the face and pulls his lips to hers for a hungry kiss. Huck savors the taste afterwards.

HUCK

(To Ashley, chewing)

You want your gum back or were you about to pop in a fresh stick anyway?

Ashley laughs like she's never heard anything funnier. Huck and Maxine watch her gleefully wander off.

MAXINE

You hit that sweet spot. Old enough to bag her cougar mom but not quite old enough to be her father.

HUCK

I didn't start being a floosie until you broke my heart, you know.

MAXINE

Plenty of gallivanterers have gallivanted in the name of heartbreak. I'm unmoved. And who broke whose heart first?

INT. GENTLEMEN'S CLUB -- NIGHT (LATER)

Maxine and Huck are planted in front of the stage, clownishly waving the money in their hands at a dancing stripper. Kurt gets close to Huck's ear to cut through the noise.

KURT

I see you're starting right back
where you left off.

HUCK

What are you talking about?

Kurt swings his eyes in Maxine's direction. She catches this, and though unable to hear what was said, flips him the bird again.

KURT

(To Huck)
With Maxine.

HUCK

I see you're starting right back
where you left off in the fourth
grade. Don't people grow up around
here?

KURT

Whatever. Dude.

Kurt departs from them.

MAXINE

(To the stripper)
Break me off some that funky stuff!

HUCK

(To Maxine)
I thought you were messing around
with that thing you told Kurt. But
now I think you're really into
this.

MAXINE

I happen to be a great admirer of
the female form.

Huck raises an eyebrow at her.

HUCK

So... That means you've...?

MAXINE

Been with a woman? No. Unlike you guys, we females are comfortable in our sexual boundaries.

HUCK

I can pretend that means something if you want me to.

MAXINE

Forget it. I would never expect you to understand.

HUCK

Me as a man or me in particular?

Maxine smiles and it's apparent the alcohol is exaggerating her emotion.

MAXINE

Did I tell you how good you looked today, Huck?

Before Huck has a chance to react to this, Maxine vomits at his feet.

INT. CASEY'S LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Casey and Huck are walking Maxine to the sofa, her arms draped over each of their shoulders.

MAXINE

(To Casey, incoherently)
Honey, are the kids asleep? I want to kiss them goodnight.

CASEY

I gave them your kisses for you.

MAXINE

That's impossible. You don't even know where I keep my kisses.

Huck watches Casey position a blanket over Maxine and kiss her forehead as she drifts off.

CASEY

(To Maxine)
You rest up for the ass-chewing I got ready for you in the morning. I love you.

MAXINE
(Mumbling)
Tell Huck I win.

Maxine begins to snore. Casey gives Huck a quizzical look.

CASEY
Won what?

Huck shrugs and turns to head out the front door.

EXT. CASEY'S FRONT YARD -- NIGHT

Casey follows Huck outside.

CASEY
I **know** you don't think you're just
gonna drop off my drunk wife and
leave.

HUCK
Forgive me, it's only my first time
ever doing it. How is that properly
done?

CASEY
First time doing what? Getting
someone else's wife drunk? Seems to
me you have a big history of that.

Huck chuckles with raised arms. He gives a resigned sigh.

HUCK
You wanna practice chewing out my
ass before you get to hers
tomorrow?

CASEY
I love you, Huck, but I'm worrying
you've come home laboring under
some delusions.

HUCK
Don't worry, they'll pass in
another day or two. It's like
having a slight head cold for me.

Huck turns and continues on his way.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE -- DAY

Huck engages in a conversation with a YAMAKA-WEARING MAN behind the open window of a food truck. Around them workers in lawn chairs eat sandwiches while others sit on the ground or on top of their hard hats.

HUCK

(To yamaka-wearing man)

Referencing my man Spike Lee, doing the right thing isn't always an easy decision. Someone gets hurt either way in many cases. But sometimes the right thing to do is so clear that anyone pretending otherwise puts their priorities in question.

YAMAKA-WEARING MAN

You're neither Jewish nor Palestinian, and there are things you don't understand about the history of the region, Mr. Code. That being said, I agree. Netanyahu is a fascist prick.

A LABORER in line behind Huck interjects.

LABORER

You wanna wrap it up, Code? My lunch break ends the same time as yours, and I plan to eat before it does.

Huck swipes his food order from the window and physically gestures an apology to everyone in line behind him as he goes.

He unwraps his roast beef sub on a picnic table and is about to take a bite when SPENCER (40), the job foreman, seats himself across from Huck.

SPENCER

I've noticed all this week how you spend half your lunch breaks talking. Personally, I could care less, but some of the guys are grumbling to me.

HUCK

About me talking? And I think you mean you **couldn't** care less.

SPENCER

No, I could. Anyway, it's not the talking itself, it's the things you talk about. Put another way, it's the things you talk about that they don't like, along with the things you talk about where they have no idea what you're talking about. Marx? Nietzsche? You got something against talking college sports or the latest Taylor Swift album?

HUCK

I'll talk less and say more. That's the most I can promise, Spence.

SPENCER

Thanks. I think. Look, I wanted you to know I was happy to help out when Casey asked me to get you on here. I always thought you and your brother were good guys.

HUCK

Yeah? Why'd you always threaten me about staying away from your sister then?

Spencer laughs in recollection.

SPENCER

Trying to defend my kid sister's virtue. What a futile effort **that** turned out to be.

HUCK

Like trying to catch diarrhea in a fishnet stocking.

SPENCER

Hey! It's still my **sister** we're talking about here.

HUCK

What?

SPENCER

Really, who thinks of something that nauseating while they've got food in their mouth?

Huck shrugs and chews another bite of his sub. Spencer seems to have more to say to Huck as he lingers in brief silence.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Casey told me you brought Maxine home drunk from the strip club.

HUCK

I thought leaving her facedown in her puke on the club floor was the more assholeish move, but what do I know?

SPENCER

You got history with her.

HUCK

Had. Had history.

SPENCER

You think Casey suspects anything is going on?

HUCK

(His finger to his chin
thoughtfully)

Do I think Casey suspects anything is going on? Hmm. I suspect he **suspects**, just like any other man **suspects**. We're all **suspecters**. And also suspects.

SPENCER

I'd write that down if I thought it would make more sense when I read it later.

HUCK

There's nothing to suspect. That simple enough?

Spencer looks at his watch.

SPENCER

I gotta meet with some vendors.

Spencer stands to go but pauses. Huck looks up from his sandwich again.

SPENCER (CONT'D)

Hey, do me a favor and don't tell Casey I was talking to you about what he told me. Cool?

HUCK

Not cool at all. In fact it's some chickenshit. You're not still scared of him, are you?

SPENCER

You would be too a little if you were the one he put in the hospital with two broken ribs.

HUCK

Yeah, but how long ago was that?

SPENCER

Not as recent as when I saw him level Jake Rollins with one punch at The Holler Club last year when you were still locked up.

HUCK

Jake Rollins who's like 6'8"? College star linebacker?

SPENCER

Do you know another one? Anyway, just do me that favor and you'll only owe me half a favor in return for getting you this job.

HUCK

Well, I really haven't decided if I even like this job yet, but okay.

SPENCER

(Snickering)
Asshole.

INT. CASEY AND MAXINE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Maxine plays with her laptop doing a downward dog yoga position on the floor.

Casey is on his back on the other side of the room doing free weight barbell bench presses.

MAXINE

Why was it you said you wanted your weight bench moved to the bedroom?

Casey labors under a rep as he grunts out a reply.

CASEY

To stay motivated.

MAXINE

Oh.

Casey replaces the barbell in the rack and sits up.

CASEY

Is it a problem?

MAXINE

No. I just wondered why it couldn't keep you motivated from the basement.

CASEY

And I told you. If it's in my line of sight before I go to bed, I can't use the excuse of forgetting to work out as a crutch.

MAXINE

Yeah, I remember now.

CASEY

You never forgot in the first place. I'm tired, Maxine. Get to saying whatever it is you want to say.

Maxine takes her laptop to the bed with her. She seems to be deciding whether she's ready to speak her mind.

MAXINE

I don't want Huck over for dinner tomorrow night.

CASEY

We already postponed the last dinner with him. Is there something I should know? Are you just now remembering having a falling out with him the night you two were out drinking?

MAXINE

Don't be absurd. My blackout commenced somewhere around ten o'clock that night. There's nothing left on the tape to retrieve.

CASEY

Brain damage is great, isn't it? So is there a particular reason you don't want Huck over, or do you want me to keep guessing what it is?

MAXINE

I don't like the effect he has on you.

Casey puts careful thought to this as he climbs in under the comforter beside Maxine.

CASEY

Okay, if we're starting out this vague, I know I'm gonna be whittling down your responses for another hour or two before I can get to sleep. And I just can't do it tonight, Maxine.

MAXINE

Okay.

CASEY

Okay you'll be more specific?

MAXINE

Okay we'll shelve this discussion for later. I need to get to sleep too. Good night.

Maxine kisses Casey and turns off the lamp by her bedside. Casey rolls to his side but Maxine remains upright, staring at her laptop.

INT. DELORES CODE'S HOUSE -- FRONT PORCH -- DAY

Delores drinks vodka from a glass on her porch swing. Huck comes to the base of the front steps with his hard hat under his arm. He stops and focuses his gaze on the vodka bottle at Delores' feet.

HUCK

Is this the day I get into it with you about your drinking?

DELORES

I don't know. Is it?

Huck bounds up the front steps and joins Delores on the porch swing. His posture suggests exhaustion.

HUCK

No. I don't have the ammunition
just yet.

Delores continues to drink with what seems like a sense of
purpose.

HUCK (CONT'D)

Just tell me this. Does me living
with you make you want to drink
more or less?

DELORES

What kind of question is that?

HUCK

The kind that doesn't start with
what, why, who, where, or how but
still ends in a question mark.

DELORES

You should've been a comedian
instead of a convict.

HUCK

You know I cherish you, right?
(Scrolling on his smart
phone)

Hey, it says here the average adult
attention span has dropped from
twelve minutes a decade ago to five
minutes today. Which means we're
getting faster! Isn't that cool?

Delores can no longer restrain herself from laughing. She
slaps Huck's shoulder.

DELORES

Huck, you smell. Go get in the
shower.

Huck sniffs himself.

HUCK

I stink that I should get in the
shower.

Huck gives his mother a kiss on the head and goes inside the
house.

INT. CASEY AND MAXINE'S DINING ROOM -- NIGHT

Huck and Delores are at the table eating dinner with Casey and Maxine. Davy and Julie can be heard playing in an adjacent room. During a silence in the conversation, Huck stares at Maxine without expression. She inspects some salad at the end of her fork for some seconds before noticing Huck looking at her.

HUCK
 (To Maxine)
 You still trying to see the
 microbes?

Casey looks up from his food.

DELORES
 (To Maxine)
 Do you have any idea what he's
 talking about?

MAXINE
 When I was a kid, I used to believe
 that if I concentrated hard enough,
 I could see how many bacteria were
 living on my food. It was dumb. I
 don't do that anymore. I wasn't
 doing that just now.

HUCK
 (To Maxine)
 Liar.

MAXINE
 Casey, please tell your brother not
 to watch me eat.

HUCK
 Is eating what **anyone** would call
 what you were doing?

CASEY
 (Without diverting
 attention from his meal)
 Huck, stop being weird for a night
 if you can manage it.

Julie sweeps into the room laughing.

JULIE
 Daddy! Daddy!

CASEY
 What is it, Julie Marie?

JULIE
Daddy, why can't penguins fly?

CASEY
Are you telling a joke?

JULIE
No, Daddy, it's a question.

CASEY
Sweet potato, remember what Daddy said about only interrupting with important questions?

JULIE
It's important.

CASEY
Ask your mother.

MAXINE
Ask your grandmother.

DELORES
Ask your Uncle Huck.

Julie's eyes pinball their way around the table and land on Huck.

JULIE
Uncle Huck, do **you** know why penguins can't fly?

Huck scoots his chair away from the table and turns Julie's way, inviting her to sit on his lap by patting his legs. She lets him lift her up.

HUCK
(To Julie)
Can I ask you a question first?

JULIE
Yes.

HUCK
How did you get so pretty?

Julie laughs bashfully. Huck looks to Casey.

HUCK (CONT'D)
Seriously, does she have a boyfriend?

CASEY

No, Huck, my five-year-old little girl who still has to be told not to eat her own boogers is not currently dating.

Huck's eyes widen with excitement at Julie.

HUCK

Boogers? Oh yum! You got any for Uncle Huck to take with him for later? This meal your mommy threw together for us is *okay*, but I'd much rather have a big ol' green booger!

Maxine smiles a furtive smile watching Julie laugh.

INT. POOL HALL -- NIGHT

Huck balances his hands and chin atop the tip of his pool cue while Casey racks balls on the table. Spencer and Kurt -- just off duty and still in uniform -- grip their cues and chat across the table.

KURT

(To Spencer)

So I said, okay, Jesus loves me, but he also loved the prick whose stray bullet almost took me out of here, or else he wouldn't be walking free already. That's not something I can put together in my head.

SPENCER

And what did the Jehovah's Witness say to that?

HUCK

Spence, don't encourage him.

KURT

Right, coming from Mr. Heretic Ex-con, with no respect for either Jesus or the law.

CASEY

No, you got it wrong, Kurt. Huck here is an avowed agnostic. He laid it out for everyone last night at dinner.

(MORE)

CASEY (CONT'D)

Whether that means he gets an exemption on judgment day I can't say.

HUCK

Casey can't wait to see me go to Hell, but my heresy is rooted in personal experience.

SPENCER

(To Huck)

What's an agnostic? Some cult shit like Scientology?

HUCK

Yeah, only it doesn't demand you fork over a chunk of your paycheck like the Scientology and Christian cults do.

Casey jabs and the crack of the cue ball striking is explosive. The balls scatter like birds spooked by a shotgun blast. Casey's jaw is tight as he addresses Huck.

CASEY

So everyone who opens their wallet when the collection plate gets passed around is a sucker, huh?

HUCK

Pretty much.

CASEY

(Circling the table)

Dad gave freely. What does that say about him?

HUCK

You tell me.

Casey straightens his spine from where he'd been sizing up a shot to fully zero in on Huck.

CASEY

No, Huck. You tell *me*.

Huck smirks and shrugs. Kurt and Spencer appear to be uneasy with the tension between the brothers.

CASEY (CONT'D)

(To Huck)

So no comment about the gullibility, or lack thereof, of the man who clothed and fed us for what is still more than half our lives?

HUCK

Whaddaya want me to say, Case? That a man can't be good and prone to getting fleeced at the same time? Would that comfort you more than me saying Dad, three months behind on the electric bill, thought blowing money on lottery tickets was okay as long as his tithes with God were also squared?

CASEY

You're a flippant fuck, you know that?

HUCK

More contemptuous than flippant, actually. There's a subtle difference.

Casey's stance is rigid and his nostrils flare as he stares Huck down.

KURT

Who needs another beer? The round's on me. Casey, you need one?

Casey says nothing. He thrusts his pool cue in Spencer's hand.

CASEY

Hold this. I gotta take a piss.

Casey stalks off to the restroom. Huck stoops to size up a shot while Kurt and Spencer observe him.

KURT

(To Huck)

What did you get him all wound up like that for?

HUCK

He might be sweeter if I told him he was right about everything all the time, but I doubt it.

SPENCER

You guys are brothers. That should mean something.

HUCK

Last I checked, it means we have the same parents, not that I have to swallow his shit with a smile. Also, last I checked, since religion was the topic that brought us here, the first murder in the Bible involved two brothers.

KURT

Well **that's** fucking ominous. You should be careful what you say around a cop, Huck.

HUCK

Relax, Kurt. I'd be sure to kill you first if I were serious and let something slip. It wouldn't be a problem. Well I guess it would be a problem for **you**, but that's neither here nor there.

KURT

Threatening a police officer. Keep racking up the charges. You're on a roll.

HUCK

Maybe if you guys had brothers you'd get it.

SPENCER

I always thought of you and Casey as my brothers, Huck.

Huck pauses in taking his shot, gives Spencer a nod.

HUCK

Thanks, Spence.

INT. CASEY'S BASEMENT "MAN CAVE" -- NIGHT (LATER)

Casey slumps on a couch with a beer in his lap while Huck sips his from an easy chair. Casey's attention is focused on the television but Huck seems to be mostly focused on Casey. Huck breaks what has presumably been a lengthy silence.

HUCK
You know what happened to Dad's old
acoustic?

CASEY
It's back behind the wet bar.

HUCK
Mom gave it to you, huh?

CASEY
Were you hoping she shipped it to
you at the penitentiary?

HUCK
Dad taught me my first chords on
that.

CASEY
Go back behind the bar and get it
if you want it.

HUCK
To keep?

CASEY
Whatever.

HUCK
What else would you have to
remember him by though?

CASEY
They're called memories. Got any?

HUCK
Oh, plenty. Like that junk Harley
he told Mom he was going to
eventually refurbish when she
bitched about it taking up too much
space in the garage.

CASEY
Yeah.

Casey mulls this over thoughtfully.

CASEY (CONT'D)
Why *did* he never fix that bike up?

HUCK
We all think we have more time
right up until it runs out.

CASEY

You're an insightful fuck, you know that?

Casey and Huck give each other a warm look and chuckle at the allusion to Casey's "flippant fuck" remark at the pool hall. Huck sets his beer on the floor beside the armchair and stands to retrieve the guitar. He returns to his seat and positions it on his lap, tuning the strings.

HUCK

You ever thought about learning to play it?

CASEY

I haven't had the time.

HUCK

To learn?

CASEY

To even **think** about learning. Have you met my wife and kids? Seen my work schedule?

Casey aims the remote at the TV and turns up the volume. Huck caresses the guitar strings. He looks at Casey.

HUCK

You know I loved Dad, right?

Casey does not answer immediately, nor does he look away from the TV.

CASEY

Yeah.

HUCK

You know I love you too, don't you?

CASEY

I've considered the possibility.

Huck laughs and starts playing some chords. He begins singing words to a song.

HUCK

I find cheap thrills and even
cheaper graces/ No sleeves to hide
tricks from these foolish faces/
Even your odds are uneven in
places/ Even your odds or you'll
fall through the spaces

Huck hums. Casey appears to take an interest in the music.

CASEY

What's that?

HUCK

Something I had crawling around my skull the whole week before I got out. I had the music and this idea about cheap grace floating and keeping me up half nights.

CASEY

And what is cheap grace?

HUCK

I don't know. A little pricier than free grace maybe?

Huck plays some more and Casey is visibly soothed.

CASEY

You always could play, Huck.

Huck pulls out a half-smoked blunt, fires it up.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Come on, don't fire that up in here, man.

Maxine saunters into the basement.

MAXINE

Kids are all tucked in. What are you guys...

Her eyes are drawn to the Huck's blunt.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

God, I could really use some of that about now.

Huck smiles and looks to Casey for approval as he offers up the blunt to Maxine. Maxine gives Casey a begging look. Casey throws up his hands in resignation.

CASEY

(To Huck)

Go ahead. Give it to her. It's not like it's *my* house or anything.

Huck strums a quick strum in some sort of triumph of defiance.

Maxine shuffles over to accept the blunt with the excitement of a child going for a present under the Christmas tree. She squeezes herself in beside Casey on the side of the couch nearest to Huck and takes a big hit.

MAXINE

(Restraining a cough)

Shit, I told myself I wasn't gonna hit it that hard.

Maxine descends into a coughing fit, folding her torso forward. Casey pats her back and smiles, satisfied that her transgression has caused her some discomfort.

CASEY

Is it as wonderful as you remember, honey?

MAXINE

(Still catching her breath)

Oh yeah. Better than sex lately.

CASEY

Thanks for the constructive criticism.

MAXINE

Sorry, honey, I didn't mean with **you**.

Huck slings his head back in laughter.

HUCK

You hear that, bro? She said she didn't mean with you.

CASEY

I did hear it. So hilarious.

Maxine gives Casey a playful frown and a kiss on the cheek.

MAXINE

You know I'd only have mediocre sex with you.

CASEY

Hey, as long as I get what I need out of it.

MAXINE

Yeah, I'm familiar with your stance on the issue of reciprocity.

HUCK

What's she saying, Case? You don't
do much canyon yodeling? Clam
jousting? Connie Lingus?

CASEY

Let's not delve any further.

HUCK

You've had emuff? I mean enough?

Maxine burst out in laughter this time.

CASEY

(To Huck)

How about I drive you back to Mom's
now? It's getting pretty late.

MAXINE

(To Casey)

Don't be like that.

HUCK

No, he's right. I should be getting
back.

INT. DELORES' KITCHEN -- DAY

Huck hovers over the sink washing dishes when Delores drops a
dirty saucepan in the soapy water, splashing it up into
Huck's face.

DELORES

That one's a little tougher to
clean than the other pots.

Huck wipes soap suds out of eyes and examines the pan.

HUCK

Still using metal forks to scramble
your eggs I see. Half the teflon is
scraped off. It really needs to be
thrown out.

DELORES

I like that pan.

HUCK

You must also like carcinogenic
chemical compounds in your food.

DELORES

Yes, they're delicious. Now shut up
and wash it.

HUCK

Yes, ma'am. Oh, let me get your
opinion.

Huck reaches for a plastic container of food on the counter,
peels back the lid, and presents it to Delores.

HUCK (CONT'D)

Does it smell like something's
having a party in this?

Delores sniffs it, makes a disgusted face, waves it away.

DELORES

You have an issue with my pan but
you need a second opinion on
whether to toss **that**? I'm going up
to take my bath. Get the phone if
it rings.

Shortly after Delores disappears upstairs, Huck hears a knock
at the kitchen back door. He dries his hands on a towel and
opens the door to see Maxine standing there when he opens the
door.

MAXINE

Got any left of what you were
smoking last night?

EXT. RURAL BACK ROAD -- DAY

Huck and Maxine lean on Maxine's Jeep Cherokee smoking a
blunt, trading it back and forth as they take turns
conversing.

MAXINE

Casey was mad at me for bringing up
our sex life in front of you.

Huck takes the blunt and squints up at the sun.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

No comment?

Huck lets out a chuckle and hands her the blunt.

HUCK

That depends. Was bringing up your
sex life an accident?

MAXINE

No. It was a joke. What are you suggesting?

HUCK

I'm not stoned enough to get into this with you.

MAXINE

You're plenty stoned enough to get into whatever it is you think we're not getting into. What are we not getting into?

HUCK

Forget it. Forget I said anything.

MAXINE

You got one of those Men In Black flashy memory stick thingies on you? Because if you don't, then no, forgetting it isn't an option for me. **What** are we not getting into?

HUCK

You know I still love you, right?

MAXINE

Whoa! Bash me in the face with a baseball bat why don't ya? What do you expect me to do with **that** declaration?

HUCK

Tell me you know I still love you. You do, right?

Maxine seems annoyed and imposed upon.

MAXINE

If I could stop the possibility from crossing my fucking mind, I would. But what really matters is I don't love you back. Not that way. Not anymore.

HUCK

I know he's not fucking you right.

MAXINE

(Hands indignantly on her hips)
Excuse me?

HUCK

You wanted me to know is the reason you brought up your sex life.

MAXINE

I would take out a contract hit on you today if I was more confident in my bank balance.

HUCK

You want to talk about something else?

MAXINE

I don't think I want to talk to you anymore at all. About anything.

HUCK

Let's pretend that after you said Casey got mad at you for bringing up your sex life, I said something like, "Oh really?"

MAXINE

You want a do-over on that?

HUCK

I want a do-over on everything, but just that for now.

MAXINE

Okay then. Casey was mad at me for bringing up our sex life in front of you.

HUCK

Oh really? Why do you think that was?

MAXINE

Because he thinks I still wanna fuck you.

HUCK

But doesn't he know you don't love me like that anymore?

MAXINE

He knows I don't have to be in love with someone to want to fuck them. And he knows that firsthand in fact.

Hucks notices Maxine has stopped smiling.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

What did you mean when you said you knew Casey doesn't fuck me right? Right **how**? The way **you** did? What if I don't believe you'd remember how anyway? It's been years. And don't you think what gets me off might have changed or evolved at all over that time?

HUCK

I think the more you talk about it, the more your panties are gonna stick to you.

MAXINE

Goddamn you, Huck Code.

EXT. REAR OF JEEP CHEROKEE -- DAY

The liftgate is open and Huck and Maxine have frantic sex in the back.

INT. JEEP CHEROKEE -- DAY (LATER)

Maxine drives with a look of guilt on her face. She looks to see that Huck is asleep in the passenger seat.

MAXINE

Huck?

HUCK

What?

MAXINE

You really asleep or do you just want to avoid talking about what we just did?

HUCK

I'm really asleep.

MAXINE

It can't happen again, okay? What we just did.

HUCK

Did you mean to tell me that before we fucked?

MAXINE

God, it sounds so horrible like that when you say "fucked" in the past tense now that we've actually done it.

HUCK

Well you better get used to it because past is the only tense that applies here.

MAXINE

Why do I feel like a tramp?

HUCK

I'm gonna treat that like a rhetorical question.

MAXINE

Just agree with me that it can't happen again.

HUCK

Fine. I agree with you.

EXT. DELORES' HOUSE -- DAY (LATER)

Huck climbs out of Maxine's SUV and approaches the front steps. He turns to look back at Maxine but she peels off when she sees him turning. He resumes climbing the front steps.

INT. DELORES' FRONT ROOM -- DAY

Entering the house, Huck sees Delores lying face down on the floor.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING AREA -- NIGHT

DOCTOR SATURN comes into the waiting area where Huck, Casey, and Maxine have been awaiting word on Delores' condition. Davy and Julie play with coloring books at a table.

DOCTOR SATURN

Your mother has regained consciousness. Her head scans haven't come back yet, but I'm thinking she has a concussion from the fall.

HUCK

What was her blood alcohol?

DOCTOR SATURN
High. Point two percent.

Casey puts his hand over his forehead.

CASEY
Jesus.

DOCTOR SATURN
You can go in and talk to her, but
try to make it a brief visit. I
want her to get some rest.

CASEY
She can't come home with us?

DOCTOR SATURN
I'd prefer to keep an eye on her
overnight.

Maxine looks extremely uncomfortable, her body drawn in upon
itself like she dare not expand.

HUCK
(To Maxine)
What's with you?

MAXINE
Nothing.

CASEY
You feeling sick?

Maxine shakes her head from side to side and bows it.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

Delores is sitting up in bed. Her forehead is bandaged. Huck
and Casey stand on either side of the bed while Maxine --
still looking ready to jump out of her skin -- sits in a
chair at the foot of it.

DELORES
(To Huck)
Are you sure there's no way I can
go home tonight?

HUCK
I'm sure nobody in this room's a
doctor, and Dr. Saturn said you
should stay overnight.

DELORES

Oh, what does he know?

CASEY

That you had a crazy high BAC and that you should probably get some help for your drinking.

DELORES

Don't start with that now.

CASEY

Seems like a great time to start with it actually, seeing as you could've been dead when Huck found you.

(To Huck)

How long had you been gone anyway? Where did you go?

Maxine fixes Huck with a look of apprehension.

DELORES

Now don't go blaming, Huck. I don't need him babysitting me.

HUCK

Does anybody need anything from the vending machine? I'm gonna get a bag of chips.

DELORES

No.

MAXINE

No.

CASEY

I'm good.

Huck goes to leave.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Hey, Huck, don't get lost. I gotta be getting back to work to clock out before I get ready to open up the bar.

Huck nods and leaves.

DELORES

(To Casey)

Won't you get in trouble if someone
sees you didn't clock out before
you left two hours ago?

Maxine stands abruptly.

MAXINE

I think I do want something from
the vending machine.

Maxine follows Huck's path out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA -- NIGHT

Huck peruses the vending machine selections in an otherwise
empty cafeteria when Maxine scampers up behind him.

MAXINE

Was I the only one about to lose my
mind in there?

Huck puts coins into the machine slot.

HUCK

I'm hoping that's another
rhetorical question.

MAXINE

What are you gonna tell him if he
asks where you went again?

HUCK

I don't know. Where did you tell
him you were so I don't
accidentally say the same place?

MAXINE

He called me on his cell and said
to pick up the kids from day care
and meet him here at the hospital
after you called him. I assume he
thought I was home.

HUCK

Got it. So I'll tell him I was any
place but your house.

MAXINE

You don't seem to be taking any of
this seriously.

HUCK

You act like he already suspects something.

Huck fishes a bag of potato chips from the machine and proceeds to eat them.

MAXINE

I feel guilty. Don't you feel guilty?

HUCK

I feel stoned. I feel hungry. I feel like someone who just found his mother lying face down, unconscious on the floor, which is actually a new one to me. If guilt is in there somewhere, it hasn't really had the chance to crowd the other feelings out yet.

MAXINE

Yeah, maybe it's the weed. Do you think it's the weed that has me feeling so paranoid?

Huck takes Maxine by the shoulders and kisses her deeply on the mouth. She makes no attempt to resist at first but soon pushes him away.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Are you insane? What if Casey walked in here looking for us?

HUCK

I thought maybe I could get you to relax.

MAXINE

If I thought **that** could get me to relax, I'd have you skip the preliminaries and take me to go fuck in a utility closet.

Huck grins broadly. Maxine pushes past him to put money in the vending machine.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

You're an incorrigible turd.

Casey enters the cafeteria just as Maxine is pulling out her Snickers bar. Casey playfully comes up behind her, rubbing her hips.

CASEY

Now you make sure that Snickers bar goes to all my favorite parts here. Hear?

MAXINE

(Uneasy)

Yeah.

CASEY

Huck, I got to take Maxine and the kids home before I clock out and open the club. You gonna be here with Mom for a bit? Make sure she stays put?

HUCK

Yeah, I'll stick around.

CASEY

Okay. Thanks for making sure she got here okay and for taking care of her in general. I didn't mean to make it sound like you were negligent or anything, asking where you were. I know you got your own life to live.

HUCK

No, we're good.

Casey hugs Huck in a way that Huck's reaction makes clear he's not used to. Maxine is more disturbed than touched witnessing it.

CASEY

She'll be okay because we love her, man.

INT. CASEY AND MAXINE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Casey and Maxine lie side by side in their dark bedroom but neither one is sleeping. Casey's open eyes seem to ponder contentedly, while Maxine's ponder under the weight of worry.

CASEY

I feel like I should tell you something.

MAXINE

Say whatever you want.

CASEY

That's just it. I haven't wanted to tell you about it for years. I probably never would have. But today?

MAXINE

What so special about today?

CASEY

It's Huck.

MAXINE

Could you please just not tease out what it is you have to say? What about Huck?

CASEY

I've been hard on him and he doesn't deserve it. He's really proven that he's willing to step up. He's doing good on the job I got him with Spencer. And with Mom?

MAXINE

He found her face down on the floor. How much credit does he deserve for calling an ambulance?

CASEY

Well, it's more than just that. Are you okay? You seem agitated. Like, you have all day.

MAXINE

Maybe it's because I'm tired and you still haven't gotten to whatever it is you've waited years to tell me. No rush though. Take all night if you need to.

CASEY

All right, Jesus, Max. I just wanted to lead up to it right. Not just blurt out that I'm the reason Huck broke up with you when you two were in high school.

Maxine's agitation takes a backseat to her sudden curiosity.

MAXINE

What the fuck are you talking about?

CASEY

Way back before you and I got together, back when you were Huck's problem...

MAXINE

Problem? I would save the attempts at humour right now if I were you and get to the confession.

CASEY

When you were with Huck I was jealous because I liked you too.

MAXINE

Get to the surprising stuff. I already knew you liked me back then.

CASEY

You did? Why weren't you nicer to me then?

MAXINE

I was plenty nice to you considering you were a creep.

CASEY

A creep?

MAXINE

You creeped me out sometimes with all your gun and military magazines and conspiracy talk about the government. Thank god you've mostly grown out of it.

Casey seems put off balance by Maxine's revelation and emboldened to finish telling her his own without trying to lessen the sting.

CASEY

And so I told Huck you screwed around on him with Cecil Majors the night after the party at our house when Mom and Dad were in Oregon.

Maxine shoots to sitting erect.

MAXINE

So *that's* the reason I heard Huck went to Cecil's house looking for a fight after he broke up with me?

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I heard it was because Cecil stole some of Huck's grunge CDs from the party.

CASEY

I think he did that too. I think that's why I said it was him you cheated on Huck with.

MAXINE

Why on earth would you tell him something like that? And why wouldn't Huck even ask me if it was true or not?

CASEY

I told him that because I was pissed with you for blowing me off at the party. After it was you who stopped me from ratting Huck out to our parents for throwing it. As far as why he didn't ask you if it was true, I just knew my brother well enough to know that he wouldn't.

Now Maxine is out of the bed on her feet, looking down on Casey.

MAXINE

I never blew you off, you just got drunk, obnoxious, and too handsy. If you weren't my boyfriend's brother, believe me, you would have **known** what me blowing you off looked like.

CASEY

I didn't feel good about what I did.

MAXINE

Lying you mean. You didn't feel good about lying about me. Did you not feel good **while** you were lying about me or **after** you lied about me?

CASEY

Is there a distinction between the two that I'm not aware of?

MAXINE

There are **several** things you're not aware of, Casey Code.

CASEY

Could you just calm down and get back into bed?

MAXINE

What I'm asking myself now is why **would** you choose to blow the lid off your little secret? Not just now, but **ever**? To what end?

CASEY

I told you. I felt a sudden surge of brotherly love for Huck today and I got to thinking how I may have not always been the best older brother.

MAXINE

I get that, but shouldn't you have confessed all this to him instead of me?

CASEY

Well, you're my wife now.

MAXINE

I don't follow you.

CASEY

Well I sorta wronged **both** of you.

MAXINE

Good math. Poor adverb choice with "sorta" however.

CASEY

Maybe telling you wasn't the best idea.

MAXINE

Maybe you've had better ones.

Maxine pulls the comforter off the bed, draping it over her shoulders. It trails behind her as she marches for the bedroom door.

CASEY

Where are you going?

MAXINE

I'm sleeping in the kids' room.

CASEY

Look I'm sorry, okay? You know I
get cold with just the sheets.

Maxine slams the door behind her.

SUPER: Three Months Later

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- DAY

Huck and Maxine are getting dressed after a lovemaking
session. Huck glances down at the still made bed.

HUCK

Maybe one day we'll take the time
to pull the sheets down before we
get to smashing.

MAXINE

You're the one who can't wait.

HUCK

Yeah? Well you're the one who
couldn't wait much longer than that
if you really **could** wait. And you
can't.

Maxine's posture changes as she delivers an obviously
prepared statement.

MAXINE

I need you to stop seducing me,
Huck. I'm dead serious. I knew you
needed a friend once you got home
from prison, and I guess on some
level I chose to ignore, I knew you
probably needed some benefits with
that friendship. But I'm starting
to think you don't see this as a
temporary arrangement.

HUCK

What's so arranged about this?
Seems like more of an **un**arrangement
to me. Is your being my brother's
wife the only issue? Why you feel
anything has to be temporary?

MAXINE

There'd be no issues at all if you
would do as I ask.

Maxine eases Huck down to the mattress with her and cuddles
up to him. She looks up into his face with doe eyes.

HUCK

What?

MAXINE

Stop seducing me!

Huck and Maxine exchange a kiss.

HUCK

You need a ride to the hospital?
I'm only asking from when I twisted
your arm earlier. Wanna make sure
nothing's dislocated.

Maxine laughs and hits him with her pillow.

MAXINE

I don't want you to think I'm easy.

HUCK

Too late.

Maxine loosely slips her fingers around Huck's neck and mock
strangles him.

HUCK (CONT'D)

I've meaning to ask you. How is it
the shape and firmness of your ass
hasn't changed since you were on
the Morgantown Mohigan sprint team?

MAXINE

Stop it, Huck. I don't have a
change of panties to go home in.

HUCK

Well then your panties are in
serious trouble because I wrote you
a poem.

MAXINE

(Smiling)

Get the fuck out of here.

HUCK

Don't cuss the romance out of it.

MAXINE

Sorry. Dazzle me with your words.

Huck reaches for his cell phone and begins scrolling on it.

HUCK

I emailed it to myself. Here it is:
 You're a billion years old and you
 haunt like a star
 Burning for never, light of years,
 heavy time
 You're proof love is a chemist,
 musical notes on sugar-phosphate
 backbone
 Flames shaped into dances, souls to
 swimmers in time
 You're ten billion years old, five
 flickers in the eyes of a bee
 Kissing flowers, inciting gardens

MAXINE

You expect me to get wet over
 something that doesn't even rhyme?

HUCK

You don't like it?

MAXINE

It sent a shiver up my sugar-
 phosphate backbone, whatever that
 is.

HUCK

It's part of the structure of DNA.

MAXINE

Well, at least my panties are safe.
 With some of the morsels lodged in
 that brain of yours, do you ever
 wonder what your life would be now
 if those frat boys hadn't snitched
 on you after their party got
 busted?

HUCK

You make it sound like I was about
 to get religion and stop dealing or
 something the day after I sold them
 that ounce.

MAXINE

I don't think you'd have even been
 dealing at all if we'd stayed
 together.

HUCK
It's a possibility.

MAXINE
It's a fact. I wouldn't have put up
with it. *I'd* have been the religion
you got.

Huck smiles at her certainty and she smiles back. Maxine gets
up to finish dressing and Huck does the same.

HUCK
Do you ever wonder in all *your*
secret suffering what your life
would be now if you'd taken that
athletic scholarship, or got a
degree in sports medicine like you
always talked about?

MAXINE
I try not to. Having Julie and Davy
makes up for any regrets that might
pop up if I find myself dwelling on
the past.

HUCK
It's like I said. No time spent
learning is a waste of it.

Maxine looks to be debating whether to continue down the
course she'd steered their conversation.

MAXINE
Casey told me something recently
and I've been wondering if he's
shared it with you too.

HUCK
Uh-oh.

MAXINE
You smell an uh-oh? Why do you
smell an uh-oh? It's not an uh-oh.

HUCK
What is it then?

MAXINE
He told me he lied to you and told
you I cheated on you with Cecil
Majors the night after your party.

HUCK
Yeah, I know.

MAXINE

You know he lied to you?

HUCK

Yeah. Not right away. But yeah.

MAXINE

You broke up with me over that lie.

HUCK

I did.

MAXINE

Without even so much as asking me if it was true first. Did you expect that I'd lie about it?

HUCK

I don't know what I expected. I got scared and blew everything up between us without thinking. By the time I went for an answer to the question from Cecil and found out the truth, you already hated me.

MAXINE

Where'd you hear **that** from?

HUCK

Cecil's sister Rhonda.

MAXINE

That bitch was exaggerating. And she was hot for you anyway.

HUCK

Even so, I couldn't begin to figure out how I was going to get you to take me back.

MAXINE

Couldn't summon the courage? That doesn't sound like you.

HUCK

I don't think you realize how scary you can be, Maxine. You didn't see how you looked to me when I broke things off with you.

MAXINE

You mean with tears streaking mascara all over my face?

HUCK

And snot coming out of your nose.

MAXINE

Fuck you, I didn't have snot coming out of my nose.

HUCK

You were crying but you had some cold murder in your eyes too, girl.

MAXINE

I wish you could've snapped a picture of that murderous look to show to me now. I'd like to see the expression that made you too scared to try to win back the woman you **said** you loved more than life itself.

HUCK

Did I say that?

MAXINE

You did. When you first talked me into having sex with you.

HUCK

Was telling you that what clinched it? I just thought you were drunk.

MAXINE

Me being drunk played the bigger part. Your talking game sure wasn't enough to get you over the finish line by itself. Sorry.

HUCK

My tactic was throwing everything at the wall and hoping something stuck back then. Still is sometimes.

MAXINE

So you didn't really love me more than life itself? I'm appalled.

HUCK

I can tell you I loved you nearly more than I could tolerate once I realized I'd fucked up and lost you.

Huck's unguarded confession sobers Maxine's mood. She clears her throat.

MAXINE

Yeah. Same here.

HUCK

Is it feeling icky now? Should I have not volunteered that?

MAXINE

I guess it's just hard to believe you could possibly have felt worse than I felt. You didn't seem to me to have any problem moving on.

HUCK

I couldn't let Casey think he'd got to me. That's why I never told him that I knew he'd lied about you and Cecil.

Maxine looks unprepared for this revelation.

MAXINE

Casey doesn't know that you know I didn't cheat on you with Cecil?

HUCK

I've never told him any different.

MAXINE

So that means.... What does that mean?

HUCK

It means what I just said. That I didn't want him to know that I knew he lied to me.

MAXINE

But why? So you could get back at him without him even seeing it coming?

HUCK

You're here with me again aren't you? He took something from me. It's only proper that I take it back.

MAXINE

What good is your revenge on him if he doesn't know you're getting it?

HUCK

I know I'm getting it is what matters.

MAXINE

And what am *I* getting?

HUCK

The pleasure of my company. Isn't that enough?

MAXINE

(Smiling slyly)
I honestly haven't decided that yet.

INT. DELORES' LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Davy sits on the couch examining a Christmas nutcracker when Julie comes to attempt to pull it from his grasp. He resists.

DAVY

No! No, Juwie!

JULIE

Let go.

Delores, seated watching TV nearby intercedes.

DELORES

(To Julie)
Julie, don't pester your brother. I let him have that to preoccupy him while you watched cartoons. Do you want me to switch the channel?

Julie releases the nutcracker and obediently takes her seat on the floor in front of the TV.

Huck enters the front door in his work clothes. Julie leaps up and darts over and is caught in his embrace. He kisses her cheek.

HUCK

(To Julie)
How's my booger princess today?

DELORES

(To Julie)
Your Uncle Huck needs to get in the shower and get ready to go.

(To Huck)
(MORE)

DELORES (CONT'D)

Where have you been? Maxine's
birthday party starts in an hour.

HUCK

The hospital.

Huck uncovers a bandaged shin beneath his ripped and blood-stained denim pants leg.

HUCK (CONT'D)

Got nicked by a falling buzz saw.
The sixteen stitches they put in
didn't take long, but the time
waiting to get them is what kept
me.

DELORES

My lord, Huck, you're lucky you
weren't killed.

JULIE

Does it hurt, Uncle Huck?

HUCK

It did all the way up until I got
me some booger sugar from you. Can
I have some more?

JULIE

Yeah.

Huck squeezes her and kisses her cheek again.

DELORES

(To Huck)

I'm not as hip or as confident in
my hearing as I once was, but did
you just say "booger sugar" to your
little niece?

HUCK

Honest mistake.

DELORES

Right, as opposed to all the
dishonest ones you've made in your
life.

Huck bounds over to accost his mother with kisses to her face.

HUCK

Has sobriety been making you grumpy
again, Mom?

Delores shoos him.

DELORES
Go shower.

INT. THE HOLLER CLUB -- NIGHT

Casey is working behind the bar watching Spencer hit on Ashley Webber. Spencer is talking into her ear and she listens politely -- if not enthusiastically -- as Casey places a margarita in front of her.

ASHLEY
(To Spencer)
Thanks.

SPENCER
Any time. So what do you think
about what I was saying?

ASHLEY
I don't know. What were you saying
again?

At a table by a stage where karaoke equipment has been set up, birthday girl Maxine holds court as the dealer in a poker game. IAN, one of the players, appears to nod off while studying the hand he's just been dealt.

MAXINE
Wake up, Ian! You can play cards or
you can go shoot up and OD in a
stall, but you can't do both.

Ian jerks his head up and pretends to be focused on his cards.

IAN
I'm cool. I was just thinking.

FRANCINE, another player, chimes in.

FRANCINE
Yeah, thinking about all the smack
you just did.

Others at the table laugh. Maxine, however, shows real concern. Maxine reaches across the table and puts her hand on Ian's arm.

MAXINE
Seriously, dude, if you're not okay
you can tell me.
(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I know you don't want me to spend the rest of my birthday worrying whether a good friend is gonna exit this world on the same day of the month my mother squeezed me out into it, do you?

We see Huck is now taking a seat at the table too.

HUCK

Don't let her feed you that story about her being born naturally, Ian. She ripped her mom a new hole coming out like that little xenomorph in the first Alien movie. And you can trust that if you OD here, she'll resuscitate you just so she can choke you back to death.

Maxine's smile and eyes fix on Huck while she continues to address Ian.

MAXINE

Right, but only because it's my birthday and I care about you.

IAN

I know, Max. Thanks. I promise I'll be fine.

MAXINE

(To Huck, still smiling)
And who asked for your input again, asshole?

Spencer's attempts to woo Ashley continue to hold Casey's attention at the bar.

SPENCER

(To Ashley)
It's like how people, like my ex-wife, like to talk about how people grow apart, but how no one ever talks about how people can grow closer together. You know?

CASEY

Not everyone keeping their distance from someone else is doing it because they don't know how to get closer.

Spencer doesn't look pleased by Casey's intrusion into the conversation.

ASHLEY

(To Spencer)

Yeah, how does someone get closer to someone they'd rather stay away from? Unless they're like cellmates and it's a non-consensual thing or something?

CASEY

Yeah, Spence, what about involuntary prison bitches?

SPENCER

(To Ashley)

Well, not...

(Gesturing towards Casey)

You'd have to ask his brother about what goes on between cellmates. What I meant was like two people who don't already hate each other. Like you and me. You don't hate *me*, right?

ASHLEY

I don't know enough to feel anything about you besides my mom always saying you were nice when she was in school with you.

Casey laughs on his way to the cash register overhearing this.

CASEY

I think he wants to take you out, Ashley.

ASHLEY

(To Spencer)

Not like on a date, right?

Spencer fumbles his words, visibly chagrined by Casey rushing him to his point.

SPENCER

No, I mean, yeah, but okay -- yeah? Like on a date?

CASEY

She'll get back to you after she consults with her mother, Spence.

SPENCER

Do me a favor and go pour someone a drink down at the other end of the bar, Casey.

CASEY

Oh, lighten up.

Ashley sees the disappointment on Spencer's face and softens towards him.

ASHLEY

I guess you're kinda cute for an older guy. Enough that you don't have to keep buying me drinks to get me drunk.

Ashley's smile cheers Spencer up immediately. The jukebox begins playing a slow song.

SPENCER

You wanna dance?

ASHLEY

Sure.

Casey gives Spencer a thumbs up as he leads Ashley out to the dance floor.

Kurt comes to the bar.

KURT

(To Casey)

Your wife is ready to do her birthday karaoke, but she wants another whiskey sour first.

CASEY

How many has she had already?

KURT

Shouldn't **you** be the one keeping count? She snagged me on my way to the pisser and asked me to ask you to get her another drink. Guess she's too busy.

MAXINE (O.S.)

Royal flush, you sorry motherfuckers!

Casey's gaze follows Kurt's to where Maxine, fists raised high, towers triumphantly over the other players before raking the pot in.

INT. THE HOLLER CLUB -- NIGHT (LATER)

Spencer and Ashley are finishing a duet of "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around" by Stevie Nicks and Tom Petty on the karaoke stage. The crowd applauds as they step off and Maxine ascends.

Salt-N-Pepa's "Expression" booms from the speakers and Maxine gets into her groove, alternately swinging her hips and throwing her hair with deliberation, then agility, then deliberation.

From behind the bar Casey watches her rap and sing along to the lyrics on the monitor. He also sees Huck -- and nearly every other man in the place -- transfixed by her.

An especially drunken PATRON takes it upon himself to join Maxine on stage and position himself behind all her dynamic allure, particularly focused on her animated haunches.

The patron's hands follow the trajectory of Maxine's ass without making contact until she backs into them. The patron makes no attempt to back away and Maxine doesn't stop moving.

Spencer and Ashley are at the bar and notice Casey's mounting rage.

SPENCER

Hey Casey, you good?

CASEY

No.

ASHLEY

Your wife's a really good singer.

CASEY

Excuse me.

Casey marches from behind the bar towards the stage. Huck catches a glimpse of the look in his eyes and rushes to intercept him.

HUCK

Casey, she's a little drunk but she's fine.

Casey stalls his charge when Huck steps in front of him.

CASEY

So I'm supposed to be okay with another man's hands on her ass?

HUCK

You're supposed to trust that she can handle herself and won't let things get out of control.

CASEY

I love you Huck, but if you don't get out of my way...

HUCK

I love you too, man. Come on, let's go have a drink. We've barely had the chance to talk all night.

Casey sweeps Huck aside with the back of his arm and pushes forward. He reaches the stage and yanks the patron's ankle. The patron topples over and knocks Maxine into the karaoke equipment, cutting the music.

Huck watches the man's face and body hit the floor as Casey drags the man off the stage by his ankle. Casey continues dragging him through the silenced crowd.

MAXINE

(Into the microphone)

Casey, please. Honey, don't.

Casey reaches the men's room and enters with the patron.

INT. RESTROOM -- NIGHT -- CONTINUOUS

Casey releases the patron's ankle and looms over him.

CASEY

Get up.

PATRON

(Getting to his feet)

What the fuck, Casey?

Casey instantly pins the man against the wall by his throat.

CASEY

Don't call me by my first name like you know me. If you knew me, you'd know you were taking your life in your hands by rubbing them all over my wife's ass.

The patron struggles to take in the air needed to reply.

PATRON

She seemed cool with it.

CASEY

Do I seem cool with it?

PATRON

No.

CASEY

Did you expect I'd be cool with
letting everyone in here **think** I
was cool with it?

The force with which Casey clutches the patron is causing him to lose consciousness when Huck appears to pull Casey off him. The man slides down the wall to a stoop, holding his neck.

PATRON

I'll fucking sue you and own this
fucking place.

Huck lifts and points the patron towards the restroom door.

HUCK

(To patron)

Why don't you think that over and
sleep it off at home?

PATRON

(To Huck)

What? Are you the only other guy
allowed to touch her?

Huck grabs and hurls the man out by force. He turns back to Casey.

CASEY

What's he talking about?

HUCK

I don't know. Ancient history
probably. Look, Maxine's out there
balling her eyes out over how
you've embarrassed her.

CASEY

You gotta be shitting me -- How I
embarrassed **her**?

HUCK

Maybe you should call it a night
and take her home. I'll watch the
bar for you.

Casey's subsiding rage seems to have exhausted him as he leans against a wash basin and consider Huck's offer.

CASEY

You take her home for me. I won't have anything helpful to say to her at least until morning. Are you okay to drive?

HUCK

Yeah, sure, but...

Huck can't come up with a reason to decline.

CASEY

I'll pick up the kids at Mom's after I close up.

HUCK

You gonna be okay working the rest of the night?

CASEY

I'll manage. Thanks.

Casey gives Huck a quick hug and exits the men's room. Huck remains stuck in place, conflicted and not fully recovered from the emotional charge of what has just transpired.

INT. CAR -- NIGHT

Maxine subjects Huck to a tirade as he drives her home.

MAXINE

I mean, what -- did he think I was gonna **fuck** the guy or something right there on stage in front of everyone? Am I **that** big of a drunken whore? The sheer depth of insecurity he displayed boggles my mind!

HUCK

I guess.

MAXINE

And then to top it off by kicking me out of my own birthday party to avoid having **any** discussion whatsoever...

HUCK

Actually, I was the one who told him someone should take you home.

MAXINE

Someone? And did you just say you guess I'm that big of a drunken whore?

HUCK

No, I just said I guess. Meaning whatever you say. Meaning maybe give him a break.

MAXINE

Well, that's noble coming from someone who asked to drive his brother's wife home so he could fuck her!

HUCK

Now I **know** you're drunk.

MAXINE

Why, because the thought of a quick rage fuck with me never crossed your mind? Or do you only like me to cheat with you when I'm happy?

HUCK

No, because you're the absolute **last** person I'd try to seduce right now. And happy spouses generally don't cheat -- I don't know if you knew that.

MAXINE

Well maybe I'm such an easy whore you wouldn't **have** to seduce me.

HUCK

Oh, would you fucking stop?

MAXINE

Why don't **you** fucking stop? Right now. Pull over. I'm walking the rest of the way home.

HUCK

Maxine..

MAXINE

Pull the fuck over!

HUCK

It's nearly midnight and we're not close to anything.

MAXINE

I'm close to going ballistic if you don't pull this car over right now, Huck!

HUCK

Fine.

Huck pulls the car onto the shoulder of the road. He makes no further attempt to dissuade Maxine as she exits the car and slams the door behind her. He watches her charge off along the unlit road with his headlights at her back. She falls.

HUCK (CONT'D)

Shit.

EXT. ROADSIDE -- NIGHT

Huck comes to lift Maxine to her feet but is met with a sock to the face from her as he tries. She drops back to the ground. Huck rubs his jaw.

HUCK

Since I won't fuck you, you want me to fight you? Is that it?

MAXINE

You were only ever any good at the one thing. Why don't you just drive off? Or are you afraid I'll get home and tell Casey later what we've been doing and he'll come find you and kick the shit out of you?

Huck chuckles, exasperated. He raises his arms in surrender, heading back to the car and leaving her on the ground.

HUCK

Do whatever you think is gonna fix whatever's broken in your life. I'm gone. Happy birthday.

Huck hears Maxine quietly sob behind him as he goes. He stops and bows his head. The sobbing intensifies.

HUCK (CONT'D)

Is this a trick, Maxine? Because I can't promise I won't swing back this time if I turn around, come back, and you clock me again. It's late and my mother only raised me so well.

When he spins around Maxine is standing in front of him with tears rolling down her cheeks.

MAXINE

(In between sobs)

I don't know why I said all that. I didn't mean it.

HUCK

Did you mean to hit me?

MAXINE

(Smiling softly)

A little. But I wasn't going to again.

HUCK

At least you know what's good for you.

Maxine sobs and then laughs in quick succession, her gaze affectionate.

MAXINE

Knowing what's good for me doesn't seem to matter when it comes to you for some reason.

Maxine gently strokes Huck's face where she punched him. She kisses the spot and works her way to his lips. Huck pulls her in and their kissing becomes almost violent with torrid passion.

EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT -- DAY

Maxine exits a supermarket pushing a cart full of groceries. Julie walks at her mother's side while Davy is seated in the rear of the cart facing Maxine.

She hears a man call her name.

MARVIN (O.S.)

Maxine Code!

When she turns she sees the patron who jumped on the karaoke stage with her on her birthday approaching. She stops and stares but doesn't immediately place him.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

I'm Marvin Head. The guy you never got the chance to meet at the Holler Club.

MAXINE

I'm sorry, do I know you?

MARVIN

Guess we were both pretty wasted. When you were on stage doing the rap karaoke?

The discomfort on Maxine's face out of not being able to place him morphs into the slightly different discomfort of recognizing someone she had no burning desire to be reminded of ever again. Still she musters a polite smile. Davy and Julie stare on in silence.

MAXINE

Oh. Hello. Marvin is it?

MARVIN

That's right.

By this point Marvin is close enough to her to not have to yell. He smiles down at Julie and waves at Davy but says nothing for a moment.

MAXINE

Well, it's good to see you again, but I have to get my kids home and fix them something to eat.

MARVIN

Is it really? Good to see me again? Doesn't seem like you got a good look the first time, what with your husband dragging me away from you facedown.

MAXINE

No, I'm sorry, I guess I didn't. And I'm sorry about Casey. He got carried away.

MARVIN

Better than getting dragged away though, right?

MAXINE

Yeah.

Maxine looks uncertain and uneasy until Marvin lets out a laugh. She laughs nervously in kind.

MARVIN

I wasn't sure that was you when I saw you inside the market with your young ones. It's been a few weeks since that karaoke thing. How's Huck?

Maxine tries to conceal how thrown off she is by the mention of Huck's name.

MAXINE

He's okay I guess. I haven't seen him recently.

MARVIN

No? You haven't been seeing him recently?

MAXINE

I'm not sure what you're asking me.

MARVIN

I think you know. You were just hoping you didn't. I got a cousin. He's from here but he works at a motel a couple towns over. It doesn't matter whether you know him, but he knows you. You strike me as someone who's always had a lot of secret admirers. You think?

MAXINE

Sure, I know all my secret admirers. Any more asinine questions or can I go now?

MARVIN

No need to lose your friendly voice just yet. But back to what I was saying, my cousin says he sees you and your husband's brother coming and going at the motel all the time for months now. He's got this crazy idea that the two of you are.... well...

(Smirking and looking at her kids)

(MORE)

MARVIN (CONT'D)

I don't want to use indelicate language in front of your kids.

MAXINE

How very kind of you.

MARVIN

You may not think so once I'm finished saying what I have to say here. So my cousin thinks you guys come there to that motel to do whatever it is you do believing there's no risk of anyone around there knowing you.

MAXINE

Except your cousin.

MARVIN

Except my cousin. I don't want to keep you from getting your kids fed and all, so I'll get to my point. I'm gonna get a room there tomorrow night, which should give you enough time to come up with some excuse to tell your husband to get away from the house. I know you do most of your sneaking around during the weekdays while he's working, but I'm sure you can arrange something for us to spend a few hours together. I wouldn't expect you to stay overnight or anything.

MAXINE

And why would I do something like that?

Marvin looks very amused at this.

MARVIN

Is playing dumb something you do to come off sexier than you already are? It works, I don't mind. I'm just asking.

MAXINE

Considering what happened between you and Casey, what makes you think he'd believe you?

MARVIN

I let something slip in front of him in addressing Huck that night in the restroom. I'm betting it's a useful seed I planted.

MAXINE

Well, Mr. Head, Marvin, whatever, let me be perfectly frank then. I would rather risk my husband finding out about me and Huck and divorcing me than even thinking about doing something like that with you. If I were an actress being offered tens of millions of dollars to act in a movie with you where that was only a **simulated** scenario with my body double, I would turn the role down and burn the script in a fireplace. Is the extent of my **nauseated** disdain for your proposal coming across to you? I could throw up on your shoes if that would help. Now kindly fuck off. I gotta be going.

Maxine resumes on her path with her cart.

MARVIN

Is him divorcing you really the only thing at risk in the situation? I mean, what does that put your kids through? Not to mention what it does to the relationship between the brothers?

Maxine stops. Her knuckles are white with fury gripping the cart handle. Julie looks up, concerned but uncomprehending, by her mommy's heavy breathing and panicked, darting eyes.

Marvin jots something down on a piece of paper from his pocket. Still facing away from him, she glances down to see him drop it in her purse.

MARVIN (CONT'D)

That's my cell number. Call me and let me know when you're coming. I'll give you the room number.

Maxine's spine stiffens when Marvin, while walking off, slaps her ass. Davy and Julie witness her left standing frozen in her panic.

INT. DELORES' KITCHEN -- DAY

Delores sits patiently across the table from Maxine. Her daughter-in-law sits up straight, bracing herself. Davy and Julie can be seen and heard playing outside the screen door.

DELORES
You could start at the beginning.
I've always heard that works.

MAXINE
(Scoffing)
Right. If only I knew where that
was.

Delores leans to her side and swats a fly on a cabinet. She returns her attention to Maxine.

DELORES
I don't have any of that matcha tea
stuff you drink, but I have instant
coffee.

MAXINE
No, thank you.

Another silence passes.

DELORES
It's not a matter of trust or else
you wouldn't have asked to come
talk with me this morning.

MAXINE
I can tell you that you're nothing
like my mother. She'd have broken
me down by now with questioning.

DELORES
(Chuckling)
Her knowing you since you were born
didn't hurt her knowing what
questions to ask I would imagine.
By the time Huck brought you around
here as a teenager, your defenses
had been pretty well constructed.

Delores laughing encourages Maxine to relax.

MAXINE
I could never tell if you liked me.

DELORES
I didn't.

Maxine is taken aback by Delores' bluntness.

DELORES (CONT'D)

Not at first. I don't think any mother takes an easy liking to the first female her son falls in love with. And you being as smart and as sure of yourself as I was didn't help matters any.

MAXINE

You knew Huck was in love with me?

DELORES

I'll try not to take that as an insult. Of course I did. And I know he still does.

MAXINE

I'm surprised you don't see that as a problem considering I'm married to his brother.

DELORES

I never said I didn't see it as a problem. But it's not my problem to solve.

MAXINE

Oh.

Delores watches Maxine retreat into silence again.

DELORES

I could sit here and look at your pretty face all day, sweetheart, but these failing eyes can only see the *silhouette* of trouble on your face. The details, however awful and unmentionable you feel they are, will have to be mentioned.

MAXINE

I hate to say it, but I wish you still had something hard to drink in the house.

Delores wears a knowing smirk as she rises and opens the freezer. To Maxine's surprise, she reaches in and pulls out a half-finished blunt before grabbing a lighter from a drawer and returning to her chair.

DELORES

Huck got me smoking this stuff to help me cope with my vodka cravings.

MAXINE

Does it help?

DELORES

(Shrugging)

It doesn't hurt. Vodka will always be my first and worst love though.

Delores lights, hits, and passes the blunt across the table to Maxine. She exhales her anxiety in a huge plume of weed smoke before talking again.

MAXINE

Delores, I've been cheating on Casey with Huck.

Delores doesn't answer right away, letting the confession hang in the air.

DELORES

Should that surprise me?

MAXINE

Yes, it should surprise you.

DELORES

Okay. Then I'm surprised.

MAXINE

What you're really saying is you expected this to happen. Are you saying you expected this to happen?

DELORES

No, I just said I was surprised. Does me being surprised or not have any bearing on the issue?

MAXINE

Only as to whether or not my mother-in-law thinks I'm a slut.

Delores laughs at this.

DELORES

And here all this time I thought you were a modern progressive type.

(MORE)

DELORES (CONT'D)

A woman liberated from all the traditional gender notions of who can and can't screw whomever else with impunity. Do you want to know how many men I was with before I married Casey and Huck's father?

MAXINE

God no.

DELORES

Good, because I wasn't gonna tell you anyway. Plus it would take us too far off course from the heart of this discussion. So I'll ask how surprised were **you** that something started up again between you and Huck?

MAXINE

How do you mean?

DELORES

I mean would you say you were blindsided? Didn't see it coming? Could never in a thousand years imagine it happening?

MAXINE

Well it's not like we were strangers and I'd never been with him before.

DELORES

So you're saying there was precedent involved.

MAXINE

Yeah. Precedent.

DELORES

You were already familiar with each other's naughty parts.

MAXINE

If you wanna be crude about it.

DELORES

I don't waste time sprinkling sugar on shit. You both gave in to doing something that you wanted, and remembering how good it felt to be together made giving in that much easier.

MAXINE

I didn't expect you to try to make me feel better about cheating, but I wasn't looking for a description of the water I'm drowning in either.

DELORES

Sounds like you're ready to tell me what's really on your mind then.

MAXINE

Do you know the truth behind what caused Huck to break it off with me in the first place?

DELORES

Casey let something slip about it to me when he was drunk at his father's wake five years ago. It was obvious he'd been wrestling with guilt. And before you ask, yes I knew that Huck knew his brother had lied to him about you cheating. Sons tell their mothers things that they keep from each other, the same way those two have shared things with each other they think they're keeping from me.

MAXINE

They *think*?

DELORES

I know my sons. I know Huck probably feels in some part justified in sneaking around with you behind Casey's back for what he did. What I'm curious about is whether you cheated with him before or *after* you found out about Casey's lie?

MAXINE

Do I get points for honesty if I admit I found out after I'd already cheated?

DELORES

No one's keeping score, but I'm sure it helped ease your conscience.

(MORE)

DELORES (CONT'D)

In the end it doesn't matter what justifications we make to ourselves or anyone else for doing what we know to be the wrong thing. But I still haven't lost the sense that none of this has anything to do what you really want to tell me anyway. You think you're ready to get to it?

MAXINE

(Letting out a deep sigh)
There's this guy who was at the club the night of my birthday party.

DELORES

As if this situation needed a third pair of testicles involved.

MAXINE

It was the guy Casey dragged through the bar. Somehow he found out about the affair and he's blackmailing me. He wants me to meet him at a motel tomorrow night to have sex.

DELORES

Sugar on shit. He wants to **fuck** you.

MAXINE

(Cringing)
Okay, he wants to fuck me. Or else he's gonna tell Casey about me and Huck. And I have no reason to believe he's bluffing.

DELORES

I see. And you want my advice about what to do.

MAXINE

I **did** want your advice. Now I'm almost too terrified to ask.

DELORES

You have bigger things to fear than advice you're not obliged to follow. Now tell me something. Do you see any way out of **not** telling Casey about the affair?

(MORE)

DELORES (CONT'D)

Without giving this reptile what he wants that is?

MAXINE

Without resorting to murder? No. I don't.

DELORES

Well then you have a choice. It's not an ideal choice, but it's the less catastrophic one. Casey will have to find out you've been unfaithful. But it will be with -- what's this reptile's name?

MAXINE

Marvin.

DELORES

He'll have to catch you with Marvin.

MAXINE

You're telling me I should go ahead and fuck Marvin? Have we completely shelved the murder option?

DELORES

It doesn't have to get that far. Just far enough that Casey catches you at the motel together.

MAXINE

You don't think he'll want a divorce?

DELORES

Some heartbreak is gonna be inevitable. No way around that. But it's your best shot at saving your family. **Our** family. I don't see your marriage rebounding if Casey finds out it's Huck you've been sleeping with.

MAXINE

Sugar on shit. If he finds out it's Huck I've been **fucking**.

DELORES

Keep your sense of humor. You'll need it for the rough road you've got ahead of you.

Maxine tears up at this.

MAXINE

Do you really think my marriage is worth saving?

DELORES

That's not my call, dear. All I can tell you is that you gave me two beautiful grandbabies who deserve a mother and father in their lives, however flawed you may be. First question you've got to ask yourself is, do you have it in you to completely break things off with Huck? Because if not, nothing else about the plan I just laid out for you will make a bit of difference in the long run.

Maxine nods, letting that bitter truth sink in.

INT. CASEY AND MAXINE'S DINING ROOM -- NIGHT

Maxine watches Casey at the table, his mouth low over his plate as he shovels spaghetti into it. She pours milk into Julie and Davy's glasses.

MAXINE

You must be famished. I never thought you were a big fan of my spaghetti.

CASEY

I had to skip lunch today to fix someone's fuck-up.

MAXINE

That sounds like a story of interest.

CASEY

Whose?

MAXINE

Mine. I'm your wife. We should share stories about our day, don't you think?

Casey looks up from his food.

CASEY

Okay, honey. What happened was, I had to skip lunch today because someone who works under me fucked something up, so it fell on me to fix it. And now that I've elaborated and stretched that fascinating thread as far as I possibly could have stretched it, I'm still having trouble seeing exactly what you might have found interesting.

MAXINE

Nothing. I was just in the mood to hear you flex your smartass muscles. Well done.

CASEY

Thank you.

MAXINE

Care to hear about my day?

CASEY

If you think you can top mine.

MAXINE

I ran into an old girlfriend at the supermarket.

CASEY

Oh yeah? Who?

MAXINE

You don't know her. I met her during a high school track competition with another school in the region. We kept in touch, writing and phoning each other for a while after graduation, but she moved I think and I lost her address or something. I can't remember exactly, but we lost contact. I'd nearly forgotten all about her and just happened to run into her today. Life's funny like that, huh?

CASEY

She live here now?

MAXINE

Close by. Anyway, she invited me to meet her for a drink tomorrow night to catch up. Would you mind watching the kids if you don't have anything else to do? I shouldn't be more than a couple hours.

CASEY

No, I don't mind.

MAXINE

I appreciate that, thanks.

JULIE

Mommy, who's Marvin?

MAXINE

Mommy and Daddy are talking, sweetie.

CASEY

I just said I'd watch the kids. Was there more left to tell me about your day? Who's Marvin?

MAXINE

(Nervously, quickly)
Charlene's husband's name I think. Julie must have overheard her mention him. Did I tell you my girlfriend's name was Marlene?

CASEY

No, you just said it was **Charlene**.

MAXINE

Right, sorry. Charlene. Julie, honey, if you're not going to finish your vegetables I want you to put your plate in the sink, wash up, and change into your pajamas.

JULIE

I'm not ready for bed yet, Mommy.

MAXINE

You can watch some TV after you change.

The doorbell rings and Maxine coaxes Julie out of her chair on her way to answering the door.

EXT. FRONT DOOR -- NIGHT

Huck rings the doorbell again and is about to knock when Maxine opens the door.

MAXINE

Hey.

HUCK

Hey yourself. Casey here?

MAXINE

He's eating dinner.

Huck waits expectantly to be invited in. Maxine stands looking at him in silence.

HUCK

Did you poison him?

MAXINE

What?

HUCK

You're standing there in the doorway looking all guilty like you're blocking entry to a crime scene. Sexy but also guilty.

MAXINE

Thanks, Huck, but what do you need?

HUCK

To come in and see my brother. Did you forget that fast? I was kidding about the poison, but now you've got me worried.

MAXINE

You and I need to talk, but not now and not here.

HUCK

Perfect. Can I come in now or are you not finished acting like a professional weirdo?

Maxine reluctantly stands aside to permit Huck entry to the house.

INT. CASEY'S BASEMENT "MAN CAVE" -- NIGHT (LATER)

Huck and Casey drink beers and talk politics.

CASEY

If I were in a cult, I think I'd know it, Huck.

HUCK

No one in a cult thinks that they're in a cult. You know when they find out? When they're not in the cult anymore.

CASEY

I have a certain political world view, and I vote in accordance with that world view. It's as simple as that.

HUCK

Don't try to put a rational face on crazy. The man's up to his turkey neck in indictments, and half the time thinks he lost the presidency to the same guy he thinks he beat in 2016.

CASEY

He remembers he never ran against Obama often enough.

HUCK

Would he remember not to confuse the nuclear launch code biscuit with his bank card often enough?

Huck rises from his seat.

HUCK (CONT'D)

Hey, bro, I need to take a piss. Is the toilet down here still acting up?

CASEY

Yeah, you'll have to use the one upstairs. And get us a couple more beers while you're up there, will ya libtard?

HUCK

Why don't you have any in the mini fridge down here? Is that fucked too?

CASEY

Yeah.

HUCK

Geez.

Huck heads upstairs.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Maxine carries a basket of folded clothes out of the laundry room and nearly collides with Huck as he exits the upstairs bathroom.

MAXINE

You scared me.

Huck peeks into her basket and lifts out a pair of Maxine's panties.

HUCK

I like these. Why don't you wear them anymore?

She snatches the panties from him and shoves them back into the basket.

MAXINE

(Whispering)

Lower your voice. The kids are asleep.

HUCK

(Dropping to a whisper)

Why don't you wear them anymore?

MAXINE

You're blocking my way.

HUCK

Can I bend you over the washer in there?

MAXINE

Are you drunk or just stupid?
Casey's right downstairs. Move.

Maxine pushes past him but he slips his arms around her waist from behind, halting her advance. He nuzzles her hair and she appears to weaken in her resolve to resist him.

HUCK

You said we needed to talk.

MAXINE

I recall. I also recall saying not here. Please let go of me Huck. I'll call you later and we'll talk then.

HUCK

I guess I got a problem.

MAXINE

Yes you do.

Huck releases her and she carries her basket into her bedroom.

EXT. TRAILER PARK -- DAY

Marvin Head plays fetch with his Pit Bull Terrier in a grassy clearing in front of his double-wide. His cell phone rings.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK -- DAY

Maxine holds her cell phone to her ear and is seated at a bench by a small playground where Julie and Davy are playing.

MAXINE

(To Marvin)

It's me.

INTERCUT MAXINE/MARVIN

MARVIN

You like to cut it close I see.

MAXINE

Let's keep this short.

MARVIN

I'll do my best. What are you wearing? To come see me I mean?

MAXINE

A dress I made out of a burlap sack. What difference does it make so long as you get to see me take it off?

MARVIN

I'll take it off if it's all the same to you, baby doll.

MAXINE

Don't call me baby doll, you diseased turd.

MARVIN

The diseased turd who's gonna be going deep up into your frisky ass. And I don't need you to like me for it. A little hostility makes it sweeter for me in fact.

Maxine yawns.

MAXINE

Sorry, I was distracted by another more interesting conversation about a colonoscopy going on nearby. What were you saying?

MARVIN

I said I'm gonna pull your hair and donkey fuck all the sass out of your hot, smart mouth.

MAXINE

Easy, don't soil yourself. Just give me the time and the room number so I can go sterilize this phone.

Maxine gets the information and ends the call. She scrolls through her contacts and makes another call.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Huck?

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE -- DAY

Huck is ducking behind a dumpster with his cell phone.

HUCK

I know you wanted to talk but can we make this quick? Either that or call me back in another twenty when I'm break?

INTERCUT MAXINE/HUCK

MAXINE

What I have to say won't take long. We can't see each other anymore.

HUCK

That might be tricky considering
our common familial connections.

MAXINE

You know what I mean. Don't make me
spell it out.

HUCK

Did something happen to make you
decide this?

MAXINE

Yeah, I woke up the other morning
and saw a selfish bitch looking
back at me in the mirror while I
was brushing my teeth.

HUCK

What if I don't like it?

MAXINE

Factoring in the possibility that
you **would** like it doesn't make much
sense, now does it?

HUCK

No, I guess it doesn't. I guess
love is the only issue left then.

MAXINE

I guess it is.

HUCK

I guess I could take it as a
challenge. See if I could get over
you twice and only lose my mind
once.

MAXINE

I guess you could. You're older and
wiser now.

HUCK

Who said the first time is the time
I'm talking about?

Maxine lets out a little laugh.

MAXINE

Either way I have faith in our
ability not to destroy each other.

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I have faith that the truth that this can't go anywhere isn't completely lost to us. I have faith that even though beautiful things don't always last, what we've had together doesn't have to be mourned. It will always be a part of who we are, and I'll never regret that.

HUCK

I guess.

MAXINE

I guess too.

HUCK

I guess one last goodbye screw would be totally out of the question too, right?

Maxine laughs harder this time.

MAXINE

Goodbye, Huck.

HUCK

Your ass is truly, **criminally** underrated you know.

MAXINE

So you've previously indicated. Good**bye** Huck.

HUCK

Yeah, Max. I'll see you around at the family functions. I love you. I guess.

MAXINE

I love you too.

INT. CASEY'S LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Casey lies sleeping on the couch with Davy straddling him. Huck sits on the floor with Julie collaborating on a coloring book picture.

JULIE

Frogs aren't blue, Uncle Huck.

HUCK

You've never seen a blue frog?

JULIE

No. There are blue frogs?

HUCK

Sure. I see them all the time at work.

JULIE

There are blue frogs where you work?

HUCK

Sure. How do you think they get the money they need to take care of their blue frog babies?

JULIE

But they don't have pockets. Where do they put their money?

HUCK

Oh, you're so smart. You caught Uncle Huck in a fib.

Julie laughs at Huck.

Casey's cell phone rings. He awakens and lowers Davy to the floor to get to the phone in his pocket. He looks at the number calling and answers.

CASEY

Yeah, Mom.

INT. DELORES' KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Delores calls from the cordless landline in her kitchen.

DELORES

Casey are you sitting down?

INTERCUT CASEY/DELORES

CASEY

I was laying down asleep when you called.

DELORES

I thought you were watching the kids.

CASEY

I am. Huck's here too though. He stopped by to return the steel toe boots I loaned him. He's playing with Julie now. What's up? How'd you know I was watching the kids?

DELORES

Maxine stopped by to borrow something and told me when I asked why they weren't with her. But here's the thing. I have reason to think she's not where she told you she was going.

CASEY

What are you talking about?

Huck looks up from Julie's coloring book at Casey, who has stopped talking and is just nodding seriously in intervals.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Okay, thanks Mom. I'll call you back.

Casey ends the call, gets slowly to his feet. His expression is dazed.

HUCK

Is Mom okay?

CASEY

She's fine. Take a ride with me?

EXT. MOTEL -- NIGHT

Maxine strolls to room 61 and knocks on the door. Marvin opens it wearing only a towel around his waist.

MARVIN

You're here. I just got out of the shower.

MAXINE

Astute observations on both counts. Can we get this over with with a minimum of talk?

MARVIN

Talking's not what I had in mind either. Come on in.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Maxine puts her purse on the bed and looks around the room.

MAXINE

Do you think I could get a quick shower first before we get to it? I sweat a lot when I'm nervous.

MARVIN

That's surprising.

MAXINE

That I sweat?

MARVIN

That you're nervous. You talk so tough on the phone.

MAXINE

Can I take a shower or not?

MARVIN

There's that sass that gets me going.

Marvin steps close to her and rests his hands on her hips, eyeing her up and down. Maxine's posture remains guarded.

MAXINE

I'd feel a lot better after a shower.

Marvin sniffs around her neck.

MARVIN

You being a little sticky and pungent doesn't matter to me. I don't care.

MAXINE

Well I do.

Marvin relents, backing away and extending an arm in the direction of the bathroom. Maxine takes her purse and shuts the door behind her.

INT. MOTEL BATHROOM -- NIGHT

Maxine turns on the shower. She puts her hands on the sink and leans her face towards the mirror.

MAXINE
(Muttering to herself)
Come on, Casey, hurry up and get
here.

EXT. MOTEL PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

Casey's truck pulls in and parks with Huck on the passenger side. Casey gets out and goes around to Huck's side and Huck rolls down his window.

HUCK
Room 61 she said?

CASEY
Yeah.

HUCK
How you gonna handle this?

CASEY
I'm still working through that in
my head.

HUCK
You don't want me to go to the door
with you?

CASEY
No.

HUCK
What exactly did Mom say?

CASEY
By the time I'm done going into it
with you, they could be already
getting dressed.

HUCK
So you want to catch them in the
act?

CASEY
No, not really.

HUCK
Does Mom even know for sure her
information is right?

CASEY

I don't know. But I've been thinking about other things Maxine said that were kinda off.

HUCK

Like what?

CASEY

Names. Like I said, I don't have time to go into it.

HUCK

How much more time are you gonna spend not going into it you think? Five? Ten minutes?

CASEY

I'm still thinking, goddamn it, Huck.

Huck takes a beat to watch Casey think.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Okay.

Casey heads across the parking lot.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Marvin sits fidgeting on the edge of the bed and dividing his attention between the television and the closed bathroom door.

His patience having apparently run out, he gets up and puts his ear to the bathroom door. The sound of the shower running can still be heard.

MARVIN

Maxine?

He bangs on the door when he receives no reply. A banging on room door which follows his own startles him. He answers the door still wearing only a towel and is horrified to see Casey there.

CASEY

Hey there, Marvin. My wife around?

Marvin scrambles to shut and bolt the door but is swiftly knocked stumbling backwards onto the bed. He springs back up only to have Casey punch him back down.

He rolls to the side in an attempt to escape. His towel falls off as Casey sends him flying, crashing into the TV, which tumbles to the carpet.

The bathroom door swings open and Maxine, who is still dry and clothed, rushes out to restrain Casey.

MAXINE

Casey stop! Let me talk to you!

Marvin takes the opportunity to run naked out the door.

EXT. MOTEL PARKING LOT -- NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Huck sees Marvin streaking naked across the parking lot to the front office. Shortly after he runs in, a woman can be heard screaming.

Huck is on his cell phone.

HUCK

Yeah, Mom? I'm here at the motel with Casey. You wanna tell me what the fuck is going on?

EXT. DELORES' HOUSE -- NIGHT

Casey's truck pulls up in front of Delores' house.

INT. CASEY'S TRUCK -- NIGHT

Casey sits stoically staring straight ahead while Huck looks over to where Delores sits on the front porch with Julie and Davy, motioning for them to go to Casey's truck.

Huck looks at Casey with brotherly concern.

HUCK

Wanna get drunk?

Casey shows no signs of having heard his brother at all.

HUCK (CONT'D)

Right. I'll call you later.

Huck gets out of the truck just as Julie and Davy come to climb in. Huck helps them both up onto the seat and shuts the door before Casey pulls off.

As Huck nears the house, Delores addresses him from the porch.

DELORES
Where's Maxine?

HUCK
She drove home alone. Said she'd
wait for Casey and the kids at
home.

DELORES
How is he?

HUCK
Catatonic.

DELORES
How do you feel about your part in
that?

HUCK
I'm sorry, I don't remember being
in our your little plot with
Maxine.

DELORES
A plot that wouldn't have been
necessary to devise if **you** and her
hadn't been screwing around in the
first place.

HUCK
Yeah, fine. I get it. Can I go to
bed now, Mom?

DELORES
You sound so remorseful.

HUCK
I'll be remorseful in the morning.
Good night.

Huck enters the house. Delores fires up a blunt.

INT. CASEY AND MAXINE'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Casey and Maxine sit in silence -- Casey in a chair and
Maxine on the bed facing him.

MAXINE
Do you want a divorce?

CASEY
Seems like an explanation should
come first.

MAXINE

I messed up. I have no defense.

CASEY

Why?

MAXINE

Why what?

CASEY

I mean, just... why? What did I do?
What **didn't** I do?

Maxine crawls forward in his direction and reaches out to console him.

MAXINE

Don't! Please don't think it's something **you** did. It's got nothing to do with you.

Casey holds his palms out as she's about to touch his leg.

CASEY

No, don't you fucking... Please don't touch me. You're fine where you are.

MAXINE

I'm sorry, Casey.

CASEY

Yeah, good. Let me ask you something. If you cheating **on** me has nothing to do **with** me, how am I supposed to take solace in that? Like what am I? Completely irrelevant when it comes to what men you wanna fuck?

MAXINE

No. Not at all. Casey, I love you.

CASEY

Please don't do that either. Tell me you love me. That stings worst than you touching me would feel.

MAXINE

I don't know what to do. Tell me what you want me to do. Do you want a divorce?

Casey explodes to his feet and points a finger down at Maxine.

CASEY

I want you to stop asking me that!
What the fuck? Do **you** want a
fucking divorce, Maxine?!?!

MAXINE

Honey, you'll wake the kids.

CASEY

Don't pretend you care about the
kids!

MAXINE

(Breaking down in tears)
That's not fair. You know how much
I love them.

CASEY

Fair? Love? You're really leaning
on some trigger words here. Do I
even have the same definition of
love as you? Can you see how I
might be questioning that right
now?

MAXINE

Yes. Please don't let this destroy
our family.

Maxine continues weeping and Casey breaks down as well,
dropping back into his chair and burying his face in his
hands.

CASEY

Do you hear yourself? Destroy our
family? Who's the one swinging the
wrecking ball?

MAXINE

I wasn't happy. I was looking to
fill a void.

CASEY

Yeah! With some asshole's dick!

MAXINE

I was looking outside myself for
something I didn't realize couldn't
be found there until it was too
late. I never wanted to hurt you.

CASEY

It's crazy. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I always **knew** this would happen. I never felt like I was the best you could do. I married you, had kids with you, and I **still** couldn't shake the sense that I would never measure up. I knew you would go looking for someone else one day. I knew someone would see the chance to steal you away one day. Funny thing is, I always thought it would be Huck.

Maxine falls completely silent in reaction to this for some seconds, pondering. She opens her mouth to say something but Casey speaks before her words are uttered.

CASEY (CONT'D)

Look, it's late. I have to work in the morning.

MAXINE

Stay home instead so we can talk.

CASEY

I **need** to work. I need some time alone to think before I come back to this. I need time to **not** think about it, and I can't do that if I'm around you all day.

MAXINE

I get that.

CASEY

You've broken my heart good, Maxine, and I don't know how I'm gonna cope yet.

MAXINE

Will you sleep in the bed with me tonight at least?

CASEY

You're in no position to ask me for anything.

MAXINE

I realize that. Just please, honey. Come to bed with me. Just tonight.

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

If you still don't feel like it
tomorrow, then you do what you
want.

Casey climbs into bed with Maxine and they spoon with her on
the outside, cradling his head.

THE END