

FADE TO BLACK

(C) 2021

FADE UP

INT HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Reading a magazine JANICE 36, sits at the dining room table in a room decorated in middle class accouterments. A cup of steaming coffee and a bagel at arms length.

HORACE 16 enters carrying a large cardboard box filled with trophies and other baseball memorabilia. Janice looks up.

JANICE

Whoa, hold up, young man. What do you have there?

HORACE

Stuff dad said I could have.

JANICE

His baseball trophies?

HORACE

Said he didn't need 'em any more.

JANICE

What does he mean 'doesn't need them any more'?

HORACE

Said I could have all the stuff in the den.

JANICE

Really? This is the first I've heard about it. His whole life is in that den.

INT HOUSE - DEN - DAY

LESTER 47 is in the midst of dismantling the den. The den is a testament to a lifetime career in baseball.

The walls are covered with photographs, plaques of appreciation, news clippings, magazine covers featuring Lester.

Rows of bookcases line each wall. Shelves filled with trophies, some as players, some as coaches. From Little League to MLB. Cy Young awards. World Series rings.

Janice enters.

JANICE

Lester, what on earth are you doing?

LESTER

Oh, just tidying up a bit.

JANICE

What? You in a midlife crisis or something? Horace said you told him he could have all your trophies? That true?

LESTER

That's all they are, Janice. Just trophies.

JANICE

And now after 30 years they don't mean anything?

LESTER

Life has to be worth more than just a few trophies. Otherwise it's not worth living.

JANICE

Trophies you're giving to Horace. You know how irresponsible he is?

LESTER

He's just a kid, Janice. Maybe a little responsibility will help him grow up.

JANICE

Well from my point of view, he's not the only one around here who needs to grow up.

DISSOLVE;

INT. BARBERSHOP - DAY

Lester in the barbers chair. The barber is RALPH. He whips off the apron, hands Lester a mirror. Lester approves.

He gets out of the chair, hands Ralph the money.

LESTER

You got a minute, Ralph? I've got something to show you.

RALPH

Sure.

EXT. BARBERSHOP - PARKING LOT - DAY

Lester and Ralph walk over to a Range Rover. Lester opens the door, pulls out several suits.

LESTER

You know how you're always commenting about my suits---?

RALPH

You dress to impress, Lester. Giorgio Armani all the way.

LESTER

Well I'm giving them to you. We're about the same size.

RALPH

(offended)

Giving them to me? Why? I look homeless to you?

LESTER

Don't be silly, Ralph. We've been friends too many years for you to think I'd insult you. It's just that I'll never wear them again.  
(rubbing his flat stomach)  
All this weight I've I've gained.

RALPH

(facetious)

Right. Like you really need Weight Watchers.

LESTER

If you don't want 'em, they go to Goodwill..?

RALPH

That would be a tragedy. A perfectly good waste of sartorial splendor.

Ralph picks up the suits, admiring them.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Any chance you have a pair of Versace shoes you don't want?

DISSOLVE:

INT. ART GALLERY - DAY

The docent is CANDY, 40. A few people milling about. Lester is carrying a portfolio holder. Brief hug as they meet.

CANDY  
Lester. Where's Janice?

LESTER  
This is her quilting day.

CANDY  
(points to the portfolio)  
You finally take my advice and tried sketching? You've got talent, Lester. A lot of athletes do.

LESTER  
Naw. Not me. But this is something you'll want to see. Someplace we can talk?

CANDY  
Sounds mysterious. My office.

Candy approaches an employee. Then motions for Lester to follow her.

INT. ART GALLERY - OFFICE - DAY

A small office with single desk, chairs and file cabinets. Candy and Lester enter. Lester lays the portfolio on the desk and opens it.

INSERT:

The portfolio contains pages of rare stamps.

BACK TO SCENE

Candy is impressed as she leafs through page after page.

CANDY  
You've added to it since the last time you showed it to me. Mine is minuscule compared to this.

LESTER  
How'd you like to have it?

CANDY  
Would I? Tell me where to get the money to buy it, and you've got a deal.

LESTER

It's a gift, Candy. I'm not selling it to you. I'm giving it to you.

CANDY

You can't be serious, Lester? It's worth a small fortune...?

LESTER

One man's fortune is another man's trash.

CANDY

Your stamp collection is hardly trash, Lester. And you're just gonna up and walk away from it? Like it never existed?

LESTER

You could say that. And who better to look after it than you?

CANDY

Well what about Janice?

LESTER

Oh, I don't think she'll miss it. She's got her quilting and the book club...

(beat)

And Horace of course. She'll be busy for a long time.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Lester brings the Range Rover to a stop in front of the Post Office. He gets out, drops a letter in the box.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Lester is seated at the bar. Motions for the bartender to refill his shot glass. He downs it. Leaves cash on the bar.

EXT. STREET - SAME NIGHT - LATER

Lester drives the Range Rover along busy streets, pulls into a hi-rise parking structure.

INT. PARKING STRUCTURE - SAME NIGHT - LATER

As Lester drives the Range Rover up to the next level.

(SUPER)

LEVEL 2

INT. PARKING STRUCTURE - SAME NIGHT - LATER

As Lester continues driving the Range Rover up another level.

(SUPER)

LEVEL 5

EXT. PARKING STRUCTURE - SAME NIGHT - LATER

As Lester drives the Range Rover onto the rooftop level.

(SUPER)

ROOFTOP PARKING LEVEL 9

Lester backs the Range Rover into a vacant spot, cuts the engine OFF.

INT. RANGE ROVER - PARKING STRUCTURE - SAME NIGHT - LATER

Lester lights a cigarette. He turns the radio ON, smooth Jazz PLAYS O.C.

EXT. PARKING STRUCTURE - SAME NIGHT - LATER

Lester turns the engine ON. Drives The Range Rover rapidly toward the edge of the parking structure.

Lester crashes through the barrier and into the night air.

FADE TO BLACK: