

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

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Goonies Never Die

BY

George Clark

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FADE IN:

INT. GARBAGE TRUCK CAB - MORNING

COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC comes from a tinny speaker. The driver, RON, (40) sings along.

A road sign points to PELICAN BAY STATE PRISON. Ron turns in and stops at the guard house.

EXT. FRONT GATE - MORNING

GUARD ONE (35) and GUARD TWO (30) come out. Guard Two gets in the garbage truck's passenger seat.

Guard One goes to Ron's window.

GUARD ONE
Turn it down, Ron! You're rattling
my teeth.

Ron turns the music down.

RON
That's my new favorite, *You Lookin'
at Me?* Hey! That was a full moon
last night, right? Any escapees?

GUARD ONE
You kidding? There hasn't been an
escape here since day one.

RON
Yeah? Out of how many tries?

GUARD ONE
We don't count tries. None of us
can count that high.

RON
That figures. We good to go? I'm
running late.

Guard One looks up at an observation tower.

A BUZZER SOUNDS on the Guard House.

GUARD ONE
Yeah. Go for it. And, watch the
speed limit this time!

INT. GARBAGE TRUCK CAB - DAY

The truck is driving among prison buildings.

RON
So, what'a we got? Just the
kitchen, I hope. I'm crammed.

GUARD TWO
Yeah, but both dumpsters are full.

INT. PRISON KITCHEN - MORNING

Three prisoners, SKIPPER (50), RUDY (45), and BOGGS (45) are watching the garbage truck through a window. Three garbage cans on hand carts are by the door.

SKIPPER

Here it comes! Let's go!

They open the door and wheel the carts out.

EXT. PRISON YARD - MORNING

They wheel the carts to a dumpster station, go in and get behind one of two dumpsters. Skipper opens a plastic tarp the same color as the truck and dumpster.

SKIPPER

Now, remember, Boggs, when it dumps
jump behind the hole on top or
you're going in with the garbage.

BOGGS

I thought that was the idea.

SKIPPER

No! Or, you'll get crushed. Here
comes the truck. Get under the tarp
like I showed ya, grip it and the
top of the dumpster and hang on.

They get under the tarp.

EXT. DUMPSTER STATION - MORNING

The garbage truck stops in front of one of the dumpsters. Guard Two gets out, opens and pokes around inside and closes it.

GUARD TWO

(calling to Ron)

Okay on one!

Ron picks it up, swings it over the cab, it dumps, he puts it back, positions the truck in front of the other dumpster, and Guard Two checks it out.

GUARD TWO (CONT'D)

Okay on two!

Ron picks it up, swings it over the cab, and as it dumps the convicts jump off the back onto the top of the truck and pull the tarp over them there.

Ron sets that dumpster back in place, Guard Two gets back in the cab and it drives off.

EXT. FRONT GATE - MORNING

The garbage truck arrives and stops. Guard Two gets out and Guard One goes to Ron's open window.

RON
(holding his nose)
Man! What'd you load me with!? It's
killing me!

GUARD ONE
One of the freezers quit and a ton
of raw hamburger went bad before we
discovered it.

RON
What!? That's hazardous waste! Ya
should have told me! I should have
left it there!

GUARD ONE
(laughs)
Which is why we didn't tell ya!

The BUZZER SOUNDS.

GUARD ONE (CONT'D)
Get it outta here!

RON
You S.O.B!! I oughta dump the whole
load! Right here!

He drives to the highway and speeds off.

EXT. GARBAGE TRUCK TOP - MORNING

The convicts take off the plastic tarp and go to the cab.
Rudy lies down on it and looks in the open passenger window.

INT. GARBAGE TRUCK CAB - MORNING

RUDY
Hi, Ron.

RON
(looking at him)
Huh? Who the hell . . .?

Skipper, leaning in the driver's window, slips a noose over Ron's head and pulls it tight.

SKIPPER
Pull over and park, Ron, or I'm
gonna pop your head like a ripe
pimple!

Ron gasps and pulls the truck to the shoulder and stops.

EXT. ROAD SHOULDER - MORNING

Rudy jumps down and pulls Ron out. Skipper and Boggs jump down. They throw the end of the rope over a tree limb, hoist Ron to his tiptoes and tie the other end to a limb.

Skipper takes a cell phone from Ron's shirt pocket and dials.

INT. PICKUP CAMPER - MORNING

The pickup's cab and camper are conjoined.

LANCE (35), dressed western, is strumming a guitar. His cell phone rings and he answers it.

LANCE
(on phone)
Lance LaRoy, your dial-a-buckaroo
standup comic singing cowboy.
What'll it be, pardner? Have act,
will travel.

EXT. ROAD SHOULDER - MORNING

SKIPPER
(on phone)
Guess who, buckaroo!

INT. LANCE'S CAMPER - MORNING

LANCE
(on phone)
Oh, lord, no! Is that you, Skipper?

SKIPPER (O.S.)
That's right, little brother. Now
shut up and listen. Ma said you
were out here on the West Coast.
Where? I need a ride.

LANCE
Skipper, don't mess with me,
please! You're out of prison?

EXT. ROAD SHOULDER - MORNING

SKIPPER
(on phone)
Yeah. Got an early release.

LANCE (O.S.)
How'd you get my number? Did Mom
give it to you? I asked her not to.

SKIPPER
It's on your web-site, dummy. And,
cutting me off's not nice.

LANCE (O.S.)
I have to, Skipper. Even Mom says
so. You get me in trouble every
time I talk to you. Even in prison.
What do you want?

SKIPPER
A ride to a job me and couple of my
cellies got lined up. It's over on
I-Five. Where are you?

INT. LANCE'S CAMPER - MORNING

LANCE
(on phone)
At a rest stop. But, I got a gig
for about a hundred kids at a
birthday party tonight.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
Whatever the party pays we'll
double it.

LANCE
No. It's all set up. The kids are
expecting me.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
We'll triple it.

LANCE
No.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
Lance, I'm your brother.

LANCE
My half-brother. No.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
Give me a break, Lance! I need a
fresh start. Ya at least owe me
that. Which rest stop ya at? We'll
meet ya there and I'll never bother
you again. Promise.

LANCE
(sighs)
Alright. Just drive you to I-Five?

EXT. ROAD SHOULDER - MORNING

SKIPPER
(on phone)
Right, and you can get back here in
plenty of time for your gig
tonight.

A cop car pulls up behind the dump truck and stops.

RUDY
(looking at it)
Hey, Skipper . . .

Skipper looks at the cop car and nods at Rudy.

SKIPPER
Which rest stop?

LANCE (O.S.)
A half mile north of Brookings.

SKIPPER
I know it. Don't go nowhere.

He tosses the phone at Ron's feet and all three get in the
garbage truck's cab, Skipper behind the wheel.

INT. GARBAGE TRUCK CAB - MORNING

It's still running. They look in the mirror and see COP ONE (35) walking up.

RUDY

Ram it!

SKIPPER

Right!

He shifts to reverse and floors the accelerator.

EXT. ROAD - MORNING

Cop One jumps back and watches the garbage truck smash his cop car then speed off.

He empties his gun into it, runs back to his smashed car and gets on its radio.

COP ONE

(on radio)

MB one-thirty-three to Dispatch!

DISPATCH (O.S.)

Go ahead one-thirty-three.

COP ONE

I've been rammed by a garbage truck. California 7GAG463. Traveling north on Lake Earl Drive, a half mile north of Pelican Bay. Unknown occupant. Need assistance and a wrecker at my location.

(he sees Ron struggling to keep his feet)

And, an ambulance.

DISPATCH (O.S.)

Roger that, one-thirty-three. All available units respond.

MONTAGE:

Two cops run out of a diner, get in their car and speed off, SIREN WAILING.

A cop car in traffic lights up, it's SIREN WAILS, and it speed off in the emergency lane.

An ambulance crew, cops, and a tow truck driver run out of a diner, get in their vehicles, light up and speed off, SIRENS WAILING.

INT. GARBAGE TRUCK CAB - MORNING

It is speeding north on U.S. 101, past a couple of Fourth of July firework stands. Skipper looks in his mirror and sees several cop cars behind him.

BOGGS

Skipper, stop! They got us!

SKIPPER

Not yet they don't!

They round a curve and see a road block being set up. Skipper floors the accelerator.

BOGGS

Nooooooooooooo!!

EXT. U.S. 101 - MORNING

The garbage truck smashes through the road block and speeds on. A police helicopter swoops down and keeps pace overhead.

EXT. CHETCO RIVER BRIDGE - MORNING

Several cops are parking their cars at the south end. They see the garbage truck bearing down on them, take cover and when it doesn't stop start shooting.

The garbage truck smashes through them, slowed but not stopped. Pursuing cop cars catch up, SIRENS WAILING.

INT. GARBAGE TRUCK CAB - MORNING

The windshield, hood and fenders are smashed. A cop car comes up on Skipper's side. Skipper swerves and knocks it into the guard rail. Another comes up, SIREN WAILING.

SKIPPER

Time to lighten load.

He flips up a dash switch marked *DUMP*.

EXT. CHETCO RIVER BRIDGE - MORNING

The body of the truck tips up, its back door opens and garbage pours out, three feet deep. The cop cars hit it, bog down in dirty diapers and bursting garbage bags and stop.

The garbage truck, still dumping garbage, proceeds into town through startled traffic scrambling to stay out of its way. The helicopter THUMP-THUMPS overhead.

INT. GARBAGE TRUCK CAB - MORNING

It speeds passed a road sign that says *REST AREA - 1/4 MILE.*

SKIPPER

I'm going down a road across from
the rest stop. When I yell "go"
bail out and slam your door!

EXT. 101 INTERSECTION - MORNING

Helicopter view of the garbage truck turning left and going down a hill under overhanging tree limbs.

INT. GARBAGE TRUCK CAB - MORNING

SKIPPER

Go!

EXT. ROAD UNDER TREES - MORNING

The convicts jump out, slam their doors and run into roadside woods. The helicopter follows the truck down the hill.

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

The crooks sneak through them to 101 and cross it to woods adjacent to a rest area.

EXT. REST AREA - MORNING

The convicts sneak through trees and peek out at a pickup camper and a dozen other vehicles parked there.

SIRENS can be heard going down the road across 101.

SKIPPER
That's it at the other end of the
lot. Stay out of sight.

They sneak to the camper and go in the back door.

INT. LANCE'S CAMPER - MORNING

The crooks enter and surprise him.

SKIPPER
Bang, bang you're dead, cowboy.
What's the matter? You got no lock
on this door? Lock it, Boggs.

Boggs locks it.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Let's roll! Give me the keys.

LANCE
(standing, alarmed)
Those are prison clothes! You
weren't released! You escaped!

SKIPPER
No shit, Shylock. Big surprise.
Give me the keys.

LANCE
No! Get out! All of you! Get out!

He unlocks the back door, opens it and turns to them.

SKIPPER
Give me the keys, Lance.

LANCE
No!

He takes them from his pocket and tries to throw them out the
door.

SKIPPER
Grab him! Get the keys.

Rudy and Boggs wrestle the keys from Lance and toss them to
Skipper.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Get that bicycle lock off the back
and chain him to the table leg.

Rudy goes out the back door.

LANCE
Take the truck, Skipper.
Everything. Just let me go.

SKIPPER
Can't do that, baby brother. How
would it look if we got stopped and
you weren't along? The cops might
think we stole it. You got a gun?

LANCE
No.

SKIPPER
That figures.

He picks up Lance's wallet on the table, counts the cash and
takes out a credit card.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
This any good?

LANCE
Yeah.

SKIPPER
Good 'ol Lance. Always on the four
square up and up.

He puts the wallet and card in his pocket.

Rudy comes in with a bicycle chain and lock.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Chain him to the table leg.

Rudy and Boggs chain Lance's ankle to the table leg.

Skipper starts the engine, drives to 101 and stops there as
cop cars race up the road on the other side of 101, cross it
and race into the rest stop.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
That's right, boys. Check out every
car, now. Take your time.

He turns right.

BOGGS
Where we going, Skipper?

SKIPPER

Well, to one of these fireworks stands first, then shopping, then Yreka for a nine a.m. Armored car pick up at Walmart tomorrow morning. Then lake fishing for a couple of days until the heats off. How's that sound?

RUDY

Yeah! Then L.A.!

SKIPPER

L.A., Reno, Vegas! It's party time!

RUDY

Yeah, baby!

BOGGS

Party time!

INT. CONSESSION STAND - DAY

It's closed and three ten year old boys, TERRY, JOSH, and CHRIS, are sitting on a food prep table playing a video game.

YELLS and CHEERS come from a softball game outside.

Chris is vigorously manipulating the game's controls while the others watch and kibitz.

TERRY

Yeah! Now you got him! Blast him!

Chris manipulates the game. GUNFIRE and EXPLOSIONS.

JOSH

Look out!

CHRIS

I see him!

JOSH

Behind you!

GUNFIRE, and an UNDULATING WAIL as Chris's character is slain. His turn is over.

CHRIS

Crap!

JOSH
(reaching for the player)
Gimme. My turn.

CHRIS
(pulling it away and
starting another game)
No! I got twice the score as either
of you so it's still my turn.

JOSH
Bull! I got over sixty thousand!
Give it to me!

He grabs for the player. Chris jerks it away. They start
tussling over it.

VANESSA (O.S.)
(calling)
Chris!

TERRY
Your mom's calling.

CHRIS
Crap!

He jerks the player away and starts another game.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
One more game.

VANESSA (O.S.)
(calling)
Chris! We're leaving!

Chris jumps off the table with the game.

CHRIS
I've got to go!

JOSH
(grabs Chris's arm)
Wait! Give me the player! I've got
to give it back to Mr. Stengel.

CHRIS
I'll do it.

JOSH
No! I have to! I borrowed it!

CHRIS

That doesn't matter and I want to play it some more.

JOSH

No!

CHRIS

Alright, baby. Let's roshambo. Winner takes it back.

JOSH

No!

CHRIS

Come on! Roshambo!
(slamming his fist in his hand)
Rock! Scissors! Paper! Rock!
Scissors! Paper! Come on!

JOSH

Alright, but I'm still taking it back.

CHRIS AND JOSH

(playing the game)
Rock! Scissors! Paper!

Chris gets paper. Josh gets scissors.

CHRIS

Paper covers scissors! I win!

He runs out the door with the player.

Josh runs after him and stops at the door.

JOSH

Bull! Scissors cuts paper! Cheater!

EXT. SOFTBALL GRANDSTAND - DAY

It is starting to rain. VANESSA (35), wearing a waitress uniform, and several other parents are getting to their feet. Chris runs up.

CHRIS

We're leaving?

VANESSA

Yes. It's raining. We have to get home and put pots around.

UMPIRE (O.S.)
Strike two!

EXT. SOFTBALL DIAMOND - DAY

GINGER (12) is on the mound, wearing a Tiger's uniform. Her eyes narrow, she nods and winds up.

Lightning flashes behind her.

She delivers a blistering underhand fastball.

The batter misses. The ball SMACKS the CATCHER's (13) mitt.

UMPIRE
Strike three! You're out and the
game's called for lightning! Clear
the field! Everyone off the field!
Now!

Ginger and the other players start picking up equipment.

GINGER
We had them on the run didn't we?

CATCHER
Yeah, we did. Ten to four in the
bottom of the eighth. That's a win
in my book.

GINGER
Mine too.

CATCHER
You going for pizza?

Ginger looks at Vanessa walking up.

GINGER
Can we, Mom?

VANESSA
No. We've got to get home and put
pots around. Maybe later.

CATCHER
(puzzled)
Put pots around?

GINGER
Yes. We've got leaks all over the
house. Even in my bedroom. It's
disgusting!

VANESSA
Where's Chris? He was just here!
(calling)
Chris!

Chris walks up playing the video game.

The rain becomes a downpour.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
Come on! Run!

They run for the parking lot.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

People are getting in their cars and leaving.

Vanessa, Ginger and Chris get in a ten-year-old beater, the engine starts and they leave the parking lot.

INT. VANESSA'S CAR - DAY

Ginger is in front with Vanessa. Chris is in back, playing the video game. The windshield wipers SLAP.

CHRIS
I'm hungry. Let's stop for burgers.

VANESSA
No. We'll eat at home. And, I'm broke. No more eating out now until next week.

CHRIS
Crap! We never get to do anything.

VANESSA
I'm doing the best I can, and you know I don't like that word.

CHRIS
I can't even say crap anymore?

EXT. VANESSA'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Her car pulls in and stops. She, Ginger and Chris get out and run for the house.

INT. VANESSA'S HOUSE - DAY

They enter. Vanessa runs to the kitchen and comes back with pots and pans and hands some to Ginger and Chris.

VANESSA
(to Ginger)
Here! On your bed!

Ginger runs off with it.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
(handing one to Chris)
On the TV!

They race around putting pots under leaks and end up together back in the living room.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
That's the worst of them, I hope.
I'll make sure, then get some mac
going.

She hurries out of the room.

CHRIS
Macaroni and cheese again? That's
four times this week.

GINGER
Five.

CHRIS
Crap!

He throws himself down on the couch and starts a video game.

Vanessa comes back in.

VANESSA
Listen, you two! I'm doing the best
I can. And, I heard that, Chris.

GINGER
Mom, give us a break. Call Dad
again. Make him send us some money.

VANESSA
He doesn't have any, Ginger. He's
broke too. We're going through a
rough patch. We'll get through it.

GINGER
You said that last week.

VANESSA

Sit down with Chris. I'll put a movie on, get dinner started, then I've got to have quiet to work on next week's budget.

She puts a video in a player, turns it on and leaves.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Vanessa enters and starts filling a pot with water.

THE GOONIES theme starts playing in the living room.

CHRIS (O.S.)

(disgusted)

The Goonies again!?

VANESSA

(shouting, frustrated)

Goonies never say die and neither will we!

She slams her fist down for emphasis, hits the pot, water flies up and comes down on her cell phone on the counter. She picks it up, shakes the water off, and looks at it.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

(near tears)

Oh, no! No! No! Crap!

Frantic, she pushes buttons. It plays the *Nine to Five* chorus. She sighs with relief and pushes another button.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Hello!

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Vanessa's brother, TONY (20) and his roommate, RUDOLPH (20) are packing for a trip.

TONY

(on phone)

'Nessie?

INT. VANESSA'S KITCHEN - DAY

VANESSA
(on phone)
Yeah. Hi.

Chris enters.

CHRIS
Is that Dad?

VANESSA
No. Uncle Tony.

Chris walks out.

TONY (O.S.)
You okay?

VANESSA
Yes. I just spilled water on my
phone. What's going on?

TONY (O.S.)
I just won an all-expense paid week-
long vacation for two to Reno.

VANESSA
(facetious)
Wonderful! And, you want me to go
with you, right?

TONY (O.S.)
Uh, no. Maybe next time. Rudolph
and I are going and leaving
tomorrow morning so I can't come
over and help with your roof on
Saturday.

VANESSA
Oh, no. Don't tell me that, Tony.
Please. You have to. My roof's
leaking in a dozen places. You
promised.

TONY (O.S.)
I know, but it's going to be too
wet and slippery to work on now for
a few days anyway.

VANESSA
(resigned)
Alright. Whatever. It really needs
a whole new roof.

Chris and Ginger begin a loud argument in the living room.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
(yelling at them)
Quiet! I'm on the phone!

Their voices drop to shouted whispers.

TONY (O.S.)
Take it easy. You sound totally stressed.

VANESSA
I am.

The argument in the living room GETS LOUD again.

VANESSA (CONT'D)
Just a sec, Tony.

She walks down the hall to the bathroom and goes in.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

She enters and slams the door.

VANESSA
(on phone)
Larry's drilling job in North Dakota missed another payroll - the third in a row -, he's run out of money and so have I. We are going to lose this house if I can't make a double payment next week. The kids are driving me crazy. I dropped a tray of food at work this morning and Mr. Lasker is threatening to fire me, and I've got a leaky roof I can't get fixed. Yeah, I'm stressed.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

TONY
(on phone)
Okay, take it easy. Maybe we can take the trip next month. I'll call the sponsor and see if we can reschedule it. Vanessa? You there?

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Chris and Ginger are arguing at full volume again.

VANESSA

(on phone)

You know what I really need, Tony?
A break from these kids. Can you
take them to stay with Cathy while
you're in Reno? Please? I really
need this.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

TONY

(on phone)

I'm not sure. We're taking
Rudolph's car and it's not very
big.

(to Rudolph)

Can we take my niece and nephew to
Montague on our way to Reno? It's
on the way if we go down I-five.

RUDOLPH

No.

(calling to her)

Sorry, Vanessa!

TONY

(covers the phone)

Come on, we can do it.

RUDOLPH

Oh, alright. But they are your
responsibility. Especially Chris.

TONY

(on phone)

Yes, we can do it. But, are you
sure that's a good idea? What about
Rusty? Cathy said the town is
giving them hell since he got out.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

VANESSA

(on phone)

They are a bunch of bigots. It's
his ranch, he's paid his debt to
society, and has to live somewhere.

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)
Cathy feels the same way. What time
can you pick them up?

TONY (O.S.)
Early. Six A.M. Can they be ready
that early?

A loud crash reverberates through the house, then silence.

GINGER (O.S.)
(calling)
Mom, Chris just fell on the coffee
table and broke it.

VANESSA
(on phone)
Oh, yes. They can be ready. If they
live that long.

She breaks the connection and goes out.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - MORNING

The rain has stopped and the sky is clear.

Chris, Ginger, and Vanessa are standing on the front porch.

A 1964 International Harvester Scout turns the corner and
comes their way. There's no top. Tony and Rudolph are wearing
heavy jackets. Rudolph is driving.

VANESSA
Oh, my God. You're going to freeze.
I'll get your jackets.

She runs back in the house.

The Scout stops at the curb. Chris and Ginger carry their
bags down. Tony gets out and tips his seat forward.

TONY
Hi. You guys ready? Where's your
mom?

Ginger and Chris get in the back seat.

GINGER
She's getting our jackets.

CHRIS
What is this?

TONY

A 1964 International Harvester
Scout.

CHRIS

A garden tractor?

RUDOLPH

(exasperated)

No. A classic Sixties run-about

TONY

He restored it himself.

RUDOLPH

And if you don't like it get out.

CHRIS

Hey, just saying . . .

TONY

We've about had it with you, Chris.
Both of us.

CHRIS

Fine. It's a classic Sixties run-
about. Whoopie.

Vanessa comes out of the house with hooded jackets, runs down
the steps and hands them to Chris and Ginger.

VANESSA

Here!

They put them on.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I called Cathy. She said fine, send
them down. Thanks, you guys. I
really appreciate this. Thanks,
Rudolph.

RUDOLPH

Sure. Any time.

He start to drive off.

VANESSA

Wait!

(to Chris and Ginger)

Kisses!

She kisses them.

CHRIS

Where do we put our bags? There's no room back here. Where's the trunk?

TONY

There isn't one. Put them on the floor.

CHRIS

No trunk and no top? Has it got an engine or do we have to peddle?

TONY

Chris, shut up!

(to Vanessa)

He's on very thin ice with us. I suppose you heard what happened at the restaurant.

VANESSA

With the salt shaker?

TONY

Yes. It totally ruined Rudolph's soup.

(to Chris)

And, that's the last time we're taking you anywhere to eat.

CHRIS

It wasn't me. Someone else loosened the top.

VANESSA

Alright, Chris. You've been warned. Behave yourself.

Rudolph drives off.

GINGER

(waving)

Bye, Mom. Love you!

VANESSA

Bye, honey! Love you, too! Have fun! Be careful! You too, Chris!

She waves, watches them leave, then goes in the house.

I/E. THE SCOUT/I-5 SOUTH - DAY

They are approaching Ashland, Oregon. Tony and Rudolph are chatting in the front seat. Chris and Ginger are buried deep in their hooded jackets.

Rudolph drives up a ramp. Chris and Ginger stir and sit up.

CHRIS
We there yet?

TONY
No. We need gas.

They pull into a busy gas station and stop at the pumps.

GINGER
Let me out. I have to go.

CHRIS
Me too.

They all get out. Chris and Ginger walk off. Rudolph and Tony stretch.

The ATTENDANT (20), arrives.

ATTENDANT
Hi. Fill 'er up?

RUDOLPH
Yes, please. Regular. Cash.

ATTENDANT
Got 'cha. Prepay inside.

Rudolph and Tony walk off.

The attendant puts the nozzle in the Scout and walks off.

A van full of noisy teens, with Wilderness Youth Fellowship on the side, pulls to adjacent pumps. The attendant arrives, talks to the driver and puts a nozzle in its tank. The driver gets out and walks off.

Chris and Ginger return to the Scout. One of the kids in the van says something as they walk by. Chris gives him a dirty look and he and Ginger get in the Scout.

TEEN ONE (15) in the van lowers his window.

TEEN ONE

(to Chris)

What is that? You find it under
your Christmas tree?

The other kids in the van laugh.

TEEN TWO (15) in the van lowers his window.

TEEN TWO

That come in a box of Corn-Pops?

The other teens all laugh.

CHRIS

No, baby. If you had any brains at
all you'd know its a classic
International Harvester Scout.

TEEN TWO

Yeah? Where's your plow?

The other teens all laugh.

CHRIS

It'll outrun that pile of dog crap
any day of the week.

TEEN ONE

It looks like a dog sled. Where's
your team?

(WHISTLES and calls)

Here King! Here, Rover! Let's go,
boys! Mush, mush!

The other teens all laugh.

The attendant arrives, removes the nozzle from the Scout's
tank, hangs it on the pump and leaves.

Tony and Rudolph, carrying sodas and chips, return.

TEEN TWO

Here they come! Woof, woof!

The other teens all laugh.

Tony and Rudolph give them looks and get in the Scout.

TONY

(to Chris)

What's going on?

CHRIS
Nothing. Let's go.

Rudolph starts the engine.

TEEN ONE
Mush you huskies! Mush! Mush!

The teens all laugh. The van's driver returns. Chris, unseen by Tony and Rudolph, gives them all the finger.

The teens scream insults and return the gesture.

Rudolph drives to the freeway entrance ramp.

TONY
(to Chris)
What was that all about?

CHRIS
Nothing. Bunch of jerks, that's all.

TONY
What'd they do? What'd you do?

CHRIS
Nothing.

They drive onto the freeway.

I/E. THE SCOUT/I-5 SOUTH - DAY

It's laboring up a long hill and losing speed. Tony looks at the speedometer, which is dropping below 40.

TONY
What's the matter?

RUDOLPH
Nothing. It's just not good on hills.

He pulls into the right lane, between a couple of semi trucks and they slow still more. Chris leans forward and looks at the speedometer.

CHRIS
Twenty miles an hour!? It's going to take us hours to get there!

GINGER
Can't we at least pass these
trucks? The fumes are killing me.

TONY
Pull your hood over your face and
breath through that.

Chris starts coughing loudly. Tony looks back at him. Chris shrugs and coughs some more.

TONY (CONT'D)
(to Rudolph)
We're getting gassed. Pull over and
let these trucks go by.

RUDOLPH
I can't. There's not room enough.

Faster vehicles constantly whiz by on their left.

The van from the service station pulls up alongside and the kids inside start yelling and giving them the finger.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)
(to Tony)
What's their problem!

TONY
It's the kids we saw at the service
station.

RUDOLPH
(yelling at them)
Go on by!

The car behind the van HONKS at it. The van stays alongside the Scout.

RUDOLPH (CONT'D)
(yelling at the van)
Go on! Go on!

TONY
Little brats! Can you see the
driver?

RUDOLPH
No, Someone's in the passenger
seat. He's giving me the finger!

TONY
Get their license number.

The kids in the van yell and give them the finger.

RUDOLPH
(yelling back)
Go on! Go on! Get out of here!

Chris stands up, turns his back to the van, lowers his pants and bends over.

Girls in the van SCREAM, it SCREECHES to a stop and the car in back runs into it with a CRASH AND TINKLE OF BROKEN GLASS.

Chris pulls his pants up and sits down. Rudolph looks back. The van's driver is yelling and shaking his fist at him.

TONY
What's his problem?

RUDOLPH
I don't know but we're not stopping
to find out.

Chris closes his eyes and smiles.

GINGER
(quietly, to Chris)
You idiot!

I/E. THE SCOUT/I-5 SOUTH - DAY

It's approaching the California Inspection Station. Cars in front of it are stopped briefly, then waved on.

The scout stops there and a uniformed inspector approaches. His name tag says LONNIE HARDING (50).

RUDOLPH
Good morning.

Lonnie gives him a look of disgust.

LONNIE
(pointing)
Park it over there and kill the
engine!

RUDOLPH
(puzzled)
Yes, sir. What's the problem?

LONNIE
You're the problem.

Rudolph parks it and shuts the engine off.

TONY

Now what?

RUDOLPH

I don't know. You kids have any fruit in your bags?

BOTH

No.

Lonnie comes to the Scout.

LONNIE

License, registration and proof of insurance.

RUDOLPH

Yes, sir.

Rudolph hands them over. Lonnie looks at them and hands them back. He looks in the back and glares at Chris.

LONNIE

I suppose you think you're pretty cute, mooning that van full of kids back there. It caused an accident.

CHRIS

Huh?

LONNIE

Don't "Huh?" me you little devil. There's a dozen witnesses, including the women in the car that hit them. I ought to arrest you for indecent exposure.

(to Rudolph)

Did you know what was going on back here? I hope not for your sake.

RUDOLPH

No, sir. I had no idea. He mooned them?

LONNIE

That's right. A van full of little kids on their way to summer camp. Disgusting! Fortunately, no one was hurt.

(to Chris)

And, don't you try to deny it!

CHRIS

Honest, sir, I didn't - what did you call it? - mooning them?

LONNIE

I don't believe you, or that you don't know what mooning means.

(to Rudolph)

Is he your son?

TONY

He's my nephew. But, honestly, I don't think he did it.

RUDOLPH

I didn't see it either. Maybe he was just tucking his shirt in.

LONNIE

Oh, he did it, alright. Where are you going?

TONY

To Montague to visit my sister.

LONNIE

What's her name?

TONY

Catherin Morgan. She and her husband have an alpaca ranch there and . . .

LONNIE

(disgusted)

I know who they are. I live there myself and it doesn't surprise me now what this kid was doing.

(angry, to Chris)

There hadn't better be any trouble like this in Montague because we won't put up with it! Understand!?

CHRIS

Yes, sir. I'm really sorry, sir. I think it was all a mistake.

LONNIE

What's your name?

CHRIS

Chris Porter.

Lonnie writes it down.

LONNIE
(to Rudolph)
Alright. Get out of here!

RUDOLPH
Yes, sir.

He starts the engine and drives back on I-5.

TONY
(turns around to him)
Chris, you little . . .

RUDOLPH
No! Drop it! I just want to drop
them off and go to Reno!

I/E. THE SCOUT/COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

The sun is beating down on the Scout and its occupants.

RUDOLPH
What if no one's there? Can we just
drop them and keep going?

TONY
There'll be somebody there. It's a
four thousand acre ranch with a
couple of hundred alpacas and other
animals. Catherin is usually there
twenty-four-seven. Cody, too.
That's her husband.

RUDOLPH
Four thousand acres for just a
couple of hundred alpacas? They
must be big eaters.

TONY
No. But it used to be a cattle
ranch, and they are. That's the
drive, next road on the right.

Rudolph slows and turns onto a blacktop drive.

A sign, GREEN MEADOWS ALPACA RANCH AND GIFT SHOP -VISITORS
WELCOME is over the entrance. A ranch house, barn and other
out buildings are visible. Alpacas graze behind fences.

GINGER
They have some horses, too.

CHRIS

Yeah, and chickens, ducks, goats
and dogs.

TONY

And one beef cow. The ranch is
still Rusty's and he insisted.

GINGER

Chris and I are his great
grandkids. So are Clay and Jason.

They stop in front of the house. CLAY (15) and JASON (7) rush
out, followed by CATHERIN (37), their mother.

Chris jumps out of the Scout and runs to meet them. They high-
five, laugh and dance around, excited to see each other.

Catherin hugs Chris then goes to the Scout as Tony, Rudolph
and Ginger get out.

CATHERIN

Well, hi!

She hugs Tony and Ginger.

TONY

This is Rudolph, Catherin.

They shake hands.

CATHERIN

Hi, Rudolph. I've heard a lot about
you.

RUDOLPH

Hi, and I about you and Cody.

CATHERIN

He's out looking for cries.

GINGER

Those are baby alpacas.

CATHERIN

Yes. Some of the mothers don't have
enough milk this summer. It's the
heat. And, that's our boys over
there, Clay and Jason.

Ginger goes to Clay and Jason and hugs them, knocking off a
cowboy hat that Jason's wearing. He puts it back on.

GINGER

Hi. You probably didn't expect to see us until Christmas, right?

CLAY

Yeah, but this is great.

JASON

Yeah! Now we got friends again!

CLAY

(objecting)

We've got friends.

JASON

Yeah, but not like before Grampa got out of prison. Nobody likes us anymore or comes over to see us. Their mom's won't let them.

CLAY

Your mom tell you about it?

GINGER

A little. What's he like?

JASON

He's real old and walks with a cane and doesn't have any teeth. Here he comes!

An old pickup comes down the drive and stops. RUSTY (90) and WILLIE FOGARTY (75), the driver, get out.

JASON (CONT'D)

Hi, Grandpa! Hi, Willie.

RUSTY

Hi, boy!

(to Ginger, Chris and Tony)

I'd know you three anywhere. I'm your great gramps. Welcome to the Lazy M, but it's Green Meadows now. You're Tony, right?

He shakes Tony's hand.

TONY

Yes, sir, and this is my friend, Rudolph. We're on our way to Reno.

RUSTY

Hi, Rudolph. And, you are Ginger,
and you are Chris, that little hell-
raiser I've been hearing about.
This is Willie Fogarty. We've been
over at the mansion looking for
Glen Marshall's confession. Willie
was one of Marshall's hired hands
the day he died and signed it as a
witness, and we've been looking for
it ever since.

WILLIE

Marshall told me he was going to
put it in the big safe. I knew of
one safe, the one in the parlor,
but the way he said it I'm thinking
now there might be another.

RUSTY

We combed the place again. Nothin'!

WILLIE

You want to look again tomorrow?

RUSTY

Yeah. Let's get an early start.

WILLIE

Nice to meet you folks.

They all say goodbye and he gets in the pickup and leaves.

RUSTY

(to Chris and Ginger)

I'd have known you kids anywhere.
You got my red hair, Ginger, and
you, Chris, my heller temperament.

CHRIS

I have not! I'm no heller! And, no
murderer, either!

CATHERIN

No, Chris. He didn't mean that.

RUSTY

No. Just that we're both a little
hot-headed, and that's good. Keeps
our blood moving. I got lots of
pictures of you from babies on up.

CATHERIN

We sent them to him every
Christmas.

TONY

Cathy, this heat is murder. We're
going on and visit longer when we
pick the kids up next Friday, okay?

CATHERIN

Yes. Definitely. And Cody will want
to see you too. Why don't you plan
to spend the night?

TONY

Okay. Bye, kids. Bye, Grandpa.

They say goodbye and he and Rudolph get in the Scout and
leave.

CATHERIN

(going to the house)

Come on. Let's get out of this
heat. It's a hundred and ten today.

They all go in the house.

CATHERIN (CONT'D)

Would you like some lemonade,
Rusty? I just made a fresh pitcher.

RUSTY

No, I'm going to lie down awhile.
Must have got up too early. Goodbye
kids. Good meeting you. See you at
supper.

CHRIS

(angry, to Rusty)

I'm not a heller, whatever that
means!

RUSTY

Don't worry about it. I was too.

CHRIS

Well, I'm not, and never will be!

RUSTY

You're right, Chris. I was out of
line saying that.

He goes down a hall and through a door.

GINGER

Chris, why can't you . . .

CATHERIN

(interrupting)

Never mind, Ginger. It's been rough for all of us here lately. Rusty too. He understands. Let's have lemonade, then I have to go to Yreka for groceries and tick medicine.

They follow her to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

They enter and Catherin goes to the refrigerator.

CATHERIN

Cody, get us some glasses, please.

They sit around a kitchen table. Cody sets glasses around and Catherin fills them with lemonade and sits down.

CATHERIN (CONT'D)

What are you kids doing this afternoon? Something outside, please, or you'll keep Rusty awake.

JASON

Can't we stay in here, Mom? It's hot outside.

CHRIS

I've got a new video game. We can play that.

CATHERIN

No. I know how that goes. Why don't you do something in the barn. It's cooler there than outside.

GINGER

(to Clay)

Want to help me practice my slider and change up? I brought a couple of mitts. My team has a big game next Sunday. We're in the playoffs.

CHRIS

Boriing . . .

GINGER

Not as boring as a video game.

CATHERIN

You could go swimming in the lake.

(to Chris and Ginger)

The kids put up a new rope swing.

JASON

Yeah, a super good one! Really high!

CLAY

We went yesterday, Mom and it was crowded. And, unfriendly.

CATHERIN

I know what. There's a kid's movie at the library this afternoon, and it's air-conditioned there. I'll drop you off on my way to Yreka.

CLAY

(to Ginger and Chris)

Want to? It's probably Dumbo Goes to Flying School or something, but at least it'll be cool there.

JASON

Yeah, but Mrs. Harding will be there and she hates us.

CATHERIN

No, she doesn't, Chris. That's just her way.

(to Chris and Ginger)

She's the librarian.

CLAY

And the mayor, city manager, town historian, and probably the dog catcher.

JASON

She's mean to us, Mom.

CATHERIN

Well, that's her problem then, isn't it. From what I hear she's mean to everyone. Finish your lemonade and let's get going.

They drink their lemonade and get up.

CLAY

Can I use your phone, Mom?

She hands it to him and he dials a number.

CLAY (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Hi. We're going to the movie at the library this afternoon. Want to go?

(short pause)

Great. See you there.

He closes the phone and hands it to Catherin.

CATHERIN

Heather?

CLAY

Yeah. She's meeting us there.

They all leave.

INT. CAR - DAY

Ginger sits in front with Catherin, the boys in back where Chris is teaching Jason roshambo.

CLAY

Are you going to pick us up after the movie, Mom?

CATHERIN

It's only a half mile. Can't you walk?

CLAY

Yeah. Just checking.

Catherin stops in front of the library and the kids get out.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

GINGER

Thanks, Aunt Catherin. See you later.

CATHERIN

Bye, honey. Have fun.

She drives off.

The kids turn to the library. GLEN MARSHALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY is in big letters over the door.

CHRIS

Glen Marshall? That's the man Rusty killed, right?

CLAY

No. He didn't kill anyone.

CHRIS

Well, everybody said he did and he was sent to prison, right? So what's the difference?

JASON

This Sunday is Glen Marshall Day. There's a parade and picnic and softball game at the park. Maybe you can pitch, Ginger!

CLAY

I doubt it. They have their own pitchers. We probably shouldn't even go this year.

JASON

Dad said we are. Grampa, too.

CLAY

Yeah, just like nothing ever happened. Glen Marshall was mayor for a while. That's when he put up the money for the library and community hall.

JASON

He was rich.

CLAY

And a miser. There's supposed to be a lot of money buried somewhere around his mansion, but no one's ever found any.

CHRIS

You ever looked for it?

CLAY

No, just in the house, helping Rusty look for Marshall's confession.

GINGER

To what?

CLAY

That he was going to commit suicide and frame Rusty for it. Willie said he was afraid his daughter might be blamed too because she was going to inherit everything from him. The confession was to clear her if it ever happened, so she wouldn't go to jail.

GINGER

That's weird.

CLAY

Yeah, crazy. But he was dying of cancer, so I guess it didn't matter to him much. Didn't your mom tell you all this.

GINGER

Sort of. I never understood.

They go in the library.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

There's racks of books, a front desk, and a couple of large tables with kids sitting around them, whispering to each other. They stop and stare as the four kids walk in.

MRS. HARDING (55), is patrolling the room. She gives the kids a sharp look when they enter.

HEATHER (15) is standing by one of the racks, looking through a book. She smiles and walks over.

HEATHER

Hi.

CLAY

Hi. This is Heather. This is Ginger and Chris, our cousins from Eugene.

Mrs. Harding walks up.

MRS. HARDING

There may not be enough room for you to watch the movie if that's what you're here for. Quite a few others were here first.

CLAY

Okay.

She gives them another sharp look and walks on. They sit down at one of the tables.

HEATHER

(whispering)

That's bull. I looked in the conference room. There's lots of room.

MRS. HARDING

(from across the room)

Quiet over there!

CHRIS

Is that Mrs. Harding?

CLAY

Yeah, and don't cross her if you want to leave here alive.

Mrs. Harding glares at them, then continues her patrol. ARNIE (60) enters with a push broom.

MRS. HARDING

Did you sweep the walk?

ARNIE

Ya, ya. It sure is hot out there.

Mrs. Harding glances at her watch.

MRS. HARDING

Do the halls, then.

ARNIE

Ya, ya.

He walks off.

MRS. HARDING

(to the waiting kids)

Everyone that wants to see the movie follow me and no pushing and shoving or you'll have to leave.

They all get up and follow her down a hall.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Mrs. Harding and the kids enter.

A large video screen is in front, a desk and table with video equipment in back.

MRS. HARDING
Sit down. No talking.

Heather, Clay and his group sit near the door. Mrs. Harding walks to the front of the room.

MRS. HARDING (CONT'D)
How many of you have seen *The Goonies* before?

JASON
The Goonies!? Great!

MRS. HARDING
Quiet!
(she starts again)
There's foul language, and an inappropriate teen-age love scene and I don't want to hear any cat calls or snickering. And, no phones.

She walks to the back of the room, dims the lights, starts the movie and sits at the desk. Someone whispers.

MRS. HARDING (CONT'D)
No talking, I said!

The room quiets. Clay and Heather hold hands. The credits and opening scenes play. There is cheering and laughter.

MRS. HARDING (CONT'D)
Quiet, I said! This is a library, not a soccer field.

The movie continues, there's more laughter and cheers. Mrs. Harding pauses the movie.

MRS. HARDING (CONT'D)
Now if you don't keep it down I am going to cancel the movie entirely.

She pauses for this to sink in then starts the movie again.

Chris rises quietly and goes to her desk.

CHRIS
Can I go to the bathroom?

MRS. HARDING
 (she glares at him)
 Alright, but nowhere else and come
 right back.

CHRIS
 Yes, mam.

He goes out the door and closes it.

INT. HALL - DAY

Chris goes down the hall to the men's room and goes in.

INT. MEN'S ROOM - DAY

Chris enters, stuffs a paper towel in the sink's drain, turns
 both taps on and walks out.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Chris enters. Chunk, on screen, is doing the Truffle Shuffle.
 The kids in the audience howl.

MRS. HARDING
 Keep it down! Keep it down!

The kids quiet a little. Chris walks to her desk.

CHRIS
 Mrs. Harding, someone left the
 water running in the bathroom and I
 can't turn the taps off. It's
 running all over the floor.

MRS. HARDING
 What!?

CHRIS
 Yes, mam.

She jumps up and runs out the door. Chris closes and locks it
 and returns to his seat.

JASON
 (still laughing)
 Where'd you go? You missed one of
 the best parts.

CHRIS
That's okay. I've seen it two
hundred times already.

On the screen, Mouth translates for the Mexican woman. The
kids laugh and cheer.

The door to the hall rattles. Chris looks at it and smiles.

MRS. HARDING (O.S.)
(yelling)
Unlock this door! Right now! Do you
hear me!? Unlock it!

Most of the kids are too involved in the movie to notice.

JASON
(looking at the door)
Who's that?

CHRIS
Must be a late arrival. Mrs.
Harding had to go and left me in
charge. I don't think we'd better
let them in.

MRS. HARDING (O.S.)
(yelling)
Open this door! Open this door!
Arnie! Bring the keys from my desk!

The attic scene is playing. Some kids look at the door.

GIRL (11)
That sounds like Mrs. Harding.

CHRIS
Yeah. She got locked out. Arnie
went for the keys.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mrs. Harding is impatiently waiting for Arnie.

MRS. HARDING
(yelling)
Hurry up, Arnie!

ARNIE (O.S.)
Ya, ya, I am coming.

He arrives with a ring of keys.

MRS. HARDING
Give them to me!

She takes them, selects one and puts it in the lock. It doesn't work. She tries another.

ARNIE
This door hasn't been locked in a long time you know. Are you sure you didn't lock it on your way out?

MRS. HARDING
Yes!

She tries another key. It doesn't work either.

ARNIE
Maybe that shiny one.

MRS. HARDING
Oh, shut up!
(yelling)
Unlock this door.

She starts BANGING on it.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The hall door is being BANGED on.

MRS. HARDING (O.S.)
(yelling)
Unlock this door!

Chris gets up and goes to it.

CHRIS
Is that you, Mrs. Harding?

MRS. HARDING (O.S.)
(yelling)
Yes! You know perfectly well it's me! Unlock the door!

Chris unlocks the door. Mrs. Harding and Arnie come in. She turns the lights up and stops the movie.

MRS. HARDING (CONT'D)
(to Chris)
You little monster! You locked me out, didn't you! You need a good paddling!

Arnie steps between them.

ARNIE

Now, now, Mrs. Harding. Better not, you know. The lock could have sprung closed on its own. It happens sometimes.

MRS. HARDING

That's ridiculous! There is nothing wrong with that lock! This little devil locked it when I went out.

(to Chris)

Didn't you!

(to Arnie)

He's another one of those Morgans! I shouldn't have let them in!

(to the audience)

The movie's over! Out! All of you!

The kids moan, rise unhappily and file out the door.

Clay's group is the last to leave.

MRS. HARDING (CONT'D)

(to them)

You have lost your library privileges here! You too, Heather!

(to Chris)

What's your name? I'm making a report of this to the police!

CHRIS

I didn't do anything. It was the lock.

MRS. HARDING

It was you! Get out! All of you!

They all leave.

EXT. LIBRARY STEPS - DAY

Heather and Clay's group comes out and walks down them.

CLAY

Real funny, Chris. Like we didn't have enough problems already.

HEATHER

It was funny.

CLAY

So, what do we do now? We're stuck out here in the heat all afternoon.

GINGER

We can go to the barn and practice my fast ball.

CLAY

Alright.
(to Heather)
You want to go?

HEATHER

(taking out her phone)
No. I'll call my mom and have her pick me up.

She makes the call.

GINGER

(to Clay)
You know what? The name of one the border officers was Harding too, and he said he lived here. Chris got us in trouble there, too.

CLAY

Really? What'd you do?

CHRIS

Nothing. Some kids in a van got smart with us. They started it.

GINGER

He mooned them and caused an accident. The guard is probably Mrs. Harding's husband.

CLAY

No, her brother. They're both mean as a cat with hives. Her husband ran off twenty years ago and hasn't been seen since.

JASON

What are hives?

CLAY

Like when you itch all over so bad it drives you crazy.

JASON

Yeah, I bet she's got hives.

Three boys, CLEVE (15) Darrel (15) and Bill (14) walk up.

CLEVE
(to Chris)
Nice going, stupid. You got a big
mouth. Want me to shut it for you?

CHRIS
Try it.

CLEVE
(approaches him)
Why you . . .

Clay steps between them.

CLAY
Take it easy, Cleve.

CLEVE
No! He's got it coming! Who does he
think he is?

CHRIS
Come on. Take your best shot. I'll
flatten you.

GINGER
Shut up, Chris!

CLEVE
(to Chris)
You little punk!
(to Bill and Darrel)
Come on, let's get out of here.
(to Chris)
Just like your murdering grandpa,
aren't you!

They walk off.

CHRIS
(in a soft sing-song)
Babies, babies, babies, babies . .
..

They stop, turn around and glare at him.

CLAY
Chris, shut up!

He turns him around and walks him off. Ginger, Jason and
Heather follow.

CLAY (CONT'D)
You little brat! I ought to beat
your head in!

CHRIS
They started it!

HEATHER
Clay?

They all stop.

CLAY
Yeah?

HEATHER
I have to stay here. My mom's
coming for me.

Clay walks back to her.

CLAY
I almost hate to ask you now, but
do you want to ride up to the Lost
Betty Lou Mine with us tomorrow?

HEATHER
Is Chris going?

CLAY
Probably. I haven't asked them yet.

JASON
I'll go! We can ride Cicero! You
too, Ginger.

GINGER
Who's Cicero.

JASON
You'll see. He's King of the
Clydesdales. He's huge!

CLAY
He's a rescue horse we took in all
skin and bones a few months ago.
Please, Heather? We could go early
and come back before it gets too
hot.

HEATHER
I will if your little cousin can
behave himself.

CLAY
(glaring at Chris)
He will. I promise.

HEATHER
Alright.

CLAY
Great. Meet us at our place at
seven, okay? And wear a swimsuit
under your clothes so we can swim
in the creek on our way back.

A car pulls up to the curb beside Heather.

HEATHER
(cheerfully)
Okay. Sounds like fun. See you
tomorrow.

She gets in the car and it drives off.

The others start walking.

GINGER
She's nice.

CLAY
Yeah, she is.
(to Chris)
And, you'd better be nice too
tomorrow or I'm going to rub your
face in horse manure!

They walk on.

EXT. I-5 SOUTH - MORNING

Lance's pickup camper speeds along in freeway traffic. It
passes the exit sign for Ashland and continues on.

INT. LANCE'S CAMPER - MORNING

Skipper is driving, Boggs in the passenger seat, Lance still
chained to the table leg, and Rudy sitting at it, stringing
large firecrackers onto a single fuse.

SKIPPER
(calling from the cab)
String 'em out. We don't want them
all going off at once. More like
gun fire.

RUDY

Yeah. I got three strings, one for each of us. About twenty on each string. Think that's enough?

SKIPPER

Yeah. What about the smoke bombs? We'll throw those first than jump out and throw the fire crackers into the smoke. The guard will think it's World War Three.

BOGGS

Yeah, but then how are we going to see?

SKIPPER

We'll see. The smoke won't be that thick. We'll grab the money off the cart first, then whatever we can out of the truck.

LANCE

You're crazy. You won't get a mile in this rig.

SKIPPER

That's right, so we're going to steal something out of the employee's parking lot for the job, then get back in this and go fishing until the heats off.

(laughs)

Just four good 'ol boys gone fishing.

EXT. CORRAL - MORNING

Rusty is watching from the fence.

Jason is holding a big Clydesdale on a halter. Chris is standing in front of it. It rears and whinnies. Terrified, Chris jumps back.

JASON

Don't be scared! He won't hurt you! He's just excited because we're going for a ride. Easy, Cicero. Easy, boy.

Cicero shakes his head, paws the ground, then stands quiet.

CHRIS
He's a giant!

JASON
Yeah. I call him, Cicero, King of
the Clydesdales! Say hello to
Chris, Cicero.

Cicero whinnies and nods his head.

JASON (CONT'D)
He wants you to pet him.

CHRIS
Yeah? You sure? Man! Look at those
teeth!
(petting his nose)
Nice horse. Nice horse.

Ginger walks up.

GINGER
Can I pet him?

CHRIS
Sure. He loves it.

GINGER
(petting him)
Where did you get him?

JASON
From a beer company. They raise
them to pull their wagons for
commercials, but they all have to
match and Cicero doesn't, so they
didn't want him. He stopped eating
and almost died, and that's when we
got him. They'd given up on him.

He hands Ginger Cicero's halter rope.

JASON (CONT'D)
Here. I'll get him some grain.

Jason walks off.

CHRIS
(still astonished)
He's huge!

GINGER
Yeah, but real gentle, I think.
(hands him the rope)
Want to hold him?

Chris cautiously takes the rope and reaches up to pet him.

Carrying a saddle and bridle, Clay leads a horse into the corral. CODY (40), Clay and Jason's father, rides in.

CODY
(to Clay)
You want help getting her saddled?

CLAY
No, Dad, I can do it. She's calmed down a lot.

He begin saddling her.

CODY
She's come a long ways from lame cutting horse. What do you think of Cicero, Chris?

CHRIS
He's the biggest horse I ever saw!
He's giant!

CODY
That he is, a gentle giant. Don't let him step on you. He weighs at least a ton. You watch 'em, would you, Rusty? I'm getting behind on my fencing. You kids do like Rusty says.

They say goodbye and he rides out of the corral.

Clay hands the mare's lead to Ginger.

CLAY
(to Ginger)
If all three of you are riding Cicero I better get him a belly band. He doesn't have a saddle.

He goes to the barn. Jason comes back with a pail of grain and gives it to Cicero.

RUSTY
You kids rode before, Ginger?

GINGER

Yes, a few times when we were here before, but never on a Clydesdale.

RUSTY

Well, Cicero is the mother-hen type. Just give him his head, right Jason? He'll follow Clay's mare.

JASON

Yeah, but not all the time. Sometimes I have to rein him.

Clay returns with a belly band and puts it on Cicero.

CLAY

There. Now you've got something to hold onto.

JASON

I'll ride up front and hold onto his mane.

RUSTY

Think you kids can go over to the mansion later? I got a good idea last night where the confession might be, but don't feel good and had to call Willie and beg off going today.

CLAY

Maybe. What's the matter?

RUSTY

I don't know. Just feel puny. Old age I guess.

CLAY

You tell mom? Maybe you should see the doctor.

RUSTY

The hell with doctors. I'm fed up with doctors. I'll be alright. I think that confession must be somewhere around the wine cellar or maybe in it. That's about the only place Marshall still went anymore besides the tower room.

CLAY

We've searched there a dozen times already, Grandpa. How about if we go tomorrow?

RUSTY

Alright. Maybe I'll feel good enough by then to go with you.

Heather rides up.

HEATHER

Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Morgan.

RUSTY

Good morning.

CLAY

We're almost ready.

HEATHER

I made us some sandwiches.

CHRIS

(to Rusty)

We almost got in a fight at the movie yesterday because of you. They called us murderers' kids.

RUSTY

Well, you ain't, so tell 'em to pound sand.

CHRIS

You confessed didn't you, and were tried and convicted.

RUSTY

Confessing was a deal I worked out with the D.A., so he wouldn't go after Lenore.

CHRIS

And, now we have to pay for it. It's not fair.

RUSTY

No, but it's true.

CHRIS

We still have to pay for it.

RUSTY

And you will for years yet if we can't find that confession. I'm afraid that when I die, that'll be the end of it. Nobody will look anymore.

CHRIS

Yeah, but maybe then they'll let us forget our grandpa's a murderer.

GINGER

Chris, stop it!

RUSTY

Not this town, Chris. They got a long memory with Marshall's name plastered all over it.

He gasps suddenly and clutches his chest. Clay runs to him.

CLAY

Grandpa!

RUSTY

Go over this afternoon and search the wine cellar again, would ya?

He loses his grip on the fence rail and falls against it. Clay catches him. Heather dismounts and she, Ginger and Jason rush over.

CLAY

Jason, get Mom.

RUSTY

No! I'm okay. Just lost my balance.

CLAY

Come on. We'll help you back to the house.

RUSTY

Alright. I'm feeling a little dizzy, is all.

All except Chris walk him to the house and go in. Chris kicks the bucket of grain and sends it flying.

CHRIS

It's not fair!

Cicero walks to the bucket, sniffs it, and walks on.

Clay, Heather, Ginger and Jason come back.

HEATHER

Is he going to be okay? He looks terrible.

CLAY

This has happened to him a couple of times before. The heat is killing him.

(to Chris)

And, you're not helping any!

CHRIS

Well, neither is he. He's made a mess of his life and now we have to pay for it.

CLAY

Let's go. Mom's going to call the doctor but thinks he's going to be okay.

Clay helps Jason, Ginger and Chris onto Cicero, then he and Heather mount up, and they ride up to the road.

HEATHER

He confessed to killing Marshall? I never heard that before.

CLAY

It was a deal Rusty made with the prosecutor so he wouldn't bring charges against Marshall's daughter. She was going to marry Rusty against Marshall's wishes, was inheriting everything, and the prosecutor was going to say she was in on it with Rusty.

(to Chris)

He's probably not going to live very long, you know! Why make his life miserable!?

CHRIS

I didn't. He did.

CLAY

(to Chris)

You little creep!

(to Heather)

(MORE)

CLAY (CONT'D)

Lenore stayed in the mansion after her father died and Rusty went to prison, and searched for the confession for over twenty years.

HEATHER

I know. My mom said people used to see her roaming its halls, day and night.

CLAY

She chopped into the walls even, looking for it. There's holes in every room. She went crazy finally and hung herself.

HEATHER

How awful!

CLAY

The police got a call from Marshall the day he died. He said Rusty was coming over to kill him. When Rusty got there Marshall called out the tower window for him to come on up. On the way up Rusty heard a thud outside but kept going, and when he got to the top Marshall wasn't there. He heard a siren then, looked out the window and saw the sheriff driving up and Marshall lying dead below.

HEATHER

So, instead of saving his daughter from a marriage he didn't like, he ruined her life and she committed suicide. We've got to find that confession, Clay.

CLAY

We've looked and looked.

HEATHER

Then, we've got to look some more. I don't care about seeing the mine. Let's go look for that confession.

CLAY

We're going tomorrow.

HEATHER

I think we should go today, and if we don't find it go tomorrow again.

(MORE)

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Rusty is desperate to find it and clear you guys before something happens to him. He doesn't want to die and leave it hanging over your heads. And, you know how this town is. It will. Even over your kids' heads if you stay here and have any. Please?

CLAY

Alright. You're right.

(to the others)

Change of plans, you guys. We're going to look for the confession today.

JASON

Yes!

CHRIS

No! We're never going to find it! I bet that's all just a story Rusty made up to make himself look innocent. And, it's going to be hot and dirty there. The mine would at least be cool inside.

HEATHER

Don't be such a baby, Chris. Don't you want to find that confession and clear your family name?

CHRIS

I don't care. I live up in Oregon.

CLAY

Well, we're going. If you don't want to, get off and walk back.

CHRIS

Crap! Can we at least stop at the swimming hole on the way? I want to try the new swing.

CLAY

Alright.

(to Heather)

Race you! Last one there gets tossed in with their clothes on!

HEATHER

You're on!

They urge their horses to a gallop.

JASON
Let's go, Cicero! Hang on you guys!

Cicero breaks into a lumbering gallop.

They race to the trail around the lake, almost fall off a couple of times, and jump a fallen tree.

EXT. SWIMMING HOLE - DAY

Clay and Heather, laughing with excitement, get there, dismount and Clay kisses her.

CLAY
I win.

HEATHER
Yeah. Me too.

Cicero comes lumbering up with the others still aboard. They all jump off and start stripping down to their swim suits.

Jason runs to the rope swing.

JASON
Watch this!

He swings way out and splashes in. Chris tries it, then the others, all laughing and dunking each other.

I/E. LANCE'S CAMPER/CITY STREET - DAY

The crooks are dressed now in new jeans and shirts. Skipper is driving, Rudy is in the passenger seat, and Boggs in back with Lance.

SKIPPER
We got to leave Lance in the camper. Tie up and gag him so he can't rabbit or get heroic on us.

RUDY
Right.

He goes in back.

EXT. WALMART PARKING LOT ENTRANCE - DAY

Lance's camper enters and drives towards the store.

INT. LANCE'S CAMPER - DAY

The three crooks are watching out the front window. Lance is gagged and bound on the floor in back.

SKIPPER
See any cops?

RUDY
No.

EXT. WALMART PARKING LOT - DAY

Lance's camper drives past the store's entrance to a smaller employee's parking lot at one end, then slowly between the rows of cars parked there.

Some Walmart trucks are unloading there at the store's receiving doors.

INT. LANCE'S CAMPER - DAY

The crooks are watching out the front window. Lance still lies bound and gagged.

SKIPPER
(looking at the parked cars)
Bunch of junkers. We need something with muscle.

A babied 1960s Lincoln convertible comes into view.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Hey! A road yacht!

RUDY
Yeah, and the top's down even.

Skipper pulls in next to it.

SKIPPER
I'll punch it. Get the fireworks.

Rudy and Boggs go in back. Skipper gets out with a screw driver and hammer.

INT. THE LINCOLN - DAY

Skipper and Rudy get in front, and Boggs in back with the fireworks.

Skipper punches the ignition, starts the engine, drives it to the front lot and parks it where they can see both the street entrance and Walmart's front doors.

INT. THE LINCOLN - DAY

Skipper kills the engine and looks at his watch.

SKIPPER

Should be here any minute. I
checked this all out on live cams.
Those things are a blessing.

(to Boggs)

Hand us some firecrackers and smoke
bombs. You got a lighter?

BOGGS

Yeah.

SKIPPER

Here it comes. It'll park by the
front door, the guard go in with a
hand cart and come back out about
ten minutes later with it loaded
with metal boxes. When he opens the
back door to put them in the truck
that's when we hit him, smoke bombs
first, then the firecrackers, then
grab the cans and whatever we can
from in the truck, boogie back to
the camper, throw the cans in and
drive leisurely out the back exit.
Got it, Boggs?

BOGGS

Yeah.

SKIPPER

Good. No screw ups, now.

BOGGS

No. I got it.

EXT. THE SWIMMING HOLE - DAY

Clay and Heather are wading to shore, holding hands. Ginger,
Jason and Chris are still playing in the water.

The horses are grazing in the shade of trees. Clay and
Heather pause to kiss when they get to them.

CLAY

Wow. I wish we could stay here all day.

(calling)

Let's go you guys!

He and Heather put their shirts, shorts and sandals on, and the rest of their clothes in their saddle bags.

Chris, Jason and Ginger join them.

CHRIS

Time to eat? Can I have a sandwich?

Heather gets them out of her saddle bags and hands them around. They start eating.

JASON

That's a great swing.

CHRIS

Yeah.

(looking at a fenced
section of beach)

What's that?

CLAY

Quick sand.

CHRIS

Really?

JASON

Yeah. Want to see it? Come on.

Jason and Chris walk to the fence. A sign on it says, *DANGER! QUICK SAND! STAY OUT!*

JASON (CONT'D)

One of our horses wandered over here and got stuck in it last winter. We had to pull him out with come-alongs.

They stand on the bottom fence rail and look in. Clay, Heather and Ginger come over.

CHRIS

Anybody ever fall in and get sucked down?

CLAY

No, that's just scare stories. It hardly ever happens.

(MORE)

CLAY (CONT'D)
If you relax and move slow you can
just swim out.

CHRIS
Yeah? You ever tried it?

CLAY
No! Are you crazy? What if it
didn't work?

HEATHER
Let's go. I don't like it.

CLAY
Yeah, let's get to the mansion. It
should be cool there for a while
yet down in the cellar.

They walk back to the horses.

EXT. WALMART ENTRANCE - DAY

A uniformed armored car guard comes out pushing a hand cart
loaded with money boxes. He takes it to the back of the
armored car and unlocks the door.

The Lincoln screeches to a stop next to him. Boggs tosses lit
smoke bombs at his feet. Skipper and Rudy toss lit strings of
firecrackers, and all three jump out and run over. Terrified
customers SCREAM and scatter.

Smoke from the bombs billows and the firecrackers EXPLODE all
around the guard. He reaches for his revolver.

Skipper grabs it, hits him on the head with it and he drops.
The three crooks grab the money boxes off the cart, several
from inside the armored car, throw them all in the back seat
of the Lincoln, get in and speed off.

INT. THE LINCOLN - DAY

It is speeding towards the employees' parking lot.

SKIPPER
(laughing hysterically)
Whooooee! That went slicker than
oil on ice! I'll get the camper
going. Throw the money in back and
we're out of here!

EXT. EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT - DAY

Skipper drives the Lincoln back to the camper. A Walmart semi truck and trailer is parked behind it, blocking it in.

SKIPPER
Son of a bitch!

He BLASTS the Lincoln's horn and drives to the cab.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Hey, up there! Move it!

RUDY
(standing up to look)
No one's there.

SKIPPER
Get in and move it!

Rudy gets out, opens the cab door and looks in.

RUDY
No key!

More sirens are WAILING up in the customer parking lot.

SKIPPER
Damn it! Get back in!

Rudy gets back in. Skipper backs the Lincoln to the camper.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Get Lance and the food! Forget the
rest!

Rudy and Boggs get out and scramble under the semi. Skipper gets out and catches the bags of food as they are passed to him under the trailer, and puts them in the Lincoln.

Rudy and Boggs come from under the semi with Lance, still gagged and his hands tied, and the chain on his ankle.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
(opening a back door)
Come on! Come on! Get him in here
and on the floor!

I/E. THE LINCOLN/WALMART EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT - DAY

They all get in, Lance is laid on the floor, and they speed to a back exit.

More police cars, sirens WAILING, are arriving in the customer parking lot.

RUDY
Where are we going?

SKIPPER
(pulling into traffic)
Back in the hills.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

The Lincoln crosses under I-5, onto a secondary road that turns to gravel, then dirt at the edge of a lake, and stops.

INT. THE LINCOLN - DAY

BOGGS
This the fishing lake?

SKIPPER
No. New plan, Boggs. No fishing. We could never pull it off in this crate. We'll hide it, clean the boxes out, and walk back to the camper after dark. We're still okay.
(he turns onto the dirt road)
Watch for a place we can run it into the trees.

He follows the dirt road going around the lake. They splash into a stream that crosses it, bog down and the back wheels begin to spin. Skipper tries to back out but they are stuck.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Everybody out and push. You too, Lance. Untie him but leave the chain on.

They untie Lance and go to the back of the car.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Okay, push!

They push, the back wheels spin, but the Lincoln doesn't move. Skipper tries reverse with the same results.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
(pulling a trunk release)
See if there's a jack in the trunk.
(MORE)

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
We'll jack it up and put brush
under the wheels.

They take a bumper jack from the trunk and start jacking the back end up.

Skipper walks to the lake. He sees the kids at the swimming hole a mile further around it and walks back.

RUDY
It's no good, Skipper. The jack
just sinks in the mud. Let's take
the money and walk back to town.

SKIPPER
Put something under the jack and
try again.

BOGGS
(looking in the trunk)
Here's an old tire.

SKIPPER
Yeah, try that.

Boggs pulls a large rimless tire out of the trunk and they work it down in the mud at the back of the car.

EXT. THE MANSION - DAY

The kids ride up.

It's not been lived in for years and needs paint and repairs. Several holes have been dug around it, the dirt left piled next to them. A three story stone tower with a window in the top floor is on one front corner.

GINGER
Oh, wow. It's a lot bigger than it
looks from across the lake!

CHRIS
Is that the window Rusty tossed
Marshall out? Let's go up and see
it.

CLAY
No. Maybe tomorrow.

JASON
It's real creepy inside, and
haunted.

CHRIS
Really? By Marshall?

JASON
No, his daughter. We saw her once,
didn't we Clay!

CLAY
No. That was just the wind blowing
the curtains around inside. Half
the windows are broken out.

JASON
Some other kids saw her too.

CHRIS
Can we look inside?

CLAY
No. We're just going in the
basement today. There's a door to
it around back. Come on.

They ride to the back of the mansion, dismount and tie their
horses to a broken down two-by-four fence next to a barn.

Two headstones within a wrought iron fence are nearby. One is
covered with flowers.

JASON
That's their graves. The one with
the flowers on it is the lady Rusty
was going to marry. Her name was
Lenore.

CLAY
He met her a couple of years after
our grandma died.

JASON
Rusty comes over almost every day.

They walk to a back door to the basement. Clay takes a key
from a ledge, unlocks and opens it.

CLAY
It's pretty dark inside. We should
have brought a flashlight.

HEATHER
I have a little one on my house
key. Here.

CLAY

Thanks.

He turns it on and leads them in.

INT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT - DAY

It's filled with old furniture, clothes and other castoffs. A stack of firewood is at one end.

CLAY

We've searched here a dozen times already, through everything.

GINGER

What's all the wood for?

CLAY

It's firewood. There's a couple of fireplaces upstairs. That box next to it takes it up so it doesn't have to be carried through the house.

Heather goes to a large closed door.

HEATHER

What's this?

CLAY

An elevator, but it doesn't work anymore.

GINGER

(looking in an open door)
Is this the wine cellar?

CLAY

No, a root cellar. It's full of rotting old canned goods.

They walk cautiously in.

INT. ROOT CELLAR - DAY

They enter. Hundreds of glass jars of home canned fruits and vegetables are on shelves.

CLAY

It's gone bad. Some's so rotten it glows. Watch.

He turns the flashlight off and several jars glow.

CHRIS
Oh, wow! That's weird.

GINGER
(slapping herself)
Yikes!! Something's on my face!

Clay turns the light on a spider descending on a web from her to the floor.

CLAY
Yeah. Lots of spiders down here.

Something RUSTLES and SQUEEKS.

CLAY (CONT'D)
And, bats and rats.

HEATHER
You've searched here already?

CLAY
Three or four times. There's nothing here.

HEATHER
Let's look in the wine cellar.

They turn around and leave the root cellar.

INT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT - DAY

They enter. Clay walks to another door.

CLAY
This is it. Marshall drank a lot and was dying of a bad liver.

They go in.

INT. WINE CELLER - DAY

They enter and Clay flashes the light around.

JASON
We've searched here too.

GINGER
Anything as big as a safe would be hard to miss.

CLAY
Unless it's hid behind a panel.
Well, let's search again. That's
what we're here for. Look for a
hidden panel.

They search the floor and walls.

CHRIS
There's nothing here. Let's go.

GINGER
Where's the other safe?

CLAY
In the study. That's the first
place they looked when he died.

They all leave.

EXT. BEHIND THE MANSION - DAY

They come out of the basement. Clay locks the door and
returns the key to the ledge.

HEATHER
Someone's coming. Listen.

They hear distant MEN'S VOICES and a REVVING CAR ENGINE.

JASON
Someone's stuck in the creek again!

CLAY
It crosses the road and is real
muddy. Let's see if we can help.

They mount up and ride towards the voices which, angry and
loud, become more distinct.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
Come on! Put your backs into it!

The car engine ROARS, then SLOWS TO AN IDLE.

RUDY (O.S.)
Screw it. Let's leave it, take the
money and run.

The kids rein up and look at each other.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
No. We've got to get it out and
hide it. If the cops find it
they'll know we're still around and
hunt us down with dogs.

HEATHER
Did you hear that?

CLAY
Yeah.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
(yelling)
Push!

The car engine REVS again, then SLOWS TO AN IDLE.

Clay gets off his horse.

CLAY
Stay here. I'm going to sneak up
and take a look.

HEATHER
(taking out her phone)
No, let's just call 911!

CLAY
We will, but I want to get a
description for them first.

Heather dismounts.

HEATHER
Then, I'm going with you.

CLAY
No!

The others dismount.

CHRIS
Me too!

CLAY
No! Stay here.

HEATHER
You shouldn't go alone, Clay. I'm
going with you.

CLAY
Alright, but the rest of you stay
here, and keep the horses quiet.

Clay and Heather sneak forward. The others watch them go.

CHRIS
I'm going too.

He follows them.

GINGER
Chris! Come back.

He continues on.

GINGER (CONT'D)
Oh, God! Stay here, Jason.

She follows Chris.

Jason watches them go, then ties the horses to a tree and follows them.

EXT. ROAD AND CREEK - DAY

Ginger and Chris catch up to Clay and Heather crouched behind a bush. Clay frowns at them and puts his finger to his lips.

The Lincoln is still stuck. Skipper is at the wheel, and Rudy, Boggs and Lance at the front end.

SKIPPER
It moved back a little. Jack it up
and put more brush under it.

Rudy and Boggs go to the back and start jacking it up again. Lance, still in front, runs for the woods.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Lance! Get back here! Go get him!

He gets out and they run after him. Lance runs into the brush, trips over the kids, falls, and the crooks quickly capture them.

The kids struggle to escape but can't.

BOGGS
Damn kids! Hold still!

CHRIS
(struggling)
Let go!

He kicks Boggs in the shins.

BOGGS
Ow! You little devil!

SKIPPER
How long have you been hiding here?

CLAY
We weren't hiding. We heard you
were stuck and came to help.

BOGGS
Bull! They were hiding, Skipper.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jason hears them getting captured, stops, then sneaks up.

EXT. ROAD AND CREEK - DAY

SKIPPER
Who are you?

CLAY
We live here. Just down the road.

BOGGS
They heard us talking, Skipper.

SKIPPER
Give me your cell phones.

CLAY
We don't have any.

SKIPPER
(cuffs him)
Give me your cell phones!

HEATHER
(giving him hers)
Here. I have the only one.

Skipper throws it in the creek.

CLAY
What are you going to do with us!

SKIPPER
Throw you under our tires for
traction.

BOGGS
Yeah! We're going to kill 'em,
right, Skipper? Or, they'll tell on
us! You hear that, kid!

Chris kicks him again.

BOGGS (CONT'D)
Oww! You little . . .

He jerks Chris back and forth violently.

GINGER
(kicking Boggs)
Stop it! Stop it!

Boggs knocks her into the creek. Clay breaks loose and runs
to help her.

SKIPPER
(drawing the pistol)
That's enough! Get back here!

Clay helps Ginger back to the bank.

BOGGS
I'm gonna kill 'em!

SKIPPER
When I say so! Sit on that log over
there! All of you!

The kids and Lance sit on a nearby log.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jason, watching them, scoots back to better cover, stands and
starts running, then suddenly stops and turns around.

JASON
(yelling)
Help! I'm lost! Help!

He runs into the woods.

EXT. ROAD AND CREEK - DAY

SKIPPER
What the hell? There's another one
out there!

He hands the gun to Boggs.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
If they run, shoot 'em! Come on,
Rudy!

They run towards Jason's voice.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
(yelling, fake friendly)
We're coming, kid! Stay right
there! We'll find you!

CLAY
(shouting)
Run, Jason! Run!

BOGGS
Shut up, you!

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jason runs deeper into the woods, then stops to listen.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
(yelling, fake friendly)
Kid! Where are you?

JASON
(yelling)
Here! I'm over here!

He starts running again.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Skipper and Rudy stop to listen.

JASON (O.S.)
I'm over here!

SKIPPER
This way!

They run towards Jason's voice.

EXT. ROAD AND CREEK - DAY

Lance, Clay, Heather, Ginger and Chris are sitting on the log. Boggs is watching them with the revolver.

CLAY
(quietly, to Lance)
Who are you?

LANCE
Skipper is my brother. They're
escaped convicts.

HEATHER
Would they really kill us?

LANCE
In a heartbeat.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jason, running through them, stops to listen.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
(distant yelling)
Kid! Where are you?

JASON
(yelling)
Over here!

SKIPPER (O.S.)
(distant yelling)
Well, stay there!

Jason runs off.

EXT. ROAD AND CREEK - DAY

Lance, Boggs and the kids are as before.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
(distant yelling)
Kid! Where are you!? Kid!

GINGER
(quietly, to Clay)
What's Jason doing? Why didn't he
go for help?

CLAY

He's getting them lost, It's a game we play, only now he's playing it for real. We know every inch of these woods. He'll get them lost then come back and help us.

CHRIS

No way. He's that smart?

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Skipper and Rudy stop running and look around.

RUDY

What's going on? He should be here.

SKIPPER

He's playing us!

(yelling)

Kid, stay where you are! Ya hear!

Don't move!

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jason stops running and listens. He hears Skipper and Rudy CRASHING deeper into the woods. He turns and walks hurriedly the other way.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Skipper and Rudy stop to listen.

SKIPPER

Where is he!? He's screwing with us! Let's get back to the car. We'll catch him later.

He starts off.

RUDY

Wait! That's the wrong way. It's this way.

Skipper stops and looks around.

SKIPPER

You sure?

RUDY

Yeah. Come on.

He walks off and Skipper follows him.

SKIPPER
(looking around)
The hell it's this way. We're lost!
Damn it! Now we're lost!

EXT. ROAD AND CREEK - DAY

Jason approaches, drops to his belly and starts creeping up behind Boggs. Ginger sees him.

GINGER
(whispering)
There he is!

CHRIS
Where?

GINGER
Behind Boggs.

Boggs raises the revolver.

BOGGS
No talking!

Jason searches around under a bush, finds a baseball sized rock, picks it up and slowly gets to his feet. A twig snaps under his foot.

Boggs starts to look around at him.

CLAY
(yelling)
Hey!

BOGGS
What?

CLAY
Can I go to the bathroom?

BOGGS
No. Don't move.

Jason sneaks towards him with the rock.

CLAY
(standing up)
Please? I've really got to go.

BOGGS

No! Sit down!

Jason hits him with the rock. Boggs drops the gun. Lance and the kids rush him and Lance gets the gun.

JASON

They said they were going to kill you! I heard them!

CLAY

So did we. Come on! We've got to get out of here before the others come back.

Boggs is coming around.

LANCE

On your feet, Boggs. You're going with us. Tie his hands. There's some wire in the car's trunk.

Ginger wades to the Lincoln's trunk and brings back several feet of electrical wire. They tie Boggs's hands behind him.

CLAY

Where's the horses?

JASON

I tied them to a tree.

They hurry back on the road to find them.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Skipper and Rudy are still trying to find their way back to the car. Skipper stops suddenly.

SKIPPER

There's the lake!

They hurry towards it.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The kids, Lance and Boggs are hurrying to the horses.

Skipper and Rudy suddenly step out of the woods, a struggle ensues and Skipper gets the gun.

SKIPPER

You little bastards! And, you too,
Lance! I ought to shoot you all!

BOGGS

Let me! Look at my head!

He reaches for the gun.

CLAY

(to Skipper)

No! Wait! We can get your car out
of the mud for you. If we do will
you let us go? By the time we get
back to town you'll be gone.

BOGGS

Don't listen to him, Skipper! Kill
them! Give me the gun. I'll do it.

SKIPPER

(to Boggs)

Shut up.

(to Clay)

How?

CLAY

Is it a deal? Will you let us go if
we get your car out of the creek?

LANCE

You kill these kids, Skipper, and
they'll never stop looking for you.

SKIPPER

(to Clay)

How?

CLAY

Is it a deal?

SKIPPER

Alright. How?

CLAY

We've got some horses here. One's a
big Clydesdale. He can pull it out.

SKIPPER

Yeah? That's a heavy car, kid. You
sure?

CLAY

Yes.

SKIPPER
Alright. Let's get him.

BOGGS
If he can't we kill them, right?
They all die!

JASON
(yelling)
No, we won't! We're Goonies and
Goonies never die! You'll see!

SKIPPER
What?

CLAY
He's this way.

They continue towards the horses.

BOGGS
Watch 'em, Skipper. They're tricky!
Especially that little one!

SKIPPER
I know, Boggs. Thank you.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

They get to the horses. The mansion's bell tower is visible
over the trees.

SKIPPER
(looking at it)
What's that? A house?

CLAY
Yes, but deserted. And, there's a
barn where there might be a harness
or some rope. Can we take a look?

SKIPPER
Alright.

They head for the mansion and barn.

EXT. BARN - DAY

They stop outside its large double doors.

SKIPPER
(to Clay)
Alright. See what you can find.
Rudy, go with him.

Clay and Rudy go in the barn.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
What's in the house?

HEATHER
Nothing. Junk.

JASON
We found some old wine and fruit
jars that glow in the dark!

SKIPPER
Go check it out, Boggs. Make sure
nobody's around.

BOGGS
Okay.

He leaves for the mansion. A few moments later the others
hear GLASS BREAKING there.

Rudy and Clay come out of the barn with some heavy rope.

CLAY
No harness, but this rope might
work if we pad his chest.

They walk to the house. Boggs comes out with a big grin.

BOGGS
Nobody there except rats and mice.
I killed me some.

They walk down the road towards the creek.

EXT. ROAD AND CREEK - DAY

They arrive. Cicero sees the car, snorts and paws the ground.

JASON
He doesn't like cars. It's okay,
Cicero!

They try to make a harness for him with the rope.

CLAY
This is no good. It's going to cut
into his chest.

LANCE
(wading out to the car)
Wait. I've got an idea.

He pulls the tire out of the mud, cleans and brings it back.

CLAY
(taking it)
Yes, that might work. Hold still,
Cicero.

He puts it over Cicero's head and works it down to his chest.

CLAY (CONT'D)
We can tie ropes to each side, then
to the bumper. It might work.

JASON
It's not going to hurt him is it?

CLAY
If it does we'll stop and try
something else.

They tie a rope to each side of the tire then start to lead
Cicero to the back of the Lincoln.

SKIPPER
No. Tie him to the front.

CLAY
The front?

SKIPPER
We can't leave here now. We'll pull
it across, hide it in that barn,
and leave just before dawn.

CLAY
What about our deal!? And, when we
don't come back our folks will come
looking for us. They'll follow the
horses tracks straight here!

SKIPPER
I'll worry about that. Hook him up
and pull it across!

Angry, Clay leads Cicero to the front of the car and ties the
ropes to the bumper.

BOGGS
(quietly, to Skipper)
We going to kill 'em?

SKIPPER
Not now. We might need them again
in the morning.

Clay and Jason tie the ropes from the tire to the Lincoln's front bumper. Cicero looks back at it and snorts.

JASON
I'm sorry, Cicero. If it hurts
we'll stop.

Skipper gets in the Lincoln and starts the engine.

CLAY
(to Skipper)
You ready?

SKIPPER
Yeah.

CLAY
(yelling)
Gitup, Cicero! Git! Git!

Cicero pulls. The Lincoln's back wheels spin, it starts to come out, then slides back.

The kids yell encouragement.

CLAY (CONT'D)
Git, Cicero! Git! Git!

JASON
Pull! Pull! Git, Cicero!

Cicero can't quite pull it out.

CLAY
Alright. Whoa, boy! Whoa.
(to Jason)
We'll let him rest and try again.

JASON
Let me try. He knows me best.

CLAY
Alright, but be careful. Don't let
him trample you.

JASON
(taking the harness rope)
Come on, Cicero. You can do it.
(to Skipper)
You ready?

SKIPPER
Yeah!

JASON
If I wave and yell, honk the horn.

SKIPPER
Honk the horn?

JASON
Yes. He hates cars, especially car
horns.

SKIPPER
Okay.

JASON
I'm sorry, Cicero, but we have to
do it, boy. Pull as hard as you
ever, ever can!
(yelling)
Git, Cicero! Git! Git! Pull! Pull!

Cicero pulls mightily but still can't free it.

JASON (CONT'D)
(yelling at Skipper)
Now!

Skipper lays on the horn. Cicero rears, his haunches heave,
he charges ahead and the Lincoln comes out of the creek.

The kids and Lance cheer. Clay helps Jason calm Cicero down.

JASON (CONT'D)
You did great, boy! Really, really,
really great!

SKIPPER
Get the ropes off. I'll drive it to
the house.

They take the ropes off the Lincoln and start for the
mansion. Clay walks beside Skipper in the Lincoln.

CLAY
Let us go. We won't tell anyone.

SKIPPER
Things don't work that way.

CLAY
What are you going to do with us?

SKIPPER
Don't know yet, but don't give me
any grief. You're on borrowed time.

EXT. THE MANSION - DAY

Skipper stops the Lincoln in front and gets out.

SKIPPER
Get the money and food out, Boggs,
then take it and the Clydesdale to
the barn.

JASON
Don't put the car in the barn with
him. He'll kick it to pieces.

SKIPPER
Alright. Leave it here.

RUDY
What about the other horses?

SKIPPER
Leave them here too.

Boggs goes to Cicero, who takes a nip at him. He jumps back.

BOGGS
Damn horse!

JASON
I'll take him. He doesn't like you.

Jason leads Cicero towards the barn. Boggs follows.

BOGGS
Don't try nothin'. I'm watching yer
every move.

JASON
I wouldn't follow him that close if
I were you.

Boggs jumps back and they continue to the barn.

SKIPPER
(to Rudy)
See what's in those saddle bags.

Rudy empties Heather and Clay's saddlebags on the Lincoln's hood. There are several articles of clothes.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Okay. Put it back.

Rudy puts it all back in the saddlebags.

Jason and Boggs return from the barn.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
(to Boggs)
Anyplace in the house we can lock
these kids up safe?

BOGGS
In the tower. It's got rock walls.

SKIPPER
Let's go.

He and Boggs take the kids up the porch steps.

RUDY
What about your brother?

SKIPPER
Chain him to the car.

RUDY
(to Lance)
Over here, Hop-along.

Lance walks over.

INT. THE MANSION - DAY

Skipper, the kids and Boggs enter and start up the stairs.

SKIPPER
Who knows where you went today?

CLAY
Everybody. The whole town.

Skipper slaps the back of his head.

SKIPPER
Who?

CLAY
Our folks. Friends. And, they are
all going to be looking for us.

HEATHER
With my phone dead, my mom's
probably called the police already.

INT. THE MANSION - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

They come up the stairs and Skipper sees the open elevator
door and car inside.

SKIPPER
This work?

BOGGS
No. I tried it. Must be broken.

They go up circular stairs to the tower room door. It has a
key in its lock.

INT. THE MANSION - TOWER ROOM - DAY

They all enter. It's twenty feet across, with a closed
elevator door. An open (missing) window overlooks the front
steps. There's a desk and chair.

Skipper goes to the window and looks out.

SKIPPER
Thirty feet straight down. Good.

He looks in the desk, then goes to the elevator and pushes
the call button repeatedly. Nothing happens.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Don't make any noise or try to
escape or we'll gag and bind you
and maybe worse. Right Boggs?

BOGGS
Yeah! Lot's worse!

They leave and shut the door. The KEY TURNS IN THE LOCK, and
they WALK DOWN STAIRS.

CLAY
We've got to get out of here.

GINGER

Can we see anything across the
lake? Maybe we can signal someone.

They go to the window and look out. Fields and a small
section of road are visible a half mile across the lake.

CLAY

Probably not, and there's no ledge
or other way to get down from here.

HEATHER

(looking down)

And, they'd see us.

They watch and listen as Skipper and Boggs go down the porch
steps. Skipper mounts one of the horses still there.

SKIPPER

Mount up, Rudy. Let's go.

RUDY

(mounting the other horse)

Where?

SKIPPER

A tragic drowning. Keep an eye on
things here, Boggs, and no screw
ups!

They ride off.

LANCE

You a screw-up, Boggs?

BOGGS

Shut up.

LANCE

They'll dump you soon and make it a
two way split.

BOGGS

Shut up! Rudy and I've been cellies
for six years. We're tight!

LANCE

No, Boggs, when the time comes
they'll dump you, then one of them
dump the other and winner take all.
Law of the jungle, right? Street
law, too.

BOGGS

Shut up!

The kids step back from the window.

HEATHER

A tragic drowning?

CLAY

Yeah. Ours, probably. We can't wait around for help, you guys. We've got to find a way out of here now.

CHRIS

What about down the elevator shaft?

CLAY

Yeah. See if you can get the doors open.

GINGER

(going to the door)

Maybe we can pick this lock.

HEATHER

I'll look in the desk. Maybe there's a paperclip or something we can use.

They all start looking for a way out.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Skipper and Rudy are riding at a quick walk.

SKIPPER

A terrible thing, Rudy. All five kids drowning at a swimming hole I saw them playing at earlier. We'll tie their horses there, scatter their clothes around, rub out all the hoof prints except those coming from town, and it'll look like they all went swimming and drowned.

RUDY

And, they'll stop looking for them.

SKIPPER

Right! At least long enough to send divers down and search the lake, and that could take days.

(MORE)

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
We'd better hurry though! They
could be looking already!

They kick their horses to a trot.

EXT. SWIMMING HOLE - DAY

Skipper and Rudy arrive, tie the horses to trees and take
clothes from the saddlebags.

Skipper sees the fence and DANGER QUICKSAND sign.

SKIPPER
Quicksand! That's perfect!

RUDY
Yeah.

They scatter the kids clothes on the ground and fence.

RUDY (CONT'D)
Beautiful. I might start crying
myself.

He picks up Jason's hat and tosses it on the quicksand.

SKIPPER
Nice touch. Lets rub the tracks
out.

They break off tree limbs, rub out the tracks, then hear
approaching voices.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Just in time. Let's go!

They throw the limbs away and run towards the mansion.

Cleve, Bill, and Darrel run in, undressing.

CLEVE
Dibs on the swing first!

BILL
After me! I called it a mile back!

They see the horses and stop.

CLEVE
Hey! That's Clay's horse!

DARREL
And, the other's Heather's.

CLEVE
(loud and teasing)
Now, I wonder where they are. In
the bushes, I bet. Oh, yoo hoo!
Clay and Heather! Better get
dressed and come out! You're
busted! Yoo-hoo!

There's no answer and they look around.

DARREL
So, where are they?
(calling)
Clay! Heather!

BILL
What's that on the fence? Clothes?

They walk over for a closer look.

CLEVE
That's Clay's shirt. I've got one
just like it.

BILL
And, Heather's Cougar headband.
They are around here somewhere.

DARREL
Look! That's Jason's hat in the
middle of the quicksand!

They all look at each other.

ALL
(screaming in unison)
They fell in the quicksand!

They run for town, screaming for help.

INT. THE MANSION - TOWER ROOM - DAY

The kids are still looking for a way out.

JASON
(pointing at the hole to
the bell)
What about up there? I can get
through that hole.

CLAY
Then what? Fall off the roof?
There's no way down.

HEATHER

What about the elevator shaft? If
we can get through this door . . .

CHRIS

We tried it. We need something to
pry them apart with.

HEATHER

There's a letter opener in the
desk!

She goes to the desk, brings back a plastic letter opener,
puts it between the elevator doors and starts prying.

CLAY

Careful.

It breaks.

HEATHER

Oh.

CLAY

We'll have to find something
stronger.

They start looking around.

CLAY (CONT'D)

Where's that paperclip? I'll try
picking the lock again.

HEATHER

(handing it to him)

Here.

He kneels and sticks it in the door lock.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Skipper and Rudy are walking back to the mansion.

RUDY

What are we going to do with the
kids? They're dangerous. So's your
brother.

SKIPPER

Yeah, but I want him to drive us to
L.A. in the camper.

(MORE)

SKIPPER (CONT'D)

If one of us is driving we'd have
to shoot him if a cop stopped us
and then they'd turn the state
upside down looking for us. I think
Boggs is right about the kids,
though. We'd better kill them,
weight them down with rocks and
throw them in the lake.

INT. THE MANSION - TOWER ROOM - DAY

Heather is trying to pick the door lock. Jason and Chris are
watching her. Ginger is standing at the window. Clay is
trying to pull the elevator doors apart.

HEATHER

Oh! I can't get it!

She stands up, gives the paperclip to Chris and Jason and
they try.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

(looking at them)

Maybe we can take the hinges off.

CLAY

I tried. They're too tight.

GINGER

(looking out the window)

They're coming back!

Clay and Heather run to the window and look out.

CLAY

This doesn't look good.

(to Chris and Jason)

You getting anywhere?

CHRIS

No.

GINGER

Let me try again.

Chris hands her the paperclip. She drops it and kneels to
pick it up.

GINGER (CONT'D)

Look! This floor board is loose!
It's not even nailed down!

CLAY
You're kidding!

He runs over, looks, and pulls it up. Below are floor joists and the ceiling above the room below.

HEATHER
(peeking out the window)
They're coming up! Skipper's taking
the gun out.

CLAY
Everyone, quick! Scoot under here,
between the floor joists, down on
the ceiling!

They lie between the floor joists.

HEATHER
(trying to get low enough)
There's not enough room!

CLAY
(having the same trouble)
Lay as flat as you can.

He pulls the loose board over them and lowers it.
Skipper and Rudy are heard WALKING UP THE STAIRS.

INT. UNDER THE LOOSE FLOOR BOARD - DAY

It rests on Clay's nose, an inch too high.

HEATHER (O.S.)
(whispering)
Clay! I'm too big!

CLAY
(whispering)
Maybe I can push the ceiling down a
little.

He braces himself and pushes down on the ceiling. Nails CREAK as they are pulled loose. Clay and Heather drop an inch. The floor board settles into place.

INT. THE MANSION - TOWER ROOM - DAY

Skipper and Rudy enter.

SKIPPER
Where are they?!

He runs to the window and looks out.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
(shouting out the window)
Boggs! You see anything?

BOGGS
No. Like what?

SKIPPER
The kids! They're gone! Weren't you
watching up here?

BOGGS
Yeah. They're gone?

SKIPPER
(to Rudy)
They're downstairs somewhere! Come
on!

They run out the door.

INT. THE MANSION - UNDER THE LOOSE FLOOR BOARD - DAY
Heather is staring up at it pressed against her nose.

HEATHER
(whispering)
I'm squished flat Clay! Can we get
out now?

CLAY (O.S.)
(whispering)
No. They may come back. I'll lift
the board a little.

The board lifts an inch.

HEATHER
(whispering)
Oh! Thank you.

CHRIS (O.S.)
(whispering)
I feel like I'm in a coffin.

The ceiling CREAKS.

GINGER (O.S.)
(whispering)
Oh, God! Did you feel that?

CLAY (O.S.)
(whispering)
Yeah. Don't anybody move! The
ceiling's falling!

It CREAKS again.

INT. THE MANSION - SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

Skipper and Rudy run from room to room, looking for the kids.
Skipper stops at the top of the stairs to the ground floor.

SKIPPER
(calling down)
Boggs, get up here and help us!

EXT. THE MANSION - FRONT STEPS - DAY

Boggs looks up at the open front door.

BOGGS
Ha! Now, who's the screw-ups!? I
knew we should have killed them.

Lance watches him go in the house then works frantically to
break the chain on his ankle.

INT. THE MANSION - SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

Rudy and Skipper come out of a room.

SKIPPER
They're here somewhere!

They hear CREAKING and look up.

Slabs of sheet-rock and the kids fall on them, knocking them
down. The kids get up and run.

CLAY
This way!

They run down the stairs. Skipper and Rudy run after them.

INT. THE MANSION - GROUND FLOOR - DAY

The kids run down the stairs. Boggs is coming in the front.

CLAY
(running into a parlor)
In here!

The other kids follow. Skipper and Rudy run down the stairs and collide with Boggs at the parlor entrance.

INT. THE MANSION - PARLOR - DAY

The kids run to a cabinet next to the fireplace. Clay opens its doors.

CLAY
In here! Quick!

They jump in. Clay grabs a hatchet next to a pile of cut kindling on the hearth, jumps in, and closes the cabinet.

INT. THE MANSION - PARLOR WOOD LIFT - DAY

The kids are sitting on chunks of firewood.

GINGER
(whispering)
Is this the wood lift?

CLAY
(whispering)
Yes.

They can hear the crooks MOVING AROUND in the parlor.

CLAY (CONT'D)
(whispering)
If they look in here I'm going to
cut the pulley rope and we'll drop
into the basement.

Chris picks up a piece of fire wood.

FOOTSTEPS APPROACH and the cabinet doors suddenly fly open.

SKIPPER
Aha! I thought so!

Chris hits him with the fire wood, Clay chops the pulley rope, the wood lift drops, the kids scream, the wood lift smashes on the basement floor and spills them out.

INT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT - DAY

The kids pick themselves up.

SKIPPER (O.S.)
I'm going to kill them! They're in
the basement! Boggs, run around
back! There's probably a back door!
Don't let them out!

Ginger picks up a piece of firewood, looks up the shaft, her eyes narrow and she pitches it underhand up the shaft.

INT. THE MANSION - PARLOR - DAY

Skipper and Rudy are looking down the shaft. The firewood hits Skipper on the nose. He howls and jumps back. Rudy slams the cabinet doors.

SKIPPER
(holding his nose)
I'm going to kill them! I'm going
to kill them with my bare hands!

He starts to open the cabinet doors. Another piece of firewood slams its interior and he quickly closes them.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
Little bastards! Where's the
stairs!? Come on!

They run out.

INT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT - DAY

CLAY
They are going to the stairs! Come
on! Bring some fire wood!

They pick up firewood and run to the stairs. One side is open to the room and they can see a door at the top.

Chris arrives with small canning jars filled with bad fruit.

GINGER
(taking one)
Oh, my God, Chris! Yes!

She holds it at arm's length and her nose with the other hand.

GINGER (CONT'D)
(with nasal twang)
These are beautiful! Bring me some
more!

CHRIS
You got 'em!

He runs off, brings more and stacks them on a table next to her. The others are standing at the bottom of the stairs with fire wood. The door at the top of the stairs opens a crack.

CLAY
You ready? Here they come!

Ginger, weighing a jar in each hand, looks up at the door.

GINGER
Oh, yeah! I am so ready!

The basement door opens and Skipper and Rudy start down. The kids hit them with firewood and jars of rotting fruit, shouting,

CLAY
Geronimo!

GINGER
Go, Tigers!

HEATHER
Go, Cougars!

JASON
Goonies never die!

Skipper and Rudy are driven back up the stairs, out, and they slam the door. The kids cheer wildly.

CLAY
They might try to get down the wood
lift shaft. We'd better block it!

They pull a mattress over and stuff it up the shaft.

JASON
They're in back!

The kids look through two small basement windows and see the crooks outside. Skipper's nose is crudely bandaged.

CLAY
(whispering)
The door's locked. But get ready.
They might find the key.

They load up with ammunition and stand back, ready.

EXT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT BACK DOOR - DAY

Skipper tries the door. It's locked. He goes to one of the small windows and looks in.

SKIPPER
(yelling)
Unlock the door!

He takes the gun from his waist band.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
And, the next one that throws
something gets shot!

INT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT - DAY

Ginger looks at him in the window and rocks on her toes.

GINGER
(quietly)
Shall I?

CLAY
(quietly)
Everybody take cover.

They get behind old couches and overstuffed chairs.

CLAY (CONT'D)
(quietly, to Ginger)
Okay.

Ginger winds up and pitches a fast ball through the window.

EXT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT BACK DOOR - DAY

Skipper, outside the window, is suddenly showered with broken glass and rotten fruit. He screams and jumps back.

SKIPPER
(enraged)
That's it! That's It.! We're
getting in there and kill them!

He runs to the door, tries to open it, fails, pulls the gun and EMPTIES it at the lock. It still won't open. He throws the gun at it, screams with rage and starts kicking it.

RUDY
(alarmed)
Skipper! Take it easy!

SKIPPER
(banging on it)
Open this door! Open this door!

He grabs a two gallon metal bucket and throws it at the door. It bounces back and hits him on his bandaged nose.

He howls and staggers off, holding his nose.

Boggs and Rudy give each other concerned looks. Rudy follows him.

RUDY
(to Boggs)
Get some boards from the barn and nail them across the door. Big boards and lots of nails.

BOGGS
Okay.

EXT. THE MANSION - FRONT STEPS - DAY

Lance has a link of chain almost worn through. Skipper and Rudy come around the house and he hides it.

LANCE
What happened to you?

SKIPPER
Nothing!
(to Rudy)
We got anything to drink?

RUDY
We don't, but the kids said they found some wine here.

SKIPPER
Wine?! I want a drink!! See what you can find.

Rudy goes in the house.

SKIPPER (CONT'D)
(to Lance)
What are you looking at!?

LANCE
Not much.

SKIPPER
Screw you. I'm going to kill you
too before we leave. I'm tired of
looking at your scrawny ass.

HAMMERING comes from the back of the house.

Skipper takes a money box from the back seat of the Lincoln,
puts it on the trunk and pops the lid with the screwdriver.
He takes out packets of money and stacks them next to it.

SIRENS WAIL across the lake. He walks to it, sees emergency
vehicles collecting there, smiles and walks back.

Boggs comes around the house.

BOGGS
I got some big boards nailed across
the basement door.

SKIPPER
Go help Rudy find me some booze.
He's in the house.

Boggs goes in the mansion.

EXT. SWIMMING HOLE - DAY

Clay and Heather's horses are still tied to the trees. SIRENS
WIND DOWN in the distance. STEVE (35), and two other firemen
run up.

STEVE
Get the fence down!

They get the clothes off it and tear the fence down. Two
other firemen carrying long poles with hooks on them run up.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Start probing! Concentrate on this
side and as far out as the center
of the pool. If you hit something
work the hook around to the side
and try to bring it to the surface.
(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)
Don't worry about poking them with
the hooks, and, hurry! They could
still be alive.

Steve sees Catherin and Cody, and Heather's mother, BETH (40)
running up and stops them a few yards from the pool.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Keep back, now, Catherin! We need
room to work.

CODY
Have you found anything yet?

STEVE
Just some clothes.

CATHERIN
(running to it)
Oh, God! That's Jason's hat!

She picks it up and looks all around.

CATHERIN (CONT'D)
(calling)
Jason! Jason!

BETH
(frantic)
Heather! Heather! Heather!

They run to the quicksand.

A FIRE CHIEF (60) arrives and goes to them.

FIRE CHIEF
You've got to stay out of the way
now. We're doing all we can.

Cody pulls them away.

SCUBA divers arrive.

FIRE CHIEF (CONT'D)
(to the SCUBA divers)
Look under that rope swing first,
then start a grid search. We're
looking for three males and two
females, ages seven to fifteen.

The divers wade in and sink below the surface.

The Fire Chief gets on his radio.

FIRE CHIEF (CONT'D)
(on radio)
This looks bad, Linda. We need a
back hoe and a bucket crane. And a
cat to punch the road back in. It's
overgrown with trees.

INT. THE MANSION - FIRST FLOOR HALLWAY - EVENING

Rudy and Boggs are standing outside the door to the basement.
It's braced closed with a two-by-four to the opposite wall.

RUDY
It's gotta be in the basement.
We've looked everywhere else.
(he knocks on the door)
Hey! Kids!

INT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT - EVENING

The kids look up at the door.

CLAY
(calling)
Yeah?

RUDY (O.S.)
We got food up here. Hot dogs,
chips and stuff. Want some?

GINGER
(calling)
No. You probably poisoned it.

RUDY (O.S.)
No. It's still in the wrappers. We
want to trade it for some whiskey.

JASON
(calling)
You got any marshmallows?

RUDY (O.S.)
No. But we got Ho Hos and Twinkies.

CHRIS
Oh, my God! I love Ho Hos and
Twinkies. Let's do it! I'm starved!

JASON
Me too.

RUDY (O.S.)
You got any whiskey down there?

CLAY
(calling)
I don't know. Maybe.

RUDY (O.S.)
Go look. We'll get a bag of food.

CLAY
(calling)
Put it on the top step. If it looks
okay we'll put some whiskey there.

RUDY (O.S.)
Okay. We'll be right back.

The kids hear them WALKING QUICKLY OFF.

Clay turns the flashlight on and goes to the wine cellar.

CLAY
I'll get some whiskey.

EXT. THE MANSION - FRONT STEPS - EVENING

Boggs and Rudy come out and go to the Lincoln.

SKIPPER
What's going on? Where's the booze?

RUDY
It's coming. The kids got it down
in the basement. We're trading some
food for it.

They fill a bag with food and go back in the house with it.

EXT. ROAD - EVENING

A cat is clearing it of trees. Behind it is a column of
waiting emergency vehicles and TV vans.

Two TV camera men and a CORRESPONDENT (30) are walking behind
the cat, filming.

CORRESPONDENT
(into her hand mic)
It is getting dark here now and an
auxiliary light truck is on the
way.

(MORE)

CORRESPONDENT (CONT'D)

Sadly, none of the children have been found yet and hope is beginning to fade.

The camera swings to a backhoe bringing up buckets of quick sand and depositing them to one side, where they are being combed through by firemen.

CORRESPONDENT (CONT'D)

Rescue workers are combing through each bucket of sand and mud as it comes up, hoping to find, if not the children, at least some clue as to how this happened.

The camera swings back to a group of people standing behind police tape, and centers on REVEREND COLLINGS (60).

CORRESPONDENT (CONT'D)

The parents of most of the lost children are here, and Reverend Collings, pastor of the local church.

The camera follows her over to REVEREND COLLINGS (70) who is standing with Catherin and Cody, Beth, and Mrs. Harding and her brother, Lonnie.

CORRESPONDENT (CONT'D)

Reverend?

He nods, and steps quietly over.

CORRESPONDENT (CONT'D)

This is such a horror, Reverend. Everyone is devastated. What are your feeling, sir?

REVEREND COLLINGS

The same, of course. We are all deeply shocked.

CORRESPONDENT

The parents of two of the children, I understand, are being flown down by the National Guard from Eugene, Oregon.

REVEREND COLLINS

That's right.

Mrs. Harding walks over and joins them.

MRS. HARDING
(to the correspondent)
I'm Elizabeth Harding, Mayor and
Montague City Manager.

CORRESPONDENT
Oh, yes, Mayor. Thank you for
introducing yourself. Someone
pointed you out earlier.

MRS. HARDING
We have a tourist and information
desk in my office. Please stop by
before you leave and I'll fill you
in on the town and it's history. My
family has been here since before
its incorporation. My father and
grandfather were also mayors.

Cody and Catherin walk over.

CODY
Excuse me, Reverend. I wonder if
you'd pass the word that I'm
organizing a search for our
children tomorrow morning at the
community hall. Catherin and I
can't believe the children fell in
the quicksand or drowned. It
doesn't make sense. They are all
sensible and wouldn't go anywhere
near quick sand, and are excellent
swimmers. And, where is Cicero?

MRS. HARDING
Your big Clydesdale? He probably
just wandered off.

CATHERIN
Then, where are his tracks leaving
here? They come here with the other
horses, but never leave.

MRS. HARDING
Maybe he went in the water and
drowned too. Really, Mr. Morgan,
With all this expertise here -
firemen, mountain rescue and SCUBA
divers, and my brother, Lonnie, the
best tracker in the county - you
must let them handle it.

CATHERIN

No, because they are looking in the wrong place. We feel sure of it, and not giving up on them.

MRS. HARDING

Very well, but I don't think you are going to get many people to help you look tomorrow. Most of the men in town have signed up to help with the Glen Marshall Day parade and picnic.

(to the correspondent)

That's our annual festival celebrating our town's most illustrious citizen and benefactor. He was also a mayor.

REVEREND COLLINGS

Mayor Harding, I hardly think that under the circumstances we can have a parade and picnic tomorrow.

MRS. HARDING

Well, it is my responsibility to see that we do! Two high school marching bands are coming, food and other booths have been set up, and this never would have happened if the city council had taken my advice and torn that rope swing down!

CORRESPONDENT

Thank you, Mayor and Reverend Collings. I'm receiving an urgent update.

(to the camera)

Thomas?

INT. TV STUDIO - NIGHT

An anchor, THOMAS (40) and co-anchor are sitting at a table.

ANCHOR

Thank you, Marsha.

(to camera)

And, there you have it, ladies and gentlemen, a sad, sad situation indeed, and our hearts go out to them all. We'll keep you updated as more news comes in.

EXT. THE MANSION - FRONT STEPS - NIGHT

The crooks are on the porch with a bottle of whiskey and stacks of money on every side. Lance remains chained to the Lincoln, concealing an almost severed link of chain.

Rudy and Boggs are singing along with a song on the car radio. It ends and another begins. Skipper is looking dour.

RUDY

Come on, Skipper! Loosen up! It's party time and we earned it!

SKIPPER

I'll party when we get the hell out of here. You checked on those kids lately? When we leave here I'm going to torch this place, with them in it.

Lance goes secretly back to work on the weakened link.

INT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT - NIGHT

The NOISE OF THE PARTY is seeping down to the kids.

GINGER

Sounds like they're blasted. What was that we gave them.

CLAY

Bourbon, tequila and apricot brandy. Full bottles.

CHRIS

(holding his stomach)
Oh, man, I ate too much.
(suddenly alarmed)
Think it was poisoned!?

GINGER

No. I think four packages of Twinkies and three of Ho Hos would make anybody sick. Plus how many hot dogs?

CHRIS

How many in a package? That many.

The PARTY NOISE gets louder. A BOTTLE BREAKS.

RUDY (O.S.)
(yelling)
Yeeeeehaaaaaaa!!!

HEATHER
Clay, those guys are drunk. And
killers. We have to get out of
here.

CLAY
I know. Giving them whiskey was a
bad idea.
(looking around)
So - both doors are locked and
barricaded, so's the wood lift, the
basement windows are too small to
get through, and the basement walls
are solid cement. That leaves what?

GINGER
The elevator shaft! The elevator's
up on the second floor. We can
break through the elevator doors
down here, get up to the doors on
the first floor, break through them
and get out a back window!

CLAY
Yeah! Great! Let's do it!

They go to the elevator doors.

CLAY (CONT'D)
They are just like the ones in the
tower room. We need something to
pry them open with.

Chris hands him a shovel. Clay starts prying them open.

CLAY (CONT'D)
It's working.

The others help and get them pried open. Bats SCREAM and fly
out. The kids jump back. Clay shines the light up the shaft

CLAY (CONT'D)
I can see the doors to the first
floor. Get something to stand on.

The others start looking for something. Clay shines the light
at the bottom of the shaft.

CLAY (CONT'D)
Wait! There's a door here.

The kids come back. A steel door, slightly ajar, is on the opposite shaft wall.

JASON

It's a tunnel, I bet! A door to a secret tunnel!

CLAY

Maybe. Wouldn't that be sweet!

He steps into the shaft and pulls it open. There's a crash, more bats fly out, and a rotten wood cabinet tumbles into the shaft and breaks open, spilling hundreds of gold coins.

CHRIS

Money!

Clay picks one up and hold it in the light.

CLAY

Not just money. Gold

(reading)

United States of America. One ounce fine gold. And, there's thousands here!

The kids all step forward and pick some up.

HEATHER

Oh, my God! Do you know how much an ounce of gold is worth? About a thousand dollars!

GINGER

Do you think it's real?

CLAY

Yes. Who'd hide fake gold? Marshall was a miser and a survivalist. This must be his hoard in case of a crises.

A metal box is half buried in the gold.

HEATHER

(picking it up)

What's this?

CLAY

Open it.

She does and inside are bank books, passports, and an envelope with writing on it. Clay picks it up.

CLAY (CONT'D)

(reading)

To be opened and read ONLY if my daughter, Lenore, is implicated in my murder! Oh, wow! It's the confession! We found it!

JASON

Open it!

CLAY

We can't. Only if his daughter was implicated in his murder, it says.

GINGER

But, she was! And almost sent to prison!

CHRIS

And, they are both dead now! Open it!

Clay turns it over. The flap is curled open with age. He takes out a letter and silently reads it.

CLAY

It's the confession alright. Dated, signed, and witnessed by Willie Dunlop.

GINGER

Just like Willie said yesterday.

CLAY

Yeah.

He puts it back in the envelope and hands it to Heather.

CLAY (CONT'D)

Here. Put it in your pocket. I don't have one.

She folds and puts it in her shirt pocket and buttons it.

CHRIS

So, that means . . .

CLAY

Yeah. Rusty didn't do it, just like he always said.

GINGER

And spent forty years in prison for it anyway.

CHRIS

I thought for sure he did it.

HEATHER

And, you really hurt him, Chris.
Did you see his face when we left?
He's an old man. Why are you so
mean? You're mean to everyone.

CHRIS

'Cause everyone's mean to me.

GINGER

They are not. You start it every
time.

CLAY

Yeah, Chris, you do. What's wrong
with you? You weren't like this
last summer.

GINGER

It's because Dad's gone. He's been
like this since the day he left.

CLAY

Come on. Let's put the gold back in
the hole and get out of here.

They clear out the rest of the wood cabinet and start putting
the gold back in the hole.

EXT. THE MANSION - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

The crooks continue to party, and Lance to secretly work on
the weakened chain link. It's almost worn through.

RUDY

(offering him a bottle)
Lance! Have a drink!

LANCE

No, thanks.

RUDY

Aw, come on! You're as bad as
Skipper. Don't be a sorehead.
You're going to get your camper
back, right Skipper?

SKIPPER

When he gets us down to L.A. He's a wimp and always has been. Isn't that right, wimp.

The car radio starts playing "There stands the Glass."

BOGGS

Hey! One of my favorites!

He turns the volume up. Rudy tips a bottle up and drains it.

RUDY

Oh, oh! Dead soldier. Can't have that. I'll get another.

He gets Twinkies out of the Lincoln and goes in the mansion.

INT. THE MANSION - FIRST FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Rudy staggers to the basement door, removes the two-by-four brace, opens it and starts to call down, then suddenly hiccups. He hears voices, looks down the stairs and sees all the kids except Clay standing in the open elevator doorway.

CLAY (O.S.)

These doors are tougher. We need a longer pry bar.

JASON

I'll find one.

He comes out of the elevator. Rudy quickly closes the door, replaces the two-by-four and tip-toes back down the hall.

EXT. THE MANSION - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Rudy comes out of the house.

RUDY

Skipper! Those little rats are in the elevator shaft, prying a door open somewhere. I heard 'em.

SKIPPER

An elevator door?

RUDY

I guess. They already got the basement one open.

SKIPPER

Must be the one on the first floor,
then. Come on, and quiet. Hand me
one of those two-by-fours. We'll
hide and surprise them when they
come out. And, no messing around
this time. It's shoot to kill.

BOGGS

Yeah!

They pick up two-by-fours and go quietly into the mansion.

Lance watches them go, frantically works at the chain and the
link finally breaks. He takes it off his ankle and runs
around the house.

EXT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT BACK DOOR - NIGHT

Lance hurries to it and knocks softly.

LANCE

(quietly)

Kids! Hey! It's me! Lance!

INT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Ginger and Heather go to the back door.

HEATHER

(whispering)

Lance?

LANCE (O.S.)

(whispering)

Yes. They're waiting for you
upstairs. Don't open the elevator
door up there. I'll get you out
this way.

Ginger and Heather run to the elevator shaft.

HEATHER

(whispering)

Clay, stop!

INT. THE MANSION - ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT

Clay is standing on a sea chest, working on the door.

CLAY
(whispering)
What?

HEATHER
(whispering)
They are right there! On the other
side of the door! Come down.

Clay gets off the sea chest.

INT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT - NIGHT

They come out of the elevator shaft.

CLAY
(whispering)
You sure? How do you know?

HEATHER
(whispering)
Lance just told us. He's outside
the back door.

Clay goes there.

CLAY
Lance?

LANCE (O.S.)
Yeah?

CLAY
Unlock the door. The key's on the
ledge above it.

LANCE (O.S.)
I have to pry some boards off
first. Hand me that pry bar.

Clay hands it to him through the broken window.

EXT. THE MANSION - BASEMENT DOOR - NIGHT

Lance pries the boards off, unlocks the door and the kids
hurry out.

LANCE
(whispering)
They're all inside watching the
elevator door. Let's get out of
here.

They start to leave.

JASON
Wait! We have to get Cicero. He's
in the barn!

CLAY
No! Come on! We'll come back for
him!

JASON
No. We can't leave him here with
those guys! I'll get him!

He runs towards the barn.

CLAY
Jason! Come back!

Jason keeps going.

CLAY (CONT'D)
(running after him)
Jason!

The others follow.

INT. MANSION - FIRST FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Skipper is standing by a window, watching the elevator door.
He hears a noise, looks outside, sees Jason opening the barn
doors, and Lance and the other kids running to him.

SKIPPER
(running out the front)
Come on! They're out back!

They run out the front door.

EXT. THE BARN - EARLY DAWN

Jason is leading Cicero out. Lance and the other kids arrive.

CLAY
Come on! Hurry!

Ginger sees the crooks running down from the house.

GINGER
Here they come!

The crooks wade into them with their two-by-fours. The kids scatter, dodging and ducking.

Lance and Clay rip two-by-fours from the fence and fight back. Lance is knocked down and Boggs aims a blow at his head. Ginger jumps on his back and Heather kicks him. Boggs throws Ginger off, swings his two-by-four at Heather, misses, and Clay, fighting Skipper and Rudy, runs to help her. Skipper and Rudy chase after him.

Cicero, spooked by the violence, rears and charges into the fight. Jason, holding his halter rope, is jerked off his feet and thrown clear.

Cicero whinnies, spins, bucks and kicks. He knocks Rudy and Skipper senseless, and both go flying.

Boggs hits Clay with his two-by-four, knocks him down and raises his two-by-four for a kill shot.

Jason and Chris tackle Boggs around his knees. Boggs kicks them off and raises his two-by-four to strike Jason. Cicero charges, bowls him over and rears to stomp him.

Boggs screams and cowers. Cicero stomps the ground next to him and rears again.

JASON
(getting to his feet)
Cicero! No!

He and Clay grab Cicero's halter rope and pull him away. Boggs, cowering and sobbing, covers his head with his hands.

Lance runs up to him with a two-by-four.

LANCE
Don't move, Boggs.
(to the kids)
Tie his hands behind him. Use some
of that bailing wire over there.

Some coils of it and rusty old wire cutters are hanging on a fence post. Chris brings them over and they tie Boggs's hands behind his back.

Skipper and Rudy are coming around.

LANCE (CONT'D)
Now those two.

They tie their hands behind them.

LANCE (CONT'D)
Okay, let's get them up to the car
and into town.

Jason leads Cicero, and they go up to the Lincoln.

The sun is coming up.

CHRIS
What about all that gold? Are we
just going to leave it there?

LANCE
Gold?

JASON
Yeah. We found a big pile of gold.
And a letter that clears our
grandfather of murder!

GINGER
You owe him a big apology, Chris.

CHRIS
I know. I will.

They get to the Lincoln.

LANCE
We've got a seating problem. Nine
people in two seats and three of
them killers. Let's tie them to the
fenders like deer hunters do. Is
there any more rope in the barn?

CLAY
Yeah, I'll get it. Come on,
Heather.

They leave for the barn.

LANCE
(to the crooks)
I think there's room for all three
of you on the hood.

SKIPPER
Lance, this isn't right. I'm your
brother. Let us go. You can have
the money all for yourself. It's in
the trunk. And, I'll never bother
you again. Please!

LANCE
I got no use for it, Skipper.

BOGGS
You taking us to the cops?

LANCE
That's right, Boggs. You are going
to be back home soon.

Clay and Heather come back with some rope.

LANCE (CONT'D)
Okay, you three. Up on the hood.

SKIPPER
Lance! No!

LANCE
Or, you walk. We're going slow
anyway, because of the horse. Well?

Mumbling curses, the three crooks lie across the Lincoln's
hood, and Lance and the kids tie their hands and feet
together with ropes going under it from side to side.

Lance and the kids step back to admire the job.

HEATHER
I wish I had my phone.

GINGER
What for? A selfie with *them*?

HEATHER
No, with you guys and Lance and
Cicero. *Them*, I want to forget.

LANCE
(getting behind the wheel)
Okay, all aboard.

Clay helps Jason up on Cicero.

JASON
(to Chris)
You want to ride on Cicero?

CHRIS
Yeah!

Clay helps him up behind Jason, then he and Heather get in
the back of the Lincoln, and Ginger up front with Lance.

LANCE
(connecting the ignition
wires)
Say, any of you kids got a birthday
coming up? Think you'd like a Buck-
aroo Birthday Party?

CLAY
A what?

Lance touches the starter wires together. The STARTER GROANS
AND DIES.

LANCE
Oh, oh. Dead battery. They played
the radio too much last night.

HEATHER
Are we going to have to walk? I'm
dead tired.

LANCE
I think Cicero got a good rest last
night. What do you think, Jason?
Can he pull us to town? How far is
it?

JASON
Only a couple of miles, and mostly
flat! Yeah, he can do it easy!

LANCE
(getting out)
Then he's hired. He's not still
scared of it is he?

JASON
Are you, Cicero?

Cicero whinnies and shakes his head.

JASON (CONT'D)
(laughing)
That's a big no!

LANCE
Let's get him harnessed then. Come
on, Cicero! Time to earn your oats!

They harness Cicero back to the Lincoln and Jason and Chris
get back on him, and the others back in the Lincoln

LANCE (CONT'D)
You drive and I'll steer, Jason.
Ready when you are.

JASON
Let's go, Cicero! Git!

Cicero pulls the Lincoln with ease. He turns it around and they head for the creek.

CLAY
He'll have to break into a gallop to get us across the creek. But, its down hill on this side, and a gentle slope up the other.

EXT. ROAD AND CREEK - MORNING

Cicero, pulling the loaded Lincoln tops a rise a hundred yards from the creek.

JASON
Here we go, Cicero. Show 'em what you've got, boy! Gitup! Yahoo!

Cicero breaks into a trot, then a gallop as the Lincoln behind him gains speed. It splashes across the creek, soaking the crooks. Lance and the kids cheer.

EXT. MORGAN DRIVEWAY - MORNING

Cicero, pulling the Lincoln, turns into it.

CLAY
Mom and Dad's cars are both gone.

GINGER
And, there's our mom's car.

CLAY
I bet our mom called her when we didn't get back last night.

GINGER
She is going to be so mad. Driving all this way, and was supposed to work today, too.

HEATHER
I bet they're out looking for you. My mom's probably with them.

They stop at the house.

LANCE

(to Clay)

Better go in and call your folks
and tell them you're back. And, the
police.

CLAY

I can't. We don't have a house
phone anymore, just cell phones and
mine's broken, unless Rusty's here
and they left one with him.

HEATHER

If they did call my mom and tell
her I'm okay too.

CLAY

Okay.

Clay goes in the house and comes out a moment later.

CLAY (CONT'D)

Rusty's not here either. I wonder
if they had to take him to the
hospital!

CHRIS

Or, he died! That's why mom's here!
Rusty died!

CLAY

No, I don't think so, Chris. But,
he should be here.

CHRIS

He died! He went to jail for
something he didn't do and I said
he did and it killed him!

CLAY

No, Chris. He wasn't that sick.

CHRIS

He was too! Remember how he looked?

He slides off Cicero and runs to the car. Ginger opens her
door and he sobs on her shoulder.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I killed him, Ginger! I killed him!

GINGER
No. You didn't. It's okay.

CHRIS
(looking around at them)
I'm so sorry, you guys! I'm so
sorry!

He sobs and Ginger comforts him.

LANCE
Let's go to town. We can find out
there and take these guys to the
police station.

Chris, still sobbing, gets in the car with Ginger and she
closes the door.

JASON
(quietly)
Git, Cicero. Git.

Cicero turns the Lincoln around and they start for town.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Cicero pulls the Lincoln along a deserted street. A church
bell RINGS in the distance.

CLAY
Where is everyone?

HEATHER
In church, I guess. It's Sunday.

LANCE
Where's the police station?

CLAY
The other end of town. Look at all
the cars at the community hall!
There's Mom's car and Dad's pickup.

HEATHER
And, my Mom's car! That shouldn't
be here. Not if she's out looking
for me.

GINGER
Does she know Rusty.

HEATHER

Yes. We were over there for dinner last week and met him.

CHRIS

There's a hearse!

GINGER

Oh, God. Let's park and go in.

LANCE

Stop here, Jason. The parking lot's full. I'll wait here with these three. If you see the sheriff in there send him out.

CLAY

Alright.

Jason stops Cicero, slides off and goes with the rest of the kids to the door.

CHRIS

(sobbing)

No! I don't want to go in! Please don't tell Mom, and Aunt and Uncle Morgan how mean I was to Rusty!

GINGER

Come on.

She and Heather drag him to the door.

HEATHER

It's going to be alright, Chris.

Clay and Jason are coming behind.

CLAY

(to Jason)

It's weird all these cars and TV trucks being here. I guess Rusty was more important than we thought.

Lance watches them go through the door, then starts checking the ropes on the crooks.

LANCE

You boys comfy?

INT. COMMUNITY HALL - DAY

The back of the auditorium is packed with TV crews and first responders. The kids crowd into a hubbub of people talking.

HEATHER
(to Clay)
Can you see anything?

CLAY
No.
(to a TV CREWMAN (35))
What's going on?

TV CREWMAN
Careful! Watch the cords there!

CODY (O.S.)
(speaking down front)
Thanks for coming everyone.
Reverend Collins would like to say
a few words then we'll get started.

CLAY
(to Heather)
That's our Dad.

She takes his hand.

HEATHER
Oh, Clay, I am so sorry.

CLAY
Thanks.

JASON
It's for Grandpa Rusty isn't it. I
killed him, didn't I.

He starts crying.

CLAY
No, Chris, it wasn't you. He was
old and sick.

CHRIS
I made him feel so bad he just gave
up and died!

CLAY
No.

GINGER
(hugging him)
Chris, no. It wasn't you.

CLAY
(weeping)
It was! It was! And, then we found
the confession and he never even
got to know it and died!

GINGER
Sshhh. It's alright. He was old and
sick.

REVEREND COLLINS (O.S.)
Let us pray.

He asks for strength for the families to get them through
this difficult time, etc. The kids stand quietly.

Mrs. Harding and Lonnie come in from an office near the front
door. She sees the kids.

MRS. HARDING
Oh, my God! Where have you been?

CHRIS
(sobbing)
It's our Grampa, Mrs. Harding. He
died. I didn't even get to say I'm
sorry for all the bad things I said
to him, and then we found the
confession and he didn't kill
anyone and died thinking people
thought he did and its my fault!

MRS. HARDING
What are you talking about!? That
old fool's not dead! He's sitting
right down front with your mother
and father and the Morgans! And,
where have you been!? The entire
town's been looking for you! This
is outrageous! You have a lot to
answer for! We've had divers
risking their lives, spent
thousands on expensive equipment,
created a furor all over town, and
not only that, but almost had to
cancel the Glen Marshall Day
Parade!

JASON
This isn't Grandpa Rusty's funeral?

MRS. HARDING

No. It's for you! Your father's organizing a search party to look for you. This is outrageous! We have been looking for you all night! Where have you been!?

She takes Chris by the ear.

MRS. HARDING (CONT'D)

Come with me! All of you!

She pushes through the crowd towards the front.

MRS. HARDING (CONT'D)

(to Lonnie on the way)

This is the one I told you about that locked me out of the conference room!

LONNIE

And that mooned that bus full of little kids!

(to Chris)

You little devil! And, now what have you done!?

They get to the front of the room.

MRS. HARDING

(addressing the crowd)

Everyone! Everyone! Attention, please! Here's the kids we've been searching for! All five!

The kids parents, including Heather's mother, and Ginger and Chris's dad, ZACK (35) jump up, run over and hug and kiss them. Consternation sweeps the crowd.

VANESSA

Oh, my God! Oh, my God! I can't believe it!

The other parents have similar reactions.

CHRIS

(to Zack)

Dad! I missed you so much! Don't go away again! Please! Are you going to stay home now? Please?

ZACK

Yes. I missed you too. Both of you!
Way too much. I got my old job back
with the city. Where have you been?

CLAY

We were kidnapped.

GINGER

And held captive all night in Glen
Marshall's mansion!

JASON

They're bank robbers, mom! We had a
big fight with them this morning
and won! Cicero helped!

CLAY

They're right outside, tied to a
car!

JASON

(to Rusty)

And, Grandpa! We found the
confession and read it and its just
like you said!

CHRIS

(to Rusty)

I'm sorry Grandpa for all the bad
things I said to you. Please
forgive me. I should have believed
you.

RUSTY

That's okay, boy. Most people
didn't. I forgive you.

(to Jason)

So, where's the confession?

HEATHER

(handing him the envelope)

Here.

Rusty looks at it, then hands it to Reverend Collins.

RUSTY

Would you read it, Reverend? I
didn't bring my glasses.

REVEREND COLLINS

Of course.

(reading)

June 14, 1978.

(MORE)

REVEREND COLLINS (CONT'D)

To the police and courts. I, Glen Marshall, dying of cancer, am going to throw myself out the third floor window of my mansion and make it look like Rusty Morgan murdered me, sending him either to prison or the gas chamber, and preventing my daughter, Lenore, from marrying him. He is a boundless scoundrel and only after my money!! I know this will upset my daughter terribly but it is for her own good, and save her from a fate worse than death!! The man is no good!! This is to be read only in the event she too is implicated in my death and facing prosecution, and I otherwise disclaim the above confession and continue to charge Rusty Morgan with my murder! May he burn in everlasting hell! Signed, Glen Marshall. And below by Willie Fogarty, witness.

(calling)

Willie, are you here?

WILLIE

(in the audience)

Yes, sir.

REVEREND COLLINS

Come here, please.

Willie works his way through the crowd.

WILLIE

Yes, sir?

REVEREND COLLINS

Is this the confession you witnessed?

WILLIE

(looking at it)

Yes, sir. That's it. And, there's my signature.

CATHERIN

Oh, Rusty! That's wonderful!

Astonished conversations erupt. Reporters begin pressing the kids and parents.

MRS. HARDING

But, what about Glen Marshall Day?
What will people say!? This is
ghastly!

RUSTY

Have it! He still did the town a
lot of good. He just went crazy at
the end. I forgave him years ago or
would have gone crazy myself.

LONNIE

(to Clay)

What was that Jason said about
three bank robbers you captured?

CLAY

(laughs)

Yeah, with a lot of help from our
horse, and a guy named Lance.
They're all outside.

LONNIE

(to Jason)

Are you sure you don't mean armored
car robbers? We've been scouring
the countryside for them.

CLAY

Maybe. They got lots of money. It's
in the trunk.

LONNIE

(calling)

Sheriff Dingley! Sheriff Dingley!

SHERIFF DINGLEY (50)

(in the crowd)

Yes?

LONNIE

(starting for the front
door)

These kids say they got some
captured robbers outside!

SHERIFF DINGLEY

What!?

They all pour out the front door.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The crooks are still tied to the Lincoln's hood. A couple of curious SPECTATORS (60s) are there. Cicero and Lance are gone. Cicero's harness is empty.

Jason runs into the street and looks around.

JASON

Cicero! Cicero! Where is he!?

SPECTATOR

If you mean that big plow horse, a guy just rode off on him.

(pointing)

There they are.

Lance on Cicero, is about to ride around a corner.

CLAY

He's stealing him!

HEATHER

No, wait! Here's a note on the windshield.

(she reads it aloud)

You kids take it from here. I'll leave Cicero tied to a Walmart shade tree. Happy trails. Lance.

Lance sees them and waves. The kids wave back and yell goodbye. Cicero rears and whinnies, and they ride out of sight.

CLAY

(to Cody)

That was the guy that helped us.

SHERIFF DINGLEY

Stand back from the car, everyone! Way back! The FBI's going to want this one real pristine. Just the way it is.

He takes out a cell phone and opens it.

SHERIFF DINGLEY (CONT'D)

Maybelle? Patch me through to the FBI.

JASON

Dad, let's go to Walmart and get Cicero before somebody really steals him!

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

And, can we get him some ice cream while we're there? He like chocolate chip mint the best. Me too.

CODY

We'll get him a gallon if he wants it! Let's all get some!

They start for the parking lot. The rest of the kids and their parents, talking excitedly, follow.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Crowds line both sides. MARCHING BAND MUSIC fills the air. Majorettes, twirling batons, appear in front of a slowly advancing limo.

Mrs. Harding and Lonnie are in the back seat and wave to the clapping crowd.

A banner, GLEN MARSHALL DAY - PARADE MARSHALL, is on the side of the limo.

More majorettes, then the marching bands appear, then Cicero, prancing and festooned with bunting, with Jason, Chris and Ginger on his back, all cheering and waving.

Behind them ride Clay and Heather on their ponies.

Following them are three convertibles with town dignitaries and the kids parents in them, all waving and smiling.

CORRESPONDENT (V.O.)

So! A very unusual and happy ending to what we all feared was a terrible tragedy for this small Northern California town. Thomas?

THOMAS (V.O.)

Thanks, Marsha. Terrific job. And, now to other news . . .

The BAND MUSIC SWELLS, the parade continues.

FADE OUT