JUSTIN AND HIS MOM

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FADE IN:

EXT. TRAILER – DAY
The tiny dwelling is parked in an isolated clearing near a state wildlife reserve.
An argument between a man and woman is heard amidst the dreadful crying of a child.

INT. TRAILER – DAY
A dish flies across the trailer isle and crashes onto the back wall of the trailer, scatters into thousands of pieces.  

ETHEL (OS)  
You son of bitch!

JOHN, 35, looks astonished at ETHEL, 28, who holds a little boy in her arms. The boy cries desperately.  
Ethel has a huge bruise on her right eye.

JOHN  
You are a crazy bitch, Ethel!

ETHEL  
You hit me again and I'll kill you, you bastard coward!

The little boy cries relentlessly.
Ethel approaches John furiously and shoves him toward a table with a lamp but he parries from the blow and Ethel loses balance.

The boy falls violently to the floor. In the background is the sound of crushing wood and glass as Ethel screams.

INT. TRAILER – DAY
JUSTIN, 20, suddenly wakes up shaken and sweaty.

JUSTIN  
What the fuck!

He breathes heavily a few moments as he regains some composure. He looks across the room.

There's a bed where someone sleeps, undisturbed by his outburst.
He gazes at the human shape beneath the sheets a moment and then rises and stretches.
He lumbers to the main door and opens it.
Outside is clear; a sunny day!

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Justin!

Justin glances back quickly toward the bed and then ignores the call as he steps off the trailer.

EXT. TRAILER - DAY
Justin surveys his surroundings.
Outside is a true mess. Card boxes; bottles of beer; cans of beer and tinned foods, everything scattered about.
An old Chevy is parked in front of the trailer.
Justin pulls from his jeans' pocket a crushed pack of cigarettes. Taps one out and lights it.

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Justin!

JUSTIN
(looking back to the trailer)
Fuck! Wait old!

Moves away and unzips his jeans. Pees!

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Did you make my breakfast?

He pees on marching ants. The ants speed up and scatter various directions to avoid the hot stream.

JUSTIN

Nope!

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Don't forget to bring me my medicines, Justin!

JUSTIN

Fuck!

Justin directs his stream now to a poor caterpillar who tries to get to a safe spot...Too late. The pee hits him violently and blasts him into obscurity.

FEMALE VOICE (OS)

Are you coming to put me in the bath? Justin?
JUSTIN
Fuck! Fuck! I'm coming!

Justin zips himself as he stares blankly into nowhere with his cigarette hanging carelessly from his mouth.

FEMALE VOICE (OS)
C'mon, Justin! I need to go to the toilet!

JUSTIN
(mocking)
C'mon, Justin! I need to go to the toilet...

INT. TRAILER - DAY
Justin moves to a little kitchen.
He cleans up a little table that is a true mess. Picks up a little parcel, opens it.
Cocaine!

FEMALE VOICE (OS)
Justin!

JUSTIN
I'm coming!

He pours the white powder onto the table in a tiny carrier and inhales it all!
Sniff!
Justin releases a gratified exhale with a euphoric slant in his eyes.
He moves toward where the woman lies in bed.
She is Ethel, now older than in Justin's dream. Her hair is tangled and matted.

JUSTIN
(cleaning his nose)
What?

ETHEL
I was...I wetted my pants, son!
Her pajama bottoms and the sheet beneath her are covered with a moist darkened circle.

JUSTIN
You old idiot! Now who will wash this fucking sheet? Huh?!
He grabs Ethel by her arms and drags her abruptly from the bed.
He carries Ethel to the bathroom with her feet dragging the floor.
He opens the bathroom door and sits her on the vase.

JUSTIN
Now help yourself, oldie!

INT. TRAILER – DAY – LATER
Ethel sits at the table and eats milk and cornflakes.

ETHEL
Where are my medicines!

Justin opens a cupboard, takes out little bottles of different medicines, and hands them to Ethel.

JUSTIN
These fucking things will kill you Mom!

ETHEL
(while she takes the medicines)
And cocaine will do the same with you, Justin!

JUSTIN
Shut up!

ETHEL
Now put me outside to see the sun!

JUSTIN
(to himself)
What a fucking life!

 Abruptly, Justin picks Ethel up by the arms and clumsily carries her outside the trailer.

ETHEL
My wheelchair, Justin! My wheelchair!

EXT. TRAILER – DAY
Justin places Ethel on the stairs as he goes back inside.

Seconds later he is back with a wheelchair. Justin opens it and sets Ethel in it.
ETHEL
Thanks, Justin. Hey, son,
I know I have been a heavy
burden in your life...

JUSTIN
(rolling weed)
Fuck! Stop being soppy,
Mom!

ETHEL
Give me the joint, please!
Justin finishes rolling the weed and hands it to Ethel.
She puts it in her mouth and waits as Justin lights it.
Ethel smokes it like a professional as Justin rolls
another.

ETHEL
(holding the air)
As you know we are alone
in this world, Justin.
Your father left us
alone...Now we're Justin
and his mom.

JUSTIN
Shut your fucking mouth!

ETHEL
John was a man that...

JUSTIN
Stop that, Mom! He was a
bastard fuck idiot!

Justin drops a good amount of marijuana off the paper.

JUSTIN
Look what you did, old
woman! Fuck, fuck...Fuck
life!

ETHEL
I know son. I know... You
will be free when I die...

Justin moves toward Ethel, furious...

JUSTIN
(shaking her up)
Shut your mouth! Stop it!
Stop it! I hate you!
EXT. TRAILER - NIGHT
The trailer is illuminated inside.
Suddenly, thick black smoke billows out of it.
Immediately, flames appear from one of the windows...
The blazes overtake the trailer.

ETHEL (OS)
Help! Justin! Help me!
The trailer is engulfed in flames, nearly destroyed utterly.

ETHEL (OS)
Help, me!

Suddenly, someone appears at the door. It is Ethel in her wheelchair.
She's on fire and screams in terror.

ETHEL
You don't love me, Justin.
You hate me, son!

INT. TRAILER - DAY
Justin wakes up shaken and terrified.

JUSTIN
No Mom! I love you, I love!...

He is on an old couch.
Smoke drifts through the air...

ETHEL (OS)
What is happening, Justin?
Justin sits on the sofa edge.
He looks around bewildered and stands up.
The smoke encircles his head.
Justin runs to the kitchen where Ethel, in her wheelchair, prepares food.

JUSTIN
Are you okay, Mom?

ETHEL
I'm okay, dear.

JUSTIN
Hey what are you doing?
The smoke originates from something which roasts on a little cooker.

    ETHEL
    Roast beef, dear.
    JUSTIN
    Cool.
    ETHEL
    Could you fix my hair in a pony tail, Justin?
    JUSTIN
    (scratching his eyes)
    'Course, Mom.
    ETHEL
    Did you have a bad dream again?
    JUSTIN
    (fixing Ethel's hair)
    Yeah. Two!
    ETHEL
    What happened?
    JUSTIN
    Doesn't matter.
    ETHEL
    Look, if you wish to go to a bar, it's okay. I'm feeling well today. I took my medicines. You can go, dear.
    JUSTIN
    Are you sure, Mom?
    ETHEL
    It'll be okay.

INT. TRAILER – DAY – LATER
Justin washes dishes. Glasses and plates with scraps of food sit on the counter.

    ETHEL
    Okay, Justin. Go. I'll be fine.
JUSTIN
Alright, Mom. I'll be back soon.

He steps toward the door when...

ETHEL
Aren't you forgetting something?

Justin stops and backs toward Ethel.

He kisses her and she kisses him in return.

ETHEL
Our lives will change, dear. I promise you.

JUSTIN
Don't worry, Mom. See you soon!

Justin leaves the trailer as Ethel watches the door close.

ETHEL
Take care, Justin!

JUSTIN (OS)
Okay, Mom!

EXT. ROAD – NIGHT
The old Chevy rolls up the road.

INT. CHEVY - NIGHT
Justin drives calmly when something outside grabs his attention...

Far way inside the reserve something burns!

JUSTIN
What the hell is that?

Mom!

EXT. TRAILER – NIGHT
The trailer is being swallowed by fire. The hot glowing flames devour the tiny box.

The Chevy swerves to a halt as the tires dig into the sand.

Justin jumps out with his wide, frightened eyes flickering in the light from the raging inferno.
JUSTIN
(desperately)
Oh, my god! Mom! Mom!

ETHEL (OS)
Justin!

Ethel sits safely in her wheelchair outside the trailer.

JUSTIN
MOM!

ETHEL
Hey, Justin. Calm down, son...

JUSTIN
What happened Mom?
(worried)
We have to get our things out...

ETHEL
Stay calm, Justin. Calm...

JUSTIN
What?!

ETHEL
Remember when I said we will change our lives?

JUSTIN
So?

ETHEL
The time comes, Justin.

JUSTIN
But Mom we have lost everything in there...That trailer was our home!

ETHEL
I know, I know. Look, your father...that idiot left us alone, but he left behind the trailer...

JUSTIN
And it just burned!
ETHEL
Yeah, but it has an insurance bond, dear. I did it years ago!

Ethel takes some papers out of a handbag and hands them to Justin, who scans over them.

JUSTIN
Mom, this isn't for very much money...

ETHEL
It's enough to get us out of here...and start over somewhere else.

JUSTIN
But the fire...

ETHEL
(with a cynical smile)
Well it begun for itself, you know...

JUSTIN
(grinning)
Yeah, I know, Mom.

She rolls her wheelchair to the Chevy...

ETHEL
Let's get out of the past, son. The future is waiting for us!

JUSTIN
Okay, Mom. Here we go!

ETHEL
Hey don't forget to bring the suitcases to the car, boy!

Two suitcases stand on the ground.
Justin smiles and grabs them.
The Chevy rolls out of the clearing, leaving the trailer just as a skeletal wall falls over, and another one on top of it.

FADE OUT