

A DARK screen. We hear vehicles traveling down a dirt road. Music blasts through the stereos.

OPEN TO:

EXT. LEASE ROAD - DAY

We open to a PICKUP speeding down a lease road. Two guys, KENT (17) and JASE (19), are riding in the truck. The two are listen to Smells Like Teen Spirit by Nirvana as they drive.

The camera starts to rise above the pickup to show a white Pontiac Grand Prix following behind. The camera moves down the back of the first truck and onto the front of the second car. Two more guys are riding in the second car, VINCE (17) and GRAHAM (18). These two listen to I Shot The Sheriff by Bob Marley.

The camera goes up and over the car and pans around to see the two trucks heading down a lease road.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

The two vehicles pull up to a cliff just off of the lease road. The two vehicles back up so that the backs of the vehicles are close to the edge of the cliff.

The four guys exit their vehicles. SHERIFF still plays.

MONTAGE:

Shotgun cases being unloaded.

Ammunition being unloaded.

An ice chest full of beer is unloaded.

Jase opening a can of beer and giving one to Vince.

A clay pigeon thrower being set up.

A box of clay pigeons being unloaded.

END MONTAGE

The boys are setting up for a skeet shoot.

We then have a master shot of the two vehicles on the cliff and the boys shooting. We hear the first pigeon being thrown and the first shotgun blast.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. CLIFF - DAY - LATER

All the guys are sitting around laughing and having a good time. Jase stands with the shotgun pointing out over the cliff. Kent holds the string connected to the thrower.

JASE

Pull!

Kent pulls the string, sending the clay pigeon flying out over the cliff.

Jase shoots the shotgun and blasts the pigeon into pieces.

JASE

There we go! That's how it's done.

Vince and Graham sit on the hood of Graham's Grand Prix. Vince is holding a beer in his hand and has his shotgun between his legs. Graham has neither a beer or a shotgun.

VINCE

(to Graham)

Luck.

Kent loads Jase another pigeon while Vince and Graham have a conversation.

GRAHAM

Are you pretty good at this?

VINCE

I'm alright. I can beat him on a good day probably.

GRAHAM

Is that helping?

Graham points to the beer in Vince's hand.

VINCE

I don't know yet. This is my first one...ever.

GRAHAM

Do you think beer and shotguns are a good mix?

VINCE

Well he's been doing it for a long time...

Vince points to Jase who yells "Pull" for his next pigeon.

VINCE
... and he's fine.

GRAHAM
That's a weird way to look at it.

VINCE
You're one to talk, you didn't even
bring a gun.

GRAHAM
I don't own one and I don't really
have to desire to shoot one. And the
whole beer thing; you'd think at
least he...

Points to Jase who just hit the pigeon.

GRAHAM
...would have given it up after what
happened.

VINCE
Like you, or anyone for that matter,
are going to change his mind about
anything. I've got to beat him
today, though. If I don't I might as
well give up.

Vince gets up and downs the rest of his beer. He throws the
can on the ground and then walks towards Jase.

VINCE
My turn.

JASE
Okay, little guy.

Jase walks over and sits down on the car hood where Vince
was sitting.

JASE
(to Graham)
There's no way he can even get
close. That gun's going to blow his
shoulder off.

GRAHAM
Dude, leave him alone.

By this time Kent has loaded a pigeon for Vince and is
ready.

ANGLE ON: VINCE

Vince has the shotgun on his shoulder and is ready to shoot.

We zoom in on Vince's face as he says:

VINCE

Pull!

Then we cut to...

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY - PREVIOUSLY

...Vince walking down a school hallway. Vince is carrying several school text books with him.

Vince walks around a corner to be stopped by three other students: TODD, BEN, and MIKE.

TODD

Hey, faggot! Where the fuck do you think you're going?

VINCE

(softly)

I'm going to the bathroom.

TODD

Really? Well I could have sworn that we were going there too...right boys?

Todd's henchmen agree excitedly.

They grab Vince and drag him...

INT. BATHROOM - DAY - CONTINUED

...into the men's bathroom.

Todd SLAMS Vince into the bathroom wall. Vince slides down the wall onto the ground where the three guys start to kick him.

TODD

You like that you little faggot?!

BEN

Get up you little bitch!

O.S. - The sound of the bathroom door opening. A VOICE yells.

GRAHAM

(O.S.)

Hey!

Graham runs to Vince's aid, pushing off the three bullies.

TODD

Oh, you wantin' some too?

Todd approaches Graham and swings a FIST. Graham DUCKS under the swing and grabs Todd's arm and forces it up his back. He SLAMS Todd against the bathroom wall.

Todd is rendered immobile. He SCREAMS in pain.

GRAHAM

Now....you and your little friends are going to get the hell out of here and leave him alone. If I see this again you're going to get it a lot worse than this. Understand?

Todd yells in pain. Graham throws Todd on this floor. Todd gets up and runs to his other bully friends.

TODD

(while leaving)

You'll get what's coming to you!

The three exit the bathroom.

Vince gets up from the floor slowly, holding his ribs. His nose and lips are covered in blood.

GRAHAM

Are you okay?

Graham dispenses some paper towels and holds them under the sink.

VINCE

It's not the first time they've attacked me. You get used to it.

Graham wipes the blood away from Vince's mouth.

GRAHAM

You shouldn't have to.

VINCE

Thanks for helping me.

GRAHAM

Don't worry about it. If they ever bother you again you let me know.

As Vince nods in agreement we zoom in on his face which cuts to...

EXT. CLIFF - DAY -PRESENT

...the same zoomed in shot of Vince's face as he looks down the barrel of the shotgun. It is here that we first notice the small, healing cut and scraps on his face from the fight.

VINCE

PULL!

Kent pulls the string launching the clay pigeon.

Vince concentrates hard on the disk. FIRES. The pigeon SHATTERS.

JASE

Woohoo! Fuck yeah, little man!
Maybe you don't suck as bad as I
thought.

GRAHAM

Nice shot!

VINCE

Thanks.

KENT

Here...do another one. That was
just beginner's luck.

A cell phone goes off, O.S.

GRAHAM

That's mine. Be right back...

Graham goes off to his car to answer it.

Kent loads another disk into the thrower as Vince positions the shotgun to his shoulder.

VINCE

PULL!

Kent pulls the string and launches the pigeon. Vince FIRES the shotgun. The pigeon is still intact. It breaks as it slams into the ground.

KENT

Ah...must have been a fluke.

VINCE

No. One more...

KENT

Alright.

Kent loads another clay pigeon into the thrower.

VINCE

Pull!

Kent pulls the string and sends the pigeon flying through the air.

Vince fires and misses.

VINCE

Shit...

Kent starts to load another pigeon.

KENT

You're going to go until you get it.

As Vince starts to reload his shotgun, Jase, gets up and walks back towards Graham who is talking on the phone.

GRAHAM'S CAR:

As Jase walks up to Graham we hear Graham faintly talking on the phone. He seems very happy and upbeat.

GRAHAM

(into phone)

You're kidding? Oh my God! Are you serious?!

JASE

Who the hell are you talking to?

Graham ignores Jase. What's happening through the phone is more important.

GRAHAM

(into phone, continued)

Can I talk to him?

Jase then grabs the phone from Graham's ear and hangs it up.

JASE

Dude, come on. We're bonding out here.

Jase throws the phone behind his head.

INSERT: The phone lands near the edge of the cliff.

GRAHAM

Jase, what the hell!

Graham looks frantic, like he just lost something really important.

JASE

What? We're trying to have a good time and you're being a buzzkill.

Graham ignores Jase and runs past him to retrieve the phone.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY - CONTINUED

Graham sees the phone at the very edge of the cliff to the left of Vince, who is about to shoot.

Graham visually locates the phone and bends down to pick it up.

VINCE

PULL!

Kent pulls the string and launches a pigeon. A GUST of wind causes the disk to soar to the left.

Without thinking Vince yanks the gun to the left, following the pigeon.

Graham stands upright after retrieving the phone and dusts it off. He begins to re-dial who he was talking to when...

...Vince pulls the trigger. BAM! shooting Graham in the head.

Graham's lifeless body falls to the ground and slides off the cliff. His body hits the ground down below.

We zoom in on Jase's face as he reacts, horrified at what happened. Then we cut to...

INT. PARTY - NIGHT -THREE WEEKS EARLIER

C.U. - Jase. As the camera pulls out and spins around 180 degrees we realize that Jase is passed out on a couch at a party. He's laying off the side of a couch.

Just then three drunk guys stumble by and bump into the couch, waking Jase up. He's not sure where he is. He slowly sits up straight on the couch.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUED

Jase stumbles out the front door. Other people at the party don't even notice him.

He stumbles off the porch and falls down. He can barely keep his balance.

Jase walks up to his 2002 Ford F150 and gets in. The car comes to life and Jase drives off.

INT. GRAHAM'S ROOM - NIGHT - NEXT

Graham is asleep in bed. His phone starts to ring. He wakes up and answers it, half asleep.

GRAHAM

Hello...

On the other end of the line, all Graham can hear is scattered noise. He can hear faint sounds of yelling and crying.

GRAHAM

Hello?

A loud, painful sounding yell comes from the other end.

JASE

(faintly)

Help!

Graham realizes it's Jase's voice on the other end. He snaps up in his bed.

GRAHAM

Jase? Jase is that you? What's wrong?

Jase starts to breath heavily and sounds of struggle start to come through the phone.

GRAHAM

(getting out of bed)

Shit.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUED

Graham's white Grand Prix darts into the front of the party house. He gets out and looks around for Jase.

GRAHAM

Jase! Jase!

He walks up to a couple of people on the porch.

GRAHAM

Have you seen Jase? Jase Cromwell?

The people just shake their heads.

Graham walks off the porch in a frenzy. Then something catches his eye.

He can see a faint light down the road. It's headlights in the distance.

Graham runs back to his car.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - JASE'S CAR - NIGHT

Graham pulls up to Jase's wrecked truck on the side of the road. He jumps out of the car and runs toward it.

Jase's truck is flipped upside down. Jase's arm can be seen sticking out of the shattered windshield.

GRAHAM

Jase!

Graham starts to pull Jase out of the car. Jase screams in pain. A piece of metal is stabbed into his calf.

Graham pulls Jase completely out of the car. Jase is still crying and screaming in pain.

Graham bends over and puts his hands on his knees. He breathes heavily.

Jase turns over on his side to look up at Graham.

GRAHAM

Are you okay?

JASE

I don't know.

GRAHAM

Here, try to stand up.

Jase attempts to stand, but falls in pain. He cries out.

Graham looks to see the metal sticking out of Jase's calf.

GRAHAM

Oh, shit.

Jase looks behind him to see that metal.

GRAHAM

Alright, Jase? I'm going to pull this out, okay? I need you to just

try and stay calm, alright?

Graham takes off Jase's belt and folds it in half. He sticks it into Jase's mouth.

GRAHAM
When it hurts just bite down on
this, okay?

Jase shakes his head, crying.

GRAHAM
Ready?

Graham starts to slowly pull the metal out of Jase's leg. Jase screams out as loud as he can, but it's muffled by the belt he has his jaws locked on.

GRAHAM
(frantic)
Hold on! I almost got it!

The last bit of the metal comes out of his leg.

Graham throws the metal to the side.

GRAHAM
That's all of it. Are you alright?

Jase lets loose of the belt. He is still in a lot of pain.

JASE
(in between breathes)
I think so...

We zoom in on Jase's face as we...

EXT. CLIFF - DAY -PRESENT

...cut back to Jase's reaction.

ANGLE ON: JASE'S LEGS.

He is wearing shorts and we can see the healing scars from his wreck. From that angle we see him fall to his knees and throw up.

ANGLE ON: VINCE

Vince is holding the shotgun. His face fills with horror as he drops the gun. His face flushes with white like a ghost.

ANGLE ON: KENT

We see Kent's face as he too is horrified by the events that just happened. Kent's reaction is different though. He seems angry, furious.

Kent turns his attention to Vince who is still frozen in shock.

Kent marches up to Vince, grabs him and throws him into the front of the pickup.

KENT

What the fuck did you just do? What
the fuck did you just do!?

Kent starts to punch Vince. He lands a hit right into Vince's eye. Vince does not fight back.

Jase hears the commotion and gets up. He goes and pulls Kent off of Vince.

JASE

What are you doing?! Stop it!

KENT

He just fucking shot him! He shot
him!

Kent falls to his knees, still yelling, and breaks down crying.

Vince lays on the top of the truck, motionless.

ANGLE ON: JASE

Jase turns around and faces out towards the open pasture below the cliff. He puts his hands on his head and breathes deeply. A tear falls from his face.

ANGLE ON: KENT

We slowly zoom in on Kent's crying face as we...

INT. KENT'S HOUSE - DAY - ONE MONTH BEFORE

...cut to a shot of Kent's front door. A figure stands on the other side.

We dolly in as Kent appears. He opens the door. It's Graham. He wears a back pack.

KENT

Graham, hey. What's up?

GRAHAM

Hey, I've got something for you.

INT. KENT'S ROOM - DAY - CONTINUED

Graham and Kent walk into Kent's room. Kent has classic movie posters on the wall and a huge CD rack that's completely filled. He also has two crates filled with vinyl records. He has an entertainment center that is almost filled with DVD's.

GRAHAM

Your collection seems to grow every time I come over here.

KENT

Impressive, huh?

GRAHAM

I'd say so.

As Graham looks about the room, Kent puts away a yellow pad of paper that was sitting on his desk. You can tell that he doesn't want Graham to see it.

GRAHAM

Well I've got something that I think you will be excited about.

KENT

Really?

GRAHAM

Yeah.

Graham pulls off his back pack and sits down on the side of Kent's bed. Kent rolls over the chair from his desk and sits in front of Graham.

ANGLE ON: KENT AND GRAHAM'S FEET

As Kent sits in the chair we see that their legs are close. Kent looks down and sees this. He nudges his foot closer and barely touches Graham's foot.

Graham unzips his back pack and pulls out an old vinyl album. He wipes off the dust on it and hands it to Kent.

GRAHAM

Here you go...

Kent takes it and looks at it. It's an old Bob Dylan vinyl record. It's Bob Dylan's album, "Bob Dylan", his first recorded album.

KENT

Oh, wow.

Kent holds it in his hands and looks at it. He is really amazed by it. Especially since Graham gave it to him.

GRAHAM

I thought you'd like it.

KENT

Graham, how did you get this? This is original.

GRAHAM

We were going through my grandpa's shed last week and I found a big box full of them. I found that one and took it because I thought you'd like it. I know you're a big fan of his.

KENT

A big fan.

He emphasizes "big".

KENT

This is awesome. Thank you.

GRAHAM

No problem, I knew you'd appreciate it. I'd stay and listen with you, but I've got to run. My mom's waiting on me to go to the post office with her.

KENT

It's Letter Day isn't it?

GRAHAM

Yeah...

KENT

Alright, then. Thanks a lot for this.

GRAHAM

You're welcome. see ya...

Kent stops Graham before he exits the room.

KENT

Hey, Graham?

GRAHAM

Yeah?

KENT
Can I tell you something?

GRAHAM
Yeah...

Kent opens his mouth to start to say something, but freezes up. He looks down at the floor, embarrassed.

KENT
Um... I really appreciate this. And you.

GRAHAM
(semi-confused)
Okay. See you, Kent.

Graham smiles and then leaves.

Kent stands motionless. He runs through his head all the things he wanted to say. He sits down on his bed.

O.S we hear to front door open and then close. Kent rises from the bed and walks to his window.

From the upstairs window he watches Graham walk down the sidewalk and get into his car and leave.

EXT. KENT'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUED

Kent looks down from his window.

INT. KENT'S ROOM - DAY - CONTINUED

ANGLE ON: KENT'S FACE

We zoom in on Kent's face as a tear falls down his face. And then we cut to...

EXT. CLIFF - DAY -PRESENT

...Kent crying on the ground.

As Kent cries and Vince lays back on the car, Jase lowers his hands and walks away.

KENT
Where are you going?

Jase doesn't answer. He walks off to the right of the trucks. He finds a place to step down and begins descending the cliff.

EXT. GROUND BELOW CLIFF - DAY - CONTINUED

Jase makes it down to ground level. He continues walking. He changes directions and heads toward Graham's body.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY - CONTINUED

Kent rises from the ground and looks down the side of the cliff. He sees Jase walking underneath him towards Graham.

EXT. GRAHAM'S BODY - DAY -CONTINUED

Jase walks slowly up to Graham's body.

His body is a complete mash of flesh, blood, and brains. He lies uncomfortably covered by a small bush.

ANGLE ON: JASE

Jase walks up and sees Graham for the first time. He flinches and turns away.

BEAT - Jase turns back around and walks to Graham's body.

Jase grabs Graham's legs and pulls him out of the bushes. He drags Graham several feet away from the bushes.

Then - Kent walks up behind Jase. He is holding a small blanket.

KENT

I had it in my truck.

Jase takes the blanket and lays it over Graham's body.

Jase sits down on the ground.

JASE

Where's Vince?

KENT

Still up there.

JASE

You fucking freaking out on him didn't help. I'm sure he feels bad enough.

KENT

I reacted the way I did and I don't regret it. He shot him, Jase! He fucking shot Graham!

JASE

We all shot Graham.

Kent reacts.

KENT

What?

JASE

Kent, it doesn't matter who pulled the trigger. It doesn't matter what really happened. It doesn't matter if this was an accident. The only fucking thing that matters is that the only way this ends is bad. Bad for all of us.

KENT

What are you talking about? This was an accident.

JASE

You're so fucking naive. Are you even listening to me?

Jase rises and gets closer to Kent.

JASE

Four guys on private property with three shotguns and an ice chest full of beer is a fucking closed case. We can all three tell them that it was an accident, we can all tell the truth, but somehow we are going down for this.

KENT

What are you saying?

JASE

I'm saying we cover this up.

KENT

You've got to be kidding me.

JASE

I'm not.

KENT

I won't do it. I won't lie. We don't have anything to hide. We're innocent. This was an accident. A horrible accident. We've already lost a friend, Jase.

JASE

Kent. I've lived a rough life. My parents got themselves into things that you wouldn't even be able to comprehend. I've seen the ugly side of life. I thought I'd gotten out of it, but what happened today -- the fact that Graham's lifeless body is laying right there under that blanket has drug me back into it. I know how this will pan out and I'm telling you that we need to protect ourselves.

KENT

How could you do that to your friend? It's fucking Graham! The reason you were able to pull yourself out of the bad was because of him. Who drug you out of a fucking pile of wreckage when you decided to get shitfaced and run yourself into a ditch, huh? It was Graham! And now you want to just hide his body and lie to everyone? He would have done anything for us -- all three of us.

O.S - A SHOTGUN BLAST

Jase and Kent flinch. They turn and look up the cliff. They are too far under it to be able to see anything on top.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY - CONTINUED

Kent and Jase climb their way to the top of the cliff. They freeze in their tracks when they reach the top.

KENT

Oh my God... No!

The camera (handheld) pulls back in a Reservoir Dogs style reveal. We see that Vince has committed suicide. He stuck his shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. Vince's head is sprayed all over the front of the pickup.

Kent and Jase walk slowly to Vince's body. Vince could simply not bear the burden of being the one who shot Graham.

JASE

(to Kent)

Do you see how this is already playing out?

Kent ignores him.

Kent goes to his pickup and brings out a camouflage jacket. He drapes it over Vince's body.

KENT

What now Jase? Hide both of them?
Act like nothing happened?

BEAT

JASE

We wouldn't have to hide anything if we get rid of any evidence proving we were here. Vince shot Graham...then shot himself. We were never here.

Kent reacts with a look of disgust.

KENT

I can't believe you. These two are your best friends. Maybe you and Vince weren't the tightest of pals, but he would have stuck his neck out for you. And Graham... I don't even need to explain the lengths he would go to for you. Or any of us for that matter. And now you want to leave them both out here to rot? Why would you even have that thought run through your mind?

JASE

Because I'm saving my own skin on this one! I'm looking out for number one, me, Jase. Do you think I want to sit in a jail cell for the rest of my life? What the hell are you being so noble for, huh? For friendship? Now don't get me wrong, I cherish the friendship that I've had with you guys, but when it come down to it my ass is more important. The question is why is that not the case for you?

KENT

Because it's more complicated than that.

JASE

What's complicated? Either you go down for this or you look out for

yourself and save your ass -- which is what I recommend.

KENT
I can't do that.

JASE
What?

KENT
I can't do that.

JASE
Why the hell not?

KENT
I just can't!

JASE
What is it that's so important!

KENT
I can't...

JASE
Kent, this is your life I'm talking about. Do you want to spend...

Kent is very vulnerable by this time. He is at the edge.

KENT
(bursting out)
I love him.

Kent starts to cry.

Jase reacts.

KENT
I love Graham. I've never told anyone. How the fuck would I even possibly begin to explain something like that? That's why I care so much. Because I care for him more than you. More than anyone.

BEAT

KENT
Jase, I'd rather spend the rest of my life in a prison cell than have to live one second knowing I was involved in covering this up.

Jase reacts. He has a hard time comprehending the fact that Kent is using his love for Graham as motivation. He had no idea of his true feelings.

KENT

I don't expect you to understand and at this point I don't care. But I'm calling someone for help. I don't have anything to hide.

Kent pulls his cell phone from his pocket and looks to dial.

ANGLE ON: KENT

Kent starts to dial on his phone when O.S. we hear the sound of a shotgun being pumped.

REVERSE ANGLE:

This shows that Jase has the shotgun that Vince shot himself with and is pointing it at Kent. Kent stops in his track and turns around.

KENT

Jase. What are you doing?

JASE

I can't let you do that.

C.U. ON JASE

His face is filled with a nervous sense of violence. Tears flow from his eyes.

JASE

I won't go down for this!

KENT

You won't have to!

ANGLE ON: JASE

Jase is holding up the shotgun. We dolly in on him.

JASE

I'm sorry.

Jase pulls the trigger and the shotgun blasts.

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

FADE IN:

We open to a nice house. We dolly in slowly.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY - CONTINUED

C.U. - A woman holds a phone up to her ear.

She is crying, happily.

WOMAN

Graham? Can you hear me? I've got something to tell you.

BEAT

GRAHAM'S MOTHER

He's home Graham! Your father's home!

The camera pans over to reveal a man in an Army uniform standing beside her.

On the other end of the phone we hear Graham's voice.

GRAHAM

(through phone)

You're kidding! Oh my God! Are you serious?!

GRAHAM'S MOTHER

I know! He just showed up!

Graham's father leans down and gives his wife a kiss.

GRAHAM

(through phone)

Can I talk to him?

GRAHAM'S MOTHER

Of course.

Graham's mother hands the phone to Graham's father.

GRAHAM'S FATHER

Hey, buddy!

There is no response.

GRAHAM'S FATHER

Graham? Graham, you there?

He looks at Graham's mother.

GRAHAM'S FATHER

Something happened. He's not there.

Graham's mother gives an incredulous look to her husband and then looks at the phone.

GRAHAM'S MOTHER

I bet he's on his way home right now.

Graham's mother gives her husband a big hug.

We dolly out.

CUT TO BLACK: