

THE ABANDONMENT

Written by

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INT. JETISON LIVING ROOM-CLOUDY DAY

Mr. Jetison sits in his favorite chair, resting his eyes, with his four year old granddaughter fast asleep on his lap. His wife wakes him abruptly, slapping his knee with a letter she has just received in the daily mail.

MRS. JETISON

Letter for you in the mail, no postage though.

JETISON

Shit, will you take her please. Might be the bill from Ed to fix the fence. Apparently he thinks it's rude to come to the door. My glasses are in the office.

Jetison stands up to walk to the office.

MRS. JETISON

Well you know he's not all there sometimes sweetheart.

INT. JETISON OFFICE

Mr. Jetison finishes the letter and stands by the fire thinking when someone knocks at the door.

JETISON

Yeah come in, hey Nick.

NICK

We lost another one last night boss when we were grazing them near the south end.

JETISON

Well who the hell did the count last night?

NICK

It was supposed to be Michael sir, and I know you're mad but I would really appreciate it if you gave him another chance. Just let me talk to him.

JETISON

You know I respect you son. Shit you're my best guy Nick but your brother he just ain't cutting it.

(MORE)

JETISON (CONT'D)

Everyone around here pulls his own weight. Boss taught you guys that a long time ago and it seems Michael has forgotten. I need to talk to him.

NICK

We all miss boss here sir, I think Michael most of all but I am asking you, please, let me handle this. I will keep him in line or break my foot off in his ass I promise you that Mr. Jetison. We're going to get that cow back sir.

JETISON

God damn right you will or it's coming out of both your pay. You get out there and look for that cow as soon as the weather lets up, you hear? I'm tired of this shit, now get out.

Mr. Jetison stands by the fire, takes a deep breath, then looks back to the letter in his hand.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

Nick steps outside the door of the house to see his brother Michael waiting eagerly. Nick grabs him by the upper arm.

NICK

Come with me.

Nick pugnaciously walks him over to the horse barn.

MICHAEL

Take it easy Nick, what happened?
You didn't tell him right?

Nick sweeps Michael's legs out from under him taking him down to the ground. He grabs him by the coat collar.

NICK

Shut up Mike! Do you even understand the shit you've got me into? I have worked this job too long and if you get me fired I will break your fucking neck! You got me?

Nick lets him up and Michael dusts off.

MICHAEL

Sorry bro. I just...

NICK

Damn right you'll be sorry especially if we have to pay for that cow. That's almost two weeks of work right there. We are going out to find it after the weather lets up and the trail dries. That fucking cow could be anywhere.

They both look down toward the south end of the ranch. The camera follows their view over the hills and the CREDITS BEGIN. The camera crosses over one of the hills where some dirt tracks come into sight and the camera follows. When the camera finally reaches the end of the tracks a small tree is visible with what looks like a large black sleeping bag under it. END CREDITS.

EXT. JETISON SOUTH FIELD- DAY, RAINING

As the camera begins to move closer we see the black lump is actually an evening coat dirty and worn from the elements.

A gust of wind passes, blowing away the dress coat, to reveal a body laying lifeless on it's stomach. The camera moves closer and closer, we can now see it is a man, focusing on his face and eventually his eyes. Suddenly his lifeless eyes blink. He manages to roll onto his back looking into the grey sky.

EXT. CATHOLIC CHURCH, LOS ANGELES- DAY, RAINING

Bells ring into the grey clouds and people gather in the church courtyard. They are all dressed in black and they begin to file into the church. A sign at the door reads service for a Ronald Hall. At the bottom of the church steps a young man smoking a cigarette waits impatiently until another young man runs up and they begin walking up the steps.

THOMAS

Freddy where the hell have you been? I told you earlier not to be late today.

FREDDY

Relax Tom, I was at Lolo's for a little bit. The new pad on fourth is bad ass, you seen it?

Thomas grabs Freddy's face.

THOMAS

Fucking look at me! You're high right now. I can't believe you man we're going to walk right by Ronnie's folks in a minute and you're... shit it's Jerry.

Jerry sees the two young men and pushes them away from the line into a corner.

JERRY

You two have some stone fucking balls showing up here today.

THOMAS

Yeah uh nice to see you too Jerry.

JERRY

Fuck off Thomas. It's you and junkie fucks like this who put my brother in that box to begin with. You got him hooked on that shit and now he's dead.

THOMAS

Come on man, I wasn't holding the knife Jerry.

JERRY

No you weren't but you sure as hell stood him in front of it didn't you Thomas?

Thomas looks down to the floor.

JERRY (CONT'D)

You were smarter than Ronnie and he trusted you Thomas. In my eyes you're just as guilty as that nigger drug dealer, who still says to this day that there was someone else there that night. I think that person was you. So fuck you both and you're not getting in.

THOMAS

Really Jerry? You're not going to let me see my best friend one last time before they put him in the ground. Jerry, please, I'm begging you man.

JERRY

You should have thought of that before Thomas. You should of thought about your friend because now he's dead now. My brother's dead. Get the fuck out of here before I call the cops.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

FREDDY

Guy's an ass hole. You got a smoke Tom?

THOMAS

Not now, follow me.

FREDDY

Thomas where we going? Thomas!

THOMAS

I am going to my best friend's funeral and no one will tell me no, that simple.

Freddy follows Thomas through a door on the side of the church.

The two men make their way through the priest's quarters and into the side wing of the alter. All they can see is Father Keely and the front left row. Thomas makes familiar eye contact with a beautiful young woman in the front row and stares until she turns away.

Father Keely notices the two young men, they surprise him at first, but he nods and continues speaking.

Thomas thinks back to that terrible day.

INT. HARBOR LODGE- DAY, PAST

A couple gathers their things in the luxury suite at the Harbor Lodge. The man walks over and picks up the phone.

OLDER GENTLEMAN

Front desk please. Yes, my wife and I will be checking out at 11:00 am could you please send a bellhop to 317 as soon as possible, we are in quite the rush. Yes, thank you.

A knock at the door comes shortly there after.

OLDER GENTLEMAN (CONT'D)

That was quick, good.

Thomas, dressed in a bell hop uniform, comes in and picks up the bags. He accepts a healthy tip for the always excellent service, and heads off closing the door behind him.

Thomas proceeds to take two bags he had waiting off to the side in the hall and leaves them in front of the door with a note on them. He quickly heads to the stairs with the wealthy couple's bags.

About 20 seconds later a young bellhop arrives and notices the bags. The note on top reads, "Important phone call. DO NOT DISTURB. Please take bags to the car."

The bellhop shrugs his shoulders and grabs the bags.

The couple checks out and asks if the bags are in the car. The manager calls the head bell man and he gives the manager a thumbs up.

MANAGER

Thank you for staying at the Harbor
Lodge.

They are escorted to their luxury vehicle and they drive back to Arizona according to their license plates.

Thomas walks by the telephone closet where Ronnie sits with a speaker connected to the phone pins. Thomas ditches the uniform.

THOMAS

Ronnie! Lets go.

Ronnie unhooks his contraption and takes off after Thomas. Thomas throws the bags in the trunk and they take off.

INT. LOLO'S PAD OFF THIRD STREET- LATER SAME DAY

Thomas and Ronnie drag their booty up the stairs with Lolo's and his buddies hooting the whole way.

The bags open and are filled with jewelry, watches, fur coats, and expensive clothes. Thomas holds up a gold necklace.

THOMAS

How much Chick can I get for this
Lolo?

LOLO

Shit, none from me at the moment.
I'm dry as dirt right now. Although
I might have something you guys
would be interested in. This nigga
A-Dawg is slanging to far up
Slauson, my turf, I'll pay you to
remove him and you keep the spoils.

THOMAS

We're not killing anyone Lolo.
Although we might not have to. If
he is holding big we just grift him
and the employer will do it for us.

LOLO

OK, OK, I'll put out a word on the
streets and we'll see if we can
make this shit happen, wait for my
call tonight. You have a plan
right?

THOMAS

Always.

LATER THAT EVENING-

Thomas picks up a ringing phone in a phone booth says thanks
and hangs up. He gets into the driver's side of a car nearby
and leaves.

THOMAS

So the plan is simple, just like we
talked about.

RONNIE

I don't know Thomas, I think we
should stick to the hotels.

THOMAS

We can't, Rico at the pawn shop is
on to us, some of the hotels too,
and after today's hit? It's better
if we just let it cool down.

RONNIE

I don't know Thomas robbing drug
dealers is some dangerous shit man.
You know he will be packing
something.

THOMAS

Yeah, well, I have a plan.

RONNIE
You got an assault rifle or an uzi?

THOMAS
I hate guns you know that, nope,
just Old Sly here.

Thomas wiggles a small piece of metal pipe.

RONNIE
You can not be serious, Old Sly,
that worked in like eighth grade
man. Thomas you're crazy but that's
why I love you, ahh, we're fucked.

Thomas pulls the car over near destination.

THOMAS
OK so listen they found this guy
slanging a little further down
Slauson away from the others. It's
more money for him, but not as
safe, which is perfect for us.

EXT. CORNER OF SLAUSON AND TENTH-NIGHT

A-dawg is standing on the corner in front of a closed clothes store. A vagrant straggles by and falls over next to A-Dawg. The bum manages to stand up and stumble toward A-Dawg and we now see that it's Ronnie.

RONNIE
I need some shit man, hook it up
man.

A-DAWG
Man you smell like old shit. Get
the fuck away from me.

A-Dawg shows the gun in his waist band.

RONNIE
Whoa man take it easy, look I got
money.

Ronnie pulls out a wallet filled with cash.

A-DAWG
Where the fuck you get that?

RONNIE
Some guy dropped his wallet coming
out of a club on fifth.
(MORE)

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Guy had three grand. Hahaha I'm rich. Just sell me a little rock man.

A-Dawg sells him a \$100.00 rock. Ronnie walks off and comes back fucked up.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Is it cool if I just chill for a minute man?

A-DAWG

Yeah dude just pull up right there.

Ronnie sits next to the entrance of the closed store. Eventually he passes out and falls over onto his side exposing the wallet in his coat pocket. A-Dawg makes his move but as he crouches down he feels the barrel of a gun poked into the back of his head.

THOMAS

Don't turn around and don't fucking move.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH, LOS ANGELES- PRESENT DAY

FATHER KEELY

Would anyone like to say a few things about Ronald and the time they shared together?

The church remains silent.

FATHER KEELY (CONT'D)

Anyone at all? Uh hemmm!

Thomas snaps out of it and walks up to the podium.

THOMAS

I would father if you don't mind. I see a lot of familiar faces in the crowd today and Ronnie would love to know that so many people cared about him. For those of you who don't know me I am Thomas Henderson and I was Ronnie's best friend since the 8th grade. He was a class act who allowed me, a poor orphan kid, to be his best friend. Really he just gave me a chance when no one else would. I'll never forget that.

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Some people might think I shouldn't be here, maybe you're right, I don't know. What I do know though is that I loved Ronnie, as we all did, and as long as his memory remains in our hearts and his kindness in our souls he will never die, thank you.

Thomas wipes a tear from his face as does the young woman in the front row.

EXT. SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF CHURCH-DAY

Thomas and Freddy are walking away from the service when the beautiful young woman from the front row runs up from behind.

YOUNG LADY

Hey Thomas wait up!

THOMAS

Heather, I thought that was you, you're back and you look great.

HEATHER

Thanks you look great too. I am in town for the next week or so. Maybe we could spend some time together and catch up you know for old times sake.

THOMAS

Heather, I don't know, you...

HEATHER

Thomas I know, I hurt a lot of people when I left and that's what I wanted to talk to you about. You want to get a coffee or something?

THOMAS

Are you asking me out on a date?

HEATHER

Yeah well, I guess I am.

THOMAS

Alright, let's go.

HEATHER

Right now? What about your friend?

THOMAS

He's fine, he's going to go do his thing no matter what we do. Freddy I will catch up with you later!

EXT. DONUT SHOP-DAY

THOMAS

So what do you do now anyway?

HEATHER

I am a bartender at a club in Houston. It gets pretty crazy sometimes and the smoking is not good for my heart condition but the money's great.

THOMAS

So you still have shortness of breath and stuff? I remember when you passed out in 3rd grade music class.

Heather and Thomas laugh at the memory.

HEATHER

I know, it's just too much money and I'm saving up to get on my feet.

THOMAS

On your feet? Sounds like you're doing well to me.

HEATHER

It's a long story.

THOMAS

OK, well how about your sister how is she?

HEATHER

Janet's fine, she lives in Brookfield, Illinois. She has kids and a husband now.

THOMAS

Wow that's crazy, it seems like yesterday you and her were distracting old Abe at the store so we could steal alcohol. Man how times change, for you at least, I still do it sometimes.

They both laugh.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

So how's your grandmother she still in the old place?

HEATHER

Yeah she is still kicking around in that old house. God she is the best and I just missed her so much. If it wasn't for her I don't know what me and Janet would have done. We would have been on the streets for sure.

THOMAS

And your pops? He get out yet?

HEATHER

I don't talk to him. Last I heard he was dying of throat cancer or something. I don't care after what he did to my mother.

They both go silent for a moment.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

So enough about me Thomas what have you been up to?

THOMAS

Nothing, just chilling.

HEATHER

Well what do you do for a living?

THOMAS

What do I do, well I hustle.

HEATHER

Hustle? Like drugs?

THOMAS

Not drugs, no, I hustle for income. I come up with ideas and put them into action for the purpose of making a profit. It worked pretty well for the most part until Ronnie.

HEATHER

Thomas, I know you may not want to talk about this, but what did happen with Ronnie.

THOMAS

I don't know if I can Heather.

HEATHER

Bull shit! Ronnie was my friend too and I want to know what happened to him. Thomas I need to know.

THOMAS

Alright fine, but you can't tell anyone Heather. We were robing this guy, a dealer, and Ronnie was the decoy...

EXT. STOREFRONT-NIGHT PAST

A-DAWG

Man do you know who the fuck I am?

THOMAS

No, but I know the owner of this store, and he's going to be pissed when he has black skull all over his store front window because some dumb shit wouldn't shut the fuck up. Now where's your gun?

RONNIE

It's in his waistband.

Thomas takes A-dawg's gun and points it at him.

THOMAS

OK turn around and give me all your cash and drugs.

A-DAWG

In the backpack, Where's the gun you pulled on me?

THOMAS

Check the bag Ronnie. Oh this piece of shit.

Thomas shows him the small piece of pipe then throws into the street.

Suddenly A-Dawg lunges for Ronnie, pulls a knife, and begins to stab Ronnie repeatedly. Thomas tries to fire the gun but it's empty.

RONNIE
Thomas help me.

Thomas snaps out of it and slams the empty gun over A-Dawg's head knocking him out.

THOMAS
Ronnie get up man we got to go.

Thomas tries to help him walk but Ronnie just collapses to the pavement.

RONNIE
Thomas, I can't man, just go.

THOMAS
No, I'm not going anywhere, we are a team and we stick together.

Police sirens can be heard in the distance.

RONNIE
If the cops get here and find you then this will all be for nothing. I'll be fine now go, go!!!

Thomas takes off with the backpack and leaves Ronnie to bleed to death on the sidewalk.

EXT. JETISON SOUTH FIELD- DAY, RAINING

The battered man beneath the tree cries into the heavens. He tries to move slightly but grabs his knee in pure pain. He realizes his leg has been broken in at the knee cap and he screams in agony.

INT. LOLO'S PAD OFF THIRD STREET- DAY

Lolo walks out with some heroin and utensils on a tray.

FREDDY
Ah shit! Lolo's not fucking around now. He's bringing out the good shit.

LOLO
This is Thomas' shit from a while back. Thank him and Ronnie, R.I.P.

THOMAS

I don't want to talk about it.

FREDDY

His funeral was yesterday Lolo.

LOLO

Yeah I heard it was invite only so I didn't go.

THOMAS

We had to sneak in, Ronnie looked good though, the coroner did a nice job. Uh hmm, is that shit ready yet Freddy?

FREDDY

Coming right up.

Freddy ties off Thomas and shoots him up. Thomas goes into a euphoric haze and eventually passes out.

THEO

Thomas wake up man, there's some ho outside who says she needs to talk to you.

Thomas goes to the window and sees Heather waiting outside. He goes down to meet her while Theo watches suspiciously.

THOMAS

Theo it's cool man, what are you doing here? You shouldn't be here.

HEATHER

I asked around and they told me I could find you here.

THOMAS

So now you're asking around about me? What are you a cop now or something?

HEATHER

You know I'm not, you would be in jail after what you told me the other day, I just want to talk to you.

THOMAS

Well we can't stay here. Theo tell Lolo I'll be back in a bit.

THEO
Alright man.

EXT. WALKING DOWN THIRD STREET-EVENING

THOMAS
So what are you doing coming down to third street? Do you know what some of these people would do to a pretty young white girl like you?

HEATHER
What do you care?

THOMAS
I care enough for you not to get raped by some crack head in alley. From now on don't...

Heather cuts him off.

HEATHER
What are you doing there anyway? Do you do drugs or something?

THOMAS
That's really none of your business.

HEATHER
OK, don't get mad, I just want you to know I care and I if you ever need any help I am here for you. I like you Thomas and I want more for you that's all.

THOMAS
I'm doing fine, you would know this if you didn't just take off without telling anyone.

They both go silent for a second.

HEATHER
I'm sorry Thomas, I needed a change then and I know you are doing well. But you're smart and attractive, you could be in sales or business. You are better than what you're doing right now.

THOMAS

Alright that's enough, I appreciate what you are trying to do here but your not the first, you're acting like your my girlfriend or something.

HEATHER

Uh no you wish, I am kind of seeing someone back in Texas anyway.

THOMAS

Kind of seeing someone? You don't sound too confident in that one. Is he imaginary?

HEATHER

No, he's dangerous, and if he had seen me talking to you right now he would flip the fuck out.

THOMAS

Ooohh scary, maybe I should meet him.

HEATHER

Don't joke around Thomas. He put a guy in the emergency room just for talking to me once.

THOMAS

Well I'll just have to come steal you from him in the middle of the night one time.

HEATHER

Ha, you and what army? He owns the club that I work at and has tons of goons who do what ever he says. I mean anything, Thomas they kill people, I have heard them talk about it.

THOMAS

Talk is cheap and you're pretty hot, I just might want to chance it.

HEATHER

Seriously, I don't even tell my grandmother or sister where I work, because I don't want anyone I really care about involved in anyway what so ever.

THOMAS

Oookayyy, well we are a long way from Texas now, so you want to get some dinner? This Chinese place is great right here.

HEATHER

Oookayyy, are you really asking me out on a date after what I just told you?

THOMAS

Yeah I guess, just don't tell your boyfriend, keep that six shooter in your holster y'all. Come on I'll buy.

HEATHER

Wow so did you hustle this money too?

THOMAS

Ha ha, I'll tell you about it, after you.

HEATHER

Oh I remember this place.

A man across the street, pretending to read a newspaper, watches the couple enter the restaurant.

INT. TABLE IN A CHINESE RESTAURANT- NIGHT

HEATHER

So you asked all these questions about me the other day and I never really asked too much about you. All those years we knew each other you have never really told me about your past. What's your story Thomas?

THOMAS

Outside you wanted to know how I made this money now you want to know about my past. You need to make up your mind.

HEATHER

OK, past first.

THOMAS

Man there is really no small talk with you. I have no family Heather as you know. I grew up in orphanages until I was about 8 years old and then I ran away to LA. After a couple years on the street I met an old Vietnam vet named Al. He was not quite all there but he took me in and taught me things, things he learned in the service. He was a communications expert and one of the smartest men I have ever known. He was just a little fucked up in the head because of what he had seen in the war. He taught me how live on the streets and he taught me the game.

HEATHER

What's the game Thomas?

THOMAS

The game or skill I guess is to deceive to make money also known as The Hustle. I'm damn good too.

HEATHER

You can not be serious, OK hot shot hustle me, my game though. I have this one dollar bill and I bet you all the cash in my wallet that you can not get it from me by the time we leave this restaurant.

THOMAS

Heather I don't think I want to do this with you.

HEATHER

Come on playa' run the game, work The Hustle, parka' the marka'.

THOMAS

Ha ha, OK I don't know what that means but you're on.

Heather proceeds to slide the bill down the front of her pants into the waistline of her panties.

HEATHER

Let's see you get it there con man.

THOMAS

That's going to be tough. So do you want to know how I got the money for this evening?

HEATHER

Sure, thrill me with your skills G.

THOMAS

Well the first thing I can say is you would be amazed how little people keep track of their everyday items. I got a mail man uniform once.

HEATHER

Wow big come up, stealing used clothes, I do like a man in a uniform though.

THOMAS

I made 20 grand in one month.

HEATHER

What? Did you say 20? How?

THOMAS

Yes 20 grand. Let's just say I know people who take things like purses and wallets. All the personal checks and ID's come to me since they are pretty much useless to them. What the Driver's license does give you is an address and an accomplice . I wait about 10 days and I start searching mail boxes for the newly issued checks since they most likely canceled the old ones. The uniform is nice in that situation because no one questions a mail man at the mail boxes.

HEATHER

OK, then what?

THOMAS

Then I deliver a package, boxes or some sort of candy, you know something cheap wrapped in packaging paper. After they sign for the package I take the carbon receipt of the signature and trace it onto a check.

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I write one big check to one of the other driver's licenses I have in my collection, put my picture on it, and cash the check. The bank never thinks twice.

HEATHER

Yeah, so why did you stop?

THOMAS

It's a double federal offense, mail tampering and check fraud. I don't like FBI agents kicking down my door so I quit while I was ahead.

HEATHER

How much do you take from each person?

THOMAS

Not too much, maybe a grand or so each time, I can usually tell how affluent people are when they come to the door. I never break them but I always take something.

HEATHER

Well that plan is smart but it's stealing and it's going to put you in a jail cell some day.

THOMAS

Well that's why I quit.

The waiter brings the check and a couple of fortune cookies. Thomas cracks one open and starts eating it.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Excuse me cutie, I have to go to the bathroom, then we'll get out of here.

On the way to the bathroom Thomas stops and grabs his throat and looks at the table next to him.

WOMAN

He's choking!!!

Thomas holds his throat and looks towards Heather. Heather sprints across the room and begins the Heimlich maneuver on him.

HEATHER

Don't worry I'm certified!

She herks and jerks him all over the place, cracking his back, until he finally spits out the piece of fortune cookie. Thomas falls to his knees gasping and the restaurant breaks out into applause. She helps him back to the table.

THOMAS

Ahh, whoa that was a close one, so how much money you have?

HEATHER

Huh?

Thomas slaps the bill down on the table. Heather checks her waistband and the one dollar bill is gone.

THOMAS

I have quick hands I guess.

HEATHER

You're a fucking asshole!

Heather grabs her bag and storms out of the restaurant. Thomas drops some money on the table and heads after her.

EXT. OUTSIDE CHINESE RESTAURANT-NIGHT

THOMAS

Heather wait please, please Heather stop!

HEATHER

You have five seconds.

THOMAS

Look I know that was a dick thing for me to do but you wanted me to show you so I did.

HEATHER

OK times up scamer, see you around.

THOMAS

Heather wait please, I really have enjoyed our time together and I want to see you again. Maybe all I need is a girl like you to keep me in line.

HEATHER

No, what you need is a shrink. That move you pulled in there was outrageous and completely neglected my feelings.

(MORE)

HEATHER (CONT'D)

God Thomas I thought you were dying, for what, a hundred bucks?

THOMAS

Wow a hundred bucks huh, high roller. Heather wait, I'm sorry, it won't ever happen again I promise. Please just give me one more chance.

HEATHER

I don't think so Thomas, I head back for Houston in a couple days and I think it's best if I don't see or talk to you anymore.

THOMAS

Because of this guy you don't even really love? Why don't you just stay in L.A. with me?

HEATHER

It's not that easy I have to go.

THOMAS

I'll come for you.

HEATHER

Thomas no, look at me, if you come for me he'll kill you don't you get it? Goodbye Thomas.

Heather tries to walk away but Thomas grabs her by the hand and pulls her into his arms. Their lips meet in a passionate explosion that neither of them have ever felt before.

THOMAS

Please don't go just stay with me tonight, one last time, before I lose you forever.

HEATHER

OK.

They go to back to Heather's hotel where they make love through the night.

Morning comes and Thomas wakes up to find Heather gone.

INT. HEATHER'S GRANDMOTHERS HOUSE-DAY

Thomas rings the doorbell but no one answers. He rings it again and again until an old woman finally comes to the door.

GRANDMOTHER

I thought I told you damn kids to stop coming around my house I don't want to buy no damn magazine subscription.

THOMAS

Actually I'm looking for Heather.

GRANDMOTHER

She left at the crack of dawn this morning. She woke me up to say goodbye.

THOMAS

Oh, I thought she didn't leave for another week or so.

GRANDMOTHER

She said she just had to go. She's done it before. Hey, don't I know you from somewhere?

THOMAS

I have been a friend of Heather's and Ronnie since we were kids.

GRANDMOTHER

That's it, you spoke at the funeral. People had some not so nice things to say about you at the reception. I don't want you talking to me or my granddaughter. Now leave before I call the authorities.

The old woman closes the door and walks back to her chair. Once she is comfortable again there is another knock at the door.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

This better be good. What!

THOMAS

I am sorry to bother you again but I wrote this letter and I was wondering if you could send it to Heather for me?

GRANDMOTHER

I don't think so.

THOMAS

Please I am not asking for her number or address or anything, it's just a letter that's all. If she doesn't want to speak to me then she can just throw it away.

GRANDMOTHER

I don't have an address for her only a telephone number. I will call and see if she wants your letter.

THOMAS

Thank you that's all I can ask. The stamp is already on the envelope.

The grandmother closes the door and stares out the peep hole making sure Thomas leaves. Once he is gone she goes to the phone to call Heather.

GRANDMOTHER

Yes may I speak to Heather please. Heather honey it's grandma. I have a letter here that a young man dropped off. He said it was urgent, uh ha, yes that's him. I don't like you talking to him though. He might have been involved in Ronnie's death did you know that? OK I will send it to your work what's the address? Address it to Tina? But why? OK I will. Is everything OK honey? OK if you say so. 1355 Larlack Circle, Houston 73560. OK sweetie call me when you get a chance.

Grandma hangs up the phone and looks down at the letter. Worried about Heather's safety and her own curiosity she decides to open the letter. The paper inside it is blank.

About the same time Thomas closes the phone box up the street. He looks down at his notes.

THOMAS

Larlack Circle, alright.

He takes off down the street.

INT. LOLO'S PAD OFF THIRD STREET- DAY

Thomas takes a hit off the heroin pipe and stares blankly at the floor.

FREDDY

What the fuck man you seem a little out there. Thinking about your boyfriend? Ha ha.

THOMAS

You're a funny guy, no I'm thinking about leaving town, you know getting away for a while.

FREDDY

The funeral chick, Heather? You're leaving town for her aren't you?

THOMAS

Yeah I don't know I just really dug her man, we clicked, but she left for Texas.

FREDDY

First of all that's impossible you're gay. Second of all, Texas? What are you going to do cruise out there on the weekends? Long distance relationships just don't work man.

THOMAS

How do you know? Longest distance relationship you've had is between your hand and your dick.

FREDDY

I like to be in control.

Freddy starts to take a pipe rip when Lolo comes in pissed as hell.

THOMAS

Lolo is everything alright man?

LOLO

No, this fucking pig!

Lolo throws the bong across the room shattering it against the wall.

LOLO

This cop who's on my pay list has been squeezing me lately. I need someone to take him out. I'll give you five thousand and all the shit you want.

THOMAS

Lolo you know we don't kill people man. Don't you have guys for that?

LOLO

Yeah the cop I want you to take out is one of them who has gone rouge. I can't control him. I need to send a message so nobody else gets out of line.

THOMAS

I think I have a better idea.

LOLO

I know you're good Thomas but this is the police we're talking about. They will fuck your shit up then throw you in the pen. You feel me?

THOMAS

Yeah, I know how it works, I'm still in. So when he picks up his money what do you give it to him in?

LOLO

A shoebox usually.

THOMAS

Perfect.

EXT. 15TH AND VINE-NEXT DAY

A police man stands at the corner observing his surroundings when the pay phone rings behind him.

OFFICER BRADLEY

Yeah, you're fucking late. I told you Lolo if you fuck with me I will shut...

LOLO

I know man, I know, I just had a little trouble coming up with the money this month.

(MORE)

LOLO (CONT'D)

The collection department is running behind. Hold on a second this is them ringing in now.

BRADLEY

Make it quick.

LOLO

OK that was one of my boys and he's got the money. Just let me run down there and I will meet you some where in a few hours.

OFFICER BRADLEY

A few hours! Fuck that! I told you already your late and I'm not going to let you dick me around anymore. Where's the pick up at? Where's the pickup at Lolo or I will come bust you right now.

LOLO

Wait up man, the pickup is off of Wilshire and 2nd but there is more money there than your fee.

OFFICER BRADLEY

I'm picking it up and I'll bring it to you. It better be the right address, you understand?

LOLO

But...

Officer Bradley slams down the phone and gets in his patrol car.

Lolo sets down the phone and turns to Thomas.

LOLO (CONT'D)

He's on his way.

Thomas picks up the phone and makes the call.

EXT. WILSHIRE AND 2ND

Officer Bradley gets out of his car and looks around but doesn't see anyone who looks like a dealer. He starts to get really pissed when a guy who looks like a bum whistles him over.

FREDDY

Hey man over here. Lolo sent you?

BRADLEY

You know what I am here for.

FREDDY

Yeah man it's all right here. When Lolo said you were a cop I tripped out a little man but he says it's cool. Tell Lolo I'm really sorry man and it won't happen again man.

BRADLEY

Tell him yourself shit dick. Now give me the box before I arrest you.

Officer Bradley grabs the shoe box and gets in his cruiser.

INT. BRADLEY'S CRUISER DRIVING-DAY

Bradley laughs as he drives away.

BRADLEY

What a bunch of stupid fuckers! Ha ha ha.

He flips open the lid of the box only to find a shit load of drugs. He slams down the box to the cruiser floor and flips a U-turn in the middle of the street jumping over the center divider.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Mother fuckers!!!

EXT. LOLO'S PAD OFF THIRD LATER SAME DAY

Bradley leaves his patrol car one wheel up on the curb with his siren lights still on. He goes up and rings the buzzer.

LOLO

Yeah.

BRADLEY

Don't yeah me you piece of smack dealing shit. Give me my money before I put a bullet in your head.

LOLO

Alright man, alright relax, I'm sending down my brother to take the stuff and give you your money. Just take it easy man, we chill.

BRADLEY

Fine.

Lolo's brother comes down with the money and Bradley punches him in the face. He takes the money and throws the box of drugs at Lolo's brother.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

That's for you and your nigger brother! Fuck with me again and you will be lucky if you make it to the jail.

Bradley walks down the steps, gets in his car, and takes off.

Lolo's brother watches Bradley peel down the street and gives a nod across the way when he is gone. Thomas runs out with a camera case on his shoulder.

THOMAS

Let's get these done and make the call.

INT. POLICE STATION SHOWER ROOM- LATER THAT NIGHT

Bradley steps out of the shower and puts on a white towel while he laughs and jokes with the other guys in the room. He is approached by an officer in full uniform.

OFFICER REED

Put your clothes on, the lieutenant wants to see you.

BRADLEY

I'm off duty what's going on.

OFFICER REED

Just put your clothes on, get your shit, and let's go while you still have a choice.

LIEUTENANT PARSONS OFFICE-

PARSONS

Take a seat Bill.

BRADLEY

Is this going to take long chief?
I'm off and I have to get home I
have somebody waiting.

PARSONS

Well they are going to have to wait
then. Where did you patrol today
Bill?

BRADLEY

My usual route boss 17th through
20th.

PARSONS

Then why did Officer Reed see you
pass him on 4th today?

BRADLEY

I was grabbing lunch. Come on boss
everybody leaves their district
sometimes. What about emergency
calls?

PARSONS

Yes Bradley but there was no call
and then I receive the wonderful
news that a work duty cleaner from
the jail found this under the
passenger seat of your squad car.

Parsons drops the shoebox on the table filled with drugs on
the table.

PARSONS (CONT'D)

Officer Mooney caught him stuffing
it in his ass.

OFFICER REED

We found 1,500 dollars in his
locker sir.

PARSONS

You always carry that much cash
Bradley?

BRADLEY

I... I was setup. OK boss let me
tell you what happened really. I
was off of 3rd on a tip about a
house and I find out they are
pushing major weight coke, Heroin,
Marijuana, the works. I would have
made the bust but I needed backup.

(MORE)

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Now that you know we can dedicate more man power.

PARSONS

Why do you wait until now to give me this information?

BRADLEY

I wanted more proof. Now that they have planted the drugs in my cruiser we have evidence.

PARSONS

And the money?

BRADLEY

I was going to lend it to my brother after work for a car.

PARSONS

Alright, I will get a warrant and send in a team. You better not be wrong about this Bradley.

BRADLEY

I'm not and I want to go in with the team sir. I know the complex and I would be a major asset.

Parson looks at Reed and thinks for a moment

PARSONS

Fine, make the move.

EXT. LOLO'S PAD OFF THIRD STREET- NIGHT

Bradley and the NARC team strike quickly and clear every room in seconds only to find the house is empty.

SWAT GUY

I found something.

Bradley walks over to an envelope on the counter with a note on top that reads, "Terminate Bradley by midnight or the pictures go to the Times, the D.A., and Internal Affairs. Thank You."

Bradley opens the envelope to find pictures of the whole deal done for Lolo. From picking up the box on Wilshire to kicking the shit out of Lolo's brother. It was all there.

OFFICER REED

I have to take you in Bradley,
Lieutenant's orders, put your hands
behind your back.

They arrest Bradley on site.

INT. LIEUTENANT PARSONS OFFICE- NIGHT

PARSONS

What the fuck happened? You told me
you would be an asset, we raided an
empty god damn house! The land lord
and local tenants say it has been
empty for a year now. And then the
pictures, how could you fuck up so
badly? I am sorry Bradley someone
has to take the fall for this and
if it comes between you and the
department it's you. As of right
now you are suspended indefinitely.

Bradley begins to sob.

BRADLEY

Please sir don't take my badge. The
force is everything to me.

PARSONS

I'm sorry Bradley, I like you kid
but I have my orders too. The
department is to distance itself
from you as much as possible.

BRADLEY

Please, lieutenant I need this job
my wife and I are having a baby
boy.

PARSONS

I know Bradley but at least this
way he won't have to come visit you
behind bars. Do you know what they
do to cops in prison?

BRADLEY

How will I feed my family? I only
have a little saved.

PARSONS

Look, after all this shit settles I have a friend in the Midwest who runs security for some manufacturer or something and he's always looking for cops. That's the best I can do son I'm sorry.

Bradley continues to sob.

EXT. LOLO'S NEW PAD-DAY

Freddy and Thomas walk up to the door and are about to ring the doorbell but Lolo opens the door first.

THOMAS

Uh hello Lolo.

LOLO

Thomas just wanted to be the first to congratulate you dog, we did it! Look on page 7, officer dismissed, he's gone! Theo give me that package. Here you go boy your five big ones. Personally I don't think you should give Freddy shit.

FREDDY

Hey I helped, I gave him the stuff remember.

THOMAS

Yeah he did, split it up, easy money home boy!

Thomas headlocks Freddy playfully while Lolo starts dancing.

LOLO

And now we party.

INT. HOUSE PARTY-NIGHT

Montage: Crazy house party. All the booze, drugs and women anybody could handle. Freddy's laughs at some guy puking while people are shaking their asses on the dance floor. Lolo slaps hands with some guy who looks a lot like Officer Reed. Thomas is drinking in the kitchen when some girl gets all up on his jock.

FINE YOUNG LADY

Hi I'm Katie, I really like your smile, you're Thomas right?

(MORE)

FINE YOUNG LADY (CONT'D)

Lolo says you're his boy. You want to be my boy?

She starts kissing his neck

Bedroom-

The two come crashing through the door making out. She starts taking off his pants when his mind wanders to Heather.

THOMAS

Wait, hold on, I can't do this!

KATIE

Yes you can, watch.

Katie tries to stroke him but Thomas pulls his pants on.

THOMAS

You seem like a very nice girl but I can't do this.

KATIE

What, you are turning me down, are you a fag or something? Get the fuck out of here you homo!

She throws a shoe at him as he barely escapes and she cries out of disappointment.

Living Room-

FREDDY

Hey Thomas! Woo! Is this party crazy or what?

THOMAS

I am taking off actually and I need a gun.

FREDDY

Thomas you don't use guns. What's up man?

THOMAS

I just don't know a lot of people where I am going and I need to be safe. I want to buy that bike you're selling too. I will give you 2 for everything.

FREDDY

2? Alright, the bikes are in the garage, check them out and I will get the piece.

Thomas goes to the garage and flips on the light revealing a pretty cool bike. Freddy walks in with the gun.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Do you even know how to use one of these things?

THOMAS

Not really but it's cool, if everything goes correctly, I won't need it very long anyway.

FREDDY

You're not going to do anything crazy right?

THOMAS

No, it's nothing like that, I swear. Thanks for everything Freddy you did good today. Tell Lolo I'll see him on the flip-side.

Thomas hugs Freddy, gets on the bike, and roars away.

EXT. THOMAS RIDING MONTAGE

Thomas rides around Los Angeles taking in the city at night for the last time. He comes to the freeway entrance, looks back at the city, and roars off into the distance.

Montage continues as he rides across the country stopping briefly in Mexico. While down there he has a good time doing drugs, buying little things from the stores and street vendors, and flirting with the chicas. Eventually he leaves, chased by the little orphan children, and heads to his journey's destination; Houston.

EXT. LARLACK STREET- NIGHT

Thomas pulls up to the address he heard on the phone call. The high-end bar Heather spoke of is actually a strip club.

THOMAS

What the fuck?

Thomas pulls into the back alley and he notices the padlock is off on the side door.

Thomas walks around to the front and sees the place is packed and security is heavy.

After he finally gets to the front of the line a large security guard pats him down.

SECURITY GUARD

What's that in your back pocket?

THOMAS

It's a gun, I thought everyone carried one down here.

SECURITY GUARD

They do, Dumb mother fuckers can't read the sign, check it in.

The guard points to a big sign above the door, "Check Firearms at Front". Security hands the gun to the girl behind the booth and she gives Thomas a ticket.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

The only guns in this place are carried by security. Keep that in mind if your dick decides to jump out of your pants. Pick up your gun when you leave and have a good time.

The bustling club is filled with tattooed bikers throwing their money at beautiful women, a rough crowd but distracted. Thomas drops something in the trash can next to the men's room and starts his watch. He fixes his hair in the mirror, looks at his watch, and walks straight out over to the bar where Heather is speaking to a customer.

THOMAS

Hello Heather it is nice to see you again.

She pulls him to the end of the bar where it's less crowded.

HEATHER

What the fuck are you doing here?
How did you find me?

THOMAS

I looked up sleazy strip clubs in Houston. I thought you said this was a good job?

HEATHER

Thomas you can not be here right now.

(MORE)

HEATHER (CONT'D)

He knows about us, he had me followed in LA, if he sees you here right now I don't know what he'll do. This is why I left without telling you, to avoid this. How did you find me?

THOMAS

I tapped your grandmothers phone, sorry. Why did you just sneak off like that, again?

HEATHER

What? You even know how to do that? Are you a fucking psycho? And for your information I didn't sneak off, I left, I told you I was going to. Oh shit here he comes, get out of here.

THOMAS

Great can't wait to meet him.

Thomas looks down to his watch.

HEATHER

Please Thomas this is serious I don't want...

ROLLIN

Heather sweetheart who is your friend? I don't think we have met formally.

HEATHER

Rollin this is my friend...

ROLLIN

Thomas right? Thomas Henderson.

THOMAS

You tell everybody their names before you meet them.

ROLLIN

Nope just you. I want you to know how close I can get to you, like an angel or death, which ever you prefer. Texas is a long way from home for you boy.

THOMAS

Well I was just passing through the state and thought I would stop by and see Heather. Now if you don't mind man we would like some privacy.

ROLLIN

Well that's funny because I do mind. Heather and I are seeing each other and I don't like her talking to ass-holes like you.

Thomas checks his watch again.

THOMAS

I thought you Texans liked ass-holes especially with a dick in the front.

ROLLIN

What?

THOMAS

You know, Texas, steers and queers and I didn't see cattle because it's night time so that must be when the queers come out.

HEATHER

Thomas please that's enough.

ROLLIN

That is enough Thomas. I can be a very patient man but also very violent if you make me angry.

THOMAS

Do you beat your boyfriend?. You look like the kind of guy who likes domestic violence. Heather does he ever call you Bruce in bed?

ROLLIN

You're not listening to me!

Rollin snaps his fingers and a security guard slams Thomas' head into the bar. They kick his stool out from under him and beat him severely on the floor. Rollin stops them,

ROLLIN (CONT'D)

Wait! Who is the faggot now? Hmm, not so brave are you now!?

Rollin stands up swiftly and kicks Thomas in the stomach.

HEATHER
Stop!! Rollin please!!

ROLLIN
I will make it simple Thomas, give me an apology and maybe I won't kill you.

THOMAS
Stop that's enough.

ROLLIN
What do you mean that's enough? I decide when it is enough!

Rollin kicks him again.

THOMAS
Stop you will set off the dynamite.

Everyone stops and Thomas manages to stand up and open shirt. The front of his chest is strapped with five small dynamite sticks. Thomas holds up his hand with some sort of trigger device that looks like a garage door opener.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Now back the fuck up or I will kill us all!

Thomas hops over the bar and grabs Heather.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Come here! I got you bitch! She blows up first if anyone decides to do anything stupid. The phone lines are cut so don't try calling out.

ROLLIN
Bull shit, he's bluffing, waste this fucker.

THOMAS
Does this look like a bluff.

He squeezes the trigger and nothing happens. He squeezes it again. Nothing.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Fuck, I'm early.

HEATHER
Huh?

ROLLIN
He's lying get...

Suddenly the trash can explodes and fucks up everything and everyone. Thomas stands up holding on to Heather half stunned.

THOMAS
See what happens when you fuck with me? I get psycho! Now throw all your weapons on the ground. That was just one of these things people. Open the god-damn safe!

ROLLIN
Alright man, be cool, it's right there behind the bar. Just don't do anything crazy.

Thomas throws Heather over to the safe.

THOMAS
What's the code? The code now!!!

Thomas holds up the trigger and the room screams.

HEATHER
Just do what he says Rollin he's fucking crazy. He'll kill us all.

ROLLIN
15, 32, 18

Heather pops open the safe and her eyes grow wide when she sees the stacks of cash piled high.

THOMAS
Get that trash bag and don't anyone fucking move or I will do it. If I let this thing go I will send us all to hell.

Heather hands him the bag and he grabs her around the neck.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
If anyone tries to follow me I blow the boss' girl's ass right through her face, try working here after that. Now move bitch, move!

Thomas and Heather move toward the side door when one of the bouncers grabs him and Thomas drops the trigger. The room pauses for a moment and waits for the end.

Everyone except Heather who cracks a bottle over the bouncer's head holding Thomas. Her and Thomas bolt for the side door while everyone else scrambles for their weapons.

Once outside Thomas slams the side door and locks the padlock he had seen earlier. A thud of bodies slams into the door. They jump onto the motorcycle and haul ass out of there.

EXT. JETISON SOUTH FIELD- DAY, RAINING HARDER

The badly beaten man's eyes open once again and he looks at the tree above him. Slowly he slides his way up the tree and grabs the largest branch he can. With all the might he can muster he snaps it off the tree and plunges to the ground below. His leg is worse now, and he's unconscious, but he held onto the branch.

EXT. GAS STATION-NIGHT

Thomas and Heather ride in on the bike and park next to a piece of shit hatchback with a "For Sale" sign on it. Heather gets off the bike and starts freaking out.

HEATHER

Thomas what are we doing! I don't know if I can do this, what if he finds us he'll...

THOMAS

He's not going to find us, he won't want to, I'll be right back.

Thomas can be seen talking to the cashier and finally he comes out.

HEATHER

Uh hello you just stole about 80,000 dollars from him by strapping a bomb to your chest, are you fucking crazy? You blow up half his place and you think he won't want to find you?

THOMAS

No, come with me we're going to make a phone call.

Thomas walks over to the phone, looks in the phone book, then dials. Heather is looking around paranoid.

HEATHER

Hello, what are we doing here, we need to get out of Texas like now!

THOMAS

Yeah give me Rollin, you know who the fuck this is, put him on the phone.

HEATHER

Are you crazy!!!

Thomas wraps his arm around her neck and covers her mouth.

THOMAS

Yeah Rollin, save it, I have deal for you now shut up and listen. I will give you back your money in exchange for you to leave me and Heather alone for ever. Take it or leave it.

Heather stops struggling and stares at Thomas in love. Thomas waits while Rollin thinks.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Good. You will find it in the dumpster of 23641 McMichael way. I took a thousand for expenses. You better hurry up and get here before someone comes and takes the rest.

Thomas hangs up the phone and Heather grabs him. She gives him a long passionate kiss.

HEATHER

You saved me Thomas.

THOMAS

Yeah, I guess I did, but we have to go right now baby. They're coming.

Thomas unlocks the hatchback with the "For Sale" sign on it. Heather looks at him disgusted.

HEATHER

Who's car is this?

THOMAS

I bought it from the clerk. He wanted 1500 bucks but I talked him down to a grand.

HEATHER

A grand for this piece of shit, you got ripped off.

THOMAS

Here's the keys, drive across the street, I have to move the bike around back.

After Thomas moves the bike around back he runs across the street to meet Heather. He tosses the remaining money in the dumpster and they book.

HEATHER

So where are we going anyway?

THOMAS

I don't know, north away from Houston that's for sure. Here hold the wheel.

Thomas unstraps his explosive vest and throws it in the back seat.

HEATHER

Hey take it easy, are you trying to blow us up?

THOMAS

That's not possible, they're Mexican road flares.

HEATHER

Road flares? You robbed Rollin Carter with a fake bomb?!

THOMAS

It had to be done, you have to send a message to men like that, he never would have left us alone unless we had some sort of leverage to make him. This is the only way we can be together.

HEATHER

Let's just hope he can keep a deal but for now Thomas you saved me, thank you, you're my hero.

She starts kissing his face and Thomas is forced to pull the car over where they start really going at it.

A county sheriff pulls up behind them.

THOMAS

Oh shit.

HEATHER

Just keep kissing me, trust me.

SHERIFF

Is everything alright here folks?
Uh excuse me miss, miss, hey knock
it off!

HEATHER

Sorry officer I just can't help
myself it's all I ever think about
you know.

Heather begins to touch herself and kiss Thomas' neck and ear. Thomas gives the patrol man the "I don't know" shrug.

SHERIFF

Miss please I am really going to
need you to focus here. You can't
be out on this road fiddling and
diddling your boy toy here.

HEATHER

Why you want to watch Officer...
Morris? You have handcuffs, I love
handcuffs, he's kind of cute huh
honey. I could take both of you
that would be fun for me, Please.

Heather rubs Thomas' inner thigh.

OFFICER MORRIS

Well I am still on duty.

HEATHER

He probably has a big one huh
honey.

THOMAS

Oh my god! Ha ha I don't know there
sweet heart...

OFFICER MORRIS

Hey shut the fuck up man. You will
do what ever she tells you to do.

HEATHER

Wow, what a good strong boy, I like
that. It makes me hot.

OFFICER MORRIS
Follow me, you try to skip and I'll
take you in.

Morris gets in his cruiser.

HEATHER
OK perfect.

THOMAS
What the fuck are we doing?

HEATHER
Just do what I say. I have a plan.

THOMAS
I am not selling myself to some
pervert cop to avoid a traffic
ticket.

HEATHER
We don't know if Rollin went to the
police. We can't take the chance of
that cop running our names through
the system.

THOMAS
I don't see how this is this
possibly going to work.

HEATHER
Your going to give him a blow job,
just kidding, got you.

THOMAS
We're going to jail.

EXT. CRAPPY MOTEL PARKING LOT-NIGHT

OFFICER MORRIS
They give me a discount on these
rooms since I am the law in this
area, just fooling, I know the
cousin of the owner.

THOMAS
Nice. What's the rate?

OFFICER MORRIS
\$19.00 even, no more no less, or
they lose my protective services.
This is a dangerous area.

HEATHER

I feel safe don't you sweetie.

Inside Hotel Room-

THOMAS

Wow this is really nice.

OFFICER MORRIS

Damn right.

They all pause for a second and then Heather kicks in.

HEATHER

OK that's enough talk you little
fucking piggies. First I am going
to fuck my man in the shower then I
am going to suck your cock until it
turns blue.

Heather pulls Thomas into the bathroom and turns on the
shower.

THOMAS

OK now what? God I have to get
high.

HEATHER

Quiet, take off your clothes in
case he comes in.

THOMAS

OK, I don't remember this part of
the plan.

They get into the shower and Thomas begins to kiss Heather.
He tries to move in but she stops him.

HEATHER

Not now right now, just listen.

INT. HOTEL ROOM- FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

The two come out of the bathroom.

HEATHER

Now that I am all warmed up are you
ready Officer Morris? Ready to beat
me with your stick?

She moves her hands across her body.

THOMAS

Man I'm sorry but I can't watch this. I am going to go get some food and hang out. Let me know when your done, have fun man.

He slams the door on the way out. Heather starts giving Morris a lap dance but stops suddenly.

HEATHER

I need a drink. You want a drink?

OFFICER MORRIS

No, I am actually still on duty, we should probably get...

HEATHER

To it. I like it hard and quick.

OFFICER MORRIS

Alright then, I have a condom.

HEATHER

Perfect, hit the lights.

Morris turns out the lights, walks over to Heather, and takes out his penis.

OFFICER MORRIS

Do it baby suck it for me.

Heather looks down and begins to realize she has made a mistake. Now she is going to pay for it by getting arrested or worse.

POLICE RADIO

All units, all units, we have a robbery at 23751 Hail Street Shell Station please respond.

OFFICER MORRIS

Shit! That's right up the street, I need to get there first or I'm fucked, I have to go. Stay here, I will come back.

HEATHER

Sure baby I'll stick around.

Heather waits for the squad car to leave. She grabs all her things and takes off.

She picks Thomas up right before the highway and they skip town.

INT. CAR-NIGHT

HEATHER

So how did you do?

THOMAS

Not bad about two hundred bucks.
How about you?

HEATHER

It was close Thomas, you need to be
a little faster next time. You wore
a mask right?

THOMAS

You didn't say anything about a
mask, I don't have a mask right
now, so no I didn't.

HEATHER

You robbed a gas station without a
mask are you stupid? We have to
ditch the car, officer blue balls
may have gotten the plates.

THOMAS

I have an idea but we need to find
a crowded place like a fair or a
grocery store. Just pull off here
for a second.

They pull off the highway onto an empty road. They drive a
few miles in and find some bushes large enough to hide the
car.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Finally, I have been waiting a long
time for this, I've been feeling
sick.

Thomas pulls out his heroin kit.

HEATHER

Thomas I don't know if I can handle
watching you do this to yourself.

THOMAS

Just this last time baby I need to
get my head right. Then I will
stop.

HEATHER

Really Thomas? You promise?

THOMAS

Yes Heather, now can I do this here
or do I have to go outside?

HEATHER

I'll get out.

Thomas shoots up and goes into a euphoric haze.

EXT. JETISON SOUTH FIELD- NIGHT, RAINING

The beaten man opens his eyes with a new sense of purpose and goes for the branch he ripped off the tree. He uses a piece of his shirt to make a splint for his broken leg and slowly he begins to drag himself.

EXT. GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT-NIGHT

THOMAS

Right in here.

Heather pulls into a parking space and Thomas gets out.

HEATHER

What are you doing?

THOMAS

Uh car maintenance if anyone asks.

Thomas casually walks over to a nearby car and begins unscrewing the license plate with a coin. Heather, shocked at first, catches on and looks around for people. A man comes out of the store towards them. Heather moves in front of Thomas trying to conceal what he is doing. The man walks by as if he does not care and Heather turns to Thomas.

HEATHER

Hurry up.

All of a sudden Heather is thrown out of the way and Thomas is ransacked by the man who walked out of the store. The customer pulls out a knife.

ANGRY CUSTOMER

What the fuck you doing to my ride
fool! Did Lawrence send you?

THOMAS

What? I don't know Lawrence man,
please don't kill me.

ANGRY CUSTOMER

You're lying, he sent you for his money didn't he, didn't he!

HEATHER

No stop please, he's not lying, we have no idea who Lawrence is. He is just trying to take your license plates because ours are expired. Please don't hurt him.

ANGRY CUSTOMER

My plates are expired too bitch! Lawrence is using you two crackers to set me up. This mother fucker's dead!

THOMAS

Please, I will give you all the money we have, there is two hundred dollars in the car.

ANGRY CUSTOMER

Get it!

The man follows Thomas over to the car with his knife in Thomas' back the whole way. He pushes Thomas into the front seat.

ANGRY CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

Now get the money or I will stab you, do you hear me!

P.O.V.- Opposite side of the car facing the angry customer with the large parking lot behind him. Heather slowly starts to back up.

THOMAS

Please this is all I have man, I don't know Lawrence, I have no idea what you're talking about.

ANGRY CUSTOMER

You better have more than that mother fucker or the police are going to find you in that dumpster over there.

Heather begins to run toward the car.

THOMAS

Please man I am telling you the truth, just let us go, please!

Right as the angry customer hears the footsteps Heather leaps into the air and catches the back of the angry customer's head. With all of her body weight she slams the man's face into the roof of the car. He is knocked out instantly and not moving at all. Thomas gets out of the car and stands over the man in shocked by his bloody face, and his super powered girlfriend. Thomas shakes it off and takes his money back from the man. They get in their car and peel out of the parking lot.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What the fuck kind of judo shit was that Heather!?

HEATHER

I don't know I had seen it on a wrestling show once. It worked didn't it?

THOMAS

You caved his fucking face in! He could be dead.

HEATHER

How do you know you're no doctor.

THOMAS

I know the guy was not moving. What did it look like to you?

HEATHER

He was knocked out that's all. I thought he was going to kill you Thomas so I saved you and here you are being an ass-hole.

THOMAS

I'm the ass-hole? I might be riding with a murderer and I'm an accessory, wonderful.

HEATHER

Well I didn't mean to kill him if that's even what happened. Besides it is not the first time you've been an accessory in someone's death is it Thomas?

THOMAS

Fuck you! Fuck you Heather! You left us so don't even act like you give two shits. Let me out! I need to get high.

HEATHER

Thomas no please. I'm sorry I just...

THOMAS

You just wanted to say out loud that I am responsible for the death of one of the only people I ever cared about. You just wanted to hear how it eats me alive every day until I am ready to kill myself. Is that what you want Heather?

Thomas begins to cry.

HEATHER

Thomas please don't cry, I am sorry OK. It's not your fault and I don't want you to kill yourself. I really do like you and I want you around, after all that has happened, I need you around.

THOMAS

I am sorry too for calling you a murderer. I like having you around and not in a female penitentiary.

HEATHER

He's not dead dumb ass.

Thomas begins touching Heather and kissing her neck.

THOMAS

Let's get a sleazy hotel room and see how around each other we can get.

Heather becomes very aroused and shuts her eyes for a split second only to open them and see headlights coming right at them. She whips the car off the road onto the shoulder and they both sit for a moment in silence. They look at each other, hearts still beating, and then they really start going at it. Eventually they find a hotel and can barely keep their hands off each other long enough to get inside the room. Once in bed Heather stops him.

HEATHER

Thomas there is something I really need to tell you.

THOMAS

Not now baby we'll talk about it tomorrow.

Thomas begins kissing her again, she slips into bliss and they make love through the night.

EXT. JETISON FIELD STILL RAINING- DAY

The man crawls toward the dirt tracks when a shooting pain emanates from his side. He slides his hand down to find a hole in about the size of a nickel below his rib. He looks at his hand covered in blood and begins to shake. He rolls over onto his back and pleads to the heavens.

BATTERED MAN

Mother of god help me please!

EXT. DENNY'S PARKING LOT SHARED WITH THE HOTEL-DAY

HEATHER

I think I have an idea of where we can go. Wait here, I have to make a phone call.

Thomas waits in the car, dope sick, and watches Heather go into the restaurant to use the phone. She is followed by some jerk pushing and yelling at his kids. Thomas looks at the car they got out of.

Heather finishes her conversation, hangs up the phone, and hustles back out to the car. She gets in and they begin to drive.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

I think I might have found us a place to stay for a while until things cool down.

THOMAS

Oh yeah where's that?

HEATHER

My sister Janet's house. You remember her right? She lives in Brookfield, Illinois right outside Chicago, with her husband Bob the veterinarian and their two children.

THOMAS

Heather I am not in the best condition right now to be around anyone, let alone kids, I feel like shit.

HEATHER

Well it's a couple days drive to get there from here so you will have time to get better before then.

THOMAS

I doubt it.

HEATHER

And I don't care Thomas. I want to see my sister and I want you to meet her family. Is that really too much to ask from you?

THOMAS

I guess not.

HEATHER

Good, now we need to get rid of this car.

THOMAS

Don't worry about it, I took care of that already.

HEATHER

Oh yeah, How?

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD-LATER

Man seen pushing his kids at the restaurant is now in hand cuffs at gun point by two cops because Thomas switched the license plates. The kids in the car can barely contain themselves.

HEATHER AND THOMAS ROAD-TRIP MONTAGE-

Heather drives through different towns on the way to Illinois, looking at other drivers, wondering about their stories. She often looks at Thomas in the passenger seat who is passed out sweating. She lets the wind blow through her hair and for the first time feels at peace. Until the peacefulness is broken by Thomas vomiting. They pull into a rest stop and Thomas shoots into the men's room.

EXT. REST STOP MENS ROOM-DAY

Heather waits outside the men's room for Thomas. She can hear him vomiting.

HEATHER

Thomas are you OK? Do you need something?

THOMAS

I'm fine just give me a minute.

Thomas blows the last rip of smoke out the back window and puts his heroin tube and foil away in his kit. He washes his hands and stares at himself in the mirror. It is clear he feels better but he is disappointed in himself. He walks out angry until he sees Heather.

HEATHER

You feeling better baby?

Thomas puts his arm around her.

THOMAS

Yeah thanks, I just needed to get something out of me.

HEATHER

You hungry now do you want to eat? What's that smell?

THOMAS

It was someone else in there. Not me I swear, let's get pizza, pizza sounds good.

HEATHER

Alright but don't even think about doing something like that at my sister's house. Thomas am I clear?!

THOMAS

I am not doing Heroin Heather! You don't have anything to worry about, shit relax.

EXT. SISTER JANET'S HOUSE-NIGHT

Heather and Thomas walk up to the front door of a very nice home.

HEATHER

You ready for this?

THOMAS

As ready as I will ever be I guess.

Heather rings the bell and it takes an unusually long time.
Heather rings the bell again right as Janet opens the door.

JANET

I am so sorry sweetheart we were
just sitting down to dinner, come
in. Hey I recognize you, Thomas
Henderson right, how are you? You
are just as handsome as I remember.

Thomas and Heather follow Janet through the large home filled
with beautiful art and a massive stair case until they reach
the dinning room. The family is sitting at a large dining
table in front of a sliding glass door that overlooks an
indoor pool. They stop what they are doing and look at
Heather and Thomas.

HEATHER

Hi everyone, I am your aunt Heather
and this is my friend Thomas.

THOMAS

Uh, hello.

LISA

Is he your boyfriend?

JANET

Lisa not appropriate, not yet at
least.

THOMAS

It's nice to meet you.

Bob and Thomas shake hands and they all sit down at the
table.

JANET

So Thomas what are you up to these
days? What do you do for a living?

THOMAS

What do I do? I am an investment
manager.

BOB

Really what kind of investments?

THOMAS

Bonds, the market, things of that
nature. What about you Bob?

BOB

I am a veterinarian. I used to have my own practice but I was recently given the head position at the Brookfield Zoo.

THOMAS

That's incredible, congratulations, you must have some pretty interesting stories.

The two children start giggling.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What?

LISA

Mommy told us daddy got kicked in the privates the other day.

JANET

Lisa!! You little tattler. Your father does not want to talk about that with our guests.

BOB

OK since it's out there, thank you Lisa, the other day I was inspecting a zebra's rectum when it got a little sensitive and kicked me in the groin.

RALPHIE

The nuts!

JANET

Ralphie!

LISA

What's a rectum?

RALPHIE

It's what you poop out of.

JANET

That's enough! Be gone children. Go play in the other room or something.

The children begin to walk away from the table to the other room.

LISA

Daddy got kicked in the nuts while pooping?

The adults all snicker.

THOMAS

I can't help but feel kind of responsible for this. I should go try to clarify, excuse me.

Heather, Bob, and Janet sit at the table and drink their wine watching Thomas play with the kids.

JANET

God he is still such a looker. How did you two meet up again?

BOB

Don't worry I am right here honey.

HEATHER

Ronnie Hall is dead Janet. I reunited with Thomas at his funeral.

JANET

Oh my god that's terrible he was so nice.

The room goes quiet until Bob decides to break the ice.

BOB

Honey we should call Kathy to remind her she has to baby sit the kids tomorrow. Janet and I are going to the opera.

HEATHER

You don't need a baby sitter Bob, Thomas and I will watch the kids.

JANET

Are you sure?

BOB

Well, I had already mentioned it to Kathy's mother that we would need Kathy and I think she is counting on the money.

HEATHER

OK well if she can't do it for any reason you have us for a few days and I would love spend some time with my niece and nephew. Best of all we're free.

BOB

We will keep that in mind and thank you for offering. Honey we have to get them into bed they have school tomorrow.

JANET

Kids in bed now. Chop, chop, go upstairs!

LISA

Ahh Mom!

JANET

Say good night to Thomas. Thomas you and Heather are in the den and remember we have children in this house. It really is wonderful to see you again Thomas.

She gives him a long, over indulgent, hug.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS DEN- NIGHT

Later that evening Thomas and Heather lay on the sofa bed in the den both still awake. Thomas once again is feeling dope sick. He stares at Bob's gun collection on display in a glass cabinet. He looks to where he hid his heroin pipe and begins to sneak out of bed when Heather rolls over.

HEATHER

Where you going baby?

THOMAS

I'm taking a piss. Is that OK with you?

Thomas goes to the bathroom angry he can't get his fix. He pours a glass of water into the toilet to make it sound like he is peeing then gets back into bed with Heather.

HEATHER

Thomas are we in love or is it just that everything between us has been happening so fast? I mean it has all been so crazy.

THOMAS

Well, you have to ask yourself, would we do these things if we were not in love. I hijacked you with a fake bomb. I guess one thing's for sure, love's crazy.

Heather laughs.

HEATHER

Yeah but real love takes honesty and trust in each other too. I have something to say Thomas but first I have to know if you're still doing heroin.

THOMAS

No, I'm not.

HEATHER

Then why did you take so long at the rest stop and you smelled like burnt something.

THOMAS

What the fuck woman! Can't you see I am fucking sick and still you badger me with this bullshit. I was puking at the rest-stop. Jesus!

HEATHER

OK then what's this?

Heather pulls out Thomas' little black heroin tool case and opens it. Inside there were needles, foil, surgical tube and glass tubes. Pretty much every mean to administer the drug.

THOMAS

Where did you find that Heather?

HEATHER

In your bag in one of your sock bundles.

THOMAS

What?! You want to talk about fucking trust and you go through my stuff behind my back! For your information that was from a long time ago and I just forgot about it.

Thomas snatches the case from her hand.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

But seeing how you are so insistent
on reminding about it now I am
going to go do it.

HEATHER

Thomas no! No!!!

Heather tries to block the door but Thomas has created his
excuse and now he is determined to get high. He throws
Heather out of the way. She crashes into the corner and
begins to sob.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Thomas please! Please!!!

Quickly she grabs a hand gun from Bob's collection and runs
to living room pointing it at Thomas before he can leave.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

Stop Thomas now!

Thomas turns to face her.

THOMAS

Heather are you really pointing a
fucking gun at me?

HEATHER

I just want to say something and
this seems to be the only way I can
get your attention. Do you even
give a shit about me Thomas or are
you just some junkie? I can't
continue on like this. You are
special Thomas and I have fallen in
love with you but you're a heroin
addict!

Janet and Bob are now awake from the yelling and watch from
upstairs. The kids try to come out of their rooms.

BOB

Get back in your rooms!

JANET

Heather, honey please, put the gun
down.

THOMAS

Heather please lower the gun baby
just let me talk to you for a
second. I just need some time and I
can't beat this thing cold turkey.

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I have cut back so much already for you baby. Heather you're my angel.

HEATHER

Cutting back is not enough. Thomas, I have something to tell you, I'm pregnant.

Thomas' jaw drops.

THOMAS

By who?

HEATHER

By you Thomas! I never slept with Rollin. You're the only one I have been with in the past six months so it has to be yours.

THOMAS

Wow, uh, I don't know what to say. We're having a baby. I need to get high.

Thomas seems to forget all about the gun and heads for the door. Heather is crushed by Thomas' reaction but disappointment quickly turns to anger.

HEATHER

No!!!

She raises the gun and pumps a round into Thomas' thigh. Thomas drops to the floor like a bag of bleeding potatoes. Heather drops the gun and runs over to Thomas.

THOMAS

Ahh! Heather you fucking shot me.

HEATHER

Thomas I am so sorry, I didn't mean to, oh my god!

Suddenly Heather is thrown out of the way and Bob jams his palms into Thomas' thigh to stop the bleeding.

BOB

Janet get me my kit, some towels, and some water.

THOMAS

Fuck!!!

BOB

Thomas right now I just need you to relax and try not to move. Janet call an ambulance.

THOMAS

Bob no, no hospitals.

BOB

What do you mean no hospitals? What's going on?

HEATHER

No police either. It's a big misunderstanding and we'll explain later please just help him Bob.

Bob thinks for a moment. He looks over to his children on the stairs.

BOB

Lisa get some clean sheets and put them in the van. Do it now! Ralph and Janet come over here and help me lift him.

They start moving Thomas toward the van. Thomas is loopy from the blood loss.

THOMAS

Where are we going?

BOB

The one place I might have a chance of saving your life.

INT. BROOKFIELD ZOO ANIMAL SURGERY ROOM-NIGHT

Thomas has now gone into shock and is unconscious. They heave him onto a steel surgical table in the middle of the room usually used for animals. Different wild animals pace their cages back and forth watching the humans in the middle of the room.

BOB

Janet will you get me some water, damn it.

HEATHER

Bob are you OK?

BOB

You shut the fuck up and get away from me. But to answer your question, no Heather I'm not alright, I am fucking nervous. I am a veterinarian not a doctor. Thomas needs serious professional medical attention right now. I don't know what you two are into, but after this, I never want to see either of you ever again. Shit his pulse it's dropping. Move! Move!

Heather backs up into a corner covering her mouth next to a monkey cage. The on-looking monkey also covers it's mouth. She cries and eventually shouts.

HEATHER

Bob please don't let him die!
Please!!!

JANET

Heather shut up!

Bob and Janet work on Thomas. Heather regains her senses and helps slightly but really just stays out of the way. Eventually the surgery is over and Bob takes off his gloves.

HEATHER

Now what?

BOB

Now we wait.

The children, Janet and Heather have all fallen asleep when Thomas finally regains consciousness. Bob comes up to the table.

THOMAS

Hey Bob, you saved me huh? I knew you could do it. Ha... ouch.
Where's Heather.

BOB

Would you stop moving please just don't worry about that for now. They're asleep and it has been a long night for everyone.

THOMAS

She shot me Bob. That bitch...

BOB

Shut up, just shut up, I was very hard on her earlier. You know one thing, that bitch had a reason for shooting you. You're killing yourself who cares if you do it now or later. Hell, she might have been doing you a favor. Thomas you are going to be a father now with a woman who loves you. People search their entire lives for what you have and you're going to piss it all away in a needle.

Heather wakes up and listens to the two men.

THOMAS

I know, I love her, I only want the best for her.

BOB

And your child.

THOMAS

And my child god we're going to have a child.

Heather walks up, kisses Thomas, and runs her hands through his hair.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I am sorry baby, things are going to change I promise, I'm stopping the drugs. I just want to be with you and our child. We are having a baby. We're having a baby!!!

His voice echoes.

EXT. JETISON SOUTH FIELD- NIGHT, RAINING

The man once again awakens from the mud. He rips off another shirt sleeve and ties it around his waist tight to his wound. He sees another large branch, that he can use as a crutch, in the ditch next to him. He reaches for it but falls in to the ditch next to an old deer corpse. Scared and disgusted he claws his way out of the ditch back onto the dirt tracks. He rests for a moment.

INT. BOB AND JANET'S HOME- DAY, 6 MONTHS LATER

Heather looks like she is about to burst and Thomas' leg has all but healed except for the cane he is forced to use. He trips Ralphie with it and laughs.

HEATHER

I am going to the store with Bob.
You need anything?

THOMAS

No honey, I'm fine, thank you.

RALPHIE

I am going swimming. I would ask
you Thomas but cripples can't swim.

THOMAS

Very funny, babe take it easy
please.

HEATHER

I will, you two have fun.

RALPHIE

OK let's go already.

Right before they get to the screen door Janet calls from the kitchen.

JANET

Thomas can you come help me please.

Thomas limps into the kitchen.

JANET (CONT'D)

Could you help me open this please
Thomas. God, such strong hands,
just like I remember. Heather is a
lucky girl, I want to be lucky too.

She stares at him lustfully.

THOMAS

Look I told you before Janet we
can't do this. That thing we had
was a long time ago and besides I
am with Heather now. We're going to
have a baby for Christ sakes. You
have Bob and the kids.

JANET

What they don't know can't hurt
them. She doesn't know right?

THOMAS
Of course she doesn't.

JANET
Well come on then it will be real
quick, I need it.

She starts touching him.

THOMAS
I said no!

Thomas throws her away from him and she falls to the kitchen
floor. He tries to help her up but now she is furious.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Janet I'm sorry.

JANET
Get the fuck out of here. I don't
want you here anymore. Bob wanted
you out months ago, I kept you
around! I am a good looking woman
god damn it! Get out!

They hear Bob cry out from the pool area.

THOMAS
What the hell was that?

Thomas and Janet come running out from inside to see Bob
kneeling at the side of the pool giving Ralphie CPR.

BOB
I forgot my... Come on!

Bob continues on for minutes that seem like forever. He
begins to slow down as he loses hope.

THOMAS
No, no don't give up, do it again.

Bob starts to cry and clutches his limp lifeless son.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
No! Do it again god damn it!

Thomas throws Bob off to the side and tries to copy Bob's CPR
the best he can. Everyone is in the pool area watching and
they are all losing hope.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Come on Ralph. Come on!

LISA
Come on Ralph!

Thomas pumps harder then blows again, again, again. Finally he falls back defeated, exhausted, and heart broken. He begins to cry with everyone else. Ten seconds pass, that feel like a lifetime, when Ralphie finally coughs up the water in his lungs.

Janet clutches him and takes him inside. Bob follows them close behind. Heather, Thomas, and Lisa remain pool side not moving, breathless, from what the hell just happened.

When they finally head back inside they notice Bob and Janet talking in the living room and go to see what's going on.

BOB
Jesus, what happened?

JANET
I was inside cooking dinner. Thomas was supposed to be watching him. I want him out.

BOB
Is this true Thomas?

JANET
He's on that shit again. I want him out!

HEATHER
He's not Janet! I can tell if he is. He has been doing really well lately, he's clean.

JANET
No, Thomas is well now and I want him out of my house.

BOB
Honey please just relax. Thomas is this true?

THOMAS
I am not doing Heroin anymore. I was supposed to be watching Ralph. I am so sorry, I wore out my welcome from the minute I came here, and now have to go. Janet is right.

JANET
Good!

HEATHER

Janet listen to yourself. Thomas wait I am coming with you.

JANET

Heather don't go with him. You're six months pregnant.

HEATHER

Thomas is the father. We are going to be a family now and we don't need you Janet! Let's go Thomas.

Thomas and Heather gather their things and head for the door. Bob stops them and tries to hand Thomas all the money in his wallet. Janet watches from a far.

THOMAS

Bob, please, you don't have to do that.

BOB

No, it's for the baby, please take it.

THOMAS

Thanks for everything Bob and I am really sorry about today. I don't know what I was thinking.

JANET

Bob honey.

Bob stands there an unusually long time looking at Thomas and Heather.

BOB

Goodbye.

He shuts the door behind him and stares at Janet as he walks towards the living room.

JANET

What?!

BOB

Don't what me, whore.

Thomas and Heather head out for the open road and make their way into the city of Chicago. They rent a room for a couple weeks but run out of money and are forced into the streets. Eventually they find a store front nook in front of the giant TYCO building.

INT. TYCO MEATS CORPORATE BUILDING-DAY

Walter is mopping the floor in the lobby of the old TYCO building when he sees the couple that seems to be living in the store entrance across the street.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF TYCO BUILDING-DAY

Walter is fixing a pipe in the front of the building when he notices the couple from before walking toward a man dressed in a suit trying to get a cab. Heather begins screaming.

THOMAS

Excuse me sir, my wife is pregnant and she is going into labor. I need to get her to a hospital now.

HEATHER

Oh god it's coming. Ahhhh!!!

BUSINESS MAN

Oh, oh my god. Here take my cab please.

THOMAS

I am sorry sir but we can't afford a taxi.

HEATHER

Oh my god!!!

BUSINESS MAN

I'm not going toward the hospital. Here is 7 dollars that should be enough to get you there. Keep the change for the baby.

THOMAS

Thank you sir so much. Honey thank the nice man.

HEATHER

Ahh!!!! Fuck!!

THOMAS

OK honey just breath, that's good, really thank you sir.

The cab speeds off with Thomas looking out the back window.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Driver could you turn left here and let us out please. How much do we owe you?

DRIVER

.17 Cents but it's a dollar minimum. I thought you needed to go to the hospital.

HEATHER

I'm fine thanks. Just a cramp, I guess, bye.

Walter watches them run the scheme 6 times before the end of the day.

The weather is becoming colder now and a storm is coming.

INT. TYCO BUILDING-NIGHT

Walter is doing his usual cleaning of the lobby when he looks out the glass door and sees nothing but white. He drops his mop to the floor.

EXT. STOREFRONT NOOK-NIGHT, BLINDING SNOW

WALTER

What the hell are you doing out here! Is she really pregnant?!

Heather nods her head yes. Walter rustles them up and into the service entrance on the side of the building.

INT. TYCO HALLWAY-NIGHT

WALTER

What the hell do you think you're doing sleeping out in this weather, with her, are you a flipping idiot? It's 15 below!

THOMAS

We were fine.

WALTER

OK tough guy you go back out there then. She can stay.

HEATHER

Thomas I love you but I am not going back out there. Thank you so much for letting us in we won't be here for long.

WALTER

Stay for as long as you need sweetheart. Are you hungry? I have some tuna fish sandwiches. Come with me.

INT. STORAGE/PHONE CLOSET- NIGHT

THOMAS

Why are you helping us?

WALTER

Well it's not because of you. Let me ask you something, do you enjoy parading your pregnant wife around on the streets of Chicago trying to make a buck or two, like some cheap pimp?

THOMAS

You don't know me old man.

WALTER

I know those are track marks on your arms.

THOMAS

I used to.

WALTER

I know, I did too. How long you been clean?

THOMAS

A couple months or so.

WALTER

That's good, 20 years for me, you have to stick with it though. So you going to get a job to support your beautiful wife and child?

HEATHER

We're not married but you're sweet though.

WALTER

Can't say I approve of that but one thing at a time. Can you clean?

THOMAS

Yeah I can clean. I know a little about phones too. Like what those do over there.

Thomas points over to the left wall covered in multi-colored wires.

WALTER

You know what all that shit is huh? Well that might be something you can look into for the future. Right now I need a good cleaner. I'll pay you minimum wage and what's your name dear?

HEATHER

Heather.

WALTER

Heather and you can live here for free if you work for me.

THOMAS

Well I don't know we were...

HEATHER

Yes, we will do it, and he'll do a great job. I'll make sure of it. Thank you and what is your name?

WALTER

Call me Walt.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING MONTAGE- CONTINUOUS

Thomas is a major help for Walt from the very beginning. Walter can just sit back and watch the kid go. After a while they become good friends and start playing practical jokes on one another. Thomas runs over a trash can in the golf cart almost throwing off Walter. Walter slaps Thomas in the face with a mop and Thomas screams like a girl. Thomas slips in the men's room and puts his hand in the urinal. Walter laughs so hard he cries.

INT. 18TH FLOOR OFFICE- NIGHT

Thomas and Walter are emptying office trash cans.

WALTER

Heather tells me the big day is coming up here pretty soon there buddy boy. You excited or what? You're going to be a father.

THOMAS

Nervous, terrified, when I think there is going to be a little me running around.

A well dressed man comes in with a couple boxes.

GENTLEMAN

How are you doing Walter. I have some boxes in my office of old documents, could you dispose of them in the usual manner? Who's this?

WALTER

Oh I'm sorry this is Thomas, Thomas Henderson. Thomas, Bud Carson, he's the head of corporate operations. In other words he's our boss.

THOMAS

It's very nice to meet you sir. I didn't think the head honchos stayed around this late.

BUD

Global business never sleeps, speaking of which, I have to get going. Walter would you take care of those boxes please. Thomas carry them for him and don't let him tell you no. It was nice to meet you and welcome to TYCO.

WALTER

Yes sir.

Bud races off.

THOMAS

Nice guy, is he the head of the building?

WALTER

Buildings. This one, corporate headquarters, being the biggest.

THOMAS

Walt what does TYCO actually do?

WALTER

I was wondering when you would ask that, only took you a few months. TYCO is the largest meat packing company in America and the world's largest distributor.

THOMAS

And this is the main corporate office?

WALTER

Correct, you will see Mr. Carson quite often. He works pretty late sometimes.

They walk into a huge, luxurious, office and pick up the boxes.

THOMAS

This guy must make dough. I wonder how much his boss makes? What do you have to do to get an office like this?

WALTER

Well he is our boss, and I don't know or care, It's really none of my business anyway. I just do what he tells me and I keep my job.

THOMAS

Well what's in the box?

WALTER

I don't know probably some financial records. I just take it to the furnace room and throw it in. Hey you're off, get back to your pregnant wife.

THOMAS

You sure? You don't need help with these?

WALTER

Fool I been doing this for 30 god damn years so that makes me the boss and when I say leave you leave. Got it?

Walter smiles as Thomas runs off. He looks at the boxes and shakes his head.

INT. STORAGE/PHONE CLOSET/LIVING SPACE- NIGHT

Heather wakes up and rolls over.

HEATHER
You're home early.

THOMAS
Yeah Walter let me go.

HEATHER
Well you don't look to happy about it.

THOMAS
Yeah I just worry about Walter. He's really old and his body is falling apart from taking care of this place. Even worse he never talks to his family and I'm afraid he is going to die alone.

HEATHER
He won't die alone, we will take care of him, now please baby come to bed.

INT. TYCO PARKING GARAGE- NIGHT

Thomas and Walter are painting parking spaces when Walt makes a mistake and starts slamming the sprayer on the cement.

WALTER
Fuck! I hate this shit!

THOMAS
Whoa, Whoa, Walter take it easy man. Is everything OK?

WALTER
It's just this job lately it is taking it's toll on me. Thomas I know things that I am not supposed to.

Suddenly Bob drives up in his luxury car.

BUD

Walter I was looking all over for you. Whew, that paint is strong. How's it going Todd?

THOMAS

It's Thomas.

BUD

Oh right, hey Walter I have some more boxes that need to be taken care of immediately. Thank you.

Walter shakes his head in disgust and he doesn't look at Bud.

WALTER

Just leave them by the elevator.

After Bud drives off Walter slams down the sprayer, again, and starts walking towards the elevator.

THOMAS

Hey where you going? What were you saying earlier?

WALTER

Get the fuck out of here Thomas. Go take care of your wife.

THOMAS

She's not my... hey where are you going?

WALTER

Go!!!

Walter's yell echoes in the parking garage, petrifying Thomas, he can only stand and watch Walter walk to the elevator alone.

INT. STORAGE/PHONE CLOSET/LIVING SPACE- NIGHT

Thomas storms in and throws his work shirt.

HEATHER

What's wrong Thomas?

THOMAS

I'm alright, but something's definitely wrong with Walter. I think he's in some kind of trouble.

HEATHER

Like what kind of trouble?

THOMAS

He's talking about how his job is so stressful and yelling constantly. I think he's losing his mind. He's been doing this job for a million years, you think he would have seen it all by now, what could possibly make him that angry? Oh and today he said something about "knowing things" whatever the hell that supposed to mean.

HEATHER

Maybe it's something else. Oh shit, I think my water just broke.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM NIGHT-

Heather is in the hospital room screaming her head off when the doctor comes in.

DOCTOR

She's ready to go.

The doctor gets in position and his face turns bleak. He whispers something to the nurse.

NURSE

Sir could you please come with me?

THOMAS

I'll be right back honey.
Everything is going to be fine.
You're doing great.

HEATHER

Ahhh!!

WAITING ROOM-

NURSE

Please wait here the doctor will be out as soon as possible.

A few minutes later the doctor comes out and walks over to Thomas.

DOCTOR

Mr. Henderson we have come across a problem in the delivery.

(MORE)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

The baby is flipped around and is coming out feet first. This means we have to surgically enter through the stomach to remove the baby. Normally this is a very standard procedure but with the amount of blood loss she will incur and her heart condition it's risky. We have spoken to Heather and she says she wants to do anything she can to save the baby. Also, I am going to ask that you remain outside until the procedure is over.

THOMAS

No, I need to be there for Heather. She needs me and I need her.

DOCTOR

I am not giving you a choice, she will barely be conscious anyway so please wait here, I will be back.

Thomas sits in the waiting room a nervous wreck while he watches nurses run in and out of the ER. A few hours later the doctor returns with a melancholy look on his face.

THOMAS

What happened?

DOCTOR

Mr. Henderson the baby survived but Heather did not. She lost too much blood, I'm sorry.

THOMAS

What do you mean gone? Like unconscious?

DOCTOR

No, Mr. Henderson, she's dead sir.

Thomas breaks down to his knees barely able to breathe. The doctor moves to put his hand on Thomas' shoulder but Thomas jumps to his feet almost throwing the doctor out of the way. He bursts into the emergency room and holds Heather's body. The nurses try to stop him but he just squeezes her head tighter to his chest.

THOMAS

No! My beautiful Heather. No, god no!!!

EXT. JETISON SOUTH FIELD- DAY, RAINING

The man opens his eyes and sobs in the mud. He rolls over and lets the rain come down on his face. He screams and cries into the clouds but is only answered by lightning.

BATTERED MAN
I'm coming baby, wait for me.

CUT TO: BLACK

INT. CLEANING CLOSET/LIVING SPACE-FEW NIGHTS LATER

Thomas is awoken in the middle of the night by a pounding on the door. The baby starts crying and he tries to settle her but the pounding continues.

THOMAS
Hold on a second, Jesus Christ.

The pounding continues until he gets to the door.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
What! Oh hey Bud. Sorry about that
I was trying to get the baby to
stop crying and...

BUD
That's fine Thomas but I need to
speak to you in my office
immediately.

THOMAS
Sir please, I am on temporary leave
with the baby, I have to stay with
her.

BUD
Well if you're on leave then
shouldn't you be leaving. You know,
vacating the premises.

THOMAS
Well no I...

BUD
Good, I will see you up there in
ten, don't worry it shouldn't take
long.

THOMAS
I have to bring the baby my wife
just died in labor two days ago.

BUD

Fine.

INT. HALL OUTSIDE BUD'S OFFICE-NIGHT

Bud catches Thomas at the elevator.

BUD

Ah Thomas good come with me. I had to clear the whole baby thing but there is someone I would like you to meet.

Bud presses the button for the top floor.

THOMAS

Right now? Who am I going to meet in the middle of the night?

BUD

Bernard Stanley. The president of TYCO.

THOMAS

I thought you were the president.

BUD

No, I am the manager of operations for the corporate sector, Ben is the president of TYCO. So please just listen to him and don't say anything stupid.

INT. EXECUTIVE SUITE, TOP FLOOR-NIGHT

The elevator opens into an office that takes up the whole floor and over looks Chicago. In front of a massive window sits a man behind a large desk. Two other men sit in opposite corners of the room.

BUD

Thomas this is our president, Bernard Stanley.

BERNARD

My friends call me Ben. Do you mind if I call you Tom?

THOMAS

That's fine sir.

BEN

Ah yes, well Tom, I'm afraid I have some very bad news about your boss Walter Samms.

THOMAS

What is it?

BERNARD

I'm sorry but he's dead son. He died of a heart attack this morning when he was cleaning the 18th floor. We didn't even find him until the office opened the next day.

Thomas takes a moment.

THOMAS

He had a daughter.

BEN

We've notified her. We're paying to have his remains shipped to her in Florida. Walter's on the way now back to his daughter, the way it should be. It was the least we could do for such a hardworking, loyal, TYCO employee.

Thomas is in ruins and he begins to sob again.

THOMAS

I'm sorry these last few days have been the worst of my life. Heather died in labor two days ago, that's why I have the baby, and now Walter is dead too? I don't know what I am going to do.

Thomas puts his head down and cries. The baby begins to cry also but Thomas quiets her somehow.

BEN

Let me stop you there and say I'm sorry son. Life is a mother fucker sometimes but there is a light at the end of this tunnel. I know you probably don't want to think about this right now Thomas but Walter's sudden death has left this office, and this company, in a very tight bind.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

Walter was a very important person around here with many responsibilities, and since he always spoke highly of you to Bud, we have decided you Thomas will be his replacement. Thomas Henderson do you accept the position as head of the janitorial and maintenance department for the corporate office of TYCO industries?

THOMAS

I don't know sir it seems like a very large responsibility, and as you can see, I am a little overwhelmed by my own problems at the moment.

BERNARD

It comes with a raise, would that help your problems? How does 50 thousand a year sound?

THOMAS

Are you serious? Yes I accept sir. I just had no idea Walter made that kind of money.

BEN

Well Thomas some people show austerity in divulging their personal income to others. So if you could please keep how much you make between us that would be ideal.

THOMAS

Oh yes definitely sir, no question.

BEN

Good, in addition to your current services, you will be doing waste management and document disposal. I need you to sign this contract stating you will not disclose TYCO information to anyone. We actually prefer you don't read the documents at all.

Thomas signs the contract.

THOMAS

No problem there Mr. Ben sir. I would just like to thank you for the opportunity and I won't let you down.

BEN

That's real good son, real good. Now if you would excuse me gentlemen I am tired from traveling all god damn day, good night.

Ben gets up and leaves. Bud leans over and shakes Thomas' hand.

BUD

Congratulations Thomas.

Thomas sits for a moment to soak it all in and a smile comes to his face.

CUT TO:

MUSICAL MOVING ON UP MONTAGE-

Thomas gets into the elevator and screams with joy.

Thomas and the baby pack up and leave the storage closet. They move to a small home on the outside of the suburbs. Thomas hires a nanny because he is always working.

Thomas hires more people at the office and everything is working like clock work.

Everything goes well for the first few months.

INT. STORAGE CLOSET/ THOMAS' OFFICE AREA- DAY

Thomas receives a call at his desk.

THOMAS

Tom Henderson, yes who am I speaking with?

PERSON

Hello Mr. Henderson I am Dr. Laurel at The Chicago Medical Institute. I am calling you about a peculiar medical condition your wife Heather Henderson had.

(MORE)

PERSON (CONT'D)

I know she died only a year ago and this may seem a little early but I am afraid it is urgent.

THOMAS

Heather Henderson?

DR. LAUREL

That's what she put on her medical documents.

THOMAS

Yes, yes I'm sorry, she had a heart condition.

DR. LAUREL

Mr. Henderson she was a donor and we have been studying her heart for 5 months now. Her heart condition is very rare.

THOMAS

Yes it is, I mean was, she always called it a condition for the lack of a better term. What have you found out about it?

DR. LAUREL

Well originally we thought it was a fibrous build up near the valves but as we looked closer it was more like a cell mutation caused by other sources. Some factors in Heather's Genetic makeup acted as a sort of magnet for this foreign substance to collect in masses around her lungs and heart.

THOMAS

What is the substance?

DR. LAUREL

We are not quite sure yet. We're running tests now. Listen, the main reason I called was to see if we could take some blood samples from your daughter, a Clarissa Henderson?

THOMAS

Yes that's right, of course you can, anything to help. I will bring her down immediately.

DR. LAUREL
The blood lab does not accept
samples past 5 PM so you will have
to hurry.

THOMAS
We'll make it.

Thomas clicks the phone once.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Betty could you please put me
through to Bud's office.

BUD
Bud Carson.

THOMAS
Bud I have to take the rest of the
afternoon off, It's a family
emergency.

BUD
That's fine, but I need you to take
care of these boxes in my office
immediately, some old documents
that's all.

THOMAS
I'll be right there.

Thomas hustles to the elevator only to find it broken. He runs up the flights of stairs to Bud's office and grabs the boxes. When he finally gets back down stairs he realizes he's late and leaves the boxes in a corner of the storage closet to be taken care of tomorrow.

INT. CHICAGO INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE-

Thomas and Clarissa go to have the tests done. Clarissa is very good for Dr. Laurel, an attractive young lady, and they wait until 9:00 PM for the results of the blood work. A lab person walks out with a folder and hands it to Dr. Laurel.

DR. LAUREL
I'm sorry Thomas these results show
she has the same gene as her
mother. My staff and I will do
everything in our power to help
her.

INT. TYCO LOBBY-NEXT DAY

Bud catches Thomas on his way in.

BUD

Thomas just wanted to check on those documents. Make sure they had been taken care of.

THOMAS

Yes Bud.

Thomas walks into the storage closet and pulls the boxes out from underneath his desk. As he's lifting one of boxes the lid catches on the desk and pops off. The top page reading: Project Thrive.

Eight years ago TYCO approved a genetic growth hormone called Xenephine. Xenephine yields 30% more meat in life-stock without increasing costs. Although short term testing showed no immediate results, recent observations demonstrate negative effects are present in subjects with exposure over approximately 2.5 years.

Thomas looks at pictures of some deformed cows and pigs. He sees the many diseases Xenephine is potentially linked to in farm animals and humans.

The study says the hormone acts almost as a parasite that clings to muscle tissue and stimulates cell growth past the point of capacity causing cell mutations.

It takes Thomas a couple hours to read all the information then the phone rings.

BETTY

Thomas, Mr. Carson would like to see you in his office. He says it's urgent.

Thomas goes to put on his coat right next to the phone blocks. He looks at the jumper mushroom with 18th floor labeled on it. He looks down the pins and sees main. He connects his speaker to the pins and a tone comes through. He grabs a an old recorder off the shelf and puts it next to the microphone. He picks up the phone and takes it into the hall.

THOMAS

Hello Betty, could you please put me through to Bud, I'm running behind.

BUD

Bud Carson.

THOMAS

Bud yeah it's Thomas, I'm running a little behind, I'll be right up.

BUD

Hurry.

THOMAS

Yes sir.

Thomas hangs up the phone and goes back to the speaker he connected to the phone pins. He rewinds the recorder that he set up in front of the speaker all the way back to the beginning. The recorder plays back the conversation he just had with Bud.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE-LATER

Thomas casually walks into Bud's office with the Xenephine boxes in his hands.

BUD

What the hell took you so long.
When I say I want to see you, you better...

Thomas drops the boxes of documents on his desk.

BUD (CONT'D)

I thought I told you to get rid of those.

THOMAS

Well I was until one of the lids fell off.

BUD

And?

THOMAS

And I took a look.

BUD

What the fuck is so hard about doing a simple task Thomas? I told you to just throw them in the furnace and you can't even do that. Remember what Ben told you about looking at the documents? That's it you're fucking done, I'm calling Ben, you will never get a job in this city again.

THOMAS

I'm done? I'll take TYCO to court.

BUD

Take us to labor court? You think some janitor would stand a chance against the team of lawyers we have. You would be broke in the first week.

THOMAS

No Bud, I'm taking you to criminal court. I read all of those documents and I know about the hormone Xenephine. TYCO is killing people and you and fucking Ben have known about it all along.

BUD

So what do you want Thomas?

THOMAS

I want 3 million dollars.

BUD

You have got to be kidding.

THOMAS

No, no I'm serious, and I have taken pages 34, 35, and 89 to insure that you do pay. They've got some very interesting photographs.

BUD

Can you wait outside for a second I have to make a call.

THOMAS

You have 2 minutes then I'm gone.

Thomas leaves the room and Bud picks up the phone.

BUD

Yeah give me Ben.

Thomas waits for almost the full two minutes when Bud comes out. He pulls Thomas into his office.

BUD (CONT'D)

He wants to meet at the Merchants Club tonight he will have your money.

THOMAS

He better or you're all going to jail for a very long time.

BUD

Here is the location. Be there at 10 PM sharp with the documents. Dress nice and Ben told me to say, 'you tell anyone we'll kill you and your daughter.'

THOMAS

My daughter is gone with the nanny, I called them before I came up here, so it looks like you only have me. Just bring the money and I'll hold up my end, but now that you've threatened me, tell Ben it's 5 million. We'll be in touch.

INT. HOTEL ROOM SOMEWHERE-EARLY EVENING

Thomas gets ready for the evening and puts on his black tuxedo. He sits on the bed and looks at a picture of Heather he took from Janet's house. In his other hand a picture of his little daughter Clarissa. He tucks them into the jacket pocket of his coat and leaves the hotel.

INT. MERCHANTS CLUB-LATE NIGHT

Security notices him right when he walks in and they lead him into the back office of The Merchants Club. Ben and Bud enter shortly after. Ben throws a briefcase on the table and clicks it open. Thomas dumps the 5 million into a black duffle bag.

BEN

The papers?

THOMAS

Here, this is it.

Ben takes the pages and starts laughing and points at Thomas. Suddenly a zip cord is pulled tight around Thomas' neck strangling him.

BEN

Are you some kind of retard boy? Did you really think we were going to let you out of here with that money.

Some how Thomas gets a pencil and writes down a phone number.

THOMAS

Caaaalll.

BEN

You want me to call someone to come?

Some how Thomas gets out the word,

THOMAS

Proof.

Ben gets a phone and calls the number.

BEN

Don't kill him yet hold on.

The phone rings until finally the answering machine picks up and plays the conversation between Bud and Ben after Bud's meeting with Thomas.

THOMAS

I tapped your phone fuckers. If I turn up missing every paper in America gets that recording. I'm leaving and I am taking the money.

Thomas takes the duffel bag around his shoulder and leaves.

BUD

Ben are you really going to...

BEN

Gentleman will you please get Mr. Carson the fuck away from me.

Security escorts Bud from the room. Ben picks up the phone.

BEN (CONT'D)

Yeah it's me I am tired of fucking around with this guy. I turns out he has a tape too. I have no fucking idea how. He gave me a phone number maybe we can trace it. Uh Huh, yeah use the guy we used last time and get me back my fucking money!

EXT. OUTSIDE MERCHANTS CLUB-NIGHT

Two men are waiting for Thomas as he exits the Merchants Club. Thomas pauses for a moment, looks around, and begins walking quickly towards the underground subway station.

The two men give chase but make sure not to get too close. Thomas walks faster now almost running down the steps of the crowded station. The two men break into a full sprint as they try desperately to keep up. They run down the steps into the station only to see Thomas running back up the steps on the other side with bag in hand.

FOLLOWER

He's going back up. Back up!

The two men run into each other trying to run back up the steps they just came down. Thomas gets in a car he parked next to the subway exit and drives off.

Thomas checks his rearview as he drives away.

THOMAS

Woo hoo! How you like that one fuckers!

A car's headlights turn on in an alley Thomas drives by and the vehicle turns in Thomas' direction.

INT. THOMAS' CAR-NIGHT, POURING RAIN

Thomas speeds down the highway in the rain when he notices a woman in a tight white dress stranded on the side of the road. He passes her at first but she reminded him of Heather so he turns around to help.

THOMAS

Hello miss is everything alright?

ATTRACTIVE LADY

Thank you so much for stopping. Yes, I was driving down the road and smoke started to come out of the hood. Do you know anything about cars?

THOMAS

Not really but I can take a look I guess.

ATTRACTIVE LADY

Oh thank you so much I would be forever in your debt.

Thomas pops the hood and starts looking at the engine. The lady turns behind her and gives a nod towards Thomas. A truck with its lights off slowly pulls out from across the way. She stands next to Thomas as he looks at the engine.

THOMAS

Well it looks like it could be the radiator. I could...

ATTRACTIVE LADY

Oh that's to... bad!

She slams the hood of the car down on top of his head. Thomas screams as his face burns from the hot engine. A man, followed by three others, comes up from the side of the car with a sledge hammer and breaks Thomas' leg inward at the knee cap with one swing. Thomas breaks free of the car hood and falls to the ground screaming in agony. He looks up at the man terrified by what he sees.

THOMAS

Officer Bradley?

BRADLEY

What the fuck? It is you.

He smiles at Thomas and then knocks him out. They throw Thomas in the back of the truck. Each one of the men gets into a vehicle and they follow the truck leaving nothing.

EXT. VAST FIELD-NIGHT

They tie Thomas up to a small tree and Bradley beats him repeatedly.

BRADLEY

You wise well just tell me where the tape is Thomas' before we have the call traced and find out our selves. Maybe it will save your life.

THOMAS

Go fuck your self Bradley.

BRADLEY

That's what I thought.

Bradley takes a piece of metal rebar off the top of the running truck engine and presses against Thomas' face. Thomas lets out a blood curdling cry and even Bradley's black henchman look disturbed.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Do you know what you and that nigger fuck took from me in Los Angeles?

Bradley back hands him across the face again.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

The D.A. would have thrown the fucking book at me and made an example of me for all cops to remember. If it wasn't for my lieutenant I would be in fucking jail right now. Do you know what they do to cops in prison? You piece of shit!

Bradley jabs the rebar into Thomas' broken knee cap.

THOMAS

Ahh, mother fucker, you were dirty you deserved it. You were a bigger crook than any of us.

Bradley back hands him across the face a couple more times. As Thomas begins to lose consciousness Bradley grabs him by the hair and slams his head back into the tree.

BRADLEY

My wife left me, said she couldn't take me anymore, that she missed California and her family. I caught her fucking around. She killed herself and her lover that night, I guess she couldn't take the guilt.

THOMAS

Suicide huh, you really are a piece of shit Bradley.

BRADLEY

It gets better. I found Lolo and his brother too. All this time I thought the plan to fuck up my entire life was his idea but with a little professional persuasion he told me it was yours Thomas Henderson.

Bradley clubs Thomas' broken knee repeatedly with the iron rebar.

THOMAS

Stop please, god help me.

Bradley gets down close and whispers in Thomas' ear.

BRADLEY

No ones going to help you. We will find your little girl.

THOMAS

You'll never find her.

BRADLEY

Oh I will, we have the resources you know. I'll wait, till she's 18 ripe as a kiwi, nice and juicy and when I'm done I will give the dogs what's left. Tell me where the tape is now.

Thomas thinks for a moment. He thinks about his child and he thinks about Heather.

THOMAS

The Wicker Hotel. Room 19.

BRADLEY

Radio it in boys!

Bradley sits and waits smoking a cigarette staring at Thomas' beaten body.

HENCHMAN

They found it boss, it's there.

BRADLEY

Good, now the money.

Bradley walks around to the trunk of Thomas' car and opens the black duffel bag only to find shreds of old paper.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

What the fuck! Where is it!?

He storms back over to Thomas and punches him in the face.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Where the fuck is the money Thomas!?

THOMAS

Did you really think I would just give you everything you stupid fuck. You touch my daughter you will never see that money again. Tell Ben it's in a safe place.

BRADLEY

Not safe for you I'm afraid.

For the next hour Bradley tortures Thomas. Bradley burns his face, stabs him repeatedly, and even shocks him with a car battery.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
Where is the money?

THOMAS
It's... It's up your ass.

Thomas starts to laugh.

BRADLEY
I see how this is going to work.
Tie his wrist to that rock.

When the Henchman gets close to tie down Thomas' arm Thomas whispers something to him. The man looks at Thomas for a second and then backs away.

Bradley comes back with an axe and a blowtorch.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
Who's laughing now fucker! I am going to chop off pieces of your body until you tell me what I want to know. I am going to count to five, tell me where the money is, or you lose your right hand. One... Two...

Bradley begins to lift the axe above his head.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
Three...Four...

Right before he brings down the axe gun shots ring out. Bradley freezes and turns around. Thomas sees Bradley has multiple bullet wounds in his back. Bradley begins to move forward and one more shot is fired taking off the top of his skull. Bradley falls to the ground dead.

The lead Henchman walks up to Thomas.

HENCHMAN
Alright where's the money or you're next.

THOMAS
It's in a locker 4317 at the Subway station on 2nd. The key is in a hole in the lower left side of the passenger seat.

HENCHMAN 2

Got it boss.

HENCHMAN

Alright you better not be fucking lying because we are going to leave you here. When we get the money we'll come back for you. If it's not there we leave you out here for the vultures and wolves.

THOMAS

It's there.

HENCHMAN

Get the body we'll get rid of him somewhere else.

They throw Bradley's dead body in the truck and drive off leaving Thomas in the pitch black of night.

EXT. JETISON SOUTH FIELD- DAY, LESS RAIN

Thomas awakens once again and manages to get to his feet. He hobbles up the dirt road, dragging his mangled leg behind him, inspired now that he remembers the truth. He looks off in the distance and sees a touch of smoke above the hill abroad. His memory flashes back to Ronnie, Lolo, Bob, Walter, and especially Heather and Clarissa. He limps along faster now. He could make it, he had to make it. The make shift stint for his knee breaks and his leg snaps like a graham cracker under his weight. He screams in pain but continues to drag himself by his bloody finger tips.

EXT. JETISON HOUSE PORCH-DAY

Mr. Jetison kisses his wife good by, puts on his hat, and walks out to the truck where Michael and Nick are waiting. He pulls Nick aside.

MICHAEL

He's coming with us?

NICK

Guess so, just get in the truck.

JETISON

Nick, I don't know how long this is going to take so I want you to stay here and take care of things. Besides I need to talk to Michael.

NICK

Sir please don't fire him. He'll do better, I will make sure of it.

JETISON

I'm not going to fire him Nick just scare him a bit so he straightens up. Just take care of things here. Michael get in the truck lets go.

MICHAEL

Nick ain't coming?

JETISON

I'm sorry I can only pay one dumb shit to sit around in the truck all day now get in.

INT. JETISON PICKUP TRUCK-DAY

The two are driving, not talking, when Michael notices something up in the distance next to the road.

MICHAEL

What the hell? It's a man.

They pull up next to the dying man and jump out of the truck.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Holy shit, somebody fucked this guy up.

THOMAS

Ahhhh! Help.

The two men jump back a little.

JETISON

He's still alive we need a doctor.

Michael starts to try to pick him up and Thomas screams.

JETISON (CONT'D)

No, stop, we shouldn't move him. Get back to the house and call an ambulance. I will stay here with him. Hurry Mike go!

Michael jumps back in the truck and hauls ass up the road back toward the house.

JETISON (CONT'D)

Everything is going to be fine just relax. What is your name?

THOMAS

Tho... Thomas, Hen..hen.

JETISON

Henderson, OK, quiet now everything is going to be fine.

Jetison looks up the road to make sure the truck is gone. He presses Thomas' face into his chest, suffocating him.

JETISON (CONT'D)

We followed your little friends to the station. I was supposed to find you dead. Just had to stick your nose where it didn't belong. Had to find out about Xenephine.

Jetison presses tighter. Thomas struggles with as much force as his broken body can muster but it is to no avail. Thomas' body goes limp. Mr. Jetison holds on for a few more seconds then releases Thomas' dead body into the dirt.

CUT TO: BLACK

INT. EYES OPENING-NIGHT

A 13 year old girl who looks a lot like Heather sits up in a cold sweat. She looks around at all the other children sleeping and takes a deep breath.

She gets out of bed and tip toes to the bathroom making sure not to wake anyone.

Another girl wakes up behind her and runs off down the hall.

She turns on the lights to the bathroom and walks to the sink. She rinses the cold sweat off her face and looks at herself in the mirror.

NIGHT SUPERVISOR

Clarissa what are you doing out of bed again?!

CLARISSA

I'm sorry Miss Rudy, I had another dream about my father.

MISS RUDY

Clarissa enough already! The doctor has gone over this with you a thousand times. Your mother died in labor and your father left you here with a note saying he was addicted to heroin and could not raise you on the street. Now please get back into bed you are keeping the other children awake.

Clarissa looks at herself in the mirror, sad and disappointed. The supervisor flips off the lights leaving Clarissa in the bathroom alone; the only way of life she has ever known.

CUT TO: BLACK

THE END

THE ABANDONMENT

