Groomsmen

by
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INT. AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE - 1997

SHAWN WALKER, 14, CARL JENNINGS, 13, and his younger brother, MIKE JENNINGS, 12, are waiting in line for the go-karts. They enter the track and get in three different go-karts.

TRACK ATTENDANT
Okay, boys and girls. Wait for the green light and put the pedal to the metal.

SHAWN
You ready, Carl? *

CARL
Are you?

The light turns from Red to yellow.

Shawn and Carl take off, leaving Mike in the dust.

Mike takes off but is too far behind to catch up. As he rounds a turn, Shawn and Carl, driving the wrong way, pass Mike and the other drivers. Mike laughs and makes a U-turn, following behind Shawn and Carl.

Other racers pull over, unwilling to drive while the boys drive carelessly.

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Shawn, Carl, and Mike are escorted out of the course by a SECURITY GUARD. They laugh and walk away.

SECURITY GUARD
Don’t come back!

EXT. SHAWN’S HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE - 2000

Shawn and Carl light bottle rockets in the back yard. Carl snaps the head off a bottle rocket and lights it as Shawn lights another one.

Carl tosses the rocket on the ground and steps back.
Shawn dances frantically to avoid the rocket head as it ignites and zips around at his feet.

When the smoke settles, Carl’s laughter is all that is heard.

Shawn tackles Carl to the ground.

INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE - 2002

While Shawn, Carl, and Mike are playing a three player video game, Carl and Mike’s mother, ALLISON JENNINGS, 42, places a bowl of tortilla chips on the coffee table for them. She leaves the room and they continue playing.

As Carl starts to win the game, Mike slaps him in the crotch. When Carl rolls on the floor in pain Mike kills his character, taking his brother out of the game. Shawn continues his game as Carl attacks Mike.

INT. DORM ROOM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE - 2003

Carl is in bed with CHRISTY, a beautiful college girl.

CHRISTY
Oh my, God. It feels so good.

CARL
I know.

CHRISTY
I want you to cum.

CARL
I will if you stop talking.

EXT. DORM ROOM

Shawn is walking up the hall when he hears moaning from inside the girls room.

He knocks on the door.
INT. DORM ROOM

Carl’s head is now under the sheet, his head between her legs. Christy’s smiling, her hands tightly grasping the pillow case.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

She stops to listen.

CHRISTY
Carl.

CARL
(muffled)
Yeah?

CHRISTY
Someone’s knocking.

CARL
(still muffled)
Wait a minute.

Carl remains under the sheets...

CHRISTY
I’m serious Carl. Someone’s knocking on the door.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

SHAWN (O.S.)
Christy? You in there?

CARL
I know that voice.

CHRISTY
(to door)
I’ll be there in a minute, Shawn.

CARL
(hisses)
Shawn?

CHRISTY
Shawn Walker.
(a beat)
My boyfriend?

Carl’s horrified.
CARL
Shit!

EXT. DORM ROOM
Shawn hears a guys voice in the dorm room.

SHAWN
Who’s in there with you?

CHRISTY (O.S.)
That’s the...um...television.

SHAWN
Come on, babe. Open the door.

INT. DORM ROOM
Carl wraps his clothes in his arms and opens the window.

CHRISTY
Hide under the bed.

CARL
Fuck...that.

CHRISTY
You’re going out the window?

Carl climbs onto the ledge and tosses his clothes out.

CARL
I’m not going the other way.

SHAWN (O.S.)
I know that’s not the television.
Open up the door!

CHRISTY
What do I do?

CARL
Stall him!

Christy walks over to the door and slowly opens it.

Carl lets go of the ledge when Shawn bursts in the room.

SHAWN
Where is he?
CHRISTY
Who? There’s no one in here.

The cold air blows against Shawn’s face from an open window.

Shawn rushes to the open window.

SHAWN
Son of a bitch!

Carl is already half way across the courtyard, running through the crowd of students in only his boxers.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS – AFTERNOON

A student leads an open house through the college campus.

STUDENT
This is the courtyard that leads up to the library. The library was founded in...

Carl runs through the group, still half naked and cradling his clothes in his hands.

The crowd of people all stare in awe as Carl disappears behind a building.

STUDENT
...in 1904...

FADE OUT.

INT. CHAPEL – DAY

SUPERIMPOSE – PRESENT DAY

A small group of people are gathered in front of an altar inside the chapel of a catholic church. Mike, Shawn, and Mike’s step-brother, KEITH SAUNDERS, 21 stand together, conversing.

Mike’s boyish good looks have been well maintained through the years, his carefully groomed brown hair gives way to his tanned skin and blue eyes.

Shawn is now an intimidating six foot something man in his late twenties. The stubble on his face blends into his jet black hair.
Keith, on the other hand, is a timid young man of small stature. There is nothing threatening at all about his demeanor.

MIKE
So, Keith. Whatever happened with ERICA?

KEITH
We broke up.

MIKE
That sucks.

SHAWN
Yeah, it does. So, which one of the bride’s maids are you going to hook up with?

KEITH
Shawn, we’re in a church.

SHAWN
Then which one of these girls are you going to procreate with?

KEITH
(smiles)
You’re messed up.

MIKE
All joking aside. If you want to bring another guest to the wedding, feel free to do so. We already have two seats reserved for you and your date.

KEITH
Thanks, Mike. I appreciate it.

Mike’s father, ROBERT JENNINGS, 54, and step-mother, ANDREA JENNINGS, 52, sit in the front pew, checking their watches.

ANDREA
Where’s your son?

ROBERT
He’ll be here.

ANDREA
This is ridiculous.
A beautiful, blonde, twenty-something, girl approaches Mike. Her arms are crossed but, even through the angry expression on her face, we can tell she is a warm and loving person. She is AMBER CRESSE, Mike’s fiancee.

   AMBER
   Are you sure you weren’t supposed to wake up Carl? He’s holding up our rehearsal.

   MIKE
   He told me he was going to set his alarm.

Her bride’s maids, ALEXIS and JUDY, both 23, shake their heads in disbelief as they converse with the maid of honor, MARIA, 22.

   ALEXIS
   I heard he’s a complete asshole.

   JUDY
   I did, too. Apparently, when they were kids, he hog tied Mike, taped his mouth shut, and left him in the basement. No one knew where Mike was for about nine hours. What kind of person would do that to his own brother?

   MARIA
   Carl would.

Robert places his hand on Mike’s shoulder.

   ROBERT
   Michael, call your brother. There’s absolutely no excuse for this.

Mike nods and leaves the chapel.

EXT. CHURCH – MORNING

Mike stands outside the church. He dials a number into his cell phone.

INT. BEDROOM – MORNING

Carl, now in his late twenties, lie face down on a bed in a dark room. A GIRL lie in bed next to him.

A cell phone rings loudly from somewhere in the room.
Carl swats at the night stand, knocking a bottle to the floor. He finds the phone under his pillow.

INTERCUT:

    CARL
    Hello?

    MIKE
    Where the hell are you?

    CARL
    I was sleeping, Cock. What do you want?

    MIKE
    I’d like for my best man to be here for my wedding rehearsal.

    CARL
    Is that today?

Carl hasn’t moved from his position. It’s obvious he’s completely uninterested in leaving the bed.

    MIKE
    Just get here quickly.

    CARL
    Give me about a half hour and I’ll be there.

    MIKE
    It was supposed to start fifteen minutes ago. Hurry the hell up.

Mike flips the phone shut and walks back into the church.

INT. BEDROOM

Carl slowly sits on the side of his bed. Although he is handsome, his morose expression makes it obvious that he is an unhappy man who only lives one day at a time.

The girl stirs in her sleep.

Carl looks back at her in confusion. He lightly shoves her.

    CARL
    Hey. Wake up.
GIRL
(mumbles)
What?

CARL
Who the hell are you?

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

Mike, Shawn, and Keith stand in a row in front of the altar as Amber, Maria, Judy, and Alexis stand across from them.

FATHER BROWN, 67, stands at the altar. They are all waiting for Carl.

Father Brown looks at his watch.

FATHER BROWN
Shall we begin?

MIKE
(disappointed)
We might as well.

SHAWN
(whispers to Mike)
Where’s Carl?

MIKE
He’s on his way. He got caught in traffic.

FATHER BROWN
Ladies and Gentlemen, we are gathered here today to witness the holy union of Michael Jennings and Amber Cresse...

The front door to the chapel bursts open with a loud slam. Carl is rushing up the aisle towards the altar.

CARL
I’m okay, everybody. Got lost on the way here.

AMBER
(to Mike)
You’re kidding me.

Robert approaches Carl in the aisle.
ROBERT
I can’t believe that you’re late for your brother’s wedding rehearsal.

CARL
I was busy.

ROBERT
Sleeping. Yes, I know. What do you think your mother would say to you right now?

CARL
Nothing. She’s dead. If you want I can go ask her best friend.

Robert looks back at Andrea sitting in the pews. He looks back at Carl.

The two stand in silence until Carl walks around his father.

Carl pushes himself between Mike and Shawn.

SHAWN
I thought you were stuck in traffic.

CARL
Don’t talk to me.

Everyone stares at Carl in disbelief.

SHAWN
(whispers)
You okay, Bro? You smell like crap.

CARL
Told you not to talk to me.

SHAWN
That’s really mature, Carl.

Carl burps loud enough for it to echo throughout the chapel.

Mike turns to Carl. Everyone in the Bridal party is disgusted.

CARL
How’s that for mature? Now leave me alone. I’m here for my brother, not to talk to you.
SHAWN
What the hell is your problem?

CARL
I’m warning you, Shawn. Back...off.

Shawn places his hand on Carl’s shoulder.

SHAWN
You need to--

Carl unexpectedly turns around and shoves Shawn, who then stumbles into the front pew.

CARL
(to self)
Shit.

Carl follows after as Shawn pulls a bible from the back of the pew.

CARL
Shawn, I didn’t mean to--

Carl reaches to Shawn to help him up just as Shawn turns and swings at Carl’s head, bible in hand. The shock of the bible slapping Carl across the face, knocks him out.

EXT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

Carl lie unconscious on a bench outside the church. Keith sits next to Carl’s head as he awakens.

CARL
(rubs his head)
What happened?

KEITH
You and Shawn got into a fight in the middle of Mike and Amber’s wedding rehearsal.

CARL
Why the hell are you here?

KEITH
Mike told me to baby-sit.

CARL
Where’s Mike?
KEITH
You know, you’re becoming more and more of an asshole every year.

CARL
Whatever, Fag.

Carl stands up from the bench. He stretches his neck as he walks away.

INT. MIKE’S HOUSE – AFTERNOON

Mike and Amber stand in the dining room, her eyes red from crying.

MIKE
What do you want me to do, Babe? We were all raised together since we were little kids.

AMBER
I don’t care what you do. I just don’t want two people who hate each other to be in our wedding.

MIKE
That’s not an option babe.

AMBER
Then Carl’s presence at our wedding shouldn’t be an option. I mean, your brother is the most disrespectful person I’ve ever met.

MIKE
You don’t seem to get it. Since we were little kids, we were all going to be the groomsmen at each other’s weddings.

AMBER
Well I doubt they’re going to ask the other one to be at their wedding.

MIKE
I’m not kicking them out of the wedding. I’ll ask them not to talk to each other.
AMBER
We’ve spent so much time and money on this wedding. I want it to be perfect.

MIKE
Well my perfect wedding includes having the two closest people in my life at the altar next to me.

AMBER
Fine. You figure out what to do. I swear, though. If they aren’t at least civil with one another in two days, there won’t be a wedding.

MIKE
They’ll be completely civil, Amber. Okay?

AMBER
Doubt it.

He pecks her on the lips.

MIKE
You’ll see...

He kisses her again.

MIKE
We’ll have the perfect wedding.

And again.

MIKE
And you’ll see a side of Carl that you’ve never seen before. Okay?

One last kiss.

Amber nods.

MIKE
I promise that I’ll give you the wedding of your dreams. Let’s just pretend today was a bad dream. Please?

AMBER
Can we at least have Carl stay somewhere else? He has the guest room smelling like a bar.
MIKE
That’s fine. As long as you let me keep him in the wedding.

AMBER
(smiles)
You win, Babe.

Carl walks into the house and slams the door behind him.

AMBER
Hi, Carl. Have a nice nap?

Carl gets a glass from a kitchen cabinet, pours water from the sink, and chugs it empty.

CARL
Yeah. Had a nice walk, too. Thanks for asking. I’d recommend you try it once in a while. You might lose a few pounds.

AMBER
Doesn’t look like it worked for you.

MIKE
That’s enough.

CARL
I just walked three miles, okay, Mike?

MIKE
Where the hell was Keith?

CARL
You left me at the fucking church.

MIKE
I also told Keith to give you a ride home.

CARL
I don’t want that idiot anywhere near me.

AMBER
Who was that girl you brought home last night?

CARL
I don’t know. Why?
AMBER
(two Mike)
See?

MIKE
Carl, can I talk to you outside?

Mike walks out the front door of the house.

EXT. MIKE’S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Mike turns to talk to Carl.

MIKE
Listen, man...

INT. MIKE’S HOUSE

Carl still stands in the house, glass in hand.

MIKE (O.S.)
Carl!

CARL
Fine, I’m coming!

EXT. MIKE’S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Carl steps out from the house and closes the door behind him.

MIKE
I don’t think it’s a good idea for you to stay here this weekend.

CARL
What did I do?

MIKE
Aside from assaulting Shawn in our church? Nothing.

CARL
Shawn hit me in the head, Mike.

MIKE
Yeah, after you started a fight with him.
(a beat)
You also brought some girl home last night and left her here without anyone else around.
CARL
You used to be cool, Bro. What happened?

MIKE
I grew up.

CARL
Mike--

MIKE
Just do me a favor and get your ass to the pool hall tonight at nine.

Mike walks back into the house and shuts the door behind him.

Carl stands alone on the empty front porch.

The door opens again.

CARL
(smiles)
I knew you’d come around.

Mike tosses Carl’s duffle bag at him from inside the house.

He closes the door on Carl again.

Carl’s smile fades.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

Carl walks down a sunny street in a quiet neighborhood. His duffle bag bounces against his leg with each step

EXT. ROBERT’S HOUSE - DAY

Carl approaches the front gate to his father’s house. He enters the yard and walks up to the front door.

It’s locked.

Carl follows a walkway wrapping around the house until he gets to the back door. He reaches to the top of the door frame and pulls down a key.

INT. ROBERT’S HOUSE - DAY

Carl walks through the empty house.
CARL
Hello?
Nothing.
CARL
Anyone home?
Still nothing.
Carl tosses his duffle bag onto the couch in the living room.
A framed picture of him, Mike, and their parents catches his attention from atop the entertainment center.
Carl lifts the picture from it’s place, runs his thumb across his mother’s face, and is about smile when...
...Robert and Keith enter the living room through the front door.
Robert sees the framed picture in Carl’s hand.

ROBERT
Hi, Son.

CARL
Hey, Pop...
(to Keith)
..Fag.

ROBERT
Everything okay?

Carl gently places the picture on the entertainment center.

CARL
Mike kicked me out of his house so I thought I’d stay here for the weekend.

Robert and Carl stand in silence for a lengthy moment.

ROBERT
Keith, set Carl up in the den.

CARL
I was hoping I could just stay in my old room.

ROBERT
Your old room is being used as our gym right now, Carl.
CARL
It’s what?

Carl walks up the hallway and opens the door to his old room.

INT. CARL’S ROOM
The bedroom door opens and we see Carl standing at the threshold of the door.

His room is packed with a weight bench, tread mill, and a stair master.

CARL
What the hell is all this?

ROBERT
I turned this room into a gym for Andrea and myself. It’s only been...oh...six years since you’ve stayed here.

INT. HALLWAY
Carl shuts the door to his old room.

CARL
What about Mike’s old room?

KEITH
You mean my room.

CARL
Make him sleep in the den.

KEITH
Why the hell am I going to--

CARL
Shh, Keith. The men are talking.

KEITH
You can’t tell me--

CARL
Oh, my God, Keith. Shut the hell up!

Keith storms down the hallway, walks into his room, and slams the door shut behind him.
ROBERT
Cut it out.

CARL
This used to be my room, Dad. Ever since you married that bitch that Mom called a friend--

ROBERT
Son, I swear. If you start up with that again, you won’t be welcome in my house. I’ve gone through too much to relive all this.

CARL
Fuck it. I’ll take the den.

INT. MR. JENNINGS’ HOUSE - DAY
Andrea enters the house, shopping bags in hand as Carl and Robert walk into the living room together.

She forces a smile on her face when she sees Carl.

ANDREA
Oh, hi, Carl.

Carl walks past her, completely ignoring her.

ANDREA
What’s going on?

ROBERT
Carl’s going to be staying here for the weekend.

ANDREA
(sarcasm)
Wonderful.

INT. JENNINGS’ DEN - MOMENTS LATER
Carl sits on the world’s most uncomfortable futon. He lays across the cushion, examining the room.

Carl watches as a mosquito lands on his arm. It penetrates his skin and begins his meal.

Photos from when Robert and Allison first met line the wall. They continue with pictures of Robert, Allison, and Andrea in their college years.
The mosquito is growing more full with every sip as Carl keeps still, allowing it to drink.

The years continue up to Mike’s college graduations.

Carl then looks at his father’s study to see a family picture of his father, Andrea, and Keith sitting in a frame on Robert’s desk.

He looks at the mosquito on his arm and slaps it dead. It is the only joy he’s had all day.

Carl takes a deep breath.

    CARL
    (to self)
    Welcome home, Carl.

INT. POOL HALL – NIGHT

Mike and Keith sit together at a bar inside a noisy pool hall. Mike holds a beer and Keith sips a Chocotini.

Shawn enters the hall, spots Mike and approaches the bar.

    MIKE
    Hey, Buddy.

    SHAWN
    Hey, Mike. Listen, I’m so sorry about earlier. I feel horrible.

    MIKE
    I know, man. I want to talk about that when Carl get’s here.

    SHAWN
    He’s coming here, too?

    MIKE
    Yeah but he’s not going to do anything.

Shawn’s cell phone rings in his pocket. He pulls it out, checks the caller ID, and pockets it again.

Mike stares at Shawn’s phone as if it were the most beautiful girl in the world.

    MIKE
    Nice phone. How much did that run you?
SHAWN
Four hundred dollars.

MIKE
Jesus, Dude.

SHAWN
Yeah. It’s worth every penny. I pretty much run my entire business through this phone.

(a beat)
Speaking of which, where are you working these days?

MIKE
Well, after mom died, I invested some of the money from the inheritance into a friend’s internet business and it just took off. I pretty much just work from home.

SHAWN
What about you, Keith?

KEITH
I’m a manager at a private resort.

MIKE
He’s in charge of the towel boys.

KEITH
It’s just while I’m in college. I’m supposed to get promoted in a few weeks.

SHAWN
How the hell can you afford that BMW I’ve seen you driving around?

MIKE
I bought that for him from a used car lot last year. He’s slowly paying me back.

A beautiful black haired girl serves drinks behind the bar. Small strands of her tied back hair bounce in front of her deep blue eyes. Her tight, low-cut shirt shows all of her perfect curves.

She spots Shawn.

BARTENDER
What can I get you, Babe?
SHAWN
How about a date? I’m only in town for two days and need someone to show me around.

She smiles at him.

BARTENDER
Do you have any idea how many guys say that to me?

SHAWN
Do you have any idea how many girls I say that to?

BARTENDER
Probably a lot.

SHAWN
You’re actually the first. There’s just something about you that makes it impossible to look away from you.

(extends his hand)
Shawn.

BARTENDER
(smiles)
NATALIE.

NATALIE
It’s very nice to meet you.

SHAWN
It’s wonderful to meet you.

(lengthy beat)
Good God, you’re beautiful.

MIKE
I’m sorry Nat. He’s been like this as long as I’ve known him. He was actually raised in this town.

NATALIE
It’s okay. I think he’s cute.

Natalie hands Shawn a beer and places four shots on the bar.

MIKE
What’s this?

NATALIE
It’s on the house. Congrats with the soon-to-be wedding, sweetie.
They all take the shot.

SHAWN
That was good. What was it?

NATALIE
I just made it the other night. I call it dark ecstasy.

She winks at Shawn and tends to more customers.

Mike and Keith stare at Shawn.

KEITH
I don’t fucking believe it. She never even gives me the time of day.

SHAWN
That’s because you’re not me. How’s that manly chocotini treating ya?

Mike and Shawn laugh as Keith hesitantly sips his drink.

MIKE
So, how does it feel to be back in Jacksonville Beach? Did you miss it?

SHAWN
A little bit but I like it better in LA.

KEITH
Where are you staying?

SHAWN
I’m staying at the Sea Turtle Inn. I couldn’t find any other hotels that had any vacancy so, instead, I’m paying four hundred bucks a night.

MIKE
Jesus.

SHAWN
I know. Too bad my mom and dad moved away. Otherwise I’d just stay with them.

Carl enters the hall, duffle bag in hand, and sees Shawn sitting with Keith and Mike.
CARL
(to self)
Fuck me.

Carl walks over to the bar and sits next to Keith.

MIKE
Hey, big brother.

Mike notices the duffle bag.

MIKE
Thought you were staying with Dad.

CARL
Decided not to.

MIKE
Why not?

CARL
What did you drag us all here for?

MIKE
Well, Amber wants me to take you and Shawn out of the wedding.

SHAWN
Why would she want me out of the wedding? I didn’t do anything.

MIKE
Because of your fight earlier.
(a beat)
It’s not just you. It’s both of you. She’s afraid that you’re going to start a fight with him and you’re both going to get into a brawl at our wedding.

KEITH
Yeah, Carl. You have this anger issue, you know?

Carl leans in towards Keith.

CARL
Keith, as long as I’ve known you, I never liked you. Don’t think that you can say anything you want just because your slut of a mother married my Dad. Now, for the last time, shut...the fuck...up.
Intimidated, Keith sits back. Carl stares at him until Keith’s eyes are looking only at his drink.

    CARL
    (to Mike)
    I’m sorry, Mike. You were saying?

    MIKE
    How about we talk about this over pool?

    CARL
    Whatever. Just rack the balls.

INT. POOL HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Mike, Carl, Shawn, and Keith are conversing over the pool table.

Keith racks the balls up.

    SHAWN
    So, how are we playing this?

    MIKE
    Let’s do teams. Me and Carl against you and Keith.

    KEITH
    I’ll break.

    CARL
    Where the hell did you get your pool hall etiquette? Mike’s the groom. Let him break.

Mike bends down, steadies the pool cue, takes aim, and...

    SHAWN
    Wait a minute, Mike. Let’s make this game fun.

    MIKE
    Fun, how?

    SHAWN
    Let’s throw some money on the table.

    MIKE
    Do you even carry cash?
SHAWN
Does it matter? I always win.

A smile slowly forms across Mike’s face.

MIKE
I got it.

SHAWN
Shoot, Kid.

MIKE
If you win, I’ll pay for your entire weekend. Hotel stay, rental car, all of it.

SHAWN
Okay. What if you win?

MIKE
Each of you has to do one favor for me this weekend, no matter what it is. Okay?
(turns to Carl and Keith)
All three of you.

CARL
That doesn’t work if you only beat Shawn. He’s always sucked at Pool. If you want that, then you have to play each of us.

MIKE
Carl, Shawn’s team is ranked number nine in the nation in pool. If I lose, I’ll pay for Shawn’s hotel room, let Carl stay at my house, and, well, Keith, you pretty much owe me your life so I’ll just call it square and wipe the slate clean.
(a beat)
Deal?

SHAWN
Okay.

KEITH
Sounds good to me.

CARL
Let’s get this over with. I’m tired.
MIKE
And, don’t forget how we always did this. If you make a bet, you are to respect the person you lost to enough to follow through with it. There’s no backing out.

CARL
Just rack the balls, you girly bastard.

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT

Mike racks the balls and places the cue ball on the table. He turns to Shawn.

MIKE
Why don’t you shoot first, Shawn?

SHAWN
No dice. Like the shithead said, you’re the groom. You get to break.

MIKE
Alright then.

QUICK IMAGES:

Mike breaks the rack, sinking most of the striped balls on the table. He fails to sink the five and Shawn steps up to the table.

Shawn is a tough rival as he sinks most of the solids. He aims to sink the one ball into the side pocket but fails to do so.

Mike sinks the last striped ball. He aims for the eight but the eight banks off the corner into a perfect line up should Shawn sink the one.

Shawn easily sinks the one into the side pocket. He takes a look at the table for the best angle in which to hit the ball.

He finds an angle he’s happy with.

SHAWN
Thanks for paying the hotel bill, Bitch.

Shawn takes the shot and sinks the eight ball.
Shawn loses the game as the cue ball banks off the side and into one of the corner pockets.

    MIKE
    So, this is what all three of you are going to do for me this weekend.
    (to Carl)
    Carl, I love you to death but you’re not staying at my house this weekend. Instead, you’re going to stay with Shawn. Wherever he goes, you go.

Carl’s eyes grow wide.

    CARL
    It sounded like you said something retarded. Could you repeat that?

    MIKE
    You’re staying with Shawn this weekend. Wherever he goes, you go. No if’s, and’s, or but’s. You two are attached at the hip until after the very last guest at the reception has left.

Carl turns away, drinks his beer, and sits down. His face is red with anger.

    CARL
    The hell I am.

    SHAWN
    That’s not right, Mike.

    MIKE
    Shawn, you’re my new errand boy.

    SHAWN
    Mike, I’m not--

    MIKE
    Your job is to do anything either myself or anyone else including Amber, the bride’s maids, my dad, or even the priest needs you to do for them tomorrow to help the reception go off without a hitch.
    (to Keith)
    You’re the referee.
KEITH

What?

SHAWN

What?

CARL
This is bullshit, Mike.

SHAWN
Yeah, you never said anything about any of this.

MIKE
Listen, it’s been six years since either of you has said a word to one another. I’m sick of it.

SHAWN
What if we don’t go through with it?

MIKE
It’s simple, guys. You either abide by the bet or I’ll make sure I have groomsmen to stand in for all three of you at the wedding.

CARL
Mike, you know I’d do anything for you. But this is--

MIKE
Then do this for me.

Carl slams his beer down, grabs his duffle bag, and walks towards the front door.

MIKE
Carl, you owe me!

Carl nears the exit.

MIKE
My wedding rehearsal was ruined because of the two of you!

Carl stops at the door. He turns to look at Mike.

MIKE
If you walk out of that door, you’re out of the wedding.

Carl takes a deep breath and hesitantly walks back to the table.
INT. CAR - NIGHT

Shawn drives his rental car through the streets of Jacksonville Beach. Carl sits in the passenger seat, cradling his duffle bag.

The silence between the two is deafening.

Shawn turns on the radio.

A love song plays.

Carl turns off the radio.

Shawn turns it back on.

Carl turns it off again.

SHAWN
(hesitant)
So...nice night.

Silence.

CARL
Shut up.

SHAWN
(a beat)
Been a long time since I’ve seen you.

Silence.

Shawn waits for an answer.

SHAWN
Listen, we might as well try to--

CARL
Fine, we’ll listen to the goddamned radio.

Carl turns the radio back on.

The love song plays again.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Carl stares out the window. The reflections of the world and the people in it pass across the window, right in front of Carl’s face. The lyrics to the song seem to reach through to Carl if only for this moment.
EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT

The Sea Turtle Inn towers over every local business in Neptune Beach.

Shawn and Carl pull into a parking spot.

INT. SEA TURTLE INN - MOMENTS LATER

Shawn and Carl are walking up a long hallway.

Carl carries his duffel bag on his back.

Shawn inserts his electronic key into the scanner on the door to room 824. He opens the door, enters the room, and turns the light on.

Carl looks around in hesitation before entering the room.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Shawn flops into a cushioned bedside chair as Carl enters the room and looks around.

CARL

Holy shit.

The room is massive with a balcony overlooking the ocean.

SHAWN

It’s fourth of July weekend in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. This is seriously the only thing that I could find.

Shawn’s cell phone rings in his pocket. He pulls it out and checks it.

Shawn walks out to the back balcony overlooking the ocean as Carl lay across the bed.

SHAWN

Hello?

KEITH (V.O.)

Hey, Shawn.

SHAWN

What’s up, Keith?

KEITH (V.O.)

What room are you guys in again?
SHAWN
824, why?

KEITH (V.O.)
I just need to know what room I’m supposed to go to. I’ll be there in a second.

Click.

SHAWN
Hello? Keith?

Shawn checks his phone then closes it. He goes back into the hotel room.

SHAWN
This is going to be a long weekend.

CARL
Already is.

Someone knocks at the door.

Carl stays in bed, looking at Shawn.

CARL
Aren’t you going to get that?

SHAWN
Son of a bitch.

Shawn looks in the eye hole.

Shawn steps back, takes a deep breath, and opens the door.

SHAWN
What are you doing here?

KEITH
Mike told me to check on you two.

CARL
Are you serious?

KEITH
He thinks you’re going to kill each other.

CARL
Jesus Christ. I shoved him. He’s the one that slapped me across the face with a bible.
How long are you going to bitch about that? If it’ll make you shut up, I’ll let you hit me with one.

Show me the bible.

Do I look like a priest? I don’t have a bible on me.

Actually, most hotels keep a bible in the night stand.

Shawn stares at Keith for a moment in silent disbelief.

(sarcasm)

Thanks, Keith. You’re a great referee.

Carl searches the night stand and finds a bible.

Get over here, fat ass.

I was kidding. I’m not going to let you hit me in the face with a bible.

What are you, a Pussy?

If you mean by not letting you hit me in the face with the holy bible, then, yes, I’m a Pussy.

Hey. If you’re afraid of a little tap on the face...

I’m not afraid of getting hit.

Then get over here and take it like a man.
SHAWN
(hesitant)
Fine.

Carl stands up from the bed and readies himself with the bible as Shawn walks over and assumes his position.

SHAWN
Just make it quick.

Shawn stands at arms length in front of Carl, waiting.

Nothing.

The two stand in silence for a moment at great length. Carl holds the bible as if he were about to swing a baseball bat.

Nothing.

SHAWN
Listen, Carl. If you’re going to do it then--

Carl swings the bible with all his strength against the side of Shawn’s head, knocking him to the floor.

Shawn slowly gets to his knees. He’s pressing his hand firmly against his face.

KEITH
(laughs)
Holy shit!

Carl laughs hysterically.

CARL
(explosive)
That was the coolest thing I’ve ever fucking done!

INT. MIKE’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Amber lay in bed, flipping through an information catalog of Hawaii as Mike strips down to his boxers and climbs in bed.

He kisses her neck, making her giggle into submission.

They kiss passionately for a moment.

AMBER
I can’t believe that, in less than two days, we’re going to be married.
MIKE
I know. It’s amazing how fast time goes by. I mean, I’ve already known you...how long now?

Amber slaps him with the catalog.

AMBER
(laughs)
You asshole.

MIKE
I’m kidding, Babe. I’m really looking forward to the wedding.

AMBER
Me, too.
(a beat)
Do you think that Carl could ever really be role model material?

MIKE
What do you mean?

AMBER
I mean, do you think it’ll be safe to have someone like him in our children’s lives?

MIKE
You know what I love most about Carl? He’s always been there for me.

Mike grows solemn.

MIKE
Even after Mom died, Carl never stopped being there for me.
(pause)
He’s even willing to put up with Shawn’s presence just so he can be my best man.

AMBER
And what about Shawn?

MIKE
Trust me, Babe. When we have kids, Shawn and Carl are going to be more protective over them than anyone.

Mike’s cell phone vibrates on his night stand.
He answers it.

MIKE
They’re going to work everything out. Okay?
(into phone)
Hello?

A beat.

MIKE
Hey, Keith.

Another beat.

MIKE
He did what?

Another beat.

MIKE
Alright. Get some sleep and I’ll see you later.

Mike hangs up the phone as Amber lays in suspense.

AMBER
What happened?

MIKE
Shawn let Carl hit him with a bible.

AMBER
Great role models.

MIKE
Good night, Babe.

She gives him one last good night kiss.

AMBER
Good night.

A lengthy moment of silence goes by.

MIKE
They can teach our kids how to hog tie Keith.

AMBER
Shut up, Mike.
INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Shawn sits in the hotel room chair. He’s in a lot of pain, pressing his hand firmly against the big red mark on his face where he was hit.

Carl sits on the floor with his back against the mattress, thumbing through the bible.

Keith is laying on the bed, watching baseball on TV.

The only sound in the room is that of the baseball game.

    KEITH
    You okay, Shawn?

    SHAWN
    I’ll live.
    (pause)
    By the way, Carl. That shit really does hurt. Now I know why you kept bitching.

Carl is still flipping through the pages of the bible.

    CARL
    Whatever.

    KEITH
    You need me to get some ice?

    SHAWN
    Yeah.

Keith gets up and walks to the door.

    SHAWN
    Take your time.

Keith leaves the room.

    CARL
    This sucks. Stuck in a hotel room with you.

    SHAWN
    Then let’s go do something.

    CARL
    Listen. I told Mike that I’ll hang around you for the weekend. This doesn’t mean I have to act like I’m your friend.
SHAWN
Okay. I guess I get why you’re still angry with me after the last few years. If it makes you feel--

CARL
Don’t care, cockfish.

SHAWN
Fine. Stay here. I’ll go out.

Shawn slams the door when he leaves the room.

Carl sits on the floor. He rolls his eyes and gets up.

He grabs a set of keys, a phone, and wallet from the night stand.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Shawn and Carl share another uncomfortable silence as they listen to another love song on the radio.

CARL
This music sucks.

SHAWN
Just sit there and shut up.

(pause)

Does Keith have a key to the room?

CARL
Do I look like I give a shit?

Carl shrugs off the brief argument and pulls a set of keys from his pocket.

SHAWN
What are those?

CARL
Keys to Keith’s BMW.

Carl pulls Keith’s cell phone from his pocket. He thumbs through the contact information on his cell.

SHAWN
His phone, too?

Carl innocently at Shawn. He pockets the phone.

Carl finally pulls a wallet out of his front pocket. He goes through it, pocketing the cash and credit cards.
Shawn does a double take when he sees the wallet.

SHAWN
Really, Carl? Are you that much of an asshole?

CARL
Are you really stupid enough to ask that question?

Shawn rolls his eyes and continues driving.

SHAWN
Touché.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT
Keith approaches the hotel room with a small bucket of ice. He tries to turn the doorknob when he realizes it’s locked. He knocks.

KEITH
Shawn?
(pause)
Carl?

Nothing.

KEITH
You guys in there?

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT
Shawn and Carl enter the pool hall and look around. Carl spots two barely legal girls sitting together in a booth.

SHAWN
I’ll buy the first round. You still...

Shawn turns around to talk to Carl but to find that he is walking towards the girls.

SHAWN
...like Bud?

CARL
Hello, Ladies...

Shawn turns his attention from Carl to the bar.
Natalie is nowhere to be found. Instead, there is an older man serving drinks.

Shawn pulls out a stool at the bar and sits down.

SHAWN
Excuse me. Is Natalie still here?

BARTENDER
She actually just got off work about fifteen minutes ago.

SHAWN
That sucks. Then I guess I’ll just have a draft beer.

The bartender pours a beer and hands it to Shawn.

NATALIE (O.S.)
It’s okay, GRANT. I’ll put it on my tab.

Natalie leans against the bar counter next to Shawn.

SHAWN
Grant, here, just told me that you were off.

NATALIE
Forgot my keys.

SHAWN
Lucky me.

NATALIE
Yeah. I lose them all the time.

Natalie sits next to Shawn and gets a good look at his face.

NATALIE
Oh my, God. What happened?

She examines the red area on his face.

SHAWN
Got smacked in the face with the holy bible.

NATALIE
What?

SHAWN
Don’t ask.
NATALIE
Does it hurt?

SHAWN
Little bit.

Natalie leans in and kisses him on the cheek.

NATALIE
How does it feel now?

SHAWN
Still hurts like a bitch.

INT. POOL HALL
Carl sits at the table with the two barely legal girls.

GIRL #1
So, do you get to travel a lot?

CARL
All the time. With film making, it’s rare to stay inside the United States.

GIRL #2
Where else have you gone?

CARL
Well...the last film was shot in...

Carl looks around the pool hall for assistance with his lie.

He spots a framed poster of Galway, Ireland.

CARL
...Galway.

GIRL #1
Where’s that?

CARL
You’ve never heard of Galway? Galway, Ireland.
(a beat)
How about we go back to my hotel, grab my car, and I’ll take you out for a night on the town. I can tell you all about Ireland and all the other countries I visited.
GIRL #1
I don’t know.

CARL
It’s not a big deal if you don’t want to. I just thought that, maybe you’d like to meet someone that’s actually been all over the world and could even find a few small roles in a movie or two.

The girls talk amongst themselves for a moment.

He looks at his watch.

CARL
You know, I don’t think it’s a good idea after all. I have a casting call in Orlando tomorrow afternoon. I should probably be leaving. I’ll see you girls if I see you.

Carl stands up from the table.

GIRL #2
We can give you a ride. You might be a little late to the casting call tomorrow.

The smile on Carl’s face could stretch for days.

CARL
I think I can get away with being a few minutes late.

Carl gets up and escorts the girls out of the pool hall with him. He holds the door open, checking out their rears as they walk out in front of him. He lets the door slam behind him as he leaves with them.

INT. POOL HALL
Shawn takes a sip from his beer. He looks around at the nearly empty pool hall.

NATALIE
You want to play?

SHAWN
I already lost once tonight.

NATALIE
I’ll go easy on you.
SHAWN
(sips beer)
One game.

INT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT

Keith is still outside the hotel room. He’s now leaning against the wall next to the door.

A group of girls, dressed for a night on the town, walk past him. Keith tries to look suave as he holds a dripping bucket of melting ice.

KEITH
(nods)
Ladies.

The girls laugh and walk past.

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT

QUICK CUTS

* Shawn and Natalie playing pool. She breaks and sinks six balls.

SHAWN
Nice. Thank God we’re not playing for clothes.

NATALIE
Not yet, Honey.

* They’re both shooting Jägerbombs.

* Natalie leans on the corner of the pool table that Shawn is attempting to sink the eight ball in. She pulls down her shirt to better show off her cleavage.

NATALIE
Having a hard time focusing?

Shawn sinks the shot.

SHAWN
I think your chest is good luck. I usually suck at Pool.

NATALIE
I’m glad you like the girls.
SHAWN
Oh...I do.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT
A silver car pulls up next to Keith’s BMW.

INT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT
Keith is passed out on a bench across the hall from the room.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT
Carl and the girls get out of the silver car and into Keith’s.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - NIGHT
Carl takes off in Keith’s car, tires squealing like a banshee out of the parking lot.

The girls shriek in the excitement.

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT
Natalie and Shawn are sitting together at a raised table by the bar.

They are both drinking draft beers with a pitcher sitting between them.

NATALIE
That really sucks.

SHAWN
Yeah, tell me about it.

NATALIE
Why did you two stop being friends?

SHAWN
Carl’s mom was an amazing woman. See, I met Carl shortly after my mom left and his mom made sure that I felt like I was part of the family.

(drinks from mug)
Carl and I were juniors in college when she died.
He was so focused on her death that he flunked all his classes and dropped out. I did the best I could to help him through everything but it was too much for me.

NATALIE
So, what happened?

SHAWN
I moved out to LA and stopped talking to him.

NATALIE
You have to miss your friendship with him though.

SHAWN
I do...to an extent.

Shawn notices Carl is gone.

SHAWN
Where'd he go, anyway?

NATALIE
Left with two blondes about an hour ago.

SHAWN
Why didn’t you tell me?

NATALIE
We can find our own things to do for fun, can’t we?

She leans in and kisses Shawn on the lips.

Natalie leans back and seductively looks at Shawn.

He simply smiles.

INT. NATALIE’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shawn and Natalie enter the house, arms wrapped around each other, and lips locked together like two teens after prom.

NATALIE
You can’t stay here tonight. Okay?

SHAWN
Okay.
They continue making out.

    NATALIE
    Oh my God. You’re so hard.

    SHAWN
    So are you.

Natalie stops.

    NATALIE
    What?

    SHAWN
    (embarrassed)
    Huh?

Shawn stands motionless.

    NATALIE
    You’re too cute.

She smiles and removes her shirt.

He removes his shirt and pants.

    NATALIE
    That was fast.

    SHAWN
    What can I say? I put out.

INT. NATALIE’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Shawn lays on Natalie’s bed as she unhooks her bra.

She tosses her bra on him.

She climbs on top of him and continues to make out some more.

    NATALIE
    You ever take pictures when you have sex?

Natalie has a mischievous smile on her face.

    SHAWN
    I can honestly say that I’ve never done that.

    NATALIE
    That’s so sad.
Natalie opens a drawer in her night stand, pulls out a digital camera, and smiles at Shawn.

NATALIE
Say cheese, cutie.

The quick flashes from the digital camera is the only thing that lights the pitch black room.

Natalie giggles in the darkness of the room.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - LATER

Shawn walks up the hallway to the room. Keith is still sleeping on the bench across from the room.

The bucket of water that once had ice in it sits next to him.

Shawn takes the bucket of water and pours it on Keith. He jolts out of his slumber.

He looks around to find Shawn towering over him.

KEITH
What the fuck, Shawn?

SHAWN
Wake up.

Keith sits up. His shirt and pants are soaked.

KEITH
Where the hell were you?

SHAWN
Getting laid. Let’s go.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Shawn and Keith enter the room.

Keith goes into the bathroom as Shawn starts to take off his shirt and pants. His pants fall to the floor with a thump.

Shawn lifts up his pants and rummages through his pockets and finds Natalie’s digital camera.

He shifts through his pockets to find his cell phone. It’s gone.

SHAWN
Shit.
What?

I left my phone at Natalie’s house.

Shawn sets the camera on the entertainment center and lays in bed as Keith enters the room.

What’s with the camera?

Me and Natalie had a little fun with it.

Well, while you were making a porn with Natalie, I was sleeping on the bench.

Yeah, I know.

Whatever.

Keith picks up the camera.

Keith, if you turn that camera on, I’m going to rip your cock off and take your ass’ virginity.

Keith puts the camera down and climbs in bed.

Good night, Bro.

Carl pulls into a parking spot a few spaces down from the girl’s car.

They are laughing as they all exit the car.

Thanks for the night out, Carl.

Yeah, I hope you’re not late for your casting call in Orlando tomorrow.
CARL
I think I’ll be okay.

Carl places one hand on each of the girls hips.

Each girl hugs him and kisses him on the cheek.

GIRL #2
Good night.

CARL
Bye, Ladies.

GIRL #1
Bye.

The girls walk away, a smile on each face, checking Carl out.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

All the lights in the room are off as Keith and Shawn lay in bed.

Keith is wide awake as Shawn loudly snores next to him.

Keith picks up the remote and turns on the television. He flips through the channels.

The camera sits on the entertainment center, staring at him.

Keith sits on the edge of the bed, makes sure Shawn is asleep, turns on the camera, and flips through the pictures.

* Natalie posing in lingerie.
* Natalie taking off the lingerie.
* Natalie topless.
* Natalie lying on her back on the bed.

Keith takes one last look at Shawn before going into the bathroom with the camera.

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM

Keith flips to the picture of Natalie posing topless.

He sets the camera on the back of the toilet, lifts the seat, and starts to pleasure himself.
EXT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Carl is rushing up the hallway to the room. It’s obvious he has to urinate as he bursts through the door.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Carl tosses his stolen possessions as well as his own on the night stand.

He’s dancing strangely as he pulls his wallet from his back pocket.

Carl walks to the bathroom and opens the door to see...

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM

Keith is still pleasuring himself as Carl slams the door open.

    KEITH
    (shrieks)
    It’s occupied!

    CARL
    Oh--

Carl and Keith stare at one another for a moment before Carl collapses to the floor in laughter.

    CARL
    Were you just...?

    KEITH
    Shut the fucking door, asshole!

Keith is trying to pull his pants up in a feeble attempt to hide what he was doing.

He slips on the tile floor, knocking the camera into the toilet bowl.

    KEITH
    Shit!

Keith hastily reaches into the toilet bowl to retrieve the camera.

Carl’s laughter is all that is heard as we...

    CUT TO:
INT. HOTEL BREAKFAST AREA - MORNING

Shawn, Carl, and Keith sit across from one another at a table next to the continental breakfast line.

Carl can barely hold back the laughter as Shawn glares at Keith.

Keith looks only at his hands resting on the table.

    SHAWN
    I really don’t know how I’m going to explain this to Natalie.
    (a beat)
    “Sorry about the camera. Keith took it into the bathroom to jack off to the pictures of you and me having sex and knocked the camera into the toilet. Don’t worry though. There wasn’t anything in the toilet except water and jizz.”

    KEITH
    If it makes you feel any better, it was only water. Carl walked in before I could...you know.

    SHAWN
    Yes, Keith. That makes me feel so much better.

    KEITH
    Sorry.

Carl giggles girlishly at the situation. He’s enjoying the show.

    SHAWN
    Now I have to replace the camera so Natalie doesn’t know what happened. You better find some way to make it the hell up to me.

Shawn stares at Keith. He’s not at all amused.

    KEITH
    You guys are running errands today to help set up for the reception tomorrow, right?

    SHAWN
    No shit.
KEITH
I’ll run the errands to set up for the bachelor party tonight. How about you buy the camera and memory card for the camera.
(a beat)
That way, Natalie won’t even know anything happened and neither you or Carl would have spent a dime on the bachelor’s party.

SHAWN
Do you know how to throw a bachelor party?

KEITH
I used to throw parties all the time back in college. I’m sure it’s not that different. I just have to buy porn, booze, and hire a stripper to shake her ass for a few hours. I mean, we already have the hotel room.

Carl and Shawn share a surprised expression.

SHAWN
I’m impressed. You should get started then. Go get everything we need. The games, the music, booze, and the dancer. If you need me, call Carl’s cell.

Keith leaves the table.

SHAWN
Let’s go.

CARL
I’m not going anywhere.

SHAWN
Yes, you are.

CARL
No, I’m not.

Shawn stands up from the table, pockets the camera, and stares at Carl.

SHAWN
Yes, Carl, you are. You’re coming with me if I have to drag your ass out of here.
CARL
You’re taking this bet thing kind of seriously, aren’t you?

SHAWN
Let’s go.

Carl downs the last of his coffee and follows Shawn.

EXT. HOTEL - MORNING

Keith walks to the parking spot where he left his car the night before.

It’s gone.

KEITH
Where the hell’s my car?

Keith hits the panic alarm on his key chain and listens as his car alarm sounds from the opposite side of the parking lot.

He walks to his car and unlocks the doors.

INT. KEITH’S CAR

Keith sits in his driver’s seat. He starts the car as an object on the passenger floor catches his attention.

A used condom occupies the front passenger floor, surrounded by white stains.

Something else on the floor also catches his attention.

Keith grimaces as he reaches over and pulls a pair of women’s panties up from between the center console and the seat.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Carl and Shawn enter the room.

Shawn places his luggage on the bed, changes out of his clothes, and into a new outfit.

He watches as Carl rummages through his duffle bag. He pulls a wrinkled tuxedo from the bag and hangs it up.

Shawn’s face is vacant of expression.
SHAWN
Is that your tuxedo for tomorrow?

CARL
Yeah, so?

SHAWN
It looks like you stole it from a homeless person.

CARL
That’s completely asinine. Why would a homeless person be wearing a tux?

SHAWN
I don’t know but you can’t wear that looking the way it does.

CARL
I didn’t have time to take it to the cleaners.

SHAWN
I saw a One Hour Dry Cleaner up the road a little bit.

CARL
Yeah?

SHAWN
It might have good rates.

CARL
Oh, cool. How much does it cost for them to have you to blow it out your ass?

Shawn ignores the insult and finishes dressing himself.

Carl puts on a pair of jeans and grabs a shirt from his bag. He tosses the tux in a bag with a huff.

CARL
Fine. Take me there and I’ll have it dry cleaned.

Shawn makes sure he has the camera and his wallet before leaving the hotel room.
The Florida sun shines down on Mike and Robert as they sit on the front porch, drinking iced tea.

ROBERT
So, are you ready for tomorrow?

MIKE
I think so.
(sips tea)
Amber and I have already been together for seven years now.

ROBERT
You know, marriage is a life altering step for any man.
(a beat)
Your brother still holds my getting remarried against me.

MIKE
That’s because you married mom’s best friend and now, a kid Carl couldn’t stand when we were growing up, is our step-brother. Truth be told, I still kind of hold it against you, too. I’m just able to deal with it better than Carl.

ROBERT
You know that I never meant to do anything to disrespect your mother, don’t you?

MIKE
I know, Dad. You’re just going to have to give Carl more time. He still doesn’t even want to believe that I’m getting married to Amber.

ROBERT
Do you think this whole thing with him and Shawn’s going to work out the way you want it to?

MIKE
I’m pretty sure they’ll come through for me. They always do.
(a beat)
I just miss the way life was back when mom was still around.

Robert puts his arm around Mike’s shoulder.
ROBERT
I do, too, Son. More than anything.

They each sip their tea.

ROBERT
But, what if they can’t get along?

MIKE
Then I’m fucked.

EXT. DRY CLEANERS - DAY
Shawn and Carl pull up to a one hour dry cleaners.
Carl gets out of the car, reaches into the back seat, and pulls out the balled up tux in the air tight plastic bag.

INT. DRY CLEANERS
A small brass bell mounted at the top of the front door jingles as Carl and Shawn enter the small shop.
A small ASIAN MAN appears from behind the counter.

ASIAN MAN
Hello, Gentlemen. Welcome. My name is CHAN. How can I help...

Chan gets a good look at the red mark across Shawn’s and Carl’s faces.

CHAN
What happened to you two?

CARL
We called Godzilla a pussy.
(a beat)
Need my tux dry cleaned and pressed.

Chan grumbles in Japanese at the insult as Carl flops the plastic bag on the counter and rips the bag open.
Chan stands behind the counter, puzzled.
Carl dumps the beaten tux out of the bag and watches Chan examine it.

CHAN
Did you steal this tux from a homeless man?
SHAWN
See?

CARL
How long will it take?

CHAN
Well, the sign on the building says “Chan’s One Hour Dry Cleaner”. (examines tux)
Give me five hours for this.

CARL
Five hours? Just toss it in there and dry clean the goddamned thing.

CHAN
Have you seen this tux? You’ll be lucky if it’s done by this time tomorrow.

CARL
Listen, Chang...

CHAN
It’s Chan, asshole.

CARL
Asshole? Aren’t you people supposed to be polite?

CHAN
Excuse me?

SHAWN
I’m sorry. What my friend means to say is that five hours will be fine.

Chan nods as Carl and Shawn leave.

EXT. DRY CLEANERS

The door closes behind Carl and Shawn as they stand outside the cleaners.

SHAWN
Is there something that makes you want to fight or argue with everyone around you?

Carl shrugs.
Shawn shakes his head as they get back into his car and pull out of the parking lot.

INT. CAR - DAY

The guys are driving with the windows down and sitting in silence.

CARL
So, what do you do out in Los Angeles?

Shawn’s caught off guard.

SHAWN
Oh, well, I work as a script analyst.

CARL
No kidding.

SHAWN
Yeah. I’ve been working for Kimandon Productions for about--

CARL
I don’t really care.

A beat.

CARL
I’m a plumber.

SHAWN
Oh. That’s good. How do you like it?

CARL
Hate it.

SHAWN
That’s good.

The two share yet another awkward silence.

Carl starts searching his pockets.

CARL
Shit.

SHAWN
What?
CARL
I left my pot in my tux.

SHAWN
Why would there be pot in your tux?

CARL
I wore it two nights ago when I was with this girl at a bar.

SHAWN
Why the hell would you wear a tux to a bar?

CARL
I don’t have to explain myself to you.

SHAWN
I’m not going back, Carl. I have too much on my list today.

CARL
That old bastard’s going to smoke it. I know it.

INT. DRY CLEANERS - DAY

Chan prepares the tux to be cleaned. A strange fragrance catches his attention and he starts searching the pockets. He pulls out a sandwich bag filled with marijuana.

He starts to toss it in the overflowing trash can but there is no space for it. He places it in his pocket for the time being and finishes his preparation.

INT. SHAWN’S CAR - DAY

Shawn splits his attention between the road and Carl.

SHAWN
So, where are you living these days?

CARL
Why do you care?

SHAWN
Because I do.

A beat.
CARL  
(defeated)  
I live in Orlando.

SHAWN  
Why not back in Jacksonville Beach?

CARL  
Just drive.

Carl looks out his window and Shawn looks back at the road.

EXT. REGENCY SQUARE MALL - DAY

The Regency Square Mall basks in the afternoon sunlight. The shadows from trees dance against the building as patrons steadily enter and exit the mall.

INT. CAMERA STORE

Carl and Shawn enter Glass Eye Camera Store in the Regency Square Mall.

A SALESMAN stocks one of the shelves.

SHAWN  
I need to replace this camera with one identical to it. Both the camera and memory card.

SALESMAN  
Okay. Let’s see what we have here.

Shawn hands the camera to the salesman as a little water trickles onto his hand from inside the camera.

SALESMAN  
Oh, did you drop it in a puddle?

SHAWN  
Not exactly.

CARL  
It fell into the toilet after I caught my step-brother jacking off to nude pictures on it last night.

SALESMAN  
Okay, well, that’s disgusting. Thanks for placing the camera directly in my bare hand without fair warning.
The salesman places the camera on the counter. He sanitizes his hand, looks at the model number, and looks it up the computer.

SALESMAN
You’re in luck. We have one of these left in the back. Let me go get it for you.

He exits to the back store room for a moment.

SHAWN
So, here’s the story. I deleted the pictures on this camera and you never walked in on Keith spanking it to them last night. Got that?

CARL
Whatever makes you feel like less of a piece of shit.

The salesman emerges from the back with a box in his hands.

SALESMAN
This is the only one we have in stock for that model. This baby’s beautiful.

SHAWN
I’ll take it. How much is it?

SALESMAN
That’s going to come to three hundred-eighty five dollars.

SHAWN
Of course it will.

Shawn pulls his credit card from his wallet and hands it to the salesman.

EXT. CAMERA STORE

Shawn and Carl walk out of the store. Shawn’s examining the new camera. He notices a waste basket near the mall exit.

Shawn pulls the old camera from his pocket and tosses it in the trash.
INT. NAIL SALON - DAY

Amber, Judy, Maria, and Alexis are sitting together in a busy nail salon.

Amber and Judy receive pedicures as Maria and Alexis are given manicures.

They’re laughing as Alexis finishes a joke.

ALEXIS
So, I walk in and he’s completely naked and wants me to role play like I’m not supposed to know him.

MARIA
What happened?

ALEXIS
I asked him why the hell he’d be naked in my bedroom if I didn’t know him.

(laughs)
And he gets so mad that I killed the mood that he got in bed and pouted until he went to sleep.

JUDY
I swear to God. Men are bigger girls than we are. I mean, I don’t need sex. Don’t get me wrong, I like it but I don’t need it. My ex-boyfriend was like a damned nympho. Every night he wanted it but the second I said no, he’d try to give me a guilt trip.

The girls laugh as Maria focuses her attention on Amber.

MARIA
So, how’s Mike in bed?

AMBER
Mike?

MARIA
Yeah, the guy you’re marrying.

AMBER
(sarcasm)
He’s the best I’ve ever had.
MARCIA
(laughs)
I’m serious.

AMBER
We’ve been so busy with the wedding lately. We haven’t really had a lot of time to be intimate.
(pause)
Then this whole thing with Carl is just...crazy.

ALEXIS
I meant to ask you about that.

JUDY
Yeah, what’s been going on between Carl and Shawn? Are they going to be in the wedding?

AMBER
All I know is that Mike met Carl and Shawn at the pool hall last night and made some stupid bet with them.

ALEXIS
What bet?

AMBER
First off, Shawn’s been playing pool for years, right?

MARIE
Yeah?

AMBER
Well, Mike bet them that, if Shawn beat Mike, they could do anything they wanted. But, if Shawn lost, then he has to do anything we need him to do for the wedding and Carl has to go wherever he goes.

MARCIA
Bullshit.

ALEXIS
Did they win?

AMBER
No. Shawn lost.
MARIA
So, what was Keith’s end of the bargain?

AMBER
He’s everyone’s bitch.

The girls laugh.

AMBER
I’m serious. I’ll call Shawn.

Amber calls Shawn’s cell phone. It rings until it goes to voicemail.

AMBER
That’s odd. Let me try Carl.

Amber calls Carl’s cell phone.

JUDY
(smiles)
Let me talk to him.

Amber hands Judy the phone.

EXT. REGENCY SQUARE MALL — DAY
Carl and Shawn are walking through the mall parking lot.
His phone rings.

Carl checks the caller ID.

CARL
It’s the bitch. You take it.

SHAWN
What?

Carl tosses the phone to Shawn without saying another word. Shawn catches it and answers.

INTERCUT:

SHAWN
Hello?

JUDY
Hey, it’s Judy.
SHAWN
Oh, hey. What’s up, beautiful?

JUDY
Amber’s not able to talk right now but she wanted me to ask you guys for a favor.

SHAWN
Oh, okay.

The girls smile and laugh as they watch Judy converse with Shawn over the phone.

JUDY
The bride’s maids dresses are waiting to be picked up at the Bridal Boutique.

SHAWN
Check. Anything else?

JUDY
I need you to pick up the party favors for the bachelorette party tonight from The Love Nest.

SHAWN
Can’t wait.

The girls laugh.

SHAWN
Alright. Give me a little while but I’ll get all that done for her.

JUDY
Thanks, Shawn. Bye.

Judy hangs the phone up as the girls all laugh together.

EXT. REGENCY SQUARE MALL - DAY

Shawn sits in the driver seat of the car. He hands the phone to Carl and cranks up the ignition.

CARL
So, should I ask what the favors are?

Shawn glares at Carl then looks behind him as he backs out.
EXT. VIXEN’S BAR - DAY

Keith pulls up into Vixen’s empty parking lot.

The dilapidated building appears abandoned as Keith looks around for any sign of life outside.

There is none. Even the weeds in the flower beds cling for life.

INT. VIXENS BAR

Keith enters the bar to find the bouncer reading a magazine at his station.

A single girl dances on the stage with no crowd shouting or whistling at her and an old man drinks by himself at the bar.

Keith approaches the bouncer.

He’s reading a gardening magazine.

KEITH

It’s too bad that magazine didn’t help the flower bed outside, right?

Keith laughs.

The bouncer looks up from his magazine and stands up.

He’s a tall, large framed African-American man with a no nonsense expression on his face.

BOUNCER

What do you want, White Boy?

Keith stops laughing.

KEITH

I need to borrow a dancer for two hours tonight for my brother’s bachelor party. I’m prepared to pay two hundred and fifty dollars for services rendered.

BOUNCER

My White Devil Brother, this is not blockbuster video. You are not renting a movie for the night. You are at a high class gentlemen’s club.
KEITH
But, I--

BOUNCER
You don’t just come in here, point at a girl, and say, “I wanna borrow her!”

(a beat)
You enter this building and ask politely to talk with the manager of this establishment. Then you ask him which girl he can spare for the time allotted. Ya dig?

KEITH
I dig.

BOUNCER
Let’s try this again.

The bouncer holds the door open for Keith to exit the building.

Keith starts to walk out but stops.

KEITH
What’s the manager’s name?

BOUNCER
You’ll be asking for Bruno.

Still puzzled, Keith walks out and lets the door shut. The Bouncer opens his magazine.

Keith enters the building again.

KEITH
Excuse me.

BOUNCER
Yes, Sir. How may I be of assistance?

KEITH
I’m looking to speak with Bruno.

BOUNCER
You’re talking to him.

Keith looks at Bruno.

At length:
KEITH
Bruno, I’d like to speak with you about hiring one of your dancers for two hours tonight for a bachelor party I’m throwing for my older brother.

BRUNO
And, how much are you looking to spend?

KEITH
Two hundred and fifty dollars?

BRUNO
Sounds to me like you’re shopping for quality.

Keith nods.

BRUNO
Do you have the cash on you right now?

Keith nods again.

BRUNO
Well, I don’t do business unless I see the cash first hand.

Keith opens his wallet, pulls a wad of money from it and lays it on Bruno’s table.

Bruno counts the money.

BRUNO
(smiles)
My Ivory brother. Please, follow me.

Keith follows Bruno through the bar to the base of a stage. Bruno pulls out a chair for Keith and motions for him to sit down.

Keith sits.

BRUNO
I’ll call her out here right now so you two can get acquainted.

(turns to bar)
AMPUTATIA! Get your sexy little white ass out here!
A girl pops her head up from behind the bar.

She’s beautiful beyond any description any words of any language could use.

Her long, platinum blonde hair falls down to the base of her spine and her face is perfectly sculpted. Everything symmetrical.

I’m coming, Bruno.

She sits down and rolls from behind the bar.

Keith watches as she emerges from around the corner.

She sits in a wheelchair, prosthetic leg resting in her lap.

She’s a left, below the knee amputee.

She stops next to Keith, and, as polite as a girl raised in a family of class, offers her hand to Keith.

Hi, I’m Amputatia. Pleasure to meet you.

(scoffs)

Are you serious?

Keith stands up from his seat.

What?

I want my money back. I don’t want a stripper in a wheelchair!

(reserved)

Listen here, honkie. Strippers take their clothes off. Amputatia’s an exotic dancer. She’s never shown her goods. If you want to come in here with your yuppie attitude, then do us all a favor and go somewhere else.

(a beat)
Now, if you want to be open minded and not so opinionated, then, please, let Amputatia show you why she’s the pride and joy of Vixens.

Keith takes a moment to think about his options but sits back in the chair.

KEITH
(to Amputatia)
I’m sorry. I just got caught off guard.

AMPUTATIA
Whatever. I get it all the time.

KEITH
You shouldn’t. I think you’re beautiful.

AMPUTATIA
Uh huh. Bruno, hit the music.

BRUNO
As you wish, Babe.

Bruno cues the DJ.

The music is playing throughout the club as Amputatia attaches her prosthetic leg and climbs on Keith.

Her dance is as perfect as she is. She gives Keith the kind of lap dance that could make a gentlemen’s club nationally known.

The song ends as does the dance.

Bruno, the DJ, and the old man at the bar applaud simultaneously.

BRUNO
Her name’s Amputatia, ladies and gentlemen!

Keith sits in a daze, his eyes locked with Amputatia.

AMPUTATIA
(confident)
So?

KEITH
That was amazing.
INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - AFTERNOON

Carl and Shawn enter the dress store.

Shawn approaches a young, heavy set CASHIER, behind the customer service counter. She’s reading a magazine.

SHAWN
Hi. I’m here to pick up a few dresses for the Jennings and Cresse wedding.

CASHIER
That’s good for you. Give me a minute.

She takes a bite of a doughnut and turns the page.

At length:

SHAWN
Miss?

CASHIER
(mocks)
Sir?

Shawn waits patiently.

CARL
(to Shawn)
Let me take care of this.

Carl reaches across the counter and snatches the magazine from the cashier.

CASHIER
Who do you--

CARL
My name is Carl Jennings. My brother, Mike, is getting married tomorrow and we need the dresses ASAP. So, as hard as it may be for you to stop shoving food in your mouth, I’m going to have to insist that you waddle your Miss Piggy look alike ass into the back and retrieve the dresses. Only then, will I give you back this magazine and let you continue eating your fat ass to death.  
(a beat)
Otherwise, you can get the manager and I can report your rude and unprofessional behavior.

CASHIER
(choked up)
I’ll...
(clears throat)
…I’ll get your dresses.

CARL
Atta girl.

SHAWN
That was fucked up.

CARL
So?

SHAWN
Thanks...I guess.

CARL
No problem.

INT. VIXENS BAR - DAY

Keith and Amputatia sit across from one another. Keith drinks a beer as Amputatia drinks a soda.

KEITH
How did you get into this kind of work?

AMPUTATIA
After the amputation, I couldn’t work as a lifeguard anymore. One day, I ran into Bruno at a grocery store where I was trying to load up my car. He helped me and asked if I ever thought of doing this. Two weeks later I was working here.

KEITH
Do you miss going to the beach?

AMPUTATIA
I can still go to the beach and do everything I used to. (a beat) I miss being a lifeguard though. So much more than anything.
She wipes the tears welling in her eyes and forces a smile.

AMPUTATIA
So, do you live around here?

KEITH
I’ve lived here my whole life. My step-brother, Mike, is getting married tomorrow and I’m one of the groomsmen.

(beat)
Actually, Mike told me that I can still bring a guest. That is, if you’d like to be my date.

AMPUTATIA
(smiles)
I’d like that.

Keith loses himself in Amputatia’s eyes.

KEITH
Shit!

AMPUTATIA
Is everything okay?

Keith pulls his cell phone from his pocket and leaves the bar.

Amputatia sits in her chair. She sips from her drink.

EXT. VIXENS BAR - AFTERNOON
Keith dials a number in his cell phone.

INT. SHAWN’S CAR - AFTERNOON
Shawn and Carl are driving down a busy road, the bridal dresses hanging in the back seat.

SHAWN
So, you don’t feel bad at all for the girl back at the bridal shop?

CARL
Why would I?

SHAWN
Just the way you spoke to her? How don’t you feel bad about that?
CARL
‘Cause I’m a damned sexy manbeast.

Carl’s phone rings. He pulls the phone out and answers it.

INTERCUT:

CARL
What do you want, Fag?

KEITH
I found a dancer for tonight.

CARL
Okay. So?

KEITH
So, where are we doing the party?

CARL
That’s your job, Bitch.

KEITH
Listen, just answer the question. Are we throwing it at the hotel?

CARL
Sure. Sounds good.

KEITH
There’s just one thing you guys should know about her.

CARL
What?

KEITH
She’s an amputee.

Carl sits in shock for a moment.

CARL
An amputee?

KEITH
Yeah.

CARL
Like, she’s missing a tit?

KEITH
No, Jackass. She’s missing a leg.

Carl breaks into a loud obnoxious laughter.
He stops laughing for a moment for a deep breath.

KEITH
Hello?

Carl starts laughing again.

Keith listens as Carl’s laughter fills the receiver.

KEITH
Are you done yet?

CARL
So, Keith.
(chuckles)
Can she dance for Mike or is she just going to spin around in her wheelchair?

KEITH
That’s fucked up, Man.

SHAWN
What’s going on?

CARL
Keith found a dancer for tonight.

SHAWN
Okay...

CARL
She only has one leg.

SHAWN
(chuckles)
What?

Shawn breaks into a shared laughter with Carl.

KEITH
Are you both laughing now?
(a beat)
You guys are fucked up! Amputatia’s a sweet girl.

Carl stops laughing.

CARL
Did you just say “Amputatia”?

Carl puts the phone on speaker.
KEITH
You better not be a dick when you meet her.

CARL
Yeah? And why’s that?

KEITH
Because she’s my date to the wedding tomorrow.

Carl and Shawn burst into a duet of deafening laughter.

Carl hangs up.

Keith flips his phone shut.

KEITH
(to self)
Fucking assholes.

He walks back into Vixens.

INT. THE LOVE NEST - AFTERNOON

Carl enters the store to see Shawn standing at the register waiting for the clerk.

Carl smiles as he walks over to a wall covered with dildos.

A husky guy with a beard steps behind the counter. The name tag on his shirt says FRANK.

FRANK
Can I help you?

SHAWN
I’m picking up an order for the Cresse Bachelorette Party.

Frank looks around behind the counter.

FRANK
There’s nothing here with the name Cresse on it. Is there another name?

SHAWN
Amber?

He searches again.
FRANK
Nope. Do you know what’s in it?

SHAWN
No, I don’t. Is there anything back there at all that’s in either a box or a package?

FRANK
There’s this.

Frank pulls a paper bag from behind the counter and sits it on the counter top.

FRANK
It just says Bachelorette Party.

SHAWN
Then that’s it.

FRANK
What if there’s another Bachelorette Party somewhere?

Shawn examines the bag. He sees ALEXIS written on the bag.

SHAWN
It says Alexis on it. That’s the name of one of the bride’s maids.

FRANK
There could be an Alexis getting married this weekend.

SHAWN
Tell you what. I’m going to take that risk and give you the money for that bag. If Alexis comes in here and has a problem with that, have her call me.

(a beat)
How much is the bag?

FRANK
Let me check off everything first.

SHAWN
Fine. Just, please, hurry. I’m in a rush.

Shawn watches as a beautiful young girl walks from the other side of the store and stands in line behind him.

Frank pulls an inventory check list from under the register.
FRANK
Okay, let’s do this.

He opens the bag and pulls out numerous sex toys, games, and novelties.

FRANK
We have one man sized dildo straw.

SHAWN
(surprised)
A what?

He checks off a box on a list of objects in the package.

FRANK
One pair of edible panties.

Another check.

FRANK
One pin the penis on the man game.

Another check.

Shawn stands, humiliated as the girl behind him simply chuckles at the situation.

SHAWN
Okay, Frank. Can you just not say everything so loud as you check it off? Everyone in the store can already see everything scattered across the counter.

FRANK
There is nothing to be embarrassed about. Sex is a beautiful part of nature.

Shawn hides his face in his hand as Frank continues.

FRANK
One edible testicle.

(a beat)
Oh, I’m sorry. Four edible testicles. I guess someone likes as many balls in their mouth as possible, huh?

SHAWN
Someone actually took the time to make edible testicles?
FRANK
Oh, yeah. They’re delicious.

Shawn stares at Frank, void of any expression.

FRANK
(a beat)
So I hear.

Frank, checks another box, laughing silently as he does it.

FRANK
One “I Love Sucking Cock” truckers hat.

Another Check.

FRANK
And, last but not least, four penis lollypops.

Final check.

FRANK
It’s going to come to seventy-eight dollars and sixty-three cents. Cash or credit?

Shawn glares at Frank as he pulls cash from his wallet.

Frank breaks Shawn’s hundred and gives him change.

SHAWN
Thanks.

Shawn heads for the door.

He sees Carl looking at random things on the wall.

SHAWN
Let’s go.

CARL
I’ll be right out.

Shawn exits the store.

INT. SHAWN’S CAR - AFTERNOON

Shawn sits in the driver’s seat, tosses in the back, and listens to the radio while he waits for Carl.
The girl that was in line behind him exits the store. She laughs as she makes eye contact with Shawn.

Shawn waves with an embarrassed smile on his face.

SHAWN
(to self)
Okay. That was just about the most humiliating thing I’ve ever had to do.

Shawn sits for a lengthy moment, waiting for Carl.

Carl emerges from the store wearing a hat that says “I LOVE SEX” with a life sized penis pop hanging from his mouth.

Carl gets in the car.

Shawn stares at him for another lengthy moment.

CARL
(pop in mouth)
What?

SHAWN
Are you sucking on a candy penis?

CARL
What about it?

SHAWN
It’s a little gay, isn’t it?

CARL
It’s not gay. It’s candy.

Shawn rolls his eyes, puts the car in gear, and backs out of the spot.

EXT. CROWDED CITY STREET - AFTERNOON

The afternoon sunlight stretches the shadow from Shawn’s car across three lanes of traffic as he drives down a busy roadway.

INT. SHAWN’S CAR

Shawn sits in the driver’s seat, gripping the wheel.

Carl rides shotgun, still wearing the hat, sucking on the last of the penis pop.
He finishes the last of the candy pop, rolls down the window, and tosses the stick out.

CARL
So, what’s in the girl’s bag?

SHAWN
Nothing.

CARL
Oh, come on. What’s in it?

SHAWN
Leave it alone.

CARL
Well if you won’t tell me I’m just going to take a look.

Carl pulls the paper bag from the back seat and rummages through it.

Shawn comes to a stop at a traffic light.

Carl pulls the trucker hat from the bag.

CARL
Oh, look. You bought me a new hat.

He takes his hat off, puts the new hat on, and continues searching the bag.

CARL
(laughs)
What the fuck?

He pulls the dildo straw from the bag.

He holds it up to examine it.

SHAWN
That’s a...man sized...dildo straw.

CARL
Check this out.

Carl takes the lid off a fountain soda sitting in the cup holder, places the bottom of the shaft in the cup, and sucks up the soda through the tip.

Shawn laughs hysterically as Carl sucks on the dildo.
CARL
This isn’t that bad. If jizz tasted this good, I’d suck cocks all day long.

An elderly couple pulls up next to Carl’s window.

INT. ELDERLY COUPLE’S CAR – AFTERNOON
The elderly man watches as Carl sucks on the dildo straw.
The cup he’s drinking from is hidden so only the top of the straw can be seen.
His wife is looking out her window when the man taps her shoulder to get her attention.

ELDERLY MAN
MARTHA! Would you look at that?

MARTHA
What, EARL?

Martha looks over at Carl sucking on the straw.

MARTHA
Oh, my.

A large smile comes across her face.

INT. SHAWN’S CAR – AFTERNOON
Carl looks out his window, dildo in mouth, to see the elderly couple staring back at him. The “I LOVE SUCKING COCK” hat is on his head and the dildo straw is pressing against the inside of his cheek.

Shawn notices the old couple staring at Carl. He rolls the tinted window up so they can’t see him.

SHAWN
I have no idea why I ever hung out with you when I was a kid.

EXT. CROWDED CITY STREET – AFTERNOON
The light finally turns green. Shawn hits the gas and takes an exit ramp onto a highway.

CARL
Where to now?
SHAWN
To get your tux.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET – AFTERNOON
Shawn is down the block from Chan’s One Hour Dry Cleaner.
Chan’s building is consumed by a monstrous fire.

INT. SHAWN’S CAR
Shawn struggles to look down the street.

SHAWN
What happened here?

A fire truck further up the road is fighting the fire.

CARL
Fuck! Now I don’t have a tux for tomorrow!

SHAWN
Let’s go see if any of the suits were pulled out before the fire got out of control.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET – AFTERNOON
Shawn parks his car in an empty spot in front of a house.

EXT. CHAN’S ONE HOUR DRY CLEANER – AFTERNOON
Thick smoke pours from the windows and doorways to the cleaners.
Chan is face down on the hood of a Squad Car.
Shawn and Carl stand across the street from the business as Chan spots them from the squad car.
Chan struggles to get the attention of the officer searching him.

CHAN
(panics)
Him! That’s the man that left the pot in his tux. I told you it wasn’t mine! I just forgot to throw it away!
OFFICER
Okay, Sir.

The officer ignores Chan as he places him in the back of the squad car.

Chan is still in a panic.

CHAN
I’m telling you it’s him!

The officer shuts the door.

SHAWN
We need to--

Shawn turns to talk to Carl but finds that he is already half way down the block, walking, as innocently as possibly, back to the car.

Shawn turns his attention back to the squad car.

Chan sits, helpless, in the back seat. He twists around and makes eye contact with Shawn.

SHAWN
(mouths)
I’m so sorry.

Chan starts mouthing obscenities from the back seat of the squad car.

INT. SHAWN’S CAR – AFTERNOON

Carl is sitting in the passenger seat. He doesn’t say a word as Shawn enters the car, sitting in his driver’s seat.

Shawn stares down the street at the blazing fire.

Carl, catching his breath, looks at Shawn with a smile that could last for years stretched across his face.

SHAWN
So, that man’s business burns down and he gets arrested most likely for being caught with the bag of pot that you left in your jacket pocket.

Shawn looks over at Carl.
SHAWN
You’re the reason that innocent man
is going to jail.

Carl’s smile fades away.

CARL
What do you want me to say?

SHAWN
As long as I’ve known you, you’ve
always been the first one to haul
ass the second you fuck something
up. If you can’t get away with it,
then you always drag someone down
with you.

CARL
I haul ass? What about you, you
piece of shit? You left after my
mom died.

Shawn opens his mouth to say something. He says nothing.

CARL
Yeah. Exactly. You’re all talk
until someone calls you out.

SHAWN
This is the exact fucking reason
that I stopped talking to--

CARL
Just drive the fucking car.

Shawn starts the car and slams the gas, screeching away from
the curb and down the street.

INT. SHAWN’S CAR – EVENING

Carl dials a number and holds the cell phone to his ear as he
looks out his window.

INT. MR. JENNINGS’ HOUSE – EVENING

Mike sits at the dining room table with Robert and Andrea.
They’re in the middle of dinner when Mike’s cell phone goes
off.

INTERCUT:
MIKE
Sorry, Guys.
(into phone)
Hello?

CARL
Hey.

MIKE
What’s up, Carl?

Shawn is talking to Maria, Amber, and Judy at the front porch of Mike’s house. He hands them the bag and dresses.

Judy smiles and shuts the door behind her as Shawn walks to the street where he parked.

CARL
(into phone)
I need to know where the tuxedo store was that you ordered the tux. I dropped mine off at the one hour cleaner’s this morning and...well...it kind of burnt down.

MIKE
It what?

Shawn enters the car.

CARL
Burnt to the ground.

MIKE
You’ve got to be fucking kidding me.
(a beat)
Alright. I’ll meet you at the Sea Turtle Inn in about twenty minutes.

CARL
Okay. Bye.

Carl flips the phone shut.

SHAWN
What did he say?

CARL
Drive to the hotel.

SHAWN
Fine.
INT. ROBERT’S HOUSE

Mike excuses himself from the table.

MIKE
Sorry, Dad. I have a little wedding emergency with Carl and Shawn.

ANDREA
What happened now? Was it Carl again?

MIKE
Andrea, please. I’ll see you guys tomorrow.

Mike leaves the house as Robert and Andrea sit at the dining room table in silence.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Mike enters the hotel room as Carl and Shawn sit on the bed watching the television.

MIKE
Come on. We’ll take my car to the store.

Mike tosses Carl the keys.

MIKE
You’re driving.

EXT. SEA TURTLE INN - EVENING

Mike, Shawn, and Carl approach the car. Mike opens the passenger door and Shawn climbs in the back.

MIKE
I guess this is good. I mean, it gets the three of us together without Keith for a few minutes.

CARL
Whatever you say.

EXT. MIKE’S CAR - EVENING

Carl drives Mike’s car down a busy road in heavy traffic.
INT. MIKE’S CAR - EVENING

The silence in the car is familiar to Carl and Shawn. No one has anything to say to the other.

Carl is keeping his on the road.

MIKE
So, how was your day together, Guys?

SHAWN
It wasn’t--

CARL
It sucked. I can’t wait for the wedding to be over so I don’t have to see this prick again.

SHAWN
I’m really sick of all your complaining. That’s all you ever do.

CARL
You know what I’m getting sick and tired of? You.

SHAWN
Okay. It’s been six years. Why the hell are you still pissed?

Carl turns his attention from the road to the back seat.

CARL
You know why!

MIKE
(nervous)
Watch the road, Carl.

SHAWN
I really don’t! You don’t like to communicate! You just act like an asshole!

MIKE
Carl! Watch the road or let me drive the fucking car!

CARL
I’m the asshole? I’m not the one who abandons their friends when they’re going through a hard time!
SHAWN
I never abandoned you! You turned your life upside down and tried to drag me with you! Remember what I--

MIKE
Carl, look out!

Carl turns his attention back to the road to see a dog run across the four lane highway.

Carl whips the wheel around in a panic to avoid hitting the dog.

EXT. MIKE’S CAR - EVENING
The car flips upsidedown.

INT. MIKE’S CAR - EVENING
Shawn, Carl, and Mike are tossed around as the car flips.

EXT. MIKE’S CAR - EVENING
The car comes to a screeching halt next to a building.

Traffic comes to a sudden halt. People from various different vehicles exit their cars to check on the wreckage.

The silence one again sweeps throughout the car.

Mike and Carl groan in pain.

MIKE
(in pain)
Carl...you okay?

CARL
I’m alright. You?

MIKE
My arm hurts.

Carl looks at Mike’s arm.

Mike’s sleeve is ripped and a bone is sticking out.

CARL
Oh, fuck.
MIKE
What?

CARL
There’s a thing sticking out of your thing!

MIKE
There’s a what?

Mike feels his arm and finds the bone protruding from his forearm.

MIKE
Oh, my God. My arm’s broken!

CARL
Help is on it’s way.

MIKE
No one called for help!

CARL
I know. That’s just what people say when someone’s badly injured, isn’t it?

MIKE
Call for--

CARL
Wait.

Mike is in severe pain but stops yelling so he can hear what Carl hears.

MIKE
What?

CARL
There’s no noise coming from the back seat.

Carl struggles to look behind him.

CARL
Shawn?

MIKE
Shawn, you okay?

Mike and Carl groan as they look in the back seat at Shawn.
He lies sprawled, in a awkward position, across the roof of the back seat.

He’s motionless and covered in blood.

Carl struggles with his seat belt. It finally unlatches and Carl climbs to the back seat.

    CARL
    Shawn?

Carl takes a close look at Shawn’s lifeless body.

Carl places two fingers on his neck to check his pulse.

    MIKE
    (wincing)
    Is he alright?

    CARL
    He’s alive.

A PEDESTRIAN peers into the car.

    PEDESTRIAN
    Are you boys alright?

    CARL
    Do we look alright? Go get a fucking ambulance!

    PEDESTRIAN
    Hang in there boys.

The pedestrian hurries away from the car.

EXT. MIKE’S CAR – NIGHT

A crowd of pedestrians and patrons of local businesses gather around the crash as the fire department removes the doors from Mike’s car.

Carl is the first to be removed. He sits in the back of an Ambulance.

Mike is removed but is taken to a different ambulance on a stretcher.

    MIKE
    Carl?

    CARL
    Mike!
Carl attempts to get up but is restrained by a PAREMEDIC working on him.

PARAMEDIC
He’s gonna be alright. Just try to relax.

Shawn is removed and loaded onto Carl’s Ambulance.

The back doors of the ambulance slam shut as it takes off, speeding down the road.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Carl sits on the bench in the ambulance, staring down at Shawn. He’s unconscious and badly beaten from the accident.

FLASHBACK

INT. JENNINGS HOUSE - NIGHT

Mike, Carl, and Shawn sit at the dining room table with Robert and Allison.

They laugh at little jokes and enjoy each others company.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

It’s pouring rain as a crowd of people dressed in black sit in folding chairs under a tent next to Allison’s casket.

In this crowd is Mike, Robert, Amber, Andrea, and Keith.

Mike is distraught with emotion, Robert and Amber’s hands on each shoulder.

Shawn stands next to Carl away from the tent, drenched from the rain. Carl’s face is vacant of emotion.

Tears stream down Shawn’s damp face. He places his hand on Carl’s shoulder.

CARL (V.O.)
Fuck you!

EXT. SHAWN’S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Carl and Shawn are arguing loudly enough to attract attention from the neighbors.
CARL
So then, what? You’re just going to leave?

SHAWN
I have to, Man. I can’t stay in this town anymore.

Shawn holds out a card.

SHAWN
This is my number. If you need to talk, give me a call.

Carl takes the card and looks at it.

Carl crumbles the card and throws it at Shawn.

CARL
Twenty years, you piece of shit! You’ve been my best friend for twenty fucking years!

SHAWN
I know you’re mad. I expected it. But you have to understand where I’m coming from.

CARL
Just leave.

SHAWN
Carl, I--

CARL
Shawn, I swear to God that, if you say one more word, I’ll knock your fucking teeth in.

Carl gets into a car, pulls out of the driveway, and speeds like a demon down the road.

END FLASHBACK

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Shawn’s eyes are shut. Half his face is swollen and covered in dried blood.

Carl shows no emotion except for a tear that falls from his eye.

He takes Shawn’s hand and holds it tightly in his.
INT. MIKE’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Amber, Alexis, Maria, and Judy sit in front of the coffee table. They’re playing with one of the games and drinking when Amber’s cell phone rings.

AMBER
(into phone)
Hello?

Panic sweeps across Amber’s face.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Carl sits in a chair, staring at the floor in the hallway. Aside from a few minor bumps and bruises, he’s no worse for the wear.

KEITH (O.S.)
Carl!

Carl’s eyes don’t leave the floor.

CARL
What do you want?

KEITH
Where are they?

CARL
Go home, Keith. I’ll let you know when everything settles down.

KEITH
They’re my friends, too, Carl.

CARL
Fuck off.

KEITH
I’m not the reason your mom died. Neither is my mom so I think you can stop being such a fucking prick to me now.

Carl gets up from his chair and walks away.

KEITH
Don’t turn your back on me!

Keith rushes Carl, turns him around, and slams him into a wall.
KEITH
I’ve had it with you! You think that the whole world owes you something.
(a beat)
But if you think that I’m going to put up with you treating me or my mom like shit then you’re out of your fucking mind.

Keith and Carl stare at one another for a moment.

CARL
I...don’t--

MIKE (O.S.)
Keith!

Keith looks up the hall to see Mike standing in the hallway, his arm wrapped in a cast and supported with a sling.

MIKE
Help me get some coffee.

Keith turns his attention back to Carl.

KEITH
(breathes deeply)
Yeah. Okay.

MIKE
(to Carl)
You okay?

CARL
I’m alright.

MIKE
Want some coffee?

CARL
No, I’m good.

MIKE
I’ll be back in a few minutes. Shawn’s in that room but I think he’d like it if you sat with him.

Carl watches as Mike and Keith walk down the hall.

CARL
Hey, Keith.

Keith looks back at Carl.
CARL
(hesitant)
I’m sorry.

Keith nods and continues down the hall.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

A NURSE is checking Shawn’s chart when Carl enters the room.

CARL
Is he alright?

NURSE
He’ll be alright. We just have him on observation for the night.

CARL
He’s my best friend.

NURSE
Well, from all that the gentleman who was just in here told me, you’re both lucky to have a friend like him.

CARL
Is it okay if I sit in here with him?

NURSE
I don’t see why not.

Carl sits in an empty chair next to Shawn’s bed.

Shawn appears unconscious as the nurse starts to exit the room.

CARL
Can I ask you a question?

NURSE
Yes?

Carl stands up from his chair and approaches the Nurse.

CARL
I read that, when someone’s in a coma...um...they can hear everything you say to them.

NURSE
Sir, he’s just--
CARL
Is that true?

The nurse looks at the bed to see Shawn’s eyes wide open.
She fights back a smile as he motions for her to play along.

NURSE
Yes, it’s true. I’d say now is the
time to tell him all your deepest
feelings towards him.

CARL
Thank you.

The Nurse leaves the room and closes the door behind her.
Shawn closes his eyes again and pretends to be asleep.
Carl turns back to face Shawn, takes a deep breath, and sits
next his bed.

CARL
I’m so sorry for everything I did
to you, Shawn.

Shawn is badly bruised. His lip is split open and stitches
keep a deep gash on the bridge of his nose closed.

CARL
I missed you so much over the last
two years.
(chin quivering)
I miss my best friend.

Shawn listens to everything. He’s fighting back a smile the
whole time.

CARL
(weeps)
I’m sorry for always bad-mouthing
you.
(sniffles)
And I’m sorry for sleeping with
Christy back in college. I know you
never forgave me for that. Just,
please, don’t die.

Carl rests his face and hands on Shawn’s chest. He’s crying
hysterically.

MIKE (O.S.)
That was you?
Carl looks up to see Mike standing in the doorway. He’s holding one cup of coffee but Keith holds two.

Carl wipes his face and notices the coffee.

    CARL
    I said I didn’t want coffee.

    MIKE
    It’s not for you. It’s for Shawn.

    CARL
    But Shawn’s--

Shawn pops up from his pillow and holds his hand out for the cup.

    SHAWN
    Thanks, Mike.
    (to Carl)
    That was a very touching apology.
    (a beat)
    Up until the part where you admitted to sleeping with Christy.

    CARL
    Shawn...I thought you were...

    SHAWN
    (groans)
    I’m not mad. We’re all alive and I’m grateful. Just do me a favor and wait outside for a few minutes.

Embarrassed, Carl stands up and exits the hospital room.

    MIKE
    How you feeling?

    SHAWN
    Like shit.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOM – NIGHT

Carl closes the door behind him as Amber, Robert, Andrea, and the bride’s maids rush up the hallway.

Amber’s face is flush, her eyes red from crying.

    AMBER
    Are you happy now, Carl?
CARL
Amber, wait.

AMBER
You put Shawn and Mike in the hospital and showed us all how angry you are. You destroyed our wedding rehearsal and now you almost killed your brother and your friend.

Carl struggles to restrain himself.

CARL
It was an accident.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM
Amber’s raised voice catches Mike and Shawn’s attention from inside the hospital room.

SHAWN
What’s going on out there?

MIKE
I don’t know.

AMBER (O.S.)
I’m not going to do this with you. Not tonight.

MIKE
I’ll be right back.

Mike walks to the door.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOM
Carl is still restraining himself as Amber continues to yell at him.

AMBER
If you really cared about Mike or Shawn at all, you’d leave.

Carl pauses for a moment, unsure as to what to do.

He looks at the small crowd in the hallway.

He looks back at Amber.
CARL
Fine. I’m gone.

Carl walks towards the exit as Mike enters the hallway.

MIKE
(to Amber)
What was all that about?

Amber’s speechless.

Mike watches as Carl walks down the hall.

MIKE
Carl!

Carl slams the door open and leaves the ward.

Mike turns his attention to Amber.

MIKE
Well?

AMBER
I didn’t mean for it to come out like that.

Everyone stands in silence in the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM – NIGHT

Shawn lays in bed watching the news. VERONICA HAIL, 34, reads a news bulletin about the fire at Chan’s One Hour Cleaner.

VERONICA (V.O.)
Earlier today, the Neptune Beach Fire Department responded to an emergency call at Chan’s One Hour Cleaner’s in Neptune Beach. During the investigation, authorities discovered the cause of the fire to be a careless act by the owner.

(pause)
56-year-old, Chan Yung, has been placed under arrest for possession of narcotics. A drug test conducted on Mr. Yung early this evening showed a high level of THC in his bloodstream.

Shawn watches the news report in disbelief.

Mike enters the room.
MIKE
Anything good on TV?

SHAWN
Um...no.

VERONICA
The Neptune Police Department stated that Mr. Yung was smoking dangerously close to highly flammable chemicals when--

Shawn turns the TV off.

SHAWN
So, what’s going on?

Amber and the rest of the group enter the room after Mike. Shawn looks around at his friends crowding around his bed.

SHAWN
Where’s Carl?

AMBER
I told him how I felt about him being in the wedding.

SHAWN
So, where is he?

ROBERT
He left.

SHAWN
Then I need to go get him.

Shawn stands up. Pain shoots up his leg, causing him to turn around to lean against the bed for support. His hospital gown opens as he bends over, showing his rear to everyone in the room.

MIKE
Shawn, stay here and I’ll go find Carl.

Shawn stands up and faces Mike.

SHAWN
Let me find him. I already know where he’s going.
MIKE
Okay.
(to Keith)
Keith, go with him.

SHAWN
No, it’s okay.

MIKE
You’re not driving anywhere.

SHAWN
You guys can go back to the hotel.
I’ll be alright.

Mike takes a deep breath.

MIKE
You sure about this?

SHAWN
Positive.
(to Amber)
Can I have your keys?

Amber pulls her keys from her purse.

AMBER
I feel like this is my fault.

Amber gives Shawn her keys.

She wraps her arms around him.

He winces in pain from the pressure.

AMBER
Oh, I’m sorry.

Amber leaves the room and closes the door as Shawn changes into his clothes.

INT. AMBER’S CAR – NIGHT
Shawn is driving down an empty street.

He sees a sign at the end of a driveway. It reads “ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CEMETERY.”

He turns up the driveway.
EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Tears run down Carl’s face as he sits in front of a grave.


He watches as Amber’s car stops on the road next to the grave.

He takes a deep breath but is surprised when Shawn steps out of the car.

SHAWN
Everyone’s looking for you.

CARL
Go away, Shawn.

SHAWN
Stop acting like yourself for a minute and just talk to me.

CARL
You always act like you know what’s best for me. You always like to pretend you’re my dad.

SHAWN
Have you ever listened to yourself?

A lengthy beat passes as Carl stands in silence. He evaluates himself as he listens to Shawn’s words.

SHAWN
You never let me be your friend. I was always the one keeping your ass in check. I was always protecting you. I might as well be your fucking father.

CARL
You have no idea what I’ve been through.

SHAWN
I know exactly what you’ve been through. You lost your mom.

CARL
You don’t know what that’s like.

SHAWN
I don’t know what it’s like? My mom abandoned me when I was two!
My drunk prick dad was the reason I always hung out with you, Mike and your parents! Don’t you ever say that to me again!

Carl stands in silence, staring back at Shawn.

SHAWN
You think I didn’t lose your mom, too? Fuck you!

Shawn looks deep into Carl’s eyes.

SHAWN
My mom walked out on me, then I lost Allison. I lost both my parents and then I lost your mom.

CARL
(shoves Shawn)
And then you left me!

CARL
Mike had Amber, my dad had Andrea, and all I had was you.
(pause)
You left me here to fucking rot!

His words leave Shawn speechless.

Shawn approaches Carl.

SHAWN
I’m sorry, Carl. But I couldn’t watch you hurt yourself the way you were.

Shawn wraps his arms around Carl.

SHAWN
I’m sorry.

Carl collapses in exhaustion. Shawn slowly lowers them to the ground where they lean against Allison’s grave.

They sit for a lengthy beat as Carl composes himself.

CARL
So, what do we do now?
SHAWN
We go back to the hotel, wake up early in the morning to get you a tux, and support your little brother as he gets married to Amber.

They climb to their feet.

CARL
I mean you and me.

SHAWN
It’s in the past, Bro.

CARL
And, as far as Christy goes...

SHAWN
Are you happy with the way things turned out tonight because I can still kick your ass if you want me to.

CARL
...sorry.

SHAWN
It’s fine. Now shut up.

Shawn and Carl walk over to Amber’s car.

CARL
But I didn’t know she was your girlfriend until you came knocking and--

SHAWN
Carl, shut the hell up!

EXT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

The sun beams down on the church, casting a twenty foot shadow of the crucifix across the sidewalk.

The sign on the church reads “SATURDAY, JULY 4TH: CELEBRATE THE HOLY WEDLOCK OF MICHAEL JENNINGS AND AMBER CRESSE”

Organ music is heard as people enter the church in an orderly fashion.
INT. CHURCH - DAY

Various people are whispering amongst themselves as the organist plays “Ave Maria.”

Father Brown and the rest of the congregation gaze in curiosity at Mike, Carl, and Shawn.

Keith smiles at the crowd of people as Shawn, badly bruised and beaten stands next to him. His face is still swollen from the car accident. A square red mark covers the side of his head where Carl hit him with a bible.

Shawn waves at Natalie, sitting two pews away. She smiles back at him and shakes her head.

Carl stands next to Shawn. Tiny cuts speckle his face and hands. He, too, has a red mark on his face from where Shawn slapped him with a bible the day before.

Mike stands next to Carl. His arm in a sling and small scrapes and cuts on his face and hands.

Alexis, Maria, and Judy stand across from the guys.

Judy’s in awe as she watches Shawn rest his hand on Carl’s shoulder.

Carl reaches up and hold’s Shawn’s hand in his.

Judy get’s Alexis’ attention. She watches the moment between Carl and Shawn. Alexis taps Maria on the shoulder.

Maria looks at Carl and Shawn.

MARI

(whispers)
That’s so sweet.

Judy smiles as the organist starts playing “Here Comes The Bride.”

The bride’s maids, Groomsmen, and Mike keep an eye on the chapel door.

The chapel door opens, revealing Amber standing, her arm wrapped in her father’s, wearing a beautiful flowing white dress.

Her face is full of emotion as she and her father walk up the aisle to the altar.

Mike holds his good hand out to help Amber up the steps.
Amber’s father hesitates but let’s go of her arm, tears in his eyes as he does it.

MR. CRESSE
(to Mike)
You better take care of my daughter.

Mike smiles.

MIKE
Considering what I’ve gone through to give her this wedding, you have nothing to worry about.

Mr. Cresse smiles back at Mike and taps his hand on Mike’s face.

MR. CRESSE
She’s lucky to have you.

Amber hugs and kisses her father.

He sits in the front pews, the tears still in his eyes, as Mrs. Cresse consoles him.

Amber looks into Mike’s eyes.

AMBER
(whispers)
I love you.

MIKE
(whispers)
I love you, too.

Shawn smiles as he leans in towards Carl.

SHAWN
(whispers)
I love you, Carl.

Carl can’t help but smile.

CARL
Fag.

Carl realizes that he said that louder than he meant to.

Everyone at the altar pause as they look at Carl.
CARL
Oh.
(a beat)
Sorry.

Father Brown clears his throat as the music stops.

FATHER BROWN
Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today to witness the holy union of these two young souls.

Throughout Father Brown’s sermon, various people react to the wedding with joy and praise.

FATHER BROWN
Michael Anthony Jennings...

Mr. Jennings holds Andrea’s hand in his.

FATHER BROWN
...and Amber Cynthia Cresse...

Mr. and Mrs. Cresse hold one another.

The sermon continues as we...

FADE TO:

INT. BANQUET HALL - EVENING

Mike and Amber sit at the head table.

Carl stands by the DJ’s station, talking with the DJ.

He smiles and walks to his seat at the bridal table.

Shawn and Keith sit next to Carl’s seat at Mike’s side and the bride’s maids sit next to Amber.

Mike holds Amber’s hand and leans in to Carl.

MIKE
I’m really happy you and Shawn are friends again.

CARL
Yeah. Me, too.
(a beat)
Listen, I’m really sorry that we weren’t able to throw you the bachelor party we wanted to. We’ll throw one for you sometime this--
MIKE
It’s enough for me to have my big brothers here to have my back at my wedding. I don’t think I’ve ever really said it before but, I love you, Bro.

CARL
Me, too, Mike.

Static from the DJ’s microphone fills the surrounding audio system.

DJ
Ladies and Gentlemen, please quiet down and listen as the best man and maid of honor give their toasts.

The DJ runs up to the table and hands Carl the microphone.

Carl stands up from his seat, looks around the room, and takes a deep breath.

All eyes are on him.

CARL
I’m not known for being sensitive but today I witnessed two people kiss for the first time in their marriage. I realized that, for the first time in my life, I’m going to have a sister.

Carl turns to face Amber.

CARL
A beautiful, loving woman without whom, my brother would have never made it through our mother’s death.

Carl’s and Amber’s eyes both grow misty as Carl holds his glass in a toast.

CARL
Amber, I’ve been horrible to you for such a long time. I just wanted to let you know that I love you.

Tears fall from Amber’s eyes.

CARL
I couldn’t be more thrilled to welcome you into my family.

(holds up his glass)
This is to a long life of happiness
for the both of you. I love you
guys.

Amber wipes the tears from her eyes as she takes a sip of her champaign.

Mike stands up and wraps his good arm around Carl.

MIKE
(whispers)
That was the gayest thing I’ve ever heard...thank you.

CARL
You’re welcome.

Mike and Carl laugh as Carl hands the microphone over to Maria.

Maria starts her toast as Carl and Mike sit down.

Keith smiles and waves to someone in the crowd.

Mike, Amber, Shawn, and Carl struggle to see the phantom guest at the wedding.

CARL
Is it Amputatia?

KEITH
Shut up, Carl.

AMBER
Did he say...Amputatia?

Shawn and Carl choke back more laughter as Keith, smiling, gets up to meet a beautiful blonde girl walking towards the table.

AMPUTATIA
Hi, Keith.

She smiles back and embraces him.

KEITH
Hi, Ampu--

AMPUTATIA
It’s VIKKI when I’m not working.

KEITH
Vikki. Beautiful name.
She smiles and kisses Keith passionately.

Shawn watches and nudges Carl.

Keith approaches the table with Vikki’s arm wrapped in his.

    CARL
    You must be--

    KEITH
    Vikki, Carl. Her name is Vikki.

    CARL
    From how Keith described you, I thought you’d have one leg.

Vikki pulls her dress up to her knee to reveal her left prosthetic leg.

    VIKKI
    From how Keith described you, I thought you’d be attractive.

    CARL
    (impressed)
    Well played.
    (to Keith)
    She’s a keeper.

Carl stands up from his chair and pulls it out for Vikki to sit down.

She sits in the chair and Keith sits next to her.

    CARL
    You look amazing.

    VIKKI
    Thank you.

Carl walks over to the bar and orders a beer.

INT. BANQUET HALL - EVENING

The DJ gets on stage and adjusts his microphone.

    DJ
    Okay, everybody. Let’s get this show on the road with the bride and groom's first dance. Would Mike and Amber please come out to the dance floor?
Mike and Amber stand from their seats and walk, hand in hand, to the center of the dance floor.

AMBER
How does your arm feel?

MIKE
Like someone hit it with a sledge hammer. Do I look stupid?

AMBER
Nah. I think you look cute.

They kiss.

MIKE
I think the cast brings out my blue eyes.

AMBER
(smiles)
Yeah. Plus, the sling really gets me hot.

MIKE
Yeah, love you, too.

They kiss again.

DJ
Okay, people. There’s love in the air and it’s going to be a beautiful evening so I think there’s only one song that can suit this mood. You might have heard of it. It’s a little song by my main man, Eric Clapton called “Wonderful Tonight.”

The DJ plays the song and Mike and Amber start to dance.

MIKE
So, aside from Shawn, Carl, and myself looking like we just crawled out of a plane wreck, are you happy with how the wedding turned out?

AMBER
(smiles)
It couldn’t be more perfect.

They kiss again and dance through the song until the rest of the guests gather on the dance floor.
INT. BANQUET HALL

Shawn approaches Carl at the bar.

SHAWN
Can I have a draft bud?
(to Carl)
It was a nice toast, Bro.

CARL
Thanks.

Shawn drinks his beer and turns to face the bride and groom on the dance floor.

SHAWN
Don’t worry about the whole Christy thing. I want to wipe the slate clean. Okay?

Carl and Shawn tap their plastic beer cups together. Shawn places his arm around Carl’s shoulder.

Amber looks over to see Carl resting under Shawn’s arm. *

AMBER
You think they’re gay?

MIKE
Of course. Everyone does.

AMBER
How long do you think the truce will last?

MIKE
Long enough to finish the reception...I hope.

INT. BANQUET HALL

Shawn and Carl walk to a wall sized glass window facing the beach. They stare at the sunset over the water.

SHAWN
I guess I kind of miss living here.
(laughs)
Remember when we were kids and we would always act like we were drowning to mess with the lifeguards?
CARL
(laughs)
Yeah. What about when we would drive down the road and I’d throw up fake blood every time we stopped in front of kids walking to school?

SHAWN
Those were the days.

CARL
I never needed anyone else to have a good time. You’re the only person that I really ever looked forward to hanging out with.

Shawn notices Natalie standing behind him in the reflection in the glass.

SHAWN
Speak for yourself, Fag.

Carl stands by himself, watching Shawn and Natalie walk into the crowded banquet hall.

CARL
(to self)
Okay. It’s gonna be like that?

Shawn and Natalie walk towards two empty chairs at a guest table.

SHAWN
Hi.

NATALIE
Hi.

Shawn stares at her for a moment.

NATALIE
What’s wrong?

SHAWN
(stunned)
You look beautiful.

NATALIE
(smiles)
You don’t.
SHAWN
I think I pull off the “I got the shit beat out of me” look quite well.

NATALIE
That you do.
(a beat)
Keith told me about the accident. You alright?

SHAWN
I’ll survive. I have something for you.

He pulls the new camera from his pocket.

Natalie examines it to find there are no pictures on it.

NATALIE
You deleted the pictures?

SHAWN
I didn’t want anyone to see the same show I did.

NATALIE
I appreciate that.
(a beat)
Thank you.

SHAWN
You’re welcome.

She smiles at him, looking deep into his blue eyes. She’s lost for a moment but snaps out of it.

NATALIE
I actually have something for you, too.

Natalie pulls Shawn’s cell phone from her purse.

SHAWN
Thank, God. I was so worried about it. You have no idea how much this phone cost me.

NATALIE
Well, I hope you don’t mind, but I took some new pictures with your phone’s camera.
Shawn looks at the pictures on his phone. He jumps when he sees the pictures she’s taken.

She laughs as he quickly flips the phone shut. He smiles at her.

**NATALIE**
I wish you didn’t have to leave tomorrow.

**SHAWN**
I think I can find a reason to stay for a few more days.

She leans in to kiss him.

Robert and Andrea dance together when she notices Carl approaching.

**ANDREA**
Oh, God. What does he want?

They stop dancing.

Robert turns to see Carl standing next to him.

**CARL**
(to Andrea)
I just wanted to say I’m sorry. I know I’ve been an asshole to you over the years. I think I was too focused on being angry with you that I didn’t realize how happy you were making my father.

**ANDREA**
It’s okay.

Carl turns to Robert.

**ROBERT**
Thank you, Carl.

**CARL**
I’m so sick and tired of being pissed off. I just...

Robert tightly embraces Carl in his arms.

**ROBERT**
I love you, too, Son.
INT. BANQUET HALL

Natalie takes a picture of her and Shawn with the new camera.

They look at the picture and smile as someone stands, looming over them.

    CARL (O.S.)
    Oh, good. You gave her the camera you bought for her at the store yesterday.

Shawn’s eyes grow wide with horror. He desperately shakes his head.

Carl has a massive grin across his face.

    NATALIE
    Excuse me?
    (to Shawn)
    What does he mean?

She looks back at Shawn. He stops shaking his head before she catches him.

    SHAWN
    He’s kidding.

    CARL
    I thought you told her.
    (to Natalie)
    I walked in on Keith jacking off to the nude pictures you and Shawn took Friday night.

    NATALIE
    You said that you deleted the pictures.

    SHAWN
    No...I mean...um...

    CARL
    Yep. Pants down, whaling away on himself into the toilet with your camera sitting on top of the tank. He panicked when he saw me, knocked your camera into the toilet, and Shawn and I picked up a new one for you yesterday.

Shawn buries his face in his hands.
SHAWN
Carl, you’re such a Prick.

CARL
Ah, well. Mike and Amber got married. Let’s enjoy the night.
(a beat)
I know I will.

Carl walks back to the bridal table.

Natalie stares back at Shawn. She’s disgusted.

NATALIE
I don’t know what to say to you right now.

SHAWN
Listen, Natalie. I am so sorry about the camera. I didn’t want you to feel--

NATALIE
Exposed?

SHAWN
Yeah.

Natalie keeps her glare focused on Shawn.

At length:

NATALIE
Just give me your phone so I can delete the pictures before anyone else sees them, too.

Carl stands next to the bridal table. He watches as Shawn hands Natalie his cell phone.

SHAWN
Just be careful. It’s a four hundred dollar--

Natalie drops the phone in Shawn’s beer.

SHAWN
--phone.

NATALIE
They’re deleted and now we’re even.

Natalie stands up from her seat and walks away.
Shawn shakes his head. He looks at Carl who smiles and holds his beer up in a mocking toast.

Carl exits the banquet hall.

Shawn sits for a moment as he watches Carl through the wall sized glass windows.

Carl walks out to the back patio. He stands next to the lawn chairs, lights a cigarette, and enjoys the evening breeze.

Shawn’s face turns beet red as he stands up from his seat and walks to the door Carl just walked out of.

Mike and Amber are dancing as Shawn walks past them in a hurry.

Mike stops Shawn.

MIKE
Where are you going?

SHAWN
I need to have a word with your brother.

MIKE
Shawn...

SHAWN
I’m just going to tell him he got a little out of line.

Mike looks at Amber for approval.

AMBER
(to Mike)
Let him go.
(to Shawn)
Behave.

Shawn kisses Amber on the cheek.

SHAWN
Welcome to the family, Sis.

Mike and Amber watch as Shawn exits the hall and approaches Carl outside.

They can’t hear Shawn and Carl’s conversation but watch as Shawn says something to Carl.

Carl says something back, playfully shoves Shawn with a laugh, and walks towards the ocean.
Shawn looks back at Mike and Amber. He smiles and waves before picking up a lawn chair and smashing it against Carl’s back.

Carl falls to the ground. He and Shawn engage in a fist fight while most guests in the hall dance to the music.

The remaining guests are now spectators to the fight ensuing outside.

AMBER
Shouldn’t you stop them?

MIKE
This is how they’ve always been, Babe. They’ll work it out.

Amber watches the fight. Mike turns her attention from the fight to him by gently turning her head.

He kisses her passionately as the first fireworks of the holiday are launched over the ocean. This is just the beginning of their lives together.

The music plays as Carl and Shawn are brutally beating one another on the beach.

Happiness fills the banquet hall and fireworks light the night sky as we...

FADE TO BLACK.