

# **WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD**

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Inspired by "Death Ship" written by Richard Matheson

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**EXT. GAS STATION - DAY**

Run down and tatty. SAM (21) and BECKY (21) lean against the only vehicle on the forecourt, a FORD ESCORT.

SAM

Do we gotta go on this trip again?

Becky stomps on Sam's foot.

SAM (CONT'D)

Ouch! Jesus--

BECKY

--He's grieving you insensitive idiot!  
And your his second best-friend so--

SAM

--second?--

BECKY

--Suck it the hell up. Now shush  
he's coming back.

CASPER (23) pale with puffy eyes, comes out of the shop, takes a swig out of a whiskey bottle and heads to the car.

SAM

(whispers)

But when will it end?

Becky nudges him hard in the ribs.

CASPER

Get in then, still a long way to go.

All three clamber in and pull out onto a country road, flanked by thick forest.

**INT. FORD ESCORT - MOVING**

Casper drives. He takes another swig of Whiskey. Sam, from the back seat stares at him through the rearview.

Casper holds the bottle towards him. He shakes his head. Casper takes another sip.

Casper's face drops, stares intently through the windscreen.

BECKY

Why are we slowing down?

**EXT. COUNTRY ROAD**

The Ford Escort pulls over to the edge of the road. Sticking out of the tree line is the rear of an overturned car.

Casper gets out, stares at the wreck.

CASPER  
Come on, they might need help.

Casper carefully slides down a small bank to the front of the car, peers through the window. Nobody there.

He looks back, Becky and Sam stand next to the Escort.

CASPER (CONT'D)  
Empty.

His eyes search the forest

CASPER (CONT'D)  
Hello! Anyone there?  
(beat)  
I can help!

SAM  
Cas, come on we have to go!

Casper searches the forest.

VOICE (DISTANT)  
Hello! Anyone there?

CASPER  
I'm here!

Casper moves briskly through the forest towards the sound of the voice, leaf litter crunches under foot.

VOICE (DISTANT)  
I can help!

Casper moves quicker, gets closer to the voice.

CASPER  
Where are you?

Casper stops to get his bearings, it's darker as the thick canopy blocks the sun's rays.

VOICE (DISTANT)  
I'm here!

Casper jogs back towards the wreck, the voice now coming from that direction.

As he gets closer he spots Sam and Becky's lifeless bodies lying next to the wreck. He rushes towards them.

Gets to Becky first, rolls her over. Her face is scratched to hell, she's ghostly white.

Casper puts his ear to her nose. Pulls open her jacket and begins CPR.

CASPER

Come on!

Casper quickens the compressions.

Beat

Exhausted, he falls back. Goes to Sam and rolls him over, he's in the same condition. Casper checks his breathing--

VOICE (O.C.)

(panicked)

Hello? Anyone there?

Casper freezes in fear, it came from the wreck.

VOICE (O.C.) (CONT'D)

I can help!

Casper finds some courage and creeps to the wreck. On hands and knees he peers through the smashed windscreen.

Hanging upside down, still strapped to the driver's seat is himself.

The two versions stare at each other, both terrified.

Casper gets to his feet and sprints to his car, clambers into the--

#### **FORD ESCORT**

--driver's seat and slams the door.

He struggles to catch his breath as panic sets in.

SAM

Cas, it's time to let go.

Casper turns to see Sam and Becky sitting in the backseat, intact.

His eyes widen, his breath quickens.

CASPER  
What the fuck is going on!

Sam and Becky exchange a "not again" glance.

Casper fires up the engine and speeds off down the road.

Beat.

His eyes widen again as he stares out of the window.

CASPER (CONT'D)  
Please, no.

**EXT. COUNTRY ROAD**

The ford escort comes to a stop, off to the side, the wreck of the car sticks out of the treeline.

The driver's door opens, Cas steps out. Tentatively walks towards the car.

He sees Sam's lifeless body in the leaf litter, then Becky's--  
--But she's moving, slowly.

Casper rushes down and to her side, pulls her over onto her back, she stares at him.

BECKY  
Cas?

Her last word. Her eyes roll into the back of her head, her body goes limp.

OTHER CASPER (O.C.)  
Hello? Anyone there?

Casper wheels to the wreck. Again he peers inside. His other self stares back with pleading eyes.

OTHER CASPER (CONT'D)  
I can help!

Casper gets to his feet and runs back to his car, jumps into the driver's seat and screeches down the road.

**SERIES OF SHOTS**

- The escort speeds down the road, passes the wreck again and again and again.

**INT. FORD ESCORT - MOVING**

Casper's knuckles grip the wheel so tight they are white. As he approaches the wreck again, he slams on the breaks.

**EXT. COUNTRY ROAD**

Casper stares at the wreck, hands on his head.

CASPER  
What am I supposed to do?

He looks to the sky, tears stream down his face.

CASPER (CONT'D)  
(yelling)  
What am I supposed to do?

Sam puts a hand on his back, Casper flinches back.

SAM  
Just let it go, so we can all move on.

CASPER  
No, I won't, I can't.

Casper run down and into the--

**FOREST**

Pulls Becky onto her back and begins frantic CPR.

Alive Sam and Becky stand near the wreck watching, distraught.

SAM  
It's too late! You can't change anything, you have to move on!  
Or... or we will do it without you.

Becky smacks him.

BECKY  
No we won't!

Casper runs to the wreck, see's himself hanging upside down, eyes wide open, blood drips from his face. In his lap, wedged between him and the seatbelt is the bottle of Whiskey.

Casper runs to Sam's body, shakes him.

CASPER  
Wake up! Come on, wake up!

Alive Sam stands very close to him.

SAM  
You can't change anything! Just accept it, Cas. You can't bring any of us back!

CASPER  
No, please, I can help!

Casper breaks down, rocks back and forth with Sam in his arms.

BECKY  
Sam, stop it! You're pushing him too hard.

SAM  
We're dead! Accept it! Move on!

BECKY  
Stop!

Casper YELLS at the top of his lungs, squeezes his eyes shut.

SMASH TO:

**INT. GAS STATION SHOP - DAY**

Casper stands by the checkout, continues his YELL.

He snaps out of it. Silence.

He raises his hand, it clutches a bottle of whiskey. Outside Sam and Becky lean against the car.

After a sip of whiskey, he exits.

CASPER  
Get in then, still a long way to go.

THE END